

An Environmental Watchdog Newsletter

Headlines Himalaya

November 8 - 14, 2011

No. 182

Medini Prajapati & Raju Jati, Editorial Team

For the 182 issue, we reviewed 45 news reports from 15 sources and selected 9 happenings in four countries. This week rhino has been in concern all over Himalaya as they are found to be poached more frequently and the traders have been offered lucrative deal for poaching. Tourism year has seen increased revenue in Nepal's protected areas. A study on the long-term carbon storage in Ganges basin may worsen global warming.

Headlines Himalaya, a weekly e-News is an attempt to keep our global readers abreast with the happenings in the Himalaya. Please share it with your colleagues and friends. Also, subscription is free. Enjoy!

NEPAL	Rhino Horn traders arrested Revenue up from protected areas Resin extraction causes deforestation
INDIA	Ganges Basin, a carbon storage Rhino slayed Lucrative offer for rhino horn traders
CHINA	Tibet-Nepal border: Route for illegal wildlife trade Herdsman positive about compensation
BHUTAN	Thimpu's polluted river

Nepal-Himalaya

RHINO HORN TRADERS ARRESTED

Last month, seventeen people have been arrested by the Chitwan National Park authorities for their involvement in smuggling and trading of rhino horns. This is the "first complete chain" to be taken into custody at once. One of the arrested traders was already declared dead in 2003 as the family submitted a false death certificate then.

7 November

<http://www.rhinoconservation.org/2011/11/07/first-complete-network-of-rhino-horn-traders-arrested-in-nepal/>

REVENUE UP FROM PROTECTED AREAS

The revenue collected from the National parks and Conservation areas has doubled this year (NPR 180 million) than previous year (NRs 95 million). The increase has been possible mainly due to the establishment of new National Parks and Conservation Areas; increase in flow of tourists and direct supervision of the revenue account by the government.

11 November

Aarthik Aviyaan

RESIN EXTRACTION CAUSES DEFORESTATION

The community forest of Udaypur and Khotang districts, east Nepal, are said to be degrading due to illegal resin extraction from younger pine trees. Last month, an estimated 1,500 liters of resin was extracted in 15 days.

Locals are booing against the illegal extraction but the forest authorities are turning their deaf ears.

11 November
Nagarik

India-Himalaya

GANGES BASIN, A CARBON STORAGE

A study has found that carbon is stored in the soils and sediments of the Ganges-Brahmaputra basin from 500 to 17,000 years and in downstream of Gangetic floodplain from 1,500 to 3,500 years, making the region susceptible to global warming. The relatively long carbon residence time in the Ganges system is a revelation as the region has dynamically high rates of physical erosion and sediment transport. The basin is one of the largest sources of terrestrial biospheric carbon to the ocean.

9 November
<http://bit.ly/si3XfI>

RHINO SLAYED

In last five months, third rhino has been killed in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam. The poacher has been apprehended. Prior to these killings, this sanctuary had no poaching records for over five years.

11 November
<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=nov1111/state06>

LUCRATIVE OFFER FOR RHINO HORN TRADERS

An investigation has revealed that a Chinese arms manufacturer who is into rhino farming has approached Northeast Indian rebels to procure body parts and blood samples of rhino from Assam's many game parks such as Kaziranga. In return the rebels will be provided with arms and ammunitions of a "comparable value". Also, the price offered for a 2 kg horn is IRS 20 lacs, which is much higher than in the black market as revealed by the report.

11 November
http://www.sevensisterspost.com/epaper/11_11_2011.pdf

China-Himalaya

TIBET-NEPAL BORDER: ROUTE FOR ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

The Lhasa Customs Office confirmed that porous Tibetan borders with Nepal are being used to smuggle illicit drugs, pangolin scales, and wildlife products into China. In 2011, the Lhasa Customs Office seized many smuggling cases including 5.4 kilograms of pangolin scales, 72.3 kilograms of elephant tusks and Tibetan antelope wool. There are 128 points along the 1100 kilometer Tibetan Autonomous Region-Nepal border through which smuggling activities takes place.

8, 10 November
<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90882/7638748.html>
<http://pangolins.org/2011/11/10/tibet-identified-as-significant-smuggling-route-for-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

HERDSMAN POSITIVE ABOUT COMPENSATION

Tibet is the first Chinese province in the region to introduce the policy of compensating victims of wild animal

attacks. The policy has helped to grow the population of wild animals on the plateau. As a result, in the last five years 59.88 million Yuan (9.4 million U.S. dollars) has been earmarked from the fund for compensation, according to the regional forestry bureau.

14 November

http://www.china.org.cn/environment/2011-11/14/content_23905086.htm

Bhutan-Himalaya

THIMPHU'S POLLUTED RIVER

According to the National Environment Commission report, the Wangchu river that runs through Thimphu city, is heavily polluted due to the sewerage from the public toilets as it is drained into the river. The river has an average total nitrogen content of about 13mg/l (milligrams per litre) and about 1.35mg/l of total phosphorous.

14 November

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/2011/?p=20885>