

A Review Report

IUCN-Nepal Programme Framework 2007-2012:

*Conservation for Livelihoods - Promoting Biodiversity Conservation,
Environmental Justice and Sustainable Livelihoods in Nepal*

Submitted to:

International Union for Conservation of Nature, Nepal

Submitted by:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2007-2012 IUCN, with its objective of promoting biodiversity conservation, environmental justice, and sustainable livelihood in Nepal, implemented programs under five thematic areas: Environmental Governance, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Economics, Climate Change, and Conservation Learning, with equity, livelihoods, sustainability, conflict prevention and partnership development as its cross cutting priorities.

IUCN has been able to proactively innovate and lead various biodiversity conservation, environmental justice, and sustainable livelihood programs in Nepal. Over the last five year, IUCN has been able to provide technical support and expertise to the government in conservation related issues. IUCN took timely advantage of the new constitution-writing phase and carried out several relevant activities to ensure that environmental concerns were incorporated in the new National Constitution. IUCN made significant achievement in the area of biodiversity conservation. Along with conservation, it has also made significant achievement in income generation from non-timber forest products and medicinal and aromatic plants. The community based conservation work carried out by IUCN has particularly focused on ensuring participation of and benefit for the poor, socially excluded groups, and women. It has also created policy level discussions, at local, district, and national level on Community Conserved Conservation Area and community based natural resource management. Environmental governance has been another area in which IUCN has made significant progress. IUCN has thus made important achievements in strengthening and facilitating grassroots mechanisms for better environmental governance and natural resource management. It has also succeeded in carrying out local and national awareness program on conservation, governance, and emerging issues related to climate change. While addressing the immediate programmatic and policy needs of the county, IUCN has also been proactively accessing and studying emerging environmental trends and issues. It has carried out different case studies, assessments, research, and workshop to contribute to the knowledge pool. IUCN has also made significant achievement in working with a wide range of stakeholders as well as formulate alliances and multi-stakeholders partnership with different local, national, and international organizations.

Over these years, IUCN has been able to promote better environmental governance to conserve, use, and manage the environment and natural resource equitably and sustainability from the local to national level. Within this, IUCN maintained fairness,

equity, gender, justice and upholding human rights and international obligations as central to its work.

Alongside, in an effort to mainstream ecosystem management, IUCN has been able to promote the equitable sharing of the costs and benefits of natural resource management, in particular for the most disadvantaged people. Under environmental economics, it has identified and promoted economic and financial measures, which integrate the full economic value of biodiversity and equitable cost-benefit sharing at the local and national level. IUCN has also been raising awareness of potential threats of climate change and seems to have taken preliminary steps toward helping build capacity for mitigation and adaptation. It has proactively led the issues related to Climate Change in Nepal – addressing the challenges to Nepal’s biodiversity and most vulnerable communities. Apart from everything, IUCN has facilitated learning and innovation to address the ever-increasing environmental challenges at all levels.

As IUCN prepares to move forward with a new plan from 2013-2016, there are several needs and opportunities for IUCN to direct its strategies. Clearly, the issues of climate change and climate change adaptation will dominate the development issues in the country. With its experiences in Nepal and knowledge base, IUCN can play important and meaning role in affecting policies in Nepal. Environmental governance will be another key issue in the process of state restructuring. IUCN could play an important role in working closely with the government in formulating appropriate policies that distribute benefits across geographical as well as social boundaries.

Along the same context of state restructuring, depending on the ownership and governance model, conservation and protection of wildlife habitat could be a very significant challenge. IUCN could closely work with the central government in formulating effective policies and strategies for effective conservation and protection of wildlife.

Additionally, with the changing environmental and political context, there is a need for the Government to review and update various environmental management tools-- the Environmental

IUCN can meaningfully support Nepal government to policy and practice of climate change adaptation programs by combining livelihood and conservation strategies. Local and regional level integrated conservation and livelihood improvement programs can greatly benefit from some of the tools developed by IUCN and communities together such as “pay for services,” “adopt a spring” and other innovative programs.

The experience of IUCN from its current partnership with high level government commission for the conservation of Bagmati River is a unique opportunity to draw lessons that can be scaled up to the national level policy reform. It can reflect on its experiences to support some high profile national conservation programs and policies such as President's Chure Region Conservation Program which is being implemented directly by the President's office.

There is a need to addressing some "second generation" problems arising out of successful implementation of some conservation programs especially in community forestry, income sharing, and harmonizing the rules and regulations governing natural resources—forest, mining, water and others. IUCN's technical support can be valuable for all the major stakeholders including the government and communities.

IUCN has a long history of working very closely with the government and supporting its environmental initiatives since inception. Strengthening the relationship and working closely with the government and strategically working with partners and member organizations, could significantly support the IUCN in all its important undertakings.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Access to Benefit Sharing
BSC	Benefit Sharing Component
CF	Community Forest
CFN	Community Forest Network
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CG	Conservation Group
DAG	Disadvantaged Group
DFO	District Forest Office
DDC	District Development Committee
DoF	Department of Forestry
EG	Environmental Governance
GPSE	Gender, Poverty, Social Equity
GoN	Government of Nepal
HH	Households
ICS	Improved Cooking Stove
IGA	Income Generating Activities
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IS	Ilam Siwalik
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LGC	Landscape Governance Component
MAPs	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NBS	National Biodiversity Strategy
NCS	National Conservation Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NORM	National Rhododendron Conservation Management Committee
NPC	National Planning Commission
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTFPs	Non Timber Forest Products
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSE	Poor and Socially Excluded
TMJ	Tinjure-Milke-Jaljale
UG	User Group
WAB	Women's Apex Body

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INTRODUCTION

IUCN officially launched the Nepal Country Office on 23 February 1995 with Ministry of Finance of the Government of Nepal. Since then IUCN-Nepal has been developing partnerships with various government line agencies as well as nongovernmental organization to carry forward its activities to conserve Nepal's natural resources and ecological processes.

Over the last two decades, IUCN has been one of the leading agencies in promoting, advocating and raising awareness around the issues of environmental conservation environmental governance, ecosystem management, environmental economics, climate change and conservation learning. IUCN's work extends from different biodiversity conservation, MAP/NTFP management, forestry governance, environmental education, sustainable forest based livelihood programs, and others at grassroots to policy advocacy and strategic advising to the government.

OBJECTIVES OF THE REVIEW

While IUCN and IUCN-Nepal is embarking on new programme framework for 2013-16, it is critical that future programme reflects the experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of the ongoing 2007-12 Programme Framework.

Therefore the main objective of review is to assess the relevance and effectiveness of IUCN-Nepal 2007-12 Programme against the stated objective, thematic area, and other programme components in the light of the country's specific development needs and challenges, and suggest direction that future framework of the programme could take.

METHODS/ APPROACHES

For the review, extensive secondary data review was carried out, including annual reports, publication, and project documents. Individual interview with CR and Programme Coordinator was conducted. An interaction meeting with the Director General from Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Ministry of Forest and Soil

Conservation and Director General from Department of Forest, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.

FIVE YEAR OVERVIEW

During 2007-2012 IUCN, with its objective of promoting biodiversity conservation, environmental justice and sustainable livelihood in Nepal, implemented programs under five thematic areas: Environmental Governance, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Economics, Climate Change, and Conservation Learning, with equity, livelihoods, sustainability, conflict prevention and partnership development as its cross cutting priorities.

The different activities carried out by IUCN in the last five years, under the larger thematic areas, can be categorized in five groups.

1. Policy advocacy, strategic advising and technical backstopping programs that support government works.
2. Media awareness and outreach activities related to conservation, climate change, and environmental rights.
3. Conservation activities at the grassroots with specific focus on benefit sharing and sustainable livelihood.
4. Strengthening and facilitating grassroots mechanisms for better environmental governance and natural resource management.
5. Series of assessment, workshops, studies, and research undertakings that contribute to the knowledge pool.

Between 2008-2009 IUCN together with The Government, and other international partners, implemented the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal (COSUWN) project. IUCN mostly provided technical support to the project through technical experts like Chief Technical Advisor, Biodiversity Expert and Gender and social expert.

Integration of Environmental Concerns into the New National Constitution project was implemented in 2008 by IUCN in collaboration with the Ministry of

Environment (MoE) along with other national organizations. The project intended to bring together a wider group of stakeholders including members of Constituent Assembly, Natural Resources Committee, member of different political parties and representative of different organizations involved in conservation to consult the environmental issues and provide inputs to the Constitution Drafting Committee to ensure that the environmental concerns, rights and management of environmental resource are adequately integrated in the Constitution.

Additionally, IUCN produced several policy briefs on environmental rights on new constitution, and environmental rights and human rights in new constitution. IUCN also supported The Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, on the Revision of National Conservation Strategy.

Through Practical Innovation for Inclusive Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood program, IUCN implemented extensive program on Benefit Sharing and Landscape Governance at the community level through different partners in Doti (Far Western Region) and Tinjure Milke Jaljale (TMJ) area in Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung and Terathum districts (Eastern Region) and Siwalik are of Ilam District. Extensive Conservation work was accomplished in Doti, achieved through an innovative method of benefit sharing that linked conservation and sustainable use of NTFP and MAP with livelihood. IUCN also organized the community in TMJ and IS and introduced the concept of CCCA and in partnership with local organization implemented several activities.

Mainstreaming Environmental Rights and Principles of Good Governance for Natural Resource Management in Nepal was another community based project in Sardu watershed of Sunsari district of Eastern Nepal, with the purpose of improving governance and equitable benefit sharing at the watershed level through multi-stakeholder dialogue, watershed level conservation planning, and policy advocacy at the national level.

IUCN has also provided its expert advises to several agencies through a series of studies, environmental impact assessment, workshops, studies and other services. Assessment of Community Forestry in Carbon sequestration in Nepal was done as an attempt to assess the role and potential of community forest in Nepal in storing and sequestering the atmospheric carbon dioxide, the major driver of the global warming and climate change. It also conducted a Gender and Climate Change workshop designed to share information on the government's initiatives on the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and efforts to engendering the process, and generating recommendations on initiatives to be undertaken at the national, district and grassroots level. The studies also include an Environmental Impact Assessment of Industrial Development around Lumbini, and community based vulnerability assessment, risk mapping and adaptation planning.

Alongside, several media, outreach, and advocacy activities related to climate change, conservation, environmental rights, benefit sharing; etc. were also undertaken by IUCN. Radio programs, promotional and informational documents were produced.

A. PROJECTS REVIEWED

1. CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF WETLANDS IN NEPAL (COSUWN) PROJECT

This project was implemented by IUCN together with government partners including, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Committees (DNPWC), Department of Forests (DoF), District Development Committees (DDC) and Village Development Committees (VDCs). Global Environmental Facility (GEF) of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) provided the funding support.

IUCN mostly provided technical support to the project through technical experts like Chief Technical Advisor, Biodiversity Expert, and Gender and Social Expert. IUCN developed the inventory of the wetlands of Nepal and conducted a series of

validation workshop for the same. Support was provided during the revision of the Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RSIS) and consortium of multi stakeholders (both government and non-government) to celebrate World Wetland Day. IUCN disseminated the information of wetlands through various presentation of activities carried out in Nepal about people's involvement in the management of high altitude wetlands of Nepal in Regional workshop on wetland resource management in South Asia, held in Bangladesh.

2. INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS INTO THE NEW NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

IUCN in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and National Trust of Nature Conservation (NTNC) implemented this project. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) provided international support for this project. The objective of the project was to network with wider group of stakeholders including members of different political parties and representatives of different organizations involved in conservation to consult the environmental issues. The ultimate objective was to give input to Constitution Drafting Committee to ensure that the environmental concerns, rights and management of environmental resources are adequately integrated in the new constitution.

The other objective was to build capacity of members from different stakeholders mentioned earlier. To meet this objective the IUCN conducted training program to the members including women CA members. They were oriented on issues like clean and healthy environmental rights, environmental rights and federalism, and different topics like environmental and human rights, conservation of biodiversity sustainable use, and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from biological resources in the context of framing new Constitution. Two policy briefs, one each on fundamental rights and human rights, and environmental rights in the new constitution were also published.

3. MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND PRINCIPALS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN NEPAL

This project was supported by DFID through Governance and Transparency Fund (DFID/GTF). Its main objective was to improve governance and ensure equitable benefit sharing at the watershed level through multi-stakeholder dialogue, watershed level conservation planning, and policy advocacy at the national level. The project was launched in Sardu watershed of Sunsari district of Eastern Nepal. The activities were carried out through six partner organizations. A multi-stakeholder platform was formed with three committees, namely Watershed Conservation Committee, Drinking Water Resources Management Committee, and Technical and Administrative Services Committee. This platform linked upstream watershed community with the closest municipality, i.e., Dharan Municipality. Capacity building programs were launched for the members of the stakeholder organizations on Climate Change and Sustainable Watershed Management, Payment of Ecosystem services (PES), proposal writing and so on. Coordination meetings and multi stakeholder dialogues were held regularly with Constituent Assembly Members, Community Groups, Forest Offices, and Community Forest User Groups (CFUG) as relevant. Awareness programs were also launched in the watershed area during different days like World Water Day, World Earth Day, World Biodiversity Day and so forth.

4. ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN CARBON SEQUESTRATION IN NEPAL

This project--Assessment of Community Forestry in Carbon Sequestration in Nepal--was an attempt to assess the role and potential of community forests in Nepal in storing and sequestering the atmospheric carbon dioxide- the major driver of the global warming and climate change and the most pressing environmental issue of our generation. The project analyzed, secondary data on carbon status of the community forests in Nepal. Carbon sequestration rate across the community forests in all three ecological zones of Nepal was estimated and a report was published in relation to REDD financing mechanism in the post Kyoto Protocol

Regime. Rights and Resources Group (RRG) under Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), Washington provided Grant for this research.

5. INSTITUTIONAL CONSOLIDATION FOR THE COORDINATED AND INTEGRATED MONITORING OF NATURAL RESOURCES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN THE HINDU KUSH-KARAKORAM-HIMALAYA MOUNTAIN COMPLEX (HKKH PARTNERSHIP PROJECT FOR ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN SHORT) – 2008-2009.

The Director General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) of the Italia Ministry of External Affairs (MAES) funded this project. It was implemented by IUCN with independent Project Management Unit in IUCN office. Other executing partners were: EV-K2CNR (Italian High Altitude Research Center), CESVI (Italian Development NGO), and International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu.

The project developed a Decision Support Tool Box (DST) in 2009, for ecosystem management of Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) Nepal. The toolbox aimed to assist the park management and other conservationists in making decision on ecosystem management through sound scientific and participatory information. The toolbox was developed through numerous research on scientific, participatory, and legal and policy aspects of park management. The information had been placed on a spatial platform through Geographical Information System (GIS) and simulation using the model Stimuli to aid the management options spatially and temporally.

In developing the DST, the project completed various research activities. They included scientific monitoring of environmental systems, air/water quality and limnology, trans-boundary meteorological trends. It also included Mt. Everest, tourism survey, biodiversity research (wildlife), and biomass study of forests, land cover mapping, legal policy and institutional issues.

One of the project components capacity development and disseminate out of study. The capacity building and output dissemination activities included a Regional

(HKKH) level workshop on “Innovative tools and experience in ecosystem management” with reference to Sagarmatha National Park. It also included trainings on resource management in SNP, orientation on SNP management plan, sharing of SNP draft regulations with local communities. Support was provided to translate SNP management plan into Nepali from English so that local communities could read and comprehend the plan for their increased participation in park and buffer zone management. A study visit to National Park in Pakistan was also carried out for SNP officials and community members.

6. PRACTICAL INNOVATIONS FOR INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

This project consisted of two major components, namely, Benefit Sharing (BS) and Landscape Governance (LG), in addition to a crosscutting subcomponent Gender, Poverty and Social Equity (GPSE) in both the components. This project was funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – SDC.

The BS component was implemented in Doti district of Far West Development Region. The project emphasis was on the conservation, sustainable management and marketing aspects of Non-timber forest products (NTFP) and Medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) through the capacity building of community based organizations like Community Forests User Group (CFUG), conservation groups, cooperatives, and other community groups. It also included mainstreaming gender, poverty, and social inclusion in the Community forestry users’ groups in the project site.

The Landscape Governance component was implemented in the Eastern Development Region of Nepal, namely Tinjure Milke Jaljale (TMJ) area of Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung and Terhathum districts, and Siwalik area of Ilam district. IUCN Nepal had been working in the TMJ area since early 2000 with an emphasis to promote the people centered conservation. It had facilitated a dialogue

on Community Conserved Conservation Area (CCCA) at national level as well as in the project sites. Based on the decision made by a task force set up earlier by Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) in 2007, IUCN was entrusted to explore and provide some potential institutional mechanisms that could be used in TMJ as a CCCA.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the past five years, IUCN has been able to effectively affect the grassroots level conservation activities as well as influence larger policy dialogues and discourses through close engagement and collaboration of government and policy makers in all its programs and processes.

IUCN has been able to provide technical support and expertise to the government in conservation related issues. In conjunction with National Planning Commission, it helped the government to revise and update the country's nature conservation strategy so that it is relevant to the changing contexts and respond positively to the new challenges and opportunities. It also supported the government in Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal (COSUWN) Project through technical experts like Chief Technical Advisor, Biodiversity Expert and Gender and Social Expert. It developed the inventory of the wetlands of Nepal and conducted a series of validation workshop for the same. Support was provided during the revision of the Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RSIS) and consortium of multi stakeholders (both government and non-government) to celebrate World Wetland Day. IUCN disseminated the information of wetlands through various presentation of activities carried out in Nepal about people's involvement in the management of high altitude wetlands of Nepal in Regional workshop on wetland resource management in South Asia, held in Bangladesh.

IUCN took timely advantage of the new constitution-writing phase and carried out several relevant activities to ensure that environmental concerns were incorporated in the new National Constitution. The program- Integration of Environmental Concerns into the New National Constitution brought together CA members along with other stakeholders and partners. Under the program, several capacity building workshops were organized for CA members and relevant ministries to ensure that appropriate provisions are incorporated in the new constitution. Alongside, several talk programs were also organized on issues of environmental pollution, conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, equitable access and benefit sharing, sustainable use of natural resources, rights of access to environmental resources, service and goods, and on issues of environmental federalism within the New Constitution of Nepal. Two publications – Distribution of Natural Resources in Federal Structure and Climate Change and New Constitution, and five policy briefs – Fundamental Rights in the New Constitution, Environmental Rights into the New Constitution: A Human Rights Perspective, Right to Clean and Healthy Environment into the Context of New Constitution, Federalism and Water Resources in Nepal, and Environmental Federalism was published to support and the CA members and others involved in drafting the environmental provisions.

IUCN made significant achievement in the area of biodiversity conservation. In far west alone 360,000 major saplings of NTFP/MAP were planted in 965 hectare of private/public land utilizing 15.8% of wasted community forestland. The program based in Doti successfully carried out in-situ, and ex-situ conservation and has increased the level of awareness towards biodiversity conservation, equitable management of NTFP and MAPs, and reduction of dependence on natural resources through improved livelihood and technology. Similarly in Ilam Siwalik (IS), major conservation and plantation of Chiraito has been accomplished along with plantation of bamboos and other high value trees, plants and herbs. Conservation of Rhododendron, which in the absence of alternative fuel is being rapidly exploited for timber and firewood, and community awareness in these issues have been a major achievement in TMJ. Additionally, in IS, the project contributed largely on

conservation, green belt establishment, river management and natural disaster risk management. The project promoted and installed number of Improved Cooking Stove (ICS) in TMJ that has decreased dependency of households on forest firewood by almost 45% and has contributed to the decrease in CO₂ and carbon emission.

Along with conservation, the “Practical innovation for inclusive conservation and sustainable livelihood” also made significant achievement in income generation from NTFP and MAPs. The project emphasized on the conservation, sustainable management and marketing aspects of NTFP and MAPs through the capacity building of CBS like CFUG, conservation groups, cooperatives etc. It promoted group approach for product marketing and supported small-scale natural resource based income generation activities. In order to train producers, processors and traders in maintaining market-oriented quality and standards guidebook of NTFPs and MAPs was prepared and a Code of Conduct was developed to maintain quality and standard of MAPs and NTFPs for quality control and trade. Two multipurpose cooperative was also formed for group marketing of products by involving number of stakeholders with significant representation of poor, Dalit, and women. As a result of this, according to the IUCN report, 38 ton NTFPs was collected in 2007 by 356 HHs; 29.7 tons by 437 HHs in 2008 as a result of which communities earned Rs. 396,000 and Rs, 332,569 respectively each year. HH, which earned Rs.450/year in 2001, increased their income to Rs. 1,100 in 2007 and Rs, 761 in 2008.

The community based conservation work carried out by IUCN has particularly focused on ensuring participation of and benefit for the poor, socially excluded groups, and women (PSE/W). Various conservation works have been achieved through effectively organizing women’s groups and ensuring community participation. The projects have increased access and benefit sharing for poor and socially excluded household and women. The projects have been able to ensure increased participation and access to benefit for PSE/W. Through GPSE indicators, gender and social inclusion has been monitored in almost all GFUGs and partner

organizations. Beneficiaries of the project have proportionately large number of women from Dalit and Janajatis ethnic groups.

At the same time, the community-based projects have been able to create policy level discussions, at local, district and national level on community conserved conservation area (CCCA) and community based natural resource management. The government had also convened IUCN to further explore the institutional modality of CCCA and its applicability in the TMJ.

Environmental governance has been another area in which IUCN has made significant progress. IUCN has thus made important achievements in strengthening and facilitating grassroots mechanisms for better environmental governance and natural resource management. Through training and support programs, it has contributed towards the review and amendment of 17 CFUGs to address and incorporate issues of ABS and 2nd generation issues of CF. Through a team of experts and with concerned stakeholders, developed a draft on how a conservation plan could be carried out. It also worked on the possible modality of Payment for Ecological Services (PES). Alongside, local level workshop in Sardu Watershed Area, which raised local level awareness in community forestry and watershed management issues, is likely to be instrumental for policy dialogue on formulation of participatory watershed management plan.

IUCN has also succeeded in carrying out local and national awareness program on conservation, governance and emerging issues related to climate change. Several promotional and informational documents were produced and disseminated. A case study on environmental rights and good governance was produced and broadcasted through radio stations covering all parts of Nepal. It has thus been able to sensitize electronic and print media of the importance of environmental rights and governance.

While addressing the immediate programmatic and policy needs of the county, IUCN has also been proactively accessing and studying emerging environmental trends and issues. It has carried out different case studies, assessments, research, and workshop to contribute to the knowledge pool. The themes of study range across climate change, governance, biodiversity etc. These studies will not only be helpful for IUCN to map out it's future programs but will be useful resource for the government and other organizations working in similar areas.

IUCN has also produced a volume of research literature, awareness materials and knowledge publications related to its thematic programme areas and it's cross cutting priorities.

1. 60 episodes of radio program covering central, eastern, western region
2. 60 episodes of radio program separately in eastern region
3. Adapting to climate change in mountain ecosystems
4. Case study on Economic valuation linking with climate change
5. Case study on impact of climate change on insect rice beans
6. Case study on water quality analysis of Sardu watershed area
7. Climate change impact on rice farming in Sardu watershed area
8. Environmental Justice and rural communities in the context of Nepal.
9. Environmental resources collection- Chure Conservation
10. Evaluation of Bioengineering potential of native vegetation for slope stabilization and erosion control
11. Impact of climate change on maize production
12. Integrated water source conservation and management plan
13. Numbers of billboards with slogans, to governance, climate change, biodiversity
14. PES guidelines
15. Policy brief on environmental rights and human rights in new constitution
16. Policy brief on environmental rights on new constitution
17. Posters on governance issue relating to biodiversity
18. Preliminary Inventory of Nepal's Wetlands

19. Report on conservation plan of Sardu watershed
20. Report on economic Valuation of Sardu watershed
21. Status of GPSE Monitoring Indicators in CFUGs of Doti District
22. Study of soil and water conservation practices used in Sardu watershed area.
23. Study on Effect of GPSE Monitoring Indicators in Selected CFUGs of Doti District
24. Terminologies Used in Climate Change
25. Tinjure-Milke Jaljale Rhododendron Conservation Area – A strategy of Sustainable Development

Clearly, IUCN has also made significant achievement in working with a wide range of stakeholders as well as formulate alliances and multi-stakeholders partnership with different local, national and international organizations. As a part of enhancing IUCN in Nepal, the IUCN Nepal Country Office has been strengthening the links among the three groups of the IUCN constituency- National members, Commission members and other partners. This in turn has strengthened the collective influence and effectiveness of the broader IUCN family to the shared common vision of environmental conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources in Nepal. There are 18 IUCN and 6 Commissions in Nepal representing the government, INGO and NGO sectors. IUCN Nepal has worked closely with all its members and over the years has actively participated and contributed to the efforts on conservation and sustainable use of natural resource put in by all its members.

The institutional members of IUCN include: Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), National Trust of Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ), Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA), Human Welfare and Environment Projection Center (HWEPC), Association for Protection of Environment and Culture (APEC), Women in Environment (WE), International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Youth Awareness Environmental Forum (YAEF), Center for Rural Technology Nepal (CRT/N), Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Local Initiative

for Biodiversity Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Wildlife Watch Group (WWG), Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN), and Himalayan Nature.

IUCN has also partnered with relevant government agencies- Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Planning Commission (NPC), Department of Plant Resources, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). Alongside, it also partnered with local NGOs and INGOs like FECOFUN, Forest Action, NGO Federation Nepal, Action Aid International Nepal, CARE Nepal, HEIFER International, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, Winrock International, World Wildlife Fund (WWF); etc.

As development partners it works with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Department for International Development (DFID), UK, DENIDA/Embassy of Denmark, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), European Union to Nepal (EU), FINIDA/ Embassy of Finland, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), United State Agency for International Development (USAID).

IMPACT

Though the review covers the time frame of the five most recent years, it is important to bring the focus on the achievement that IUCN has been able to bring about since its presence in Nepal, to appreciate its experience and understand the larger impact that it has been able to create so far.

Since then, IUCN has improved conservation of important biodiversity, enhanced local natural resource management capacity, improved livelihood security for the natural resource dependent poor, increased awareness of conservation and

sustainable livelihood strategies and increased knowledge development and policy feedback. It made significant contribution to important policy reforms in Nepal which includes- National Conservation Strategy, National Environmental Policy and Action Plan 1 and 2, Environmental Protection Regulation 1997, Environmental Protection Act 1996, National Wetlands Policy, Environmental education curricula and materials, Churia Area Programme Strategy Draft Bill on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing, and Gender, Poverty and Social Equity (GPSE) monitoring indicators.

With a working history of almost two decades, IUCN has been able to proactively innovate and lead various biodiversity conservation, environmental justice and sustainable livelihood programs in Nepal.

Over these years, IUCN has been able to promote better environmental governance to conserve, use and manage the environment and natural resource equitably and sustainability from the local to national level. Within this, IUCN maintained fairness, equity, gender, justice and upholding human rights and international obligations as central to its work.

Alongside, in an effort to mainstream ecosystem management, IUCN has been able to promote the equitable sharing of the costs and benefits of natural resource management, in particular for the most disadvantaged people. Under environmental economics, it has identified and promoted economic and financial measures, which integrate the full economic value of biodiversity and equitable cost-benefit sharing at the local and national level. IUCN has also been raising awareness of potential threats of climate change and seems to have taken preliminary steps toward helping build capacity for mitigation and adaptation. It has proactively led the issues related to Climate Change in Nepal – addressing the challenges to Nepal’s biodiversity and most vulnerable communities. Apart from everything, IUCN has facilitated learning and innovation to address the ever-increasing environmental challenges at all levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nepal is currently in the phase of changing environmental as well as political context that has created several needs for program and policy support at local and National level.

Clearly the issues of climate change and climate change adaptation will dominate the development issues in the country. With its experiences in Nepal and knowledge base, IUCN can play important and meaningful role in affecting policies in Nepal. It can advance as well as consolidate the research studies and efforts of different organizations working on climate change. At the same time, IUCN, which has already been working closely with the government on environmental governance issues, could further the issues of Climate Change and support the government. It can continue strengthening and facilitating grassroots mechanisms for better environmental governance and natural resource management.

Environmental Governance will be another key issue in the process of state restructuring. Up until now, there is no clarity of who will own and control critical natural resources - the central government or the provinces. Resource ownership and benefit sharing mechanisms will be central to the administration and governance of federal states. IUCN could play an important role in working closely with the government in formulating appropriate policies that distribute benefits across geographical as well as social boundaries.

Along the same context of state restructuring, depending on the ownership and governance model, conservation and protection of wildlife habitat could be a very significant challenge. With the high probability of wildlife habitat falling into different states, any action adversely affecting the habitat in a particular state will eventually pose a threat throughout the entire belt of wildlife habitat by affecting the migration corridor. Formulating effective policies and strategies will be central to the effective conservation and protection of wildlife. IUCN could closely work

with the central government in raising some of these issues and devising effective mechanisms and policies to battle this challenge.

Additionally, with the changing environmental and political context, there is a need for the Government to review and update various environmental management tools-- the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines, which was formulated two decades ago in 1992. With reference to the several studies, assessments, and knowledge accumulated through community base projects, IUCN could assist the government in revising the guidelines based on the changing environmental, political and social context.

IUCN has a long history of working very closely with the government and communities supporting its environmental initiatives since its inception. This relationship and closeness with the government seems to have revived lately after a period of visible gap. This positive trend should be strengthened in the new context. Developing projects jointly to address the actual need of the government agencies can help strengthen such relationship.

It has maintained partnership with many relevant ministries and line agencies. Additionally, it has established a wide network of different local and national NGOs, and INGOs and maintained partnership with different organizations. These networks and partnership are one of its assets along with the expertise available within the larger IUCN Network. Strengthening the relationship and working more closely with the government and strategically engaging partner organizations could significantly support the IUCN in all its important undertakings.

IUCN's current engagement with high level government authority in Bagmati River conservation provides a unique opportunity for substantive and process related learning in integrated river conservation and management in partnership with government agency. These lessons can be invaluable for rivers and stream protection policy and programs formulation nationally. Such cooperation and

support can be extended to national “high profile” projects and programs such as President’s Chure Region Conservation Program which is being directly overseen by the President’s office. It can also be useful for coming up with new approach to address the inadequacies of project based Environmental Impact Assessment for hydropower project in a river.