Contribution of Community Forestry in the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity in Nepal

Krishna C. Paudel
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
Kathmandu, Nepal

Namaste
Introduction

Population – 28.6m
Area 14.7 m ha
Forest 5.83m ha
Contribution of forests:

- fuel wood,
- fodder,
- bedding material,
- fiber
- medicine
- fruits and vegetables
- grazing
- livestock feed
- income
- livelihood
- industrial raw material

- Watershed conservation
- Sustainability of dams/hydro
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Hydrological cycle
- Water availability and storage
- Soil conservation etc.
Nepal’s Community Forestry key features:

- Traditional forest users form CFUGs
- CFUGs are independent and self-governing entity
- Any part of government forests can be handed over to the CFUGs
- CFUGs can manage and use Community Forest
- Set rules and regulations
Key features Cont…

- CFUGs have autonomous fund

- CFUGs:
  - Utilize the fund for forest management and rural development (25% for forest management and 35% in pro-poor activities)
  - CFUGs fix the price and sell their forest product
  - FUGs can punish its members
CF on the ground activities

- Protection of forest territories/biodiversity
- Forest nursery raising
- Tree plantation
- NTFP cultivation
- Income generation activities
- Microenterprise and ecotourism
CFUG Formation and CF Hand Over Trend

CF Area / Households vs Year

- HH Nos.
- CF Area
Annual Income of CFUG

Total Annual Income = Rs 914 Million (base yr 2004)
Annual Expenditure of CFUG

- Infrastructure Development: 36%
- Harvesting and Silvicultural Operation: 18%
- Operational Cost: 14%
- Forest Watcher: 10%
- Pro-poor Program: 3%
- Training/Study Tour: 2%
- Miscellaneous: 17%
Major Achievements
Changing forest landscapes

Nepal:
Country of Community Forestry

in 1978
Namdu, Nepal

in 2005
Forest degradation reversed
Forest condition improved

2.5 mill. person day annual voluntary labor contribution of users
Forest condition improved and deforestation reduced
Increased forest products
Support to livelihood opportunities
Capacity at local level strengthened
Many forest based enterprises developed
Participation of women, poor and other disadvantaged groups increased.
Alternative Energy save forests
Wildlife reappeared
Incidence of forest fires – reduced
Community Development Works

Significant contribution (7.6 percent of total expenditure) on education
Key to the success of CF.

• Defined ownership, usufruct rights

• Defined policy, rules and regulations

• Ensured user rights

• Social inclusion and women empowerment
Future directions

- Replication of this approach to manage larger landscapes including agriculture biodiversity.

- Improvement in the benefit sharing modality
THANK YOU