



# e-Newsletter

## QUICK RESPONSE CONTRIBUTIONS

### Relief Support by ForestAction



As a quick response to the devastating earthquake of April 25 and May 12, 2015, ForestAction supported 4 of the districts that are its working sites. Below is the list of all 4 districts and the number of households (HHs) and Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) that were supported in each of those districts:

Rasuwa	68 HHs
Gorkha	5 HHs
Kavrepalanchowk	113 HHs and 3 CFUGs
Dolakha	136 HHs and 10 CFUGs

ForestAction also participated in the Green Relief and Rehabilitation Fund program and coordinated in the collection, channeling and reimbursement of the funds to address the immediate need of the local communities in the highly effected districts that are beyond its working sites.

Additionally, ForestAction also donated cash to the nationally channelized Prime Minister Relief Fund contribution program.

## Research and Development Activities

### Australian Ambassador's Visit to Chaubas, Kavre

ForestAction, through Enhancing Food Security through Agroforestry and Community Forestry in Nepal (EnLiFT) project coordinated the visit of the Australian Ambassador, Hon. H.E. Mr. Glenn White and Mrs. White on January 27 to Chaubas in Kavre district. High level officials of the department of forests, District Forest Officer (DFO), Federation of Community Forestry User Group Nepal (FECOFUN), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and EnLiFT accompanied the ambassador in his visit. The other participants included Community Forest (CF) division Chief, KP Pokharel; DFO, Ganesh Ray; Area Forest Officer, Baburam Aryal; FECOFUN central committee member, Shanta Neupane; IUCN director, Yam Malla; EnLiFT researcher, Dr. Ian Nuberg; and Dr. Krishna K Shrestha, Dr. Hemant Ojha, and Govinda Paudel from ForestAction. The team visited forests in Chaubas, charcoal production units that are there and also participated a citizens' welcome program. On behalf of the local people, Guman Dhoj Kunwar delivered a brief welcome speech which was followed by a speech of Hon. Ambassador thanking the Chaubas community for their warm welcome. He was glad to see the forests being made productive and wished for a good return from the forests to the community, a profitable saw milling and other forestry enterprises. He also mentioned that the ongoing research project with Australian support will bring important policy contributions to help improve the livelihood of the community.



### Interactive Workshop on Community Forest and Yak Herders, Charikot, Dolakha



This district workshop was organized by ForestAction Nepal on February 13 in coordination with FECOFUN, Dolakha. The main purpose of this workshop was to share the initial findings, issues and challenges of the research among district level representatives from different stakeholders, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Governmental Organizations like DFO, District Development Office (DDO), District Livestock's Service Centre (DLSC), FECOFUN, Participatory Action Research (PAR) CFUGs, Yak herders, ForestAction Nepal and Asia Network for Sustainable and Bioresources (ANSAB) and to enhance interactions/coordination among them, build common understanding among all the related stakeholders and also to discuss on the future directions. One of the major outcomes of the workshop is an establishment of a common understanding on CF-herders conflict among the district level stakeholders like DFO, District livestock Service Centre, DDO, CFUGs and the herders. Everyone in the workshop agreed on the need to better understand the ecological and governance aspects of the conflict, continue dialogue between two core groups and advance with specific pragmatic arrangements such as payment of levy to the CFUG for graining rights. This practice has encouraged other districts in the region who are also exploring practical strategies to resolve the conflict. A district level policy forum was formed as a formal platform to continue dialogue and enhance coordination and networking among the related stakeholders.

## International Workshop on Methodological Issues in Participatory Research on Conflict and Co-operation



This workshop was held from April 20-22 and was organized by Middlesex University, Flood Hazard Research Center, Nice Foundation, International Development Enterprise and ForestAction Nepal. It was conducted for the cross-country sharing of innovations and findings on the effectiveness of research methods used in understanding conflicts and co-operation in natural resource management especially at the community level. There were 32 researchers from different organizations and Universities from different countries namely Nederland, USA, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Yemen and Indonesia. Representatives from the donor agencies Department for International Development (DFID) and Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) also showed their participation.

In this workshop, a common understanding was developed among the participants on the methodological issues in participatory research on conflict and co-operation and cross country sharing and learning platform on natural resource conflict issues.

## Interactive Workshop on Park People Conflict, Kawaswoti, Nawalparasi



ForestAction organized this interactive workshop on May 21 to discuss on the conflict over denial of traditional livelihoods and resource use pattern, wildlife depredation, conflict with park authority, and excess of bureaucratic procedures causing dissatisfaction among users. 25 participants attended this workshop including buffer zone CFUGs, Assistant Forest Officer, FECOFUN District Chapter Chairman and other representatives, Assistant Warden, buffer zone committee Chairman and Chitwan National Park (CNP) buffer zone Council Chairman. There were group discussions carried out among the buffer zone

CFUGs on substantive issues of conflict both within CFUGs and park authority and policy level issues and challenges. Furthermore, there were discussions with park and buffer zone stakeholders on their roles to minimize those conflicts and the possible solutions.

Some of the major outcomes of this workshop are:

- i) Formation of ad-hoc policy discussion forum with secretariat at FECOFUN and Assistant Forest Officer, Assistant Warden, buffer zone Council Chair, local NGOs and CFUGs as members;
- ii) Increased understanding on the buffer zone CFUGs and park and council roles and responsibilities;
- iii) Reflection on the policy hindrances and complexities on forest management;
- and iv) Increase in CFUGs' network with district stakeholders.

## Interactive Workshop on the Issues of Landless and Community Forest, Kawaswoti, Nawalparasi



This workshop was organized on May 25 to discuss on conflict between over access and control of forest by the landless and poor people in the community. 25 participants representing various sectors of forestry like the CFUGs, assistant forest officer, FECOFUN District Chapter Chairman and representatives, NEFIN representatives, Nawalparasi, land right alliance District Chapter Chairman, local NGOs and local media persons attended this workshop. Various discussions were held particularly among the CFUGs on landless conflicts, policy level issues and challenges.

## Interactive Workshop on Issues of Distant Users in Community Forest, Bardaghat, Nawalparasi

On May 28, this workshop was organized by ForestAction to discuss with district level stakeholders the key issues, challenges, lessons learnt and possible solutions on conflict over forest access and control, natural distribution of forest combined with state policies on resettlement and forest management. There were 40 participants representing various forestry sectors like DFO, FECOFUN, CFUGs and different political party representatives, CFUG members and distant users and also local media. In this workshop, open discussions were carried out focusing on the following three major aspects of north-south issue:

1. The existing understanding, expectations and contribution of both distant and near users regarding CF management.

2. Forest condition, its productivity and capacity to fulfill the need and demand of massive population/users.
3. Complications due to the existing CF policies, rules and regulations and how to simplify regulatory barriers that would help improve forest management and increase forest productivity.

This workshop helped participants to have an understanding of the nature of the issues and roles of the district stakeholders like DFO and political representatives. There were discussions held pointing out the actual capacity of forest and ongoing practices in forest management; strengthening the relation between the different district forestry sector stakeholders and also increased interaction that helped to build relationship and encourage from DFO and other stakeholders.

### **Agricultural Development Plan (Arghakhanchi and Bajura)**



This Agricultural Development Plan (ADP) project was held separately in two different districts- Arghakhanchi and Bajura to facilitate district stakeholders to make agriculture strategic plans in their districts. The partner organizations who participated in the ADP Arghakhanchi project were Forum for People Awareness (FOPA), District Agriculture Development office (DADO), National Farmers Group Federation (NFGF), District Livestock Services Office (DLSO), District Development Committee (DDC), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Village Development Committee (VDC) secretaries and different political parties. There were district level interactions between stakeholders before a final draft was prepared which has been discussed widely among stakeholders for implementation in the near future.

On the other hand, the organizations involved in the ADP Bajura project were DDC and DADO with support of Karnali Food and Agriculture Concern Group, Bajura and technical support of Environment and Development Nepal (EnDev Nepal). It was initiated in the beginning of 2014 and is still ongoing. The plan is tentatively being released in November 2015. The collection and analysis of field data, interaction and verification of data collected from village level for the plan has been completed and both the Arghakhanchi and Bajura ADP plan drafts are now in the process of being finalized.

### **CALCNR Team Visit to PAR sites in Kawaswoti, Nawalparasi**

The project team of Community based Adaptive Learning in Management of Conflict and Natural Resources (CALCNR) on June 3 and 4 organized a short visit to the PAR sites in Nawalparasi with the aim of getting first-hand information on project status, methodology, key issues taken up for research intervention and identifying and suggesting any mid-term corrections. The participants in this visit were Parvin Sultana, Paul Thomson (Flood Hazard Research Centre, Bangladesh), Naya Sharma Paudel and Prabin Bhusal (ForestAction Nepal) and Madan Pariyar and Pashupati Subedi from International Development Enterprise (iDE) Nepal. In this visit, discussions were carried out between the executive members and users of different PAR CF on different conflict issues- such as the issues of distant users, landless and forest authorities' and park people conflict and public land issues.

### **Visit of District Forestry Sector Co-ordination Committee (DFSCC) to EnLiFT sites**



With the support of EnLiFT project, DFO Kavre in collaboration with FECOFUN organized a visit of District Forestry Sector Coordination Committee (DFSCC) to the silvicultural demonstration plots on July 3. DFSCC members and district based newspaper, TV and radio journalists visited the demo plots established in community forests in Dhunkharka and Chaubas. Govinda Paudel from ForestAction provided an on-site description of the silviculture demonstration plots established in Kalopani CFUGs and asked the team members to compare the forest condition of demo-plots with the forests nearby with no silviculture treatment and explained why an active management (intervention) is required in enhancing forest productivity. On the following day, July 4, the team also visited Chaubas and got updates about plantations carried out there in 1970s. The team also observed Dharapani CF where EnLiFT project is supporting CFUGs to revise their operation plan according to the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) guideline, 2014 issued recently by the government. Govinda Paudel and Naya S. Paudel of ForestAction explained the process adopted while revising the operation plan. The team's final visit was at the silviculture demo plots established in Chapani CF.

## Visit of Director General of Department of Forests to Chaubas



On May 16, EnLiFT project coordinated government officials' visit to Kalopani CFUG in Dhunikharka, Kavre to discuss on how forest management and forestry institutions can be more responsive to this national crisis of earthquake and how the supply of timber can be increased. The team for this visit included Dr. Rajan Pokharel [Director General (DG) of Department of Forests], Krishna P Pokharel (Community Forestry Division Chief), Ganesh Ray (DFO), Naya S. Paudel, Govinda Paudel, Madan Basyal (ForestAction), Shanta Neupane (central member-FECOFUN), Binod Sapkota (Chair - FECOFUN Kavre), Shiva Ram Thapa (Area Forest Officer), and Executive Committee of Kalopani CFUG led by Chairperson Lal Bahadur Shrestha.

The team had a brief discussion among the CFUG chairpersons in Dhunikharka followed by a reflective meeting in Banepa. They also discussed about potential silvicultural interventions for enhancing the productivity of the forests. EnLiFT has established four plots for the demonstration of selective silviculture and shelter wood system. One plot has been established as an observation plot where researchers have plans to minutely observe the selected oak trees infested with parasite plants. The DG and CF division chief appreciated the silvicultural initiatives of EnLiFT, and hoped that the demonstrations would bring insights to both the users and the researchers. They strongly advised the users and DFO officials to promote and engage in active management of community forests.

## Feminization in Agriculture (Research piloting in Kavre)



This project was conducted on August 6 and 7 to test house hold level questionnaires and checklist for Focused Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews (KII). The participants of this project were female farmers

and the key informants of Kashikhanda municipality. In this project, interviews were conducted by ForestAction questionnaires were filled out and data collection of 25 households, 1 FGD and KII was also carried out.

## Silviculture Demonstration Plots in Kavre and Lamjung



This is an ongoing project as a part of EnLiFT's silviculture action research project where demonstration plots have been established in five community forests of Kavre and Lamjung districts. The objectives of the forest management plots are to provide learning forums to communities and relevant stakeholders on how forests and people respond to silviculture and provide policy feedback on improving productivity of the community forests and future extension to CFs in other districts.

## Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP) in Koshi Hill Region



This program was organized for piloting three models of forest based enterprises (private, community private partnership, and cooperative) in the region and draw policy lessons on the issue. The cooperative model of enterprises is facilitated in support of bamboo handicraft producers of Aakhisalla village, Dhankuta district. The Public Private Partnership (PPC) model is facilitated in support of Lokta handmade paper producers of Timma village in Bhojpur district and the private model is facilitated in support of Lokta handmade paper producers of Wana village of Sankhuwasabha district.

## Capacity Building and Networking

### Advocacy Training (Agriculture Campaign for Food), Gaidakot, Nawalparasi



This workshop was organized from July 6 to 8 as a capacity building training of partners on food and agriculture policies in Nepal. It was held also to facilitate tools and techniques of advocacy and to prepare project planning of all partners including ForestAction. There were 10 partners who attended this training: Social Workers Group Nepal (SWOG)-Udaypur, SAHAMATI-Nawalparasi, Tulsi Meher Unesco Club (TMUC) -Gorkha, AGBS and Kalika Sells Reliance Social Center (KSSC) - Kapilbastu, Forum for People Awareness (FOPA) Arghakhanchi, Women Skill Creation Center (WOSCC) -Makawanpur, IDES- Dadeldhura, Rural Development & Environment Management Society (RUDES) - Baidardi, and SANKALPA-Darchula. The workshop consisted of group discussions, power point presentations on food and agriculture policies and preparation for upcoming projects. During this training, upcoming plans of advocacy related activities till March 2016 were also prepared.

### Livelihood and Empowerment Program, Makwanpur



This REFLECT TOT training program for WEC in Hetauda was held from August 1 to 7. This program was organized by WEC in Hetauda, Makwanpur with the support of Oxford Community for Famine Relief (OXFAM). This 7 days training was organized for training the facilitators of WEC. 21 participants attended this event from Udaypur and Makwanpur. The subjects covered by ForestAction in this event were: food rights, food security and its future; and discussions on Udaypur and Makwanpur agricultural and food issues. They also discussed about 15% VDC agriculture budget and the status of current budget on agriculture and food.



### Capacity Building of Local Partners through Advocacy on Food and Agriculture, Nawalparasi

This capacity building workshop was conducted from July 23 to 26 to facilitate the coordination between NFGF and SAHAMATI organization, Nawalparasi and also to facilitate the training on Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Technique Training of Trainers (REFLECT TOT) program to the Women Empowerment Center (WEC) members. The organizations who participated in this project were SAHAMATI, NFGF, Nawalparasi and WEC. Additionally, ForestAction also encouraged discussions on the contemporary issues such as 15% VDC agriculture budget and status of current budget of agriculture in Nepal.

## Policy Dialogues and Advocacy

### EnLift Policy Lab

Two EnLift policy lab (EPL) events were organized between January to July 2015:

1. Policy and regulatory framework that inhibit/encourage private forestry in Nepal
2. Increasing timber flow from farm, private forests and community forest for post-earthquake reconstruction

Notable achievements of this event includes decision and visit of the Director General of Department of Forest in this project's action research site at Kavre. Similarly, the EPL team also submitted policy recommendations to increase timber flow for post-earthquake reconstruction to Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) upon request during policy lab event.



### Linking Food Security and Community Forestry

Events from local to national levels were organized from January to July, 2015 to assess linkages of community forestry and food security. The activities held at study sites in Dhankuta and Morang include leadership training, study visit, support in the implementation of food security related activities, self-monitoring and assessment of activities and revision of activities by CFUG members among others.

### World Wide Views Citizens Meeting on Climate and Energy



World Wide Views (WWViews) on Climate and Energy is a citizen consultation meeting that is held on the same day globally, providing unique information about how far citizens around the world are willing to go, in order to deal with climate change and bring forward an energy transition. On the same day (i.e. June 6), citizens selected to reflect the demographic diversity in their countries or regions (at least 100 per country or region) attended daylong meetings, that started at dawn in the Pacific, and continued until dusk in the Americas. The goal of this meeting was to involve 10,000 citizens in 100 countries in this consultation.

In Nepal, ForestAction hosted this meeting where 104 citizens participated from diverse walks of life who are also from diverse ethnicities, age group, geographical region and occupation. These results conveyed a strong message to the

policy makers and political parties for the need to take steps on addressing climate change issues in Nepal. Moreover, this provided a basis for up-scaling the voices of common citizens to global climate negotiation in Paris and beyond. (see for results: <http://forestaction.org/news/view/135>)

## Workshop on Knowledge and Policy on Water and Landslide Hazards in Post-Earthquake Nepal

ForestAction and Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) organized a half day workshop in Kathmandu on July 06 on “Knowledge and Policy on Water and Landslide Hazards in Post-Earthquake Nepal” in collaboration with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Australia, Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management (DSCWM) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) with key stakeholders. The presentation was on the discussions about what the key elements of knowledge gaps are to manage water and landslide hazards that Nepali society should fill to build a resilient community in the future. This workshop also talked about the lessons that can be learnt from our past experience of managing landslides in Nepal; and the types of immediate policy reforms that would help reduce disaster vulnerability in the rural households. Furthermore, they also included discussion on the priority research questions that helped in informing policy and institutional responses to landslides triggered by earthquakes and exacerbated by rains.

## Discussion and Collection of Suggestions on Food, Agriculture and Land issues in the Constitution Draft of Nepal



This discussion program was organized at Sunrise Café, Kupondole on July 13. The interaction among the participants was facilitated by Teeka Bhattarai. The draft of suggestion and position paper of Alliance of Agriculture for Food and the reason for bringing change in various issues was discussed in this event. The responsibility for preparing final paper was given to one committee which includes Teeka Bhattarai, Krishna Prasad Poudel, Uddhav Adhikari and Umesh Acharya. This committee was provided two days to prepare the final draft on suggestion paper and share among the alliance members. The final suggestion paper was prepared and made ready for dissemination on July 18 through alliance members and networks [National Land Right forum, Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC), NFGF, Nepal Permaculture Group (NPG) etc]. The Constitutional Assembly (CA) decided to take suggestions from people national wise with the presence of CA member on July 20 and 21, favoring this situation and opportunity to submit the suggestions directly to CA member and then was forwarded to the Speaker of CA of Nepal, Subash Nembang in person.

## FORESTACTION PUBLICATIONS 2015

### BOOKLET

Rai, J.K., Gurung, G, Pathak, A. 2015. Climate Change Adaptation in MSFP Working Districts: Lessons from LAPA and CAPA Preparation and Implementation in the Koshi Hill Region. ForestAction Nepal and RRN, Kathmandu.

LINK: <http://forestaction.org/publications/view/188>



### POLICY BRIEF

Pain, A., Khatri, D.B., Ojha, H., Adhikari, B., Joshi, T., Dhungana, H. and Gurung, N. 2015. Responding to Landslides in Nepal. Policy Brief No. 38. Kathmandu. ForestAction Nepal.

LINK: <http://forestaction.org/app/webroot/js/tinymce/editor/plugins/filemanager/files/Policy%20Briefs/ForestAction%20Policy%20brief%2038.pdf>



Paudel, G., Bishwokarma, D. and Paudel, N.S. 2015. Government Decision on Relaxing Chure Timber Supply to Address Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Demand: A Sensible Decision or Just a Gesture? Policy Brief No. 36. Kathmandu. ForestAction Nepal.

LINK: <http://forestaction.org/app/webroot/js/tinymce/editor/plugins/filemanager/files/Policy%20Briefs/Policy%20Brief%2036.pdf>



### GUIDELINE

राई, जैलबकुमार, भ्गा, प्रकाश र श्रेष्ठ, अनिता । २०७१ । सामुदायिक वनमा आश्रित विपन्न घरधुरीहरूको जीविकोपार्जन सुधारका लागि सहयोगी पुस्तिका । फरेष्टएक्सन नेपाल र आरआरएन ।

LINK: <http://forestaction.org/publications/view/173>



### JOURNAL

2015 - Special issue on REDD+. Vol 13(1) LINK: <http://forestaction.org/publications/jfl/183>

### OCCASIONAL PAPER

Roy, R., Silori, C.S., Paudel, N.S. and Poudyal, B.H. 2015. Outreaching REDD+ through Media Fellowship in Nepal. Occasional Paper 1. Kathmandu. ForestAction Nepal.

LINK: <http://forestaction.org/publications/view/191>

Roy, R., Silori, C.S., Paudel, N.S. and Poudyal, B.H. 2015. REDD+ Souchanaa Melaa: An Innovative Way of Creating Mass Awareness. Occasional Paper 2. Kathmandu. ForestAction Nepal.

LINK: <http://forestaction.org/publications/view/192>



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