

Preparation and Piloting of Local Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan in Three
Ecological Production Landscapes of Nepal

A Proposal

SUBMITTED TO

**SATOYAMA initiative,
UNU Institute of Advance Studies, Japan**

SUBMITTED BY

MINISTRY OF FOREST AND SOIL CONSERVATION, NEPAL

AND

KATHMANDU FORESTRY COLLEGE

KOTESHWOR, KATHMANDU

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Working Districts: Rasuwa, Kavre and Chitwan

Three Ecological landscapes: Syapru VDC of Rasuwa (High Hill > 2500 m), Kusadevi VDC of Kavre (Middle Hill- 1500 to 2500) m and Saktikhor VDC of Chitwan (Inner Terai- low hill - 450 m- 1500 m)

1. Introduction

This proposal is part of the collaborative project proposal prepared for submission to SOTOYAMA Initiative, United Nation's University, Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), Japan. Nepal has prepared the Biodiversity Strategy (2002) and its Implementation Plan (2006-2010). These documents are in draft form, which are being reviewed by local consultant. It is expected that the review will provide a strong foundation and basis for revision of the national biodiversity strategy and action plans. NBSAP will also include a general framework for LBSAP, but will be primarily focused at district level. In the mean time, this proposal is intended to prepare general framework for LBSAP to be based at the smallest administrative unit, the Village Development Committee (VDC). Based on the framework, piloting of the LBSAP activities will be done in three VDCs, one each ecological region (Terai/Inner Terai, middle hills and high hills). These VDCs include Saktikhor VDC of Chitwan district, Kusadevi VDC of Kavre district and Syapru VDC of Rasuwa district, which fall in Inner Terai, Middle hill and High hill region, respectively.

2. Goal and Objectives

The main goal of LBSAP is to support the respective VDCs to *develop a sustainable plan through the integration of effective administration, biodiversity conservation and maintenance of environmental goods and services, development planning and growth of the local economy*. The duration of the LBSAP will be of 10 year period and it includes broad strategies and specific actions that the respective VDC will implement in a bid to conserve and enhance its biodiversity.

The specific objectives of the LBSAP are;

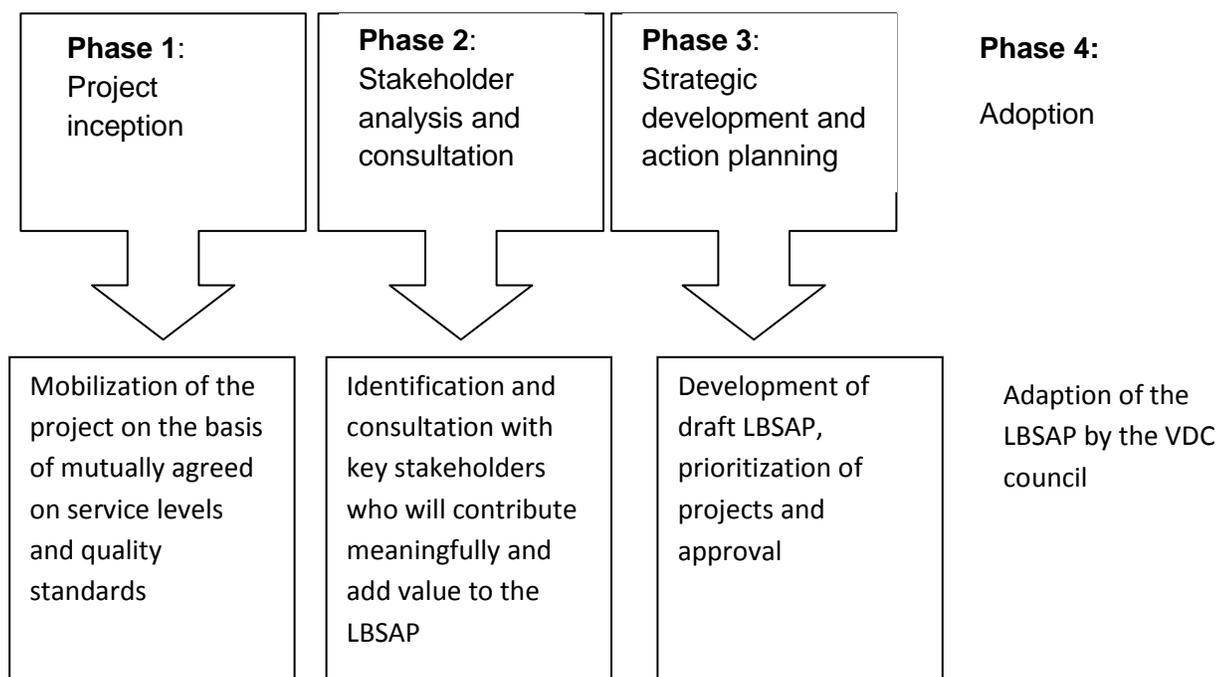
1. Full integration of biodiversity conservation into the institutional and planning frameworks, governance and regulatory processes and policies at VDC level
2. Management, conservation and sustainable utilisation of the respective VDC's aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity assets
3. Community appreciation and active participation in the conservation of VDC level biodiversity.
4. Enhanced human well being and poverty reduction through the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into the local economy.

LBSAP Principal

1. The LBSAP will establish the foundation for the long term integration of biodiversity considerations into all aspects of the institution and its governance practices.
2. The LBSAP will facilitate legal compliance.
3. The LBSAP will enable the respective VDC to lead by example
4. The LBSAP will consider broader environment issues that relate directly to the conservation of biodiversity as these VDCs have no environmental plan
5. The LBSAP will make optimal use of available resources and opportunities
6. The LBSAP will promote socio economic development

3. LBSAP development process

The LBSAP development process includes four phases as depicted in Figure 1.



4. Methodology

4.1 Stakeholder consultation process

The LBSAB will be developed in consultation with National, District and VDC level stakeholders. However, the primary focus will be District and VDC level stakeholders. The following steps will be followed during consultation:

1. Identify the biodiversity issues
2. Identify how the core functions of various stakeholders impact on biodiversity
3. Identify interventions aimed at the direct and indirect conservation and promotion of biodiversity in the VDC area
4. Solicit inputs from stakeholders on initiatives they would like to see incorporated into the biodiversity plan
5. Identify partnership opportunities that the VDC can make use of to promote the conservation of biodiversity.

4.2 Biodiversity priority identification and analysis

Of the various issues identified by stakeholder consultation, the possible issues will be prioritized. The priority issues would be the following:

1. Institutionalization of biodiversity at VDC level
2. Integration of biodiversity into VDC planning frameworks and processes
3. Conservation and management of freshwater aquatic biodiversity
4. Conservation and management of terrestrial biodiversity
5. The impact of waste and pollution on biodiversity
6. Lack of biodiversity awareness
7. Mainstreaming biodiversity into local economic development. Under this, the potential economic activities such as NTFP domestication and eco-tourism activities will be identified.

4.3 Biodiversity strategy and action planning

Based on the objectives and process identified earlier, the biodiversity strategy and action plan will be developed. A total of 10 strategies will be formulated to achieve the objectives. Each strategy will then be broken down into projects to be implemented over the 10 year period of the LBSAP. Projects will then be categorised as;

Short term 1-3 years
Medium term 4-5 years
Long term 6-10 years

The possible project activities to be implemented in the next three years are listed below: However, this activity list can be changed based on local consultation.

1. Create a position for an environmental manager /officer in the VDC office and fill the position with a suitable incumbent
2. Develop and implement an annual awareness programme.
3. Farmers will be provided with necessary skills and training required for biodiversity conservation and other economic activities related program (NTFP, ecotourism).
4. Biodiversity induction program for VDC officials and ward committee members.
5. Group formation for promotion of economic activities (NTFP and ecotourism)
6. Development of an Invasive Species monitoring, control and eradication Plan
7. Exposure visit to conservation areas
8. In-situ and ex-situ conservation/domestication of NTFPs
9. Ecotourism promotion
10. Farmers' group networking and federation
11. Farmers cooperative development and marketing
12. Sharing workshop at district and national level
13. Documentation, publication and student exchange

4.4 Implementation

The implementation plan details the manner in which the VDC will implement the short term projects in terms of;

- Outcomes
- Key activities
- Resources
- Roles and responsibilities
- Time frames (Financial year)
- Locality (Ward /Area)

4.5 Review, Monitoring and Evaluation of LBSAP

The LBSAP will be included in existing 5 year VDC periodic plan and or will be reviewed on an annual basis together with the periodic plan. The projects will be included in the Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plans (SDBIP's) of the VDC official and secretary and progress will be reviewed by the VDC Council on a quarterly basis.

4.6 Legislative and Policy Framework:

The LBSAP will be informed by various legislation and policy frameworks including the Constitution, international legislation, national legislation, national policies, provincial legislation, provincial policies, district policies and local policies.

5. Timeline

Activities	First year			Second year			Third year		
A. LBSAP preparation phase									
1. Project inception									
2. Stakeholder analysis and consultation									
3. Strategic development and action planning									
4. Final LBSAP preparation and adoption by VDC									
B. LBSAP Piloting/ Implementation									
5. Create and fulfill a position for environmental officer at VDC									
6. Develop and implement an annual awareness program									
7. Training (bio-diversity conservation, NTFPs and Ecotourism)									
8. Bio-diversity induction program for VDC officials									
9. Group formation for promotion of economic activities (NTFP and ecotourism)									
10. Development of invasive species monitoring, control and eradication plan.									
11. Exposure visit to conservation areas									
12. In-situ and ex-situ conservation and domestication of NTFP									
13. Eco-tourism promotion									
14. Farmers' group networking and federation									
15. Farmers cooperative development and marketing									
16. Sharing workshop at district and national level									
17. Documentation and publication									

Midterm review



6. Community Participation and Contribution

KAFCOL has been working in all three districts (Rasuwa, Kavre and Chitwan) for the last half a decade with support of various local organizations and national organizations including Nepal Agroforestry Foundation, Action Aid Nepal, World Education, and various local groups. A strong community base or foundation has been established in these areas. These organizations have already collected a huge amount of saving as a village bank, which could be used for borrowing money for NTFP processing and marketing. Meeting held with local communities revealed that all communities are very much willing to work in this project. Besides, VDCs and district line agencies, particularly District Forest Office, respective conservation areas and National Park and District Soil Conservation Office, will be fully cooperating with the project to implement the proposed activities under direction of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC).

7. Organizational and Human Resource Planning

The human resource planning has been done at two phases. These include:

1. Preparation of LBSAP: A team of 6 members comprised of various backgrounds (including terrestrial biodiversity-agriculture and forestry, aquatic biodiversity, NRM/ environmental laws, gender and social inclusion, and GIS and Remote Sensing) will be constituted at KAFCOL. This will help in preparation of LBSAP. This team will be supported by the scientists of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MOFSC). This phase will be completed in 6 months of the first year.

2. Implementation/piloting of LBSAP: A core team of nine members will be involved in the LBSAP implementation. The implementation will be done in three phases. The first phase will last for 3 years as discussed earlier. The implementation of second and third phase will be the responsibility of the concerned VDC officials.

Overall implementation responsibility will be vested on KAFCOL with technical backstopping from the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Nepal. The UNU- Institute of Advanced Studies, Japan will provide both technical and financial support to execute the project. A 9 member team led by a professor of the Kathmandu Forestry College (KAFCOL) with PhD degree in Agroforestry and Rural Development with background in LBSAP and biodiversity conservation and use will run the project. This team will be technically backstopped by a senior scientist from the MOFSC with PhD degree in Forestry and Environment Science including background in bio-diversity conservation and NTFP. The Team Leader (TL) and Senior Scientist from the MFSC will visit the site and provide overall guidance to the team on a regular basis. One professor or faculty from UNU-IAS will visit Nepal during the first year of the project implementation and provide his/her feedback to the project team.

Of the rest 7 members of the team, three forestry and environment graduates (one each per site) and three field change agents (one each site) will be based in the field. The rest one will be looking after the financial aspect of the project. He or she will be frequently visiting the field from KAFCOL. The three forestry graduates/ scholar will help in documenting both aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity resources in the project area and will make sure that each of the identified species is registered in the respective VDC. Forestry officers will coordinate the field activities in close coordination with TL. He/ She will keep

his/her field team abreast of information. He/she will be responsible in coordinating with VDC, district line agencies and other relevant organizations involved in biodiversity conservation and overall monitoring of the project. The three forestry experts are responsible to provide trainings at field level. The Field Change Agents will help to follow up of the field program, organize group meetings and exposure visits and keep abreast of information and disseminate information to farmers. Farmers are given the topmost priority during the implementation of the activities from planning to end of the activity.

8. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Process monitoring

Of the 9 persons listed under human resource section, six staff will be stationed in the district with frequent visit in Kathmandu and will make regular follow up and monitoring of the project activities in their respective sites. The process documentation will be done by each of these experts according to their professional discipline. The process documentation report will be submitted to all three collaborating partners. All the processes and activities mentioned earlier will be monitored on a regular basis. On-going monitoring and follow up will be done by partner institutions including MoFSC and KAFCOL.

Final Evaluation

The program will be monitored and evaluated by a joint team of all stakeholders at the end of the third year program of the project implementation. This activity will be conducted at crop maturity stage and media persons also participate in the program. Evaluation will analyse the shortcomings and strengths of the project and this will be a guideline for further improvement in the rest of the implementation period (4th-10th years) to be carried out by the VDC itself.

9. Expected Outputs

- FIRST LBSAP PREPARED
- LBSAP institutionalized
- LBSAP adopted by VDC council
- In-situ conservation of locally threatened NTFP species
- Bio-diversity documentation of important NTFP species done
- Improved livelihoods of at least 150 households per site achieved through integration of NTFP into the existing farming systems
- Biodiversity training manual prepared
- One VDC level federation of collector/domesticator farmers established from each site
- Pressure on natural ecosystems decreased considerably: Support to biodiversity conservation

10. Reporting

A. LBSAP Preparation

- **Inception report**
Inception report will be made ready one month after the contract is signed with client
- **Draft report**
The draft report will be sent to UNU-IAS and MOFSC, Nepal at the end of the first quarter.
- **Final report -LBSAP**
Final LBSAP will be ready in six month period

B. LBSAP piloting/Implementation

- **Project annual Report**
The annual report of the project submitted to UNU-IAS will prove the project outputs regularly.
- **Project follow up report**
Follow up will be done quite frequently by the Implementing agencies and collaborating organizations. This report will serve a means of verification.
- **Mid-term evaluation report:** in sixth quarters (i.e. one and half years period), a mid-term evaluation will be done to see whether the project is on track or in line with the objectives of the project. This will be done jointly by MFSC and KAFCOL.
- **Project evaluation report**
A report will be produced by the evaluation team including one member from District line agency for further improvement of the project. The team will consist entirely from outside.
- **Final report**
Final report covers all the outputs and achievements as well as recommendations for further improvements of similar kinds of projects. The documentary film will show the impact and success story of the group and will be the source of encouragements for farmers' as well as all technicians working in the same field.

Cost Estimation

The total budget exclusive of VAT is NPR 13,045,500.00

The total budget inclusive of VAT is NPR 14,741,415.00 USD 169,441.55

S.N.	Budget Items	Number	Quantity Unit	Unit Cost (NPR)	Unit Type	Total Cost (NPR)
A. Salary						
1	Project Director/Team Leader	1	150	9,000	Day	1,350,000.00
2	Senior Scientist (MoFSC)	1	100	10,000	Day	1,000,000.00
3	LBSAP preparation experts	6	30	9,000	Day	1,620,000.00
4	Project Accountant	1	60	5,000	Day	300,000.00
5	Biodiversity experts (months)	3	36	20,000	Day	2,160,000.00
6	Field change agents (Months)	3	36	15,000	Day	1,620,000.00
7	Word Processor	1	60	1,000	Day	60,000.00
Sub-Total: A						8,110,000.00
B. Per Diem, Travel and Transportation						
1	Per Diem					
2	Project Director/Team Leader	1	60	2,000	Night	120,000.00
3	Senior Scientist	1	45	2,000	Night	90,000.00
4	LBSAP preparation experts	6	10	2,000	Night	120,000.00
5	Project accountant	1	60	1,500	Night	90,000.00
6	Biodiversity Experts	3	400	300	Night	360,000.00
7	Change agents	3	15	300	Night	13,500.00
8	Surface Travel	1	6	10,000	Round Trip	60,000.00
9	Vehicle Rental	15	5	8,000	Day	600,000.00
10	International travel				Lump sum	1,000,000.00
11	Local Transportation				Lump sum	150,000.00
Sub-Total: B						2,603,500.00
C. Direct Project activity costs						
A. LBSAP preparation						
1	Inception report				Lump sum	10,000.00
2	Stakeholder analysis and consultation				Lump sum	100,000.00
3	Strategic development and action planning				Lump sum	20,000.00
4	Final LBSAP preparation and adoption by VDC				Lump sum	10,000.00
B. LBSAP piloting						
5	Create and fulfill a position for environmental officer at VDC				Lump sum	200,000.00
6	Develop and implement an annual awareness program				Lump sum	100,000.00
7	Training (bio-diversity conservation, NTFPs and Ecotourism)				Lump sum	150,000.00
8	Bio-diversity induction program for VDC officials				Lump sum	50,000.00
9	Group formation for promotion of economic activities (NTFP and ecotourism)				Lump sum	50,000.00
10	Development of invasive species monitoring, control and eradication plan.				Lumpsum	50,000.00
11	Exposure visit to conservation areas				Lump sum	150,000.00
12	In-situ and ex-situ conservation and domestication of NTFP				Lump sum	300,000.00
13	Eco-tourism promotion				Lump sum	50,000.00
14	Farmers' group networking and federation				Lump sum	50,000.00
15	Farmers cooperative development and marketing				Lump sum	50,000.00
16	Sharing workshop at district and national level				Lump sum	80,000.00
17	Publication and student exchange program with UNU IAS				Lump sum	700,000.00
D. Sub-total C						2,120,000.00
E. Institutional Overhead / Indirect Cost (10% on D)						212,000.00
F. Total Cost (A+B+C+ D + E)						13,045,500.00
G. VAT 13% of F						1,695,915.00
H. Grand Total (F + G)						14,741,415.00
Grand Total in US dollars @NPR 85/USD						169,441.55