

# FOREST POLICY SEMINAR SERIES

Presentation (8/2011)



23 February, 2011 (Wednesday) from 3:30 PM  
Training Hall, Forest Complex, Babarmahal, Kathmandu

**ALL INTERESTED ARE INVITED**

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## CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF SHRUB ENCROACHMENT IN GRASSLANDS: A CASE STUDY FROM TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS OF GORKHA.

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### Abstract

Temperate grasslands provide critical ecological functions, support transhumance herding and sedentary agriculture, and thereby sustain rural livelihoods. While the grasslands are an outcome of centuries of human activity and ecological dynamics, they are undergoing rapid depletion in recent decades causing ecological, socioeconomic and demographic impacts.

We explored the drivers and consequences of grasslands depletion by shrub encroachment at Kharibot VDC of the temperate region of Gorkha district. Results revealed that the grasslands are suffering from shrub (*Berberis* spp.) encroachment since the last three decades and are increasingly transformed into shrublands. We suggest that if present trend continues, species-rich grasslands will be converted into homogenous forests dominated by *Rhododendron* and other shrubs or invasive species, creating pressure over traditional herding. Although the local people have *de facto* use right over the grasslands, however these grasslands belong to the government and their sustainable management has been found ignored in current forest management discourse. Therefore, there is a need to devising a policy to manage these landscapes so as to maintain ecological integrity and to preserve the socio economic, cultural and ecological aspects of transhumance herding.

**Mr. Lila Nath Sharma completed his M.Sc. in Botany from Tribhuvan University in 2005. He has also done additional Masters Degree in Biodiversity and Environmental Management in 2009 which is a joint degree by Tribhuvan University and University of Bergen Norway. Currently he has been working on a forest carbon project, a collaborative research project of Universities in Norway, UK and Nepal with a competitive grant. He has also worked as a short term scholar at Baylor University, Texas, USA. His research focus lies on edible tuber, climate change adaptation in transhumance agro-pastor land and high altitude forest dynamics under anthropogenic disturbance. He has also published articles books.**

The Forest Policy Seminar Series is the joint initiative of ForestAction Nepal ([www.forestaction.org](http://www.forestaction.org)), Nepal Foresters Association ([www.nfa.org.np](http://www.nfa.org.np)), Institute of Forestry ([www.iof.edu.np](http://www.iof.edu.np)), College of Development Studies ([www.cds.edu.np](http://www.cds.edu.np)), Kathmandu Forestry College ([www.kafcol.edu.np](http://www.kafcol.edu.np)) and Nepal Policy Research Network ([www.nepalpolicy.net](http://www.nepalpolicy.net)). The purpose is to facilitate scholarly debate and reflections on forest policy and governance in Nepal. If you have any interesting research findings that are relevant to contemporary forest policy debate, please send a 250-300 words abstract to Dr. Naya Sharma Paudel, the Seminar Coordinator, at [nsp@forestaction.wlink.com.np](mailto:nsp@forestaction.wlink.com.np). Currently we plan to organise monthly presentations, but if there is more demand, we can go up to two presentations every month.