

A workshop on Curbing Illegal Wildlife Trade in and around Protected Areas

Proceedings

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Contents

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

1. **CITES Implementation and National Anti-poaching Strategies**
Mr. Diwakar Chapagain and Mr. Janardan Dhakal
2. **CITES Implementation in Nepal – plants**
Dr. K. Rajbhandary
3. **WTI Role in Wildlife Trade Issues**
Mr. Ashok Kumar
4. **CFTWI Role in Wildlife Conservation**
Ms. Helen Leavesley
5. **WCN Role in Monitoring Wildlife Trade**
Mr. Prasanna Yonzon
6. **Faunal Scientific Authority of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Nepal**
Mr. Keshab Shrestha, Mr. Karan B. Shah,
Mr. Pusp Keshari Shrestha and Mr. Bhaiya Khanal
7. **Royal Shuklaphata Wildlife Reserve**
Mr. Tikaram Adhikari
8. **Status of Endangered species related to poaching in the Langtang National Park**
Mr. Sunil Pandey
9. **Shivapuri National Park**
Mr. Fanindra Kharel
10. **Anti-poaching of Large and Endangered Mammals in the Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal**
Mr. Gehendra B. Gurung
11. **Curbing Illegal Wildlife Trade in and around Sagarmatha National Park / Buffer Zone**
Mr. Gopal Bhattarai
12. **Curbing illegal trade on wildlife in Kanchenjunga Conservation Area**
Mr. Jhamak B. Karki
13. **Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve**
Mr. Ganga Ram Singh
14. **Parsa Wildlife Reserve**
Mr. Jagannath Singh

- 15. A Perspective on Policies and Capacity Building to Counter Wildlife Trade in South Asia**
Mr. Vivek Menon
- 16. Curbing illegal trade on wildlife**
Khaptad National Park, Bajura
Mr. Lal Bihari Yadav
- 17. Strengths and weaknesses of protected areas in curbing illegal trade of wildlife in and around protected areas” in Shey Phoksundo National Park Dolpo**
Mr. Yuba Raj Regmi
- 18. Manaslu Conservation Area**
Mr. Lal P.Gurung
- 19. Makalu-Barun National Park**
Mr. Nilambar Mishra
- 20. Curbing illegal trade on wildlife**
Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve
Mr. S.P. Chaudhari
- 21. Royal Chitwan National Park**
Mr. Shiva Raj Bhatta
- 22. Recommendation from the workshop**

Annexes

Annex 1 : list of participants

**Recommendation from the workshop on
'Curbing illegal wildlife trade in and around protected areas of Nepal'
August 7 - 8, 2003**

Issue: Establishing anti-poaching units.

Strategy: Present anti-poaching units of the protected areas must be well equipped and updated.

- APU teams must be supported by additional mobile teams to be more effective in buffer zone.
- Sweeping teams to operate more frequently in areas that have high poaching incidences.
- Information network. Information on poaching, illegal trade must be authenticated prior to necessary action.

Issue: Incentive to anti-poaching unit (APU) staff and reward for information collection.

Strategy: Existing incentive schemes regularized.

- Dedicated staffs provided with more trainings and incentives.
- Insurance package provided to the anti-poaching unit and mobile team.
- Cash rewards for informants.

Issue: Equipment and field gear.

Strategy: Support and provide field gear equipment to strengthen capacity of the park personnel.

- Basic facilities such as boat and four-wheel vehicles be provided to be more effective.
- Field camping gears essential for night camping.

Issue: Mobility

Strategy: Improve and increase mobility in and around protected areas.

- Transport, fuel cost and maintenance of vehicles.

- Encourage frequent foot patrol and elephant patrol.
- River patrolling by boat.

Issue: Coordination

Strategy: Improve coordination with concerned government offices, conservation partners and stakeholders.

- Mutual trust and building confidence amongst institutions.
- Effective coordination between headquarters and field staff be should be prioritized and maintained.
- Coordination within enforcement and other agencies such as custom, police, Department of Forest (DoF), Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Nepal Ex-Police association and World Wildlife Fund Nepal (WWF), Wildlife Conservation Nepal(WCN) and other CBOs regarding poaching and illegal trade. Transboundary coordination/cooperation is important to impede illegal trade in transboundary areas.

Issue: Communications and networking including intelligence networking.

Strategy: Communication and networking should be improved.

- Hand held two way radios to be more effective in communicating.
- Trainings on intelligence gathering.
- Cell formation

Issue: Physical facilities.

Strategy: Physical infrastructures to be improved.

- Maintenance of road, guard posts, fire lanes and bridges.

Issue: Human resource development.

Strategy: Capacity needs to be strengthened.

- Training on various fields should be provided
 - Legal document preparation, field note taking and reporting.
 - Crime investigation, evidence collection and interrogation.
 - Collection, preservation and presentation of samples.
- Covert operation and intelligence gathering.
- Orientation classes on CITES.

Issue: Role of protection unit (Royal Nepal Army, armed/forest guard, ranger/senior game scout/game scout) and location of guard posts.

Strategy: Guard post locations should be reviewed.

- Security/guard posts should be at entry or exit points and not only in areas where poaching occurs.

Issue: Conservation education

Strategy: A realistic and effective conservation education package should be developed.

- Student volunteers, young people, Eco-clubs, community based organizations (CBOs) should be mobilized.

Issue: Inadequate park staff

Strategy: Park capacity needs to be strengthened in order to manage buffer zone.

- Recruiting of new staff.
- Sharing workload with buffer zone council.

Issue: Park- people conflict.

Strategy: The relationship between park and people should be improved.

- Equipment to deter the entry of wildlife into the crop fields e.g. rhino-trenches, barbed wires etc.,
- Compensation to people killed by wildlife.
- Establish community crop insurance mechanism.
- Power line passing through the protected areas checked regularly for breakdown which is used for poaching.

Issue: Monitoring and evaluation.

Strategy: Monitoring and evaluation system be established and activities reviewed.

- Anti-poaching plan for each protected areas (PAs) should be separate and flexible in accordance to the requirement of the park.

Issue: Involvement of local people in curbing poaching.

Strategy:

- Policies need to accommodate people/community based organizations (CBOs) role.

- Each forest user group should form anti-poaching unit.
- Delegation of power to community in controlling poaching needs to be defined.

Issue: Rescue and management of orphaned wildlife.

Strategy: Wildlife that have been injured or rescued during patrolling must be given due attention.

- Rescue and management center should be developed in specific protected areas.
- Orphans should not be in close contact with human.

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