

Project Update: April 2013

Bat Open Art Exhibition 2013, Nepal

During the Sagarmatha (Everest) zone project, a field bat open art drawing competition has been conducted altogether in 16 schools. The art competition was conducted in two phases in eight schools at each phase, pre-awareness and post awareness open art competition. Schoolchildren from class VI to class IX participated in the event. In each school 44 such arts were drawn in both phases. Altogether, 352 artworks were drawn.

Among those arts, 30 artworks were selected. Fifteen artworks were selected from the first phase and next 15 from the second phase. These arts from the pre-awareness phase include a picture of a single flying bat (insectivorous or frugivorous), their habitats such as tree branches, caves, houses, their feeding habit of eating fruits and insects. Few of the artworks show the misconception such as bats drink blood of human and eat coconut. Few artworks also show that they fly in the night. Therefore, the change in their conception about bats and their importance was reflected from the post-awareness artworks. These artworks clearly showed that they aid in pollination, seed dispersal, control the pests and disease vectors such as mosquitoes, sand flies etc.

Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation organised a Bat open art exhibition 2013 on March 11, 2013 at Nepal Art Council, Babarmahal, Kathmandu with the financial support from Rufford Small Grants. Those artworks were framed each with simple black rectangular frame. Mr. Kamal Raj Kunwar, Conservation Officer, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal inaugurated the programme. The exhibition was targeted for the schoolchildren of schools from Kathmandu Valley but they could not participate in the programme due to their final exams schedule. Truly speaking only 25 enthusiasts only visited the first ever bat art exhibition programme. The one reason for the excuse may be the partial strike during the afternoon on that day. But this shows the insufficient willingness for the bat conservation by Nepalese people. So, after few years SMCRF will conduct another bat art exhibition of arts drawn by schoolchildren from schools of different parts of the country.



