



Western Terai Landscape Complex Project



Vol 4, Issue 2

April-June 2010

In this issue

- ✓ Saras Crane observed at Suklaphanta
- ✓ Birdlife increased in Mohana Kailai Corridor
- ✓ BNP- Bufferzone Expanded.
- ✓ Finnish Youth Politicians Observed Conservation Activities
- ✓ NTFP Observation Visit
- ✓ Stakeholder's Workshop on Landscape level conservation Organized
- ✓ Nursery Established at Patabhar, Bardia
- ✓ Student Research Grant Awarded
- ✓ A Central Monitoring Team Visited WTLCP

Saras Crane observed at Suklaphanta

Saras crane (*Grus antigone antigone*) one of the rarest birds were seen at wetlands of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve. The national park authorities found a pair of crane together with a young chick.

Saras cranes are one of nine protected bird species of Nepal. Loss of wetland habitat is causing serious threat for existence of saras crane. These cranes are mainly found in Rupandehi and Kapilbastu districts. There are about 170 population of sarus crane in Rupandehi and 68 in Kapilvastu districts.

Birdlife increased in Mohana Kailai Corridor

A recent three day study carried out by a team led by Dr. Karan Shah claimed that they spotted 74 species of bird in Mohana Kailali corridor. "Last year this number was 65", says Rajbahadur Air, president of coordination committee of Mohana Kailali Corridor.

Mohana Kailali corridor links Chure-forest with Dudhawa National Park of India. There are 20 community forest user's groups and four proposed community forest user's groups in this 913 hectare of river side forest. A total of 4,124 households are directly associated with these community forests.

BNP- Bufferzone Expanded.

Government of Nepal has recently expanded buffer zone (BZ) area of Bardia National Park (BNP) by 80 square kilometer. The extended area includes forests of Taranga, Hariharpur, Lekhparajul and Chinchu VDCs of Surkhet district which are situated at north-east part of the national park. After the expansion of buffer zone of BNP, the total area of buffer zone became 507 sq. km.

Buffer zones are transitional wilderness habitat that separate protected area and human settlement. Government shares 50 percent of revenue collected from the national park for community development around buffer zone area.

Finnish Youth Politicians Observed Conservation Activities

Youth Politicians from Finland visited Western Terai Complex from 14th to 16 April 2010. The main aim of this visit was to familiarize the young politicians on issues of environment and livelihood in the developing countries.



Interaction among Community Forest User's Group and Finish Youth Politician groups at Mohana Kailali corridor

On this three day visit, the young politicians visited community seed bank in Belawa- Bardia where they interacted with farmers and observed the seeds of local crops stored at the bank.

The team also visited buffer zone community's NTFP cultivation and processing plant at Suryapatuwa VDC, Bardia. Ceremonial plantation was also organized at the buffer zone area of Suryapatuwa VDC.

The team also learned about conservation activities at Bardia National Park and Godhaghodi lake. The team appreciated

community's efforts of the environmental conservation work and encouraged continuing such work.

NTFP Observation Visit

A team of officials from Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation visited WTLCP project area and Patanjali Yogpith- Haridwar, India in order to observe cultivation, processing of non-timber forest products (NTFP) and to explore marketing opportunities.

The team observed community managed NTFP Processing Plant at Chaukidanda Community Forest of Mohana Corridor in Kailali.

The team also visited famous Patanjali Yogpith, Haridwar where they observed NTFP cultivation and processing. They also discussed about possibility of collaboration on NTFP promotion in Nepal.



Observing a green house at Haridwar, India

The team comprised of eight member including Mr. S.P Joshi- Joint Secretary for the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation; Mr. Jagannath Koirala - National Project Coordinator, WTLCP; Mr. Rishi Ram Tripathi, Regional Director Forests- Mid Western Region and Dr. Rajan Kumar Pokhrel, Regional Director of forests- Far Western Region and Mr. Shree Baral, TAL-WWF Manager among others. The observation tour was organized from 19th to 24th May.

Stakeholder's Workshop on Landscape level conservation Organized

In order to enhance the role, ownership and coordination of line agencies in implementing WTLCP activities, a two day workshop was organized on June 18 and 19 in Dhangadhi. The workshop revisited roles and responsibility of multiple stakeholders of WTLCP in the context of landscape level biodiversity conservation and clarified limitation of the project.

Lecture, open discussion and group discussion were carried out for identifying major project implementation issues and possible way outs.

The challenges identified were poor coordination, lack of adequate ownership, weak planning, planning, monitoring and reporting and issue of sustainability.

The workshop suggested revising District Forest Coordination Committee (DFCC) guideline for the representation of major political party representatives in the absence of elected local government, assigning focal person on each district line agencies for improving coordination, making mandatory provision of reporting project progress to concerned Departments, developing linkage of Community Forest Coordination Committee with DFCC, and strengthening monitoring and reporting mechanism.

There was participation of 37 stakeholders representing various organizations.

Nursery Established at Patabhar, Bardia

Chakra Bahadur Dhama with the support of WTLCP is producing around 30 thousand seedlings of Bakaino, Bans, Ipil Ipil, Koiralo, Simal and Sisoo for plantation in 15 BZCFUGs of Gola and Pashupatnagar VDCs. In addition, he has produced some five thousand seedlings to sell the community at around five rupees per seedlings. Project had trained Dhama three years ago on nursery management. He intend to manage the nursery in future as well for providing seedlings to the community.



Nursery of Chakra Bahadur Dhama, Bardia

Student Research Grant Awarded

WTLCP awarded research grants to 10 university students of masters and bachelors levels. Out of ten, seven grant recipients were female students.

This year, a total of 37 (25 male and 12 female) students applied for the grant. The topics provided for this year's research were Vulnerability Assessment of Indigenous People's Livelihoods due to Climate Change in Kailali or Kanchanpur district, Importance of Community Seed Bank in Agro-biodiversity Conservation, Forest Cover and Land Use Changes in Laljhadi Corridor,

Contribution of Community Forest in Conserving Biodiversity in Biological Corridors and Assessment of Forest Based Micro-Enterprises on Improving Livelihoods of Community People.

In order to promote interest on field based research activities among young students, WTLCP has been providing upto Rs. 25000 each for bachelor level students and upto Rs 35, 000 each for master's level students to conduct research works in western terai for their thesis.

List of Students Awarded for Student Research Grant-2010

S.N.	Student Name	College/ University
1	Aryal Rajaram	Kathmandu Forestry College, Kathmandu
2	Bajracharya Babina	Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
3	Bhandari Vimala	Central Department of Botany, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
4	Bhatta Jagadish Prasad	Institute of Forestry, Pokhara
5	Bhattarai Mukesh	Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
6	Khatiwada Sunita	School of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development (SchEMS), Kathmandu
7	Pandit Shanta	Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
8	Sharma Mamata	Institute of Forestry, Hetauda
9	Thapa Prakash Singh	Institute of Forestry, Pokhara
10	Thapa Sandhya	Padmakanya College, Kathmandu

A Central Monitoring Team Visited WTLCP

A central monitoring team visited WTLCP area and observed various WTLCP supported activities from 31 May to 4 June 2010. The monitoring team consist of representatives from National Planning Commission, Planning Division-MoFSC, Monitoring Division-MoFSC, Ministry of Finance, Department of Forest (DoF), Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DoNPWC), Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management (DoSCWM), Reginal Agricultural Research Station-Nepalgunj, LI-BIRD Pokhara and WTLCP central level staff.

The team appreciated the project's contribution to biodiversity conservation, corridor development, improving livelihoods of the community. The team suggested focusing resources in key targeted areas in order to maximize the impact.

This e-newsletter has been sent by the Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (WTLCP)
For your comments and suggestions, mail us at info@wtlcp.org.np

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