

# Natural Resource Management and Non-Timber Forest Products Technology and Governance

## Exposure Mission to Nepal

An exposure visit of community leaders and government officials from Cambodia

### Synthesis Report May, 2012



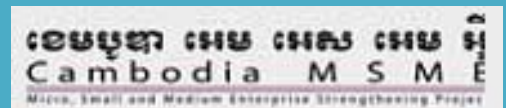
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## Acknowledgement

We are indebted to DAI, Cambodia for financial support for the exchange visit. We are especially grateful to Mr. Crutis Hundley, Party chief of Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) for initiating the idea of exchange visit to Nepal. His conceptual inputs and coordinating support helped to make exchange visit possible.

Similarly, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Nany Yang for her coordination. Moreover, our cordial thanks go to all the participants for their patience and motivation without which it would have been difficult to complete the visit program successfully.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the community people and government officials sharing their experiences with the visit team. Similarly thanks also goes to community forestry users groups for their warm welcome and experience sharing activities with the visit team.

We sincerely express our gratitude to Dr. Naya Sharma Paudel, Executive Coordinator, ForestAction Nepal and Hari Luintel for their overview on policy research and advocacy in forestry sector and NTFPs promotion activities in Nepal. Thanks to Kiran Paudyal, Maheshwar Dhakal and Resham Dagi for their presentation as an expert and sharing of experiences with the visit team despite their busy schedule. Without their valuable cooperation the exchange visit would not have been successful.

Mr. Amrit Adhikari, Administration Head, ForestAction Nepal also deserve thanks for overall administrative management of the exchange visit program. Similarly, we thank Anju Khand, Arjun Gyanwali and Lalit Thapa for their assistance in logistic management. Last but not the least, we are thankful to all ForestAction Nepal colleagues and those who have contributed to this exchange visit directly and indirectly.

## Executive summary

This report briefly presents the proves and outcomes of the ecposure visit of the community leaders and government officers from Cambodia. This mission was jointly organized by Development Alternatives Inc Cambodia and Forestaction, Nepal. The study visit was organized mainly to learn from Nepal's experiences on community based NTFPs management and the supportive policy environment.

The team visited field sites in Makawanpur, Chitwan and Nawalparasi and observed and discussed the community initiatives on resin collection and marketing, eco tourism, bee keeping and NTFPs promotion by community forests users groups, Also the participants visited the Chitwan National Park, observed and interacted with park officials about the participatory biodiversity conservation.

Back from the field, the team visited community forest, wild life department as well as interacted with Micro-Enterprise Development Programmer, Alternative herbal company. This interaction at national level was set to learn about the policy environment as well as get ideas on the national status of the field programme.

The visit was successfully completed with the kind coordination and support from all with the scheduled meetings, field observation and reflections. Though there was some difficulty in discussions as both the community people and the visitors have different languages therefore needed two way communications translated by facilitators. However, both engaged in good debates, asked questions to each other and tried to understand the different circumstances. The visitors particularly focused on community engagement in collective value chain development activities around the NTFPs and local strategies of marketing the products.

The exposure captured the insights and learned the lessons from Nepal in the three primary NTFPs on which MSME facilitate are; tree resin, wild honey, and community-based eco-tourism. Though there were some technological differences depending the context, positively, that allowed participant to compare and judge through reflections over the scenario. The field level activities and national level meeting and discussions were organized to get insights on forestry administrations, CF and CPA associations, honey harvesting and processing cooperatives, tree resin collection techniques and community-based eco-tourism.

It is revealing that the exchange visit provided an opportunity for all to learn from each other's experiences and insightful to see the micro, meso and macro linkages of the community forestry activities.

## Acronyms

BCC	Biodiversity Conservation centre
CF	Community Forest
CFUG	Community forest User Group
CNP	Chitwan National Park
CPA	Community Protected Area
DFO	District Forest Office
DAI	Development Alternatives Inc
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry User Nepal
IEE	Initial Environment Examination
IGA	Income Generation Activities
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MSME	Micro Small and Medium Enterprise
NCRTC	Nepal Conservation research Training centre
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRs	Nepali Rupee
NTFPs	Non Timber Forest Products
NTNC	National trust for Nature Conservation
TAL	Terai Arc landscape
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural organization
VDC	Village development Committee
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## 1. Background

Community forest (CF) in Nepal is often cited as successful participatory forest management model. With the three decades long history of CF in Nepal, it encompasses a set of policy and instrumental innovations that were especially designed to empower the local livelihoods. About 32% of the total forest of Nepal was handed to the Community forest in which 17000 CFUG manages and 17,82,550 HH benefiting from the CF. Nepal CF program considered as important instrument development strategy for bringing social change, empowering the marginalized community .

CF address the environmental degradation program on the one side and also create space for social learning and knowledge exchange for the diverse sectors. The Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) now establish as a well governed by a networks called FECOFUN. It is considered as appropriate instrumental institution with three layers of structure micro (at local level), meso (district level) and macro (national level).

There are very good examples of capital enhancements, particularly, natural social and financial capitals has been enhanced through group activities. The fund generated in local level has contributed in different livelihoods assets of the local community which is not well documented and acknowledge in some cases. Nepal CF program is considered as a central spectrum for achieving national sustainable development strategy by focusing poverty alleviation and MDG. CF contributes in development works as road construction, education, health post) wellbeing of local communities is highly acknowledged.

Besides, the optimum utilization of the forest products resources for the income generating activities, and diversifying income by the forest users through the small forest based enterprise is one of the key areas the success in Nepal. With the decade's long history of forest conservation by the CFUG, biodiversity richness has been increase. Likewise initiatives in CF- like eco-tourism activities, NTFP promotion and cultivation, forest and agro based enterprise are also gaining popularity in last decades.

With the aim to learn from these experiences on enterprise development of the NTFPs, DAI Cambodia Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Project proposed a field visit plan for community leaders and government officials and called for proposal. Wining the bid, FoestAction hosted the programme. It arranged field exposure, set of meetings and discussions to enable participants to understand the policy practice of the best practices in natural resource management, community development, and observation of a variety of governance structures. ForestAction propose and facilitate an NRM/NTFP governance.

Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Project, implemented by DAI, is working to improve the performance of enterprises in several value chains, support dialogue between the public and private sectors to identify business issues and solutions, and strengthen the public sector to improve the business enabling environment. A key component of the project is biodiversity conservation through sound management of biologically significant landscapes to reduce threats to biodiversity. This work focuses on forest conservation through Community Based Natural Resource Management, promoting wildlife habitat, improving local community livelihoods through Non-timber forest product (NTFP) enterprise development, and promoting sustainable conservation practices by local communities and government agencies.

The exposure captures the insights and learned the lessons from Nepal in the three primary NTFPs on which MSME facilitate assistance are; tree resin, wild honey, and community-based eco-tourism. The field level activities and national level meeting and discussions were organized to get insights on forestry administrations, CF and CPA associations, honey harvesting and processing cooperatives, tree resin collection techniques and community-based eco-tourism.

## 1.1 Objectives

The broader objective of the exchange visit was to share lessons about the Community based natural Resource Management (CBNRM), NTFP based enterprise and biodiversity conservation and governance relationship between the supplies chain actors. The specific Objectives were:

- To exchange experiences on biodiversity conservation and natural resource management's best practices.
- To learn about the best practices of NTFPs, especially in resin, honey and eco-tourism supply chain management, including improved processing techniques and market development.
- To demonstrate how relationships between all supplies chain actors including government institutions are fostered.

## 1.2 Duration of visit and Participants

The visit was schedule for 7 days, four days in the field visit and three days in national level sharing and discussion on the different thematic areas like honey harvesting and processing, tree resin collection techniques and community-based eco-tourism and biodiversity conservation modality and approach.

There were all total 13 participants, 5 from CF, two from community protected areas, two NTFP based entrepreneur, two from government organization and two MSME team members from Cambodian. From the hosting organization, ForestAction, three team members facilitate and arrange the whole visits and program. Besides this, ForestAction, Nepal also prepare meeting schedules with government representatives, forest communities and community leaders, and NTFP supply chain actors who interact with Nepal-based forest communities. (Details about the participants is given in the Annex 1)

## 1.3 Exposure visit methods

The whole visit was designed to make it more interactive and reflective; both learning form field and reflection through interaction at policy level. The schedule was designed a) to get an overview b) field observation and c) interaction at national level for reflection. The field observation and interaction with the community people with forest user group, honey entrepreneur, resin collection group and eco-tourism promoter and practitioner. In each day at the end of the session there were short reflection sessions. Likewise, at national level class based sessions was organized with government officers and NTFPs processing and marketing actors. In the last day, sum-up reflective sessions was organized to share the learning among all the participants and to make clear on the remaining queries.(Detail of schedule is in Annex 2)

## 1.4 Sites and Stakeholder Visited

The Exposure visits was organized to interaction on national level , meso level and grassroots level stakeholders. List of the associated stakeholder in three different layers is as follows:

### Local level

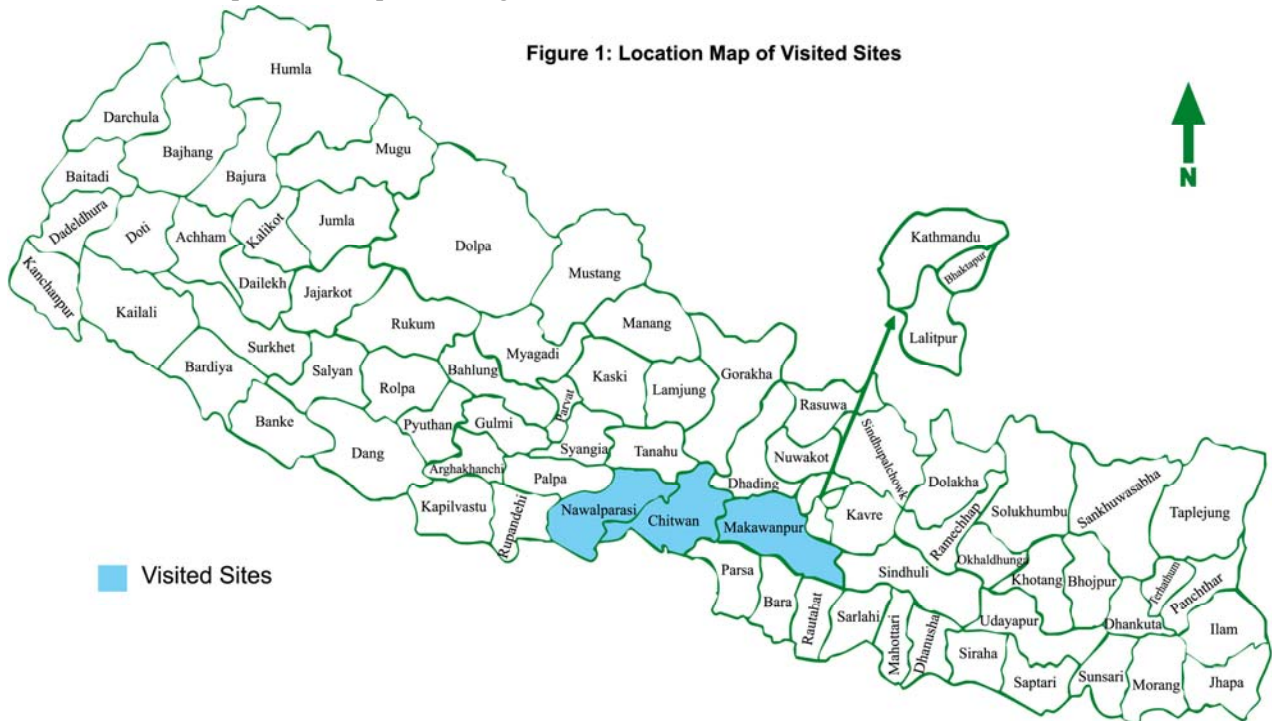
- Afnai Community Forest User Group, Makwanpur
- Gorkha Bee Company, Chitwan
- Janchetan small farmer cooperative, Makwanpur
- Kankali Community Forest User Group, Chitwan
- Sagar Bee company- Chitwan
- Sundari Community Forest User Group, Nawalparasi

## Meso Level

- Chitwan national Park
- National Trust for Nature Conservation
- World Wildlife Fund- Terai Arc Landscape Project

## National Level

- Alternative herbs and Herbal Company
- Department of National Park and wildlife conservation
- Department of Community Forestry
- ForestAction, Nepal
- Micro Enterprise Development Program \ UNDP



## 2. Day one: Overview presentation

The team was welcomed at TIA and escorted to Hotel, where the forestaction team briefly presented an overview on cultural, social and economic situation of Nepal to familiarize the participants about the current context of social development. Similarly, a brief presentation on Forestaction's approach to policy research and advocacy, NTFPs promotion and its policy environment were presented to familiarize the key issues and challenges. (See presentation in annex...)

## 3. Day two-four: Knowledge and Experience sharing at field level

This section was illustrated in detail from the field visits and some of the necessary and relevant information as was extracted from literature review:

### 3.1 Resin Tapping

Field practice of the Resin Tapping was observed in the Afnai CFUG which is situated in Bhaisey VDC, Makwanpur. This CFUG have 266 HH households (HHs) managing 305 hectares forest area that was legally handed over to communities in 1996. This section presents about the resin collection techniques adopted by the CFUG which is summarized message of face to face interaction between participants and CFUG members and reviewed literature.

CFUG are collecting Resin since its handover. But the process was halted since four years because of the new Government policy provision of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for the forest above 200 hectore. All the technical support for the resin collection was provided by the District forest office and contractor who collect the resin. Chairperson of the CFUG – Karna Bhahadur Phakrin said- *we will get RS 8 per Kg of the resin and all the labor force required to collect resin and all the technical support will be provided by the contractor.* The community basically monitors the resin tapping process. Earlier the community use conventional ways of resin tapping due to which tree died in early age but now they are using Rill methods for resin tapping. In discussion, the community people said, from one tree they can collect 1 kg resin per year but 3-5 kg resin per tree per year is recommended in condition of Nepal (GRTI, 2061).

#### Factor affecting resin collection

<b>Species</b>	Inherited capacity of individuals, seed origin for example <i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>P. elliottii</i> , <i>P. merkusii</i> , <i>P. carabaea</i> gives good yield of resin then <i>Pinus petula</i> , <i>P. kesiya</i> .
<b>Locality factor</b>	Soil, rainfall, humidity, air and soil
<b>Temperature</b>	More yield in a warm than on a cool climate
<b>Tapping Technique</b>	Cup and lip method yield less than rill method where and bore Hole method is considering more yields
<b>Tree morphology</b>	Big Tree crown size/crown height and Twist trees yield more resin
<b>Part of the trees</b>	The yield of resin is largest in the resin of the root column, less in the clean part of the bole and least in the vicinity of the branches
<b>Side of stem</b>	More resin is secreted on the south than on the north side of the stem
<b>Soil</b>	Resin produce more in dry, warm, loose and sandy soils than in moist places, stiff and cold soil.
<b>Nature of forest</b>	Open/sparse forest produce more resin compared to dense one.
<b>Nature of ground</b>	More resin on hilly or sloping than on level ground

#### Resin Tapping Technique

In most of the part of the world basically two types of Resin tapping techniques were adopted.

- 1. Light and Continuous tapping:** This is done in all trees above 0.9 m in girth. Trees between 0.9-1.8 m in girth are tapped in one channel and above 1.8 m girth in two channels for five years. And at the end of five years, a new channel is tapped leaving 10 cm space from old channels.
- 2. Heavy tapping:** This is also called tapping to death, and common in developed countries. In this method maximum possible quantity of resin is exuded by making many possible channels at 10 cm space. It is generally initiated five years in advance of main felling.

There are different methods of tapping the stem of living trees. These are;

1. Cup and lip method
2. Silva hill basula method
3. Bark chipped method
4. Rill method
5. Bore hole method

Among these methods Rill method has been practice in Nepal. The rill method of tapping has consider as a more economical (Chaudhary,1995) than other method . In rill methods there is minimum cutting depth which doesn't hamper the heart wood and doesn't reduce the economic value of the wood. Likewise fast healing of blaze increase tapping life and reduce the tapping cycle due to which there is prolonged flow and increase resin production. From this method it yields about 50% more resin per tree per season. And rill methods are safe from fire and wind with comparison to another method.

### **3.2 Honey Processing**

Honey is another forest and agro based enterprise. Since 1990s many institution and individuals were actively engaged in promotion and development of honey business in Nepal. Likewise different NGOs and INGOs were supporting the local farmer for the commercialization of honey business and injection of newer technology. In order to understand the honey processing and production mechanism, the team visited two honey enterprise and a agriculture cooperatives.

The processing of the honey is the extraction of honey from honey combs and its purification /filtration Honey is extracted by draining (letting the wax and honey mixture separate by dripping through a screen strainer), squeezing the honey combs by hand, or by using centrifugal extractors. Earlier most of the farmer use conventional methods of honey processing, most of the farmer earlier use simple food preparation equipment such as bowls, a sieve or straining cloth and containers. However, in recent days commercial beekeepers use special honey processing units which specially designed to reduce the moisture content in honey and also maintain the quality of that .It remove all fine particles to delay crystallization, including some natural ingredients such as pollen. One of the important phases of the honey processing is filtration which requires high pressure filters that use a silica-based filtering material called diatomaceous earth. The process involves heating the honey to 77–78°C.

Honey in the market is available in two forms- granulated and liquid. Some consumers believe that granulated honey is inferior in quality. However, granulation is a natural process and there is no difference in nutritional value between granulated and liquid honey.

Generally, honey rich in glucose granulates quickly. But it can be made runny by heating it. Actually if the temperature falls below 15–24°C honey starts to granulates .And the granulated honey is more susceptible to fermentation caused by yeasts that grow in the high sugar concentrations. If the honey has less than 18 percent moisture content, there is little probability of fermentation. Honey extracted mainly from the sealed honey combs, processed in a correct way using clean and dry equipment and stored in air-tight jars then it does not normally get fermented.

### **A case of Janachetan Cooperative**

Janachetana Agricultural Cooperative is in Lothar Bazaar, which was formed in 1998 and legally registered in 2006. There is total share of the 121 members from the community people from Kankada VDC. Board members to manage this cooperative are from Chepang tribes. Earlier the communities were conducting the honey business in local market through the manual processing and from 2006 this cooperative has installed equipment for Honey processing and manufacturing. The market price of the one Kg of honey is 300 NRs and all the marketing was done through the Kathmandu Based company- Himalayan Honey which collects all the honey from the production site. According to the Dinesh Chepang- *This year this cooperative was successful to produce 9 metric ton of honey and 510 farmers were indirectly associated with honey business, that they bring raw material for the honey processing.*

The cooperative made initial monthly savings from their members and ranges for monthly savings is from NRs 25 to more than NRs 500. The Cooperative has operating capital more than NRs 1000,000. Over 50% of their investments are in goat and cattle farming. Besides this, the cooperatives have good income from banana cultivation and community retail grocery shop.

### **Success story of Rajendra Gautam- Proprietor of Sager Bee Keeping Company**

Rajendra Gautam, Proprietor of Sager Bee Keeping and member of National Bee Keeping federation, is one of the successful beekeeping entrepreneur. He started this profession with 2 colonies in 1996 with *Apis mellifera*. At the beginning, he has just done the colony multiplication. But later receiving training and increased in knowledge on colony management and getting recognition as Beekeeping Resource Centre from Beekeeping Development Section of Department of Agriculture, he intensified his beekeeping related activities. He has established hive carpentry workshops, a honey processing unit and training facilities. He has hive carpentry factory to make the necessary tools and goods for the beekeeping. Besides this he has air-conditioned storing room and well equipped instrument and machine for the honey processing.

Now, he manages over 300 bee colonies and has his own brand of honey "Sagar Honey" which is getting good recognition in the domestic market. He deals with over 90 metric tonnes of honey in a year and supplies over 2,000 bee hives to different development organizations that promote beekeeping as a part of income generation.

### **Use of honey in Nepal:**

Honey is health food which is said to facilitate better physical performance. It is used to cure coughs, colds, wounds, cuts, diarrhea and many other diseases. With higher sugar content in honey, it is one of the sources of energy—as much as 3500 calories/kg which can be digested easily. These days honey was used as an important ingredient in Ayurvedic medicine. It also increases appetite, helps to control gastritis and can also provide relief for ailments like allergies, sinus, arthritis and asthma. In recent years, the antibiotic and wound healing properties of honey have been proven scientifically (Molan 1992).

### **3.3 Experiences of Kankali Community Forest User Group**

The major objective of the visits in the Kankali CFUG was to know the community practices and activities on Eco-tourism. With this objective after the warm greeting of the community people two-way interaction was happened and forest user groups share following details:

The Kankali Community Forest located in the foothills of the Mahabharata Range in Chainpur Village Development Committee (VDC) of Chitwan District. Before 1990s the status of the forest was so poor, there is high forest degradation which consequence the sever landslides and erosions. Realizing all these problem community has started the forest conservation. After the strong willingness of the community people to conserve forest and biodiversity, District Forest Office (DFO) of Chitwan on 2052 B.S. has legitimately handed the forest over the user community. User members of this CF are more than 1900 households, which cover all the (1-9) wards of Chainpur VDC. And they are managing more than 760.75 hectors of Sal (*shorea robusta*) forest land and consisting three types -; planted, regenerated and natural.

The Kankali Community Forest is not only meant for the forest-related activities but is also concerned to the socio-economic aspects of the people of Nepal. It aims to fulfill the forest product demand of the community people, conserve biodiversity, eco-tourism promotional for per capita income generation (socio-economic upliftman) through the active participation of the community people.

The inclusive user member and Executive Committee and institutional layer created in CFUG are one of reason for the success of the Kankali CFUG. Beside this rich biodiversity and ecotourism promotional activities enhance the name and fame of this CFUG. The major attraction of the tourist in this CFUG was landscape, rich biodiversity including 124 birds' type, 294 medicinal plants, 35 spp mammals. Being rich in natural resources and enthusiasm of the community people, various exiting and adventure eco-tourism activities were conducted in the forest. Some of the major practiced one are:

- Nature walk and Bird Watching
- Mulberry, Silkworm and Fish Farming
- Picnic Spot, Mini Zoo and Swimming Pool
- Temple and tower visit
- Overnight Stay in the forest/Camping
- Herbs farming.
- Fish Farming

### **3.4 Experiences sharing with Sundari Community Forest User Group**

Sundari CFUG is one of the successful and well known CFUG of Terai. It is located in Amrapure VDC of Nawalparasi District. This forest has a total area of 384.75 ha and has been benefiting about 1700 households as its members since its handover in 1996. Before 1970s, this forest was highly deforested and by the late 80s community start to mange and conserve. Now, community management of this forest resulted in increased natural base turning barren forest areas with green trees and grasses.

Likewise Sundari CF has its own 3-storey building with fully set office, training hall as well as two rooms which can accommodate about 15-20 peoples. Besides accommodation, community people use this building for income generation activities. The community forest user utilizing the NTFPs available in their forest for the income generation activities. Since decade they are producing Trifala famous herbal medicine in Ayurveda, used for curinggastric and constipation,) from three different plats- Amala (*Embllica officinslis*), Barro (*Terminalia bellrica*) Harro (*Terminalia chebula*). CFUG has also leaf plate<sup>1</sup> production machine from which they used to earn good amount of money.

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<sup>1</sup> Plate made form leaf and used in rituals and festival. Basically made from Sal leaf(*Shorea Robusta*)

Sundari CFUG has good governance with multi layer committee for decision making with thematic areas too. The user group has formed the poverty alleviation committee, culture conservation committee, forest management committee, NTFP promotion committee, disable people rehabilitation committee, income generating committee with proportionate combination of different ethnic community and women. Similarly, public hearing and public auditing are done annually and through well-being ranking, the group members have been divided into five classifications ranging from very rich to very poor. And the best practice of the CFUG regarding the pro-poor support was construction of house for poor and till date 12 housed was constructed and handed to poor HH. beside this, the community has made provision to allocate 35% of the budget for forest management activities

This CFUG has also contributed in community development activities like roads, culverts, irrigation, tree sheds, temple building, etc. To promote alternative energy and less dependency on forest products, biogas plants are also promoted by this user group. Scholarship schemes for poor but honest and studious students are also provided. Emergency funds for health workers as well as disabled have also been established to support them by this group.

### 3.5 Visit to Chitwan National Park

Chitwan national park, one of the nation treasures of the natural wonders is situated in the south central part of the Nepal. It is 932 sq km with additional 750 sq km buffer zone. In 1959, late king Mahendra declared the Mahendra Deer Park and later in 1973 the area was gazette as the country's first's national park. Due to its unique feature and ecosystem richness, 1984 CNP was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

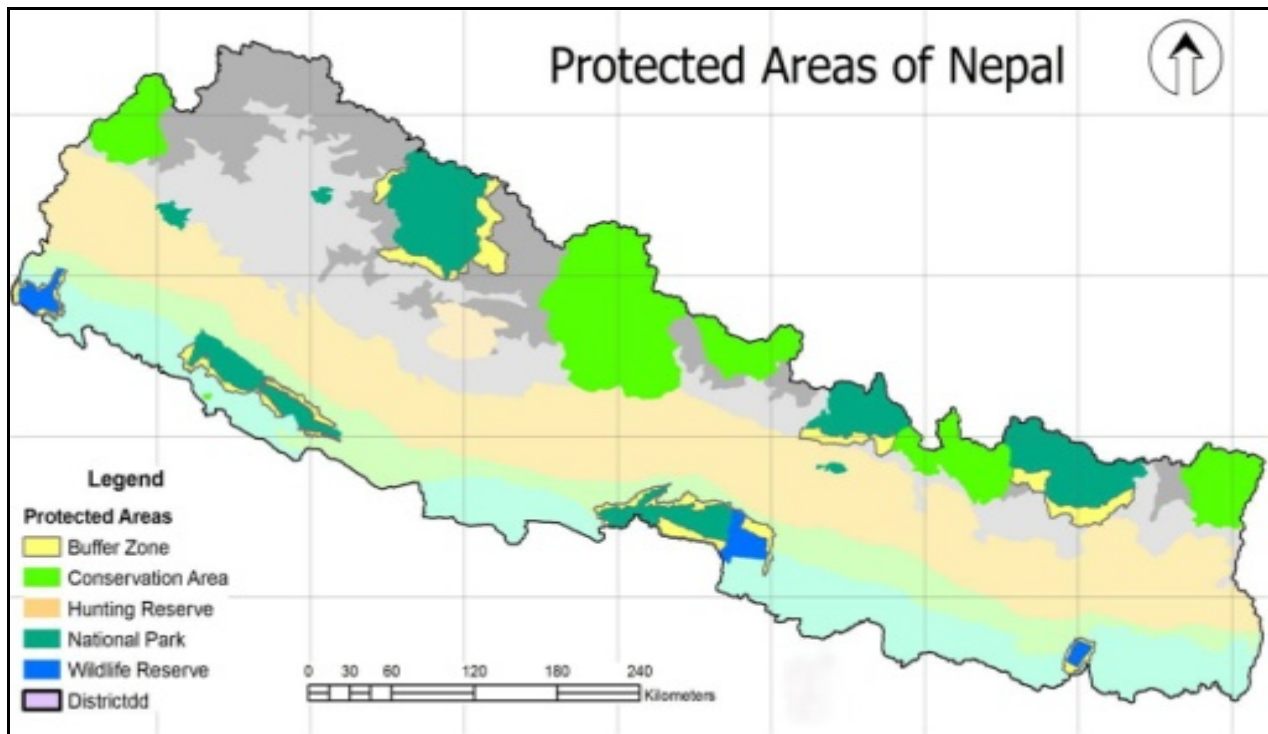


Figure: Protected Area of Nepal.

In early 1970s the park adopt the species level of the conservation strategy which gradually shifted into ecosystem level in the 1980s and 1990s with integrated conservation and development strategy and from 2000s the park was managed adopting the landscape level conservation strategy with the participatory approach. With

recognizing the importance of local community in park conservation, the surrounding area of the park was declared as buffer zone in 1996 with the provision of plowing back 30-50% of the park revenue in the buffer zone. In 2010/11 only more than 146662 tourists visited and park collect 83145 thousand of revenue. With increasing the international recognition, in 2003 Beeshazari -Lake inside the Chitwan, was declared as a Ramsar site, wetland of international importance. Likewise WWF recognized CNP as 200 Global Eco-region-terai-Duar Savannas and Grasslands.

Unique feature of the park protection is mobilization of National army-Nepal army with 50 park security posts in different areas of the park. Besides, the park was managed by 143 park staff and 129 elephant staff and care taker. CNP is the important component of Terai Arc Landscape, which is one of 14 protected areas of Nepal and India.

In terms of biodiversity, CNP is second largest population of Greater One horned Rhinoceros, with 503 in number in 2011 and prime habitat of tiger. It is equally important area for Bird habitat and Gharial crocodile breeding center, elephant breeding center and vulture conservation center.

The regular major activities of the park are Habitat Conservation and Management, Species Conservation, Research and Monitoring of tiger, crocodile (Gahrial), rhino and other invasive species, Conservation Education, Buffer Zone Management, Tourism Management, Anti-Poaching Activities. And for these activities different conservation partner like WWF Nepal and National Trust for nature conservation (NTNC) are associated with national park.

With the lots of achievement, park has lots of challenges some of the major challenge faced by the park are human –wildlife conflict, inadequate human resources to manage, poor infrastructure and paucity of financial resources.

### **3.6 Meeting with National Trust for Nature Conservation:**

In 1989, Smithsonian Institution of USA completed the project in Chitwan national park and handed over the Nepal Terai Ecology Project to NTNC, the Trust established the Nepal Conservation Research and Training Center (NCRTC) to conduct biological research and monitoring of flora and fauna in the lowland (Terai) protected areas of Nepal in 1982. In the course of time, the Center widened its focus and added a human dimension to its conservation efforts. With the expansion of the scope NCRTC was renamed with Biodiversity Conservation Center (BCC) in January 2002.

The strategy of BCC is concentrate on integrated conservation and development program with the twin objectives of applied biological research and sustainable development of local communities by providing alternative livelihood options. It has initiated different programs and project to reduce the park people conflict. Besides, BCC is working as a partner with CNP in different projects like- translocation of rhinos, census of flagship species and research monitoring of rhino, tiger and its prey base and birds, vulture breeding, invasive spp study. One of the major initiatives of BCC is, it has implemented the first landscape level conservation project in Nepal. Likewise major focused program of the BCC is Wildlife research and monitoring, Natural resources conservation, Sustainable livelihood program, Conservation education, Elephant TB surveillance & healthcare, Species conservation and breeding support, Human wildlife conflict management, Anti-poaching support, National capacity building.

With the objective of enhancing local livelihoods through sustainable community development program, BCC was supporting local communities and buffer zone community forest user group to plant and regenerate degraded forest land into green corridors. It is also supporting local communities by providing diversified

economic options such as capacity building, income generation, alternative energy, and health and sanitation. And to support the local livelihoods, BCC has launched different Income Generation Activities (IGA). Beside this BCC have major contribution in the conservation education among the community and school going childrens. (see presentation in annex...)

### **3.7 Meeting with WWF Nepal and the Terai Arc Landscape Project**

With the objectives of re-establishment and maintenance of viable wildlife, the concept of terai Arc landscape (TAL) was emerged in early 2000s. The vision of the TAL project is to maintain the globally unique landscape where biodiversity is conserved, ecological integrity is safeguarded, and sustainable livelihoods of its people are secured. With the goal to conserve the biodiversity, forests, soils and watersheds of the Terai and Churia Hills in order to ensure the ecological, economic, and socio-cultural integrity of the region TAL was introduced. It was expanded from Nepal to India with specific areas of Nepal like: Parsa Wildlife Reserve, Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park, Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and their buffer zones; Basanta and Khata Corridors; and Mahadevpuri, Lamahi and Dovan bottlenecks.

The implementing agency of TAL- WWF is working with different Thematic area - forest, species, climate change and energy , fresh water with the different support program like Sustainable livelihood, Policy and advocacy, Conservation education and capacity building, Communication and marketing, Planning, monitoring, development and coordination. Since decades it is working with park on different projects like different types of wildlife research project, carbon baseline assessment , livelihoods supporting projects through forest based, agri based and off farm based IGA, alternative energy promotion-Biogas.

Terai Arc Landscape(TAL) with the principle of landscape level conservation encourage people participation and provide conservation support, also aims to improve the livelihoods of poor and marginalized community in the buffer zone and corridors. This initiative was positive to maintain the functional corridor for wild-animals. Formation and strengthening of eco-clubs and their networks has contributed significantly in raising conservation education and awareness among school children and communities. More than 80 schools of TAL area receiving awareness and conservation education whereas community were also benefited through conservation education and capacity building conducted by the WWF-TAL project. The participatory action for anti-poaching is also one of the key pioneer initiatives of the WWF-TAL project. Since 2002, TAL support the community based anti poaching operation unit to control the illegal activities and trade around the park areas.

With the continuous decade long efforts on nature conservation and restoration, WWF TAL was facing several challenges like forest Encroachment in different areas of the Terai. Whereas the Chure is fragile in nature and its degradation is also one of the major challenges. The foremost challenges are the poaching and illegal trade of animals' parts inside and outside the country. (See presentation in annex )

## **4. Day fifth-sixth:Sharing community forestry, NTFPs and Biodiversity policy issues**

### **4.1 Presentation on micro-enterprise development program (MEDEP)**

Mr. Kiran Paudyal, from Medium enterprise development programme Nepal presented about the project, process and outcome. This project was started in 1998 with the financial support from UNDP. Its main objective is to Support poverty reduction efforts of Nepal by creating Micro Entrepreneurs and Enterprises through the targeted **poor** people, especially Women, Youths, Indigenous Nationalities, Dalit, Muslim and

Madhesi communities. This programme is supported by ME Policy 2007 Industrial Policy 2010. “Three Year Interim Plan 2007/08-2009/10” focus on MEs and Microfinance Policy 2008. this gave an idea how the value chain effects the overall development Interaction with Ministry of Environment officials, will gain experience on biodiversity conservation, natural resource management best practices (see presentation in annex ).

## **4.2 Sharing of biodiversity conservation in Nepal**

Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, joint secretary of the wildlife department shared the status, policy issues and strategies of bio diversity conservation in Nepal. He presented how the participatory approach of biodiversity conservation in Nepal is successfully implemented. He also discussed about issues and challenges of biodiversity conservation in Nepal (see presentation in annex )

## **4.3 Interaction with department of forests**

A brief meeting was held with Resham Dagi, joint secretary of the department of forests. He presented an overview of community forestry programme, progress and challenges. After his presentation, participants discussed on the presentation (see presentation in annex )

## **4.4 NTFPs processing and marketing enterprise**

A discussion was made with Mr. Gobinda .., proprietor of the Alternative Herbals who is involved in processing and marketing of NTFPs products, particularly the juices and soaps from minor forest products. The company works with local communities, assist them to process the products and bring these products for packaging. These packages are international standards and their products are sold in super markets in Kathmandu valley and abroad. Their experiences is that good packaging attracts the unban customer. It is safe and healthy as well (see the presentation attached in annex ).

### **Farewell dinner**

A farewell dinner was organized for the participant where the national presenters and FA members who joined the team to facilitate the visit also present. It was a last chance of meeting informally with the team where all participants enjoyed the dinner.

## **5. Reflection and lesson learned during the visit**

There was daily reflection in each site. Participants discussed among themselves as well as the facilitators. These daily reflections provided opportunities to clarify the confusions, review and reflect the particular issues in a group. It also helped to synthesize the learning from the field.

## **6. Feedback from the Participants**

Overall, the study tour went well and the participants were very pleased to have such an opportunity to learn lessons from another country. The participants have done a critical reflection of the exchange visit and provided feedbacks for the report which are outlined as the followings.

Overall learning: Participants mentioned that the visit was extremely successful to their mission. Though the context was quite different, the achievements made by various community groups, governments positive policy responses to promote local livelihoods through community forestry are commendable.

In Nepal, agriculture and forestry are not well integrated as in Cambodia where crops, livestock and forest are integrated for local livelihoods. Here in Nepal forests contribute in income generation and support agriculture production system. The sites visited were related to community forests and biodiversity conservation, therefore there were few discussions on the agro-based income generations during the field visit.

**Program management:** The program was scheduled with the aim of providing more opportunity to learn about the NTFPs, ecotourism and participatory biodiversity in Nepal. The schedule was too tight and participants felt tired. However, the coordination and communication was excellent and thus the interactive sessions and interaction with stakeholders went very well. Nevertheless, the discussions took longer than the scheduled time because of a cumbersome translation process. Overall, the whole discussion sessions were extremely useful for learning and gaining insight. It would have been even better if there were more interactions with local communities.

**Logistic management:** The logistics management part was really fantastic and comfortable. In general, lunch time was different than in Cambodia. However, the host team cared a lot of the participants.

**Enjoyment and fun:** The exchange visit program also consisted of some site seeing and exposure to different tourist and religious areas like Swyombhu. The visit team also got a chance to observe the local tradition of rural Nepal. The participants were offered Nepali dinner with a cultural program. These all provided opportunities for enjoyment and a lot of fun.

**Language and translation:** There were few participants who could fluently communicate in English. The presentations and visits took considerably more time than foreseen due to interpretation from English to Khmer and vice versa. In many cases the process was even slower when the speakers used the Nepali language. However, some participants and the host team played the fantastic job of translation and facilitation to engage the participants in interaction.

Based on the above reflections from the participants and host institutions, the followings are some insights for organizers of cross-country exchange visits in the future.

**Language issue:** The learning process was somehow hindered by the language problem. To overcome the language barrier it is worthwhile either to engage a professional interpreter or to assure beforehand that a sufficient number of participants can share the burden. It is very crucial to have good interpretation to ensure the effective learning by all participants.

**Preparatory meeting and training:** It is very important to familiarize the participants about the context and content of the visit. About half day training would be helpful to familiarize the participants among each other and get prepared for learning.

## 7. Key lessons learnt by the participants

Key lessons of the exposure visit are synthesized in the following points:

- Policy is not the panacea: piloting and practice made the Community Forestry program successful: Though, the CF program was initiated after enforcement of the Forest Act 1993, there were different levels of practice and piloting of community involvement in forest management since 1978. The government with support and push from donor agencies allowed for piloting of the CF model which contributed to make provision of CF in the Master Plan (1989). So, the lesson to the outsider is that policy is not panacea; piloting and practice help for the informed and pragmatic policies.

- Too much focus on policy might not ensure its effective implementation, but the effective implementation is determined by the outcomes of negotiation between government authority and the communities: Though the Forest Act 1993 provided rights of protect, manage and utilize of forest resources to local communities, government (techno-bureaucrats) has always attempted to control the CFUG activities and limit rights. The CFUGs have negotiated with DFO in many practical issues like approval of management plan, issue of collection permits and so on. Hence, too much focus on the policy alone may not produce the expected results in implementation because the communities need to negotiate at local level with the behavior and influence of government bureaucrats.
- Strong people network and federation can safeguard the community rights: The important lesson from Nepal's community forestry is that networking and federation of community organizations (CFUGs in case of Nepal) is very much important to advocate the community rights and to safeguard it. The Forest Act 1993 provided a bundle of rights to CFUGs. However, the techno bureaucrats have been regularly attempting to curtail the rights. The reason behind this is that the powerful actor never wants to lose its control over resources. It was the FECOFUN who fought for the community rights for about 1.5 decades. So, without very strong peoples network and federation, it would not have been possible to defend the community rights over forest resources.
- The Forest Act provided clear framework of sharing benefit between state and communities in the CF program. The CFUGs are entitled to all benefits derived from the forest management. However, they are not homogenous and there is always an issue of sharing benefits among the members of CFUGs. The CFUGs are dominated by local elites who have more stakes to the benefits than the poor and marginalized ones. The marginalized communities within CFUGs are deprived of benefits from the forests. So, there is always the issue of “who gets what” and who is benefiting how much?” within the CFUGs.
- Initially the idea of CF emerged for restoring the degraded hill forest and fulfilling basic forest product's need of the local communities. But, after about 30 years of experiences, CF has moved far beyond the original idea and has become a vehicle of development and repository of ranges of ecosystem services. It means, the scope of CF has expanded to accommodate the social harmony, local development including educational, health and infrastructure and even reducing carbon emission and climate adaptation. This is because the communities are the ones to make decision about the scope of CF to address the wider issue of society.
- There is huge scope of forests product value chain development but this demands community involvement in value chain, so that major portion of the benefit goes to the communities as well as it helps to develop entrepreneurships. Quality processing and Marketing of the product is key challenges. However, NTFPs are unique products in market therefore there is comparative advantages of these products in regional/global market.

## 8. Annex

### Annex 8.1: List of participants

S.N	Name	Organization	Address
1	Mr. Soeu Leang	Honey Rep from Bosh Veng	Kampong thom
2	Mr. Chy Chum	CF rep from Bosh Veng	Kampong thom
3	Mr. King Sambath	Deputy Director of Beoung Pe Wildlife Sanctuary	Preah Vihear
4	Mr. TAN IN	CF Rep from Trapeang krol	Kampong Thom
5	Mrs. Moul Nen	CF Rep from Samarky	Oddar meanchey

6	Mr. Nhel Nam	Resin Rep from Samarky	Oddar meanchey
7	Mr. Bun salouth	CF Rep from sang Rokhavoan	Oddar meanchey
8	Mr. hem Sophol		Oddar meanchey
9	Mr. CHANN PHOUN	CPA Rep from Chi Oak	Preah Vihear
10	Mr. Hean Kosal	CPA Rep from Srae Thom	Preah Vihear
11	Mr. Seng Kim Say	Officer of CF and Forestry Department	Phnom Penh
12	Mr. Mom Sitha	CBNRM team leader	Cambodia MSME project
13	Mr. Oun Rithy	CBNRM Specialist	Cambodia MSME project

## Annex 8.2 : Detail Schedule

Time frame	Description of Activities	Venue/ Organization	Facilitator/ organiser	Remark
<b>27 April Friday</b>				
13: 00	Arrive to TIA airport at 12.25 and pick up for Hotel	Summit Hotel, Kupondole, Kathmandu	ForestAction	Participant will arrive before 1:00 PM of 27 <sup>th</sup> April, 2012
15:00 to 15:30	Introduction to exchange visit program and brief about the national socio-political and policy context	Summit Hotel, Kupondole, Kathmandu	ForestAction Team	
15:30 to 16:30	Brief overview of biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Nepal along with best practices of NTFPs (resin, honey and eco-tourism supply chain management, improved processing techniques and market development)	Summit, Kupondole, Kathmandu	ForestAction Team Naya Sharma (98510-15388) Hari Luitel 98511-32555	Contact with Kamal Bhandari 9841395810
16:30-17:00	Overview of field visit program	Summit, Kupondole, Kathmandu	ForestAction Team Krishna and Kamal	
<b>28 April Saturday</b>				
7:00-10:0	Travel to Chuniya Bagmara Makwanpur district and e	Daman, Makawanpur	FA team krishna Paudel (98511-55555) Kamal Bhandari (9841-395810)	Takes about 3:30 hours drive by road from Kathmandu
10:00-11:30	interaction meeting with community resin collection process and marketing\ d enterprises will be organise in Churiya	Afnai Community Forestry User Group	Karna Bahadur Pakhrin (98454-64620)	
11:30-12:00	Travel to Hetauda	Hetauda Bazar	FA team	
12.00-1:30	Lunch		FA Team	

1:30-2:00	Travel to Lothar		FA Team	
2:30-4:30	interaction with Bee Keeping farmers/ cooperatives of Lothar areas	Bee keeping cooperative	Dinesh Chepang (98550-68763 and 057-690602)	
4:30-5:00	Travel to Sauraha	Hotel Wildlife Camp	Shankar Shainju (98510-69380)	
Stay at Sauraha- small town near to Chitwan National Park				
<b>29 April Sunday</b>				
7:00-8:00	Breakfast	Hotel Wildlife camp		
8:00-10:30	Elephant Ride	National Park	Hotel guide	
11:00-12:00	Exposure visit inside Chitwan National Park biodiversity conservation practices and site view)	Chitwan National Park	Amir Maharjan (9841-896735)	
12:00-1:30	Back to Sauraha & Lunch			
2:00-17:00	Interaction with National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and Park authority (Eco-tourism and biodiversity practices)	Sauraha, Chitwan	NTNC Naresh Subedi(98550-56934) or Baburam 98098-71777	
17:00-19:00	Interaction with WWF\ TAL staff	WWF\ TAL field office	Abdul Sahim Ansari 98550-56892, 056-580359	
19:00	Cultural programme (Tharu communities cultural performance)	Sauraha, Chitwan	Hotel staff	Tharu are indigenous people of Terai
	Stay at Sauraha			
<b>30 April</b>				
8:00-8:30	Travel to kankali CFUG	Kankali community forestry user group	FA team	
8:30-12:00	Interaction with Community Users forest group and observe forest based enterprise	Kankali, Chitwan	Bed Bad. Adhikari (98450-51595) Punya Prava 98450-43934	
12:30-1:30	Lunch			
2:00-3:00	Interaction with Gurkha Bee company	Ramnagar, Chitwan	Dr. Khem Neupane(98550-56177)/forestaction	Overview on Bee keeping industry in Nepal & honey processing
3:00-3:15	Travel to Gaidakot	Sagar Bee	FA team	

		keeping		
3:15-4:15	Interaction about bee keeping and honey processing	Sagar Bee keeping	Rajendra Gautam 98450-48471	
4:30 - 4:15	Travel to Amarapur, Nawalparasi	Sundari CFUG	FA team	
4:30-6:00	Interaction with CFUG leaders to discuss NTFP promotion in CF	Sundari CFUG	Badri Sapkota 98470-95828 and Thakur Pandey 98471-45008	
6:00-6:30	Travel to Narayangardh	Hotel Royal Century	FA Team	
	Stay at Narayangardh	Hotel Royal Century 056-25865(hotel), 056-520419 (Direct)	Ubaraj Ghimire	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> May, Tuesday</b>				
6.30-12.00	Back to Kathmandu including breakfast			
14.00-16.00	Reflection on field observation	Summit Hotel	Forestaction and participants	
16.30-17:30	Interaction with Ministry of Agriculture (bee keeping, NTFPs).	Agriculture department Kathmandu	ForestAction Team and senior government officers	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> May Wednesday</b>				
8:00-10:00	Honey Association and Resin Association (Interaction on processing of honey and resin, markets and marketing strategies, scopes, issues and challenges).	Summit Hotel, Kuponole, Kathmandu	ForestAction Team and Resin association leaders ( Hom Pandey 98580-20310)	Resin production and processing sites are in far-west region of Nepal therefore not possible to manage site visit within the proposed schedule
10.30-12.30	Interaction with Ministry of Forestry; Discuss about Nepal's approach to biodiversity conservation	Wild life department Kathmandu	ForestAction Team/senior officers from Ministry and department	Mahewar Dhakal ( 9849-154767)

13:45-15:45	Interaction with Ministry of Environment officials, will gain experience on biodiversity conservation, natural resource management best practices.	Ministry of environment, Kathmandu	ForestAction Team	Resham Dangi (9841386384)
16:30-18:00	Local markets and market vendors and shops that sell NTFPs	Alternative herbal company	AHC/ForestAction Team	Gobinda Ghimire(98511-20541)
19:00-20:30	Farewell dinner	Summit Hotel, Kupondole, Kathmandu	Forestaction	Will be invited key individuals involved in the programme
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May Thursday</b>				
8:00-10:00	Reflection and lesson learned during visit and how it can be applied to current practices in Cambodia.	Summit Hotel, Kupondole, Kathmandu		
10:30	BBK flight at 1.30 Leave hotel for departure			

### **Annex 8.3: Presentations**

- Presentation: Abdul S. Ansari; WWF Nepal and the Terai Arc Landscape, TAL.
- Presentation: Chitwan
- Presentation: Naya Sharma, Krishna Paudel; Influencing Forest Policy Process: Combining Research with Activism.
- Presentation: Harisharan Luintel, NTFPs Management Activism.
- Presentation: Babu Ram Limichhane; National Trust for Nature Conservation.
- Presentation: Resham Bdr. Dangi; Community Based Goressts and NTFP: Experience from Nepal.
- Presentation: Kiran Paudyal; Micro - Enterprise Development Programme.
- Presentation: Maheshwar Dhakal; Protected Area Management System in Nepal.
- Presentation: Govinda Ghimire; Nepal Herb and herbal Products Association (NEHHPA)

### **Annex 8.4: Financial Statement**