

Project Update: May 2009

This is a second phase progress report of the project *Biodiversity Conservation for the People by the People: awareness raising and capacity building project in the buffer zone of the Chitwan National Park, Nepal*. This project started on 29 September 2008, aimed on awareness raising and capacity building of local communities, youths, students and underprivileged ethnic groups to support biodiversity conservation through sustainable management of buffer zone forest, grassland and park ecosystem as a whole.

As per the programme schedule, a range of activities have already been conducted between February and April 2009.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

a) Inter secondary school essay competition (10 schools)	Jan 2009
b) Inter secondary school quiz competition (10 schools)	Feb 2009
c) Prize and certificate distribution to the winners	Feb 2009
d) Student support programme	March 2009
e) Radio programme (<i>Conservation Campaign</i>)	March 2009
f) Community based forest management training and field visit	April 2009
g) Earth day celebration	22nd April 2009

DETAILS OF THE ACTIVITIES

a) Inter secondary school essay competition (10 schools)

This inter secondary school essay competition programme was designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the inter school teaching programme about Biodiversity Conservation Awareness. In this programme, three representatives from each school participated, that means altogether 30 students participated on this essay competition programme entitled *Role of Student in Biodiversity Conservation*.

b) Inter secondary school quiz competition (10 schools)

This programme was also designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the inter school teaching programme about Biodiversity Conservation Awareness. In this programme, altogether 30 students actively participated and their performances were found to be excellent.

c) Prize and certificate distribution to the winners

After completion, the inter secondary school essay as well as quiz competition programme, all winners and the participants were provided prizes and certificates respectively. Such types of activities were done in order to encourage the young generation in biodiversity conservation and management activities.

d) Student support programme

Support to poor student programme was carried out in March 2009 as a supplementary programme to the Tribal Society for Biodiversity Conservation, an NGO working in the field of biodiversity conservation through awareness creating as well as involving rural and disadvantaged communities. Under the programme, set of school dress, exercise books and stationeries were distributed to 30 students (20 girls and 10 boys) of 10 local schools of Nawalparasi district belonging to disadvantaged ethnic groups, indigenous communities and people having low socioeconomic condition.

e) Radio Programme (*Conservation Campaign*)

Radio programme named *Conservation Campaign* was conducted since March 2009 from Vijaya FM Community Radio, a local radio station located in the project area. This is basically a weekly based radio programme which was conducted every Friday at 7:00 pm in order to spread over biodiversity conservation related issues, challenges and sustainable conservation measures to the public hearings and this radio programme was designed for one year period.

f) Community based forest management training and field visit

Three days community based forest management training with field visit programme was conducted in the project area in order to build the capacity of local people in forest management activities, nursery establishment, afforestation, etc, which is ultimately helping in habitat conservation for many wildlife. In this programme, altogether 40 people (2 from each 20 Community Forest User Groups) participated in this programme and they were trained by couple of forestry sector professionals.

g) Earth day celebration

Earth day was celebrated on the 22nd March 2008. A number of school students and locals participated in the programme. The participants were briefed on the importance of earth's resources such as soil and water resources, forest resources, biodiversity and its conservation as a whole.

