

## IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

### Basic Information

Title of case study	COMDEKS Project: Makawanpur District		
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Other contributing organization(s)	Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU		
Author(s) and affiliation(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Format of case study	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords	Mountains, Resilience, Forestry, Agriculture, Alternative livelihoods		
Date of submission	6 March 2017		
Web link	<a href="http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6011/communities_in_action_comdeks.pdf#page=114">http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6011/communities_in_action_comdeks.pdf#page=114</a>		

### Geographical Information

Country	Nepal		Location(s)	Makawanpur District					
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link	<a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@27.4663161,84.8032642,10z">https://www.google.com/maps/@27.4663161,84.8032642,10z</a>								
Ecosystem(s) <i>(please place an "x" in all appropriate boxes)</i>									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water	x	Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
<p>The Makawanpur region is comprised of a diverse mosaic of ecosystems, and lies in the Manahari River watershed, which drains into the Rapti River. The landscape is composed of hills and flat plains, with nearly half of the area under forest. Soil erosion and landslides are common upstream, while intense flooding occurs downstream. The people are regarded as among the most marginalized and resource-poor groups in Nepal.</p>									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
<p>Communities are dependent on the river for fishing, timber collection during floods, subsistence farming, washing, bathing, swimming and other activities. However, the sandy texture of the soil has implications for water management. Small land holdings (less than one hectare) provide no more than three to six months of food security. Additional challenges include low education levels, insufficient access to basic social services, and high population density in a fragile landscape.</p>									

### Contents

Status	Ongoing	Period	06/2011 – 12/2017
Rationale			
<p>While the topography and geology of the target landscape is naturally prone to landslide and flooding, slash-and-burn agriculture is also a key challenge to the productivity of the landscape. The expansion of extractive industries along the banks of the Rapti and Manahari Rivers may affect the local ecosystem should these resources become over-exploited.</p>			
Objectives			
<p>Enhance buffer capacity of key ecosystems; Maintain and protect agricultural biodiversity and genetic resources through conservation and diversification in farming practices; Enhance and diversify local communities' livelihoods through community development activities; Put in place community-based institutional governance structures for effective participatory decision-making and local knowledge exchange.</p>			
Activities and/or practices employed			
<p>Replacing slash-and-burn agriculture with agroforestry; Promoting new agricultural models and products to improve incomes and food security; Substituting fish farming for destructive fishing practices; Promoting more resilient crop varieties; Improving water availability for domestic and agricultural use; Connecting local community groups and projects with government support.</p>			
Results			

<p>Nearly 450 ha of sloping land that had been used in slash and burn agriculture have been brought under agroforestry; Several innovations in local agriculture have begun to provide enhanced income and new food sources; Over 100 fish ponds have been constructed to raise carp and small indigenous fish; Considerable work has been done to improve water infrastructure; Linkages have been developed to help local communities to create and train Community Based Organizations.</p>	
<p>Lessons learned</p> <p>There is a continuing need for basic literacy and public awareness campaigns within the landscape communities to acquaint them with the benefits of adopting more sustainable practices; Opening new opportunities and increasing local capacities for successful new ventures require additional support from government and other donors if they are to be replicated and up-scaled; External policy support is required to tackle some environmental problems.</p>	
<p>Key messages</p> <p>The project portfolio has been carefully developed to address the various ecosystem types throughout the landscape. It has placed a strong emphasis on reforming agricultural practices. Considerable progress has been made on adopting agroforestry, organic agriculture, and SALT practices more suitable for the terrain. One significant barrier to planning and action is the ruggedness of the terrain, so one way the programme has tried to overcome this obstacle is by emphasizing agroforestry interventions that can be undertaken before the monsoon rains.</p>	
<p>Relationship to other IPSI activities</p>	<p>This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>Funding of USD 254,482.00 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS Nepal.</p>

## Contributions to Global Agendas

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the following global agendas respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

### CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	●		●	●	●	●			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
●		■	●	●			●	■	

### UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

●	●			●				■	
■		●			●	■			