

Veröffentlichungen ARCO

2016

-ARCO-Nepal Newsletter no.14-

**;;;We greatly acknowledge
your help!!!**

**You all made it possible to come to a
Turtle Rescue & Conservation Centre
in Nepal**



Table of Contents

page

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • A Presentation on the Development of ARCO/SUMMEF-TRCC at the EAZA Conservation Congress Fuengirola (Spain) 2016 | 2 |
| • An Audit of Turtle Smuggling in Nepal with Reference to a Recent Confiscation | 3 |
| • In pursuit of so called 90 kg turtle in the very North of Jhapa district | 5 |
| • Follow up of Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle | 8 |
| • Rescue of a King Cobra in Central Nepal | 10 |
| • Collaboration with the Parque de las Ciencias Granada/Spain | 12 |
| • We must say good bye to Henk Zwartepoorte | 13 |
| • In Memoriam - Prof. Dr. Rudolf W. Hoffmann | 15 |
| • Membership declaration | 16 |

Membership Declaration is posted on our website and on Facebook and attached here on the last page – 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: Stadtparkasse Muenchen
BLZ 70150000 IBAN DE95701500001000099984**

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

**Himalayan Bank Ltd, Kathmandu (Thamel Branch), Nepal
Account no: 019 0005 5040014 / SWIFT HIMANPKA
Nepali please apply directly to trcc.arco@gmail.com**

A PRESENTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARCO/SUMMEF-TRCC AT THE EAZA CONSERVATION CONGRESS FUENGIROLA (SPAIN) 2016

TURTLES OF NEPAL

HIDDEN TREASURES ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION?

ALL NEPALI
TURTLES ARE
PROTECTED BY
WILDLIFE ACT



PROSECUTION
AND FINE

www.arco-nepal.de

Systematics Schleich & Kuehle 2002, 2013	occurrence		CITES / IUCN	status in Nepal by ARCO
	proved	possible but unproved		
Softshells – Trionychidae				
<i>Chitra indica</i>	x		II / Endangered A1c+2d ver 2.3	food
<i>Nisusola gangetica</i>	x		I / Vulnerable A1d+2d ver 2.3	food
<i>Nisusola harumi</i>	x		I / Vulnerable A1c+2d ver 2.3	food
<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	x		II / Lower Risk/least concern ver 2.3	food
Terrapins – Geoemydidae				
<i>Batagur kachuga</i>	x		II / Critically Endangered A1d ver 2.3	not found
<i>Batagur dhongoka</i>	x		II / Endangered A1c+2d ver 2.3	not found
<i>Cyclorepis odhamsi</i>	x		- / not listed yet	But (extremely rare!) - food
<i>Geoclemys hamiltoni</i>		x	I	not found
<i>Hardelle tharji</i>	x		- / Vulnerable A1c+2d ver 2.3	
<i>Melanochelys tricarinata</i>	x		I / Vulnerable B1+2c ver 2.3	very rare; food
<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>	x		- / Lower Risk/least threatened ver 2.3	food
<i>Morone peteni</i>		x	- / Vulnerable A1c+2d ver 2.3	not found
<i>Pangshura flaviventris</i>	x		II / regarded as P. tentoria?	food
<i>Pangshura umhi/palidipes</i>	x		II / not listed!	food
<i>Pangshura umhi/umhi</i>	x		I / not listed!	food
<i>Pangshura tectum</i>	x		I / not listed!	food
<i>Pangshura tentoria circumdata</i>	x		I / not listed!	food
Tortoises – Testudinidae				
<i>Indotestudo elongata</i>	x		II / endangered A1c+2d ver 2.3	very rare; food
Total of spp./sps. (potential 18) 14/15				

5 x I, 7 x II - so all turtles is extreme pressure in the whole country

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 and in collaboration with former DG Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey (†) from department of National Parks & Wildlife Service, several Nepali and German students carried out Masters and Ph degrees on the herpetofauna of Nepal. The basics of a comprehensive knowledge on the systematics, biology 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, including *Sphaerotheca maskeyi* (named after late DG Dr. T.M. Maskey) 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 & Wildlife (see www.arco-nepal.de). Successful breeding of the Elongated tortoise *Indotestudo elongata* at Kasarab allowed a first release program in Chitwan National Park in 2014. The founder group had been brought by Arco-Nepal via a donation to temples in Kathmandu from where the tortoises could have been rescued (see photo below of first release program at CNP).



On the occasion of the EAZA (European Association of Zoos & Aquariums) we had the opportunity to present the aims and concepts of ARCO-Nepal by creating a Turtle Rescue & Conservation Centre (TRCC) in SE-Nepal being supported by the “Oasys Zoo & Parque Tematico del Desierto de Tabernas”.

The international event with contributions from all continents gave incredible great input for conservation ideas and concepts in applied practices as well via education concepts and policies for all participants. We will be happy to adopt some of them as future conservation concepts for ARCO-Nepal. H.Schleich

AN AUDIT OF TURTLE SMUGGLING IN NEPAL WITH REFERENCE TO A RECENT CONFISCATION

Introduction

Smuggling trace back to the history along with the commencement of modern law. Wikipedia describes 'Smuggling' as the illegal transportation of objects, substances, information or people, such as out of a house or buildings. into a prison. or across an international border. in violation of applicable laws or other regulations. Although turtles and tortoises play a significant role in ecosystem and has a superior place in Hindu mythology it suffers a woe fate of smuggling in Nepal.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) regulates the movement of endangered wildlife across political borders.

According to ancient doctrines, Lord Vishnu has taken nine avatars and the second avatar is the 'Kurma' or tortoise. Kurma is fabled for its strong shell that forms its back and there is a popular belief that the earth is supported by a tortoise (<http://ecs.com.np/heritage/tortoise>).



Photo left: Kantipur National Daily 16 July, 2016
Photo 2 above: Confiscated *Geoclemys hamiltonii*

Discussion

Recently on 16th June 2016, Central Intelligence Bureau (CIB) of Nepal Police arrested Mohammed Usman, a resident of Patna, Bihar (India) for smuggling 109 live turtles and 163 birds (<http://admin.myrepublica.com/society/story/44447/109-tortoises-162-birds-seized-from-capital.html>). After examining the turtles on site by author, all of them were identified to be Spotted pond turtle, *Geoclemys hamiltonii* (photo 1,2) and their weight ranging from 3 to 5 kg i.e. a breeding size (mature) of the species. This very species is included in Appendix-I by CITES. Presently, it has been released in National Trust for Nature Conservation / NTNC-Central Zoo at Jawlakhel (Kathmandu). Thus released *Geoclemys* in a small impoundment were observed to be exhausted and the provision messy. Most of them had already migrated to a nearby bigger pond in the middle of zoo. To the fact successfully rearing up of those turtles in the area is not a trivial issue. Interestingly, it isn't the first time that the culprit got arrested. He was detained two years ago for illegally buying and selling of wildlife (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gksP6PNtm0k>). *Geoclemys hamiltonii* is considered probably to occur in Nepal by IUCN; however, the voucher specimen hasn't been caught till now (pers. comm. Prof. Dr. Schleich). This challenge of verifying its occurrence in Nepal can be a great opportunity for upcoming researches. Therefore, we can clearly assume it is being imported from India and the final destination is China. Reliable sources also claim that turtle delicacy in some quality restaurants of Kathmandu and consumption within a community of Tibetan migrants are discerned.

A few weeks ago around Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in Pepsicola, 19 live turtles were seized by police and is linked with same Ushman. Similarly, three months ago on 21st March 2016, Indian custom officials seized 146 endangered tortoises (139 Radiated and 6 Angonoka tortoises) from an abandoned bag at Mumbai airport after noticing a strange smell. The tortoises were being smuggled from Madagascar to Nepal, with Mumbai as a transit point. Two Radiated tortoises were found dead, with broken shells, but the rest were alive (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-35859966>). Both the species *Astrochelys radiata* and *Astrochelys yniphora* are considered to be critically endangered by IUCN and included in Appendix I by CITES. Similarly, as published on 13th July, 2015 in The Himalayan Times, police arrested five persons with a live tortoise, a protected animal, from Sundhara of Kathmandu (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/five-held-with-alive-tortoise-from-sundhara/>). From e-paper photograph and observation on spot it is identified to be *Indotestudo elongata*. The released species in Central Zoo at Jawlakhel is found still alive (photo 3).

The research reveals that final destination of thus smuggled turtle is China. According to local trader, an estimated of 50 to 60 animals are sold each week in the town of Zhangmu, just over the Chinese border North of Kathmandu. Chinese buyers arrive at the border town two days a week to buy tortoises, which are sold for 15,000 NRs each (<http://www.timeslive.co.za/scitech/2012/02/28/turtle-trafficking-on-the-rise-in-nepal>). The live turtle trade occurs in Rupandehi, Kapilbastu, Sunsari, Saptari and Kanchanpur districts (Aryal et.al., 2008). On monitoring Kapilbastu trade for 4 weeks, 95 kg turtles were sold in the markets by a single trader who obtained turtles from India (ibid.).



Photo 3: A rescued Yellow headed tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*) with overgrown beak at Central Zoo

Photo 4: Sickly tortoise *Indotestudo elongata* (below) and Flapshell turtle *Lissemys punctata* (above) in inadequate conditions at one of the Community Forest User Group, Jhapa

Conclusion

In Nepal due to lack of awareness and poverty, whenever fishermen or local people encounter with turtles in Terai region, either they consume it or sell (price may range from NRs 500 to 1,000) to the middleman; who in turn sell it in higher prices as pet in Kathmandu or ultimately smuggle it to China in quantities. People also capture tortoises and entrust it to temples. Nowadays, many CFUGs (Community Forest User Group) collect turtles to exhibit without maintaining suitable environment (personal observation; Photo 4). Even the endangered species (IUCN categorized) and CITES-I species are unsuccessfully reared in their premise, which is of major concern. As a consequence many of them suffer from various diseases and die early. Next, the greatest hurdle in loss of endangered species of flora and fauna in Nepal is due to lacking of appropriate laws and their strict implementation. All these activities results in decline of their wild population and are threatened.

- Tapil Prakash Rai

Lead Keeper & TRCC Representative, trcc.arco@gmail.com

IN PURSUIT OF SO CALLED 90 KG TURTLE SOUTH OF JHAPA DISTRICT

Thursday, August 25, 2016

I was supposed to travel to Koshi Wildlife Reserve early in the morning. However, as I wake up in the morning my phone buzzed with a message of Prof. Khambu Rai and I called him promptly. He informed me about people seeing a very large turtle (people claimed it to be 80-90 kg) in the Southern most part of Jhapa attached to the no man's land. After getting thorough information and ideas from him, I instantaneously abandoned the plan of going Koshi and informed ARCO President about the exciting hearsay. Though people informed us about the humungous 90 kg weight, I messaged to Prof. Schleich by roughly dividing with two i.e. 45-50 kg weight and I was hoping for divide with three of turtle weight i.e. 25-30 kg. I telephoned Sukhani Martyrs Memorial Park's staff, Mr. Bhuwan Pradhan about the mission and I started preparing the essential documents and equipment.

We met at the TRCC Office and headed towards the destination. As the specified place is in the very South of Jhapa, we fuelled our bikes full and rode towards it by asking people about the right way. Unfortunately, weather was unfriendly and the scorching heat was punishing to me. After many enquiries, finally we managed to reach at wetland in Korobari VDC known as Chawni Pokhari or Jagudaha wetland.



Photos 1: Oxbow lake made by the Kamal river,



2: Chawni Pokhari 'wetland'

On seeing the wetland a question ran over my head – 'Is the present form of wetland the original one or is it being curtailed by human encroachment to this distorted shape?' However, once almost dried up wetland has been developed into impoundment with embankment of soil (photo 1). Different types of macrophytes like *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Nymphaea odorata*, *Ipomoea aquatica*, *Ipomoea carnea*, *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, etc. were found flourishing. Various species of amphibians and insects were abundant. A good sign about the development is minimum of five varieties of waterfowl were observed treasuring in the wetland. In a ditch near the wetland *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* was enjoying over the body of bathing buffalo (photo 3, below). Likewise, a promising effort in the surrounding in accord with wetland revival is the plantation of trees 70 meters away. Thus, planted trees are securely fenced and named as Bishnu-Lila Memorial Forest (photo 4, below).

The torn and shattered poster of the wetland gives a straight sense of lacking proper management. Many more things are to be done to conserve the wetland but the fundamental ones for now is proper fencing of the wetland and construction of walking trails (if developing for aesthetic purpose as well).

After concise exploration of wetland, we telephoned the informant and headed to the destination. As it is a rural area there weren't any shops where we could take some food. We kept on the journey with water and biscuit. After a few minutes ride we reached the exact location (photo 5). Many people were swarming at the site from local leaders to government bodies, policemen to media persons, etc. (photo 5,6, below). We made a brief introduction and analysed the site.



Photos 3,4: *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* basking on water buffalo and Bishnu-Lila Memorial Forest

“Monstrous Turtle Sighting”

Situation: Korobari VDC 1

Name of river: Kamal Khola

Location: N 26°28.248' E 087°47.339'

Elevation: 115 m

Morphology: It is oxbow type of water body and in one part it is more than 10 feet deep. Due to the turbidity of water nothing can be seen through it.

First sighting: Turtle was seen after the latest torrential rainfall and flooding.

Last sighting: It was last seen a day before till 2 pm. Some people claimed it hasn't seen after few hunters had dived into the river and wounded the turtle with dagger.

Country Border: It is the connecting part of Nepal with India and the Border Pillar Number 25 can be easily seen from the site.

Googledata of the site:

<https://www.google.com.np/maps/place/26%C2%B028'14.9%22N+87%C2%B047'20.3%22E/@26.4717577,87.7826646,2508m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d26.4708!4d87.7889833>



Photos 5,6: Oxbow type of habitat and curious people Discussion taking place trying to spot the turtle

There seemed to be two parties regarding the catching of turtle; one group is of hunters who desperately want to take it as a delicacy and the other group is of local leaders who want to release the turtle in their own Chawni Pokhari (above mentioned). The spot was surrounded with crowds and busy sharing their own myths. The main informants Mr. Bishnu Neupane and Mr. Chintamani Adhikari who are also the leaders of that village didn't have their specific personal experience on spotting the turtles that large. Instead Mr. Adhikari revealed it hasn't been spotted from yesterday 2pm onwards. And this case was

linked with some hunter / fisherman from India diving into the river and pierced turtle with a dagger. In totality the case wasn't so promising and affordable to us. I took the GPS data and few photographs. Resting under a shade I invited the local leaders, government employee, security persons, Chawni management president and locals and had a brief discussion (photo 6). I stressed the prime mission should be to protect the endangered turtle species by any means. The discussion came to a conclusion – 'hunters / fishermen from both Nepal and India will catch it safely and they will be awarded with viable cash instead.' As the weather was intense we went to a hut to request for drinking water. Luckily, I met the Santhal (local indigenous people) man who had clearly spotted the turtle and had made an attempt to hunt it. He is 58 years old Mr. Dena Hamram He clearly admitted that he had spotted two turtles in the river but much smaller than the hearsay size; one 5-7 kg and other 8-10 kg and tried hunting but the turtles had already hidden with no signs. I showed him / them our ARCO Identification Cards and assumed it to be *Nilssonina hurum*.

Locals people's past turtle encounters

- Dena Hamram and Chawni wetland management president: Three years ago in the same river (Kamal Khola) a boy stepped into a huge turtle shell while crossing river and thought it to be a wood plank. Later he realized it was a turtle and informed the hunters from surrounding villages (Nepal & India) and then they killed it using daggers. They claimed the turtle to be 25-30 kg in weight.
- Chintamani Adhikari: A few years ago he caught a turtle (most probably *Lissemys*) in his paddy field and was eager to taste the delicacy. Firstly, he boiled water in a tin bowl and then he dipped the live turtle in it. Due to sizzling hot water, turtle started panicking with uncontrolled movement of its limbs. He emphasized thus splashed hot water reached the peak of tree and spilled the bowl. However, at last the gentleman acknowledged, back then he had no awareness about turtle conservation but now he is in the foremost in its protection.

We stayed in the spot for two hours with no any sign of optimism and returned back.

Survey of Jharana River and its vicinity

Visiting of new site in scorching weather and no food provoked the gloomy temperament but the persistency within us to encounter turtle was dominant. We came to Jhilhile, a small town in the East-West Highway and took some food. I wondered at least we need to accomplish something this day. On returning to Birtamode there is a small stream named Jharana river, which is situated between Dudhay and Maidhar. I had an experience of encountering few monitor lizards and road kills of turtles in this area while travelling in the past. Two youths entered into a survey of the site. The surveyed site exactly lies in Shivasatakchi-9.

GPS data

Location: N 26°39.032' E 087°50.153' Elevation: 146 m

Interestingly, water of Jharana River was hot due to heat of sunlight and to plunge our bare feet for long time was difficult. We searched every crevices and hiding places beside the river for one kilometre. And then we entered into the jungle with dominant Eucalyptus and Teak trees. *Lantana camara* was abundant in the shrubby layer. There were cattle grazing and few herdsmen. Amongst them 55 years old, Mr. Daitu Subba revealed a frequent occurrence of 'Thotari' while bringing cattle to graze. Only a month ago his son captured a Flapshell turtle in their paddy field and ate it. In further queries he also shared, people in his village had killed a 10 kg turtle from Mai River few years ago. He is also quite aware about the nocturnal behaviour of tortoise and suggested not to search tortoise at day time.

There weren't any sign of reptilian fauna and the reason might be due to hot temperature and inappropriate time. Only few hares were escaping us. Simultaneously we encountered an elderly lady and

displayed our turtle curiosity. She admitted a frequent occurrence of 'Thotari' in the jungle; almost 15 times a month in Chaitra and Baisakh. As well she declared, whenever people encounter tortoises they generally let the species away unharmed. In this regard the local people seem to be aware of wildlife protection by Government. Finally, the survey was concluded with identification of most probable site to find elongated tortoise in future; which lie few hundred meters north from the highway in a river known as Bhalu Khola.



Photos 7,8: Jharana River and the adjacent Eucalyptus forest

Interviewing a herdsman

Lesson has been learned regarding the turtle pursuit and about surveying strategy during the mission. Last but not least, thanks to Mr. Bhuwan for enthusiastically participating in every endeavour of the turtle search.

- *Tapil P. Rai,*

- *Lead Keeper & TRCC Representative, trcc.arco@gmail.com*

FOLLOW UP OF INDIAN PEACOCK SOFTSHELL TURTLE

On 5th August, 2016 (Friday) as I was taking my lunch at 12 pm, my telephoned ringed and it was a call from TRCC Staff Mr. Bhuwan Pradhan. He informed, some people have caught a big turtle in Dhulabari and we are to meet a man in Birtamode Bus Park. We met the man at Bus Park within half an hour but unfortunately he is only an informant and shared his younger brother's address and contact number who has detail information as the turtle was caught in their village. We headed towards Dhulabari, precisely speaking Shantinagar-3, Ayyabari. Since, it was rural area with many confusing gravel roads we could reach his house only an hour later. We gave a brief introduction of TRCC and our concern of visiting there. The case unfolds.



Photo 1: Panchpokhari CFUG

Actually, he is not involved in catching the turtle but he was also the one seeking information, whether any of the Community Forest User Group (CFUG) is willing to buy the turtle. After a detail survey of the probable sites he contacted to SUMMEF Park president at last. And the information came to me only 3 hours later. He also informed, the very turtle is already sold to some CFUG. The same village (where the turtle was caught) also has a big Community Forest named Panchpokhari CFUG (photo 1) with an area of 388 hector. It has two Ponds;
Pond I: N 26°42.426' & E 088°06.525',
Pond II: N 26°42.114' & E 088°06.739'; photo 2,3).



Photo 2,3: Panchpokhari (Pond I)

Pond II (recently being constructed)

After visiting their community forest and related wetlands, we headed to the very site where the turtle was caught (photo 4,5). It was found just a few meters away from the Timai river's bridge as the land owner was ploughing with tractor for plantation of rice (photo 5, below right).



Photo 4,5: Timai bridge and road inbetween wetlands - exact location where *Nilssonina* was caught

After inspection of the surrounding ecosystem, I noted the GPS coordinates as N 26°41.006' & E 088°06.824'. Interestingly, we met the same farmer who caught the turtle and his name is Mr. Bhim Bahadur Giri. He confessed, they were about to eat it but few groups contacted to buy it and they sold it at NRs 4,500. We informed the local people about TRCC, a semi government entity and its function in turtle conservation. They assured us to participate in turtle conservation and handover the species if caught in future.

All the people were talking about the big size of the turtle and its rarity. However, due to past experiences I wasn't convinced until I directly encounter the same species and identify it. We noted the details of the CFUG, who bought the turtle and continued our mission. Finally, we reached our destination at Bansbari CFUG, where an initiation of mini zoo seemed to be taking place at their live exhibition stall, turtle was brought there. Wasting no time, we talked with their staff and went to turtle section (photo 6,7 below).



Photo 6,7: Turtle section

Lissemys in the same tiny pond

As shown in photo (no.6 above), turtle section is simply a rectangular pond. The pond is divided into two parts; half is filled with water of 1 foot deep and the other half is marshy / dry area. I requested the staff to drain the water from the pond / well to know the status of turtles being present. There were only two species; one *Lissemys punctata* (it was also caught by local people last night and handover to them) and the next is recently released Indian Peacock Softshell, the very one we ran after. Ultimately, I was convinced about the rarity of the species (photos 7,8).



Photos 8,9: *Nilssonia hurum*



Notes from the Secretary of Bansbari CFUG

It weighed 10 kg with a carapace of (41-39) cm. The habitat / home of the turtle are unsympathetic. We waited for the secretary of Bansbari CFUG to talk about the TRCC and its responsibility permitted by Government of Nepal. After few minutes later Mr. Uma Nath Kadariya (secretary) arrived and did a brief discussion. He confessed, they had four *Lissemys* but were ill (most probably due to improper care) and died before. He also shared that the CFUG bought *Nilssonia* in NRs 9,000. The seller price (NRs 4,500) and the buyer price varied leading to some suspicion. We stressed Mr. Kadariya to handover the turtle but he denied it by assuring to manage their habitat in full fledge condition soon.

We returned with a mixed feeling but a clear concept; the turtle rescue mission is yet to accomplish.

Tapil P. Rai,
Lead Keeper & TRCC Representative, trcc.arco@gmail.com

RESCUE OF A KING COBRA IN CENTRAL NEPAL

Conservationist got bitten while rescuing snake

Pokhara

An endangered species of venomous snake, King cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) was rescued in Pokhara containing 19 eggs. It was found in the premise of Fish-tail Lodge in the periphery of Phewa Lake.

A conservationist was bitten while rescuing the snake. The snake had made a nest and was safeguarding it. The rescuer, Mahendra Katila was bitten while he was putting the snake in a sack after catching it. However, it was a dry bite and the victim is normal after the treatment in the Manipal Teaching Hospital. Katila has the punctured skin in his left hand. In almost 40 years time he has caught 4 king cobras and hundreds of snakes to rescue them. He is glad to have gotten a new life and want to dedicate his life in snake conservation.

Actually, he was fascinated with snakes from his childhood as every people in the homeland were saying, 'snake is very dangerous creature and it has to be killed'. In those days the villagers used to call him to

kill snakes and he enjoined them. Later on, he understood the importance of snakes and its role in ecosystem and then he transformed into a conservationist of it. Thus rescued eggs and king cobra are temporarily kept in district forest office of Kaski. They are planning to transfer it into some natural forest with their suitable habitat. In past two years, highly venomous four king cobras have been encountered from Pokhara.



It is rarely found in Nepal and is protected by law. It grows to a big size and other snakes are seldom found in its surrounding being a snake eater (ophiophagous) itself. The Medical Superintendent of Western Zonal Hospital Dr. Srikrishna Shrestha said the stock of anti-venom for king cobra is available. This species is the only snake that makes nest like birds and hatch their offspring. The hatchlings are already 50 cm long. It is found till above 2000 m from sea level.

References: A. Singh & R. Joshi: A first record of the King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*; Reptilia: Squamata/Elapidae) nest from Garhwal Himalaya, northern India.

By T.P. Rai
Lead Keeper & TRCC Representative, trcc.arco@gmail.com

COLLABORATION WITH THE PARQUE DE LAS CIENCIAS GRANADA/SPAIN

El Parque de las Ciencias de Granada es un espacio para la comunicación científica, el conocimiento y la cultura. Un Museo dedicado a promover la educación y la difusión del conocimiento, de la ciencia y de las tecnologías actuales entre la sociedad, para lo cual desarrolla una intensa colaboración con entidades de carácter científico, tecnológico y profesional para el fomento de actividades que mejoren la Cultura Científica y Tecnológica.

Más de 600.000 visitantes pasan cada año por sus instalaciones de 70.000 m² donde tienen cabida desde la Física a la Anatomía, pasando por las Matemáticas, la Astronomía, la Biología, la Ingeniería o la Arqueología. Entre todas estas disciplinas las Ciencias Naturales han formado parte importante de la apuesta del Museo desde su origen. La Sala Biosfera, dedicada a explicar el origen y la evolución de la vida en la Tierra, el Mariposario tropical, los Recorridos botánicos, el Pabellón Darwin, las exposiciones temporales de gran formato y un dilatado programa educativo dirigido a todos los sectores de la sociedad, son una muestra de su compromiso con los valores de la protección del medio ambiente.

Esta apuesta del Parque de las Ciencias por la educación ambiental, la sostenibilidad, la conservación y la responsabilidad social y medioambiental culmina con el BioDomo, un espacio para la Educación, la Conservación y la Investigación de la biodiversidad del planeta. Una ventana a la vida donde comprender mejor las relaciones que existen entre los seres vivos y el medio en el que viven y la necesidad de preservarlos.

En este contexto se enmarca el proyecto de conservación entre la Asociación ARCO y el BioDomo-Parque de las Ciencias que tiene como objetivo desarrollar un centro de cría de tortugas amenazadas y en peligro de extinción en la región de Jhapa, en Nepal, donde ARCO viene desarrollando desde hace décadas una intensa labor de investigación y defensa del medio ambiente. El proyecto ayudará a mantener la diversidad biológica en esta parte del planeta implicando a la sociedad local en su conservación.



We must say good bye

to one of our best friends, conservationist, supporter and a wonderful person.

Until a few days ago we had been in contact almost every week and discussed our projects. And now, via facebook, we received the message that **HENK ZWARTEPOORTE** expired suddenly during the last few days on a trip to Australia.

HENK was chairing and founding the *European Turtle Survival Alliance*, the *European Studbook Foundation* and lastly the *Reherp foundation*. Unforgotten will be his immense knowledge in reptile husbandry and his conservation efforts since the time of his job as curator at Rotterdam (*Diergaarde Blijdorp*) Zoo.

I just can express my personal sadness having so unexpectedly lost such a great and unique friend. As chair of both, Arco-Spain and Arco-Nepal, I cannot find any words to describe all the great collaboration and time and productive discussions we had together.

My dearest friend HENK – many friends you have left in this world with their mourning but also great respect for your wonderful personality and continuous fight for conservation of the most endangered animals on our earth. You will remain unforgotten forever! We will share some photos to all remembering and honouring HENK.

Hermann, ARCO-Nepal & Arco-Spain





Photos with Henk at ARCO-Spain from last years and some of the animals he brought as well as greenhouses and enclosures he supported.



IN MEMORIAM - PROF. DR. DR. RUDOLF W. HOFFMANN

Besser als seine vielen Kollegen und Freunde die Zusammenarbeit mit Ihm in einem öffentlichen Nachruf veröffentlicht haben kann man den Menschen, Freund und Kollegen Prof. Hoffmann nicht beschreiben, aus diesem Grund schließen wir uns diesen Zeilen hier an dieser Stelle an:
„Nur wer die Herzen bewegt, bewegt die Welt“ (Ernst Wiechert)



Prof. Rudolf W. Hoffmann at the auspicious inauguration of the ARCO-Nepal exhibition at his institute of the Munich University (LMU) together with former Ambassador H.E. Dr. Novel Kishore Rai.

Mit großem Bedauern mussten wir zur Kenntnis nehmen, dass unser Gründungsmitglied und langjähriger Beirat im Juli dieses Jahres verstorben ist. Prof. Hoffmann hat sich zeitlebens mit größtem Engagement auch für internationalen Tierschutz eingesetzt und war einer der Motoren die ARCO Nepal e.V. seit der Gründungsphase vehement unterstützt hat - im sprichwörtlichen Sinn mit Rat und Tat, also mit all seinem hochgeschätzten Fachwissen und seiner Kompetenz aber auch ganz praktisch lange Zeit mit Unterstützung bei der Durchführung der jährlichen Mitgliederversammlungen in seinem Institut.

Er hat viel bewegt in seinem Leben für die Menschen und die Tiere und er hat die Herzen der Menschen erreicht und hierdurch viel in Gang gesetzt und in Bewegung gebracht. Seine Zeit diesen Weg zu gehen ist nun zu Ende aber den Weg den er aufgezeigt hat gilt es weiter zu beschreiten, mutig und in seinem Sinne.....

Vorstand und Beirat ARCO NEPAL e.V.

Confirmation of Membership

Sponsoring Society „ARCO-Nepal reg. soc.“ for
Amphibian & Reptile Conservation of Nepal

Herewith I declare my membership to
“ARCO-Nepal e. V. “ for following conditions

- full membership U.S.\$ 50,-
 Students U.S.\$ 25,-
 Institutions U.S.\$ 100,-

.....
First name, family name

.....
street

.....
code, city

.....
place, date

.....
signature
(for minors parents or legal guardian)

Bank account:

Stadtsparkasse München, BLZ 7 0 1 5 0 0 0 0

Account-Nr.: 1 0 0 0 0 9 9 9 8 4

IBAN: DE 9 5 7 0 1 5 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 9 9 9 8 4

BIC: SSKMDEMXXX

ARCO-Nepal reg. soc.

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation of Nepal

c/o W. Dziakonski / Treasurer

Edlingerstr. 18

D-81543 München w.dziakonski@yahoo.de

www.arco-nepal.deemail: arco.nepal@gmail.com