

चार गेडाको कथा





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JAGATPUR, CHITWAN

January 1, 1999

As usual, Kumar and Shivaram are sunbathing in Ghailaghari, a patch of forest created through afforestation following decimation of the natural forest there. Some kids are carrying pails to collect rhino urine. Some are frolicking on the sleeping unicorns' back. These rhinos are five years old. They are different from the other young rhinos in the Royal Chitwan National Park. They live more outside the jungle than in it. They are warmer to human company than the rhinos in the jungle.

Shivaram lost his mother in 1995 when he was very young. Once, he was nearly killed by a tiger. Park rangers stumbled on the injured Shivaram and took care of him.

Kumar was also very small when he got separated from his mother. He too was raised by the park staff who became his foster mother. The two rhinos ate what the park rangers gave them, roamed the park offices, and sometimes would sit in the middle of the ground even while army men paraded there.

It was thought the rhinos, raised by people, would not be drawn by the jungle. As time passed, though, these two rhinos began to wander into the outer fringes of the forest, but not actually into it. They began to ramble in the Ghailaghari forest and the cattlegrazing areas near the national park. At night, they raided the village crops. The villagers were indulgent to them.

"They are innocent animals and our neighbours. We are fond of them even if they graze in our crop field", villagers say.

Much as the rhinos may receive such love, the Ghailaghari forest is not a protected zone for rhinos. Also, these rhinos are gradually developing their wild nature. So, preparations are underway to translocate them to the Bardia jungle in the west.

Two cages and two trucks are ready. If they were from the wild, taking them to Bardia would have entailed drugging them first. But

जगतपुर, चितवन

२०४४ पस १७ गते

प्राकृतिक वन फाँडेपिछ वृक्षरोपण गरिएको धैला-घारीको जंगलमा सदा भाँ आज पनि कुमार र शिवराम नामका केटाहरु घाम तापेर सुतिरहेका छन् । केही केटाकेटी गैडाको पिसाव थापन बाल्टी लिएर आएका छन् । कोही सुतेको गैंडा माथि चढेर रमाइलो मानिरहेका छन् । यी केटाहरु पाँच वर्ष जतिका भए । शाही चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जमा भएका अरु केटाहरु भन्दा फरक छन् यिनीहरु । यिनीहरु जंगलमा भन्दा बढी जंगल बाहिर बस्ने गर्छन् । जंगली गैडा भन्दा मान्छेसँग बढी रम्ने गर्छन्।

२०४१ सालमा सानै छँदा शिवरामको उसकी आमासँग विछोड भयो । त्यसपछि यसलाई बाघले भण्डै मारेथ्यो । मुख र शरीरमा चोट लागेको शिवरामलाई तिकुञ्जका कर्मचारीले भेटेर बल्ल तल्ल जोगाएका थिए।

कुमार पिन २०४१ सालमा आफ्नी आमासँग छुट्टिंदा एक्लै बाँच्न सक्ने भैसकेको थिएन । उसलाई निकुञ्जका कर्मचारीले आमाले भाँ हुर्काए, बढाए । निकुञ्जका कर्मचारीले खुवाएको खानेकुरा खाने, निकुञ्जको अफिस भित्र बाहिर गर्ने, परेंड र खेल खेलेका बेला सेनाका बीचमा बस्ने गर्न थाले उनीहरु ।

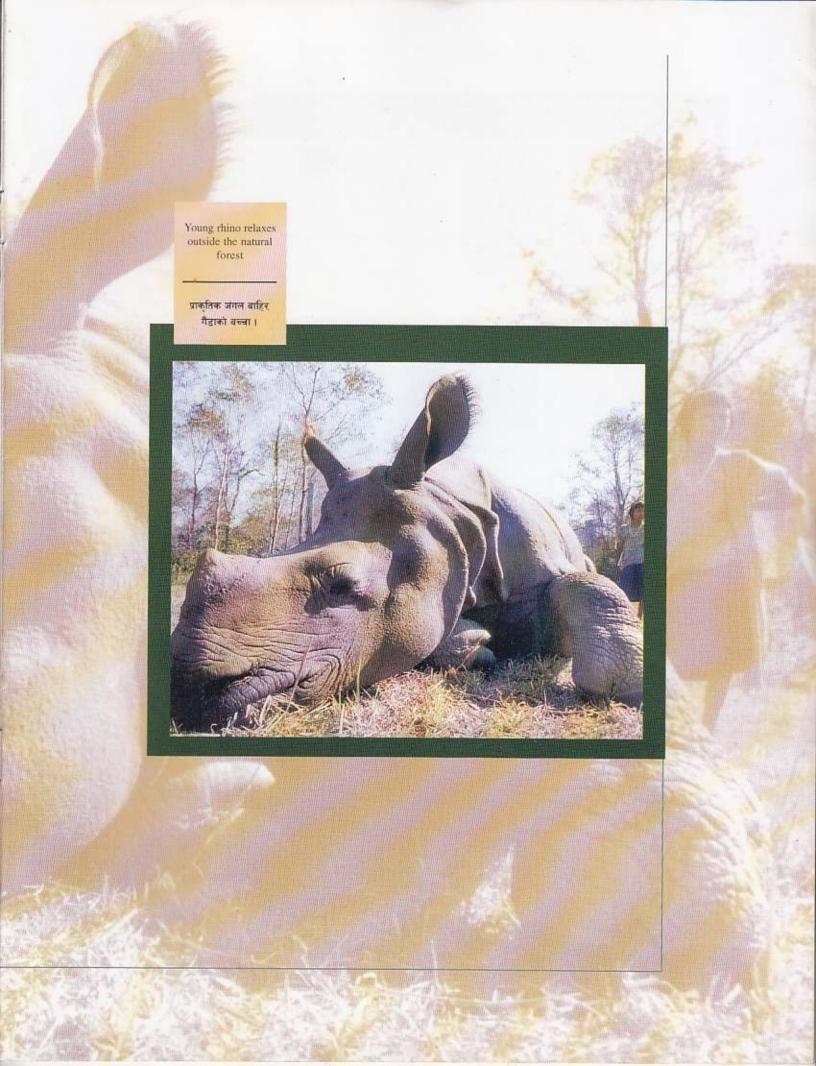
मानिसको पालन पोषणमा हुकँका गैडाहरु जंगल जाँदैनन् जस्तो ठानिएको थियो । तर समय बित्दै जाँदा उनीहरु जंगलितर लाग्न थाले । तर परै जंगल भने पसेनन् । राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज छेउको धैलाघारीको जंगल र बस्तु चर्ने ठाउँमा घुम्न थाले । राती गाउँलेको बाली चर्न लागे । तैपनि उनीहरुलाई गाउँलेहरुले माया गर्छन् ।

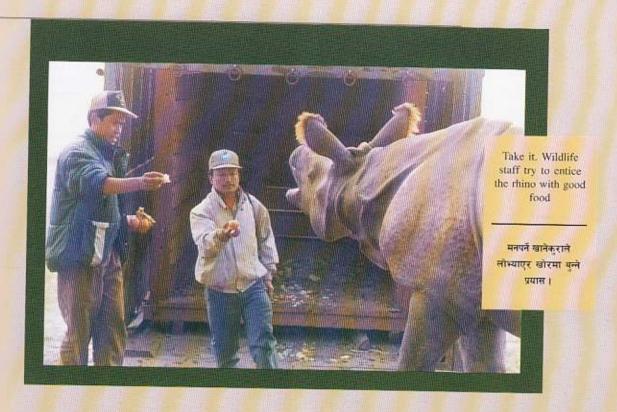
निर्दोष जन्तु हो, छिमेकी भएर बस्यो । त्यसैले बालीनाली खाए पनि माया लाग्छ यसको, गाउँलेहरु भन्छन ।

स्थानीय वासिन्दाले जित माया गरे पनि घैलाघारीको जंगल गैंडा बस्ने सुरक्षित ठाउँ भने होइन। गैंडाहरुमा जंगली स्वभाव पनि विकसित हुँदै गएकाले यिनलाई बर्दियाको जंगलमा लगेर छाड्ने तयारी भैरहेको छ।

वुईवटा खोर र बुईवटा ट्रक तयार पारेर राखिएका छन् । जंगली गैडालाई भए औषधिले लठ्याएर खोरमा राख्न पथ्यों । तर मान्छेसँग नडराउने भएकाले उनीहरुको मन पर्ने खाना दिएर लोभ्याएर खोरमा थुन्न सिकन्छ कि भनेर प्रयास गरिदैछ ।

गाहै हुने रहेछ - गैंडालाई भूक्याउन पनि । लगभग दुई घण्टा प्रयास गर्दा पनि गैंडा खोरमा पसेनन्।





as they are not afraid of humans, it is being attempted here whether they could be lured into the cage with their favourite food.

It's not an easy task to deceive rhinos. Despite two hours of efforts, the rhinos do not condescend to grace the cages.

After a long effort, Kumar finally enters the cage—the one kept for Shivaram. Some moments of displeasure later, Kumar seemed to be comfortable in the cage.

But Shivaram is not fooled. Outrightly it refuses to make the enclosure his home.

The park staff are frustrated with the lack of progress. Shivaram is given milk, bananas, oranges and apples. Villagers also bring young wheat stalks for him.

Five hours later, Shivaram finally steps into the cage. The time to close a chapter of friendship between the rhinos and the local people has arrived. The people are waiting for the sad moment of saying goodbye to the rhinos.

"We wish they would not be taken away. The consolation is that they are being translocated for a good purpose. Please take good care of them", Dilli Prasad Poudel said

निकै बेरको प्रयास पछि शिवरामलाई ठीक्क पारेको खोरमा कुमार पस्यो । एकछिन अप्ठ्यारो माने पनि एकछिन पछि खोरमा आरामले बस्यो ।

शिवराम चाहिँ छट्टु रहेछ । जित गरे पनि खोरमा पस्न मानेन ।

शिवरामले निकुञ्जका मान्छेलाई हैरान पाऱ्यो । दूध, केरा, मुन्तला, स्याउ धेरै खुवाइसिकयो । गाउँलेहरूले कलिलो गहुँ पनि काटेर ल्याइदिए ।

पाँच घण्टाको प्रयास पछि शिवराम पनि खोरमा पस्यो । गैंडा र यहाँका मानिसहरुबीच दुई, तीन वर्ष पुरानो मित्रता टुट्ने बेला भयो । उनीहरु गैंडालाई विदा गर्ने नरमाईलो अवसर पर्खिरहेका छन् ।

"नलगिदिए हुन्थ्यो जस्तो पनि लाग्छ । तर राम्रै कामका लागि लान लागेको हो भनेर चित्त बुकाएका छौ। राम्रोसँग लैजानुस्" गाउँलेहरुका तर्फबाट डिल्ली प्रसाद पौडेलले भने।

साँभातिर यी गैंडा बोकेका वुईवटा ट्रक हिंडे।

चितवनको, जगतपुरका मानिसहस्वाट भावपूर्ण विदाई पाए गैडाले।

गैडालाई उनीहरू जन्मेको ठाउँ चितवन भन्दा ४४० कि.मि. टाढा शाही वर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जको बबई उपत्यकातिर लगिँदैछ । घाँसे मैदानको फाँटाले भरिएको, पानी भएको बबई उपत्यका गैडाका लागि राम्रो वासस्थान मानिन्छ।

on behalf of the villagers.

As dusk sets in, the two trucks transporting the rhinos leave.

The two rhinos receive an emotional farewell from people in Jagatpur, Chitwan.

These rhinos are being taken to the Royal Bardia National Park, some 450 kilometres from where they were born, Chitwan. The Babai Valley, boasting of grassland and an abundance of water, is considered a good habitat for rhinos.

Senior Game Scout Gagan Singh Chunara has been deputed to look after the new inhabitants of Babai.

Once in Babai, the rhinos tried to go out of the Valley. But Chunara turned them back. "Presently, we are trying to get them acclimatised to the jungle atmosphere near Babai's Guthi Post", he says.

This is the first time in Nepal that the pachyderms, raised among the humans, have been released into the jungle.

"To see whether they can adapt themselves to their new home or not is a new experiment for us. The experience will offer us lessons for the future", says Shivaraj Bhatta, Acting Chief Warden of Royal Bardia National Park. नयाँ गैंडालाई बबर्डमा छोडेपिछ सिनियर गेम स्काउट गगन सिंह चुनारालाई यिनीहरुका गतिविधि हेर्ने जिम्मा सम्पिएको छ ।

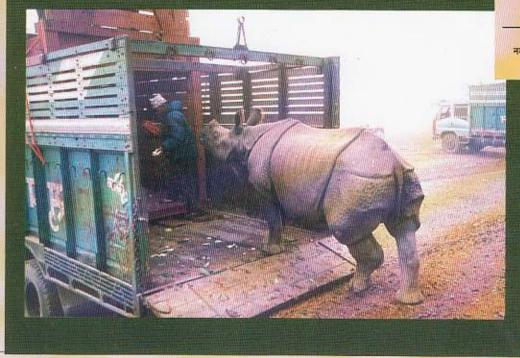
बबईमा छोडेपिष्ठ यी गैंडा निक्ञ्ज बाहिर निस्कन खोजे। तर सिनियर गेम स्काउट गगन सिंह चुनाराले यिनलाई फर्काएर लगे। "अहिले यिनीहरूलाई बबईको गुठी पोष्ट नजिकै जंगली वातावरणमा घुलमिल गराउने कोशिस गरिंदैछ," गगन भन्छन्।

मान्छेले खुवाएर, स्याहार सुसार गरेर हुर्काएका गैंडा जंगलमा छाडिएको पहिलो पटक हो नेपालमा।

"यी गैंडा यहाँ राम्रोसँग घुलमिल गर्न सक्छन् कि सक्दैनन् भन्ने कुरा हाम्रा लागि नयाँ परीक्षण हो। त्यसले हामीलाई भविष्यका लागि नयाँ पाठ सिकाउनेछ," शाही बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जका का.मु. प्रमुख संरक्षण अधिकृत शिवराज भट्ट भन्नुहुन्छ।

> Boarding the conveyance for the journey to the new destination

नयाँ बासस्थान तर्फ ।



The Greater One-Horned **Asian Rhino**

Habitat: Nepal and India

Numbers: Approximately 2,000

Weight: 1,800-2,200 kg

Height: 5.75-6.5 ft

Feed: Grasses, fruit, cultivated crops

Gestation period: 15-16 months

Interbirth interval: 1 calf every 3 years

Life span: Approximately 47 years (captive record)

Source: International Rhino Foundation

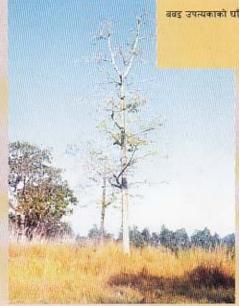
ठूलो एक सिंगे एशियाली गैडा

पाइने ठाउँ: नेपाल र भारत संख्याः लगभग २,००० तील: १,८००-२,२०० के.जि. उचाई: ४.७४-६.४ फिट खानेक्राः घाँस, फलफूल, वालीनाली गर्भ रहने अवधि: १५-१६ महिना दुईवटा बच्चा पाउने समयको अन्तरः तीन वर्ष आयु: ४७ वर्ष (कृत्रिम बासस्थानमा) यौन सम्पर्कका लागि योग्य हुने उमेरः (पोथी) १० वर्ष (भाने)

स्रोतः ईन्टरनेशनल राईनो फाउप्डेशन

Babai's grassland

बबड उपत्यकाको घाँसे मैदान ।



The camp is alive with cooking activities early in the morning

विहान सबेरैदेखि खानेक्रा पाब्दैछ- शिविरमा ।



MURTIYA, SARLAHI

January 13, 1999

There is much commotion here. A group of fifty people and ten elephants will stay here for a few days. The team of park staff and elephants have come to catch two rhinos in the Murtiya forest.

Villagers are gathered here in large numbers to watch the adventure of catching the rhinos for which elephants are always a big help to find and encircle them, and direct them to the cages.

These rhinos are not native to this place. Until Feburary 1998, their home was Royal Chitwan National Park.

"They ran away from Chitwan after being chased by other male rhinos", says Laxmi Prasad Manandhar, Chief Warden of Royal Chitwan National Park.

मर्तिया, सर्लाही

२०४४ माघ पुस २९ गते

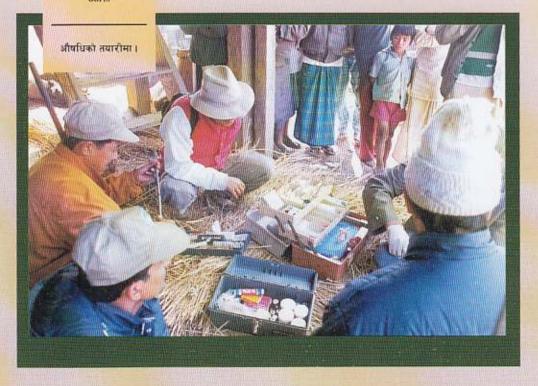
यहाँ एक किसिमको मेला नै लागेको छ । ५० जना जित मान्छे र १० वटा हात्तीको हल अरु केही दिन सम्म यही बस्छन् । उनीहरु मृतियाको जंगलमा भएका द्ईवटा गैडा समाउन यहाँ आएका हन्।

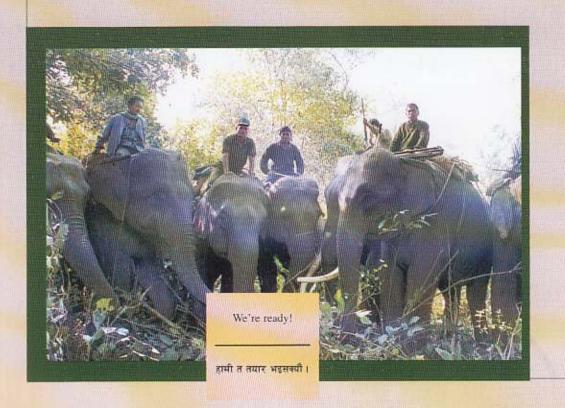
गैंडा खोज्न, तिनलाई घेरा हाल्न र गैंडालाई खोरसम्म लान हरेक समयमा ठूलो भूमिका खेले हाली र उनीहरूले गैडा समाउने काम हेर्न गाउँलेहरुको ठलो भिड लागेको

यहाँ आएका गैंडा यहाँका रैथाने होइनन् । २०५४ साल फागुनको पहिलो हप्तासम्म उनीहरु शाही चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकञ्जमा बस्थे।

°यहाँका भाले गैंडाले लखेटेर चितवनमा बस्न नदिएपछि उनीहरु भागेका हुन्," शाही चितवन राष्ट्रिय निक्ञजका प्रमुख संरक्षण अधिकृत लक्ष्मीप्रसाद मानन्धर भन्नहुन्छ ।

Preparing the tranquilisers and darts





There are some 500 rhinos in Chitwan National Park. Perhaps because of the crowded space, the rhinos headed east passing through the adjoining Parsa Wildlife Reserve. People east of the reserve shooed them away to further east.

Some attempts were made to bring back these rhinos with the help of elephants when they reached the other side of the Bagmati river. But they refused to oblige. This place has plenty of water because of the Bagmati irrigation canals. Fields in nearby villages hold a lot of favourite rhino crops, including sugarcanes. No wonder they began to live in the small Murtiya forest, a forty square kilometre mix of natural and planted vegetation.

For their protection, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation deputed elephants and staff.

Some people wondered whether the rhinos actually needed to be taken away as they could be permanently settled there. After all, rhinos used to roam in this area in the past. But Conservation Officer of Parsa Wildlife Reserve Surya Bahadur Pandey says: "There is not much grass in the forest. The forest provides only a hiding place for rhinos in the daytime. Villagers go into the jungle for fuelwood and fodder, and cattle-grazing. At such times, rhinos could kill people. On the other hand, if we take them to Bardiya, they could graze in the jungle. We are trying to translocate them to Bardia so that both people and rhinos are protected".

These rhinos are surviving mainly on the villagers' crops. The people live under the fear of being killed by these animals. Therefore, the people are glad the rhinos are being taken away.

"We will be happy. We will no longer fear venturing out in the night. We used to be scared that rhinos would kill us", Karma Bahadur Ghising of Murtiya says.

At Hattisar, the staff are preparing food for everybody since early morning.

चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जमा अहिले ५०० जित गैडाहरु छन् । सायद चितवनमा बस्ने ठाउँ सानो भएकाले गैडाहरु चितवनसँगै जोडिएको पसा वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष हुँदै पूर्वतर्फ लागेका होलान् । आरक्षभन्दा पूर्वतिरका मानिसहरुले उनीहरुलाई अभै पूर्वतिर धपाउँदै गए ।

बागमती नदी पारि पुगेका गैंडालाई हात्ती लगाएर बागमती वारिको जंगलमा ल्याउने प्रयास गरियो । तर उनीहरू बागमती पारि नै फर्किए । बागमती सिंचाइको नहर बीचबाट बगेकाले यस ठाउँमा प्रशस्त पानी छ । गैंडाले असाध्यै मन पराउने उखु र अन्य बालीनाली पनि वरपरका गाउँमा प्रशस्त पाइन्छ । त्यसैले उनीहरू प्राकृतिक र वृक्षरोपण गरिएको ४० बगं किलोमिटरमा फैलिएको मुर्तियाको सानो जंगलमा बस्न थाले ।

उनीहरुको सुरक्षार्थं राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा बन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभागले हात्ती र कर्मचारी खटायो ।

चितवन छाडेर आएका यी गैंडालाई फर्काउनुका सट्टा यही ठाउँमा राखेको भए हुन्तथ्यो भनेर पनि धेरैले प्रश्न गरे। आखिर यो ठाउँमा पित त कृतै बेला गैंडा घुम्ने गर्थे। तर पर्सा वन्यजन्तु आरक्षका संरक्षण अधिकृत सूर्य बहाद् र पाण्डे भन्नहुन्छ, "जंगलमा खाने घाँसको व्यवस्था छैन। गैंडालाई दिउँसो लुक्ने ठाउँ मात्रै छ। गाउँले जनताहरु घाँस दाउरा चरिचरन गर्न जंगल जान्छन्। यस्तो बेलामा गैंडाले मान्छे मानं सक्छ। यिनलाई बर्दिया लग्यौ भने उनीहरु जंगलमा चर्न सक्छन्। जनता र गैंडा दुवै सुरक्षित हुन्छन् भनेर नै यी गैंडालाई बर्दिया लान खोजिएको हो।"

यहाँका गैंडा मुलतः जंगल वरपरका किसानको बाली खाएर बाँचेका छन्। गैंडाले मान्छे मार्ला भन्ने डर पनि गाउँलेहरुलाई छ। त्यसैले गैंडा लान लागेकोमा यहाँका मानिसहरु खुशी छन्। "आनन्द हुने भयो। राती बाहिर निस्कन डर भएन। पहिले त गैंडाले हानेर मार्ला भन्ने डर थियो," मुर्तियाका कर्म बहादुर घिसिङ भन्छन्।

हात्तीसारका कर्मचारीहरु सवेरै देखि सबै मानिसका लागि खानेकरा तयार गर्देछन ।

गैडालाई लठ्याउने औषधि तयार गर्ने र त्यसलाई दुईवटा बन्दुकमा भर्ने काममा शाही चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जका पशु चिकित्साकर्मीहरू डा. कमल गैरे, बालकृष्ण गिरी, श्री ४ महेन्द्र प्रकृति संरक्षण कोषका विष्णु लामा र लण्डन जुलोजिकल सोसाइटीका डा. ज्याक फ्ल्याम्याण्ड लागिरहेका छन्।

सबै त<mark>यारी भैसकेपछि पशु चिकित्सक, जीव वैज्ञानिक</mark> र निकुञ्जका अधिकारीहरुको टोली गैडा खोज्न





Kamal Gaire and Balkrishna Giri, who are veterinary doctors of Royal Chitwan National Park, Bishnu Lama of King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation and Dr. Jack Flammand of London Zoological Society are working to fill the dart guns with tranquilisers.

The group of veterinary doctors, biologists and park officials enter the jungle in search of the rhinos.

It doesn't take long to find them. Within a few hours, both are spotted together.

Elephants form a circle around them. Previously, it was thought they were a male and a female. But both happen to be males. Both are hurt as a result of fighting with each other.

It is time to drug them. Dart guns are used for the purpose. Bishnu Lama, who is an experienced hand, has the job to dart the beasts.

The dart has hit a rhino's back. The dart sports a colourful tail for noticing it easily. Though hit, the rhino keeps walking for some time.

The tranquiliser is slowly acting on it. It will soon be unconscious. The other rhino remains to be tranquilised.

Finding an opportunity, Bishnu darts it too.
It too will fall down.

But it takes more time than expected to immobilise the rhinos.

Finally, the two rhinos are lying inert at separate places. Both have to be put in the cages right away. That's why the veterinary doctors are rushing.

The unconscious animals are blind-folded.

The vets do a medical check-up on them.

The temperature is okay—it is 38.2 degree celsius,

The rhinos have many wounds. The doctors are applying medicine on them.

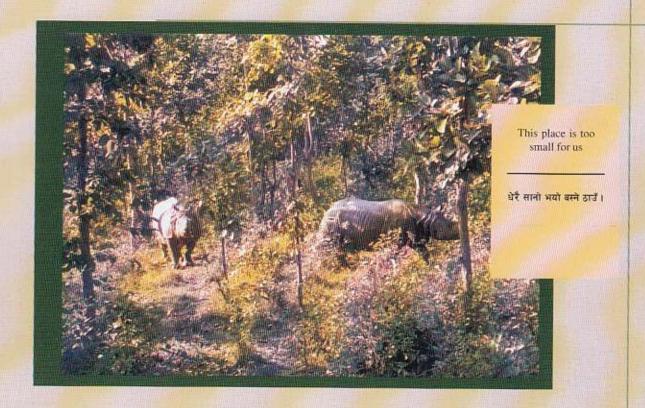
In Nepal, translocating big animals like rhinos from one place to another has not involved the use of modern equipment. Simple technologies have been used.

Crowds of people are thronging the area.



Bishnu's gun doesn't kill

विष्णुको बन्द्कले गैडा मार्दैन, बचाउँछ।



जंगलतिर पस्यो।

गैंडा भेटन धेरै वेर लागेन । दुईतीन घण्टामै दुइवटै गैंडा एकै ठाउँमा भेटिए ।

गैंडा उम्केर नजाउन भनेर वरपरवाट हात्तीले घेरा हाले। यस अघि दुईवटा गैंडा मध्ये एउटा भाले र एउटा पोथी भएको विश्वास गरिएको थियो। तर यी दुवै भाले रहेछन्। एक अर्कामा जुधेर यी दुवैका जिउमा चोट लागेको रहेछ।

यी गैंडालाई लठ्याउने औषधिको सुई दिने बेला भयो। यिनलाई लठ्याउन एक विशेष प्रकारको सुई दिन बन्दाकको प्रयोग गरिन्छ। बन्दुकको सहायताले धेरै ठूला वन्यजन्तुलाई लठ्याउने औषधिको सुई दिने काममा अनुभवी विष्णु लामालाई नै यहाँका गैंडालाई सुई दिने जिम्मा दिइएको छ।

एउटा गैडाको पछित्तिर सुई लाग्यो । सजिलैसँग देखियोस् भनेर सुईमा रंगीन फुकॉ टाँसिएको छ । सुई लागेको केही समयसम्म गैडा हिंडि नै रहयो ।

गैंडा विस्तारै ल<mark>हिदै गयो । अर्कोलाई औष</mark>धि दिन बाँकी नै छ ।

विष्णुले मौका छोपेर अर्को गैंडालाई पनि सुई दिए। ज पनि अब चाँडै नै बेहोस हुन्छ। तर आशा गरे भन्दा बढ़ी समय लाग्यो - गैडा बेहोस हुन ।

दुईवटा गैंडा फरक, फरक ठाउँमा बेहोस भए। उनीहरुलाई छिट्टै खोरमा हाल्नुपर्छ। त्यसैले चिकित्सकहरु बौडधुप गर्वेछन्।

बेहोस पारेका जनावरहरुको आँखा छोपिएको छ । चिकित्सकहरुले दुवै गैडाको स्वास्थ्य जाँच गरे ।

तापक्रम पनि ठिकै रहेछ ३६.२ डिग्री सेल्सियस ।

निकै घाउ रहेछन् । डाक्टरहरुले औषधि लगाइ दिए।

नेपालमा गैंडा जस्ता ठूला जनावरहरु एक ठाउँबाट अकों ठाउँमा लैजान अन्यत्र जस्तो अत्याधुनिक उपकरणहरु प्रयोग गरिएका छैनन्। यहाँ साधारण प्रविधिहरु प्रयोग भएका छन्।

मानिसको भीड असाध्यै छ। यस्तो अवस्थामा गैडा र मान्छेको सुरक्षाको काम गाहो हुन्छ।

पहिले गैंडालाई अर्ध चेतन अवस्थामै हिंडाएर खोरसम्म पुऱ्याउने प्रयास गरियो । यो तरिका अन्य देशहरुमा सफल भएको छ । नेपालमा भने यो तरिका पहिलोपटक



Crowds
pose
challenges
about
general
safety

भीडले गर्दा मान्छे र गैडा दुवैको सुरक्षा गर्न कठिन छ।





Asian Rhinos

There are three species of Asian rhino; the greater one-horned Asian rhino (Rhinoceros unicornis); the lesser one-horned Asian rhino (Rhinoceros sondaicus) and Asian two-horned rhino (Dicerorhinus sumatrensis). They are commonly known as Indian, Javan and Sumatran rhinos respectively.

The greater one-horned Asian rhino, which is found in Nepal and India, is the second largest living species of land mammal. Until the middle of the 19th century this species occurred all along the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra River basins, as well as in southern India. Its population had come down to 200 by early this century. At present, there are over 2000 of this species in Nepal and India. In the Chitwan and Bardia jungles of Nepal, they number 550. Compared to the other Asian species, its conservation is a success story.

The Javan or the lesser one-horned Asian

rhino inhabits tropical forests but particularly along water courses. It is in the same genus as the rhino found in Nepal and India, but is a smaller species. The Javan at one time occurred from eastern India throughout the rest of mainland South East Asia and on the islands of Sumatra and Java. The Javan rhino is the rarest of all rhino species with fewer than 100 individuals estimated to survive, most in a single protected area in Indonesia and a few in an unprotected area in Vietnam.

The Sumatran or two-horned Asian rhino also extended from eastern India through mainland South East Asia and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Today, with a population of 250 to 400, it is distributed fragmentarily in Sumatra and Malaysia.

Habitat degradation and poaching for the horn are the major threats to the rhinos' survival. Here, safety both of the rhinos and the bipeds becomes a challenging task.

A method to walk the rhino into the cage while still semi-conscious is being tried here. This modus operandi has been used successfully in other countries. But it is being used in Nepal for the first time. The rhino is gaining consciousness because of the movement and the general commotion.

The rhino escapes.

If the escapee enters the village it could claim lives. In anticipation of the danger, the dart-gun team also runs to the village.

Luckily, the rhino had made for the forest.

A big danger has passed. Attempts to ensure both the rhinos at the same time have failed.

Now, they are trying to put the other rhino in the cage. The unconscious rhino is loaded onto the wheels-fitted wooden planks. This method, by which this above-average-weight three-ton rhino is being pushed towards the cage, has been used in Nepal before.

Hindus regard rhino as a representation of Lord Vishnu. They are paying respects to them.

Capturing the other rhino will have to wait. For now, this team is preparing to transport only this rhino.

This rhino will not be taken to its former home, Chitwan. It is being taken to Babai Valley in Royal Bardia National Park, 600 kilometres to the west.



Efforts to walk the semiunconscious rhino into the cage

अर्धचेतन अवस्थामा हिंडाएर खोरमा लाने प्रयास ।

प्रयोग गरिँदैछ । बढी हिंडाई र हल्ला भएका कारणले गैंडाको होस आएछ।

गैंडा भाग्यो।

यसरी भागेको गैडा गाउँतिर पस्यो भने धेरै मानिसको ज्यान लिन सक्छ । त्यसैले यो गैडा गाउँ पस्यो भने फेरि डार्ट गर्न यो टोली पनि गाउँतिरै दौडियो ।

धन्न! गैंडा जंगलितरै बौडेछ । ठूलो खतरा टच्यो । दुइवटै गैंडालाई एकै पटक लैजाने प्रयास भने असफल भयो ।

त्यसपिष्ठ मानिसहरु अकोँ गैडालाई खोरमा राख्ने प्रयासमा लागेका छन्। बेहोस भएको गैडालाई चक्का भएको काठको फलेकमा राखेर खोरमा राख्ने तयारी गरियो। सामान्य गैडाको भन्दा बढ़ी अर्थात भएकै तीन टन तौल भएको गैडालाई खोरमा लैजान प्रयोग भएको यो तरिका नेपालमा यस अघि पनि प्रयोग भैसकेको छ।

हिन्दृहरू गैडालाई भगवानको अवतार मानेर सम्मान गर्छन्। यहाँ पनि मानिसहरूले मौका पारेर गैडालाई ढोगे।

अकॉ गैंडालाई लिन फेरि आउनु पर्ने भयो।

यसरी समातिएको गैडालाई उसको पुरानो घर

एशियाली गैंडा वंशावली

एशियामा ठूलो एक सिंगे एशियाली गैडा, सानो एक सिंगे एशियाली गैडा र दुई सिंगे एशियाली गैडा गरी तीन किसिमका गैडा पाइन्छन्। यिनीहरुलाई क्रमशः इण्डियन, जाभान र सुमाञन गैडा भनेर पनि चिनिन्छ।

नेपाल र भारतको तराइमा पाइने ठूलो एक सिंगे एशियाली गैंडा दोसो ठूलो जमीनमा बस्ने स्तनधारी प्राणी हो। उन्लाइसी शताब्दिको मध्यसम्म पनि यो गैंडा सिन्धु, गंगा र ब्रम्हपुत्र नदी क्षेत्रमा र अर दक्षिण भारतसम्म पाइन्थ्यो। यस शताब्दिको शुक्मा यसको सख्या घटेर २०० जित मात्र भएको थियो। अहिले नेपाल र भारतमा यसको सख्या २,००० जित पुगेको छ । नेपालमा चितवन र बर्दियाका जगलमा गरी ४५० जित गैडा छन्।

अरु वन्यजन्तुका तुलनामा यसको सरक्षणमा सफलता पाइएको छ ।

जाभान अर्थात सानी एक सिंगे गैडा ट्रियकल जंगलमा पानी छेउछाउ बस्छ । यसको पनि एउटा मात्र सिंग हुन्छ । यो नेपाल र भारतमा पाइने गैडा भन्दा सानी हुन्छ ।

सानो एक सिंगे गैडा कुनै बेला पूर्वी भारत देखि लिएर दक्षिण पूर्वी एशिया र सुमात्रा र जामासम्म पाइन्थ्यो । अहिले यो गैडा इण्डोनेशियाको एउटा सर्राक्षत क्षेत्र र भियतनामका केही संरक्षण क्षेत्र बाहिर मात्र पाइन्छ । एक सय भन्दा कम संख्यामा रहेको यो गैडा सबैभन्दा बढी खतरामा परेको गैडा हो ।





Rhino Deaths in Nepal

Veer	Metrical	Doschina	By tiger	Total
Year	Natural	Poaching		11
1973	4	5	2	16
1974	11	4		
1975	7		1	9
1976	2	2	1	5
1977	7		-	7
1978	8	1	**	8
1979	9		- II	8
1980	10	-	-1	11
1981	11	- 	-	11
1982	13	- 1	-	13
1983	5		- 1 - - 1	6
1984	10	6	-1	16
1985	6	2		8
1986	6	3	- 1	9
1987	10	1	1	12
1988	2	3	1	6
1989	7	2	2	11
1990	9	6	1	16
1991	7	1	1	9
1992		20	3	28
1993	12	13		25
1994	7	2	1	10
1995		1		8
1996		i		9
1997		1	1 - - 2	8
1998		7	2	20
Total	198	81	21	300

A day and a few inconveniences later, the rhino is in its new home. The long travel has given the rhino a bad mood, It can injured and kill. So, some of the people have climbed up the trees and some on to the truck-roof.

The rhino got out of the enclosure when the people on the truck-roof opened the door. The beast looked really angry. It vented its rage on the vehicle by hitting it twice and entered its new abode.

Babai Valley is suitable for wildlife including rhinos. For that reason, the park was expanded by relocating 1500 people from this valley. According to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Assistant Ecologist Narendraman Babu Pradhan, Bardiya National Park is the second best habitat for the rhinoceros in Nepal after Chitwan. Thirty-eight rhinos have been brought here in two lots from Chitwan. It is home to 50 rhinos presently.

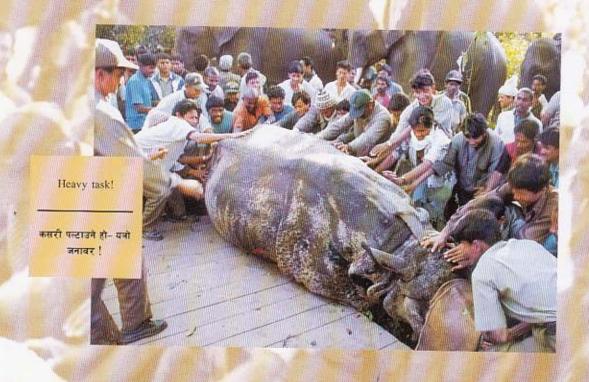
There are many plain tracts in this Valley through which Babai river runs. Open grasslands and lakes made by the river on its banks grace this Valley. चितवन लगिदैन । यहाँबाट ६०० किलोमिटर जित पश्चिममा पर्ने शाही <mark>वर्</mark>दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जको बबई उपत्यकामा लाने तयारी गरिएको छ ।

साना तिना समस्या बेहोदें एक दिन पछि गैंडा नयाँ बासस्थानमा आईपुगेको छ । यति बेला गैंडा निकै रिसाएको हुन्छ । आफ्नो अगाडि पर्ने जो कोहीलाई हानेर मार्न सक्छ । त्यसैले केही मानिसहरु रुख चढे, कोही टुक माथि बसे ।

ट्रक माथि बसेका मानिसहरूले खोरको ढोका खोलेपछि गैंडा आत्तिएर बाहिर निस्क्यो । साँच्चै रिसाएको रहेछ गैंडा । गाडीलाई दुईपटक हानेर आफ्नो रिस पोखेपछि गैडा नयाँ बासस्थानमा गयो ।

ववई उपत्यका गैडा लगायतका वन्यजन्तुहरूका लागि उपयुक्त स्थान हो। त्यसैले यस उपत्यकामा बसोबास गर्ने एक हजार पाँच सय परिवारलाई उठाएर यस ठाउँमा निकुञ्ज विस्तार गरिएको हो। राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु सरक्षण विभागका सहायक इकोलोजिष्ट नरेन्द्रमान बाबु प्रधानका अनुसार बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज गैडाका लागि चितवन पिछको राम्रो बासस्थान हो। यहाँ यस अघि दुईपटक गरेर ३८ वटा गैडा चितवनबाट ल्याइएका थिए। अहिले यहाँ भएडै ५० वटा गैडा छन्।

बबई नदी बीचबाट बगेको बबई उपत्यकामा प्रशस्त मात्रामा फाँटाहरु छन्। खुल्ला घाँसे मैदान र नदीले आफ्नो किनारमा बनाएका तलाउ छन्।



MURTIYA, SARLAHI

January 23, 1999

It has been 24 days since the work to shift rhinos from Chitwan to Bardia started. Eleven days have passed since the Sarlahi work began. Still, these staff do not look tired. They have resumed the search for the escaped rhino.

The rhino search has gone on for quite a while.

The elephants are tired and thirsty. The rhino could not be found despite the daylong labour.

The next day too, the search is intensified.

"It was a lot of trouble to keep looking for the rhino. We started the search at 7 in the morning and the rhino was found only at 2 p.m.", Bishnu Lama said.

This rhino required more than five times the normal dose of tranquilisers to fall unconscious. It had to be darted twice. Nobody was able to explain why that became necessary.

मुर्तिया, सर्लाही

२०५५ माघ ९ गते

चितवनबाट गैडा वर्दिया लैजाने काम थालेको २४ दिन भयो । सर्लाहीमै काम थालेको पनि ११ दिन बितिसके । तैपनि मानिसहरु थाकेका जस्ता देखिँदैनन् । उनीहरु यस अधि भागेको गैँडा खोजने काममा फेरि जुटेका छन् ।

गैंडा खोजन थालेको धेरै बेर भयो।

हात्तीहरु थाके, तिखाए । दिनभर खोज्दा पनि गैडा फेला परेन ।

दोस्रो दिन पनि निकै मेहनत गर्नुपच्यो गैडा भेट्न।
"खोजनलाई भयइर दुःख गर्नु पच्यो। विहान देखि ७
बजे देखि खोज्दा खोज्दा अहिले दुई बजे बल्ल पाइयो,"
विष्णु लामाले हैरान भएर भने।

गैंडालाई बेहोस बनाउन सामान्य भन्दा पाँच गुणा बढी औषधि दिनु पऱ्यो । दुईपटक डार्ट गर्नृपऱ्यो । तर के भएर यसो भएको हो भन्ने कुरा चाँहि कसैले बताउन सकेनन् ।

मानिसको भिड त यस पटक पनि उत्तिकै छ । केहीलाई छोडेर धेरै जसो नेपालीले ठूला बन्यजन्तु देख्न पाएका हुँदैनन् । त्यसैले जनावर अफ गैडा समात्ने जस्तो काम नजिकैबाट हेर्न र मौका मिले



Not a bed of roses. Soon it will be over, though

केही बेरको त हो नि दु:ख – त्यसपछि त जंगलकै बास हो ।

Farewell!

भावपूर्ण विदाई।



Rhino Gifts

2004	Distain		2	
2054	Britain	-	0	- 11
2050	Germany	200	100	
2049	Bangladesh			100
2046	United States			
2046	Germany			
2046	Singapore	- 1	4	
2044	Germany	-	1	100
2044	United States	4		1 14
2042	India	4.	4	
2041	Thailand	1	- 1	
2038	Pakistan	- 1	1	
2037	China		7	
2037	Burma	1	1	
		М	F	M F
Bikram Year	Country	Nu	mber	Baby

The crowd appears as large as usual. Most Nepalis do not get an opportunity to see big wildlife. Thus, people are curious to look at such animals, or watch activities like rhinoensnaring, or even touch such animals, if chance permits. The crowd makes members of the team nervous. "This animal is not only big, it is also dangerous. We are worried about the safety both of the rhinos and the people", a member of the team says.

But the local people are fearful of neither elephants nor rhinos. "We have many times in the past confronted rhinos and elephants in the jungle. Why be afraid of them?" The crowd of Murtiya people came near the elephants and the rhinos. In a sort of melee, an elephant happened to crush a kid. Those who were just moments earlier saying they were not scared of elephants became very angry. They began to attack the elephant with whatever they could lay their hand on.

Local people's representatives and some youths had to make valiant attempts to pacify the irate crowd. Only after the child regained consciousness at the health post and the responsible elephant and its attendant were put under custody that the crowd let the rhino be taken away. The child, however, died in the hospital the next day.

This rhino, weighing about two and a half tons, will also be released in Babai Valley,

Arrangement had been made to chase the rhino across the Babai river by elephants. As soon as the cage door opened, the rhino was chased into the jungle by the elephants making big noises.

WWF footed the Rs. 800,000 bill incurred to translocate the four rhinos from Chitwan and Sarlahi to Bardiya. Many days were spent on this task by the specialists and other staff of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Chitwan and Bardiya National Parks, Parsa Wildlife Reserve, King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation and London Zoological Society.

In order to develop Royal Bardia National Park as the second habitat for the unicorns, more of them have to be released here. To fulfil this need, the Department has plans to bring in an additional number rhinos from the east.

छुन मानिसहरु उत्सुक छन्। भिडले गर्दा यस टोलीका मानिसहरु निकै चिन्तित छन्। "यो जनावर ठूलो मात्रै होइन। धेरै खतरनाक पनि छ। त्यसैले हामी गैडा र मानिस दुवैको सुरक्षाका बारेमा चिन्तित छौ," टोलीका एक सदस्य भन्छन्।

तर स्थानीय मानिसहरुले हात्ती र गैंडा दुवैसँग डर मानेनन्। "यस्तो गैंडा, हात्तीसँग जंगलमा कति लाप्पा खेलियो कति ! किन डराउने ?" मुर्तियाका मानिसहरुको भीड हात्ती र गैंडाको निजकै आयो। भीडभाडमा आफ्नो काम गर्दा गर्दै अचानक एउटा बच्चालाई हात्तीले कुल्च्यो। त्यसपिछ त केही क्षण अघिसम्म हात्तीसँग डर लाग्दैन भन्ने मानिसहरुको रिस निकै माथि पुग्यो। वरपर ने भेटिन्छ त्यही लिएर हात्ती माथि भन्टन थाले।

भिडलाई सम्भाउन स्थानीय जनप्रतिनिधि र सचेत युवाहरूले निकै कसरत गर्नुपऱ्यो । स्वास्थ्य चौकीमा बच्चाको होस् फिरेपछि र बच्चा किच्ने हात्ती र फिणतलाई हिराशतमा लिएपछि मात्रै भिडले गैंडा लैजान दियो । विचरा बच्चाको भने भोलिपल्ट अस्पतालमा उपचार गर्दागर्दै मृत्यु भयो ।

करिब साढे दुई टनको दोस्रो गैंडालाई पनि बबई उपत्यकामै छोडिने छ।

दोस्रो गैंडालाई बबई नदी पार गराउने उद्देश्यले हात्ती लगाएर खेदने व्यवस्था मिलाईयो । खोरको ढोका खोलिदिने बित्तिकै हात्तीले ठूलो आवाज निकालेर गैंडालाई लखेटेर जंगलिभत्र पठाए।

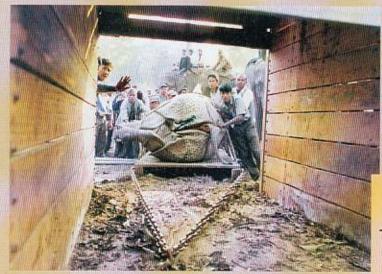
चितवन र सर्लाहीका चारवटा गैंडा वर्दिया लैजाने काममा खर्च भएको द लाख जित रुपैया विश्व वन्यजन्तु कोषले व्यहोरेको छ। राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभाग, शाही चितवन र वर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, पर्सा वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष, श्री १ महेन्द्र प्रकृति संरक्षण कोष र लण्डन जुलोजिकल सोसाइटीका विशेषजहरुले यस काममा धेरै मेहेनत गरेका छन्।

शाही बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जलाई गैंडाको दोसो बासस्थानका रुपमा विकास गर्न यहाँ यप गैंडा ल्याउनु आवश्यक छ। यस आवश्यकतालाई पूरा गर्न विभागले चितवनबाट थप गैंडा यहाँ ल्याउने योजना बनाएको छ।



On the way to the cage

खोरतिर ।



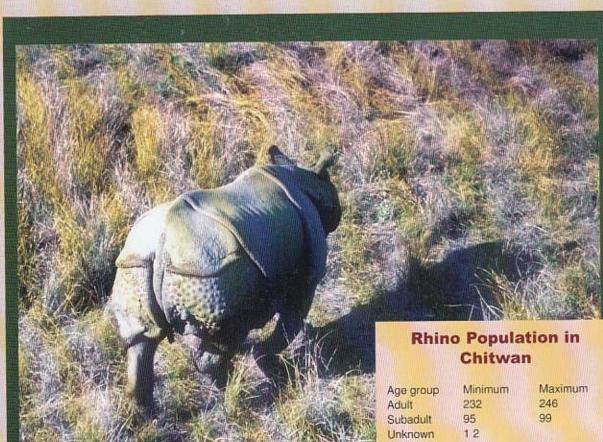
Finally, the cage

बल्ल खोरमा आइपृग्यो ।

विदेशिएका नेपाली गैंडा

वर्ष	देश	गैडाको संख्या भासे/पोथी	बच्चा भाले/पोथी
२०३७	वर्मा	9/9	
२०३७	चीन	-/9	
2035	पाकिस्तान	9/9	
5084	बाइलैण्ड	9/9	
5085	भारत	-/8	
5088	अमेरीका		9/9
5088	जर्मनी (वर्लिन जु)	-/9	
5086	सिंगापुर	9/9	
SORE	जर्मनी (म्यूनिख जू)	9/9	
3802	अमेरीका 👚		
	(फोर्टवर्थ जु)	9/9	
२०४९	वंगलादेश		
	(ढाका जु)		9/9
2010	वर्मनी		
	(वेनह्याम जु)		-/9
SOAR	वेलायत		
	(लण्डन ज्)	-/२	
	जम्मा	E/98	2/3





Thank you, everybody, for bringing me to my new, sweet home

धन्यवाद,तपाईहरू सबैलाई । नयाँ, राम्रो वासस्थानमा ल्याइदिएकोमा ।

Age group	Minimum	Maximum
Adult	232	246
Subadult	95	99
Unknown	12	
Young	112	113
Total	440	460
Age	Minimum	Maximum
Male	110	116
Female	158	167
Unknown	60	64
Total	328	347
Survey bloc	Population	
Sauraha	192	
West Rapti-	143	
Bote Simra	3 86	
Bandar Jho		
Tikauli	16	
Total	440	

Total 440 Inside the park 411 Outside the Park 29

Source: Count Rhino '94, Pralad B Yonzon, 1994

Translocation: The Do's And Don'ts

Study the area where the rhino lives. Is there a wetland nearby? Are there thick bushes? Is there a village nearby? Darting a rhino at a place where there are swamps, dense foliage or a village brings complications.

Build a right cage for the rhino. An 11'x7'x7' cage is appropriate for a normal-sized rhino. Take the cage to where rhino is being caught. If equipment like a crane is not available, roll the cage into the truck with the help of pipes or similar items that can be used as rollers. For this, the truck needs to be put in a dug-out place so that its doors are on a level with the ground. Since the cage is heavy, it will not be easy to carry it into the truck by people or with the help of elephants.

Prepare the tranquilisers. Keep the darts in a special box. Attach an easily visible tail to the darts. This will help to see from afar which part of the rhino's body the dart has hit.

Keep elephants ready. Draw up a strategy on encircling and darting the rhino. Make sure the essentials like cage, truck, cage-lifters and other expert hands are ready. If the rhino is being tranquilised near a village, keep special safety measures in place to protect people and animals. Make necessary arrangements at the place where the rhino is going to be released.

Find the rhino. Encircle it with elephants.

Dart the rhino. The rhino becomes unconscious after a while. Before disembarking from the elephants, test whether the rhino is fully unconscious.

Close the rhino's eyes. Check its health. If it has wounds requiring medication, attend to them.

Clear the bushes and plants near the rhino to facilitate the movement of the sleigh. Bring the cage and the truck as near as possible to the rhino. Tie up the rhino well onto the sleigh and pull it to the truck.

Put the rhino in the cage. Close the doors well. Give it antidote to neutralise the effects of tranquilisers. Load the cage onto the truck and set off for the rhino's new home immediately.

Keep a watch on the rhino's state on the way. Try to reach the rhino to its new destination as quickly as possible.

Once there, keep the elephants ready to guide the rhino. Dig up a spot for the truck to park on so that the doors are on a level with the ground. At the time of release, the rhino could be in an angry mood. So, release it only after the team members and others have climbed onto safe places like the truck or trees.

Monitor the rhino's activities regularly.

गैंडा सार्ने तयारी

गैंडा बसेको ठाउँको अवस्था अध्ययन गर्ने । गैंडा भएको ठाउँ वरपर पानी र दलदल छ कि छैन ? कोडा र बाक्लो भाडी छ कि छैन ? नजिकै गाउँ छ कि छैन ? पानी, दलदल, कोडा र बाक्लो भाडी भएको ठाउँ र गाउँ नजिक गैंडा डार्ट गर्दा धेरै समस्या आउँछ ।

गैंडा राख्नका लागि उपयुक्त खोर बनाउने । १९' ७' ७ फिटको खोर सामान्य आकारका गैंडाका लागि उपयुक्त हुन्छ । गैंडा समान्ने ठाउसम्म खोर तैजाने । खोर तैजाने बेला देखि नै डोजर र केन जस्ता उपकरण उपलब्ध हुन नसक्ने भए खारडो बनाएर ट्रकलाई जिमनको सतहमा राख्ने र पाइप अथवा यस्तै अन्य गुड्ने बस्तुको प्रयोग गरेर खोरलाई गुडाएर ट्रकमा राख्ने । खोर गहुगो हुने हुनाले यसलाई मान्छे अथवा हाती लगाएर बोकेर ट्रकमा राख्ने गाहो हुन्छ ।

लट्ठयाउने औषधिको तयारी गर्ने । सिरिञ्जलाई विशेष किसिमको बन्दुकमा हाल्ने । सिरिञ्जको पछिल्लो भागमा सिजलै देख्न सिकनै बस्तु राख्ने । यसले गर्दा गैंडाको कुन भागमा सिरिञ्ज लागेको छ भन्ने कुरा सिजलै थाहा पाउन सिकन्द्र ।

हाली तयार राख्ने। घेरा हाल्ने र डार्ट गर्ने रणनीति तयार गर्ने। खोर, टक, खोर उठाउने साधन वा मान्छे जस्ता अत्यावश्यक कुराहर तयार भए नभएको कुरा निश्चित गर्ने। गाउं निजक डार्ट गर्नु पर्ने भए मानिस र जनावरको सुरक्षाका लागि विशेष शर्तकता अपनाउने। गैडा छाडुने ठाउँमा पनि आवश्यक व्यवस्था गर्ने।

गैंडा भएको ठाउँ पत्ता लगाउने । हातीले गैंडालाई घेरा हाल्ने ।

डार्ट गर्ने। डार्ट गरेको केही समय पिछ गैडा बेहोस हुन्छ। हालीबाट आफू ओलंनु भन्दा पहिले रुखका हांगाबिंगा जस्ता कुराहरु गैडाको नजिकै फालेर ऊ बेहोस भए नभएको निश्चित गर्ने।

गैंडाको आखा छोपिदिने । गैंडाको स्वास्थ्य जांच गर्ने । औषधि गर्नुपर्ने खालका घाउहरु भए औषधि गर्ने ।

स्लेज गुडाउन सिकने गरी गैंडा भए वरपरका काडी र बोट विख्वा सका गर्ने। गैंडाको सकेसम्म निजक सम्म खोर र ट्रक पुग्ने व्यवस्था गर्ने। गैंडालाई स्लेजमा राखेर राम्रोसंग बांधेपछि खोर र ट्रक भएको ठाउंसम्म स्लेज तानेर ल्याउने।

गैडालाई खोरमा हान्ते । खोर राम्रोसंग बन्द गर्ने । बेहोस पार्ने औषधिको प्रमाव हटाउन एन्टिडोट दिने । खोरलाई ट्रकमा राख्ने र जतिसक्दो चाडो गैडा छाड्ने ठाउनक लाग्ने ।

बाटोमा गैंडाको गतिविधि निरीक्षण गर्दै गर्ने । गैंडालाई सकेसम्म चाडो छाड्ने ठाउँमा पुरयाउने कोशिस गर्ने ।

गैडालाई छाड्ने ठाउमा पुन्याइसकेपछि हात्ती तैनाथ गर्ने । जिमन केही खनेर ट्रक बस्ने ठाउलाई जिमनको सतह बरावर पाने । छाड्ने बेलामा गैडा रिसाएको हुन्छ । सबै मानिसहरु रुख अथवा ट्रक माथि सुरक्षित ठाउमा बसिसकेपछि मात्र गैडालाई छाड्ने ।

गैहाका गतिविधिमाथि नियमित निगरानी राख्ने।



The first rhino translocation in Nepal took place in 1986 in Bardia National Park. Though the park was not a natural habitat for rhinos, the continuing successful translocation has now made it the second most suitable home for the rhinos after Royal Chitwan National Park. In the latest translocation, four rhinos were taken there last January 1999. Of them, two were Kasara (Chitwan) inhabitants and two were from a Sarlahi jungle.

Rhino translocation is not an easy task. For the general public which may be unaware of wildlife conservation activities, translocation is an unfamiliar subject. During the translocation, both still and video cameramen of Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) were on the spot. This illustrated book is based on the footage and pictures they filmed. It has been realised that information on translocation activities do not easily reach the general public. It is precisely to present to the common people an important rhino conservation activity that NEFEJ has brought out this book with the technical and financial assistance from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and WWF Nepal program. I hope the readers will like it.

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Conservation has its happy coincidence. WWF's involvement in Nepal began with rhino conservation that also marked the beginning of the modern history of wildlife conservation in Nepal. In 1967, WWF entered into Nepal with its first program in the Chitwan Rhino Sanctuary. The sanctuary was eventually declared as the first national park of the country in 1973, and WWF continued its support for the park since its early days in 1971-1973.



In Nepal, the population of rhino, which is also the flagship species of WWF's Living Planet Campaign, has significantly increased from below 100 in the early 1970s to over 500 in the late 1990s. A landmark in the history of wildlife conservation in Nepal was the translocation of 38 rhinos from Chitwan to Bardia in two batches, 13 in 1986 and 25 in 1990/1991. Similarly, in January 1999, four rhinos from Chitwan and Sarlahi were translocated to Bardia. It is equally important to mention the first rhino census that was successfully carried out in Chitwan in 1994. It has been an honor for WWF to cooperate with its partners, the Department of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation, the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation and the other organizations, throughout the history of rhino conservation in Nepal.

WWF commends the efforts and commitment of His Majesty's Government of Nepal in introducing a progressive policy of buffer zone and institutionalizing a challenging task of anti-poaching operations. WWF takes the positive attitude of the local communities and their participation in rhino conservation as rewarding achievements of Nepal's conservation initiatives. WWF feels proud to become a part of the change process that is being taken place while entering into the next millennium.

Rhino conservation in Nepal is a success story of this twentieth century.

Ukesh Raj Bhuju, AIFC Conservation Program Director WWF Nepal Program

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