



# ANNUAL REPORT

## FY 2078-79



**NCSC**  
Nature Conservation and Study Centre

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## ABOUT NCSC

Nature Conservation and Study Centre (NCSC) is an organization driven to conserve nature. We aim to do so by achieving a better understanding of biodiversity, protection of ecosystem function, enhanced understanding of climate change, and empowered resilient communities with an intact value-system. Our core values are equality, diversity, innovation, collaboration, accountability, ownership, hope for the future, and transparency.

**We aspire for a sustainable world in harmony with nature.**

We work and collaborate with scientists, researchers, activists, communities, and policy-makers to incorporate high-quality result-oriented scientific research into nature conservation and sustainable livelihood.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It gives me immense pleasure to share the annual report (FY 2078/79) of Nature Conservation and Study Center (NCSC) with all the readers and well-wishers. Established amid the global pandemic, it has been a two-year journey with some achievements and much learning. I feel delighted to mention that the founding members of NCSC have an outstanding contribution to shaping the organization into the form it is today. Today, we have a diversified team working together for a common goal i.e., the protection of nature and its biodiversity.

It's an undeniable fact that the year 2020/21 was much more challenging for all of us due to COVID-19. Despite all the challenges NCSC, however, managed to keep moving and apply for funds. As a result, we received funds for 2 important running projects from The Rufford Foundation and Brevard Zoo. Similarly, 5 episodes of the baat marum podcast have been aired on the NCSCs YouTube channel dedicated to ecology, environment, and community.

Other major activities in this fiscal year include GIS training, workshops on occupancy modeling with R and biodiversity conservation of Jagadispur Reservoir, an awareness program on the fishing cat, participation in Women of the World (WOW) event, One health webinar series, a pangolin trail cleanup campaign, and a bat survey. The team successfully organized the events marking World Wetland Day and Pollinators Week. One of the significant achievements has been signing MoU with Ranibari Community Forest for the next five years with an aim to establish an ecological research station. We look forward to potential supporters in this ambitious project of five years.

My sincere regards and thanks to all our funders and collaborating partners for supporting NCSC in different projects and activities. Hope the collaboration and support continue in the days to come. The journey would have been more difficult without the spirit and enthusiasm of the NCSC team of self-motivated individuals. Therefore, I would like to thank all the members, staff, and interns who joined their hands throughout the journey.

July 2021

**Baat Marum Podcast**

First episode of Baat Marum, dedicated to ecology, environment, and community uploaded on YouTube.

September 2021

**Two-day Fishing Cat Workshop Completed**

The two-day workshop was successfully conducted with ten young and enthusiastic youths from Jagadishpur from Tharu indigenous community.

October 2021

**Chamera, Chiuri and Chepang Project Initiated**

The goal of this project is to study the ethnobiological interrelationship between the Chepang community, the Chiuri tree and the fruit-eating bats in order to promote awareness and implement conservation programs.

December 2021

**Completion of Fishing Cat School Student Awareness Program**

We completed a two-day outreach program for school children on fishing cat and its habitat on December 3 and 4 in Jagadishpur, Kapilvastu.

July 2022

**National Pollinator Week 2022 Celebration**

We celebrated National Pollinator Week 2022 from June 20 to June 26 with a week-long activities such as birdwatching, hiking and cycling. Our partners in Dharan organized a day-hike to celebrate the week.

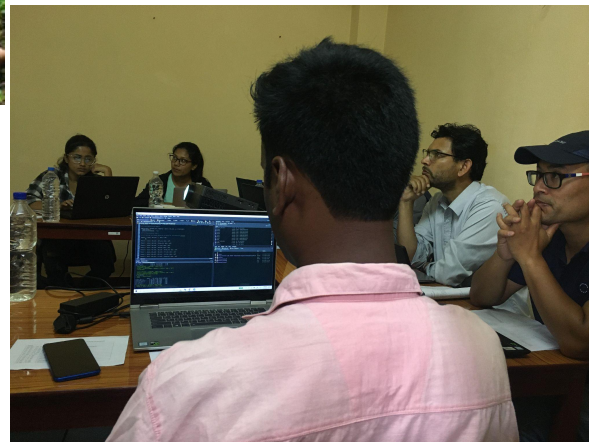
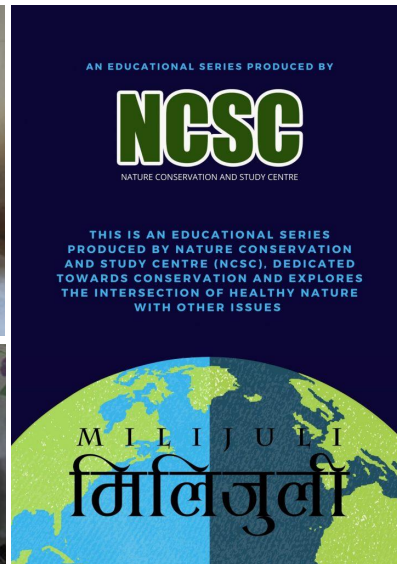
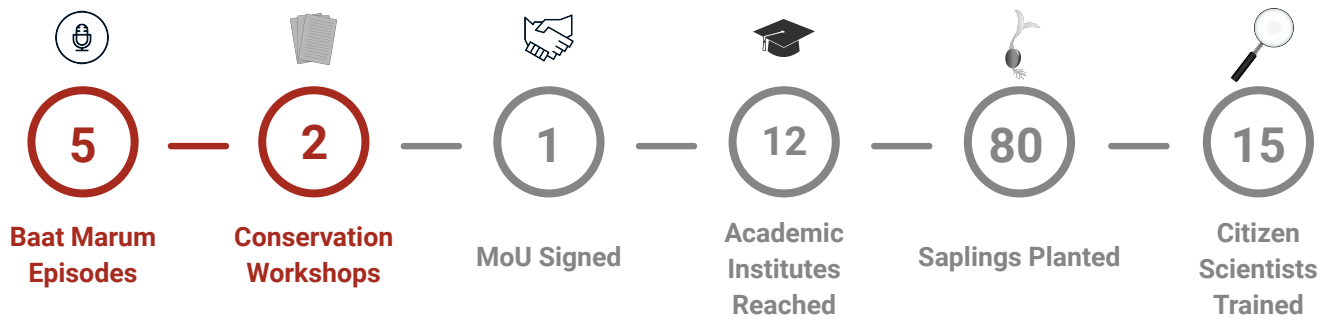
July 2022

**MoU with Ranibari CFUG**

We signed a Memorandum of Understanding on July 7, 2022 with Ranibari Community Forest User Group to work together for conservation of Ranibari Community Forest.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

# ACTIVITIES



## Baat Marum Podcast

Baat Marum is a podcast dedicated to discussing ecology, environment, and community, produced by NCSC.

We published **5 episodes** this fiscal year:

1. *Chepong Community and Tourism*,
2. *Chamera and Chepong*,
3. *International Tiger Day 2021*,
4. *Around Mai Pokhari*, and
5. *Santhal Culture and Wildlife*.



## One Health Webinar Series

Our monthly webinar series covers various topics on One Health. The sessions are organized jointly by One Health Center, Nature Conservation and Study Centre, and Rotaract Club of Kathmandu North in collaboration with other organizations. Experts are invited to talk about topics related to One Health through interactive zoom sessions.

We conducted three sessions of the webinar in this fiscal year.



### Session 1 : COVID-19 Information Sessions [August 2021]

1. Pandemic and Virus Spillover by Prajwol Manandhar [Bioinformatician, Center for Molecular Dynamics Nepal (CMDN)]
2. COVID-19 Vaccine: Facts and Myths by Dr. Ashish Thapa [MDGP, Armed Police Force Hospital]

### Session 2 : People, plants, and mental health [September 2021]

1. Mental Health Awareness Among Geriatric Population by Dr. Ananta Aryal [Geriatrician, Nepal Korea Friendship Municipality Hospital]
2. Urban Forests For Mental Health by Meena Bohara, PhD [President, Nature Conservation and Study Centre]

### Session 3 : Antimicrobial Resistance [November 2021]

1. Antimicrobial Resistance by Dr. Bikash Bogati, PhD [Microbiologist]



## Chamera, Churi and Chepang Project

*The goal of this project is to study the ethnobiological interrelationship between the Chepang community, the Chiuri tree and the fruit-eating bats in order to promote awareness and implement conservation programs.*

*Chiuri* (*Diploknema butyracea*) or the butter tree is medium-sized tree native to Nepal that grows in the sub-Himalayan tracts on steep-sloped ravines and cliffs. For Chepang community, Chiuri is an important source of livelihood. Small, fruit-eating bats or *Chamero* are important pollinators for Chiuri. In increasingly fragmented Chiuri habitats, bats are essential for long-distance pollen and seed dispersal in order to maintain the genetic continuity.

Since 2021, NCSC has been working on a project to document the pollination of chiuri flowers by fruit-eating bats, under Ms. Aditi Subba. A survey to understand the vegetation composition of the project area has also been scheduled for the near future.

Ms. Subba's ongoing project is to document the pollination of Chiuri flowers by fruit-eating bats, vegetation survey in the project area, plant Chiuri saplings and train citizen scientists.



## Fishing Cat Conservation

We conducted two major activities aimed at Fishing Cat Conservation in and around Jagadishpur reservoir, Lumbini.

The first was a workshop held in Chandragiri, Kathmandu on 26-27 September, 2021 to engage ten youths of Jagadishpur in Fishing Cat conservation. On the first day, sessions were given by 5 experts covering different topics, such as Fishing Cat's habitat/distribution, community conservation, inorganic waste in recreational areas, and wildlife monitoring.

The second day, participants were taken to Taudaha Lake for Bird Watching, along with to observe the area. Later, participants discussed the environmental threats in Taudaha & compared it with Jagadishpur Reservoir.

Our second activity was a two-day school outreach program on fishing cat and its habitat on December 3 and 4 in Jagadishpur, Kapilvastu. 20 students from 10 schools of Jagadishpur area attended the program.

Day 1 had interactive presentation sessions on wetlands and their importance, ecology of Jagadishpur reservoir, fishing cat conservation, and distribution of information materials.

Day 2 started with a bird watching at the reservoir, followed by team-building exercise with observations on human impacts on the reservoir and proposed mitigation measures.



*“WOW is a festival that celebrates women and girls, and takes a look at the obstacles they face across the world.”*

## Camera Trap demonstration at Women of the World

NCSC team partnered with Community Conservation, Inc. and Community Conservation Nepal to participate in the Women of the World (WOW) Festival 2022 organized by the British Council on 15-16 April 2022 at Lumbini World Heritage Site.

Our main goal was to encourage women participation in wildlife conservation in their community.



Demonstrating the use of camera traps and GPS device to conduct wildlife research to curious visitors. We also had posters on women participation and women leaders in conservation.

## Pangolin Trail Cleanup

On September 18 2021 – World Cleanup Day 2021, we joined hands to clean the Pangolin Trail in Kirtipur organized by Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF) in collaboration with Kirtipur Municipality, Rotaract Club of Kathmandu North, Mira Rai Initiative, EOCA European Outdoor Conservation Association and local communities.



## Celebration of Pollinators

Around 40% of invertebrate pollinator species, especially bees and butterflies, face the danger of going extinct. Rising temperatures, scarcity of habitats, and increased human activities threaten the existence of these vital important species..



NCSC with Butterfly Watchers Nepal group and Bhaktapur Jaycees celebrated National Pollinators Week 2022 (June 20-26) with a week-long program in Bhaktapur.

We collaborated with Bino Foundation, Central Campus of Technology, and Nepal Student's Association of Microbiology, Dharan for a day "Butterfly Watching" in Dharan.

Cycling event was organized in June 25, 2022 in collaboration with Cycle Connect Bhaktapur, Juju Bikes, Panc Bike and Nepal Red Cross Society Navadurga Sub-Chapter.

## Pedal for Conservation

NCSC with Bhaktapur Jaycees organized a cycling program with a theme of "Pedal for Conservation" on February 2, 2022 to celebrate this year's World Wetland Day. The main objective of this activity was to promote the understanding of the problematic issues that the world wetlands have been facing and how a small act or the action of the people can assist in the conservation of Nature. The cycling route covered most of the wetlands in Bhaktapur starting and ending at Khauma, Bhaktapur.



## MoU with Ranibari CFUG

On July 7, 2022, NCSC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ranibari Community Forest User Group to work together for conservation of Ranibari Community Forest.

The aim of this partnership is to systematically study vital ecosystem functions of the forest, preserve and restore the natural systems, and to highlight the importance of urban green spaces.

## One-day Occupancy Modeling with R

On July 10, 2022, a one-day workshop on occupancy was held at NCSC with 7 students and professionals from different academic backgrounds, including forestry, zoology, and environmental science.

The workshop took place from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm under the instruction of Mr. Manoj Pokharel. It covered fundamental concepts and terminology, data collection, preparation of data, data standardization, model fitting and model selection.



## Classroom Connect

NCSC initiated Classroom Connect, a program to reach out to educators and work together to co-create and implement conservation education according to their needs and resources. The program will connect classes with nature and build conservation leaders of tomorrow. Our aim is to use the outdoors as a learning ground to enhance a sense of wonder and inquiry in students making them responsible global citizens.

Currently, we are holding talks with few schools to pilot our program and co-design the program with them.



# PROJECT AREAS



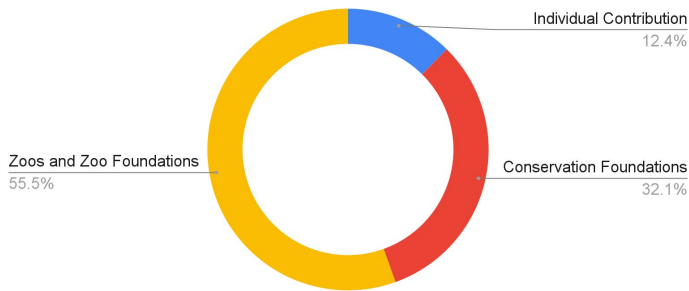
**Our project/activities were distributed all over Nepal from Jagadishpur Reservoir in the west to Central Campus of Technology in the east.**

1. Jagadishpur Reservoir in Kapilbastu Municipality; Fishing Cat Conservation
2. Mayadevi Temple in Mayadevi Rural Municipality; Camera Trap demonstration in Women of the World 2022
3. Shaktikhor in Kalika Municipality; Chamera, Chiuri and Chepang Project
4. Ranibari Community Forest in Kathmandu; Long-term Ecological Research and Monitoring Station
5. Forests of Bhaktapur; Pollinator Conservation Awareness Campaigns
6. Central Campus of Technology in Dharan; Pollinators Week 2022 Celebration

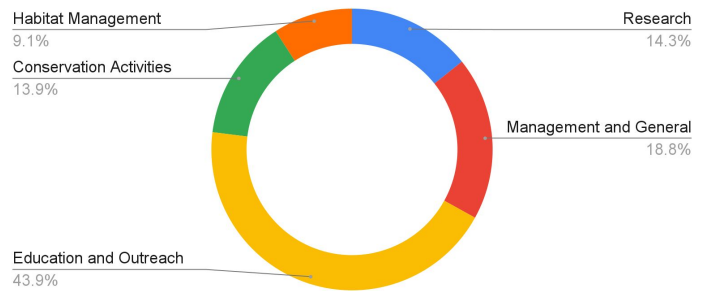
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## FY 2078/79

### Total Revenue and Support



### Total Expense



## Summary of Financial Statement (FY 2078-79)

### Income Summary

| Revenue and Support                  | Amount (NPR)        | % of the Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Individual Contribution              | 380,000.00          | 12             |
| Grants from Conservation Foundations | 983,915.00          | 32             |
| Zoos and Zoo Related Foundations     | 1,700,238.00        | 55             |
| <b>Total Income (FY 2078-79)</b>     | <b>3,064,153.00</b> | <b>100</b>     |

### Expenses Summary

| Program Areas                     | Amount (NPR)        | % of the Total |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Research                          | 243,860.00          | 14             |
| Management and General            | 320,579.00          | 19             |
| Education and Outreach            | 750,258.00          | 44             |
| Conservation Activities           | 237,500.00          | 14             |
| Habitat Management                | 156,000.00          | 9              |
| <b>Total Expense (FY 2078-79)</b> | <b>1,708,197.00</b> | <b>100</b>     |

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fiscal Year 2078-79 was our second fiscal year after establishment. We were able to achieve so much, thanks to all our supporters, partners and donors.

We want to thank everyone for their continuous support. Following supporters deserve special thank you from us:

- Rufford Small Grants, Brevard Zoo, Fishing Cat Conservation Alliance and Panthera, British Council, Swaychha Shrestha, Kamala Shrestha
- Rotaract Club of Kathmandu North, One Health Center, Bhaktapur Jaycees, Cycle Connect Bhaktapur (CyCon Bhaktapur), Jagadishpur Jalasaya Tharu Community Homestay, Juju Bikes, Pancbike, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF), Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF), Kirtipur Municipality, European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA), Mira Rai Initiative, Central Campus of Technology, Nepal Student Association of Microbiology (NSAM), BINO Foundations, Butterfly Watchers Nepal, Nepal Red Cross Society Navadurga Sub-Chapter, Community Conservation Nepal (CCN), Community Conservation Inc (CCI)
- Ranibari Community Forest User Group (RCFUG), Creative Academy
- BRASS Consulting Private Limited, Santosh Bohara, Sujata Budhathoki, Ramesh Khadka