

Collective conservation efforts boosted rhino population in Nepal

April 25 2011

After three rigorous weeks of conducting the National Rhino Census in Nepal, new data on the population of greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) was formally released today.

According to the census, there are 534 rhinos in Nepal, marking an increase of 99 [rhinos](#) from the 435 recorded in the last census in 2008; 503 were recorded in Chitwan [National Park](#) (an increase of 95 from 2008 data), 24 in Bardia National Park (an increase of 2 from 2008 data) and 7 in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (an increase of 2 from 2008 data). These numbers reflect the success of [conservation](#) efforts for this species and are a result of improved rhino protection measures and management of habitat.

The rhino counting was conducted simultaneously in Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park and Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve of Nepal's Terai Arc Landscape, and was a combined effort of the Department of National Parks and [Wildlife Conservation](#) of the Government of Nepal, WWF Nepal and the National Trust for [Nature Conservation](#). WWF provided technical as well as financial support for the National Rhino Census.

"This is a fine example of working together where all conservation partners and local communities are contributing to the conservation efforts of the Government of Nepal," said Krishna Prasad Acharya, Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. "Support received from WWF Nepal is appreciable and

we are hopeful that this support will continue in the coming years with more vigor."

"The positive result of the national rhino census 2011 is an indication of the successful conservation efforts of the Government of Nepal in partnership with conservation partners and WWF Nepal is very pleased to see our investment being paid off," says Anil Manandhar, Country Representative of WWF Nepal. "Even though the current census shows the rise in rhino number we cannot be complacent and therefore continuous efforts from all sectors is essential to protect endangered species like rhino and their habitat."

"We are much encouraged that increased WWF support to the anti-poaching efforts of Government of Nepal has actually resulted in an increase in the Rhino population within three years," says Dr. Christy Williams, WWF's Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy coordinator.

"WWF Nepal acknowledges with gratitude the support received from the WWF US, WWF UK, WWF Finland, WWF Netherlands, WWF International, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Trust for Nature Conservation and all other contributors, particularly local communities and private sector for this conservation endeavor," says Dr. Ghana S Gurung, Conservation Program Director, WWF Nepal. "Based on this encouraging result now we need to come up with strategies to build a thriving population in the Terai Arc Landscape."

Provided by World Wildlife Fund

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