

# HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF BUFFER ZONE IN NEPAL

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# Nepal Rich in Biodiversity

- Outstanding assemblages of plants, animals and ecosystems
- High altitudinal variation across the country
- Kali Gandaki Gorge: A distinct ecological breaking point
- Majority of identified forest ecosystems are in mid-hills (52 out of 118)

# EARLY DAYS OF NPs & RESERVES

Panchayat Era (1961-1991):

- Royal Interest in Wildlife Conservation; NPWCA 1973; Network of National Parks
- Separate department, NTNC
- Control of livestock grazing and limited access of local people to park resources
- Harvest of grasses and reeds in Terai PAs

# Pachayat Era...



- Nepal Army in PA management (1975)
- Resorts inside Park/reserve under long-term lease agreement
- People oriented approach to PA mgmt
  - Himalayan National Park Regulations (1979)
  - Pilot project of ACAP (1986)



## Democratic Era (Since 1991)

- ACA in advanced form: 7600 km<sup>2</sup>, 59 VDCs, 5 districts, ICDP MODEL
- Two other CAs (Manaslu, Kangchenjunga)
- Fourth Amendment of NPWCA (1993):  
Concept of BZ introduced
- BZ Regulations (1996)
- BZ Guidelines (1999)
- First UNDP supported PPP in Chitwan



## Recent: Landscape Level Conservation

- PAs increasingly linked by biological corridors in which BZs play important role
- Focus more on maintaining key ecological processes, while ensuring livelihoods of local residents and being protective of climate change effects
- Several Landscapes: TAL, Kangchenjunga, KSL, SHL, and North-South corridors

# Adaptive Models



- Traditional Model of Park Mgmt
- Community-based management as in Annapurna CA through CAMCs
- BZ Model: Impacted areas are identified as BZ, where locally formed institutions manage BZ resources and receive a share of park revenue for financing community development projects

# ACTIVE MANAGEMENT IN BZs

- Buffer Zone forests
- Community Forests
- Cultivation of trees
- Energy Saving technologies
- Livelihood support programs
- Saving and credit programs
- Relief programs; barriers to reduce damage by wildlife



# MORE ...needing more attention

- Firewood Scarcity in some areas need more attention: Firewood Depots, Management of Driftwood
- Leasehold forestry for poor and Religious forestry not yet in the mgmt provision
- Management of resorts and campsites in Parks/reserves and BZs.
- Export of resources (stones, boulders)

# BZ's CURRENT CHALLENGES

- General residents and line agencies still unaware of the purpose of BZ and their roles
- Programs too much focus on infrastructure than on the conflict reduction and compensation issues
- BZ officials (UCs, UGs, Council) need trainings on leadership skills and management effectiveness

# BZ CHALLENGES ...

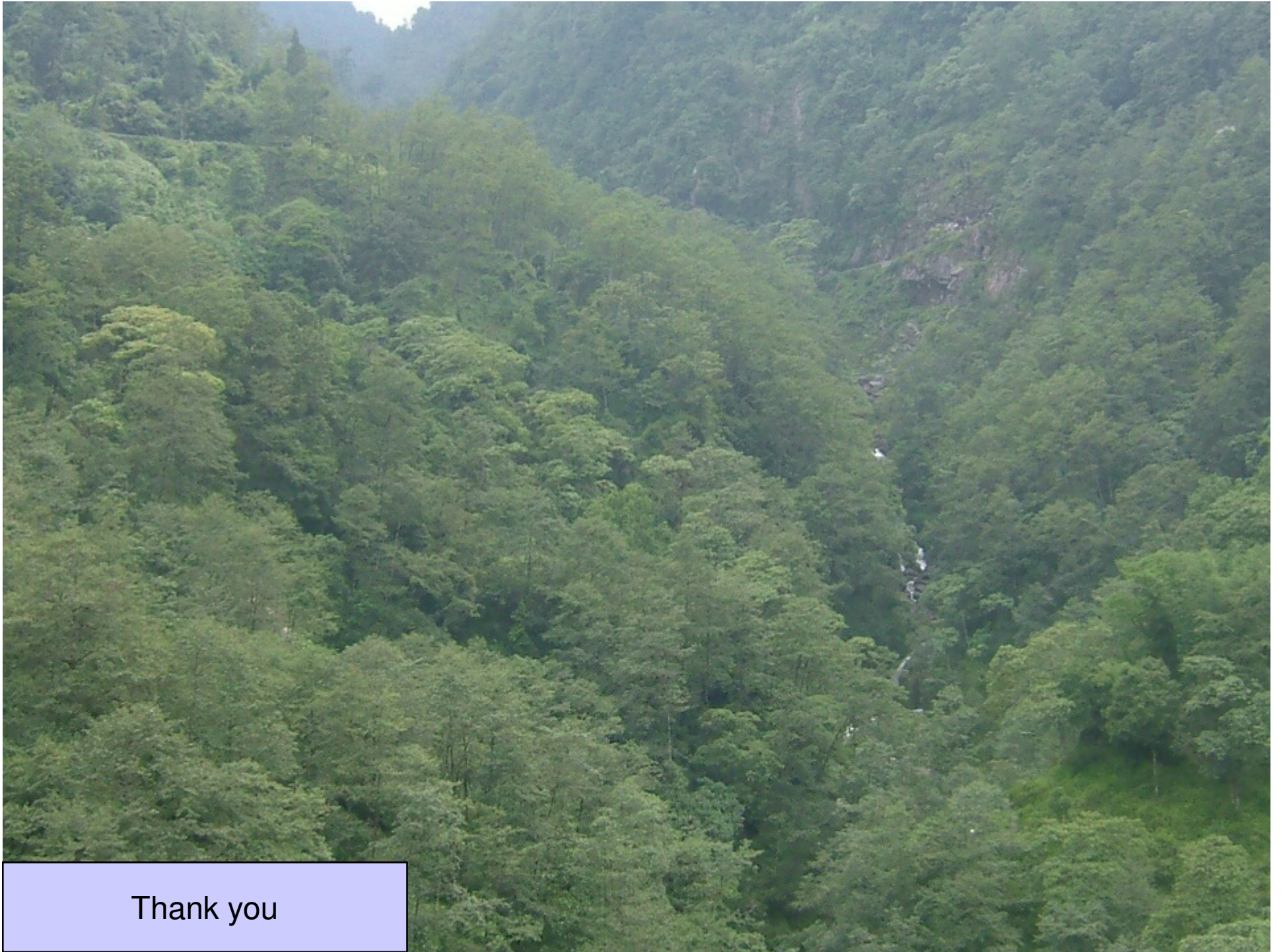


- BZ officials elected/selected based on political party lines
- Socially, economically deprived residents are less represented as BZ officials
- Park/Reserve warden may not be adequately motivated, or may provide less priority to BZ work
- Inadequate policy research or impact monitoring

# CHALLENGES ...



- BZ initiative should be seen as a useful tool to protect biodiversity
- Must find fund to meet the expectations of BZ residents in many parks and reserves where income is low
- If the govt. and donors do not give priority to biodiversity conservation this program too will suffer



Thank you