

# Veröffentlichungen ARCO

2015

-ARCO Newsletter no.11-

**!!!We need your Help now!!!**  
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**EURO 2.50 per month**



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Membership Declaration is posted on our website and on Facebook – just fill the form and send it to us by mail together with your membership fee.

**!!!Make your Donation Now!!!!** Vote for Turtle Conservation and support our project in South-East Nepal so that we can continue with our project development for rescuing, homing and breeding endangered turtle species of Nepal:

Account-no. 1000099984    BIC SSKMDEMXXX  
Bank/Credit Institute: Stadtsparkasse München  
BLZ 70150000    IBAN DE95701500001000099984

**Membership contributions and any donations from SAARC countries please pay directly upon our account at the**

**Himalayan Bank Ltd, Kathmandu (Thamel Branch), Nepal**

**Account no: 019 0005 5040014 / SWIFT HIMANPKA**

• **Construction works at the Turtle Rescue & Conservation Centre (TRCC)**

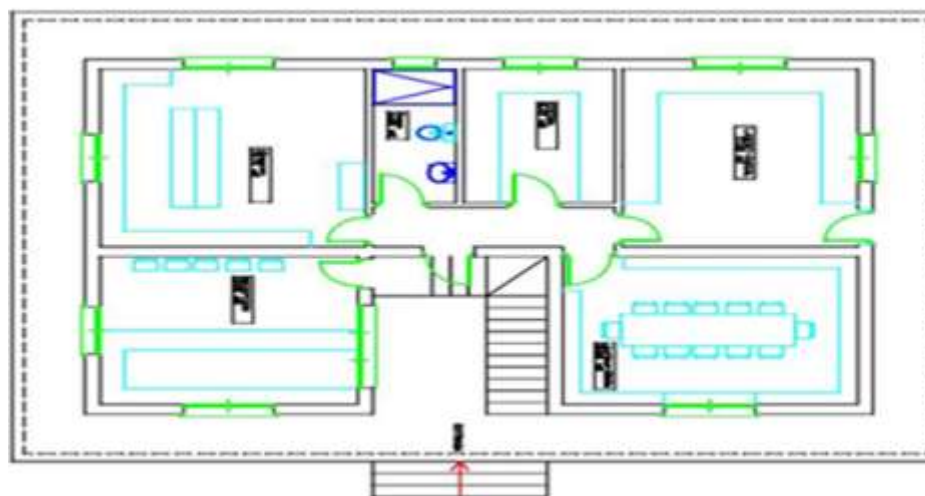
Several construction units were necessary to complete the whole planning for the Turtle Rescue & Conservation Centre and we like to recall them with a brief note below.



Please have a look on former newsletters to find all descriptions in detail. Just the situation of the breeding centre had to be changed as in its original planned position we got tremendous monsoon flooding this year and it is now situated between the triangular pond and the TRCC building.

• **TRCC building being finished**

Working & rest-room bathroom kitchen laboratory



Reception, office +shop with big window to serve to visitors and for souvenir sale

principal Entrance with stairs leading to 1st floor



The TRCC building is nicely integrated in its natural surrounding and has multifunctional purpose. We are hopeful to receive more funding for guest rooms being built on first floor, serving for accommodation and income generation for the TRCC.



Next steps have to be the interior set up with all technical equipment to allow all the necessary administrative and practical work to be done.

- **Breeding Centre close to being finished**



Shown is the TRCC building in the background and the area of the breeding centre at the left margin of the photograph. Below view from roof of house towards construction area of breeding centre





According to the planning by our architect D. Diego Tovar (Almeria/Spain) and in accordance with the existing breeding centre at Chitwan National Park our breeding and rearing centre for aquatic turtles is close to become inaugurated.



- **Turtles handed over to our TRCC for breeding purposes**

Still our old culture forces us to believe on fate of every action and its reaction. Especially elder people have such believes which guided them to worshipping the god/goddess and other cultural activities, and such action-reaction will determines the fate of next born after death. The old lady in the picture wants to donate the turtle for the prosperity of her family's next born. She is from Shaniarjun Municipality close by



to our TRCC Centre. Her son collected it a year earlier from the forest area on his way to Biratnagar where he drives at night. She told me that everyone wants the turtle for its flesh. But she would not give it to anyone because she wants to conserve it, especially once she heard about our Centre. She added that her grand daughter plays with the turtle. Her eagerness to donate comes from her feelings for conservation and her custom's guidelines. To this day our old culture forces us to believe in fate. Especially older people have beliefs which guide them to worshipping the god/goddess in the belief that such action/reaction will determine the fate of the next born after death.

- **Fencing and gates of TRCC completed**



With the two gates, donated by SUMMEF the fencing has been completed and is hopefully enough protection to safeguard the whole centre and the turtles.

• **The Education Centre is the next step towards a finalization of the TRCC**

We acknowledge having received professional help by Ms. Larissa Kiesel, teacher by carrier and having composed all posters for the education centre so far. They will be printed on plastified encapsulated paper to have longer durability and resistance against all weather conditions. Below is shown a specimen of those posters showing finally all Nepali turtle species by text and photographs.




The planning for the Education Centre with following units:

- Conversion of the existing Picnic shelter into an Education Centre
- Didactical open air course with explicative panels at the tortoises' reserve




# ARCO – Nepal

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Society of Nepal



**ARCO NEPAL**

The 4 main pillars of ARCO-Nepal conservation philosophy are:

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE	EDUCATION	PUBLIC AWARENESS	CONSERVATION
<p>Arco-Nepal and its founder and President, Hermann Schleich, have been linked to Nepal since 1991. When he was invited guest professor at Tribhuvan University Kathmandu, Hermann Schleich carried out a Volkswagen foundation project for several years on the herpetofauna and was also invited guest for lectureships by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and Goethe Institute. Under his supervision, several Nepali and German students carried out Masters and Ph degrees on the herpetofauna of Nepal. The basics of a comprehensive knowledge on the biology, systematics and conservation of amphibians and reptiles of Nepal have been given with the books and publications by Schleich (editor, author) et al. also, with the description of several new species for the country and for science. Arco-Nepal is the first association founded and dedicated for research and conservation on Nepal's herpetofauna collaborating directly with government authorities in an active turtle conservation program. About 15 years ago, first planning for a turtle conservation centre was made for Chitwan National Park and realised by the Nepali government, Dept. National Parks &amp; Wildlife.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Turtle breeding can be learned at the Turtle Conservation Centre</p>	<p>In Nepal, there exists almost no knowledge about turtles; their natural history, eg. systematics, distribution, biology.</p> <p>Turtles play an important role in the Hindu religion and are venerated in many places eg. temples.</p> <p><b>To all schools ARCO offers the study and coloring books on Amphibians and Reptiles of Nepal (4 volumes) and gives training for students and National Parks, also lectures at the universities are offered.</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">Find it for free download at: <a href="http://www.arco-nepal.de">www.arco-nepal.de</a></p>	<p>It's a practice existing for many years that Indians pass the open border at the Koshi Barrage and buy –the bigger the better- almost all types of live turtles.</p> <p>There exists a big demand for live turtles and in the case of poachers or fishermen getting hold of big specimens the Indian trades men are informed to fetch the catch. Also trucks laden with live turtles on the way to China (Tibet) have already been confiscated on Nepali roads.</p> <p><b>ARCO can contribute by publicity and awareness campaigns, posters and sign boards on the main highways</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;"> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 100px;"> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: red;">ALL NEPALI TURTLES ARE PROTECTED BY WILDLIFE ACT</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small; color: red;">PROSECUTION FOR FINE</p> </div> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 100px;"> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: red;">TURTLE FEEDING CAPTIONING INFORMATION</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small; color: red;">FORBIDDEN BY LAW</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">more to find at : <a href="http://www.arco-nepal.de">www.arco-nepal.de</a></p>	<p>Why to develop Conservation Centers:</p> <p>All turtles in Nepal are threatened by international trade, local use, tourist articles, killed as "pests" on fishery farms</p> <p>To catch turtles is a tradition in many areas of the lowlands. If they cannot be sold on markets they remain kept alive in cooking pots until they die and then they are thrown away</p> <p>The biggest turtle harvesting area is around Koshi Tappu National Park where thousands of turtles appeared on the markets in all conditions up to 20 years ago.</p> <p>There are no more fully grown adults caught of the genus <i>Pangshura</i> and all Softshell Turtles.</p> <p>Genera occurring east and west of Nepal like <i>Geoclemmys</i>, <i>Morenia</i>, <i>Hardella</i>, and the big growing <i>Batagurs</i> cannot be found anymore in wild.</p> <p>Turtles are used as human food by animistic indigenous people and much appreciated as food items in China and India.</p> <p><b>Turtle Conservation Centres for assurance colonies, training and education should be available at</b></p> <p>→ the National Parks: Koshi, Chitwan, Bardia, Suklapahnaath, → Special protected zones like Ramsar sites: Godha godi Tal or others → Under private communities eg. Budoholi TRCC</p>

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## Job Posting:

### Lead Keeper –Turtle Conservation & Rescue Centre at SUMMEF Park.

The **Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Nepal (ARCO-Nepal reg. soc.)** is seeking a lead keeper. This position reports to the Director of ARCO-Nepal. The position is responsible for animal husbandry and maintenance support at the Turtle Rescue & Conservation Centre, BudoHoli/Jhapa in South East Nepal.

Salary is fixed to 220 EUR per month. Candidates doing in the frame of this project a Ph.D.-dissertation can have future improvements after finalisation of such study.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: daily implementation of policies, procedures and protocols to ensure the highest standards of animal care, facility maintenance, and staff and visitor safety; participation in daily husbandry, medical care, and record-keeping for the collection; supervision of volunteers as necessary; active participation in workshops, seminars, activities and conferences aimed at continually improving technical and management skills; participation, in studbooks, education programs etc.; and coordination of veterinary concerns, marketing, education, maintenance, horticulture and other efforts of the TRCC, in conjunction with the director. Contact to DNPWS and Ministry of Forestry are to be maintained, also to locals living around the park area and fishermen, mainly from the Koshi area.

**Qualifications:** The ideal candidate will have at least a four-year degree (master) in biology-zoology, environmental sciences or veterinary medicine and experience in successful husbandry and propagation of diverse chelonians and the ability to perform facility maintenance including plumbing, carpentry and horticulture; the ability to operate mowers, chainsaws and other equipment; computer skills and the ability to work irregular hours as needed. It is essential that the candidate possess strong organizational and time management skills, along with excellent communication skills and willingness to interact positively with guests, researchers and other staff.

**Working conditions:** Candidate must be able to work outdoors and in inclement weather conditions. And realizing his normal daily work at the SUMMEF Recreational Park & Nature Reserve (Sanichare)

**Objective:** Development of the Budoholi Turtle Rescue & Conservation Centre and Master- or Ph.D. dissertation on same topic

**Further, ARCO-Nepal expects from the person to be employed:**

#### Basics

- To write and submit monthly detailed report documented also by jpg-photos in quality to be published
- To communicate in the requested way by mail and/or verbal
- To leave items being purchased for the project as part of project or ARCO properties and to maintain in proper conditions

#### Tasks

to protocol exactly and detailed the status quo before commencement of the project, then with the development of the project and its finalisation for having real parameters fixed to discuss what is positive, negative, where are improvements or deteriorations and how will be proved and realized sustainability for future etc.

The candidate also should start immediately with contacts to locals and fishermen and try to get asap first turtle breeding colonies together also if there are to make some enclosures provisionally etc.

Listing of all activities of third parties and of SUMMEF regarding the project development

- to start immediately with questionnaires at the surrounding villages
- to record any available information related to the project
- detailed biological mapping and sustainable data documentation of existant fauna and flora (whole fauna from invertebrates to vertebrates with according seasonality changes)
- to record any manipulation of physical and biological parameters of the project area (e.g. excavations, water deviations, sedimentation, any impact by men of course also on plants and animals, (existing agriculture, land use, use of medical plants from that area, introduction or catching of fishes)
- record any presence of live turtles at any time of the year at the project site or close by vicinities
- to secure the belongings at the TRCC and those of ARCO-Nepal
- to inform any hazardous impact immediately to SUMMEF and ARCO

**To apply for this position, please submit a Curriculum Vitae and cover letter to Prof. Dr. Kaluram Rai and also directly to Arco-Nepal@t-online.de or Arco.Nepal@gmail.com latest by October 15.**

www. [arco-nepal.de](http://arco-nepal.de)

**Arco-Nepal acknowledges the collaboration with Mr. Nabin Bhattarai who essentially contributed to the development of the TRCC and conveys best wishes for his future work as government employee.**