

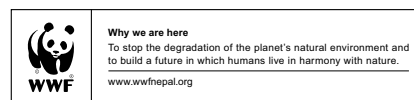


# THE GREEN LUMBINI INITIATIVE



Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha, is located in Rupandehi district in central Nepal. It was declared as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1997 based on its historic, cultural and religious significance. Apart from being an important pilgrimage site, Lumbini also supports a rich and diverse natural ecosystem.

Lumbini is an important carbon sink for building greater adaptive capacity to the effects of climate change in Nepal. Spread over an area of three square miles, Lumbini houses a large garden with a grove of trees and shrubs of numerous species. Its wetlands harbor a growing population of Sarus Cranes (*Grus antigone*) and Lesser Adjutant Storks (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) and many other birds. The Blue Bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) is Asia's largest antelope species commonly seen in Lumbini.



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## WWF'S CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN LUMBINI

WWF Nepal has been working with the Government of Nepal in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) since 2001. Lumbini lies at the base of the Churia range of TAL and is also referred to as the 'Soul of the Terai Arc'.

WWF Nepal partnered with Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) in 2010 with a vision to develop Lumbini as a model site in which conservation finds a close connection with the Buddhist philosophy of interdependence and interconnectedness. This partnership, titled The Green Lumbini Initiative, is aimed at promoting responsible environmental practices and responsible development in the sacred site of Lumbini.



## THE GREEN LUMBINI INITIATIVE

The Green Lumbini Initiative is a movement designed by WWF Nepal in partnership with LDT. It is specifically dedicated towards the conservation and sustainable development of the Lumbini region and surrounding areas through the active participation of individuals, eco clubs, civil society and corporations at both national and international levels.

Over the project period, WWF Nepal and LDT will implement innovative and integrated conservation and development initiatives aimed at building the ecological integrity in Lumbini in partnership with local, national and international communities. These include establishing and managing a Peace Garden; promoting environmental, cultural and religious values; conserving the Sarus Crane and other wildlife species and their habitats; promoting environmentally and socially responsible development; and raising conservation awareness among visitors and local people living in and around Lumbini.

With trees forming an integral part of Lord Buddha's life coupled with their significant role in helping combat climate change and providing ecosystem services, The Green Lumbini Initiative has introduced three key projects aimed at propagating trees and participatory conservation in Lumbini: the Million Tree project, My Tree Project and Pipal for People project. These projects, while forming the tangible components of The Green Lumbini Initiative will be complemented by climate change messaging to influence, inspire and engage a wider audience.



# ONE MILLION TREES IN TEN YEARS

With tree plantation being prescribed as a preferred method for combatting climate change, this project serves to be a leading example in participatory conservation with a target of planting a million trees outside the Lumbini Sacred Garden in a span of ten years; that is 100,000 trees per year. The tree saplings will be sourced from a nursery jointly maintained by WWF and LDT which contain numerous varieties that existed during Lord Buddha's era such as Asoka (*Saraca asoca*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Pipal (*Ficus religiosa*), Kadam (*Neolamarckia cadamba*), Arjuna (*Terminalia arjuna*) and Seemal (*Bombax ceiba*).

At a cost of NPR 15 (USD 17 cents) per sapling, organizations and corporations can opt towards financing the next generation of 100,000 trees at a suitable location within Lumbini and be a partner in this ambitious movement.





# MY TREE

The Lumbini Garden is a premium site; it epitomizes eternity and all things sacred. The My Tree project is an opportunity for individuals and organizations to find their space in this perpetual circle of life; and how better than by owning a tree on the sacred soil of the Lord Buddha?

For a premium investment of USD 250 per sapling, individuals and organizations can now plant a tree, or have one planted, in their name or that of a loved one. One can choose from a variety of saplings in the nursery jointly managed by LDT and WWF. The saplings, which will bear the name plaque of the owner, will be planted in a private garden located near the Peace Pagoda, within the Sacred Garden. Donors will also be provided with a GPS location of the planted sapling and will also receive bi-annual updates about their tree. The cost of the sapling includes all maintenance costs involved in preserving the tree over its entire life span.





# PIPAL FOR PEOPLE

While building the Maya Devi Temple in Lumbini, a Pipal tree was uprooted from the spot of the marker stone which marks the exact birthplace of the Buddha. Under the Pipal for People project, this tree is now being given new life through tissue-culture and the subsequent production of its saplings.

And as the name suggests, anyone can now own this living souvenir from Lumbini. Nurtured on the sacred soil of Lord Buddha, the saplings can fill a special spot in one's home, office or community. Through wider reach of the saplings, the project aims to propagate this native species while promoting its importance on religious, personal and ecological fronts.

