



ANNUAL REPORT 2009



SMALL MAMMALS CONSERVATION
AND
RESEARCH FOUNDATION
SMCRF

PREFACE

Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, SMCRF has joined the conservation community and other partners in Nepal. Mainly focusing on astonishing conservation and blooming researches of least concerned taxa like small mammals in Nepal.

This Annual Report is summarizing few such initiatives.

Thanking You.

Arjun Thapa

Chairman

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, SMCRF feel proud to acknowledge the Advisors, supporting organizations and individuals.

SMCRF would like to express esteem acknowledgements to Professor Dr. Paul A. Racey, Co-Chair IUCN SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group; Sally Walker, Founder/ Director Zoo Outreach Organization; Professor Dr. Thomas Kunz, Director, Center for Ecology and Conservation Biology

Department of Biology, Boston University; Dr. Gabor Csorba Deputy Director and Curator of Mammals, Hungarian Natural History Museum; Dr. Pralhad Yonzon, Chair, Resouce Himalaya; Dr. Sarala Khaling, Regional Coordinator, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund-Eastern Himalayas, WWF Nepal Program; Ang Phuri Sherpa, Nepal Coordinator, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund-Eastern Himalayas, WWF Nepal Program for their valuable support, encouragements and guidance.

SMCRF is grateful to Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore, India; Bat Conservation International, Austin, Texas, USA ; Central Zoo, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur for their technical supports.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. B.A. Daniel; Sarita Jnawali; Dr. Hem Sagar Baral; Geeta Shrestha; Associate Professor Dr. Nanda Bdr. Singh; for their generous support, encouragements and guidance.

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Local honored for bat conservation

Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF), Kathmandu, Nepal honored a small cash prize to Mr. Chandi Paudel, resident of Bahundangi-2, Jhapa, Nepal for his contribution in conservation of bats.



The bat roosting house



a colony of Greater False Vampire

He had been vacating his old house since six years, where about 300 individuals of Greater False Vampire *Megaderma lyra* had been roosting since 12 years. On suggestion of Sanjan Bdr. Thapa, Bat Conservationist and Research Student in Nepal, he applied the guano of

those bats as fertilizers for tea plantation after the positive result from the test of its efficiency in grasses. However, the effect in tea plants is still to come. This is another step for demonstration of importance of bats guano and even bats and slightly influenced villagers for conservation of bats.

In presence of Sanjan Bdr. Thapa, Executive Member SMCRF, on 6th April Mr. Shankar Luitel, President Biodiversity Conservation Society, Bahundangi-1, Jhapa handed the prize to Mr. Chandi Paudel. Finally he told that he and villagers has been encouraged more to conserve bats with this attempt.



Mr. Paudel with the prize

Flex Board at Nagarjuna



On 11 July, 2009 Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, SMCRF displayed a 4*3 square feet flex board at the Nagarjuna Peace Cave, Kathmandu. The board includes the information and importance of bats and its conservation aspect. The objective of the program is to create awareness on conservation of bats to locals and tourists visiting the caves.

The board at the cave entrance

Bat Club Formation Program

The "Araniko Secondary school bat club" was formed at Araniko Secondary School, Talchhikhel, Lalitpur on 12th of July 2009 with twelve schoolchildrens four each from grade seven, eight and nine.



Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF) together with Nepal Action Trust for Utility Resource and Education (NATURE) organized a one-day orientation programme on "Bat club formation" for the schoolchildrens on the day.

Schoolchildrens listening lecture The short term objective of the programme was to aware schoolchildrens about the importance of bat and a long term objective was to form a club with a handful of interested and dedicated students so as to promote the conservation of bat through the student themselves. The program covered the presentation by Sanjan Bdr. Thapa on "Awareness to bats" and the orientation by Suchita Shrestha on "Bat Club formation".

About 40 to 45 schoolchildrens participated on the awareness session and the members of the newly formed bat club participated in the bat club formation orientation session. Finally, the flex with bat information and importance was

distributed to the bat club. The organizer believed that the club formation orientation programme is an initiation that will help to conserve bat and its habitat from student level to community level and will help students to develop leadership. The organizers and a newly formed bat club planned to organize several programmes related to conservation of bat in coming future.



**Suchita Shrestha
delivering lecture**



Araniko Secondary School bat club members



Flex distributed to the club

Bat House Installed in Kathmandu Valley

Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, SMCRF, Kathmandu in co-operation with Central Zoo, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur installed a bat house at the zoo on November 2, 2009. The bat house was constructed at Kathmandu as per the design provided by Bat Conservation International, Texas, USA. The green enamel colored four chambered bat house is of size two feet by two feet. The landing ply is six inches longer than other four half inch broad plies. The bat house was lifted by two twenty feet bamboo poles from the ground.

“This is the first attempt of installation of bat house in Nepal, the intension of placing it at the Zoo is to create awareness for bat conservation among Zoo visitors and students and we will observe it for three to six months and see whether it will be the destination for bats of the area or not” quotes Sanjan Thapa, Executive member, SMCRF and bat research student and conservationist in Nepal.



Photo: Staffs of the Zoo three from the left and Suchita Shrestha, Executive member, SMCRF Right below the bat house, Schoolchildrens sitting in front.

“One Day Basic Training on Bat Handling Techniques”

“One Day Basic Training on Bat Handling Techniques” was jointly organized by CDZ Small Mammals Club and Central Department of Zoology (CDZ), Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal on 28 July, 2009. The program was



supported by Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu. Sixteen interested participants from different faculties including Central Departments of zoology and Central Department of Environment Sciences participated. The training was divided into three sessions: The first including the lectures on basic information and importance of Bat in nature and necessity for their

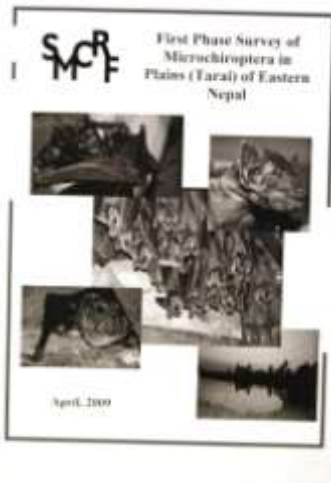
conservation; the second including lectures on the history of research of bats in Nepal; the third including the demonstration of methodology (Mistnetting, capture and morphometric measurement of Bats in the field). The program was intended to induce the interested participant for bat studies and conservation.

Preliminary survey of bats in Kathmandu Valley



A preliminary study on microchiropteran bats of Kathmandu was conducted on September, 2008 with an objective of monitoring the species status after a gap of eleven years and to update the information. Eight specimens of three species namely; *Hipposideros armiger*, *H. cineraceus* and *Rhinolophus pusillus* were captured, all at the caves and tunnel. Null results from some sites and observance of few short flights at some sites conclude the hibernating population of microchiropteran bats.

First Phase survey of bats in Tarai Plains of Eastern Nepal



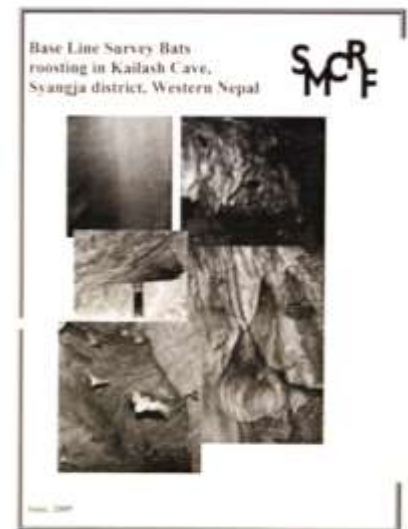
A first phase study on microchiropteran bats of plains of Eastern Nepal (three districts viz. Sunsari, Morang and Jhapa) was conducted on October-November, 2008 and March-April, 2009 with an objective of recording the species status for the first time. Two individuals of single species (*Pipistrellus sp.*) were netted while 13 bats of two species (*Scotophilus heathii* and *Pipistrellus sp.*) were captured by hands during roost survey, all from the houses. *Megaderma lyra* colonies were only observed, a dead specimen of *Taphozous sp.* was collected and measured, and two preserved specimens of *Scotophilus heathii* were measured. Time of emergence of their flight was recorded. In total four species of microchiroptera was recorded during the survey and in conclusion the population of these species except *Taphozous sp.* is rich. There might be chance of recording new species to Nepal or even to World from this area.

Baseline survey of bats at Kailash Cave, Syangja

A baseline survey of bats roosting in Kailash Cave (28° 5'52.34"N, 83°54'19.07"E), Syangja district, western Nepal was carried out on 25 April, 2009. The aim was to re-record the *Myotis longipes* (*M. csorbai* as per Topal, 1997 and Csorba et. al, 1999) and to document their status. Four females *Miniopterus schreibersii* was netted whereas a dead specimen of *Myotis longipes* was collected and 25 *Hipposideros armiger* was observed.

The population of the

Miniopterus schreibersii was observed maximum about 200 individuals and that of *Myotis longipes* minimum as well as declining only fifteen. Among the five species of microchiropterans recorded from the Syangja district three species were found from the study area. However, only *Myotis longipes* was early recorded from this cave. This study added *Miniopterus schreibersii*, and *Hipposideros armiger* to the species list of this cave (Bates and Harrison, 1997).



Membership Brochure



Quantity: 2000 copies
 Features: 4 folds, in English language

Brochure on Bat Awareness



Quantity: 5000 copies
 Features: 3 folds, in Nepalese language

Vest Printing



Quantity: 100 prints

Features: photo print of Flying foxes *Pteropus giganteus* at back.



Cynopterus sphinx by Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri



Pica by Arjun Thapa

Thanking for their keen interests and generous support, SMCRF would like to welcome all, joining SMCRF:

Life Members;

Dibya Raj Dahal

He is a student at Central Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur. He is an enthusiast in small mammals conservation and Research.

Rajesh Goit

He is Masters in Zoology from Central Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur and currently Student of M.Sc. Human Physiology at B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan. He has keen interest in researches on Wildlife Physiology.

General Members;

Rachana Mathema	Dinesh Ghimire
Anil Sharma	Rameshwor Ghimire
Dr. Tej Prasad Sharma	Niroj Timilsina
Dikpal Krishna Karmacharya	Hemanta Dhakal
Bishwo Ram Tamang	Puran Bahadur Bhandari
Narayan Laamichhane	Prakash Bhattarai
Sujila Prajapati	Dharmendra Neupane
Mukti Ram Paudel	Rajkumar Guatam
	Robin Rana

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Founders



Arjun THAPA



Rameshwor KAPHLE



Tulshi Laxmi SUWAL



Bishnu TIMILSHINA



Anita SHRESTHA



Suchita SHRESTHA



Sanjan Bdr. THAPA



Sagar DAHAL



Photos:

Left; Civet (photo by Bishnu and Rabindra)

Below: Bats flying in the Kailash Cave, Syangja (photo by Sunil)

Interim Executive Board

Chairman: Arjun Thapa

Secretary: Rameshwor Kaphle

Treasurer: Tulshi Laxmi Suwal

Members:

Bishnu Timilsina

Anita Shrestha

Suchita Shrestha

Sanjan Bdr. Thapa

Sagar Dahal



Front Cover Photo: Csorba's Myotis (*Myotis csorbai*) by Sanjan Bdr. Thapa

Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation SMCRF

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