

Professional training on basic photography skills

Nature and wildlife photography has been an integral part of WCN conservation strategy but there are participants who, although they have a keen interest in photography, lack the basic skills. Therefore WCN wishes to enhance the photography skills of participants, which will generate more interest of the photographers towards nature and wildlife.

Historique

Wildlife Conservation Nepal was created in 2002 by Prasanna Yonzon with the objective to organise the civil society and communities to protect and conserve the natural flora and fauna of Nepal.

Mr. Prasanna Yonzon has been working for over two decades on the issue of natural resource management, from protecting endangered species to environment changes in Nepal. He was working as a field biologist prior to WCN at Resources Himalaya Foundation. He has undergone international training on conflict management in protected areas in Germany and Leadership program with focus to leadership of the world and threats that emerges from it at the East West Center, Hawaii, USA.

Mr. Prasanna Yonzon is now the Chief executive officer (C.E.O) of WCN, that he still runs according to his initial vision to instigate values of conservation in each individual, local people of Nepal from different sectors, who are not linked in the environment field.

In relation to this objective, WCN is working on different aspects: environment conservation, natural resource management, community enhancement and women empowerment

Since its establishment in 2002, WCN has reached about 1000 schools in various districts of Nepal spreading awareness towards environment conservation, and provided trainings to around 500 enforcement officials.

WCN works with the support of national and international partners, at the technical and financial level.

National partners are the Nepal Police (technical), Nepal Ex Police Organization (technical), Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (technical), Department of Forest (technical), Department of Plant Resources (technical), Department of Education (technical), IUCN Nepal (technical), ECCA (technical), Resources Himalaya Foundation (technical) and WWF Nepal Program (financial).

International partners are Care for the Wild UK (financial), East West Centre USA (technical), Nagao Natural Environment Foundation Japan (financial), The Rufford Foundation UK (financial), Save the Tiger Fund, USA (financial), US Fish and Wildlife Services USA (financial), Danish Forestry Extension Denmark (technical), Blue Moon Fund USA (financial), DANIDA Denmark (financial), SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund (financial) and Wildlife Protection Society of India (financial).

The organization employs 26 people, including program managers and field monitoring units, and is supported by around 600 volunteers, who are mostly involved in implementing environment education awareness program in schools, for different batches.

WCN has different offices in Nepal, located in Chitwan, Langtang and Kathmandu.

Throughout the years, WCN has been implementing various projects:

- Environment education. This project aims at providing knowledge based guidance on conservation of the environment in reaction to the lack of environmental education in the primary and secondary sections of schools.

- Knowledge-based program. It aims at instilling general interest among people of varied backgrounds on environmental issues, mostly school and university students, photographers, artists, community members, addressing various issues like climate change, animal rights, illegal wildlife trade, etc, through nature and wildlife photography.

This program is divided into two: Nepal Nature School and Photography. Nepal Nature School mostly conducts environment workshop among students and teachers. The workshops are mostly two days where students are taught about environment and its conservation with the help of the curriculum that has been developed with the support of teachers by Nature School. WCN uses the School to home to community approach to reach to the wider audience in conserving nature.

The Photography component develops interest on conservation bringing photographers and artists together through their art work.

- Information Sharing and Dissemination Program. This program tackles the negligence of the communities in issues related to wildlife crime and environment protection and the lack of awareness programs in local communities. Its main objective is to spread awareness on conservation issues in order to influence the civil society to act responsibly for a better environment.

This project is different than the Knowledge based program as it does not cater the general public but focuses on the enforcement officials i.e. mainly the police, army and armed police force and ex police. It is more focussed on generating awareness to these officials on illegal wildlife trade and how trade can be minimised.

- Curbing illegal wildlife trade. Wildlife trade in Nepal is mostly of tiger skins and bones, rhino horn and their body parts, leopard skins, musk pods, red panda fur, bear bile are illegally traded. With this project, WCN wishes to strengthen the existing monitoring units to bring wildlife trade activities to its minimum by having better working efficiency with the enforcement officials. Indeed, a void was present within organizations and agencies that work towards the same goal of monitoring illegal wildlife trade. However, the data of seized wildlife trade products were scattered and management of the records was poor.

- Livelihood Enhancement Program. It addresses three challenges faced by communities living in the buffer zones of National Parks.

- o Poverty, lack of education and non-existent Government services.

- o Heavy dependence on forest resources especially for firewood.

- o Invasive plant species as the leading cause of the habitat destruction of wildlife in and around protected areas.

Therefore, it aims at maintaining livelihoods and encouraging Green Jobs and other livelihood opportunities for sustainable development, protection of the environment and natural resources management.

WCN has been providing seed money to some of the community members especially the women group for livestock rearing. Similarly WCN has also been regularly conducting trainings on briquette making, composting and improved cooking stoves, which has not only helped the community members to adopt the healthy and green solution for living, but also made them capable for generating income. Briquettes and composts can be sold for extra income.

For more information : www.wcn.org.np

Objectif

To enhance the photography skills of the participants, which will generate more interest of the photographers towards nature and wildlife.

WCN believes that nature conservation is only possible when the civil society gets involved, and nature photography is one of the best tools that bring people from different backgrounds closer to nature.

Nature and wildlife photography has been an integral part of WCN conservation strategy but there are participants who, although they have a keen interest in photography, lack the basic skills.

WCN has so far conducted five photography workshops with the help of experts from U.S along with in-house experts. During these workshops the experts provided training to amateur photographers on the basic learning of photography skills. It includes techniques to click good photographs, capture the right moments, the correct lighting and exposure required and basic knowledge on camera functions.

WCN is now working on conducting a new professional training for basic learning of photography skills.

WCN think it is better to have international professionals because they have innovative ideas and better knowledge, and the provision of international assistance to the amateur photographers of Nepal helps to raise their skills to that of international standards.

The photographs produced are displayed during the annual photography competition and exhibition organised by WCN, open to all public (the next one is in January 2013, but the workshop can also be organised afterwards for display during the next exhibition).

The photos, when required, will be used in WCN publication like annual reports, newsletter, posters or while making presentations for information sharing in communities, which are for non profit. Due credit will be given to the photographer and WCN. 50 % of any amount generated from the photo published will be given to the photographer and the other half will be used in WCN scholarship Program for students of Government Schools.

WCN believes in imparting the message of conservation to people from various backgrounds and photography has been developed as a powerful tool in imparting such messages. Through its workshops and annual photography competition and exhibition, it has been able to grasp a community from various fields of life and has also been able to instigate the values of conservation among the local people.

Most of the photographers that participate in the annual competition are amateur and thus they want to learn new skill in photography. Also WCN hosts a photography club, and a training each year by a professional photographer, depending on the opportunity, will help them in maintaining the club.

Intervention du volontaire

The volunteer should be able to develop skills of the trainees in the following fields: techniques and skills of photography, which will include composition, lighting and metering, exposure, depth of field, ISO and white balance, lenses, photo application and additional knowledge through given assignments, outdoor practical, photo reviews and also short movie clippings.

Expected results at the end of the mission
Regarding participants :

At the end of the mission, participants will be able to click meaningful pictures of nature and wildlife and use the learned techniques to bring out the best results.

Regarding the structure:

At the end of the mission the training will enable the structure to set up an exhibition of the finest photographs making it a grand event and attracting more audience and donors.

La mission

Aéroport

Kathmandu [Tribhuvan]

Transfert sur le lieu de mission

WCN will organise the reception of the volunteer from Kathmandu airport with their office vehicle. It takes 45 minutes to one hour from the airport to the office and accommodation, depending upon traffic.

During the mission, travels from the accommodation to the training site will be performed by the office vehicle or an identified taxi.

Condition d'hébergement et d'intendance

The volunteer will stay in a shared apartment with a member of WCN and have his/her own room.

The apartment is 5 minutes by walk from WCN office and around an hour from the airport according the traffic.

Moyens mis en oeuvre

WCN will provide a room in the office for inside training and a mini van from WCN will be used to go for outside photo-shootings (10-15 persons).

These outside photo-shootings will be organised 3-4 times out of 5 days of training, around Kathmandu. The sites that can be covered for the trainings are Godavari Botanical Garden, Historical places like Bhaktapur, Basantapur and Patan, or Swayambhu temple.

Three cameras, computers and printers are available for the training. However, if any other commodities would be required other than the ones mentioned, the volunteer could inform WCN and WCN could search the market for the availability of the commodity.

Organisation

The training will last 5 hours a day, most likely according to the following schedule:

10:00 am: Training begins

12:00-1:00 pm: Lunch break

1:00-4:00pm : Training

4:00 pm: Training ends

Midday meals will be arranged at WCN office. If volunteer wishes so, he/she can also arrange his own meals in a restaurant for which WCN will guide.

Remarques

The volunteer should have good photography skills and ability to explain the basic photography mechanism to the participants.

The training can take place any time of the year but it would be good that one training can already take place before the end of 2012, and the next photography event in January 2013.

Les bénéficiaires

Nombre de participants 15

Niveau des participants

Once the dates of the volunteers' arrival are fixed, the workshop will be scheduled and WCN will announce the

photography workshop to the public. The beneficiaries will be the participants that will express their interest in taking part to the photography workshop. There will be at least 10-15 participants for the workshop. WCN will provide their names and details once they have their confirmation.

The people are selected through the photography club that WCN has and according the interest they have in photography and nature.

The type of the people depends upon the type of training provided. If it is basic training, WCN asks applications from amateur and if it is a training above basics, then they ask application from experienced ones and select accordingly.

The people need to have their own camera for the training.

In average, the participants' ages range from 20 to 35 years-old.

Formation des participants

Basic knowledge in photography or above basics – the selection of the participants will be based on the level offered by the volunteer.