## **Project Update: September 2008**

## Celebration of National Conservation Day 23rd September 2008

To join hands on National Conservation Day, PARC celebrated this celebrity day on the 20<sup>th</sup> September by prizing the contestant of JITIA FESTVALS. JITIA is one of major festivals of tharu, ethnic and indigenous, community.



Tharu communities are inhabitant of Chitwan Nation Park Bufferzone and using park resources as means of subsistence in their daily life. They are the real stakeholder of Chitwan National Park because they are using park resources before than park establishment that is why wildlife and park conservation cannot be thought without their involvement. Tharu communities have their own cultural values and norms and they prefer to perform any events on their own cultural and language.

Rhino Conservation, Rufford Small Grant, Project encouraged these communities to take part in song competition in order to share the wildlife (including rhino) and natural resource conservation theme. 24 groups or more than 384 tharu women took part in the competition. 24 groups sang in different theme and danced in their own cultural and language. More than 1500 hundred people form local village and neighbour were enjoying in the competition.

The programme was conducted in Mukundapur of Chitwan National Park Bufferzone and organized by Tharu Mahila Jana Chetana Group (English; Tharu Women Public Awareness Group), Mukundapur-1, Nawal Parasi. Programme was supported by PARC/Chitwan, Rufford Small Grant, Tharu Uthan Majdoor Sangathan (Choudhary Group).

## **Song Competition Contestant**

Kumarwarti Women Group (Group-A), Rajhar -1, Tangikot, Nawalparasi Kumarwarti Women Group (Group-B), Rajhar -1, Tangikot, Nawalparasi Kumarwarti Women Group, Rajhar -1, Nawalparasi

