



ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26





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The editorial team at ForestAction Nepal would like to express their sincere gratitude to all the project leaders, researchers and associates for providing necessary information for the preparation of Annual Report 2025-26 and to the management team for their continuous support and guidance throughout the process. We would also like to encourage the readers to provide valuable feedback for the betterment of the reports.

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Message from the Chairperson



As ForestAction Nepal enters another year of its journey, I am pleased to reflect on a year marked by continued commitment to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable environmental governance. Over the years, ForestAction Nepal has evolved as a platform that brings together research, practice, knowledge, and policy engagement to address emerging challenges in the management of forests, natural resources, and livelihoods.

During the fiscal year 2025/2026, ForestAction Nepal continued to engage with communities, practitioners, researchers, government institutions, and other stakeholders across diverse landscapes and thematic areas. Our work on ecologically sound forest landscape restoration, forest fire management, community forestry and Nepal's timber economy, women-led enterprises, community-led agroforestry, and agroecology reflects our continued effort to connect environmental sustainability with the needs and grounded knowledge of local communities. Through research, capacity building, policy dialogue, knowledge dissemination and publications, we have sought to ensure that evidence and experiences from the ground contribute to more informed and inclusive decision-making.

Similarly, this year we celebrated ForestAction Nepal's 25 years in research and policy engagement. Celebrating its Silver Jubilee, ForestAction Nepal inaugurated a book consisting of 25 years of learnings and reflections in NRM and policy engagement. We are grateful to our donors, partners, and collaborators who have been instrumental in shaping our successes and growth and we look forward to deepening these relationships in the years to come.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all our staff, partners, donors, government institutions, community organisations, researchers, and well-wishers for their continued trust and support. The progress reflected in this annual report is a collective achievement, made possible through the commitment and collaboration of many. I look forward to ForestAction Nepal continuing this journey of learning and action, contributing to meaningful change for people, forests, and the environment.

Prof. Ambika Prasad Gautam, Ph.D

Note from the Executive Coordinator



It gives me great pleasure to share ForestAction Nepal's Annual Report FY2025/2026, a year contributing to innovation, action and learning in natural resource management. This report offers an account of activities and a dedication of our team, our partnership and the collaboration of the communities we work with in Nepal and beyond to strengthen research, field practices, policy engagements and knowledge sharing.

Following up on our previous engagements and interventions, this year, we continued to respond to some of the pressing environmental and livelihood issues in the communities. From promoting ecologically sound forest landscape restoration, forest fire management and preparedness, exploring economic potential of timber to supporting women led enterprises, our work has reflected the ground realities, and priorities of the communities we worked in. Similarly, our engagement in community led agroecology has further supported the value of locally generated knowledge and solutions in building sustainable and self-initiated livelihoods.

Our key strategy in our interventions has always been the continued effort to bring evidence from ground level to wider audience and policy level. Spaces such as Ban Chautari, policy labs, multi-stakeholder forums have created opportunities for communities, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to learn and engage in meaningful dialogue. Similarly, our partnership with different institutions have expanded knowledge sharing and collective actions. Simultaneously, our efforts to strengthen staff capacities this year through training, learning session and internal knowledge sharing sessions have contributed towards a culture of reflection and continuous learning within the organisation itself.

The importance of such efforts and strategies have become even more important in the face of changing environmental and climatic conditions. While preparing this report, Nepal faced a catastrophic flash flood in Bhote Koshi River on 26th August 2026, triggered by large glacier, rock mass failure in Langtang region. The unprecedented flood caused a tremendous loss of life and damage of properties and infrastructure. Such tragedies, potentially linked to climate change, are increasing in recent decades, and scientists have warned more severe weather related and other hazards in coming years. These emerging and increasing hazard scenarios underscore the urgent need to reorient our research, policies and interventions towards strengthening the resilience of socio-ecological systems.

As we reflect on the year and look ahead, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our dedicated staff, community partners, government counterparts, researchers, donors, collaborators, and well-wishers for their continued contribution to ForestAction Nepal's work. Every achievement presented in this annual report reflects a collective effort. We hope your generous support will continue in 2027 and beyond as we work towards strengthening resilience and ensuring natural resource sustainability.

Lila Nath Sharma, Ph.D

15 September 2026

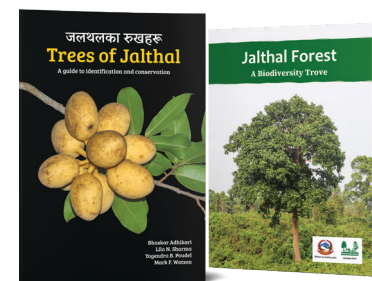
FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

Having Publication and Communications as one of its core working pillars, ForestAction Nepal has contributed significantly to publications this year.

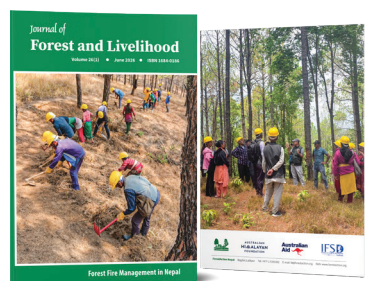
Along with this, ForestAction Nepal has also produced various outputs on different themes, such as posters, video documentaries, media articles, research papers, reports in the timeframe of 2025-2026. (Refer to Annex for the list of publications.)



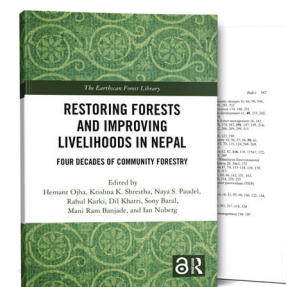
Reflecting on its 25 years journey, ForestAction Nepal published a book “Reflection of ForestAction Nepal’s 25 Years in Action”, to honour its remarkable strides in empowering communities, facilitating policy processes within the natural resources sector, strengthening local governance, and promoting sustainable resource management and social justice.



Marking the completion of the six years ‘Jalthal Biodiversity Project’, ForestAction Nepal published a book named “Trees of Jalthal: A guide to identification and conservation”, and a profile “Jalthal Forest: A Biodiversity Trove.” These publications are the outcome of biodiversity and forest restoration projects undertaken in Jalthal between July 2019 and December 2025.



A special issue of Journal of Forest and Livelihood on Forest Fire Management in Nepal, was published this year, bringing together interdisciplinary research and perspectives on forest fire management, highlighting the key issues, challenges, and emerging approaches in the Nepalese context.



Recognising Nepal’s four decades of experience in community forestry, and as a part of the EnLiFT project outcomes, ForestAction Nepal contributed in the publication of a comprehensive review of emerging research and practiced-based insights, “Restoring Forests and Improving Livelihoods in Nepal: Four Decades of Community Forestry.”



Pahada Village, Rukum



PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Promoting ecologically sound forest landscape restoration

At the backdrop of global environmental challenges of climate crises, biodiversity loss, and land degradation, forest landscape restoration (FLR) has been identified as one of the key strategies to address these interlinked challenges. Given the urgency and importance of restoring degraded ecosystems, the United Nation has declared 2021 to 2030 as the Decade of Restoration to attract investment and global attention.

During the last one decade, ForestAction Nepal has been undertaking several initiatives; piloting, capacity building and knowledge creation, to improve and inform restoration decisions. Building on and drawing from past achievements and lessons, the team has been conducting restoration initiatives

to promote ecologically sound and socially just forest landscape restoration through co-creation of knowledge, proactive engagement and capacity of enhancement of different stakeholders. Under this initiative, a socio-ecological survey has been completed spanning 30 different districts of the country. This survey data will be used to analyse restoration outcomes in varying socio-ecological context.

Similarly, restoration champions were equipped through capacity building training on biodiversity integration in landscape management plans, ensuring that the needs of varying social groups were met, which benefited over 200 people directly in forest management and restoration initiatives



The survey data from 30 districts, will be used to analyse restoration outcomes in varying socio-ecological context.

Enhancing resilience through forest fire management

Forest fires have been an increasing threat to forests, biodiversity, livelihoods and communities, driven both by climate change and anthropogenic factors. The impacts are profound in mountain and high-altitude regions, where communities often lack essential resources and specialised equipment, trained personnel and effective coordination mechanism and system for forest fire management and response.

Recognising the need for both local action and broader institutional collaboration, ForestAction Nepal has been implementing initiatives to strengthen forest fire resilience in two districts of Bagmati Province. In addition, ForestAction Nepal is also a part of the research initiative on forest fire in Sudurpaschim Province.

Over the past years, ForestAction Nepal has worked to strengthen community-level preparedness and coordination for forest fire management in the high-altitude landscapes through training, engagement, and awareness raising in Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk. Four forest fire management clusters have been established in four different

municipalities which have now evolved into functioning platforms guiding local fire response planning.

Beyond community engagement, the project has also contributed to advancement of scholarly debate through the special issue of Journal of Forest and Livelihood on forest fire management. Similarly, a handbook underlining the basic concepts of forest/forest fire management was prepared targeting local communities, practitioners, and front-line agencies on forest fire management. At the local government level, a draft coordination protocol was developed, laying the groundwork for a more coordinated, timely response system across institutional mandates.

Additionally, as part of its research initiative, ForestAction Nepal is working across the Mahakali River Basin, a transboundary landscape shared between Nepal and India, focusing on understanding forest fire dynamics, reducing disaster risk and supporting community livelihoods and adaptive capacities in fire-affected areas.



Four different municipalities which have now evolved into functioning platforms guiding local fire response planning.

Unlocking Nepal's timber economy

Nepal's community forestry model has successfully increased forest cover, promoted local democracy and equitable resource sharing. However, its economic potential remains underutilised, partly due to the limited collaboration between Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and the local governments.

Recognising the need to address these gaps, ForestAction Nepal has been conducting diagnostic study on economic potential of community forestry, the cost of non-action and opportunities for decentralised governance. The study has brought together diverse stakeholders, engaging them in expert consultations, policy labs and exposure visits to

understand challenges and opportunities across different forest management regimes.

The findings were consolidated into a business case and knowledge products such as policy briefs, infographics and political economy analysis. The evidence and experiences were brought into wider policy discussions through platforms such as Ban Chautari, which have contributed to broader dialogue on unlocking Nepal's forestry economy and strengthening collaboration among government, communities and other stakeholders.

The opportunity cost analysis revealed :

31.77 million cubic feet
ANNUAL HARVESTING GAP

NPR **4.58** billion
ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT
LOSS

229,715
EMPLOYMENT-MONTHS LOST

NPR **19.94** billion
LOST ROYALTY AND REVENUE
FROM TIMBER ALONE



Nature based solutions through women-led enterprises

In Nepal, efforts have been made to increase meaningful participation and representation of women in CFUGs. However, women's representation and meaningful influence in decision-making remains limited. Lack of forest tenure rights, access to land and resources, and social entitlements, which are further compounded by intersectional factors such as caste, class, age, gender and education have further constrained women's participation in forestry and agriculture-based enterprises. In addition to this, women also face limited access to finance for low-carbon micro and small enterprises, as financial institutions prioritise profitability and collateral requirements.

ForestAction Nepal has been working to promote inclusive, climate responsive economic opportunities since last

year, with women entrepreneurs and communities of four municipalities of Nawalpur and Sindhupalchowk districts to identify barriers and opportunities to access climate finance and explore mechanisms for creating an enabling environment.

Through customised entrepreneurship development training and management, women entrepreneurs were capacitated to improve their business planning, financial management, documentation and decision-making capacities, where the team have been providing technical backstopping to six selective enterprises in preparing business plans. Bridging such initiatives along with consultations with local governments, financial institutions and market players, enterprise networks have been established in respective municipalities.



“ Women's entrepreneurs were capacitated through customised entrepreneurship development training and management.

Promoting community led agroforestry in floodplains

Nepal is no stranger to climate change induced disasters such as flooding, which has exacerbated food insecurity and livelihood losses especially in the marginalised communities of different regions. ForestAction Nepal has been working with vulnerable groups including Indigenous communities of Marin Municipality of Sindhuli, Bagmati Province and Gadhimai Municipality of Rautahat, Madhesh Province on regenerating and sustainably managing floodplains.

Through field consultations and engagement with ward and municipal Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Forums, local priorities and community perspectives were incorporated into the

development of municipal agroforestry plans in both English and Nepali languages. The plans were presented, reviewed and validated through local consolidation and subsequently endorsed by respective municipalities, marking an important milestone towards integrating and institutionalising agroforestry-based adaptation in local development planning.

The study also explored the potential of agroforestry-based enterprises, assessing locally available resources, livelihood opportunities and market prospects for developing enterprises based on locally available agroforestry products.



“The plans were presented, reviewed and validated through local consolidation and subsequently endorsed by respective municipalities, marking an important milestone towards integrating and institutionalising agroforestry-based adaptation in local development planning.

Fostering agroecology for soil restoration

ForestAction Nepal continued its engagement with the Chepang communities of Dhusa (Upper), Chitwan, through a community-led Participatory Action Research (PAR) process. Farmers have been leading the way in identifying local soil and farming challenges and experimenting with agroecological practices such as composting, mulching, biofertilisers, biopesticides and vermicomposting. Exchange visits, practitioners' forums and reflection sessions have further consolidated farmer-to-farmer learning, with community leaders emerging as key practitioners and advocates.

Following the annual reflection meeting in January 2026, a nine-member Community Action Group, comprising seven women and two men, was formed to sustain collective learning, innovation, community action and stewardship of natural resources.

Community celebrations of key environmental and food-related days such as International Soil Day, World Food Day, National Rice Day, and World Environment Day have further connected local actions and communities with broader discussion on agroecology, food systems and environmental stewardship.

Beyond community action, ForestAction Nepal supported the District Organic Federation, Chitwan, including the formation of Participatory Guarantee System committees in four municipalities. Community experiences and grassroots evidence were also brought into policy dialogues, media engagements and national advocacy platforms, contributing to wider discussions on agroecology, soil health and sustainable food systems. These efforts complemented national-level advocacy through the Alliance of Agriculture for Food (AAF) and amplified the voices and perspectives of Indigenous and smallholder farmers in broader policy conversations.



“Farmers have been leading the way in identifying local soil and farming challenges and experimenting with agroecological practices such as composting, mulching, biofertilisers, biopesticides and vermicomposting.”

Voices from the community

Growing change: Daman's journey towards agroecology

Daman Kumari Chepang, a farmer from Dhusa, Chitwan, spent many years growing vegetables using synthetic fertilisers and pesticides. However, rising costs and concerns about soil degradation and declining productivity encouraged her to try a different approach. With technical support from ForestAction Nepal, as part of a farmer-led Participatory Action Research (PAR) initiative on agroecology, Daman worked with the team and community members to experiment with agroecological practices that had once been common but had gradually declined due to dependence on chemical inputs. The focus was to refine these practices and make them more practical, effective, and easier for farmers to adopt. She began experimenting with composting, mulching, biofertilisers, biopesticides, and vermicomposting on her own farm. By testing, observing the result and adapting these practices, Daman gained the confidence to transition her 10-katha farm towards agroecology, moving away from chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Today, she is continuing this transition, serves as a lead farmer, inspires others in her community, and has gained recognition from the local government for her efforts.



“For many years, I relied on chemical fertilisers and pesticides to grow vegetables. I used to spend around NPR 20,000–25,000 every year buying pesticides, chemical fertilisers, and other inputs from agro-vets. Now, I only need to buy a few seeds. I have completely cut off buying chemical pesticides and fertilisers from the agrovets.”

Daman Kumari Chepang,
Dhusa, Chitwan.

A community forest's journey towards safer fire management

For years, community forest members of Sindhupalchowk knew that forest fires were dangerous but had little knowledge on fire response safety. Following the 2015 earthquake, community participation and forest management initiatives had gradually declined. The training and field activities conducted through ForestAction Nepal's forest fire management initiatives, community members have learned about fire prevention, response, safety protocols, and the proper use of fire-fighting tools. This has led towards an active committee rebuilding confidence, strengthening the executive committee, and reviving regular community meetings. Today, members are more actively involved in monitoring and managing their forest and feel greater ownership of its protection.



“I often spend my free time in the forest now. Not because someone tells me to, but because I feel responsible for protecting it. We have learned one important lesson through this journey: ‘Our own safety is the first priority during forest fire response activities.’ That understanding alone has changed how people respond during emergencies.”

Resham Bahadur Shrestha,
Secretary of BanjheKapase
CFUG, Sindhupalchowk.

Engagement and outreach

ForestAction Nepal has been creating spaces for discussion and dialogue with diverse actors through policy labs, Ban Chautari, research sharing and workshops and multi-stakeholder forums to share experiences, examine emerging issues, and collectively explore pathways for more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable environmental governance. These discussions are grounded in science-backed findings generated through ForestAction Nepal's research and practice, which are disseminated to inform public discourse and policy processes. This year, in addition to a dozen community-level dialogues, ForestAction Nepal organised 21 policy engagement and outreach activities, bringing together diverse stakeholders across a range of thematic areas and platforms.

These events provided opportunities to share ForestAction Nepal's lessons from research and field practices to strengthen connections among the different stakeholders and facilitate discussions among researchers, policy makers, and communities.



Expanding knowledge and collaboration

ForestAction Nepal continued to expand its knowledge and networks, and collaborations beyond programmatic interventions by creating opportunities for learning, sharing evidence, and connecting diverse actors. The following are the organisation's efforts to strengthen inclusive, resilient and sustainable approaches to forest and environmental governance, while fostering partnerships that extend knowledge and practice beyond individual initiatives.



Noting the increased intensity of forest fires in Nepal, ForestAction Nepal supported and participated in a month-long Australian Awards Fellowship focused on strengthening capacity to understand and respond to climate-induced forest fires in Nepal, providing opportunities for knowledge exchange, learning, and collaboration on forest fire management and climate resilience.



As a part of its effort to share research and evidence-based findings, ForestAction Nepal presented its research during a plenary session at the Institute of Forestry (IoF) International Conference on "Unlocking Nepal's Timber Economy."



This year, ForestAction Nepal in collaboration with the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS) and Institute of Forestry (IoF) has opened call for research grant proposals to encourage young researchers in generating evidence-based knowledge and providing opportunities to connect academic research with emerging challenges and practices on the ground.

As a contributing organisation to the National Conference on Sustainable Agri-Food Systems (SAFS 2026), ForestAction Nepal showcased innovative approaches to promoting sustainable agri-food systems through theatre, dialogue, and technical presentations.



As a step towards strengthening inclusivity in its interventions, ForestAction Nepal mapped out and documented the participation and roles of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in forest fire management and prevention, contributing to more inclusive and accessible approaches to forest management. Various knowledge products have also been published to strengthen this initiative.

Highlighting knowledge and evidence on emerging environmental challenges, ForestAction Nepal presented in the first National Conference on Invasive Alien Species in Nepal on 'Current efforts to control invasive species outside protected areas in Nepal'.



ForestAction Nepal also strengthened its research and knowledge exchange through a six-month Visiting Fellowship at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent, UK.

Learning and development

ForestAction Nepal keeps capacity building as one of its working pillars, recognising knowledge exchange and organisational development as essentials to strengthen sustainability and effectiveness of its work. Capacity building was disseminated at multiple levels from community members to staff development, professionals and institutional strengthening.

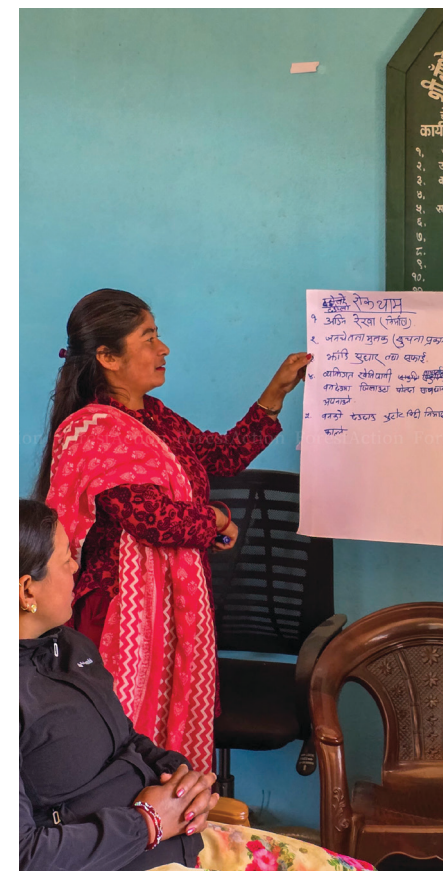
At the community and program level, ForestAction Nepal continued to strengthen local leaders and restoration champions through training, exposure visit, practical learning, equipping them with skills and knowledge to engage and support restoration initiatives. Forest fire management initiatives focused on strengthening preparedness and response capacities of communities and frontline stakeholders for cluster members, local governments, Division Forest Office representatives and security personnel.

Youths and agriculture graduates were also major stakeholders in the learning and development initiatives of ForestAction Nepal. Through walking training and apprenticeship course on agroecology, youths were provided opportunities for experiential learning, intergenerational exchange and practical engagement with agroecological practices.

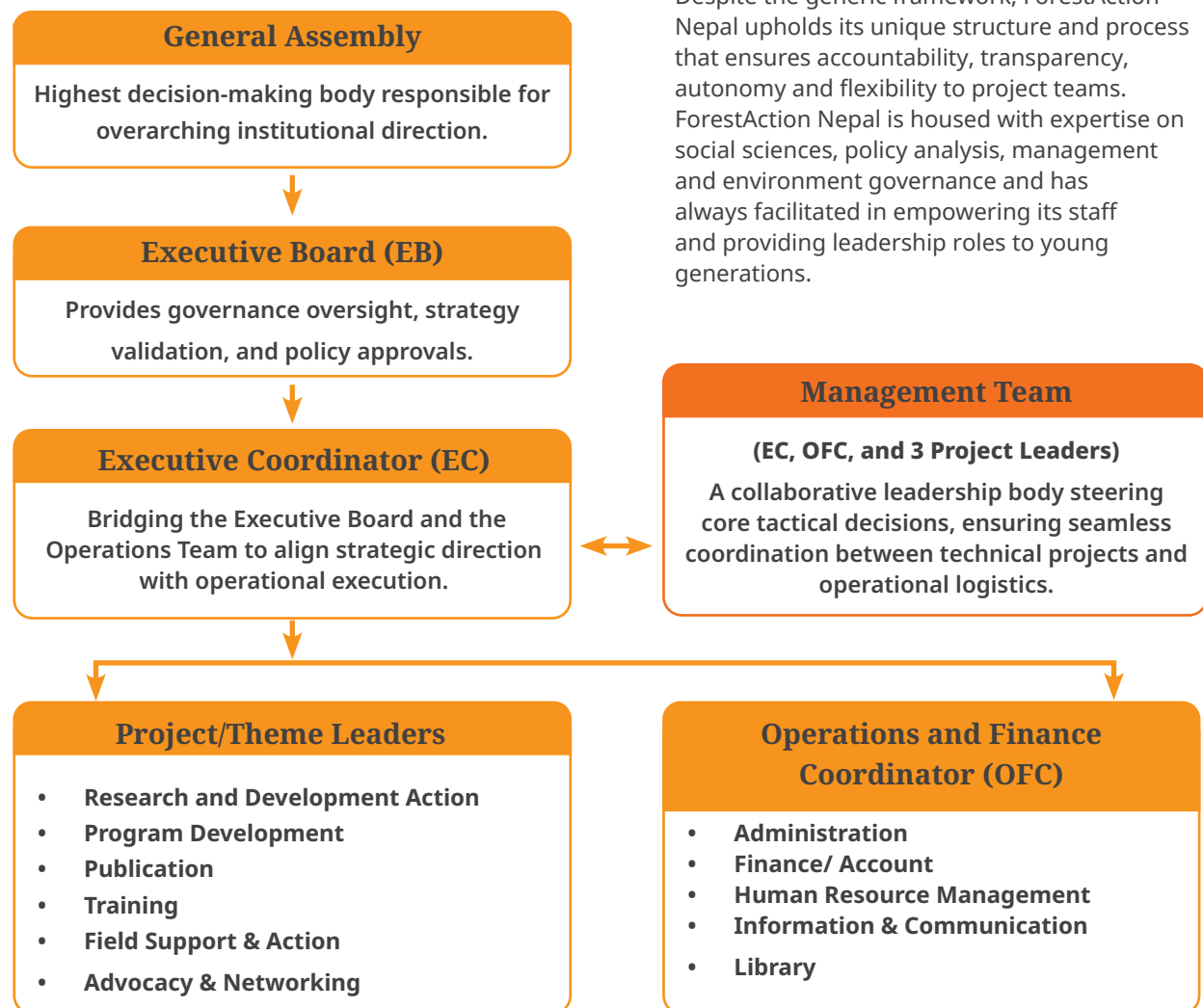
At the organisational level, staff development remained an important part of this effort. ForestAction Nepal invested in strengthening staff skill and knowledge through training, workshops and learning sessions on GEDSI, safeguarding and communications. A three-day staff retreat provided a collective space for team reflection and institutional practices which contributed to fostering a culture of collaboration, continuous learning, and shared responsibility across the organisation.

Similarly, ForestAction Nepal has been starting off Weekly Sharing Session, where staff, researchers, and experts come together to share research findings, field experiences, emerging insights, and technical expertise, serving as a platform to discuss emerging issues, lessons from ongoing work, and innovative approaches.

Particular attention was also given in strengthening policies, safeguarding, and ethical practices within the organisation. ForestAction Nepal continued to enhance staff awareness and institutional mechanisms for promoting a safe, respectful, inclusive, and accountable working environment.



Organisational structure



Since 2000, ForestAction Nepal has practiced a relatively horizontal organisational structure and a participatory, consultative decision-making culture within the generic governance framework of Nepal's NGOs. The EC contributes 25% of his/her time to organisational management and coordination with the rest focused on specific projects. Despite the generic framework, ForestAction Nepal upholds its unique structure and process that ensures accountability, transparency, autonomy and flexibility to project teams. ForestAction Nepal is housed with expertise on social sciences, policy analysis, management and environment governance and has always facilitated in empowering its staff and providing leadership roles to young generations.

Board members

ForestAction Nepal has an independent governing board elected by its general members which currently comprises of following members:

Chairperson

Prof. Ambika Prasad Gautam, Ph.D

Vice Chairperson Person

Kanchan Lama

Treasurer

Anita Shrestha, Ph.D

Members

Kamala Devi Sharma

Nirmal Kumar B.K., Ph.D

Bijay Kumar Singh, Ph.D

Prof. Khem Raj Dahal

Menaka Pant, Ph.D

Member Secretary

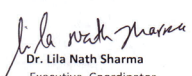
Lila Nath Sharma, PhD

Financial summary

Forest Resources Studies and Action Team (ForestAction) Nepal
Bagdol, Lalitpur
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
For the Year Ended 32nd Ashadh 2083

Figures in NPR			
Particulars		Current Year	Previous Year
DONOR INCOME			
Incoming Resources	9	48,126,586	75,527,168
Financial Income	10	585,961	562,561
Other Income	8	-	-
Total Income		48,712,547	76,089,730
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Cost/Expenses	7	30,623,281	22,145,315
Program Expenses	6	33,661,099	30,583,790
General Administrative Support		-	4,040,833
Depreciation	1	-	-
Other Expenditure		-	-
Total Expenditure		64,284,380	56,769,938
Donor Restricted fund (out of gross receipts)		(15,571,833)	19,319,791
CORE INCOME			
Incoming Resources	9	3,022,748	1,795,618
Other Income		-	-
Total Income		3,022,748	1,795,618
EXPENDITURE			
General Administrative Support	5	3,315,785	1,368,871
Depreciation	1	103,685	112,177
Other Expenditure		-	-
Total Expenditure		3,419,470	1,481,048
Net surplus/(deficit) before Taxation		(396,723)	314,570
Income Tax Expenses		-	78,642
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(396,723)	235,927
APPROPRIATION OF SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			
Allocation to Reserves		(396,723)	235,927
Allocation to Endowment Fund		-	-

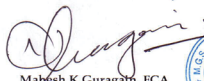

Amrit Adhikari
Head of Operations and Finance


Dr. Lila Nath Sharma
Executive Coordinator


Prof. Dr. Ambika P Gautam
Chairperson

Date: 11 September 2026
Place: Lalitpur




Mahesh K Guragain, FCA
Partner
MGS & Associates
Chartered Accountants

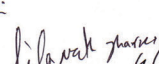


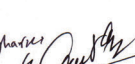
Forest Resources Studies And Action Team (ForestAction) Nepal
Bagdol, Lalitpur
Fund Accountability Statement
Financial Year 2082/83 - 17-Jul-2025 to 16-Jul-2026 (01-04-2082 to 32-03-2083)

Particulars	Schedule	Total Amount Rs.
A. Income		
Opening balance		70,452,726
Funds from donors		38,255,780.26
Funds From Publication, Member Fee and Others		4,184,859
Funds From Development Partner		8,708,694.35
Bank Interest		585,961
		122,188,020
B. Expenditures		
Programme	6	64,284,380
Administrative	5	3,315,785
Purchase of assets of core		70,780
Income tax expenses		-
		67,670,945
Balance of Funds		54,517,075
C. Balance of Funds Represented By:		
Bank and Cash	2	92,276,705
Advances and Receivables	3	2,022,635
Payables	4	(39,782,265)
Total Balance (Transfer to BS)		54,517,075




Amrit Adhikari
Head of Operations and Finance


Dr. Lila Nath Sharma
Executive Coordinator


Prof. Dr. Ambika P Gautam
Chairperson


Mahesh K Guragain, FCA
Partner
MGS & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Date: 11 September 2026
Place: Lalitpur



Meet the team 2025-2026



Lila Nath Sharma, PhD
Executive Coordinator



Aayush Gautam
Researcher
Forestry



Birendra Kumar Karna, PhD
NRM and Biodiversity
Specialist



Hari Narayan Acharya
Senior Programme Officer
Silviculture and Forest-based
Enterprises



Harshita Thapa
Programme Officer
Overall Organisation



Amrit Adhikari
Head – Operations and Finance



Kamal Prasad Bhandari
Training and Advocacy
Specialist



Krishna Prasad Paudel, PhD
Agricultural Policy Analyst /
Activist



Lalit Thapa
Administrative and Logistics
Associate



Lalita Rajbansi
Field Facilitator

Meet the team 2025-2026



Madan Bashyal
Capacity Development Coordinator
Forest Management



Mani Ram Banjade, PhD
Forest Management and
Governance Specialist



Manish Shrestha
Programme Officer
Forest Management



Manita Chaudhary
Finance Manager



Manita Khanal
Researcher
REDAA Project



Meena Bohara, PhD
Senior Researcher
Climate Change, Ecology and
Environment



Monika Jha
Finance Associate



Namrata Basaula
Research Associate
Agriculture



Naya Sharma Paudel, PhD
Environment and Governance
Specialist



Prabha Thapa Khatri
Office Assistant

Meet the team 2025-2026



Prabin Bhattarai
Research Officer
Food and Agriculture



Pratikshya Panthi
Research Officer
REDAA project



Rahul Karki
Team Leader
Forestry and Environment



Sanjeeb Bir Bajracharya
Graphic Designer and
Information Officer



Sanjeev Gurung
IT and Logistics Associate



Sanju Chepang
Field Facilitator



Santosh Kumar Rana
Researcher
Vegetation Ecology



Sanu Bhai Tamang
Driver



Sarada Thapa
Team Leader
Agroecology and Sustainable
Food Systems



Sindrela Dewan
Training and Capacity Building
Coordinator
Food and Agriculture

Meet the team 2025-2026



Srijana Sigdel
Researcher
Forestry, Wildlife and
Biodiversity Conservation



Sujata Tamang, PhD.
Senior Researcher
(Executive Coordinator
Jan-Feb 2026)



Sunil Bhandari
Research Officer
Food and Agriculture



Sunom Shrestha
Researcher
Forest Restoration



Yasodha Dahal
Office Assistant



Yogendra Bikram Poudel
Researcher
Plant Taxonomy and
Conservation



Annex 1 Project details

Annexes

Inclusive Climate Finance for Vulnerable Communities in the Asia-Pacific (ICCAP)

Project period 2026 - 2029

Location Koshi Province

Donors/ Partners The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Activities/Outputs

1. To improve and scale up inclusive public and private climate adaptation finance flows to vulnerable groups and communities in the Asia Pacific region.
2. To create an enabling environment for inclusive green finance by identifying policy gaps, promoting best practices, and strengthening policymaker capacity across Asia-Pacific.
3. To support financial service providers (FSPs) in delivering client-centric green financial products tailored to the needs of vulnerable populations.
4. To catalyse private investment in local climate adaptation strategies by establishing a regional finance platform.
5. To co-create locally relevant, innovative, and bankable adaptation solutions in partnership with communities and climate finance pipeline stakeholders.
6. To ensure that all ICCAP activities are inclusive and responsive to the needs of marginalised and climate-vulnerable populations.

Transboundary approaches to sustainable forest management for enhancing climate resilient and reducing disaster risk in the Himalayas (TRANSMIT)

Project period 2026 - 2028

Location Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura and Darchula - Sudurpashchim Province

Donors/ Partners Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity - BMLEH/ICIMOD

Activities/Outputs

1. Capacity development and training of foresters in the public administration at sub-national scale, local stakeholders and community members as well as the supervision of MSc and PhD students.
2. Generation of modular guideline for practitioners addressing improved forest and forest fire management.
3. Empowering members of CFUG with particular attention to women and marginalised groups at the community level
4. Provide training for integration of sustainable forest management, DRR and adaptive interventions along with tools for effective forest fire management."

Strengthening socio-ecological resilience to climate change through improved collaboration between local governments and community forest user groups in Nepal (II Phase)

Project period 2025 - 2026

Location Kailali - Sudurpaschim Province

Donors/ Partners The Asia Foundation (TAF)

Activities/Outputs

1. A technical report highlighting the progress from the engagement, dialogues and diagnostic study, along with financial report.
2. A diagnostic study report on the economic potential of community forestry, missed opportunity due to non-action and associated political economy analysis.
3. A policy brief on current status, lessons learnt and suggested strategies for key actors in community forestry.
4. An infographic on economic potentials and gaps in CF contribution to national economy."

Climate action financing through women and social enterprises

Project period 2026 - 2026

Location Nawalpur, Gandaki Province
Sindhupalchok - Bagmati Province

**Donors/
Partners** IDRC/Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)

Activities/Outputs

1. Conduct research to understand constraints and opportunities in financing women led/ women-benefitting grassroots organisations in agriculture and forestry sector engaged in climate-positive economic activities.
2. Demonstrate the feasibility or establish pathways to finance by enabling appropriate project preparation support through a dedicated facility that could serve as a template for similar projects in Asia."

Building Agroforestry-based Adaptation Plans for Resilient Floodplains (BAGAR)

Project period 2025 - 2026

Location Sindhuli, Bagmati Province
Rautahat - Madhesh Province

**Donors/
Partners** Global EbA Fund/Heifer International Nepal

Activities/Outputs

1. Drafting of guideline for formation of EbA forum at municipal and ward level
2. Assessment of Agroforestry's Impact on Flood Mitigation and Fodder Production
3. Develop municipal level agro-forestry guideline
4. Develop municipal level agro-forestry Plan (includes short-term and long-term plans, areas wise species selection and benefits for farmers)
5. Scenario based GIS mapping of agro-forestry approaches
6. Capacity building of EbA forums (Wards and Municipality) on agro-forestry guideline/plan and species selection
7. Feasibility Study of Agroforestry-Based Enterprises
8. Development of advocacy and awareness materials on EbA

Fostering community-led forest fire management in high altitude regions of Nepal

Project period 2024 - 2027

Location Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha - Bagmati Province

**Donors/
Partners** Australian Himalayan Foundation and Direct Aid Program (DFAT)

Activities/Outputs

1. Strengthening capacity building of two rural municipalities to prevent forest fire incidents
2. Strengthening capacity of two rural municipalities to respond to forest fire events
3. Awaring policy and strategy makers at local and provincial levels on the importance of community-based forest fire management practices to prevent and respond to forest fire incidents. "

Promoting ecologically sound and socially just forest landscape restoration through co-production of knowledge and local capacity building

Project period	2025 - 2027
Location	All over Nepal
Donors/Partners	Reversing Environmental Degradation in Africa and Asia (REDAA)/FECOFUN/NFA

Activities/Outputs

1. Detailed ecological and social assessment of existing restoration strategies across different ecological zones in Nepal
2. A landscape restoration manual will be developed based on review of global principles and local practices, stakeholder consultation and discussions along with landscape restoration guiding frameworks.
3. Capacity needs assessment, exposure visits, and training and workshops will be conducted for local stakeholders, including government officials, CSOs and IPLCs.
4. The project will establish a platform for ongoing dialogue and collaboration among various restoration actors where sharing of knowledge, experiences, and resources will be conducted.

Promotion of Agroecology and Sustainable Food System

Project period	2014 - 2027
Location	Chitwan - Bagmati Province
Donors/Partners	Thousand Currents/ ActionAid/DCA/Alliance of Agriculture for Food (AAF)

Activities/Outputs

1. Policy research/field action research
2. Lobbying and campaigning
3. Activity training and capacity building
4. Documentation and publication

Hamro Ban, Hamro Bhawishya: A community- powered Restoration Project in Nepal Chure Range

Project period	2024 - 2025
Location	Koshi, Madhesh, and Sudurpashchim Province
Donors/Partners	Value Network Ventures (VNV) Advisory Services Pvt.Ltd

Activities/Outputs

1. Identification of the potential restoration sites in all three provinces through GIS mapping and validate through the field visits leading a way for the consultation.
2. Conduction of Stakeholder Consultations: Organise multi-stakeholder consultations across nine potential Project sites, three in each of the following provinces: Koshi, Madhesh, and Sudurpashchim in Nepal
3. Develop Detailed Project Documents for three provinces including a design for a four-year plantation schedule, including of plantation sites and necessary GPS coordinates.

Forest Fire Survey of a Pilot Study to Explore Community-based Forest Fire Management in Mid-hills of Nepal

Location Surkhet and Salyan - Karnali Province
Donors/ Partners North Carolina State University/
Institute of Forestry

Activities/Outputs

1. Lead the logistic and overall field work for the forest fire survey of a pilot study to explore community-based forest fire management in mid-hills of Nepal.
2. Finalised and collected the sampling frame for stratified random sampling, seeking necessary research permits and approvals, identifying about 308 fully-filled surveys from over 100 community forestry user groups (CFUGs).

Country-level stocktaking exercise in Nepal

Project period January 2026 - December 2027
Donors/ Partners University of Notre Dam,
University of Michigan, and
Cornell University

The Standing Panel On Impact Assessment (SPIA) of Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) aims to provide strategic advice and assess the decade long results of research investments made by CGIAR.

Activities/Outputs

1. Document agricultural innovations in Nepal to develop a stock take narrative report
2. Develop knowledge and policy materials summarising findings for the policy makers, local community and for other stakeholders.
3. Publish articles contributing valuable insights to the global discourse on agricultural innovation, targeting wider reach and greater impact.

Linking Science to Management: Restoring Community Forests in Nepal

Project period 2022 - 2025
Location Jalthal, Jhapa - Koshi Province
Donors/ Partners Darwin Initiative/FECOFUN/
KAFCOL

Activities/Outputs

1. To restore Forest ecosystem and conserve biodiversity in Jalthal community forests
2. To control existing and newly reported invasive alien species through the adoption of strong policy and operational measures by CFUGs, local governments and other stakeholders
3. To increase opportunities for income and employment generation of forest-dependent people through better management of land and biological resources
4. To mainstream Forest restoration and biodiversity conservation in the national and sub-national policy framework

Annex 2: Policy dialogue, public debate, workshops, food festivals and demos

30th November 2025 Strengthening forest based enterprise through policy lab ForestAction Nepal	5th December 2025 Multistakeholder workshop on coordination mechanism for forest fire ForestAction Nepal	12th-13th December 2025 First National conference on invasive alien species in Nepal FRTC in collaboration with ForestAction Nepal	20th December 2025 National workshop on community-based forest enterprise: towards strategic shifts for achieving forestry for prosperity ForestAction Nepal	8th January 2026 Ban Chautari on “forestry for prosperity: political economy debates” ForestAction Nepal
4th-5th January 2026 Strengthening climate finance for natural resource-based enterprises at the local level ForestAction Nepal	15h-16th January 2026 The role, challenges and opportunities of climate finance in natural resource-based enterprises ForestAction Nepal	22nd January 2026 Unpacking and bridging the financial barriers to empower Women-Led Enterprises (WLEs) in Nepal ForestAction Nepal, SIAS	13th February 2026 Farming for Food: Inter-Dialogue Alliance of Agriculture for Food (AAF), Forest Action Nepal	23rd February 2026 ForestAction Nepal shares insights from Jalthal Biodiversity Project & launches key publications ForestAction Nepal
11 March 2026 Community level consultation workshop on Pond Management of Bhajani ForestAction Nepal, The Asia Foundation	4 April 2026 Forest and Federalism: Key issues and challenges (Policy dialogue) The Asia Foundation	24th April 2026 Forest in Federalism: Stake of Local Government in Forest Management ForestAction Nepal	2nd - 7th April 2026 Cluster-level workshops to enhance community preparedness for forest fire management ForestAction Nepal	8th May 2026 Debating the future of fertilizers in Nepal: Chemical vs. organic pathways ForestAction Nepal
23rd May 2026 Media dialogue highlights the role of media in agriculture and food system transformation AAF, ForestAction Nepal	18th June 2026 Practitioners’ forum on regenerative agriculture ForestAction Nepal, Heifer International Nepal	25-26 June 2026 National Conference on Sustainable Agri-food System Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Chitwan	20th December 2025 Celebration of 25 years in research and policy engagement	5th June 2026 World Environment Day celebration in Ichhakamana ForestAction Nepal, AAF
29th June 2026 Celebrating the 23rd National Paddy Day and Rice Planting Festival ForestAction Nepal, AAF	15th October 2025 Joint celebration of World Food Day and International Rural Women’s Day ForestAction Nepal, AAF	5th December 2025 Youth engage in “Mato Bahas” to celebrate World Soil Day 2025 ForestAction Nepal, AAF		

Annex 3: Capacity building and training

27th–31st August 2025

2nd series of the Apprenticeship Modular Course on “Social Studies for Madhesh Transformation”

Alliance of Agriculture for Food (AAF) in collaboration with Centre for Educational Policies and Practices (CEPP), Dignity Initiative (DI), and the Mahottari Network of Youth.

8th–12th September 2025

Walking training on Agro-ecology 2025: Capacity building through observation, learning and reflecting

ForestAction Nepal, Alliance of Agriculture for Food (AAF).

24th–27th December 2025

Leadership training on forest landscape restoration for community leaders

ForestAction Nepal.

17th–22nd January 2026

Completion of the final series of the Apprenticeship Modular Course on “Social Studies for Madhesh Transformation”

ForestAction Nepal, Alliance of Agriculture for Food (AAF).

13th–15th March 2026

Advancing gender equality and inclusion through GEDSI training initiative

ForestAction Nepal, AHF.

8th April 2026

Financial compliance in the existing donor landscape

ForestAction Nepal.

22nd April 2026

Organisational communication and safeguarding training

Australian Himalayan Foundation (AHF), ForestAction Nepal.

9th May 2026

Training on strength-based approach for community and organisation strengthening

Australian Himalayan Foundation (AHF), ForestAction Nepal.

18th–28th May 2026

Training on entrepreneurship development, management, record-keeping, and financial literacy under CaFiN Project

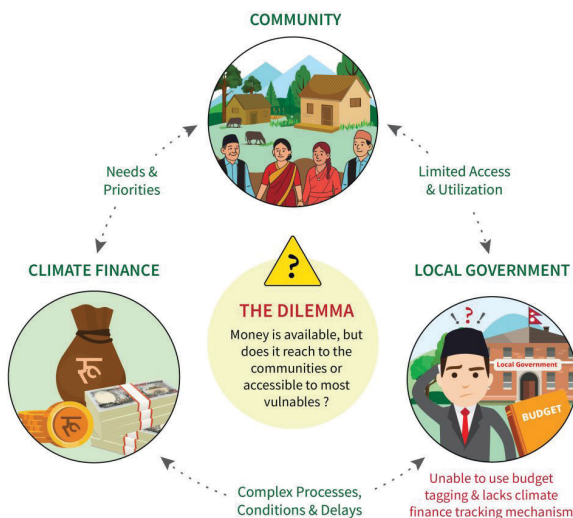
ForestAction Nepal.

(Policy briefs, leaflets, blogs, posters, books, book chapters, booklets, videos)

- उत्थानशील तथा न्यायोचित वन परिदृश्यको पुनरुत्थापना र प्रवर्द्धन
- समुदायमा आधारित वन डढेलो व्यवस्थापन कार्यक्रम
- Global Commitments, Local Actions
- Agriculture and Cancer
- Why community-based forest fire management?
- 10 elements of Agroecology
- Save the Soil, Save the Future
- Typology of Forest Restoration Approaches in Nepal
- Agroforestry for Flood Resilient Livelihood
- Timber Economy in Nepal: Practices and Prospects
- बाढी-उत्थानशील जीविकोपार्जनका लागि कृषि-वन प्रणाली
- Potential and prospect of Timber Economy



- What happens when a community takes the lead in restoring its soil?
- Nepal's Forest Paradox: Rich Forests, Poor Production
- Climate Finance Dilemma in Nepal: A System without Practice



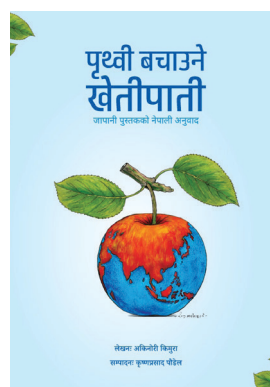
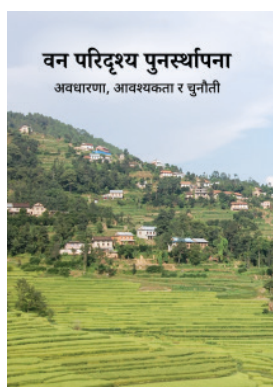
- Unlocking Nepal's Timber Economy
- Community forest management in Nepal: contestation, stagnation and prospects of coproduction for active forest management
- Forest governance under federalism in Nepal for forest restoration and equitable livelihoods
- Building resilient communities through community-private partnerships in forest-based enterprises



(Policy briefs, leaflets, blogs, posters, books, book chapters, booklet, video)

Books, book chapters, booklet

- Trees of Jalthal: A field guide to Identification and Conservation
- Jalthal forest: A Biodiversity Trove
- वन परिदृश्य पुनर्स्थापना: अवधारणा, आवश्यकता र चुनौती
- पृथ्वी बचाउने खेतीपाती
- Reflection of ForestAction Nepal's 25 Years in Action
- Restoring Forests and Improving Livelihoods in Nepal: Four Decades of Community Forestry



Video documentary

- News_Forest Fire Management Coordination Mechanism in Chautara
- Leadership Training on Forest Landscape Restoration: Session 2
- नेपालमा वन परिदृश्य पुनर्स्थापनाको आर्थिक, न्यायोचित र उत्थानशील सवालहरु Forest Restoration in Nepal
- Understanding CF users view on forest fires and their management
- Take a moment and think, has agriculture been addressed anywhere?
- 25+ Years of Advancing Climate Adaptation & Resilience through Action Research & Deliberative Spaces



25+ Years of Advancing Climate Adaptation & Resilience through Action Research & ...



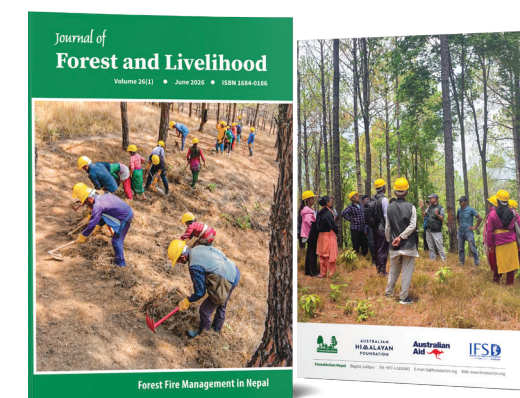
Understanding CF users view on forest fires and their management #forestfire ...

Journal

Journal of Forest and Livelihood.

Vol. 26 No. 1 (2026)

Special Issue on Forest Fire Management in Nepal



Annex 5: International journal papers

Cook, N.J., Karna, B.K., Steinberg, J., & Torrens, G. (2025). Ostromian institutions and violence: Community forestry and Nepal's civil war. *World Development*, 192, 107018. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2025.107018>

Pandey, R., Paudel, N.S., Koju, U., Libois, F., & Nepal, M. (2025). Beyond the trees: Equity and justice in Nepal's forest restoration. *Land Use Policy*, 159, 107813. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2025.107813>

Cook, N.J., Andersson, K.P., Benedum, M.E., Grillos, T., Karna, B.K., Khatri, D.B., & Poudel, D.P. (2026). Effects of forestry decentralization on rural inequality in Nepal. *Nature Sustainability*, 9, 385-394. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-025-01729-z>

Bhattarai, R. (2026). Open-Access Satellite Data Are Not Truly Open: A Critical Review of the Last-Mile Problem in Least Developed Countries—Lessons from Nepal for the Remote Sensing Community. *Remote Sensing*, 18(13), 2101. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs18132101>

McGunnigle, N. K., Bardsley, D. K., Nuberg, I. K., Cedamon, E., & Paudel, N. S. (2026). Sustainable Community Forestry in Nepal: A Socio-Ecological Analysis of Ten Years of Participatory Action Research with EnLiFT. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10549811.2026.2710668>

Annex 6: Articles in media

S.N.	Article tile	Link	Date	Author Name	Media
1	पहाडको जैविक पुनर्भरण : अस्तित्वको अन्तिम विकल्प	https://ekantipur.com/opinion/2025/12/10/biological-regeneration-of-mountains-the-last-option-for-survival-04-59.html	Dec 10 2025	कृष्ण पौडेल र सुजाता तामाङ	Ekantipur
2	जीवन्त माटो : मानिसको बाँच्ने आधार	https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2025/12/1820353/living-soil-the-basis-of-human-survival	Dec 05 2025	कृष्णप्रसाद पौडेल र शारदा थापा	Onlinekhabar
3	खेतीकर्मको भविष्य पनि युवाकै हातमा	https://ekantipur.com/opinion/2025/11/26/the-future-of-farming-is-in-the-hands-of-the-youth-00-10.html	Nov 26 2025	कृष्णप्रसाद पौडेल	Ekantipur
4	घोषणापत्रमा 'कृषि क्रान्ति', व्यवहारमा परनिर्भरता	https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2026/02/1879048/agricultural-revolution-in-manifesto-dependency-in-practice	Feb 26 2026	शारदा थापा र प्रबिण भट्टराई	OnlineKhabar
5	राजनीतिले बिर्सेको खेतीपाती र नवयुवाको भविष्य	https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2026/01/1856531/politics-has-forgotten-about-farming-and-the-future-of-young-people	Feb 1 2026	कृष्णप्रसाद पौडेल	OnlineKhabar
6	किसानबारे भविष्यका प्रधानमन्त्रीलाई खुलापत्र	https://ekantipur.com/opinion/2026/03/20/open-letter-to-future-prime-minister-about-farmers-36-37.html	March 20 2026	कृष्णप्रसाद पौडेल, टीका भट्टराई, र अरुणा उप्रेती	Ekantipur
7	नेपालमा जलवायु वित्तको द्विविधा : नीति छ, कार्यान्वयन छैन	https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2026/05/1933148/climate-finance-dilemma-in-nepal-policy-no-implementation	May 16, 2026	मीना बोहरा	OnlineKhabar

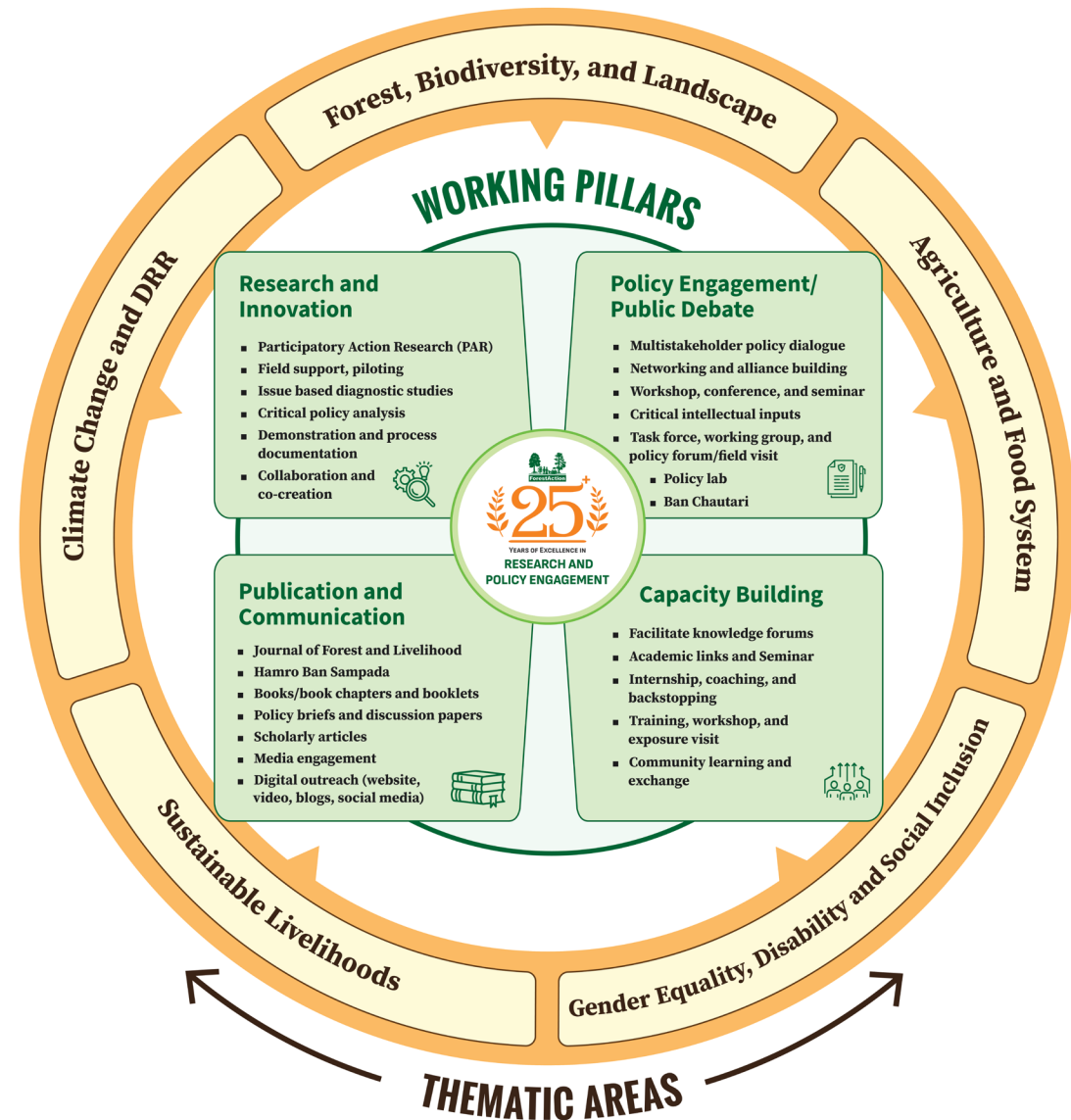
Annex 7: Participation and presentation shared by ForestAction Nepal team members at national and international workshops/conferences/trainings

S.N.	Participants	Program	Organiser and Country	Date
1	Madan Bashyal and Aayush Gautam	Australian Awards fellowship on strengthening capacity to respond to climate-induced forest fires in Nepal,	Australian Himalayan Foundation (AHF), Australia	2 October - 2 November 2025
2	Dr. Lila Nath Sharma	Presented on "Current efforts to control invasive species outside protected areas in Nepal" in the First National Conference on invasive alien species in Nepal	FRTC	12 - 13 December 2025
3	Dr. Lila Nath Sharma	Transitioning Nepal's forest restoration from 'forest cover to health and biodiversity' for resilient landscape	AFU, Chitwan	25-27 June 2026
4	Dr. Lila Nath Sharma	Framework for ecologically informed invasive species management and forest restoration: methodological innovation and insights from Participatory Action Research in Nepal's lowland forest	University of Calcutta	14-15 March 2026
5	Dr. Lila Nath Sharma	Paradox of diversity and degradation: assessing biodiversity outcomes in community forests	Society for Conservation Biology	04-06 June, 2026
6	Food and Agriculture Team	National Conference on Sustainable Agri-Food Systems (SAFS 2026)	AFU, Chitwan	25-27 June 2026

About Us

ForestAction (Forest Resources Studies and Action Team) Nepal, established in 2000, is a non-profit, learning-oriented organisation working in the areas of forestry, biodiversity, and landscape; agriculture and food system; climate change and DRR; sustainable livelihoods; and GEDSI. Utilising an interactive approach to research and policy engagement, ForestAction Nepal collaborates with researchers, civil society, and government agencies to achieve sustainable and equitable natural resource management. By blending professional knowledge with citizen power for transformative change, ForestAction Nepal disseminates knowledge products through diverse publications.

We have expanded considerably in the scale and diversity of our engagement, publications, partnership base, funding portfolios, and organisational capacity to become a national center of excellence. Moreover, we are regionally well-recognised actors in social research, analysis, and policy processes. ForestAction operates under the guidance of an elected executive board, with inhouse expertise on social sciences, policy analysis and environmental governance.





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www.instagram.com/forestactionnp 