

World Wetlands Day Celebration 2006

# 2ND TAUDAHA JAMBOREE

2 February  
World Wetlands Day



In the face of poverty... wetlands are lifelines



# PROGRAMS

## TAUDAHA CLEANING UP PROGRAM

21 January, Saturday: 1000 – 1200 HRS

## 2ND TAUDAHA JAMBOREE

28 January, Saturday: 0800 – 1700 HRS

It is being celebrated for 2 years now. The objective of this celebration is to conserve ponds of Kathmandu Valley through public participation and promote Taudaha Lake as a tourism destination (especially due to Water Fowl Habitat). The following activities are being conducted at the one-day Jamboree:

- Bird watching @ Taudaha
- Cycle Rally
- Taudaha Mela (Exhibition, Presentations, Food Stall)
- On the spot art competition
- Walk in activities (Nature Hike Race, Mithila Art, Green Map-Only For School Students)



**PARTICIPATE AND WIN ATTRACTIVE DOOR PRIZES!**

## WORKSHOP ON PONDS OF KATHMANDU VALLEY

2nd February: 1330 – 1700 HRS @ NTB

# SIGNIFICANCE OF PONDS

The significance of urban water bodies (ponds) as water resources is being better understood in recent days. Increasing population in urban centers has put more stress on water management of city administration. This has necessitated proper management of the ponds for better water quality. Kathmandu valley has more than 40 ponds (natural and artificial) of different sizes. These ponds are used as multiple resources - people use it for bathing, washing, pisciculture, performing religious rites and also use its adjoining area as city parks. The ponds also have a great ecological importance in urban environment - from microclimate control to biodiversity.

FRIENDS OF THE BAGMATI HAS BEEN WORKING TO SPREAD THIS AWARENESS THROUGH DIRECT PARTICIPATION



District-wise Distribution of Wetlands Sites in Kathmandu Valley				
District	Artificial Pond	Natural Pond	Reservoir	Unknown
Bhaktapur	16	1	0	0
Kathmandu	4	1	0	0
Lalitpur	14	1	1	3
TOTAL	37	3	1	3

Source: Joshi, Chaudhary & Shrestha 2001



# NATURAL PONDS OF KATHMANDU VALLEY

## Taudaha

Taudaha is one of the largest ponds in the Bagmati watershed area. It has also contributed to recharge the groundwater of the Bagmati Watershed. It is situated in Ward No.15 of Kirtipur Municipality and covers an area of 4 hectare. It has permanent Inflow and Outflow of water. It is rich in floral and faunal diversity. The major threats to this lake are encroachment, siltation, and pollution from agricultural runoff.

Conservation efforts have been put by various organizations including Taudaha Youth Club, Bird Conservation Nepal, Friends of the Bagmati, Wildlife Conservation Nepal, and GEF/UNDP etc.

*Birds' Habitat:* Taudaha is also one of the notable bird watching sites within Kathmandu Valley. About 20 species of birds migrate every winter to Taudaha making it an internationally important ecological site.

Although Taudaha is a good site for birdwatching, it has not received considerable attention. This could be developed as a good birdwatching center for learning birds. Development work around Taudaha poses some threat and should be allowed only if mitigation measures are proposed.

**Cultural Site:** Nag-Panchmi is a festival of Nag. It is dedicated to the worship of Nag or snake. Pilgrims throng Taudaha (meaning big pond) 6 km to the south-west of Kathmandu during this festival. There they worship Karkotak Nag, the serpent-king. Karkotak moved to this dwelling after Lord Manjushree drained the Kathmandu Valley, which used to be a lake in ages past, by slicing a passage through the hills to make it inhabitable.

### **Nagdaha**

Nagdaha Lake in the south of the Valley is another destination for pilgrims where they offer worship to the serpent-gods. Nagdaha Lake is situated in Ward No.: 8 of Dhapakhel VDC and covers an area of 5 hectare. It has permanent Inflow and Outflow of water. It is also rich in floral and faunal diversity with religious importance and recreational value. The major threats to this lake are encroachment and siltation.



Conservation efforts have been put by various organizations including IUCN, VDC, Wildlife Conservation Nepal and Nagdaha Sudar Samiti etc.

### **Kamal Pokhari**

Kamal Pokhari is situated in Ward No.1 of Madhyapur Thimi (Boddegaon) and covers an area of 2 hectare. The major threats to this lake are encroachment and siltation and the degraded land is used as wasteland.

So far, no organization or agency is involved in conserving this pond that is at risk of extinction.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO CONSERVE THESE IMPORTANT WATER BODIES - PONDS?**

Many of us who live in the urban areas have never given a thought to the ponds in our own localities. Once there were many small and large ponds in Kathmandu valley, no prior attention has been given to conserve them. But people are realizing only now that most of them no longer exist.

Therefore, collaboration is needed to conserve the remaining ponds.

### **As an Individual**

- Know our Ponds
- Join your local conservation group and contribute to conserve ponds
- Practice rainwater harvesting at home/office/school
- Ask questions about ponds

### **As Groups/Communities**

- Develop a strong community movement to protect the water body so that local people will spontaneously organize fund and man power to clean the ponds
- Report the story of protection and renovation of an urban water bodies in press/media several times
- Organize interaction between the community organizations already involved in protection of water bodies, academics and technical professionals involved in studies of water resources and environmentalists
- Conduct regular water quality monitoring
- For water body preservation raise the issue of rainwater harvesting

### **As Policy Makers/Government**

- Remove encroachments and rehabilitate the residents.
- Banks to be strengthened by concrete walls in case of artificial ones
- Provide fund to the community movement to protect the water body and local people will spontaneously organize and provide man power to clean the ponds
- Prepare a manual for preservation of urban water bodies to serve the requirements of community efforts for preservation
- Creating institutions and increasing capabilities by civic authorities to save the urban water bodies



### **Photo Courtesy:**

IUCN Archive, Brinda Dewan, Ranjan Rajbhandari, Bijay Pradhan, Rabindra Adhikari.

## CO-ORGANIZERS



Taudaha Youth Club  
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Bird Conservation Nepal  
[www.birdlifenepal.org](http://www.birdlifenepal.org)



Sustainable Tourism Network  
[www.welcomeneal.com/stn](http://www.welcomeneal.com/stn)



Wildlife Conservation Nepal  
[www.wcn.org.np](http://www.wcn.org.np)



Radio Sagarmatha  
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# Conserve Ponds of Kathmandu Valley

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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