

real essence. There are remarkable gaps between bufferzone user group and bufferzone committee. Awareness level of the people needs to be intensified for the successful bufferzone management program.

In order to sort out these problems, we have already recommended government to amend the existing act and to provide more authority and responsibility to the bufferzone committees.

4) Number of one-horned rhinos are plummeting in Nepal. What will be the strategy of the DNPWC to cope up with this problem ?

- Rhino poaching is the serious conservation threat of Nepal. After the emergence of peace process in Nepal, security posts have been gradually reinstated. Fore and foremostly, DNPWC has planned for urgent rhino census with the collaboration of other organizations. Possibly, rhino census will be conducted during March/April of 2008.

Poachers kill rhino, tiger in Bardia

On last week of November, poachers killed two endangered flagship species in and around Bardia National Park (BNP) area of Nepal. A rhino and a tiger was shot dead.

On 26th November, an adult male rhino was found dead with the horn and hooves missing at Patharbhoji area of Suryapatuwa VDC. Nepalese army from Ramsher Battalion, Thakurdwara, which is deployed for the security of wildlife at BNP found the rhino carcass. The death spot lies along the wildlife corridor between Bardia National Park and Kattarniya Wildlife Sanctuary in India. The wildlife corridor was established in 2001 in coordination with Tarai Arc Landscape, a project under the World Wildlife Fund meant for easy movement of wild animals from both protected areas.

Only 30 rhinos are now left in the Bardiya National Park (BNP) which is second most rhino habitat of Nepal beyond Chitwan National Park. Thirty-one rhinos were counted during the last census at BNP on May, 2007 whereas the number was 67 during rhino count of 2000.

A royal bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*), another endangered species, was found shot dead at the Dasgaja 'no man's land' on the Nepal-India border. According to BNP officials, Indian forest officials have taken the dead tiger for investigation. BNP also has started an investigation into the killing of these two endangered species.

Bardia National Park is also inflicted with deforestation. Deforestation is rampant in Sainawar, Manau, Baragadahi, Dumarhi and other adjoining areas at large scale. Locals said timber smugglers intrude into the park at night, fell trees and transport them.

Yeti footprints found at Khumbu

A team of US explorers have claimed that they had traced fresh footprints of Yeti, a mysterious snowman believed to inhabit the Himalayan mountains.



'Destination Truth', an American television crew said that they discovered fresh Yeti footprints on the bank of the Manju river in Solukhumbu district, northeast of Kathmandu.

The nine-member television crew that is touring the world in search of unsolved mysteries and phenomena came to Nepal in search of an ancient creature which, according to Himalayan folklore, is not only known as the protector of the mountains but is also feared. The Yeti according to folklore is believed to live in the Himalayan regions of Nepal and throughout history there have been claims of its sightings.

Tul Bahadur Rai, representative of Equator Expedition Nepal, which is the liaison of the American crew, found the foot marks near the river banks of the Manju river on November 28 which according to the crew is a clear sequence of a six-foot stride prints embedded in the banks of the river. "We found it around 11 pm during our investigations, it looked like it was freshly made. We found those prints not long after it was made," said Rai. He also said that one of the prints was around 12 inches long and others were smaller because the ground was not even and the prints were not clear.