

Chapter 21

Wildlife Diplomacy and Gifting in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya Region: A Chronological History and Opinion of Nepalese Literates



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21.1 Background

It is a widely believed and misleading myth that animals are the symbols of power (e.g., lion and tiger), strength (e.g. Rhinoceros, Elephant), beauty (e.g. Swan, Red Panda), love (e.g. the Swan, Dolphin, Horse), luck (e.g. Ladybug, Pig), peace (e.g. Dove), wisdom and magic (e.g. Fox), leadership (e.g. Wolf), loyalty (e.g. Dog), intuition (e.g. Owl), freedom (e.g. Horse), fertility (e.g. Rabbit), creativity (e.g. Sea Lion), activity (e.g. Squirrel), purification (e.g. Sheep), bad luck (e.g. Black cat), gentleness (e.g. Deer), and scrutiny (e.g. Mouse). Many of these animals have been used as diplomatic gifts around the world including Nepal since time immemorial. Thus, it is possible to establish that foreign policy of Nepal is linked to Wildlife Diplomacy. To enhance the dignity of the nation through safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence, and promoting the economic well-being and

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prosperity of the country are her fundamental objectives (MoFA 2018). This chapter aims to review such gifts in the world including Nepal and to evaluate whether gifting animals to another world would enhance the current relations or foreign policy. To understand the public views of undergraduates, graduates, and faculty members from various colleges, universities, and academies, a structured questionnaire was prepared and asked them to reply anonymously.

21.2 Wildlife Diplomacy Around the World

Wildlife diplomacy is defined as the generic use of live native flora and fauna for diplomatic purposes, although in this investigation we focused on faunal diplomacy. The use of faunal diversities can, for instance, be achieved via gifts, via exchange as a subtle gesture, or via loans (Hartig 2013). Although fauna and diplomacy have been closely linked throughout a long history, it is not easy to compile all of the chronologic evidence. Ever since the beginning of humankind civilization and history, many countries have used animals, particularly the exotic ones, as a symbol of power and diplomacy. For example, Amarna Letters, written on clay tablets in Akkadian cuneiform in a Mesopotamian style, indicate the recorded instance of animals as diplomatic gifts during 1360–1332 BC (Hartig 2013). Fauna as ceremonial gifts, tributes signaling submission or alliance, bribes or reparations from local rulers were presented in ancient Egypt (Baratay and Hardouin-Fugier 2004). Such animal tributes were practiced by the heads of inferior or less developed states to influence and please the more powerful countries (Veltre 1996). In all periods of history, Egypt was the center for giraffes which then were supplied to the Romans, the emperors of Byzance, the Arab Caliphs, to Spain and Italy in the Middle ages, and to Italy, France, and England in more recent times (Laufer 1928) indicating the existence of its infamous Giraffe Diplomacy. A remarkable example of animal diplomacy called the ‘Panda Diplomacy’ adopted by China is invaluable in making better relations with Japan to which a pair of Giant Pandas was sent by Empress Wu Zetian (625–705) of Tang Dynasty, and later with the USSR to which only one Panda in 1950s sent by the government of China (Schaller et al. 1985; Rybka-Iwanska 2018). China also gifted a pair of Giant Pandas to the US president Richard Nixon during his historic and strategic visit to Beijing in 1972 (Rybka-Iwanska 2018). Then, the US gifted musk oxen to China (Accessed from: <https://www.the-hindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/animals-as-diplomats/article17363971.ece>, accessed on: August 15, 2018). Although China’s Panda Diplomacy was initially confined to other communist countries to strengthen relations as allies, China also gifted the pandas to the UK, France, and many other countries to enhance the relationships. Therefore, the government of China was highly successful in improving relations with the West and in their public diplomacy. However, due to the scarcity of the Giant Pandas, the Chinese government in 1982 decided to follow the Panda Loan Principle rather than already applied Panda Gifting Theory (Hartig 2013). According to this principle, Giant pandas would be available on loan at rates of over

\$US1 million a year and a provision that any cub born during the loan is the property of the China (Lumpkin and Seidensticker 2002) (Accessed from: <https://www.the-hindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/animals-as-diplomats/article17363971.ece>, accessed on: August 15, 2018). In this way, the Giant Pandas are regarded as a political symbol and for cooperation between China and the receiving country. They are the tools for enhanced scientific and technologic cooperation, and are the main sources of soft power and public diplomacy. In this case the panda becomes entangled in ideologies, whereas this animal and its biology is as unpolitical as it gets.

Like China's Panda Diplomacy, Australia followed a Koala Diplomacy which was displayed at the 2014 G20 leader's meeting in Brisbane and Koalas were gifted to Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin (Arup 2014). Since then, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade produced a 600-page long Koala Diplomacy (Arup 2014).

And an exciting Crocodile Diplomacy has been created by Australia's Northern Territory to enhance the relations with Britain. The Territory's chief minister gifted Prince George (Duchess of Cambridge) with a baby crocodile that had been hatched from its egg the day that Kate publicly announced she was pregnant with George (Brady 2016). As an emblem for engagement of William and Kate, they were presented with a pair of crocodiles by Darwin, the territory's capital (Brady 2016).

Elephant Diplomacy is also famous among the political leaders of South and Southeast Asian countries especially to initiate and enhance diplomatic relations with China. For example, Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh gifted Mao Zedong two Asian elephants in 1953 and then one elephant in 1960 (Rybka-Iwanska 2018). The Sri Lankan Government gifted a total of 3 elephants in 1972, 1979, and 2007 indicating its initiation of diplomatic ties with China (Rybka-Iwanska 2018). Although opposed and petitioned by many conservationists and animal rights activists, for the ban of export of elephants outside Sri Lanka (Trevett 2016), its government gifted two elephants to New Zealand in 2015 and 2016.

Dragon Diplomacy was practiced by the Indonesian President, Mr. Suharto, who gifted Komodo dragon to Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore in the 1980s and the then US President George HW Bush in 1990 (Rybka-Iwanska 2018).

Horse Diplomacy is famous in Asia for thousands of years. Turkmen leaders presented Akhal-Teke horses, the breeds from Turkmenistan, to Jiang Zemin in 2000, Hu Jintao in 2006 and Xi Jinping in 2014 (Rybka-Iwanska 2018). The Mongolian Prime minister gifted a horse to Narendra Modi who could not be able to take it to India because, in 2005, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had banned the practice of gifting animals as diplomatic niceties although the government used to practice several two-way exchanges of animals in India previously (Mohan 2015).

The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) has described the history of Falconry and associated diplomacies around the globe (IAF 2018). During the tsarist era, falcon rearing and hunting were popular among Russian nobles because these birds were the symbol of prestige, beauty, and power. These birds were also used as an essential diplomatic tool by the Russian tsar and thus, they were gifted to the East and West to fellow monarchs (Sputnik 2013). In the late Middle Ages, Falconry Diplomacy in Europe was famous because falcons used to be caught from Iceland, Norway, the Arctic parts of Russia, and

Greenland and brought to Europe, e.g. gyrfalcons. They used to be exchanged or gifted, or borrowed for the release of prominent prisoners, the safeguarding of property, and the blessing of the war threat (Hilmar-Jezek 2017).

It has been written that in the thirteenth century, the German Frederick II (1220–1250), Holy Roman Emperor and the King of Sicily employed Arab, English, German, and Italian falconers, and translated Arab and Asia falconry works. His court in Sicily used to get falcons from Flanders, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, Norway, Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, the Balearic Islands, Spain, Turkey, Alexandria, the Barbary States, and India establishing a link between Arabians with European traditions (IAF 2018). An entire profession and trade developed ‘hammering’ falcon populations to appease the royals! This also included the use of golden eagles, as wide-spread in Mongolia and Kazakhstan, for instance, for hunting wolves. Falconry became a means of cultural communication and represented a social and political power, a deadly dangerous pastime, and big business. However, after the seventeenth century, especially after the French revolution putting people and democracy in charge, the use of falcons as diplomatic gifts gradually decreased (IAF 2018). Falconry was combined with legal and military affairs, diplomacy and land colonization and moved accordingly, reaching Korea in 220 BC and Japan much later (IAF 2018). Nowadays it’s mostly practiced by the Arabs, e.g. in Saudi Arabia (for bustard hunting for instance) and drives much of the trade and even western science (e.g. <https://www.falcons.co.uk/about.asp>). In the western world it remains mostly a peculiar hobby for people who can afford it.

It has been believed that Hunting Diplomacy for pride, prestige, and nobility was popular during ancient Romans. For example, under Caligula (37 AD–41 AD), 400 bears in a day, under Claudius (41 AD–54 AD), 300 bears in 2 days, and under Nero (54 AD–68 AD), 400 bears and 300 lions and under Titus (79 AD–81 AD) at the dedication of the Colosseum, 5000 animals in a day were killed (Lecky 1921). Trajan (98 AD–117 AD) murdered 11,000 animals including lions, tigers, elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotami, giraffes, bulls, stags, crocodiles, and serpents within 123 successive days to celebrate his conquest of Dacia (Jamieson 1985). Their passion for the game was evidenced by their hunting of the first rhinos presented by Indian ruler to Caesar Augustus (27 BC–14 AD) in Rome (Jamieson 1985). They would keep extensive collections of animals as a sign of their power which they would show on occasion by their massacre. In 1719, Elector Augustus II of Dresden killed tigers, lions, bulls, bears, and boars (Jamieson 1985).

Although Wildlife Diplomacy was practiced among various countries, its efficacy to keep peace and harmony was null in some trail of the history. For example, from 1914 to 1918, due to political, territorial, economic conflicts, increased imperialism, the growth of nationalism, and other factors, there was conflict between two rival sets of powers, that is, Germany and Austria-Hungary on one part, and Russia, France, and Great Britain on the other hand although Wildlife Diplomacies were predominant among these countries from the beginning of civilization. Similarly, there the Second World War from 1939 to 1945 among various countries showed that diplomatic relations between many rivalry groups did not maintain the friendship and peace. After the War, despite the different political, religious, and cultural

ideologies of the people around the world, their hearts have been gathered by the principle of brotherhood and globalization. It is believed that Wildlife Diplomacy is one of the factors to support and foster this principle, e.g. through zoos!

21.2.1 Wildlife Diplomacy by Nepal

It is interesting to deal with the Wildlife Diplomacy of Nepal because it is perceived as exotic. Also, Nepal had various types of rulers and systems since the beginning of its history. Elephants and horses were critically used as a part of military might for several rulers in the country. During the beginning of the modern era, especially after Prithvi Narayan Shah who initiated the unification of smaller states to present-day Nepal, elephants were widely used during wars. Elephant and Horse Diplomacies were practiced by the Shah Royal Family who donated or gifted these animals to the smaller States of the country. There were two purposes of gifting. Firstly, the Royal family used to please its counterparts so that they would take no further action against the Shah Armies. Second, the Royal Family used to gift those animals to its armies, advisers, supporters, and others because of their direct or indirect role to win the war.

During the 1700s, Prithvi Narayan Shah and his successors restricted trade and diplomatic relations with the British in India and banished foreign traders, missionaries (religious teachers), musicians, and artists influenced by northern India (Zuchora-Walske 2008). His descendants continued the Gurkha expansion and extended Nepal's territory along the Himalayas from southern Kashmir in north-western India to Sikkim into northeastern India (Zuchora-Walske 2008). However, after the 2-year war with the East-India Company, the Treaty of Sugauli was signed by Nepal and Great Britain in March 1816 and Nepal had to lose most of its lands (Zuchora-Walske 2008; Upadhyya 2012). Although it established a diplomatic relationship between these countries, it was the eldest wound and pain for the Nepalese patriots.

History has believed that the survival of Rana families in Nepal is credited to their control of the military power and support and friendship with the British. The association between Nepal and Great Britain was crucial during the reign of Jung Bahadur Rana who theoretically and practically supported the East India Company (Husain 1970). Jung Bahadur used to invite the British guests on hunting parties in the Terai. He asked the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) to go hunting in Terai, and he accepted the cordial invitation and visited on January 1876 (Von der Heide 1997). Censoriously, within 2 weeks, the Prince killed and bagged 23 tigers (Chaudhary 2018). After his coronation, King Edward VII, he welcomed Chandra Shamsheer, Jung Bahadur's cousin, in 1908 in London where Chandra was accorded with precedence, honors, and salutes as conceded to Jung Bahadur in 1850 (Cowan 2015a). Jung Bahadur also followed the British principles and ideologies to get proper support from England. The first Extradition Treaty was ratified On February 10, 1855, by Jung Bahadur and on February 23, 1855, by Lord Dalhousie and was

later signed by Jung Bahadur Rana (Tyagi 1974). Although he was not trusted at the beginning by British, the British Government of India, later on, found that he was intelligent, peaceful, and friendly in spite of his ambitiousness and shrewdness (Tyagi 1974). To keep good relations with the British and to show his power to the British, he sent thousands of troops and restored the British authority over many cities in India (Tyagi 1974). That is why few areas like Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, and Kanchanpur were returned to Nepal as a gift by the British ruler in 1860 indicating the success of Hunting Diplomacy used by Jung Bahadur.

Bir Shumsher believed that 'England is a power that crushes thrones like potsherds' (Tyagi 1974). That is why he worked according to the interests of the British resulting in the lack of Nepalese independent foreign policy. In 1890, Bir Shumsher welcomed Prince Albert Victor, the eldest child of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the grandson of Queen Victoria, the British Monarch for an organized hunting expedition in the western end of the Terai (Tyagi 1974; Upadhya 2012). It is believed that when Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the member of the imperial Habsburg Dynasty of Austria and the heir presumptive, wanted to hunt wild fauna in Terai in 1893, Bir Shumsher as a prime minister could not directly welcome him merely due to the pressure to maintain a close tie with Britain and East-India Company (Maratha and Thapa 2016). However, to keep a foreign relation with Austria, in March of that year, Bir Shumsher appointed Commanding Colonel Keshar Singh Thapa to be the chief of the organizing party of hunting expedition for the Archduke (Maratha and Thapa 2016). The Archduke hunted a total of 17 tigers, six leopards, and many swamp deer, boars, antelopes, spotted deer, and blackbucks (Maratha and Thapa 2016). In turn, the Archduke gifted hunting organizers different types of weapons indicating initiation of the right relation with Austria.

During the reign of Dev Shumsher Rana, he sent his brother, Chandra Shumsher, in the hunting expedition of Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, in Chitwan from March 29 to April 17 in 1901. Subsequently, on June 27, 1901, Chandra seized power from Dev, and this coup has been evidenced that Chandra got permission and supports from Curzon due to their everlasting friendship and a probable deal made during that hunting trip (Upadhya 2012; Cowan 2015a). His policy was loyalty and friendship to East-India Company. Thus, he also assisted Younghusband, head of the Tibet Frontier Commission appointed by Curzon, in invading Tibet by supplying 3000 yaks during an expedition that started on December 1903 (Cowan 2015a). On 2nd January 1905, he was awarded as Knights Grants Commander within the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India (Office 1819).

In 1905, the Prince of Wales, later King George V, would like to visit in Nepal for hunting, however, due to outbreaks of cholera, he could not come in the country. So in 1911, the Nepalese government invited King George V to take part in hunting in the Terai. When the British King George V wanted to visit Terai for hunting in 1911, Chandra Shumsher actually spent months preparing for the King's visit. For example, 645 elephants were collected for the hunting expedition and bullocks were tied at the edge of thick jungles to allure the tigers. It has been recorded that the team killed 39 tigers, 18 rhinoceros, 4 bears, and several porcupines and leopards within just 10 days (Anonymous 2015; Dunn 2015), and a young rhino was gifted to them

by the prime minister of Nepal and subsequently transported to the London Zoo (Rookmaaker et al. 2005).

When the Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII, arrived at Kathmandu for hunting wild animals especially the Tigers in 1921, Chandra Shamsher wanted Nepal to be recognized as an independent and sovereign nation, mainly by modifying few limitations that existed in the Sugauli Treaty. Importantly, the Treaty was discussed in Kathmandu, Delhi, and London for more than a year and a final version (Nepal-Britain Mutual Treaty) was signed on 21 December 1923 in Singha Durbar, Kathmandu indicating a great achievement of the foreign policy of Chandra Shamsher (Husain 1970). Thus, Chandra Shumsher maintained the independent sovereignty of Nepal, loyally assisted by the Viceroy and the British India Company (Tyagi 1974). When Chandra Shumsher heard about the war between Britain and Germany in 1914, Chandra Shumsher sent about 16,500 men and contributed a volunteer expense of war (Tyagi 1974).

When Juddha Shamsher became Prime Minister of Nepal, he continued the Hunting Diplomacy to keep relations with British. Thus, in 1938, with Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India, he led a three-week hunting trip to game 120 tigers, 27 leopards, 15 bears, and 38 rhinos (Mulmi 2017).

Hunting diplomacy was not only followed by the Rana Dynasty but also actively used by Shah Kings like Mahendra and Birendra who pursued hunting as a hobby. Both Kings used to kill wild fauna like rhino for a religious ceremony, hunting, and recreational activities (Mishra et al. 2008) although both of them introduced and progressed the laws of wild animals. After returning from the United Kingdom, with the help of the then Royal Nepalese Army, King Mahendra launched his coup on 15 December 1960. He suspended the constitution, dissolved the elected parliament, dismissed the cabinet, and headed the direct ruling system called a *Panchayat hierarchical system of the village*. Although a foreign policy of neutrality between China and India was followed, his relation with the British is believed to be strong. This is because the diplomatic records suggest that although British diplomats used to praise BP Koirala and his ability and quality, rather than concerning over imprisoned Koirala, Britain actually fully supported and cheered the autocratic Panchayat system of the King (Maratha and Thapa 2014). After 15 days of the coup, a big hunting camp, especially for tiger hunt and rhino shooting, was prepared in the Terai for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip as royal entertainment by King Mahendra during her state visit to Nepal in January 1961 AD (White 2015). It has been reported that none of these royal families shot the tiger, but other associated individuals did it (Rana 2009). It has also been reported that Prince Philip's diplomatically bandaged hand prevented him from taking part, thereby avoiding international controversy. Subsequent royal visits in 1986 strengthened the Nepal-Britain relationship (Choegyol 2016).

Subsequently, hunting companies led by the American John Coapman, African big-game hunter Charles Cottar, and the Irish hunter Peter Byrne were established and Prince Basundhara – the brother of King Mahendra – handed them a hunting concession (Mulmi 2017). However, in 1972, hunting was stopped, with an exception in 1983. The Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve was established gazetting in 1987 to

manage a controlled hunting system. The Reserve had been an attractive place for the generals and officials from all over the world and had been usually used for the recreational activities by the foreign delegates. In 1956, a hunting company called Shikar Private Limited was licensed to the retired Commander-in-Chief of Nepal to conduct hunts in selected hunting reserves for the big game hunters coming from abroad (Rana 2009). Although it was a business motive, it is believed that this company somewhat helped to increase the foreign relation. Even though for a conservationist, the Hunting Policy during the Rana and Shah Dynasties was extreme and brutal resulting in the decline of thousands of individuals and numerous species, for a nationalist, the declaration of Nepal as an independent country is excellent and is linked to this very Policy. Another good aspect to be kept in mind is the habitat and landscape protection that was achieved in order to maintain wildlife!

While the government of Nepal has regulated Hunting Diplomacy, another policy called a form of Gifting Diplomacy including the gifts of wild animals like Common leopard (India, Saudi Arabia), Gaur (Saudi Arabia), Tiger (Saudi Arabia), Sambar (Saudi Arabia), Sloth Bear (Saudi Arabia), Peacock (Saudi Arabia), Gharial and Mugger Crocodile (Japan, Germany, France, Bhutan), Himalayan Wolf (Japan) and Red Panda have been practiced (DNPWC 2018a, b). However, Rhinoceros (Rhino) Diplomacy has been taken into action by the government and remains to be regarded as a powerful and honorable tool as public diplomacy. British resident Brian Hodgson recorded the birth of a calf of a rhino in captivity in 1824 (Mulmi 2018). The same calf was first of all used as the Rhino Diplomacy in 1834 and was sent to Calcutta (Mulmi 2018). Subsequently, Nepal has gifted more than 30 rhinoceros to different countries, including the UK, US, India, Thailand, China, Austria, Myanmar, Japan, Germany, and others (Rookmaaker et al. 1998; Rookmaaker et al. 2005; Mishra et al. 2008; DNPWC 2018a, b; Mulmi 2018) (Fig. 21.1). As returns, Nepal has also got several animal gifts from some of these countries (HNS 2018). We are not aware of other kick-backs from these practices, but likely they do exist in various forms of trade and political dealings for instance.

21.3 Gifting Diplomacy in Nepal: Discussion on Survey Results

As shown above, gifting wildlife is believed to establish historical relations between the countries as well as their people because it cannot be considered in the currency form. In Nepal, Rhinoceros (Rhino) Diplomacy has been used believing the fact that it triggers and prolongs the public diplomacy. To understand the views of the efficacy of the Rhino Diplomacy from a total of 565 Nepalese undergraduates, graduates, and postgraduates, we have used questionnaire survey. Most respondents were affiliated with private colleges (56.3%) followed by Tribhuvan University and her affiliated colleges (33.5%), then by colleges affiliated with Pokhara University (9.0%), and finally by Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (1.2%) in

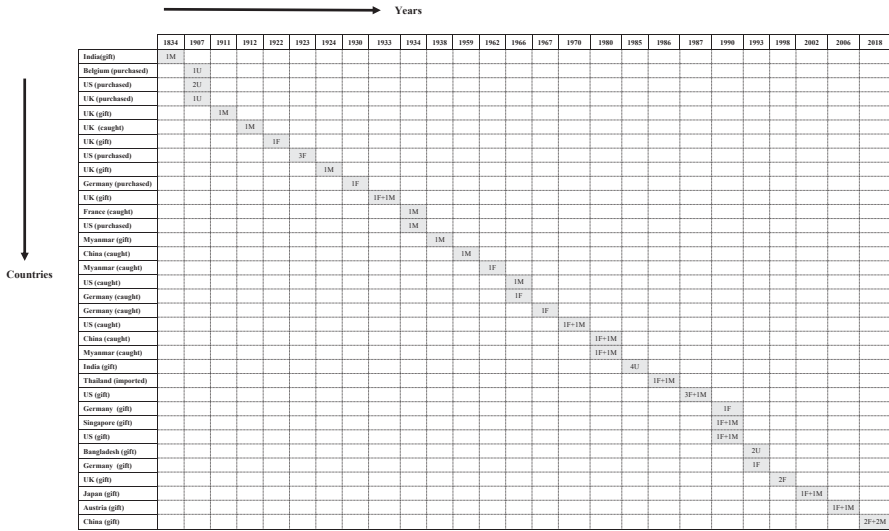


Fig. 21.1 Numbers of rhino exported to foreign countries either via gifting or purchasing, or via catching in the wild at different years. The beginning of rhino export was in 1835 to India as a gift. Rhino gifting has been recently applied by the government of Nepal for her export to China in 2018. *M* male, *F* female, *U* unknown sex

Kathmandu valley. Most of them (89.6%) were unemployed; few (6.9%) were jobholders in private and government (3.5%) sectors. They had education ranging from class 12 to a Ph.D. degree. Majority of them studied Basic Science (56.3%), followed by Zoology (15.6%), Environmental Sciences (9.2%), Microbiology (8.5%), Botany (7.6%), and others (2.8%) (Table 21.1).

Out of 565 respondents, most of them (58.1%) replied that gifting of wild animals to foreign countries would enhance the relationship with alien powers (Fig. 21.2). In this study, almost half of the respondents (49.6%) stated that the effects on foreign policy depended on the country to which wild animals are gifted by the government (Fig. 21.3). About 18.2% individual believed that gifting would bring positive effects on foreign policy (Fig. 21.3). These data can be evidenced by the success stories of liberal and supportive foreign policy of few countries with Nepal. Global peace, harmony, and security are aimed at Nepal’s foreign policy that has objectives of enhancing the dignity of the nation by safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence, and others (MoFA 2018). Notably, wildlife like rhino gifting is an essential tool to obtain these aims. Although full of debates – especially among nationalists and conservationists – rhino gifting might actually be one of the best and cheapest options for Nepal to have a good tie-up with developed countries. When Nepal first established diplomatic relations with the UK in 1816, bilateral relations with other countries were created only after the Second World War, and up to September 25, 2019, it comprises a total of 168 countries (<https://mofa.gov.np/foreign-policy/bilateral-relation/>). From few years, through the experiences of Rhino Diplomacy, Nepal has actually strengthened its relationship with the

Table 21.1 Respondents Characteristics (N = 565)

Characteristics	Numbers	%
Respondent’s affiliation		
Private Colleges	318	56.3%
Tribhuvan University & Affiliated colleges	189	33.5%
Pokhara University & Affiliated colleges	51	9.0%
Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)	7	1.2%
Employment status		
Private	39	6.9%
Government	20	3.5%
Unemployed	506	89.6%
Respondent’s educational status		
Eleventh/Twelfth Grades	318	56.3%
Bachelor’s Degree	116	20.5%
Master’s Degree	126	22.5%
PhD	5	0.9%
Respondent’s study background		
Basic Science	318	56.3%
Zoology	88	15.6%
Environmental Sciences	52	9.2%
Microbiology	48	8.5%
Botany	43	7.6%
Others (Physics, Chemistry, Biotechnology, Engineering, and Management)	16	2.8%

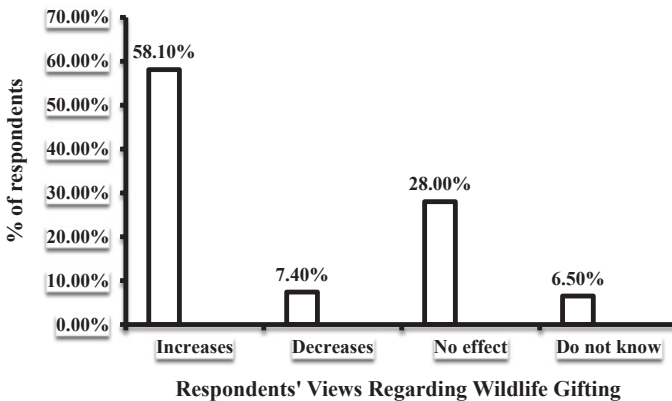


Fig. 21.2 Percentage of respondents with their particular views regarding wildlife gifting. Increases: Foreign relation is enhanced. Decreases: The foreign relation is declined. No effect: Gifting does not affect the foreign relationship. Do not know: unknown to decide about the role of wildlife gifting relationship to foreign

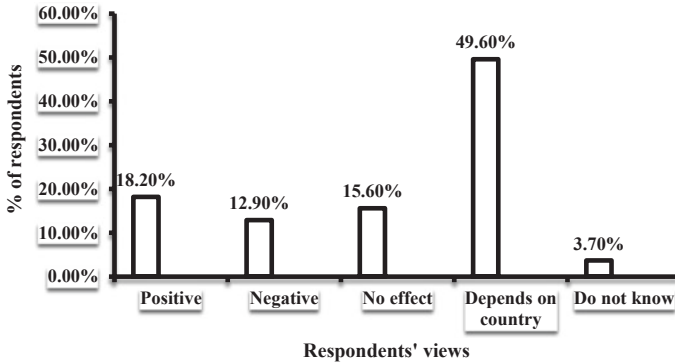


Fig. 21.3 Percentage of respondents with their particular views regarding wildlife gifting and foreign policy. Wildlife gifting may pose (a). Positive effects (b). Negative effects (c). Do not have any impact on foreign policy (d). Depends on the country to which animal was gifted (e) do not know

UK, USA, Australia, China, and others. In a rhino handover program on July 12, 2018, Nepalese Prime Minister KP Oli expressed that the gift could strengthen the mutual relationship of the neighborhood between Nepal and China and it could contribute for the controlling of illegal trade and import the positive information throughout the world (DNPWC 2018a, b). Besides, the honorable Minister of Forests and Environment, Shakti Basnet, expressed that the program can be more helpful to establish the long-lasting diplomatic relation between two countries as well as provide additional support and coordination for the conservation of wildlife and biodiversity in the coming days (DNPWC 2018a, b). Accepting gifts like arboreal gibbons from Singapore, hippopotamuses from Thailand, and ostriches from Australia by Nepal during absolute monarchical periods (Shahi 2013) has been believed to strengthen the foreign relations with these countries.

Another example from the globe includes Tortoise diplomacy in which the President of Seychelles gifted a giant Tortoise to Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi who thanked him and told that the long-lived Tortoise was the symbol of 'ever-lasting relationships' between two countries (PTI 2018a). The gift of six buffaloes of the 'Ravi' breed and four 'Sahiwal' cows from Pakistan to Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal, 'Nachi' breed goats from Pakistan to Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, eight horses from Sri Lanka to Pakistan, two horses from Saudi Arabia to India, a 'Sahiwal' cow from Pakistan to Indian Congress leader HKL Bhagat, a baby elephant (Indira) from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru of India to a zoo in Japan (Singh 2015) indicating lots of such gifting diplomacies existed around the world. In June 1961, King Mahendra received his gift of a bull, two cows, three Shetland ponies and a charger from the United Kingdom (Cowan 2015b) mainly to please Mahendra according to his will.

For Nepal, one may easily add here the diplomacy and politics that surround access of Mt. Everest, and the permits, climbing fee structure and waiving fees all

together for specific people and expeditions. This is covered elsewhere (see chapters in this book).

Following independence of India from the British, the relation of India and Nepal became to-and-fro which has been evidenced by the land encroachment, border disputes, border blockade, non-official and official invasion, odd treaties, and other several factors (Singh 2009; Upadhyay 2012; Deepak 2016; Jha 2017) although several animal exchanges occurred between these countries since the time immemorial. It is believed that foreign diplomacy depends on power, objectives, leadership, military and economic capabilities, and types of government, geopolitical locations, and other issues (Wanjohi 2011) even though the relation between Nepalese and Indian people is long, fresh, and cannot all be explained based on country's diplomacy. Thus, regarding current views of about 50% literates, the effects on foreign policy depended on the state to which the government gifted wild animals.

In the current survey, 28% of respondents stated that there would not be any effect on the relation with foreign countries by wildlife gifting. About 7% of them replied that gifting would decrease the relationship (Fig. 21.2). Few believed that donation would bring negative (12.9%), or zero effects (15.6%) on foreign policy (Fig. 21.3). These views are difficult to interpret and analyze, however, individual with full of conservation education and animal rights usually do not want wildlife gifting. Ecologists and environmentalists (e.g. Beary 2005; Hetem et al. 2014) believe that due to change of climatic conditions and losing natural habitat, many animals including large mammals suffer. Risks to stress, diseases, and dubiousness to cope with the new environment are the usual problems in the new habitat (Ganga Ram Regmi pers. comm.). That is one reason why animal rights activists usually follow the climate change effects on gifted animals. This is particularly true of some of the adverse impacts on gifted animals around the globe. Gastrointestinal illness like impacted guts, enteritis, chronic ulcer and gastritis, few disorders like sarcoma of heart and lung and kidney failure, infectious diseases like tuberculosis, equine viral encephalitis and parasitic malnutrition, and lack of care, for example, ingestion of a tennis ball and even war have been implicated in the death of rhinos around the globe exported from Nepal (Reynolds 1961) (Table 21.2). The deaths are severely

Table 21.2 Etiology, locations, and dates of death of exported rhinos from Nepal

Locations of death	Date of death	Causes	Means of export
Manchester, UK	1917	After swallowing a tennis ball	Purchase
London Zoo, UK	1926	Sarcoma of heart and lung	Gift
London Zoo, UK	1941	Tuberculosis	Gift
Yangon, Myanmar	1942	World War II	Gift
Beijing, China	1978	Chronic ulcer and gastritis	Caught in Nepal
Berlin, Germany	1967	Enteritis	Caught in Nepal
Beijing, China	1981	Parasitical malnutrition	Caught in Nepal
Yangon, Myanmar	1993	Equine viral encephalitis	Caught in Nepal
Chiang Mai, Thailand	1986	Kidney failure	Imported
Singapore	1991	Impacted gut	Gift

and quickly observed for the young rhinos indicating various adverse factors governing the health of these charismatic animals. A 20-month-old elephant gifted by Sri Lanka to the USA died in 19th August 1984 (Weil 1984). However, adverse impacts on gifted animals are not always experienced. Most of the animals get proper care and relaxing life after being gifted. The most beautiful example can be taken from an Indian rescued bull presented to marriage ceremony of British Royals as the wedding gift on May 19, 2018, which can enjoy the relaxing remaining life compared to its experience of pulling heavy carts before (PTI 2018b).

In conclusion, Wildlife Diplomacy remains as one of the essential parts of foreign policy around the globe including Hindu Kush-Himalayan Nations like Nepal. We therefore think that this policy should be studied in detail and discussed more among literates, biologists, economists, conservationists, animal rights activists, and government authorities. Also, its efficacies and good options in foreign policy, foreign relation and for future directions of such a Wildlife Diplomacy should be fully communicated to the public.

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