

IUCN Nepal *Newsletter*

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NEW PROGRAMMING

IUCN Nepal has submitted a new Five-Year Programme (2003-2007) proposal based on progress of the Three-Year Programme (2000-2002) and its evaluation, HMG's Tenth Five-Year Plan, and IUCN's global and regional priorities. The Plan builds on IUCN's achievements to date and seeks to initiate programming in emerging areas where IUCN's support has been requested by HMG and other partners. There are five areas of focus: Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods; Environmental Mainstreaming and Governance; Clean Environment Partnerships; Knowledge Management and Learning; and, Dynamic IUCN.

The Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) has indicated its interest in extending support to IUCN's existing field projects and for the development of new programme areas. IUCN is also seeking support from other donors to consolidate its existing field projects and undertake work in new programme areas.

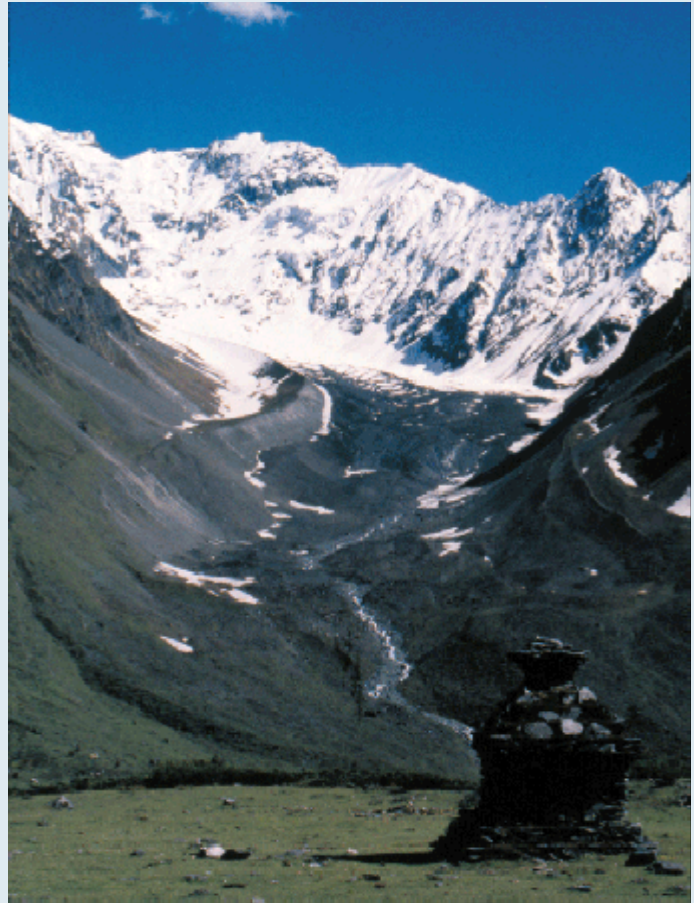
IUCN NEPAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Nepal National Committee of IUCN Members has elected Dr. Tirtha Bahadur Shrestha as chairperson of the executive committee for a two-year term. Others elected to the executive committee include Astaman Maharjan of Youth Awareness Environmental Forum, Arun Rijal of King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, Dr. Madhav Gautam of Green Camp Nepal, Kamala Dhungel of Women in Environment, Yogendra Chitrakar of Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness and Ukesh Raj Bhujju of Nepal Heritage Society.

IUCN Nepal National Committee is an independent body constituted within the framework of the objectives provided by the statutes, rules and regulations of IUCN - The World Conservation Union. Dr. Shrestha, the elected chairperson, represents the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ), which is an IUCN Nepal Member. IUCN currently has 11 members in Nepal.

To stay updated on IYM 2002 events log on to:

Mountain Forum www.mtnforum.org
Mountain Institute www.mountain.org
International Centre for Integrated Mountain
Development (ICIMOD) www.icimod.org
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
www.deza.admin.ch
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) www.fao.org
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)
www.un.org/esa/sustdev/
PANOS www.panos.org.uk



THE NAMCHE CONFERENCE

To celebrate The International Year of Mountains 2002 and The International Year of Ecotourism 2002, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation of HMG Nepal, Bridges: Projects in Rational Tourism Development (PRTD) and Dr. Teiji Watanabe (Laboratory of Geoecology, Hokkaido University, Japan) have jointly announced a global conference on mountain ecotourism to be held from 24-26 May 2003. The Conference, originally slated for December 2002, has been rescheduled to coincide with closing ceremonies marking the Jubilee Year of the climbing of Sagarmatha. It will focus on the role of Parks in natural and cultural preservation of remote destinations and the development of mountain ecotourism. The venue for the Conference is Namche Bazar (3450masl), Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park, in the Khumbu district of Nepal. The Park, which is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary, is a World Heritage Site and one of the most important mountaineering and mountain ecotourism destinations in the world.

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"Putting conservation to work for the poor"

Yolanda Kakabadse Navarro was elected President of IUCN - The World Conservation Union in 1996. Born in Ecuador in 1948, Ms. Kakabadse studied Educational Psychology at the Catholic University of Quito. Her association with the environmental conservation movement officially began in 1979, when she was appointed Executive Director of Fundacion Natura in Quito, where she worked until 1990.

Between 1990 and 1992, Ms. Kakabadse coordinated the participation of civil society organisations in the United Nations Conference for Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1998, she was appointed Minister of Environment for the Republic of Ecuador, a position she held until 2000. Ms. Kakabadse was a visiting

professor at Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies during 2001.

Recipient of many honorary orders and awards, Ms. Kakabadse is also member of the Board of Trustees and Directors of Ford Foundation, World Wide Fund - International, Global Environment Facility, World Resources Institute and Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

In this exclusive interview with **Mr. Deependra Joshi**, IUCN Nepal staff member, Ms. Kakabadse, reminisces about her professional association with IUCN, Rio in retrospect, the Johannesburg Agenda and a decade of IUCN's work in conservation.

The human misery caused by poverty is unacceptable within IUCN's vision of a just world that values and conserves nature. How do you relate these two extremes?

A decade after Rio, we finally have to demonstrate that we can deliver on all our fine intentions, grand strategies and meticulous plans for attaining sustainable development. The millions of people for whom sustainable development is a matter of life or death will not forgive us if all we do in Johannesburg is speak the same old language and reiterate the same old promises.

One of the most crippling aspects of poverty and vulnerability to poverty is that people are dispossessed of natural resources that they need to sustain their livelihoods. The world needs to find new ways of putting conservation to work for the poor.

IUCN is committed to supporting governments and civil society in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We believe that a 50 percent reduction in the number of people living in absolute poverty by 2015 is one of the most urgent milestones in achieving sustainable development. We strongly believe that conservation has to be enlisted in the fight against poverty.

I personally believe that there is another way: a pro-poor approach to conservation which ensures that biological resources are positively employed to help the poor secure a sustainable and desirable livelihood.

How do you think we should govern globalization? Would you shed some light on the role of partnerships and international institutions like IUCN beyond Johannesburg?

Well, a lot has happened since Rio: the accelerating rush towards globalization, the ever widening gap between rich and poor etc. It is time for us to act. Globalisation has so far been successful in generating wealth, but has also exacerbated poverty and inequality within and between societies, resulting in greater human and environmental insecurities. Globalisation need not be just about trade and market forces. It should also be about democratic policies, universal human rights and social needs, the sharing of culture and the celebration of diversity, respect for our environment and the inclusion of people from all walks of life in our efforts to create a prosperous future. Globalisation should be about creation and constructive change. It should be about sustainable development.

The question to be answered now is why the promises implicit in Agenda 21 have not been delivered. A part of the answer may lie in the fact that globalisation accelerated in the last decade. However, globalisation is not a new phenomenon. Ideas, merchandise and people have flowed widely around the world and they have fuelled economic growth and contributed to raising living standards across the world. But the benefits do not come without costs. Even if globalisation itself does not increase inequalities, it makes them more apparent.

The globalisation process has seen the re-emergence of the old conflict between the North and the South. This involves conflicts over identities, rights, and perceptions. IUCN as a union of northern and southern members could help bridge this divide by addressing areas of common concern—biodiversity, consumption, and community-building—and by synthesising the concerns and perspectives of different constituents.

Partnership is inevitable. Working together—public, private and civil society—is no longer an option; it is an imperative for sustainable development.

What do you hope will be the legacy of the World Summit on Sustainable Development? Will it be remembered as a “historic” watershed or will it lead to yet another meaningless global photo opportunity?

Ten years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro and 30 years after the Stockholm Conference, governments and a wide range of other stakeholders in sustainable development have gathered in Johannesburg at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Rio is remembered as the coming of age of the environment movement. Ten years later, the progress is promising in some areas, but disappointing in others. The global economy has been restructured, remarkable new knowledge about genetics has been applied in many fields, and the revolution in information and communications technology has reached all corners of the world. On the other hand, while global wealth has increased, the gap between rich and poor has grown, and nearly three billion people—roughly half the world’s population—live on less than two dollars a day.

The Johannesburg Summit will serve to catalyse and renew commitments for the failed promises of Rio.

What has international community done to promote sustainable development? What is IUCN’s response to it?

Sustainable development has been on the international agenda for almost 30 years now. We stand now ten years on from the Rio Summit. The time has come to reflect anew on the state of the world today. We cannot be dismayed at what we see today—a world ailing from poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, despite all the commitments made at Rio.

Sustainable development can be achieved only if it is recognised as a global objective: whatever is undertaken in one country or area will impact on the wider environment. Global perspectives can be achieved only with long-term thinking: the future must not be held hostage for short-term gains. It can be achieved only through the development of an inclusive approach to policy-making because, at the end of the chain of decision-taking, is the individual. All this involves major shifts in attitudes and processes. Furthermore, it is essential to empower poor people to enable them to play their part in improving the environment.

We see a world that is in crisis through the effects of unsustainable development and the injudicious exploitation

We see a world that is ailing from poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, despite the commitments made at Rio.

of natural resources in which poverty is exacerbated by war and conflict.

Regarding the other part of your question, sustainable development is at the core of IUCN’s mission and mandate. IUCN has showcased at the Summit that biodiversity conservation and sustainable use contribute not only to securing ecosystem integrity but also to sustainable livelihoods, good governance, financing for sustainable development, greater social, economic and environmental security, and ultimately to a reduction of human suffering.

Would you like to share something with the readers of the IUCN Nepal Newsletter?

Insurgencies, economic crises and political unrest have affected the entire Asian region in the recent past and Nepal is no exception to this. I personally consider sustainable development a very necessary yardstick for the long-term well-being of an underdeveloped country like Nepal. The benefits include a healthier and safer physical environment and a fairer, more equitable lifestyle—advantages not only for us, but also for future generations. However, sustainable solutions need to be found only through a carefully planned and comprehensive approach to implementing new practices.

My earnest message to the people of Nepal is to address their own patterns of consumption and production. They must ensure coherence between development policy and others, such as agricultural and trade policies, all of which have a direct impact on developing countries. These issues have to be tactfully handled so that development goes hand-in-hand with long-term sustainability.

Any final comments?

This is a moment of hope, not despair. Out of Johannesburg must emerge something new that takes the world forward to the realization of the goals of sustainable development.

Through the actions of IUCN as a global Union, governments, business and civil society working in solidarity and cooperation, we can and must be the custodians of a truly positive legacy of hope, of prosperity, a better life for all and a secure future for the global environment. We have no choice but to unite in action to ensure the triumph of the vision of sustainable development.

Acting together, we will win!

"Rethinking our terms of engagement"

Jo'burg 2002: a wake-up call

Environment, biodiversity, climate change, water and ecosystems are terms of engagement with which the conservation community sought to redefine the context for development during much of the 20th century. Yet, as we meet in Johannesburg now, globalization, poverty, privatization, partnerships and trade have emerged as top of the agenda for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The future of conservation will depend on our ability to redefine the terms of engagement with governments, the private sector, and the society at large. In a world of 10 billion people, the pressures of the wealthy and the poor on our environment will be even greater—a scenario less than 50 years away.

Conservation must be seen and thus must see itself as a force for development, not against development. Protecting an ever-dwindling resource base against an ever-growing demand for food, water, energy and bio-mass is doomed to failure unless it can help to provide practical answers to real dilemmas.

A celebration and a challenge

The challenge for Johannesburg is creating a more secure world. The world's environmental resources are shrinking even faster than globalization is shrinking our world. We are destroying the very things that sustain us, from life-giving water to soul-nourishing landscapes. The world today is calling out for delivering on commitments and for moving beyond documents to implementation.

The complexity of our existence requires that we mainstream the conservation of biodiversity into the activities of all sectors, rather than sending messages from the periphery of environmentalism. The 21st century requires organisations that can talk to each other, work together and move beyond geographic, sectoral and ideological boundaries.

It is the challenge of Johannesburg to move beyond Rio, yet it is the danger of Johannesburg to regress behind Rio. In contrast to Rio, the Johannesburg Summit has concentrated on poverty alleviation.

Governance: whose voice counts?

Can the developing world afford sustainable development? Numerous financial mechanisms can change the perception that it is a luxury or, worse, a waste of money.

IUCN welcomes fair and environmentally sound trade and urges the world to explore new mechanisms to finance biodiversity conservation. We challenge leading multi-national companies and international investors to set even higher standards of corporate citizenship, and see themselves as agents of sustainable development. This Summit provides an opportunity to reaffirm commitments to the necessary reforms by developing

Mr. Achim Steiner is Director General of IUCN - The World Conservation Union. He has worked both at grassroots level and at the highest levels of international policy making to address the interface between environmental sustainability, social equity and economic development. In recent years, his professional focus has been on developing both conceptual and institutional bridges among very diverse interests and agendas. In Washington, where he was Senior Policy Advisor of IUCN's Global Policy Unit, he developed new partnerships between the conservation community and the World Bank and United Nations system. In South-East Asia where he worked as chief technical advisor on a programme for sustainable management of Mekong River watersheds, he contributed to a new dialogue and policy process with governments and local communities to introduce political reforms for community-based natural resources management. In his most recent assignment - Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams, based in South Africa - he brought together the public sector, civil society, and the private sector in a global policy process on dams and development. The following is an issue-based rundown of an exclusive interview with **Mr. Deependra Joshi** during the World Summit at Johannesburg.



country governments, rich country governments, the private sector and aid donors, to break the current deadlock where the North is being blamed for not paying enough and the South is being blamed for not doing enough.

After all, money makes the world go round. So why can't it make the world go round sustainably?

Difficult trade-offs and choices are inherent to sustainable development. It needs wise decisions, and therefore good governance. Governance is a way to balance the wish lists—from individual to global. It is the means by which society defines goals and priorities and advances cooperation; be it internationally, regionally, nationally or locally. Governance, however, is just a means to an end—achieving sustainable development—not an end in itself.

The conservation community can contribute significantly by saying more on the nature of the trade-offs and the social and environmental consequences of different development options. It needs to translate its science into the day-to-day realities of industrialists, bureaucrats and community leaders. It needs to lead as a convener, inform the discussion and facilitate the negotiations without which the environment will become an increasing source of conflict rather than a sustainably managed resource for our collective survival.

As an organization that works from the highest international levels right to the ground and back up again, IUCN believes that the machinery behind good decisions needs to be inclusive, transparent and accountable.

Managing ecosystems for livelihoods

The concept of livelihoods has recently become very prevalent in development circles, as a way of examining resource use strategies and the context that conditions patterns of economic activity. One reason is because it allows analysis of both economic trends and social factors (and relationships between them) in an integrated fashion.

The international community has set itself an ambitious goal to halve the number of people living on less than US \$ 1 a day by the year 2015. As laudable as the goal may be, IUCN believes the key to finding the way out of poverty for today's poor is not just about putting some extra dollars in their pockets. We have not been as good as we ought to be in drawing the world's attention to the link between poverty and the sustainability of human communities.

Ecosystem management looks at the "big picture" where people and nature meet. It is about reconciling community needs with principles of ecology, combining science with indigenous knowledge and linking local realities with global responsibilities. As the majority of world's poor continue to live in rural areas and depend heavily on natural ecosystems, the challenge is therefore to accommodate the growing—and sometimes truly pressing—needs of humankind with the capacity of nature to restore itself. Even more so if we are talking about a timespan longer than a human life.

In my knowledge, both nature and humans have miraculous hidden capacities: once given some breathing space, they turn out to be great compromise seekers. IUCN is committed to continue its work around the world to strike the right balance between human uses and the capacity of ecosystems, especially since it has so far proved to make sense penny-wise.

Partnerships: a new era

For effective conservation we need to fully understand the extinction crisis. IUCN cannot bring about this understanding alone. Only by joining forces with partners and combining our expertise will we be able to slow the biodiversity decline that threatens our planet.

There is a growing realisation that corporate partnership is the only way out for sustainable development. IUCN, as a global union of members and partners, is working for conservation and sustainable use of resources. In this context, how can we make our arguments convincing?

IUCN as a global Union of states, government agencies and non-governmental organisations, represents a major opportunity and resource to reposition conservation at the heart of development decisions.

As a Union of almost 1000 members, 10,000 experts working through 6 global Commissions and a Secretariat presence on the ground in over 40 countries, IUCN is a global learning institution on sustainable development. We work where conservation meets development, where natural science meets social science and where global policy meets local reality. Above all, IUCN is a platform where people with different interest and resources can meet, negotiate and develop conservation's answers to tomorrow's challenges.

Whatever the outcome of this Summit, IUCN will always be committed to work with and on behalf of the conservation community to ensure that our collective knowledge is rightly applied.

Information is not communication

Now we need to act more proactively about how we empower societies to act on the information we provide. The challenge facing us is to show by our communication effort how biodiversity is an essential part of the development decision-making process. Part of this effort will entail drawing clear links between biodiversity and global environmental phenomena such as climate change and water crisis.

If we have learned one thing from the Union's half-century work in conservation, it is that the loss of biodiversity threatens the very basis of our quality of life. Even if we act immediately, the world is doomed to lose many of its animal and plant species, and this will in turn reduce the ability of ecosystems to deliver vital services to human populations. The World Summit gives all of us in the IUCN family a practical tool for raising global awareness of the biodiversity crisis when we approach governments and donors, for engaging IUCN members, and for forging new partnerships within the international community.

Dr. Sharma is new WCPA Vice-Chair

Dr. Uday Raj Sharma has been appointed as the Vice-Chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), South Asia Region, in recognition of his extensive experience in and contribution to Protected Area management in Nepal.

WCPA South Asia has been in existence for six years. There are over 100 professional members working on Protected Area issues in South Asia. WCPA South Asia includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

WCPA is currently the world's largest network of Protected Area professionals. Its 1300 members in 139 countries are selected on the basis of their expertise in the field. The Commission is organised geographically and functionally across 16 global regions and 5 theme programmes.

Dr. Sharma, Director General, Department of Plant Resources of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), has been highly instrumental in Protected Area management in Nepal. With his expertise in park-people conflict resolution he has facilitated buffer zone management initiatives in Nepal.



The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) is one of six commissions of IUCN - The World Conservation Union. Founded in 1948, IUCN builds on the strengths of its members, networks and partners to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels.

talking future at wssd

Johannesburg was not only a summit of governmental leaders but also of visionaries, leaders and pioneers from civil society and the private sector committed to Agenda 21 and sustainable development.

IUCN - The World Conservation Union set up an Environmental Centre at Nedcor Bank headquarters, Sandton City, for the duration of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Centre hosted an exciting series of over 100 events designed to enable discussions on issues of major interest and concern, both feeding into the formal WSSD proceedings and developing new ways of implementing sustainable development.

The highlight of each day was a high level "Futures Dialogue" that featured a number of leading, provocative and informed speakers to address key issues for the future on each of ten daily themes. Mr. Nelson Mandela, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, former CEO of Shell, and IUCN President Yolanda Kakabadse were among those sharing their wisdom. Around these dialogues were morning and afternoon events, including



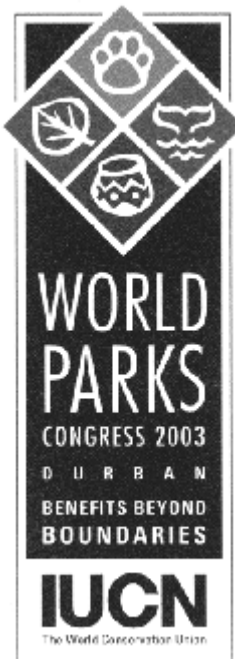
Former South African President Nelson Mandela (centre) shares the stage with IUCN President Yolanda Kakabadse (right) and IUCN DG Achim Steiner (left)

round-tables, workshops, book launches, theatre groups and partnership negotiations.

IUCN played a crucial role in creating an enabling environment for successful partnerships. The Futures Dialogue answered key questions like: What are the required characteristics of a successful partnership and/ or network after WSSD? What are the new challenges and opportunities? Are we ready to put to work a new global deal with concrete targets and time frames? What is the new role of multilateral organisations? How can we increase effectiveness and understanding of sustainable development initiatives?

jo'burg news

WPC launched



Former South African President Mr. Nelson Mandela and Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, along with a number of Heads of State and other dignitaries, launched the 2003 World Parks Congress on Protected Areas at the IUCN Environmental Centre in Johannesburg. The Fifth World Parks Congress is to be held in Durban, Republic of South Africa, from 8-17 September 2003.

"I particularly endorse the theme of the Parks Congress: Benefits Beyond Boundaries," said Mr. Mandela, and added that "the IUCN World Parks Congress is a forum for society to assess and debate the role of Protected Areas in the broader economic, political and landscape context."

IUCN, through the WCPA, has initiated, planned and staged all World Parks Congresses since the first one at Seattle 1962.

For more information log on to www.wcpa.iucn.org

Another way that works

There's another way that works. This was the message IUCN brought to the World Summit through a dynamic multimedia showcase. Viable, independently established enterprises demonstrated through their own experiences that there is a way to do business and meet the present needs of communities without compromising the potential of future generations to meet their own needs.

Cashing in on this opportunity, together with hundreds of like-minded organisations, IUCN Nepal had the privilege of being part of the IUCN multimedia showcase. IUCN Nepal shared information about its programmes and activities through its various publications. The exhibition stand provided summit delegates and visitors information about IUCN Nepal's initiatives in promoting the sustainable development agenda in Nepal.



IUCN Nepal books on display at the World Summit

Nepal Minister at EU meet in Jo'burg

At a programme organised by the European Union and hosted by IUCN, Nepal's former minister for Population and Environment Mr. PL Singh advocated the promotion of clean energy for sustainable development.

Underlining Nepal's strong commitment to be a partner in the EU energy initiative for poverty reduction and sustainable development, Mr. PL Singh spoke about the prospects and problems of hydropower development in Nepal at the launch of the EU Initiative for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development.



Former minister PL Singh speaking at the meeting organised by EU Secretariat and IUCN in Johannesburg



Schoolchildren march through the thoroughfares of Lalitpur District with the message "Give Earth a Chance" on World Environment Day, 5 June 2002

Environmental events

IUCN Nepal participated in the International Biodiversity Day celebrations held at the Nepal Foresters' Association premises, Kathmandu on 22 May 2002. A three-day exhibition on the biodiversity richness of Nepal and IUCN Nepal's interventions was organised on the occasion. The exhibition included biodiversity databases, publications and displays. Over a dozen conservation organisations participated. The exhibition was jointly organised by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) and IUCN Nepal.

World Environment Day was celebrated at a function jointly organised by IUCN Nepal, Lalitpur Sub Metropolitan City, Central Zoo, Women Environment Preservation Committee (WEPCO) and WWF Nepal. The 5 June programme included more than 4000 schoolchildren who marched through the main roads of Lalitpur with the message "Give Earth a Chance". A function was later organised at the Central Zoo.

Seminar on valuing wetlands

IUCN Nepal's Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands Project organised a seminar on "Wetlands Around the World: Conservation, Valuation and Governance Issues" on 19 September 2002. The seminar, chaired by Dr. Mahesh Banskota, was attended by 50 participants representing various government agencies, donors and NGOs/INGOs.

Altogether, five presentations were made during the seminar: "IUCN and Wetland and Water Resources Conservation" by Dr. Hans Friedrich, head of the Regional Water and Wetlands Programme (RWWP), citing examples from IUCN's work in the Lower Mekong Basin; "Valuing Nature: IUCN work on Wetland Valuation" by Lucy Emerton, head of the IUCN Regional Environmental Economics Programme (REEP); "Wetland Economic Valuation Using a Bioeconomic Model" by Mr. Luke Colavito, Winrock International; "Rethinking Environmental Governance: Natural Resource Management in Bangladesh" by Dr. Azharul Mazumder, Team Leader, USAID Mission to Bangladesh; and, "Bangladesh's MACH Project Governance Approach to Wetland Management and Impact of Wetland Interventions" by Mr. Daryl Deppard, USAID MACH Project.

IUCN and Central Zoo renew partnership

IUCN Nepal and Central Zoo entered into an agreement to cooperate in the better management of the Central Zoo. IUCN will extend support to the Zoo for installation of a hippopotamus travois and a tiger treatment squeeze cage, in updating and preparing new signages and labels for plants and animals, preparing the zoo brochure, and exposure visits for zoo staff.

Participants at the teachers training programme organised by CERID and IUCN Nepal in August 2002

Peace through pipal saplings

In 1997, a team of IUCN Nepal conservation biologists received a twig of the Pipal tree that stood at the site of the Maya Devi Temple in Lumbini, where legend has it Lord Buddha was born. That twig was propagated using tissue culture techniques.

IUCN Nepal supported the Swabalambi Pariwar Trust in handing over the tissue-cultured pipal saplings to ambassadors and other dignitaries from India, Thailand, Myanmar and Sri Lanka at a ceremony organised in Kathmandu on 28 September 2002. The handing-over ceremony of the holy pipal saplings was chaired by Rt. Hon. Dr. Keshar Jung Rayamajhi, Chairman of the State Council Standing Committee.

Dr. Tirtha Bahadur Shrestha, biodiversity consultant, IUCN Nepal, briefed the ambassadors of various countries about the significance of the pipal saplings. IUCN Nepal has been involved in biodiversity and wetland conservation work in the Lumbini area.

Ramsar project report

IUCN Nepal has submitted the completion report of the Small Grant Fund Project to the Ramsar Secretariat. The Project was implemented at the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR), Nepal's only Ramsar site. The main objective of the Project was to finalise the KTWR management plan and support the establishment of awareness raising mechanisms at the Reserve. IUCN Nepal carried out public consultations, expert reviews and workshops before finalising the first draft of the management plan.

IUCN Nepal also provided support to construct and furnish a Wetland Information Centre at the Reserve. The Centre has been furnished with a topographical model of the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and various informative materials depicting a wetland ecosystem and its relationship with the culture and livelihoods of indigenous people.

Environmental education support

IUCN Nepal has been organising training programmes for schoolteachers who teach the Population and Environment Education component of the school curriculum. IUCN supported the Centre for Education and Research in Development (CERID) in organising a three-day training programme for teachers of lower secondary and secondary levels in integrating environmental education. Such continued EE interventions have enabled the successful integration of environment education into the school curriculum at all levels. Some 30 teachers, from various Kathmandu Valley schools, participated in the programmes organised from 15-17 August and 29-31 August 2002 at the CERID premises. The teachers displayed their EE teaching skills through group activities and developed instructional materials by reusing and recycling waste materials.



DEPEN DRA JOSHI/IUCN NEPAL

Access and benefit sharing

Two sensitisation programmes for government officials on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (AGRBS) mechanisms in Nepal

The Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (AGRBS) Draft Bill and Policy have been drafted for formal approval by the government. While IUCN has provided technical support in the drafting of these policy documents, it has also simultaneously undertaken sensitisation programmes for judges and government officials who will be in charge of implementing the law once it is in force. Last year, IUCN organised training programmes at Biratnagar for judges of the district and appellate courts of the Eastern Region. This year, from 31 July to 2 August 2002, a sensitisation programme was held in Pokhara for HMG officials from the Western Region of Nepal. They included officials from the customs, livestock, and agricultural departments, agricultural extension officers, botanists, police, and district forest officers. The Programme was inaugurated by Mr. Chandi Prasad Shrestha, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation.

A similar programme was held at the Hotel Radisson in Kathmandu from 7-9 August 2002 for government officials from the Central Region of Nepal. It was inaugurated by Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, honourable member of the National Planning Commission. The feedback from HMG officers working in the various line agencies and the points raised during the discussions be incorporated into the proposed Bill and Policy.

Experts from the fields of law, agriculture, ayurveda, biotechnology, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation, presented papers on the following topics:



Mr. Chandi Prasad Shrestha, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, speaking at the inaugural of the AGRBS sensitisation programme in Kathmandu

Convention on Biological Diversity—Need for Domestic Legal Mechanism on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in Nepal: Issues, Challenges and Prospects; Sustainable Use of Flora and Fauna: Benefit Sharing Mechanism in Nepal; Access to Genetic Resources and Bioprospecting in the Context of International Trade with Special Reference to WTO; Access to Genetic Resources and Agrobiodiversity: Protection of Farmers' and Community Rights in Nepal; Intellectual Property Rights and Rights Over Biological Resources and Traditional Knowledge: Significance of Documentation and Registration of Biological Resources and Traditional Knowledge in Nepal; Biotechnology and Biosafety: Issues, Challenges and Prospects with Reference to Customers in Nepal; The Problems and Potential for Development of the Ayurvedic Sector and Protection of Traditional Knowledge in Nepal; Nepalese Experiences of Documentation of Biological Resources and Traditional Knowledge: Learning from the Pilot Phase Documentation; and, Coordination Between Government Agencies in Discharging Roles and Responsibilities with Relation to Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in Nepal.



Kobang of Mustang District, one of the villages chosen for the pilot phase documentation of biodiversity and traditional knowledge

IUCN Nepal supported the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) in the pilot phase documentation of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge in Nepal. The main objective of this programme was to develop a workable methodology for the biodiversity registration process.

During the field work conducted from April-August 2002, the study team recorded and documented the biological diversity

Documenting traditional knowledge

Pilot phase documentation undertaken in three agro-ecological sites

and associated indigenous knowledge, skills and technologies in settlements of representative VDCs. The study was carried out in three different agro-ecological sites—Lekhnath Municipality and Dhikurpokhari in Kaski district, representing the mid mountains; and Kobang and Larjung villages in Kobang Village Development Committee (VDC) in Mustang district, representing the high altitude mountain region in Nepal. The pilot phase documentation programme was undertaken by Dr. Krishna Chandra Poudel and his team of researchers.

The draft report has made various recommendations relating to methodological and planning aspects, awareness raising, policy, institutional arrangements, research and development needs, coordination and inter-sectoral linkages.



Spurs constructed along the rivulets in Ilam district have helped prevent crop damage during the monsoon

During the third quarter of 2002, IUCN Nepal supported Flood Control Committees in Ilam district for construction of spurs along 10 rivulets of Banjho, Chulachuli and Mahamai VDCs. The Project has facilitated the establishment of collaborative linkages for watershed management with district line agencies and has been successful in mobilising local resources and funding support for spur construction. With local communities having successfully implemented their flood control plans for the year, crop damage and damage to farmland during the monsoon has been minimal.

The community forest user groups of Danabari and Mahamai have assumed full responsibility of running the community nurseries and the CF network fund is being used to sustain the nurseries. Plantations across river banks, spurs and roadsides, in collaboration with VDCs and the Department of Soil Conservation, has gained momentum—over 11,000 Amliso, 10,000 Khayer and 2300 Bakaino saplings have been planted during this quarter.

Communities have been supported in developing participatory monitoring indicators and the CF network has already initiated

Environment education training

IUCN Nepal has been organising training programmes for schoolteachers who teach the Population and Environment Education component of the school curriculum. This intervention continues building capacity after IUCN Nepal and the Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) of the Ministry of Education and Sports designed and developed the Population and Environment Education textbooks for schools in Nepal. That intervention had marked the successful integration of Environment Education (EE) into the school curriculum at all levels.

As part of the IUCN Nepal's continued awareness raising and education initiatives, this year's training programmes for teachers were organised in the Eastern Region—in Damak (Jhapa) and in Dharan (Sunsari). A total of 18 teachers from 6 VDCs in Ilam took part in a weeklong training programme from 5-9 August. The training programme was jointly organised and managed by the Chure Vathavaran Samrakchyan Mahila Samithi (The Apex Body of Women's Groups) and IUCN Nepal. A similar training programme was organised from 15-20 August in Dharan of Sunsari district. A total of 25 teachers (3 women) took part in the programme.

At the end of the training programme participants reported that they had a much clearer picture of the subject and that they had gathered skills that would help them plan for and teach

Conservation of Ilam Siwaliks



UG members from TMJ on an exposure visit to the Bukuwa nursery in Ilam district

monitoring of CF management practices. Inventory of 4 community forests has been undertaken in coordination with the District Forest Office and one CF inventory has been handed over to the local communities. Silviculture, apiculture, sericulture and book-keeping training programmes were also organised for CFUG members during this quarter.

IUCN continues to promote low cost alternative energy technologies to reduce pressure on forests in the Ilam Siwaliks. IUCN organised an orientation programme for 250 people from the poorest households of Danabari VDC and 12 participants (9 male, 3 female) were trained as promoters of Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS). An Improved Cooking Stove is now being installed in each participant's house.



Schoolteachers at the Environmental Education training, Damak, Jhapa

topics and modules that they had initially found difficult. They also reported that they had gathered useful tips on lesson planning and using local resources to introduce and teach concepts, and that the training had updated them on a lot of issues and helped them make the larger connections.

Conservation and sustainable use of NTFPs

During the third quarter, the IUCN Seti project has continued to work in promoting *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of medicinal plants and NTFPs, providing training for microenterprise and green IGAs and management and leadership training for NTFP user groups.

User groups have been offered training in micro-credit and book-keeping, NTFP-based food processing, bee-hive construction and apiculture management during this quarter. Local communities have gained skills in conservation and cultivation of NTFPs such as Tejpat, Rittha, Sugandhawal, Sugandhakokila, Bamboo, Broom Grass, Nigalo and Amala. The user groups have assumed stewardship of the nursery of locally available plant species at Gadsera VDC and over 96 hectares have been planted with NTFP species during this year. There is also greater awareness of sustainable harvesting techniques. *In situ* conservation plots of Sugandhawal, Pashanved, Chiraito, Bojho, Amala, and Kachur have been established and *ex situ* conservation of Tejpat, Amala, Sugandhakokila, Rittha, Lemon Grass, Broom Grass, and Bamboo has been undertaken on community and private lands by the UGs.



Members of NTFP user groups transporting saplings from the nursery at Gadsera VDC to the plantation site

This apart, various tree species (Goldmohur, Ashoka, Auricaria, Bottle Palm and Sami) were planted as part of an effort to green and beautify Pipalla Bazaar of Dipayal. This was undertaken in collaboration with Seti Technical School and Dipayal-Silgadhi Municipality. Five eco-clubs consisting of students and teachers have been established to involve educational institutions in promoting awareness about conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants and NTFPs. Participatory monitoring systems have been put in place to assess the effectiveness of the Project and some evaluation work has already been initiated in Chhatiwani and Ghanteshwar VDCs.

Ethno-botanical information

The ethno-botanical knowledge of local communities has been explored and is in the process of being documented. The findings so far indicate that 44 species of plants in the area are used in local medicine. Many plants have cultural and domestic value too. Local medical practitioners and communities were apprised of the information gathered and it was shared for further feedback and improvement.

Community conservation of rhododendrons

IUCN Nepal's intervention in the TMJ area continues to focus on supporting and empowering communities to promote the sustainable use of natural resources. During this quarter IUCN organised training programmes on silviculture, book keeping, Allo processing, and furniture, pickle and jam making. These training programmes have greatly strengthened local knowledge and skills and will contribute to promoting green enterprise in the TMJ area. A 15-day training programme was also organised for 22 participants (19 male, 3 female) on hotel and lodge management as part of IUCN's efforts to promote ecotourism in the TMJ area.

The skill enhancement and capacity building training programmes have been undertaken in partnership with local communities and user groups and other development partners such as FECOFUN (Federation of Community Forest User Groups) and MEDEP (Micro Enterprise Development Project). Communities have also been supported in renovation of some high altitude ponds of religious significance, improvement of the trail to Pathivara temple and developing campsites along the trails.

Energy groups of Lahsune and Basantpur VDCs were supported in installing improved cooking stoves (ICS) in line



The trail to Pathivara Temple, an important pilgrimage destination in eastern Nepal

with their action plans for the quarter. There is high demand for ICS and some 30 are being installed in Basantpur alone.

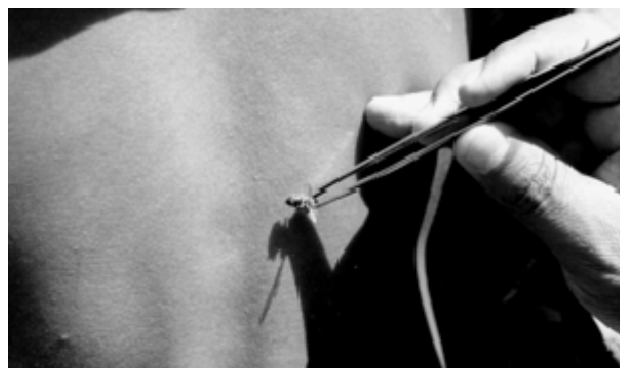
Apitherapy in Nepal



IUCN Nepal Country Office hosted a talk by Dr. Ratna Thapa, Practicing Apitherapist and Lecturer in Zoology, Trichandra Campus, Tribhuvan University. The talk focused on Nepal's bee diversity (it has four of the world's nine species, including the world's largest and smallest bee species [see box below]), Nepal's long history of beekeeping and the challenges facing the sector today. The thrust today, according to Dr. Thapa, should be towards generating high-value products and promoting apitherapy for health and not just focus on honey production alone. "We are running after bronze when we should be running after gold," is how he likes to put it. He also stressed that Nepal should pay particular attention to protecting its pollinator wealth, as this could otherwise prove disastrous for animal and plant life in the region.

Bees are key pollinators, responsible for pollinating about 1/3 of all the food we eat. Native honeybee populations in Nepal are currently at risk from pesticide poisoning, disease and pests introduced from outside, over harvesting, habitat alteration, monoculture, introduction of the exotic *Apis mellifera*, and the lack of effective extension programmes. There is also a lack of coordination and understanding between bee-keepers and farmers and lack of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies to protect bees from the harmful effects of pesticide use and poisoning. Deforestation, which results in less diverse ecosystems, has also adversely affected the populations of local honeybees. The spread of monoculture, especially food crops like wheat, rice, barley and potatoes that are of little use to honeybees, has also impacted local bee populations.

Honey has traditionally been used in Nepal for centuries to treat wounds, cuts, burns, diarrhoea, stomach aches and urinary disorders. Women are fed honey immediately after childbirth to boost lactation and provide instant energy relief.



A patient being subjected to Bee Venom Therapy (BVT)

People living in the high mountains are also known to make a high energy mixture of butter, alcohol, honey and eggs, and take the mixture before going to work in the fields. It is believed to enable them to work long hours without feeling any fatigue. In some places in Nepal people use a mixture of mustard oil, bee wax and perfume as an emollient and skin cream. In some areas the larvae are a source of protein—boiled and deep fried in butter or mustard oil and eaten.

Apitherapy is the scientific use of bees and bee products—honey, venom, beebread, honeydew, apilanol, pollen, propolis, wax and royal jelly—to cure various illnesses and for overall health. Apitherapy is historically popular in China and Taiwan, and traditional beekeeping began some 3000 years ago in China. Dr. Thapa explained how various bee products helped in improving circulation, strengthened the human immune system, and were sources of vitamins, proteins and energy. Apitherapy is reported to be effective in the treatment of cardiovascular disease, central nervous system disorders, prostate cancer, secondary sex deficiency, infertility, leucorrhoea, rheumatism, osteo-arthritis, neck and back problems, low back pain, hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, immunity disorders, perspiration problems, facial paralysis, running nose, watery eyes, and weight loss. Nepal is the first country in the South Asian region to have promoted apitherapy.

Nepal's native honeybees

Apis laboriosa Smith (right), the world's largest honeybee, is also called Black Bee. It is generally found on the northern slopes of the Himalayas at altitudes ranging from 850- 3500masl. It exhibits seasonal migratory behaviour and is a single comb species that builds its hives on cliff sides. During winter these bees move down to altitudes of around 1200masl and during summer they move to as high as 3500masl.



Apis dorsata Fab. is also called the Tropical Giant Honeybee or the Yellow Giant Bee. This species is mostly found in the Terai, and is seen nesting on water tanks, buildings and trees. This species too exhibits seasonal migratory behaviour—in winter (October-April) they nest in

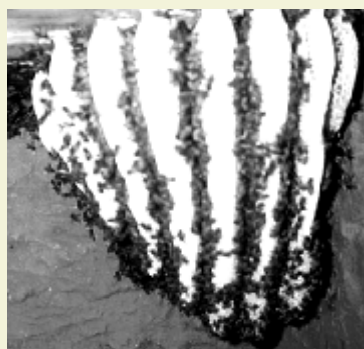
the open and move into dense jungles for protection during the monsoon. This species is found at altitudes from 60-1600masl.

Apis florea (right) is the world's smallest honeybee and a good pollinator of mango, litchi and other fruits. It builds its comb on twigs and is found at altitudes below 1600 masl.

Apis cerana (below) is also known as the Asian-Eastern Honeybee and is found only in Asia. It is a multicomb species that has been farmed for hundreds of years. It is found at altitudes ranging from 60-3500



masl. There are three subspecies—*Apis cerana cerana* (found in the high Himalayas), *Apis cerana himalaya* (found in the mid-hills) and *Apis cerana indica* (found in the Terai).



Wetlands Life, Livelihoods and Cultural Heritage

IUCN Nepal has recently completed the first draft of the UNDP - GEF Project Brief on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal. This project, envisaged for 6 years, has two national components dealing with integration of wetland issues into the national policy and planning framework and national capacity and awareness, and a component that deals with strengthening collaborative wetland management at two project demonstration sites: the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and its proposed buffer zone in Eastern Nepal (Nepal's first Ramsar site) and the Ghodaghodi Lake Complex in Kailali district. The Project will also work to spur replication of successful activities in other wetlands in Nepal.

2003 International Year Of Freshwater

The United Nations General Assembly in resolution 55/196 proclaimed the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater. The resolution, adopted on 20 December 2000, was initiated by the Government of Tajikistan and supported by 148 other countries. It encourages Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable freshwater use, management and protection. It also calls upon governments, national and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions and to lend other forms of support to the Year.

The International Year of Freshwater provides an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the principles of integrated water resources management. The Year will be used as a platform for promoting existing activities and spearheading new initiatives in water resources at the international, regional and national levels. The International Year of Freshwater is expected to follow up on agreements reached at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, September 2002), and should have an impact far beyond the year 2003. The publication by the United Nations system of the World Water Development Report will be a major focus of the Year's public information activities. Its first edition will be launched at the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan in March 2003. The public information and media strategy will include the elaboration of information materials, brochures and media kits. Educational material for schools, videotapes and documentaries, and an official Website for the Year are also being developed, with assistance from the private sector, NGOs and bilateral donors.

source: www.unesco.org



Traditional Mithila art from the Nepali Terai showing wetland biodiversity and fisherfolk

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal

Goal

To ensure the maintenance and enhancement of wetland biodiversity and environmental goods and services for improved local livelihoods in Nepal.

Immediate Objective

To strengthen national and local capacity in ecosystem management and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity in Nepal

Outcome 1: Wetland biodiversity conservation integrated into national policy and planning framework.

Outcome 2: Strengthened national institutional and technical capacity and awareness for wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Outcome 3: Strengthened collaborative management of wetland resources for conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

IUCN will organise district consultations on the Draft Brief in the Koshi Tappu area at the end of October and further consultations are planned for Kailali in November. A national consultation will be held in Kathmandu in December 2002 before the Project Brief is finally submitted to UNDP.

The Project Brief has highlighted some key aspects of wetlands in Nepal, such as the high level of livelihood dependence of many indigenous communities on them, as well as their spiritual and cultural values. At least 21 ethnic communities, such as Majhi, Mallah and Jhagad, comprising 17 percent of Nepal's total population, have traditionally been significantly dependent on wetlands. Though wetlands account for only 5 percent of the total area of Nepal, they are diverse ecosystems, with 20 of 27 globally recognised freshwater wetland types being found in the country. They also support significant diversity of life: 66 percent of 89 globally-threatened animal species, 47 percent of 74 near-threatened animal species, 75 percent of 20 critically endangered and endangered terai animals, 85 percent of 20 endemic vertebrates, 25 percent of the 7,000 vascular plant species, 22.5 percent of 859 bird species in Nepal, 12 percent of 91 globally-threatened plant species, and 10 percent of the 246 endemic flowering plant species.

The key challenges for the Project will be in securing wider recognition of wetland values to spur conservation actions, strengthening indigenous wetland dependent communities' access and rights to decision making and equitable sharing of benefits and costs, and ensuring equitable use of wetland resources and balanced water use.

impressions

Strengthening environmental law and policy

IUCN Nepal's legal policy programme has played a crucial role in a number of the major international environmental conventions and soft law instruments, working on stage in negotiations and conferences often after long periods of behind-the-scenes work.

The sensitization programmes for judges on benefit sharing mechanisms will certainly go a long way in enhancing our capacity in decision-making.

Mr. Keshav Prasad Upadhyaya
Rt. Hon. Chief Justice
Supreme Court, Nepal

Connecting Commission

Protected Areas have been central to the work of IUCN from the beginning. The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), with its strong global network of experts, gives IUCN unique potential. As the number of Protected Areas have grown, many of their earlier notions have faded. Thus, where once Parks were planned *against* people, WCPA now advocates that they be planned *with* local people.

WCPA South Asia will now reinvigorate the message of conservation to the furthest corners of the Region.

Dr. Uday Raj Sharma
Vice-chair
World Commission on Protected Areas - South Asia

Striking a balance

If sustainable development is to mean anything, people must be environmentally conscious enough to benefit from it. Development without environment is meaningless. But the processes which are likely to occur in a world undergoing globalization, climate change, urbanization, population increase and many other changes, will eventually impact upon environment in complex ways.

IUCN has rightly worked to strike a balance between the two.

Mr. Jigbar Raj Joshi
Former Secretary
Ministry of Population and Environment

Convenor par excellence

IUCN's contribution to biodiversity conservation is clear to anyone in Nepal's conservation sector. I see all the reasons why IUCN as an institution is so distinct, diverse, and democratic. Responding to a continuously evolving mandate has allowed IUCN to develop cordial relationships with its members, and a track record and profile few would have believed possible.

As a convenor in conservation and with its worldwide constituency, we feel that the voices of small IUCN members (like ours) are now being heard in every nook and corner.

Astaman Kisee Maharjan
President, Youth Awareness Environmental Forum

visits/ travel

- Nande Palihakkara and Peter Rezel visited IUCN Nepal Country Office from 29 April -3 May and 9-12 May 2002 respectively to review financial status and human resource development issues.
- Dr. Mahesh Banskota, Country Representative, Ms. Julia Robinson, Programme Development Coordinator, and Ms. Triptee Chettri, Executive Secretary, attended the Asia Regional Directorate meeting held in Bangkok May 25 - June 1, 2002.
- Dr. Hari Pradhan visited Thailand in May 2002 and presented a paper entitled "Tourism Development Planning in Nepal and Rhododendron Conservation" organised by International Ecotourism Society and UNEP.
- A five-member team from IUCN Nepal consisting of Ms. Julia Robinson, Mr. Surendra Bhandari, Dr. Usha Sharma, Ms. Nigma Tamrakar and Dr. Hari Pradhan made a five-day visit to Karachi and Islamabad in Pakistan. The purpose of the visit was to exchange information about the Pakistan and Nepal IUCN Programmes and identify areas for collaboration. The major areas that were discussed were climate change, gender, law and policy, poverty, tourism, and knowledge management. The areas identified for collaboration included information sharing, exchange of professionals (through secondments or study visits) and development of joint proposals.
- Dr. Zakir Hussain visited the IUCN Nepal Country Office from June 16-19, 2002 for constituency development meetings with IUCN's Institutional and Commission Members. A concept paper on constituency development was prepared and discussed with the members.
- Mr. Sameer Karki, Coordinator of the UNDP - GEF Wetlands Project, visited Bangkok, Thailand to attend a meeting on "Water and Wetlands" in June.
- Mr. Deependra Joshi, Programme Officer, Knowledge, Advocacy and Communication Unit, visited Johannesburg, South Africa, to participate in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held from August 26 - September 4, 2002.

**Nepal Ka Samrakshit Banyajantu Tatha Vanaspati: Cites Ka Sandarva Ma Ek Chinari
(Nepal's Protected Wild Flora and Fauna: Information with respect to CITES)**

IUCN Nepal 2002, ISBN 99933 760 4 3

IUCN - The World Conservation Union Nepal and the Natural History Museum, Tribhuvan University have jointly prepared an information booklet on Nepal's protected wild fauna and flora, with particular reference to CITES. Nepal became party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in June 1975, and the Natural History Museum of Tribhuvan University is the scientific authority for CITES in Nepal.

The booklet provides information in simple Nepali and details the endangered species of wild fauna and flora of Nepal listed by CITES, IUCN Red List, Nepali Law, and Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP). It also provides the latest version of IUCN categories, and the local name, English name/ common name and scientific names of all listed species. It details the major threats to endangered species of wild fauna and flora and the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. The book has colour photographs and illustrations of all the listed species. This publication will prove useful for academicians, students, implementing agencies such as police, customs, forest and quarantine, local government, and other interested groups.



The Asian Brown Cloud: Climate and Other Environmental Impacts
UNEP and Centre for Clouds, Chemistry and Climate (C4) 2002
ISBN 92 807 2240 9

The problem of air pollution is no longer confined to a local scale. The most visible and recently talked about impact of air pollution in Asia is the haze, better known as the Asian Brown Cloud, a brownish layer of pollutants and particles from biomass burning and industrial emissions that pervades many regions in Asia. The UNEP report is the first comprehensive study of the South Asian haze and its impact on climate. It is largely based on the studies of the INDOEX (Indian Ocean Experiment science team of over 200 scientists from Europe, India and the USA), which revealed that this haze is transported far beyond the source region, particularly during December-April.

The Report provides a summary of the large brownish haze layer and its impact on the radiative heating of the atmosphere and the surface for South Asia and the adjacent Indian Ocean during the INDOEX campaign. It also discusses preliminary findings with respect to the impact of this haze on regional temperatures, precipitation, agriculture and health.



Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2002 Nepal
His Majesty's Government of Nepal and United Nations Country Team

His Majesty's Government of Nepal endorsed the Millennium Development Goals at the Millennium Assembly in September 2001. This document is the first progress report on the status of attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in Nepal. The report provides an opportunity to reflect on Nepal's achievements over the last decade, to identify challenges and opportunities and to indicate in a concise form the priorities for development assistance. It also points out areas in the monitoring and evaluation systems that need improvement.

This report reveals that Nepal is not yet on track to achieve any of the Millennium Development Goals or targets that world leaders set at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 to reduce poverty in all its dimensions and manifestations. The UNDP and many partners are already leading country teams to monitor and report on MDGs in other parts of the world. By the end of 2004, every developing country will have produced at least one such report in time for the United Nations Secretary General's global report on MDG progress in 2005.

Justice for All Promoting Environmental Justice in South Asia

PANOS South Asia, ISBN 99933-417-0-3

The environment has been the focus of much attention in recent years. This has resulted in a spate of debates and activism at all levels across the globe. While conservation and protection measures have contributed to improved environments in many parts of the world, the poorest in poor regions are often paying the highest price. Along with poverty, environment problems filter down to the bottom of the heap.

Unfortunately, many "solutions"—the disposal of city waste, relocation of polluting industries, diversion of water—contribute to this filtration process. Living on the fringes of environment problems—on the edges of degrading forests or on the banks of dwindling, filthy rivers—the poor get more than their share of the blame. The main culprits living far away in their air-conditioned comfort are not held accountable and go scot-free. This report raises some of these issues and suggests that the environment debate needs to move beyond conservation and protection to accountability and justice issues.

The book seeks to address power imbalances through advocating the means of education and assisting people in organizing, mobilizing and empowering themselves to take charge of their lives, their communities and their surroundings, by redirecting resources in order to create healthy, liveable and sustainable types of livelihood models.

The report is part of a programme on Environmental Justice supported by the Ford Foundation.

Global Approaches to Environmental Democracy Report of a British Council international seminar and worldwide electronic debate
British Council 2002, ISBN 0 86355 505 5

This report reviews the Bath seminar, in which 21 participants from 16 countries took part. It attempted a clearer understanding to three questions: what environmental democracy means around the world; why environmental democracy interacts with other aspects of sustainable development; and, how environmental democracy can be implemented?

This report outlines the background to environmental democracy, as discussed by the contributors and participant working groups. It also assesses the international framework, in particular the groundbreaking Aarhus Convention and the importance of international law. Also discussed at the seminar was the role of civil society in improving the environmental conditions of poor communities, and this is the focus of the third section of the Report. The final section contains a series of interesting case studies from the seminar participants' countries.

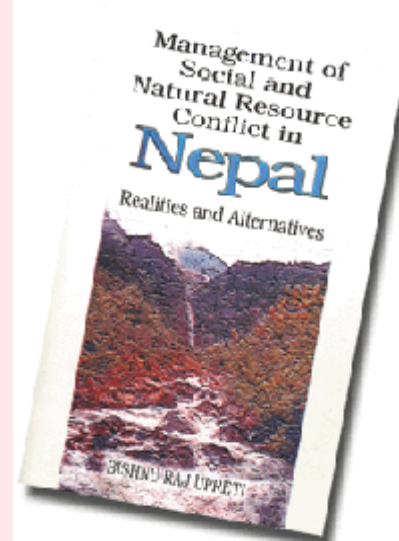
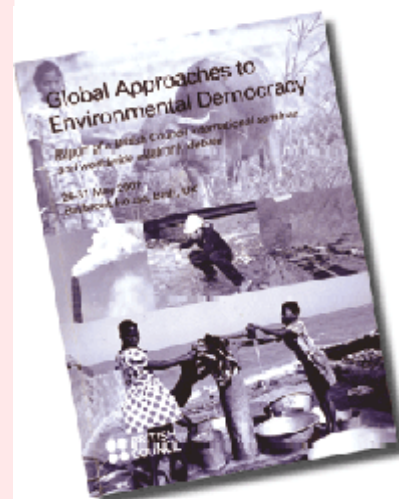
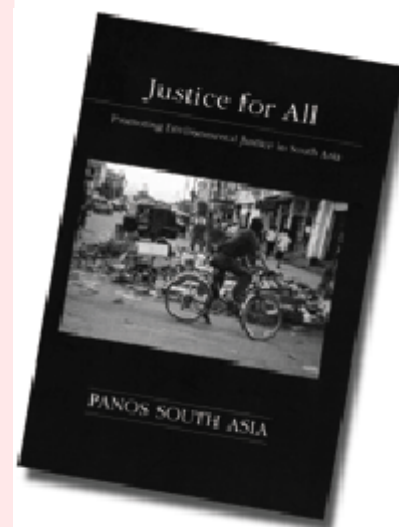
Management of Social and Natural Resource Conflict in Nepal Realities and Alternatives

Bishnu Raj Upreti, ISBN 81-87392-32-0

Nepal has been racked by conflict for the past seven years and this has had several economic, political, social and developmental implications for the country. This book, based on an analysis of social and natural resource conflicts, examines the causes of conflict, such as the failure to meet the needs of people due to scarcity of resources, corruption, bad governance, and changing economic conditions.

This book critically examines the fundamental structural causes of conflict and assesses the existing conflict resolution apparatus in Nepal. The author argues that a constructive response to social and natural resource conflict requires greater ingenuity, creativity, commitment and an alternative methodology. The author proposes an alternative methodology to address the growing social and natural resource conflicts in communities to transform conflict into a means for positive non-coercive social change and suggests that the establishment of democratic ideals in governance systems and equitable distribution of resources can positively contribute to conflict reduction.

The author attempts to show that existing legally engineered conflict resolution systems are expensive, pro-elite, inaccessible to the general mass of population and heavily influenced by power and position, and therefore inadequate. He also challenges the dominant thinking and widely prevalent belief that social conflicts are always pathological, dysfunctional and should be suppressed through legal engineering to harmonise and homogenise a heterogeneous society.





A fisherman holding a Gangetic Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*). This mammal is endangered and isolated populations are known to exist in the Koshi, Narayani and Karnali rivers in Nepal

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 980 members in all, spread across some 140 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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