

Cool Ideas for a Cool Planet

CELEBRITIES SAY "LEAD ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY LIVES"



"Its time that we unite to combat global climate change.



We lead environmentally friendly lives...do you??"



This year WCN introduced two very popular youth icons, Suraj Singh Thakuri and Bhumika Thapa Shah as its Goodwill Ambassadors. These celebrities believe in enjoying life but also feel that every individual must be sensitive to what their actions are doing to the environment.

Suraj has a Masters Degree in Environmental Management and also advocates nature conservation through his TV shows. He feels that all environmental problems including Global Climate Change is a product of the collective actions of individuals, and thus can be reversed and fought back, if individuals make personal commitment to leading environmentally friendly lives.

As for Bhumika, she says one does not have to be a scientist to figure out that our environment is degrading. Each one of us is responsible for his or her own actions, and thus one must make a self evaluation about how we are affecting our environment. She says simple things can make a huge difference.

Both lead very public yet environmentally friendly lives to the best of their abilities. They advocate that "Its cool to be environment friendly too!". (continued in page 2).

Nature School on the move...



In an effort to reach schools in the rural areas of the country to promote nature conservation, sustainable livelihood and importance of a healthy environment, Mobile Nature School was launched by WCN in partnership with Danish Forest Extension. The mobile concept is the extension of WCN's ongoing ECAP's (Environment Conservation Awareness Program) module activities and projects. This idea however, was developed to provide access to the hands on environment education to as many children towards as possible. At the same time the Nature School Bus will also be used as a medium to bring students from both urban and rural areas together to interact with each other and share ideas on building a better and healthy environment. This new program, now called Nepal Prakriti Pathshala, will provide environment education materials and manuals, also provide trainings to teachers and students.

The mobile nature school was unveiled by WCN Goodwill Ambassadors Mr. Suraj Singh Thakuri and Ms. Bhumika Thapa Shah in an occasion organized on the eve of World Environment Day 2009. The mobile nature school has been supported by DANIDA Denmark.

CONTACT WCN TO ENROLL YOUR SCHOOL IN NEPAL PRAKRITI PATHSHALA

Nepal Prakriti pathshala celebrates World Environment Day

WCN in an effort to support the global movement to combat climate change organized various programs on June 5, 2009 with the school students and urged the students and communities to share their COOL IDEAS FOR A COOL PLANET. The main agenda was to empower young students to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development and to promote an understanding of the environment among communities. Students from different schools of Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu district participat-

ed in the program. Three competitions (Poster, Collage and Story writing competition) on varied themes were held at three different schools; Brihaspati Vidyasadan, Naxal, Little Angels' School, Hattiban and Shuvatara School, Sanepa. Similarly, various photographs on nature and wildlife and artwork by two elephants (Khemprasad and Sundarkali) were also exhibited in the respective venues. In addition to these activities, WCN in partnership with Go Green organised a party "COOL PLANET" in Kathmandu targeted towards spreading awareness among the youth of Kathmandu about Climate Change.



Elephants Can paint!

Ariane Le Clerq is a young American girl who grew up in Nepal with her parents.

An animal lover herself, Ariane's childhood trips to Chitwan made her fascination for wild animals grow stronger. In her senior year at Lincoln School, Kathmandu, like all graduating students she had to pick a project for her academic year. Ariane wanted to do something that made a difference, something



Ariane mixing paints for Sundarkali

that incorporated her love for animals and her passion for arts. Her quest for a project like this stopped when she learned that elephants in Thailand paint! Thus her project to try and see if elephants in Nepal could also paint if given a chance took shape. This took her to Chitwan's Jungle Lodges whose management was also keen to such an idea. After trying with numerous elephants Ariane could clearly see that a 35 year old female elephant Sundarkali and a 5 year old male elephant Khemprasad of Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge and Machan Wildlife Resort respectively definitely had a knack for the paint and brush. With the help of a trainer from Thailand, Ariane spent days on end with her two artists creating history. What resulted from these art sessions was a foray of paintings, with each elephant's distinct style.

On 13 February 2009, Program Manager of WCN, Ms. Sanjeevani Y. Shrestha, inaugurated the art exhibition aptly called "Picasso of the Jungle" at the Indigo Gallery, Kathmandu. The opening of the exhibi-

tion was a huge success as visitors were astounded by the paintings and thus wanted them. Ariane managed to sell several paintings during the exhibition. However, Ariane wanted to do something that made a difference to the elephants in the wild. For years now, elephants in Nepal are living in constant conflict with the humans. Their natural habitat is de-

graded and depleted. When Ariane came to know about WCN's ongoing activities on Elephant Conserva-



Glimpses from the Exhibition

tion, she wanted to support the cause. And thus on her presentation day at her school she handed over a sum of Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand Rupees collected from the sales of the artworks to the Elephant Conservation Project at WCN.

WCN is utilizing the funds in construction and maintenance of elephant water holes, and in providing scholarships to deserving students who are also victims of human elephant conflict in Eastern Nepal.

Elephants for hundreds of years have been used for logging, carrying loads and people, for entertainment, cultural rituals and in ancient and medieval times during battles. These pachyderms have always shown sharp intelligence despite their immense body and physical power. It comes as no surprise to see the affinity of elephants towards art when given a chance like this by Ariane. This shows that a little concern, a little desire and a heart to help and protect our natural heritage can achieve a whole lot.



A Walk for A Cause

On the occasion of World Environment Day this year Wildlife Conservation Nepal, Chitwan in association with the local body of Ratnanagar municipality, organized a rally in the buffer zone and municipality areas on 5 June 2009. Forest user groups, women development groups, local people and around 200 students along with some prominent figures of the district participated in the program. The participants carried different placards on different themes that highlighted on rhino and tiger conservation, and also focused on education awareness.

Consolidating Efforts on Environment Education

A meeting on consolidating efforts in Environment Education was organized at WCN office premises. Representatives from 11 different organizations working in environment education, participated in the meeting to discuss the way forward in bringing about substantial changes in education scenario.



Celebrating Wildlife Week

Wildlife Week is celebrated every year from the 1st to 7th of Baishak with various conservation activities and competitions by the DNPWC (Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation) in collaboration with various organisations. An interschool photography competition was organised which culminated in an exhibition at the Nepal Academy of Fine Arts, Naxal. WCN supported and participated in the event. The exhibition was inaugurated by then honourable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, Mr. Kiran Gurung.



Mentorship and Volunteer Training Program

WCN has been conducting workshops aimed at motivating youth on environment conservation issues. To sensitize youth on conservation issues, this year WCN conducted a two-day volunteer recruitment workshop in Tandi of Chitwan district on 9 - 10 January 2009. The workshop focused on making local people realize the importance and benefits of the natural resources and wildlife lying in their immediate vicinity. Twenty-seven young individuals selected from various education backgrounds, attended the program to become WCN NPP Volunteers.



Similarly, a mentorship program within the premises of WCN was carried out on 10 February 2009. Eighteen young graduates and post graduates from biological science background participated in the workshop. A short presentation on a case study on Fewa Lake of Pokhara was made by Ms. Ritu Gurung. During the program, Mr. Purna Hari Amatya, senior journalist of NEFEJ (Nepal Federation of Environmental Journalists) expressed his opinion on the issues of conservation and shared his experiences about his recent visit to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. Chief Guest of the program, Mr. Laxmi Prasad Manandhar, Conservation Education Officer of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, also spoke on the pressing issues of Wetlands conservation.