

A Review Report

IUCN Nepal Programme Framework 2007-2012:

Conservation for Livelihoods Promoting Biodiversity Conservation,
Environmental Justice and Sustainable Livelihoods in Nepal

Su

International Union for Conservation of Nature, Nepal

Su

Dr. Jagadish Pokharel

EXECUTIVESUMMARY

During 2007-2012 IUCN, with its objective of promoting biodiversity conservation, environmental justice, and sustainable livelihood in Nepal, implemented programs under five thematic areas: Environmental Governance, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Economics, Climate Change, and Conservation Learning with equity, livelihoods, sustainability, conflict prevention and partnership development as its cross cutting priorities.

IUCN has been able to proactively innovate and lead various biodiversity conservation, environmental justice, and sustainable livelihood programs in Nepal. Over the last five year, IUCN has been able to provide technical support and expertise to the government in conservation related issues. IUCN took timely advantage of the new constitution-writing phase and carried out several relevant activities to ensure that environmental concerns were incorporated in the new National Constitution. IUCN made significant achieve

c

equity, gender, justice and upholding human rights and international obligations as central to its work.

Alongside, in an effort to mainstream ecosystem management, IUCN has been able to promote the equitable sharing of the costs and benefits of natural resource management, in particular for the most disadvantaged people. Under environmental economics, it has identified and promoted economic and financial measures, which integrate the full economic value of biodiversity and equitable cost-benefit sharing at the local and national level. IUCN has also been raising awareness of potential threats of climate change and seems to have taken preliminary steps toward helping build capacity for mitigation and adaptation. It has proactively led the issues related to Climate Change in Nepal – addressing the challenges to Nepal’s biodiversity and most vulnerable communities. Apart from everything IUCN has facilitated learning and innovation to address the ever-increasing environmental challenges at all levels.

As IUCN prepares to move forward with a new plan from 2013-2016, there are several needs and opportunities for IUCN to direct its strategies. Clearly, the issues of climate change and climate change adaptation will dominate the development issues in the country. With its experiences in Nepal and knowledge base, IUCN can play important and meaning role in affecting policies in Nepal. Environmental governance will be another key issue in the process of state restructuring, IUCN could play an important role in working closely with the government in formulating appropriate policies that distribute benefits across geographical as well as social boundaries.

Along the same context of state restructuring, depending on the ownership and governance model, conservation and protection of wildlife habitat could be a very significant challenge. IUCN could closely work with the central government in formulating effective policies and strategies for effective conservation and protection of wildlife.

Additionally, with the changing environmental and political context, there is a need for the Government to review and update various environmental management tools-- the Environmental

IUCN can meaningfully support Nepal government to policy and practice of climate change adaptation programs by combining livelihood and conservation strategies. Local and regional level integrated conservation and livelihood improvement programs can greatly benefit from some of the tools developed by IUCN and communities together such as “pay for services,” “adopt a spring” and other innovative programs.

The experience of IUCN from its current partnership with high level government commission for the conservation of Bagmati River is a unique opportunity to draw lessons that can be scaled up to the national level policy reform. It can reflect on its experiences to support some high profile national conservation programs and policies such as President's Chure Region Conservation Program which is being implemented directly by the President's office.

There is a need to addressing some "second generation" problems arising out of successful implementation of some conservation programs especia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are very thankful to Krishna Prasad Acharya, Director General, Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and Braj Kishore Yadav, Director General, Department of Forest, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation for the valuable inputs in preparing this review.

We would like to thank Dr. Yam Malla and Rajendra Khanal and other IUCN program staff for being supportive during the review and making all the arrangements for stakeholder meeting and providing us all the necessary documents for review.

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Access to Benefit Sharing
BSC	Benefit Sharing Component
CF	Community Forest
CFN	Community Forest Network
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CG	Conservation Group
DAG	Disadvantaged Group
DFO	District Forest Office
DDC	District Development Committee
DoF	Department of Forestry
EG	Environmental Governance
GPSE	Gender, Poverty, Social Equity
GoN	Government of Nepal
HH	Households
ICS	Improved Cooking Stove
IGA	Income Generating Activities
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IS	Ilam Siwalik
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LGC	Landscape Governance Component
MAPs	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NBS	National Biodiversity Strategy
NCS	National Conservation Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NORM	National Rhododendron Conservation Management Committee
NPC	National Planning Commission
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTFPs	Non Timber Forest Products
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSE	Poor and Socially Excluded
TMJ	Tinjure-Milke-Jaljale

Conservation and Director General from Department of Forest, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.

FIVE YEAR OVERVIEW

During 2007-2012 IUCN, with its objective of promoting biodiversity conservation, environmental justice and sustainable livelihood in Nepal, implemented programs under five thematic areas: Environmental Governance, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Economics, Climate Change, and Conservation Learning with equity, livelihoods, sustainability, conflict prevention and partnership development as its cross cutting priorities.

The different activities carried out by IUCN in the last five years, under the larger thematic areas, can be categorized in five groups.

1. Policy advocacy, strategic advising and technical backstopping programs that support government works.
2. Media awareness and outreach activities related to conservation, climate change, and environmental rights.
3. Conservation activities at the grassroots with specific focus on benefit sharing and sustainable livelihood.
4. Strengthening and facilitating grassroots mechanisms for better environmental governance and natural resource management.
5. Series of assessment, workshops, studies, and research undertakings that contribute to the knowledge pool.

Between 2008-2009 IUCN together with The Government, and other international partners, implemented the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal (COSUWN) project. IUCN mostly provided technical support to the project through technical experts like Chief Technical Advisor, Biodiversity Expert and Gender and social expert.

Integration of Environmental Concerns into the New National Constitution project was implemented in 2008 by IUCN in collaboration with the Ministry of

validation workshop for the same. Support was provided during the revision of the Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RSIS) and consortium of multi stakeholders (both government and non-government) to celebrate World Wetland Day. IUCN disseminated the information of wetlands through various presentation of activities carried out in Nepal about people's involvement in the management of high altitude wetlands of Nepal in Regional workshop on wetland resource management in South Asia, held in Bangladesh.

2. INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS INTO THE NEW NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

IUCN in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and National Trust of Nature Conservation (NTNC) implemented this project. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) provided international support for this project. The

3. MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND PRINCIPALS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN NEPAL

This project was supported by DFID through Governance and Transparency Fund (DFID/GTF). Its main objective was to improve governance and ensure equitable benefit sharing at the watershed level through multi-stakeholder dialogue, watershed level conservation planning, and policy advocacy at the national level. The project was launched in Sardu watershed of Sunsari district of Eastern Nepal. The activities were carried out through six partner organizations. A multi-stakeholder platform was formed with three committees, namely Watershed Conservation Committee, Drinking Water Resources Management Committee, and Technical and Administrative Services Committee. This platform linked upstream watershed community with the closest municipality, i.e., Dharan Municipality. Capacity building programs were launched for the members of the stakeholder organizations on Climate Change and Sustainable Watershed Management, Payment of Ecosystem services (PES), proposal writing and so on. Coordination meetings and multi stakeholder dialogues were held regularly with Constituent Assembly

Regime. Rights and Resources Group (RRG) under Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), Washington provided Grant for this research.

5. INSTITUTIONAL CONSOLIDATION FOR THE COORDINATED AND INTEGRATED MONITORING OF NATURAL RESOURCES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN THE HINDU KUSH-KARAKORAM-HIMALAYA MOUNTAIN COMPLEX (HKKH PARTNERSHIP PROJECT FOR ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN SHORT) - 2008-2009.

The Director General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) of the Italia Ministry of External Affairs (MAES) funded this project. It was implemented by IUCN with independent Project Management Unit in IUCN office. Other executing partners were: EV-K2CNR (Italian High Altitude Research Center), CESVI (Italian Development NGO), and International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu.

(HKKH) level workshop on “Innovative tools and experience in ecosystem management” with reference to Sagarmatha National Park. It also included trainings on resource management

on Community Conserved Conservation Area (CCCA) at national level as well as in

IUCN took timely advantage of the new constitution-writing phase and carried out several relevant activities to ensure that environmental concerns were incorporated in the new National Constitution. The program- Integration of Environmental Concerns into the New National Constitution brought together CA members along with other stakeholders and partners. Under the program, several capacity building workshops were organized for CA members and relevant ministries to ensure that appropriate provisions are incorporated in the new constitution. Alongside, several talk programs were also organized on issues of environmental pollution, conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, equitable access and benefit sharing, sustainable use of natural resources, rights of access to environmental resources, service and goods, and on issues of environmental federalism within the New Constitution of Nepal. Two publications – Distribution of Natural Resources in Federal Structure and Climate Change and New Constitution, and five policy briefs – Fundamental Rights in the New Co

organizations. Beneficiaries of the project have proportionately large number of women from Dalit and Janajatis ethnic groups.

At the same time, the community-based projects have been able to create policy level discussions, at local, district and national level on community conserved conservation area (CCCA) and community based natural resource management. The government had also convened IUCN to further explore the institutional modality of CCCA and its applicability in the TMI

Environmental governance has been another area in which IUCN has made significant progress. IUCN has thus made important achievements in strengthening and facilitating grassroots mechanisms for better environmental governance and natural resource management. Through training and support programs, it has contributed towards the review and amendment of 17 CFUGs to address and incorporate issues of ABS and 2nd generation issues of CF. Through a team of experts and with concerned stakeholders, developed a draft on how a conservation plan could be carried out. It also worked on the possible modality of Payment for Ecological Services (PES). Alongside, local level workshop in Sardu Watershed Area, which raised local level awareness in community forestry and watershed management issues, is likely to be instrumental for policy dialogue on formulation of participatory watershed management plan.

IUCN has also succeeded in carrying out local and national awareness program on conservation, governance and emerging issues related to climate change. Several promotional and informational documents were produced and disseminated. A case study on environmental rights and good governance was produced and broadcasted through radio stations covering all parts of Nepal. It has thus been able to sensitize

While addressing the immediate programmatic and policy needs of the county, IUCN has also been proactively accessing and studying emerging environmental trends and issues. It has carried out different case studies, assessments, research, and workshop to contribute to the knowledge pool. The themes of study range across climate change, governance, biodiversity etc. These studies will not only be helpful for IUCN to map out it's future programs but will be useful resource for the government and other organizations working in similar areas.

IUCN has also produced a volume of research literature, awareness materials and knowledge publications related to its thematic programme areasf

A 4

a

19. Report on conservation plan of Sardu watershed
20. Report on economic Valuation of Sardu watershed
21. Status of GPSE Monitoring Indicators in CFUGs of Doti District
22. Study of soil and water conservation practices used in Sardu watershed area.
23. Study on Effect of GPSE Monitoring Indicators in Selected CFUGs of Doti District
24. Terminologies Used in Climate Change
25. Tinjure-Milke Jaljale Rhododendron Conservation Area - A strategy of Sustainable Development

Clearly, IUCN has also made significant achievement in working with a wide range of stakeholders as well as formulate alliances and multi-stakeholders partnership with

for Biodiversity Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Wildlife Watch Group (WWG), Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN), and Himalayan Nature.

IUCN has also partnered with relevant government agencies- Mini

sustainable livelihood strategies and increased knowledge development and policy feedback. It made significant contribution to important policy reforms in Nepal which includes- National Conservation Strategy, National Environmental Policy and Action Plan 1 and 2, Environmental Protection Regulation 1997, Environmental Protection Act 1996, National Wetlands Policy, Environmental education curricula and materials, Churia Area Programme Strategy Draft Bill on Access to Genetic

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nepal is currently in the phase of changing environmental as well as political context that has created several needs for program and policy s

with the central government in raising some of these issues and devising effective mechanisms and policies to battle this challenge.

Additionally, with the changing environmental and political context, there is a need for the Government to review and update various environmental management tools-- the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines, which was formulated two decades ago in 1992. With reference to the several studies, assessments, and knowledge accumulated through community base projects, IUCN could assist the government in revising the guidelines based on the changing environmental, political and social context.

IUCN has a long history of working very closely with the government and communities supporting its environmental initiatives since its inception. This relationship and closeness with the government seems to have revived lately after a period of visible gap. This positive trend should be strengthened in the new context. Developing projects jointly to address the actual need of the government agencies can help strengthen such relationship.

It has maintained partnership with many relevant ministries and line agencies. Additionally, it has established a wide network of different local and national NGOs, and INGOs and maintained partnership with different organizations. These networks and partnership are one of its assets along with the e

support can be extended to national “high profile” projects and programs such as President’s Chure Region Conservation Program which is being directly overseen by the President’s office. It can also be useful for coming up with new approach to address the inadequacies of project based Environmental Impact Assessment for hydropower project in a river.