

Project Update: November 2009

The following project activities have been completed successfully.

1. Radio Programme (*Conservation Campaign*)

A radio programme named *Conservation Campaign* has been running since March 2009 from Vijaya Community FM Radio, a local radio station located in the project area. This is a weekly radio programme every Friday at 7:00 pm to discuss biodiversity conservation-related issues, challenges and sustainable conservation measures. In this programme, there are interviews with different stakeholders, park authorities and core staff of other concerned organizations and discussion of other conservation-related issues.

2. Capacity Building Training for Biodiversity Conservation and Management

A 3-day buffer zone community forest and grassland management training programme was conducted in the western sector of Chitwan National Park (Nawalparasi), involving 18 different Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups (BZCFUGs) - a total of 60 participants benefited from this training. This training was aimed to build the capacity of local users in forest management activities, grassland management, nursery establishment, and reforestation, which are the bases of habitat conservation for many wildlife species. This training was delivered by two forestry/wildlife professionals.

3. Biodiversity Conservation and Registration Training

A 5-day Biodiversity Conservation and Registration Training course was conducted in the project area which aimed to record the biodiversity resources and associated knowledge of the local users. This training was focused to build the capacity of local users in keeping records about the extent and distribution of biological resources and to document their associated traditional knowledge and monitoring local biological diversity for the community benefits and needs, and to encourage the community to invest their efforts for its conservation and sustainable utilization. Altogether, 60 participants (executive members of 17 BZCFUGs and 3 eco-clubs) benefited from this training.

4. Educational Support to the Poor Students

Educational support to the poor students was carried out. Under the programme, financial support covered the cost of school dress, exercise books and stationery and was distributed to 40 students (20 boys and 20 girls) belonging to indigenous communities and low income groups from 20 local schools of the buffer zone area (western sector) of Chitwan National Park.

5. Installation of Hoarding Boards Containing Conservation Message

Altogether 12 hoarding boards containing biodiversity conservation messages were installed in the different poaching-prone sites of the project area, which aimed to spread the awareness messages about biodiversity conservation and its importance in better livelihoods and also as an advertisement for the project.

