

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Final Programmatic Report**

Project Name and Number: Tigers of the Terai, Nepal (2005-0013-014)
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1) Summary

WWF Nepal's "Tigers of the Terai, Nepal" project focused on strengthening the monitoring of tiger and its prey base, strengthening enforcement against wildlife trade in tiger parts, implementing proactive measures to mitigate potential human-tiger conflict, and strategically strengthening tiger management. The overarching goal was to foster ecologically and demographically viable metapopulations of tiger populations in Terai Arc Landscape representing the Terai-Duar savanna and grasslands eco-regions.

2) Introduction

The Terai Arc Landscape, established in 2001, represents an important step in tiger conservation as it seeks to link protected areas with tiger habitats outside protected areas. This strategy not only enables the critically endangered species to range for food, but also allows the tiger population the opportunity for genetic exchange that is imperative to its survival. Several challenges to tiger conservation influenced the focus of the work funded by this grant.

- First, there was a compelling need to measure the impact of conservation efforts on the status of tigers in Nepal given the significant investments in studying tigers and their prey base, the development and implementation of management plans not just for tiger conservation but for the greater Terai Arc Landscape, and the important conservation benefits for human communities.
- Secondly, it was crucial to strengthen monitoring and enforcement activities against trade in tiger parts in Nepal because Nepal is a transit country for illicit trafficking in wildlife parts such as skin and bones, particularly those of the tiger.
- Third, the establishment of the Terai Arc Landscape triggered more encounters between the tigers and human communities as the tigers' range increased. Because the Terai Arc Landscape Project's interventions in human-wildlife conflict mitigation focused largely on physical mitigation measures, it was important to implement proactive outreach programs to create awareness and sensitize the communities to the presence of tigers and the need for conservation, monitoring, vigilance, and information sharing.
- Finally, there was a lack of information to inform decision makers as to the best strategy for continuing tiger conservation at the conclusion of the Tiger Action Plan in 2004. Therefore, the project's focus also included the development of a new Tiger Action Plan through consultative processes to ensure key stakeholders endorsement

and participation, providing for strategic, participatory and effective tiger conservation management.

WWF established the following objectives for this project:

- Develop and implement a rigorous and replicable monitoring system/protocol for tigers and their prey base in key restoration areas and four protected areas;
- Strengthen monitoring and enforcement against trade in tiger parts;
- Develop and implement an awareness and education program in the Khata and Basanta corridors and in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (SWR), Chitwan National Park (CNP), and Bardia National Park (BNP) focusing on conflict mitigation;
- Inaugurate strategic management of tiger conservation through a science-based, participatory five-year Tiger Action Plan.

During the course of this grant, we faced unique challenges posed by the ongoing conflict. The field situation was quite dangerous due to the insurgency and frequent blockades, strikes, and political protests, which severely hampered our outreach and capacity building programs. Many of our training programs and monitoring activities were postponed as a result. Other challenges included the lack of a standardized monitoring protocol and limited technical capacity. The loss of our colleagues through the tragic accident of last fall also impacted our implementation plans. However, despite these constraints and with the generous time extension granted by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, we were able to achieve significant progress over the lifetime of the grant. Specifically, WWF Nepal and its partners:

- ✓ prepared a draft protocol of tiger and prey base monitoring for Nepal in collaboration with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and the National Trust for Nature Conservation.
- ✓ completed a study on grassland community and vegetation succession in Old Pandampur Site of Chitwan National Park.
- ✓ established a three year database of relative abundance of tiger prey in the three protected areas of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (SWR), Bardia National Park (BNP), and Chitwan National Park (CNP), and the corridors of Khata and Basanta.
- ✓ mobilized four monitoring teams for monitoring of tiger prey base in protected areas and corridors.
- ✓ maintained a comprehensive GIS database of tiger-related data of the study/monitoring sites (corridors and protected areas).
- ✓ estimated 27 individual tigers in SWR and 6-13 individual tigers Babai Valley of BNP. In addition, seven individual tigers were identified in Parsa Wildlife Reserve.
- ✓ obtained photographic evidence of tigers through camera trapping in the Khata corridor.
- ✓ strengthened enforcement efforts and as a result, 520 rhino and tiger poachers and 13 illegal traders were arrested.
- ✓ trained seven persons from the Natural History Museum, police, customs department and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation in forensics, in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India.
- ✓ improved trans-boundary cooperation and communication between District Forest Offices and local communities of Nepal and India.
- ✓ completed a comprehensive study on human-tiger conflict in the Madi Valley of Chitwan National Park in collaboration with the University of Minnesota.
- ✓ broadcast 52 radio bulletins on tiger conservation and mobilized 2,000 youth through

school ecoclubs and youth clubs to conduct awareness and education programs on tiger conservation.

- ✓ finalized the new Tiger Action Plan and submitted it to the government for endorsement after comprehensive consultations.

Our accomplishments are more fully outlined in the “Results” section presented later in this report.

3) Methods

The project was jointly implemented by the Department of Forests (DOF) for areas outside designated protected areas and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) for the protected areas themselves. WWF Nepal signed annual grants with DOF and DNPWC for collaborative implementation of Terai Arc Landscape Program.

Tiger Monitoring: A collaborative approach was adopted in developing a standardized protocol for tiger monitoring. Throughout the entire process of drafting the monitoring protocol, government authorities and conservation organizations such as the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) participated. A task force team under the leadership of DNPWC and comprised of representatives from WWF Nepal and NTNC was formed to draft the standardized monitoring protocol. The first step was to review contemporary tiger monitoring methods being practiced in the major tiger range countries, including Nepal. The task force team then developed a draft monitoring protocol which was based on that review of contemporary methods and existing practice in Nepal. We then held consultations with tiger experts, scientists, and park managers to discuss the monitoring protocol and organized an international workshop of tiger experts in March 2007. Suggestions and comments received during this international forum were then incorporated into the draft. Last, the draft protocol was shared among relevant conservation organizations and experts for peer review. A decision was made during the course of the workshop that the task force team would finalize the draft with technical guidance from Dr. Ullas Karnath and Dr. Per Wegge.

At the same time, we established tiger monitoring teams and carried out tiger monitoring activities in the high density protected areas such as SWR, BNP and CNP, while monitoring tigers’ presence or absence in the Khata and Basanta corridor using the camera trapping method. The monitoring teams in the national parks and wildlife reserve consisted of the Park Wardens, Rangers and Game Scouts while the local people were involved in the monitoring team in corridors. Monitoring team members both in the protected areas and corridors were trained on basic skills in field techniques and methods. In the protected areas, camera trapping activities were directly carried out by the monitoring team while WWF Nepal supported the methodology design and supervised monitoring activities and analysis of data. Likewise, WWF Nepal provided financial support for logistics and equipment of the monitoring teams. In the corridors, the WWF Nepal field team directly coordinated tiger monitoring activities. Moreover, WWF Nepal adopted a collaborative approach in monitoring. For example, International Trust for Nature Conservation (ITNC) and WWF-Nepal jointly helped update tiger status through camera trapping in 2006 in the CNP. Our major lesson from this effort was that collaboration with other conservation organization is effective for undertaking tiger monitoring activities in large areas like Terai Arc Landscape. Therefore, WWF Nepal has adopted a collaborative approach in monitoring of tiger in the Terai Arc Landscape for the coming years. The major results of tiger monitoring are estimations of tiger populations in SWR and BNP while the presence or absence of tigers was updated in Khata and Basanta corridor. Twenty-seven individual tigers were estimated in

SWR. Seven to 13 individual tigers were estimated in Babai valley of BNP as per preliminary analysis of camera trapping records. In 2007, WWF Nepal started tiger monitoring through camera trapping in PWR and seven individual tigers were identified from these camera trap records. In addition, tiger prey base monitoring was conducted in the protected areas and corridors. Similar to our tiger monitoring activities, the protected area offices carried out prey base monitoring activities in SWR and CNP. The monitoring teams, comprised of the local people, carried out the activity under guidance and supervision of the Research Officer of WWF Nepal.

GIS was also a key method for maintaining the database of tiger, prey base monitoring and related information. GIS was intensively used in analyzing spatial information of tiger habitat and monitoring blocks. Likewise, information related to tiger and prey base monitoring such as transects, monitoring blocks and results of monitoring are kept in the GIS database. The GIS database will be instrumental in analyzing the trends in tiger and prey base population through long-term monitoring.

Strengthen monitoring and enforcement against trade in tiger parts: WWF Nepal sought to strengthen monitoring and enforcement against trade in tiger parts through a number of methods. First, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) unit of the DNPWC was given financial support to coordinate with other partners or agencies for enforcement and information gathering related to wildlife trade. The CITES/DNPWC unit regularly coordinated with DOF, the Police Department, the Customs Department and other relevant enforcement agencies on operations to control wildlife traders. The unit also gathered information about wildlife parts traders through a network of informants. Likewise, the CITES unit was supported for maintaining a database of information about wildlife traders, trade routes, wildlife parts seizures and arrests of poachers and traders. The database was maintained using software developed for this specific purpose.

WWF Nepal also planned to develop the capacity of DNPWC staff and other enforcement agencies in wildlife forensics and to further sensitize the judiciary, police, customs department and other enforcement agencies on CITES implementation and wildlife trade related issues. Neither of these methods could be employed during 2006 due to unfavorable field conditions such as frequent blockades and strikes. However, in 2007 we were able to provide important forensics training for seven individuals from the Natural History Museum, police, customs department and DNPWC in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India.

WWF Nepal also sought to strengthen the ability of protected area offices to conduct anti-poaching operations. To do this, we provided protected area anti-poaching staff with financial and technical support as well as equipment. In turn, the protected area anti-poaching staff worked with local communities to create a community-based network to assist in gathering intelligence on poachers and illicit wildlife traders.

At the same time, WWF Nepal mobilized local communities in anti-poaching activities. Community-based anti-poaching operations (CBAPOs) were formed, strengthened and mobilized in 18 sites in corridors, bottlenecks and buffer zones. The CBAPOs have worked well with other anti-poaching personnel based in protected areas and have effectively controlled poaching of tigers and their prey base in corridors and bottlenecks. For example, the CBAPO of Khata corridor apprehended four poachers from India and also seized a number of weapons and traps as a result of local community intelligence.

Mitigating human-tiger conflict: WWF Nepal and the University of Minnesota signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration on research and monitoring activities. Based on the MOU, a University of Minnesota scholar was awarded a grant to conduct a study on human-tiger conflict in Madi valley of Chitwan. The scholar subsequently conducted a comprehensive study, which provided significant information and insight about various aspects of human-tiger conflict. The study informed the development and design of strategies and interventions for tiger-human conflict mitigation.

In addition, WWF Nepal's education unit provided technical input in developing an innovative education program focused on human-tiger conflict mitigation. This curriculum was implemented through the TAL office in Dhangadhi among the communities. The curricula provided guidance for the mobilization of the local school ecoclubs in conservation awareness generation. The ecoclubs were provided technical support for their extracurricular activities about conservation awareness. Likewise, several publicity campaigns were carried out involving local community-based organizations.

Strategic tiger management: The tiger action plan for Nepal 2000 – 2004 was reviewed by tiger experts, conservation biologists, conservationists, park managers and policy makers. The review identified major strengths, shortcomings and gaps in the existing tiger action plan. It also provided a technical and scientific framework for revision of the action plan for the next five years. A task force team of representatives from DNPWC, WWF Nepal and NTNC drafted the revised tiger action plan with a consultant engaged to facilitate the plan's review and revision. A series of consultation meetings were held with local and national stakeholders and both national and international tiger experts and conservation scientists reviewed the draft action plan. Through this process, we incorporated suggestions and comments and the participation of the reviewers was instrumental in strengthening the final product.

4) Results

a) Outputs

Please refer to the Logical Framework Table below.

Figure 1: Logical framework table

Activities	Short-term Outputs	Long-Term Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline value	Predicted Value of Project Output	Predicted Value of Post-Project Outcome
Develop and implement a rigorous and replicable monitoring system/protocol for tigers and its prey base in key restoration areas and four protected areas.	<p>Estimation of population of tiger in SWR and BNP</p> <p>Photographic evidence of tiger in Khata corridor</p> <p>Database on relative abundance of tiger prey base in protected areas and corridors</p>	Comprehensive information on population trend of tiger and prey base	<p>Population estimation and photographic evidence of tiger</p> <p>Database on relative abundance of ungulates</p> <p>Number of monitoring teams in protected areas</p> <p>Number of studies on grassland community and vegetation succession</p>	<p>27 tiger estimated in SWR and 6 – 13 in Babai valley of BNP. 7 tigers identified in PWR</p> <p>Photographic evidence of 2 tigers in Khata corridor</p> <p>3-years database on tiger ungulate abundance in protected areas and corridors</p> <p>5 monitoring teams in protected areas and corridors</p> <p>Scientific database on grassland community and vegetation succession in Old Padampur of Chitwan National Park</p>	<p>Draft of standardized tiger monitoring protocol developed</p> <p>GIS database of tiger and prey base monitoring related information maintained</p> <p>4 monitoring teams were established through peer training</p> <p>Analysis of trend of vegetation succession in grassland and grassland management strategy</p>	<p>Scientific and authentic information on population trends of tigers and prey base in TAL available</p> <p>Permanent monitoring system established at least in 3 protected areas</p> <p>Scientific management of grassland and reduced trend of grassland shrinkages in the protected areas</p>
Strengthen monitoring and enforcement against trade in tiger parts	Effective enforcement against illicit trade in place with an intelligence network leading to arrest of traders and seizures of wildlife parts.	Reduction in illicit trade of tiger parts	<p>Number of arrest and seizure of wildlife parts</p> <p>Number of local level trans-boundary meetings between Nepal and India</p>	<p>520 people including 7 notorious rhino horn trader and 13 tiger part traders arrested</p> <p>8 local level trans-boundary meetings held</p>	<p>Reduced illegal trade of tiger parts</p> <p>Practices of trans-boundary cooperation between communities along Nepal and India border in TAL established</p>	<p>Illicit trade of tiger parts controlled in Nepal as a result of an effective enforcement mechanism</p> <p>Cross border illicit trade of tiger parts controlled</p>
Develop and implement an	Enhanced understanding on	Strategy on tiger-human conflict mitigation	Study on tiger-human conflict	PhD dissertation on tiger-human conflict	Increased awareness among the local	Reduction in retaliatory killing of tigers halted

Activities	Short-term Outputs	Long-Term Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline value	Predicted Value of Project Output	Predicted Value of Post-Project Outcome
awareness and education program in the Khata and Basanta corridors, and SWR, CNP and BNP focusing on conflict mitigation	<p>dimensions of tiger-human conflict</p> <p>Increased awareness of communities about the tiger movements and while working in the forests information sharing on tiger movement.</p>	Tiger-human conflict mitigation measures sustained and effective, due to increase awareness and vigilance on tiger presence in forests used by local communities	<p>Number of communication materials produced and distributed</p> <p>Number of eco clubs active in awareness generation activities</p> <p>Number of youth clubs active in conservation activities</p>	<p>52 radio bulletin broadcasted and 4 newsletters published</p> <p>150 school eco clubs active in awareness generation</p> <p>4 youth clubs active in conservation activities</p>	<p>communities about tiger conservation</p> <p>Increased awareness of 1,500 eco club members on human-tiger conflict issues</p> <p>Increased awareness of 500 local youth on human-tiger conflict issues</p>	<p>Increased participation in tiger conservation</p> <p>2,000 students and community members' knowledge and awareness on tiger behavior, threats (illicit trade) and human-tiger conflict issues increased</p> <p>Positive attitude change among students and local youth, strengthened tiger conservation in protected areas and corridors resulting in elimination of revenge killing of tigers</p>
Make the management of tiger conservation more strategic by developing a science-based and widely-consulted Action Plan for the next five years	<p>A complete review of the previous Tiger Action Plan and the lessons learnt and gaps.</p> <p>Revision of tiger action plan based on the review of previous action plan and wide consultations with stakeholders</p>	Increased number of tigers with corresponding increment in use of and dispersal through corridors by tigers due to restoration of habitat, reduction in poaching and reduction in conflict as a result of implementation of revised action plan	Tiger action plan document	Tiger action plan submitted to government for endorsement	Tiger action plan finalized and submitted to the government for endorsement	Tiger conservation strengthened through partnership and support from all stakeholders in implementation of tiger action plan

b) Post-project Outcomes

Objective 1: Develop and implement a rigorous and replicable monitoring system/protocol for tigers and their prey base in key restoration areas and four protected areas.

The development of a uniform and peer reviewed tiger and prey base monitoring protocol for TAL Nepal was initiated with the revision of the Tiger Action Plan. Originally we planned to hire an international expert to develop the monitoring protocol. However, the DNPWC asked us to draft the protocol using our own experts so that the capacity of the in-house practitioners could be strengthened. Following this consensus, a task force team was formed to draft the protocol. Several rounds of meetings and peer reviews were done to prepare the first draft of the monitoring protocol. The draft monitoring protocol was then presented in international tiger specialist group meetings held in March 2007. Comments from the workshop were incorporated and peer reviews were done to develop the second draft of the monitoring protocol. This protocol will be shared with international tiger experts soon. Likewise, we have begun forming skilled teams to monitor tiger and prey base in protected areas. Their activities will be instrumental in further establishing permanent tiger and prey base monitoring system in the protected areas.

The TAL has been designing and implementing grassland management interventions with the objective of maintaining diverse grassland suitable for ungulates and rhinos. A study of grassland communities in Old Pandampur Site in Chitwan National Park was completed and monitoring of vegetation succession at the site is ongoing. Application of management treatments designed on the basis of results from grassland communities has yielded positive results, especially for herbivores. For example, average height and composition of preferred grass, *Imperata cylindrica* has increased by 68 percent. *Cynodon dactylon* has been restored by 5 percent and other shrubs by 15 percent in grassland management sites. Scientific management of the grasslands has reduced grassland shrinkage in the protected areas.

Evidence suggests that use of and dispersal through corridors by tigers has increased in recent years as a result of restoration. For example, two tigers were recorded in camera trapping in Khata corridor in 2006. In 2007, only one tiger was recorded in Khata corridor; however, this is not because of decrease in tiger population. The major function of the corridor is the dispersal of tiger, and thus, cases of tiger recording in camera trapping can vary. Evidence substantiates that tigers are using the corridors. Our wildlife monitoring results shows 34 percent habitat occupancy of corridor forests by tigers in Khata and Basanta.

Lastly, we were able to establish a database of three years of relative abundance of tiger prey in three protected areas (SWR, BNP, and CNP) and two corridors (Khata and Bansanta). We also maintained a comprehensive GIS database of tiger-related data in our study/monitoring sites. Twenty-seven individual tigers were estimated in SWR and six-13 individual tigers were estimated in the Babai Valley of BNP. In addition, seven individual tigers were identified in Parsa Wildlife Reserve (PWR). These databases are the basis for a permanent monitoring system in the Terai Arc Landscape and will allow conservation managers to make informed decisions.

Objective 2: Strengthen monitoring and enforcement against trade in tiger parts.

We have been assisting the DNPWC in the mobilization of intelligence networks for curbing the illicit trade of tiger parts and we are pleased to report that during this grant period (2005-2007), 507 persons were apprehended for alleged involvement in poaching and 13 persons were detained for trade in tiger parts. Likewise, in 2007, 25 persons were detained along with leopard skins and bones in Kachanpur and five in Kathmandu.

In addition, a total of eight local trans-boundary meetings were held over the life of the project. As a result of current initiatives of District Forest Offices and the local communities, Nepal and India are now sharing information at the local level. This improved trans-boundary cooperation represents a significant step in establishing effective mechanisms for controlling cross-border illicit trade in wildlife parts.

Objective 3: Develop and implement an awareness and education program in the Khata and Basanta corridors and in the Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Chitwan National Park, and Bardia National Park focusing on conflict mitigation.

We engaged approximately 2,000 young adults through 150 school ecoclubs and four local youth clubs in conservation awareness activities. These clubs participated in extracurricular activities to learn more about the environment and wildlife and to share their learning with their communities and the general public. They were effective in elevating the public's awareness of wildlife conservation and spreading anti-poaching messages through street drama, presentations, and radio programs. Behavioral changes in terms of conservation practices have occurred among club members. For example, members do not play with catapults to kill birds and they have saved other species such as the golden monitor lizard and the rock python from being killed by local people. Almost all club members know that the tiger is a protected species and understand its importance to conservation. In addition, radio bulletins three broadcasting centers reached 26,000 people in 26 districts from. We are currently assessing the effectiveness of the radio bulletins in disseminating conservation messages. Finally, approximately 30,000 people around CNP buffer zones were reached through street drama.

Although there is no measurable data about reduction in human-tiger conflict as a result of our awareness generating activities, there are no recorded cases of retaliatory killing of tigers by the local communities in the last five years. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the local communities around the corridors have begun to value their co-existence with wildlife. In some areas people were proud to report sighting of tiger in their community forests and nearby national forests.

Objective 4: Make tiger conservation management more strategic by developing a science-based and participatory Tiger Action Plan for the next five years.

As discussed in the previous section on methods, this year after extensive consultations, we were able to finalize the Tiger Action Plan for Nepal and submit it to the government for endorsement. Unlike other species conservation action plans, the Tiger Action Plan for Nepal was prepared using consultative processes and close cooperation. This collaborative process proved to be instrumental in enhancing capacity of in-house experts in DNPWC, NTNC and WWF-Nepal.

5. Discussion & Adaptive Management

a) Lessons Learned and Transferability

This project incorporated lessons learned from tiger and prey base monitoring efforts in previous years. However, there was lack of consistent and standardized monitoring protocol. As a result, information on tiger and prey base monitoring and research in the TAL is scattered and not systematically organized. Therefore, there was difficulty collating research and monitoring results to establish a comprehensive and scientific database of tiger and prey base in the TAL – Nepal. The lack of a standardized monitoring protocol resulted in a significant information gap regarding the status of tiger and prey base in the landscape.

Similarly, current tiger and prey monitoring activities are largely limited to protected areas. There is a significant gap in information on tiger and prey base outside the protected areas. The vision of the TAL is the creation of a land base for tigers outside the protected areas; therefore, this issue must be addressed. We know that conservation of tigers at the landscape level requires comprehensive information of tiger and prey species in the landscape. Therefore, creating and establishing a comprehensive information base is essential for crafting tiger conservation strategies. This will require significant investment and efforts.

One of the key lessons from previous tiger and prey-base monitoring is the need for a permanent system of monitoring, especially in protected areas. Currently, individual researchers and a few organizations are undertaking tiger and prey base monitoring activities. But these monitoring and research activities have not made a significant contribution to building the capacity of protected area staff. Formation of monitoring teams and their mobilization is a key step in beginning to establish a permanent system for tiger and prey base monitoring. Mobilization of monitoring teams is cost effective for long term research and monitoring. It will also help to build the skill of protected area staff to regularly update field data related to tiger and prey species. Monitoring teams can be replicated in other protected areas through peer training and information sharing among protected area staff. Based on these conclusions, the TAL Program has formed and mobilized monitoring teams in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and Bardia National Park. Frequent transfer of protected area staff, however, is a challenge for long term monitoring.

Formation of a task force team comprised of various conservation partners to review and revise the tiger action plan has been instrumental in promoting partner ownership in implementation of the action plan. Historically, in Nepal, species conservation action plans are prepared by experts or consultants. Ownership by partners is questionable when species action plans are prepared by consultants. Thus, our conclusion is that involvement of all partners in preparation of species action plans can ensure ownership as well as commitment of the partners to implementation. Moreover, a formal mechanism is essential for collaboration with the government partners on such activities. A task force team is an appropriate mechanism by which to formalize the process of collaboration between the partners.

Based on lessons learned, the Terai Arc Landscape Project has initiated tiger and prey base monitoring outside the protected areas. We are conducting tiger and prey base monitoring in corridors outside the protected since 2004. Beginning in 2007, we initiated tiger monitoring in PWR. We will extend tiger prey base monitoring to bottlenecks (Mahadevpuri and

Lamahi) in FY 2008. These initiatives are the next steps that need to be taken to create a comprehensive information base of tiger and prey species in the TAL. Of course, development of standardized monitoring protocol is the keystone for creating a comprehensive database of tiger and prey species.

6. Dissemination

Our outreach programs (education and communication) are focused on general conservation issues in TAL. Outreach and information dissemination activities include radio programs, documentary films, publications and presentations. A PowerPoint presentation on conservation issues in the TAL was a key tool for dissemination of information to experts, government partners and other conservation partners. More than 15 PowerPoint presentations were made to government partners, experts and donor communities. Additionally, a radio program was targeted to wider audiences in the TAL. Fifty-two radio bulletins were broadcast. One package of street drama (16 events) was conducted on rhino/tiger conservation, focusing on poaching issues in CNP. Likewise, more than 20 local level extension programs were organized, focusing on conservation awareness and targeting the general public. These extension programs were primarily cultural programs such as duet songs, celebration of special events such as wildlife week and the world environment day.

In addition, WWF Nepal was the major supporter to the Government of Nepal in organizing the International Tiger Symposium and Global Tiger Forum meeting held in April 2007 at Kathamandu. These international events were instrumental in sharing experiences, achievements, learning and issues in tiger conservation in Nepal. (Note: NFWF funds were not used in financing the GTF meeting.)

7. NFWF Adaptive Management

NFWF's multi-year grant was helpful in allowing us to consolidate previously undertaken activities, learn from outcomes, and implement best practices in following years. This type of grant system ensures achievement of desired results through adaptive management of the project cycle.

8. References

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