



In the field: Nepal's first woman ethnobotanist

by Ila Shrestha, Associate Professor, Tribhuvan University

For a woman, fieldwork in Nepal can be very difficult and dangerous. As the first woman to undertake ethnobotanical field research in rural Nepal, I encountered many dangers including armed conflicts, treacherous terrain, and poachers. The fact that I successfully completed my studies in the face of these challenging obstacles makes my experience all the more rewarding.

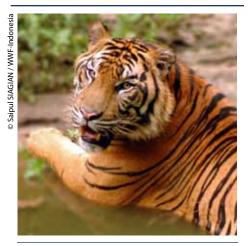
With support from Education for Nature, I pursued a doctoral degree in botany at Tribhuvan University in Nepal. While conducting field research for my thesis, "Ethnobotany of Tamang Community in Langtang National Park and its Buffer Zone," the Nepalese military was engaged in armed confrontation with Maoist rebels in the rural areas of Nepal. Much of this conflict took place where I was conducting my research. Nonetheless, I continued my research to help educate rural populations on the importance and value of protecting the natural environment, focusing in particular on incorporating women into these activities and encouraging the cultivation of many endemic Nepalese plants for medicinal uses.



Ila Shrestha, Nepal

Venturing out into rural Nepal with only a male guide can be intimidating. While in Langtang National Park, a beautiful area in central Nepal, my guide and I walked for an entire day into the wilderness with no roads. At the end of that day, which involved very difficult trekking, my guide demanded more money before agreeing to help me return to our camp. I was alone and vulnerable and needed his expertise in order to get out of the park. My research funding was limited and I feared I would not be able to pay him what he requested. Thankfully, I was able to negotiate a fee with him and he led me out of the park without further incident. It was an extremely frightening moment and made me realize the importance of knowing your guide and travelling with a trusted companion.
5 Conservation of the true of the park without further incident. It was an extremely frightening moment and made me realize the importance of knowing your guide and travelling with a trusted companion.

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION



In this Issue

- **2** Andes-Amazon Capacity Building Grants
- **3** CSU Article; Grant announcement
- **4** Professional Development Grants
- 5 Conservation Workshop Grants; Fellowship Announcement
- **6** Notes from the Field

7 International Conferences

Since my research is focused on medicinal plants, it is necessary to visit the park during the flowering

season in order to obtain good data on these plants. The flowering season in Nepal is from June to September which also coincides with the monsoon season. During this time landslides are a real threat to trekkers and field researchers. During one of my trips, a landslide had taken out a road near Ghran. Crossing this terrain without a road could be fatal. If I were caught in the landslide, I would have been washed away and dropped more than 40 meters into the raging river below. My guide and I were able to cross carefully and reached the other side without loss of equipment or life. We were very lucky that day.

Many of the places where the most valuable medicinal plants are found are in extremely remote areas. During one of my field trips to Sanopangsang and Thulopangsang to collect plants, the only shelter we could find was a cowshed. My team and I slept in the shed with a dozen yaks. The cold was terrible and we were very grateful to see the sun rise the following day. During times like this, a researcher thinks very hard about her research and whether it is valuable enough to continue working in these terrible conditions. In my case, the research has yielded very significant results. I have collected more than 500 species of plants from Langtang National Park; among them 227 species used for traditional health care needs in local communities. I also documented 14 species of medicinal plants that had never been reported in

To learn more about the Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program, please contact:

Education for Nature Program World Wildlife Fund 1250 24th Street, NW Washington, DC 20037-1132, USA Tel: +1 202 293 4800 Email: efn@wwfus.org Website: www.worldwildlife.org/efn earlier publications in Nepal. With these findings, I have published eight research papers related to Langtang National Park in both Nepalese and international journals. In 2005 I presented my work at the IVth International Congress of Ethnobotany in Turkey.

The dangers of field work can be daunting, but the data collected can be extremely valuable. As the first female ethnobotanist in Nepal, I am proud to have continued my research through all the hardships and threats and look forward to new challenges and triumphs.

Ila Shrestha received a Russell E. Train Fellowship in 2001 to complete her doctoral degree at Tribhuvan University in Nepal. She is currently a professor at the university and serves as fassistant campus chief for the Patan Campus.

Andes-Amazon Capacity Building Initiative

In 2008, the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation renewed its commitment to EFN to continue to support training in the Andes-Amazon region. EFN has awarded the following grants as part of this initiative.

Professional Development Grants in Protected Area Management

Carlos Alberto Arevalo Coba, Peru-Education and capacity building coordinator, Sociedad Francfurt Zoologica. intensive English language training course, Kaplan Aspect, Canada

Protected Area: Manu National Park

Ruth Delgado, Bolivia-Program Leader for Value Chain Management of Wild-caught Animal Skins, Fundacion Amigos de la Naturaleza. Training course on the management of value chains with a focus on economic, social, and environmental sustainability, CATIE, Colombia

Protected Area: San Matias Integrated Management Natural Area

Park Guard Workshop Grants

As part of the initiative, EFN awarded the following park guard training grants to support local organizations in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Fundacion para la Conservacion del Bosque Seco **Chiquitano**—Basic course on field operations for park guards working in the national park system in Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Asociacion para la Biologia de la Conservacion -Bolivia—Workshop on basic techniques for biodiversity monitoring and environmental education in Manuripi National Wildlife Reserve, Bolivia

Centro de Estudios en Biologia Teorica y Aplicada (BIOTA)—Park guard training to teach park guards how to be environmental educators in Cotapata National Park, Bolivia

Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental (CEDA)-Park guard workshop on legal action in Pichincha Province, Ecuador

Finding Species Inc.—Park guard workshop for park guards and community leaders on site management for mountain tapirs, Ecuador

Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja-Workshop on the development and application of environmental indicators for monitoring in Podocarpus National Park, Ecuador

Expert Exchange Grants

for Current Train Fellows and Tropical Andes Alliance (AAT)

AAT and Marcia Brown from the Foundation of Success (FOS) to strengthen the capacity of AAT through training based on the methodology of FOS

AAT and Alessandra Lobo Peredo from Fundacion para La Conservacion del Bosque Chiquitano to develop, design and transfer conservation field course planning tools and skills

Jarden Botanico de Missouri - Peru-Workshop on the maintenance and repair of outboard motors for park guards in several national parks, Peru

Sociedad Zoologica de Francfort (SZF)in partnership with Asociacion de Guardaparques del Peru-Second National Park Guard Congress, Peru

Colorado State University-Andes-Amazon Regional Train the Trainer Program for Park Ranger Trainers, Peru

CIMA - Centro de Conservacion, Investigacion, y Manejo de Areas Naturales-Introductory park guard workshop for the northeastern NODO, Peru

Train the Trainer Participants from CSU Peru course— Park guard workshop to share the benefits of natural protected areas for the populations living in its boundaries, Peru

Sociedad Zoologica de Francfort—Park guard workshop on human resources and leadership in Bahuaja Sonene National Park, Peru

Employment Incentive Grant for Russell E. Train Fellows

Fundacion BioDiversa Colombia—Employment incentive grant to support the employment of Fernando Arbalaez Escalante as president, Colombia

For more information, please visit www. worldwildlife.org/efn/amazon.

Building local capacity in the Andes-Amazon Region: An EFN-Colorado State University Partnership

Tn 2005, EFN began a six-year partnership with the Center for Protected Area Management and Training at Colorado State University (CSU) to increase the capacity of protected area staff to manage the natural resources in the Andes-Amazon region.

From 2005 to 2007, the emphasis of this partnership was on training park guards. During this time, CSU conducted four park guard training courses in the Andes-Amazon region and trained more than 120 park guards in basic and advanced skills. In 2007, EFN and CSU adjusted their focus from direct training of park guards to training of trainers as a way to implement a long-term, sustainable capacity building in the Andes-Amazon region. These Train-the-Trainer (ToT) courses are intended to create a corps of specialized trainers capable of designing and implementing effective training programs to improve protected area management across the region. With support from EFN, CSU will conduct six, in-country ToT courses for protected area staff, cooperating NGOs and other institutions over the next three years. As a result of these trainings, local organizations will gain the capacity to provide ongoing park ranger training in the Andes-Amazon region.

Individuals interested in participating in upcoming ToT courses should visit the EFN website for more information at www.worldwildlife.org/efn/amazon. Flower in Manu Biosphere Reserve © André Bärtschi / WWF-Canon

Andes-Amazon Capacity Building Initiative

Targeted training to improve protected area management

Training and Grant Opportunities for Protected Area Management Professional Development Grants aim to build competencies for protected area managers and planners whose work has a direct impact on one or more protected areas. The grants provide support for mid-career professionals to pursue short-term, nondegree training to improve the management of protected areas in the Andes-Amazon.

Park Guard Workshop Grants aim to increase the skills, knowledge and abilities of park guards (official, volunteer, or indigenous) working in protected areas in the Andes-Amazon regions of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. These grants support local organizations to host park guard training workshops that address the critical needs of protected areas in O André BARTSCHI/WWF-Ca this region.

Train-the-Trainer Workshops will create a corps of specialized trainers capable of designing and carrying out effective training programs to improve protected area management in the Andes-Amazon region. These workshops provide advanced training to individuals responsible for park guard training in protected areas.

Special Grants for Current Train Fellows and Tropical Andes Alliance Members Visiting Expert Grants are meant to foster the exchange of ideas between conservation practitioners in the Andes-Amazon region and international experts in the field of protected area management. These grants enable current Russell E. Train Fellows and Andes Alliance members to connect with outside experts in a number of ways.

Employment Incentive Grants seek to increase institutional capacity at local organizations by helping to place Russell E. Train Fellows in key positions throughout the Amazon. Organizations seeking to hire a fellow to work in protected areas supported by the Moore Foundation or on Moore priority issues may apply for grants to offset salary and benefits or project costs.

How to Apply

Each type of grant requires a separate application. Individuals may be eligible to receive grants from multiple programs. Visit worldwildlife.org/efn/amazon to download the applications.



Contact Us WWF - EFN • Attn: Andrea Santy 1250 24th St. NW • Washington, DC 20037-1193 Tel: 202-495-4447 • capacitacion@wwfus.org worldwildlife.org/efn/amazon

JANUARY 2010

In May 2009, CSU conducted the first ToT course in Yanachaga-Chemillen National Park, Peru. This 12-day course brought together 20 training experts from NGOs, indigenous reserves, national parks, and training provider organizations



om local Yanesh iunity in Peru, May 2001

throughout Peru. This course was highly successful in selecting individuals who are actively engaged in park guard training. The need for a rigorous participation selection process was a lesson learned from a previous pilot course held in Ecuador. EFN and CSU incorporated this understanding of appropriate participant selection criteria for the Peru course and achieved enhanced results.

The next ToT course is scheduled for February 2010 in Iguaque Flora and Fauna Sanctuary in Colombia, followed by a course in April-May 2010 in Ecuador and a course in October-November 2010 in Bolivia. The location and dates of the final two courses will be determined in mid-2010.





3

Professional Development Grants

EFN has awarded more than 400 short-term training grants to deserving midcareer professionals working in conservation around the world. The grants below are supported through many different donors including the Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation supporting women in the Congo Basin and Irene Fabrikant who is supporting capacity building in Timor Leste. To find out more about these grant opportunities, please visit our website www.worldwildlife. org/efn/pdg.

Conservation and

Florida, USA.

Development in Latin

Meeting, University of

America and Africa

Roberta Elise

do Peixe-boi da

Conservation Biology, Instituto de

(IPÊ), Brazil.

Silva—Researcher,

Associacao Amigos

Amazonia. X Latin

American Course on

Pesquisas Ecológicas

BRAZIL

Renato Farias-Research Coordinator, Instituto Centro de Vida. Bridging



Renato Farias Brazil

COSTA RICA

Ana Fonseca—Program Officer, WWF Central American Program Office. 30th Sea Turtle Symposium, Sea Turtle International Society, India.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Diane Elizabeth Mbanzidi—Program officer for large mammal monitoring, WWF DRC. Advanced certificate training course on nature conservation and trans frontier conservation management, Southern African Wildlife College, South Africa.

GABON

Audrey-Pamela Maroundou-GIS Research Technician, Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale. Geographic Information Systems course for local development, Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Developpement (CIRAD), Senegal.

Francois Parfait Ndong Ondo-GIS technician, Aventures San Frontieres. GIS for local development training course, Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Developpement (CIRAD), Senegal.

Geraldine Obone Ndong-Researcher, Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale. GIS and mapping training course, Organisation de l'enseignement agricole au sein du Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche, France.

MALAYSIA Susan Pudin-

Environmental Control Officer, Environmental Protection Department.

New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE) Biennial Conference, New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE), New Zealand.

Roberta Elise Silva, Brazil

NEPAL

Ruru Dhamaniya-Program Coordinator, Biodiversity Research and Conservation Society. 24th Conference for Specialists in Air Pollution and Climate Change Effects on Forest Ecosystems, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Turkey.

PHILIPPINES

Teresita Batul-Porject Development Officer, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development. Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate Course, Durrell Wildlife Preservation Trust, UK.

Madrono P. Cabrestante,

Jr.—Project Development Officer, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development. Postgraduate course on environmental management for developing and emerging countries, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany.

TIMOR LESTE

Claudio Martins de Jesus-Technical Officer for the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, National Directorate for International Environmental Affairs. Training course on environmental management planning, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia.

Elisa Luisa Santa Pereira da Costa-Technical Professional for the Environment, National Directorate for International nvironmental Affairs. Training course on watershed and integrated management of coastal areas, Mangrove



To find out more about how to apply for an EFN Conservation Workshop Grant, visit our website www.worldwildlife.org/efn/workshop.

Kenya Marine and Fisheries

Research Institute—Silvofisheries as a conservation intervention in the Gazi Bay community, Kenya

Kidike Environmental Conservation Club—Awareness raising on migratory birds in Pemba, Tanzania

2010 Russell E. Train Fellowships

EFN is offering Russell E. Train Fellowships in the following countries in 2010.



To be eligible for a Russell E. Train Fellowship, you must meet the following criteria:

- be a citizen or legal resident of a participating country
- have a minimum of two year's work experience in conservation
- be enrolled, admitted, or have applied to an institution of higher education
- begin studies within one year from the application deadline for your country

Please note additional criteria will apply for each country.

Please read all eligibility criteria carefully at www.worldwildlife.org/efn/fellowship. Write to efn@wwfus.org for more details.

APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES

BOLIVIA
<u>Guidelines</u>
<u>Application</u>
Deadline - January 31, 2010

KENYA Guidelines Application

COLOMBIA Guidelines Application Deadline - January 31, 2010

ECUADOR

Guidelines Application Deadline - January 31, 2010 **MEXICO** Guidelines **Application** Deadline - February 28, 2010

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Guidelines Application Deadline - February 28. 2010

JANUARY 2010



Humanitarian Organization for People and Ecology—Snow leopard conservation in Langtang National Park, Nepal

MEXICO

Gulf of Mexico Mesoamerican Reef Chihuahuan Desert Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve Chiapas

Deadline - February 28, 2010

PERU **Guidelines Application** Deadline - January 31, 2010

TANZANIA Guidelines **Application** Deadline - February 28, 2010

TIMOR LESTE Guidelines Application Deadline - February 28. 2010

5

Notes from the Field

Since 1994, EFN has awarded more than 1,200 grants. Below are some highlights from our grantees. If you would like to share your achievements, please email us at efn@wwfus.org.

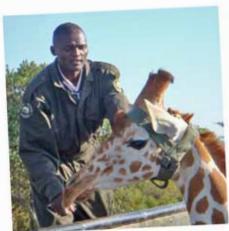
ELIZABETH MBA, CAMEROON RUSSELL E. TRAIN SCHOLARSHIP (2007)

EFN has supported many scholars to receive their diplomas at the Garoua Wildlife College in Cameroon. In 2007, EFN supported Elizabeth to study wildlife management and after completing her degree she became involved with "Association of Cameroonians Ex-students" of the Garoua Wildlife Training School. The group is non-profit organization focused on awareness building programs to educate local woman and school children on conservation issues. The programs foster understanding about the importance of wildlife and natural resources and making the link between bio-diversity conservation and poverty alleviation. From August to December 2009, Elizabeth, the wildlife manager for the association, along with other Garoua alumni participated in visits to nine schools in Cameroon and educated more than 2,400 children.

STEPHEN CHEGE, KENYA

EFN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT (2006)

The giraffe population in the Aberdare Country Club (ACC) sanctuary is exerting unhealthy pressure on the habitat. The management of the sanctuary informed the Kenya Wildlife Service of this situation and sent a team of scientists, including EFN grantee Stephen Chege, to carry out a rapid assessment and develop recommendations. The team concluded that since 1988 when the giraffes were introduced into the sanctuary there has been a steady increase in their population and subsequently this has had a negative impact on the habitat, mainly due to the giraffe diet. A total of 43 giraffes were counted as of January 2008, and one of the recommendations was to destock the giraffe population and leave a recommended number of between 15 -20 individuals. The team removed a total of 26 giraffes, moving them to the Sera Wildlife Conservancy, and attained the objective of reducing the population in the sanctuary. Stephen is currently working on the Mountain Region mobile veterinary unit, which manages wildlife health by alleviating pain and sufferings and controlling disease impact



healthy breeding populations. This work began after completing his Envirovet Course with support from an EFN professional development grant. He is also completing his master's degree in veterinary epidemiology.

thereby ensuring

Stephen Chege, Kenya



Juliana Marigo, Brazil

JULIANA MARIGO, BRAZIL **EFN PROFESSIONAL** DEVELOPMENT

GRANT (2005) In 2005, just as she was beginning her PhD training, Juliana received a professional development grant from EFN to participate in the Envirovet Summer Institute in the United States and South Africa. Envirovet 2005 provided her with additional training in parasitology,

toxicology, and marine mammal medicine, and it provided links to established leaders in marine mammal health. This complemented her class work, providing practical experience in both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife medicine and conservation and gave her experience in developing environmental education programs for local communities. In June 2009, Juliana completed her doctoral degree and began working for the Aquatic Mammals and Bioindicators Laboratory at the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, where she will continue her work with parasites, undertaking field necropsies of cetaceans, collecting thorough data sets, writing reports, and providing environmental education for local communities of fisherman and the general public. She also serves as the vice president of Project BioPesca, which monitors bycatch for the artisanal fisheries in São Paulo State since 1999.

MINGMA NORBU SHERPA, NEPAL **RUSSELL E. TRAIN FELLOWSHIP (1998)**

In 1998, Mingma received a fellowship to complete a master's degree in protected landscape management at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK. At the time he was selected, he was the executive director of Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee, Nepal and after completing his degree, he worked for the United Nations Development Programme for six years and for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Nepal Ecosystem and Sustainable Livelihood Unit as a program officer for biodiversity and protected area management. Since completing his fellowship, Mingma has also received two alumni grants from EFN to attend the Environmental Management and Conservation Program hosted by New York Group for Technology Transfer in 2003 and the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain in 2008. He is currently pursuing a second master's degree in geography at the University of Massachusetts focused on biodiversity conservation, protected area governance, rights-based conservation, and climate change. Mingma will complete his degree in May 2010 and plans to continue his work in conservation in Nepal.

Rita Dhakal, Nepal

International Conferences

ICEST 2010 : International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology

24-26 February 2010 * Penang, Malaysia www.waset.org/conferences/2010/penang/icest/ The International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology aims to bring together academic scientists, leading engineers, industry researchers and scholar students to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Environmental Science and Technology, and discuss the practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted.

2010 International Conference on Environmental Science and **Development (CESD 2010)** 26-28 February 2010 * Singapore

www.iacsit.org/cesd/index.htm

The conference is an international forum for the presentation of technological advances and research results in the fields of Environmental Science and Development. The conference will bring together leading researchers, engineers and scientists in the domain of interest from around the world.

30th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment

6-11 April 2010 * Geneva, Switzerland www.iaia.org/iaia10

To transition toward green economies, assessments must first demonstrate the types of green investments that best fit different environments. The objective of IAIA10 is to provide policy makers with tools to address the global crises.

IX Congreso Internacional de Manejo de Fauna Silvestre en la Amazonía v América Latina (International Congress on Wildlife Management in the Amazon and Latin America)

10-15 May 2010 * Santa Cruz, Bolivia

www.ixcimfauna-bol.museonoelkempff.org The congress will bring together scientists working in the region to discuss policies, activities and research about the conservation of endangered fauna, sustainable harvesting of species, protection of key species and unique and commercial production pertinent to conservation in the Amazon. This conference is open to the public generally interested in finding the balance between continuity of wildlife and economic development in Latin America.

ICEESD 2010 : "International Conference on Energy, **Environment**, Sustainable **Development**"

28-30 June 2010 * Paris, France

www.waset.org/conferences/2010/paris/iceesd/ The International Conference on Energy, Environment, Sustainable Development aims to bring together academic scientists, leading engineers, industry researchers and scholar students to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Energy, Environment, Sustainable Development, and discuss the practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted.

RITA DHAKAL, NEPAL

RUSSELL E. TRAIN FELLOWSHIP (1998) In 1998, Rita received a Russell E. Train Fellowship to complete bachelor's degree in forestry at the Institute of Forestry in Nepal. Before pursuing her degree, Rita worked as a park ranger in Makalu Barun Naitonal Park Conservation Area. After completing her degree, she worked for CARE Nepal as a Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor. She has now begun work for the United Nations for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) in Nepal. Her role with the UNOCHA is to coordinated activities between UN agencies, international and national governmental organizations and the Nepali government concerning humanitarian issues. This is mainly focused on coordination related to natural disasters and climate change issues. In November, Rita travelled to the field to monitor the effects of environmental degradation and landslides and the effects on local communities.

I think I am developing my professional career because EFN provided me a great opportunity to study and supported me in developing and strengthening my professionalism. I think EFN is the best gift of nature to the mid-level professionals like *me.* – Rita Dhakal 2010

24th International Congress for Conservation Biology 3-7 July 2010 * Alberta, Canada

www.conbio.org/2010

The ICCB brings together conservation professionals and students from every sector of the field including the biological and social sciences, management, policy and planning. Attendees work for universities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, private foundations and organizations and publications. This year's theme is Conservation for a changing planet and will look at the affects of industrial development, agriculture, and carbon emissions on a global scale.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program, University of California,

Berkelev 2010 Summer Certificate Course: Sustainable Environmental Management 25 June–17 July 2010 * California, USA berkeley.edu/BeahrsELP

The Beahrs ELP links the complex local and global environmental challenges of practitioners and decision-makers around the world with interdisciplinary perspectives in environmental and natural resource science, policy and leadership at U.C. Berkeley. The core component of the ELP is an annual three-week summer course in Sustainable Environmental Management held on the Berkeley campus. Course graduates become members of the Berkeley ELP Alumni Network that supports on-going learning, peer exchange and collaborative research and policy projects through the Small Grants Initiative.



Join our EFN grantees group on Facebook! Receive updates on scholarships, conferences, and share your research with alumni from around the world!





Get past issues of EFN **News Online!**

www.worldwildlife.org/efn/news

