

Converting Rebels into Rangers (Conservationists)

Wildlife Watch Group (WWG)



Background

- present scenario of conflict on Nepal.
- hope of peace in Nepal.
- One of the issues discussed and debated continuously is management Maoist army.
- Some of the Maoist army who are interested in conservation can be used as local level conservationists.



Background

- Turning rebels into conservationist has been practiced in some African countries like Uganda for saving threatened animals like white rhinos.
- Maoists also have the people's army which handle weapons when necessary and works also as political activists when necessary.



Qualities seen in Maoist rebels

Maoist rebels have some necessary qualities for field level conservationists.

- using gun
- working as activist
- better knowledge in the remote localities around the protected areas of Nepal.
- better ideas on local poachers



Rationale

- biological diversity in Nepal.
- famous for large mammals like tigers, rhinos, elephant, dolphin
- change in conservation responsibility from government to communities
- the community needs various field level staff such as forest guards, game scouts, anti-poaching squad, intelligence, etc.



Objective of the Project:

- To use Maoist army in the area of conservation of protected areas in Nepal.



Result of the Project:

- mobilization of Maoist army who are interested to work as conservationist.



Activities of the Project:

- Consultation around the protected areas to find out number of Maoist army, who are interested to work as conservationist.
- Train them in conservation themes.
- Hire them as conservationist for local communities who have responsibility of conservation.



Activities

- Implementing innovative activities, which is not known at this stage but will be needed when we implement the programme
- Monitor activities of the recruited conservationist
- Updating their knowledge as seen necessary from monitoring
- Evaluate and redesign the project according to lessons learnt.



Methodology of the Project:

- Discussion with Nepal Communist Party Maoist
- Consensus will be developed their party and with other parties, and governmental line agencies such as Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Department of Forests, etc.



Methodology of the Project:

- Publication of direct appeal in National daily newspaper to inform Maoist field level army
- Consultation with other stakeholders
- Implementation of pilot programmes in 10 protected areas with 5 armies



Project Implementation:

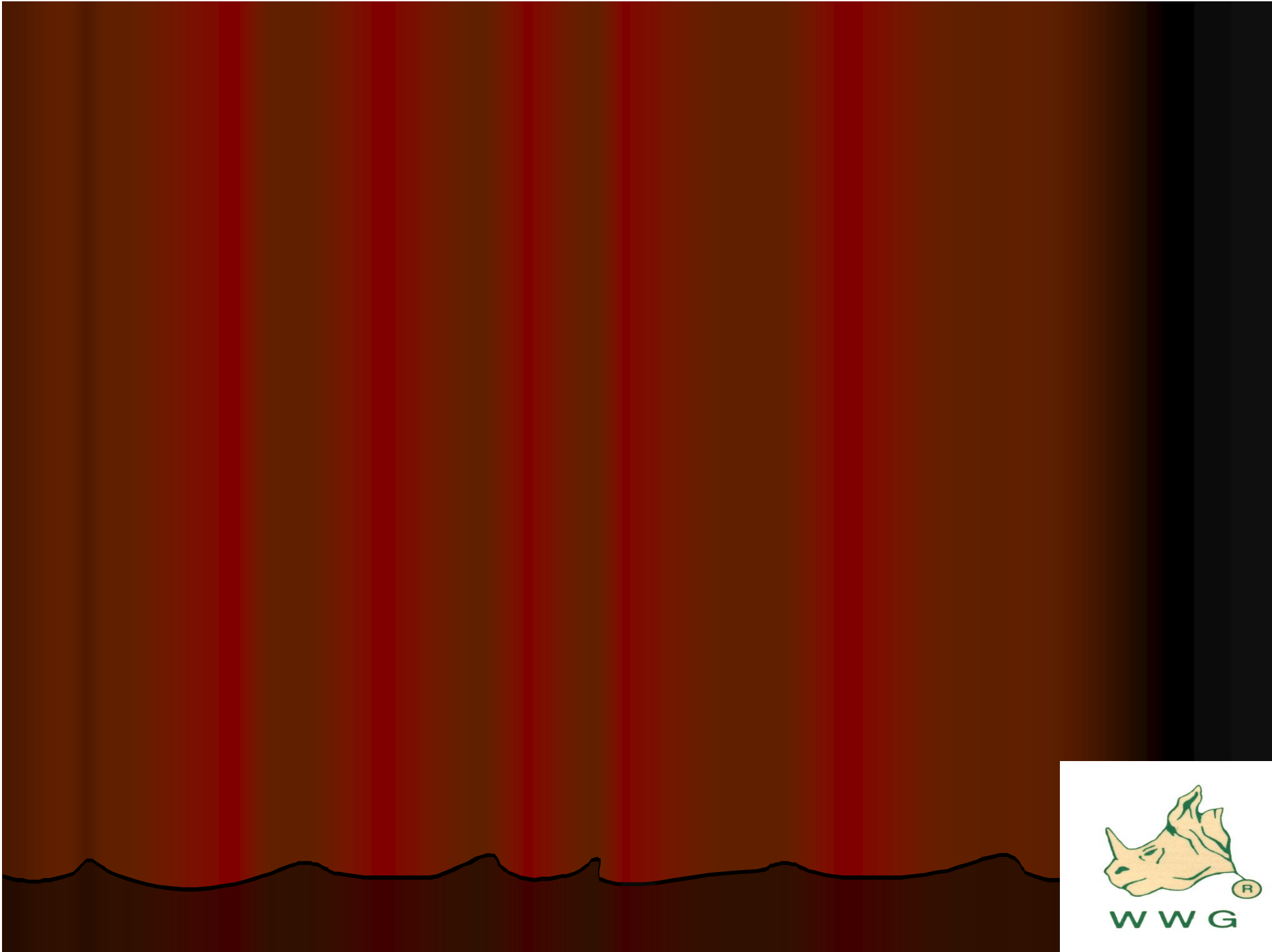
- The project is implemented by the team of 5 persons who have excellent ideas in biodiversity conservation, conservation awareness, training, anti poaching, etc.



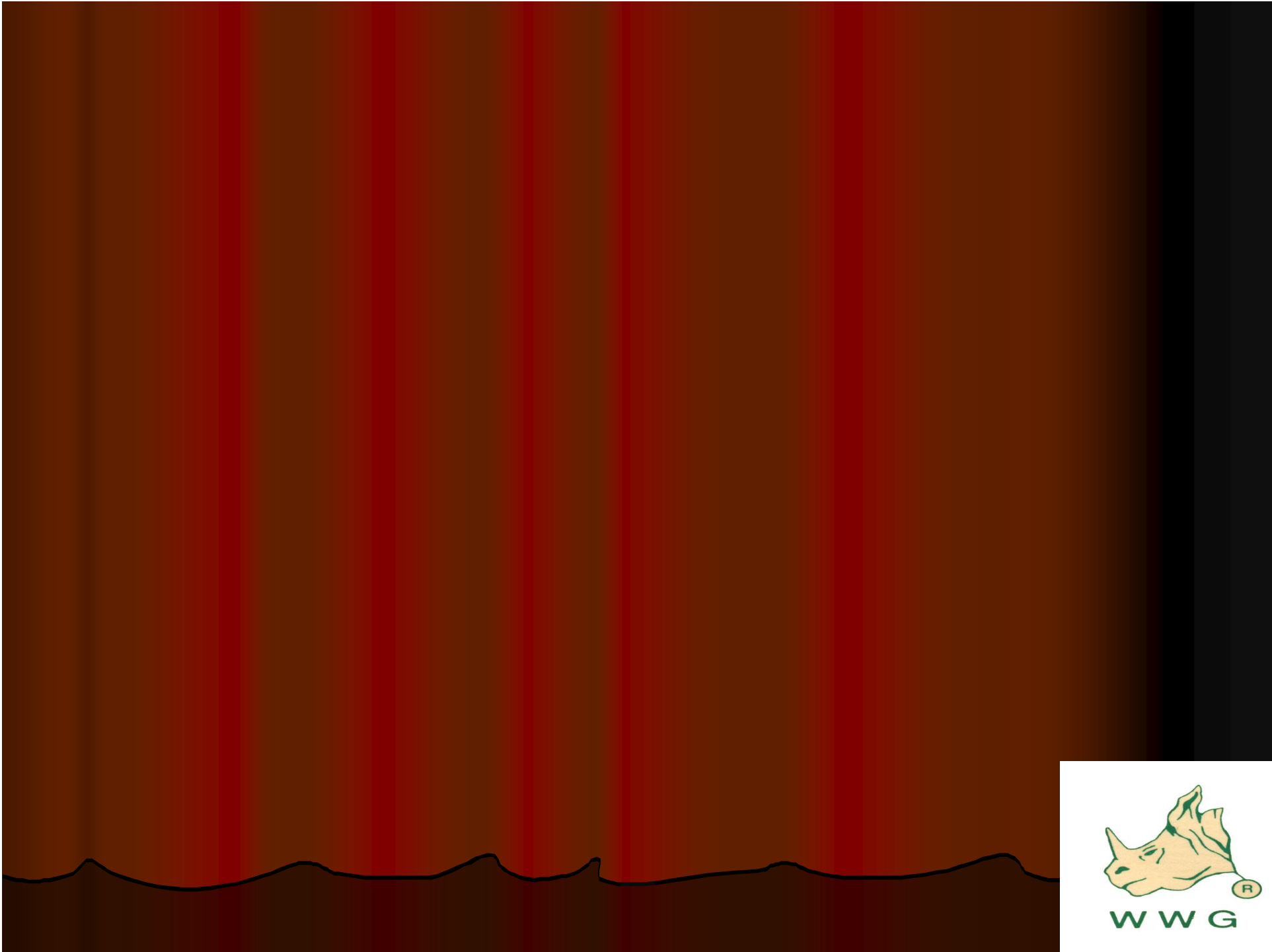
Cost of the project:

- Tentative costs estimated for one year is US\$ 116,777.





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