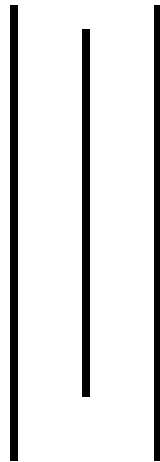


**National Consultative Workshop on
Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas
(ICCAs) in Nepal
August 2-3, 2009, Kathmandu**



Workshop Report

Submitted to: Small Grants Programme, UNDP-Nepal

Submitted by: Forest Action Nepal



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1. Introduction

The write up is a brief report as an outcome of two days first national consultative workshop on Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) in Nepal held on August 2-3, 2009 in Kathmandu. The workshop was organized by ForestAction Nepal in collaboration with Kalpavriksh, India ; Integrated Rural Development Centre (IRDC), Nepal with the support of Small Grants Program-UNDP.

The major aim of the workshop was:

- Dialogue between representatives of indigenous peoples, local communities and civil society organizations on ICCAs
- Deliberate on concept and potentials of ICCAs in Nepal, including global data base of ICCAs
- Share global and local experiences of community conservation, constraints and expectations.

2. Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in International Policy

– Ashish Kothari, Kalpavriksh, India and IUCN/TILCEPA

Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) are ‘natural and modified ecosystems with significant biodiversity, ecological services and cultural values voluntarily conserved by indigenous and local communities through customary laws or other effective means. The global range of ICCAs encompasses sacred spaces & habitats; indigenous territories and cultural landscapes/seascapes; territories & migration routes of nomadic herders / mobile indigenous peoples; sustainably-managed wetlands, fishing grounds and water bodies; sustainably-managed resource reserves (those with substantial wildlife value); sacred or culturally protected species and their habitats in different parts of the world as well as community-established protected areas in industrialized countries. Even though there is no comprehensive estimate available, ICCAs are extensive. It is claimed that ICCAs could **double** the world’s protected area coverage!

Essential features of ICCAs

1. Predominant role of community in decision-making (even if on govt lands)... *different from co-management*
2. Institutional mechanism for conservation and management (customary/statutory, traditional/new)
3. Achieving or having potential to achieve conservation of biodiversity (protection and/or sustainable use)

Some of the major international tools for ICCAs include: UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; IUCN protected area categories; UNEP protected area database coordinated by World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC).

U.N. Convention on Biodiversity (UN Convention on Biodiversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas) states “ensure **the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the management of protected area ... co-management recognise indigenous and community conserved areas**”. Implementation is ongoing in many countries but weak in many countries.

IUCN classification of protected areas

Governance type	A. Government Managed Protected Areas			B. Co-managed Protected Areas (shared governance)			C. Private Protected Areas			D. Indigenous & Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs)	
	Federal or national ministry or agency in charge	Local/municipal ministry or agency in charge	Government-delegated management (e.g. to an NGO)	Trans-boundary management	Collaborative management (various forms of pluralist influence)	Joint management (pluralist management board)	Declared and run by individual land-owner	...by non-profit organisations (e.g. NGOs, universities, etc.)	...by for profit organisations (e.g. corporate land-owners)	Declared and run by Indigenous Peoples	Declared and run by Local Communities
I - Strict Nature Reserve/ Wilderness Area											
II – National Park (ecosystem protection; protection of cultural values)											
III – Natural Monument											
IV – Habitat/ Species Management											
V – Protected Landscape/ Seascape											
VI – Managed Resource											

Challenge of recognition

One of the important issues of ICCAs is recognition from the state. Sometimes state recognition could impose structural mechanism and could be detrimental to ongoing status and practices of de facto ICCAs. Hence process and consent of local people is thus critical during recognition.

Issues for Nepal

1. Identifying & documenting ICCAs
2. Recognising them within or outside law (including previously community-managed areas now within PAs)
3. Providing other support (financial, technical, livelihoods, against external threats)
4. Considering relevant ones as part of PA network (if desired by community)
5. Reporting them to global database (with community consent)

2. Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in Nepal

– Sudeep Jana, ForestAction Nepal

The presentation was based on the year long study based on secondary literatures as well as inquiry into give sites including forest and wetland ecosystem. This includes Chepang Forest in Hapani, Chitwan (forest managed in a hill tract initiated by local Chepang youth); Godavari Kunda Community Forest, Lalitpur (bird conservation by CFUGs); Bajra Barahi Religious Forest, Chapagaon, Lalipur (historical forest managed by local CBO); Rupa Tal, Kask (wetland governed by local fishery cooperative) and Tau Daha, Kirtipur : Sacred wetland governed by local management committee

Types, range of ICCAs in Nepal

- Religious Forests, Sacred Groves
- Grazing and rangelands managed by customarily local people's institutions' (rotational grazing, grass cutting). E.g Transhumance Pastoralism in Pungmo, Dolpa.
- Wetlands
- Indigenous forest management maintained through customary rules and norms, example -community forest management through "Shinggi nawa".
- Community forests contributing in biodiversity conservation
- Conservation Areas (PA category): Kanchenjunga Conservation Area
- Beyuls (Sacred Hidden Valleys located in Himalayas)

Myths on ICCAs

- Separate Protected Area categories
- Similar to 'Conservation Areas'
- Challenge official protected areas
- Can not co-exist within existing PA system
- They need recognition and legal authority from the government
- Can be established only with tenure rights.
- They are new phenomenon
- Same as community based conservation

Potential ICCAs in Nepal

- Buffer Zones
 - Wetlands and community forests in buffer zones.
 - Community forests in PA and wildlife corridors
 - Connectivity of several community forests in a landscape
 - Ramsar listed Wetlands
 - Villages and areas in Annapurna Conservation Areas
- Ghandruk Village (Governed by Conservation Area Management Committee)
- Nar Phu Valley (traditional institutions and decision making authorities on resource use and governance)

- Proposed conservation areas in Nepal
- Panchesy Hill Tract (Located at Junction of Parbat, Syanja and Kaski district. It has diverse species of orchid and considered as a sacred sites. Currently it is governed by Panchasey area development committee. There are network of community forests on the periphery of the conserved hill tract. The place has a religious significance and ecotourism value

Relevance of ICCAs in the context of Nepal

- State obligation to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well implementation of *CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas*
- Nepal has ratified ILO item number 169
- Nepal is party to UNDRIPs
- Expand coverage of PA at securing rights of local people, PA connectivity
- Enhance legacy of participatory conservation
- Community rights to natural resources in the context of state restructuring
- Community based climate change adaptation and mitigation

Lessons

- **Time:** There are oldest and newest forms of ICCAs in Nepal.
- **Space: Geographic scale** of ICCA varies from small sites to bigger sites at a landscape.
- **Location:** ICCAs exists within and beyond current PAs.
- **Religious and cultural values** vital to sustenance of ICCAs and generating local stakes in conservation.
- **Livelihood security** or benefits is vital to ICCAs.
- ICCAs provide avenue for inter-linkages between **participatory conservation and livelihood;** and **culture and conservation.**
- Connectivity and mosaic of community forests can enhance ecological and economic scale.
- ICCAs can address poverty as well as livelihood necessities while at the same time garner support for the cause of conservation.
- Democratic governance, inclusion and equity are integral to ICCAs
- Tenure security is critical.
- Enabling and conducive polices could enhance ICCAs. Recognition and support to ICCAs are of dire necessity.

3. Legal and Policy spaces for ICCAs in Nepal

– Dil Raj Khanal, NRM Legal Expert

The presentation provided review and snapshot of relevant legislations, policies, strategies pertaining to ICCAs in Nepal..

Table 1: Legislations on PAs in Nepal

SN	Acts and Regulations on PAs in Nepal	Date	
		Enacted	Amended
1.	Elephant Management Rules	1965	
2.	National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act	1973	1 st – 1974, 2 nd – 1982 3 rd – 1989, 4 th - 1992
3.	National Park and Wildlife Conservation Regulation	1974	1 st – 1975, 2 nd – 1978 3 rd – 1985
4.	Chitwan National Park Regulation	1974	1 st – 1989
5.	Wildlife Reserve Regulation	1977	1 st – 1985
6.	Himalayan National Park Regulation	1979	
7.	Khaptad National Park Regulation	1987	
8.	Bardiya National Park Regulation	1996	
9.	Buffer Zone Management Regulation	1995	
10.	Conservation Area Management Regulation	1996	
11.	Conservation Area Government Management Regulation	2000	
12.	Kanchanjunga Conservation Area Management Regulation	2005	

Source: Nepal Law book Management board, Kathmandu, Nepal

There is a provision of sustainable use of forest products and natural resources of protected areas and buffer zones through integrated management plans despite a major focus on bio-diversity conservation. The element of wise and sustainable use of resources is thus reflected in the law. Likewise, there is a provision of forming users' group/committee of local people for management and use of natural resources of PAs and buffer zones. There is also a provision of sharing of 30-50 percent revenue of PA to local people in the buffer zone. There are provisions for compensating compensations for wildlife victims. There is a recent guideline to this end.

There is no legal space for recognition of ICCAs as a governance of PAs. Decision making authority is centralized. There is no clear provision on autonomy of local community institutions in protected areas. These institutions are still held accountable to the government. There are power imbalances between community and government

institutions. There are still contradictions in national legislations with respect to international conventions and rules on protected areas.

Table 2: Existing policies, strategies and plans

Forestry
Forest Policy, 2000
Leasehold Forest Policy, 2059 B.S
Medicinal Herbs and NTFPs Development Policy
Protected Areas, Environment and Biodiversity
National Conservation Strategy, 1988
Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan (First/Second), 1993/1998
Nepal Biodiversity Strategy, 2002
Nepal Biodiversity Strategy and Implementation Plan, 2006-2010
Terai Arc Landscape- Nepal Strategic Plan (2004-2014)
Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL), Strategic Plan 2006-2012
Mountain Development Policy , 2058 B.S
Policy guidelines on PA management by NGOs & other organizations, 2003
Strategies on wildlife farming, breeding and research, 2003
Policy on domestic elephant management, 2003
Strategy to combat Poaching
Tiger Action Plan, 1998
Snow Leopard Conservation Plan, 2061 B.S.
Rhino Action Plan, 2003
National Policy on Bio-security, 2063 B.S.
Wetland, Watershed, Water Resource, Irrigation
National Wetland Policy, 2003
Water Resource Strategy, 2003
Nepal Water Plan, 2007-2027
Chure Area Strategy and Program, 2063B.S
Irrigation Policy, 2060 B.S
Agriculture
Agriculture Perspective Plan (1995-2015), 1995
National Agro Biodiversity Policy of Nepal, 2006
National Agriculture Policy, 2061 B.S

These policies and strategies mention people's participation in management of natural resources such as forest, protected areas, water resource, wetland and biodiversity conservation. It acknowledges management of resource at a community level. Community institutions and organizations are recognized as one of the stakeholders.

But there are no clear cut provisions on community ownerships (rights over property) over resources. They lack adequate mechanisms and structures to ensure participation of communities in decision making process. Likewise there are no clear provisions on benefit sharing. There are inconsistencies and contradictions amongst policies.

The current acts, legislations and policies do not recognize the concept of ICCAs. Hence there is a need of newer legal provisions to this end. There are inadequate debates on boundary of community autonomy as well as required structures. Hence the new legislations and reform should consider this fact. Enough debate is required to clarify and specify authority and jurisdictions of ICCAs in course of federal governance structure of Nepal.

Current legislations indirectly related to PAs

1. Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2063B.S
2. Private forest nationalization act, 2013B.S
3. Forest Act, 1993 and Forest Regulation, 1995
4. National Trust for Nature Conservation Act, 1982 and National Trust for Nature Conservation Regulation, 1985
5. Environment Protection Act, 1997
6. Environment Protection Regulation, 1997
7. Aquatic Animals Protection Act, 1961
8. Soil and Watershed Conservation Act, 1982
9. Water Resources Act, 1992
10. Pasture Land Nationalization Act, 2031 B.S
11. Guthi Corporation Act, 2033B.S
12. Local Self Governance Act, 2055 B.S
13. Land Revenue Act, 2034 B.S

4. Understanding Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas through a Global Registry: A process of global recognition

- Neem Pathak, Kalpavriksh, India.

Global recognition of for ICCAs is significant for recognition from the national government, to garner political support and security of rights and responsibilities (tenure), to seek financial support, to gain legal and policy support and among others to tackle against external threats.

The Global Registry Process

A consortium for support and recognition of ICCAs was formed during the World Conservation Congress 2008. UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) with support from the consortium commits to support recognition through creation of participatory registry and a dedicated website. UNEP-WCMC is experienced expert body on PA database

The database of ICCAs to be fed into global data base is expected to be filled by community members. A form on free, prior consent is to be filled after discussions with the community members. Data filled in the registry must be discussed with the

concerned community (exact process to be worked out). Data from information in public domain may be used, however the concerned community to be informed about their name and information being in the registry and implications of the same.

Significance to be part of the registry:

- Internationally recognised to be an ICCA
- Entitled to all support that may come towards ICCAs from any quarters
- Able to use this status to seek recognition from your own government or resist external pressures
- The information about initiative and traditional knowledge (to the extent that is acceptable to you) concerning ICCAs will be shared with the rest of the world.
- Making commitment to conservation known hence holding ourselves publicly accountable.
- Any change in its status as an ICCA will have to be communicated to the team maintaining the registry.

5. Voices and agenda of the communities

Contribution in conservation

The experiences of local communities who participated in the workshop suggest their contribution and role in biodiversity conservation. Their conservation initiatives can be broadly classified as

- Conservation of wetlands and forest ecosystems, biodiversity.
- Conservation in landscape (eg. Panchasey, Tinjure Milkey Jaljaley , Chepang forest)
- Indigenous practices of resource management, governance, use and control contributing conservation
- Cultural practices and sensitivity to conservation (eg. Sherpa from Khumbu region)
- Conservation of agro-biodiversity, conservation and sustainable use of forest resources in buffer zone community forests etc.

Challenge/constraints

- Contradictions between local conservation initiatives and policies
- Bureaucratic hassles for CFUGs
- Inadequate consultation with local people while declaring new protected areas
- Integrating sporadic conservation initiatives at a larger landscape level conservation to enhance scale of conservation
- No tenure security
- Limited rights to local people at present despite their role in conservation.
- No clear benefit sharing provisions and mechanisms (securing benefits of conservation to those conserving the resources)
- No clarity of jurisdictions (example: wetlands, Panchasey hill tract)

- Lack of adequate sensitivity to sacred sites of indigenous peoples
- No linkage between conservation, poverty and development
- Harmonizing traditional resource use practices with new regimes of forest management.

Expectations

- Recognize, respect existing practices of conservation through process that does not undermine customary practices and systems.
- Provide support
- Favorable policy changes and reform
- ICCAs as governance types of protected areas
- Secure rights of communities over the resources they are conserving.

The representatives of local communities and indigenous peoples and their formal and informal organization decided to form a network. of ICCAs in Nepal with the support of civil society organizations. The network came up with a plan to expand the scope of its network and engage in a further dialogue within its own respective constituency. The network currently represents:

- *ICCA Sherpas* in Khumbu region
- *Rupa Wetland Fisheries Cooperative*, Kaski
- *Committee of proposed Rhododendron Community Conservation Area (Tinjure-Milkey-Jaljaley)*
- *Indigenous Chepang youth managing forest in a landscape*, Chitwan
- *Godavari Kunda Community Forest*, Lalitpur
- *Panchasey hill forest landscape*, Parbat-Syanja-Kaski
- *Buffer Zone Community Forest from Chitwan national park.*
- *Kanchenjunga Conservation Area*

6. Perspectives of stakeholders

FECOFUN's Perspective towards ICCAs

The president of the FECOFUN extended his support to promote the concept of ICCAs in Nepal and constructive engagement of FECOFUN in this process. However he challenged the current processes of declaring new conservation areas and stressed that local communities do not perceive expansion and creation of new protected areas positively. This is due to lack of adequate understanding, dialogue, consultation with local community forest user groups in proposed conservation areas in Nepal. “*we are conserving forests but government is declaring new conservation areas. The process of declaring protected areas is faulty*”. He highlighted that locals are conserving forests and wildlife habitats in buffer zones, community forests more effectively than authorities of protected areas. Therefore these initiatives should be give due recognition by the state.

Perspective of Member of Constituent Assembly

Mr. Parsu Ram Tamang informed that practices and regimes of resource management by indigenous peoples existent in Nepal were dismantled due to nationalization of forest, pasture land and communal land ownership such Kipat system. The issue of further expansion of protected areas has to be taken with precaution so that it does not jeopardize rights of local people. He challenged CFUGs (user group model) as ICCAs. He emphasized that state's sovereignty and community sovereignty have to be defined by new constitution.

Government Perspectives towards ICCAs

Uday Raj Sharma, Secretary Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation

He pointed out changing terminology of CCA now regarded as ICCAs. Nepal is committed toward this not something imposed but as the responsibility of the government. Focal point of CBD is environment department of the Ministry which is the key focal point for ICCAs in Nepal from the part of the government. Nepal is not backward or unaware of community based conservation; we have ample experiences of participatory conservation.

He also clarified the controversy generated by Sherpa leaders while declaring Khumbu CCA within existing national park. He clarified that the concept of ICCA is not conflicting to existing PAs.

There are positive avenues and openings. "There are few things that we can initiate even in the absence of specific legislations or new legislations. We can incorporate ICCAs in Buffer Zone Management Plans. Management Plan can address these. It's a long journey to claim an entire PAs as ICCAs. Management Plan of District (the conventional intention is extraction of forest resources, collection of firewood) forest can also incorporate ICCAs with forest ecosystem". In the context of Sacred Himalayan Landscape and Terai Arc Landscape, concept of ICCAs can be incorporated for connectivity in a landscape.

There is a possibility of addressing ICCAs as governance types in Fifth Amendment of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (NPWC) Act. He also acknowledges the struggle of indigenous peoples as critical to discourse of ICCAs. "Our legislations do not mention indigenous peoples exclusively".

Shiva Raj Bhatta, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation

He mentioned that DNPWC is in the process of amending the national park and wildlife conservation act. The issue of advancing more rights to local people is critical. Communities have access to religious forests inside protected areas, grazing in high altitude as well as medicinal herbs. How to guarantee these is a pressing issue. It can be easily addressed if resource use and access (example of Yasha Gumba) unless they are not commercialized. In Shey Poksundo National Park, both local people and

government are grappling with the problem of managing and regulating valuable medicinal herbs.

He highlighted the need of further documentation. Identification of areas inside and outside PAs as ICCAs is vital for any kind of policy change to this end. He reiterated that management plans and amendments in act can address these. There are potentials towards change.

Bala Ram Kandel, Department of Forest

“It is not a new concept, we have been doing it”. Scope and domain of conservation are critical beyond existing PAs. Community forests constitute 25% of the total forest cover. Community forest user groups are legally autonomous body. Only through declaring protected areas biodiversity conservation can not be conserved.

The issue of maximizing benefits is also important despite handing over (in the context of PES, climate change) management and use rights of local people to forests. Before going international we need to do homework at national level first, with regard to data base.

CF is progressive in terms of giving right to local people. CF *Marga Darshan* (guideline) has captured issues of indigenous peoples (issue of representation).

Annex 1: Photos



Participants during day one of the workshop



Participants during day 2 workshop

Annex 2: Program Schedule

2 August, 2009, SAP Falcha, Babarmahal – Kathmandu

Day 1 (Full day)		
8:00-9:00am	Breakfast and registration	
9:00 am -12:00	Morning Session	
	Session Chair	Gopal Sherchan
	Introduction and objective of the workshop	Forest Action
	Concepts, meanings and discourse of ICCAs	Ashish Kothari
	Sharing of Nepal Study on ICCAs	Sudeep Jana
	Sharing of experiences on local level conservation initiatives; government responses and emerging issues	Community leaders
12:00 -1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 -4:00 pm	Afternoon Session	
	Legal and Policy Spaces for ICCAs in Nepal and future strategy/potential interventions	Dil Raj Khanal, Legal Expert
	Global database and issues of recognition	Neema Pathak
	<i>In-depth discussion: Contribution of local people in biodiversity conservation; constraints they are facing and their agenda for change</i>	Facilitator : Prabhu Budhathoki
	<i>Wrap up of the discussion</i>	Vivek Dhar Sharma

3 August, 2009, Hotel Ordchid, Tripureshwor – Kathmandu

Day 2		
8:00 - 9:00am	Break Fast and Registration	
9:00 – 12:00 am	Session Chair	Hemanta Ojha
	Introduction and objective of the workshop	Gopal Sherchan
	Presentation: Concepts and Global Discourse on ICCAs	Ashish Kothari
	Brief presentation: Nepal Study on ICCAs	Sudeep Jana
	Key points emerging from internal discussions from community representatives	Community Representative
	Response from various stakeholders	
	<i>Government perspectives on ICCAs</i>	Department of Forests; Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
	<i>Federations, (I)NGOs, experts,</i>	Identified representatives will express structured responses
	<i>Government perspectives on ICCAs</i>	Dr U Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
12:00 – 12:45	<i>Open discussion – questions clarifications, views, Synthesis of the discussion</i>	
12:45 – 1:00	Summary of the discussion by the chair	Hemant Ojha
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Lunch	
2:00 – 4:00	Afternoon session (Reflection of the workshop, Strategic Direction for Promoting ICCAs)	
	Volunteer participation among the participants	

Annex 3: Discussion Paper on ICCAs in Nepal

नेपालमा आदीवासी जनजाती तथा समुदायद्वारा संरक्षण गरिएका क्षेत्रहरू (ICCAs in Nepal) -फरेष्टएक्सन नेपाल

यस संक्षिप्त लेखन अगष्ट २००८ देखि, जुलाई २००९ सम्ममा गरिएको अध्ययनको आधारमा तयार पारिएको छ। यस छोटो लेखनले स्थानीय समुदाय, आदिवासी जनजाती, सम्बन्धित संगठन, संस्था र प्रतिनिधीहरू बीच नेपालमा आदीवासी जनजाती तथा समुदायद्वारा संरक्षण गरिएका क्षेत्रहरू (आई. सि.सि.ए.) को सम्बन्धमा यस राष्ट्रिय स्तरको संवाद एवं छलफललाई योगदान पुऱ्याउने अपेक्षा गरिएको छ।

सहभागीतामूलक संरक्षणको बहस, दृष्टान्त र सोचमा हाल भइरहेको प्रगतिशिल परिवर्तनको सन्दर्भलाई हेर्ने हो भने, दुई अन्तराष्ट्रिय घटनाक्रमको महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहेको पाईन्छ। पहिलो, संरक्षणविद र यसमा संलग्नहरूको प्रत्येक एक दशकमा हुने सबैभन्दा ठूलो भेला “विश्व पार्क सभा” (World Park Congress 2003), पाँचौं २००३। दास्रो सन् २००४ को “जैविक विविधता महासन्धी” (Convention on Biological Diversity) मा सदस्य मुलुकहरूको सातौं सम्मेलन (COP 7)। यी दुवै घटनाक्रमहरू किन महत्वपूर्ण थिए भने, यसले राज्य बाहेक स्थानीय समुदाय र आदीवासी जनजातीहरू (संरक्षणका गैर राज्य प्रमुख कर्ताहरू) ले जैविक विविधता संरक्षणमा पुऱ्याउने महत्वपूर्ण योगदानलाई आत्मसाथ गर्नुको साथै त्यसप्रतिको मान्यतालाई पनि स्थापित गरेको पाईन्छ। हाल आएर स्थानीय जनताले संरक्षणमा पुऱ्याएको प्रमुख भूमिकाको साथै उनीहरूका परम्परागत एवं पुराना अभ्यासहरू, उनीहरूको निर्णय गर्ने अधिकारहरू प्रतिको चेतना एवं सकारात्मक सोच बढ्ने क्रममा छ।

आई. सि.सि.ए. भन्ने शब्दावली संरक्षणको अन्तराष्ट्रिय बहस र सन्दर्भमा यसको अभ्यास, व्याप्तता, अस्तित्व भने नौलो होइन। कुनै कुनै अवस्थामा त राज्यले स्थापना गरेका संरक्षित क्षेत्र (Protect Areas) हरु भदा पहिले देखि नै अभ्यासमा रहेको पाइन्छ। तसर्थ आई. सि.सि.ए. हरुलाई सबैभन्दा पुराना र व्यापक रूपमा अवस्थित संरक्षणको स्वरूपको रूपमा लिन सकिन्छ। विश्वभरी त्यस्ता अनाधिकारिक संरक्षित क्षेत्रहरू (सरकार बाट मान्यता प्राप्त नगरेका तर वास्तविकतामा भइ रहेका) आई. सि.सि.ए. हरुका थुप्रै उदाहरण छन्।

आई. सि.सि.ए. को महत्वपूर्ण विशेषताहरू

१. उपस्थित पारिस्थितिक प्रणाली (Ecosystem), पर्यावरण क्षेत्र वा प्रजातीहरू अनि सम्बन्धित निश्चित मानव समुदाय बीच घनिष्ट र बलियो सम्बन्ध हुन्छ। मानिसहरू साँस्कृतिक, जीविका अथवा अरु कुनै महत्वपूर्ण हिसाबले महसुस भएको कारणले गर्दा त्यस्ता ठाँउहरू प्रति चासो राख्छन्।

२. त्यस्ता क्षेत्रहरूको व्यवस्थापन सम्बन्धि निर्णयमा स्थानीय जनताको प्रमुख भूमिका हुन्छन्। कानुनी तथा वास्तविकताको हिसाबले गर्दा उनीहरूले महत्वपूर्ण व्यवस्थापकिय निर्णयहरू लिन र अवलम्बन गर्न सक्छन्।

३. सम्बन्धित समुदायको निर्णय, भूमिका र प्रयासहरूले गर्दा बासस्थान, प्रजाति, पर्यावरणिय पद्धतिहरू, जैविक विविधता, सम्बन्धित साँस्कृतिक मूल्य र मान्यताहरूको संरक्षण भएका हुन्छन्। समुदायले त्यस्ता ठाँउ, क्षेत्रहरू सँग सम्बन्धित व्यवस्थापनको उद्देश्य जैविक विविधता नै हुनु पर्ने वा सचेत हिसाबले महसुस गर्नु पर्ने हुदैन।

नेपालमा आई. सि.सि.ए. का प्रकारहरू

नेपाल आई. सि.सि.ए.का विविध प्रकार र स्वरूपहरू छन्। कुनै आदिवासी जनजाती एवं स्थानीय समुदायहरूद्वारा आरम्भ वा सुरु गरेका छन् भने, कुनै सरकारकै पहलमा तथा संरक्षणमा लागेका गै.स.स. ले वा सबैको साभेदारीमा सुरु भएका वा स्थापित छन्। आई. सि.सि.ए.हरू नेपालमा पुराना एवं नयाँ दुवै

स्वरूपका छन् ।

- धर्मिक एवं पवित्र वनहरु
- उच्च क्षेत्रका चरिचरण र घाँसे मैदानहरु, भूभागहरु (स्थानीय जनताको आफ्नो मौलिक, परम्परागत नियम र अभ्यासहरुद्वारा संचालित, अनौपचारिक रैथाने संस्थाहरुद्वारा व्यवस्थित छन्)
- ताल तलैयाहरु, पवित्र सिमसारहरु
- वन व्यवस्थापनको रैथाने अभ्यास (“सिङ्गी नावा”द्वारा व्यवस्थित सामूदायिक वन)
- जैविक विविधता संरक्षण गरेका सामूदायिक वनहरु
- कञ्चनजङ्गा संरक्षण क्षेत्र (स्थानीय समूदायको संस्थाद्वारा व्यवस्थापन)
- “वेयुल” (हिमाली क्षेत्रका बौद्ध धर्म अनुसार पवित्र एवं लुकाईएका उपत्यकाहरु)

नेपालमा सम्भावित आई.सि.सि.ए.हरु : बहसको विषय

- संरक्षण क्षेत्रहरु, संरक्षण क्षेत्र भित्रका स्थानीय जनताद्वारा संरक्षण र व्यवस्थापन गरिएका गाँऊहरु जस्तै: घान्द्रुक, अन्नपूर्ण संरक्षण क्षेत्र
- तीनजुरे मिलेके जलजले (प्रस्तावित समूदायद्वारा व्यवस्थित संरक्षण क्षेत्र)
- सिमसारहरु (माइपोखरी, घोडघोडी ताल, बिसहजारी आदि)
- मध्यवर्ति क्षेत्रका सामूदायिक वनहरु, संरक्षित क्षेत्रहरु बीच वन्यजन्तुहरु आवात-जावत गर्ने क्षेत्रमा (Wildlife Corridor) भएका सामूदायिक वनहरु
- निश्चित भू-परिधीमा भएका सामूदायिक वनहरु बीचको सञ्जाल
- सामूदायिक वन, जलाधार, धार्मिक स्थल, जङ्गल सम्मिलित भू-परिधी (पञ्चासे क्षेत्र)
- संरक्षित क्षेत्रहरु भित्र रहेका पवित्र वनहरु, चरण क्षेत्रहरु

सिकाईहरु

१. कञ्चनजङ्गा बाहेक धेरै आई.सि.सि.ए.हरु भौगोलिक रुपमा साना छन् । यसको मतलब भौगोलिक रुपमा साना आई.सि.सि.ए.हरु व्यवस्थापनका हिसाबले स्थानीय जनतालाई सजिलो भएता पनि ठूला क्षेत्रहरु पनि समूदायले व्यवस्थापन गरेका छन् ।
२. धेरै आई.सि.सि.ए.हरु दिगो हुनु र फस्टाउनुको पछाडी त्यससंग सम्बन्धित धार्मिक एवं साँस्कृतिक मान्यता, सम्बन्ध महत्वपूर्ण देखिन्छ ।
३. जिवीकाको सुरक्षा वा लाभका लागि मात्र पनि आई.सि.सि.ए.हरु अवस्थित छन् तर यसले अन्ततोगत्वा संरक्षणमा योगदान पुऱ्याएका छन् ।
४. बाह्य हस्तक्षेप र अरु कुनै नकारात्मक प्रभाव, असरहरुबाट आफ्नो क्षेत्र जोगाउन पनि समूदायहरु संरक्षणमा अग्रसर छन् ।
५. आई.सि.सि.ए.हरुले सहभागितामूलक संरक्षण र जिवीका, साँस्कृति र संरक्षण बीचको अन्तर्सम्बन्धको बुझाई र सिकाईमा महत्वपूर्ण योगदान पुऱ्याएका हुन्छन् ।
६. आई.सि.सि.ए.हरुलाई थप सहयोग, मान्यता दिएको खण्डमा हाल नेपालमा रहेको संरक्षित क्षेत्रहरुले ओगटेको क्षेत्रलाई विस्तार गर्न, दुई संरक्षित क्षेत्रहरुलाई जोड्न अवसर प्रदान गर्दछन् । संरक्षित क्षेत्रहरुको भूभागहरु विस्तार गर्दा आउने चुनौती र द्वन्द्वहरुलाई न्यूनिकरण गर्दै प्राकृतिक स्रोतमाथि स्थानीय जनताको पहुँच र अधिकारलाई सुनिश्चित गर्न पनि यसको महत्व छ ।
७. आई.सि.सि.ए.लाई बढावा दिनु, गरिबी र जिवीकाको मुद्दालाई समेट्दै स्थानीय जनताको संरक्षणमा चासो र सहभागिता जुटाउने महत्वपूर्ण र रणनीतिको रुपमा लिन सकिन्छ ।
८. नेपालको सन्दर्भमा आई.सि.सि.ए.को शासन र व्यवस्थापन गर्ने संस्था, संयन्त्रमा समावेशीकरण र सुशासनको प्रत्याभूति गर्न कम चुनौतीपूर्ण छैन ।

Annex 4: List of participants

Federation and Networks

1. Ghana Shyam Pandey, President, Federation of Community Forest User Groups in Nepal
2. Gita Bohora, Himawanti
3. Narad Mani Poudel, Secretary, Protected Area People's Rights Federation (PARF)

Local communities and indigenous peoples

4. Khagendra Limbu, President, Conservation Area Management Council – Kanchenjunga Conservation Area
5. Sonam Sherpa, Buffer Zone Council, Sagarmatha National Park
6. Tashi Sherpa, Khumbu
7. Ram Bahadur Tamang, Khumbu Alpine Conservation Council
8. Ram Prasad Baral, Godavari Kunda Community Forest User Group, Lalitpur
9. Rupak Silwal, Godavari Kunda Community Forest User Group, Lalitpur
10. Bhoj Bahadur Guwau, Representative from Buffer Zone Community Forest User Group, Chitwan National Park
11. Gopal Gurung, Panchase Area Development Committee, Kaski
12. Lekhnath Dhakal, Rupa Lake Fisheries Cooperative, Pokhara
13. Mangal Chepang, Akala Devi Community Forest, Kauley, Chitwan
14. Indra Bahadur Chepang, Akala Devi Community Forest, Kauley, Chitwan
15. Laxman Tiwari, NORM (Rastriya Laliguransh Samrachyan Samiti), Terathum
16. Kalidas Niraula, NORM

I/NGOs/ donors / other stakeholders

17. Giri Dhar Amatya, IUCN Nepal
18. Dr.Krishna Oli, ICIMOD
19. Somat Ghimire, Community Development Organization (CDO)
20. Deepmala Subba, Resource Himalaya
21. Ashish Kothari, Kalpavriksh, India
22. Neema Pathak, Kalpavriksh, India
23. Seema Bhatt, Kalpavriksh, India
24. Tasneem Balasinorwala, Kalpavriksh, India
25. Dr.Hemanta Ojha, Forest Action
26. Dr. Naya Sharma Poudel, Forest Action
27. Sudeep Jana, Forest Action
28. Harisaran Luitel, Forest Action
29. Jeni Maharjan, Forest Action
30. Samana Adhikari, Forest Action
31. Dil Raj Khanal, legal expert, Natural Resource Management
32. Parsu Ram Tamang, Member of Constituent Assembly

33. Prabhu Budhathoki, World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)/IUCN
34. Kumud Shrestha, VP, Nepal Foresters Association
35. Khop narayan Shrestha, MDI, Hetauda
36. Rajan Tamrakar, Namsaling Community Development Center, Ilam
37. Rishi Bastakoti, RIMS Nepal, Dhading
38. Keshav Regmi, Youth Society Nepal (YSN), Chitwan
39. Dibya Gurung (UNDP Nepal)
40. Gopal Sherchan, SGP/UNDP, Nepal
41. Vivek Dhar Sharma, SGP/UNDP, Nepal
42. Bharat Ghotame, Kathmandu Forestry College
43. Ram Sedai, Machapuchhre Development Organization (MDO)
44. Dhruva Gautam, Pragati Nepal
45. Utsala Shrestha, IAAS Rampur
46. Shekhar Aryal, IRDC
47. Badri Prasad Ghimire, EGH/Resource Himalaya

Government Officials

48. Bala Ram Kandel, Department of Forest
49. Shiva Raj Bhatta, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
50. Megh Bahadur Pandey, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
51. Dr. Uday Raj Sharma, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation