

Project Update: December 2011

A visit to Chitwan National Park (CNP) headquarters at Kasara was done from 17 December 2011 to 21 December 2011 to receive permission for the implementation of camera trapping of otters in Narayani River. For this, the park has granted permission and supported with four automatic cameras. During this period, consultation meetings with focal group of aquatic life conservation personnel, Chief Warden of CNP and Chief of Nepal Trust for Conservation (NTC) were held in connection in the planning of implementing field activities. We plan to start the field work from 1st of January 2012 to end of January 2012.

An interaction meeting with CNP Management Plan Preparation Team headed by Assistant Warden Mr. Ganesh Pant took place on 19th December 2011 in Sauraha. It was an opportunity to present our findings and field experiences. Discussions were focused on the issues relating to otter conservation. We suggested recommendations for safeguarding the otter population and habitats to be incorporated in the new CNP Management Plan.

We participated in the programme of the cultural and educational exchange group of students and faculties of Charles Stuart University, Australia. The programme was fruitful to share experiences among us. The group was impressed by our research activities in the conservation of otters and discussed about possible collaboration in such research programme.