

Report on

Taudaha Jamboree 2005

World Wetlands Day Celebration



February 2005

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Introduction

The Friends of the Bagmati organized an event “Taudaha Jamboree 2005” in association with the Tuadaha Yuwa Samiti to promote and conserve Taudaha Lake. The promoter of the event was Nepal Tourism Board (NTB).

The Friends of the Bagmati is a registered non-governmental organization established by a group of people from different walks of life who have come together through their common concern and their wish to restore the environment of the Bagmati and other rivers of Nepal.

This program aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits is organized to celebrate the World Wetlands Day 2005.

The Taudaha Lake has been chosen because of its cultural and biological significance. Pilgrims throng Taudaha to worship Nag or snake during Naga Panchami (festival of nags/serpents). The rich biological diversity of the lake in general and the habitat of waterfowls in particular have also made this an important wetland resource.

Taudaha is one of the small lakes in the Bagmati watershed area. It has also contributed to recharge the groundwater of the Bagmati Watershed. Bagmati, which is the biggest river of the Kathmandu valley, originates from Shivapuri hill, 25 km north of Kathmandu City at an altitude of 2650m above sea level. Taudaha is at approximately 6 km to the southwest of Kathmandu. This is rich in floral and faunal diversity.

Events of the Taudaha Jamboree 2005

1. Consultative Workshop on Taudaha Conservation
2. Bird Watching and Cleanup

1. Consultative Workshop on Taudaha Conservation

The Consultative Workshop on Taudaha Conservation was organized on 31 January 2005, as a pre-event of the Taudaha Jamboree 2005, at the NTB Auditorium Hall. Experts and participants at the Workshop stressed on the need to conserve the wetlands that are threatened due to increasing anthropogenic activities. During the function, presentations were made by experts on the various aspects of Religious/Cultural, Tourism and Ecological values of Taudaha Lake. The representatives from Taudaha Yuwa Samiti (TYS) and the Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) discussed on the efforts made by their organizations to conserve Taudaha Lake. Senior Journalist, Mr. Bhairav Risal from Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) delivered his presentation on the topic: “Role of Press/Media in Wetlands Conservation”. Mr. Risal stressed on the need to give continual emphasis on the promotion of Values and Benefits of Wetlands through the press/media. (*Please See Annex # 1 for Program Schedule*).

Participants of the Workshop	Number
1. Presenters (See Annex # 1 for List of Presenters)	06
2. Mr. Siba B. Rajbhandary Vice-Chairperson, Friends of the Bagmati	01
3. Mr. Keshab B. Mathema General Secretary, Friends of the Bagmati	01
3. Locals from Taudaha	10
4. Students from different Colleges	16
5. Representatives from Various Organizations	15
6. Press/Media	02
7. Volunteers	05
TOTAL:	56

2. Bird Watching and Cleanup at Taudaha

The Bird Watching was one of the components of the Taudaha Jamboree 2005 and was organized on 12th February. Participants included both the Foreigners and Nepalese. Large number of students and locals from Taudaha area also enjoyed bird watching program facilitated by the experts from BCN. The bird watching program was followed by Taudaha cleanup program. The cleanup program initiated by TYS, the local club, was of great success. Participants collected rubbish and removed the invasive weeds at the shoreline of the Lake. More than seven dozens people participated in the program. *(Please See Annex # 2 for Program Schedule).*

Participants of the Bird Watching and Cleanup Program at Taudaha	Number
1. Locals from Taudaha	25
2. Foreigners	03
3. Students from different Colleges	17
4. Other Individuals	16
5. Volunteers/Invitees	20
6. Press/Media	08
TOTAL:	89

Conclusion

The Friends of the Bagmati believes; such programs initiated by the local people will help to conserve the wetlands resources in a sustainable way. We invite all concerned groups and individuals to support such initiative taken by the local denizen.

We look forward to work with you in future projects as well in order to conserve Taudaha Lake. Thank you for support and cooperation in making this event a great success. Success in our terms is - to inform maximum number of people about the values and benefits of wetlands.

We believe in the concept - Conservation through Promotion!

Annex 1

Program Schedule

Consultative Workshop on Taudaha Conservation 31 January 2005

Venue: Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), Kathmandu

1300 - 1320 Hrs	Registration
1320 - 1330 Hrs	Welcome and Introduction of the Program by Mr. Siba Bhakta Rajbhandary, Vice-Chairperson of the Friends of the Bagmati
1330 - 1345 Hrs	Presentation: Local Initiatives to Conserve Taudaha Lake Mr. Purusottam Budhathoki President, Taudaha Yuwa Samiti
1345 - 1400 Hrs	Video Presentation on 'Local Efforts to Conserve Taudaha'
1400 - 1425 Hrs	Presentation: Ecological Values of Wetlands Dr. Sanjay Nath Khanal, Associate Professor Department of Biological Sciences and Environmental Science, Kathmandu University (KU)
1425 - 1440 Hrs	Presentation: Religious Values of Taudaha Priest Bishwambhar Nepal
1440 - 1500 Hrs	Tea Break
1500 - 1525 Hrs	Presentation: Taudaha and Bird Life Mr. Haris C. Rai, President, Bird Conservation Nepal
1525 - 1540 Hrs	Presentation: Tourism Values of Wetlands Mr. Udaya Bhattarai Program Officer, Nepal Tourism Board (NTB)
1540 - 1600 Hrs	Presentation: Role of Press/Media in Wetlands Conservation Mr. Bhairav Risal, Senior Journalist Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ)
1600 - 1630 Hrs	Questions to the Presenters and Discussions (5 minutes for each presentation topic)

Annex 2

Program Schedule

Taudaha Jamboree 2005

Bird Watching and Taudaha Cleanup

12th Feb. 2005 / 1st Falgun 2061, Saturday
Program Venue: Taudaha Lake

1045 - 1100 HRS	Gathering at Bhrikutimandap Main Gate, Kathmandu
1100 - 1145 HRS	Drive to Taudaha Lake
1145 - 1200 HRS	Welcome and reception by Taudaha Yuwa Samiti (TYS)
1200 - 1215 HRS	Inaugural Ceremony 2 minutes - Welcome to the Participants by Mr. Rabin Bastola, Coordinator of the Friends of the Bagmati 2 minutes - Speech - Mr. Purusottam Budhathoki, President, Taudaha Yuwa Samiti 3 minutes - Speech - Mr. Bishwambhar Nepal, Priest from Taudaha Area 2 minutes - Speech - Mr. Hattan Chaudhary, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) 2 minutes - Speech / Participant's View - Mr. Amrit Sharma, Amrit Science Campus, Thamel 4 minutes - Speech - Mr. Bhairav Risal, Senior Journalist, Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists - NEFEJ (Chief Guest of the Program)
1215 - 1225 HRS	Briefing about the Bird Watching Program and Divide Participants into various groups at random order
1225 - 1325 HRS	Bird Watching
1325 - 1355 HRS	Break & Light Refreshment
1355 - 1515 HRS	Taudaha Cleanup Program
1515 - 1530 HRS	Feedback from Participants and Wrap up
1530 - 1600 HRS	Back to Home

Annex 3

Supporters

SN	Name	Contribution
1	Taudaha Yuwa Samiti	Facilitated Overall Program and Coordinated the Cleanup Program
2	Bird Conservation Nepal	Provided presentation at the Workshop and Provided Experts for Bird Watching with all the necessary equipment and accessories
3	Nepal Cycling Club (NCC)	Promoted the event and helped in selling tickets of the Bird Watching Program
4	IUCN Nepal	Provided literatures and promotional materials related to the Wetlands
5	Ramsar Bureau, Switzerland	Provided Stickers and Posters of the World Wetlands Day 2005
6	Dwarikas's Hotel	Provided logistics and communication service support (E-mail/Internet/Fax/Phone etc.)
7	Himal Media P. Ltd.	Promoted the event through its magazines and printed brochures and posters at subsidized rates at the Jagadamba Press
8	Nepal Tourism Board (NTB)	Promoted the Event: through radio, television advertisement, and banners. Sponsored the costs of brochures, posters, Conference Hall, and refreshment during the workshop.
9	Volunteers: Mr. Subash Khadka, Mr. Tek J. Mahat, Ms. Radhika Lingthep, Mr. Parveen K. Chhetri, Mr. Srijan Budhathoki, Ms. Rajmi Nakarmi, and Mr. Gopal Rana, Mrs. Banu, Mr. Raj Tamang, Mr. Paras Shrestha	Helped in various aspects to organize the program
10	Presenters of the Workshop: Dr. Sanjay N. Khanal, KU; Mr. Bhairav Risal, NEFEJ; Mr. Haris C. Rai, BCN; Mr. Bishwambhar Nepal, Taudaha; Mr. Udaya Bhattarai, NTB; and Mr. Purusottam Budhathoki, TYS.	Delivered presentations voluntarily
11	Mr. Tek Jung Mahat, Mr. Bijaya Pradhan, Mr. Rabindra Adhikari, and Mr. Ranjan Rajbhandari	Photographs of the Events

Annex 4

Photo Clips of the Events



Taudaha Lake



Taudaha Jamboree Banner @ Bird Watching & Cleanup Program



Guest Presenters at the Workshop



Participants Enjoying Bird Watching @ Taudaha



Foreigners at Bird Watching



Taudaha Cleanup Program