

Headlines Himalaya

Jan 14– Jan 20 (2019)

No. 540

Editorial Team: Roshni Gurung and Babita Aryal

For the 540th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 16 news from 10 sources and selected 15 happenings from five countries. Police have arrested four people for illegal possession of wildlife parts in eastern and central Nepal. The increasing anthropogenic activities has led to destruction of chure and mahabharat range of Dang, south western Nepal. The Government of Nepal has developed the Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) Conservation Action Plan for 2019-2023. Wular Conservation and Management Authority is carrying out conservation and eco-restoration of Wular Lake, Jammu and Kashmir, northern India. China begins the construction of the Lawa hydropower station along the Jinsha River, in the junction of Sichuan province, and the Tibet autonomous region. A forest fire in eastern Bhutan has damaged over 1092.65 ha of forest. The government of Pakistan has planned for a merger between Forest and Wildlife Departments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Headlines Himalaya, a weekly e-News is an attempt to keep our global readers abreast with the happenings in the Himalaya. Please share it with your colleagues and friends. Also, subscription is free. Enjoy!

NEPAL	<i>Road upgradation in Myagdi</i> <i>Men arrested for illegal possession of wildlife parts</i> <i>Sustaining livelihood from honey</i> <i>Men arrested with illegal wood harvest</i> <i>Chure and Mahabharat range on the verge of destruction</i> <i>Action plan to conserve Red Panda developed</i> <i>Environment Act endorsed at Paanchkhal</i>
INDIA	<i>Conservation and restoration of Wular</i> <i>Rise in average temperature in Jammu and Kashmir</i>
CHINA	<i>Construction of Lawa hydropower station</i>
BHUTAN	<i>Extreme weather in Bhutan</i> <i>Forest fire getting out of control</i> <i>Restoration of Khurul lake</i>
PAKISTAN	<i>Wildlife department to merge with forest department</i> <i>Mining exploration threatens forest protection</i>

ROAD UPGRADATION IN MYAGDI

A local Dudhekhola-Bhakimli road is being upgraded in Myagdi district, western Nepal. Concrete walls are to be used on either side of the road at landslide prone areas. The project costs around NPR 4 million.

Jan 16

<https://bit.ly/2S5T5t2>

MEN ARRESTED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF WILDLIFE PARTS

A man with possession of deer (*Cervidae*) hide was arrested in Silichong Rural Municipality-3 of Sankhuwasabha district, eastern Nepal by Police. Similarly, police arrested three people with leopard (*Panthera pardus*) skin from Bhugol Park in Kathmandu Municipality, Central Nepal. The arrested will be tried under the National Park and Wildlife Act 1973.

Jan 17 & 18

<https://bit.ly/2GjLobv>

<https://bit.ly/2MPgMzL>

SUSTAINING LIVELIHOOD FROM HONEY

A man from Dasarathchand Municipality-5 of Baitadi district, western Nepal, has been generating an annual profit of NPR 1 million. The honey bees (*Cerena* sp.) have been cultivated in about 90 hives. The man has set an example among youths many of whom are desperately looking for job opportunities in foreign countries.

Jan 17

<https://bit.ly/2RDem8c>

MEN ARRESTED WITH ILLEGAL WOOD HARVEST

A vehicle transporting wooden logs worth NPR 7,00,000 of Chilaune (*Schima wallichii*) on way to India, was seized in Jhapa, eastern Nepal. After the men couldn't show the bill of the logs in time, it was suspected and later confirmed to be illegal.

Jan 17

<https://bit.ly/2D5CWJN>

CHURE AND MAHABHARAT RANGE ON THE VERGE OF DESTRUCTION

The increasing anthropogenic activities including cement factory, sand mining, stone extraction and misuse of natural resources in the Chure and Mahabharat range has led to overexploitation of natural resources and drying of water sources in Dang, south western Nepal. Plans are being made for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources by the District Coordination Committee, Dang.

Jan 19

<https://bit.ly/2Tv68Rk>

ACTION PLAN TO CONSERVE RED PANDA DEVELOPED

The Government of Nepal has developed the Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) Conservation Action Plan for 2019-2023. The plan aims to protect and manage the species population in Nepal through integrated approach of conservation including research, monitoring, awareness building, habitat improvement, and threat management. Despite being listed as endangered species on IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, they are vulnerable to illegal trade, poaching, habitat loss and other anthropogenic activities.

Jan 20

<https://bit.ly/2G8Dhzc>

ENVIRONMENT ACT ENDORSED AT PAANCHKHAL

The Environment Act was endorsed at Paanchkhal Municipality in Kavrepalanchok, central Nepal after majority of Brick kilns in the district were found to have exceeded the limit standards set by the Government. The regulations are being prepared to enforce the act in seven brick kilns that are operating in the municipality.

Jan 20

<https://bit.ly/2TsoR00>

India-Himalaya

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF WULAR

Wular Conservation and Management Authority is carrying out conservation and eco-restoration of Wular Lake, Jammu and Kashmir, northern India which is one of the largest fresh water lakes in Asia. The lake is also declared as Ramsar site. The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir has advised the concerned authority to enhance the water holding capacity of the lake and its rejuvenation. In addition, ecotourism and generation of livelihood opportunities from the lake are essential as per the comprehensive management action plan.

Jan 17

<https://bit.ly/2UyWhKs>

RISE IN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Jammu and Kashmir, northern India has surpassed the world in annual global rise in temperature, according to the recorded history of 130 years. Temperature across the globe has increased by 0.8 to 0.9°C, however temperature rise in Jammu and Kashmir is above the global average as a result of which they are witnessing more precipitation and reduced snowfall.

Jan 20

<https://bit.ly/2MN73tP>

China Himalaya

CONSTRUCTION OF LAWA HYDROPOWER STATION

In order to increase renewable energy supply and boost local development, China's top economic regulator has approved the construction of the Lawa hydropower station along the Jinsha River, in the junction of Sichuan province, and the Tibet autonomous region in south western China. With the investment of USD 4.59 billion, the project will also improve the region's flood control capacity and water transfer capacity.

Jan 17

<https://bit.ly/2MMZK5F>

Bhutan-Himalaya

EXTREME WEATHER IN BHUTAN

Temperature of Bhutan drops by 2-4°C with the lowest temperature of -11°C. First snowfall was experienced on December 18, 2018 due to the peripheral effect from the cyclonic storm that developed over the Bay of Bengal. The weather is expected to remain the same for the coming days as Bhutan is in the mid of winter season.

Jan 17

<https://bit.ly/2UyWXzu>

FOREST FIRE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL

A forest fire that has been raging on for five days at Dramedtse in Monggar, eastern Bhutan has damaged over 1092.65 ha of forest. Strong winds and difficult topography have hindered efforts to control the fire.

Jan 18

<https://bit.ly/2SukaFT>

RESTORATION OF KHURUL LAKE

The Khurul Lake in Lhamoidzingkha in Dagana, south western Bhutan that was about to dry up five years ago is now almost filled to the brim with fresh water. The restoration works have been carried out by the Lhamoidzingkha Sub-district Administration. There is belief among the locals that any disturbance around the lake could incense the residing deity and cause natural calamities.

Jan 18

<https://bit.ly/2MRpbDa>

Pakistan- Himalaya

WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT TO MERGE WITH FOREST DEPARTMENT

To save resources and share responsibilities among employees to protect forests as well as wildlife, Forest Department and Wildlife Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been proposed for merger. But on the other hand, there are objections arising that this decision will affect wildlife management.

Jan 14

<https://bit.ly/2t555w6>

MINING EXPLORATION THREATENS FOREST PROTECTION

Forest Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan has sent a letter to the Mines and Minerals Department over the auctioning of designated forest area for mining purposes. According to the Forest Department, granting mining licences in designated forests poses serious threat to conservation of forests and its natural resources. Several cases of illegal mining were referred to the Mines and Minerals Department for stopping the activity and cancelling the lease.

Jan 18

<https://bit.ly/2DRnjaE>