

Chitwan National Park: Monthly Bulletin

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World Environment Day 5 June 2010

World Environment Day (5 June 2010/ 22 Jestha 2067) was celebrated organizing different conservation awareness activities in the BCC Hall, Sauraha Chitwan. An art competition was organized for lower secondary schools' students of the bufferzone area. Altogether 11 students participated in the competition and drew arts focusing this year's slogan "*Many Species, One Planet, One Earth*". The arts were evaluated by two local artists Krishna Prasad Tiwari and Prakash Chapagain. Naveen Mahato (Grade 6) of Chandeswari Secondary School, Nawalparasi got first prize. Jivan Bote (Grade 8) of Saraswati Higher Secondary School, Nawalparasi and Pragati Lamichhane (Grade 8) of Madi Secondary School, Madi, Chitwan were awarded second and third prizes respectively. Biodiversity Conservation Center/NTNC contributed cash prize NRs 6000.00 and Bird Education Society, Sauraha, Chitwan added birds books, post cards and conservation note books.



Chief Warden Dr Narendra Man Babu Pradhan chaired the programme. Chairs of the users committees, teachers, representatives of different conservation organizations and local people were also there. During the programme a drama entitled "*Let's Conserve the Royal Bengal Tiger*" was released. The drama was shown from a multimedia projector; most of the actors were school students. This was written and directed by a teacher Mr Devraj Poudel. He teaches in Sri High School, Ganganagar, Chitwan.

Legal Case Decision

Chitwan National Park passed sentence jail and fine to 36 rhino poachers. According to the decision, former pilot Ramesh Chandra Pokharel will have to serve 14 years and 8 months in prison and pay a fine of NRs. 100,000. Convicting Hari Bahadur Biswakarma, Dambar Lamsal, Hiralal Lopchan, Surendra Singdan (Sanu Tamang), Bir Bahadur Kumal, Surya Bahadur Kumal, Tashi Gurung, Shrawan Kumar Bhulan, Bhim Bahadur Praja, Gadar Purja Magar, Surya Bahadur Pun, Dil Bahadur Praja, Mangal Bahadur Praja, Shankar Praja, Bir Bahadur Praja, Devraj Karki, Dammar Bahadur Praja, Mukti Bahadur Pun, Kalu Manngé and Bhuwan Gurung will have to serve 15 years in prison and pay a fine of NRs. 100,000 each. Mukti Bahadur Pun, Kalu Manngé and Bhuwan Gurung are out of contact and still running away.

Buddhi Bahadur Kumal, Bhim Narayan Shrestha, Rajesh Ghale and Dinesh Basnet will have to serve 12 years in prison and pay a fine of NRs 50,000 while Dil Bahadur Gurung, Toplal Kumal, Rajan Praja and Ram Kumar

Praja will have to serve 10 years in prison and pay Rs. 50,000 as fine. Convicting Madhav Budhathoki will have to serve 8 years in prison and pay Rs 50,000 as a fine and Safal Lopchan will have to serve 10 years in prison and pay a fine NRs 100000. Convicting Mithu Mukhiya, Chandra Bahadur Shrestha and Indra Budhathoki will have to pay NRs 10000 each, and Ram Prabesh Singh and Rajesh Kumar Singh will have to pay 50000 each.

Ramesh Chandra Pokharel, Kalu Manange and Bhuvan Gurung were residences of Kathmandu; Ramesh Ghale and Tashi Gurung were residence of Manang, Hari Bahadur BK and Madhav Bahadur Budhathoki were residence of Bara; Shrawan Kumar Bhulan and Bhim Bahadur Praja were residence of Makawanpur; Rajesh K Chaoudhary was residence of Siraha, Indra Budhathoki, Chandra Shrestha and Mithu Mukhiya were residence of Parsa, Dammar Lamsal was from Nawalparasi and others were from Chitwan District. Mr Ram Prabesh Singh was from Bihar, India.

A sentence was passed to jail 1 year and fine rupees 10000 for Kul Bahadur Pariyar, Pratap Prasai and Krisna Bahadur Pariyar. During the month of Jestha other 17, two and three offenders each were fined in that order NRs 10000, NRs 8000 and NRs 5000 in the case of wood smuggling.

Offenders Arrested

A total of 118 people were arrested during the month of Jestha 2067 (15 May -14 June 2010). Among them 3 persons were arrested in the case of rhino poaching, 2 were in the case of illegal fishing using explosives, 5 were in the case of wood and other forest resource smuggling and 105 were in the cases of illegal park entry, grass cutting and firewood collection.

Thagu Bote, Jit Bahadur KC and Puran Bote; residence of Kolhuwa VDC, ward No 4, Nawalparasi; were arrested in the case of illegal forest resource harvesting near Gaida Khasa area in the Churia range of Chitwan National Park. Harka Nepali and Tanka Prasad Dhungana; residence of Jagatpur Chitwan; were arrested near Thapaliya Tal area inside the national park in the case of wood smuggling.

Jivan Bahadur Shrestha, residence of Kawasoti 7, Nawalparasi and Gopal Kunwar, residence of Shivamandir 8, Nawalparasi, who were bringing detonators and other explosives inside the Krishnasar BZ community forest on 7 June 2010, were arrested. They agreed their involvement in illegal fishing by using these explosive in the century waterhole inside the community forest. The Krishnasar community forest is a well habitat for rhino and other wild animals.

Aaitaram Praja, Jetha Aaitaram Praja and Amrit Praja; residence of Piple VDC Chitwan; were arrested in the case of rhino poaching and rhino horn sale/purchase activities according to the information given by anti poaching operation informants. The case is under investigation.

Sarus Crane Sighted

Three individuals of Sarus Crane (*grus antigone*) were sighted at Dorangi of Bachyauli VDC in the bufferzone area around Chitwan National Park in the second week of June 2010. This bird is considered as a vagrant species in Chitwan. The few reports were in the 1980s and it was not seen since a decade. The Nepal population is estimated less than 500 individuals. Chitwan National Park is the eastern limit of this species in Nepal.

This is globally threatened bird species listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN threatened category. The main threats are a combination of loss and degradation of wetlands, as a result of drainage and conversion to agriculture (for example wet rice paddy into dry sugarcane or soya bean), ingestion of pesticides, and the hunting of adults and collection of eggs and chicks for trade, food, medicinal purposes and, in some areas, to help prevent damage to crops. High human usage of wetlands results in a high rate of disturbance.



The Sarus Crane is the tallest flying bird in the world (Height about 6 feet, weight about 3.5 kg and wingspan about 8 feet). It consists three subspecies *Grus antigone*, *G. a. sharpii* and *G. a. gilli*. Nepal holds the subspecies *antigone*.

Gharial Crocodile released in Karnali River

According to the decision of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, three (male 1, Female 2) six years old Gharial crocodiles were released in the Karnali River inside the Bardia National Park on 24 May 2010. These Gharials were reared in the captivity since 2005 inside the Gharial Conservation and Breeding Centre, Kasara, Chitwan. Altogether six individuals were counted in the Karnali River on 2008 though the 23 Gharials were released in the same river in 1992 and 1995.



Wildlife Death

Three rhinos were recorded dead in the Chitwan National Park and its bufferzone during the month of Jesth 2067.

SN	Date	Species Name	Sex	Age	Location	Cause of Death
1	2067-2-21	Rhino	male	Adult	Rapti Lok Kalyan BZ community forest, Kathar	Unknown
2	2067-2-25	Rhino	Male	Adult, about 10 yrs	Gaur Machan area	It was injured on 4 th April 2010 due to a gunshot.
3	2067-2-28	Rhino	Male	Adult, about 20 yrs	Banskhola area	Gunshot

Tourist in the National Park

A total of 5933 tourist days were recorded in the month of Jestha, among them 1301 Nepalese, 1877 SAARC citizens and 2755 were foreigners.

Revenue Collection

A total NRs 50,11,458.60 was collected during the month of Jestha 2067.

SN	Topic	Revenue (NRs)
1	Tourist Entrance Fee	3197164.00
2	Camping Fee	25600.00
3	Elephant Ride	118500.00
4	Public right way tariff	47010.00
5	Jungle Drive / vehicle permit	420000.00
6	Fine/ penalties	164917.00
7	kharkhadai	22480.00
8	Sand, stone gravel for local people	895026.60
9	Tender form	900.00
10	VAT	116930.40
11	Miscellaneous	2930.60
Total of the month Jestha		5011458.60
Total of the fiscal year till the Jestha		53061962.59