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Companions for Amphibians and Reptiles of Nepal

Reg. No. 1209



Conservation with Ethics

Estd. 2008

Kathmandu, Nepal

Introduction

Amphibians and reptiles is one of the least studied faunal groups in Nepal. Information on amphibians and reptiles of Nepal have been scattered and the research activities to date have generally been narrowly-defined because they are local in scope, limited in duration and confined mostly to the Protected Areas. So far there has been virtually no systematic countrywide attempt to explore the group. As conservation plans and legislation are designed based mainly on scattered information, there are limitations that have serious implications for designing long-term conservation programmes for the group in the country.

In order to develop a comprehensive database, it is essential to conduct long-term inventories and monitoring programmes for amphibians and reptiles of Nepal. It is also vital to identify and conserve the important habitats of the herptiles in the country. The need for such work is especially acute, given the rapid human population growth; the dependency of rural populations on natural products from wetlands and associated herptiles' habitats, building materials and medicines; and growth of tourism in and around the habitats. The likely impacts of global climate change are yet to be distinguished.

There is widespread apprehension over updating the structure of conservation policies, as very little is known about the distribution and abundance of many native species listed in the schedule of Nepal Government's National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973, in the Appendices of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and in the IUCN Red Data Book. To support such an endeavour, a team of Environmental science professionals and wildlife biologists from the

country are united. To materialize the very efforts for the well being of this important group of animals, they decided to amalgamate formally as "Companions for Amphibians and Reptiles of Nepal", acronymed as "CARON". The team would like to thank all the well wishers – individuals and organizations – for their encouragement and supports, especially to the member of the advisory board and expect full-fledged cooperation in future endeavours of the organization. We welcome any in-kind and other supports for the conservation of our nature, in general and the herpetofauna and their habitats, in particular

Vision

- Herpetofauna and their habitats sustainably utilized and conserved

Objectives

The main objectives of CARON are to:

- conduct scientific inventories of amphibians and reptiles in Nepal
- study the biology, ecology and biogeography of amphibians and reptiles and their habitats characteristics in Nepal
- launch of captive breeding programmes for some of the selected threatened species and release them into their natural habitats
- coordinate with potential stakeholders in their conservation efforts for the conservation of the herptiles in the country
- aware and sensitize local people living in and around the herptiles habitats to conserve the species and also to sustain the conservation programmes

Activities

To materialize the vision and achieve the different objectives, the organization has formulated different activities. The following are some of the undergoing activities. The organization extends its requests and welcome support, cooperation and suggestions from different individuals, organizations (community-based, government and non-government) and institutions.

1. Documentation of herpetofauna of Nepal
2. Cooperation with different stakes of society to disseminate information regarding the status and immediate needs for the conservation of herpetofauna and their habitats

Completed Projects

1. Species Accounts, Distribution Status and Threat Assessment of Turtles of Nepal in Lowlands of Nepal with special focus on Indian-Eyed Turtle.
2. Inventory of Herpetofaunal Diversity in Nagarjun Forest of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park.
3. Quick Survey of Herpetofauna in Manaslu Conservation Area, Gorkha, Nepal.
4. Turtles of Nepal: A Field Guide for Species Accounts and Distribution

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