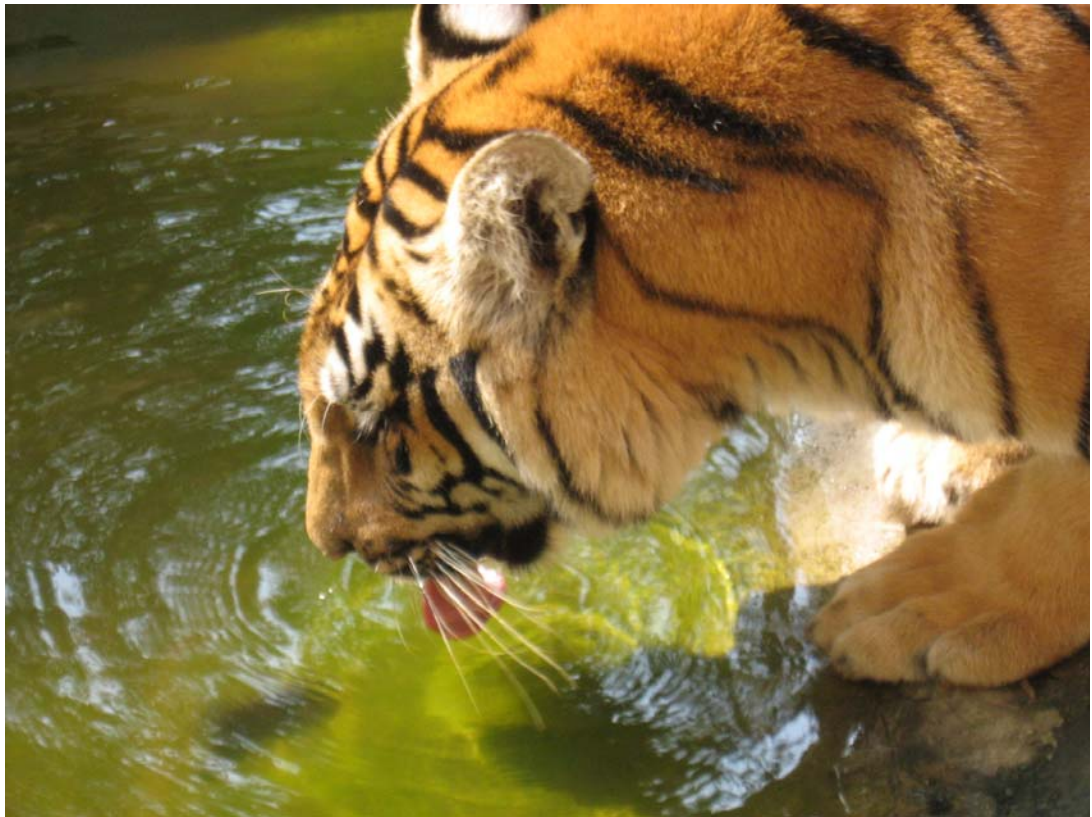


Conservation of Tigers in Nepal 2007

A project Report



Prasanna Yonzon



Wildlife Conservation Nepal

SUBMITTED TO SAVE THE TIGER FUND, NATIONAL FISH AND
WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, USA

Acknowledgement

We are grateful for the kind contribution of Save the Tiger Fund of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in implementing this project. This is probably the first time in conservation history of Nepal that the religious heads of the Buddhist community got together with Wildlife Conservation Nepal to campaign to save tigers. For their sheer efforts in conveying this message to mountain communities, a massive campaign had been organized to create awareness amongst the Tibetan communities who are predominantly traders. This project has definitely benefited different organizations working to save wild tigers.

WCN has been effective in monitoring, advocating and creating awareness on tigers since its establishment in 2002. We have been privileged by many institutions here in Nepal to support and cooperate in our efforts to support illegal wildlife trade. Furthermore, such good works would not have happened if WCN would not have received support from STF and other philanthropic organizations. We are grateful to STF for providing us support for this project. We would also like to thank the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) for their cooperation and support for the success of this project.

In addition, we would like to show our gratitude to Nepal Police, Nepal Armed Police and Nepal Ex-Police Association for their timely help and support during the course of actions in the field. Without their support WCN would not be successful in its endeavor to monitor illicit wildlife trade.

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Final Financial Forms

Annex - 1

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

Project Name and Number: Conservation of Tigers In Nepal (2006-0097-010)
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1) Summary

The project coordinated and supported different enforcement agencies in tracking down tiger trade and its body parts in Nepal. It sensitized the judicial body on illegal wildlife trade and prosecution and how they could bring wildlife crime down through sentencing of poachers and traders.

Campaigns to save tigers through religious approach were conducted at different monasteries by disseminating posters especially focused to Tibetan communities that form the bulk of wildlife traders involved in tiger and leopard skins trade. Trainings and sensitization were carried out at different protected areas for park authorities, buffer zone communities and police.

To strengthen the anti-poaching patrolling of Chitwan National Park (CNP) and Bardia National Park (BNP), WCN provided additional support and critical information that led to the reduction of poaching of tigers in the wild.

2) Introduction

To conserve tigers in their habitat, the project had different components that focused on the protection of wild tigers in Nepal. The main objectives were to reduce poaching of wild tigers, provide intelligence to enforcement agencies to monitor poachers and traders involved in tiger trade and strengthen the capacity of enforcement agencies through trainings and capacity building.

To contain wildlife trade, Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN) works with different enforcement agencies including Nepal Police, Nepal Ex-Police Association, District Forest Offices, Department of Forests and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife

Conservation. Such linkages have led to seizures of tiger skins and bones and arrests of traders and poachers in different cities of Nepal.

Project Site

Primarily, the project was based in Kathmandu and Chitwan with the WCN team being deployed in various places of Nepal. WCN also has a small monitoring unit of ex-police personnel in Nepalgunj. WCN established the monitoring unit in Nepalgunj instead of BNP because Nepalgunj is a major transit point for wildlife goods entering into Nepal from India and vice versa. WCN did this with consultation with the Chief Warden of BNP.

Besides monitoring different places, our field unit made reconnaissance trips to Tatopani (Sindhupalchok District), Nepal-Tibet border to observe and develop contacts with locals and to comprehend the modus operandi of tiger traders. Within a month of our team being deployed in Tatopani we had detail reports on how Tibetans use different routes for sending their goods to Tibet. Furthermore, we have groomed a point man in Tatopani who would call us in case he observes such cases in the future. In the past, rich Tibetans would reserve 4 to 5 rooms in a local hotel and unload their packed baggage in the rooms. Then they would go in search of porters who would carry the load through the passage that are currently being used by smugglers. The cost of one porter carrying the goods for over 3 hours would cost nearly US\$ 80 per load but that load nearly amounts to over 20 kilos of weight.

Furthermore, WCN field people stayed at Birgunj (entry point with India for commerce and trade) for more than two months to monitor trade. During that period of monitoring, our field operatives came across a place called Simra town in Rautahat district. Previously, this settlement was used by the Maoist for its training camp; today it is being used by Biharis of India. This place is surrounded by forests from all sides. The Biharis are hunters. Most of the houses have guns (musket types to rudimentary). These people bring tiger skins mainly from India and then sell it to the Tibetan/Nepali buyers. As the situation in the Terai is volatile, our team could not effectively monitor this place but have provided information as potential hotspot for tiger trade (Map 1).

Objectives

- Stop tiger trade and its body parts
- Provide correct information to enforcement agencies to take action against poachers and traders to stop tiger trade and its body parts

- Awareness and sensitization workshop on illicit trade of tigers and its body parts to Tibetan communities and enforcement officials
- Establish a national network to control tiger trade
- Cooperate with line agencies and other organization to contain tiger trade
- Create awareness on tiger conservation through Radio Nepal, a national radio which is broadcasted all over Nepal
- Support National Parks and Protected Areas by providing technical input on tiger conservation

3) Methods

1. Stop Tiger Trade and its body parts

Stopping tiger trade and poaching could enhance the population of tigers in the wild which is not an easy task. If we are to control poaching of tigers, we need to understand the social and economic structure of communities involved in such nefarious activities and involve them in conservation activities which could be more lucrative in the long run. About eight to ten years ago, tiger poaching was negligible in Nepal. When tigers were poached, it was in retaliation for livestock killed. Today, it is for cash.

WCN field people have a unique system while monitoring people and illegal wildlife trade. Our field staffs are briefed on the present by the principal investigator who also coordinates with different enforcement agencies for support and cooperation during wildlife seizures and arrests making it easy for our field staff to get immediate support from police and park personnel. The police and other enforcement agencies have already been briefed by their senior officials to support WCN team. We have realized that when orders are received through a chain of command, the police or the national park authorities are ready to act on our information. It has taken us 5 years of diligent work to build this trust and achieve success.

The project recruited 5 people, all very good linkages in communities – one of them a woman from Dibyanagar VDC, Chitwan. Bishnu Maya Mahato is active in monitoring illegal wildlife trade in Chitwan and in Kathmandu. Currently she is monitoring trade in Kathmandu. Ram Prasad Silwal is an ex-cop and has been trained to monitor and work incognito with different groups of people. He was one of the persons working undercover for three months in an assignment to unearth illegal wildlife trade route in Tatopani, Nepal Tibet border. The other three trained for this work are Manoj Ghimire, Bandhu Tharu and Baldev.

Besides monitoring and providing intelligence to enforcement agencies in conducting wildlife seizures in various places of Nepal. These seizures are the direct effort of WCN team deputed in Kathmandu, Chitwan and Nepalgunj. Our ability to reduce illegal wildlife trade at different places through seizures and arrests have led to the seizures of 2 tiger skins, 10 leopard skins, tiger bones, 350 pieces of tiger whiskers, 500 elephant hairs, baby rhino horn, 1 clouded leopard skin and 1 leopard cat skin besides other wildlife seizures and arrests (photo 1 & 2). We have done more than 15 operations of which 5 have been successful regarding big cats skin seizures and have made arrests of 13 traders and poachers (details given in the table below).

Table: 1

Date	Place of successful operation	Seized product	Number of people apprehended
16.04.07	Chitwan District	Tiger bones 1 leopard skin	1
31.05.07	Palung VDC, Makwanpur District	1 tiger skin tiger whiskers 1 Leopard skin	7
10.08.07	Ring Road, Kathmandu District (On its way to Dhunche, Rasuwa District)	1 Tiger 2 Leopard Skins	2
13.12.07	Dhading District	Tiger bones 1 Leopard Skin 1 Leopard cat skin 2 Otter skins	1
18.12.07	Balaju, Kathmandu District	4 Leopard skins	2

Most traders have efficient link with their underground groups as for example, soon after they are arrested, they are represented by high profile criminal lawyers and seek bail through local courts. About five years ago, a trader could seek bail and pay a fine and be released. Today, WCN monitors court cases and after the sensitization workshop on wildlife crime and prosecution given to the judicial bodies of Nepal, it has become difficult for the trader to get a bail. As a result of this project five individuals arrested in connection to tiger poaching and trade have been sentenced with full 15 years of imprisonment and maximum fine.

Besides these activities, we were able to draw the attention of civil society, students, judicial bodies, police, armed-police including many other enforcement agencies through campaigns, workshops, capacity building and other activities on tiger protection. WCN conducted outreach programs in more than 20 schools in and around buffer zones of Bardia National Park and Chitwan National Park (Photo 3). This project also entailed

many broadcasting activities through radio and print media in drawing the attention of the general public for the protection of wild tigers.

We have come to understand that frequent meetings with different enforcement agencies and NGOs must be conducted at regular intervals so that all parties concerned are aware of the prevailing situation.

2. Provide correct information to enforcement agencies to take action against poachers and traders

To protect tigers in national parks, WCN provided critical information and trainings to national park authorities. Once WCN has intelligence¹ and know the place of transaction we provide information to police, district forest office, national park authorities or forest officials to make proper arrangements for arrests and wildlife seizures. Sometime, poachers and traders do not show up at the venue of transaction because they have people watching our movements as well. And these days due to high mobility and usage of cell phone, poachers and traders are well connected. Such an error occurred once in a downtown area². These days, poachers and traders prefer to conduct business in busy thoroughfares for easy getaway and also to monitor people in the vicinity during the time of sale. Another important issue is that most traders are associated with political parties. After a trader is arrested, officials receive calls from politicians enquiring about whether the case could be handled at local level and not reach the magistrate or in extreme cases are asked to release the criminals.

In addition, WCN informed the escalation of tiger poaching in India to the enforcement agencies so as to bring to their notice that similar events could be taking place here in Nepal. WCN had information from India about how Bawarias and Behaliyas poached tigers. Usually poaching of tigers takes place within seven days of a full moon period. The authorities in Nepal know this community as Banjaras (nomads) but were not aware that these people are involved in tiger poaching. The principal investigator (PI) learnt additional details about tiger poaching by Bawarias and Behaliyas during his visit to Delhi for a wildlife crime workshop. The information received from Wildlife Protection Society of India has been a big help in providing information to the national park authorities. Last year a tiger trap seized in Chitwan National Park bore the marks used by Bawarias.

¹ Our people acting as potential buyers of wildlife product are invited to different places to see wild trophies and skins. When middlemen tell us it is a tiger skin, it turns out to be a leopard skin.

² The Crime Unit officers (police) arrived in time. The only giveaway was that they disembarked at a crossing in a marked (police) van in a crowded thoroughfare. The middlemen knew something was amiss and contacted the principal investigator (who presented himself as a businessman) that the owner of the goods did not show up and the deal was put off.

In this regard, WCN field team has been working 24/7. Out of five operations against tiger traders one becomes successful. WCN has been doing its best to contain wildlife trade and take action against traders.

3. Awareness and sensitization workshop in illicit trade of tigers and its body parts to Tibetan communities and enforcement officials

WCN conducted various awareness programs at different levels and sectors of society on tiger conservation and trade.

A. Advocacy Campaign to Tibetan Communities and Religious monks

The advocacy program with focus to Tibetan communities has been effective because this program was initiated through monasteries. It was an eye opener for religious leaders Rimporches³ (Lama Re-incarnate).

For the awareness program, we sought cooperation and help from different monasteries on how this sensitization program could be effective to address and reduce illegal tiger trade in the Tibetan community. The Tibetans are the main buyers for tiger skins and bones in Nepal. After many investigations, we now know that Tibetans from Humla districts are the main traders. These people have much faith in their religion. Before embarking on any business trip (illegal purchase of tiger skins / transport to Tibet), they set aside a small amount of cash to be offered at the monastery so that their ventures turn out to be successful.

The only deterrence that can be used against such traders is by putting the nexus of illegal wildlife trade and religion together. After many brainstorming sessions with scholars and experts, we designed a thanka (mural painting of gods and goddesses) at WCN and then sought advice of Rimporches to fine tune the poster. Most Rimporches do not understand the Nepali language so we had to use interpreters. It was a challenging job. The main idea behind the poster was to signify what happens to those traders and poachers after this life on earth. The Buddhists believe in karma and afterlife and the poster provides a vivid afterlife detail, which can be an effective tool for deterrence. The karma of a person is evaluated on the basis of his/her performances while on earth. This poster designed articulately depicting all life forms including gods

³ Each Rimporche belongs to a monastery and is the religious head of that monastery. Sometimes a Rimporche is entitled to run more than one monastery. Each monastery may have from 20 to over 200 members called Gyalung – these are Lamas in waiting. The Gyalung main functions are to upkeep the monastery and pray with the Rimporches, which function like regular classrooms. They attend classes and after graduating is allowed to preach and run their own monasteries on behalf of the sect that they follow.

and goddesses and wildlife has had a social impact on people associated with wildlife trade. The poster also contained information on the National Parks and Wildlife Protection Act 1973.

WCN conducted sensitization programs in more than 25 gompas/ monasteries and distributed thousand posters at different places in Kathmandu and Pokhara (Photo 3, 4 & 5). During mass gathering of devotees, the lamas initiated this campaign by praying and explaining the detail of the graphics in the poster and distributed the posters to the devotees. Furthermore, they asked us to distribute these posters at Swayambhu and Boudha during the morning and evening prayers.

B. Trainings and Workshops to Enforcement Agencies and National Park officials

WCN conducted four workshops on identification of wildlife and its body parts and legal issues pertaining to wildlife crime at two national parks (Bardia and Chitwan) and in Nepalgunj. These workshops were targeted to enforcement officials on providing an insight on wildlife crime operations and how they could be effective in reducing wildlife crime in rural and urban areas. Discussions were on seizures, cooperation, information sharing, intelligence gathering and the existing legal system pertaining to wildlife crime and prosecution. Such workshops were fruitful because senior police officials knew very little about tiger poaching and trade till they attended this program (Photo 6).

4. Establish a national network to control tiger trade.

It is difficult to initiate networking with different enforcement agencies. Despite such difficulties, WCN have initiated developing network with different enforcement agencies especially police, Nepal Ex-Police Association (NEPA), national park authorities, district forest offices and the judicial bodies of Nepal, besides NGOs and INGOs to control tiger trade spread over 21 districts of Nepal. WCN has also established networks with the Regional Chapters of Nepal Ex Police Association (NEPA) in 4 different regional headquarters.

Furthermore, WCN has established a network with Indian counterparts like an Indian NGO called Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) to address tiger trade which is brought from India to Nepal and is taken to Tibet. We pass this information to the national park and other enforcement agencies. Similarly WCN also has become member of ITC and GTF. Linkages with Wild Aid, Thailand have also been formed. Today, with WCN's

initiation a national network has begun at regional, national and international level to limit tiger trade has been established.

During a field visit to ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, Thailand, the principal investigator met Mr. Steve Galster, Chief of the Party. During the meeting, the PI learnt on how ASEAN WEN operates, trains and coordinates with the ASEAN nation in combating illegal wildlife trade. One of the success stories of ASEAN WEN is the development of a Task Force in each partner country with a representative from police or other enforcement agencies in that task force. Sharing of information through seminars and workshop is a priority which they conduct once a year bringing all member states to a common ground and getting reports – country reports on trade- an effective tool for monitoring.

Besides these activities the Chief of Party mentioned activities that involves locals at grass root level especially women groups tin managing natural resources on a sustainable basis and rehabilitation programs for poachers' families while bringing the poachers to the main stream of conservation activities. Furthermore, issues like effective trainings, developing manuals, information dissemination were also discussed.

5. Cooperate with line agencies and other organizations to contain tiger trade

Being a Non-Governmental Organization, we do not have the authority to make arrests or take legal actions against traders and poachers. The only thing that we can do is to help the line agencies and their organizations by feeding them information on illicit activities so that the enforcement agencies can take legal action. After monitoring certain areas for illegal wildlife trade, we provide intelligence to enforcement agencies about trade issues. Our credibility as an institution is acknowledged by enforcement agencies and they do not hesitate to go into action after our information is passed to them. We have been able to draw support and cooperation from different enforcement agencies and appreciation from the District Forest Office, Nepal Police and the National Park authorities in containing illicit trade on tiger and its body part. We conduct regular meetings with the District Forest Office, National Park authorities, WWF Nepal Program and Nepal Police (Photo 8). As DNPWC is the line agency, WCN coordinates very effectively with national park authorities including Bardia National Park, Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve authorities. We have had more than 12 meetings in a year.

6. Create awareness in tiger conservation through Radio Nepal, a national radio which is broadcasted to all parts of Nepal

WCN has been airing conservation awareness programs through FM station for more than two years which reaches to 15 districts of Nepal. In addition to this, WCN explored the possibilities of sensitizing media persons on conservation of tigers so that they could broadcast conservation messages and prioritize conservation issues.

With such concept in mind, WCN conducted a one day national seminar with Radio Nepal to develop awareness on protecting tigers and controlling illegal wildlife trade. Radio Nepal is the foremost broadcasting station in Nepal. Its broadcast reaches to eastern and parts of northern India. Rural and urban people tune into Radio Nepal because it provides reliable information, entertainment, news and also delivers cutting edge issues through their different program.

There were over 35 participants from different media houses including station managers of Radio Nepal from five regions of Nepal. Issues on illicit wildlife trade were discussed and how media could play a pivotal role to bring down wildlife crime through broadcasting. The outcome from this workshop led to the establishment of a media task force which will work on protection of large and endangered mammals (Photo 9).

7. Support National Parks and Protected Areas by providing technical input on tiger conservation

WCN provided technical input in the final preparation of the Tiger Action Plan prepared by the Government of Nepal. To save wild tigers in Chitwan National Park, WCN has been supporting the anti-poaching unit of Chitwan by providing intelligence on the movements of poachers and traders. Currently, WCN has been providing technical and logistic support to Chitwan National Park and Bardia National Park in the anti-poaching operations to save tigers and rhinos in the wild.

WCN in its stride to curtail tiger trade and to strengthen enforcement agencies have conducted training courses on wildlife crime and information that led to arrests and seizures of wildlife products in and around protected areas.

An interaction meeting was held at Hotel Himalaya on August 27, 2007 to discuss the amendments required in the wildlife laws of Nepal with the active participation of WCN. More than 45 different organizations participated in the meeting to discuss changes that are needed in the National Park and Wildlife Act 1973 and its amendment (photo 10).

4) Results

a) Outputs

Fig. 1: Logical framework table with indicators.

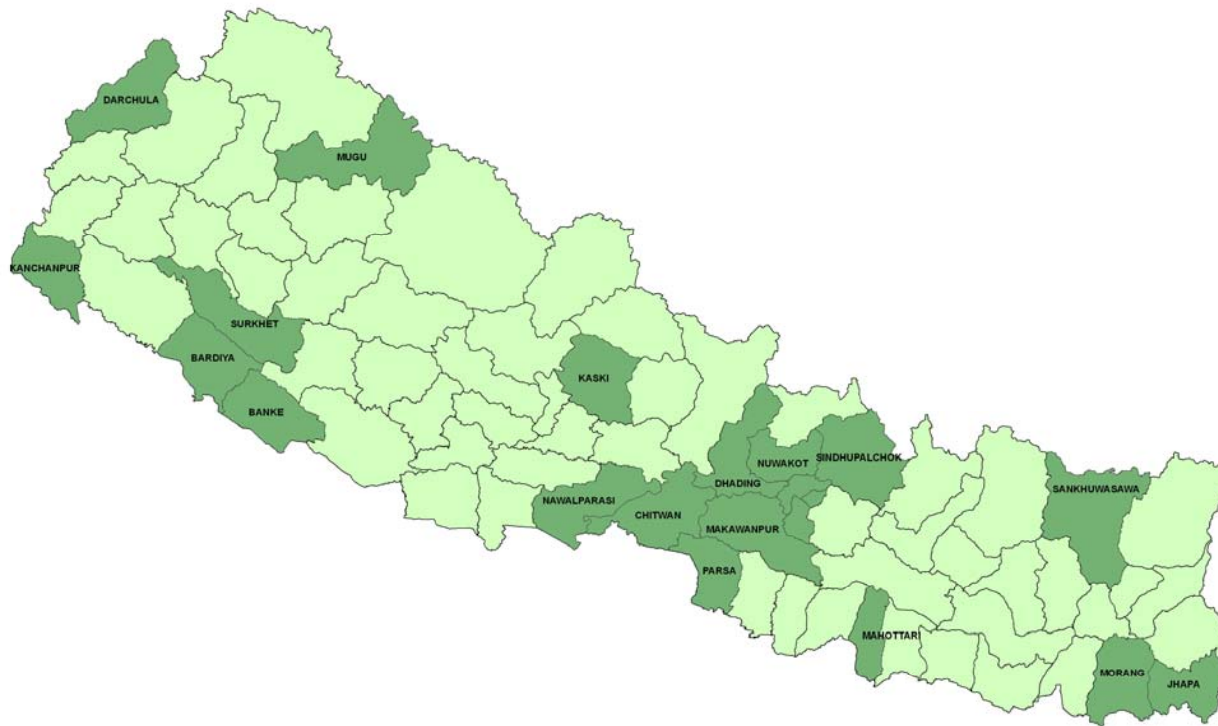
Activities	Short-Term Outputs	Long-Term Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline Value	Predicted Value of Project Output	Actual Value of Project Output
Mobilize field operatives	5 Field operatives deployed to monitor tiger trade in different places in Nepal.	Tiger trade curtailed and tigers are protected in national parks and protected areas.	Secure intelligence on tiger trade route and monitor traders and poachers	Scattered information on monitoring activities	Monitoring at different location thus reducing tiger trade. Routes used by traders are easy to monitor and break the existing trade link	Proper and reliable documentation of current tiger trade, illegal trade routes and illegal wildlife traders put to justice.
Intelligence sharing	Information collected are shared with line agencies leading to arrests and seizures of tiger products	Coordination within and amongst different line agencies to fight wildlife crime becomes effective	Provide information to line agencies Increase in coordinated effort to control wildlife crime	Line agencies did have networks in urban areas Weak coordination amongst different agencies	More enforcement operations carried out to apprehend tiger traders – 15 times Tiger are protected in their habitat	Of 15 operations conducted by WCN with the support of line agencies, 5 became successful and 13 individuals apprehended
Disseminate information on tiger conservation	Enforcement agencies, civil societies and general people including students are sensitized on tiger trade and tiger conservation issues.	Increased public awareness and support to lobby for tiger protection	Frequent meetings and seminars with representatives of civil society, GOs, CBOs and programs in education institutions	Previously, people learnt from newspaper on tiger trade and conservation issues	Frequent meetings with line agencies to strengthen their effort in bringing wildlife crime down. Information channeled to societies, community and educational institutions on tiger protection measures and conservation issues	Ten meetings with DNPWC in a year 10 community level programs Awareness program conducted in 20 schools of Chitwan

Conduct sensitization on tiger trade to Tibetan communities	Tibetan Buddhist monks and mountain communities sensitized on reducing and stopping tiger trade	Usage of tiger body parts as clothing reduced substantially. Trade reduced.	Tibetans know the consequences of being involved in tiger trade	No religious programs focused on conservation has been conducted in Nepal	More than 25 Buddhist monasteries including heads and their staff along with their devotees are sensitized	More than 25 Buddhist monasteries and Tibetan communities were sensitized on tiger conservation
Coordination with Police and other enforcement agencies	Meetings, workshops and seminars held on protection and reduction of tiger trade involving enforcement agencies including media personnel	Enforcement officials know about trade issues; network strengthened and cooperation between GOs, NGOs and enforcement agencies developed to monitor and reduce wildlife crime	Number of meetings, workshop and seminars with enforcement agencies increased	Weak coordination amongst GOs, NGOs and enforcement agencies on wildlife conservation	More than 15 meetings/workshop with different line agencies	12 meetings and 4 workshop conducted with different line agencies
NGO voice in tiger conservation	Inclusion of active NGOs in the formulation of The Tiger Action Plan and in the amendment of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 Follow ups to court cases on poachers and traders arrested on tiger poaching and trade cases	Policies are fine tuned for the protection of tiger and their habitat. Clear policies are developed to secure wild tigers population in national parks and protected areas Poachers and traders are given maximum penalty	Participation in national parks act policy formulation seminar / workshops /national level meetings Provision of harsh punishment to tiger traders and poachers	No record No proper sentencing to traders and poachers	Process of amendment of Wildlife Protection Act of Nepal. Sentencing of as many apprehended tiger poachers and traders as possible	Active participation of WCN in the amendment of Wildlife Protection Act of Nepal. Full 15 years sentences given to 5 poachers and traders arrested through WCN's intelligence
Conduct training to National Park officials by providing technical and logistic support for tiger conservation	Capacity enhancement of field staff of Protected Areas to fight illegal wildlife trade	Protected area staffs are more efficient in their work performances and acquire more knowledge on tiger conservation.	Frequent meetings conducted at DNPWC and park level to coordinate and develop strategies to curb tiger trade	Trainings were conducted in the past by INGOs and NGOs but that did not yield into arrests and seizures. It was rather focused on capacity building	Conduct 5 meetings (3 in CNP, 1 in Nepalgunj and 1 in BNP)	3 meetings in CNP, 1 Nepalgunj and 1 in BNP conducted where WCN provided technical and logistic support to National Parks

<p>Awareness through media</p>	<p>Information dissemination on importance of tiger conservation to media personnel and to the general public through radio and FM stations</p>	<p>People are more aware on tiger conservation</p>	<p>No. of programs on tiger trade.</p>	<p>No radio program broadcasting on tiger conservation</p>	<p>Frequent programs on radio on tiger conservation.</p> <p>More people enquire about tiger issues</p> <p>Programs conducted to sensitize media personnel on tiger trade issues</p>	<p>Tiger conservation issues broadcasted every week across Nepal through Radio</p> <p>More than 200 enquiries on tiger issue</p> <p>Several meetings and programs conducted with the media personnel to sensitize them on conservation.</p> <p>Task force of Media personnel formed and in operation</p>
<p>Establish a national network to control tiger trade</p>	<p>A network developed between NGOs, GOs, CBOs, NEPA chapters at district level, , judicial bodies, enforcement agencies and international conservational organizations to limit tiger trade</p>	<p>Tiger trade is visibly reduced in and around protected areas and nationwide in Nepal.</p>	<p>No. of meetings with NEPA chapters</p> <p>Dialogues with international tiger conservation organizations</p>	<p>Only in protected areas where there are tigers</p>	<p>Network begins at regional, national and international level to limit tiger trade</p>	<p>Established a regional network with NEPA at 4 different places in Nepal with proper coordination</p> <p>Became member of International Tiger Coalition and Global Tiger Forum</p>

ii) Supplemental maps & photos

I. MAPS



Map 1: Districts where WCN has established network for tiger conservation

II. PHOTOGRAPHS

A. PHOTOS OF ARRESTS AND SEIZURES



Photo1(a): Seizure in ring road on September 8, 2007 by WCN team and District Forest



Photo1(b): Seizure in ring road on September 8, 2007 by WCN team and District Forest



Photo 2(a): Leopard skins seized by WCN and Nepal Police at ring road on December 18, 2007



Photo 2(b): Leopard cat skins seized by WCN and Nepal Police at Dhading District on December 13, 2007

B. PHOTOS OF AWARENESS PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS



Photo 3: Students looking through the tiger fact file

C. PHOTOS OF TIBETAN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Photo4: Monks praying with the posters



Photo 5: Poster distribution and interaction program at Peace Stupa in Pokhara



Photo 6: Tibetan devotees studying the poster at Boudha Stupa, Kathmandu

D. PHOTOS OF SENSITIZATION WORKSHOPS IN NATIONAL PARKS



Photo 7: Chief Warden of BNP speaking to the workshop participants in Bardia

E. PHOTOS OF COORDINATION MEETINGS WITH LINE AGENCIES



Photo 8: Meeting with enforcement agencies District Forest Office, Nepal Police, WWF Nepal Program, DNPWC and WCN

F. PHOTOS OF WORKSHOP FOR MEDIA PERSONNEL



Photo 9: Participating media personnel of the one day workshop on wildlife conservation and illegal wildlife trade

G. PHOTOS OF LAWAMMENDMET



Photo 10: Participants of the Law Amendment Meeting

b) Post-project Outcomes

In the last week of January, 2008, Tsewang⁴, a wildlife trader was sentenced for 15 years along with a fine of Nepali Rs. 100,000 (arrested through WCN intelligence by Nepal Police on December 11, 2005) is heralded a success because Tsewang had a red corner notice for committing crime against wildlife by the Government of India. He had been in the wanted list of the Government of India since 1994. Similarly as a result of this project five individuals arrested in connection to tiger poaching and trade have been sentenced with full 15 years of imprisonment and maximum fine.

In December 2007, WCN intelligence led to the arrests and seizures of big cat skins at two different places in Nepal that consisted of six leopard skins, one leopard cat skin and one otter skin along with tiger bones. This monitoring episode took us more than eight weeks to get into action.

c) Problems & Obstacles

Some areas that we needed to monitor were violent and volatile – politically motivated and our team could not access these areas infamous for wildlife trade. Monitoring and going into action with the support of enforcement agencies takes a considerable effort while conducting raids and seizures. Our team at the grass root level has to convince poachers and traders to show us the goods and then our team makes arrangements as to where the goods transaction would take place. Sometimes poachers and traders change the venue making it difficult for us because arrangements with the enforcement agencies have already been made. More than 50 percent of our efforts go in vain because poachers and traders are smart and a small slip of the tongue can jeopardize the whole mission. As for an incidence, a man was wanting to sell a rhino horn and our people at the ground contacted him and told that a rich Tibetan trader (Dorji – our coordinator) would be arriving from Kathmandu in the evening to see the horn and purchase it. In the meantime, our people reported this event to the line agencies, the line agencies people prefer not to wait but go into action mode. Our team coordinated and allowed line agencies to meet the poachers and their associates. Once they began talking, the poachers got a whiff because: 1) Our people had given eight hours and the prospective buyer lands 5 hour early, 2) the

⁴ The biggest wildlife consignment seized at Dhunche, Langtang National Park on September 1, 2005 that had 5 tiger skins, 38 leopard skins, 236 otter skins and 113 kg of tiger bones belonged to Tsewang. The sentencing of Tsewang is an indication to wildlife traders that Nepal legal system is committed to the protection of endangered wildlife species.

prospective buyer instead of offering cigarettes to the poachers, takes the cigarette off the poachers and puffs away and 3) he does not have Tibetan features.

Annex – 1

Name list of Buddhist Monasteries

Swoyambhu - 7

1. Thukchhe Chholing Gumba
2. Jagan Prakash Gumba
3. Maitri Vihar Swoyambhunath Gumba
4. Nyanang Phalgeling Gumba
5. Jochhen Thupten Gumba
6. Swoyambhu Dharma Shala Gumba

Boudha - 12

7. Tharlim Sansaga NadGyaling Shakya Dharma Vihar
8. Urgen Chholing Gumba
9. Namobudha Boudhadharma Dhyana Tatha Shikshan Kendra
10. Segyud Dachhang Gumba
11. Boudha Dhyana Guthi Guru Marming Gumba
12. Mahayan Prakash Palayul Dharmalaya Gumba
13. Karma Dorje Chhokharling Mahaboudha Vihar
14. Jharmang Kagyu Gumba
15. Sadadhok Palri Ningma Gumba

Balaju - 3

16. Goldhunga Buddhist Monastery
17. Mhepi Gumba
18. Balaju Gompa

Kapan - 4

19. Nepal Boudha Mahayan Kendra Gumba
20. Tsewang Jyang Chhyuv Gachhataling Gumba
21. Fulhari Gompa
22. Kapan Gumba

Kathmandu – 1

23. Chhetrapati Gumba

Lalitpur - 2

24. Tasi Chhyoling Gumba
25. Boudha Shanti Vihar

Pokhara - 1

26. Peace Pagoda Gumba

