Training on sustainable agriculture

A 5-day training on agriculture management was organized by the Namsaling Community Development Centre (NCDC) to train farmers on sustainable agriculture technology with special emphasis on commercial vegetable production management. 286 active farmers (165 men and 120 women) participated in the training which included concepts of soil improvement and conservation, ecological pest management, vermiculture and nursery management.

NCDC has been awarded a 2-year CEPF grant to work on conservation and alternative livelihood issues in eastern Nepal.

For more information
Kamal Raj Rai
NCDC
ncdcilam@ntc.net.np

Newspaper spreads environmental awareness

Kuensel, a leading English language daily in Bhutan, has been featuring environmental issues for a month. To make learning about the environment fun, the newspaper has introduced a regular quiz on the flora and fauna of Bhutan. Winners of the quiz receive books on the environment. The newspaper also includes thumbnail sketches of the parks and sanctuaries in the country.

Kuensel is the recipient of a 3-year CEPF grant for environmental advocacy in Bhutan.

For more information
Pushpa Chhetri
Kuensel
gm_advert@kuensel.com.bt
Training on biodiversity monitoring

Two trainings were organized in Mabu and Jamuna villages, in eastern Nepal, by the Ilam Cooperation Council (ICC) between 12th and 14th August, to build resource inventory skills of community forest users. Over 30 participants, representing user groups from 3 community forests, now have sufficient knowledge to act as key local contacts to monitor biodiversity and resource use in their forests. Methods of monitoring key species, richness and diversity of species, illegal trafficking, illicit harvesting, habitat destruction and encroachment of forest areas were discussed at the training.

ICC Ilam has been awarded a 2-year CEPF grant to strengthen civil society support for biodiversity conservation in eastern Nepal.

For more information Bishnu Prasad Kafle ICC, Ilam iccilam.biodiversity@gmail.com

Call for proposals – Save the Tiger Fund

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) based in Washington D.C., U.S.A, requests the submission of proposals to the Save The Tiger Fund (STF). STF sponsors effective efforts to enable wild tigers to recover and flourish, while empowering local people to live in balance with natural resources and receive tangible benefits from conservation practices whenever possible.

STF is seeking projects in specific tiger conservation landscapes including the Terai Arc Landscape in India and Nepal. Successful proposals will consist of grants ranging from $20,000 to $150,000 operating on 1-3 year timeframes that have measurable outcomes related to stabilizing or increasing tiger populations in the targeted landscapes.

To apply, please fill out the on-line pre-proposal application form found at https://collective.nfwf.org/pre-proposal/Preproposal.php. The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is November 5th, 2007. Full proposals will be invited for on-line submission upon successful selection of pre-proposals by December 4th, 2007. The deadline for full proposals for STF projects is January 21st, 2008. The Foundation will inform applicants of their status in April 2008.

For more information www.savethetigerfund.org

OR

Brian Gratwicke National Fish and Wildlife Foundation brian.gratwicke@nfwf.org

Role of the national advisory committees

To ensure that the CEPF portfolios in Nepal, India and Bhutan are transparent and strategic, and that the CEPF investment reaches its target audiences, national advisory committees were created as a first step to selecting grantees.

National advisory committees review and approve letters of inquiry submitted by NGOs and Community-Based Organizations (CBO), in accordance with established criteria and procedures of CEPF, and provide necessary recommendations for technical review of pre-proposals and project proposals. The committees also participate in annual project reviews and when possible in the mid-term and final evaluations of projects. One of their roles is to coordinate conservation actions among organizations to prevent duplication.

Advisory committees are comprised of representatives from the government, NGOs and scientific institutions. Membership is by invitation from the Country Representative of WWF in coordination with the CEPF Regional Co-ordinator, and each member stays in office for 4 years. Members of the advisory committee serve on a voluntary basis and without financial compensation.
Second plant collection expedition in eastern Nepal

The Ethnobotanical Society of Nepal (ESON), on a recent 7-week expedition in the Panchthar district of Nepal, inventoried and collected over 600 plant samples. Plants from altitudes ranging from 1600 metres to 4400 metres were inventoried, and the team often worked in rough terrain and inclement weather. The team also held meetings with the local communities where villagers shared their knowledge about the uses of plants.

ESON has been awarded a one-year grant for identifying plant biodiversity hotspots in eastern Nepal.

For more information
Dr. Krishna K. Shrestha
ESON
kksht@wlink.com.np

How to apply for grants

To apply for a CEPF grant, all applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI). Calls for LOIs are advertised on the websites www.panda.org/easternhimalayas/cepf and www.cepf.net, as well as in major national newspapers. Guidelines and format for developing LOIs are available on www.cepf.net.

Based on the letters of inquiry, decisions and awards of less than USD 20,000 will be made directly by the Regional Implementation Team in Bhutan, India and Nepal. For grants of more than USD 20,000, national advisory committees made up of experts in each of the three countries, along with the regional team and the grant review committee based at the CEPF Secretariat and WWF-US, will evaluate letters of inquiry. Organizations submitting promising projects will be invited to develop full proposals. These will be further evaluated to make final funding decisions.

The LOIs for potential projects should be based on the strategic directions and investment priorities as stated in the Ecosystem Profile of the Eastern Himalayas. This document can be downloaded from the Where We Work and Publications sections of www.cepf.net.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a global program that provides grants to nongovernmental organizations and other private sector partners to protect critical ecosystems. It is a joint program of Conservation International, l’Agence Française de Développement, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank.

In the Eastern Himalayas region, WWF leads the regional team responsible for facilitating, coordinating and monitoring grants for CEPF-supported conservation projects.

For more information
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