

# SAZARC Presentations

## Zoo Legislation in Nepal: A Road Ahead

Sarita Jnawali

Project Manager, National Trust For Nature Conservation, Central Zoo, Kathmandu, Nepal

### Background: Zoos in Nepal

Central Zoo at Kathmandu, established in 1932, is the only officially recognized zoo in Nepal.

The Government of Nepal entrusted National Trust For Nature Conservation with the management of the Central Zoo, Kathmandu for 30 years on December 29, 1995.

There are many other facilities that are holding wild animals in captivity and are open to public visitors, yet no official records of such facilities exist. They are neither recognized nor authorized by concerned authorities, which leads to certain problems, the major ones below:

- Lack of legal provision to operate zoos.
- No legal status of animal facilities.
- Improper management of animals in captivity-animal welfare issues.
- Lack of coordination between such institutions within the country.



### Zoo legislation

The need of the hour is Zoo legislation - that recognizes a zoo as a place of *ex-situ* conservation where animals are managed in a state of excellence so that it provides recreation, conservation, education and research activities.

We, the Central Zoo, being the only national zoo of the country, have initiated work to prepare and endorse the zoo legislation in Nepal. The first phase of our work was to survey all the animal facilities in the county. This was carried out by a team of three people from the Department of Wildlife Conservation and the NTNC. The team found 9 facilities which are operating as a zoo. Most of them are managed either by municipality at one corner of the city park or by the community forest group at one corner of the forest. These facilities have come up mainly through collection through rescue of problem and orphan animals. The list of zoos that were visited and inspected is below.

### Survey methodology

The survey methodology was site visits by a team of experts from Central Zoo. They reviewed the Physical infrastructure, management structure, animal welfare and educational component were studied and found that:

- All these animal facilities are poorly managed with pathetic animal welfare condition.

- Keeping staff without any formal training and education in this field.
- No record keeping system.
- No conservation education activity.
- Creation of bad public image of what a zoo should be.

### Survey Report

A Report was prepared and circulated to all concerned government authorities who recognized the requirement for zoo legislation and a system of regularly. This led to further meetings and discussions with concerned government and legal experts, and a need for a workshop involving all identified stakeholders.

### List of non-organised animal facilities in Nepal

#	Name of facility	Location	Area in ha.	Sps nos.	Animal nos.
1	Fulbari Resort	Pokhara	unk	7	56
2	Sadhi Smarak Park	Hetauda	20	12	57
3	Mani Mukunda Sen Park	Butwal	10	9	73
4	Nepalgunj Zoo	Nepalgunj	4	9	85
5	Yalambar Park	Dharan	20	9	71
6	Haryali Community Forest	Dharan	700	6	56
7	Panchakanya Mini Zoo	Dharan	unk	8	24
8	Pashupati Deer Park	Kathmandu	4	3	110

### Workshop

A workshop was organized involving with the Secretary of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Director General of Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation, all concerned government officials and legal experts. In the workshop a decision was made to draft legislation and proceed forward to incorporate it in the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act and a two member expert committee was formed to prepare the draft of zoo legislation. After the draft has been prepared there will be another workshop to discuss the draft legislation involving all concerned authorities and finalize it.

The document can then be submitted to the government departments for endorsement or further work and hopefully approval.

### Veterinary Division of the National Zoological Gardens

C.G. Wijesinghe

Veterinary Division, National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwela, Elephant Orphanage, Pinnawela

At NZG and Pinnawela, we have a Veterinary Division with Veterinarians, Education and Research Assistants and Veterinary Assistants.

The role of this division and the veterinary hospital is to perform both medical and surgical treatments, watch out for diseases and take all measures to prevent disease. The Veterinary Division is also involved with animal nutrition and conservation breeding. In the division we will also be involved in education, research and wildlife forensics in the public interest.

We are also approached to help with tranquilization of conflict animals which create emergency situations. Treatment of wild animals takes many forms. We treat disease, both infectious and non-infectious. We are called to look after injured and orphaned wild animals, including

those which have been electrocuted by fallen wires, victims of road traffic accidents and orphaned and injured juveniles.

Disease Surveillance is another programme of our division. We have to conduct routine investigations using blood, feces and tissue samples from necropsies, and also by taking sample collection from feral animals. For birds we have to do tracheal and cloacal swabs. We have to examine brain tissue for rabies investigation.

In disease prevention it is important to carry out prophylactic treatment, parasitic control of external and internal parasites and vaccinations for rabies, tri-cat and tetaus toxoid. In the area of nutrition, the division has to conduct diet evaluations and provide appropriate nutritional supplements for pregnant and lactating animals, recovering animals, and geriatric animals. We have to carefully inspect meat and fish for quality. Another of our activities is the hand rearing of orphaned/rejected animals

We are conducting conservation breeding for Rusty-spotted cat, leopard, pigmy hippopotamus, and scarlet macaw.

In education we focus on university students, veterinary interns, school children as well as the general public; some of our education tools include exhibitions. In Research we have taken up elephants studying reproduction, including their puberty years, and also contraception using population control also on spotted deer. We have studied *Balantidium coli* in primates and Parasites in birds. In Zoo Management we have researched the effects of environmental enrichment on captive sloth bears and genetics in mouse deer.

Wildlife Forensics includes the identification of wild animals and parts of wild animals including identification of tusks, meat and invertebrates that appear in the animals. Also we have had to identify butterflies, tarantulas, and mussels for trade authorities. In forensics we must identify the causes of death from explosions, bullet injuries, etc. We are called to give evidence as expert witnesses in Court.

Problem animals are prevalent now and cause much inconvenience and suffering to the public even in cities and also villages. Problem monkeys have become a major irritant and also a danger to the public when they invade neighborhoods and schools searching for food. Our Veterinary Division is called upon to tranquilize monkeys and also to face emergency situations with problem elephants.

Conservation Education Program of Central Zoo  
Arun Rana  
Conservation Education Assistant, NTNC, Central Zoo

The Central Zoo is located at the heart of the Kathmandu Valley. It was established by the Late Prime Minister Juddha Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana in 1932 as his personal collection of wild animals. After the democratic change in 1951 the jurisdiction of the Central Zoo came under the Nepal Government and opened to the public in 1956. On 29<sup>th</sup> December 1995, the management of the Central Zoo formally handed over to the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) for 30 years.

Soon after, a Conservation Education Section of Central Zoo was established and in 1997 started the Friends of the Zoo (FOZ). FOZ is a public participatory programme featuring conservation awareness and education designed for school students. The objective is to involve them in raising awareness and Wildlife Conservation activities. Central Zoo has more than 80,000 FOZ students members out of which 3200 are active FOZ members.

NTNC is committed to develop the Central Zoo as a Centre of Excellence in Conservation Education and Wildlife Research

As a commitment, the Central Zoo offers two types conservation education programmes, based on:

- Schools' request
- Friends of the Zoo (FOZ) membership

Friends of the Zoo (FOZ) membership based program networks with over 150 schools and has registered 18,000 FOZ members. Activities include competitive programmes such as Essay/Quiz/Poem/Drawing, Educational tour to National Parks and conservation areas, Winter and summer day camp and Trainings like Bird Identification, Solid Waste management etc.

The Annual Conservation programme includes the following:

1. FOZ, Coordinator Teacher Meeting. Teachers play a great role in the program so FOZ member-holding schools name a FOZ co-ordinator teacher to coordinate between zoo education program and students.
2. Night Guided Tour in which students observe the behavior of nocturnal animal's active at night.
3. Education Program in which FOZ members visit different National Parks of Nepal like Chitwan National Park, Bardiya National Park etc. and Conservation Areas.
4. Animal Feeding make the students understand the feeding behavior of captive animals.
5. Solid Waste Management Training to further enlighten students at an early age about environmental programmes.

Other activities include

- Winter and Summer Camp to develop awareness among the students towards environmental problems and interact with countryside schools.
- Cage-cleaning program FOZ members learn to clean animals cages with help from Zookeepers and section staff. They learn how important sanitation is for animals too.
- Essay competition: The competition is organized in different title concerning wildlife.
- Parcel Game provides a knowledge about the different animals and birds which are in Central Zoo.
- Plastic bag prohibition program teaches that plastic is very harmful for animals. Students convince the visitor not to use plastic inside the Zoo during their visit.
- Plantation program
- World Environment Day-June 5<sup>th</sup>,2010

Members of FoZ get an ID card and some internal and external privileges from the zoo, newsletters etc., and shopping discounts.

Membership Charge is 150-100 Rs for students and Rs. 500-Rs. 400 for family of four persons.

Members are informed that Central Zoo belongs to all and needs the support of the public in protecting rare species of animals and providing education.

The Education Department suggests the following ways to contribute to the zoo:

- visit the Zoo and learning about the animals
- follow the zoo code of conduct
- sponsor animals at the Zoo
- become a member of the Friends of the Zoo program
- participate in various events organized by the Zoo
- contribute to the zoo for conducting its routine operations
- refrain from using plastic bags and other potentially harmful materials inside the Zoo premises.

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore  
K.B. Markandaiah  
Executive Director, Sr Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens,  
Mysore

History: The Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, was founded in 1892 and was the private property of the Maharaja of Mysore until 1912 when it was turned over to the Government of Mysore under the Maharaja of Mysore in 1948.

In 1948 it was under the Horticulture Department till 1972 when it was transferred to the Karnataka Forest Department. The Zoo was turned over to a newly founded Zoo Authority of Karnataka. 1979. The zoo proper is 100 acres. Its Mission statement is: to connect visitors and animals through exemplary animal welfare and care, best educational and inspirational experiences, fostering public appreciation and support for *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation of wild animals.

In 2009-10 the Mysore Zoo took in 780 lakhs Revenue and had expenditure of 743 lakhs. It is estimated to increase to 920 lakhs Revenue and 910 lakhs expenditure and 24.50 lakhs visitors.

#### Animal Collection

	# Species	# Individual Animals
Mammals	54	530
Birds	81	668
Reptiles	21	89
Total	159	1287

Health Care: There are 3 Veterinarians in the rank of Assistant Director and Veterinary Officers with experience in wildlife are working in zoo out of a full fledged hospital with sophisticated operation theatre, lab for conducting simple laboratory procedures and inpatient wards.

Breeding Programme: The Mysore Zoo has bred more than 150 species in captive covering rare, exotic, endangered and indigenous species. The Central Zoo Authority has recognized this zoo under captive breeding programme for LTM and Gaur.

The Mysore Zoo landscape is outstanding and was awarded the best public garden prize since 2001 during Dasara celebrations. During 2005 dasara celebrations 86 prizes in various categories were awarded.

Mysore Zoo Youth Club offers the following activities: Summer Camp, Animal Keepers' Training programme, Teachers Training programme and other Educational & awareness creating activities, Fire Fighting

Visitor Facilities of Mysore Zoo are Wheel Chair for Disabled, Sitting Benches, Coin Booth, Umbrella facility, Safe drinking water, resting places and benches, seven battery operated vehicles, food court, Suggesting Box, Luggage room, Zoo shop, Removal of plastics, toilets, Refreshment centers, Signages, Directional Boards

The Mysore Zoo has a comprehensive Education Programme with the following activities : Summer Camp, Youth Club, World Environment Day, Wildlife Week, Tuesday Special Programme, Zoo In-reach (sic), Zoo Outreach, Wildlife Photography, Essay Writing, Elocution, Drawing and Painting, Quiz and Wildlife Week; naming ceremony of baby animals, project preparation assistance, Range Forest Officer Trainees, Volunteers Programme, Zoo Guide Facility Adoption of zoo animals, Vermi-compost programme and Teacher training.

Vandalism Programme: Keepers, volunteers and club members are encouraged to interact with visitors to curb vandalism and zoo patrol is enforced. There is also a Vandalism awareness programme

The most pressing concerns of the management are i) Single and aged exotic animals, ii) Stock of native animals, iii) Illiterate and over-aged staff, iv) Prolonged exchange deals, v) Frequent Floods. Vi) Sustainability and vii. Parking problem for visitors.

Karanji Lake is India's largest aviary. It has 90 acres of lake area. Inside the aviary water tower, children's park, resting area, cafeteria, milk parlor and joggers path are found.

#### Department of National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka

Dammika Malasinghe

The Department of National Zoological Gardens includes the following facilities: Dehiwala Zoological Gardens/ Colombo Zoo, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Safari Park, Hambanthota, New Zoo. Pinnawala, Aquarium, Elephant Park

The NZG Mission is to Co-operate the progress of ex-situ conservation through upgrading animal welfare, breeding and reintroducing threatened species, research programmes, education programme & acknowledging the public". Its Vision is to create one of the world's outstanding zoological institutions that is a centre of excellence for conservation, research and education. NZG commitment to conservation is to provide a long term refuge for rare endangered and endemic fauna through captive breeding and maintaining self- sustaining population. NZG is committed to Animal welfare and will do their best for animals to keep them healthy, well fed condition in naturalized environments. Public Education and awareness programmes enlighten people about animal world by direct and indirect ways of education, including attractive and interesting exhibitions.

Visitor facilities include a variety of restaurants and snack bars, easily traversed pathways, a souvenir shop and seating facilities. Recreation facilities include performance of Sea Lion and Elephant, and pony rides. The ongoing projects at Dehiwala Zoo are development of the new Master Plan and urgent and other constructions.

Dehiwala Zoo visitors number 1702387 of which 33% are local children, 66% are local adults, foreign visitors 1%.

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage visitation is 520146 of which 25% are foreign adults, 1% are foreign children, 47% are local adults, and 27% are local children.

#### Kabul Zoo, Afghanistan Azizgul Saqib



The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is located in central part of Asia with 647,500 km<sup>2</sup> and surrounded by Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China, Pakistan and Iran. Afghanistan's population is about 32 million. Afghanistan has a cold winter and hot summer. The country has many species which are common to India and other South Asian countries.

History of Kabul Zoo: the Faculty of Science of Kabul University used to keep some animal collections for research. The public became interested in these animals,

which led to an idea of founding a proper zoo. A "Committee of Zoological Projects" in Afghanistan was founded by the President HRH Prince Nader with members taken from the Royal Afghan government, the Municipality of Kabul, and zoologists from the science faculty at the University of Kabul. Dr. Gunther Nogge from Cologne Zoo, Germany but working at the University of Kabul was adviser for the Kabul Zoo in Afghanistan.



A new fountain and education complex right at the entrance.

A large site for the zoo was selected in Dehmazang Baricot made available by the Municipality of Kabul on the bank of the Kabul River. The zoo was inaugurated in 1967 and the zoo director was also Prince Nader, The zoo was supported financially by the Government (Kabul Municipality).

The focus of the zoo was Afghan fauna. In 1972 there were 32 species of mammals, 85 species of birds and 4 species of reptiles. The total number of animals in the zoo was 417, nearly all of which were collected in Afghanistan. There was also a lion, a tiger, some pheasants and parrots and an elephant which was a gift of India. Kabul zoo maintained the Afghanistan leopard which could be seen only in six zoos of the world at the time.

War in Afghanistan : three decades of war (1971-2001) in Afghanistan affected the entire country including the zoo. Kabul Zoo was completely destroyed in civil war because the zoo was located in the area of front line. Then only our lion (Marjan), a few vultures and monkeys survived.



New Animal Health Clinic



Improved enclosures for the Afghan Wolves. Space and place to dig

#### Donation and Assistance for Reconstruction of Kabul Zoo

The North Carolina Zoo in the United States raised funds from around the world and provided supervision for some projects inside of Kabul zoo in 2002. The World Association for Zoos and Aquariums also raised some funds. The Mayhew Home for Animals donated feed for animals for 18 months in 2002. The Chinese government donated some animals for Kabul zoo and also funded some constructions. Brendan Whittington-Jones came twice, training and supervised during some of the construction. David Jones coordinated several visits from different experts. ECO Economic Cooperation Organization helped with 1.3 million US dollar for reconstruction of Kabul zoo and expansion of that to Artel Bridge. In 2007 US embassy in Afghanistan donated 16,500 US dollar for signboards and supplies for the Environmental Education Center 2008. Now Kabul Municipality is spending its own funds for reconstruction of inside and outside pathways from a good quality stone, green parks and some enclosures.

#### NTNC – Vision for next five years

Naresh Subedi  
Conservation Officer of NTNC, Chitwan

NTNC is in the process of preparing a "Strategic Plan" for the next 5 years. In this process, we seek valuable inputs from our respected Trustees to "Vision for the next 5 years" so that NTNC can work to fulfill the need and aspirations of the people to build a new Nepal while conserving the rich natural resources of the country for present and future generations.

#### 1. Background on NTNC's mission, principles goals

##### Mission Statement of NTNC:

"To conserve, manage and promote nature in all its diversity balancing human needs with the environment on a sustainable basis for posterity - ensuring maximum community participation with due cognizance of the linkages between economics, environment and ethics through a process in which people are both the principal actors and beneficiaries."

##### Guiding principles to attain Mission:

- Always ensuring a balance between human needs and the environment to guarantee long-term sustainability,

- Always seeking maximum community participation with people recognized both as the principal actors and beneficiaries,
- Always linking economic, environmental and ethical factors in conservation activities,
- Always managing operations on sound business-oriented principles,
- Always aiming for quality in all activities through conformance to stakeholder requirements.

**Goal of NTNC:**

To be recognized as the leading nature conservation organization in Nepal and as a major contributor to nature conservation internationally.

**Vision for the next 5 years**

**At Central Office level:**

- Promote community managed Conservation Areas (e.g. community managed ACAP)
- Expansion of Integrated Conservation and Development Program (ICDP) approach in new locations of the country (management of new protected areas).
- Request Government for continuation of MCAP.
- Intensive fund raising initiatives with international donors.
- Applied researches at species level.
- Focus on livelihood alternatives targeting women, *dalits* and disadvantaged communities.
- Climate Change and its adaptations.
- Social inclusions and gender mainstreaming at all levels.

**At existing project level:**

**ACAP:**

ACAP to be managed by community by 2012

- Amendments in CAMR
- Intensify capacity strengthening programs.
- Focus on women, *dalits* and disadvantaged communities.
- Management Plan 2008 – 2012.
- CAMC Operational Plan – 5 years.

**MCAP:**

- Request management mandate from Government for another 10 years.
- Management Plan.
- CAMC Operational Plan.
- Intensive project development and fund raising initiatives.
- Focus on women, *dalits* and disadvantaged communities.

**Central Zoo:**

- Request bigger plot of land from Government for a new zoo to fit the modern zoo concept.
- Extensive fund raising initiative to build new infrastructure.
- Use existing zoo facility at Jawalakhel, Lalitpur for representative species exhibit and develop as a "Conservation Education Center".

**BCC, Chitwan:**

- Develop BCC Chitwan as a "Regional Training Center".
- Intensive collaboration with academic institutions nationally and worldwide.
- Intensive initiation of research at species level.
- Expand livelihood programs targeting women, *dalits* and disadvantaged communities.

**BCC, Bardia:**

- Continue basic and applied research at species and ecosystem levels.
- Collaborate national and international academic institutions for research and monitoring of key wildlife species and critical ecosystems (e.g. aquatic ecosystem).
- Continue and expand livelihood programs targeting women, *dalits* and disadvantaged communities.

**SCP, Suklaphanta:**

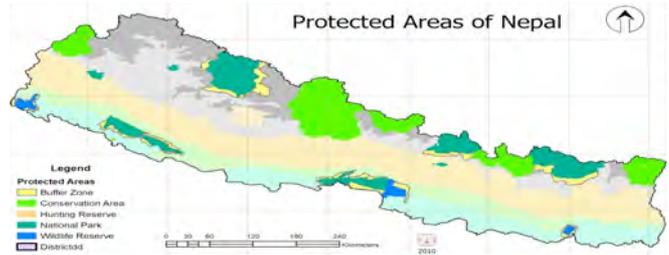
- Study feasibility to adopt sanctuary conservation approach for rhinoceros.
- Continue support to establish community infrastructures in the buffer zone.
- Seek collaboration with international partners to restore and manage wetland ecosystems in and around the Reserve.
- Continue and expand livelihood programs targeting women, *dalits* and disadvantaged communities.

**Chitwan National Park**

Ganesh Panta

Assistant Warden, Chitwan National Park, Dept. of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Sauraha, Chitwan

**PA SYSTEM OF NEPAL**



National Park -10, Wildlife Reserve -3, Conservation Area -6, Hunting Reserve -1, Buffer Zone -12 (More than 23% of country's area)

Chitwan is located in Southern Central Terai of Nepal (84020'E; 27030'N). Its National Park Area is 932 km<sup>2</sup>, Buffer Zone Area : 750 km<sup>2</sup>

Chitwan has much diversity with more than 40 lakes, 3 major river system (Reu, Rapti and Narayani) and a variety of forest and Grassland types

Taxa	Nepal	Chitwan	%
Mammals	181	68	37
Birds	862	526	61
Amphibians and Reptiles	143	49	34
Fish	185	120	65

**Outstanding Features**

CNP reflects the conservation history of Nepal which is also an icon of conservation  
 An important component of Terai Arc landscape. A biodiversity hotspot as designated by Conservation International  
 One of the WWF 200 Global Eco-region - Terai-Duar Savannas and Grasslands  
 Important Bird Area  
 Home to second largest population of Greater One-horned Rhinoceros in the world  
 Prime habitat for Tigers which is among few sites that holds more than 100 breeding adults  
 A refuge for the remnant population of critically endangered Gharial crocodile

**World Heritage Site**

- Inscribed as Natural World Heritage Property in 1984 (Site No. 284)
- Criteria vii : Superlative natural features of exceptional natural beauty in terms of its scenic attractions of forested hills, grasslands, great rivers and views of the distant Himalayas
- Criteria ix : The last major surviving example of the natural ecosystems of the Terai region

- Criteria x : Significant populations of several rare and endangered species, especially the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, Royal Bengal Tiger and the Gharial crocodile

**Ramsar Site**

- Beeshazar and associated Lakes declared as RAMSAR Site-wetlands of international importance in 2003 (Site No. 1313)
- Area of Ramsar Site - 3200 ha, Area of Beeshazar Lake-100 ha
- An extensive, typical oxbow lake system of the tropical Nepal inner Tarai, providing excellent habitat conditions as a water hole and corridor for endangered wildlife species
- Assemblage of some rare and endangered large mammals, reptiles and monogeneric species that is important for conservation of genetic diversity

**Park Security Posts**

- Post with Park Staff only	14
- Post with Army only	17
- Post with Combined	16
- Old post Vacant	4

**Human Resource**

Park Director	1
Chief Conservation Officer	1
Senior Veterinarian	1
Asst. Conservation Officer	4
Ranger	18
Senior Game Scout	19
Administrative Staff	15
Game Scout	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>

Elephant Staff	129
Protection Unit	1000
Gorakh Bahadur Battalion, Chitwan	
Sardul Sangram Company, Nawalparasi	

**Major Activities**

- Habitat Conservation and Management
- Species Conservation
- Anti-Poaching Activities
- Research and Monitoring
- Buffer Zone Management
- Conservation Education
- Cultural and Religious Site Conservation
- Infrastructure Development
- Tourism Management

**Some Special Activities**

- Gharial Breeding
- Turtle Conservation
- Vulture Conservation
- Elephant Breeding
- Orphan Animal Management

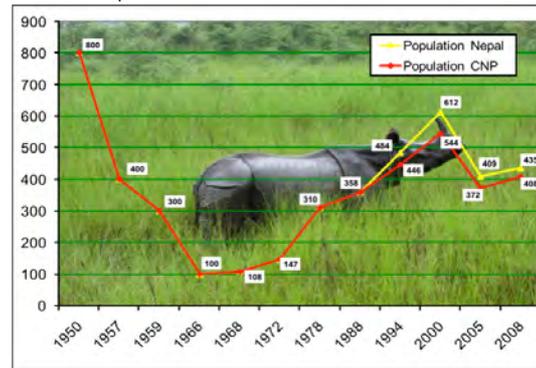
**Ongoing research / study**

- Tiger Monitoring
- Gharial Monitoring
- Rhino Monitoring
- Invasive Species Control

**Buffer Zone Programme**

Ensuring sustainability for biodiversity conservation through community participation in PA management and sustainable utilization of resources in buffer zone

**Rhino Population**



**Some issues**

- Poaching
- Human-Wildlife Conflict
- Invasive Species

**Other Challenges**

- Inadequate human resource
  - Limited number of staff
  - Capacity
- Poor infrastructure
  - Road network
  - Living condition
- Paucity of financial resources
  - Plan implementation
- Orphan animal management
  - Facility
  - Technician
  - Resources

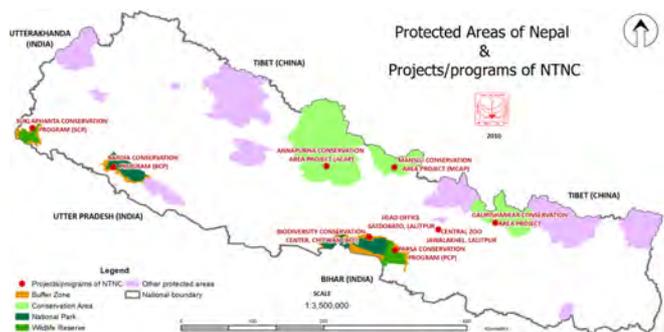
**PROJECT BRIEFING: Biodiversity Conservation Centre, National Trust for Nature Conservation Sauraha, Chitwan**

Naresh Subedi, Research Officer, Officer In charge, NTNC, Chitwan, Nepal

NTNC was established in 1982 by a legislative Act of Nepal as an autonomous, non-profit organization.

**NTNC Mission is to**

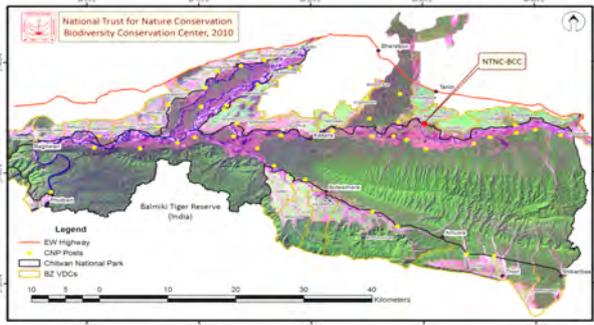
*"To Conserve, manage and promote nature in all its diversity balancing human needs with the environment on a sustainable basis for posterity-ensuring maximum community participation with due cognizance of the linkage between economics, environment and ethics through a process in which people are both the principal actors and beneficiaries."*



**Projects of NTNC**

- |                 |                 |               |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • Lowland/Terai | • High Altitude | • Kathmandu   |
| - BCC           | - ACAP          | - Head office |
| - BCP           | - MCAP          | - Central zoo |
| - SCP           | - GCAP          |               |
| - PCP           |                 |               |

Biodiversity Conservation Centre (BCC)



Project Area: Chitwan NP, Buffer Zone & Barandabhar

Historical background of centre

From 1973 –1983 the Tiger Ecology Project focused scientific studies on Tigers, their prey base and habitats as a collaborative initiative between Nepal Government and Smithsonian Institution, USA. In 1984 the Project was renamed as Nepal Terai Ecology Project and focused on survey on small carnivores, such as Jungle Cat, Toddy Cat, Large and Small Indian Civet, Leopard Cat etc.

In 1986 – 1988: there was a Study on rhinoceros and its habitat, a Rhino's census (346 individuals) and Rhino translocation from CNP to BNP. In 1989, the Trust took over the management responsibilities of the project from Smithsonian Institution, USA and named it as Nepal Conservation Research and Training Center (NCRTC). Its activities were focused on Habitat restoration in buffer zone with community participation and Conservation training to local people as well as park and army personnel.

In 2002 NCRTC was transformed as Biodiversity Conservation Center (BCC) with the following objectives:

- To promote biodiversity research and monitoring and build national capacity on wildlife research
- To promote biodiversity conservation in and around Chitwan National Park while giving due focus to local livelihood.

With the following focused programs: i) Wildlife research and monitoring, ii) Natural resources conservation, iii) Sustainable livelihood program, iv) Conservation education, v) Elephant TB surveillance & healthcare, vi) Species conservation and breeding support, vii) Human wildlife conflict management, viii) National capacity building

The Wildlife research and monitoring project included i) Tiger and Prey-base monitoring, ii) Rhino monitoring and its ecological study, iii) Bird monitoring, iv) vegetation study, v) Invasive species study.

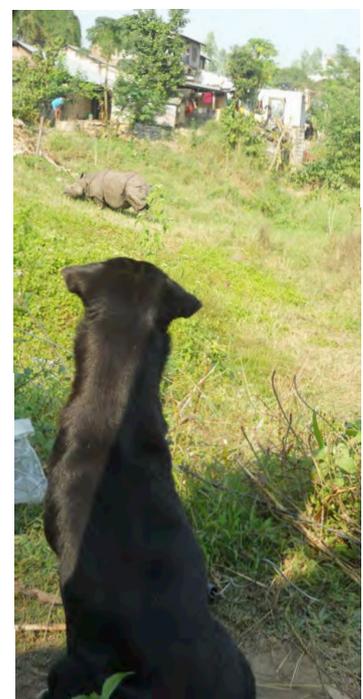
Natural resource conservation i) Community forests (11,000 ha), ii) School greenery, iii) Alternative energy Sustainable livelihood program includes: i) Mushroom farming, ii) Wool spinning, iii) Health Post & Veterinary clinics establishment, iv) Saving and Credit and micro-financing, v) Nature guide training

Conservation education includes : i) Green force clubs strengthening, ii) Environment teachers forum, iii) Conservation awareness camps, iv) Educational materials development, v. Radio program

Elephant TB surveillance & healthcare results: i) 6 TB deaths 2002-2009, ii) 205 tested, iii) 23% elephants found TB positive, iv) 19 treated, v) rest are under treatment

Species conservation & breeding support : i) Vulture Conservation & Breeding, ii) Gharial Breeding, iii) Elephant breeding

Human wildlife conflict management: i) Solar fencing, ii) Problem animal management, iii) Support for wildlife victims



Speaking of rhinos, SAZARC participants were treated to a rare sighting of an elderly male Great Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros visiting a small village adjacent to the NTNC offices and SAZARC venue. It happens from time to time the locals told us. They wander out of the Chitwan National Park and nibble on bushes and shrubs, and probably a few kitchen gardens. Locals take it easily and do not disturb the great rhino's outing. The black dog seems to be pretending he is a black panther, coolly observing his prey!