

CLIMATE LOCAL:

Communicating locally to protect globally

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HOW HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS ARE BEING SUBDUED TO PROTECT VULNERABLE SPECIES IN NEPAL



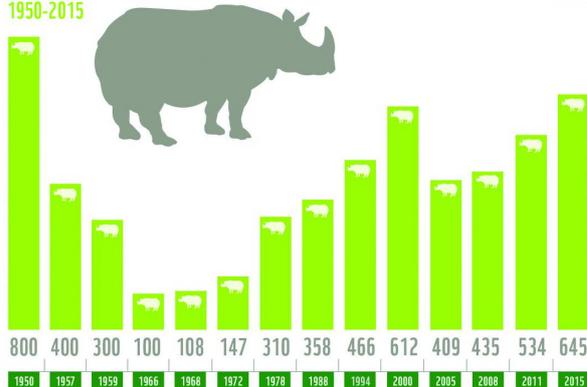
PROBLEM

- Destructive encounters between local communities and wild animals, such as elephants, leopards, tigers, and rhinos, foster resentment
- This resentment leads to retaliatory killings of the animals by local people who want to protect their homes, crops, livestock, and belongings
- Nepal is home to some of the most endangered species on the planet, and has historically had a major issue with illegal poaching
- Illegal poaching also leads to skirmishes with security forces and park rangers

AT A GLANCE

- Poaching and human-wildlife violence were rife in Nepal with dwindling numbers of endangered species
- Specific community teams were formed to spread information about how to protect forested areas, react in encounters with large wild animals, and engage in anti-poaching measures
- The schemes have seen large successes with many rural Nepalese communities encountering less violence with animals, and poaching rates reaching an all time low

RHINO POPULATION IN NEPAL 1950-2015



Since these groups have been set up, Nepal has seen a steady increase in the numbers of endangered animals

Credit: worldwildlife.org

SOLUTION

- In conjunction with WWF, Community Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPU) and Rapid Response Teams (RRT) have been encouraged and set up in local communities
- The RRTs provide training and awareness about human-wildlife conflict as well as wildlife conservation. They also aim to react quickly to instances where animals are attacking local villages, in an attempt to bring about a peaceful resolution and scare them off
- The CBAPUs are community groups that carry out monthly inspections of their local forests in search for any evidence of poaching activity

IMPACT

- Rhino numbers in particular have increased considerably, from a point of near extinction due to poaching. The numbers of other endangered species have also increased, such as the Bengal Tiger and the Indian Elephant
- Violence between villagers and wildlife has also decreased due to the education programmes and the rapid response schemes
- Part of the scheme has focussed on successful forest management and conservation so that local people realise the importance of good forest environments in stopping the animals from encroaching on their land

COMMUNICATIONS

- Both the CBAPUs and the RRTs are local community initiatives that are led and carried out by small teams.
- Information based around conservation, wildlife protection, and anti-poaching is spread by these teams who know the local information ecology
- Further communications campaigns can be employed to spread the influence and messaging of these teams, or to establish new ones in localities that are currently not engaged with the project
- The success of the current initiatives could benefit from a promotional communications campaign to highlight the importance of the programmes

