

# Impact of Community Participation in Community Forestry, Nepal

By

Bhupendra Prasad Yadav

Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal

1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024; Woodlands of Ireland



# Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Community Based Forest Management Practices in Nepal**
- 3. Initiative of Community Forestry in Nepal**
- 4. Community Participation in Community Forestry**
- 5. Achievements of Community Forestry**
- 6. Challenges in Community Participation**
- 7. Policy and Legal support**
- 8. Future Directions for Community Forestry**
- 9. Conclusion**

# 1. Introduction

---

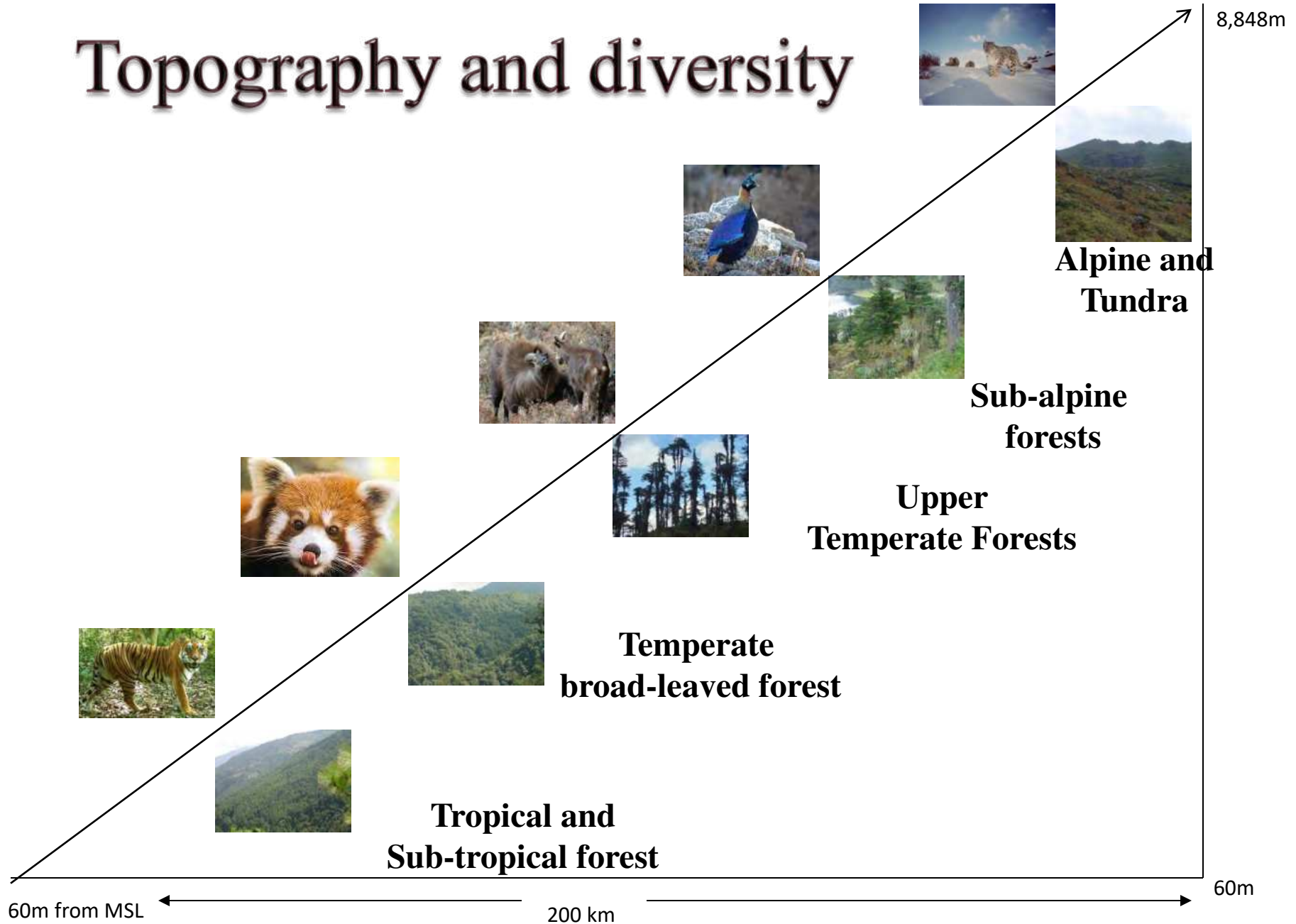
- Nepal is a unique country representing a variety of landscapes, cultures and wildlife.
- Nepal is known for its social diversity, which is reflected in its many ethnic groups (142), religions, and traditions.
- Community Forestry (CF) in Nepal has been a pioneering approach to forest management since the 1970s and is the successful model in Nepal.

# Biodiversity of Nepal

- Area: 147181 sq.km.
- Population: 30 million
- Forest Area: 45.31%
- Protected Areas: 20 (23.39%)
- 118 Ecosystem types
- 75 Vegetation types,
- 35 Forest types



# Topography and diversity



# Diversity of Nepal

## जैविक विविधता

रेकर्ड गरिएको कुल प्रजाति संख्या  
**30,968**

### वन्यजन्तु प्रजाति विविधता 96,026



वन व्यवस्थापन पद्धति अनुसारको वन (क्षेत्रफल, हेक्टरमा)

**38,82,000**  
संरक्षित क्षेत्र

**83,396**  
कबुलिचिती वन (गारिबको लागि)

**22,36,609**  
सामुदायिक वन

**2,360**  
दुर्ग भाइको विभिन्न वन

**9,20,502**  
संरक्षित वन

**2,046**  
धार्मिक वन

**64,664**  
सामुदायिक वन

**680**  
कबुलिचिती वन (बसबसायिक)

जमिना सामुदायिक वन



नेपालको कुल वन क्षेत्रफल **66 लाख हेक्टर**





# Importance and Diversity of Forest in Nepal

Terai forest :  
Shorea robusta  
dominance-  
important timber  
forest



Mid-hill forest : mixed  
broadleaved, mostly  
handed-over as  
community forests



High mountain  
pine-rhododendron  
forest



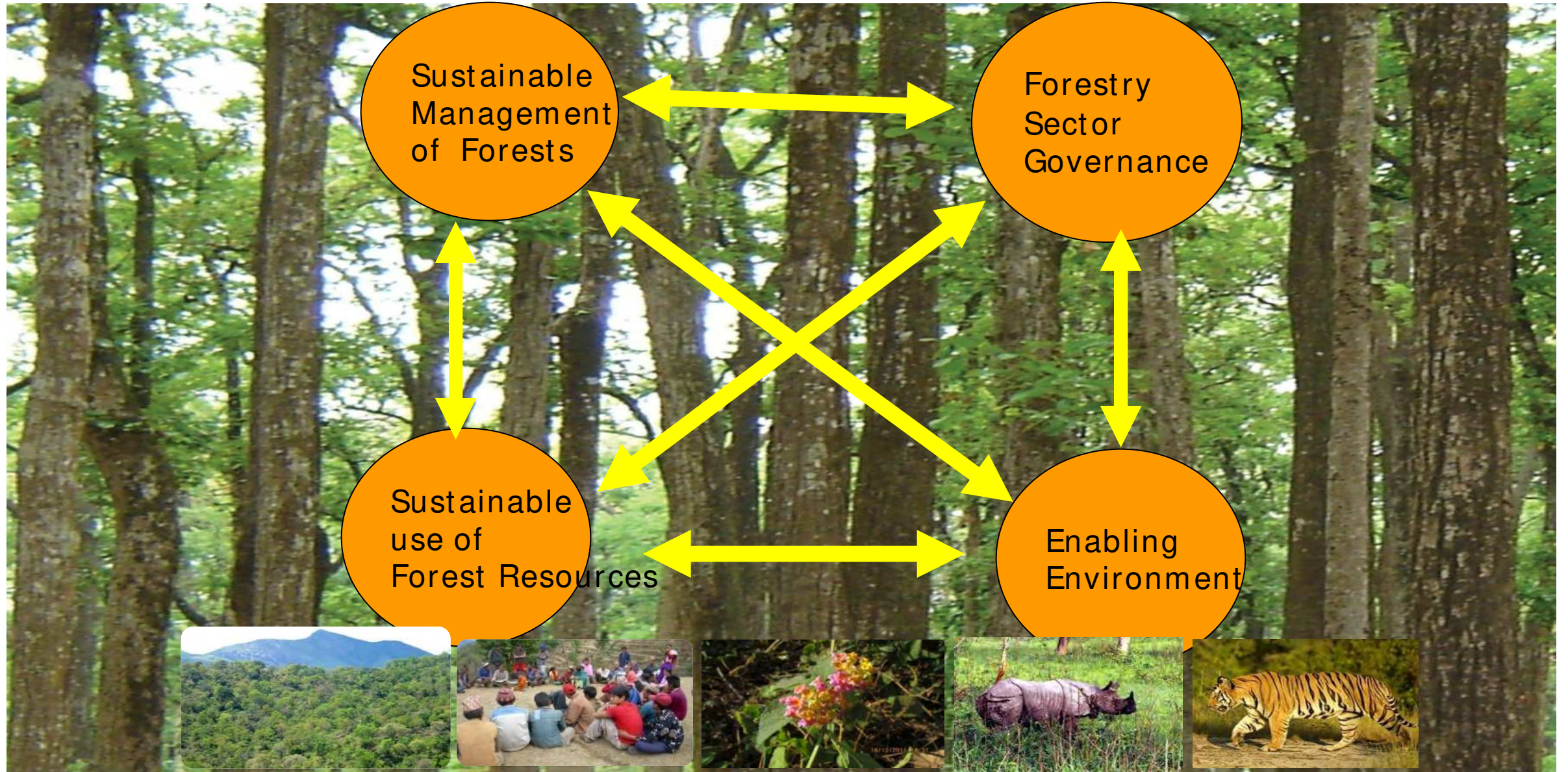
8,848m

60m from MSL ←

← Less than 200 km →

→ 60m

# Vision of MoFE: Forestry for Prosperity

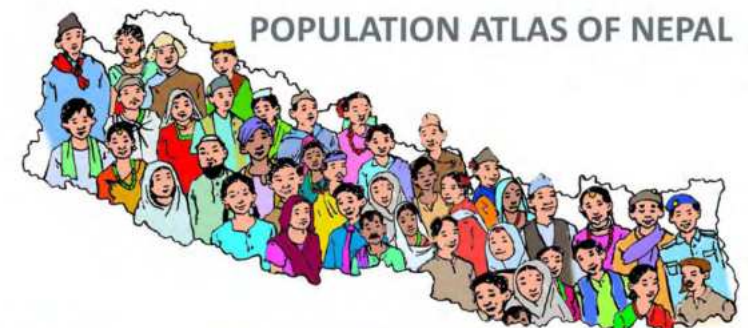




सि नं	वन व्यवस्थापन पद्धतिको नाम	समुह संख्या	वनको क्षेत्रफल हे	लाभान्वित घरधुरी	लाभान्वित जनसंख्या
१	सामुदायिक वन	२२,५१९	२३५९५७७.६	३०८८२५९	१६६०६१४९
२	गरीबमुखी कबुलियती वन	७,६०७	४४,०२७.८३	७४,४९५	४२३६७४
३	साझेदारी वन	३१	७५,६५४.१७	८१२८७०	४७१०६८५
४	वन संरक्षण क्षेत्र	१०	१९२०२७.४३	१४७५१९	८०६२२०
५	धार्मिक वन	१७९	२,८०९.१४	०	०
६	मध्यवर्ती सामुदायिक वन	७१६	१०४६८२.९१	१३९,४६८	७४५२१५
७	संरक्षण सामुदायिक वन	२४०	१२४६६१.५९	२७,३८९	१३९७९३
८	मध्यवर्ती कबुलियती वन	५४	२४२.८३	४७३	२,०४०
९	संरक्षण कबुलियती वन	२१	५७.१८	२२९	१,०७५
१०	मध्यवर्ती धार्मिक वन	६	८५.३२	०	०
११	संरक्षण क्षेत्रले व्यवस्थापन गरेको वन	८५	२७७१४०	३३,६८५	१७१९४९
<b>जम्मा</b>		३१,४६८	३,१८०,९६६	४,३२४,३८७	२३,६०६,८००

# 3. Initiative of Community Forestry in Nepal

- ❑ 1. Pre-1970s: State Control and Deforestation
- ❑ 2. 1978: Introduction of Community Forestry Policy
- ❑ 3. 1980s: Master plan for Forestry sector including Community Forestry
- ❑ 4. Forest Act of 1993
- ❑ 5. 1990s: Rapid Expansion of CFUGs
- ❑ 6. 2000s: Focus on Sustainable Management
- ❑ 7. Increased Women's and Marginalized Group Participation
- ❑ 8. Integration with National Development Goals
- ❑ 9. Introduction of Market-Oriented Approaches



# What is Community Forest

- Community forest is a part of national forest handed over to an users' group living nearby forest for its protection, management and utilization for the collective interest.
- The Divisional Forest Officer may handover any part of a National forest to a Users' Group in the form of a Community Forest as prescribed entitling to develop, conserve, use and manage the forest and, sell and distribute the forest products independently by fixing their prices according to Work plan.
- It is the autonomous and self-governing institution.
- Participatory and inclusive planning and decision making for forest management.

# Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs)

- CFUGs are the backbone of Community Forestry, consisting of local members who manage the forests.
- Each CFUG is responsible for creating and enforcing rules for sustainable resource use.
- CFUGs promote social equity by involving diverse community members in forest management.

# Objectives of Community Forestry

- The main objectives include sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, and poverty alleviation.
- CF aims to enhance community participation in decision-making processes regarding forest use.
- It also seeks to empower marginalized groups, ensuring equitable access to forest resources.



# Present status of CF in Nepal

- CF Area coverage : 2.3 million ha
- Household: 3 million
- No of CFUGs: 22,519
- Population: 16.6 million
- Women lead CF: 1072
- About 36% of total forest area is covered by CF in Nepal

# 4. Community Participation in CF

- Local Ownership of Forest Resources
- Collaborative Decision-Making
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Conservation of forest and wildlife
- Empowerment of Marginalized Groups and Women
- Benefits Sharing and Support in Livelihoods
- Knowledge and Skills Sharing
- Income Generation
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Leadership

# Local Ownership of Forest Resources

- Preparation of Constitution and Operation Plan
- Forest: control-Grazing, Forest Fire, Disease control and conserve forest
- Land: Encroachment
- Uses: Control over resource uses
- Wildlife: Poaching and Illegal trade, aware people
- Legal punishment: CFUG and Forest Office (Government)



# Collaborative Decision-Making

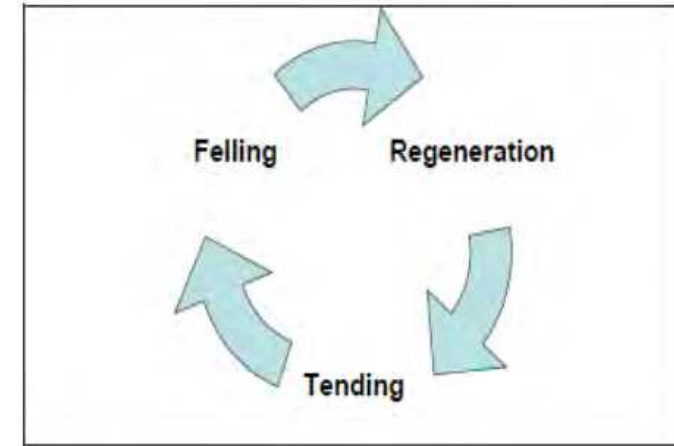
---

- 50% participation of Women, disadvantage group
- Democratic process
- Participation in constitution of Community forestry

# Sustainable Forest Management

## Forest Management Process:

- Planting/Regeneration
- Silvicultural operations- Thinning, pruning
- Cutting/Felling trees
- Management of forest product



# Forest Management intervention at field level





# Thinning in community forest







# Community Forests





# Knowledge sharing and leadership



# Governance and Institutional strength

---

- Record keeping and management
- Leadership development
- Forest management
- Entrepreneurship
- Technology

# Involve in Enterprises Based on Forest Resources



फोटो सौजन्य:सती कर्णाली सा.ब.उ.स. कैलाली






# Climate change adaptation

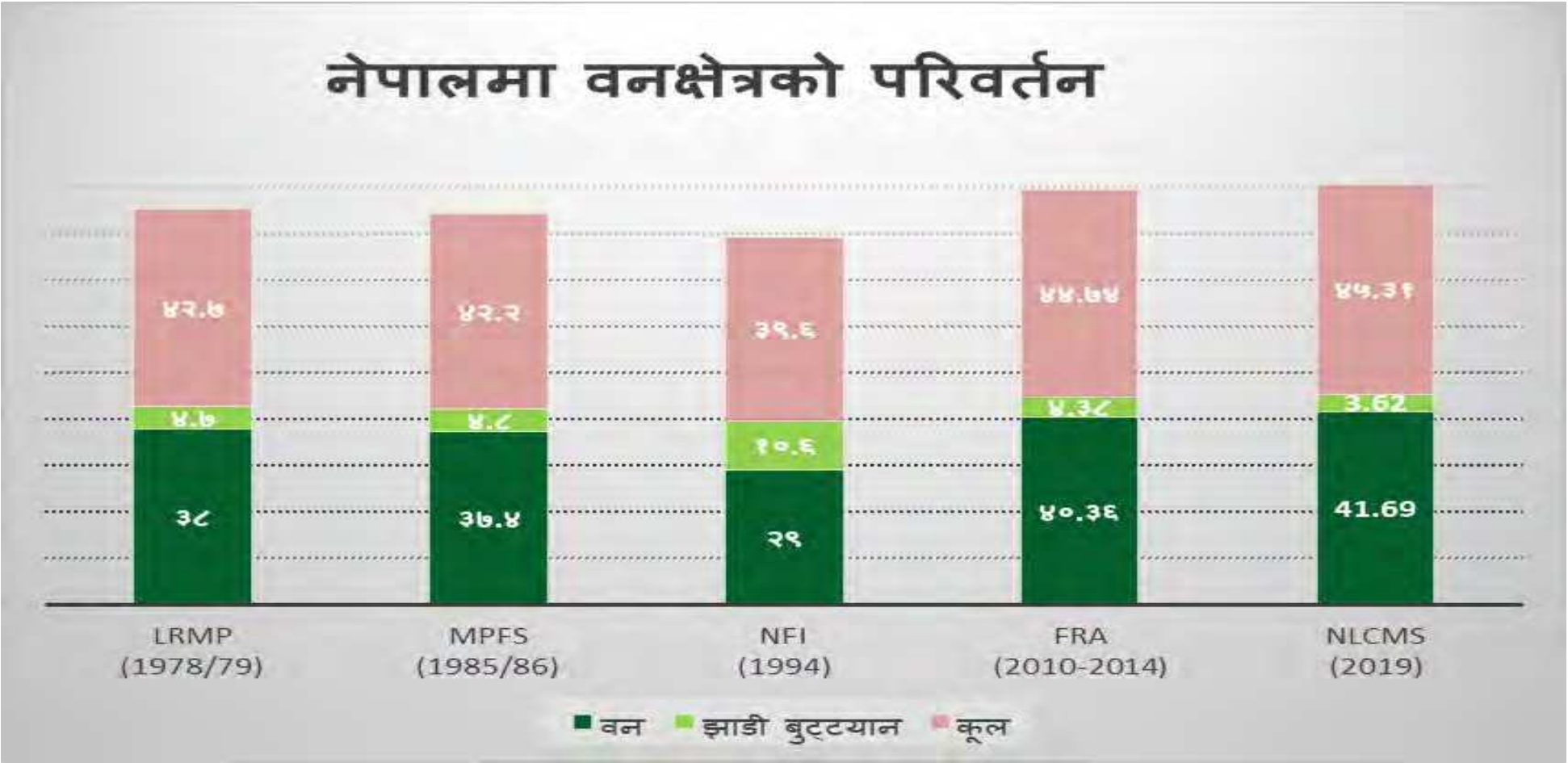
- Prepared and implementation of community adaptation and local adaptation plan
- Water source protection and conservation ponds
- Plantation in open and degraded land
- Improvised cooking system in the rural areas
- Minimize forest fire
- Advocacy and adaptation in daily life.

# 5. Major Achievement of Community Forestry in Nepal

- Forest Cover Increased
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Income generation
- Poverty Reduction
- Employment opportunity
- Improved livelihood
- Infrastructure development
- Empowerment of Local Communities (including marginalized, women)
- Local leadership and Governance capacity developed
- Social relation improved

- 
- Reduction of soil erosion and landslide
  - Water conservation and management
  - Mitigation of climate change impacts
  - Disaster risk reduction
  - Promotion of renewable energy
  - Support for National and Global Environmental Goals

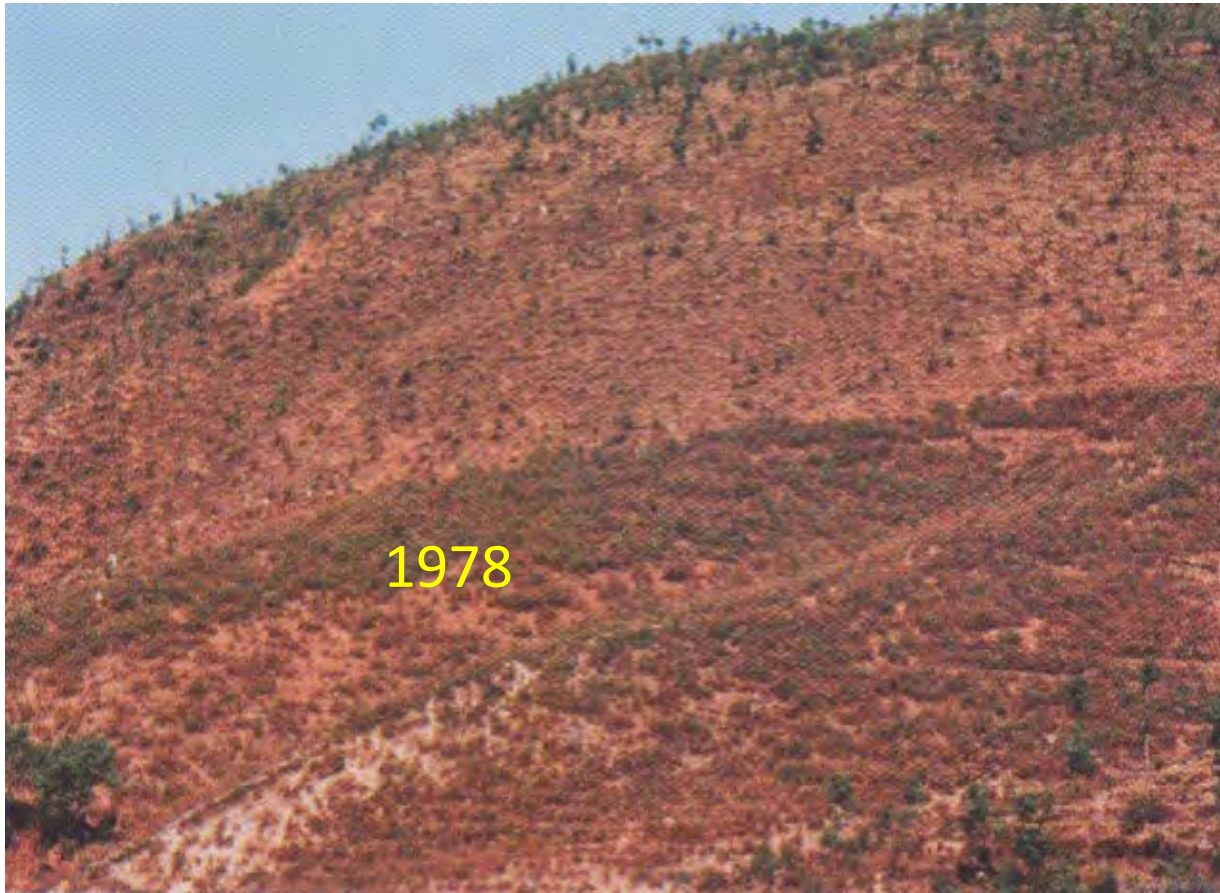
# Changes of Forest Area in Nepal





# Forest Restoration

- Example of CF (Danda Pakhar) restored in 27 years



# Conservation of biodiversity: Community forest is also the home for tiger



- Secured collective rights of local communities and forest resources, promoted traditional knowledge and customary practices.
- Emerged a large number of leadership as a social capital and among them about 2000 community leaders elected in the different level of government structures.
- Established at least 50% women leadership and social inclusion in CFUGs including other social strata.
- Mobilized income of CF for forest conservation, poverty alleviation, enterprise development, ecotourism and community development which also became instrumental to achieve the global goal such as SDGs and climate change mitigation.

# Community forestry supported SDG through Sustainable Forest Management



- SDG 1 (no poverty) by forests providing income to fight poverty;
- SDG 2 (zero hunger) through the provision of edible forest products;
- SDG 3 (good health and well-being) through the provision of medicinal plants;
- SDG 5 (gender equality) through the participation of women in CF regime;
- SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) through the provision of fresh water for drinking and irrigation;
- SDG 13 (climate action) through carbon capture and storage (CCS) and
- SDG 15 through contributions to biodiversity conservation

## 6. Challenges in Community Participation

- Despite successes, challenges such as conflicts over resource use and governance issues persist.
- Limited capacity and resources can hinder the effectiveness of CFUGs in forest management.
- External pressures, such as climate change and urbanization, pose significant threats to community forests.

# 7. Policy and Legal Support

- The Nepalese government plays a crucial role in supporting CF through policies and capacity-building initiatives.
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) often provide technical assistance and training to CFUGs.
- Collaborative efforts between the government, NGOs, and communities enhance the effectiveness of CF programs

# 8.Future Directions for Community Forestry

- The future of CF in Nepal lies in integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Strengthening community governance structures can enhance resilience against environmental changes.
- Continued investment in capacity-building initiatives is vital for sustainable community participation.

# Conclusion

- Community forestry management is a successful forest management program in Nepal and has become a model in the world.
- Community participation in forestry has led to improved conservation, livelihoods, and empowerment in Nepal.
- Promote Sustainable management of Community forestry
- Established sustainable institutions, democratic practices and good governance through CF at grass root level





**Thank You**