

**NORTHERN MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION PROJECT
(NMCP)**

**Half-Yearly Technical Progress Report
(July 1, 2001-December 31, 2001)**



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Abbreviations

BSP	Biodiversity Support Program
BZ	Buffer Zone
BZUC	Buffer Zone Users Committee
CFUGs	Community Forest Users' Groups
DADTAG	Dolpo Association for Development, Tourism and Generation
DDC	District Development Committee
DESERT	Dolpo Educational, Social, Environmental Reserve Team
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
DPC	Damp Proof Course
DPP	District Partnership Program
EE	Environmental Education
EFEA	Environment and Forest Enterprise Activities
Ha	Hectare
MFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
HH	Household
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
Mgmt.	Management
NFE	Non-formal Education
No.	Number
NMCP	Northern Mountains Conservation Project
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
NGO	Non-government Organization
PPI	People and Plants Initiative
Qty	Quantity
SN	Serial Number
SPNP	Shey-Phoksundo National Park
THCC	Traditional Health Care Center
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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Executive Summary

The northern mountains region of Nepal has a wealth of diverse biodiversity. The remote Himalayan valleys have been the centers of evolution for many unique life forms and are the natural museums for rich genetic resources, much of which has been lost due to loss of forest coverage and over-exploitation of certain species of economically important plants. Poverty, illiteracy, unsustainable use of natural resources, lack of awareness, and inadequate data for monitoring endangered wildlife species continue to pose challenges to conservation of biodiversity in Shey- Phoksundo National Park (SPNP) and its buffer zone (BZ).

Considering these problems, with the financial support of USAID and WWF, WWF/NP has launched the Northern Mountains Conservation Project (NMCP) in SPNP and its BZ in collaboration with DNPWC. The goal of the project is to conserve biodiversity in SPNP and the main purpose is to facilitate local management of natural resources and to improve living conditions while safe guarding the region's unique natural heritage.

This half-yearly technical progress report contains the achievements of the project for the period July 2001 to December 2001. The achievements are:

- Legalization of nine CFUGs.
- Continuation of community plantation and nurseries.
- Training to BZ management committees.
- Completion of non-formal classes at different clusters of project areas.
- Strengthening and formation of women's groups.
- Increased saving and credit activities.
- Environmental and conservation education in local schools.
- Continuation of agro-forestry programs.
- Support to eco-clubs.
- Training to CFUGs and junior park staff.
- Training to the local hotel owners.
- Renovation of park building of Ringmo Post Office as a visitor and training centre.
- Preparation of a draft management plan of SPNP.
- Construction of THCC in Dho VDC initiated.
- Ethnobotanical field methods workshop.
- National workshop on community-based approaches to conservation and management of medicinal and aromatic plants.
- Community exchange.
- Renovation of water mills.
- Record keeping training.
- Alternative energy (solar lights) promotion.
- Publication of book on medicinal plants of Dolpo and amchis' knowledge.

An extension of the project from October 2001 to September 2002 was approved by USAID to complete the activities and enable the strengthening of the CBOs. Coordination with partner NGOs, GOs, and other line agencies is being continued and the activities during this reporting period have been carried out successfully despite the ongoing security situation in the country.

INTRODUCTION

Shey-Phoksundo National Park (SPNP) which spreads over 3,555 sq. km in remote Dolpo and Mugu districts is Nepal's largest national park. Diverse animals and plants thrive amid the region's unique trans-Himalayan ecology and stark natural beauty. Growing threats to its wildlife, such as the snow leopard, prompted His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) to declare the area as a national park in 1984. It was closed to tourists until 1989 when its southern portion was opened. The northern section was opened on a restricted basis in 1992. Today, about 3,200 people live inside the park and 10,000 in its buffer zone of 1,349 sq. km declared by HMG/N in October 1998. SPNP has also been proposed as a "World Heritage Site" for its unique cultural and natural features.

The communities in Shey Phoksundo National Park engage in agriculture, animal husbandry and trade for their livelihood and depend heavily on the forests and pasture resources for their energy, fodder and timber needs. An increasing pressure on forest and pasture resources from livestock and trade in non-timber forest products, inadequate data for endangered species, unsustainable use of natural resources, and limited park staff continue to pose problems for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of resources. The five-year integrated conservation and development project (1996-2001) supported by USAID and WWF was initiated in SPNP to facilitate local management of natural resources and to improve living conditions while safeguarding the region's unique natural heritage. At the same time, the People and Plants Initiative was also started in 1997 to address conservation and development issues related to the use of plant resources. The project has been extended for a year until September 2002 after which the ethnobotanical component will continue until December 2004. Additional funding is also being sought to continue the work in Shey Phoksundo National Park and buffer zone.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Northern Mountains Conservation Project (NMCP) is to conserve biodiversity in SPNP and DHR by (i) strengthening the capabilities of local user groups, NGOs and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation staff to carry out development and conservation initiatives in the protected areas and buffer zones, and (ii) promoting sustainable economic growth that increases local incomes.

The main purpose of this project is to facilitate local management of natural resources and to improve living conditions while safeguarding the region's unique natural heritage. The specific objectives of the project are:

Community Natural Resource Management:

- * to train local groups in controlling and managing natural resources
- * to increase production of fodder, fuel wood, timber and grass
- * to increase women's participation in development
- * to educate the people about nature conservation
- * to help the people manage their natural resources better

Increased Women's Participation in Micro Enterprises:

- * to develop nature-based small businesses to raise rural incomes
- * to increase earnings through value-added processing of forest and livestock products
- * to promote quality tourism that helps local economy

Protected Area Planning And Management:

- * to manage protected areas and buffer zones effectively through local people's participation
- * to train government personnel in buffer zone management
- * to provide necessary equipment to park/reserve for effective management
- * to gather relevant information on plants, animals and the socio-economic condition of the local communities
- * to help implement the government's buffer zone regulations

Applied Research Activities (People and Plants Initiative):

- * to promote sustainable use of medicinal plants through ethnobotanical research
- * to promote the medical tradition of the amchis for local health care
- * to build the capacity of amchis and women to provide health care services
- * to link local health care development with the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants

PROGRESS

During this reporting period, considerable progress has been made in strengthening BZUCs, sisters groups, legalizing CFUGs, forming eco clubs, increasing women's participation, conducting environmental awareness program in communities and schools, promoting alternative energy to develop eco-tourism, promoting community-based natural resource management, supporting and follow up of snow leopard conservation committees, and supporting the park in the implementation of the buffer zone regulations. The major achievements of the project during this period are as follows:

1. Community Natural Resource Management:

1.1 CFUGs Training Workshop:

A two-day training on community forestry management was organized for community forest user groups (CFUGs) in Dunai on September 20-21, 2001. Fifteen participants from ten CFUGs took part in the training on the concept of community forestry, forestry management, including the sustainable use of resources, NMCP activities, CFUGs operational plan and the importance of conservation (Table 1, Fig. 1). The main objective of the training was to enable the participants to manage their forest resources. Mr. Bhogendra Raimajhi from SPNP, Mr. Bishwanath Baitha from District Forest Office, and Mr. Tilak Dhakal and Mr. Surendra Chaudhary from NMCP facilitated the training.



Fig. 1 Training on community forestry

Table 1: Participants of the training for CFUGs.

S.No.	Name of the participants	Name of CFUGs	Address	Designation
1	Panna Bdr.Thapa	Ban Devi	Tripurakot VDC 5,6 Ruma	Secretary
2	Chandra Bdr. Budha	"	"	Member
3.	Sher Bdr. Budha	Mahankal	Tripurakot 7-8 Rashi	Secretary
4	Tika Budha	"	"	Member
5	Dhana Bdr. Thapa	Dueti	Tripurakot-4	Chairperson
6	Laxmi Devi Budhathoki	Sunaulo Rani	Kaigaon 4,5,6,7.	Secretary
7	Manmal Budha	Himali	Tripurakot 2,3,4	Chairperson
8	Udaya Chand Newar	"	"	Member
9	Hari Bdr. Bohara	Dudhkundali	Rimi Jhyakot	Chairperson
10	Top Bahadur Bohara	"	"	Secretary
11	Maka Thapa	Maluwa Himal	Kaigaon	Secretary
12	Ujel Kumar Baduwal	Samling	Rimi Chaurikot	Secretary
13	Tila Rokaya	"	"	Chairperson
14	Yam Bahadur Bohara	Maluwa	Kaigaon	
15	Laxmi Pd. Upadhaya	Bikram Shahi Maharaja	Tripurakot 1,2,9	Secretary

1.2 Legalization of CFUGs:

Nine CFUGs in SPNP and its buffer zone were legalized on September 22, 2001 in Dunai, the district headquarters. Altogether, out of the ten CFUGs formed so far in and around SPNP to manage and promote sustainable use of natural resources, nine have prepared their operational plans, and the respective community forests have been handed over to them (Table 2). The operational plans of the CFUGs follow the model developed by Biodiversity Support Program (BSP) for the project areas of Environment and Forest Enterprise Activities (EFEA) and contain detailed inventories of resources, boundaries, areas, use rights, ownership and methods of sustainable use of natural resources. It is expected that 3,975 people of 698 households will benefit from the nine legalized community forests, which occupy 4,554.60 hectares of forest area. The operational plan of Mahankal CFUG in Rassi is to be prepared in the reporting period.

Table 2: Details of the legalized CFUGs.

SN	Name of CFUG	Address	Area in Hectare	Household	Beneficiaries		Legalization date
					M	F	
1	Bikram Shahi	Tripurakot 1,2,4	226.8	128	466	455	22.Sep.2001
2	Ban Devi	Tripurakot 5,6	196	86	234	215	22.Sep.2001
3	Himali	Tripurakot 2,3,4	486.8	123	301	301	22.Sep.2001
4	Deuti	Tripurakot 4	161	52	139	125	22.Sep.2001
5	Samling	Rimi 7,8	1,005.2	28	90	100	22.Sep.2001
6	Dudhkundali	Rimi 1 to 6	1,326.4	134	409	398	22.Sep.2001
7	Maluwa Himal	Kaigaon 8,9	465.2	55	111	125	22.Sep.2001
8	Himali	Kaigaon 1,2,3	633.2	44	111	125	22.Sep.2001
9	Sunaulo Rani Mahila	Kaigaon 4,5,6,7	54	48	135	135	22.Sep.2001
Total	9	3 VDCs	4,554.60	698	1,996	1,979	

1.3 Community Nurseries Follow-up and Support:

To increase the coverage of forest, 10,250 seedlings of *Pinus roxburghii*, *Rubania pseudoacacia*, *Olea ferruginea*, *Pinus wallichiana* and *Quercus semecarpifolia* have been produced in six nurseries, out of which five are managed by CFUGs and one by a community eco-club (Table 3). Manathan Community Nursery in Pahada has been provided Rs.15,000 by the project for improved management, and other nurseries have been provided technical assistance during this period.

Table 3: Details of nurseries and seedling production.

SN	CFUG/ GRP/ Place	No of seedlings	Types of seedlings	Remarks
1	Himali Tripurakot Ralli	3,100	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> .	Growing
2	Bandevi CFUG Tripurakot Ruma	1,500	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Growing
3	Buddha Nursery Tripurakot Rassi	650	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Growing
4	Manathan Community Nursery Pahada Chhala	1,500	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Growing
5	Mahakabi Community Eco-Club Nursery Ralli	1,500	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Growing
6	Majhgaon Community Nursery	1,100	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i> , <i>Quercus semecarpifolia</i>	Growing
Total		10,250		

1.4 Community Plantations:

To reduce the pressure on natural forest for fuel wood, fodder, timber and manure, 3,152 seedlings of various species were planted in community plantations at different sites in the buffer zone area (Table 4). Pragatiseel Community Eco Club of Galli has made a wall fence of 250 meters around the plantation area. They were also provided with 200 meters pipe for irrigation. Likewise, Mahakabi Devkota Community Eco Club has made a wall fence around the plantation area at Ralli with financial support from NMCP.

Table 4: Details of the plantations.

SN	Name of CFUG, BZUC, Eco-Club	No of Saplings	Types of Species	Place	Area in Ha
1	Dunai Boarding School	210	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i>	School compound	1.5
2	Mahakabi Devkota Community Eco-Club	395	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i>	Tripurakot Ralli	0.5
3	Satyadevi Community Eco-Club Tripurakot Rumba	347	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Juniperus recurva</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Tripurakot Salyandhara	1
4	Pragatiseel Community Eco-Club	900	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i>	Galli Ghattagad	1
5	Bhagawati Buffer zone Users Committee	1,300	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Quercus semecarpifolia</i>	Thadobhitte and Pakhebbhitte	2
Total		3,152			6

1.5 Winter Fodder Trail Support:

A five-kilometer distance of winter fodder trail has been renovated from Rassi to Jyalas of the Phoksundo VDC. In the winter season, the people of Raha and Phoksundo use this trail. The main responsibility of the renovation work of this trail was given to the BZUC of Tripurakot.

1.6 Forest Nurseries Support:

Since the formation of buffer zone user committees (BZUC), a plantation program has been initiated to increase forest coverage in the communities in and around the SPNP. Communities of the buffer zone areas, including the CFUGs, BZUCs and eco-clubs, are actively involved in the management of community natural resources. During this period, NMCP has continued to provide technical and financial support to the forest nurseries formed by Mahadev BZUC, Tripurasundari BZUC and Shey-Phoksundo National Park (Table 5).

Table 5: Details of forest nurseries supported.

S.N	Name of Grantee	Address	Remarks
1.	Mahadev BZUC	Ruma, Tripurakot VDC	
2.	Tripurasundari BZUC	Rally, Tripurakot VDC	
3.	SPNP, Sulighad Area	Suligad, Tripurakot VDC	

1.7 Training Workshop on Ethnobotanical Field Methods:

A three-day workshop on field techniques for work on conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants at SPNP was organized at the traditional health care centre (THCC) at Chunuwar in Phoksundo VDC on November 5-7, 2001 to build capacity of park staff and local community members in herbarium techniques, ecological monitoring of medicinal plants through plots and transects and development of simple indicators, and the use of GPS. Altogether, 35 participants attended the training workshop facilitated by the People and Plants Initiative (PPI) team (Table 6).

Table 6: Participants of the ethnobotanical training workshop.

Sn.	Name of participants	Address	Designation
1	Mr. Tangyal Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi of THCC
2	Mr. Nurbu Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi of THCC
3	Mr. Churpur Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Vice Chairman Phoksundo
4	Mr. Larke Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Motivator
5	Mr. Padam Buda	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Gamescout SPNP
6	Mr. Tshiring Buda	Phoksundo VDC Ringmo	Student Amchi
7	Mr. Bhim Gurung	Phoksundo VDC Ryanchi	Gamescout
8	Mr. Suka Gurung	Phoksundo VDC Ryanchi	Ecoclub Chairman
9	Mr. Palden Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Gamescout SPNP
10	Mr. Ram Prasad Pun		Gamescout SPNP
11	Mr. Chhoimel Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Gamescout SPNP
12	Mr. Gorakha Thapa	Tripurakot VDC Ruma	Gamescout SPNP
13	Mr. Semduk Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Chairman THCC
14	Mr. Shree Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi at THCC
15	Mr. Sitar Lama Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Ringmo	Secretary at THCC
16	Mr. Duksai Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
17	Mr. Rabla Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
18	Ms Yungdung	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
19	Ms Karsang Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
20	Ms Hoiser Lahmu Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
21	Mr. Phunjoo Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
22	Mr. Namsai Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
23	Mr. Punkyap Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
24	Ms Yangjum Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
25	Mr. Surya Bahadur Buda		Community
26	Mr.. Tilak Dhakal	NMCP	PM
27	Mr. Surendra Chaudhari	NMCP	PA
28	Ms Yeshe Lama	PPI/WWF-NP	PO
29	Mr. Suresh Kumar Ghimire	PPI	Consultant
30	Mr. Gyatso Bista	PPI	Consultant
31	Mr. Dhana Prasad Shahi	PPI	Consultant
32	Mr. Ram Lochan Singh	SPNP	Acting Warden
33	Mr. Krishna Prasad Jaisi	Pahada VDC	Community
34	Mr. Man Bahadur Rokaya	PPI	Student researcher
35	Mr. Nagandra Kurumbang	PPI	Student researcher

1.8 National Workshop on Community-based Approaches to Conservation and Management of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

A national workshop was organized by the ethnobotany component (PPI) of NMCP on October 9-12, 2001 at the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara. Government and non-government organizations involved in the management of medicinal and aromatic plants as well as national experts on this subject were present. The main objectives of the workshop were to learn about and review accomplishments in community-based approaches to conservation and management of medicinal and aromatic plants in Nepal, learn about useful conceptual and methodological lessons in that field and identify gaps and opportunities for future work. (Workshop proceedings forthcoming).

1.9 Management Support to BZUCs:

In order to develop the capacity of buffer zone communities in managing natural resources and improving local health care, Mahadev BZUC and Tripurasundari BZUC of Tripurakot VDC and the Gangchen Menkhang THCC of Phoksundo VDC have been provided financial support.

1.10 Operational Plan:

HMG Nepal declared nine VDCs of Dolpa and two VDCs of Mugu district as Buffer Zone areas of SPNP in 1997 with rules and regulations, conservation and development policies for BZ. Since the declaration date of BZ areas at SPNP, NMCP has been started to work with BZ committees under the laws and rules of BZ issued by HMG. To launch development and conservation activities, NMCP has provided financial support for the preparation of the operational plan of BZ (SPNP).

2. Increased Women's Participation:

2.1 Completion of NFE Classes:

Illiteracy in the local community often poses a barrier to initiating conservation and development activities in SPNP and its buffer zone. Considering this problem, NMCP launched six months of NFE classes in its working VDCs. Out of the ten NFE classes conducted, two were in Kimri and Dolpo VDCs of Mugu district. The details of the NFE classes in Mugu have not been received for this reporting period. The classes were successfully conducted in Kaigaon, Tripurakot, and Raha VDCs of Dolpa. Altogether, 179 women were enrolled, of which 149 continued until the completion period (Table 7). Classes started in April 2001.

Table 7. NFE classes conducted in SPNP and BZ of Dolpo district.

S.N	Village/Place	Name of the facilitator	Enrollment	Completion
1	Kaigaon Hurikot W.no.1	Sheri Budha	22	19
2	Kaigaon Hurikot W. No. 2/3	Satya Devi Baiji	24	22
3	Raha W No.5	Hastaman Budhathoki	21	17
4	Raha W.no.8 Phunaldewa	Sheerman Karki	24	20
5	Raha W.no.6	Ms. Lila Chanda Karki	22	18
6	Tripurakot Rassi 7	Jashi Ram Rokaya	24	19
7	Tripurakot Rumba 5	Pushpa Raj Budha	20	16
8	Tripurakot Rumba 6	Nar Bahadur Thapa	22	18
Total			179	149

2.2 Saving and Credit Activities:

To develop small business, rural incomes and to increase women's participation in development and conservation, NMCP has initiated saving and credit program by forming sisters groups in SPNP and its buffer zone. Since the beginning of the project, 36 such types of groups have been formed so far. Local NGOs DESERT and DAD TAG directly supervise groups in Kaigaon, Rimi, Pahada and Dho VDCs. The sisters groups collect a fixed amount from each member on a monthly basis and invest it in income generation activities or business. Besides this, they play a key role in maintaining social norms and promoting primary health care, hotel and campsites management, community plantation, social welfare, and traditional culture programs. During this period, NMCP provided matching funds of Rs.15, 000 to the Kanjiroba Sisters Group in Ryanchi, Phoksundo.

Altogether, 36 saving groups have been formed so far. The details of 31 groups are mentioned in the table below. The details of five groups could not be collected during this period.

Table 8. Details of the sisters groups:

SN	Name of the Saving Groups	Saving & Credit of last quarter			Saving & Credit during this quarter			
		Cash in bank	Cash in loan & hand	Total balance	Cash in bank	Loan	Saving in hand	Total balance
1	Himali Sisters Grp. Maddhu 4, Tripurakot	35,961	11,000	46,961	32,961	14,000	1,080	35,441
2	Tripura Sisters Grp. Rumba 5,6	5,740	43,000	48,740	4,740	53,000	1,500	59,240
3	Dalit Sisters Grp. Rumba 5,6	4,500	22,100	26,600	4,500	22,100	720	27,320
4	Sundari Ganga Sisters Grp. Ralli 3	16,600	30,690	47,290	16,600	30,690	675	47,965
5	Radha Sisters Grp. Galli 2	36,500		36,500	6,500	30,000	580	37,080
6	Mukteshwar Karelikada 9	18,680	39,500	58,180	18,680	39,500	1,500	59,680
7	Buddha Sisters Grp Rassi	27,070	23,000	40,070	20,070	30,000	2,130	42,200
8	Mahilabikash Sisters Grp. Kota	46,814		46,814	46,814	46,814	2,220	49,034
9	Annighurmo Kyalma Kaigaon	31,000	11,922	42,922	46,000	11,922	645	43,567
10	Bhagawati Mothers Grp. Hurikot.	18,000	25,900	43,900	33,000	25,900	630	44,530
11	Teenmli Mothers Grp. Thapagaon	2,944		2,944	2,944	1,000	870	3,814
12	Bhagawati Saving Grp. Rimi Majhgaon	8,100	52,500	60,600	18,100	42,500	930	61,550
13	Mahilajagan Saving Grp. Jhyakot	8,100	52,500	60,600	8,100	52,500	1,320	61,920
14	Himchuli Saving Grp. Loharwada	4,620	1,501	5,921	3,620	2,501	540	6,501
15	Bahrbare Saving Grp. Loharwada	1,000	5,684	6,684	1,000	5,684	480	7,164
16	Suwakoti Saving Grp. Chhyanchu	35,000	10,908	45,908	25,000	22,908	660	46,568
17	Dawalpura Saving Grp. Chhyanchu	17,900	604	18,504	15,000	2,604	180	18,684
18	Danfekasturi Saving Grp. Chhaurikot	27,000	7,823	34,832	27,000	7,823	780	35,612
19	Kanjiroba Sisters Grp. Pungmo	15,350	52,000	67,350	25,350	42,000	1,020	68,370
20	Ringmo Sisters Grp. Ringmo	35,000	40,000	85,000	35,000	40,000	3,000	88,000
21	Kanjiroba Sisters Grp. Ryachi	0	2,100	2,100	15,000	2,100	450	2,550
22	Laligurans Sisters Grp. Khaliban	49,650	6,000	55,650	6,000	55,650	3,540	59,190
23	Himchuli Saving Grp. Pahada 3	1,400	759	2,159	1,400	759	630	2,789
24	Sadharan Saving Grp. Pahada 7	1,000	2,130	3,130	1,000	2,130	540	3,670
25	Bhagawati Saving Grp. Pahada 8	0	2,143	2,143	2,143	0	630	27,73
26	Grihalaxmi Saving Grp. Chhala Pahada	1,335	34,500	35,855	1,355	34,500	1,200	37,055
27	Mukteshwar Saving Grp. Pahada 5	0	2,215	2,215	2,215	0	630	2,845
28	Mastabhawani Saving Grp. Pahada 6	0	165	165	0	165	570	735
29	Jagddula Mothers Grp. Pahada 9	1,000	1,671	2,671	1,000	1,671	990	3,661
30	Laligurans Saving Grp. Pahada 2	1,000	1,488	2,488	1,000	2,488	510	2,998
31	Deurali S/C Grp. Pahada 4	1,935	0	1,935	1,935	0	600	2,535

2.3 Agro-forestry Support:

In order to generate additional income and to improve nutrition, Laligurans Sisters Group of Khaliban, Pahada VDC and Mukuteswor Sisters Group of Karelíkanda, Tripurakot VDC have been provided financial and technical support for improved management of their nurseries (Fig.2).



Fig. 2 Kitchen gardening program

2.4 Renovation of Water Mills:

To increase women's motivation and participation in conservation and development activities initiated by NMCP, improve their attitude towards the park and generate additional income, NMCP has supported the sisters' groups in the construction of water mills in several communities. The water mills at Rassi and Karelíkanda of Tripurakot VDC were renovated by Buddha and Mukuteswor Sisters Groups with support from the project.

2.5 Formation of a Women's Group in Bijer:

To develop small business and rural incomes and to increase women's participation in development and conservation activities, NMCP has motivated local women to form women's groups to initiate a savings and credit program in the villages in and around SPNP. A group of women in Bijer VDC has started a saving and credit scheme. To encourage, motivate and help the sisters group to initiate income generation, NMCP has provided a matching fund of Rs.25,000 during this period. The sisters group has 29 ordinary members including 11 executive members.

2.6 Stipends to Students:

Illiteracy in and around the BZ areas of SPNP has been a major problem in the implementation of conservation and development initiatives. Considering this problem, NMCP has been providing stipends to students for primary education since the beginning of the project. During this period, ten students from the local community have been provided

stipends during this academic year. Five girl students have been enrolled in Dunai Boarding School (Table 9) and other five students are in Taprizza Boarding School.

Table 9. Stipends provided to students at Dunai Boarding School.

S.N.	Name of Students	Address	Class
1.	Kunka Lama	Phoksundo Ringmo	4
2.	Bishnu B.K.	Tripurakot	UKG
3.	Janakali B.K.	Rimi	1
4.	Rikeki Lama	Phoksundo Pungmo	4
5.	Laxmi Gurung	Phoksundo Rainchi	3

3. Environmental Awareness Program

3.1 EE Classes in Schools:

A two-day environmental education class was conducted in 14 schools in SPNP and its buffer zone to raise awareness on nature conservation and its importance among the school children. It helped the students to identify local environment problems, change attitudes towards conservation and waste management systems through discussions, role-plays and environmental games. Altogether, 539 students benefited from the classes (Table 10).

Table 10. List of schools involved in EE.

S.N	Name of the schools	Number of students in class		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Dunai Boarding School, Dunai.	8	7	15
2	Saraswati Higher S. School, Dunai	11	7	18
3	Tripura High School, Kaigaon.	13	17	30
4	Mahadev P. School, Thapagaon.	24	21	45
5	Bhagawati Lower Secondary School, Jhyankot	21	19	40
6	Mahakabi Devkota Primary School, Ralli	26	30	56
7	Tripura Lower Secondary School, Maddhu	23	19	42
8	Jyoti Primary School, Rumba	16	12	28
9	Shubhakamana Primary School, Raha	24	17	41
10	Balabhadra Primary School, Rassi	7	8	15
11	Laxmi Primary School Rassi	22	8	30
12	Mahankal Primary School Rassi	43	44	87
13	Tripura Primary School, Kota	23	19	42
14	Himjyoti Primary School, Kota	28	22	50
	Total	289	250	539

3.2 Development of a Visitor and Training Centre:

An old building of the Ringmo park post has been renovated by the project for use as a visitor centre and training venue. Materials for display in the centre will be developed during the next reporting period. This centre will be used to promote ecotourism and environmental awareness in the area.

4. Ecotourism Development

4.1 Alternative Energy Promotion:

The communities residing in SPNP and its BZ are heavily dependent on forest resources for fuelwood, timber, fodder and other daily needs. NMCP has initiated awareness programs in the community and schools to promote alternative energy use and introduced solar light systems in Saldang and Phoksundo VDCs to reduce the pressure on forest resources. A major objective of the alternative energy program is also to promote eco-tourism in Dolpo. During

this period, 25 solar systems have been distributed in Saldang and Phoksundo VDCs benefiting 217 people (Table 11). This program is expected to raise awareness about the use and importance of alternative energy for nature conservation.

Table 11. Details of solar distribution:

S.N.	Cluster Name	Beneficiaries				Total Beneficiaries
		No. Solar	No. of Households	Male	Female	
1.	Phoksundo VDC 6, 7 Pungmo	5	7	15	12	27
2.	Phoksundo VDC 1 Ringmo	1	2	3	6	9
3.	Phoksundo VDC 1, 2,3, 4 Rikhe	5	7	16	14	30
4.	Phoksundo VDC 5 Rynchi	6	7	22	19	41
5.	Phoksundo VDC 5 Chepka	1	1	2	1	3
6.	Saldang VDC 4, 5, 6, 8	7	7	27	28	55
7.	Saldang VDC 4,8, 6	6	6	25	27	52
Grand Total		25	31	110	107	217

4.2 Improving Cooking Skills:

A five-day cooks' training was conducted on September 25-29, 2001 at Ringmo. Altogether 17 people participated in the training, of which two were men. Mr. Nauru Sherpa from Kathmandu and Mrs. Maya KC from Dunai facilitated the training and taught the preparation of 34 menu items. The participants were lodge operators of Ringmo, Chunuwar, Ryanchi and Chepka of Phoksundo VDC (Fig.3).



Fig. 3 Participants of cook training

5. Protected Area Planning And Management:

5.1 Draft Management Plan:

A team representing WWF and the DNPWC led by Dr Khadga Basnet, Ecologist, visited SPNP in the months of July and August 2001 to draft a five-year management plan. This draft will be circulated for comments and presented at a workshop comprising of representatives of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC), DNPWC, NGOs and donors involved in Shey Phoksundo National Park and its surrounding area during the next reporting period.

5.2 Snow Leopard Monitoring:

Snow leopard conservation committees in Saldang and Vijer VDCs are monitoring livestock depredation from the snow leopard to finds means to minimize losses. During the next reporting period, snow leopard conservation awareness camps will be conducted in these areas and a national level strategy will be developed to conserve this endangered species as well as protect local community interests.

5.3 Training to Junior Park and Project Staff:

A five-day training on buffer zone management and supervision and monitoring techniques was conducted at Suligad on September 7-11, 2001. The objective of the training was to build capacity of park staff so that they can implement the programs smoothly at the village level. Concept of buffer zones, CFUGs and NMCP activities were explained. Mr. Uba Raj Regmi, Mr. Bhogendra Rayamajhi, Mr. Ram Prasad Bagaley of SPNP and Mr. Surendra Chaudhary and Mr. C. P. Bhandari of NMCP were the resource persons for the training.

Table 12. Participants of the buffer zone training for park staff:

S.N	Name of the Participants	Designation	Office
1	Ram Nath Khanal	Sr. Game scout	SPNP
2	Shiva Sharma Lama	"	"
3	Laxmi Lal Thapa	Game scout	"
4	Gorkha Bahadur Thapa	"	"
5	Rigjeen Baiji	"	"
6	Norbu Lama	"	"
7	Hom Nath Pahadi	"	"
8	Dambar Bdr. Kathayat	"	"
9	Chudamani Pokhrel	Motivator	NMCP
10	Rana Bahadur Budha	"	"
11	Larkey Lama	"	"

5.4 Record keeping training:

A three-day record keeping training was organized on November 25-27, 2001 at Tripurakot for members of BZUCs and CFUGs to develop skills in financial management and procedure and capacity to launch integrated conservation and development activities. The training focused on effective accounting and office operation. Project Manager Mr. Tilak Dhakal and SPNP Accountant Mr. Nara Bahadur Raut facilitated the training. Table 10 has contains the detailed list of participants.

Table 13. Participants of the record-keeping training:

S.N.	Name of Participants	Name of Group	Designation
1.	Mr.. Dev Prasad Budhathoki	Pailee Himal BZUC	Treasurer
2	Ms. Suntali B.C.	Sunaula Rani, CFUG	Treasurer
3.	Ms. Bish Karki	Devi B.Z.	Member
4.	Mr.. Amar Bahadur Thapa	Mahadevsthan BZUC	Treasurer
5.	Mr.. Ujwol Baduwal	Samling BZUC	Secretary
6.	Mr.. Bahadur Rokaya	Malika CFUG	Treasurer
7.	Mr.. Bishnu Lal K.C.	Mukuteshwor BZUC	Secretary
8.	Mr.. Harishchadra Shahi	Mastabhawani CFUG	Treasurer
9.	Mr.. Suk Raut	Triitha BZUC	Treasurer
10	Ms. Seri Budda	Jagadulla BZUC	Treasurer
11	Miss. Kyalnum Lama	Jagadulla BZUC	Treasurer
12	Mr.. Lal Bahadur Bohara	Maluwa CFUG	Treasurer
13	Mr.. Jade Aidee	Bhagawati BZUC	Chairperson
14	Mr.. Ram Lal Bohara	Dudhakundali CFUG	Secretary
15	Mr.. Jit Bahadur Thapa	Himali CFUG	Treasurer
16	Mr.. Tshing Kyabu Bohora	Manhankal CFUG	Treasurer
17	Mr.. Jang Bahadur Rokaya	Mahadev BZUC	Treasurer
18	Mr.. Thinle Bohora	Bikram Shahi CFUG	Treasurer
19	Mr.. Ravi Lal		
20	Mr.. Rana Bahadur Budha	Ban Udyam	Manager

6. Applied Research Activities (People and Plants Initiative)

6.1 Traditional Health Care Promotion at Phoksundo:

The service provided by the THCC of Phoksundo is satisfactory. Altogether, 190 patients have been treated by this THCC during this period. In addition, a record of the major diseases and medicines provided has been maintained at the THCC to monitor the impact of the THCC in the long term. A system of recording the amounts of medicinal plants collected locally for use at the THCC has also been developed by the PPI component.

Table 14. Patients treated at the THCC.

Month	Male	Female	Total Beneficiaries
July	31	11	42
August	18	33	51
September	10	2	12
October	32	15	47
November	12	9	21
December	10	7	17
			190

6.2 THCC Management Committee Meeting:

The THCC management committee held a meeting on November 7, 2001 at the THCC in Chunuwar, Phoksundo VDC to discuss on the draft operational plan of the THCC and the sustainability of the THCC. The participants decided to coordinate with the District Health Office, the District Development Committee (DDC) and VDCs to sustain the THCC (Table 15).

Table 15. List of participants at the THCC meeting.

S.N.	Name of Participants	Address	Designation
1.	Tangel Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi, THCC
2.	Semduk lama	Tapriza Boarding School	Director, Tapriza S
3.	Shree Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi, THCC
4.	Nurbu Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi, THCC
5.	Tshring Budda	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi student
6.	Sitar Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Secretary, THCC
7.	Chhomel Lama	Shey Phoksundo National Park	Game Scout, SPNP
8.	Duktar Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Member, THCC
9.	Dawa Sangmo	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Member, THCC
10.	Karma Gurung	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Member, THCC
11.	Semduk Nima Lama	Phoksundo VDC Ringmo	Chairperson, THCC
12.	Chupur Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Ringmo	Chairperson Phoksundo VDC
13.	Palden Lama	Phoksundo VDC Ringmo	Game Scout SPNP
14.	Dhan Prasad Shahi	PPI	Consultant PPI
15.	Gyasto Bista	PPI	Consultant PPI
16.	Y.C. Lama	WWF NP	PO WWF
17.	Tilak Dhakal	NMCP	PM
18.	Padam Buda	Phoksundo, Ringmo	
19.	Yangzom Lama	Phoksundo, Pungmo	
20.	S. Chaudhary	NMCP	PA

6.3 THCC Development at Dho:

Community meetings were held in November 2001 for the construction of a THCC which is ongoing at Dho. Construction work like foundation excavation and masonry works up to DPC level has been completed. Wood processing for the THCC for window frames, beams, and planks has been completed. This activity is part of the local health care development component of PPI.

6.4 Community Exchange:

A group of local amchis, conservationists, and members of the THCC belonging to the Bonpo faith participated in a month-long study tour to Kathmandu, Pokhara and Mustang in December. The main objective of the tour was to enable the participants to share and exchange knowledge on the sustainable use of medicinal plants and Bonpo religion and culture. Ten participants took part in this exchange program supported by the PPI component.

Table 16. Participants of the community exchange.

S.N.	Name of Participants	Address	Remarks
1.	Semduk Nima Lama	Chholding Gonpa Ringmo	THCC Chairman
2.	Norbu Lama	Local Amchi	Amchi at THCC
3.	Nima Woser Lama	Yung Dung Gonpa, Kaigaon	Bonpo Lama
4.	Sherap Phuntsok	Seepe Gonpa, Karelikanda Tripurakot	Bonpo Lama
5.	Dawa Lama	Shibchok Gonpa, Dho	Bonpo Lama
6.	Chupur Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Representative	VDC vice chairman
7.	Rikzin Baiji	SPNP Game Scout	Bonpo Gamescout SPNP
8.	Wangyal Lama	Pungmo	Teacher
9.	Yungdung Thargye Lama	Samling Gonpa Bijer	Bonpo Lama
10.	Larke Lama	Pungmo	Motivator at THCC

6.5 Scholarship for Amchi Trainees:

To promote local health care development through capacity building of amchis, NMCP has provided scholarship for further studies and practices at local level in the THCC. Ms Yangzom Lama from Pungmo and Mr. Namdak Lama from Ringmo village are being trained at the THCC in amchi knowledge and practices within the PPI component.

6.6 Publication of a Book on Medicinal Plants of Dolpo

A book entitled "Medicinal Plants of Dolpo: Amchis' Knowledge and Conservation" has been published by the People and Plants Initiative Project in SPNP in collaboration with the amchis of Dolpo. This book is an outcome of fieldwork carried out within the ethnobotany component of NMCP (PPI) and attempts to bring together the traditional knowledge of the amchis of Dolpo related to the ecology, management and sustainable use of medicinal plants. Proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to sustain the activities of the THCC in SPNP and its buffer zone.

7. OTHER ACTIVITIES

7.1 Coordination meeting:

On November 11, 2001, a coordination meeting between SPNP and WWF/NP staff was held at Suligad under the chairmanship of the Acting Warden Mr. RL Singh. The main objective of the meeting was to improve coordination between the park and NMCP on various aspects. Ms. Yeshi C. Lama, Mr. Gyatso Bista, and Mr. Dhan P. Shahi (PPI consultant) were the invitees to the meeting. Project Manager (NMCP) Mr. T. Dhakal presented the progress report and the situation during this meeting. Such meetings will be held regularly to discuss the progress and other issues.

CONCLUSION:

The formation of buffer zone users' committees, CFUGs and other community-based organizations empower local communities to play an active part in the management of natural resources. The plantations and nurseries managed by the CFUGs, women's groups and eco clubs are important demonstrations of community participation and support for resource management.

Women's participation in integrated conservation and development has increased with the formation and capacity building of local sisters and women's groups. Participation in income generation activities, literacy and primary health care will empower women to play a major role in community natural resource management.

Raising environmental awareness is not limited to the eco clubs within schools. Activities such as nursery management, cleanup campaigns, and awareness programs during festivals and special occasions have been very successful in spreading environmental messages and raising awareness among the general public. The eco clubs play an important role in sustaining the environmental awareness programs after the project period.

Eco tourism has great potential in Dolpo district given its rich culture and rugged trans-Himalayan terrain. Given the prospects for eco tourism development and improved local livelihoods, the project has promoted solar light systems taking advantage of a subsidy program offered by HMG/N. Training in hotel management has been provided and a tourism plan has been submitted to the government.

Supporting NMCP's activities are the applied ethno-botanical activities of the People and Plants Project, which will continue for another four years. The two projects have supported one another and heightened the presence and overall impact upon community natural resource management and development in SPNP and its buffer zone.