

Headlines Himalaya

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For the 236 issue, we reviewed 42 news reports from 21 sources and selected 13 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, new house construction will not be permitted in Kathmandu municipality if there is no place to grow at least two trees. In India wild mammals have been moving to lower altitudes to cope with harsh cold weather. In China the number of endangered black snub-nosed monkey increases. In Bhutan animal slaughter was banned for religious sentiments. Leopards are being killed in Peshawar, Pakistan

Headlines Himalaya, a weekly e-News is an attempt to keep our global readers abreast with the happenings in the Himalaya. Please share it with your colleagues and friends. Also, subscription is free. Enjoy!

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Nepal-Himalaya

SETTLEMENT AT RISK OF EROSION

The human settlements at Kagbeni VDC in Mustang are reported to be under high risk due to soil erosion triggered by the Kaligandaki River. The river induced erosion has put 74 households of the settlements at risk.

11 January

Thehimalayantimes.com

ENDANGERED BLACKBUCKS SHIFTED TO NEW SETTLEMENT

Blackbuck, an endangered antelope species has been relocated and have adapted well to the environment of Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve. The species has been in sharp decline during the last century. According to WWF-Nepal, the transfer was carried out in order to establish a viable wild population of blackbuck in Nepal.

7 January

<http://bit.ly/V5CqAw>

TWO TREES PER HOUSE

Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) will not register a house map for new construction if there is no place to grow at least two trees in the house compound. The KMC has made it mandatory to allocate a separate place for tree plantation which should be specified in the house map. According to KMC, annually up to 3,500 to 4,000 new houses are constructed in the municipality. Currently more than 110,000 houses are within the capital municipality.

13 January

Gorkhapatra

WILDLIFE TERROR

People of around half a dozen VDCs in northern Ilam district have been terrorized from leopard attacks. The leopards in the highlands began to attack the domestic animals and terrorized the villagers of late. A jackal devoured a one child in Belgachhi VDC of Mahottari district in the Tarai while she was playing near the sugarcane farm near the house in evening and was found dead at Soni River. Similarly, a wild elephant named Govinde caused havoc in remote Thori VDC of Parsa district. More than 30 houses have been destroyed by the elephant in Thori in the last fifteen days

11, 13, 14 January

The Himalayan Times, Kantipur, Nepalnews

TRADE OF WILDLIFE

Two persons were arrested with five pieces of full size Royal Bengal tiger hides and seven sacks of bones in Nuwakot district while it was being taken to Tibet from Kathmandu via Rasuwa hidden under the sacks of rice in a mini-truck. And also one was arrested with 21 with ivory ornaments and red sandalwood from Bouddha, Kathmandu.

13 January

The Himalayan Times, Republica, Kantipur, Nepal news

A COUNT STARTS

Counting of birds in the major wetland areas of the country has kicked off. The bird count was launched as a joint venture of Bird Education Society, Himalayan Nature, Nepal Ornithologists' Association and Chitwan National Park (CNP) in a bid to assess the situation of endangered aquatic birds in Nepal. Counting will take place in four other major wetlands, including the buffer zones of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Bishajari Lake of Chitwan, Jagdishpur Lake in Lumbini and Ghodaghodi Lake in Kailali.

13 January

Republica

India-Himalaya

POACHERS KILL 2 MORE RHINOS

The carcasses of two rhinos, which had strayed out of Kaziranga and Orang national parks, were found with their horns gouged out. One rhino carcass was found at Sitolmari Sor, a sandbar in Morigaon district. The horn had been removed before the forest team got to the spot, 1km from Orang. The second rhino was shot by the poachers, which is believed to have strayed from the park, and was found with horn and nails chopped off. The incident occurred outside the sixth addition to the park, on its northern side, at Gopal Jarani, a Brahmaputra sandbar.

11 January

<http://bit.ly/UJxuQ4>

HIMACHAL WILDLIFE CHANGES HABITAT

In Himachal Pradesh, the harsh winter has frozen water resources and wiped out food sources; trigger the herds of hoofed wild mammals and rare snow leopard to move on lower altitude (3376 meters), which increased attack to the livestock.

9 January

<http://bit.ly/XIIRiR>

China-Himalaya

ENDANGERED BLACK SNUB-NOSED MONKEY INCREASES

The reserve (185,300 hectares) established at 2003, in Markam of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region is home to approximately 700 black snub-nosed monkeys. Protective efforts by the forestry bureau have increased the population of monkeys, from 50 in 1990 and are expected to exceed 1,000 in the future.

8 January

<http://bit.ly/Viq7iC>

TIBET RECEIVES OVER 10 MILL TOURISTS IN 2012

Tibet received 10.584 million tourists in 2012 and earned a revenue of more than 12.65 billion RMB Yuan (about 2 billion U.S. dollars), rising by 21.7 percent and 30.3 percent respectively year on year. Southwest China's Tibet autonomous region witnessed booming tourism in 2012, with tourist arrivals hitting a record high due to improved transportation and promotional efforts. Authorities expect to see 15 million tourists annually by 2015.

9 January

<http://bit.ly/UJABHW>

Bhutan-Himalaya

WHAT'S THE (ECO) STATE OF THE STATE?

According to draft Bhutan Environment Outlook, 2012, it would take 72 years to degrade all the land in the country, if land degradation continues at the current rate. Land has been degrading at 1.4 percent annually, and the area of degraded forest in Bhutan has increased more than seven fold, from 32,356 hectares (ha) in 2004 to 236,700ha in 2007. About 70 percent of Bhutan is covered by forest, and less than three percent is under cultivation. According to the records of the land commission and the agriculture ministry, in 2007-08, about 470.8ha of prime agricultural land was converted to "other" forms of land use.

12 January

<http://bit.ly/WxZUvL>

BUTCHERY PROSCRIBED, MEAT SHOPS PROSPER

The gewog tshogdes (GT) and dzongkhag tshogdu (DT) of Bhutan have decided to ban the slaughter of animals. Slaughter was banned for religious sentiments, social stigma and to prevent the spread of livestock diseases. The other purpose was to save the community from being labeled butchers, because no matter where the meat came from, people always blamed Brokpas for it.

10 January

<http://bit.ly/T7Mgux>

Pakistan-Himalaya

LEOPARDS IN PESHAWAR

Wildlife officials confirmed that a leopard had been killed in the Beerot area, in Peshawar and villagers said a second leopard was shot dead by unknown persons in Khera Gali area. In Bagan village, wildlife authorities placed cages to trap leopards who venture towards villages following a recent attack on a girl.

11 January

<http://bit.ly/XruA10>