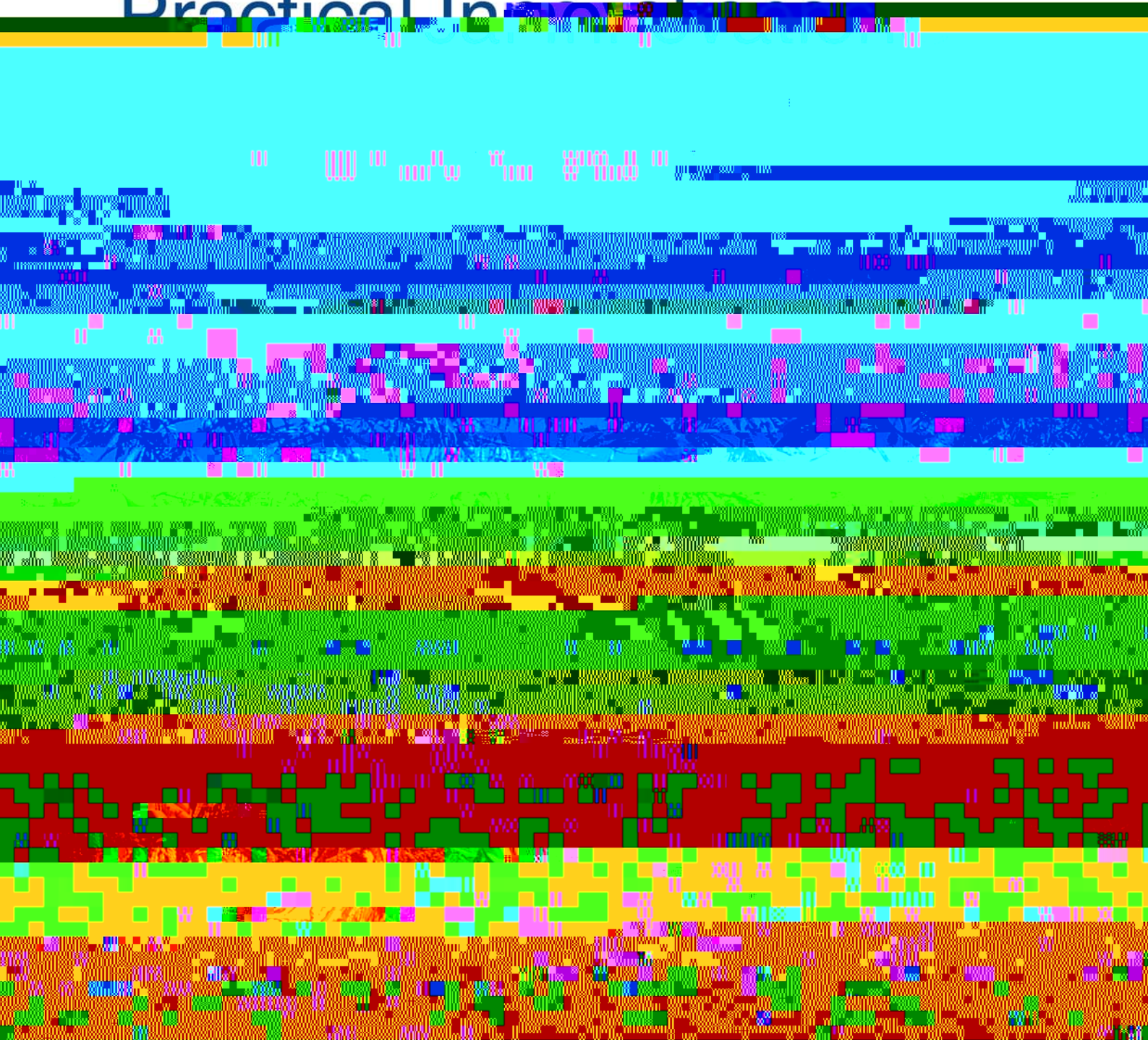




# Practical Implementation



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## **Few words**

Internal evaluation of field projects is a regular feature in IUCN

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## INTRODUCTION

IUCN Nepal has been implementing various projects and programmes with the objective “to promote biodiversity conservation, environmental justice and sustainable livelihoods in Nepal.” The Practical Innovations for Inclusive Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods (PIICSL) Benefit Sharing Component is one among them. Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co operation (SDC), the project aims to contribute to biodiversity

### Project fact sheet

Project supported by: SDC, Bern  
Project duration: 2007-2009  
Funding: 172,746 USD (activity cost only)  
Project site: Doti District, Far Western Nepal  
Component objective: Poor and marginalized natural resource dependent households have increased economic incentives to manage Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) and equitably and sustainably.

conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing from Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in Doti District of Nepal. In this project phase (2007-09), the project focuses on increasing economic incentives to the poor and marginalized natural resource dependent households by managing NTFPs and MAPs in sustainable manner. The component strives to improving equitable access and benefit sharing of the Poor, Socially Excluded and Women headed (PSE/W) households in forest resources with a focus on policy promotion and application, community forestry governance, NTFPs/ MAPs management and marketing, and conservation education and awareness measures.

## OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this internal evaluation is to assess the performance of the project as per the logical framework and to document current challenges and major learning that can be attributed to the improvement of this project as well as attributed

**Some major evaluation questions were:**

1. How efficiently the resources (financial and human)

As of August 2008, it has been reported that 10,106 persons (4,939 women and 5,167 men) of the 1,505 HHs (from 34 wards of 10 working VDCs) have been involved in different project activities and have been directly benefited from project interventions.

## **MAJOR FINDINGS**

### **Project implementation**

The project is being implemented in a remote Far Western district of Nepal and covers 10 Village Development Committees. The settlements are dispersed with limited accessibility from one settlement to the other. About 140,000 USD was allocated for this project for 2007 and 2008. There are seven project staff members headed by a Project Manager with an expertise on NTFPs/MAPs. So far, the project has served more than 1500 households and about 10,000 beneficiaries. The project has been supporting 20 CFUGS and 54 CGs in the project area. In terms of investment, the project has invested about 90 and 14 USD per households and per person respectively.

The project has two field offices, one at *Dhangadhi* and the other in the field site at *Budar*. The office in Dhangadhi was established mainly due to the armed conflict that Nepal had undergone for one decade. Even after the conflict is over, the Dhangadhi office has not been moved in its original place. Implementing project from distance may increase the implementation cost and may also affect in the quality of outputs.

The project staff members are very active and dedicated in their assignment, and have a very good rapport with beneficiaries. However, in a couple of cases, (example: Dhangadi office continuation, establishing a processing plant at Budar area), the project team



## **Contribution on sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem health**

Both NTFPs/MAPs need a long gestation period (about 5-6 years) to fruit and to fetch income. So, it is difficult to assess from household income within a short period of time after plantation. However, the project record revealed that in 2007, the participating farmers received about NRs. 1150 per household which was 28% higher compared to 2006. This reflects that the beneficiaries were slowly gaining income, which has helped them to enhance their livelihoods.

Beneficiaries, who participated in an interaction, mentioned that they were aware about the conservation/environment and how the conservation of their natural resources would contribute to maintaining their livelihoods in a sustainable manner. The conservation education on environment in general and NTFPs/MAPs in particular has remained a great contribution.

Through 20 CFUGs and 54 CGs, the project has helped many people to enhance their technical and management related capacities through wide range of training, education and exposure visits. The capacity of the local community in the management of NTFPs/MAPs is very encouraging.

Demonstration of impact of any initiative on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem health is a complicated task. The project has been working only in the area of NTFPs/MAPs, so it was very hard to find out the visible contribution of this project on ecosystems health. The project has, however, demonstrated its strength on the conservation and sustainable use of commercially threatened species, and has esry



NTFPs/MAPs. But, in this condition of weak institutional capacity and limited financial resources among the CBOs, there is a feeble chance on the part of the CBOs to independently carry out these activities after 2009.

### **Contribution on poverty, gender and social inclusion**

One of the focuses of this project in this phase is to mainstream poverty, gender and social inclusion issues. Hence, the project has emphasized to integrate PSE/W HHs in project activities. For this, the project supported community people to establish CGs in which only the PSE households

10PSE

**Summary of performance of the project is as below:**

S N	Evaluation criteria	Project specific criteria	Rating	Remarks
1.	Efficiency	Fund delivery, human resource against project implementation rate, quality, timeliness and quantity Alternative options explored during implementation Innovative approaches used	B	
2.	Effectiveness	Achieving the project objectives: Conservation ( <i>in situ/ex situ</i> ) Sustainable management Equitable benefit sharing Mainstreaming poverty,		



## CONCLUSION

The assessment revealed that the project has demonstrated a replicable model of conservation and sustainable use practices as well as imparting skills at the community level. The project has also taken a very strong step in mainstreaming poor, socially excluded and gender issues in the project area.

The project has demonstrated a good model on Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) by instituting 'Conservation Groups' within natural resource management institutions.

Annex 1: List of participants of group discussion and Key informants

**Group,Discussion**

SN	Name of CGs	No of participants	Remarks
		33	
		19	
		9	
		4	
		7	
		7	
		191	

Annex 2: Project log frame

HIERARCHY OF OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<b>Project Goal:</b>	Biodiversity conservation, environmental justice and sustainable livelihoods promoted in Nepal		

HIERARCHY OF OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Output: 0.1.3. MAP/NTFP Management</p> <p>Equitable sharing of benefits from sustainable production and collection of MAPs and NTFPs in Doti District promoted</p>	<p>Options for equitable and integrated approach to sustainable NTFP/MAPs production and collection agreeable to 60% national as well as district; and 70% of the local stakeholders available</p> <p>50 MAPs and NTFPs CGs of 20 CFUGs with improved practices for sustainable management and collection of MAPs and NTFPs</p> <p>5 CFUGs adopted at least 70% of FSC principles in managing MAPs and NTFPs</p> <p>Equity in access to benefits from NTFP/MAP resources in CFs regardless of gender, ethnicity or economic status increased by 35%</p> <p>Information on what the capacities of different CFUG MAPs/NTFPs groups are at different stages of the value chain</p> <p>One NTFPs/MAPs promotion process model agreed by stakeholders available</p>	<p>Options analysis report/ briefs, recipient's list</p> <p>Progress report and field observation</p> <p>Assessment report/ case study/ progress report</p> <p>Assessment report/case study/ progress report</p> <p>Progress report</p> <p>Process model</p>	
<p>Output: 0.1.4. NTFP/MAP Marketing</p> <p>Poor and socially excluded households and women dependent on MAPs and NTFPs have better access to market benefits in Doti District</p>	<p>Marketing information (price, quality standard, certification requirement, possible contacts) for at least 7 species available to interested stakeholders</p> <p>25% of poor and socially excluded households and women of 20 CFUGs dependent on MAPs and NTFPs benefit from post harvest techniques and value addition of economically important MAPs and NTFPs</p> <p>Five CFUGs involve in FSC certification process</p>	<p>Market Feasibility report, promotional booklet, news letter, price board</p> <p>Progress report/ case study</p> <p>Progress report</p> <p>Progress report, key-informant interview</p>	<p>National and global private corporations accessible to marketing of certified NTFPs/MAPs from Nepal</p>
<p>Output: 0.1.5. Conservation Awareness</p> <p>Awareness at local and national level of NTFP conservation issues through suitable new and alternative media promoted</p>	<p>Yearly overview on MAPs and NTFPs related information available to 70% of key stakeholders at local, district and national level</p> <p>One refined process model available on web-page and in printed form in English and Nepali</p> <p>3 NTFP/MAPs conservation outreach products suitable for local and national level awareness disseminated to 2000 beneficiaries</p> <p>80% of key policy makers get NTFP/MAPs related information</p>	<p>Overview report</p> <p>Information materials list and IUCN Nepal Web-page</p> <p>Information materials and recipients lists</p> <p>Recipients lists of different information materials</p>	



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