***Project Proposal***

**‘Dhanushadham Biological Unit’**

**Natural Resources and Wildlife Conservation through Ex-situ & In-situ Conservation Programme**

*Submitted to:*

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*Submitted By:*



**MITHILA WILDLIFE TRUST**

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**FOREWORD**

MITHILA WILDLIFE TRUST (MWT) is nonprofit non-governmental organization established by a group of committed professional nature lovers, Social workers and volunteers in 2069 BS (2013 AD) registered with District Administration Office, Dhanusha, Nepal and affiliated with Social Welfare Council, Kathmandu, Nepal.

To the Mithila Wildlife Trust (MWT), environmental issues and wildlife conservation are of vital concern as it implements its mandates in alleviating people’s livelihoods and suffering all over the world-be it in the thematic areas of health, water, energy, agriculture, waste management, biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, gender and development for these are all cross-cutting issues of human survival and well-being. MWT continue facilitating voluntary community action and locally available resources, organization networking and for growing new partnerships with people from vulnerable and deprived section of the society. By building up a bridge among above said people and generating enthusiasm, MWT has been organizing and strengthening capacities of local volunteers for planning, implementing and monitoring social development programs thereby facilitating their own and community’s welfare as well through sustainable use of natural resources.

MWT has four major working sectors towards natural resources and wildlife conservation. Those are;

1. Environmental and Wildlife Conservation and Awareness Programmes
2. 24 Hours Rescue and Rehabilitation activities for animals
3. Sustainable Management of Forest of Nepal (Dhanushadham Forest as role model), and
4. Sustainable Development Programmes from Ecosystem services

In this light, MWT has compiled a proposal for "**Dhanushadham Biological Unit** with aim of **Natural Resources and Wildlife Conservation through ex-situ and in-situ conservation methods**". The project will be able to develop an ecotourism site to engage the existing tourist and pilgrims to Janakpurdham and Dhanushadham and it will also attract national and international tourist to the area. The developed site will also able to provide a permanent shelter for endangered wildlife species.

We request you to support us as we are working to conserve natural resources and wildlife in Nepal.

Thanking you,

Dev Narayan Mandal

Founder-Chairman,

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**1. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Mithila Wildlife Trust proposes to develop Dhanushadham Protected Forest as "**Dhanushadham Biological Unit**" with aim towards **Natural Resources and Wildlife Conservation through Ex-Situ and In-situ conservation methods**. The diminishing Dhanushadham Protected Forest is located in Dhanusha district of Janakpur Zone in Central Region, which borders Siraha district in East, Sindhuli district in North, Mahottari district in West and the Bihar state of India in South. It has 101 VDCs and One Municipality and a population of 7,54,777 (The "National Census Report, 2011") .

Total area of the protected forest is 360 hectare surrounded by Four VDCs 1. Dhanushadham, 2. Dhanusha Govindpur, 3. Yagyabhumi and 4. Umaprempur (all Four VDCs have been included and announced as Dhanushadham municipality in 2014 by GoN). Major threats to the forests were illegal tree logging, tree bark piling, unmanaged mud mining, overgrazing, land encroachment, poaching of wildlife and heavy tress-passers to the forest which have been controlled with strong support from the local residence. The land use details are; 224 Hectare Forest area, 116 Hectare barren area, 18 Hectare Wetland Area including 7.5 Hectare Reservoir and 4 Hectare Road and others.

Entity of the forest is with Department of Forest, Government of Nepal. Management is being carried by Dhanushadham Protected Forest Council (DPF Council) under manager ship of Assistant Forest Officer and works under direct guidance of DFO and DSFCC of Dhanusha district. Mithila Wildlife Trust has been selected as NGO partner for DPF council and also selected as secretary of the council by local communities due to activeness in forest conservation and development process. Recently DPF council authorized Mithila Wildlife Trust to search donation for sustainable management and development of the forest.

Mithila Wildlife Trust prepared a concept to develop the forest as a Biological Unit. It will include; Tropical Garden, Herbal Garden, Nakshatra Park, Children Park, Picnic Spot, Snake Park, Butterfly Park, Zoo, Wildlife Safaris, Conservation Pond, Boating Pond, Rescue Centre, Veterinary Hospital, Canteen and Gift Shop etc. for attraction of tourists. Development of Dhanushadham Protected Forest as Botanical Demonstration Centre will attract international tourists in addition to natives who will automatically develop the area providing job and business opportunities for local residents in and around the Biological Unit.

**2. GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

* Conservation of forest and wildlife through Ex-situ and In-situ.
* To stop poaching for protection of indigenous and endangered species.
* To preserve and increase ecological and biological diversity.
* Promotion of private plantation.
* To minimize illegal timber harvesting.
* Adoption and support to the community groups and schools for plantation and conservation of wildlife and animal found in their locality.
* Promotion of environmental education and sustainability.
* Development of new business opportunities in and around the district.

**3. PROJECT METHODOLOGY**

In order to achieve the above objectives few prolonged methods and strategies have been envisaged;

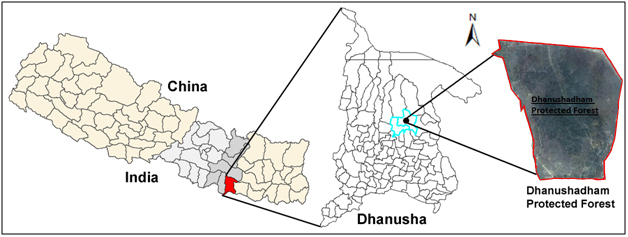
* Involvement of local population during construction phase
* Community awareness for environment conservation.
* Construction of Enclosed fence for animals as Biodiversity unit.
* Construction of Buildings for research, Veterinary Hospital, Museum, Gardens, Boating Pond, Biodiversity conservation ponds, Mini Zoo, Watch Towers, Breeding Centers, etc for Boi- Unit.
* Endorsing indigenous knowledge and innovations.
* Women’s participations in biodiversity conservation.
* Rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals, avian and reptiles etc.
* Developing eco-tourism and eco-information center
* Harvesting sustainable forest resources.
* To introduce entrepreneurship skill to the target group to enhance employment and livelihood resources.
* To providing skill based training to the target group as per their interest and skill.

**Apart from this few strategic interventions:**

* Following In-Situ and Ex-Situ conservation methods.
* Linkage with government schemes, plans and policies concerned.
* Sensitization of various respective stakeholders to coordinate with the process.
* Conducting training workshops and seminars for policy makers, local key stakeholders, partners, associates, teachers and the local communities.
* Together with partners of same kind, run the Green Schools and community award campaign quarterly for promotion of environmental based practices.
* Facilitating experts required by local key stakeholders, partners and associates.
* Assist in monitoring and evaluation.

**4. PROJECT LOCATION**

Project will be implemented inside Dhanushadham Protected Forest, Dhanushadham Municipality, Dhanusha district, Nepal. (17KM North-East from Janakpur dham)

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**Figure 1: Project Location**

**5. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY**

Dhanushadham is one of favorite pilgrimages of the world which attracts around 10 Lakh Hindu pilgrims every year. Daily average number of the tourist is 124 person. Charging a minimum and viable amount for the tourists to the Dhanushadham Reservoir which will also act as boating pond and Snake Park can provide sufficient amount for management and care of the developments. In addition, the extra amount generated can be spent for the future developments in the proposed biological unit. Attraction of more tourist and engagement of regular tourist to the site will provide strong business and job opportunities for the residents of the area, which will ensure the continuity of support from local communities. The project can be self sustainable once completed.

**6. JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT**

The Biological Unit will be a place of meeting between animals and human between nature & culture, where one stares at the other and where the second appropriate first.

Dhanushadham Protected Forest receives demand of above 1 Lakh seedlings every year. In the fiscal year 2071-72 itself, above 2,000 households collected 50 to 100 seedlings. Dhanushadham Protected Forest is having an unmanaged Nursery which is unable to fulfill the need. The seedlings are distributed free of cost to the residents of Buffer Zone of the forest. Modification of the nursery as fully equipped and well managed nursery will be able to produce adequate quantity of the seedlings to cover requirement of local residents. It will also reduce dependency on the forest by fulfilling their need of fuel wood and timber products.

Restoration of Dhanushadham reservoir as boating pond and increased aesthetic value of the area will be able to engage the regular tourist to the site and will attract more tourists. Some specific part of the pond can also be utilized for fish farming which will be an extra source of income to support the development of the proposed bio-unit. It will be very crucial to mention here that the reservoir was able to store rain water and Ban Ganga River water to provide sufficient irrigation facilities for the farmers of Dhanushadham and Dhanusha Govindpur VDCs. Restoration the same reservoir can continue the same irrigation facilities which will benefit 3,293 households directly and the population of 17,509 indirectly.

Mithila Wildlife Trust is engaged in rescuing and rehabilitating snakes and other wildlife in the district, Construction of Snake enclosure will be able to provide secure habitat for the snake species at risk extinction with aim to reintroduce them to natural environment. Exhibition of snakes can also support attraction of the tourist to the forest.

**7. ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMME DURATION, PROGRAMME FINANCIALS &**

**FUNDING COUNTERPART**

**PROGRAMME DURATION**: 10 Years

**APPROX. PROJECT COST**: 44,68,10,495.00 (Forty Four Crore Sixty Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Five Only).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.No.** | **Activities** | **Funding Counterpart** | | | | | |
| **Total NPR** | **Years** | | | | |
| **1 - 2** | **3 - 4** | **5 – 6** | **7 - 8** | **9 - 10** |
| **1** | **Master Plan Preparation (Enclosure wise complete designing with all the details)** | 10,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2** | **Compound Wall and Ring Road Construction** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.1 | Construction of 9200 Mtr. compound wall | 77,500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2 | Inner and Outer 9.2 Mtr. Ring Road | 7,500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3 | Path for Safari and Bio-Unit | 4,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.4 | Fire line Renovation | 500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3** | **Renovation of Dhanushadham Wetland area to Fresh Water Biodiversity Reservoir** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.1 | Dredging of Wetland area | 5,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.2 | Construction of Pond and Aquariums for crocodiles and fishes | 4,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **4** | **Nursery, Plantation and Gardens** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.1 | Nursery Construction | 1,500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.2 | Plantation inside the Bio-Unit and around for aesthetic value and greenery | 2,100,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.3 | Maintenance of Natural Forest for aesthetic value | 800,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.4 | Botanical Garden | 1,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.5 | Tropical Garden | 1,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.6 | Children’s Park | 700,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **5** | **Construction of Mini Zoo** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.1 | Construction of electric-fenced Enclosures including night shelters, feeding area and ponds | 100,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.2 | Rescue Vehicle | 2,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **6** | **Construction of Wildlife Safari** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6.1 | Construction of Electric Fenced enclosures, ponds, night shelters, feeding area etc. | 60,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6.2 | Safari Vehicle (2 Pcs. X 20 Lakh) | 5,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **7** | **Renovation of Temples** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **S.No.** | **Activities** |  | **Funding Counterpart** | | | | |
| **Total NPR** | **Years** | | | | |
| **1 - 2** | **3 - 4** | **5 – 6** | **7 - 8** | **9 - 10** |
| 7.1 | Compound Wall construction and maintenance of Ramdhuni Temple | 500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.2 | Compound Wall construction and maintenance of Dharampur Temple | 150,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **8** | **Building Construction** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.1 | Administrative Office | 1,500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.2 | Range Forest Office | 500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.3 | Education Centre | 1,500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.4 | Veterinary Hospital | 1,500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.5 | Watch Tower | 1,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.6 | Reception and Gate | 2,500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.7 | Rescue Centre | 1,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.8 | Museum | 500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.9 | Funeral Spot | 500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.1 | Picnic Spot | 1,500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.11 | Library + books | 500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **9** | **Transportation of Wild Animals** | 10,000,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10** | **Advertisement through print medias, visual medias and internet** | 1,500,000.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **11** | **Human Resources (Professional staff hire during construction phase)** | 81,280,865.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total (1 – 10)** | | **388,530,865.00** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Add: Management Cost (15%)** | | **58,279,630.00** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grand Total** | | **446,810,495.00** |  |  |  |  |  |

**Table 1 : Programme Financials**

**8. CO-FUNDING BY OTHER SOURCES**

As such there is no commitment from any other institution either in cash or in kinds. But it is expected that during the course of project implementation we shall be in a position to secure contribution from Department of Forest and other stakeholders.

**9. PROJECT OUTPUT**

* + Increase in forest area and its conservation.
  + Sustainable and conservation for forest will come in existence.
  + Communities will be aware about conservation strategies.
  + Play role in curbing climate change.
  + Increase wildlife and their habitat.
  + Poverty reduction will come in existence due to ecosystem services.
  + Provide resistance to soil erosion and thus protect rich land areas.
  + Promote environmental aesthetics and landscaping.
  + Sustainable use of natural resources
  + Promote water conservation strategies
  + Protection of indigenous species.
  + Encourage agro biodiversity.
  + Agro-forestry would curb out food insecurity of which would also form the bases for income generation activities.
  + Industrialization of traditional agriculture.
  + User’s participation in decision making and benefit sharing.
  + Environmental education and awareness program and conservation of natural resources comes in existence
  + Concept towards wildlife and domestic animals will be changed.
  + Reduced human-wildlife conflict in the projected area.
  + Environment, wildlife and forest policy framework to be in place, and so are eco-codes.
  + Basket of skill based strengthened traditional and alternative livelihood resources available with community.
  + Enhancement of natural environment in the project area and then formation of strong eco-learning centers with capacities to deal with environmental needs.
  + Enhancement and promotion of sustainable eco-tourism.
  + Job opportunities for the local according to their skill based capacities.
  + Help in reducing migration rate due to poverty.
  + Restored irrigation facilities for the farmers in and around project area.

**10. CONTRIBUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION IN PROJECTED AREA**

* In the proposed working area organization has been intervening by participatory process and conduction of capacity building programs.
* Continuous approach and meeting with unemployed youth section for awareness on climate change and its effects on human life.
* Organization continues working for eradication of human-wildlife conflict through Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation program.
* Organization has been working as pressure group by organizing public hearing and problem redressal camps for conservation and management of Dhanushadham Protected Forest.
* There is an outstanding coordination between community and organization with strong dialogue and belief.

**11. PROJECT REPLICABILITY**

Mithila Wildlife Trust will use evaluation instruments to measure the impact of developments and the enterprise being established. Since the proposed project will be an innovative one, which is first of its kind in the rural setting of Nepal, it is proposed to expand the activities to cater for demands of many more unemployed young men and women and the school students who could benefit as we do not see any major challenge that could hinder the operation of the project and we have been working for the support of the project from several national and international donor agencies.

We shall appreciate your kind support and cooperation for sustainable development of the Dhanushadham Protected Forest with partnering our organization. Looking forward for opportunities to work with you and fulfill the noble cause you are committed for and it will also give you the visibility among the national and international tourists.

Thanking You

Dev Narayan Mandal

Founder-Chairman,

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Dhanusha, Nepal

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**Figure 2: Layout of Boundary**

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**Figure 3: Enlarged view of Boundary**

**Figure 4: Layout of Dhanushadham Biological Unit**