



N.A.T.U.R.E. is a new NGO in Nepal consisting mostly of educated women who want to work for wildlife in all ways. NATURE has taken on a CCINSA Bat Club, our first non-Indian bat club. They are doing a wonderful job too. This introduction to NATURE is designed to familiarise you with one of our primary contacts and representatives in Nepal. You will hear more at NATURE from us.

Introduction

Nepal Action Trust for Utility Resource and Education (**NATURE**) is a NGO dedicated to enhance the knowledge and skills necessary for the effective implementation of environment and conservation education programs. **NATURE** also makes people aware about the importance of wildlife conservation and sustainable development of our natural heritage through conservation education.

NATURE believes conservation education can become very effective when it is introduced to children from a very young age. Thus, regular interactions and sharing of experiences and knowledge amongst conservation experts and schoolteachers is essential for the successful implementation of conservation education programs.

Vision

NATURE believes that a harmonious and stable eco-system is most essential for sustainable livelihood of all living beings

Mission

The mission of NATURE is to create a mass of human resource who are fully aware about the importance of environment and wildlife protection and are willing to contribute for its conservation.

Objective

- 1) To create awareness among children, teachers, and the general public regarding the importance of conservation and sustainable development of our natural heritage,
- 2) To conduct innovative, inspiring, instructive and exciting training programs, workshops, and activities – which would enable them to act on behalf of the environment and conservation as well as to teach others to do so.
- 3) To provide ample opportunities to school children to directly observe and study the life cycle, food habit, behavior, challenges and problems faced by wild animals and birds by utilizing zoos and national parks so as to develop in them a deep sense of understanding and love for animals and birds as well as cultivate a positive attitude towards wildlife conservation when young.
- 5) To establish a conservation education center and conservation clubs at the community level with an objective to impart a continuous and effective conservation education program to the general public as well as motivate them to actively participate in nature conservation.
- 6) To disseminate and share information regarding the environment and wildlife conservation through the circulation of relevant publications, articles, news bulletin, journals, books and related materials at the national and international level.
- 7) To conduct awareness programs, in schools and communities within the vicinity of national parks, regarding the legal provision related to animal law and punishment against animal poaching as well as the negative impact of such activities on the environment with an objective to reduce the level of poaching of endangered animals in the National Parks of the Kingdom of Nepal,
- 8) To identify places and group of people who need conservation education and to manage and operate mobile conservation education team in such places in coordination with likeminded organizations.

NATURE Board

NATURE has an advisory Board of highly qualified national and international professionals such as Sally Walker, a renowned international figure in the field of wildlife conservation who is the Founder of Zoo Outreach organization, India, Convenor of SAZARC and CBSG south Asia, Regional Representative of IZE and others lot more organization. Her valuable guidance and support has become a great assets to NATURE to carry on its work. Dr. Tej Kumar Shrestha, Chief of Zoology Department, Tribhuvan University, Karan Bahadur Shah, Chief of Natural History Museum, Dr. Ravi Aryal, CITICE Law Expert, Dr. Mukesh Chalese, Primatologist are also the advisory board member who are providing their valuable knowledge and expertise to NATURE.

Nepal Action Trust for Utility, Resource and Education

Address: 138 Baniya Marga, Bijuli Bazar, Naya Baneshwar, Kathmandu Post Box: 20543, Kathmandu. Telephone: 977-1-4781735. Fax: 977-1-4780235

Activities of NATURE

1. Teacher's Workshop

Nepal Action Trust for Utility Resource and Education (NATURE) organized a one-day teachers' workshop on "Role of Teachers' in Animal Welfare and its Conservation" on 5th March 2004 (22 Falgun, 2060). The main objective of the workshop was to share knowledge about basic techniques of teaching and evaluating conservation education while also making teachers aware of their important role in Conservation Education. Twenty-seven teachers from various schools of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts participated in the workshop.

Achievement of the programme

Participants gained an in-depth knowledge on the role of teachers in raising the awareness level of their students regarding environment and wildlife conservation. The legal aspects of wildlife conservation were also explained in the workshop. During the workshop, the participants were also made familiar with some informative activities related to tiger conservation. These activities were based on Teachers for Tigers Training Manual published by World Conservation Society, New York and the Tiger Tool Kit, which contained many interesting items such as tiger, mask, *rakhi* (friendship band), and a small booklet on tiger, sticker and placard to discourage tiger hunting. The Tiger Tool Kit, distributed to all the participants, was provided by Zoo Outreach Organization India. NATURE has established a network with 27 schools of Kathmandu valley. Participants were enthusiastic to work with NATURE in future for environment and wildlife conservation education programme

2. Environment Awareness Program to House Wives Awareness program on sanitation and environment protection to 25 housewives of Gongabu VDC in coordination with 'Women in Neighborhood' A NGO working for socio-economic empowerment of women.

Achievement of the programme: 25 housewives of the Gongabu VDC gained knowledge about importance of sanitation and environment protection and they made commitment to apply this knowledge in their daily life.

3. Special Event Celebration; Bio-diversity Day -2004

On the occasion of the International Bio-diversity Day 2004, a poster competition was organized by the NATURE on 22nd May, 2004 at Bhaktapur English School. The competition was based on the theme "BIODIVERSITY: FOOD, WATER AND HEALTH for all". Fifty students of class 7, 8 and 9 from Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts participated in the competition. A three-member evaluation committee, headed by the Associated Prof. of Lalitkala campus, awarded prizes to the first, second and third participants.

Achievement of the programme: Student's imagination regarding bio-diversity and its relation to the human life was observed. Some students, who were not very clear about the concept, also got a clear picture of the importance of biodiversity. Expressing their keen interest and commitment towards the noble idea of spreading of conservation education messages to other students, all the participants were eager to participate in the establishment of Nature Club in their school.

Program and Activities planned for up coming years

1. Establishment of NATURE Clubs in the schools:

In the coming year 2061, Nature is planning to work in 20 schools of Kathmandu valley. Environment and wildlife conservation education will be provided through educational tour, essay competition and quiz contest. Nature Club will be established in each school with active participation of the students for the sustainability of the conservation education program. (A proposal has been already submitted to Social Welfare Council for the required Fund).

2. Organize different Environmental and wildlife conservation Educational activities for the students as:

Educational Activities Based on Teachers for Tiger Manual such as Wildlife Quiz Contest, Drawing/Painting/Poster competition regarding Wildlife and Nature Conservation, Winter/Summer Camps with different conservation Educational activities, Wildlife games, Educational Tour to National Parks, Zoo, Botanical Gardens.

3. Special Events Celebration such as; Bio-diversity Day, World Environment Day, Wildlife Week, Wetland Day

4. Provide Basic Trainings on Vermi-composting, Paper Recycling, Bee Keeping, Bird Watching, etc.

5. Endangered Species Facts File Exchange Program:

Share information on Endangered Species of different countries through Fact File Exchange Program and raise global awareness about endangered species (students have to design and prepare an information package on endangered species of their country which will be exchanged with the students of other country).

7. Program for School Teachers on

Workshop and training regarding teaching and learning effective conservation education including Interaction & Meeting to generate creative ideas for such education in the school.

8. Distribution of Wildlife Conservation Informative Educational Communication (IEC) materials

IEC materials will be collected from different national and international organizations and internet which will be distributed to NATURE Clubs of the school and encourage the club members to share the information with their friends and family.

Future Plan

NATURE is also planning to enter into the buffer zone area with its conservation educational activities. Because the people of this area has very important role in animal conservation. The programs mainly planned for this area are. Awareness Raising Educational Activities regarding Animal Welfare and Conservation to the school children of Buffer Zone Area. · Workshop for the Teachers · Non Formal Education about the Proper Natural Resource management to the house wives. · Provide educational materials support to the school going children.

Donation collection for the victims of Sri Lanka by the club members:

As all of us are aware about Asia Quake, which has affected Asian countries. Some schools, clubs and NGOs in Nepal are doing some activities to collect donation to help victims of Devastating tidal waves. So our Bat Club members also collected NRs 2000/- within the area of one half kilometer and they have submitted the money to the main local club which will be sending to Sri Lanka.

Submitted by Geetha Shrestha, Ex. Chairperson, NATURE, 138, Baniya Marga, Bijuli Bazar, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal; Email: <rabigeeta@hotmail.com>

CCINSA NATURE Boudha School Bat Club Nepal, Field Trip Report, (Third Meeting), Geeta Shrestha*

The members of the CCINSA NATURE Boudha School Bat Club along with a teacher and three members of NATURE visited two bat sites in Bhaktapur, located approximately 15 kms. East of the Kathmandu valley and Lazimpat Keshar Mahal side located at the heart of the city on 2nd January, 2005. First the Bat club coordinator Mr. Krishna had visited some sites where bats used to be found and these two sites were identified.

Bhaktapur Site:

At the Bhaktapur site members were lucky enough to sight the commonly found fruit bats hanging from dried/dead tree branches even on a cold winter morning, inside premises of a school belonging to the army. The local people said that the bats had begun hibernation from the previous month. It was only those withstanding the cold were hanging in their roosts until now. A bat that had unfortunately been caught up in an electric wire had been electrified and was seen stuck to the wire.

At the beginning NATURE members briefed about the common habitats of bats. An army personnel who was taking care of that area since long time, made the club trip more interesting by informing more about the frequently observed behaviors of these bats. According to him, these bats seem to have moved to the present location after their roosts were destroyed elsewhere. About two feet long in width and black in color, these fruit bats have hook like claws allowing for a tight grasp. There is a fishpond for them to drink water from. They usually travel as night falls in search of food, leaving about 6/7 in the evening and flying back to their roosts in the wee hours of the morning (4 a.m.). These bats are very sensitive and protective about their territory, they do not allow anyone even other species of bat to invade it. Their shrieking shrills make them sound like monkeys.

The hibernating season for bats starts as winter comes in and by February/March they are all gone. They go to warmer places eg. caves and they fly as far as 50/60 kms. away from their roosts. The hibernation period is mainly used up in reproduction. With the advent of warm seasons they travel back to their roosts with their newborn babies. They carry around the babies like monkeys do until they are fit enough to fly on their own. These bats are protected in their roosts as it falls within the limits of the army school ground. Often kids use catapults to stone the bats down from the trees but now that have stopped. Often people come in search of bats to be used as medicines but the personnel says they do not allow that. Therefore these bats do not have threats of being displaced from their present place of living.

After finishing the Bhaktapur site the lunch packets were served to the members inside the bus because the trip was getting late to reach other site.

Lazimpat Keshar Mahal site

This site was in the middle of the city and it is around the West gate area of royal palace. Lots of bats were seen on the necked trees even it was heavy traffic during the daytime. There were no any local people who can explain about bat as in Bhaktapur site. It was a very busy road so students had to be very careful while watching the bats. Students watched the bats and wrote their observation report in their bat passports.

Extra Activity of Bat club

Club coordinator visited Bat Cave in Pokhara

Bat Club Coordinator Mr. Krishna had visited Pokhara for his personal work. He also managed to visit Bat cave in Pokhara. There is one pictures taken by him inside the Bat cave. He was not aware about bats and bat cave in Pokhara before he joining the NATURE Bat club. During the discussion of our bat club meeting bat sighted spots were discussed and after that meeting he came to know about Bat cave in Pokhara and it encouraged him to visit that place even it was his personal visit. He shared all the information and experience with other club members in the meeting.