

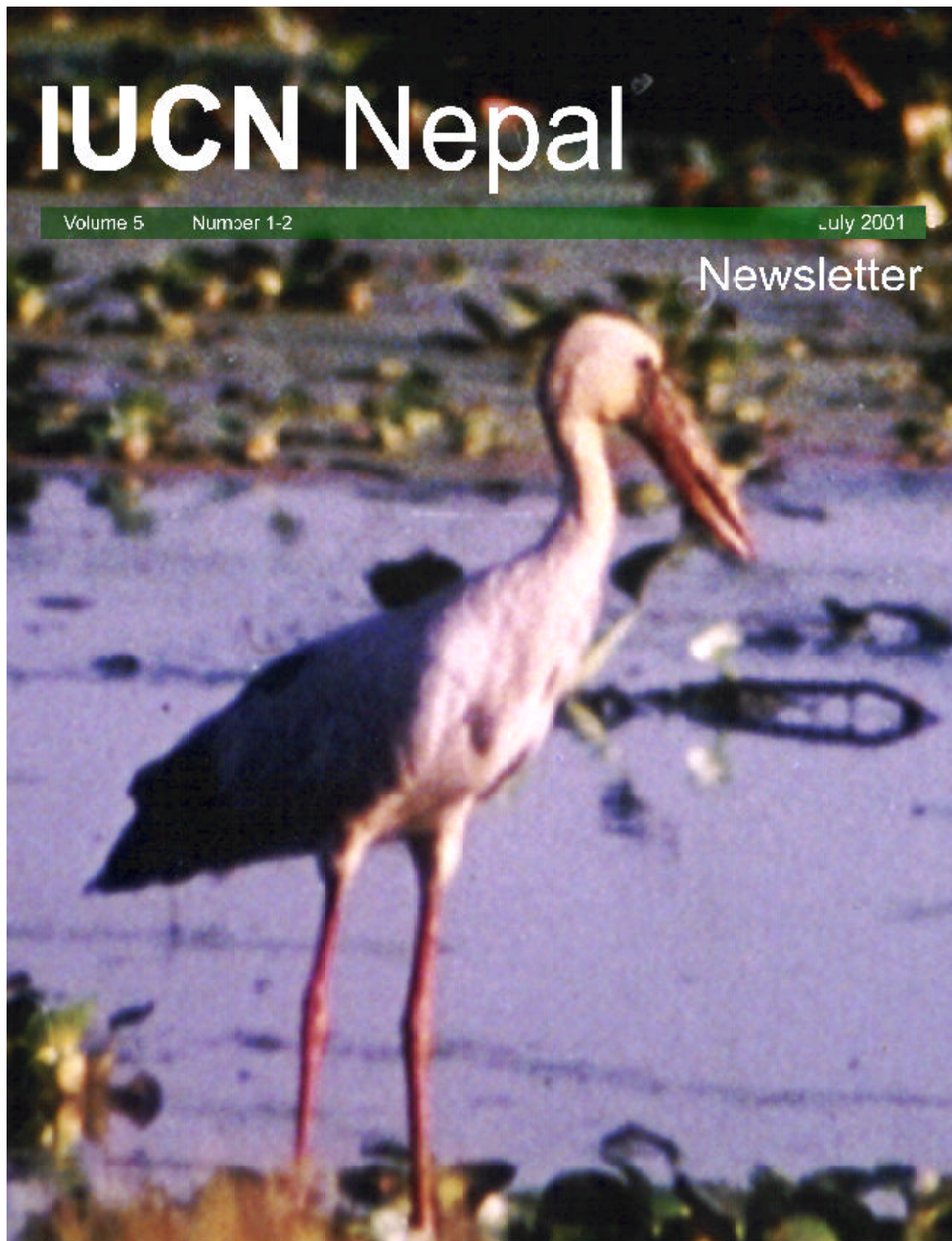
# IUCN Nepal

Volume 5

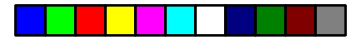
Number 1-2

July 2001

## Newsletter



**IUCN**  
The World Conservation Union



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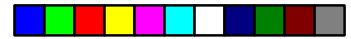
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the support from Spiny Babbler.





# An Interview



*Dr. Mahesh Banskota*

**Country Representative, IUCN - The World Conservation Union,  
Nepal**

*Please tell us something about yourself and the experience that you bring to this job.*

Although I have worked with various international organisations, I am essentially a Nepal based person. Very early in my career, I had a chance to visit about 60 districts of Nepal and these visits left a profound impression on me. Despite hardship and commitment, I found the Nepalese people hard-working and happy, they continue to sing and dance and take life as it comes. Somehow, I felt I had a role in helping to improve the living conditions of these people.

I received my bachelor's degree in economics from Tri Chandra Campus in Nepal. I went on to study in Delhi and then to Cornell University. My main focus is development policy, regional and rural development, and most recently mountain development. I worked at the Tribhuvan University (TU) for 12 years and was with the Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) from 1971-1982. This organisation was able to attract many young brains in the country. From the University, I moved on to the Nepal Administrative Staff College and from there moved on to ICIMOD where I worked for 15 years. At ICIMOD, I was eight years the deputy director general. I was a consultant with UNDP for a regional project before I was selected to become the Country Representative of IUCN Nepal.

While it has been a decade since NGOs have come up, bureaucracy remains an important arm in the national development process. If made competent, it can guide, support, and facilitate development in the country. Though the people are interested in improving their living condition, they need new technology and resources to do this. Since there is a presence of bureaucrats in all parts of Nepal, I think proper training of bureaucracy is very important in the development process.

The main challenge at ICIMOD was to get the organisation accepted as a useful think-tank for the development of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region both among international donor organisations and among the countries of the region.





*IUCN Nepal Office located at Bakhundol, Lalitpur*

At ICIMOD, development of the people was an indirect role as we were working with regional problems that had national implications. Sometimes, a particular country would say some issues were not important. Working in IUCN Nepal will be little different as we are focusing on one country.

*So what made you interested in the present job? Is there a reason why you wanted to work with IUCN?*

IUCN was a close neighbour while I was working at ICIMOD. There was a lot of hustle and bustle going on in IUCN at that time. As I watched from next door, sometimes I was even jealous of the number of visitors to IUCN Nepal. I felt that there was direct contact with the problems of Nepal. I found this very attractive. It was doing excellent work in cooperation and partnership with other organisations. I felt that I could play a role in it. Also, I was looking around for a new job after ICIMOD.

*Could you please tell us more about IUCN as you are its Country Representative now?*

IUCN has a central theme and that is conservation of nature and promoting equitable and sustainable use of natural resources. We cannot talk about equitable and sustainable use without addressing the needs of the people. IUCN Nepal is largely focused on capacity building work: it is trying to identify various policy innovations that promote conservation and sustainable and equitable use of resources; appropriate legal frameworks are being discussed; environment awareness education is being promoted; we have to also follow up on the implementation of some of the international conventions that Nepal has ratified. We want to develop the capacity to do all this. Education is particularly important as environmental issues have

become controversial. Without proper figures and analysis, some decisions can be misleading. We would like to link up IUCN International and the Asia Regional Office through harmonization. I would like to see IUCN Nepal taken as a useful partner by all parts of the society.

*What do you feel are the issues that are confronting the country at this time?*

Issues change with time, place, and people. You have to always talk about opportunities and problems. As a mountainous country with varied terrain, every area has different opportunities and problems. The flat lands face different issues, and the high hills and mountain areas have different problems and potentials facing them. Though these issues change, the fundamental short-term issue to my thinking is the "knowledge gap." By knowledge, I mean awareness, information that can be used for harnessing opportunities and tackling problems.

Nepalese people are frustrated with the poor performance of the development sector. They feel that things are not happening. I believe that when the people themselves make commitments and give their minds and effort to development, miracles can be achieved. The ball is in the court of the leaders of the Nepalese society. They have to think where they want to direct the enthusiasm of the people they lead. In the past, in spite of the peace, there was no political freedom or transparency in programmes for benefiting the people. Therefore, political change was felt necessary. Now there is a strong feeling that political activities need a balance.

*What is the role of IUCN Nepal in managing natural resources and environmental conservation in Nepal?*

In the field of conservation and environmental management, IUCN Nepal is quite active in Nepal. In close collaboration with the National Planning Commission (NPC), it is assisting various government and non-government organisations, both technically and financially, to improve environmental situation of the country. IUCN Nepal has an excellent team of professional staff and experts in these areas. It can play a facilitating role in managing natural resources and enhancing environmental conservation and to support in capacity building of Nepali institutions.

*How can IUCN Nepal support the country and its people?*

IUCN acts as a catalyst or facilitator. We do not work directly because we are a part of an international system





*CR Dr. Banskota discussing with local people at TMJ area, eastern Nepal.*

that helps governments and NGOs. IUCN Nepal can provide support, for instance, in natural resource management. We help strengthen NGOs and have even helped establish some local NGO type organisations. These organisations, that involve the local people, are directly responsible for the project activities. Time will come when they can grow and become capable of taking on other challenges and are free from direct dependence. Furthermore, IUCN Nepal helps by training personnel and helping organisations deal with issues through dialogues and consultations. There is also limited demonstrations because in some cases "seeing is believing." Biodiversity is very challenging: protecting, preserving, and bringing benefits to the people is important.

There is also a lot of interest in the wetlands and the concept of the green economy. How do you make the economy greener and healthier? How do you promote policies that lead towards this direction? There is also the issue of taxation. In order to move the economy in a certain direction, there may be the need to change the incentives. There is also a lot of work involved in the legal framework, environmental education, and governance. Environmental information is another area that I would like to work in.

*Please tell us about what is going on within IUCN and inform us about some of the challenges you are facing.*

At the moment, the organisation is working on a three-year plan that is running in its second year. The programme is well funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). There is expectation that IUCN will succeed in diversifying its donors. At present, it is only SDC that provides the major support for both core and projects. We are working on this. I talked with 11 different donors in

February and many of them were interested. The headquarters has set broad guidelines and programmes. Since IUCN is spread throughout the world, it needs to be flexible because countries have different ecosystems and people have different conservation needs. The present IUCN global programme allows enough variations that fit individual needs. We are making quadrennial programmes: the present one lasts from 2001 to 2004. At this time, IUCN has many experts that we can look to. We have people in forestry, agriculture, environmental education, environment management, law, gender, enterprise, NTFP, wetlands and non-timber forest products. In terms of biodiversity, we have access to a huge pool of Nepalese professionals. Yes, we have some gaps and here our linkage with international expertise is helpful. These days, everybody is a website away or an e-mail away.

*Finally, would you like to give any message to the readers of IUCN Nepal newsletter?*

IUCN Nepal has played a catalytic role in the conservation and management of natural resources in Nepal. In the past, IUCN Nepal was primarily a project-led programme to support NPC and the government to develop, prepare and effectively implement the National Conservation Strategy (NCS).

However, a lot has changed now as IUCN Nepal has become a full-fledged Country Office. It has defined a new role and approach to achieve its goal. IUCN Nepal continues to primarily support NPC and the government institutions to achieve national conservation goals. In future, IUCN Nepal will increasingly support the capacity building process for various Nepali institutions related to natural resource management.

Environment and conservation are concerns of every individual and community. Each one of us can contribute to achieve environmental and conservation goals. Without active participation and support of the local communities, no country can improve its physical environment and conserve its natural resources.

IUCN Nepal hopes that every Nepali will play their role in the conservation of natural resources that have made this country so beautiful.

# IUCN

## MILESTONES



Over two decades, IUCN Nepal has successfully conducted and implemented numerous conservation projects on environmental education, heritage and wetland conservation, rangeland management, and community mobilisation in resource planning and biodiversity conservation. Working closely with NGOs, INGOs, and government and non-government bodies, IUCN Nepal also hopes to emphasise on community participation at the grassroots level and ensure that the use of natural resources is adopted through ecologically sustainable methods. The organisation's past achievements are listed below:

### Environmental Law and Policy



- IUCN Nepal assisted HMG/N to draft and finalise the Environmental Protection Bill, which envisions the establishment of an Environmental Protection Agency and provides statutory backing to the Environmental Protection Council.
- The Water Pollution (Prevention and Control) Bill was drafted to improve the quality of water resources in Nepal.
- IUCN Nepal assisted HMG/N to draft and finalise the Environmental Protection Regulations, which came into effect in 1997.
- A document on legislative and institutional framework for environmental management in Nepal was published in 1992, and still serves as an important resource on environmental law.
- An interaction programme on environmental law and justice was held to allow judges to express their

concerns and views on the state of Nepal's deteriorating environment and to assess the status of environmental legal instruments.

- A study on the implementation of international environmental law in Nepal was carried out and published.

### Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management

- IUCN Nepal supported the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) to prepare concept papers and proposals on parks and people issues. The project was funded by UNDP and executed by DNPWC.
- Habitat classification based on geophysical and biological classification and vegetation was carried out.
- A biodiversity country study was conducted and published as a status report to help define future directions.
- Eco-tourism strategies were focused on remote Himalayan valleys (Manaslu, Chhekampar, Sringi, and Ganesh Himal).
- Public information was updated at the Central Zoo, Kathmandu, and the Royal Chitwan National Park.
- Base map of forest types and natural vegetation was prepared using GIS facilities. The map provides information on forest composition and serves as a basis to study critical biodiversity areas in Nepal. The project was supported by the Tree Improvement Project, DANIDA.



IUCN Nepal collaborated with the Curriculum Development Centre of the Ministry of Education in introducing environmental education subjects and developing text books and resource materials for teachers at lower secondary and secondary schools.

*Integrating environmental education concerns into the formal education system has considerably raised public awareness in natural resource management.*

## Environmental Education

### Formal Education

IUCN Nepal collaborated with the Curriculum Development Centre of the Ministry of Education in introducing environmental education subjects and development of textbooks and resource materials for teachers at lower secondary and secondary schools. The organisation also worked with the Faculty of Education at the Tribhuvan University to develop two Environment Education (EE) courses for inclusion in the B.Ed programme.

### Non-formal Education

- IUCN Nepal integrated environmental concerns into adult training programmes of Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC), Women's Development Training Centre (WTC), Hotel Management and Tourism Training Centre (HMTTC), Central Agricultural Training Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, Training Section of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, and Agricultural Training and Research Institute of Agricultural Development Bank (ADB).
- A status survey of environmental NGOs funded by the Japan Centre for International Exchange was conducted in joint collaboration with Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA).
- A three-year street theatre project was conducted on population and environment through joint efforts

of IUCN Nepal, National Planning Commission, Ministry of Population and Environment, and UNFPA. The street theatre was organised in 250 locations that covered nine districts.

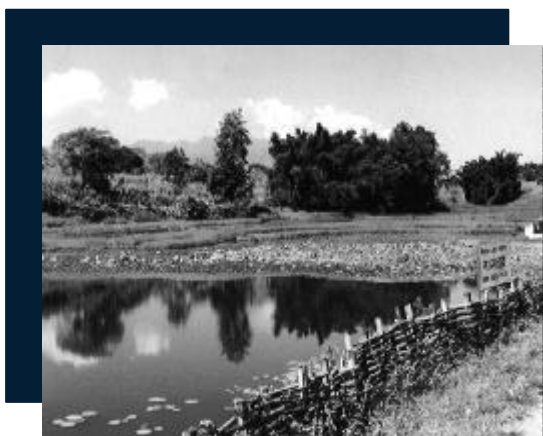
- A video on street theatre was produced in collaboration with the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ).
- A series of wall newspapers were prepared and distributed through 72 organisations in 75 districts of Nepal.

## Institutional Development and Environmental Planning

- Local area planning procedures were adopted in mid-hill districts of Lamjung, Arghakhanchi, Gorkha, Kaski, and other districts.
- Environmental studies commissioned by NPC and HMG/N were carried out on watershed areas at Begnas and Rupa Lakes.
- The Endowment Conservation Trust Fund was established to conserve important wetland sites in Pokhara. This process was adopted and replicated at other sites.
- Policy guidelines that expressed HMG/N's decentralised policy were developed for environmental management at the local level.
- The conservation and development plan of Lekhnath Municipality was prepared in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of the Department of Housing

and Urban Development and Lekhnath Municipality.

- The Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan (NEPAP I and II) was prepared in collaboration with HMG/N. The documents prescribed ways of integrating environmental concerns into national and sectoral development strategies.
- The conservation strategy was prepared for Pokhara Valley and its lakes in partnership with government and local institutions.
- The tourism code of conduct and strategies for Mount Manaslu region and Pokhara Valley were developed in collaboration with the Department of Tourism.
- "Conflict Resolution and Mediation in Natural Resource Management in Nepal" was published to serve as a reference guide for policy makers, judges, and local level authorities involved in natural resource management.
- A conservation plan for Siwalik areas in Eastern Nepal was published. The document reviews problems and evaluates the existing status of Siwalik areas and introduces conservation measures.
- The national EIA guidelines were prepared in consultation with environment related government and non-government agencies, and came into effect in 1993.
- Separate EIA guidelines for forestry and industry sectors were published.



*A wetland in Kathmandu Valley.*

- An EIA human resource base was established and over 150 core group members from various disciplines and organisations received training on EIA.

- A guide to address environmental impacts from rural infrastructure projects was prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Development.

### **Wetlands and Heritage Conservation**

- The National Wetlands Group was formed.
- Rapid reconnaissance methodology was developed.
- Social impact analysis of Halkhoria Daha was carried out.
- Wetland inventory was formed for Nepal's Terai region.
- The national wetlands database was set up.
- The demonstration site to restore wetland resources at Gaundahawa Lake in Lumbini was established. Also, action research on flora, fauna, and socio-economy as well as environmental awareness and eco-tourism training programmes was carried out.
- Participatory management plans were prepared in Nepali and English for areas surrounding Ghodaghodi and Gaundahawa Lakes.

### **Environmental Economics**

- The country study for Nepal on environmental economics was undertaken to give an overview of government policies and measures and to identify priority areas for future EE activities. As a result, the document "Linking Economic Development and Environmental Policy in Nepal" was published.
- The Environmental Economics Advisory Committee was established to provide advice on present and future EE activities and to liaise between EE programmes and relevant organisations. The EE expert group was formed to provide a discussion forum for EE issues and to set up a network of environmental economists as consultants within and outside IUCN.
- Economic biodiversity studies in South and South East Asia were conducted to obtain an outline of the use of economic tools for biodiversity conservation.



# I. THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME

## (2000 - 2002)

### I. I CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS AND OTHER NTFPs IN SETI AREA

#### Introduction

IUCN Nepal introduced a small scale action research project in six VDCs of Jorayal, Doti district, to address issues like community forestry management, over exploitation and premature collection of medicinal plants, and to conserve and protect forest areas that were home to valuable medicinal plants and NTFP (Non Timber Forest Products) species. The project focuses on important aspects of community participation and empowers rural communities to preserve forests.

#### Project Activities

During 2000, the following activities were carried out under the project:

- Orientation classes were conducted for district and VDC level stakeholders.
- Baseline information was collected on NTFPs in six VDCs.
- Technical and vocational training curricula were reviewed to update environmental education in schools.

- Need assessment was conducted for instructors at Seti Technical School (STS).
- Sensitization workshop on environment and conservation was organised for instructors at STS.
- The NTFP expert group was formed and consulted at the central level for baseline information collection.

#### Ghodaghodi Wetland Site

In Ghodaghodi wetland site, the project is working through GACAF, a local NGO, to build the capacity of rural communities and provide them with funds to facilitate the implementation of Ghodaghodi Conservation Plan. Nine user groups and five eco-clubs were formed to raise awareness on conservation issues.

#### Partners

At present, IUCN Nepal is working with the District Forest Office, Soil Conservation Office, Herbs Production and Processing Company Limited (HPPCL), and District Development Committee. Recently, partnership with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, and Centre for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) was developed to ensure policy level support at different stages of implementation.

*Rittha (Sapindus mukorossi), an important  
NTFP, used in soap making*



## I. II ILAM SIWALIKS

### Introduction

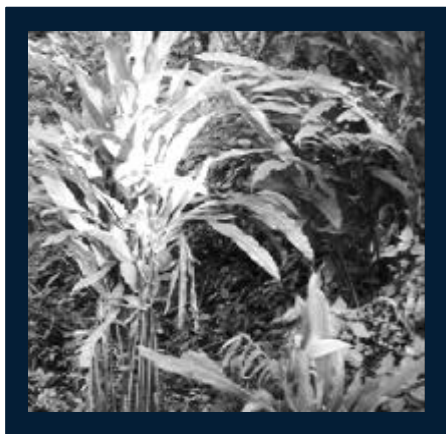
With the introduction of the "Conservation of Critical Ecosystem in Ilam Siwaliks," IUCN Nepal aims to train and prepare local institutions as custodians and managers of natural resources. The project comprises of Chulachuli, Danabari, Chisapani, Mahamai, and Sakpara VDCs in Ilam district and covers forest areas of 25,000 ha and focuses on promoting conservation and creating economic opportunities for poor households, women, community forest user groups, and disadvantaged communities.

### Project Activities

- Traditional users of forests in Bakuwa VDC were identified and 393 households with a population of 2,209 were organised into a Community Forest User Group (CFUG).
- Two one-day workshops were organised in Damak to assess existing opportunities for sustainable forest management.

### Women and Disadvantaged Groups

- Women groups active in Chulachuli VDC were mobilised and a profile of 40 women groups was documented.



*Evolution of eco-friendly cardamom farming has stabilised landslide-prone farms and enhanced livelihood opportunities for local people in TMJ area.*

- A five-member umbrella body was formed out of 40 women groups to coordinate women focus programmes at the district and VDC level.
- Five women from Ilam Siwaliks participated in a three-day workshop on 'Enhancing Women's Capacities to Conserve Biodiversity in Community Forests' in Sankhuwasabha district.

### Integrated Sub Watershed Management Plan

- Sub-watershed management plans are being prepared for Chanju and Bagdwar river systems.

### Flood Damage to Farm Lands

- Six flood control committees were established and assisted to construct 15 stone and 55 bamboo spurs in collaboration with Ilam DDC.
- The flood control committees drafted their constitutions with technical assistance from the project.

### Control River Banks through Bio-engineering Measures

- A two-day study tour was organised for nursery managers and community mobilisers at the Churia Forest Development Project in Siraha and Saptari districts.
- Over 5,000 bamboo and 1,200 rattan seedlings and other native species were planted in wastelands along the river banks.

### Plan for Sustainable Harvest of NTFPs

- A collaborative study on NTFPs with high market value was conducted for Ilam Siwaliks.

### Integration of Gender and Environment in Local Development Planning

- A coordination meeting for Ilam DDC and UNDP-supported Local Governance Programme (LGP) was organised in Dharan.

### **Documentation and Information Dissemination**

- Studies, assessment, and workshops conducted during 2000 were documented and disseminated.

### **Partners**

Close working relationships have been established with District Forest Office, District Development Committee, Damak Municipality, and Agro-Enterprise Centre based in Dharan.



*Rhododendrons, the attractions in TMJ area.*

## **I. III COMMUNITY CONSERVATION OF RHODODENDRON FOREST**

### **Introduction**

The major focus of NORM (National Rhododendron Conservation Management Committee) is to mobilise people at the grassroots level to protect natural forests home to different species of rhododendron and to organise income-generating activities and silviculture training to forest user groups.

### **Project Activities**

- A total of 32 CFUGs participated in an interactive workshop aimed at carrying out a forest management need assessment at Chauki.

- A running silver trophy was instituted to celebrate the World Environment Day (June 5) and to encourage Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) to implement scientific forest management in the project area.
- A three-day workshop on "Promotion of Leadership Roles for Sustainable Conservation of Biodiversity in Rhododendron Forest" was organised from September 27-29, 2000, at Basantapur.

### **Biodiversity Resources in Community Forests**

- A preliminary assessment of potential NTFPs in community forests was conducted with the support of Agro-Enterprise Centre.
- Fifteen CFUGs participated in a workshop on sustainable management of biodiversity resources in community forests.

### **Nature Tourism**

- A preliminary discussion to promote tourism in TMJ was organised in collaboration with Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) in Kathmandu.

### **Alternative Energy Resources in TMJ**

- A three-member committee was formed to pursue alternative energy initiatives through community consultation at Chauki.
- An assessment of alternative energy models being practised in Nepal was reviewed through discussions with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), UNDP, and Centre for Rural Technology (CRT).

### **Conservation Awareness**

- Nine schools in three districts were involved in conservation education programmes.
- Two school teachers from Terhathum and Taplejung districts were trained under the Global Environment Programme 2000.

### Institutional Mobilisation

- Stakeholders of rhododendron conservation at the central and district levels (MPs, NTB, Department of Plant Resources, MoPE, MoFSC and NORM) defined their work responsibilities in a one-day interaction programme.
- A Central Advisory Board comprising of MPs from three districts, ministries, The Mountain Institute(TMI), and WWF was formed to coordinate initiatives at different levels.
- A 57-member District Council was formed to coordinate annual programmes of line agencies at the DDC and VDC levels.

### I. IV WETLAND CONSERVATION

#### Problems

- Over-grazing of livestock, over-fishing, drainage, siltation, pollution, invasive species are some of the major problems of wetland conservation programme

#### Activities

- Establishment of information centre at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR), Kusaha, Sunsari district
- Assistance in the finalization of the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR) management plan



*Fishermen collecting fish in the wetland.*

- A one-day workshop at the Village Development Committee level was organised in Gufapokhari to discuss and identify mechanisms to resolve land tenure conflicts in the area.

#### Partners

IUCN Nepal works with NORM in Tinjure-Milke-Jaljale area and has developed partnership with Community Forest User Group networks, NUKCFP, District Development Committees, and District Forest Offices. A central level partnership has also been developed with the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Ministry of Population and Environment, The Mountain Institute, and WWF Nepal.

#### Ghodaghodi Lake System

- Protection of wetland site
- Empowerment of women and poor households
- environmental awareness programmes in schools
- Capacity building of local NGOs (GACAF)
- Assist local stakeholders to develop a model of community managed wetland site

### I. V SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, TECHNICAL AND LEGAL POLICY

#### Introduction

Activities related with the development of social and environmental policy and Legal and Regulatory

Framework focus on working with the government to develop appropriate legal frameworks and supports institutions to conduct policy research and develop sustainable use of natural resources. At present, IUCN Nepal is initiating demonstration projects at various levels to link policies with ground realities. The key actors that play crucial roles in project implementation are:

- Parliamentarians responsible to make laws,
- Administrators responsible to implement laws,
- Judges responsible to provide environmental justice, and
- Lawyers who participate in the justice process.

#### Highlights

- A review and evaluation of existing legal frameworks to declare rhododendron forest as a protected area.
- A task force represented by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), Department of Forest, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE), Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MLJPA), and IUCN Nepal was formed to oversee the planning and implementation of law related activities.
- All relevant acts and regulations, including Forest Act, 1992, Forest Regulation, 1993, Environment Protection Act, 1996, and National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973, reviewed to explore different legal conservation options for Tinjure Milke Jaljale Rhododendron Forest Area.
- Public consultations at Milke Jaljale and assessment of local community's perceptions on the legal conservation status.

#### National Policy on Collaborative Management of Wetlands

- The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) formed a 7-member task force represented by DNPWC, MoFSC, DoF, Judges' Society Nepal, and IUCN Nepal in March 2000 to guide and supervise the preparation of the national policy.

- The Water Resources Act, Aquatic Animal Protection Act, Environment Protection Act, Forestry Act, and Local Self-Governance Act reviewed.

#### State of Environment Report (SER)

- Preparation of the State of Environment Report (SER) was initiated following a Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) to promote environmental conservation and sustainable development.
- A four-member expert committee was formed which included experts from MoPE and IUCN Nepal.
- A thematic paper was developed which covered the status of the transportation sector and vehicular pollution in some Terai towns.

#### Partners

This Programme has established partnerships with the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, MoPE, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Department of Forest, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and Judges' Society of Nepal.



Mr. Surendra Bhandari, IUCN Nepal, briefing on the development of future law programme in Nepal.

IUCN Nepal



# NATIONAL STRATEGIES

## FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



### Introduction

In the past, HMG/N made efforts on developing National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD), and as early as 1983, the prospectus for the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) was prepared and completed in 1987 with the assistance of IUCN - The World Conservation Union. Under the coordination of NPC (National Planning Commission), the implementation of NCS started in 1989. In this process, review of NSSD has been an important activity.

### Objectives

- Identify strategic processes for sustainable development (SD) that have been successfully implemented in Nepal.
- Assess elements that provide information for the development of Sustainable Development Agenda for Nepal as well as inform OECD-DAC and other donors.

### Regional Dialogue

A regional dialogue was organised from 25 to 26 July 2000 in Kathmandu to share experiences of South and South East Asian countries regarding NSSD and their reviews. Representatives from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, OECD - DAC, and IIED were present.

### Mid-Term Review Workshop

Four participants from Nepal were invited to attend the Mid-Term Review workshop organised in Phuket,

Thailand. The progress that Nepal had made with the NSSD dialogue and the principles of effective NSSD derived at the Kathmandu workshop were shared and appreciated during the workshop.

### National Dialogues

The first national dialogue was organised on 18 December 2000 and was participated by 60 individuals representing government agencies, NGOs, educational institutions, political parties, news media, and intelligentsia. Eight experts presented a synopsis of their status review on sectors like forestry, rangeland, biodiversity, agriculture, tourism, health, population, education, good governance, poverty alleviation, drinking water and sanitation. Following the presentations, participants were divided into five different groups to discuss various aspects of sustainable processes. During the dialogue, the groups followed Topic Guide 2: In-country dialogue prepared by the OECD - DAC task force on NSSD.

### International Conference in Bolivia

IUCN Nepal participated along with the government represented in the international conference on NSSD in Bolivia.

### Partners

The dialogue on NSSD is a joint venture with NPC. It is specifically linked with the Sustainable Community Development Programme (SCDP) or Capacity 21, which NPC is implementing with UNDP's financial support. NSSD steering committee included both the government and donor agencies.

# REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT

## ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

The Regional Environment Assessment Programme (REAP) has a focus on assisting the Asian countries in implementing recommendations of the various international environmental conventions, through the use of impact assessment and auditing techniques. These conventions include Climate Change, Desertification, Biodiversity and trans-boundary movement of hazardous materials.

- REAP has published the proceedings of:
  - i. Regional Strategic Environment Assessment Conference held in Islamabad, Pakistan, October 29 - November 1, 2000.
  - ii. Second Annual South Asian Environment Assessment Conference held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, November 20-23, 2000.

The proceedings also carry selected papers presented at the conference on different issues.

- The first South Asian Regional Environment Assessment Association (SAREAA) convention was organised in Kathmandu from August 18-19, 2000. In this convention, representative from all National Associations signed the SAREAA Constitution and installed the SAREAA executive board. The executive board comprised of SS Tariquzaaman of Bangladesh as the first president of SAREAA.

**Till now, REAP has been successful in organising the following:**

1. Sri Lanka National EIA Training Workshop and Thematic Session on SEA, November 5-7, 1999, Colombo.
2. Regional Training Workshop on Integrating Biodiversity concerns in EIA, December 4-5, 1999, Kathmandu, Nepal.
3. First Annual South Asian Environment Assessment Conference, December 4-7, 1999, Kathmandu, Nepal.
4. Regional SEA Workshop, October 30, November 1, 2000, Islamabad, Pakistan.
5. Regional Training Workshop on Integrating Biodiversity Concerns in EIA, November 20-21, 2000, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
6. Second Annual South Asian Environment Assessment Conference, November 20-24, 2000, Dhaka, Bangladesh.



*The Second Annual Environment Assessment Conference being held at Dhaka, Bangladesh, in November 2000.*

### Activities

- Capacity Development in Environment Assessment Project (CDEAP) - Phase I
- Establishment and strengthening of National Environment Assessment Associations (NEAAs) and South Asian Regional EA Association (SAREAA)
- Organisation of regional and national training programmes and conferences
- Organisation of annual South Asian EA conferences
- Information exchange through news bulletins and web pages.

### Planned Activities

- Capacity Development in Environment Assessment Project (CDEAP) - Phase II
- Climate change vulnerability assessment
- Minimization of hazardous waste dumping in freshwater ecosystems
- Bagmati River clean up project
- Bio-medical waste management in Kathmandu



*The first annual South Asian Environment Assessment Conference held at Kathmandu, Nepal, in December, 2000.*

# SOUTH ASIAN NETWORK

## FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

### Problem

- Inadequate economic tools and analyses to address growth-poverty-environmental change nexus and to understand and identify solutions to address environmental problems and develop appropriate policy reforms

### Activities

- Small research grants to strengthen abilities of researchers in South Asia
- Development of environmental and natural resource economics in teaching research institutions in S Asia
- Peer review of research and information sharing through workshop and research meetings
- Training programmes for junior faculty in EE and support for curriculum development
- Information dissemination through electronic media and publications

- ▶ The third bi-annual research and training workshop was organised from May 6-11, 2001, at the Tata Energy Research Institute near New Delhi. Approximately, 30 researchers and faculty members from Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Sweden, Sri Lanka, UK and US attended the workshop.
- ▶ Earlier this year, the Beijer International Institute of Ecological Economics, Stockholm, organised an Advanced Research Workshop on Property Rights and Environmental Resource Management at the Luxor, Egypt. Of the 20 participants from Africa and Asia, 5 of them represented from South Asia.
- ▶ In an attempt to strengthen scientific writing skills in South Asia, SANDEE joined hands with the South Asian Regional Office of the International Development and Research Centre, IDRC, Canada and Nepal Water Conservation Foundation to sponsor a four-day training workshop in Nepal. Approximately, 25 people participated in the workshop on basic and proposal writing skills.

### Planned Activities

- Advanced teaching workshop on Environmental Economics (CGE Modelling) with the Beijer International Institute for Ecological Economics to be conducted in October 2001 in Nepal
- Environmental Economics training to be organised with the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), India



*The South Asian network meeting in progress.*

SANDEE announces its April 2002 research grants competition. Researchers are requested to send proposals on the following three broad themes:

1. Poverty and natural resource management;
2. Economics of pollution management and environmental health; and
3. Sharing of regional and global resources.

*The deadline for receiving the research proposals is December 1, 2001.*

# REGIONAL

## ACTIVITIES

### Regional Conservation Forum

IUCN Regional Conservation Forum for Asia was held in New Delhi, India, from 22-25, March 2000. Nepal had a strong participation in the meeting. In addition to five IUCN member organisations, the forum was participated by Hon. Mr. Hari Shankar Tripathi, Member, National Planning Commission; Mr. Rabi Bahadur Bista, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation; Mr. Gabriel Campbel, Director General, ICIMOD; and Mr. Jay Pal Shrestha of US/Environmental Hub based in Kathmandu. Dr. Ambika Adhikari, Dr. Badri D. Pande, Mr. Narayan Belbase, and Mr. Subas BK from IUCN Nepal also attended the forum. After the forum, IUCN Nepal staff participated in the Asia Regional Directorate Meeting held in New Delhi.

### WCPA South Asia Regional Workshop

A regional workshop of WCPA South Asia was organised in Godavari Village Resort in Kathmandu from 27 February to 2 March 2001. A total number of 100 leading forest and wildlife scientists, conservationists, and policy makers from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Nepal participated in the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to review the existing status of the protected area system in the region and present feedback to the World Park Congress 2003 to be held in Durban, South Africa, and provide concrete suggestions for the future management of PAs. During the workshop, participants from natural heritage sites in South Asia were also present. South Asia contains the most diverse ecosystem in the world and consists of three of the 22 global biodiversity hot spots with over 200,000 sq. km area under the PA system. Within this, 38 areas are under world heritage sites. The workshop was jointly organised by Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation,



*Inaugural session of World Commission of Protected Areas regional workshop at Godavari, Lalitpur, in February, 2001.*

IUCN Nepal, WWF Nepal, KMTNC, and UNDP. The World Heritage Centre and DANIDA also supported the event. The workshop adopted important recommendations and covered issues on landscape planning, collaborative management of protected areas in the South Asian region, and the trans-boundary protected area system.

### Workshop on Himal Strategy

A mountain protected area programme in the Himalayan region was initiated in 1999 with a planning grant from Norwegian Agency for Cooperation and Development (NORAD). IUCN regional programme for sustainable use initiative has been working with NODE (Norwegian Consortium for Development and Environment) on various projects. The Himal Strategy Programme was developed after a major regional consultative workshop held in January 2000 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The main objectives of the programme were to promote co-management of PAs on sustainable use to conserve the ecosystem and habitats not covered by the PA system, assist local people regarding *in situ* conservation of agrobiodiversity, support research work and demonstration on conservation methods, and generate and disseminate knowledge among wider audiences. In this regard, a one-day workshop was organised in Kathmandu in April 2001 to discuss the proposal. Participants from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and NORAD attended the workshop. During the workshop, the draft proposal and programme were discussed with the amendments.

# MEMBER

## ACTIVITIES

- An interactive meeting was organised for IUCN members in Nepal with Dr. Marietta Koch-Weser, former Director General, IUCN, on February 23, 2000. Following a brief presentation on IUCN HQ's global programme and its relations with members, commissions, and regional and country offices, Dr. Koch-Weser responded to comments and queries from representatives of member organisations.
- The IUCN Regional Conservation Forum held in New Delhi in March 2000 had a strong participation of members from Nepal. The member organisations

represented at the forum were DNPWC, Green Camp Nepal, KMTNC, APEC, and HWEPC. Mr. Bhimsen Das Pradhan, General Secretary of Green Camp Nepal, presented a paper on behalf of members from Nepal.

- Nepal National Committee for IUCN (*adhoc*) was formed in June 2000. The members had several rounds of discussions before finalising the committee's by-laws. Mr. Narayan Poudel, representative of the state member, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, was unanimously appointed Chairman of the *adhoc* committee.

- The World Conservation Congress held in Amman, Jordan, from 4 - 11 October 2000 was attended by five member organisations. They were Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal Heritage Society, Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness, Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists, and Association for Protection of Environment and Culture.

- In February 2001, the IUCN Council admitted International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as an international non-governmental organisation member of IUCN. IUCN Nepal is very pleased to welcome ICIMOD as the tenth IUCN member from Nepal.

- Soon after joining IUCN Nepal as its Country Representative, Dr. Mahesh Banskota first met with IUCN members and then conferred individually with most of them to explore ways of further strengthening ties between members and IUCN Nepal Secretariat.



*The NTFP beads being displayed at the local market in Dhangadi.*





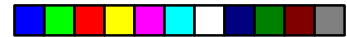
# INTERACTIVE MEETING

## WITH IUCN MEMBERS IN NEPAL



*IUCN member participants listening to presentations in an interactive meeting*

- As part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen ties with IUCN members in Nepal, an interactive meeting was held on 23 May 2001. Of the 10 members, representatives of eight organisations took part in the meeting. General discussions were preceded by brief presentations by Dr. Mahesh Banskota, Country Representative, IUCN Nepal and Dr. Badri D. Pande, Programme Coordinator of IUCN Nepal.
- Dr. Banskota briefed the members on current activities of IUCN Nepal and then asked members to help diversify donor portfolios as Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation was the only principal financial contributor to IUCN Nepal. Dr. Pande reviewed the evolution of IUCN members in Nepal and the important role they played in enhancing the image of IUCN. He also briefed the members on the status of the national committee and the need to reactivate the programme advisory committee.
- A number of representatives of member organisations reiterated their pledge to support IUCN Nepal to carry out conservation related activities in Nepal. Some of the members expressed the opinion that IUCN Nepal had not fully tapped on the strengths of the members. Other members suggested that there was the need to encourage additional government agencies to join IUCN, encourage prominent individuals from Nepal to run for the position of Regional Councillor, expedite the process to formalise the national committee of IUCN members in Nepal, and revive the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) of IUCN Nepal.
- A follow-up meeting was organised with IUCN members on 30 May 2001 to further deliberate on the national committee (NC) and programme advisory committee matters. The members present decided to register NC as a national Non Government Organisation in the district administration office. As a by-law is required in Nepali language for this purpose, Surendra Bhandari, Environmental Law Programme Officer at IUCN Nepal, was requested to develop a draft by-law based on the model by-law prepared by IUCN Headquarters. The members suggested that the NPC member responsible for the environment should chair IUCN Nepal Programme Advisory Committee. They have also identified government agencies, donors, private agencies, and individuals who could serve as PAC members.



# INTERACTIVE MEETING

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## WITH GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



*The meeting  
with government  
partners in progress*

- With the objective of updating government partners on the progress, current activities, future prospects, and issues and problems of IUCN Nepal, a meeting was organised with government partners on 21 May 2001. A total of 10 officials representing various government agencies took part in the interactive meeting. Dr. Jagdish Chandra Pokharel, Hon'ble Member of the National Planning Commission, chaired the meeting. According to him, the meeting helped to identify and understand the interests and feelings of partner organisations.

Before the meeting was open for general discussion two presentations were made from IUCN Nepal. Dr. Mahesh Banskota, Country Representative, gave a brief account of the projects currently in operation. From his presentation, it was clear that IUCN Nepal was dependent on a single donor - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for financial

resources. On the same occasion, Dr. Badri D. Pande, Programme Coordinator/IUCN Nepal, made the second presentation on the role of IUCN members of Nepal in enhancing the image of IUCN in Nepal. Dr. Pande's presentation emphasised the need to form a national committee of members and also to reactivate the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) as soon as feasible.

In the course of discussion, the representatives of the government appreciated the role played by IUCN Nepal in conserving Nepal's environment and wanted to see greater involvement of IUCN in future. They felt that IUCN Nepal should emphasise projects like environment protection, climate change, biodiversity, development of database and monitoring standards, health and sanitation, and flora of Nepal. The participants were unanimous on the need to reactivate PAC.



# STAFF

## MOVEMENT



*Mr. K.P. Oli delivering presentation during the 2nd regional workshop of WCPA South East Asia held in Pakse, Lao, in 1999.*

- In January 2001, Dr. Ambika Adhikari, former Country Representative/IUCN Nepal, visited IUCN Canada office in Montreal and CIDA office in Ottawa to discuss the Community Environmental Assessment and Management Project (CEAMP), including potential secondment of CIDA staff to IUCN Nepal's Programme Development Unit Coordination position. While returning from Canada, Dr. Adhikari also stopped at IUCN Headquarters in Geneva to discuss the proposed visit of Director General to Nepal.

- From February 13 - 16, 2000, Mr. Shailendra Kumar Pokharel of IUCN Nepal and Mr. Damodar Parajuli, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, participated in the regional workshop on Biodiversity Action Plan: Lessons Learned from South and South East Asia held in Dhaka. During the workshop, a joint country paper was presented to describe the progress made towards finalising the Biodiversity Action Plan of Nepal.

- Mr. Krishna Prasad Oli, IUCN Nepal Programme Coordinator, attended the second regional forum for South East Asia of the IUCN's World Commission on protected areas held in Pakse, Lao-PDR, from 6 -

11 December 1999. More than 100 participants from 10 South East Asian countries participated in the meeting.

- Mr. Krishna Prasad Oli, IUCN Nepal Programme Coordinator, attended a workshop on mountain protected areas held in Dhaka from 23 - 25 January 2000. The main objective of the workshop was to identify issues and gaps in the conservation of the Himalayan region.

- Dr. Badri D. Pande attended an interactive meeting on National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) in London from 9 - 10 May 2000 organised by International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). During the meeting, Dr. Pande gave a brief account of Nepal's sustainable development initiatives. On his way back, Dr. Pande stopped in Islamabad, Pakistan to discuss the forthcoming Asia regional meeting on NSSD in Kathmandu. Dr. Pande also attended Asia Regional Directorate (ARD) meetings held in Hanoi and Karachi in May and November 2000 respectively. He also visited Karachi to attend an interview panel to select the new Country Representative for IUCN Nepal.

# VISITORS'

## MOVEMENT

### New DG of IUCN



Mr. Achim Steiner been appointed as the new Director General of IUCN – The World Conservation Union. Mr. Steiner, a German national, had earlier worked as the Secretary-General of the World Commission on Dams and has had extensive work experience in Asia and Africa, including Vietnam, Pakistan, India, Oman, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, and Western Samoa. Mr. Steiner takes over the reigns from Dr. Marietta Koch-Weser.



*Dr. Marietta Koch Weser, former IUCN DG, talking to government officials during visit to Nepal in February 2000.*

### Former IUCN Director General visits Nepal

Dr. Marietta Koch-Weser will be remembered as the first IUCN Director General to visit Nepal. Her five-day visit to Nepal from 23 - 27 February 2000 kept her extremely busy. On the day of her arrival she met with Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Krishna P. Bhattarai and was briefed on IUCN Nepal's programme activities. This was followed by a meeting with IUCN members and commission members from Nepal. Other dignitaries she met with were Mr. Bhakta Bahadur Balayar, Minister of State for Population and Environment; Mr. Prithivi Raj Ligal, National Planning Commission Vice Chairman; Mr. Ram Binod Bhattarai, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance; and Mr. Rabi Bahadur Bista, Secretary of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation. Dr. Koch-Weser was present during the signing of the 20-year MoU between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and IUCN. Mr. Ram Binod Bhattarai, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director for Asia signed the MoU on behalf of HMG/N and IUCN respectively.

### IUCN Regional Director visits Nepal

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Regional Director for Asia, visited Nepal from 21 - 24 February 2000. Ms. Kabraji accompanied the former Director General during her visits with high-level government officials. Ms. Kabraji paid a second visit to Nepal in mid April 2000 to announce the departure of Dr. Ambika Adhikari as IUCN Nepal Country Representative and the appointment of Dr. Badri D. Pande as Country Representative a.i. until the

recruitment of a new Country Representative. She also met with key government officials and donors to update them on the changes.



*Ms. A.M. Kabraji, Regional Director, IUCN Asia, meeting with local authorities and intellectuals in Pokhara, 2000*

### IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor and KNCF Chairman visit Lumbini

Ms. Akiko Domoto, Vice President and Regional Councillor of IUCN and a member of Group of House of Councillors in Japan visited Nepal from 17 - 21 December 1999. Her visit coincided with the visit of a team of 13 members from Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF), Japan led by Mr. Higuchi Hiroto, Chairman of KNCF. Ms. Domoto accompanied the KNCF team during its visit to the Wetland Project in Lumbini supported by KNCF. A meeting was organised at IUCN Nepal in Kathmandu between Ms. Domoto, the KNCF team, IUCN and commission members, and the secretariat staff.

# NEWS

## AND EVENTS



*IUCN staff members all set to kick the ball*



*Prime Minister GP Koirala after the inauguration of World Environment Day in 2000*

### **Football match between SNV and IUCN Nepal**

On June 1, 2001, SNV staff and IUCN Nepal staff played a friendly football match on the grounds of Little Angel's School. Although both sides had scored equal during the first half of the game, SNV won by two goals. While there was no female participation from IUCN, there were two female players from SNV who displayed laudable skills.

### **Earth Day Celebration**

"Your individual actions make a difference in saving the earth." This is the message that came out loud and clear during the Earth Day celebrations organised by IUCN Office in Lalitpur on 22 April 2001. In a colourful and moving display of talents, students from over two dozen schools presented a variety of environmental songs, dances, and skits. Different organisations, schools, and UNICEF set up display stalls to share information on their work.

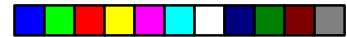
"Our effort is to provide a platform for all to come forward and show their concern for the environment. I am pleased to see that schools and the business community in Kathmandu have taken an active part in expressing their support to the environmental cause. This is an encouraging sign and reflects the time-honoured tradition and belief of the Nepali society," said Dr. Mahesh

Banskota, Country Representative, IUCN Nepal. Prizes were distributed to the best performances in different categories. For the overall best presentation of environmental messages, the Earth Day running trophy went to Shuvatara Boarding School. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jagdish Chandra Pokharel, member of the National Planning Commission appreciated IUCN's efforts in providing the community a platform to show their care for the earth. He expressed the hope that the environmental messages conveyed by the students through their songs, dances and skits would reach out to many more people through the media and help strengthen the environment movement in Nepal.

### **Biodiversity Day Observed**

Three different activities were carried out to celebrate Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2001. A photo feature on Nepal's unique biodiversity and two articles focusing on Alien Invasive Species in Nepal were published in a two-page supplement of the widely distributed Nepali national daily *Kantipur Dainik*. A talk programme was organised on the status of AIS management in Nepal with a focus on aquatic ecosystem. Three presentations were made during the talk programme which were followed by general discussions. One of the interesting presentations was on aquatic biodiversity of Nepal. Two other speakers





*(Seated from right to left): Mr. Anton Hagen, Resident Coordinator/SDC; Mr. Karl Schuler, Deputy Resident Coordinator/SDC; His Excellency Walter B. Gyger, Swiss Ambassador to Nepal, and Dr. Mahesh Banskota, Country Representative/IUCN Nepal, interacting with trainees at Seti Project Office.*

focussed on the legal aspects and the biodiversity situation in general. The third activity consisted of a panel discussion broadcast over Radio Nepal. The discussion was aimed at reaching the farmers and local forest resource managers on the existing potential threats imposed by well known AIS on livelihood and production system. The panel consisted of three prominent Nepalese scientists. It was moderated by the Natural Resource Management Programme Coordinator of IUCN Nepal.

#### **Swiss Ambassador to Nepal Visits IUCN Doti Project Site**

His Excellency Walter B. Gyger, the Swiss Ambassador to Nepal (resident in New Delhi); Anton Hagen, SDC Resident Coordinator; Karl Schuler, Deputy Resident Coordinator; Patrik Egleff (Attache); and Dr. Mahesh Banskota, Country Representative, IUCN Nepal, made a three-day field visit to IUCN Nepal's field project in Budar, Doti Seti project, Far-West Nepal. At Budar, His Excellency interacted with the project staff and the trainees of the trainer's training on promotional management for saving and credit for community based organisations. He also inspected the nursery on non-timber forest products set up by the project. From Budar the team proceeded to the Seti Technical School and was received by female students. Principal Mr. I. D. Bhatta briefed the

visiting team. His Excellency pointed out that IUCN Nepal had made a very good beginning and hoped that the local people would benefit from the project.

#### **SDC IUCN Mid-Term Review and Planning**

The original plan was to have a mid-term external review but this was changed to a general review and planning mission following discussions between SDC Nepal and IUCN Nepal. The external review has now been set for early 2002. This joint review was participated by staff from IUCN Nepal and SDC Berne and Nepal and was facilitated by an external consultant from Switzerland. Prior to the review, IUCN Nepal prepared various documents on the progress of the work. The review mission started its work from 20 March 2001 and continued until 28 March 2001. Three days were spent in the field looking at projects in the Siwalik Hills and the Tinjure Milke Jaljale Rhododendron Conservation Area. The two-day workshop was organised in Kathmandu to review the progress so far and to plan the remaining period of the present programme. The workshop also identified the terms of reference for the next external review mission sometime in March next year. The external consultants prepared the final report for submission to SDC and IUCN Nepal.



### PDF B Project on Wetlands in Nepal to be implemented by IUCN Nepal

The UNDP-GEF has recently approved a PDF Block B project proposal submitted by IUCN Nepal. The project "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal" will aim at establishing collaborative conservation and sustainable use of globally significant wetlands in Nepal. The write-up project will be focusing on detailed studies of four candidate wetlands out of ten prioritised in the Nepal Biodiversity Action Plan (draft, 2000). They are Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in the Eastern Terai; Beeshazaar Lake wetlands in the central region; Lumbini wetlands in western region; and Ghodaghodi Tal wetlands in the far west in the terai. The studies will be instrumental in understanding various dimensions of problems associated with the sustainable conservation of the wetland ecosystems and their unique biodiversity. During the studies, all stakeholders will be consulted, problems would be identified, analysed, prioritised, and a full-scale GEF project proposal will be prepared for the four wetlands. Different alternative management options will also be analysed. It is anticipated that with the implementation of the full-scale project, collaborative management of wetlands in Nepal will be promoted.

### SDC and IUCN Nepal Field Visit

SDC's Mr. Karl Schuler and Ms. Uma Acharya and IUCN Nepal's Mr. KP Oli and Mr. Sagendra Tiwari made a field visit to the east to review the progress of the Ilam Siwaliks and the Rhododendron Project from 16 - 19 October 2000. They had extensive discussions with different local organisations participating in the two projects. In the Ilam Siwaliks, the establishment of community conservation groups as well as greater participation of women was progressing satisfactorily. The nursery had been established and plantation materials were being prepared. In the hills, the environmental cell in Basantapur School was functioning actively. Regarding the conservation of rhododendrons, the mobilisation of the community for awareness generation as well as initiation of various conservation activities was being worked out. The overall results appeared to be satisfactory with the Dharan office fully functional and supervising all of the work in East Nepal.



*SDC officials Dr. Uli Lutz, Mr. Karl Schuler, and former Country Representative Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari during the visit to IUCN project site in Ilam Siwalik in 2000.*

### LFA Training for GEF Funded Projects

The Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and the United Nations Development Programme in Nepal organised a week-long training on logical framework approach to project planning and management under the Nepal Biodiversity Landscape Project (NBLP) from April 2 - 6, 2001, in Kathmandu. The training was assisted by the German Foundation for International Development (DSE). The purpose of the training was to build up and enhance the knowledge and skills of professionals from the government and other agencies on LFA and project plans and management tools adopted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The training used two PDF B projects (NBLP and Collaborative Management of Wetlands in terai) as case studies and proved fairly useful to participants to conceptualise and reflect on the real life requirements of logical framework approach to project planning and management. Mr. Tito Santos (GEF/UNDP), Miss Astrid Karg (DSE), and Mr. Parimal Jha (HURDEC, Nepal) facilitated the training. Altogether, there were 25 participants from MoFSC, DNPWC, King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC), WWF, The Mountain Institute (TMI), IUCN Nepal, Tribhuvan University, and UNDP.

IUCN - The World Conservation Union was founded in 1948. It brings together states, government agencies, and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique world partnership: over 900 members in all, spread across some 138 countries. The World Conservation Union builds on strengths of its members, networks and partners to enhance their capacity and to support global alliances to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels.

As a Union, IUCN seeks to influence, encourage, and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN - The World Conservation Union officially launched the Nepal Country Office on 23 February 1995 with the Ministry of Finance, His Majesty's Government as the government partner. IUCN Nepal has been developing partnerships with various government line agencies as well as non-governmental organizations to carry forward its activities to conserve Nepal's natural resources and ecological processes.

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