

Ujjwal Meghi
Mingma Norbu Sherpa Memorial Scholar 2012-2014



Soon after I came back to Nepal from two years' Master of Resource Studies program at Lincoln University under Mingma Norbu Sherpa Memorial Scholarship (MNSMS) in March 2014, I got an opportunity to work for South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) Secretariat based in Nepal. SAWEN is an intergovernmental organization that promotes regional cooperation among the South Asian countries in fighting against wildlife crime.

Poaching and illegal trade in many endangered as well as lesser known floral and faunal species have remained as one of the greatest challenges in conserving biodiversity across the world. These crimes are highly transnational and increasingly run by organized networks demanding countries to go beyond their isolated efforts in fighting against them. In close coordination with INTERPOL Environment Crime Sub-Directorate, my work at SAWEN involves coordinating with relevant local, regional and global intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for enhanced collaborative actions against the crime. This work has given me an exciting platform to connect and work with diverse professionals within my country, the South Asia region and beyond for a common cause of saving wildlife in Nepal and elsewhere.

It would not be easy for me to get the opportunity and comfortably deliver what my current work demands, if I was not given a chance to study in Lincoln University. The exposure to the world class learning environment and academic practices in a multicultural setting at the University incredibly helped enhance my academic competency as well as working confidence. In particular, the understanding through my research about the varied socio-cultural meanings of physical nature (tiger) and how interaction among those multiple meanings generates certain contextual social action and behaviour towards the nature (tiger) have been fascinating. This understanding has been very useful for me to work under today's conservation paradigm that mandates collaborative efforts of multiple stakeholders.

Given my financial background it was not possible for me to go to the New Zealand University on my own. Thanks to MNSMS! I am immensely grateful not only for the tuition fees and support for living expenses but also for the continuous guidance and encouragement that I have been receiving from the scholarship committee members. I am firmly committed to carry on the legacy that Mingma Norbu Sherpa has left.

Ujjwal at Lincoln University

