# IUCNNEPAL

MEWSLETTER



A woman in the Eastern hills of Nepal making a garland of Banian fruits, not to welcome someone but to feed her children and animals.



50 YEARS OF 25 YEARS OF TUCK NEPAL

IUCN RCF

50th Anniv.

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# Years of IUCN—The World Conservation Union

**IUCN-The World Conservation** Union's golden anniversary ceremony was held from 3 to 5 November 1998 in Fontainebleau, a French town near Paris and the birthplace of the Union. The theme of the ceremony was "Imagine Tomorrow's World: Diverse or Divided?" The ceremonies brought together leaders of world's conservation movement, heads of state, scientists and business leaders. The three-day event was inaugurated by French President Jacques Chirac. Other leaders attending included Blaise Compaore, President of Burkina Faso; Alpha Omar Konaré, President of Mali: Flavio Cotti. President of Switzerland; HRH Sadruddin Aga Khan and HRH Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah of Nepal.

An anniversary is a time to look back, and pay tribute to those whose wisdom guided the past, to recognise the vision of the founders and the dedication of those who have led the organisation through the decades. But anniversaries are also occasions for looking forward, particularly at a time when the world environment is under far greater threat than ever before. So half a century after its inception, IUCN- The World Conservation Union returns to the site of its origins seeking guidance and stimulation to take the conservation movement into the future.

The formal Act constituting the International Union for the Protection of Nature was signed on 5 October 1948 by delegates representing 18 governments, 7 international organisations and 107 national organisations. The secretariat was based in Brussels under a Belgian Secretary General, Jean-Paul Harroy.

The Union's objectives included fostering co-operation between all those concerned by the "Protection of Nature" and promoting national and international action to preserve wildlife and the natural environment. Many of the Fontainebleau decisions have stood the test of time though the Union (renamed the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1956, shortened to IUCN-The World Conservation Union in 1991) has evolved substantially in the number and composition of its members, its philosophy and the way it works. One of the Union's early innovations was the inception of technical commissions. Today, these voluntary expert networks represent a potent tool and resource for the Union, bringing together the foremost global authorities in fields like species survival, protected areas, environmental law, education and communication, economic and social policy and ecosystem management to address the basic policy and field issues.

The fifties and sixties were a period of consolidation. Working

catalytically with limited resources, the Union moved its headquarters to Switzerland (1961), created the World Wildlife Fund – WWF (1962) and established the International Biological Programme, basis of what is now the Union's extensive field programmes. Through the seventies, while environmental consciousness spread across the world, the Union raised awareness about sustainable development and the social context of conservation, sharing the international stage with new activist NGOs like Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth.

During the eighties, the Union contributed to launch a global debate by publishing first the World Conservation Strategy, then Caring for the Earth with WWF and the United Nations Environment Programme. The latter, a social policy document with an emphasis on the human dimension of conservation and development, was influenced by the preoccupations of governmental development assistance agencies who, since the late 1980s, have become the Union's largest funders. The last five years have been characterized by the Union's regionalization and decentralization. Seen by participants in the 1994 Buenos Aires General Assembly as a means of "giving IUCN back to its members" and moving its centre of gravity "southwards",

regionalization has its roots in the prescience of the Union's founders: Julian Huxley called in 1948 for "regional autonomy bring[ing] in the world view".

The drive has extended the Union's reach and influence in the areas of greatest biological diversity around the globe, a development further fostered by the decision at the World Conservation Congress in 1996 to build a working relationship with the private sector to engage this large-scale manager of global natural resources.

The Union today is the world's largest conservation organisation with over 900 governmental and non-governmental members from 138 countries. The Union is a global network of over 12000 scientists and field practitioners from government and NGO organisations working voluntarily. It has 46 offices around the world employing over 800 permanent staff.

HRH Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, Chairman of King Mahendra Trust of Nature Conservation, an NGO member of the IUCN was invited by IUCN Patron Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussain of Jordan, and Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse, President of the Union, to be a member of a high level honorary committee of eminent personalities of the world. This was not only an appreciation of the personal contribution of His Royal Highness to promote the cause of nature conservation in Nepal but also recognition of Nepal's serious efforts in the field of environmental conservation.

HRH Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah addressed the plenary session of the symposium on "Environmental Challenges Facing the Asia-Pacific Region in the Next Millenium". Giving his remarks HRH said, the community conservation activities succeed only when they are directly linked with people who are the beneficiaries, and they must be involved in reflecting their needs from the stage of proposal development to its blueprint from its implementation to completion and further in its sustainable utilisation. HRH further said, any such strategy also calls for the active involvement and participation of women and nongovernmental organisations.

HRH the Prince observed that environmental degradation in the region is primarily of two types - one is poverty-induced and the other impelled by the influences of development and that studies have reflected that the overall biodiversity scenario in the region has worsened in the last ten years. HRH the Prince further said that no conservation effort would be complete without taking into account the fact that population is an integral part of the environment. Talking about Nepalese context, HRH said that Nepal's efforts to promote conservation along with social and economic progress, however gradual, are finally showing positive results.

The theme of the
Fontainebleau event provides an
opportunity for world leaders and key
environmental and development
specialists to help forge the agenda
for conservation and sustainable
development on the threshold of the
21st century. In the ceremonies some
300 IUCN members participated in
twelve symposia, the results of which
led to an "Appel de Fontainebleau"

or "Fontainebleau Challenge," which proclaimed: We imagined tomorrow's world. It is a world that celebrates and nurtures the essential diversity of life of cultures and peoples. It is a world in which we will embrace a new environmental ethic that recognises that without nature there is no happiness, no tranquility, no quality of life. We seek harmony in nature and unity among peoples, for without these, life on earth is not sustainable."

The Fontainebleau event was marked for launching the following:

- The Reuters-IUCN Media Award, the first of its kind at a global level.
- A concept of world music in support of the environment, produced under the auspices of Peter Gabriel and Real World Music.
- ♦ The creation of the IUCN Business Advisory Panel, in which senior representatives of the corporate world will advise IUCN on partnership opportunities to promote sustainable development. BBD, the world's largest advertising agency, is helping to launch an international awareness campaign in favour of IUCN's goals to foster sustainable development.
- ♦ Six students from the International School of Geneva made an impassioned impromptu challenge to the group: "Today's youth are the torch bearers for the future." The students, who produced Earth Focus, a magazine which is distributed to all the international schools world-wide, called on IUCN to establish a youth secretariat.

Prepared by Upendra Shrestha, on the basis of Press Kit on IUCN 50th Anniversary provided by IUCN HQ and clippings from local newspapers.

# 25 Years of IUCN in Nepal

IUCN-The World Conservation Union is busy celebrating its 50th Anniversary throughout 1998. Its 900 plus institutional members and 12000 commission members are reflecting on the achievements made during the past five decades. Is the world environmentally a better place to live in now compared to 1948? The answer obviously is a clear 'No'. Would the earth's environment have unchanged had IUCN not come in existence? The answer to this question at first may not be so obvious. But a careful assessment of the IUCN network in 138 countries with the involvement of the top level volunteer

scientists and professionals will indicate tangible impact on protection, conservation and restoration of the world's natural and man-made environment. The effort here is to illustrate attempts to make such impacts in one country, Nepal.

Although no official functions are planned, 1998 is the year when IUCN's entry to Nepal completes its 25th year. In 1973 the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) joined IUCN as a state member. This was the result of a meeting of a few Ministry of Forest officials with the IUCN HQ

officials at a conference in New Zealand. For about a decade, IUCN's activities in Nepal were limited to parks and protected areas and DNPWC remained the focal point for these activities.

### NCS PREPARATION

By undertaking the task of assisting His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) in preparation of the Prospectus for National Conservation Strategy (NCS) for Nepal in 1982, IUCN's scope of work expanded to all aspects of conservation in Nepal. This



NCS staff discussing on the development of Manaslu as a tourism site, with the then Prime Minister Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba/Ekaram

prospectus formed the basis for initiating preparation of the NCS in 1985. It was a good learning experience for IUCN to be involved in the process of NCS preparation for over two years. During this period 19 background papers covering different sectors related to resource conservation and management were prepared by eminent authorities in their respective fields. A team of two concerned specialists separately gave their critical comments on the background papers. The ideas crystallised from these papers led to the preparation of the draft NCS document which was further discussed widely.

The endorsement of the NCS by HMGN in 1988 was a landmark in the history of environmental conservation in Nepal. The government lost no time in its execution and asked IUCN to assist in its implementation. It was a challenge as well as an opportunity for IUCN. At the initial stage, the main NCS Implementation programme areas were

- environmental planning and assessment
- environmental education
- ♦ public information

Under the direction of National Planning Commission these programme areas were operating fully by the beginning of 1991. Over 60 programme and support staff were recruited to work with the various governmental agencies and NGOs collaborating in the project.

### **IUCN MEMBERS**

The early 1990s were also a period when IUCN membership expanded. Four national NGOs joined IUCN membership:

 King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC)



Conservation of Nagdaha, nearby the Kathmandu Valley/IUCN Nepal

- Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ)
- Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA)
- Nepal Heritage Society (NHS).

One more NGO, Association for Protection of Environmental and Culture (APEC), became an IUCN Member in 1996. Three other NGOs are the latest members of IUCN. They are Women in Environment (WE), Green Camp-Nepal and Human Welfare and Environment Protection Centre (HWEPC). The six commissions of IUCN are considered one of the three pillars in the Union's structure. The individual membership of scientists and professional experts of these commissions totals 12,000. Nepal's share of this membership is around 50. Although the number of individual commission members is small, it has been many years since the Nepalese scholars were attracted to IUCN Commissions. A 27-member National Committee of IUCN on Education was set up in 1982. At the initiative of this committee a bi-monthly newsletter was also started. Some of the committee members donated money to keep the

committee's activities going. This enthusiasm did not continue, however, for long.

Besides education, members of the other commissions also played an important role in promoting the objectives of their commissions. In recent months IUCN Nepal has been effortful in encouraging additional government agencies, NGOs and individuals to apply for membership. Those who are already members are invited to play a more active role in realising the mission of IUCN. In the tri-monthly members' meeting both the institutional and individual members participate. Organisational members host the meeting on a rotation basis.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

The NCS Implementation Project completed two full cycles of three years each at the end of 1996. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) generously funded most of the IUCN-involved activities during these cycles. The NCS Implementation Project achievements include:

- ◆ Technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Faculty of Education of Tribhuvan University and various training centres to develop environmental education curricula, textbooks and resource materials for incorporation into school-level education and training programmes
- Assistance to the governmental agencies in preparing national and sectoral environmental impact assessment guidelines
- Support to the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Population and Environment to draft environmental legislation and regulations
- Development and field testing of local level environmental planning guidelines
- Support to NGOs and local communities to conserve biodiversity and cultural heritage

 Sensitisation and awareness raising on environmental issues and concerns current to Nepal.

In April 1997, an End of the Project Workshop was organised to review the progress made, to identify the gaps still remaining and to suggest the future course of action, at the National Planning Commission in Singha Durbar with the participation of all the major partners and members.

# IUCN NEPAL COUNTRY OFFICE

In September 1994, the Ministry of Finance and IUCN signed an agreement paving the way for the establishment of a country office. IUCN's Nepal Country Office was officially launched in February 1995. In less than four years this office has become the second largest country office and

is recognised as a major conservation agency in Nepal. Development agencies and individuals from all walks of life are benefiting from the Newsletter and numerous publications brought out by this office. In order to meet the growing demands and the need for information, a data base is also being developed and new programme areas such as environmental economics and wetlands and heritage have been introduced to accommodate the issues and concerns emerging.

For the first time since 1997, IUCN Nepal



IUCN Nepal Country Office launching ceremony/IUCN Nepal

Country Office is headed by a Nepali national. All the staff in this office are Nepali citizens. Although there are many challenges facing the office in its efforts to continue with the important activities undertaken, the staff are serious about overcoming these challenges. With the continued support of its members and partners, IUCN Nepal expects to play even greater role in preserving Nepal's world famous natural and cultural heritage in the new century and millenium that is now only a year away.

\* \* BDP

Dr. Badri D. Pande is the Coordinator of Environmental Education Programme at IUCN Nepal



Regional Director, Ms. Aban M. Kabraji, addressing the End of the Project Workshop/Ekaram

# **50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

# Theme in Nepali Language

The 50th Anniversary theme "Imagine Tomorrow's World - Diverse or Divided?" was translated into Nepali language and published in an environmental journal in the form of an advertisement. The journal, 'Yuwa Jagaran Paryawaraniya Manch' (Environmental Forum for Consciousness of the Youth) is one of the few Nepali language environmental magazines. It is circulated to most parts of the country.

leading newspapers and magazines) about Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah's participation in the 50th Anniversary events in Fontainebleau, France. Mr. Rana and the IUCN Nepal Country Representative, Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari, responded to the queries of the media representatives. This interactive meeting had the participation of IUCN Members and Commission Members as well.

# **Oratory Contest**

IUCN Nepal provided support to Patan Junior Jaycees to organise an oratory contest on environmental issues. The contest was participated in nine students by six high schools. It was held in the historial Patan Durbar Square.

# Support for Publication of 'Jana Utthan' Magazine

On the occasion of IUCN's 50th Anniversary, IUCN Nepal supported publication of one issue of a Nepali language journal 'Jana Utthan' (People's Upliftment). This issue includes relevant articles on environmental conservation and an interview with the IUCN Country Representative, Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari.

# Interactive Meeting with the Press

An interactive meeting with the press was organised on 26 October 1998 for briefing on the 50th Anniversary events. It was hosted by King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC). Mr. Prithvi Raj Ligal, the National Planning Commission Vice-Chairman, attended as the Chief Guest. KMTNC Member-Secretary, Mr. Jai Pratap Rana, briefed the media (representatives of Nepal Television, Radio Nepal and the

# **Competition Announcement**

The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in collaboration with the East-West Centre is sponsoring a competition to bring attention to innovations that allows diverse interests in forest management to adapt to changing environmental and social circumstances. Ten outstanding stories will be identified on how adaptive, collaborative management is working in practice.

The competition is open to any individual, team of people or institution working with local communities (or from these communities) that manage forests. Applications from teams are especially encouraged. Forests may be natural or planted. There must be evidence of both a multiple stakeholder and adaptive approach to management. Support for the writing workshop will be provided to the participants selected.

To enter the competition, please submit an abstract and application no later than 31 January 1999. Women and people from developing countries are encouraged to participate.

For application form and further information, please contact:

Information and Communication Section

IUCN Nepal P.O. Box 3923

Phone: 528781, 528761

Fax: 536786

Email: iucn@mos.com.np

Ms. Ambar Liano

CIFOR

P.O. Box 6595 JKPWB Jakarta 100065, Indonesia

Fax: 62-251-622-100, Tel: 62-251-622-622

Email: a.liano@cgiar.com

# Environmental Education

# Curriculum and Textbook on Population, Environment and Health

A new course of study on Population, Environment and Health Education has been developed for grades 9 and 10. This was in response to the request of the Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) of the Ministry of Education to IUCN Nepal. In its report submitted in the middle of 1998, the National **Education Commission recommended** introduction of this course. A Curriculum Development Workshop was organised on 30 August - 4 September to develop the course. The course was endorsed by the National Curriculum Development Council meeting on 25 September chaired by the Minister for Education, Mr. Arjun Nara Singh K.C. Based on this course, preparation of a textbook for grade 9 is in progress.

# Linking Population and Environment

With a small PEN/PEC seed grant from the HQ's Social Policy Group, an experimental project on population and environment interlinkages has been initiated in Tanahu district of western Nepal. The project is undertaken in collaboration with Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN). A participatory action research of the project site was carried out in the middle of October.

# Orientation Training of College Teachers

An orientation training of college teachers on The Source Book on Environmental Education was conducted from 29 July to 5 August 1998. A total of 25 teachers from six campuses of the Faculty of Education of Tribhuvan University participated in the training programme. A day-long field trip to natural sites around Nagarkot and cultural sites in Bhaktapur municipality gave the teachers a good idea about a range of out-of-classroom activities for their students. The source book is being trialed during the current academic year.

# Survey of Environmental NGOs

A survey of the leading Nepalese Environmental NGOs is underway with funding from Japan Centre for International Exchange (JCIE). Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness, a member of IUCN, is assisting in the collection of primary data on the selected NGOs from and outside the Kathmandu Valley. The main objective of the survey is to ascertain the nature and extent of conservation activities carried out by the environmental NGOs, problems faced, funding sources and experiences of the NGOs in their work with foreign funding agencies.

Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development

## **Workshop Proceedings**

A Draft of the Proceedings of the "Workshop on Collaborative Management of Protected Areas in the Asia Region" has been compiled and sent to the Regional Biodiversity Programme Officer in Colombo. The document will be published in the beginning of January1999.

# Conservation and Development Plan for Lekhnath Municipality

A draft version of the plan was circulated to the concerned authorities for their comments and review. Comments received from the concerned authorities have been incorporated into the plan. A final meeting will be held on November 20, 1998 to present the main recommendations of the plan to the Municipal Board, Town Development Committee members and concerned line agencies based in Pokhara.

A technical working team is in the process of being formed to carry out the detailed planning for the municipality. This planning exercise will identify short-term and long-term plans for infrastructure, urban, tourism, forestry, agricultural and environmental development plans including detailed costing and project profiles for the shortterm (5 year) plans.

For cohesive team work and focused results, this exercise will be carried out in a two-week "close camp" type of working environment in Pokhara starting mid-November 1998.

# Chula Chuli Conservation Plan

Preparation works are being carried out to initiate the Conservation Plan of the Chula Chuli area. The plan will be prepared in collaboration with the District Development Committee of Ilam district. The plan will cover most of the Siwalik area of Ilam district.

# Kanchanjangha Proposal

A high level meeting was held at IUCN office on October 7, 1998 to discuss the draft proposal on the potential to conserve and develop the Kanchanjangha Conservation Area (KCA). The meeting was attended by 37 participants representing various ministries, departments and NGOs.

The major outcome of the meeting comprised the following:

- a consortium of government and non-government organizations necessary to work in the KCA;
- local institutions in the KCA
  need to be strengthened to
  implement the programmes so
  that they are effective and
  sustainable in the long run;
- income generating activities should be emphasized so that people have more incentive to meet conservation targets, and

 an operational management plan for the KCA needs to be developed by the consortium with the plan identifying the responsibilities of various stakeholders.

### **Darwin Initiative**

An application for the Darwin Initiative grant seeking funds to initiate activities in Phase I of the KCA proposal has been submitted to the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, Government of UK, on October 21, 1998.

# **Interactive Meetings**

An IUCN team and representatives from the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Local Development and Ministry of Population and Environment conducted interactive meetings in Biratnagar, Itahari, Dharan and Inaruwa in August 1998 to seek opinions and comments on the proposal of the Finnish government on "Strengthening of Environmental Administration and Management at the Local Level."

The project was led by the Coordinator of the Environmental Planning Unit. The complete project appraisal report was submitted to the Finnish Embassy in the first week of September.

ACTIVITIES

# **Concept Paper Prepared**

A concept paper on "Filling the Conservation Gaps in the High Mountains of Nepal by Sustainable Management of Forests" has been prepared jointly by the Institutional Development and Environmental Planning Unit and Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conservation Unit. Initial discussions with the Department of Forests are expected to be held in the last week of November. After the discussions, the drat concept paper will be circulated for comments to the concerned parties.

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Participants of Project Proposal Appraisal on Environmental Administration and Management at the Local Level meeting at Biratnagar/Anish Baniya



# "SECURING OUR FULL CAN'S CHANGING ENVIRONMENT" VAREGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM YAREGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM SECURING OUR FULL CONSERVATION FORUM YAREGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM THE PROMETAL CONSERVATION FORUM AT

THE PROMENADE HOTEL, KOTA KINABALU ON 29 SEPTEMBER 1998

IUCN-The World Conservation Union organized Asia Regional Conservation Forum in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia from 29 September to 2 October, 1998. The theme of the Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) was Securing Our Future in Asia's Changing Environment. The specific objectives of the forum were to:

- increase knowledge and understanding about current conservation efforts, including the interests, priorities and opportunities of donors, conservation practitioners and other stakeholders;
- review key conservation issues;
- gain a consensus view on priority conservation issues and appropriate responses; and
- identify ways to structure and organize the conservation community to better address the priority issues.

The (RCF) offered a critical opportunity to review - as a Union - the programmes that have been undertaken since the 1996 World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Montreal towards achieving the objectives of the Triennial Programme (1997-1999). The Forum also provided an important opportunity to assess the extent to which the various WCC resolutions have been implemented, and to begin to identify future priorities for IUCN in the Asia region.

At the invitation of IUCN, Prof. Prithvi Raj Ligal, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission; Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel, Environment Member, National Planning Commission; Mr. Shyam Bajimaya, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation; Mr. Tirtha Koirala from Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalists; Mr. Narayan Dhakal

from King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation; Mr. Surendra Sthapit from Environmental Camps for conservation Awareness; Mr. Govind Luitel from Association for Protection of Culture and Environment; and Mr. Dhrubesh Chandra Regmi from Forum for Protection of Public Interest attended the RCF, among others, from Nepal.

The Inaugural Programme was presided over by Right Honorable Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard G. Dompok, Sabah State, Malaysia. He praised IUCN's work in conservation, and expressed deep pleasure that IUCN was holding the regional forum at KK in Malaysia. Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment of Sabah State welcomed the participants, resource persons, facilitators and IUCN officials to the RCF. He informed that the Federal Government of Malaysia,

through the Department of Wildlife and National Parks of Peninsular Malaysia has been the state member of IUCN since 1968. Subsequently, the Sabah State Government through the Sabah Parks and the Wildlife Department of Sabah also became members of IUCN. He emphasized that Malaysia will continue to focus attention in encouraging and integrating biological diversity and environmental considerations into all levels of sectoral planning and decision making.

Vice-President of IUCN, Ms. Akiko Domoto, also spoke on the occasion. She mentioned that we are now suffering economic recession, but we must be careful. It is easy to think that it is OK to use many resources now, it is OK to pollute now, and after all economic problems are over, we can fix nature. She reminded that this would be a big mistake. She

emphasized that if we destroy nature in the process of development, our societies are going to be environmentally and spiritually impoverished. She cited Japan as an example.

Mr. David McDowell, Director General of IUCN expressed his delight being able to hold this important regional forum in a setting that is truly a model of environmental conservation.

The inaugural session was followed by a technical session in which Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director of IUCN South and Southeast Asia gave introductory remarks about IUCN Regional Conservation Forum and IUCN's South and Southeast Asia Region Programme.

The RCF provided an excellent opportunity to discuss, exchange views, share problems and assess the

Union's and its members conservation initiatives in the Asia region. It was a truly Asian Forum where no non-Asian participated, except for the staff members of different national and regional agencies and IUCN. Many of the workshops chairpersons and speakers were leaders in their respective fields and they were very carefully selected to provide expert opinion. The participants were also a group of distinguished persons that included very senior level government officials, representatives of NGOs, professional experts and executives. The participants felt that the RCF provided them an opportunity to be informed about regional issues, programs, networking with different organizations and to share experiences with participants. The participants found the background papers, materials and facilities excellent.

# Environmental Economics

# Study of EE Initiatives in Nepal

The EE program has recently finalized the final draft of the country study on 'Linking Economic Development and Environmental Policy in Nepal'. The principal author is Dr D.N. Tiwari, consultant for EE. An overview is given of the government policies and measures and their implications for environmental policy integration in Nepal. The priorities of future EE activities can be identified on the basis of these results.

# Regional Study on Economics of Biodiversity

Corresponding to the theme of Phase II of the EE Program, a study has been carried out to assess the use of economic tools for conservation purposes at the regional level. The paper is available at the IUCN Internet Site on Economics of Biodiversity: http://economics.iucn.org/experts-98-01.htm

It was found that most Asian countries are recognizing the need for integrating economics and environment; some countries have already implemented economic measures for conservation purposes, while others are in the research or planning phase.

# Workshop with Tribhuvan University

Within the scope of the planned integration of Environmental or Natural Resource Economics in the Masters of Economics curriculum, a half-day workshop was organized by the Central Department of Economics (CDE) and IUCN Nepal on 6 September 1998. Dr B.N. Tiwari, Associate Professor, CDE,

presented a paper on Environmental Economics Initiatives in Nepal, including suggestions for the Master's course. The synopsis of the workshop deliberations is going to be published in the forthcoming Progress Report of the Environmental Economics Program.

EIA

### Review Criteria for EIA

IUCN Nepal and Resources Futures
International (RFI), a Canadian
Company, are assisting the institutional
strengthening of the Ministry of
Population and Environment (MOPE).
Under the various activities of this
project, IUCN Nepal has developed

"Review Guidelines for EIA
Report and Associated Process" and
submitted it to the MOPE. The
document will be finalized after
incorporating comments and suggestions received from concerned Government and Non-Governmental Organisations, and environmental experts.

# Environmental Guide for Small Rural Infrastructure Projects

The EIA Programme has prepared an Environmental Guide for Small Rural Infrastructure Projects in partnership with the Ministry of Local Development (MLD). A Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Joint Secretary of MLD was formed to supervise and guide the work. Under the guidance of the steering committee meeting, a penultimate draft was prepared. Subsequently, a workshop was organized on 31 July 1998 in Dhulikhel. Thirty participants representing various governmental and non-governmental organisations and different district line

agencies attended the workshop. The guidelines along with the workshop proceedings were forwarded to the Ministry of Local Development to obtain final approval.

To accelerate further activities in this regard, a proposal for pilot project on developing a model integration of environmental consideration in the district level planning of local infrastructure has been prepared and submitted to SDC for funding.

Wetlands and Heritage

# Visitor Center at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve

IUCN Nepal is developing a visitor centre at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. The visitor center will provide education facilities to support environmental education and communication. The center also intends to create public awareness about the value of natural resources. In future, it is visioned to develop well planned physical facilities there which include a visitor center, a meeting hall, an auditorium, an exhibit room and other supporting facilities. With these facilities the center will act as an interpretation and visitor center.

The center will also provide an opportunity to learn more about wetland biodiversity existing in the Koshi Tappu area.

### Wetland Field Activity in Lumbini and Gaindahawa

The Sarus crane (*Grus antigone*) needs flat open wetland, fallow rice fields and grasslands for nesting and foraging. Lumbini holds a breeding population of Sarus crane comprising about 55 individuals. Sarus cranes mate for life and care for their eggs and young. The months of August and September are considered to be their breeding season. According to the local people, six

pairs of Sarus cranes incubated in Lumbini and Gaindahawa area producing 12 chicks. The crane needs about a month to incubate its eggs. The newly hatched out juveniles are seen with parents. They are fed intermittently with small fish such as minor carp (Puntius ticto), snake head (Channa punctatus) and glass perch (Ambasis nama). This is only a resident species of the crane listed in the IUCN Red data list. The primary threats to the cranes of Lumbini appear to be pollution and use of insecticide for agricultural protection. The nesting habitat of Sarus crane is over-grazed and trampled by Blue Bull or Nilgai (Boselaphus tragacamelus), which trample eggs freshly laid on the ground. Water weeds known as Thoto grass (Eleocharis dulcis) growing in wetlands is used by Sarus as its nesting material.

# Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management

# Conservation Flora on Nepal's Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

Nepal is traditionally an exporter of a large number of medicinal and aromatic plants such as Swertia chiraita (Chiraita), Nardostachys grandiflora (Spikenard), several species of Aconitum (aconites), Valeriana wallichii (valerine), and recently leaves of Taxus trees are collected for which producing the cancer curing compound Taxol. A number of plant species have now become very scarce. Some of the prominent ones are Dioscorea deltoidea, Rauwolfia serpentina, Dactylorhiza hatagirea (ground orchid), Cordyceps sineusis (fungus on caterpillar), etc. Medicinal herbs are collected from the

wild by rural communities. Wild herbs are one of the few sources of cash income for their subsistence economy. Thus IUCN Nepal identified the need to address the following issues regarding the exploitation of medicinal and aromatic plants.

- ◆ Standardize resource inventory and assistance in establishing genetic resource national register
- Prescribing conservation guidelines for sustainable harvest of herbs
- ◆ Promotion of conservation awareness among all stakeholders such as herb collecting communities, processing industries and raw material suppliers and traditional healers and medical practitioners of Ayurvedic system.

IUCN Nepal conducted a consultative meeting with herb dealers, herbal drug manufacturers and herbal processing companies, and botanists and plant chemists. The meeting constituted a 5-member task force to identify the needs and wants of various stakeholders. It was followed by the formation of a national committee comprising 11 members representing government bodies, the private sector and the scientific community.

IUCN Nepal is currently developing a computerized database and a descriptive flora of medicinal and aromatic plants. The project is laying a sound foundation for the conservation and sustainable use of Nepal's medicinal and aromatic plants.

# Community Conservation of Rhododendron

IUCN Nepal has undertaken an initiative for conserving Nepal's national flower "Laligurans", *Rhododendron arboreum*. Globally, about 850 species of rhododendron are known from the globe. Of these, Nepal holds 32 species. Milke-Jaljale area in eastern Nepal is

the home of more than 28 species of *rhododendron* distributed from 1500 m to over 4000 m along the slopes of the mountain ridges that separate the Arun

ACTIVITIES

and the Tamur watershed.

Rhododendron arboreum is a conspicuous tree of the Himalayan vegetation but it is under great human pressure in most parts of Nepal for crop cultivation and settlement, or road construction and domestic consumption. The pricipal objective of establishing community conservation of rhododendron is to conserve one of the finest habitats of R. arboreum along the Milke-Jaljale ridge in eastern Nepal. Recently, IUCN Nepal in collaboration with Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEI) organized a two-day-workshop in Terhathum district to discuss the issues and to generate consensus and solidarity among the local people for conserving rhododendron. Altogether, there were forty-seven participants representing various Village Development Committees, local administration and the district forest office. This workshop unanimously agreed on the community conservation of Nepal's national flower "Laligurans" and solicited help from IUCN Nepal and NEFEJ to develop

community consensus in two other districts,
Sankhuwasava and Taplejung.



# **Advisory Committee Meeting on EE**

The Environmental Economics Unit held a meeting with the EE Advisory Committee on August 24th, which was the second meeting since the Committee was established in May 1998. This Committee consists of representatives from related ministries, financial and commercial institutions and university departments.

The agenda of the meeting consisted mainly of programme appraisal. After the opening by Chairman Dr Badri Dev Pande, Deputizing Country Representative, some of the activities of the first phase of the EE Program were highlighted by Professor Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Manager EE program. The main activities of the second phase, according to Dr Pyakuryal, are focusing on the Economics of Biodiversity. (More on the program follows under 'Activities' elsewhere in this newsletter).

The Advisory Committee members appreciated the EE Program and urged the concerned individuals to continue the present activities. Members stressed the importance of awareness creation and capacity building since the EE concept is still premature in Nepal. The focus on biodiversity conservation was considered useful to develop economic tools for the preservation and management of biodiversity. Collaboration with the related institutions, government and university departments was considered a useful step towards the integration of environmental and economic policies in Nepal.

# **World Heritage Meeting**

A sub-regional meeting of Heritage experts from countries sharing Himalayan Natural and Cultural Heritage was held on 31 August-2 September 1998 in Hotel Himalaya. Delegates from India, China, Pakistan, Bhutan and Nepal including the representatives of INGOs and NGOs participated in this meeting. The meeting stressed conservation of biodiversity of the Himalayan region. The meeting also proposed listing of the Shey Phoksundo National Park of Nepal as a World Heritage Site by 2000 AD. Nepal has also proposed Khaptad National Park as a potential site for World Heritage Center.

ber of National Planning commission Dr. Jagdish Chandra Pokharel, Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari moderated the session of the meeting and highlighted the importance of the meeting.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the possible strategy for developing a comprehensive master plan for Bandipur and its environs. Ten key participants participated in the meeting and actively discussed the master plan. A follow-up meeting was held on 16 September 1998 under the chairmanship of Dr. Jagdish Chandra Pokharel. The major stakeholders of the meeting were Bandipur Village Development Committee, Bandipur Social Development Committee (BSDC) and different members of GO who were repre-

# Bandipur Visioning Exercise

A visioning exercise meeting was held in IUCN under the chairmanship of Hon. Mem-



Top: Bandipur Visioning Exercise Meeting/Uttam Shrestha; Below: A view of Bandipur/Ambika Adhikari

sented. Moderating the meeting Dr. Adhikari appealed for sharing vision both from the GOs and the NGOs. About 25 participants attended the meeting.

# Community Meeting at Bandipur

Bandipur Village Development Committee (BVDC), with the collaboration of Bandipur Social Development Committee (BSDC), convened an informal community meeting on 10 October 1998. Mr. Rabi Raj Bhattarai, chairman of BVDC, steered the meeting moderated by Dr. Madan Piya, Chairman of BSDC. Dr. Tej Kumar Shrestha, Coordinator, Wetland and Heritage Unit of IUCN Nepal, highlighted the purpose of the visit of the IUCN Nepal's team to Bandipur. The first objective of the meeting was to facilitate local community interaction at Bandipur so that the community accepts conservation of natural and cultural resources as a nucleus of future programmes. The second objective was to inform the communities about the future map of Bandipur, so that the proposed management plan for Bandipur development could encompass the aspirations of the local people. The third objective was to establish an MOU between IUCN Nepal and BSDC.

About 30 people including BVDC and BSDC representatives, women, social groups, clubs, school teachers and businessmen attended the meeting.

The major outcome of the meeting was the development of MOU between BSDC, BVDC and IUCN Nepal. Both BVDC and BSDC made commitments to support



Members Meeting/Ekaram

and facilitate the project materially and financially. IUCN agreed to make major contribution to support the programme.

# **Members Meeting**

A members meeting was organised on October 26, 1998 at the central zoo in Lalitpur. It was hosted by King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC). Present at the meeting were representatives of five IUCN member organisations and 11 commission members. Mr. Jai Pratap Rana, Member-Secretary of KMTNC welcomed the members to the meeting. He informed that Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, Chairman of KMTNC, is to attend IUCN's 50th Anniversary ceremony at Fontainebleau, France. Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari, Country Representative, IUCN Nepal, briefed the meeting

about the highlights of the Asia
Regional Conservation Forum held
in Sabah, Malaysia from 29 September to 2 October 1998. Dr. Badri D.
Pande, Coordinator, Environmental
Education Programme, IUCN Nepal,
gave an update on membership
matters. This was followed by
general discussions and sharing of
information among the participants.

# **Management Retreat**

IUCN Nepal's management retreat was organized on 12 September 1998. Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari welcomed the senior staff members of IUCN Nepal to the Management Retreat and highlighted the objectives of the Retreat. Dr. Tirth Bahadur Shrestha and Dr. Badri Dev Pande moderated the pre-lunch and post-lunch sessions respectively.

Dr. Adhikari presented a five year vision followed by IUCN Nepal's major achievements, challenges, and an assessment of where we are strong, where we are weak, the major needs, and where we go from here. Highlighting the major achievements of the past 12 months, Dr. Adhikari observed that we have moved to relative stability from uncertainty. Relationship with the government and donors and interaction with the members have improved. Other major achievements include excellent cost control mechanisms; competitive printing, purchase and procurement system; quality control of publications and increased staff confidence; and motivation to perform and greatly widened training and exposure opportunities to all the staff.

Dr. Adhikari said that the major challenges include too many small projects and inadequately sized longterm and field-based projects; coordination and communication gaps among different units; lack of longterm vision; delays in meeting schedules for projects; and the issue of staff ownership of the institution. Dr. Adhikari also raised the following pertinent issues:

- Where we go from here?
- How can we provide better
- achieve our mission and perform our duties?

- How can we provide better opportunities and facilities to our staff?
- How can we maintain stability in the midst of so many global and national uncertainties?

In the discussion session, most of the programme coordinators pointed out the following issues:

- How can we provide better service to the nation?
- How to integrate IUCN mission and Nepal's poverty alleviation?
- Development of a communication strategy
- Development of programme activities in the pollution prevention and control and watershed management sectors
- Review of the IUCN Nepal programme units with the view of further consolidation
- Development of in-country or local fund raising mechanisms targeted to financial institutions, local governments, the central government and the Chamber of Commerce
- Development of a programme where in the knowledge and experience of the staff of IUCN

EVENTS WATCH

Nepal are best utilized and would win over the confidence of the government, donor community and its partners.

# **Working Session on Economics of Biodiversity**

IUCN Nepal is planning to host a South Asia Regional working Session on the Economics of Biodiversity, tentatively from February 10 to 12, 1999 in Kathmandu. The mission of the programme is to identify priority areas in the Economics of Biodiversity and share knowledge of appropriate economic tools for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It is hoped that the session will bring the following outputs: linkages established among key institutions; appropriate tools and approaches identified on the basis of lessons learnt; collaborative activities specified on priority subjects. This working session is part of the SDC funded programme on economics of biodiversity.



IUCN—The World Conservation Union recently awarded its membership to three non-governmental organisations in Nepal. Short profiles of these organisations follow.

### WE

Women in Environment (WE) is a non-profit making, non-governmental organisation established in 1990 with the objective to recognize the role of women in preserving natural resources and environment and in achieving sustainable development of the marginalized, deprived and downtrod-den segments of the Nepalese society from the gender perspective.

WE is an active and most accessible forum of dedicated women volunteers. They believe in the principle of sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources through women. Its recent membership number is 4950, most of them women from rural communities.

Some of the recent activities of WE include: Socio-economic Transformation of Indigent Women of Rural Terai funded by DANIDA; School Buildings and Support Programme supported by SAME International, Japan; Buffer Zone Management Project (Royal Bardiya National Park) through Women in Conservation Development Programme funded by WWF-Nepal Program; and Construction of Health Camp and Community . Centre in Mahottari District with the support from SAME International, Japan.

Address:
Women in Environment
P.O. Box 8721
Kathmandu, NEPAL
Phone: 977-1-411303
Fax: 977-1-413942

e-mail: sdhungel@wlink.com.np

Green Camp-Nepal

Green Camp-Nepal was established in 1993 as a non-governmental, non-profit making organisation. The organisation concentrates mainly on the alleviation of key environmental problems through action-oriented, problem solving and transdisciplinary approaches. Green Camp-Nepal is primarily run by academicians, researchers and social workers. Its primary goal is to protect and conserve nature and natural resources for sustainable development of the Nepal Himalayas.

Specific objectives of the organisation are: (a) protection, conservation and management of different aspects of environment; (b) launching ecologically supported community development programmes; (c) formulation and initiation of research, training and environmental awareness camps; (d) coordination, consultation, network and advisory services to governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Some recent Activities of the Green Camp-Nepal include: environmental awareness camps; research project with focus on socio-economic aspects, environmental impact assessment and evaluation of proposed and existing major development projects; and organisation of environmental fairs.

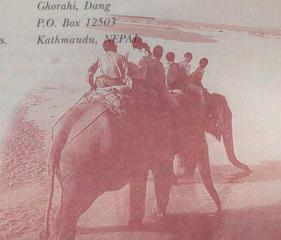
Address:
Green Camp-Nepal
P.O. Box 3812
Nepal Cultural Association,
Kathmandu, NEPAL
Phone: 977-1-411822, 419104
Fax: 977-1-220143

# HWEPC

Human Welfare and Environment Protection Centre (HWEPC) is a Dang (mid-western Nepal)-based NGO established in 1991 as a nonprofit making organisation. Its longterm vision is to aid and support the development of a self-reliant society which is economically, socially, educationally and environmentally secure. It aims to achieve following objectives: (a) to improve the socio-economic and educational status of people, particularly those in the poorest areas of the region; (b) to empower and raise the living status of rural women; (c) to develop the capacity and human resources of HWEPC through training, workshops and seminars.

Some of the recent activities of the organisation include: General Education; Women Empowerment; Poverty Alleviation and Rural Selfreliance; Alternative Energy Development; and Development of Eco-Village.

Address:
HWEPC
Tribhuvan Nagar
Ghorahi, Dang
P.O. Box 12503
Kathmandu, NEPA



Rogers, P. and John Aitchison. 1998. Towards Sustainable Tourism in the Everest Region of Nepal. Kathmandu, Nepal: IUCN Nepal and ICPL. Xii + 108 pp.

Towards Sustainable
Tourism in the Everest
Region of Nepal

Mt. Everest, known in Nepal as Sagarmatha, the highest peak on earth, is not only the pride of Nepal but also an attraction to the whole world. Sagarmatha National Park of the Everest region is included in the Unesco's list of World Heritage

Sites. Sagarmatha is of vital importance to the global community, not only as a World Heritage Site but also as an area of great cultural, social and economic value to the Nepalese people.

This publication is significant because it analyses relevant tourism and sustainable development issues from the perspective of foreign scholars who are well qualified to make keen observations due to their academic interest and extensive travel experience in the region. It represents a significant contribution to the conservation of Sagarmatha National Park. The book consists of 8 chapters which include: Tourism and Sustainable Development; International Tourism and Conservation in Nepal; The Solu-Khumbu District; Tourism Development in the Solu-Khumbu; Environmental Impacts; Economic Impacts; Social and Cultural Issues; and Towards Sustainable Tourism: Review and Reflections.

### \*\*\*

Oli, K.P. 1998. Conflict Resolution and Mediation in Natural Resource Management in Nepal. Kathmandu, Nepal: IUCN Nepal. 78 pp.

This book dealt with the concepts that are being practiced in the process of resolving conflicts on natural resource management. Some international and regional specimens of concflicts have also been presented as cases. This book also reviews the legal instruments for conflict resolution in Nepal. Conflict over natural resources is dependent on not only one single factor, rather it is dependent in many of them. The case studies of local areas presented in this document clearly show the practical reality of conflict resolution and mediation in natural resource management.

### \*\*\*

Belbase, N. and Chiranjivi Bhattarai (eds.). 1998. Environmental Law and Justice: A Collection of Working Papers. Kathmandu, Nepal: IUCN Nepal. 190 pp. (Lang: Nepali)

This document is a collection of papers presented on the judges' sensitization programme organised by IUCN Nepal in Kathmandu, Biratnagar and Nepalgunj of the country. The proceedings of the programme are also briefly, included in the document. This publication will be useful to the environmental experts, lawyers and students.

### \* \* \*

HMG, Ministry of Industry and IUCN Nepal. 1998. *EIA Guidelines for Industry Sector 1995*. Kathmandu: IUCN Nepal, x+33 pp.

Industry plays a vital role in the economic growth of a country. Industrialization process is essential for modernization, income generation, employment opportunities, industrial development and production of other necessary life amenities. Moreover, it also helps to accelerate the process of development and transform a nation from backward-

ness to modernity.

Recognizing the importance of environmental considerations in industrial development, HMGN endorsed "Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Industry Sector" on 24 July 1995 and published it in the gazette on 6 November 1995 (Volume 45, Number 29, 1995). This publication is an unofficial translation of the guidelines.

### \*\*\*

IUCN Nepal. 1998. Linking Economic Development and Environmental Policy in Nepal: Overview of Government Fiscal Policies and Environmental Implications, and Measures for Environmental Policy Integration in Nepal. Kathmandu: IUCN Nepal. xii+71 pp.

Tacit government policies on agriculture, forestry, water, energy and industry have encouraged Nepalese people to use the country's natural resources with open access. The consequent overutilization of natural resources has brought negative impacts on productivity by raising production and maintenance costs. This has aggravated the problem of biodiversity conservation. The high degree of conversion of existing natural resources such as forests into land has necessitated a proper investigation of the trade-off between the benefits and costs of such conversions. The study attempts to address selected government policies and their implications for environment and to suggest measures for integrating economic and environmental policy in Nepal.

This document is a brief and general situation analysis of the status of environmental economics in Nepal, which discusses economic valuation of the natural resources and environmental services with the help of physical linkage sand behavioral approach.



# **VISITORS**

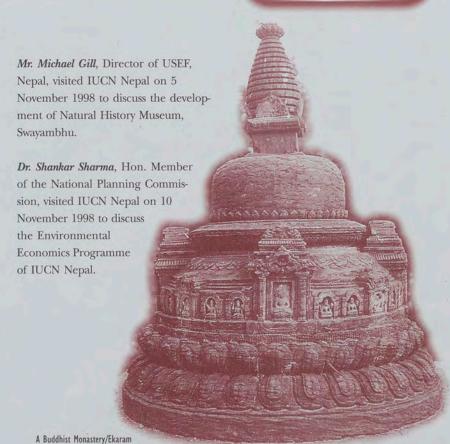
Dr. Javed Ahmed, Senior Programme Officer, IUCN Pakistan, Islamabad Office, visited IUCN Nepal from 26 October to 6 November 1998. During his visit, he worked on the concept paper "Achieving Local Economic Benefits from Genetic Resources and Biological Diversity in Nepal" for GEF Funding.

In addition to the GEF concept paper, he also produced the Block A PDF Form on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal and Conserving Endemic, Rare and Endangered Flora of the Himalayan Mountain Ecosystem in Nepal. He has, moreover, prepared a draft proposal on Strategic Action Plan for the Kanchanjangha Conservation Area System.

IUCN Sustainable Tourism Team from Vietnam visited Nepal as a part of its study tour to understand and share the experiences and achievements Nepal has made in the field of sustainable tourism and implementation of nature conservation strategy. The team arrived here on 3rd September and departed on 21st September 1998. Ms. Annalisa Koeman, Mr. Ngugen Van Lam, Mr. Nguyen Tai Cung, Mr. Nguyen Quy Dang and Mr. Nguyen An Toan were the members of the team.

During their stay in Nepal, they visited ICIMOD, TMI, KMTNC, SNV and UNDP, and traveled to Chitwan National Park, ACAP (Ghandruk), Dhunche, Bhaktapur and many other places.

Mr. Jim Cole, First Secretary, US Embassy and Environmental Hub Officer, Nepal, visited IUCN Nepal on the first week of November. The purpose of the visit was to explore the possible areas of collaboration.



VISITORS

# New Director General Appointed

IUCN—The World Conservation Union assembled in the venue of 50th Anniversary celebration of IUCN appointed Dr. Maritta Koch-Weser as the new Director General of the organisation to succeed Mr. David McDowell in early 1999. The appointment of Dr. Koch-Weser, an anthropologist by training, was welcomed by all IUCN Councillors present — thirty-four out of thirty eight members.

Dr. Maritta Rogalla von Vieberstein Koch-Weser (51), born in Koblenz, Germany, is of German nationality and holds an honorary Brazilian passport. In the course of her wide-ranging international work, Dr. Koch-Weser has benefited from considerable field involvement in implementing environmental protection, rural and social development. Her areas of expertise include the management of large multidisciplinary expert teams in environmental and natural resource management, planning and implementation of environmental projects and programmes in developing countries world-wide, project management for rural poverty alleviation, agricultural development, land tenure programmes, social planning and the elaboration of environmental and social policies. Dr. Koch-Weser's extensive experience is enhanced by her skills in co-operating with bi-lateral as well as private sector organisations, fund-raising, monitoring and evaluation, communications and media relations, publishing and teaching.

Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari attended Environmental Economics for Development Policy Course, held in Washington, DC, from July 7 to 17, 1998. The ten-day-long course introduced the World Bank's current thinking and best practice in using environmental economics to address resources and environmental problems at the macro, sector and project levels and emphasized approaches and analytical tools to link the economic and environmental issues and policies. The course encompassed identification and analysis of environmental problems; setting priorities; contemplating policy responses; valuing environmental impacts; deciding on policies, programmes, and projects; and monitoring and evaluation.

The course programmed to help to acquire skills in analyzing new policies, programs and projects for sustainable development; to build environmental awareness; and to train and advise various types of audiences (ministers, parliamentarians, government officials, managers, journalists, NGOs and students among others) on specific environmental themes and issues of relevance to the respective countries. Renowned environmental and economic practitioners presented theories and practical approach in the course. Senior professionals from around 10 countries participated in the

Mr. Krishna P. Oli participated in a two-day Trans-Regional Land Tenure Workshop organized by IUCN's Regional Office for Southern Africa from August 6 to 7, 1998 in the capital city of Harare Zimbabwe. Some 15 participants from Asia, Africa and Latin America joined in the workshop.

A draft proposal to address the Trans-Regional Land Tenure Issues has been prepared expected to be finalized by January 1999.

Mr. Krishna P. Oli also participated in a meeting in Bangkok to finalize the draft proposal "Towards Collaborative Management of Protected Areas in the Asian Region" from August 18 to August 21, 1998. The proposal will be ready by the beginning of January 1999.

The IUCN Economics Service Unit (IUCN HQ) organized an Experts Review Meeting of its Internet Site on the economics of biodiversity. The meeting was held from 29 to 30 September 1998 in Gland, Switzerland. Professor Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Manager, Environmental Economics Program of IUCN Nepal, participated in the meeting organised to provide substantive guidance on the evolution of the site. The meeting reviewed the objectives of the site, its thematic layout and its technical structure. Dr Pyakuryal presented a paper entitled 'The Economics of Biodiversity for Internet site (Region 4: South and South-East Asia)'. The paper will be available at http:// economics.iucn.org/experts-98-01.htm. Dr Pyakuryal was also nominated as one of the members of the advisory group formed to review and guide the development of http:// economics.iucn.org.

Ms. Rajju Malla-Dhakal, Programme Officer, Programme Development Unit, attended a training workshop on System Assessment Methods from 3rd to 8th September 1998, jointly organized by IUCN Headquarters and BAIF in Pune, India, which was also represented by IUCN offices of the region.

A three-week-long training cum-workshop from 7 to 25 September 1998 was held in the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, jointly organised by SERD, AIT and United Nations University (UNU). The objective of the training was to provide a conceptual framework on sustainable development, models and tools. Twenty-three individuals from 11 different countries participated in the programme.

Mr. Dilip K. Munankarmi, Research Assistant of IUCN Nepal, attended the training programme.

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**Published by** 

IUCN Nepal
P.O. Box 3923
Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: (+ +9771) 535921, 528761
Fax: (+ +9771) 536786
email: iucn@mos.com.np