

## **Project Update: June 2012**

Research permission to conduct the study “Study of Habitat and Population of *Gavialis gangeticus* in Narayani River of Chitwan National Park” was approved in 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 2012 by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. Similarly, for the execution of the project and field study, the Chitwan national Park has granted permission in June 2012.

**Outcome:** Familiarisation of project activities, developed strong support in coordination and implementation of project activities.

Survey pre-planning consultative meetings with Gharial Breeding Center, Chitwan National Park, Kasara were held for acquiring current practices of captive gharial crocodile population, reintroduction activities in the river system, promotion of awareness in large scale especially to the buffer zone communities and related stakeholders. The meetings were fruitful to gain insights and feedbacks about the current gharial conservation practices. The Chief of the Gharial Breeding Center, Assistant Warden Mr. Bed Bahadur Khadka who has been involved in gharial conservation in Chitwan National Park for more than 10 years has shared his experiences and also suggested his directives for conducting study without being overlapped with the current ongoing activities. In the meantime, he briefed about the important activities of the Gharial Action Plan which is currently being prepared. This document could be useful in providing guidelines for the field work and in the preparation of the research design.

**Outcome:** Sharing of ideas, experiences and survey plan will enable the team to avoid the duplication of any gharial conservation activities.

The research team participated in the gharial crocodile awareness programme conducted by the WWF/Terai Arc Landscape Project. The meeting was useful in acquiring information on the importance, current threats and conservation measures on gharial crocodile. This programme was participated by large number of stakeholders of the bufferzone communities and was an opportunity in sharing information from the different areas of the river basins.

**Outcome:** Networking with important stakeholders of the river basins will enable the team in strengthening the project conservation awareness activities.

Field survey to gharial project, Amaltari Island: A week visit was conducted in Amaltari Island (Gharial Crocodile Project-Station) to monitor the hatchling activities of gharials. Altogether five nests of different clutch size that were collected from Velloji and Khoriya Muhan of Narayani River were kept here in pits. During the visit, the research team was able to closely monitor the hatching of the three nests.

**Outcome:** Baseline information on hatchling success established.

