

# Veröffentlichungen ARCO

-ARCO Newsletter no.13-

**!!!We greatly acknowledge  
your help!!!**

You all made it possible to come to a  
Turtle Rescue & Conservation Centre  
in Nepal



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Membership Declaration is posted on our website and on Facebook and attached here on the last page – just fill the form and send it to us by mail together with your membership fee.

**!!!!Make your Donation Now!!!!** Vote for Turtle Conservation and support our project in South-East Nepal so that we can continue with our project development for rescuing, homing and breeding endangered turtle species of Nepal:

Account-no. 1000099984      BIC SSKMDEMXXXX

Bank/Credit Institute: Stadtsparkasse Muenchen

BLZ 70150000      IBAN DE95701500001000099984

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**Membership contributions and any donations from SAARC and Non-European countries please pay directly upon our account at the**

**Himalayan Bank Ltd, Kathmandu (Thamel Branch), Nepal  
Account no: 019 0005 5040014 / SWIFT HIMANPKA**

**YOU ALL MADE IT POSSIBLE –  
WE ARE PROUD AND GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COLLABORATION**



Panorama view of the TRCC

- **The new entrance situation and two of the signboards (acknowledgements to the right)**



**WE MOST GREATLY ACKNOWLEDGE**

**Donations and Financial Support for  
the Realisation of the TRCC**

ARCO-NEPAL / D-Munich  
ARBOREA COMPUTER CLUB / E-Albox  
ARCO SPAIN / E-Torbernas  
BRITISH CHELONIA GROUP / UK  
DOELGROEP GROENE LEGUANEN / NL-Klaproos  
DUTCH-BELGIUM TURTLE SOCIETY / NL-B  
HERPETOALINA FOUNDATION / NL  
KAESTLE, Werner / D-Achaea  
MARAVILLAS POSILLO / E-Madrid  
QASYS – ZOO & PARQUE TEMATICO / E-Almeria  
DEFNER, Sabine / D-Munich  
PICHLER, Mario / D-Munich  
REPTILE RESCUE CENTRE / D-Munich  
RODRIGUEZ LINDE, JoseMaria / E-Almeria  
TOVAR, Diego / E-Almeria  
TURTLE SURVIVAL ALLIANCE EUROPE / NL  
RUTHERFORD, Douglas / UK-Bristol  
SCHERER, Christian / D-Munich



VAN ROSSUM, ROGIER / NL  
WESTIR, Gert / D-LANDSHUT  
ZWARTEPOORTE, Henk / NL-Rotterdam  
Members and friends of ARCO-Nepal  
Design & Concept: SCHLEICH, H. / ARCO-Nepal

- **The finalized central building reaching functionality**

It was a big surprise when we reached after two years interval the TRCC and were brought to the Central building. There were guest rooms available, a kitchen and bathroom, an independent office, hospital and lab as well as another big room serving for meetings and storage. Regrettably we could not receive enough funding to convert the roof terrace into a second floor with a storage and two guestrooms .....

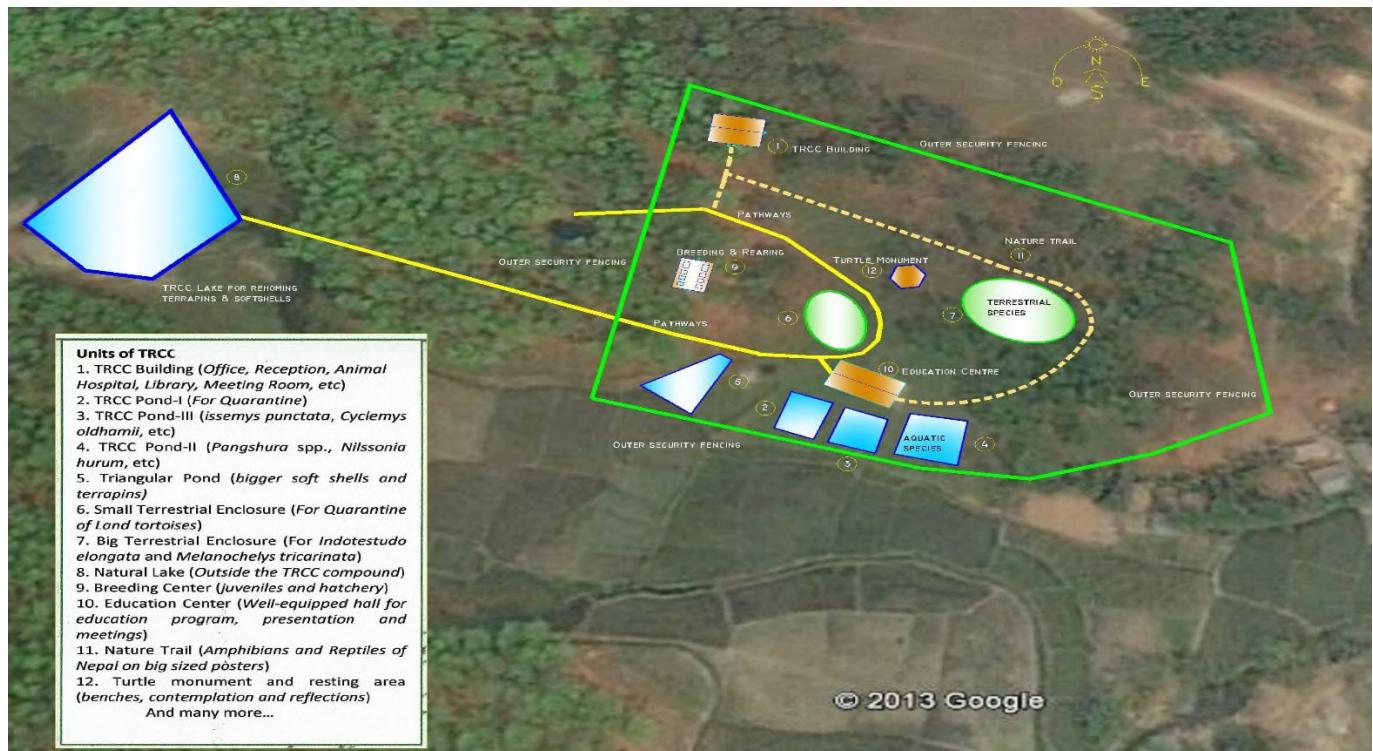


... including independent amenities.

But we are hopefully looking forward to receiving some more donations for its future constructions.

Plans are to rent those rooms to visitors and volunteers for some generation of income as the financial duties and possibilities of ARCO-Nepal are limited after all the investments we had during last years.

- Ways and paths to discover the TRCC



The new map (courtesy D. Tovar) shows the new way system at the TRCC. Cleaning off overgrowing vegetation for a trail system with reels and guide lines had been established.

From the main entrance one reaches the central building and walking around the terrestrial enclosure one comes to the Education Centre & Exhibition/Meeting hall with close by breeding ponds. Leaving the Education Centre, a Nature trail starts where a huge variety of Nepal's amphibians and reptiles will be shown on 15 poster stands. A nice turtle monument, donated by SUMMEF is now located almost in the middle of the TRCC area and shall give information and facilities for contemplation and rest having benches surrounding it.



- **The lake cleaning**



Above: The lake condition since its construction - overgrown by floating weed and water hyacinths.



Wading through and measuring in march the depth of the lake it proved to have 80-100 cm as desired and according to planing. The water buffalo failed in cleaning the lake but great work had been done by locals and after a week the lake received a new appearance with turtles to spot now.



## CHALLENGING VISIT TO NEPAL IN MARCH

There was an unexpected tremendous lot to do to finalize the most important works for making and leave the TRCC use- and functionable.



Much cleaning work had to be done, remains from former construction works had to be carried off, sand and gravel filling was necessary to develop and stabilize paths, leaking ponds and damaged in and outlets needed repair. The continuous growing vegetation is a troublesome job for the park management to keep pathways and installations free from overgrowing vegetation.



Overgrown areas had to be cleaned and bamboo and big logs to be carried on for constructing small enclosure for the first Indotestudo; latter one being handed over by Prof. Dr. Khambu Rai to ARCO-Nepal president Prof. Dr. Hermann Schleich and Mr. Tanka Bhattarai for starting a founder group at the TRCC.



And as always.....

Prof. Dr. Hermann Schleich and Mrs. Larissa Kiesl receiving a very cordial and warm reception by SUMMEF, Prof. Dr. Rai and the whole SUMMEF community.



A few turtles had been left directly at the centre but most of them might have migrated to the close by lakes where several had been spotted after the lake cleaning campaign (see page 4).



The flap winged softshell (*Lissemys punctata*) seemingly to be still one of the more common turtles as they can be found more easily betraying themselves during migration activities mainly in monsoon times.

## GREAT INPUT BY THE VISIT OF GERMAN TEACHER MRS. LARISSA KIESL



Great fun for all having received first turtle conservation lessons by Larissa Kiesl & Tapil Rai, also World Turtle Day was celebrated successfully with turtle playing cards, lecture programs and many more activities which had been developed by our volunteer German teacher Larissa.

**WE THANK YOU!!**



Thanking you Larissa Kiesl for nice atmosphere and developing didactical lecturing concept for nature and turtle conservation and staying with us three months at TRCC-Budoholi.



Adult women groups, young pupils and students attended the classes presented at the TRCC





Grouping after World Turtle Day at the TRCC with Mr. T.P. Rai, L. Kiesl, Summef Park Manager and staff

#### A NEW EDITION OF THE “TURTLE SCHOOLBOOK”

As our school or student books are heavily searched at our website we took the chance for an updated edition of the Turtle book. Mrs Larissa Kiesl did all the drawings (photo below) and Prof. Khambu Rai and Mr. Tapil Rai helped in the Nepali translation as the text comes bilingual in English and Nepali.



We are waiting for the final online edition that may be available within a few weeks only.



## REACHING THE LAST STEP IN ARCO'S PHILOSOPHY – THE FOUR MAIN PILLARS

# ARCO – Nepal

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Society of Nepal

The 4 main pillars of ARCO-Nepal conservation philosophy are:

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE	EDUCATION	PUBLIC AWARENESS	CONSERVATION
<p>Arco-Nepal and its founder and President, Hermann Schleich, have been linked to Nepal since 1991. When he was invited guest professor at Tribhuvan University Kathmandu, Hermann Schleich carried out a Volkswagen foundation project for several years on the herpetofauna and was also invited guest for lectureships by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and Goethe Institute. Under his supervision, several Nepali and German students carried out Masters and Ph degrees on the herpetofauna of Nepal. The basics of a comprehensive knowledge on the biology, systematics and conservation of amphibians and reptiles of Nepal have been given with the books and publications by Schleich (editor, author) et al. also, with the description of several new species for the country and for science. Arco-Nepal is the first association founded and dedicated for research and conservation on Nepal's herpetofauna collaborating directly with government authorities in an active turtle conservation program. About 15 years ago, first planning for a turtle conservation centre was made for Chitwan National Park and realised by the Nepali government, Dept. National Parks &amp; Wildlife.</p> <p>Turtle breeding can be learned at the Turtle Conservation Centre</p>	<p>In Nepal, there exists almost no knowledge about turtles, their natural history, eg. systematics, distribution, biology.</p> <p>Turtles play an important role in the Hindu religion and are venerated in many places eg. temples.</p> <p><b>To all schools ARCO offers the study and coloring books on Amphibians and Reptiles of Nepal (4 volumes) and gives training for students and National Parks, also lectures at the universities are offered.</b></p> <p>Find it for free download at: <a href="http://www.arco-nepal.de">www.arco-nepal.de</a></p>	<p>It's a practice existing for many years that Indians pass the open border at the Koshi Barriage and buy –the bigger the better- almost all types of live turtles.</p> <p>There exists a big demand for live turtles and in the case of poachers or fishermen getting hold of big specimens the Indian trades men are informed to fetch the catch.</p> <p>Also trucks laden with live turtles on the way to China (Tibet) have already been confiscated on Nepali roads.</p> <p><b>ARCO can contribute by publicity and awareness campaigns, posters and sign boards on the main highways</b></p> <p>more to find at : <a href="http://www.arco-nepal.de">www.arco-nepal.de</a></p>	<p>Why to develop Conservation Centers: All turtles in Nepal are threatened by international trade, local use, tourist articles, killed as "pests" on fishery farms To catch turtles is a tradition in many areas of the lowlands. If they cannot be sold on markets they remain kept alive in cooking pots until they die and then they are thrown away. The biggest turtle harvesting area is around Koshi Tappu National Park where thousands of turtles appeared on the markets in all conditions up to 20 years ago. There are no more fully grown adults caught of the genus <i>Pangshura</i> and all Softshell Turtles. Genera occurring east and west of Nepal like <i>Geoclemys</i>, <i>Morenia</i>, <i>Hardella</i>, and the big growing <i>Batagurus</i> cannot be found anymore in wild. Turtles are used as human food by animistic indigenous people and much appreciated as food items in China and India. <b>Turtle Conservation Centres for assurance colonies, training and education should be available at</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ the National Parks: Koshi, Chitwan, Bardia, Suklaphanath,</li> <li>→ Special protected zones like Ramsar sites: Godha godi Tal or others</li> <li>→ Under private communities eg: Budoholi TRCC</li> </ul>

### ..... and there is still place and time for developing future scenarios:

- Fill empty natural areas with turtle species (in collaboration with DNPWS)
- Create metapopulations and a long term conservation management plan for habitat and species.
- Involve locals in projects like breeding and restocking or simply bringing back offspring to its natural place
- Setting up information stands at local markets
- Security ambassadors acting as local project ambassadors with leaders, teachers, high school students (for talks and campaigns)
- By focusing on local species and specimens for each region and inform with talk programs, posters etc. with the goal to acquire turtle rescue ambassadors
- Turtle programs at schools as being simple key indicators for livelihood of nature sustainability
- Promote conservation campaigns as government cannot do it alone and is lacking the knowledge
- Make use of confiscated stuff for museum purpose, local exhibitions and educations
- Education campaigns and basics

## PERS ONAL CONGRATULATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO OUR VICE PRESIDENT AND MAIN SPONSOR M A R I O P I C H L E R

Lieber Mario,

### Du feierst zum Erscheinen dieses Newsletters deinen 70 sten Geburtstag wozu wir Dir alle herzlichst gratulieren möchten!!

Ich denke Du hast eine richtig große Runde versammelt und lässt Dich schön und gebührend feiern!

Einem Mann der schon das meiste hat, ein Geschenk zu bereiten ist schwer – aber ich hoffe sehr, dass Du Dich ganz besonders über den Erfolg unseres gemeinsamen Projektes in und für Nepal freuen kannst – dies ist ja etwas ganz Besonderes.

Ohne Dich wäre ARCO-Nepal nicht aus Schwierigkeiten gekommen, die vor allem nach den Anfangsjahren teilweise sogar das Weiterleben des Vereins in Frage gestellt haben. Doch jetzt, über 10 Jahre danach und mit deinem riesigen Engagement können wir nun gemeinsam erreichte Ziele vorweisen.

Es war ein zum Teil steiniger Weg der viel Geduld und Durchhaltevermögen bedurfte, doch seit diesem Frühjahr 2016 kommt nun Entspannung und Erleichterung auf- wir und besonders Du kannst sehr stolz auf diesen Erfolg sein!

Du hast uns mit ARCO nicht nur begleitet sondern richtig vorangetrieben, allen Motivation gegeben und auch die nötige finanzielle Absicherung zum Erfolg geschaffen.

Vom ersten Kindermalbuch (gewidmet deiner Tochter Laura in 2000) bis hin zu den dicken „Schmökern“ und auch den nachfolgenden Schulbüchern hast Du das Wachsen „unseres Projektes“ mit erlebt, - Werner Kästle, ein weiterer „Ziehvater“ wird d.J. dabei übrigens 90 Jahre feiern können und ich hoffe wir dürfen mindestens noch ein weiteres wissenschaftliches Werk in Gesundheit gemeinsam beenden.

„Unser“ Schildkröten-Schutz- und Arterhaltungszentrum ist nun fertiggestellt und wartet auf seine Einweihung.

Vor über 25 Jahren habe ich mit Vorlesungen in Nepal und Indien angefangen und unter anderem zahlreiche neue Arten für Nepal aber auch für die Wissenschaft entdeckt womit insgesamt die Zahl von ehemaligen 120 beschriebenen Arten auf nun über 180 erhöht werden konnte.

Auch mir ist damit ein Wunsch erfüllt worden, von einer ehemaligen ersten Bestandsaufnahme - gemeinsam mit Doktoranden und Diplomanden - zu einer landesweiten Erfassung zu gelangen. Dies war unter anderem auch nur mit Hilfe von Werner möglich, den ich seit über 40 Jahren gar noch länger als Dich kenne. Mit all dem ist es nun gar zur Erfüllung der einstmais selbst vorgegebenen ARCO-Philosophie gekommen, -- ein Beitrag, den ich glaubte, nicht allein in einem Menschenleben erfüllen zu können.

Du lieber Mario gabst hierzu Motivation und viel mehr als freundschaftliche Unterstützung und wir haben es schließlich auch geschafft, alle 4 Säulen der ARCO Philosophie zu erbauen und auch mit Leben zu füllen:

- **Wissenschaftsdokumentation** (eine meiner Grundforderungen: Kann erst über was reden und schützen wenn auch was bekannt ist),
- **Bewusstseinskampagnen** in Nepal wie auch in Europa und Amerika um zu notwendigen Naturschutz aufzurufen, und auf aussterbende Arten hinzuweisen
- Bau einer **Artenschutz**-Station mit Verwaltungsgebäude, Ausstellung und Bildungszentrum und einer Aufzuchtstation auf über 8000 qm und einem Stausee von ca. 3000 qm im entlegenen Südosten Nepals - und mit Fertigstellung sind wir nun auch bei der letzten Säule angekommen, dem
- **Humanitärer Benefiz** des ganzen Projektes.  
Vier Jahre konnten wir Einheimische beschäftigen, im Bildungsbereich für Universitäten, Fachleute und Interessierte beitragen und nun haben wir letztlich auch einen Bereich geschaffen, dass Kinder, Schüler, Studenten und Erwachsene einen Bildungsvorteil erlangen können indem sie für Wissensbereicherung im Naturschutz zu uns oder wir zu ihnen kommen können.

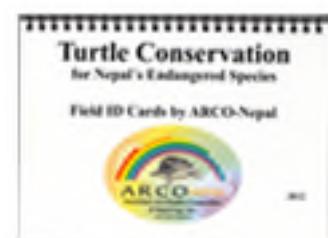
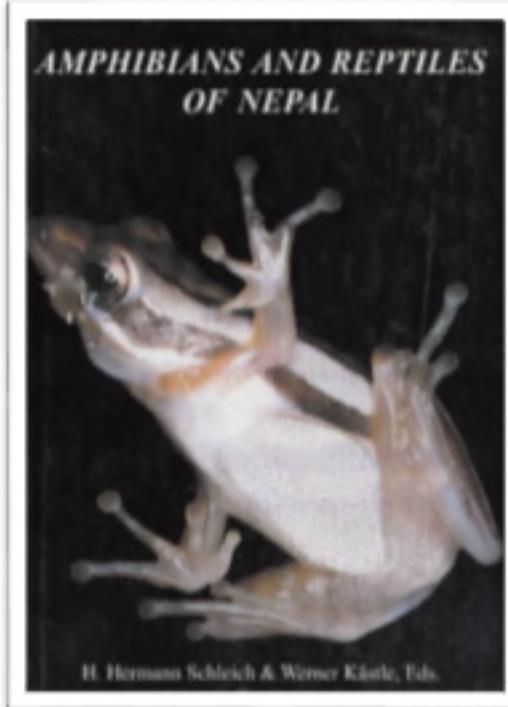
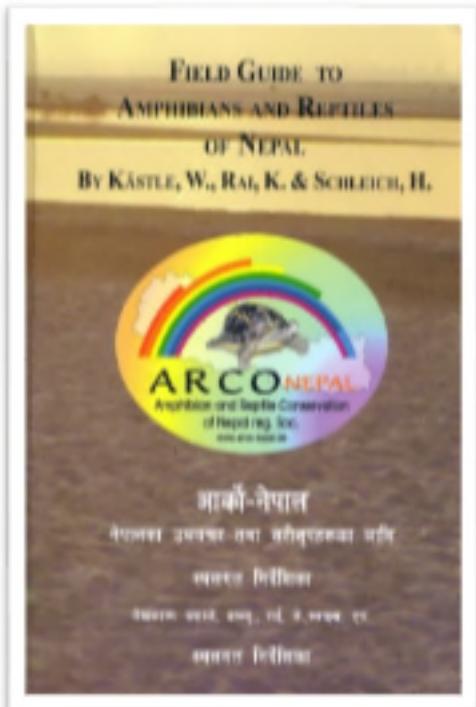
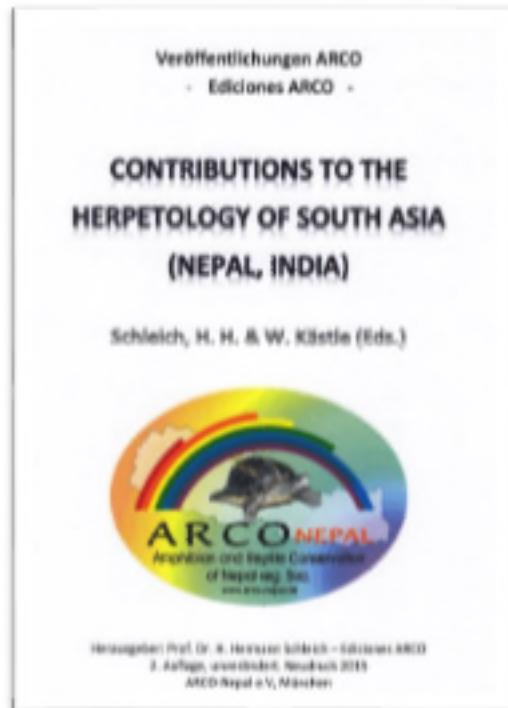
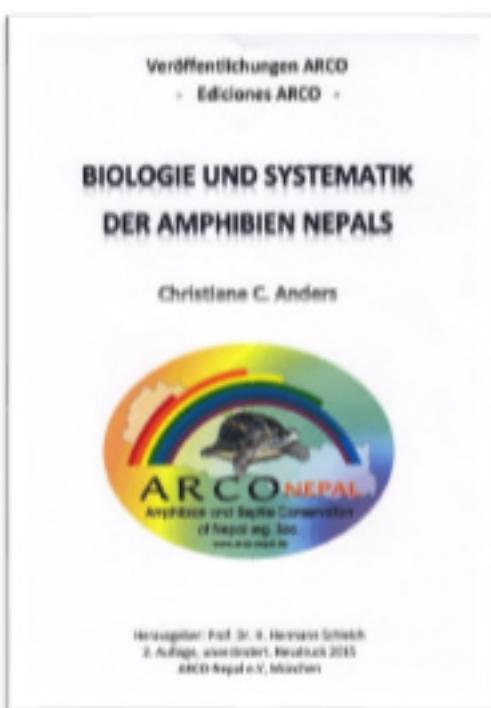
Einen ganz großen Teil hast Du lieber Mario, fast unschlagbarer Sportsfreund und immer enger Vertrauter dazu beigetragen. Diese Zeit die ich mit Dir erleben durfte – und Du hast Dir immer die Zeit genommen, zwischen Dienstlichem und Privaten auch mal Inhalte gemeinsam besprechen und entscheiden zu können – ist mir ganz besonders wertvoll.

Und dazu nun mein Geleit: Ein ganz herzliches und undenklich großes Dankeschön und die Bitte noch für viele weitere gemeinsame Jahre, (mit und ohne Gobi; ☺)



Vorstandssitzung bei ARCO in 2014

**Book orders can still be accepted, but only very few remain in stock. These are:**



The Field guide (2013) is now also available in Nepal by sending your order to [trcc.arco@gmail.com](mailto:trcc.arco@gmail.com).

The Field ID Cards (for turtle identification in pocket size, A5 hardcover) and all others are to order via [arco.nepal@gmail.com](mailto:arco.nepal@gmail.com).

The schoolbooks are free for download on our website [www.arco-nepal.de](http://www.arco-nepal.de)

## Confirmation of Membership

**Sponsoring Society „ARCO-Nepal reg. soc.“ for  
Amphibian & Reptile Conservation of Nepal**

**Herewith I declare my membership to  
“ARCO-Nepal e. V. “ for following conditions**

- full membership U.S.\$ 50,-
- Students U.S.\$ 25,-
- Institutions U.S.\$ 100,-

.....  
**First name, family name**

.....  
**street**

.....  
**code, city**

.....  
**place, date**

.....  
**signature  
(for minors parents or legal guardian)**

**Bank account:**

**Stadtsparkasse München, BLZ 70150000**

**Account-Nr.: 1000099984**

**IBAN: DE95701500001000099984**

**BIC: SSKMDEMMXXX**

**ARCO-Nepal reg. soc.**

**Amphibian and Reptile Conservation of Nepal**

**c/o W. Dziakonski / Treasurer**

**Edlingerstr. 18**

**D-81543 München w.dziakonski@yahoo.de**

**www.arco-nepal.de**

**email: arco.nepal@gmail.com**