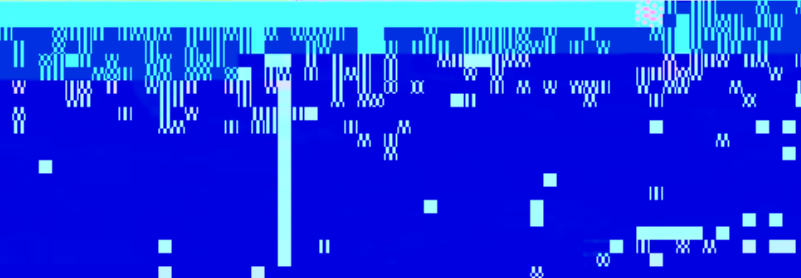


**COMMUNITY INCENTIVES TO REDUCE LAND USE
CONFLICT AND CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY IN NEPAL**



**Final
Community
Evaluation**

May-June 2005

COMMUNITY INCENTIVES TO REDUCE LAND USE CONFLICT AND CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY IN NEPAL

FINAL COMMUNITY EVALUATION

May – June 2005

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

IUCN Nepal and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation have been implementing the Development Marketplace 2003 winning project entitled “Community Incentives to Reduce Land Use Conflict and Conserve Biodiversity in Nepal” since June 2004 in the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve’s Buffer Zone in Eastern Nepal. The project will end in July 2005. The goal of the project is to enhance biodiversity by reducing land conflicts through strengthening livelihood security for poor communities in Eastern Nepal and the specific project objective is to demonstrate a system for reducing the number of livestock in the Koshi Tappu Area by providing livelihood-based incentives for poor farmers.

At the start of the project, a detailed Logframe was developed, which identified the following four key project outputs:

1. Fodder and forage biomass increased in BZ through agroforestry and forestry plantations (private and communal)
2. Sustainable services for domestic animal health artificial insemination services/facility established
3. Alternatives livelihoods to livestock rearing promoted
4. Reserve supported for effective project management, governance, learning and strengthening Park People relation for conservation of KTWR.

The full logframe is attached as Annex 1.

This report presents on the process and findings of community evaluation of the project. This evaluation had been proposed by the project proponents to identify the extent to which the project was considered to be successful in meeting its objectives.

Community evaluations had been identified in the original project design as a part of on-going project implementation to ensure transparency of project activities amongst stakeholders and to solicit feedback to strengthen project approach, activities and partnerships. Though several small scale local consultations were organised, one formal district level consultations was organised one on 10 January 2005.

The evaluation team organised several group meetings. They included:

- i. Separate group meetings with three groups involved in three fishpond construction in Haripur, West Kushaha and Madhuban– including 31 men and 37 women
- ii. Five community Forestry users groups - total 41 men and 17 women from 5 CFs
- iii. One group meeting with Community Animal Services Centre ad hoc committee members- 4 men and 2 women
- iv. Three group meetings with people involved in community nurseries: total 15 men and 20 women from 3 community nurseries
- v. One group meeting with Community Animal Health Workers - total 7 men and 1 women

Additionally, the team met 5 men from Madhuban User Group; the chairperson, and secretary of the community animal services centre building construction committee; Chairperson and members of Jan Jagaran Users' group; and also Village Animal Health Workers individually to obtain feedback. They also met several leader farmers involved in agroforestry promotion and involved in improved vegetable farming. The evaluation team visited 50 Farmers' fields (home nurseries), the community animal services centre, 5 Community forests, 3 community

Necessary training should be provided for efficient leadership and mobilization
Need to look for additional financial resources

Community ideas for Sustainable Development of CASC

Membership card will be distributed charging minimum amount with the help of

He has a feeling that the DM project has just started to change people's attitude. There are other organisations working for a long time in this area but they only provided training to the people but didn't follow-up for implementation. But the DM project had helped them to initiate income generating activities right after the training. So he suggested that DM project should not to end at this initial phase and should continue to provide support for some more years to see its impact.

Box 2: Mr. Tika Ram Raut – an enthusiastic leader farmer and conservationist

Mr. Tika Ram Raut, residing in Prakashpur VDC ward no. 9 participated in leader farmers' agroforestry training conducted by the project. After the training he called a meeting in his community and they developed future vision for their groups. They would like to study local herbal plants, collect them and develop an exhibition, and also start off-season vegetable farming and fish farming.

Mr. Raut had participated in vegetable farming training which was also organised by IUCN and KTWR. After the training, he used his skills to produce vegetables on his own land including potatoes, cauliflower, radish and tomatoes in around 1 ½ kattha of land. He was able to make Rs. 2000 in one season from this farming. Seeing this, his neighbours are also planning to start vegetable farming from next year.

Mr. Raut is very enthusiastic about conservation activities. He says that there are five "J" in Nepali language, which are the most important things. They include- *Jungle* (forest), *Jal* (water), *Jeev* (living things), *Jadibuti* (herbals plants) and Laborious *Janata* (hard working people). He stressed that these things are interrelated with each other and in absence of one thing others do not survive.

The group members have done home agro-forestry and kitchen gardening on their own fields and also planted /protected community land as Community Forests (CF). Mostly they have planted fodder trees; under the fodder tree they further planted herbal plants like, lemon grass, and citronella. Other plant species are also planted in their CF.

This group has also formed the following committees for well functioning of conservation activities in their area:

- Natural environment conservation group;
- Community forest conservation group;
- Birds conservation group;
- Wetland area conservation group; and
- Monitoring and evaluation group

They have also formed an adolescent group for conservation activities thinking that the conservation activities would be effective through their participation.

Box 3: Ms. Ms. Geeta Devi Sardar, a poor farmer trained by leader farmer wants to contribute to conservation efforts

Ms. Geeta Devi Sardar, residing in West Kusaha, ward no. 8 received training from leader farmers through farmer to farmer extension programme. After the training she received 500 polythene pots and seeds to establish home nursery. She does not have land to plant the saplings produced but she is doing this to plant them in the CFs from where she is getting

Improved breed of fish will be put in the ponds
Ponds will be managed through cooperatives

11. Working strategy should be flexible. E.g. Delegation of authority to take decision by field staff.
12. Overall project period is very short to see the real impacts of the project.
13. Project is ending now and people seem to be worried. IUCN should continue its programme. Communities have seen some results but have not seen the real impacts yet. However, they are influenced by the IUCN programme and enthusiastic to continue it.

Annex 1: PROJECT LOGFRAME

Name of project: Community Incentives to reduce land use conflict and conserve biodiversity in Nepal
Implementer: IUCN Nepal and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
Project duration: 12 months (starting from August 04- July 05)

Narrative Summary	Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions
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Goal: To enhance biodiversity by

- 1.1 Study on constraints and opportunity for forage and fodder development in the BZ of KTWR
- 1.2 Community consultations to identify interest and leader farmer selection for training
- 1.3 First Agroforestry Training
- 1.4 Set-up on-farm agroforestry demonstration by trainee farmers
- 1.5 Farmer-to-farmer training and expansion in community
- 1.6 Refresher agroforestry training (December)
- 1.7 Refresher agroforestry training (May-June)
- 1.8 Finalise Mechanisms for sustaining this activity beyond project end
- 1.9 Identification and support to two community plantations for fodder and forage
- 1.10 Community evaluation

- 2.1 Study to identify constraints and opportunities for domestic animal rearing in BZ
- 2.2 Study to identify options for animal health centre establishment and artificial insemination service provision
- 2.3 Development of partnership with local District Livestock Offices to provide artificial insemination services before AHC establishment
- 2.4 Barefoot vet training for local trainers
- 2.5 Cross visit to local leaders and KTWR staff to Royal Chitwan National Park to observe AHCs there
- 2.6 AHC establishment (including equipment purchase)
- 2.7 Business plan development for AHC's financial and social sustainability, including partnerships with local authorities
- 3.1 Support establishment of community fish pond
- 3.2 Training on vegetable farming
- 3.3 Local scholarships to students from poor households
- 4.1 Periodic project review
- 4.2 Monitoring by farmer on project activities (AHC, nurseries, fish pond)
- 4.3 Quarterly monitoring visit by DNPWC/IUCN
- 4.4 Training to Reserve staff on BZ and CF management
- 4.5 Orientation training for Army commanders on BZ management
- 4.6 Orientation training to elephant camp staff on bio- diversity conservation
- 4.7 External evaluation

ANNEX 2: TOR OF COMMUNITY EVALUATORS

Community Incentives to Reduce Land Use Conflict and Conserve Biodiversity in Nepal

Terms of Reference

Background

IUCN Nepal h(saT0 Tc011 un)i8(sl)6.9(w68 e)-7.7(iu-dtutfo1Vj0 -1.1ey) 8T4 9(w68 r grant fro(sl)6.m)12.3(t

Local perceptions on sustainability of the project activities and methods to ensure sustainability

Local self replication (on-going, planned or local ideas on possible replication) of project activities

Whether communities feel that the project has contributed to better relationship and partnership between them and the KTWR and feel that the project has reduced or has the potential to reduce conflicts in the area

Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation will be done with community stakeholders residing within the Buffer Zone of the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. In particular, it will focus on the following key stakeholder groups:

- Direct beneficiaries (people involved in training, etc.)
- Community representatives in the Buffer Zone Committee
- Other community representatives
- Others

The evaluation will focus on the activities supported by the project in the last 9 months period, including the following:

1. On-farm fodder and forage demonstration (Fodder and grass nurseries and training)
2. Community nursery and plantation (Fodder and grass nursery and plantation)
3. Livestock management (Artificial Insemination, AHC construction and VAHW training)
4. Livelihood alternatives (fish pond and NTFP growing in community land).

Methodology:

The evaluation will include the following methodology:

1. Familiarization with project objectives and activities through reading reports, interacting with project staff, KTWR staff and other staff
2. In-depth participatory discussions with local stakeholders on the objectives identified above, in the field, and using the Table 1 below:

The Study Team

The team will be led by the Consultant and his/ her tea, and will include an IUCN monitoring section staff, and a local communities' representative. The local consultant will play a lead role in the study process whereas IUCN and the KTWR will play a supporting role in facilitating the consultant in their study process.

The Consultant

IUCN in consultation with the KTWR will appoint local consultant, preferably an institution

Experience with participatory approaches to project planning , implementation and monitoring

Proven English language skills (reading and writing)

Excellent computer skills

Person affiliated with NGOs or any civil societies is preferred

Annex 3: Community Evaluators' Itinerary

S. N.	Activities	Place/VDC	Date	Process	Responsibility
1.	Preparation	KTWR office	May 14	- sharing - secondary data collection	Dr. Jha/Puspa
2.	Visit to Agro forestry - Herbal plantation - Fodder plan - Fish pond	- West Kusaha - Haripur - Prakashpur	May 21-23	- Group discussion - small meeting - field visit - FGD - Question/answer	Dr. Jha Puspa Robin
3.	AHC - Mgmt committee - AHW - Group	Madhuban	May 23-24	- Group discussion - small meeting - field visit - questions/answer	Puspa

4. Agro Forestry Tapeshs9e TD-0.0011 Tc0.0ri Forestry - second