

Chitwan National Park: Monthly Bulletin

No 1, Baishakh 2067 (14 April-14 May 2010)

Editor: Laxman Prasad Poudyal, MSc

Advisor: Narendra Man Babu Pradhan, PhD

Contents

Fifteenth Wildlife Week Celebration

Legal Cases Decision

Patrolling for Conservation

Offenders Arrested

Habitat Management

Wildlife Death

A Rhino Injured

Orphan and Problem Animals

Revenue Collection

Tourists

Wildlife Week 2067 (2010)



Fifteenth Wildlife Week (1-7 Baishakh 2067, 14-20 April 2010), with a slogan “Save the Wild Tigers”, was celebrated organizing different conservation activities. World Heritage Site flag, Chitwan National Park flag and National flag of Nepal were placed in the office premises of National Park Headquarter Kasara and its sector offices Sauraha and Amaltari. Students and teachers of Laxmi High School and Saraswoti High School of Jagatpur VDC visited Gharial Breeding Centre and Wildlife Museum of Kasara. They went for nature walks and bird watching to the Tamor Tal and Lamital areas. Students of Amaltari of Nawalparasi district visited the Jatayu Restaurant and they learnt about the vulture declining in Nepal. Assistant Wardens Laxman Prasad Poudyal, Bed Bahadur Khadka and Shivakant Suman briefed them about natural balance and guided for bird watching.

Buffer Zone users committees organized different conservation activities in their areas. Khagendramalli Users Committee organized village premises cleaning programme. Rewa, Mrigakunja, Gosaibaba, Ayodhyapuri and Shisuwar UC organized workshops/interaction on conservation. They organized conservation rallies and distributed brochures.

On the event of closing day of the wildlife week on 20 April, 2 male and 8 female five years old gharial crocodiles were released in the Rapti River. These gharials were reared in the captive in the Gharial Conservation and Breeding Centre, Kasara. Chief District Officer of Chitwan Mr Basant Gautam (chief guest of the programme), former Bufferzone Management Committee Chair Mr Krisna Bhurtel, country representative of

WWF Finland Lii Rohweder, country representative of WWF Nepal Mr Anil Manandhar, under secretary of DNPWC Mr Jhamak Bahadur Karki, staff of Nepal Army, staff of Chitwan National Park, representatives of Biodiversity Conservation Centre/NTNC, representatives of WWF-TAL programme, chairs of Users Committees, school students and teachers were present during the programme. The chief warden Dr Narendra Man Babu Pradhan briefed about conservation threats of gharial crocodiles and said that these crocodiles are equally important for a natural balance as one horned rhinoceros and Royal Bengal Tiger.



Legal Case Decision

Chitwan National Park sentenced to fine rupees 10,000 each from Indra Bahadur Upreti, Dambar Bahadur Dhungana, Surendra Rai, Shiv Upreti, Krishna Bahadur Thapa, Kalu Rai, Meghnath Lamichhane, Tek Raj Ghimire, Bharat Dallakoti, Santosh Pathak, Madhav Prasad Khanal, Kamal Bahadur Bhujel , Ajaya Kahdka and

Buddiram Mahato; and rupees 5000 each from Kanchha Lama and Surya Bahadur Rai. These people were charged for the crime of wood smuggling. Other convicting Kul Bahadur Pariyar, Pratap Prasai and Krishna Bahadur Pariyar, who are still running away, will have to serve one year jail and pay the fine 10000 rupees.

A sentence was passed to fine rupees 50000 each from Rajesh Kumar Choudhary and Ram Prabesh Singh. They were under investigation in the case of rhino poaching.

Patrolling: Crucial for Conservation Activities

Chitwan National Park has been operating patrolling in three ways; i.e. daily patrolling, camping and sweeping operation, and one day turn out patrolling; to combat illegal activities inside the park. A total of 96 daily patrolling, eight sweeping and camping operations, and nine one-day turn out patrolling were operated during the month of Baishakh. In Sauraha area, joint patrolling with local communities has been operating by activating two teams of 12 members, 6 members in a group. Kumroj, Baghmara and Chitransen bufferzone community forests provided six people (forest watchers), Mrigakunja Users Committee and Wildlife Conservation Society provided 4 people for this purpose. Two game scouts of the park has been leading the joint patrolling in these areas.

Offenders Arrested

A total of 194 people were arrested during the month of Baishakh 2067 (14 April -14 May 2010). Among them a person was arrested in the case of rhino poaching, 2 were in the sambar deer poaching, 11 were in the case of wood smuggling and 180 in the other cases like grass cutting, firewood collection and illegal fishing.

Lekh Bahadur Kumal, residence of Jagatpur, was arrested in the case of rhino poaching. He has been sent to district custody. Kalpuram Darai and Somlal Darai residence of Kathar, Chitwan were arrested on the case of Sambar deer poaching. They were released after investigation.

Kalpana Tamang, Bimala Bhujel, Sunita Tamang, Beli Thapa, Kalpana Thapa, Raj Kumar Rana, Maili Lama, Anju Aale and Sunil Adhikari (residence of Jagatpur Chitwan) were arrested in the case of wood smuggling. They were charged rupees 3000 each.

Suresh Tamang, a residence of Thor, Parsa district was arrested in the case of pine wood smuggling. Santosh Poudel, manager of Aasha Anathalaya-Jagatpur, chitwan, was arrested in the case of Sal wood smuggling. These cases are under investigation.

Habitat Management: Grassland and Waterhole Restored

Grasslands and waterholes play key role in the management of precious wildlife of CNP. Grasslands are being converted into shrublands and forests resulting in the decrease of grassland area from 20% in 1970s to about 5% in recent years. Break-up tall grass stands into patches work of tall grassland and short grassland is crucial for wildlife conservation but the work is challenging. A total of 200 hectares of grassland was restored by cutting and uprooting of unwanted species and removing of invading trees from the grasslands. During the grassland restoration work, a total of 15.8 hectare dense dhaddi, bushes and tall grasses were cut and burnt, and a total of 4064 large trees and several small trees (sapling and pole size) were felled. Restored grassland sites were Khoria Mohan (25 ha), Sukhibhar (55 ha), Ghatgain-Lamital (30ha), 1 Number bridge /Kachuwani (30 ha), Dumariya (30 ha), and Chapprchuli phanta (30 ha).

A total of 5 waterholes were restored. Previously constructed dams were maintained at Thapalaiya and Laguna



Tal areas by excavating 425 m³ soil. A total area of 5068 m² bush and grasses were cut and burnt around the Kamal, Tamor and Lami Tal including Laguna and Thapaliya. A total of 31750 m² area was cleaned by removing the invasive plant species from the waterholes. Unwanted plants such as *Eichhornia crassipes* (Jal kumbhi), *Ipomoea fistulata* (Besaram), *Leersia hexandra* (Karaute ghans) and also the lotus plant (*Nelumbium nucifera*) were removed from the Kamal Tal (10750m²), Tamor Tal (10000m²) and Lamo Tal (11000m²).

Wildlife Death

Four rhinos, a gaur bison and a gharial crocodile were recorded dead in the Chitwan National Park during the month of Baishakh 2067.

SN	Date	Species Name	Sex	Age	Location	Cause of Death
1	2067-1-5	Gaur	Female	25-30	Tamortal	Natural
2	2067-1-8	Rhino	Male	18-20	East of Tamortal	Poaching Gunshot
3	2067-1-15	Gharial	Female	7-8	Narayani River	injury in the internal organ
4	2067-1-20	Rhino	Male	baby	Bhalukhola	unknown
5	2067-1-21	Rhino	Female		Bhalukhola	Poaching Gunshot

A Rhino Injured

A male rhino was injured due to poacher's gunshot at Dumaria area. A gunshot was heard in this area in the morning on 4th April 2010.

Orphan and Problem Animals

A royal Bengal Tiger has been rearing in the closed room at national park's headquarter Kasara. This tiger was captured in October 2009 due to its habit to kill the men. Recently an enclosure is being constructed for its betterment.

A common leopard and an 18 month aged sloth bear have been rearing. The bear roams around the park office premises whereas the leopard is in a small cage. Both the animals have already been handed over to National Zoo/NTNC. Hope the zoo will take these animals very soon. Further a sloth bear (aged about 10 years) has been seized from Indian people who were using this bear dancing in the village areas of CNP Bufferzone on. Government of Nepal has decided to handover this bear to Indian Government.

Revenue Collection

A total NRs 73, 01, 377.66 was collected from different subject matters such as tourist entrance fee, hotel royalties etc which is shown in the table.

SN	Topic	Revenue (NRs)
1	Tourist Entrance Fee	4847200.00
2	Elephant Ride	48100.00
3	Hotel Royalty	16841.00
4	Road Use Facilities	69490.00
5	Jungle Drive	722000.00
6	Fine/ penalties	185400.00
7	Boat port tender	631313.00
8	Sand, stone gravel for local people	687268.65
9	VAT	89350.01
10	Miscellaneous	4415.00
Total of the month Baisakh		7301377.66
Total of the fiscal year till the Baishakh		48050503.99

Tourist in the National Park

A total of 7912 tourist days were recorded in the month of Baisakh, among them 1842 Nepalese, 982 SAARC citizens and 5088 were foreigners.