

‘लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील उत्सव’को अवसरमा

प्रकृति संरक्षण पुरस्कार प्राप्त गर्नेहरूको संक्षिप्त विवरण

(२०१२ देखि २०२० सम्म)

Short profile of Nature Conservation Award winners of
‘Nepal Owl Festival’

(2012-2020)



हाम्रो भन्नु



प्रकृतिका साथीहरूले सन् २०१२ मा पहिलो पटक नेपाल 'लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील उत्सव' को सुरुवात गर्दा वर्तमान स्थिति सम्म आउला भनेर कल्पना सम्म पनि गरिएको थिएन। तर समय र अनुभवले यो उत्सवलाई देशकै ठुलो संरक्षण पर्वको रूपमा परिवर्तन गरी सकेको छ। प्रत्येक वर्ष नयाँ नयाँ जिल्लामा उत्सव आयोजना गर्दा व्यवस्थापनको चुनौती त छँदै छ तर यसले देशका दूर दराजमा लाटोकोसेरो संरक्षणको सन्देश पुऱ्याउन पनि उत्तिकै सहयोग गरेको छ। सबै वर्ग र समूहलाई लाटोकोसेरो संरक्षणमा जागरूक बनाउनका लागि नै यो पर्वको सुरुवात गरिएको हो।

यो पर्वले लाटोकोसेरोको मुद्दाहरू मात्र समेट्दैन। सँग-सँगै स्थानीय संस्कृति, लोपोन्मुख खेलहरूको माध्यमबाट स्थानीय पर्यापर्यटन प्रवर्धनमा उत्तिकै सहयोग गरेको छ। आज भोलि आयोजना लागतमा लाग्ने कुल खर्चको करिब ५० प्रतिशत सम्म स्थानीयहरूले बेहोर्न थाल्नुले पनि यसको महत्त्वलाई उजागर गर्दछ। सोही अवसरमा देशभरि र देशबाहिरका संरक्षणकर्मीहरूलाई पनि सम्मानित गरिन्छ। यो पुस्तकले अहिलेसम्म सम्मानित अनुसन्धानकर्मी, संरक्षणकर्मी तथा संस्थाहरूको विवरणलाई एकत्रित गर्ने काम गरेको छ। तिनीहरूसँग सम्बन्धित जानकारी सोही बेलाको अनुसार उल्लेख गरिएको छ। उनीहरू हाल के गर्छन् भन्ने जानकारी यो पुस्तकमा उल्लेखित छैन।

नेपालमा प्रकृति संरक्षणमा काम गर्ने धेरै व्यक्तिहरू हुनुहुन्छ तर हामीले केहीलाई मात्र सम्मान गरेका छौं, गर्नेछौं। पुरस्कार मात्र अन्तिम लक्ष्य होइन, हाम्रो उद्देश्य त प्रकृति संरक्षण हो। यहाँहरूको प्रकृति संरक्षणमा मन लागिरहोस्। हाम्रो शुभकामना। सहयोगी हात र साथहरूलाई मुरी मुरी धन्यवाद।

When Nepal Owl Festival was organized for the first time in Nepal in 2012, we never thought that the festival would grow to this proportion both in magnitude and the impact it will have on people. The festival currently is one of the biggest conservation events in the country. The festival has its own set of management challenges as the venue for the festival keeps changing every year however there's a distinct advantage i.e. of disseminating owl conservation messages on a larger spatial areas. After all the festival was conceived to reach every groups and class in society with owl conservation message.

It is also important, though, to understand that the festival doesn't just talks about owl conservation issues. It also aims to help in elevating eco-tourism in the venues by promoting local culture and local games. It is important to note that locals have been wholeheartedly contributing 50% of the festival expenses which also highlights the importance of this festival for people who want to organize. The event also takes the opportunity to award and felicitate prominent conservationists and researchers based on their contributions. This digital book compiles the personal profile of all awarded individual and organization. The information on the awardees has been kept the same as they were provided during the time they were awarded.

Nepal has been blessed to have many committed researchers and conservationists however we have awarded only few of them because of many reasons. Award is just an act of appreciation; our actual goal is nature conservation. We wish you keep working for nature conservation. Thank you every one who has helped in conservation.

.....

सुनिल थापा Sunil Thapa

अध्यक्ष Chairman

प्रकृतिका साथीहरू Friends of Nature

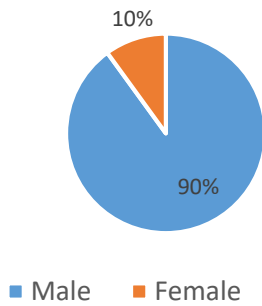
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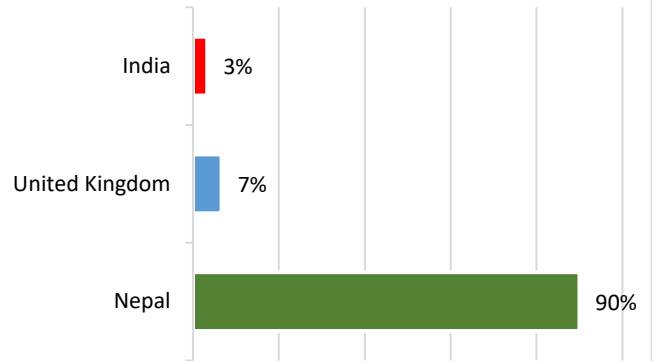
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‘Nature Conservation Award’ in glimpse

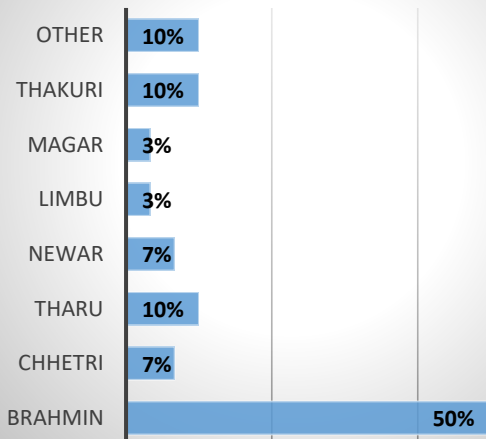
Award winners by gender



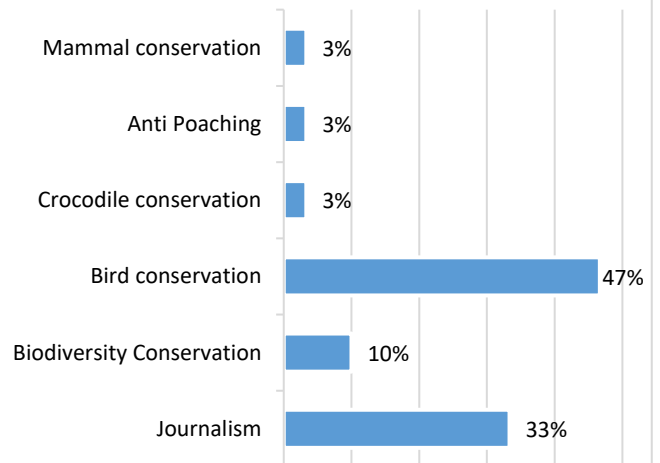
Award winners by Country



Award winners by ethnicity



Award winners by major work involvement





Nepal Owl Festival
Rangbhang, Syangja 2020

Mr. Avinash Chaudhary



Avinash Chaudhary has been working as a reporter based in Dhangadhi for two daily newspapers namely, 'Gorkhapatra' and 'The Rising Nepal'. He is also the News coordinator for 'Paschim Today', a local media. In the past, he has also worked as an editor for "Hamara Pahura Tharu" and as a reporter for "Shree Nepal Times" a daily newspaper. Chaudhary started his career in journalism writing news reports on environmental

conservation and has had an experience of 13 years just by the age of 31. He has brought over six dozen of cases/issues related to conservation in the light of public via feature and news. He often writes about birds, including owls. He hasn't limited himself to news reporting but has worked actively in their conservation too.

Avinash Chaudhary is highly inspired by the works of Bhojraj Shrestha from Kailali district. He has a keen interest in photography, travelling to new places and communicating with local people. He regards human wildlife conflict, poaching of wild animals and habitat destruction as major challenges to conservation compounded by low funding from government and lack of coordination between concerned stakeholders.

श्री अविनाश चौधरी

एक दशकदेखि गोरखापत्र र दि राइजिङ नेपालको संवाददाताका रूपमा धनगढीबाट कार्यरत कैलाली जिल्लाको कैलारी गाउँपालिका-७ का अविनाश चौधरीले वातावरण संरक्षणका मुद्दामा निरन्तर कलम चलाउँदै आउनु भएको छ । ३१ वर्षीय चौधरी धनगढीमा रहेर स्थानीय पश्चिम टुडे मिडिया हाउसमा पनि विगत ६ वर्षदेखि समाचार संयोजकका रूपमा पनि कार्यरत



हुनुहुन्छ । १२ जनाको परिवारमा कान्छा उहाँले पत्रकारिता क्षेत्रमा १३ वर्षको अनुभव बटुलि सक्नुभएको छ। विगतमा करिब ३ वर्ष 'हमार पहरा थारु' का लागि कार्यकारी सम्पादक र श्री नेपाल टाइम्स दैनिक पत्रिकामा वरिष्ठ संवाददाताका रूपमा काम गरिसक्नु भएको छ ।

स्नातकोत्तर तहसम्मको शिक्षा आर्जन गर्नु भएका चौधरीले पत्रकारिताको सुरुवात नै संरक्षण सम्बन्धी समाचारबाट गर्नुभएको हो । हालसम्म ६ दर्जन भन्दा बढी संरक्षणका मुद्दाहरूलाई समाचार तथा फिचरको माध्यमबाट सर्वसाधारण सामु पुऱ्याउनु भएको छ । उहाँका नियमित जसो चरा सम्बन्धी लेखहरू छन् जसमध्ये लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचीलका विषयमा पनि छन् । समाचार लेखनुकासाथै अनौपचारिक रूपमा तिनको संरक्षणको लागि समेत पहल गर्दै आउनु भएको छ ।

कैलालीका गुलेली बाजे भनिने भोजराज श्रेष्ठ र उहाँको संरक्षण अभियानबाट चौधरी प्रभावित हुनुहुन्छ । नयाँ ठाउँ घुम्ने, स्थानीय समुदायसँग कुराकानी गर्ने र फोटोग्राफीमा विशेष रुचि छ । मानव-वन्यजन्तु बिच द्वन्द्व, वन्यजन्तुको चोरी शिकारी तथा वासस्थान विनाश, वन्यजन्तु संरक्षणका प्रमुख चुनौती रहेको उहाँको ठम्याइ छ । साथै राज्यको कम लगानी र सरोकारवालाबिच सहकार्यको अभावका कारण संरक्षणले आशातीत उपलब्धि हासिल नगरेको विश्वास छ । त्यसैले चौधरी वन्यजन्तु संरक्षणका सन्देशहरू स्थानीय समुदायमा फैलाउन चाहनु हुन्छ ।

Mr. Bishwanath Rijal



Bishwanath Rijal lives in Tarkeshwor Municipality, Kathmandu and has been continuously working to conserve the environment for a decade now. He has been working as a coordinator in LVDI Inc. and President for Green Guard Nepal for the past three years.

Rijal has successfully rescued up to 60 animals including five owls. He has also written 30 articles on biodiversity conservation, three of which are on owls. While working as a science teacher for almost 17 years, he encouraged students to work for nature. He also worked as an editor for “Green Guard” magazine which, provided platform to a number of students to disseminate their opinions on conservation. He has also run over hundred awareness campaigns to sensitize students and general public on conservation issues. Rijal also led the celebration of ‘Monkey day’ for four years now. In recent years, Rijal has been working to control hunting and poaching of wild animals.

Bishwanath Rijal is inspired by the works of Dr. Chia L Tan and Dr. Andy “John” Phillips. He expresses the need of a separate authority to work in the field of wildlife research and conservation. Rijal stresses over the need of attention and cooperation between concerned organizations and individuals in this field.

श्री विश्वनाथ रिजाल



काठमाडौंको तारकेश्वर नगरपालिका-५ बस्ने विश्वनाथ रिजाल एक दशकयता संरक्षणको क्षेत्रमा क्रियाशील हुनुहुन्छ । प्राणीशास्त्रमा स्नातकोत्तर उहाँले सरकारी विद्यालयमा करिब १७ वर्ष विज्ञान विषय अध्यापन गराउनु भयो जुन बेलादेखि नै विद्यार्थीलाई प्रकृतिसँग नजिक बनाउन विभिन्न क्रियाकलापमा संलग्न गराउन थाल्नुभयो । विगत तीन वर्षदेखि LVDI International Inc. का नेपाल संयोजक र हरियाली रक्षक नेपालका अध्यक्ष भई काम गर्दै आउनुभएको छ ।

वन्यजन्तुको उद्धार तथा पुनर्स्थापनामा अनवरत रूपमा लाग्ने उहाँले हालसम्म ६० वटा वन्यजन्तुको उद्धार गरिसक्नु भएको छ जसमध्ये ५ वटा लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील छन् । सर्वसाधारणहरूलाई संरक्षण सम्बन्धी विषयमा अवगत गराउनुपर्दछ भन्ने विश्वास गर्ने उहाँका जैविक विविधता संरक्षण सम्बन्धी ३० वटा लेखहरू प्रकाशित छन् जसमध्ये तीन वटा लाटोकोसेरासँग सम्बन्धित छन् । साथै हरियाली रक्षक नामक पत्रिकाको १६ अङ्कसम्म सम्पादकको भूमिका निभाउनु भएको छ, जसमार्फत धेरै जना विद्यार्थीले संरक्षणप्रतिको आफ्ना विचारहरू प्रेषित गर्न सक्षम भएका छन् । करिब सय वटा संरक्षण चेतना शिविर सञ्चालन गरेर हजारौं विद्यार्थीलाई वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विषयमा सचेत गराउनु भएको छ । यसै क्रममा चार वटा बाँदर दिवस मनाउन पनि नेतृत्वदायी भूमिका निभाउनु भएको छ । केही वर्षदेखि वन्यजन्तुको चोरी सिकारी नियन्त्रण गर्न लागिपर्नु भएको छ ।

डा. चिया एल टान र डा. एन्डी फिलिप्सबाट प्रभावित रिजाल वन्यजन्तु अनुसन्धान र संरक्षणका लागि बेग्लै निकायको आवश्यकतामा जोड दिन्छन् । जैविक विविधताका लागि महत्त्वपूर्ण पूर्वी नेपालमा संरक्षणको सन्देश र काम दुवै कम भएको महसूस गर्ने रिजाल संरक्षणमा रुचि राख्ने विभिन्न निकायहरू बिच समन्वय हुनुपर्नेमा पनि उत्तिकै जोड दिनु हुन्छ ।

Mr. Manashanta Ghimire

Currently residing at Lakeside, Pokhara, Manashanta Ghimire is a well-known name in the field of bird conservation. He is the founding president of 'Pokhara Bird Society' and has been persistently working in the area of bird conservation for a decade now.

He is a birding guide by profession and also been working as visiting lecturer of Ornithology in the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara. Ghimire has organized over 150

birdwatching events and has been involved in rescue and rehabilitation of over 40 wild animals, five of which include owls. Pokhara Bird Fair and Nepal Bird Fair, organized in his leadership, were highly commended for their success in propagating the message on the status and conservation of birds. He has been directly involved in research related to five birds and firmly believes in the need of disseminating such research works to the light of public. He has already published two bird books and is working on the next two. In addition, he has also published twenty technical reports and research articles.



श्री मनशान्त घिमिरे



लमजुङको मध्य नेपाल नगरपालिका- ७ मूल घर भइ पोखराको लेक साइडमा बस्ने ३६ वर्षीय घिमिरे चरा चिनाउनेहरूका माझ परिचित नाम हो । पोखरा पंक्षी समाजका संस्थापक तथा वर्तमान अध्यक्ष समेत रहेका उहाँ एक दशकदेखि पंक्षी संरक्षणको अभियानमा हुनुहुन्छ । पेशाले चरा पथप्रदर्शकको रूपमा कार्यरत घिमिरे पोखरास्थित वन विज्ञान अध्ययन संस्थानमा चरा विषयमा अध्यापन समेत गर्नुहुन्छ ।

घिमिरेले हालसम्म १ सय ५० वटा भन्दा बढी चरा अवलोकन कार्यक्रमहरू सञ्चालन गर्नुभएको छ । ४० वटा भन्दा बढी वन्यजन्तुको उद्धार तथा पुनर्स्थापनामा पनि सक्रियता देखाउनुभएको छ जसमध्ये ५ वटा लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील छन् ।

वहाँकै नेतृत्वमा पोखरा चरा महोत्सव र नेपाल चरा महोत्सव जस्ता महत्त्वपूर्ण कार्यक्रम पोखरामा सफलतापूर्वक सम्पन्न भए । सहरी र सिमसार क्षेत्रका चरा गणनामा पनि निरन्तर अगुवाइ गरिरहनु भएको छ। प्रत्यक्ष रूपमा ५ वटा चरा सम्बन्धी अनुसन्धानमा संलग्न घिमिरे अनुसन्धानका परिणामहरू प्रकाशमा ल्याउनुपर्नेमा विश्वास राख्नुहुन्छ । यसै विश्वासले गर्दा चरा सम्बन्धी दुई वटा पुस्तकहरू प्रकाशित गर्नु भएको छ भने अन्य दुई कृति प्रकाशोन्मुख छन् । साथै उहाँका २० वटा प्राविधिक प्रतिवेदन तथा अनुसन्धानात्मक लेखहरू पनि प्रकाशित छन्।

डा. हेमसागर बराल, क्यारोल इन्स्क्रिप र टेक घर्ती मगरबाट प्रभावित घिमिरे फोटोग्राफी, सङ्गीत, अध्यापन, वन डुल्ने र पौडीमा समेत रुचि राख्नु हुन्छ । भविष्यमा गण्डकी प्रदेशलाई चरामा आधारित पर्यटनको राजधानी बनाउन लागि पर्ने उहाँको सोच छ ।

Mr. Laxman Prasad Poudyal

Laxman Prasad Poudyal lives in Tyanglaphaant, Kirtipur. He is currently based in Sukla Phanta National Park in Kanchanpur District as the Chief Warden. Poudyal has been contributing to the field of conservation for 28 years now during his involvement in various positions at Annapurna Conservation Area, Chitwan National Park (NP), Sagarmatha NP and Shivapuri-Nagarjuna NP.



Poudyal has been directly involved in the research of Pheasants, Vultures, Lesser Adjutant and Bengal Florican and has published over 15 research articles. He has authored three and co-authored two books. He has organized ten birdwatching events and conservation education programs in four schools. He had significant involvement during preparation of Red List of birds in Nepal. Furthermore, he also played a pivotal role in creating conservation work plan for Rhino, Gharial, Snow Leopard, Pangolin, Pheasants, and Red Panda.

Poudyal is inspired by the works of Dr. Hem Sagar Baral. He relishes birding and travelling. Poudyal firmly believes the need to simplify the procedure involved in research permit and also stresses over the need of government to fund the research projects to facilitate the growth and ensure the future of research field.

श्री लक्ष्मण प्रसाद पौड्याल



काठमाडौंको कीर्तिपुर नगरपालिका-२, ट्याडलाफाट निवासी पौड्याल हाल कञ्चनपुरस्थित शुक्लाफाँटा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जमा प्रमुख संरक्षण अधिकृतको रूपमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ । २८ वर्षदेखि संरक्षणको क्षेत्रमा अनवरत रूपमा लाग्नुभएका उहाँले प्राकृतिक स्रोत व्यवस्थापन तथा ग्रामीण विकासमा स्नातकोत्तर गर्नुभएको छ । हालसम्म अन्नपूर्ण संरक्षण क्षेत्र, शिवपुरी नागार्जुन, सगरमाथा र चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जहरूमा विभिन्न तहमा रहेर अनुसन्धान र संरक्षणमा अनुभव बटुल्नुभएको छ ।

कालिज, गिद्ध, भुँडी फोर गरुड र खर मुजुरको अनुसन्धानमा प्रत्यक्ष संलग्न हुनुभएका उहाँले १५ भन्दा बढी वैज्ञानिक लेखहरू प्रकाशित गरिसक्नुभएको छ । साथै उहाँका मुख्य लेखकका रूपमा तीन वटा र सहायक लेखकका रूपमा दुई वटा वन्यजन्तुका पुस्तक प्रकाशित छन् । संरक्षण शिक्षामा चासो राख्ने उहाँले हालसम्म १० वटा चरा अवलोकन कार्यक्रम र चार वटा विद्यालयमा संरक्षण शिक्षा कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गरिसक्नुभएको छ । नेपालको चराको रातो सूची बनाउने काममा उहाँको महत्वपूर्ण सहभागिता थियो । गैँडा, घडियाल, हिउँ चितुवा, सालक, कालिज र रेड पाण्डाको संरक्षण कार्य योजना बनाउने कार्यमा समेत उल्लेखनीय भूमिका खेल्नुभएको छ ।

डा. हेम सागर बरालको संरक्षणप्रतिको योगदानबाट प्रभावित भएको बताउने पौड्याल घुम्न र चरा अवलोकन गर्न मन पराउनु हुन्छ । अनुसन्धानका लागि स्वीकृति दिने प्रक्रियालाई सरलीकरण गर्नुपर्ने र सरकार आफैँले अनुसन्धानका लागि अनुदानको व्यवस्था गर्नुपर्ने कुरामा जोड दिनु हुन्छ ।



Nepal Owl Festival
Jalapa, Khotang, 2019

Mr. Ramji Gautam



Ramji Gautam who originally hails from Machapuchhre Rural Municipality-6, Dhital of Kaski district is currently a resident of Pokhara-1 Simpani. He completed his zoology degree in 1997 and for the past two decades he has been working as a lecturer at Prithvi Narayan Multiple Campus, Pokhara. He is the Secretary of Zoological Society of Pokhara and Snake Conservation Society Nepal and is a life member of Bird Conservation

Nepal and four other organizations.

Mr. Gautam's journey in the conservation sector started nearly 20 years ago with his work on Kalij pheasant. Since 2002, he has been involved in vulture research and conservation and has conducted 20 vulture conservation camps in schools of Kaski, Syangja and Palpa districts. He has over 20 publications including eight research articles, four of which are peer reviewed. His opinion and advice on national conservation issues has been often quoted in news media, including Kantipur Television, Kathmandu Post, Annapurna Post and Kantipur Daily. He has also given many interviews on local radio stations. Recently he has been actively involved in snake conservation in the country.

He has given 30 speeches on snake conservation and has been involved in over 30 snake rescue and release operations. He has led several research projects on herpetofauna, vultures, water birds and Kalij Pheasant in Pokhara which has tremendously helped to document the richness of biodiversity in the valley. He was instrumental in initiating weekly hikes to teach students about wildlife identification and is also an editor of the scientific journal published by Prithvi Narayan Multiple Campus.

Mr. Gautam has facilitated two owl rescue operations and two owl conservation camps. He recently helped establish artificial nests in his campus premises when the residing owls were displaced due to ongoing construction works. Mr. Gautam's grandmother has been highly influential in shaping up his love for nature conservation. His hobbies include observing wildlife behavior, rescuing wildlife and imparting conservation awareness to students.

श्री रामजी गौतम



कास्की जिल्ला, माछापुच्छ्रे गाउँपालिका-६, धिताल का स्थायी बासिन्दा रामजी गौतम हाल पोखरा उप-महानगरपालिका-१ सिम्पानीमा बस्नु हुन्छ । परिवारका सबैभन्दा जेठा सन्तान गौतमले सन् १९९७ मा प्राणी शास्त्र विषयमा स्नातकोत्तर गर्नुभएको हो । उहाँ करिब २० वर्षदेखि पृथ्वी नारायण बहूमुखी क्याम्पसमा प्राणी शास्त्र विषयको अध्यापन गराउँदै आउनुभएको छ । उहाँ जुलोजिकल सोसाइटी अफ पोखरा तथा सर्प संरक्षण समाज नेपालमा सचिवको रूपमा सक्रिय रहनुका साथै नेपाल पन्थी संरक्षण सङ्घ लगायत ४ वटा संस्थाहरूमा आजीवन सदस्य समेत हुनुहुन्छ ।

कालिज चरा अध्ययनबाट संरक्षणको यात्रा सुरु गरेका उहाँ २००२ देखि गिद्धको अध्ययन, अनुसन्धान र संरक्षणमा लागिपर्नुभएको छ । यस अवधिमा कास्की, स्याङ्जा र पाल्पामा २० वटा विद्यालयमा गिद्ध संरक्षण शिविर सञ्चालन गर्नुभएको छ । त्यसैगरी ३० वटा सर्प संरक्षण र वन्यजन्तु उद्धार सम्बन्धी प्रवचन दिनुभएको छ । उहाँका २० वटा भन्दा बढी अनुसन्धान प्रतिवेदनहरू प्रकाशित छन्, जसमध्ये आठ वटा वैज्ञानिक सोध पत्रमा लेखक तथा सहलेखकको भूमिका निर्वाह गर्नुभएको छ । उहाँका विचारहरू कान्तिपुर टेलिभिजन, काठमाडौं पोस्ट, अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट, कान्तिपुर दैनिकमा उद्धृत गरिएको छ । त्यसै गरी दर्जनौं अन्तरवार्ताहरू स्थानीय रेडियोहरूमा बजेका छन् । पोखरा उपत्यकामा प्रत्येक हप्ता विद्यार्थीहरूलाई वन्यजन्तु पहिचान गराउन हाईकिंग गराउने र क्याम्पसबाट प्रकाशित हुने जर्नलको सम्पादकीय समूहमा समेत संलग्न हुनुहुन्छ । पोखरा वरिपरि सरीसृप, गिद्ध, पानी चरा, कालिजको अनुसन्धान सम्पन्न हुनुमा उहाँको नेतृत्वदायी भूमिका रहेको छ ।

उहाँले दुईवटा संरक्षण चेतना शिविरमा सहजीकरण गर्नुभएको छ । क्याम्पस हाताभित्र बन्दै गरेका पूर्वाधारको कारणले लाटोकोसेरोको बास मासिए पछि उनले कृत्रिम गुँड स्थापना गर्ने प्रारम्भिक गृहकार्य सम्पन्न गरिसक्नुभएको छ ।

उहाँ आफ्नो हजुरआमाको प्रकृति प्रेमबाट प्रभावित हुनुहुन्छ । वन्यजन्तुलाई हेर्ने, तिनका आनी-बानी नियाल्ने, घाइते वन्यजन्तुको उद्धार गर्ने र तिनका बारेमा विद्यार्थीलाई चेतना शिविर चलाउने उहाँका सौख हुन् ।

Mr. Yadav Prasad Acharya

Yadav Prasad Acharya was born in 1978 A.D. in Bagalamukhi Mandir Tole of Gulariya, Bardia. He is the eldest member of his family of five. It has been



12 years since he started his career as a journalist working for local media. Over the years he has worked for many reputed news organizations including Image Channel Television, Himalaya Times Daily, Hamrakura.com and Bageshwori FM (Nepalgunj). He is currently working as the Bardia correspondent of Annapurna Post, one of the nation's leading daily. For the past seven years, under his leadership, Churekunja, weekly newspaper has been publishing news addressing

various local environmental issues.

So far, Mr. Acharya has published over 100 news articles including featured articles and documentaries. He has been covering issues such as tiger status/census, rhino translocation/census/issues, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Dolphin conservation, Blackbuck conservation, Vulture conservation, status of protected areas, human-wildlife conflict, illegal hunting and trade, etc. He has published four owl related articles and has also been involved in two owl rescue events. He has also participated in over 24 conservation awareness camps.

One of his main goals is to highlight issues on biodiversity conservation through news media. He wants to establish a media house in the future and has already taken the initiative by starting the Churekunja weekly. He believes that to conserve nature, the efforts of few is not enough, which is why he wants to urge the government to work with the local people and conservationists to achieve this goal. He believes that much work is needed to address issues on human-wildlife conflict in Nepal, and that the government should help conservationists and provide wholehearted support to them.

श्री यादव प्रसाद आर्चाय

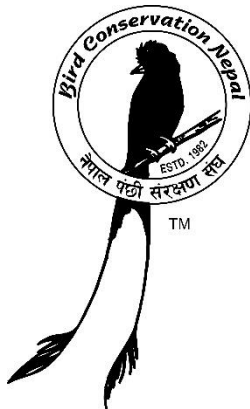


बर्दिया जिल्लाका ४१ वर्षीय यादव प्रसाद आर्चाय, गुलरिया नगरपालिका-६, बङ्गलामुखी मन्दिर टोल निवासी हुनुहुन्छ। उहाँ पाँच जनाको परिवार मध्ये जेठा सन्तान हुनुहुन्छ । स्थानीय पत्र-पत्रिकामा २०६३ सालदेखि पत्रकारिता गर्दै आउनु भएका आर्चाय हाल अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट दैनिकका बर्दिया संवाददाताको रूपमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ । यस अवधिमा उहाँले इमेज च्यानल टेलिभिजन, हिमालय टाइम्स दैनिक, हाम्रा कुरा डटकम, बागेश्वरी एफएम (नेपालगन्ज) मा समेत संवाददाताको रूपमा अनुभव बटुली सक्नुभएको छ । उहाँको नेतृत्वदायी भूमिकामा स्थानीय प्रकृतिका तथा अन्य मुद्दाहरू जनमानसमा पुऱ्याउन सात वर्ष देखि चुरे कुञ्ज साप्ताहिक पत्रिका प्रकाशित भइरहेको छ ।

हालसम्म उहाँका १०० भन्दा बढी लेख, फिचर, खबर, डकुमेन्ट्री प्रकाशित तथा प्रसारित भई सकेका छन् । विशेषगरि बाघको अवस्था, गणना, गैँडाको स्थानान्तरण, सङ्ख्या, चुनौती, वातावरणीय प्रभाव मूल्याङ्कन, डल्फिन र सोंस संरक्षण, निकुञ्जको अवस्था, मानव-वन्यजन्तु द्वन्द्व, वन्यजन्तु चोरी सिकारी, कृष्णसार, गिद्ध संरक्षण आदि उहाँका रुचिका विषय हुन् । उहाँका चार वटा लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील विषयक लेखहरू पनि प्रकाशित छन् । दुई वटा लाटोकोसेरोको उद्धारमा उहाँको भूमिका अहम् रह्यो । त्यसै गरी उहाँ दुई दर्जन भन्दा बढी संरक्षण चेतना शिविरहरूमा संलग्न हुनुभएको छ ।

जैविक विविधता संरक्षणका विविध मुद्दाहरूलाई पत्रकारिताको माध्यमबाट जनमानसमा पुऱ्याउने उद्देश्यका साथ लागि रहने उहाँको योजना छ । यसका लागि मिडिया हाउस नै स्थापना गर्ने सोचमा हुनुहुन्छ । जसका लागि चुरे कुञ्ज साप्ताहिक पत्रिका सुरु गरी सकेका छन् । उहाँ एक वा दुई जनाको प्रयासले मात्र प्रकृति संरक्षण हुन नसक्ने विश्वास गर्नुहुन्छ । उहाँ सरकारलाई समुदाय र यस क्षेत्रका विज्ञहरूसँग मिलेर काम गर्न सल्लाह दिनुहुन्छ । विशेष गरी मानव-वन्यजन्तुका मुद्दामा पहल गर्नु पर्ने धारणा राख्ने उहाँ यो क्षेत्रमा काम गर्ने संरक्षणकर्मीहरूलाई सरकारले सहयोग गर्नुपर्ने बताउनु हुन्छ ।

Bird Conservation Nepal



Established in 1982, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) is the leading organization focusing on the conservation of birds and their habitats in Nepal. It seeks to promote interest in birds amongst the general public, encourage research on birds and identify major threats to birds' continued survival. As a result, BCN is the foremost scientific authority on birds and provides scientific data and expertise for the Government of Nepal for overall bird conservation in the country.

As a Birdlife International partner, a network of more than 110 organizations around the world, BCN is engaged in monitoring the status of Nepal's bird and ensuring their protection. With the identification of 37 critical sites of birds known as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) – occurring in forests, grasslands and freshwater ecosystems – BCN is playing a key role in conserving nationally and globally threatened birds.

BCN is also committed to showing the value of birds and their special relationship with people. They work with communities, conservation partners, government agencies, civil society and the general public and advocate the need for peoples' participation as future stewards to attain long-term conservation goals. It has played a pivotal role in helping vultures bounce back from extinction by advocating the ban of diclofenac use in the country. It is currently working on releasing captive bred vultures in the wild which will be a landmark in species conservation in Nepal. It also promotes vulture research and conservation among youths through Jatayu Scholarship program.

BCN has conducted over 3700 Bird Conservation Camps and over 2500 Bird Watching Events. The number of scientific publications exceeds 100 and number of bird checklists, book and newsletter publication is around 375. This includes the 2010 Red List assessment for birds of Nepal which was published in the book State of Nepal's Birds 2010. BCN has also been actively disseminating bird related information to public with over 90 interviews and radio programs and over 5000 news articles. Among them, work related to owls include around 10 articles, 25 conservation camps and over 50 owl rescue events.

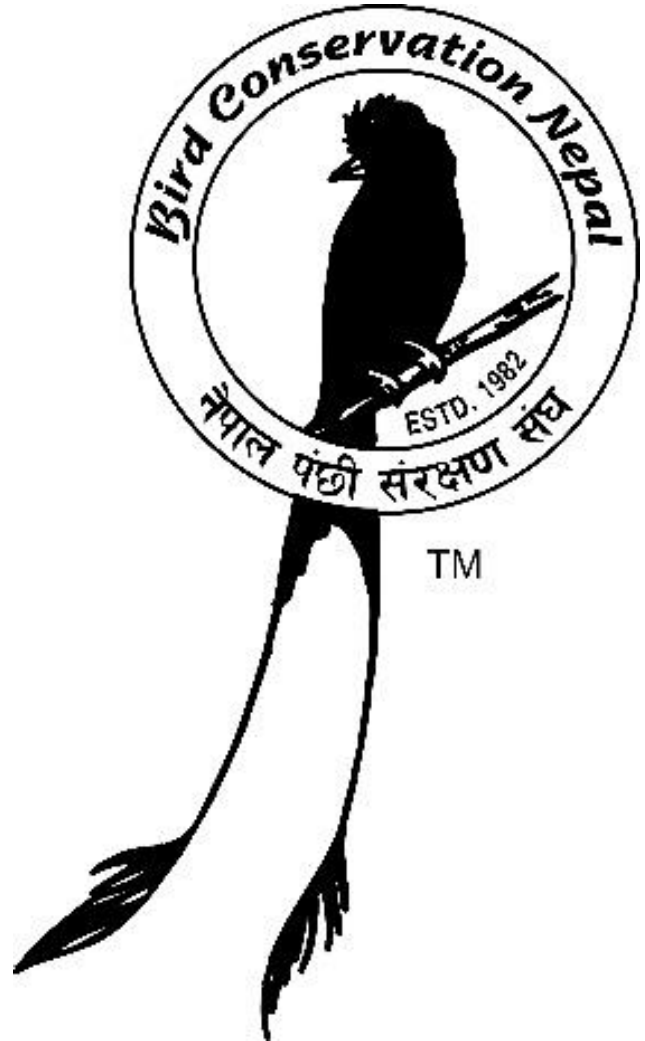
नेपाल पक्षी संरक्षण संघ

१९८२ मा स्थापना भएको यो संस्था नेपालमा चरा र तिनको वासस्थान संरक्षणको लागि स्थापित सबैभन्दा पुरानो गैर सरकारी संस्था हो । यसले सबै सरोकारवालाहरूलाई चरा प्रति चासो जगाउने चराको अध्ययन/अनुसन्धान गर्ने र गर्न उत्प्रेरित गर्ने, तिनलाई परेको चुनौती पहिचान गर्ने काम गरेर तिनको संरक्षणमा पहल समेत गर्दछ । यो संस्था नेपाल सरकारसँग मिलेर चराको वैज्ञानिक तथ्याङ्क सङ्कलन/विश्लेषण तथा आफ्नो ज्ञानलाई चरा तथा जैविक विविधता संरक्षणमा प्रयोग गर्दछ ।

यो संस्था बर्ड लाइफ इन्टरनेसनलको पार्टनर समेत हो। यसले नेपालमा महत्वपूर्ण चरा तथा जैविक विविधता क्षेत्रहरू पहिचान गर्ने काम गर्दछ जुन क्षेत्रहरू चरा र जैविक विविधता संरक्षणका लागि महत्वपूर्ण मानिन्छन् । हाल नेपालमा ३७ यस्ता क्षेत्रहरू रहेका छन् ।

यो संस्थाले विशेष गरी पछिल्ला दशकमा गिद्ध संरक्षणमा नेतृत्वदायी भूमिका खेल्दै आएको छ जसका लागि गिद्धहरूलाई हानिकारक औषधी डार्इक्लोफेनाक प्रतिबन्ध गराउन सरकारसँग वकालत गरेको थियो जुन २००६ मा सफल भयो । युवाहरूलाई गिद्ध अनुसन्धान/संरक्षणमा प्रोत्साहन गराउन यस संस्थाले 'जटायु छात्रवृत्ति' पनि सुरु गरेको छ । अहिले यस संस्थाले दुर्लभ गिद्धहरूलाई नियन्त्रित वातावरणमा हुर्काएर र प्राकृतिक वासस्थानमा पुनर्स्थापना गर्ने महत्वपूर्ण काम गर्दैछ ।

यो संस्थाले हालसम्म करिब ३७०० वटा चरा संरक्षण चेतना शिविरहरू, २५०० भन्दा बढी चरा अवलोकन कार्यक्रम, सयभन्दा बढी चराको सुची प्रकाशनहरू, ३७५ किताब र न्यूजलेटर प्रकाशन गरी सकेको छ । ९० भन्दा बढी अन्तर्वार्ता र पाँच हजार भन्दा बढी लेखहरू प्रकाशित छन् । यसमध्ये १० वटा लेखहरू, २५ वटा चेतना शिविरहरू, ५० वटा उद्धार कार्यक्रम लाटोकोसेरोसँग सम्बन्धित छन् ।





Nepal Owl Festival
Jiri, Dolakha, 2018

Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhusal



Krishna Prasad Bhusal has been working on vulture research and conservation for around a decade. He has travelled across 56 out of 77 districts of Nepal and conducted conservation programs and activities.

Bhusal has participated in 143 public awareness camps and programs focused on birds and biodiversity conservation. He has contributed as

coauthor on 3 different books on vultures and has organized 36 vulture conservation camps in various schools and colleges. He has also helped spread conservation awareness by appearing on various radio and television programs. He has published scientific research articles on birds, and written several other articles, of which 8 are on owls. He contributed important information on the status of various owl species while preparing the National Red List on the status of birds.

Inspired by renowned veteran ornithologist Dr. Hem Sagar Baral, Mr. Bhusal enjoys travelling and writing. He likes collecting indigenous knowledge and strongly believes in participatory conservation. He wants to continue his work on vulture research and conservation in the near future. He thinks that stakeholder involvement and unity is necessary for any conservation effort to be successful.

श्री कृष्ण प्रसाद भूषाल



प्राणी शास्त्रमा स्नातकोत्तर गर्नुभएका अर्घाखाँची जिल्लाको सन्धिखर्क नगरपालिका-२ का कृष्ण भूषाल ९ वर्षदेखि गिद्ध अनुसन्धान र संरक्षणको काममा क्रियाशील हुनुहुन्छ । हालसम्म उहाँ संरक्षणका कार्यक्रम लिएर नेपालका ५६ जिल्ला पुग्नुभएको छ । भूषाल नेपाल पक्षी संरक्षण सङ्घमा गिद्ध संरक्षण कार्यक्रम अधिकृतका रूपमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ ।

चरा तथा जैविक विविधता संरक्षण कार्यमा जनचेतना जगाउने चेतना शिविर तथा स्थानीय समुदायको क्षमता अभिवृद्धि गर्ने १ सय ४३ वटा कार्यक्रममा उहाँको प्रत्यक्ष संलग्नता रह्यो । उहाँले विभिन्न विद्यालय तथा विश्वविद्यालयहरूमा ३६ वटा गिद्ध संरक्षण चेतना शिविर सञ्चालन गर्नुभएको छ । ७ वटा चरा अवलोकन तालिममा विज्ञता प्रदान गर्नुभएको छ । उहाँका चरा सम्बन्धी ९ वटा वैज्ञानिक लेखहरू प्रकाशित छन् । विभिन्न पत्रपत्रिका तथा अनलाइनमा गरी उहाँका ६५ वटा लेखहरू प्रकाशित छन् । जसमध्ये ८ वटा लाटोकोसेरोसँग सम्बन्धित छन् । तीन वटा गिद्ध सम्बन्धी पुस्तकमा सहलेखकको रूपमा योगदान गर्नुभएको छ । उहाँका विचार, अन्तर्वार्ता, संरक्षणका प्रयासहरू विभिन्न एफएम तथा टेलिभिजनमा गरी २५ पटक प्रसारित भएका छन् । उहाँले हालसम्म उद्धार गरी पुनर्स्थापना गरेका ११ वटा चराहरूमध्ये ३ वटा लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचीलहरू थिए । उहाँले चराहरूको अवस्थाको बारेमा बनाइएको 'रातो सूची' मा लाटोकोसेरोको जानकारी उपलब्ध गराइ सहयोग गर्नुभएको थियो ।

नेपालका वरिष्ठ चरा विज्ञ डा. हेमसागर बरालबाट प्रभावित उहाँ नयाँ ठाउँ घुम्न र लेख्न मन पराउनु हुन्छ । स्थानीय ज्ञान सङ्कलन र सहभागितामूलक संरक्षणमा समेत उहाँको रुचि छ । हालसम्म गर्दै आएको गिद्धको अनुसन्धान र संरक्षणमा नियमित रूपमा लाने उहाँ बताउनुहुन्छ । बहुसरोकारवालाहरू एक जुट नभएसम्म कुनै पनि संरक्षणका प्रयासहरू सफल नहुने विश्वास गर्नुहुन्छ । यस क्षेत्रमा थप अनुसन्धान आवश्यक रहेको आवश्यकता औँल्याउनु हुन्छ ।

Ms. Shova Manandhar



Shova Manandhar has been involved in journalism for a long time. She has 17 years of experience working in different media platforms including Nepal Television (England), Metro FM, Channel Nepal, and Future in our hands (Norway). Her experience ranges from

being a producer, reporter, editor, and cameraperson.

For the past 9 years, she has been working as a producer and presenter for Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalist (NEFEJ). She is also in the production team of television programs Aakhijyal and Naya Pusta, which are very popular TV shows that highlights various issues in Nepalese society.

Ms. Manandhar who completed her MBA degree from Tribhuvan University in 2001, has been advocating environmental and conservation issues for almost a decade. Her main interest lies in understanding the effects of development on livelihood, natural environment, and biodiversity. She has written numerous environmental news reports and produced over 200 video reports and documentaries. Her programs have focused on a wide range of environmental topics including owl conservation. She has covered issues such as – biodiversity conservation, environmental pollution, natural disaster, watershed conservation, climate change, development, energy sector, etc.

She enjoys travelling, reading, and working with rural communities. She wants to continue her work and help highlight issues on biodiversity conservation through media.

श्री शोभा मानन्धर



काठमाडौं मखन टोलकी ४३ वर्षीय शोभा मानन्धर लामो समयदेखि पत्रकारितामा क्रियाशील हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँले १७ वर्ष नेपाल टेलिभिजन (बेलायत), मेट्रो एफ एम, च्यानल नेपाल, फ्युचर इन आवर ह्यान्ड (नर्वे) मा कार्यक्रम उत्पादन, समाचार सङ्कलन, कार्यक्रम सम्पादन, क्यामरापर्सन आदि लगायत विभिन्न तहमा रहेर काम गर्नुभएको छ । विगत ९ वर्षदेखि उहाँ नेपाल वातावरण पत्रकार समूहसँग कार्यक्रम उत्पादक तथा प्रस्तोताका रूपमा आबद्ध हुनुहुन्छ । चेतनामूलक भिडियो पत्रिका आँखीझ्याल र नयाँ पुस्ताको कार्यक्रम उत्पादनमा उहाँ सहभागी हुनुहुन्छ । त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालयबाट सन् २००१ मा एमबिए गर्नुभएकी मानन्धरले वातावरण तथा संरक्षणका मुद्दाहरूको उठान गर्न थालेको एक दशक पुग्न लागेको छ ।

विकासले जनजीविका तथा प्रकृतिमा पार्ने असर र संरक्षणका विभिन्न आयामहरूमा उहाँको विशेष रुचि छ । उहाँले हालसम्म २०० भन्दा बढी भिडियो रिपोर्ट र डकुमेन्ट्री बनाई सक्नुभएको छ । यसका साथै हाकाहाकी र फेस टु फेस पत्रिकाका लागि पनि थुप्रै वातावरणीय समाचारहरू लेखी सक्नुभएको छ । यसबाहेक रेडियोका लागि पनि कार्यक्रमहरू प्रस्तुत गरी सक्नुभएको छ । उहाँ कार्यक्रमहरूमा विशेषगरि गैँडा, वातावरण प्रदूषण, जलाधार संरक्षण, चुरे क्षेत्र संरक्षण, जलवायु परिवर्तन, बाढी पहिरो, लोठसल्ला, विकास र संरक्षण, ऊर्जा, वागमती सरसफाइ, विषादी, जडीबुटी, वन डढेलो र पानी संरक्षण आदि प्राथमिकतामा पर्ने गरेका छन् । उहाँले ५ वटा कार्यक्रम चराहरूलाई प्राथमिकतामा राखेर तयार पार्नुभएको छ जसमध्ये दुइवटा लाटोकोसेरो संरक्षण सम्बन्धी छन् ।

उहाँलाई घुम्न, पत्रिका पढ्न र समुदायसँग अन्तरक्रिया गर्न मन पर्छ । उहाँ संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा लागेका भदई थारु र भोजराज श्रेष्ठसँग प्रभावित हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँ सञ्चारका माध्यमबाट संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा सक्दो सहयोग गर्ने योजनामा हुनुहुन्छ , जुन कुरा उहाँले राम्रो सँग गर्दै आएको पनि हुनुहुन्छ ।

Mr. Bed Bahadur Khadka

At the age of 53, Bed Bahadur Khadka has a rich experience of working in 6 different protected areas in Nepal, ranging from the plains of Terai to the high mountains. He started as a ranger at the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), and is currently working as an Assistant Conservation Officer at Chitwan National Park.



During his 30 years of work, he has worked in research and conservation of many species such as Red Panda, Rhinoceros, Royal Bengal Tiger, Hispid Hare, Bengal Florican, Gharial Crocodile, Mugger Crocodile, Spotted Deer, Bar-headed Goose, Vultures, winter migratory birds, etc. He has also rescued and rehabilitated around a dozen owls in the wild.

He has conducted over 200 conservation awareness camps and published over 50 articles in various newspapers, newsletters, and magazines. He also has over 20 research articles published in national and international scientific journals, 10 of which are on birds. He has travelled to India, Sri Lanka, and South Africa to share his experiences on crocodile research and conservation in Nepal.

An avid birder and crocodile enthusiast, Mr. Khadka is very passionate about working in nature. His future plans include opening a private crocodile breeding center, and a nature park for birds. He believes that there is a need to increase public awareness of the importance of small wildlife and through this we can move closer to our goal of biodiversity conservation.

श्री बेद बहादुर खड्का



ओखलढुङ्गा जिल्लामा जन्मनुभएका खड्काको बसोबास सर्लाही जिल्लाको हरिवन नगरपालिका-११ मा छ । दुई छोरी, एक छोरा, श्रीमतीसहित उहाँको ५ जनाको परिवार छ । ५३ वर्षीय खड्काले नेपालमा हिमालदेखि तराइसम्मका ६ वटा संरक्षित क्षेत्रमा लामो समय बिताई सक्नुभएको छ । राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभागमा रेञ्जर पदबाट जागिर सुरु गरेर हाल चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जमा सहायक संरक्षण अधिकृतका पदमा कार्यरत उहाँले भारत, श्रीलङ्का र दक्षिण अफ्रिकाको भ्रमण गरी नेपालमा गरिएका गोही अनुसन्धान र संरक्षण सम्बन्धी कामको अनुभव साटासाट गरिसक्नुभएको छ ।

३० वर्षदेखि जागिरको दौरानमा हाब्रे, गैँडा, बाघ, लघुकर्ण खरायो, खर मजुर, घडियाल गोही, मगर गोही, चित्तल, खोया हाँस, हिउँदे आगन्तुक चराहरू र गिद्ध आदिको अनुसन्धान र संरक्षणमा अनवरत लागि पर्नुभएको छ । हालसम्म २०० भन्दा बढी वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण चेतना शिविर सञ्चालन गर्नुभएका खड्काको ५० भन्दा बढी लेखहरू विभिन्न पत्रपत्रिका तथा मुख पत्रमा प्रकाशित छन् । साथै २० भन्दा बढी वैज्ञानिक लेखहरू राष्ट्रिय र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय जर्नलहरूमा प्रकाशित छन् जसमध्ये १० वटा रिपोर्ट चराका मात्रै छन् । स्थानीय र राष्ट्रिय सञ्चार माध्यममा उहाँको विचार, खबर, अन्तर्वार्ता ५०० भन्दा बढि पटक प्रकाशन र प्रसारण भएका छन् । यी उहाँका दुई वटा लाटोकोसेरोको लेख प्रकाशित र एक प्रकाशोन्मुख छन् । उहाँले दर्जनौँ लाटोकोसेरोको उद्धार र पुनर्स्थापना समेत गर्नुभएको छ ।

चरा अवलोकन र गोही संरक्षणमा विशेष रुचि राख्ने खड्का प्रकृति भनेपछि घर बिसिने खालका हुनुहुन्छ । भविष्यमा निजी गोही प्रजनन केन्द्र खोल्ने र चराको लागि छुट्टै पार्क बनाउने योजना समेत उहाँको छ । प्रकृतिमा रहेका सा-साना वन्यजन्तुको फाइदाको बारेमा स्थानीय समुदायलाई स्पष्ट बुझाउन सकेको खण्डमा मात्र वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण हुने उहाँको धारणा छ ।



Nepal Owl Festival
Jagdishpur, Kapilbastu, 2017

Dr. Bharat Raj Subba



Originally hailing from Gajurmukhi-3, Ilam, Dr. Bharat Raj Subba is a workhorse in the field of bird conservation in Nepal. His enthusiasm knows no bounds. Having retired as Associate Prof. from Post Graduate campus, Biratnagar he has taken up the position of adjunct Prof. at Agricultural and Forestry University, Chitwan. Second son out of 10 siblings, he is an avid admirer of Mr. Hari Sharan

Kazi “Nepali” from whom he drew inspiration for birding. He has great interest in the birds of eastern Nepal and is currently serving as president of Nepal Biological Society, Biratnagar.

Dr. Subba's contribution to the field of wildlife conservation in eastern Nepal is extraordinary. He has helped organize bird watching event for a mind boggling 554 times in eastern Nepal. He is also the chief editor of the online biological journal “Our Nature”. Publishing Journal is an arduous task however he has been doing it efficiently since 2003, which also provides an indication of his dedication. He has 52 scientific articles to his credit. Scientific research and publication are not the only thing he excels in. He also believes that people at grass root level can only conserve if they know the reason for conserving. Hence, he has organized wildlife/bird conservation camps (25), written articles in newspapers (55) and given interviews (30). He has also protected owl chicks (Rock Eagle owl and Brown Fish owl) on several occasions by barring intruders near their nest and eventually helping them to fly. Since birds migrate outside the protected areas too he suggests improving conservation measures outside the protected areas for better conservation.

डा. भरत राज सुब्बा



इलाम जिल्ला गजुरमुखी-३ मूल थलो भई बिराटनगर बस्ने डा. भरतराज सुब्बा चरा संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा अनवरत लाग्ने नाम हो । अध्ययन, अनुसन्धानसँगै प्राध्यापन पेसामा लामो समय बिताई सक्नुभएका उहाँ विराटनगरको स्नातकोत्तर क्याम्पसबाट उमेरका कारण अवकाश भएपछि हाल कृषि तथा वन विश्वविद्यालयसँग संलग्न हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँ नेपालका प्रख्यात चराविद् हरिशरण नेपाली काजीबाट प्रभावित हुनुहुन्छ । काजीकै कारणले चराको अनुसन्धान र संरक्षणमा लाग्नुभएका सुब्बा हाल विराटनगरको बायोलोजिकल सोसाइटीमा अध्यक्ष पदमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ ।

पूर्वी नेपालमा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षणमा उहाँले पुऱ्याएको योगदान उल्लेखनीय छ । उहाँले ५ सय ५४ पटक चरा अवलोकन कार्यक्रमको संयोजन गर्नुभएको छ । उहाँ हाल 'हाम्रो प्रकृति' भन्ने शोध पत्रिकाको प्रधान सम्पादकको रूपमा विगत तीन वर्षदेखि स्वयंसेवी भएर कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ । सुब्बाका हालसम्म ५२ वटा वैज्ञानिक लेखहरू प्रकाशित भएका छन् । उहाँ स्थानीय समुदायमार्फत गरिने संरक्षणका काममा बढी विश्वास गर्नुहुन्छ । उहाँले २५ वटा वन्यजन्तु तथा चराहरूको संरक्षणका लागि चेतना शिविर चलाई सक्नुभएको छ । यस्तै ५५ वटा लेखहरू स्थानीय तथा राष्ट्रिय पत्रिकाहरूमा लेख्नुभएको छ । उहाँले ३० वटा जति अन्तर्वार्ताहरूको माध्यमबाट संरक्षणका विभिन्न आयामहरूको बारेमा चर्चा गर्नुभएको छ । उहाँले दुई प्रजातिका लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचीललाई जोगाउन महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाउनुभएको छ । चराहरू संरक्षण क्षेत्र बाहिर पनि हुने भएकोले यिनको संरक्षणका लागि सुझाव पनि दिनुभएको छ ।

Mr. Tim Inskipp and Ms. Carol Inskipp

Mr. Timothy Peter Inskipp and Ms. Carol Inskipp, known more commonly as Tim and Carol Inskipp in Indian subcontinent, have popularized birding in this part of the world with their regular birding trips and excellent field guides on birds of this region. Originally hailing from England, their admiration for this region is special. Their contribution to bird research and conservation has left a long



lasting legacy which is almost impossible to emulate. Currently an independent consultant, Tim has served at prestigious organizations like World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge and Oriental Bird Club, Bedford in the UK while Carol also served at Oriental Bird Club as Secretary/Conservation Officer.

Tim visited Nepal for the first time in 1970-71. His second visit was in 1977 with Carol. Since then there have been many visits, the most recent being in 2016 for carrying out activities for publishing **State of Nepal's Birds** (2016). They have written over 30 books/field guides on birds that include Birds of Indian subcontinent and Birds of Nepal. It has helped to better understand the status of these bird species in the country. Carol Inskipp has also coauthored important books such as Important Bird Areas of Nepal (2005), Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of Nepal (2016), State of Nepal's Birds (2004) and State of Nepal's Birds (2010). Beside this, Carol has also worked on the status assessment of 241 bird species from Nepal which was compiled to publish the book State of Nepal's Birds (2016) coauthored with Dr. Hem Sagar Baral. With a wealth of knowledge on birds of Nepal and their status, they suggest using web based applications to document occurrence data of bird species in Nepal for better knowledge about their geographic distribution. "Also important is providing some degree of protection to the important bird and biodiversity areas located outside the protected areas", they suggest.

श्री टिम इन्स्किप र श्रीमति क्यारोल इन्स्किप



नेपाल लगायत भारतीय उपमहाद्वीपमा चरा अवलोकनका माध्यमबाट यस क्षेत्रका चराहरूको अभिलेख गरी संसारभरि यस क्षेत्रको महत्त्व दर्शाई दिने प्रख्यात जोडी हो, इन्स्किप जोडी। उहाँहरूको पुरा नाम टिमोथी पिटर इन्स्किप र क्यारोल इन्स्किप हो र चराप्रेमीहरू यिनलाई टिम तथा क्यारोल इन्स्किप भनेर चिन्ने गर्दछन्। यस जोडीले पहिलोपल्ट १९७० को दशकमा भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप र त्यसपछि नेपाल भ्रमण गरेर यहाँ पाइने चरा प्रजातिहरूको अभिलेख थाल्नुभएको थियो। हाल उहाँहरू दुवै परामर्शदाताको रूपमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ। टिम इन्स्किपले यसअघि विश्व संरक्षण सुपरिवेक्षण केन्द्र, क्याम्ब्रिज विश्वविद्यालय र ओरिइन्टल बर्ड क्लब, बेडफोर्डमा काम गर्नुभएको थियो भने क्यारोलले ओरिइन्टल बर्ड क्लबमा सचिव तथा संरक्षण अधिकृतका रूपमा अनुभव बटुली सक्नुभएको छ।

उहाँहरू दुवैले करिब पाँच दशक अघिदेखि नै नेपालमा नियमित भ्रमण गर्नुभएको छ। दुवैले चरा सम्बन्धी ३० भन्दा बढी पुस्तकहरू लेख्नुभएको छ। दुवैले नेपालका २४१ प्रजातिका चराहरूको सम्पूर्ण अवस्थाको बारेमा विस्तृत रूपमा २०१६ मा निकालिएको पुस्तकमा बयान गर्नुभएको छ। उहाँहरूले नेपालका संरक्षित क्षेत्र र बाहिरका दुवै क्षेत्रमा यथेष्ट समय बिताउनु भएको छ। नेपालमा पाइने सबै प्रजातिका लाटोकोसेराहरूका बारेमा समेत उहाँहरूको पुस्तकहरूमा उल्लेख छ। नेपालका चराहरूको अध्ययन, अनुसन्धान तथा संरक्षणका लागि उहाँहरूको योगदानको मूल्याङ्कन शायदै गर्न सकिएला। नेपालका चराहरूको ज्ञाता उहाँहरूले इन्टरनेटमा आधारित एपहरूको प्रयोगका साथै चरा तथा जैविक विविधताको लागि महत्त्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रहरूलाई पनि केही हदसम्म संरक्षण गर्ने सल्लाह दिनुभएको।

Dr. Hem Sagar Baral



First person to complete a doctorate on birds from Nepal, Dr. Hem Sagar Baral is among the finest bird researcher/conservationists to come out of Nepal. He admires Mr. Brian Houghton Hodgson for his colossal work in documenting Himalayan biodiversity and has ably followed his idol's steps. He also stresses the importance of role by communities coexisting with nature and thus loves exploring various parts of the country and learns from these communities. Born in Prakashpur, Sunsari, Dr. Baral has been in the field of wildlife conservation for 30 years already.

He currently lives with his family at Gairidhara, Kathmandu and serves as Country Representative for Zoological Society of London, the world's earliest conservation organization.

Dr. Baral's contribution to the field of wildlife research and conservation in Nepal is herculean and the list of his accomplishments is remarkable. He effectively sowed the seed of vulture conservation in Nepal by advocating and persuading the government to ban Diclofenac while he was at Bird Conservation Nepal. Vulture conservation program is considered by many to be the most successful conservation program in Nepal. Birding has been his passion. Hence, he established Koshi bird observatory at Koshi during his time as chief technical advisor at Himalayan Nature for promoting bird research in Nepal. He also contributed in making birding popular in Nepal by translating the book 'Birds of Nepal'. His other publication works include six books, more than 100 scientific journal articles, and nearly 30 bird featured articles in various magazines to share his knowledge extensively with both scientific and general audience. He has also shared his knowledge through more than 100 TV and radio interviews. His works on owls include national status assessment of nine owl species in Nepal which was a part of bird species national red list project and establishing nest boxes for barn owls across Kathmandu valley. According to him illiteracy and poverty are two reasons that impede conservation. He believes that government needs to act swiftly and responsibly and we conservationists need to act as facilitators, never losing hope.

डा. हेम सागर बराल



नेपालमा चरामा विद्यावारिधि गर्ने पहिला व्यक्ति हुनुहुन्छ डा. हेम सागर बराल । उहाँ चरा अनुसन्धान तथा संरक्षणका क्षेत्रमा नेपालकै उत्कृष्टमा पर्नुहुन्छ । उहाँ आजभन्दा १८० वर्ष अगाडि नेपालको विषम परिस्थितिमा हिमाली जैविक विविधतामा काम गरेका बेलायती नागरिक ब्राइन हड्सनबाट प्रभावित हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँ नेपालका दूर दराजमा प्रकृतिसँग मिलेर बस्ने समुदायको भूमिकालाई अग्र स्थानमा राख्नुहुन्छ । सोही समुदाय र प्रकृतिको बारेमा खोजी गर्नु उहाँको रोजाइको विषय पनि हो ।

सुनसरी जिल्लाको प्रकाशपुरमा जन्मनुभएका बराल कैलाली जिल्लाको गेटा क्षेत्रमा हुर्कनुभयो । हाल गैरिधारा, काठमाण्डौंमा बसोबास गर्दै आउनुभएका बरालले जीवनका ३० वर्ष चराको अनुसन्धान र संरक्षणमा खर्चिनुभएको छ । उहाँ हाल राष्ट्रिय प्रतिनिधिका रूपमा बेलायतको जुलोजिकल सोसाइटी अफ लण्डनको नेपाल कार्यालयमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँले पक्षी संरक्षण सङ्घमा कार्यकारिणी पदमा रहँदा गिद्धलाई असर गर्ने डाइक्लोफेनेक प्रतिबन्ध गराउन तथा यिनको संरक्षणमा नेतृत्वदायी भूमिका खेल्नु भयो । हिमालयन नेचरको वरिष्ठ प्राविधिक सल्लाहकारका रूपमा रहँदा कोशी क्षेत्रमा 'कोशी चरा अवलोकन स्थल' को स्थापनामा उहाँको भूमिका रह्यो । उहाँले नेपालका चराहरू नामक पुस्तक नेपालीमा अनुवाद गर्नुभयो । उहाँले अहिलेसम्म चरा तथा वन्यजन्तुका ६ वटा पुस्तक, १०० भन्दा बढी शोध लेखहरू, ३० भन्दा बढी फिचर लेखहरू प्रकाशित गरि सक्नु भएको छ । हालसम्म उहाँका १०० भन्दा बढी चरा तथा प्रकृति संरक्षण सम्बन्धी अन्तरवार्ताहरू टेलिभिजन तथा रेडियोमार्फत प्रसारित भएका छन् । चराहरूको राष्ट्रिय रातो सूचि बनाउने क्रममा ९ प्रजातिका लाटोकोसेरा तथा हुचीलहरूलाई दुर्लभमा सूचिकृत गर्न उहाँको भूमिका अहम् रह्यो । उहाँका अनुसार अशिक्षा र गरिबीले संरक्षणलाई असर गर्दछ । यसका लागि सरकारले छिटो र उत्तरदायी भएर काम गर्न सक्नुपर्छ भने अन्य संरक्षणकर्मीले सहजकर्ताको रूपमा काम गर्नुपर्दछ । सबै काम गरिरहँदा 'आशा जीवित राख्नु' पर्दछ भन्नुहुन्छ डा. बराल ।

Mr. Krishnamani Baral

A permanent resident of Pokhara sub-metropolis 6, Baidam, Mr. Krishnamani Baral's pen moves effortlessly when he starts writing about the issues of biodiversity conservation. He is currently affiliated with Annapurna Post and has worked as reporter for reputed media houses in Pokhara including Samadhan Raashtriya Dainik and Himdoot Dainik in the past. Eldest son in the family of nine, he has been involved in the field of journalism for 18 years and counting. He was born in Nuwarthok-7 and completed his graduation in English literature and Sociology from Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. His motivation to write and work for conservation is highly influenced by Mr. Raju Acharya, whose leadership, he says, has been noteworthy in the field of biodiversity conservation.



His contribution to the field of conservation in the country through journalism is exemplary, especially in the recent years. Important contributions include nearly seven dozen articles, both news and feature articles, on different components of biodiversity including bird conservation, lakes of Pokhara, wetland conservation, illegal wildlife trade, human wildlife conflict and global warming and its impact. He believes that making students and people aware on biodiversity conservation issues will bear fruits in the future. To act on his belief, he has organized 35 conservation awareness camps for school students of Kathmandu, Pokhara, Nawalparasi and Tanahun. He loves taking photos of wildlife and believes that these photos can serve in promoting conservation awareness among people. With this belief, he has been making special contribution to vulture conservation by exhibiting his own photos for generating people's awareness regularly for 10 years. Similar exhibitions have also been organized in Pokhara and Lekhnath in order to raise people's awareness about nine lakes of Pokhara, Seti river, rivers of Lekhnath municipality, local wetlands, other lakes and wetland birds. His contribution to owl conservation is also praiseworthy having rehabilitated and released owls on 26 occasions. He has also contributed by writing seven feature articles on owls.

श्री कृष्णमणि बराल



पत्रकारितामा सक्रिय पोखरा ६ बैदामका कृष्णमणि बरालको सञ्चार कर्मको मूल विषय नै जैविक विविधता संरक्षणको रहिआएको छ । पत्रकारितामा लेखनभन्दा पनि सशक्त रूपमा फोटो र जैविक विविधता संरक्षणका लागि विभिन्न अभियान पनि उहाँले चलाउनुभएको छ । अन्नपूर्ण राष्ट्रिय दैनिकमा आबद्ध बरालले विभिन्न सञ्चार माध्यममा काम गरि आउनु भएको छ । समाजशास्त्र तथा अग्रेजी विषयमा स्नातक बराल विगत दुई दशकदेखि आफ्नो कलम र क्यामेराको माध्यमले लाखौं पाठकमाझ संरक्षणको सन्देश पुऱ्याउन महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निर्वाह गर्दै आउनुभएको छ । उहाँको लेखन र काम गर्ने जाँगरलाई राजु आचार्य जस्ता संरक्षणकर्मीहरूको नेतृत्वले सकारात्मक रूपमा असर गर्ने गर्दछ ।

विगतका केही वर्षदेखि उहाँको पत्रकारिताले संरक्षणका क्षेत्रमा उदाहरणीय काम गरेको छ । उहाँले चरा, जैविक विविधता, सिमसार, अवैध चोरी सिकार, मानव वन्यजन्तु द्वन्द्व, जलवायु परिवर्तन सम्बन्धी ७ दर्जनभन्दा बढी समाचार, लेख, फिचर, फोटो फिचर प्रकाशित गरी सर्वसाधारण जनता सुसूचित गराउँदै संरक्षणमा योगदान गर्नुभएको छ । जैविक विविधताको संरक्षणका लागि सम्बद्ध क्षेत्रका समुदाय र विद्यार्थीहरूका लागि चेतना शिविरहरू सञ्चालन गर्न सके भविष्यमा संरक्षण गर्न सहज हुने उहाँको विश्वास छ । उहाँले हालसम्म पोखरा, काठमाण्डौ, नवलपरासी तथा तनहुँमा ३५ वटा संरक्षण चेतना शिविर पनि सञ्चालन गर्नुभएको छ ।

उहाँ विशेष गरी प्रकृतिको फोटो खिच्न रुचाउनुहुन्छ । विगत १० वर्षदेखि आफैँले खिचेका फोटोहरूको प्रदर्शनी समेत गर्दै आउनुभएको छ । उहाँले गिद्ध, सेती खोला, पोखरा उपत्यकाका तालहरू, सिमसार तथा चराहरूको संरक्षणका लागि अभियान चलाइसक्नु भएको छ । २६ पटकसम्म लाटोकोसेराको उद्धार तथा पुनर्स्थापना गर्नुभएको छ । यस्तै लाटोकोसेरोसँग सम्बन्धित ७ वटा लेख तथा खबर प्रकाशित गर्नुभएको छ ।



Nepal Owl Festival
Sikles, Kaski, 2016

Mr. Ramesh Kumar Thapa



If Nepal was able to celebrate three zero poaching years in almost as many years, it is because of dedicated conservationists, like Ramesh Kumar Thapa, who have been working tirelessly without a second thought. He was born on 19 July 1969 at Setidobhan-8, Syangja district. Currently living in Karkado 9, Banke

district he has served in various protected areas of the country after completing his I.Sc. in forestry from institute of Forestry, Pokhara. He idolizes Dr. Shant Raj Jnawali who led many research and conservation work during his tenure in Bardia NP.

Currently deployed in Bardia National Park as assistant chief warden he regularly joins patrolling units to keep an eye on illegal activities inside the park. This proved quite a success and 250 guns in total were handed over to the national park office. Having been in the conservation field for more than 32 years now, he has also rescued many species of owls and brought many poachers involved in their trade under the law. His contribution has also been very nicely documented by WWF International in a 15 min documentary film titled "On the Frontlines of Tiger Conservation" which has been viewed by more than 22,000 people on you tube. He was ranked third among the five nominated integrity idols which is a global campaign to highlight honest government officials. He has also been interviewed by different media through which too he has disseminated messages related to the importance of conservation. With such amount of work in the field of conservation he is still looking forward to the ways in which he can contribute towards biodiversity conservation in the country in future.

श्री रमेश कुमार थापा



स्याङ्जा जिल्लाको सेती दोभान ८ मा जन्मिएर हाल कारकादो ७, बाँके निवासी श्री रमेश कुमार थापा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभागमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ । हाल सहायक संरक्षण अधिकृतको रूपमा बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जमा कार्यरत उहाँ वरिष्ठ संरक्षणकर्मी श्री शान्तराज ज्ञवालीबाट प्रभावित भएको बताउनुहुन्छ । परिवारका माइला छोरा उहाँका सातजना दाजु-भाइ तथा दिदी-बहिनी छन् । वन विज्ञान विषयमा प्रवीणता प्रमाणपत्र तह पुरा गर्नुभएका उहाँले नेपालका विभिन्न संरक्षण क्षेत्रहरूमा रही काम गरिसक्नुभएको छ ।

उहाँले १०० भन्दा बढी चोरी सिकार नियन्त्रण युवा परिचालन अभियान गोष्ठी र तालिम, समुदायका लागि संरक्षण शिक्षा गोष्ठी तथा विद्यार्थीका लागि संरक्षण शिक्षा कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गरिसक्नु भएको छ । उहाँको नेतृत्वमा बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जको उत्तरी मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्रका गाउँहरूमा परम्परागत चोरी सिकारका लागि प्रयोग गर्न राखिएका अवैध भरुवा बन्दुक थान २५० स्वतःस्फूर्त रूपमा बुझाउन लगाइ संरक्षणमा स्थानीयलाई सहभागी गराइएको थियो । उहाँले हालसम्म ७ वटा घाइते तथा टुहुरा लाटोकोसेरोको पुनर्स्थापना गरिसक्नुभएको छ भने लाटोकोसेरोको अवैध चोरी सिकारमा संलग्नलाई कानुनी कारबाहीको दायरामा ल्याउनु भएको छ । उहाँको संरक्षणप्रतिको लगन र तदारुकतालाई झल्काएर विश्व वन्यजन्तु कोषले एउटा वृत्तचित्र On the Frontlines of Tiger Conservation पनि तयार गरेको छ जुन विश्वव्यापी सञ्जाल यु-ट्युबमा २२ हजार भन्दा बढी मानिसले हेरेर आफ्नो संरक्षणप्रतिको प्रतिबद्धतालाई अझ प्रगाढ बनाएका छन् । सरकारी कर्मचारीहरू माझ इमानदारी र विश्वसनीयतालाई आधार मानेर भर्खै सुरु गरिएको कार्यक्रम 'इन्टिग्रिटी आइडल' मा पनि उहाँले तेस्रो स्थान हासिल गर्नुभएको थियो । ३२ वर्षदेखि संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा संलग्न उहाँ भविष्यमा पनि आफ्नो पसिना यही क्षेत्रमा बगाउने सोच राख्नुहुन्छ ।

Mr. Manoj Paudel

A permanent resident of Kapilbastu municipality 2, Anandbag, Taulihawa, Mr. Manoj Paudel has been using his journalist's pen with a purpose i.e. conservation of biodiversity. He is currently affiliated with the nation's biggest media house Kantipur Publications Pvt. Ltd. which has also helped him a little to spread his intended conservation message to millions. He has worked as reporter for reputed media houses such as Rashtriya Samachar Samiti and Saptahik Ujyalo Khabar. A decade of these 25 years is dedicated to his latest found passion, which is to ensure that people at the ground level are well informed of the benefits of conservation. He adores the contribution of Prof. Karan Bahadur. Shah and Dr. Hem Sagar Baral in the field of conservation in Nepal and regularly keeps in touch with them for any expert consultation he needs.



His contribution to the field of conservation in the country through journalism is exemplary, especially in the recent years. Important contributions include more than five dozen articles, both news and feature articles, on different components of biodiversity including threatened birds and raptors, ecotourism in Jagdishpur reservoir, snow leopard, illegal wildlife trade, vultures and black buck. His contribution in leading the bird festival in Jagdishpur reservoir is something to emulate. He also played an important role in highlighting the plight of Mr. Dinesh Giri, a renowned birder and conservationist, who had to undergo kidney transplant. Photos taken by him have also been highlighted by national newspapers and UNDP to convey conservation message. His photo story on owls with theme "Owl: A Farmer's Friend" generated a lot of interest among conservationists and general people. Discovery of Mottled Wood owl, a new species for Nepal, was also covered by him. He opines that threats to biodiversity conservation can be significantly reduced if people at grass root level can be made aware about the benefits of conservation.

श्री मनोज पौडेल



कपिलवस्तु नगरपालिका २, आनन्दवाग, तौलिहवा निवासी श्री मनोज पौडेल कान्तिपुर पब्लिकेसन्स प्रालिका कपिलवस्तु संवाददाता हुनुहुन्छ । राष्ट्रिय समाचार समिति र साप्ताहिक उज्यालो खबरमा संवाददाताका रूपमा काम गरिसकेका पौडेलले कान्तिपुरमा आबद्ध भएयता आफ्नो कलम र क्यामेराको माध्यमले लाखौं पाठकमाझ संरक्षणको सन्देश पुऱ्याउन महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निर्वाह गर्दै आउनुभएको छ । प्राध्यापक करन बहादुर शाह र डा. हेमसागर बरालको संरक्षण प्रतिको योगदानबाट प्रभावित उहाँ अहिले पनि आफ्ना लेखहरू लेख्ने बखत उहाँहरूसँग सरसल्लाह लिने गर्नुहुन्छ ।

उहाँले चरा, जैविक विविधता, चमेरा, सिमसार, सर्प, चोरी सिकारी सम्बन्धी ५ दर्जनभन्दा बढी समाचार, लेख, फिचर, फोटो फिचर प्रकाशित गरी सर्वसाधारण जनता सुसूचित गराउँदै यिनको संरक्षणमा योगदान गर्नुभएको छ । २५ वर्षदेखि पत्रकारिता गर्दै आउनु भएका पौडेलले विगत १० वर्षयता वातावरणका विभिन्न आयामहरूमा कलम र क्यामेरा चलाउन थाल्नुभएको हो । उहाँको नेतृत्वमा विगत ३ वर्ष देखि जगदीशपुरमा चरा महोत्सव हुँदै आएको छ । समाचारमार्फत मिर्गौला रोगी संरक्षणकर्मी दिनेश गिरीलाई नयाँ जीवन दिन सहयोग समेत गर्नुभएको छ । यी बाहेक लाटोकोसेरो कृषकको साथी हो त्यस कारण यसलाई मार्न हुँदैन भनेर सन्देश दिने गरी ७ वटा तस्बिर सहित लामो स्टोरी प्रकाशित गर्नुभएको छ । उहाँले खिचेका फोटाहरू राष्ट्रिय दैनिकहरूमा संरक्षणको सन्देश प्रवाह गर्न प्रयोग गरि सक्नु भएको छ । उहाँको विचारमा जैविक विविधता संरक्षणको फाइदाबारे प्रस्ट रूपमा सर्वसाधारणलाई जानकारी दिनसके संरक्षणका चुनौतीहरू आफैँ न्यून हुँदै जानेछन् ।

Mr. Hathan Chaudhary



Hathan Chaudhary, one of the most renowned birders of Nepal is also among the most travelled one. He was born in Narayani municipality 5, Bachhauli in the Doon valley of Chitwan district on 15 June 1969. He is currently involved as Director and Treasurer in Nature Safari Tours Pvt. Ltd. and Nepal Ornithological Union respectively. He has been affiliated with

Gaida wildlife camp Pvt. Ltd. which had a great reputation of producing amazing naturalists. He passed intermediate in commerce but his skill in spotting birds easily outweighed the business skill he was getting from his education. Furthermore, his meeting with Tim and Carol Inskipp, his conservation heroes, left a big impression on him which lasts even today.

He started his conservation journey first as a naturalist in Koshi-Tappu wildlife reserve in early 90s. During this period, he started monitoring the nesting of Brown Fish owl in the same area from 1995-97. During 26 years of his conservation career he led 14 bird survey/exploration trips. He also took part in the survey work of the globally threatened species Wood Snipe in Langtang valley in 2005 and Ibisbill in 2008 which was also published as a paper in Forktail (Journal published by Oriental Bird Club) and Danphe (Newsletter published by Bird Conservation Nepal) respectively. Furthermore, he has also helped to discover two new bird species, Eurasian Skylark and Black-tailed Crake, for Nepal which is an outstanding achievement by any means. He emphasizes the importance of training to the younger generation in conservation but maintains that making politicians aware about the benefits of conservation is the key.

श्री हठन चौधरी



नारायणी नगरपालिका ५, चितवन निवासी श्री हठन चौधरी Nature Safari Tours (P) Ltd का निर्देशक तथा नेपाल पक्षीविद् सङ्घमा कोषाध्यक्षका रूपमा आबद्ध हुनुहुन्छ। हिमालतिर घुम्ने चाहनाले गर्दा कोशीबाट काम सुरु गर्नुभएका चौधरीले हालसम्ममा हिमाली भेगका सबैजसो संरक्षण क्षेत्रको यात्रा गरिसक्नुभएको छ। प्रसिद्ध पक्षीविद्हरु टिम र क्यारोल इन्सिकपबाट चरा अवलोकन, अध्ययन तथा संरक्षणमा प्रभावित भएको उहाँको भनाइ छ। त्यही प्रभावले होला उहाँ अहिले नेपालमा हिमाल, पहाड र तराई तिनै क्षेत्रका चराहरूका विषयमा राम्रो ज्ञान भएका एकदमै थोरै चरा अवलोकनकर्ता मध्येका एक मानिनु हुन्छ।

उहाँले कोशी क्षेत्रमा १९९३ देखि १९९७ सम्म १०० भन्दा बढी विद्यालय स्तरीय चरा संरक्षण कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गर्नुभएको थियो। उहाँका चरा सम्बन्धी ६ वटा लेखहरू प्रकाशित छन्। उहाँ २६ वर्षदेखि चरा अनुसन्धान, अवलोकन, पर्यटन प्रवर्द्धनका क्षेत्रमा संलग्न हुनुहुन्छ। यो अवधिमा उहाँले १४ वटा चराहरूका खोज/अनुसन्धान भ्रमणहरूको नेतृत्व गरिसक्नुभएको छ। नेपालमा पहिलो पटक अभिलेख गरिएको २ वटा चराहरू Eurasian Skylark र Black-tailed Crane को अनुसन्धान टोलीमा पनि उहाँ संलग्न हुनुहुन्थ्यो। कोसीमा रहँदा दुई वर्षसम्म लगातार (१९९५-९७) मलाहा हुचीलको गुँडको पनि अनुगमन गर्नुभएको थियो भने यसबाहेक नेपालका चराहरूको राष्ट्रिय स्तरमा रातो पुस्तक निकाल्ने कार्यमा पनि उहाँको योगदान अविस्मरणीय रह्यो। युवा पुस्तालाई संरक्षण सम्बन्धी तालिम प्राप्त बनाउनु महत्त्वपूर्ण हुँदाहुँदै पनि राजनीतिज्ञहरूलाई संरक्षणको फाइदा प्रस्ट रूपमा बुझाउन नसकिए संरक्षणका उपलब्धिहरू हात लाग्न ढिला हुने भनाइ चौधरीको छ।

Mr. Ram Bahadur Shahi

Born on 15 June 1969 in the hills of Jumla, Ram Bahadur Shahi grew up and worked in Bardia National Park (BNP) almost all his life. He currently lives in Thakurdwara Village Development Committee (VDC), Shivapur-9, Hattisar. He is affiliated with Bardia Nature Conservation Club (BNCC) since its inception. He took nature guide training from Tharu guide office in Sauraha in 1997 and since then has been actively involved in this profession.



He completed his PCL in major English and sociology. He is highly influenced by Ramesh Kumar Thapa's conservation works and actively participated in his campaign to motivate local people in handing over the locally made guns.

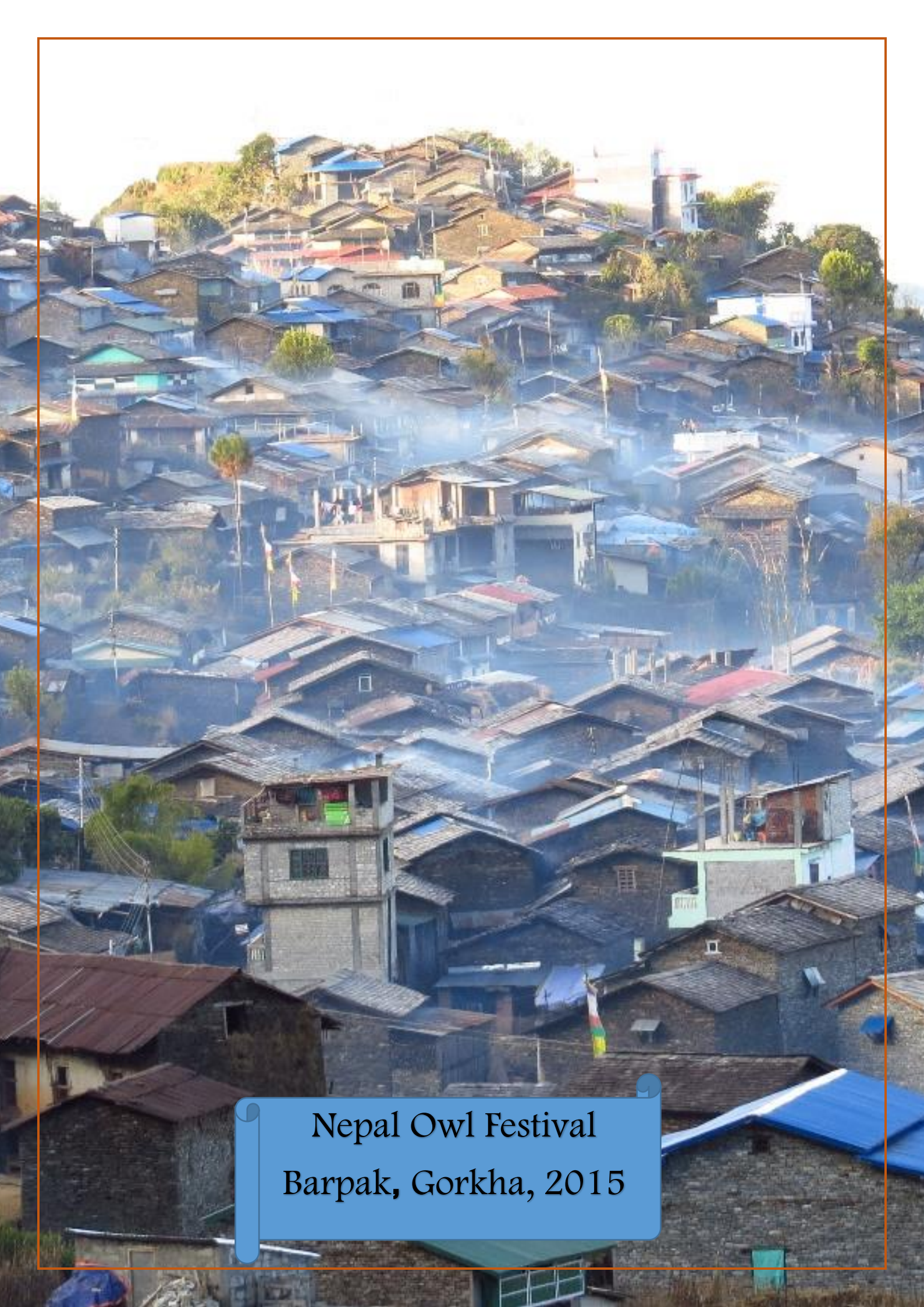
Right after the formation, BNCC conducted an awareness campaign targeting aquatic mammals and other organisms. The campaign had a total of 2245 beneficiaries and was conducted in the villages around Geruwa River. He also led another conservation campaign from Nature Guide Association in four VDCs in the north of BNP including remote Hariharpur and Taranga VDCs in 2009-10. He led another important campaign titled Nepal vulture conservation movement network which included publicizing of diclofenac free zone, orienting veterinary technicians and monitoring. In spite of spending a lot of time in conservation works his dedication to birding remained constant and he documented two new bird species for Bardia i.e. Rosy Starling and Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler. He also motivated a person to submit and release captive Brown Fish owls in Bardia. He recently discovered a new species of owls from Nepal, Mottled Wood owl. He is of opinion that making politicians aware about the benefits of conservation is the only solution to the problem we are facing now.

श्री राम बहादुर शाही



बर्दिया जिल्लाको ठाकुरद्वारा गाविस, शिवपुर, हात्तीसार निवासी राम बहादुर शाही पेसाले चरा गाइड हुनुहुन्छ । जन्मथलो जुम्ला भए पनि बर्दियालाई आफ्नो कर्मथलो बनाउनुभएका उहाँ ५ जना दाजुभाइमध्ये जेठा हुन् । उहाँले १९९७ मा थारु गाइड अफिस र रोयल पार्क गाइड अफिसबाट नेचर गाइडको तालिम लिनुभएको थियो । उहाँले मेजर इङ्लिसमा प्रवीणता प्रमाण पत्र तह उत्तीर्ण गर्नुभएको छ । नेपाली र थारु लोकगीतमा असाध्यै रुचि राख्ने उहाँ बर्दियामा कार्यरत संरक्षणकर्मी रमेश कुमार थापाको संरक्षण प्रतिको लगन देखेर आफू पनि उत्साहित भएको बताउनु हुन्छ ।

विगत २२ वर्षदेखि पर्यटकका लागि दर्जनौं चरा अवलोकन गराउनुभएका उहाँ बर्दिया प्रकृति संरक्षण क्लबका अध्यक्षसमेत हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँले २०६४ सालमा गेरुवा नदी नजिकका गाउँहरूमा पानीमा बस्ने जनावरहरूलाई संरक्षण गर्न हेतु जनचेतना शिविर चलाउनु भएको थियो जसमा २२ सय ४५ जनाको सहभागिता भएको थियो । जनचेतना जगाउने क्रममा नै उहाँ नेचर गाइड सङ्घका तर्फबाट बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जको उत्तरतिरका विकट ४ वटा गाविस पनि पुग्नुभएको थियो । उहाँको अर्को महत्त्वपूर्ण काम भनेको नेपाल गिद्ध संरक्षण अभियान सञ्जालमा रही डाइक्लोफेनेक औषधीको नकारात्मक प्रभावबारे जनचेतना जगाउने, भेट प्राविधिकहरूलाई डाइक्लोफेनेकको वैकल्पिक औषधी प्रयोग गर्ने र आफ्नो ठाउँलाई डाइक्लोफेनेक मुक्त बनाउने प्रयास हो । यसका साथै उहाँ गुलेली सङ्कलन तथा चरा संरक्षणमा समेत सक्रिय हुनुहुन्छ । हालसालै कन्नार लाटोकोसेरो Mottled Wood Owl नेपालमा पहिलो चोटि पत्ता लगाउने २ जनाको टोलीमा उहाँको नेतृत्वदायी भूमिका थियो । बर्दियामा नै एउटा होटेल सुरु गर्नुभएका उहाँ व्यवसाय फस्टाएमा त्यसबाट भएको आम्दानीको केही अंश संरक्षणमा खर्च गर्ने बताउनुहुन्छ ।



Nepal Owl Festival
Barpak, Gorkha, 2015

Dr. Abrar Ahmed



Dr. Abrar Ahmed has unarguably conducted the biggest investigation on the illegal killings of owls and their trade in India. This study includes the investigation of different methods used by smugglers to capture these magnificent creatures of nature. Dr. Ahmed was born in Delhi and completed his post graduate and doctorate in wildlife science from the same city. He has remained an undercover investigator of illegal wildlife trade since 1992 for Trade Record Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce (TRAFFIC), an organization which has become a synonym of

controlling illegal wildlife trade. His report 'Imperiled guardians of the night: a study on the illegal trade, trapping and use of owls in India' was lauded by conservationists worldwide for the in depth study on the topic. He has also produced other top quality reports of his painstaking researches that are proving extremely valuable for TRAFFIC to tackle illegal wildlife trade. His work involves great risk; it is believed that the illegal wildlife trade has a large and influential network around the world. In spite of the risks involved and having received threats time and again for his work, he is still determined and is actively investigating the network of illegal trade in order to expose their activities and control the notorious trade.

डा. अबरार अहमद

दश वर्ष लगाए गरिएको अबरार अहमदको अध्ययन प्रतिवेदन “Imperiled custodians of the night: a study on the illegal trade, trapping and use of owls in India” ले संरक्षणको क्षेत्रमा एउटा तरङ्ग नै ल्याइदियो जसबाट उहाँ पनि निकै चर्चित बन्नुभयो । यो लाटोकोसेरोको अवैध चोरी सिकारी सम्बन्धी भारतभरिकै सबैभन्दा ठुलो अध्ययन हो र यसले लाटोकोसेरोको सिकार गर्ने तरिकादेखि अवैध व्यापार हुने मुख्य नाकाहरू समेतको अभिलेख गरेको छ । दिल्लीमा जन्मे र हुर्केका अबरारले त्यहीं नै वन्यजन्तु विज्ञानमा स्नातकोत्तर र विद्यावारिधि गर्नुभएको हो । त्यसयता १९९२ मा उनी चोरीशिकार नियन्त्रण गर्ने अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय संस्था TRAFFIC मा आबद्ध हुन पुगी आफ्नो काम गोप्य रूपमा नै गर्न लाग्नु भएको हो । कामको प्रकृति प्रतिकूल परिस्थितिमा गर्नुपर्ने भए पनि निरन्तरताले अहमदलाई यो क्षेत्रमा क्रियाशील संरक्षणकर्मीका रूपमा उभ्याएको छ ।



Photo: Abrar Ahmed

Prof. Karan Bahadur Shah

Discovering eight species that are new to science and describing two species of mammals, a species of bird (including 24 other wildlife) for the first time in Nepal is no mean feat. Add to it over two decades of teaching and supervision of dissertations of numerous post graduate students dealing with wildlife research/conservation and then you will get Prof. Karan Bahadur Shah. Born and



brought up in the village of Chorela in Dadeldhura district, Prof. Shah has been actively involved in the field of wildlife conservation for the past 36 years. His dedication to field biology must have been the trait he acquired from Salim Ali whom he idolizes as a conservation hero. Currently serving as a Professor of Zoology in Natural History Museum, Tribhuvan University, Prof. Shah has been involved in more than 25 scientific expeditions that have hugely benefited wildlife conservation in the country.

His contribution to the field of wildlife research and conservation in Nepal is herculean. He has published 18 books, more than 60 journal articles, six feature articles related to birds, and nearly 100 wildlife featured articles in various magazines to share his knowledge extensively with both scientific and general audience. While preparing the status of owl species for the national red list for birds in Nepal, Prof. Shah shared his encounters and experiences with owls. He is still actively involved in wildlife research and conservation. He also enjoys sharing his wealth of knowledge on wildlife to students and aspiring wildlife researchers through wildlife research training programs. Prof. Shah is trained in museum science and has worked extensively as an expert to identify the wildlife artifacts seized from smugglers by legal agencies to differentiate the authentic from the fakes and to identify the species. Out of admiration and respect, he is often referred to as the "Wildlife encyclopedia of Nepal" by wildlife enthusiasts in the country.

प्राध्यापक करनबहादुर शाह



नेपालको संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा प्राध्यापक करनबहादुर शाहको नाम नसुन्ने शायदै कोही होलान् । उहाँले स्तनधारी, सरिसृप गरी संसारकै निम्ति आठ नयाँ वन्यजन्तुका प्रजाति अभिलेख गरेर अतुलनीय योगदान पुऱ्याउनु भएको छ । उहाँले नेपालमा एक चरासहित २४ प्रजातिहरू पहिलो पटक अभिलेख गर्नुभएको छ । यसका अलावा स्नातकोत्तरका विद्यार्थीहरूलाई वन्यजन्तु अध्ययन तथा अनुसन्धानसँग सम्बन्धित शोधपत्रहरूमा सुपरिवेक्षकको रूपमा आफ्नो अनुभव बाँडिसक्नु भएको छ । विगत ३६ वर्षदेखि वन्यजन्तु अध्ययन तथा अनुसन्धानको क्षेत्रमा संलग्न प्राध्यापक शाहको जन्म डडेल्धुरा जिल्लाको मस्तामाण्डौ गाविस स्थित चोरेला गाउँमा भएको हो । भारतका विश्वविख्यात चराविद् सलिम अलिलाई उहाँले आफ्नो आदर्श मान्ने प्राध्यापक शाह हाल त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालयअन्तर्गत प्राकृतिक विज्ञान सङ्ग्रहालयमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ । २५ भन्दा बढी वैज्ञानिक अन्वेषणमा सम्मिलित भएर नेपालको वन्यजन्तु अध्ययन तथा संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा उहाँले आफ्नो भूमिका सशक्त बनाउनु भएको छ ।

वन्यजन्तु संरक्षणमा सौखिन युवा पुस्तासँग आफ्नो अनुभव साट्न भनेपछि हुरुक्कै हुने शाहको बानी छ । यसका लागि विभिन्न तालिममा प्रशिक्षकका रूपमा आफ्नो ज्ञान बाँड्ने मौका सकेसम्म चुकाउनु हुन्छ । आफ्नो अनुभव र ज्ञान प्राविधिक तथा सामान्य पत्रपत्रिकाको माध्यमबाट सर्वसाधारणसम्म पुऱ्याएर नेपालमा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षणको क्षेत्रमा उहाँले निरन्तर योगदान गरिराउनु भएको छ ।

उहाँका हालसम्म १८ पुस्तक, ६० भन्दा बढी प्राविधिक लेखहरू, चरा सम्बन्धी ६ लेख र करिब १०० वटा जति वन्यजन्तु सम्बन्धी लेख र रचनाहरू प्रकाशित भएका छन् । लाटोकोसेरोको नेपाल अधिराज्यभरि अवरुद्ध अवस्था निर्धारण गर्दा समेत उहाँको महत्त्वपूर्ण योगदान रह्यो । उहाँले ५ वटा लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचीलको उद्धार गरिसक्नु भएको छ । सङ्ग्रहालय विज्ञानमा पनि प्रशिक्षित उहाँले जफत गरिएका वन्यजन्तुका आखेटोपहार सक्कली अथवा नक्कली भएको पनि प्रमाणित गर्ने गर्दै आउनु भएको छ । नेपालको संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा बहु आयामिक योगदानका कारण उनलाई धेरै जना संरक्षणकर्मीले आदरले नेपाली संरक्षण क्षेत्रका भीष्म पितामह भनेर पनि भन्ने गरेका छन् ।

Mr. Dhan Bahadur Chaudhary



Known as DB among his peers and DB dai to the younger generations, Dhan Bahadur Chaudhary's contribution to the field of conservation belies his age. Youngest of the seven members of his family, he was born on 27 February 1976 in Kawasoti municipality of Nawalparasi district. He worked as a naturalist at

Island Jungle Resort in Chitwan which also helped him get acquainted with various conservationists. At present he is the manager of Tiger Tops Tharu Village Resort Pvt. Ltd. Among his remarkable achievements, his contribution in the establishment of the first vulture restaurant at Pithauli is intangible but priceless. Being a member of the local community of Pithauli, he raised the issue and spoke with the people living in the vicinity of the proposed vulture restaurant multiple times to convince them of the need for its establishment.

It is unsurprising that his approach and attitude resembles that of Charles McDougal and Eric Brand, both of whom are his conservation idols. Apart from setting the platform for vulture restaurant, he has contributed to two scientific articles, 15 articles in Danphe newsletter, organized 200 wildlife conservation camps and 90 bird watching events, helped in 35 bird rescues and talked about bird conservation in TV and FM in 30 interviews. He has also rescued two Spot-bellied Eagle owls, contributed to national Red List for the assessment of owl status and reported numerous sightings of owls thus greatly enhancing the knowledge of owl status in the country. He likes to travel and is an avid supporter of organic farming. His future plans include establishing learning center at Jatayu restaurant, establishing women run resort, run livelihood programs for Musahar community and working on reducing human wildlife conflict.

श्री धन बहादुर चौधरी



आफ्ना सहपाठीहरू माझ डी.बी. र नयाँ पुस्तामाझ डी. बी. दाइको नामले परिचित हुनुहुन्छ धनबहादुर चौधरी । उहाँको जन्म २७ फेब्रुअरी १९७६ को दिन हालको कावासोती नगरपालिका ९ त्यस बेलाको पिठौली गा. वि. स. मा भएको हो । सात सदस्यीय परिवारका कान्छा चौधरी चितवनको आइल्याण्ड जङ्गल रिसोर्टमा नेचुरलिष्टका रूपमा काम गर्दा थुप्रै संरक्षणकर्मीसँग परिचित नाम हो । संरक्षणकर्मी चार्ल्स म्याकडुगल र एरिक ब्रयाण्डबाट प्रभावित भएको बताउने उहाँ आफ्ना आदर्शजस्तै संरक्षणमा दत्तचित्त रहेका छन् ।

हाल टाइगर टप्स थारु भिलेज रिसोर्टमा व्यवस्थापकका रूपमा कार्यरत चौधरीको पहिलो जटायु रेस्टुरेन्ट स्थापना गर्नमा महत्त्वपूर्ण योगदान थियो । स्थानीय समुदायमा जटायु रेष्टुरेन्टको आवश्यकता र उपयोगिता बारे जनचेतना जगाई उहाँले रेस्टुरेन्ट स्थापना गर्न पहलकदमी लिनुभएको हो । त्यसबाहेक उहाँले दुई वटा वैज्ञानिक लेख, डाँफे नामक पत्रिकामा १५ वटा लेख लेख्नुका साथै २०० जति संरक्षण सचेतना शिविर, ९० वटा जति चरा अवलोकन कार्यक्रम, ३५ वटा जति चरा पुनर्स्थापना साथै रेडियो र टेलिभिजन गरी ३० भन्दा बढी चरा संरक्षण सम्बन्धी अन्तरवार्ता दिएर आम जनमानसमाझ संरक्षणको जरा गाड्न अमूल्य योगदान पुऱ्याउनु भएको छ । चौधरीले लाटोकोसेरोको उद्धार र संरक्षणमा समेत योगदान गर्नुभएको छ (दुई वटा महाकौशिकको उद्धार र राष्ट्रिय रातो सूची बनाउन) । भ्रमण र प्राङ्गारिक खेतीमा रुचि राख्ने उहाँ भविष्यमा जटायु रेस्टुरेन्टमा सिकाई केन्द्र बनाउने, महिलाहरूद्वारा सञ्चालित रिसोर्ट स्थापना गर्ने, मुसहर समुदायमा जीविकोपार्जन कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गर्ने र मानव हात्ती द्वन्द्व घटाउने योजनामा हुनुहुन्छ ।

Mr. Ishwor Kumar Joshi

A journalist of national repute, Mr. Ishwor Kumar Joshi has been affiliated with Nepal television and BBC Nepali service for 20 years.



A resident of Bharatpur

Submetropolitan city-1, Diyalopath, he has used his media affiliation for conservation of birds and animals. This includes two programs aired by BBC Nepali service on owl conservation and numerous others on gharial, one horned rhinoceros and the Bengal tiger. Furthermore, he has also taken part in various annual bird counts in Chitwan.

He is committed to continue his work on conservation, a dream shared by his conservation hero late Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey. He also admires the contribution of ex warden of Chitwan National Park, Mr. Ram Preet Yadav in the field of conservation. In his opinion, wildlife conservation in a landscape with largely forest dependent human population is a major challenge and is determined to contribute from his side to lessen this problem.

श्री इश्वर कुमार जोशी



२० वर्षदेखि नेपाल टेलिभिजन र बिबिसी नेपाली सेवामा आबद्ध ईश्वरकुमार जोशी नेपालका ख्यातिप्राप्त पत्रकार मध्येको हुनुहुन्छ । भरतपुर उपमहानगरपालिका १, दियालो पथ निवासी उहाँले आफ्नो सञ्चारसँगको सम्बन्धलाई चरा र जनावरहरूको संरक्षणमा प्रयोग गर्नुभएको छ । बिबिसी नेपाली सेवाबाट उहाँका लाटोकोसेरो संरक्षण सम्बन्धी दुई कार्यक्रमहरू प्रसारण भइसकेका छन् ।

यसबाहेक मगर गोही, घडियाल, बाघ, गैँडा, पानी चरा, सामुदायिक वन, वन्यजन्तु उद्धार, मानिस तथा वन्यजन्तु द्वन्द्व, संरक्षित क्षेत्र आदिका बारेमा १०० भन्दा बढी कार्यक्रम प्रसारण भएर सर्वसाधारण जनता सुसूचित भएका छन् । उहाँ चितवनमा भएका चरा गणनामा पनि थुप्रै पटक सहभागी हुनुभएको छ ।

स्वर्गीय डा. तीर्थमान मास्केलाई आफ्नो प्रेरणाको स्रोत मान्नु हुने जोशीले चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जका भूतपूर्व वार्डेन रामप्रित यादवले संरक्षणमा पुऱ्याउनु भएको योगदानको खुलेर प्रशंसा गर्नुहुन्छ । वन पैदावरमा मुख्य रूपमा आश्रित हुनु नै संरक्षण क्षेत्रको मुख्य बाधा रहेको धारणा जोशीको छ । संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा थप योगदान गर्दै यो चुनौती कम गर्न उहाँ कटिबद्ध हुनुहुन्छ ।



Nepal Owl Festival
Amaltari, Nawalparasi, 2014

Mr. Som Bahadur GC



Mr. Som Bahadur G.C. is a well-known name among birders and conservationists in Nepal. He has traveled 53 districts in Nepal and 27 countries overall as a part of his birding and conservation interests. He has conducted around 200 birding tours including more

than 180 tours in Nepal helping to promote bird based eco-tourism in the country.

He voluntarily gives presentations on Nepalese birds during all his abroad tours contributing hugely towards bird tourism in Nepal. His other contribution includes conservation awareness programs in 45 schools, five awareness programs through sports, study on declining population of vultures at Shuklaphata Wildlife Reserve, over eight articles in different newsletters and two interviews in environment awareness based television program “Aakhijhyal”. He documented the first record of Greater White-fronted Goose in Nepal whereas he was also a member of the team that documented four different species of birds new to Nepal. He has also been involved in rescuing birds and animals. He has received a course in bird ringing/banding, habitat management, census techniques and also worked as volunteer warden in Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust in 2004-05. He also volunteered in Falsterbo Peninsula Bird Observatory in Sweden in 2008 for two weeks and in d’Aosta Bird Society in Italy for five days. In the future too, he wants to work for birds, wildlife and nature conservation through action, education and awareness programs in Nepal. He is very passionate about birds and wildlife conservation.

श्री सोम बहादुर जी सी



श्री सोम बहादुर जी सी चराप्रेमीहरु र संरक्षणकर्मी माझ एकदमै परिचित नाम हो । उहाँले चरा अवलोकन र संरक्षणको लागि २७ देशका साथै नेपालको ५३ जिल्ला भ्रमण गरिसक्नु भएको छ । उहाँले २०० भन्दा धेरै चरा अवलोकन भ्रमण गराइसक्नु भएको छ जसमध्ये १८० भन्दा धेरै नेपालमा गराएर चरा सम्बन्धी पर्यापर्यटन प्रवर्द्धन गर्नु भएको छ । विदेश भ्रमणको बेला नेपालका चरा सम्बन्धी जानकारी पेस गरेर चरा पर्यटन बढाउन ठुलो योगदान पुऱ्याउनु भएको छ ।

उहाँले ४५ वटा स्कुलमा संरक्षण सम्बन्धी सचेतना कार्यक्रम, खेलको माध्यमबाट पाँच सचेतना कार्यक्रम, शुक्लाफाँटा वन्यजन्तु आरक्षणमा गिद्धको जनसङ्ख्या घटेको बारे शोध, फरक फरक पत्रिकामा आठ वटा भन्दा धेरै लेख अनि वातावरण सचेतना सम्बन्धी कार्यक्रम 'आँखीझ्याल' मा दुईवटा अन्तरवार्ता दिइसक्नु भएको छ । उहाँले नेपालमा Greater White-fronted Goose सबैभन्दा पहिला रेकर्ड गर्नुभएको हो साथै नेपालमा चार भिन्न प्रजातिको चरा अभिलेख गर्ने टोलीमा सदस्य हुनुहुन्थ्यो । उहाँले चरा तथा जनावरहरुको उद्धार कार्यमा पनि सक्रिय हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँले चरा ringing/binding, वासस्थान व्यवस्थापन, जनगणना तरिका सम्बन्धी कोर्स लिनुभएको छ । Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust मा स्वयंसेवक वार्डेनको रूपमा काम गरिसक्नु भएको छ । उहाँले २००८ मा स्विडेनको Falsterbo Peninsula Bird Observatory मा दुई हप्ता साथै इटालीको d'Aosta Bird Society मा पाँच दिन स्वयंसेवकको रूपमा काम गरी सक्नुभएको छ । भविष्यमा पनि वहाँ चरा, वन्यजन्तु तथा प्रकृति संरक्षणमा लागि पर्नेमा कटिबद्ध हुनुहुन्छ।

Mr. Bhim Prasad Ghimire

Mr. Bhim Prasad Ghimire (41 years), a journalist is also an avid bird lover. He loves to capture birds in his frames and writings.

He has traveled more than 15 districts to explore the various issues of wildlife and published more than 25 feature articles in Kantipur, one of the best and prominent national dailies in Nepal. He has also been publishing a lot of stories of wildlife in Kathmandu Post and Nepal Magazine. His writing skill is based on 'field based



explorative journalism' which results in very simple and story like articles on mammals, herpetofauna and birds, including owls. Mr. Ghimire is interested in traveling, photography and observing and studying various components of biodiversity.

He further plans to study and report about the Gangetic Dolphins, Owls, Bats and other small mammals. Currently, he works as an assistant senior sub-editor of Kantipur Publications in Eastern Regional Office, Biratnagar, Nepal. His journey in this sector has already reached 16 years.

श्री भीम प्रसाद घिमिरे



श्री भीम प्रसाद घिमिरे (४१ वर्ष), पत्रकार हुनुका साथै एक चरा प्रेमी पनि हुनुहुन्छ। उहाँ चराको फोटो खिच्न साथै चरा बारे लेख्न पनि असाध्यै रुचाउनु हुन्छ। उहाँले वन्यजन्तुबारे बुझ्न नेपालका १५ भन्दा धेरै जिल्ला घुमिसक्नु भएको छ साथै 'कान्तिपुर दैनिक' मा वहाँको २५ भन्दा धेरै लेख प्रकाशित भइसकेको छ। उहाँको काठमान्डु पोस्ट (अङ्ग्रेजी दैनिक) र नेपाल पत्रिकामा वन्यजन्तु सम्बन्धी धेरै लेखहरू प्रकाशित भइसकेको छ।

उहाँ वन्यजन्तु सम्बन्धी खोजमूलक पत्रकारिता गर्नुहुन्छ जसको कारणले उहाँका स्तनधारी, सरिसृप अनि चरा (लाटोकोसेरो समेत) सम्बन्धी लेख कथाजस्तै एकदमै सरल हुन्छन्। उहाँ घुम्न र फोटोग्राफी गर्न रुचाउनुहुन्छ साथै जैविक विविधताको विभिन्न पाटो पढ्न र केलाउन पनि चाख लिनुहुन्छ। डल्फिन, लाटोकोसेरो, चमेरा साथै अन्य साना स्तनधारी प्राणीहरूबारे अझ धेरै पढ्ने उहाँको योजना छ। उहाँ हाललाई कान्तिपुर प्रकाशनको पूर्व क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, विराटनगर, नेपालमा वरिष्ठ सह सम्पादकको सहायकको रूपमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ। उहाँ १६ वर्षदेखि यस क्षेत्रमा लागिपर्नु भएको छ।

Mr. Madhav Prasad Baral



Mr. Madhav Prasad Baral (53 years) lives in Masbar, Pokhara and is currently the Assistant District Forest Officer of Kaski district. He has rescued and released wildlife in Kaski including Eurasian Eagle owl and Barn owl (A total of 10 individuals). Other wildlife rescued and released include four Leopards, one Civet, one Barking Deer and different species of Snakes (30 in total). He has also conducted four bird conservation programs

including two for endangered Vultures. Conducting different bird watching trips in Pokhara is his other interest. He has also participated actively during the water bird counts in Pokhara.

Furthermore, he was previously affiliated with Center for Biodiversity and Environment Conservation (CBEC) during which he passionately advocated the creation of World Peace Biodiversity Park in Raniban, Pokhara which has already been endorsed by the Government of Nepal. It has been twenty-five years since he has been involved in conservation field through a variety of activities like bird and animal rescues, biodiversity conservation, community forest and natural resource management in various places in Kaski. Besides the aforementioned works he has also completed diverse works like preparation of 100 Community Forest Operational Plans, Documentation of Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge, more than 50 trainings on Community Forestry Management and more than 20 Climate Change Awareness Programs. His passion towards conservation beside his regular government service is exemplary and deserves high accolades.

श्री माधव प्रसाद बराल



श्री माधव प्रसाद बराल मासबार, पोखरामा बस्नुहुन्छ साथै हाल कास्की जिल्लामा सहायक जिल्ला वन अधिकृतको रूपमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ। उहाँले विभिन्न प्रकारको वन्यजन्तु उद्धार गरेर वनमा छोड्नुभएको छ जसमा हाप्सिलो र गोठे लाटोकोसेरो (जम्मा १०) छन्। अरू वन्यजन्तु जस्तै चार चितुवा, निर बिरालो, एक रतुवा अनि धेरै प्रजातिका सर्प (जम्मा ३०) पनि उद्धार गरेर वनमा छोडिसक्नु भएको छ। उहाँले चार चरा संरक्षण कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गरिसक्नु भएको छ जसमा दुई वटा लोपोन्मुख गिद्धबारे थियो। विभिन्न चरा अवलोकन कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गर्न उहाँको अर्को रुचिको विषय हो। उहाँले पोखरामा बसेरिने हुने जलपंक्षी गणनामा पनि सक्रिय रूपमा भाग लिनुभएको थियो।

माथि उल्लेखित कामबाहेक उहाँ Center for Biodiversity and Environment Conservation सँग आबद्ध हुनुहुन्थ्यो जहाँ हुँदा वहाँले रानीवन, पोखरामा विश्व शान्ति जैविक विविधता पार्क बनाउन जोडतोडका साथ लाग्नुभएको थियो जसलाई नेपाल सरकारको पहिले नै समर्थन छ। उहाँको २५ वर्षे संरक्षणको अनुभवमा विशेषगरी चरा तथा वन्यजन्तुको उद्धार, जैविक विविधता संरक्षण, सामुदायिक वन अनि कास्की जिल्लाको धेरै ठाउँमा प्राकृतिक स्रोत व्यवस्थापन मुख्य हो। माथि उल्लेखित काम बाहेक वहाँले १०० सामुदायिक वन कार्य योजना, जैविक विविधता अनि आदिवासी ज्ञानको अभिलेख, ५० भन्दा धेरै सामुदायिक वन व्यवस्थापन अनि २० भन्दा बढी जलवायु परिवर्तन सचेनात्मक कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गरिसक्नु भएको छ। आफ्नो कामबाहेक संरक्षण क्षेत्रका लागि उहाँको योगदान तारिफयोग्य छ।



Nepal Owl Festival
Mangalpur, Chitwan, 2013

Bird Education Society

Bird Education Society, formed in 1994 (2050 BS), currently located at Bacchauli-3, Laukhani mainly serves for bird conservation. The society conducts school awareness programmes, green club programmes and green camps. It provides bird education to students as well as to journalists and volunteers. It also provides information on organic farming to local farmers. It has facilitated the formation and orientation of 22 green clubs of school and communities. It has organized more than 65 bird conservation awareness camps, conducted bird survey in seven community forests, and organized green camps for college students between 2004 to 2009 in Kathmandu and Pokhara. It has assisted in bird survey and monitoring in Chitwan National Park and buffer zone areas. It provides free participation in Saturday bird watching tour, library facility and facilities of binocular hire and sale encouraging bird watching and hence conservation.

बर्ड एजुकेशन सोसाइटी

वर्ड एजुकेशन सोसाइटी सन् १९९४ (वि. सं. २०५०) मा स्थापना भएको गैर सरकारी संस्था हो। यसको कार्यालय बछ्यौली-३, लौखानीमा पर्दछ। यसले स्थानीय विद्यालयहरूमा हरित क्याम्पहरू सञ्चालन गर्ने काम गर्दै आएको छ। यसले पत्रकारहरू, स्थानीय समूहहरू तथा सबै सरोकारवालाहरूका लागि चरा संरक्षणको कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गर्दछ। हालसम्म २२ वटा हरित क्लबहरूको गठन, ६५ भन्दा बढी चरा संरक्षण शिविर, ६ वटा भन्दा बढी सामुदायिक वनमा चराको अध्ययन गरिसकेको छ। यसले वि.सं. २०६१ देखि २०६६ सम्म पोखरा र काठमाडौँका कलेजका विद्यार्थीहरूका लागि हरित क्याम्पहरू सञ्चालन गरिसकेको छ। यसले नियमित रूपमा चरा अवलोकनका लागि आवश्यक उपकरणहरू समेत उपलब्ध गराउँदै आएको छ। यस्तै विविध कार्यक्रमद्वारा यस संस्थाले चरा संरक्षणमा टेवा पुऱ्याएको छ।

Mr. Krishna Prasad Acharya

Born on 1963, Acharya is currently heading the planning and human resource division of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC). He has a master's degree in Forest Science from University of Edinburgh, U.K. During his tenure as the Director General at Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation under MoFSC, Nepal was able to celebrate zero poaching year for Rhino (2011 A.D.). He represented Nepal in Convention of Biological Diversity and as a chief negotiator REDD+ under UNFCCC. He has also worked as research officer in Department of Forest Research and Survey. Acharya has published 6 peer reviewed papers in International journals and five national journals including five working paper/resource books.



श्री कृष्ण प्रसाद आचार्य

वि. सं. २०२० सालमा जन्मनु भएका कृष्ण प्रसाद आचार्य हाल वन तथा भू-संरक्षण मन्त्रालयको योजना तथा जनशक्ति महाशाखा प्रमुख हुनुहुन्छ। उहाँले वन विज्ञानको विषयमा बेलायतको एडिनबर्ग विश्वविद्यालयबाट स्नातकोत्तर गर्नुभएको छ। राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभागमा महानिर्देशक हुँदा सन् २०११ लाई शून्य गैँडा चोरी सिकार वर्ष मनाउन उहाँको नेतृत्वदायी भूमिका रह्यो। आचार्यले वन मन्त्रालय अन्तर्गत अनुसन्धान तथा रेड सेलमा रहेर पनि वन क्षेत्रमा योगदान पुऱ्याउनु भएको छ। वहाँले १६ वटा विभिन्न सोध पत्रहरू राष्ट्रिय तथा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय जर्नलहरूमा प्रकाशन गरिसक्नु भएको छ जसमा पाँच वटा कार्यपत्र/श्रोत पुस्तकहरू पनि पर्दछ।

Mr. Manoj Gautam

Currently affiliated with Jane Goodall Institute Nepal and Animal Welfare Network Nepal, Gautam was born in the year 1985 at Ghorahi Municipality-6, Rajhaha of Dang District, Nepal. He is youngest member of his family and he is a graduate in B.Sc.



Environmental Management and Sustainable Development. Since last 12 years he is involved in conservation and environmental sector and has served for organizations like Roots and Shoots Nepal and Society of Wetland Scientists. He has raised conservation awareness through providing lectures (over 1000), organizing workshops (over 40) and vulture festival (one), conducting raid and rescue mission (over 130) and publishing papers (over 35). His other interests include nature exploration, photography, literature work and counseling. He plans to invest time and energy in conservation and animal welfare to institutionalize and mainstream the practice of compassionate conservation majorly in Nepal and wherever possible.

श्री मनोज गौतम

वि. सं. २०४२ जुलाईमा दाङको घोराही नगरपालिका-६ को राजनामा जन्मनुभएका गौतम हाल जेन गुडल इन्स्टिच्युट र एनिमल वेलफेयर नेटवर्क नेपालमा आबद्ध हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँ आफ्नो ५ सदस्यीय परिवारमा कान्छा हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँ विगत १२ वर्ष देखि वातावरण र संरक्षणको क्षेत्रमा संलग्न हुनुहुन्छ र विगतमा रुट्स एण्ड सुट्स नेपाल र सोसाइटी अफ वेटल्याण्ड साइन्टिस्ट्स जस्ता संस्थामा योगदान गर्नुभएको छ । उहाँले १००० भन्दा बढी लेक्चर, ४० भन्दा बढी कार्यशाला, एक गिद्ध उत्सव, १३० पटक भन्दा बढी वन्यजन्तुको उद्धार (लाटोकोसेरो समेत) र ३५ भन्दा बढी अध्ययन प्रतिवेदन र लेखहरू मार्फत संरक्षण सम्बन्धी चेतना ल्याउन मद्दत गर्नुभएको छ । उहाँका अरू रुचिहरूमा प्रकृतिको अन्वेषण, फोटोग्राफी, साहित्य रचना र सल्लाह प्रदान गर्नु हो । उहाँ भविष्यमा आफ्नो समय र ऊर्जा नेपालको संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा लाने र जनावरको कल्याणलाई संस्थागत गर्ने सोच राख्नुहुन्छ ।

Mr. Shiva Sharma



Born in 1982 in Raipur of Tanahun district, Sharma is the youngest member in his family. He is currently working for Kantipur Publications, Pokhara and doing his Masters in arts as well. Earlier, he has proved his perks while working in local publication houses and F.M. radio stations. He is involved in conservation/environment sector with his writing since 2006. He has written and published more than 50 featured news/articles of birds, environment, wildlife, medicinal plants, wetlands, biodiversity,

agriculture and climate change. Some of his stories based on conservation issues are also aired on different national and local FM stations. He likes to write songs, poems and stories and also enjoys travelling and bird watching. He plans to spend his vigor for environmental conservation in the days to come through media and journalism. He actively advocated for establishing the biodiversity park (under construction) in Pokhara.

श्री शिव शर्मा

तनहुँ राईपुरमा वि. सं. २०३८ मा जन्मनु भएका शिव शर्मा आफ्नो परिवारमा कान्छो हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँ हाल कान्तिपुर पब्लिकेशन्समा कास्की संवाददाताको रूपमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँले एक दशकदेखि स्थानीय पत्रपत्रिका र एफ एम, रेडियो स्टेसनहरूमा पनि संलग्न भएर पत्रकारिता गरिसक्नु भएको छ । उहाँ वातावरण र संरक्षण सम्बन्धी समाचार लेखनमा सन् २००६ देखि निरन्तर लाग्नु भएको छ । उहाँले कान्तिपुर पब्लिकेशनसार्थै अन्य राष्ट्रिय तथा स्थानीय पत्रपत्रिकाहरूमा विभिन्न विषयहरू जस्तै चरा, वन्यजन्तु, जैविक विविधता, सिमसार, कृषि जडीबुटी, वातावरण, जलवायु परिवर्तनमा ५० भन्दा बढी फिचर समाचार तथा आलेखहरू लेखिसक्नु भएको छ । उहाँका केही संरक्षणमा आधारित समाचारहरू विभिन्न राष्ट्रिय तथा स्थानीय एफ् एम स्टेसनहरूबाट पनि प्रसारित भएका छन् । यसका अलावा उहाँ गीत, कविता, कथा लेखन र ट्रेकिङ गर्न पराउनुहुन्छ । शर्मालाई चराहरूको अवलोकन, अनुसन्धान र वातावरण पत्रकारितामा आनन्द आउने बताउनुहुन्छ र भविष्यमा वातावरणीय संरक्षणमा मिडिया र पत्रकारिता मार्फत आफ्नो ऊर्जा खर्चिने उद्देश्य राख्नुभएको छ । पोखरामा निर्माणाधीन अवस्थामा रहेको जैविक विविधता पार्कको स्थापनामा समेत सञ्चारको क्षेत्रबाट समेत उहाँको योगदान महत्त्वपूर्ण मानिन्छ ।

Ms. Chandani Hamal

Actively advocating biodiversity conservation since 2002, Hamal is currently reporting for Nagarik national daily as Chitwan correspondent. She was born in 1983 at Hetauda Municipality, Makwanpur and currently resides at Bharatpur Municipality, Chitwan. She has worked for reputed electronic media like Kalika FM and Ujyalo



Network as News in-charge and correspondent respectively in the past. She has contributed five news especially on bird conservation issue and about 70 news articles on wildlife conservation and environment. She is eager to contribute more in the field of conservation in the future with her fine writing skills.

श्री चाँदनी हमाल

श्रीमती चाँदनी हमाल वि. सं. २०४० मा मकवानपुर जिल्लामा जन्मेर, एक सशक्त महिला पत्रकारको रूपमा कलम चलाई रहनु भएको छ । उहाँ हाल नागरिक दैनिकमा चितवन संवाददाताको रूपमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ र भरतपुर नगरपालिका बसोबास गर्नुहुन्छ । स्नातकोत्तरमा अध्ययनरत हमालले वन वातावरण, वन्यजन्तु तथा जैविक विविधता संरक्षणको विषयमा ७० भन्दा बढी लेखहरू नागरिक तथा रिपब्लिका दैनिकमा प्रकाशन गरिसक्नु भएको छ । यसबाहेक पाँच वटा भन्दा बढी समाचारहरू विशेष गरी चरा सम्बन्धी नै प्रकाशन गरिसक्नु भएको छ । नागरिक राष्ट्रिय दैनिकमा काम गर्नुअघि कालिका एफ. एम. तथा उज्यालो नेटवर्कमा काम गर्नुहुन्थ्यो । वहाँ भविष्यमा कलमको माध्यमबाट संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा योगदान गर्न चाहनु हुन्छ ।

Mr. Basanta Parajuli



Born in 1978, Parajuli hails from Gunjanagar-5, Chitwan, Nepal. He is currently affiliated to Antenna Foundation Nepal, Kathmandu and producing radio features on wildlife conservation, eco-tourism and other

social issues. He is also working as senior reporter for Chitwan Post Daily reporting issues on environment conservation. During his work tenure he has reported to different publications including Gorkhapatra National Daily. He is coordinator and program producer at Synergy F.M. too. He has contributed in producing environmental awareness raising program for conservation of wild flora and fauna through radio program 'Jaibik Bibidhata Sandesh'. He has also served for testing public hearing program on community forest and other environmental issues.

श्री वसन्त पराजुली

वि. सं. २०३५ मा जन्मिएका पराजुली गुन्जनगर ५, चितवनका स्थानीय बासिन्दा हुनुहुन्छ । उहाँ हाल एन्टेना फाउन्डेसन नेपाल, काठमाडौंमा रेडियो फिचर उत्पादकका रूपमा काम गर्नुहुन्छ । उहाँले वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण, पर्यापर्यटन र अरू सामाजिक मुद्दामा रहेको रेडियो फिचरहरू उत्पादन गर्नुभएको छ । उहाँ चितवन पोस्ट दैनिकमा पनि प्रमुख संवाददाताको रूपमा कार्यरत हुनुहुन्छ । वातावरण संरक्षणका मुद्दाहरू उठाउनु उहाँको रुचिको क्षेत्र हो । विगतमा उहाँले गोरखापत्र दैनिक लगायत विभिन्न सञ्चार गृहमा समाचार लेखनको काम गर्नुभएको छ साथै सिनर्जी एफ. एम. मा कार्यक्रम उत्पादकको रूपमा पनि अनुभव बटुल्नु भएको छ । त्यस्तै 'जैविक विविधता सन्देश' जस्तो रेडियो कार्यक्रमको माध्यमबाट वन्यजन्तु र वनस्पति संरक्षणमा जनचेतना फैलाउने काममा समेत उहाँको योगदान छ । उहाँले सामुदायिक वन लगायत अरू सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइका कार्यक्रम सञ्चालनमा पनि योगदान पुऱ्याउनु भएको छ ।



Nepal Owl Festival
Syaulibazar, Sankosh,
Dhading, 2013

Hariyali Bhajan Samuha



Hariyali Bhajan Samuha was formed in the area surrounding Basaha village, NilkanthaVDC, Dhading district with an aim to perform Bhajans during local festivals. After some years the group also started playing Bhajans on issues surrounding forest and environment especially in issues like plantation, wild fire control and forest conservation. The group has performed over 100 bhajans in more than 16 districts promoting the message of forest and wildlife conservation.

श्री हरियाली भजन समुह

धादिङ जिल्ला, तत्कालीन नीलकण्ठ गा. वि. स. अन्तर्गतको ओली डाँडा, बसाह क्षेत्र वरिपरिका स्थानीयहरूले स्थापना गरेको समूहको नाम हो हरियाली भजन समूह। यो समूहले विभिन्न पर्वहरूमा भजन प्रस्तुत गर्दथ्यो। बिस्तारै आफ्नो गाउँमा भइरहने सामुदायिक वन तथा वातावरण सम्बन्धी कार्यक्रममा समेत प्रस्तुति दिन थाल्यो। विशेष गरी वन संरक्षण, वन डटेलो नियन्त्रण, वृक्षारोपण अदि मुद्दाहरूमा समेत भजनको माध्यमबाट चेतना अभिवृद्धि गर्न थाल्यो। सन् २०१२ सम्म यो हरियाली भजन समूहले १६ जिल्लामा वन तथा वन्यजन्तु सम्बन्धी १०० भन्दा धेरै कार्यक्रम (गीत तथा नाच) प्रस्तुत गरिसकेको छ।

Ghumaunedanda Bhangeruthan Community Forest Users Group



Ghumaunedanda Bhangeruthan CFUG was established in order to control the forest loss in Syaulibazar area in Sangkosh VDC, Dhading district. The CFUG under the leadership of Mr. Tul Bahadur Gurung coordinated for the first Nepal Owl Festival.

During the occasion around two hectares area of the community forest was declared as Owl Conservation Area where it is prohibited to cut the trees.

घुमाउने डाँडा भँगेरुथान सामुदायिक वन उपभोक्ता समिती

वन क्षेत्रको विनाशलाई न्यून गर्न घुमाउने डाँडा भँगेरुथान सामुदायिक वन उपभोक्ता समितिको स्थापना भयो । यस उपभोक्ता समितिले वन संरक्षण र वृक्षारोपणका बारेमा चेतना जगाउन थाल्यो । सन् २०१२ मा तुल बहादुर गुरुङको संयोजकत्वमा घुमाउने डाँडा भँगेरुथान (CFUG) ले स्याउली बजारमा लाटोकोसेरो संरक्षण क्षेत्र घोषणा गर्नुभएको छ । यो वनको क्षेत्रफल करिब २ हेक्टर रहेको र यसमा कुनै पनि बिरुवा काट्न नपाउने व्यवस्था गरिएको छ ।

(फोटोहरु: प्रकृतिका साथीहरु र सम्बन्धीत बिजेताहरु, मुख्य पृष्ठ रोहीत गिरि)

Who helped to organize ‘Nepal Owl Festival’ since beginning

जसले ‘लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील उत्सव’ संचालको लागि सहयोग गरे

Ghumaunedanda
Bhageruthan
Community Forest
Users’ Group



Amaltari Buffer
Zone Homestay
Village, Agyeuli-5,
Baghkhori,
Nawalparasi
District

Nepal Owl Festival
2015 Organizing
Committee, Barpak,
Gorkha

Conservation
Area
Management
Committee,
Parche



ACCORDEOS



Diktel Rupakot Majhuwagadhi
Municipality and Ward No. 12



Ministry of Industry,
Tourism, Forest and
Environment,
Province no. 1,
Biratnagar
Halesi Tuwaching
Municipality
Kepilasgadhi Rural
Municipality
Aiselukharka Rural
Municipality



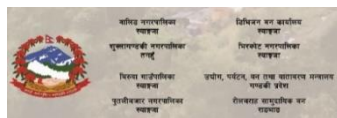
Global
OWL
PROJECT



District Forest
Office, Chitwan



The Parahaking
Project





NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL

The International Festival of Owls started in 2003 as a "hatch-day" party for Alice, the Great Horned Owl in USA. The idea was a successful one to help people learn about owls, raise fund for conservation, provide people with new recreational activities and promote tourism. The international festival of owls is now celebrated in four countries; USA, Italy, India and Nepal.

Nepal is a home to 23 species of owls, 10% of total owl diversity in the world. Owl research and conservation initiatives in Nepal started from 2008. However, the

first Nepal Owl Festival started in 2012 in Dhading. The festival was administered as an owl conservation program with an objective to make participants aware about habitat loss, excessive hunting and illegal trade of owls in Nepal. Till date, nine Nepal Owl Festivals have been celebrated in nine different districts in Nepal. One can experience the fusion of conservation, entertainment and local culture at the festival.

CONSERVATION

One of the major features of the festival is promoting owl conservation among the locals. Making people familiar with owl species and their importance is a great way to achieve this. A temporary museum is established on the festival day that includes audiovisual of owls, news articles on poaching and illegal trade, museum specimens of owls and their prey species, art, sculptures, t-shirts, bags and pretty much everything related to owls. Documentary on owl conservation helps the local public gain insight on owls' conservation significance. Conservation camps, poster presentations, bird watching, and conservation dances reinforce the message of conservation. Individuals and organization working on conservation are awarded with nature conservation awards for their valuable efforts in wildlife conservation.

CULTURE

Promotion of local culture is another major aspect of Nepal Owl Festival. It provides a platform to showcase forgotten traditions by encouraging local dance, song and cultural art from different communities of Nepal. Kauda dance of Magar community Rangbhang-BhaiseGaunda in 2020, cultural foods of Tharu community in 2017, arts of Gurung community in Sikles 2016, cultural songs and dances (*Lama/Jhakri, Ghatu, Lingema, Sorathi and Lok-dohori*) in Barpak 2015 etc. were undoubtedly the charms of Nepal Owl Festival in their respective years. These art and culture are delights to visitors on one hand and motivate villagers for conservation on the other.

LOCAL GAMES

Local games are always a source of closeness, brotherhood, competition and recreation. However, these games are disappearing with time. Nepal Owl Festival has been acting as a stage to promote these local games and encourage participation from local youths. The *Bhodi* game was the major attraction of the festival in Nawalparasi (2014) allowing the tourists to know the least known aspect of the Tharu culture. Games such as *Topi jhikai*,

Bhurung were hit among festival participants. The traditional games of the Gurung community in Sikles (2016) i.e. *Thelo*, *Hyakuche* and *Jhijhili* were also major attraction to the visitors and locals. Similarly *Ghoch gadne* game was one of the major attraction in 2020.

Other highlights of the festival include: owl-themed face painting and nail painting, a terrific chance to explore the communities and landscape, bird watching, and nature photo walk. The festival has so far been celebrated at nine different districts: Dhading, Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Gorkha, Kaski, Kapilvastu , Dolakha, Khotan and Syangja.



CONTACT FOR DETAIL

FRIENDS OF NATURE (FON) NEPAL
PO BOX 23491
KATHMANDU, NEPAL
EMAIL: info@fonnepal.org, naturesfren@yahoo.com
WEBPAGE: www.fonnepal.org
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/fonnepal2005



WHEN DO WE CELEBRATE ?

FIRST FRIDAY AND SATURDAY OF FEBRUARY EVERY YEAR



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