

# Support Us

To make our work more effective and far reaching, we request your support in terms of personnel and finance. We appreciate and welcome any kind of help that you can offer. Please send an email and your donations to Himalayan Nature.



## Supporters



# Conserving Biodiversity for People



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# Mission Statement

Himalayan Nature is dedicated to explore the natural history of the Himalayan region to inform and empower the public for a knowledge-based management of natural resources in the most participatory way possible.

# Vision

Communities living in harmony with nature and managing biodiversity in the Himalayan region for sustainable use.



# Goal

Ensure biodiversity conservation and promote peoples' livelihood in Himalayan communities through research, conservation, awareness, capacity building and sustainable incentives.



# Himalayan Nature....

Founded in 2000, Himalayan Nature (HN) is an international conservation research institute, initiating scientific research on Himalayan floral and faunal diversity and the broader environment. HN is an independent, not-for-profit organization actively working on emerging issues related to the conservation of natural resources and the improvement of living conditions of people in the Himalayan region.

HN is a science-based organization taking an independent view of biodiversity conservation issues providing advice on aspects of environmental management to government authorities and other concerned nature conservation organizations. Periodically, we release statements to help improve awareness among the public and policy makers of environmental situations.

Our organization is supported by internationally renowned scientists and conservationists who have long experience in the natural history and ecology of the Himalayan region. We work closely with other research and conservation organizations within and outside Nepal, complementing their work and exchanging information.

We are based in Kathmandu and have three field study centers in Nepal; in **Koshi**, **Chitwan** and **Lumbini**. In addition, we collaborate with several community-based organizations working in various parts of the region.



## Our Work

*We carry out different programs and activities under our six thematic areas: Advocacy, Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation, Education and Appreciation, Community Welfare and Habitat Restoration. Depending on the nature of programs, we collaborate with different grassroots, national and international organizations for a successful operation.*

### Advocacy

Based on scientific studies and highly experienced Research Fellows, its board members and staff, HN advises government agencies, donors and NGOs for the improvement of natural resource management in the region. Under this thematic area, we recently updated our knowledge on the status of animals in the country and formulated recommendations for the government to revise National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act.







## Climate Change

Climate change is emerging as the biggest threat to human welfare and overall biodiversity on the earth. Although Himalayan communities have contributed very little to the rise of the earth's temperature, these will be among the first to suffer from the consequences of climate change. We are monitoring changes in ecosystems via selected key indicator species and are committed to find solutions that could be applicable at the field level for adaptation to minimize the threats emerging from climate change.

## Biodiversity Research and Conservation

Himalayan biodiversity is unique. We have been carrying out research and conservation on all aspects of flora and fauna, notably on critically endangered vultures, Bengal Florican, Great Slaty Woodpecker, Fishing cat, Chinese Pangolin, Snow Leopard etc. The Mid-winter Water Bird count, the longest running participatory bird count in Nepal, is one of our annual programs. We have been working with farmers on farmland biodiversity, with university students and locals on bird migration research.

We have been continuing our research on *Mikania micrantha* (an invasive alien species), ethno-botanical aspects as well as various other researches on vegetation of the region and recently assisted the Government of Nepal's wetland project to develop monitoring



tools for five indicator species of wetland habitats. HN continues to conserve biodiversity of the region through various innovative programs to achieve the sustainable use of resources by local population.

## Special Conservation Sites (SCS)

Conservation organizations working worldwide have launched various programs aiming to safeguard biological diversity of the region. These include Conservation International's biodiversity hotspots and key biodiversity areas, WWF's Ecoregions, MacArthur Foundation's Biological Hotspots, BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas, Endemic Bird Areas, Plantlife International's Important Plant Areas etc. In the region, ICIMOD and WWF together with government institutions have launched the Sacred Himalayan Landscape, Terai Arc Landscape, the Living Himalayas program which aim to preserve larger scale landscape. At a much reduced scale and a new concept for conservation organizations,

Himalayan Nature has initiated the SCS program. Sites will identify plants or places that support or may support a wealth of other forms of life. A single tree or a very small area can be designated as SCS. Spread to many sites, this idea will save a significant amount of biodiversity and will be mostly implemented outside protected area and closed to human settlements.





### Kosi Bird Observatory (KBO) Center for Grassland and Wetland Studies



Himalayan Nature has set up Nepal's first bird observatory **Kosi Bird Observatory** situated north of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. KBO acts as a training and research center for wetland and grassland studies. Researchers who wish to make use of this nearly setup facility and know more about KBO should contact Himalayan Nature office in Kathmandu.

promotes Nepal's conservation efforts amongst wider international communities. In the region, we put special emphasis on school/university students ensuring that future generation remains actively involved and aware on nature conservation. Similarly a broadbase of support from local people is needed for conservation activities to be successful.

### Eco-tourism and Community Welfare

Conservation outside specifically designated protected areas can be achieved only when local communities understand and take the initiative in implementing the work. We promote meaningful participation and awareness of local people on the diverse services of natural resources to us. This will lead to effective resource utilization and its long term sustainability. Himalayan Nature contributes its part through various eco-friendly activities and encourage people to develop a culture of giving and sharing.



### Education and Appreciation

Increasing the awareness of communities is an essential component of conservation programs. HN contributes its part through various activities such as awarding Brian Hodgson Award for dedicated wildlife researcher and conservationists, helping the government to develop CEPA materials and actively participating in the celebration of various international events. Charles Sturt University in Australia has been running Student Exchange Program through HN which allow Australian and Nepali students to share their experience and learn about Nepal's environment and culture. This program provides training for overseas students and

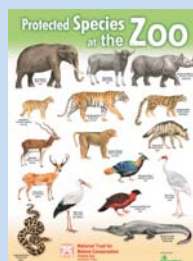
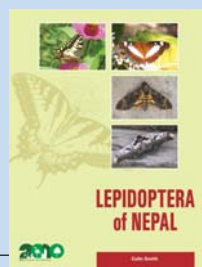
### Husbandry and Restoration

Maintaining ecosystems in their natural state is a priority for us. However, in many cases restoration of degraded environment is essential and also individual species restoration through captive breeding and release programs may be necessary. Activities under this theme are aimed at supporting the wild population and environment. Our new initiative **Trees for Tomorrow** program aims to restore degraded sites through the plantation of native vegetation for long term conservation of nature and natural resources. The main concept of this program is to plant and nurture plants till they reach maturity, as opposed to many so called plantation programs.



# Publications

HN produces useful, informative and scientific publications that contribute for raising awareness, increasing public appreciation of wildlife and natural environment, setting up region's biodiversity databank. Some notable publications are; Wild Mammals of Nepal- A field guide for mammals of Nepal, Aandho Sarpa ko Khoji- A fictitious book based on conservation, Lepidoptera of Nepal- a most up to date checklist of Lepidoptera, a number of posters, brochures and research reports.



# Partnership for Conservation



Conservation cannot be achieved in isolation. HN has established a broad networks and partnerships ranging from the grassroot level to both national and international institutions.