

Project Update: August 2011

1. Inception meeting

A 1-day Inception meeting was carried out, introducing brief project activities among different stakeholders and empowering local people in conservation. During the meeting, we finally formulated the following groups for escalating motivation and networking with different stakeholders:

- Motivators for awareness creation.
- Livestock insurance and livestock development training unit.
- Livelihood promotion training unit.

2. Awareness programme

This stresses wildlife conservation and its importance by educating youths, women and farmers' group at community level. A song with dance (Jhamata) competition was organised on the occasion of Jitia; one of the major festivals of Tharu indigenous community of Nepal. Most of the Tharu communities reside in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park and use park resources as means of subsistence in their daily life. They are the real stakeholders of Chitwan National Park because they are using park resources before the park's establishment; that's why wildlife and park conservation cannot be thought without their involvement. They have their own cultural values and norms and they prefer to perform any events on their own culture and language.

Rufford Small Grants Foundation, Tribal Society for Biodiversity Conservation, IDEA WILD, etc., have sponsored this programme and encouraged these communities to take part in song competition in order to share the wildlife (including tiger) and natural resource conservation theme. Altogether, 21 groups and each groups containing 16 women took part in the competition. In total, 21 groups sang in different theme and danced in their own culture and language. More than 1500 people from local village and neighbourhood were enjoying in the competition.

