

BACKGROUND

Resources Himalaya is a non-governmental, non profit organization (Charity Registered No. 1791 DAO Lalitpur). We began in 1986 as a private registered research organization because existing law then forbid non-governmental movement on wildlife conservation, development and environment protection. By 2004, our collaborative work had reached Bhutan, India (Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Darjeeling) and Nepal which prompted us to establish it as a regional think-tank in the Himalaya. Today, with 23 years of research rigor, institutional hardship and activities that include over 200 regional conservation research projects and nearly 100 different geo-spatial database, we are confident that Resources Himalaya can contribute to secure nature in the Himalaya through “good science” & “politically correct” decisions.

MISSION STATEMENT & GOAL

To conserve diversity of life in the Himalaya, involve biological considerations, promote sustainable use of natural resources including soil, water, forest and rangeland, and benefit the poorer segment of human society.

OBJECTIVES

As Resources Himalaya intends to serve as a catalyst for conservation and development, science-based information are much needed to synthesize cross-sectoral, contemporary knowledge for rigorous development processes. Therefore, to achieve the goal, four objectives are identified:

Independent Regional Think - Tank

To operate as an independent think-tank, seek international support, share all and every accurate knowledge and information, and initiate collaborative conservation efforts on biodiversity and natural resources.

Knowledge - Based Development

To maintain biodiversity conservation in the region, identify, plan and implement sustainable activities on information gathering and knowledge-based collaborative development activities in protected area systems.

Action Research

To resolve conservation-related conflicts and issues for the benefit of local communities, examine them on the grounds of human experiences to have their applicability far beyond the circumstances in which they originate.

Consolidating Biodiversity Conservation Efforts

To strengthen program activities in the Himalaya, develop coordination with professionals, peer-review societies, academic institutions, government agencies, local and international communities.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH

Collaborative Efforts

While forging partnership in biodiversity conservation and environmental protection, our collaborative works in maintaining transparency, good governance and building human resources are growing very strong. In the past, we have had the good opportunity to work with world's outstanding development and research organizations. Globally, RHF was one of eight recipients of the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2007, selected from over 1,000 NGOs from six continents.

Given the scarcity of research fund, academic investigations must come in terms with conservation practices. Conversely, conservation practices alone falter in the absence of knowledge. Therefore, action research is must for both. Resources Himalaya has assisted protected area management with village-level (VDC) information on sustained- resource yield in their buffer zones.

Transparency

The Foundation gets funds, mainly for institutional support and research projects. Also, individual donations. Its annual expenditures are audited by C&SC Co., an associate of Pricewaterhouse Coopers. Every year, the audited annual spending of the Foundation is printed for public distribution and also posted on the web. This effort has brought credibility to the Foundation as one of the outstanding institutions within and outside the Himalaya.

Governance

Frankly speaking, governance means many things to different minds. Therefore, it may relate level of development through societal mechanism to distribute resources and services in space and time, without prejudice. For organizations, good governance is a delicate balance between power (decisions) and money (resource). When the judgmental balance is lost, institutional integrity may get deteriorated in many ill-forms. We have witnessed that unregulated decisions (power) and unaudited expenditures (money) have a high probability of abuse both in the government and non-governmental sectors.

Building the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

Resources Himalaya is aggressively pursuing long-term mentorship to prepare conservation path finders for tomorrow. In the last three years, for building the next generation leaders, it has: 1) initiated mentorship program for university graduates; and 2) established Environmental Graduates in Himalaya.

REPORT ON INDEPENDENT THINK-TANK

Governing Board

The 2008 Annual General Meeting has reconstituted the Governing Board where voting members unanimously nominated Dr. Pralad Yonzon, Dr. Ash Kumar Rai and Dr. Damber Nepali as Chair, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Other governing board members are Dr. Arun Rijal, Dr. Pitamber Sharma and Mr. Prasanna Yonzon. Three new governing board members have joined and Resources Himalaya is proud to put a brief on their contributions.



Mr. Gopal Guragain is the Managing Director of Ujyalo 90 Network, who began his humble career as news reporter. He had enormous involvement in protecting rhinos against the government gifts as an executive member of the NEFEJ. Then he moved on to demonstrate how to arm far-flung people with information. Using the state of the art technology through satellite uplink, and with nearly 40 full time staff, he informs and benefits millions of deprived Nepalis outside Kathmandu through 70 FM radio stations.

Mr. Prakash Shrestha started his career in tourism through wildlife. In early seventies, he set up a small jungle lodge, and then he moved on to set-up Machan, a world-wide known quality wildlife resort in Chitwan and promoted tourism in Nepal. He became the President of the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) when the country was engulfed in armed conflict. Therefore, he deserves to be commended for safeguarding Nepal's tourism and lobbying steadfast for wildlife and protected areas. He will lead RHF into the frontier of conservation through tourism.



Dr. Ram Bahadur Chhetri, eminent anthropologist and expert in community-based resource management, is a scholar of international repute including Fulbright and Hawaii's East West Center. He has been the head of Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology of Tribhuvan University, President of SASON and Forest Action, referee and editors of many international journals. Dr. Chhetri will guide Resources Himalaya with academic enhancement and human resource development to manage natural resources and accrue benefits to the rural people.

Governing Board Member to Lead National Planning Commission



Professor Dr. Pitamber Sharma, Governing Board Member of Resources Himalaya Foundation, has been appointed Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission by the Prime Minister. Dr. Sharma is a household name in the Hindu Kush - Himalaya region as he brings a wealth of cutting-edge knowledge on self-reliance and equity through development planning. Dr. Sharma leads a cohort of knowledge-holder Nepalis who have best interest to benefit villagers at large and the poor.

Distinguished Tourism Award and Award for Professional Excellence

The Regional Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) and Restaurant & Bar Association of Nepal (REBAN) nominated Dr. Pralad Yonzon for the Distinguished Tourism Award for Wildlife Conservation. During the inaugural of the 5th International Elephant Festival in Chitwan, the Forest and Soil Conservation Minister presented him with the award. Dr. Yonzon also received the Award of Professional Excellence in wildlife in 2008 from the University of Maine, USA for his outstanding contribution and distinguished career.

Formal Statement on the Upgrade of Rhinos in Nepal

Opinions on the IUCN listing the Asiatic one-horned rhinoceros as Vulnerable have differed between interest groups outside Nepal. Concerning rhinos in three areas of Nepal, a consultative meeting was convened by Dr. Pralad Yonzon on December 15 at Conservation Chautari, and Dr. Uday Raj Sharma, Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation chaired it. The meeting unanimously agreed that the moving the rhino from 'Endangered' to 'Vulnerable' by the 2008 Red List Assessment is indeed an achievement on the part of the Nepal Government and concerned stakeholders, despite occasional poaching which is common in all rhino-range countries. Dr. Sharma said the Government of Nepal will continue to keep the status of rhino as protected for its long-term survival.

Conservation Chautari

With the Innovative and Leadership Institution Award from the Macarthur Foundation, Resources Himalaya built its permanent office space after 23 years of volunteerism. Conservation Chautari at Naya Bato, near Kathmandu Ring Road, is a 5 storied building with Nepali décor and full office amenities. The ground built-up area (1,217 ft²) is moderate because the land (area: 4,298 ft²) is premium. The setting is pleasing and comfortable with ample parking space. It has rain-water harvest, photovoltaic solar panels, solar water heaters, fire escape, and 24-hour security guards.

The ground floor has reception, Office of the Environmental Graduates in Himalaya (EGH), board meeting, coffee/class room and reference library.

The first and second floors are office space. At present, the second floor houses Resources Himalaya. Each floor can accommodate 10 full time staff, with office store, rest rooms, voice mail, and broadband internet.

The third and fourth floors are to be used as knowledge-sharing venue. It has a fully furnished 80 person conference room with wireless audio system, 36 person seminar room, and two additional rooms for group discussions. All meeting rooms are air-conditioned backed by a 25 KV silent generator and broadband internet. The intent behind such set-up is to use Conservation Chautari to meet researchers, policy-makers, and university graduates and share knowledge on contemporary development in the Himalaya.



Executive Office

The executive office has been streamlined with three full time staff led by Ms. Deepmala Subba, Administrative Officer. The office also has part-time accountant and legal advisor. Four governing board members have volunteered to attend the office regularly and give their support to the executive office, by developing projects and conduct program activities. All these efforts have cut down administrative expenses down to eleven percent of the total annual expense. However, the office would like to bring more personnel as programs grow. It is an indicator of growth given a threshold.

GIS – Remote Sensing Lab

The lab acquired 9 Landsat 7 Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus (ETM+) scenes from 2005 – 2007. These scenes were used for the preparation of elephant action plan. The analysis suggested 30,187 km² in 19 districts where elephants occur. Forests accounted for 34% and non-forest areas as 64% of the land.

REPORT ON KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

Environmental Graduates in Himalaya

The Foundation is preparing to build the next generation of conservation leaders. Environmental Graduates in the Himalaya (EGH) of Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF) is an independent forum for all young graduates with a mission to protect environment by building knowledge-based human resources through academic enhancement and promoting mentorship. EGH has now over 90 graduates from Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Austria, Germany, Korea and United States of America. EGH gets support fund from Resources Himalaya. Others include contribution from on-going EGH research projects on hispid hare, gharial and snow leopard and donation. EGH brings out Headlines Himalaya, weekly e-newsletter to keep global readers abreast on the happenings in Nepal, India, Bhutan, China and Pakistan to more than 1,500 global readers in 20 countries. Also, it can be downloaded from the homepage www.resourceshimalaya.org

Junior Scholars in Environment and Conservation Biology

Ecological settings, social needs and development priorities that influence mountain river system, have never been comprehensively understood as research opportunities for would-be scholars are scarce in Nepal. With the support of the Toni Hagen Foundation and collaborative efforts of Social Science Baha, Ms. Subhekchha Thapa, who hails from an indigenous group and has master's degree in environmental science, is surveying the 240 km long Trisuli River system in central Nepal, which begins in the high Himalaya (Langtang National Park) and eventually merge with other six rivers in the Mid-hills to become the Narayani River (Chitwan National Park) and drain out into the Ganges in India. Data gathering includes chemical parameters of river, biotic resources, influence of environmental gradient, and unplanned development. She is being advised by Dr. Ash Kumar Rai,

Nepal's foremost water (limnology) expert. With such support, Resources Himalaya plans to involve junior scholar in the field of environment and conservation biology.

Chandra Gurung Ecology Forum

Dr. Chandra Gurung was the founding governing board member who passed away in a tragic accident in 2006. In his memory and to pay our respect, a monthly ecology round table discussion is on-going since September 2008 where the Foundation selects peer-reviewed papers for discussion and EGH invites experts, professionals, graduates and others to express their views on how they relate to issues in the Himalaya. To date, 8 published papers in four episodes have been discussed including woodpeckers as reliable indicators, grid-based population monitoring methods, human-wildlife conflict, predator-prey dynamics in the Himalaya, forest fragmentation and re-growth, monitoring protected areas through remote sensing, and upgrading of rhinos from endangered to vulnerable status. As it happens on the last Friday of each month, join us to share your views on contemporary conservation biology in the Himalaya.

Elephant Conservation Action Plan Prepared

The Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (WTLCP) of the Government of Nepal had commissioned Resources Himalaya to prepare the elephant conservation action plan for Nepal in 2007. The action plan prescribes six objectives with twenty-one activities, estimated to cost US\$ 2.6 million over a 10 year period. This action plan recognizes people as the custodian of the land and makes an all out effort in building strong linkages between rural communities, academic institutions, government agencies, donors in Nepal and international communities. This action plan differs from others by being people centered as it embarks upon ground-level planning so that all 17 Terai and 2 Hill district communities can take care of their land, conserve elephants and protect themselves.

REPORT ON ACTION RESEARCH

Independent Monitoring of CBD –POW in Nepal

To assess how governments implement the Expanded Program of Work (POW) on Forest Biological Diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 20 different countries, Global Forest Coalition had invited Resources Himalaya on behalf of the government agencies, NGOs, and international regional organizations for an independent monitoring report on Nepal. Many grass-root organizations, community-based organizations, national level NGOs, INGOs and government agencies were consulted who have assisted in conserving forest biodiversity in the Nepal-Himalaya. The report entitled “Monitoring Forest Biodiversity in Nepal” was released at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) in Bonn, Germany in May 2008.

People, Buffer Zone and Protected Areas

Despite the global failure of ICDP (integrated conservation and development program), social capital in protected areas which includes ecology, household economics and social strata, is fundamental to forecast scenarios and sustain development activities to safeguard biodiversity. Resources Himalaya with graduates from Tribhuvan and Kathmandu Universities are triangulating issues on ecology,

sociology and economics in protected areas in Nepal since 2005. By doing so, the benefits are brought from “good science” for “politically correct” decisions: 1) Master’s level students in environment, economics and sociology/anthropology get opportunity to work for their dissertation work; 2) A cohort of young, trained professionals are prepared whose services will be readily available; and 3) A new set of accurate information on sustainable use of natural resources will be available to the Park Management to forecast scenarios in biodiversity conservation which do not exist today. With such, it will be not difficult to ascertain what we want and what we are doing now for biodiversity conservation. Until now (2005 – 2008), 37 university graduates and the management of Chitwan National Park have benefited (Appendix 1). A comprehensive book on sustained – yield of biodiversity resources of Chitwan buffer zone is soon expected.

The Rhino Contingency Study Plan

Nepal’s rhino conservation have had a classical success but met with unprecedented population decline because of poaching during the armed conflict and scientific want to monitor all translocated rhinos in two protected areas outside Chitwan. Therefore, in concurrence with the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Resources Himalaya facilitates technical processes to prepare the Contingency Conservation of the Rhinos in Nepal through synthesis of literature review, synthesis of available data and published information and, in consultation with rhino experts and those concerned with biodiversity conservation in Nepal.

The Contingency Plan suggests the following: 1) Provide agreed protective measures and legal mechanism on security and surveillance to protect rhinos in protected areas, buffer zone, community forests and national forest; 2) Curtail immediately rhino translocation within country and gift rhinos abroad; 3) Ensure financial emergency funds; and 3) Build a knowledge-based information system and constitute a peer-review committee comprising of rhino experts, government officials and parliamentarians which can be called upon, should a crisis emerge.

REPORT ON CONSOLIDATING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Chitwan Campground

The Chitwan Campground of Resources Himalaya is a field station in Chitwan National Park for village school children to university graduates. It is managed by Bird Education Society (BES). Chitwan Campground lies in the proximity to Chitwan National Park, Nepal’s richest biodiversity area and to several successful buffer zone community forests. In 2008, Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN), BES and Resources Himalaya supported 37 school children from 9 nearby primary schools in one-day workshop on nature conservation.

Ecological Farmers Forum

At the Chitwan Campground premise, Resources Himalaya has approved the Ecological Farmers Forum (*Paryabaraniya Krishak Manch*) together with Pesticide Monitor Nepal (PEMON), an NGO to start vermi-composting of elephant dung through GEF (Global Environment Facility) small grant. Trainings and demonstration site have enabled women, local residents, and others to produce nearly

one ton of compost daily in Bachhauli VDC, suggesting extra household income. Also, tourist frequented pathways look relatively clean without elephant dung.

Red Panda Trainees from Bhutan

Tenzing Wangchuk, Kesang Dorjee and Wangda Jatsho from Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS), eastern Bhutan, received their training in field ecology to ascertain data gathering on the red panda. SWS established in 2003 is the home of indigenous Brokpas who make 0.12% of the total Bhutan population of nearly 700,000. Yogesh Dangol, Badri Ghimire, Anil KC, Apar Poudyal and Asish Dhakal coordinated as instructors in sampling procedures, vegetation study and GIS analysis.

Collaborative Works

Resources Himalaya sincerely acknowledges contributions, support and collaborative work from the Macarthur Foundation, Global Forest Coalition, Global Tiger Initiatives, Asian Rhino Specialist Group, World Commission on Protected Areas South Asia, University of Maine, Toni Hagen Foundation and Society for Conservation Biology. At home, we are proud to work and be associated with Western Terai Landscape Project, Wildlife Conservation Nepal, Bird Education Society, Environmental Graduates in Himalaya, Social Science Baha, ICIMOD, Forest Action, Federation of Community Forestry User Group (FECOFUN) Nepal Trust for Nature Conservation, Nepal Foresters' Association (NFA) and Ecological Farmers Forum.

Resources Himalaya received a tremendous support from the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Regional Hotel Association of Nepal, REBAN Chitwan Chapter, and Tribhuvan University.

FUND ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

CSC & Co
Chartered Accountants

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Auditor's Report

To: Resources Himalaya Foundation
GPO Box 2448, Kathmandu Nepal

We have audited the accompanying Fund Accountability Statement of Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF) for the year ended 15th July, 2008. This statement is the responsibility of the RHF management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit of the specified statement in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the specified statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosure in the specified statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the statement of the RHF referred to above are presented fairly, in all material respects, for the year ended and as of 15th July, 2008 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted.



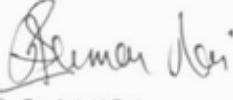

I. D Mahat
Partner

Thursday, October 16, 2008
Kathmandu


Resources Himalaya Foundation			
Fund Accountability Statement			
For the period from July 17, 2007 to July 15, 2008			
Particulars	Schedule	Current Year Amount in NPR	Previous Year Amount in NPR
Sources of Fund:			
Opening Balance of Fund		3,044,863.11	4,347,768.72
Fund received during the year:			
Grant received from Mac Arthur Foundation		-	2,465,045.50
Grant received from EV-K2-CNR committee		538,920.30	728,898.84
Grant received from WTLCP (ECAP)		306,000.00	306,000.00
Grant received from Global Forest Coliation		-	690,669.00
Grant received from Dr. Pralad B. Yonzon		36,125.00	30,005.00
Award received from Mac Arthur		22,712,728.50	-
Board Membership fees		-	-
Interest Income		145,118.75	33,981.08
Grant from other projects		413,818.40	-
Other Income - Book Sales		19,772.13	29,131.00
Total		24,172,483.08	4,283,730.42
Total Funds Available (A)		27,217,346.19	8,631,499.14
Uses of Fund:			
Mac Arthur project expenditure	1	1,529,216.28	4,138,663.82
EV-K2-CNR committee project expenditure	2	725,151.08	590,842.56
WTLCP (ECAP) project expenditure	3	345,167.84	427,300.06
Fixed Assets	4	20,695,918.65	-
Global Forest Coliation	5	337,863.35	-
Other expenses	6	63,481.82	50,481.82
Exchange (gain)/loss		(395,983.66)	379,347.77
Total uses of Fund (B)		23,300,815.36	5,586,636.03
Closing Balance of Funds (A-B)		3,916,530.83	3,044,863.11
Balance of Fund represented by:			
Cash		3,945.00	16,301.53
Bank (USD A/c)		2,445,454.61	1,432,388.64
Bank (NPR 8111740)		793.95	8,495.30
Bank (NPR 8110340)		4,112.82	8,318.01
Bank (NPR 7020100)		-	-
Bank (NPR 7020140)		520,991.04	737,297.76
Bank (NPR 7524240)		566,678.79	305,168.58
Payable to Dr. Pralad B. Yonzon		-	(136,000.00)
Advances	7	374,554.62	672,893.29
Total		3,916,530.83	3,044,863.11

Notes to Accounts & Significant Accounting Policies 8
 Schedules 1 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

As per our report of even date


 Dr. Ash K Rai
 General Secretary


 Dr. Pralad B. Yonzon
 Chairperson


 L.D. Mahal
 Partner
 CSC & Co.
 Chartered Accountants

Date: 16/10/2008
 Place: Kathmandu

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 RESOURCES HIMALAYA

Appendix One

Chitwan National Park Buffer Zone Research Mentorship Study 2005 - 2008

Research Students	Gender	VDC/Municipality	Field Study	Master's Thesis
Phase One 2005 – 2006				
Anil K.C.	Male	Manahari	Completed	Completed
Apar Paudyal	Male	Piple	Completed	Completed
Asish Dhakal	Male	Kathar	Completed	Completed
Badri Ghimire	Male	Bhandara	Completed	Completed
Dhan B. Shrestha	Male	Kumroj	Completed	Completed
Dinesh Neupane	Male	Sukranagar	Completed	Completed
Prakash Basnet	Male	Gitanagar	Completed	Completed
Pratima Shrestha	Female	Patihani	Completed	Completed
Sapana Lohani	Female	Jagatpur	Completed	Completed
Yogesh Dongol	Male	Bachauli	Completed	Completed
Phase Two 2006 - 2007				
Arjun Subedi	Male	Narayani	Completed	Completed
Babita Maharjan	Female	Rajhar	Completed	Completed
Bhuwan Dhakal	Male	Kolhuwa	Completed	Completed
Iswore Raj	Male	Dibya Nagar	Completed	Completed
Itnuma Subba	Female	Sharda Nagar	Completed	Completed
Kapil Khadga	Male	Mukundapur	Completed	Completed
Leena Bajracharya	Female	Pithauli	Completed	Completed
Nav Raj	Male	Pragati Nagar	Completed	Completed
Nirmala Rajoure	Female	Agryoli	Completed	Completed
Prakash KC	Male	Dibyapuri	Completed	Completed
Pramod Tandan	Male	Prasauni	Completed	Completed
Ramesh Poudyal	Male	Megahauli	Completed	Completed
Ranjana Bhatta	Female	Naya Belhani	Completed	Completed
Ruby Joshi	Female	Kumarwoti	Completed	Completed
Saraswoti Lamsal	Female	Amarapuri	Completed	Completed
Sishir Adhikari	Male	Gunja Nagar	Completed	Completed
Sumnima Shrestha	Female	Kawasoti	Completed	Completed
Phase Three 2007 - 2008				
Amrit Sharma	Male	Nirmal Basti	Completed	On-going
Anita Pant	Female	Ayodhapuri	Completed	On-going
Anjana Mulepati	Female	Baghanda	Completed	On-going
Anju Aire	Female	Thori	Completed	On-going
Haridatta Joshi	Male	Naya Padampur	Completed	On-going
Jagdish Poudel	Male	Ratna Nagar	Completed	On-going
Saroj Upadhaya	Male	Kalyanpur	Completed	On-going
Rabindra Pandey	Male	Tribeni	Completed	On-going
Raju Pokhrel	Male	Bharatpur	Completed	On-going
Subash Lohani	Male	Gardi	Completed	On-going