



NEPAL'S ZERO POACHING STANDARD



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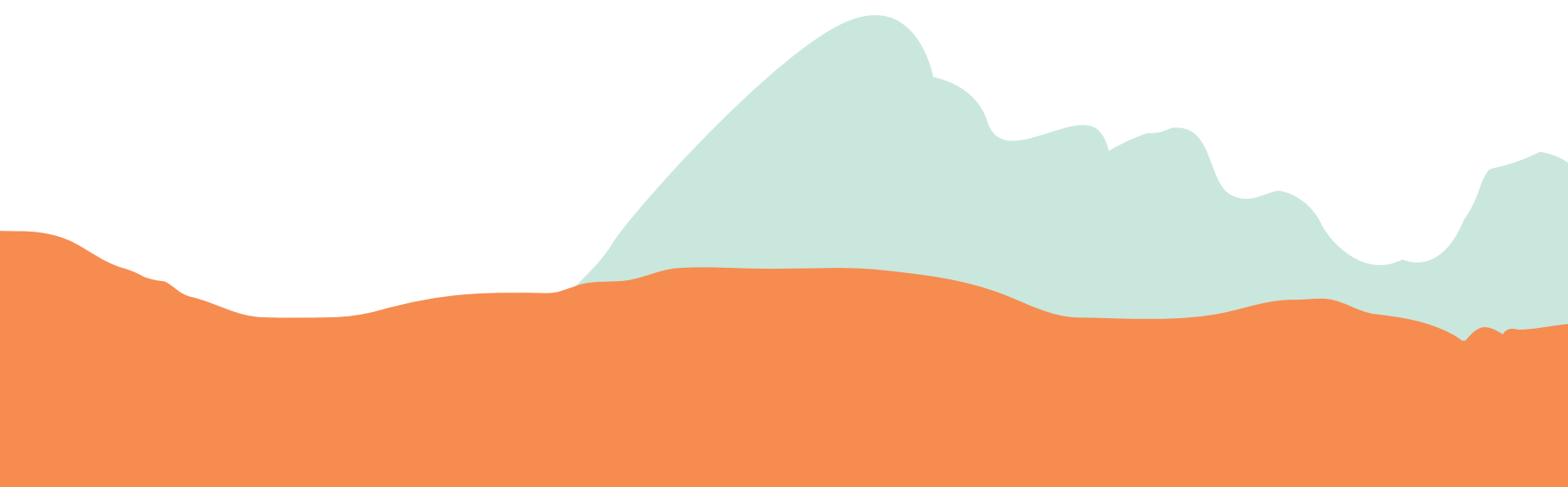
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SETTING THE STANDARD

Nepal is home to many of the world's rarest and most beautiful species. The snow leopard prowls the mountains to the north, while the plains of the south are home to the Bengal tiger and the Greater one-horned rhinoceros.

Poaching is the most urgent threat to these iconic species. The international demand for their skin, bone or horn fuels the illegal wildlife trade, endangering their very survival. In fact, illegal wildlife trade is one of the five largest global organized crimes; Nepal is a country of origin for many wildlife parts, and its location makes it a major transit point for illegal wildlife trade.

In order to address this critical conservation challenge, WWF Nepal established its Wildlife Trade Monitoring Program in 2006. The specialized program plays a proactive role in supporting the government in curbing poaching and illegal wildlife trade to conserve Nepal's iconic species, working in close coordination with policy makers, enforcement agencies, local communities and the international community.

Nepal made headway in the fight against poaching and illegal wildlife trade with the achievement of 365 days of zero poaching of rhinos for the first time in 2011. Till 2018, Nepal was successful in celebrating zero poaching year of rhinos on five occasions. At the heart of this conservation milestone is the country's successful implementation of the Zero Poaching Toolkit spearheaded by WWF to help national and state agencies, protected area managers, rangers and other frontline protection staff close gaps in anti-poaching efforts.



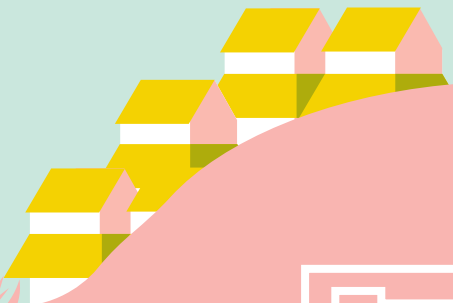


COMMUNITY



58
RAPID RESPONSE
TEAMS

STOP
POACHERS



PROSECUTION

600+
COMMUNITY-BASED
ANTIPOACHING UNITS



8
ACTS



2200+
ARRESTS

1200+
SEIZURES



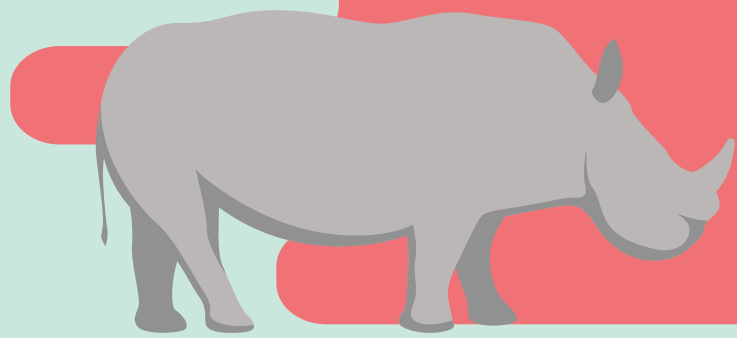
ASSESSMENT

8
PARK MANAGEMENT
PLANS

8
SPECIES CONSERVATION
ACTION PLANS

ZERO POACHING

1
ASSESSMENT
PROTOCOL





COOPERATION

3
MINISTRIES



3
INTERNATIONAL
ARRANGEMENTS

7
ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES



TECHNOLOGY

6
ANTIPOACHING
TECHNOLOGIES



1
SNIFFER
DOG SQUAD



CAPACITY

9800+
ANTIPOACHING
PERSONNEL



131
ANTIPOACHING
POSTS



PRO G AT WORK



ASSESSMENT

Assessing how effective existing enforcement activities is an essential starting point for achieving Zero Poaching

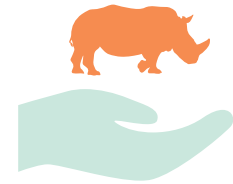
Nepal has in place 8 species conservation action plans and 8 park management plans that are developed for a five-year period by the Government of Nepal with the technical support of conservation partners such as WWF Nepal. These plans form the basis for identifying strategies and programs for the conservation of key species such as tigers, rhinos and snow leopards based on a situational assessment of conservation issues, successes and impacts coupled with subsequent revisions in the plans over each planning period.

Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS), as a new conservation tool, sets minimum standards for effective management of target species and encourages assessment of these standards in relevant conservation/protected areas. CA|TS is based on a set of seven pillars with 17 minimum standards and associated criteria for effective management. Following its assessment against these pillars and standards, Chitwan National Park became the first site to be accredited as CA|TS in 2015, demonstrating its excellence in tiger conservation and protection. Since then, four national parks – Parsa National Park, Banke National Park, Bardia National Park and Shuklaphanta National Park – have been registered for CA|TS with their assessment against CA|TS standards currently underway.

Besides formal assessments, WWF Nepal conducts biannual and annual assessments of existing situation with government stakeholders on policy, coordination and collaboration amongst stakeholders, capacity and resources while conducting monthly assessments with enforcement agencies on implementation and operations and identifying gaps for adaptive management.



8
PARK
MANAGEMENT
PLANS



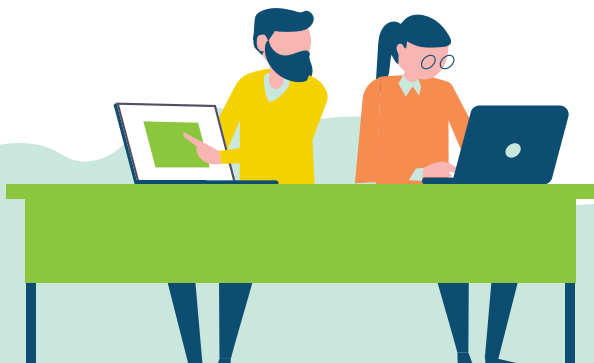
8
SPECIES CONSERVATION
ACTION PLANS



FIRST ACCREDITED
Chitwan National Park
in 2015



4
NATIONAL PARKS
registered for CA|TS
assessment





COOPERATION

Cooperative anti-poaching efforts at national and international levels is fundamental for achieving Zero Poaching.

Given the scale of the threat of poaching and illegal wildlife trade, cooperation at different levels both nationally and internationally is an imperative. This is achieved through institutional strengthening as well as instruments of cooperation towards the common objective of combatting threats to biodiversity.

At the central level, WWF Nepal works with apex bodies such as the National Tiger Conservation Committee chaired by the prime minister of Nepal, Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (center) and the Ministry of Forests and Environment, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs to facilitate plans and policies on protected area and species management and antipoaching enforcement.

The bulk of antipoaching enforcement for wildlife protection and monitoring illegal wildlife trade is actioned by a coordinated functioning of protected areas, district forest office, Nepal army and police with the support of local communities and district-level cells of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, a representative body comprising members from national parks, Nepal army and police, armed police force and district-level agencies.

Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding with China and a resolution with India on biodiversity conservation and addressing illegal wildlife trade. This is on account of the shared borders between the countries and Nepal being used as a transit for the illegal trade of wildlife. Likewise, the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) was established with its secretariat in Nepal as a regional response to address illegal wildlife trade encompassing eight South Asian countries. In addition, Nepal works with INTERPOL to arrest high-profile poachers and remand them to Nepal to stand trial.





CAPACITY

Increasing the ability and motivation of anti-poaching staff to protect wildlife is a key step towards achieving Zero Poaching

Nepal's antipoaching response rests on the deployment of more than 8,000 Nepal Army personnel, 1,800 Nepal Police and 5,500 CBAPU members. Together they form the able boots on the ground strengthened further through antipoaching infrastructure, field equipment, technology and various capacity building programs aimed at building knowledge and understanding of biodiversity as well as enforcement.

Capacity building in wildlife protection forms the cornerstone of building an informed enforcement team to ensure effective and efficient enforcement action. Regular training and refresher programs have been conducted encompassing more than 2,500 staff from the Nepal army and police, armed police force, protected areas and district forest offices. WWF Nepal also supports a Conservation School run by the Nepal Army that provides regular antipoaching and wildlife protection classes to members of the army deployed in protected areas.

A Wildlife Identification Manual and an Anti-Poaching Training Syllabus for Nepal Police Academy have been endorsed by the government. These form the primary tools that combine education, awareness and training for the Nepal Police Force to better address illegal wildlife trade.



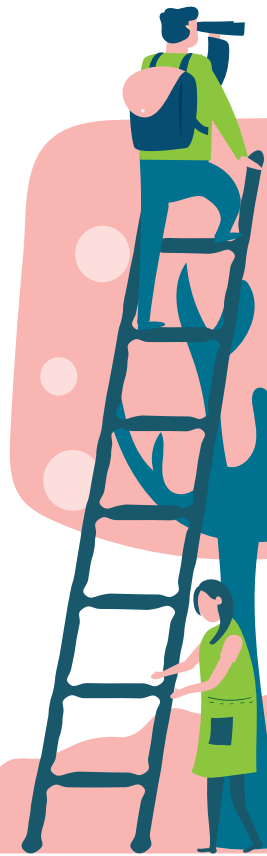
2500+
STAFF
trained



8000+
ARMY
deployed for
antipoaching



1800+
NEPAL POLICE
deployed for
controlling
wildlife trade



5500
CBAPU MEMBERS
deployed for
antipoaching &
community awareness





TECHNOLOGY

Using the most up-to-date technology gives enforcement personnel an edge in achieving Zero Poaching

Traditional boots on the ground have been greatly aided by technologies that complement antipoaching effort and response. Through such tools supported by WWF Nepal over time, both efficiency and effectiveness of approaches to combat poaching have successfully been realized.

Real Time SMART Patrolling was introduced in 2015 as the successor of the Management Information System Technology and Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) Patrolling used previously to aid antipoaching patrols in national parks. This tool developed by the Nepal Army in collaboration with WWF Nepal makes use of an android-based platform on mobile devices through which patrol teams record and update patrolling and locational data in real-time. Real Time SMART allows 24-hour monitoring of patrol teams, aids swift antipoaching response, assesses gaps in order to increase patrol area coverage and frequency and built accountability of patrol teams. The tool is currently in use in all the national parks in the Terai Arc Landscape.

SMART Eye and CCTV networks are in operation to achieve round-the-clock surveillance of national parks. 25 SMART Eyes – an android-based mobile app that takes and transmits images at



EYES IN THE SKY

UAVs piloted in 2012

regular intervals to park headquarters – and a network of 37 CCTV cameras have been installed in Chitwan, Bardia, Banke and Shuklaphanta national parks.

A Sniffer Dog squad with four dogs are employed in Chitwan National Park to trace wildlife parts and weapons as well as absconding poachers. The squad which includes two Belgian Shepherds and two Labradors has been effective in increasing antipoaching efficiency and as a strong deterrent to criminals.

GPS-enabled tracking devices have been installed in 53 tour jeeps in Chitwan National Park to ensure they do not enter restricted zones in the national park. Movement of the vehicles can be tracked in real time from park headquarters. A yearly renewal system has also been established with the vehicle owners through a small fee that is channeled back into operating the tracking system.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or UAVs were piloted in 2012 as antipoaching 'eyes in the sky' designed for aerial surveillance in hard to reach areas by patrolling units. The UAVs are yet to be fully deployed following institutionalization and capacity building measures in the future.



7
NATIONAL PARKS

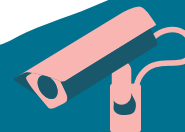
implementing Real-Time SMART Patrolling



4
SNIFFER DOGS



37
CCTV CAMERAS





COMMUNITY

Recognizing how to best include local communities in protection efforts is crucial in achieving Zero Poaching

Local communities are a primary ally and stakeholder in a wide gamut of conservation interventions including antipoaching. Engagement with local communities in effect help build local level awareness on key conservation issues while motivating community stewardship in implementing conservation programs.

Community outreach is a primary intervention to enable a common understanding of conservation threats and challenges and the role of local people in addressing the same. Outreach programs use a mix of mass media such as radio and out-of-home tools such as street dramas, exposure visits, trainings and outreach events.

To complement community outreach activities, programs designed to build community engagement in wildlife protection are in place. This includes the establishment and mobilization of Community-Based Antipoaching Units (CBAPUs) and Rapid Response Teams (RRTs).

CBAPUs are set up to monitor illegal activities and mitigate poaching and illegal wildlife trade. There are more than 600 CBAPUs in the Terai Arc Landscape, Sacred Himalayan Landscape and Chitwan Annapurna Landscape. Members of the CBAPUs patrol critical areas such as wildlife corridors, build local level awareness on conservation and are a vital source of information for park authorities in addressing cases of poaching and illegal wildlife trade. CBAPUs are supported with capacity building trainings, skill-based trainings to pursue income generation activities, and equipment and gear for patrolling operations.

RRTs are sub-groups of the CBAPUs that help address human-wildlife conflict issues. RRT members respond immediately during human-wildlife conflict instances, help mobilize an endowment fund to provide relief to conflict victims and build awareness on measures to mitigate conflict. There are presently 58 RRTs mobilized in Nepal's conservation landscapes.



600+
**COMMUNITY-BASED
ANTIPOACHING UNITS**

patrol critical areas such as
wildlife corridors

58
**RAPID
RESPONSE TEAMS**

respond immediately during
human-wildlife conflict instances



PROSECUTION

A well-functioning judicial-criminal process is imperative for discouraging poaching and illegal wildlife trade activity and achieving Zero Poaching.

Nepal has set legal provisions for criminal cases related to poaching and illegal wildlife trade. An individual once convicted of poaching faces imprisonment of up to 15 years and/or a fine of Rs. 1,000,000.

WWF Nepal facilitates periodic review and revision of wildlife acts, and capacity building of officials from protected areas, district forest offices and judiciary in the areas of wildlife crime investigation and prosecution.

WWF Nepal supports the WCCB to maintain a central database of wildlife crimes; between 2008 and 2017, more than 2,200 individuals were arrested for wildlife crimes and various wildlife and wildlife parts (including 43 tiger skins, 204kg tiger bones, 396kg pangolin scales and 384 guns, amongst others) seized in Nepal.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Judges' Society Nepal opened up avenues to engage with the judicial authorities in the critical area of legal action against wildlife crimes in Nepal. Under the MoU, WWF Nepal and Judges' Society Nepal are working together to build capacity of the judges and justices of Nepal by providing training on wildlife crime while facilitating more informed and stringent legal action against perpetrators.



TIMELINE

2006



Wildlife Trade Monitoring Program established in WWF Nepal, for a strategic response to wildlife trade



Greater One-horned Rhinoceros Conservation Action Plan endorsed



Management Plan for Chitwan National Park (2006-2011) endorsed

2013



365 days of zero poaching of rhinos achieved for second time

2012



Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), commonly called 'drones', piloted in Chitwan NP and Bardia NP

2011



Nepal celebrated 365 days of zero poaching of rhinos for the first time



SMART patrolling introduced in Nepal's protected areas for technology-aided patrolling

2014



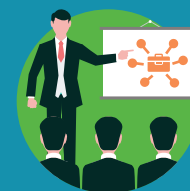
365 days of zero poaching of rhinos achieved for third time

Partnership between WWF and Central Investigation Bureau; establishment of independent pillar on Environmental Crime

2015



Real Time SMART patrolling introduced



Asia's first Zero Poaching Symposium organized in Nepal



Sniffer dog squad established in Chitwan NP

2007



• Launch of Operation Unicornis to seek political commitment for the consideration of wildlife crime as a serious issue and launch of Tiger Rhino Coordination Committee

2008



VULNERABLE

• With increasing numbers, the greater one-horned rhino was re-classified in the IUCN Red List from “endangered” to “vulnerable”



• Tiger Conservation Action Plan for Nepal (2008 to 2012) endorsed

2009

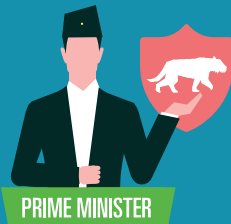


• Nepal hosted Kathmandu Global Tiger Workshop, Pre-Summit Meeting

2010



• MoU signed between the Government of Nepal and People’s Republic of China addressing wildlife trade



• National Tiger Conservation Committee formed to curb wildlife crime and promote conservation at the highest political level, the Prime Minister’s office



• Joint Resolution between Nepal and India signed to expedite the process for trans-boundary cooperation



• Wildlife Crime Control Bureau formed together with district cells in poaching hotspots, to institutionalize cooperation among agencies to combat poaching

2016



• 365 days of zero poaching of rhinos achieved for fourth time

2017

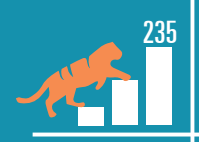


• SMART Eye and CCTV camera network installed in Chitwan NP

2018



• 365 days of zero poaching of rhinos achieved for fifth time



• Nepal achieves near doubling of tigers with new estimate of 235

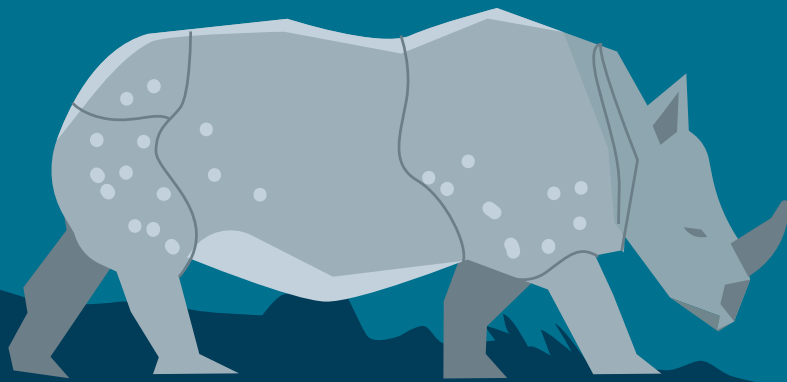
TOWARDS ZERO TRANSIT

Against the backdrop of the inspiring zero poaching feat, WWF Nepal aims to achieve zero transit for illegal wildlife trade in Nepal. Lodged between India and China, Nepal is the bitter spot for the illegal trade with criminal networks using the country as a transit point. By killing the trade within national boundaries while strengthening transboundary collaboration with its neighbors, Nepal could well be on its way towards another conservation milestone enthused by the antipoaching excellence it has demonstrated over the years.

Political commitment will always be at the forefront of this goal, and with Nepal's new federal structure a stronger coordination at the federal, provincial and local government levels will be imperative to implement policies and legal provisions. This will be supported by frontline actions of enforcement agencies and local communities including application of conservation technologies, together with global, regional and bilateral fora and mechanisms in curbing poaching and controlling illegal wildlife trade.

This goal contributes to WWF's global wildlife practice outcome to eliminate illegal wildlife trade by 2030 for priority species. While being ambitious and reflecting a long-term vision for the future, it is at the same time a powerful target around which to mobilize action.





1993

WWF Nepal office was established in 1993

3

Nepal works in three landscapes
- Terai Arc Landscape, Sacred Himalayan Landscape & Chitwan Annapurna Landscape



4

WWF Nepal's programs focus on four goals - Wildlife, Forests, Climate & Energy and Freshwater

1500+

WWF Nepal works with 1,500+ community-based organizations nation-wide

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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.wwfnepal.org

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