



Alumni International Medal

Dr Ghanashyam Gurung

Dr Ghanashyam Gurung of Nepal completed degree studies in Parks and Recreation Management and Tourism Management at Lincoln University, at both bachelor's and master's levels, and a PhD at the University of Zurich. He is proud to be a Lincoln graduate and is always a willing 'ambassador' for this university.

Ghanashyam's work in Nepal is focussed on natural resources management, wildlife conservation and ecotourism.

He is the Country Representative of WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Nepal, and WWF Snow Leopard Champion. He has over 30 years of managerial experience in participatory biodiversity conservation, and is known as the Shepherd of the Snow Leopard, 'Hiun Chituwako Gothalo'. He is named in the World Atlas list of the '12 most incredible conservation heroes saving our wildlife from extinction'.

Ghanashyam's multifaceted career in conservation has included setting up protected areas, managing multi-disciplinary projects in Conservation Areas, and supporting trans-boundary conservation landscapes. He is a respected figure in the global conservation fraternity.

Under Ghanashyam's leadership of conservation programmes for WWF Nepal, there has been significant growth in key wildlife numbers, such as tigers, and improvement in the understanding of snow leopards.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Highlights of his leadership include managing the implementation of Nepal's first formal ecotourism project in the 1990's.

Ghanashyam's approach to making things happen extends to the next generation and he advocates strongly that Nepal's conservation efforts must be continued by the upcoming generation. Consequently, he is a great supporter of educational scholarships for the young.

He is co-chair of the Mingma Norbu Sherpa Memorial Scholarship.

As a Program Development and Support Director for WWF Nepal, Ghanashyam has been responsible for programmes and projects, raising funds, research and monitoring, managing communications and looking after cross-cutting units such as Gender and Social Inclusion, Climate/Energy, Livelihoods and Tourism.

Most recently Ghanashyam helped facilitate an MOU with Kathmandu University and Lincoln University to extend the reach of Lincoln University courses among Nepali students.

In all respects, Ghanashyam is a very worthy recipient of Lincoln University's Alumni International Medal.

The Lincoln University Alumni International Medal is awarded to a former student or a past or current staff member of Lincoln University, who has made an outstanding contribution to their chosen field of expertise, and has brought credit to Lincoln University through achievements in a country other than New Zealand.

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor