

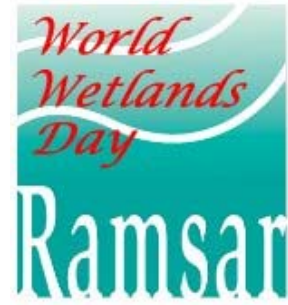
World Wetlands Day 2006 Celebration



In the face of poverty... wetlands are lifelines



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Acknowledgements

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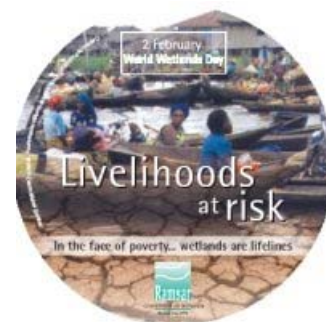
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The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
**World Wetlands Day celebrations:
Secretary General's message.**

*No water, no wetlands;
No wetlands, poorer quality of life.*



This is the perfect phrase to sum up that we have to manage our wetlands in a better, more sustainable way.

This includes all our wetlands from arctic lakes to coral reefs, from karst wetlands to mangroves. World Wetlands Day 2006 deals with the issues of people's well being and wetland conservation at the heart of wise use. Livelihoods of wetland dependant people depend fully on water production and protection agriculture, livestock grazing, fisheries and handicraft industry - and inappropriate wetland management, unwise use, and of course droughts, can cause complete breakdown of the rural sustainable livelihoods, with poverty as a result. With change in the ecological character of the wetlands and drought now affecting livelihoods it is clear that sustaining livelihood and well-being is also dependent on the condition of the wetlands; and that wetland maintenance is dependant on wise use, including basin scale management. This applies even to far away urban dwellers, often dependant on a range of wetland services, from water to food, as well as flood regulation.

World Wetlands Day should help us therefore explore the many ways that wetlands can and should play a role in improving human well-being, including through poverty reduction. And while poverty alleviation is a key target for some parts of the world, the principles that conservation and wise use of wetlands will help reduce poverty and promote better human well-being is real EVERYWHERE. For if we do not achieve sustainable use of wetlands, even where there is currently no poverty, there is the potential for it to develop.

No matter where you are, degradation and loss of wetland ecosystems and consequently the services, benefits and products they provide are all too visible. Properly managed, wetlands can be a vital lifeline not just for the poor, but for all of us. And this, in the end, means better governance and management frameworks for our wetland resources; something the Convention strengthened at its recent Conference of the Parties.

Ramsar COP9 outcomes provide additional guidance, & an organising framework for involvement in the broader water agenda at river basin level. The guidance promotes increased communication between the water & wetland sectors, and provide cooperative water and wetland governance and synchronized planning & implementation at river basin level.

In conclusion, let me wish everyone a wonderful World Wetlands Day!

— Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General

Foreword

Wetlands are very important to us as an individual and as a nation. They are ecologically important areas that harbor important wildlife, meet our daily needs, recharge groundwater, cycle important nutrients, and have recreational and cultural values. Such important wetlands are found in Kathmandu Valley as well. They have however been forgotten, shrunk or facing encroachment at present.

Friends of the Bagmati with its partners have been organizing programs to raise awareness on the values and benefits of these important wetlands in general and ponds of the Kathmandu in particular. The valley has more than 100 ponds (natural and artificial) of different shapes and sizes.

Since last we have been celebrating the World Wetlands Day focusing on awareness and education. We truly believe that these two are the real tools of empowerment required for genuine conservation to take place. This year new partners have joined hands and we have built from strength to strength.

This report is an attempt to gather answers to the challenges of managing natural and artificial ponds of Kathmandu in order to conserve the Bagmati River, the most important river system of the valley. The Bagmati River and its tributaries have contributed significantly to the valley's civilization for centuries. Rapid urbanization and increasing industrial activities have dramatically transformed this once pristine river into an open sewer.

Many of us who live in the urban areas never give a thought to our local ponds. But people are realizing only now that most of our old ponds no longer exist. For proper management of the Bagmati watershed conservation of ponds is important. Hence, we commend this report to you. We urge you, your group or organization to consider how you may participate in implementing the suggestions made by different professionals in this report. Working together, we can improve the way we manage our ponds of Kathmandu Valley, which is vital to revive the Bagmati River to its former glory.

The Organizing Committee 2006

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CHAPTER 1

Report: World Wetlands Day 2006 Celebration

Following heels of last year's successful World Wetlands Day celebration, Friends of the Bagmati (FoB) in partnership with eight other conservational organizations like Sustainable Tourism Network (STN)-Nepal, Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN), Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Taudaha Youth Club (TYC), Nepal Cycling Club (NCC), Roots and Shoots Nepal, Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) and Radio Sagarmatha organized Cleaning Up Program, 2nd Taudaha Jamboree and Workshop on Ponds of Kathmandu Valley. The events were organized to mark the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2006 with an objective of raising awareness on the values and benefits of wetland in general and about Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in particular.

The event was promoted by Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) (www.welcomenepal.com) and supported by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Nepal Program (www.wwfnepal.org), and Department of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) (www.dnpwc.gov.np).

Cleaning Up Program

A Cleaning Up Program was organized at Taudaha led by TYC on 21st January 2006. Volunteers and representatives from the organizing committee took part in the program. The participants collected garbage from the Taudaha pond and its adjoining areas and disposed them properly. Some invasive weeds at the shoreline of Taudaha pond were also removed.



2nd Taudaha Jamboree

On 28th January the 2nd Taudaha Jamboree was organized. More than five hundred people participated in this one-day event. Apart from the general public - students, government and non-governmental organization's representatives, tourism entrepreneurs, tourists, wetland experts, ornithologists - participated in the Jamboree.

The main attractions of the Jamboree were activities such as Cycle Rally, Bird Watching, Nature Hike Race, Mithila Art, Exhibitions and Green Map for School Students.

The Jamboree was announced through posters and banners put up in different parts of the Valley. It was also announced through various FM Radio stations including **Radio Sagarmatha 102.4 FM** (www.radiosagarmatha.org). They also featured special programs on wetlands of Nepal to raise awareness on conservation of wetlands in the valley.



Cycle Rally

The Jamboree began with a Cycle Rally joined in by more than 50 cyclists wearing T-Shirts with message to conserve ponds of Kathmandu Valley coordinated by implementing partner Nepal Cycling Club. The rally was inaugurated by Subash Nirola, Director, NTB at Dhasharath Stadium, Tripureshwor and ended at Taudaha pond after covering approximately 10 Kilometers.

The cyclists joined other participants of the Jamboree at Taudaha and enjoyed the celebration including fun filled and adventure activities like Bird Watching and Nature Hike Race.

Nature Hike Race

The **Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN)** (www.wcn.org.np) conducted the race and organized various activities like Mithila Art, On-the-Spot Art Competition and Green Map for school students.

The Hike Race was one of the main attractions of the Jamboree. Hundred and fifty participants raced against each other. The hike was organized on Boson Danda, a hill overlooking Taudaha pond. On reaching the peak, the hikers were felicitated and their pictures taken against the backdrop of the Taudaha pond. It was Dipendra who stood first in the race by completing the hike in 39 minutes.



This event was conducted to promote Taudaha vicinity as a good nature hike route in order to preserve the entire area in its natural form. Taudaha is surrounded by forested hills, which could be used as a perfect getaway for a peaceful hike, just within a few minutes drive from Kathmandu and Lalitpur cities.

Mithila Art

On the Spot Mithila Art Workshop was conducted in order to orient the participants about Mithila Art. They were also provided information about this art's history and significance in our Nepali culture. Participants portrayed Taudaha in different aspects in the canvases.



Green Map

WCN also facilitated eight School Students of Kathmandu Valley to make green maps from Balkhu to Taudaha. The map was an interpretation of young students about the state of trails leading to the wetland. Two maps were made on the occasion. The first map pointed out polluted spots, green zones while the second made recommendations to achieve environmental objectives. These maps are student friendly and do play a significant role in identifying the major environmental impacts in the area.



On-the-Spot Art Competition

Eight students from local schools of Taudaha, Bungamati and Khokana participated in the On the Spot Art Competition. The students painted pictures of wetlands on the theme "In The Face Of Poverty... Wetlands Are Lifelines". Norbu Sherpa of Shree Yuba Prativa HS School of Khokana came first in the event while Anil Tamang and Rajesh Nagarkoti of Shree Yuba Prativa HS School, Khokana and Cardinal International (Boarding) School of Pharping came second and third respectively. The winners were awarded by DNPWC during a ceremony organized at NTB on 2nd Feb. 2006, World Wetlands Day.

Bird Watching

Bird Watching was organized by Bird Conservation Nepal (www.birdlifene.org).

Bird watching program was organized in order to give an opportunity to the participants to become familiar with the birds in and around Taudaha pond. The professional bird watching experts accompanied the participants.



Exhibitions

Exhibition program was organized by TYC. The photographs, artworks and handicrafts were on display at the exhibition. They were sold so as to raise funds for conservation activities at local level.



The Buddha Air P. Ltd., Dwarika's Hotel, Club Himalaya, The Last Resort P. Ltd., Everest Net P. Ltd. and Mountain Tea Trader sponsored door prizes while Gairidhara Khaja Ghar, Nebico P. Ltd. and United Marketing Inc. sponsored logistics and refreshments to the volunteers and participants of the event.

Workshop on Ponds of Kathmandu Valley

The workshop began with a welcome address by Siba Bhakta Rajbhandary, Vice-Chairperson of Friends of the Bagmati and an inaugural speech of 12 years old Dipesh Nepal from Taudaha Area. Bhairab Risal, senior journalist at the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) delivered keynote speech while local conservation activists Purushotam Budhathoki and Binod Khadka from Taudaha and Nagdaha area respectively shared the success stories regarding conservation of these important ponds of Kathmandu Valley. Risal stressed on the need for more focused attention of the Government for the conservation of these ponds and the need to carry development activities inline with proper management of ponds.

Neera Shrestha Pradhan from WWF Nepal Program and Jhamak B. Karki from DNPWC facilitated the overall organization and management of the workshop while Mela Aryal and Shristee Thapaliya from Friends of the Bagmati were the masters of ceremony of the inaugural function. The workshop was divided into two parallel sessions. Friends of the Bagmati coordinated the first session while the second parallel session was coordinated by Wildlife Conservation Nepal.



Session A

Title: Status & Values

Moderator: Bhushan Tuladhar, Executive Director, Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO)

Repertoire: Parveen K. Chhetri, Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University

Paper Presenters:

1. Dr. Bishnu Bhandari, President, Forum for Ecosystem Management made a presentation on 'Wetlands: The Ponds of Kathmandu Valley'
2. Subash Nirola, Director, Nepal Tourism Board made a presentation on 'Tourism Values of Ponds (*Pokharis*) of Kathmandu Valley'
3. Ishana Thapa, Program Officer, Bird Conservation Nepal made a presentation on 'Wetland Avifauna of Ponds of Kathmandu Valley'.

Stating that nature and culture are blended and complementary to each other, Dr. Bhandari focused on active, well-informed and responsible participation of relevant stakeholders for a successful conservation activity. Nirola during his presentation stressed on the role of all stakeholders 'to start with a Pond (*Pokhari*) Management Plan of *Rani Pokhari*, *Kamal Pokhari* and *Nag Pokhari* and continue till we all achieve the final goals in making all existing and potential ponds of Kathmandu Valley a potential tourist attraction.' The participants, for including comprehensive information about avifauna of wetlands of Nepal in general and Taudaha in particular, appreciated the presentation made by Thapa.

Session B

Title: Conservation & Awareness

Moderator: Renchin Yonjan, Social Architect / Executive Board Member, Friends of the Bagmati

Repertoire: Ritu Gurung, Program Coordinator, Wildlife Conservation Nepal

Paper Presenters:

1. Batu Krishna Uprety, Environment Officer, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology on 'Wetlands Conservation and Education,'
2. Bhupendra Basnet, General Secretary, Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists on 'Role of Press and Media in Conservation of Ponds of Kathmandu Valley'
3. Prakash Amatya, Executive Director, NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation on 'Rain Water Harvesting in Urban Areas- a viable option for meeting basic needs and recharging long forgotten ponds'.

Uprety stressed on the need to focus on education if we want conservation to last for centuries. Presenting in the same session Amatya said 'Even Melamchi may not be the answer to our water shortage problem, we need to look for cost effective alternatives – and that can be Rain Water Harvesting'. While Basnet highlighting the role of press and media in conservation of ponds called upon all press and media people to take their responsibility in this regard.

Around 200 people from colleges, government and non-governmental organizations' representatives, tourism entrepreneurs, wetland experts, ornithologists, media/press participated in the Workshop.

The Roots and Shoots Nepal and Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) were also the co-organizers of all the events during Wetlands Day celebration. Their support during the program through volunteer mobilization was crucial.

On the same day prior to this workshop, IUCN Nepal, DNPWC and WWF Nepal organized a national program to commemorate the World Wetlands Day. During the program, Chief Guest and Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation Dr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya launched wetlands poster and a book titled An Inventory and Assessment of Invasive Alien Plant Species of Nepal (IUCN Nepal) and Fact Sheet of High Altitude Wetlands of Nepal (WWF Nepal).



Presentations: Workshop on Ponds of Kathmandu Valley

“We should focus on active, well-informed and responsible participation of relevant stakeholders for a successful conservation activity.”

Wetlands: The Ponds of Kathmandu Valley

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Background

Wetlands are the common features of any landscape we live in. Rivers, lakes, paddies marshes and swamps are common features of our landscape. The collectivity of these features is known by the name of wetland. Since these features imply diversity in terms of distribution, types, functions and uses, the term wetland is generally used in the plural form. They are ubiquitous and provide numerous benefits and services to society and the surrounding.

In the paper, an attempt is made to present a brief introduction of wetlands and benefits they provide to our society with a short example of Nagadaha, a natural pond of the Kathmandu Valley and a few suggestions for their wise use.

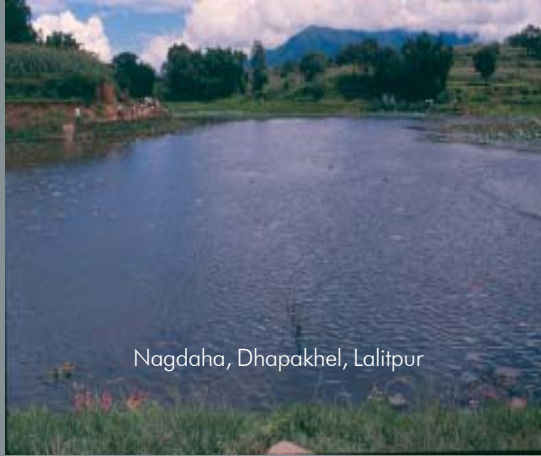
Our society has always looked at waterlogged lands with contempt because their high humidity and filthy environment are congenial for disease-causing pathogens, poisonous snakes, mosquitoes and thus a center of diseases and harmful insects. This is the reason why people, as soon as wetlands are spotted, drain them out, fill them with materials or convert immediately into dumping grounds. In some cases, they are replaced with buildings, factories, agricultural fields or fishponds. Therefore, wetlands were, in the past, called wastelands implying useless good-for-nothing land.

However over the years, due to hard work of scientists it is today known that wetlands provide multiple functions and services to ecosystems. They are critically important for the survival of living beings on the earth. Our knowledge, experiences and scientific investigations can be synthesized into characterizing wetlands as “the cradle of biological resources”, “the source of livelihood for people”, “laboratory for research and education”, “the source, sink and transporter of nutrients” and “highly fertile place for biomass production”. Each wetland is composed of soil, water, plants, animals and nutrients. The dynamic interaction and processes among and within these elements allow the wetland to perform certain functions (flood control, water recharge, recreation, etc.), generate products (wildlife, fisheries, fodders, forest resources, etc.) and provide ecosystem scale attributes (cultural heritage, biological diversity, etc.). The combination of these functions, products and ecosystem attributes make wetlands important to society. Wetlands also serve as the rest place for migratory birds and the source of water for wildlife and human beings.

Wetlands have also played important role in our culture with activities like Holy bathing, performance of rites and rituals, spiritual center for those who have renounced family and physical world, and origin-point of folklore, literature and art, center of biological resources (Amatya, 2006 and Bhandari, 2006).



Beeshazari Taal



Nagadaha, Dhapakhel, Lalitpur

NEXT STEPS

Prepare an inventory of ponds of the Valley along with their mapping

Conduct an inter-disciplinary study of a site so as to enable us to look at them holistically

Set up a network of agencies, organizations and individuals engaged in their management

Mount a demonstration site for their wise use for raising public awareness

Due to paucity of data and information, it is difficult to provide the exact distribution of wetlands in Nepal. 163 wetland sites till date have been identified in Terai region and 2,323 glacial lakes from the High Himalaya region. At the moment, there is a dearth of information on wetlands from the High Mountain and the Mahabharat region. Some experts have estimated about 500 man-made ponds, of which 100 are believed to be in the Kathmandu Valley, 150 in the Janakpur area and the rest being distributed all over country (Shrestha, 2006). These ponds are historically important and were constructed for religious as well as secular reasons. Some of these wetlands are in the process of disappearance while others are vulnerable to various threats such as human encroachment, over-exploitation of resources, draining out of water, socio-cultural pollution and vegetation succession.

Case: The current status of Nagadaha

The Nagadaha, a natural pond situated at the heart of Dhapakhel VDC covers about an area of 5 hectares. According to Joshi *et al.* (2001) its altitude is 1340 masl with the coordinates of 27° 37' 53" South and 85° 20' 17" North.

The permanent inflow and outflow is the central attraction of the pond for some animals including birds. Frog (*Rana tigrina*), fishes like buduna (*Garra armandalei*), singhee (*Heterophurtes fossilis*), carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), birds like panihans (*Anas falcota*, *A. penelope*, *A. nyroca*), neel tauke (*Anas platyrhynchos*), simkukhura (*Amaurornis fuscus*, *Fulica atra*, *Gallinula chloropus*), jureli (*Pycnonotus cafer*) and rangeen chaha (*Rostratula benghalensis*), and flora like singara (*Trapa bispinosa*, *T. quadrispinosa*), bhirangi jhar (*Alternanthera sessilis*), Lily (*Nymphoides sp.*), lotus (*Nelumba nucifera*), and so forth have been recorded from the pond. Because of its location at the heart of the human settlement, rampant human encroachment, silt deposition, unregulated sewage disposal, uncontrolled weed growth, eutrophication of the ponds, agro-chemicals and pesticides have affected the environment of the pond, its water and its surrounding. The water of the pond is used for

fish farming, washing clothes, bathing, and even wallowing of buffaloes. The last three activities are the main source of pollution of the pond.

Every August on the occasion of Naga Panchami, local people come together to clean the pond, especially by removing water hyacinth and other weeds from the bed and then white-washing temples and their premises. This annual clean-up activity help check sediment deposition due to the accumulation of decaying plants in the pond. However, ecologically endangered species such as wild rice (*Oryzxa sp.*) and lotus (*Nelumba nucifera*) are also removed while weeding the pond. It is suggested that the patch of water hyacinth should be protected at the point source of pollution so that it would absorb pollution and other solid matters before they enter into the pond (Joshi et al, 2001).

A local youth committee with the help of IUCN-Nepal carries out environmental awareness and training program for local youth. The community people feel that the most urgent matter in the conservation of pond is the delineation of the boundary of the pond and establishment of a revolving trust for the management of the pond.

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Tourism Values of Ponds (*Pokharis*) of Kathmandu Valley

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Background

As we all know water and water related activities are an integral part of tourism. To retain and maintain water resources, its preservation and retention is necessary. Although there are many modern means and ways to retain or store water, but the most reliable and natural way of its retention has been through ponds. This conventional and natural means of water storage facilities happens to cost effective and manageable. In the South Asia region and Nepal in general and Kathmandu Valley in particular has been the manifestation of having ponds and water spouts. Nepal is not new to ponds only but also for its magnificent lakes viz. *Rara, Fewa, Begnas, Gosainkunda* et. al.

Ponds (*Pokharis*) in Kathmandu Valley

There are quite a few ponds or pokharis inside Kathmandu valley, which hold very important significance in their formation. *Nagpokhari, Kamalpokhari, Ranipokhari, Gahanapokhari, Siddhapokhari, Taudaha, Nagdaha* etc. to name a few. These ponds are not simply treated as water reservoirs but they are of great religious and cultural values. With exception to *Kamalpokhari*, other ponds are still regarded as a place to visit at least once a year. For example – *Nagpokhari, Nagdaha* and *Taudaha* – during *Nag Panchami, Rani Pokhari* during *Bhaai Tikaa, Gahanapokhari* during *Chaitra Purnima*.

But all these ponds are very rapidly losing their strengths to hold sufficient water to remain as ponds throughout the year. Some efforts are being taken in case of *Kamalpokhari* by some activists and the civil society, but we must wait till the final result is visible when lotuses (*Kamal*) will bloom in its water.

“Kathmandu Valley should first start with a Pond (*Pokhari*) Management Plan of *Rani Pokhari, Kamal Pokhari* and *Nag Pokhari* and continue till we all achieve the final goals in making all existing and potential ponds (*pokharis*) of Kathmandu Valley a potential tourist attraction.”



Rani Pokhari, Kathmandu



Bird watching at Taudaha

NEXT STEPS

Kathmandu Valley should first start with a Pond (*Pokhari*) Management Plan of *Rani Pokhari*, *Kamal Pokhari* and *Nag Pokhari* and continue till we all achieve the final goals in making all existing and potential ponds (*pokharis*) of Kathmandu Valley a potential tourist attraction

Case: Tourism Value of Ponds (*Pokharis*) of Kathmandu Valley

As mentioned earlier, ponds (*pokharis*) are the source of reserve water where water related sports can take place. We all have seen the pond inside the *Jawalakhel Zoo*, *Nagpokhari* and *Ranipokhari* have been successful in attracting thousands of men, women and children to enjoy the boating during festivals and events organized in these ponds. Ever since its inception, NTB has recognized the intrinsic tourism value of these and has duly been promoting such events.

To our understanding, these ponds (*pokharis*), when supplemented with minimal infrastructures and sustainable promotional initiatives through tourism, could be a very happening cradle of activities viz. boating, rafting, night water cruises etc.

Sustainable development of these water bodies for such activities would have manifold economic and environmental ramifications. Diversity in existing stockpile of recreational activities for both domestic and international tourists, a greater degree of awareness amongst the locals and visitors alike, requisite funds for addressing the ecological concerns, and beautification of the periphery are a few examples to mention. It is highly appropriate that in the days ahead, all the stakeholders like NTB, local government bodies, CBOs, local clubs, entrepreneurs, I/NGOs, tourism associations join hands in unison to sustainably explore the multiple benefits these ponds promise, and at the same time collectively address the existing environment concerns and those likely to occur. For, Water is Life, and life's meant to be preserved and enhanced!

MORE INFORMATION

Eco-tourism Strategy of Nepal

Sustainable Tourism Network - Nepal Booklet

Tourism Marketing Strategy of Nepal

www.welcomenepal.com/stn

www.welcomenepal.com

www.ramsar.org/info/values_recreation_e.htm

Wetland Avifauna of Ponds of Kathmandu Valley

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Background

Birds are good symbol of wetland conservation. They are significant component in designating Ramsar status to a site, colourful and comparatively well studied of all the vertebrates. Also they are the most accepted and familiar wildlife form. The large percentages of 64% of wetland birds at risk (29 species) are considered critically threatened and endangered. Pink-headed duck and Imperial or White-bellied heron are the resident wetland birds that have become extinct from Nepal since last century.

A total of 862 bird species has been recorded in Nepal so far. This form 8.8% of the world's known birds (9750 approx.). Among the 862 bird species 195 are wetland birds of which terai wetlands support 187 species. Koshi Tappu and Barrage have the records of 182 species. This shows that lowland wetlands are especially important for water birds.

Kathmandu Valley is also an important site for Wetland Birds. According to ancient history the entire valley was a lake. Kathmandu Valley in the past has been important migration stop over point for birds. Among 416 bird species recorded from Kathmandu Valley 90 are wetland bird species. Due to protected status as well as community management there has been a significant rise of forest birds in the surrounding areas whereas there is sharp decline of wetland birds. There is no sighting of almost 40% of the wetland bird species formerly recorded.

“Most ponds in the valley are a little small or disturbed to support birdlife. Taudaha is the only remaining natural lake in the valley that still supports significant wetland birds.”



Rudy Shelduck



Taudaha, Kathmandu

NEXT STEPS

Effective education and awareness programs and programs that generate economic incentives with sustainable use of wetland resources are urgently needed

Complete ban on fishing and hunting in wetlands that are of international or national significance

Enforcement of stricter rules, regulation and minimize disturbances

Long-term plan for monitoring key bird and wildlife population for their conservation and management

Develop local stewardship

Case: Bird Life Values of Ponds of Kathmandu

There is significant number of small and big ponds in Kathmandu Valley. Bagmati River, Manahora River and Taudaha pond have been the important wetland sites for the birds from the past. Most ponds in the valley are a little small or disturbed to support birdlife. Taudaha is the only remaining natural lake in the valley that still supports significant wetland birds.

Taudaha pond is the most well studied pond for birdlife in Kathmandu Valley. A total of 120 species of birds recorded from 28 different families have been recorded so far. Most of them are winter migrants and almost 48 species are wetland dependent. Of the total bird species 6% are vagrants, passage migrants and irregular visitor, 15% resident, 62% winter visitor and 17% summer visitor. The 2005 Annual Midwinter Waterbird Count conducted by BCN in coordination with Wetlands International showed disappearance of about 10 species as well as sharp drop in waterbird numbers over the past 10 years.

Oriental Darter *Phalacrocorax carbo* (VU), Falcated Duck *Anas falcata* (VU) and Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* (VU) are the nationally threatened species recorded from Taudaha. Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*, a globally threatened species was recorded here in 2005. There are only 3 former records one from Kaligandaki 1984 and two from Koshi in 1987 & 1989. Taudaha still is a good site for bird watching holding significant number of beautiful winter migrants like Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, Common Teal *Anas crecca*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Garganey *Anas querquedula* etc.

Wetlands in Kathmandu Valley which are unprotected are at more risk: from drainage, diversion, obstruction, siltation, encroachment, infrastructure development, land use changes, pollution and disturbance resulting in a marked reduction in bird numbers and species.

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www.birdlifeneal.org



Wetlands Conservation and Education

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Background

Wetlands are the areas with water that might be natural or artificial, permanent or temporary and static or flowing. Nepal has different types of wetlands ranging from marshy lands to permanent flowing rivers, lowland oxbow lakes to high altitude glacier lakes, ponds and reservoirs. In Nepal, about 0.743 million ha is estimated to be under different categories of wetlands. Of this 53 percent is occupied by the rivers, and 43.6 percent by the paddy fields (MFSC, 2002). Wetlands are rich in flora and fauna and they are considered as the most productive ecosystems. Wetlands have ecological, economic, cultural and recreational values. They are also habitats of wild relatives of cultivated crops, endangered flora and fauna including rare birds.

While extensively used for crop production, fishing, drinking and irrigation water, grazing, religious use and hydroelectricity generation, wetlands are under great pressure naturally due to ecological succession, and from human-induced activities like (i) draining of irrigation, reclamation and fishing; (ii) filling-in for solid waste disposal, road construction and industrial development; (iii) conversion of sites for aquaculture; (iv) construction of dams, barrages and other barriers for controlling water flow; (v) groundwater extraction using high-powered pumps, and digging ditches; (vi) discharge of sediments and pollutants; (vii) grazing; and (viii) soil removal. In some areas, they are converted to terrestrial ecosystems and its economic and ecological functions have changed over the period due low level of understanding of its value and importance.

The Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (2002) has considered wetland as one of the priority areas for biodiversity conservation. The Strategy outlines encroachment, and unsustainable practices as major threats to Nepal's wetlands. In order to minimize the impacts from these threats, the Strategy emphasizes to, *inter alia*, raise awareness about wetland conservation in particular, and increase conservation awareness for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in general.

Similarly, 2nd February has been also designated as the World Wetlands Day - the day of adoption of the Ramsar Convention - to

“Cultivate rice for a year, plant trees for a decade and educate people for centuries.”



NEXT STEPS

Realizing the emerging threats, status and values of wetlands, the following approaches could be further strengthened to synergize the impacts of public awareness activities for the conservation of wetlands and its wise use. The current activities on education and conservation of wetlands would be the building blocks.

Enhancing partnership for the conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources

Encouraging NGOs and students to be at the forefront of study and research on wetlands

Promoting network as one of the mechanisms for information sharing and providing inputs for "informed" decision-making

Case: Education as a Prime Mover for Conservation of Wetlands

The Ramsar Convention urges the Contracting Parties to formulate and implement the plan for the conservation of the wetlands. The Convention further urges the Parties to promote education in general, and training of personnel competent in the fields of wetland research, management and wardening in particular (Article 4). The Conference of the Party (COP) of the Convention has also made several decisions to promote education and develop human resources for the conservation and management of wetlands so that human beings could best utilize its ecological and economic benefits. Furthermore the Strategic Plan of the Convention focuses on creating public awareness and bringing the stakeholders in the mainstream of conservation, management and wise-use of migratory stocks of waterfowls and its habitats. The Plan further emphasizes to identify, predict and evaluate the impacts of development projects on wetlands through the proper use of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

No doubt, people are both the beneficiaries and victims of wetland management and its destruction and they are heavily dependent on wetland resources. For this, education and awareness provide a basis to, *inter alia*, realize the values of wetland resources. Education is a

prime mover for conservation and sustainable use of any resource and hence, people should be educated in such a way that they could know the value of resources surrounding them. The following proverb helps to realize the importance of education and understand the nature of the plan the country has. In any case, education will have pivotal role for the ultimate success of conservation efforts.

Cultivate rice for a year, plant trees for a decade and educate people for centuries.

In order to create further awareness about the importance of wetland conservation and its wise use, Nepal has initiated a number of programs in the Ramsar Sites and other potential wetlands. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have made efforts to create awareness and enhance the level of understanding on wetlands. However, educations through formal and non-formal mediums need to reach to youth of the country and the local people - the resource managers and users.

MORE INFORMATION

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The Urban Sprawl of Kathmandu

Role of Press and Media in Conservation of Ponds of Kathmandu Valley

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Background

Ponds have always been an integral part in our lives, but these ponds have been given less priority and coverage in the past and the importance of ponds has been ignored.

But over the years, this has changed and organizations have evolved as catalysts to work on preservation of ponds as a part of environment conservation. After 1990 a change in media policy brought liberties to media in Nepal, which emerged as an electrifying agent in generating awareness to the mass. Today there are private companies and non-profit organizations that operate in the field of media so as to reach to a wider as well as specific target audience.

Most of the programs related with conservation are conducted by agenda based organizations as a part of their conservation advocacy. Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) is one such organization that has been working towards raising awareness about conservation and preservation of environment in Nepal through different forms of media. Since its inception in 1986 it has been conducting several programs and trainings along with different organizations to spread awareness about environment through media. These types of programs over the years have raised issues related to ponds, forest, pollution etc.

“The role of press and media in conservation is of paramount importance and so is the responsibility of the press and media.”



Koshi Tappu

NEXT STEPS

Effective education and awareness programs on sustainable use of wetland resources should be given immediate priorities

Media should continue to raise issues so as to draw the attention of policy makers to conserve ponds and protect them from changing to dumping sites or building sites

Government has to make proper plans for urbanization. It should have protection policy on ponds

Media should continue highlighting events like Clean up campaigns, seminars, festivals, recharging rain water, distribution of fliers etc organized to instigate interest among local people towards conservation of ponds

Case: Media Advocacy for Conservation of Ponds in Kathmandu Valley

As the result of the price of land hiking up in Kathmandu Valley due to rapid urbanization, migration and population increase, the ponds of the valley today are facing the brunt of all these problems. Ponds are being encroached by all sectors of society including Government Organizations. Most of them are interested in these ponds as they obtain the land free of cost (e.g. LamPokhari, Chabahil) to build offices. In the absence of strong polices, such activities have adverse effects on the ponds of the valley and are also extremely difficult to control.

However it is important that media and concerned organizations raise and address such issues in order to promote and conserve the ponds. The media has been successful to some extent in initiating actions to protect valuable ponds. For example, at the time when the Zonal Administration Building in the adjoining area of Rani Pokhari - pond situated in the heart of Kathmandu city - was demolished, the government made plans to erect a new building and expand the existing police station in vacant place. NEFEJ with support from other organizations demanded that this open space be left alone so as to prevent the pond from human encroachment. Through magazines, TV and radio programs they raised this issue in an effort to bring positive changes. Demonstrations

and rallies were conducted and highlighted by the media, as a result of which the police station agreed to build the station by taking every measure not to affect Rani Pokhari and also not obstruct its view.

Similarly due to the intervention of media and programs of NEFEJ the next important pond of Kathmandu, Kamal Pokhari today is in the process of being resurrected. The police station built more than twenty-five years on the pond area will be shifted somewhere else in two years time. With the media support the local initiative group today has been able to start the reviving process of Kamal Pokhari.

Nag Pokhari, Gahana Pokhari, Namuna Machindra Bahal, are few other ponds where media has been involved in their conservation and protection from encroachment. Lack of proper policies in place however makes these ponds vulnerable to encroachment. In spite of this, with time there have been a positive change in views amongst people on ponds and their importance in our lives. People have realized that ponds are not only important for their cultural value but they can even promote tourism, have economic gains through fishery and also provide recreation.

MORE INFORMATION

NEFEJ Programs (www.nefej.org.np)

Aankhijhyal Video Programme

Every Monday at 7:30 pm in Kantipur Television and every Tuesday at 7 pm in Channel Nepal

Radio Sagarmatha (www.rudiosagarmatha.org)

Haka-Haki Monthly Magazine

Community Radio Support Center,

SUS Watch Programme

Footprint: Every Tuesday 7:30 AM @ Times FM 90.6 MHz

We Are The World (Hamro Sansar Hamro Hatma): Every Thursday 5 PM @ Hits FM 91.2 MHz

Rain Water Harvesting in Urban Areas - a viable option for meeting basic needs and recharging long forgotten ponds

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Background

Like many developing nations Nepal is suffering from water shortage crisis. In the context of Nepal, the five river basins (all important tributaries of the River Ganges) contribute 71 percent of the annual flow during the dry season and 40 percent in the monsoon which sees 80 percent of the total rainfall. In spite of the fact that Nepal is with the highest level of water resources in Asia, both quality and quantity of water available today is inadequate to cater to the increasing demand of growing population. We have come to depend heavily on secondary sources of water like rivers, lakes, ponds and groundwater which are actually fed by the rainwater to meet our daily water demands whereas the rainwater, the primary source of water on earth, is greatly neglected. Traditionally the people of the valley mitigated their water problems by making ponds and storing rainwater in them which would also recharge the groundwater and finally feed to the stone spouts and wells. However, over extraction of groundwater has led to depletion of water table beyond its recharging capacity in many areas leading to water quality degradation, land subsidence receding of river beds and drying up of ponds. In addition, with rapid urbanization and industrialization especially in the urban areas of developing countries, rivers have become sewers, unfit for downstream consumers. Thus numerous environmental and ecological calamities have been caused due to overexploitation of ponds and groundwater and damming of rivers. In most part of the Terai region where the major and possibly the only source of water is groundwater, the dreaded problem of arsenic has added to the grievances of the poor.

“Even Melamchi may not be the answer to our water shortage problem, we need to look for cost effective alternatives - and that can be rain water harvesting.”

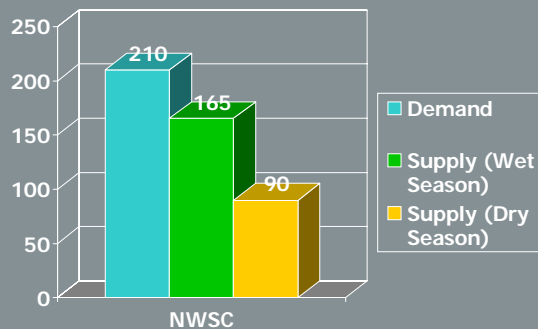
Case: Rain water Harvesting- an effective long-term alternative to water crisis in Kathmandu Valley

With a population of 1.6 million of Kathmandu Valley, the demand is more than the supply of water in the urban Kathmandu Valley. The Nepal Water Supply Corporation (NWSC) is connected to only approx. 140,000 out of 240,000 households. Let's take 140,000 tap connections in the valley, as Nepal Water Supply Corporation says it produces 90 MLD water in the driest day of April and with 40 percentage leakages it should yield 54 MLD. With this amount of water if distributed equally into each tap, every connection should receive 385 lts a day. But are we really getting it? Of course not! Thus

the question is - Is there a real shortage of water in the valley or it is only a mismanagement?

For the long time Kathmandu Valley is facing acute crisis of water supply where as on the other hand the traditional stone spouts, wells, ponds and springs have been greatly neglected and even the ground water mining has not been regulated which has affected in chemical contamination of ground sources with the presence of nitrate, iron and traces of arsenic. At this time of crisis, rainwater harvesting is slowly becoming popular among the Nepalese.

Water Demand Vs Supply in Kathmandu



NWSC connected to 110,000 households out of 240,000

Kathmandu Valley population-1.6 million

NEXT STEPS

Aggressive media campaign and promotion for RWH required

Trainings to plumbers, technicians, professionals on RWH system installations for potable use

Education and awareness to consumers, housewives, teachers, children and others needed

Research on ground water recharge and its effects to groundwater table needed

Establish database of RWH users

Establish RWH resource center and Counseling desk at municipalities

Networking, Collaboration and Partnership need to be strengthened to promote RWH

The potential to harvest rainwater is very promising in Nepal which sees an average rainfall of about 1500 mm. Nepal receives the total annual precipitation of 869 million m³/yr. Out of this 476 million m³/yr is lost to evapo-transpiration and 358 million m³/yr is drained off by Bagmati River (MPPW-2002). If 25 % of only Kathmandu valley (50.76 square km) starts practicing rainwater harvesting, 44.5 MLD of water can be harvested which can quench the thirst of 600,000 people. In a study conducted on a 90 sq m rooftop at a residence in Dallu from November 2004 - October 2005 it was recorded that total rainfall received per year was 66 days and rainwater harvested was 154 cubic meters.

Looking at this potential and the water scarcity scenario of the country, NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation in partnership with UN-HABITAT, the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction and the Water Aid Nepal initiated a program to build capacity on RWH system and to disseminate, demonstrate and promote this technology in Nepal. The concerned NGOs and INGOs are working towards introducing the concept and technology of Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) to different actors like planners, decision makers, project managers, beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

Experts also say that the valley's geology is capable of shallow ground water recharge through rainwater harvesting and thus ponds that have dried up and long forgotten can be revived again. Despite of which, ground water recharge through rainwater harvesting is possible if proper methods and precautions are taken.

The historic pond Ranipokhari at the heart of the city will be recharged through the rainwater harvested from the rooftop of Tri-Chandra Campus buildings this year under the rainwater harvesting promotion program. Also the pond rehabilitation at Khokana has been initiated by Lumanti with the support of UN Habitat which is one of the success stories of rain water harvesting in terms of conservation of ponds. Urban Environment Management Society has also revived several traditional wells and ponds in Lalitpur sub-metropolitan city area. Similarly, other dried up ponds in the valley can be revived again through rainwater harvesting too.

MORE INFORMATION

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Suggestions from Participants of the Workshop

Individuals representing colleges, university, government and non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, tourism enterprises, research groups (flora, wetlands, ornithology, tourism etc.), media and press participated in the Workshop and had lively interaction on the presentations made during two parallel sessions. The suggestions made by the participants in order to better manage and conserve our ponds have been presented below:

Session A: Status and Values

- o Awareness through youth programs should be launched for effective management of the ponds
- o Research and monitoring on various aspects of ponds (biodiversity, status, area etc.) needed
- o Replicate good practices
- o Control river pollution through modern as well as indigenous technologies
- o Link eco-tourism with conservation of ponds and benefit sharing with local communities for the sustainability of the projects
- o Define ownership of ponds
- o Plant bamboo trees on the banks of water bodies (wetlands and rivers) to improve water quality
- o Promote cultural and religious values for the conservation of ponds
- o Siltation is the main problem of wetland extinction and it can be controlled by proper management of the watershed
- o Water pollution is increasing in different Ponds and Bagmati River and it can be controlled by public awareness
- o Ponds should be managed at local level
- o Ponds should be managed by applying natural techniques
- o In order to promote Taudaha as an important tourist destination mainly for bird watching the foul smell along the way to Taudaha at Bagmati River should be controlled
- o In order to conserve wetlands and environment engineering education and cement construction works should be stopped or discouraged

Session B: Conservation and Awareness

- o NGOs that work in wetland conservation must include work with schools in their agendas
- o The schools themselves should also have more practical and field visits to important local wetlands so that conservation values are installed in them
- o Different methods can be used in teaching such as documentaries and short films, games, animated presentations, quizzes, experiments that can add more fun to learning as well. Therefore, teachers in formal and non-formal education should be given proper trainings by concerned agencies and NGOs
- o Ponds can also be revived in our localities by rain water harvesting, provided a study is conducted and proper measures are taken

Appendix

Participants - Workshop on Ponds of Kathmandu Valley

2 February 2006, Nepal Tourism Board

SN	Name	Organization	SN	Name	Organization
1	C. B. Gurung	Youth in Environment	20	Prashant Khanal	VSNC
2	Deepti Khakurel	YATRA	21	Ashok K.	Voice of Nepal
3	Niraj Khanal	YATRA	22	Sunil Dhungana	Voice International
4	Sophia Tamot	WWF Nepal Program	23	Milan Budhathoki	Viswa Niketan College
5	Anee Tamang	WWF Nepal Program	24	Nirmal Mani Dahal	Viswa Niketan College
6	Neera Shrestha Pradhan	WWF Nepal Program	25	Ram Maharjan	Viswa Niketan College
7	Sudha Poudel	Women Environment Protection Committee	26	Avanish Sharma	Viswa Niketan College
8	Yeshoda Silwal	Women Environment Group	27	Dal Bahadur Singtan	Urban Environment Management Society
9	Sharada Rai	Women Environment Group	28	Nabin Maharjan	Urban Environment Management Society
10	Ishwori Shah	Women Environment Group	29	Mina Thapa	Trust Me Nepal
11	Sanjeevani Yonzon	Wildlife Conservation Nepal	30	Amrit Poudel	Tri-Chandra College
12	Ritu Gurung	Wildlife Conservation Nepal	31	Arun P. Bhattarai	Tri-Chandra College
13	Apsana Giri	Wildlife Conservation Nepal	32	Tijen Maharjan	Tri-Chandra College
14	Brinda Dewan	Wildlife Conservation Nepal	33	Bibek Neupane	Tri-Chandra College
15	Buddhi R. Dangol	Wildlife Conservation Nepal	34	Bishwas Pokhrel	Tri-Chandra College
16	Amala Tuladhar	Wildlife Conservation Nepal	35	Ashok Raj Wagle	Tri-Chandra College
17	Kamala Dhangol	WE Nepal	36	Sandesh Paudyal	Tri-Chandra College
18	Jagadish Parajuli	WAFED	37	T. N. Bhattarai	Tribhuvan University
19	Pradeep Shrestha	VSNC			

contd...

SN	Name	Organization
38	Tribikram Poudel	Tourism Reporter
39	Tara Karki	Tourism Activities
40	Mahesh Jung Kunwor	Today's Voice
41	Razen Manandhar	The Himalayan Times
42	Ram Pd. Sharma	The Himalayan Times
43	Bhawana Niraula	The Himalayan Times
44	Saroj Karki	The Explore Nepal Group
45	Ashok Kumar Nepal	Taudaha Youth Club
46	Purushotam Budhathoki	Taudaha Youth Club
47	Prabin Raj Karki	Taudaha Youth Club
48	Bikram Maharjan	Taudaha Youth Club
49	Surendra Basnet	Taudaha Youth Club
50	Rajan R. Subedi	SWS Nepal
51	Prabha Gautam	SWS Nepal
52	Supriya Maharjan	Subhakamana Academy
53	Bal Ram Maharjan	Society for Urban Poor (SOUP)
54	Vimal Thapa	SMA
55	Dipesh Nepal	Shubhakamana Academy
56	Rukmani Gurung	Shanker Dev Campus
57	Vinod Sharma	SEAM-N
58	Dipesh Rupakheti	SchEMS, Pokhara University
59	Bikalpa Gautam	SchEMS, Pokhara University
60	Kumar Pd. Aryal	SchEMS, Pokhara University
61	Mani Krishna Shrestha	Sanatan Dharma Samiti
62	Ninesh Regmi	Samacharpatra
63	Manoj Gautam	Roots and Shoots Nepal
64	Bikash Lohani	Rastriya Samachar Samiti
65	Bikash Tripathi	Rangers Association of Nepal
66	Rishi Acharya	Radio Sagarmatha 102.4 FM
67	Krishna Tamrakar	Radio Nepal
68	Jewan P. Humagai	Radio Nepal
69	Sabitri K.C.	Radio Nepal
70	Rita Timilsina	Radio Nepal
71	Bhim Pd. Poudel	Pyuthan Samachar Patra
72	Krishna	Paryatan
73	Rashmi Kiran Shrestha	NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation
74	Prakash Amatya	NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation
75	Shree Dhar Prajapati	NFA
76	Subash Nirola	Nepal Tourism Board
77	Namrata Shrestha	Nepal Tourism Board
78	L.B. Baniya	Nepal Tourism Board
79	Devendra	Nepal Television
80	Bhimsen Sapkota	Nepal Television
81	Achyut Dahal	Nepal River Conservation Trust
82	Megh Ale	Nepal River Conservation Trust
83	Bishwa Mainali	Nepal Heritage Society
84	Bhairab Risal	Nepal Forum For Environmental Journalist
85	Bhupendra Basnet	Nepal Forum For Environmental Journalist
86	Prabhathi Karki	Nepal FM 91.8
87	Laxmi P. Devkota	Nepal Development Research Institute
88	Ranjan Rajbhandari	Nepal Cycling Club
89	Rajan Pokhrel	Nepal Cycling Club
90	Bishnu Subedi	Nature Trail Trekking
91	Karan B. Shah	Natural Historical Museum
92	-	National News
93	Shreedhar Subedi	National Media
94	Binod Khadka	Nagdaha Bhajan Mandali
95	Pushpa Ratna Shakya	MEST, HMG-N
96	Batu K. Uprety	MEST, HMG-N
97	Umesh Bohara	Mode
98	Sunil P. Dhoubhadel	Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives
99	Shankar	Media
100	Rajiv	L.C. Nepal
101	Sarita Jhawali	KMTNC - Central Zoo
102	Deepak K. Singh	KMTNC
103	Sudeep Devkota	KITS College
104	Nabin Raja Bhudhathoki	KITS College
105	S. R. Maharjan	Khwopa College
106	Saruna Kunwar	Khwopa College
107	Raju Jati	Khwopa College
108	S. R. Maharjan	Khwopa College
109	Anju Shrestha	Khwopa College
110	Subina Manandhar	Khwopa College
111	Neel Kamal Koju	Khwopa College
112	Prativa Kaspal	Khwopa College
113	Yogita Hada	Khwopa College
114	Anjana Shakya	Kathmandu University
115	Rupendra Maharjan	Kathmandu 2020
116	Sanjay Basnet	KATH

SN	Name	Organization
117	Rajneesh Bhandari	Kantipur Television
118	Keshab R. Bista	Kantipur Television
119	Bhushita Bhattarai	Kantipur Publications
120	Sameer Singh	Kantipur FM
121	Deependra Joshi	IUCN Nepal
122	Binaya Pasakhala	Institute of Engineering, TU
123	Mahesh Bhattarai	Institute of Engineering, TU
124	N/A	Image Channel TV/FM
125	Hari Barakoti	IEDS
126	Dil Bahadur Shahi	Human Right
127	Netra Lal Hamal	HRMC-N
128	Kailash Thapa	H.B.C. FM
129	Dr. Bhusan Shrestha	Green Energy Mission
130	Saroj	Gorkhapatra
131	Shristee Thapaliya	Friends of the Bagmati
132	Mela Aryal	Friends of the Bagmati
133	Bijay Pun	Friends of the Bagmati
134	Atul Man Joshi	Friends of the Bagmati
135	Sujita Shrestha	Friends of the Bagmati
136	Rabin Bastola	Friends of the Bagmati
137	Renchin Yonjan	Friends of the Bagmati
138	Siba B. Rajbhandary	Friends of the Bagmati
139	Bishnu B. Bhandari	Forum for Ecosystem Management
140	Ganesh Khaniya	FMIS Promotion Trust
141	Birendra B. Rawal	Environmentalists' Association of Nepal
142	Indra Man Singh Sowl	Environment Department, KMC office
143	Bhushan Tuladhar	Environment and Public Health Organization
144	Nabin Aryal	ECCA
145	Rekha Basnet	ECCA
146	Yogendra Chitrakar	ECCA
147	Bijaya Pradhan	Dream Nepal P. Ltd.
148	Anjana Shah	DNPWC, HMG
149	Jhamak B. Karki	DNPWC, HMG
150	Reema Lakhe	Creation for Environment
151	Neelam Sharma	College of Applied Sciences
152	Madhav Giri	College of Applied Sciences
153	Bimal Sapkota	College of Applied Sciences
154	Janjee Kharel	College of applied Sciences
155	Salina Shrestha	College of Applied Sciences
156	Nahid Muniza	College of Applied Sciences
157	Rachana Chand	College of Applied Sciences
158	Pooja Jha	College of Applied Sciences
159	Sanam Kumar	College of Applied Sciences
160	Neha Shrestha	College of Applied Bussiness
161	Purushottam Nepal	College of Applied Bussiness
162	Arjun Luitel	College of Applied Bussiness
163	Suman Bahadur Ale	College of Applied Bussiness
164	Sujesh Shrestha	College of Applied Bussiness
165	Prakash Timilsina	College of Applied Sciences
166	Pankaj K.C.	Clean Energy Nepal
167	Theo & Rita	Chobhar Village Resort
168	Bhesh Raj Belbase	Chhaphal Weekly
169	Mausam Khanal	CDES, Tribhuvan University
170	Parveen Kumar Chhetri	CDES, Tribhuvan University
171	Shiva Pokharel	CDES, Tribhuvan University
172	Krishna Hari Maharjan	Center for Rural Technology Nepal
173	Dipesh Shrestha	Cardinal Int'l School
174	Rajesh Nagarkoti	Cardinal Int'l School
175	Kishor Nepal	Cardinal Int'l School
176	Madhu Thapa	Butwal Power Company
177	Arjun Adhikari	Business Age
178	Ishana Thapa	Bird Conservation Nepal
179	Sarbendra Pachhai	Bird Conservation Nepal
180	Dev Ghimire	Bird Conservation Nepal
181	Punya P. Poudyal	Bamboo Society
182	Padam Lal Maharjan	Bamboo Society
183	Asha Giri	Annapurna Post
184	Biwas Neupane	Annapurna Post
185	Subodh Adhikari	Amrit Campus, Tribhuvan University
186	Roshani Manandhar	Amrit Campus, Tribhuvan University
187	Ram Chandra	N/A
188	Ramesh Upadhyaya	N/A
189	Bishnu Raj	N/A
190	Ramesh M. Karmacharya	N/A
191	Madhav P. Pathak	N/A
192	Sunil Shakya	N/A
193	Kaji Man Lama	N/A
194	Kiran Adhikari	N/A
195	Nischal Rijal	N/A

Sorry! Few names are missing in this list due to illegibility.

CO-ORGANIZERS



Taudaha Youth Club
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Bird Conservation Nepal
www.birdlifeneपाल.org



Sustainable Tourism Network
www.welcomeneपाल.com/stn



Wildlife Conservation Nepal

Wildlife Conservation Nepal
www.wcn.org.np



Radio Sagarmatha
www.radiosagarmatha.org



Roots & Shoots, Nepal
T: 014477847



Nepal Mountain Bike
www.bikehimalayas.com



Urban Environment Management Society
T: 015551730

SPONSORS



Dwarika's Hotel
www.dwarikas.com



Buddha Air
www.buddhaair.com



Everest Net Pvt. Ltd.
www.enet.com.np



Club Himalaya
www.nepalhotels.com



Nepal Mountain Bike
www.bikehimalayas.com

NEBICO BISCUITS
GAIRIDHARA KHAJA GHAR
MOUNTAIN TEA TRADER
UNITED MARKETING INC.

WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2006 CELEBRATION - ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Sarbendra Pachhai, Bird Conservation Nepal
Sanjeevani Yonzon, Wildlife Conservation Nepal
Rishi Acharya, Radio Sagarmatha 102.4 FM
Ranjan Rajbhandari, Nepal Cycling Club
Rabin Bastola, Friends of the Bagmati
Purushotam Budhathoki, Taudaha Youth Club
Neera Shrestha Pradhan, WWF Nepal Program
Namrata Shrestha, Sustainable Tourism Network-Nepal
Manoj Gautam, Roots and Shoots Nepal
Lila B. Baniya, Sustainable Tourism Development Unit, Nepal Tourism Board
Laxmi P. Manandhar, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
Dal B. Singtan, Urban Environment Management Society

Conserve Ponds of Kathmandu Valley

OUR MISSION

To reverse the degradation of the
Bagmati River

OUR VISION

We would love to see children
and fish swimming together in
the Bagmati

We would love to see pilgrims
taking a holy bath in the
Bagmati without hesitation

We would love to offer the
holy water of the Bagmati to
departed souls without any
doubts

We would love to see all
people respect and cherish
every river

Friends of the Bagmati

Partnership and Commitment

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Website: www.friendsofthebagmati.org.np