



# ForestAction Nepal

For Environment, Democracy and Livelihoods



Annual Report **2008**



## NOTE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



**P**articipatory forestry that began in Nepal in 1978 has come of age. While this participatory model continues to evolve, improve and expand, it has already engraved a lesson for us: *'Everyone's participation or inclusion rather than exclusion of some in the game (e.g. policy making, conservation, research, governance, etc.) ensures better results'*. This apparently simple lesson is of immense value at this juncture in Nepal when we all are embarking on transformations in various facets of our lives including governance, polity and social structure. Internalizing this lesson in our deeds and not just limiting it to rhetoric will enable us to achieve better results in all kinds of works.

Good governance, deliberative democracy, transformative learning, transparency, inclusiveness, etc. are phrases included today in the baggage of common vocabulary used by people working for agencies and/or organizations of all kinds including I/NGOs, international organizations, etc. Whether loud pronouncements of such ideas are being reflected in our own activities and thoughts should be the real litmus test of the reputation and integrity of any person and/or the organization s/he represents. An old saying: 'easier said than done' challenges us (whether as individuals or as organizations) to prove what we are by our deeds rather than by means of words alone.

As the projects and activities completed by ForestAction and some of the professionals associated with it make it evident that those working with this organization are striving to be of a different genre in the crowd of ever increasing NGOs in Nepal. For instance, ForestAction has expanded its sphere of engagements which now appears to be so varied that 'forest' (a key word in its name) is just one of the many constituents. While 'forests' and related actions may have provided the pivot of engagements for those at ForestAction in the past, this does not appear to be true any more (see details of completed and ongoing projects in this report). In stead, the diverse nature of works undertaken by people associated with this organization prompt me to think of ForestAction's spaces of engagement as 'forests of knowledge and actions'—that is, consisting of scores of fields of various nature and different levels of engagements. My best wishes are with ForestAction so that it will continue to flourish and that its professionals will continue to follow a fair path of growth with no fear for competition.

On behalf of the governing board of ForestAction, I would like to thank all those who continue to support this organization in its endeavour to move on in the challenging path of production and dissemination of knowledge for action and policy reforms while collaborating with a range of partners in the country and beyond. We look forward to your continued support and collaboration with ForestAction in its efforts towards realizing its stated vision, mission and goal.

May the Gregorian calendar year 2009 and B.S. year 2066 bring peace and happiness for us all!

Prof. Dr. Ram B. Chhetri  
Chairperson  
ForestAction Nepal

## PREFACE



I am pleased to share the Annual Report 2008 of ForestAction. It outlines what we achieved in 2008 on our three key fronts of interventions: innovative development actions, research and knowledge generation, and policy development.

We have continued to work with local communities in 15 districts this year to develop innovative forest governance processes, livelihood enhancement strategies, and establishing community and district level stakeholders linkages for more effective delivery of services in support of local communities. We feel proud to receive positive feedback on these innovations, and to our efforts to tackling challenges emerging from the field.

Our research and knowledge generation activities have covered a wide range of environmental governance and livelihoods issues, including the analysis of forest tenure, constraints to marketing of forest products, pro-poor and inclusive innovation systems, deliberative policy processes and the like. The results of these knowledge building processes have been published as journal articles, discussion papers, policy briefs, research reports and manuals. Similarly, ForestAction has contributed to policy deliberations at national and international levels on a variety of agendas – climate change, forest carbon, forest tenure, Terai forest policy, and ecosystem services.

We know we are only a small part of the bigger system and are always willing to collaborate with others concerned with environmental conservation and poverty reduction in Nepal. We value your open feedback and suggestion on our actions and hope to work together with you in future for more transformative changes in the governance of forest and natural resources sector in Nepal.

I thank all who supported and encouraged us in our efforts in 2008, and hope to have even more effective collaboration in the coming year.



Hemant R Ojha, PhD  
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## FORESTACTION AT A GLANCE

### About ForestAction

ForestAction Nepal is a well recognized Non-governmental Organization (NGO) in the field of natural resource management, environmental governance and livelihoods. Established in 2000, it is based in Kathmandu and operates across the country at various levels from field action at grassroots to national and international level policy processes. It has occupied a unique space of policy advocacy through action research, policy analysis, and lobby and networking.

**Vision:** Environmentally sustainable society free from poverty and injustice.

**Mission:** Policy, institutional and technical innovations to promote equitable, sustainable and effective management of natural resources.

**Goal:** ForestAction has a goal to provide support and opportunities to the forest dependent communities, particularly the poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups in taking control and play active role for equitable share and rights in the management of forest, natural resources and environment through livelihoods promotion, institutional capacity enhancement, technical support, and research and development.

**Strategic Objective (2008-2013):** Promote inclusive and deliberative governance, sustainable management and productive utilization of natural resources for enhancing climate resilient rural livelihoods.

**Values:** The three core values that guide the activities of ForestAction are:

- *Deliberative governance:* Deliberative governance is an approach to democratic processes in which citizens are allowed to participate in a meaningful dialogue without any coercion and manipulation. The process of deliberation provides public spaces to all members for creating and achieving organizational vision, mission and objectives.
- *Transformative learning:* Transformative learning involves a shift in the structure of basic premises of thought, feelings, and actions at the societal and organizational levels. This is a shift of consciousness that permanently alters one's way of being in societal and/or organizational life. It also seeks an alternative approach to be associated to the society and/or organization, and one's sense of possibilities for justice and peace.
- *Partnership and collaboration:* ForestAction always values to the mutual respect and recognitions of the contribution made by the partner organizations. It also nurtures the collaborative culture to plan and implement its programs

**FA's Approach to Change:** Unlike many other NGOs, ForestAction works at multiple scales of governance, from local community, district and national to international policy spheres. It has a pro-poor focus on its research, development actions and policy influence. Rather than spreading the efforts over a larger geographical area, ForestAction focuses on a few pilot sites to generate critical policy and conceptual insights to inform wider natural resource sector. It documents lessons and interprets them through cutting edge theoretical advances in the field of governance and Natural Resource Management (NRM). Since its establishment it has tested and developed a number of innovations that are widely adopted by stakeholders and communities in their everyday practice.

**Core Activities:** ForestAction carry out following five core activities to achieve its strategic objectives:

- a. *Innovative development actions and reflections:* Observation and critical reflections integrated in development practice often with multi-dimensional outcomes - resource conservation, livelihoods enhancement, governance improvement, methodological innovations, enriched understanding, capacity building of



- communities and stakeholders; development action and research are embedded so that the key purpose of research is to enhance the effective action;
- Documentation, analysis and synthesis:* Documentation of lessons, analysis of action research outputs, strategic analysis of key policy issues and processes, and theoretically informed synthesis;
  - Publication and communication:* Diverse forms of publications targeting different policy actors, training and workshops; conferences, seminars and teaching, informal meetings and intellectual inputs;
  - Lobby, networking and policy dialogue:* Lobby with policy community, networking and alliance formation, facilitating multi-stakeholder process, and creating forums;
  - Capacity building:* Capacity building of ForestAction team, our stakeholders and local communities through training, exposure visits, back stopping, coaching, and experiential learning.

**Figure 1: Working Areas of ForestAction**



**Thematic Areas of Actions:** Informed by the socio-economic dynamics, environmental situation and broader livelihood contexts of the country, ForestAction has prioritized following five program themes for the current five year period.

- Sustainable natural resource management and livelihoods
- Local governance, tenure reform and community autonomy
- Climate Change and environmental services
- Inclusive governance and deliberative policy processes
- Social learning and innovation systems

**Governing Body:** ForestAction has an independent governing board elected by its general members which currently comprises of eight members.





**Collaborators: ForestAction has a wide range of international, national, sub-national and community level collaborators. They are outlined below.**

<p><i>International Collaborators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asia Forestry Network, Philippines</li> <li>• Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Indonesia</li> <li>• Department for International Development (DFID), UK</li> <li>• Environmental Change Institute (ECI) of University of Oxford, UK</li> <li>• European Union (EU)</li> <li>• Forestry Research Programme (FRP), UK</li> <li>• Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan</li> <li>• International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu</li> <li>• International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada</li> <li>• International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, the Philippines</li> <li>• Natural Resource International, DFID, UK</li> <li>• Natural Resources Systems Programme (NRSP), DFID, UK</li> <li>• Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management (PREM), The Netherlands</li> <li>• Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), Thailand</li> <li>• International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN</li> <li>• The University of Reading, UK</li> <li>• Users' Perspectives with Agricultural Research and Development (UPWARD), the Philippines</li> <li>• Whitley Awards Foundation, UK</li> </ul>	<p><i>National Collaborators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ActionAid, Nepal</li> <li>• Britain Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT)</li> <li>• Environmental Resource Institute (ERI), Nepal</li> <li>• Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)</li> <li>• Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI), Nepal</li> <li>• Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), Nepal</li> <li>• Livelihoods and Forestry Programme of DFID, Nepal</li> <li>• Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Nepal</li> <li>• Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Nepal</li> <li>• National Trust for Natural Conservation (NTNC), Nepal</li> <li>• Nepal Australia Community Resource Management and Livelihood Project (NACRMLP), Nepal</li> <li>• Nepal Participatory Action Network (NEPAN), Nepal</li> <li>• New ERA, Nepal</li> <li>• Forum for Protection of Public Interest (Pro-Public)</li> <li>• The Asia Foundation, Nepal</li> <li>• World Vision Advocacy Forum (WVAF)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Community Collaborators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Based Organizations</li> <li>• Community Forestry User Groups</li> <li>• Community School Management Committees</li> <li>• Irrigation Water User Groups</li> <li>• Village Development Committees</li> </ul>	<p><i>Sub-national Collaborators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bal Sewa Samaj, Khotang</li> <li>• Community Health Service Centre (CHSC), Dhankuta</li> <li>• Concern Centre for Social Change, Nepal (CHANGE Nepal), Nawalparasi</li> <li>• District Development Committees</li> <li>• District Level FECOFUNs</li> <li>• Himalayan Community Development Forum (HICODEF), Nawalparasi</li> <li>• Nepal Janauddhar Association (NJA), Panchthar</li> <li>• Oppressed and Tribal Caste Development Council (OTCDC), Arghakhanchi</li> <li>• Paropakar Primary Health Care Centre (PPUK), Kavrepalanchowk</li> <li>• Rural Women Development Centre (RWDC), Chitwan</li> <li>• Sagarmatha Community Development Centre (SCDC), Morang</li> <li>• Siddhartha Social Development Center (SSDC), Kapilvastu</li> <li>• Village Development and Save the Environment Forum (VDSEF), Kalikot</li> <li>• Village Development and Women Awareness Centre (VDWAC), Achham</li> </ul>

## FORESTACTION IN 2008

ForestAction has undertaken different activities both at organizational and project levels during 2008. Some of the major activities can be grouped into development actions, knowledge management and dissemination, networking and alliance building, academic and consultative involvement, workshop/seminar and training, capacity building and human resource development, and financial transaction. Brief overviews of achievements during the year 2008 are given below.

1. Contributed significantly in national forestry processes such as
  - a) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) multi-stakeholder process
  - b) Forestry sector restructuring processes
  - c) Fifth national workshop on community forestry
  - d) International seminar on community forestry etc.
2. Organized South Asian workshop on Gender and Decentralization in collaboration with International Development Research Centre (IDRC), India.
3. Promoted rights based agenda in forestry in collaboration with Rights Resource Initiatives in Nepal.
4. Contributed in academic sector by teaching to the University graduate students and by involving University professors in the development and research activities.
5. Created and disseminated research based knowledge on tenure issues in natural resources management, climate change and ecosystem services, decentralization and gender, and governance of forest sector.
6. Extended the scope of work in new areas such as environmental services and climate change.
7. Extended working area of the organizations both in terms of geographical coverage (reached one-third district of the country) and development sectors (beyond forestry – education, governance, irrigation and health).
8. Adopted wider partnership approach in its program implementation.
9. Reformed institutional policy at its own organizational level.
10. Recruited interns in the program and provide scholarship to university students to write dissertation paper.
11. Promoted the agenda of natural resource governance in new constitution building process.



Specific activities and outcomes of ForestAction in 2008 are outlined below.



## Research and Development Intervention

The year 2008 remained productive in terms of learning and contribution from development projects in ForestAction. A couple of development projects have been initiated and/or completed during the year. Most of the projects were/are related to improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, supporting conflict-affected people, documenting project lessons and knowledge generation, understanding and advocating for decentralization and devolution, understanding gender relations in the context of decentralization, enhancing innovation systems in forestry etc. A brief description of development projects (both completed and on-going) is provided in the following paragraphs.

### *Completed Projects*

**1. Project Name:** Decentralization and Promotion of Women's Rights in Nepal: Exploring Constraints, Opportunities and Intervention Avenues

**Project Period:** June 2006 – May 2008

**Financial Support:** IDRC, Delhi

This research project was implemented in collaboration with HIMAWANTI Nepal with an aim to examine women's participation in public decision-making within the context of state decentralization process in Nepal. The study analyzed the depth and breadth of participation through which women exercise their agency in various policy and socio-cultural contexts of decentralization. It also identified some



processes and strategies that enhance positive impact of decentralization on women in Nepal by examining the effectiveness of women's participation in the context of state decentralization process. Comparing and pooling evidences and insights from four spheres of decentralization (community forestry, farmers managed irrigation system, community school and local governance), this research has explored avenues to empower and transform the agency of women, as well as to create desirable institutional conditions, political alliances and support structures that ensure women's active participation in decentralization and governance. The study has drawn lessons from the empirical field research from five clusters (Morang, Kavre/Lalitpur, Mustang, Dang and Dadeldhura) representing all ecological and development regions.

The project has brought different products to foster documentation and communication of the findings. A project report that synthesizes the lessons from across the different field of decentralization has been prepared along with four separate sectoral reports. Similarly, with an aim to inform the policy makers and social activists, four different sectoral policy briefs and one holistically synthesized policy brief have been prepared and widely disseminated.

**2. Project Name:** Improved Wetland Conservation of Chitwan Valley

**Project period:** April 2007- January 2008

**Financial support:** IUCN, Netherlands

The project was implemented in the Chitwan valley with an aim to conserve the wetlands and secure livelihoods of the dependent people. The project strengthened the capacity of the local stakeholders, institutionalized wetland conservation strategies among local institutions, and enhanced the livelihoods of the local and indigenous communities. While two wetland areas, namely *Shanishare* and *Lamichaur*, are specifically targeted in this project, a wide range of stakeholders have been invited to reflect upon and support wetland management issues in Chitwan Valley. The major stakeholders were CFUG, Buffer Zone User Committees, Village Development Committees, Chitwan National Park authority, local NGOs and People’s Organizations. Poor households have been identified and have been given priority in income generation activities. The project was able to bring following outcomes.

- There is an increased awareness on wetland conservation among the local stakeholders in Nawalpur area of Chitwan valley.
- A multi-stakeholder process on wetland management has been institutionalized.
- Exclusive provisions for wetland management have been made in the management plans of local institutions.
- There is an enhanced livelihoods of local and indigenous communities who rely on wetlands.

**3. Project Name:** Improving Equity and Livelihoods in Community Forestry

**Project period:** 2006-2008

**Collaborator:** CIFOR

**Financial support:** IDRC and Ford Foundation



This action research project aims to address the knowledge gap within the Rights and Resource Initiative’s global campaign for enhancing forest tenure security of the poor and marginalized communities. The project has been implemented in collaboration with CIFOR since late 2006. The major objectives of the project are to:



1. Identify and respond to specific demands for information and capacity-building in community forestry and undertake needed research on specific issues relating to decentralization and scale-building;
2. Strengthen institutional capacities for research, analysis, monitoring, and advocacy on issues related to community forestry amongst local research partners and grassroots organizations;
3. Identify and develop mechanisms to promote effective dialogue amongst multiple stakeholders and increase the voices of women and other marginalized groups at local and national levels;
4. Strengthen advocacy programs and activities being undertaken by partners and other organizations engaged in community forestry by providing analytical and policy-relevant information.

The project is designed to engage at three levels of policy processes: a) community level activities involve community level interactions (planning, implementation of certain pro-poor income generation activities, information collection, monitoring and reflections; b) meso (district and sub-district) level consultation, discussion on community actions, reflections and information collection; c) national level stakeholders interaction, consultation, reflection etc.

By taking tenure as an analytical perspective, this research project has facilitated public debate on regulatory framework, institutions and market in community forestry. Moreover, it has established a visible link between level of devolution and realization of market opportunity in community forestry. Stakeholders including government forest officers have begun to recognize and appreciate the relation between tenure security and livelihood outcomes of community forestry.

The project has largely been completed at the end of the year 2008 though a couple of secondary outputs are planned later in 2009. During the year 2008, all the site reports and a country report have been completed. Three thematic review studies (regulatory framework, institutions and market in community forestry) and four meso and micro levels site research reports (Dolkha-Suspa CFUG, Lalitpur - Patle CFUG, Nawalparasi - Sundari CFUG and Baglung -Sanghu Khola Rata Pahara CFUG) are completed and are available. One conference paper was prepared and presented in 12th IASC biennial conference in Cheltenham, UK. Another conference paper was presented during the 5th National Community Forestry Workshop in Kathmandu. A policy brief on tenure issue was published and widely distributed. Five papers were prepared and published in a special forest tenure issue of the Journal of Forest and Livelihood 7(1). A book chapter is being prepared and is currently under review.

### *On-going Projects*

**1. Project Name:** Fostering Health and Livelihoods of Conflict Affected People in Nepal (VCP)

**Project period:** March 2008 - February 2010

**Financial support:** European Commission

This project is designed to contribute in improving socio-economic conditions of conflict affected and vulnerable people. The project aims to develop self-esteem and trust among excluded and vulnerable communities, NGOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs); and to open up new opportunities towards



promoting peace, social integration, capacity building, rehabilitation, reconstruction, reintegration, inclusion, and revitalization of the health services and livelihoods improvement. The specific objective includes increased access to essential health care services and livelihoods opportunities by vulnerable communities in the selected districts of Nepal. The primary beneficiaries of the proposed action are conflict victims, *Dalits*, Janajatis, Madhesis, people with disabilities, rural poor, women, youth, children, and other marginalized and excluded groups. The expected results of the project include improved quality of essential health care services from 110 health institutions, renovated and equipped 55 rural infrastructures, empowered and capacitated disadvantaged groups (660 youths, 660 women, 660 children and 275 conflict traumatized family members as community educators), and promoted income generation of more than 1,100 most disadvantaged families. More than 20,000 people will be directly participate in this project. The final beneficiaries are the larger communities of 11 project districts covering about 18 percent of Nepal's population.

This project is implemented by a consortium of one INGO, two national NGOs and 11 district based NGOs. BNMT provides overall project management support and render technical support on health; ForestAction Nepal provides management and technical support on livelihoods theme and WVAF on institutional capacity building activities. Likewise, the district based partner NGOs are responsible to facilitate the identification and prioritization of local needs and planning and implementation of the district level activities. The 11 action districts of this project include Morang, Dhankuta, Panchthar and Khotang from Eastern Region; Kavre and Chitwan from Central Region; Nawalparasi, Arghakhanchi and Kapilvastu from Western Region; Kalikot from Mid-West Region; and Achham from Far-Western Region. A series of activities were accomplished during 2008 which are:

- *Workshops, trainings and meetings:* Rapid Need Assessment (RNA) conducted and prepared benchmark in all 11 project districts, 17 national and district level workshops conducted, 1 project management training conducted and 77 interaction meetings with stakeholders held.
- *Livelihood support:* To enhance the livelihoods opportunity of the conflict affected marginalized people pair of domestic animals were distributed to 275 families; off season vegetable farming training and material support provided to 122 participants; training for mass production and marketing of *Duna Tapari* and *Duna Tapari* production machine provided to 2 community groups; trainings on herbal nursery and material provided to 30 participants; trainings on furniture making and tools provided to 44 participants; trainings on motorcycle repairing and maintenance and tools provided to 20 participants; trainings on motorcycle repairing and maintenance and tools provided to 20 participants; trainings on hair cutting and tool provided to 50 participants; trainings to blacksmith and tools provided to 20 participants; and trainings to tailors and tool provided to 70 participants.
- *Capacity enhancement of partners and health institutions:* For better health service delivery revival /formation of local health facility management committee held in 88 Health Posts and Sub Health Posts, logistics and





management support provided to 30 Health Posts/Sub Health Posts; small medical equipments supplied to 18 Health Posts/Sub Health Posts; Master Training of Trainers (MTOT) on mental health and psychosocial counselling provided for 22 health workers, Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) trainings provided to 253 health workers, PLA trainings provided to 600 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), referral trainings provided to 60 traditional healers, home based counselling trainings provided to 275 women and child to child trainings provided to 660 students of 10-14 age group in 11 districts.

- *Knowledge management:* Two project briefs (English and Nepali) and one brochure have been co-published by European Commission, BNMT, ForestAction and WVAF, and a training manual on Mental Health and Psychosocial Counseling Training (in Nepali) have been published in coordination with Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu.

## **2. Project Name:** Knowledge, Discourse and Communication: Bringing LFP Experience and Innovations for Wider Communication

**Project period:** May 2008 - April 2009

**Financial support:** Livelihood and Forestry Program

Livelihood and Forestry Program (LFP) and ForestAction signed a partnership agreement in May 2008 with an objective to promote LFP innovations, lessons and insights in the wider policy and practice domains. The idea is to capitalize the professional compatibilities and publication experience/windows of ForestAction to capture and disseminate LFP innovations. Over a period of one year, several products are planned to develop jointly by consultants from ForestAction and staff within LFP. The expected outcomes of the project are:

- Community forestry good practice paper (1)
- Special issue of Journal of Forest and Livelihood (one issue with 6-8 articles)
- Special issue of Hamro Ban Sampada (one issue with 6-8 articles)
- Article on climate change for the climate change special issue of Journal of Forest and Livelihood (1 article)
- International journal article (1 article)
- Policy briefs (4 in English)
- Policy briefs (4 in Nepali)
- Development of a book proposal on community forestry
- Writing workshop for LFP staff and partners

## **3. Project Name:** Reducing Poverty through Innovation Systems in Forestry (RPISF)

**Project Period:** 2008-2011

**Financial Support:** Research Into Use (RIU) Program of DFID

The initiative enhances livelihoods opportunities to the poor by bringing earlier findings of research funded by DFID and IDRC. A coalition of five different organizations led by ForestAction has been formed to promote research innovations for active, equitable and effective management of natural resources within the framework of community forestry in Nepal. The other coalition partners include Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA), Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ), and Department of Sociology/Anthropology (DoSA) of Tribhuvan University. The initiative seeks to strengthen innovation processes in forest and livelihoods by strengthening collaborative linkages among the diverse functions of coalition partners – action and policy oriented research (ForestAction), advocacy of innovations (FECOFUN), research and academic linkages (DoSA), media advocacy (NEFEJ), and forest products enterprise development (NEHHPA).

This initiative provides a unique opportunity to these diverse groups of actors to work together in repackaging, updating, disseminating, adapting and institutionalizing both products and processes of innovations. Specifically, the RIU fund supports activities that seek to: a) enhance interactions and exchange among diverse actors; b) put earlier Renewable Natural Resource Research Strategy (DFID funded) and other related research products into effective use; c) disseminate and scale out innovation products and processes; d) strengthen capacity of CFUG networks and other local actors; and e) develop policy linkages in support of innovations.



The initiative seeks to disseminate, adapt and utilize these innovations in three project sites in central Nepal (Lamtar of Lalitpur, Nawalpur of Nawalparasi and Kushmisera of Baglung districts), directly benefiting 20000 people including a population of 4000 poor (include women, *Dalits*, ethnic minorities and indigenous people) from 60 CFUGs. The project aims to generate the following five outputs:

- Effective use of forest management innovations by beneficiary CFUGs
- Effective use of governance innovations (visioning, tole based planning and decision-making, and self-monitoring) by CFUGs
- Adaptive application of planning and self-monitoring processes in enterprise development and marketing of forest products and services by CFUGs
- Service providers to and collaborators of CFUGs adopt adaptive and collaborative approaches to planning and implementing CF activities and become more responsive to the needs and aspirations of forest users
- Innovation systems (incorporating adaptive collaborative learning aspects) processes strengthened linking CFUGs with multiple actors at local and national levels



These outputs together trigger innovation systems in technical, institutional and enterprise aspects of community forestry, along with establishing necessary policy linkages. The coalition partners will help CFUGs to establish links with a wide range of service providers, policy makers, and beneficiary groups. The project nurtures and capacitates locally based change agents who are deputed by and work with the beneficiary CFUGs. A series of activities conducted by the project



so far include inception meetings, baseline assessment, orientation to the local volunteers and community leaders, training on forest management and good governance to the volunteers, cluster level reflection meetings, value chain analysis and enterprise development workshops, regular radio programs, interaction on climate change and environmental services has been recently conducted in Baglung, Nawalparasi and Lalitpur districts.

**4. Project Name:** Support Dialogue for Strategic Policy Input in Securing Community Rights in Nepal

**Project Period:** September 15, 2008 to August 31, 2009

**Financial Support:** Rights and Resource Initiatives

In the context of state restructuring and new constitution building, ForestAction and FECOFUN have agreed to facilitate a national dialogue on the role of local communities in the management of natural resources. ForestAction is carrying out a strategic analysis of the community rights over natural resources and FECOFUN is leading the interaction and lobbying in favor of community right. The project has the following objectives:

1. To prepare a synthesis overview on the state of art on community rights on forests
2. To compare various models of resource management and highlight the pros and cons of those models in relation to people's livelihoods
3. Draw lessons from three decades of community forestry that could be scaled out and translated to other sectors – health, irrigation and primary education
4. Expand and strengthen civil society networks to reflect and consolidate voices in favor of community rights
5. Promote constructive engagement with policy communities in producing an analytical policy document on community rights over natural resource management

A strategic policy document explaining the situation of security of community rights on forest, land and water resource management will be the major output of the project which also contains policy recommendations to ensure security of rights, sustainability and livelihoods of local communities. A series of national and regional level workshop have been jointly organized with FECOFUN. This initiative has brought community rights and NRM in the forefront of constitutional debate.



**5. Project Name:** Debates of Federalism in Nepal: Bringing Perspectives from Natural Resource Rights and Economic Equity

**Project Period:** January - December 2009

**Financial Support:** Canadian Cooperation Office

The idea of the project is to enhance debate and discussion among knowledge networks, discourse coalitions, epistemic communities and the opinion makers around the discourse of natural resource management and federalism in Nepal. The goal of this project is to generate new insights and reframe the current discourse of federal governance so as to contribute to the negotiation and delineation of federal states in Nepal that reflects equity in terms of natural assets distribution. It aims to generate and promote options, ideas, insights and evidences towards a more balanced, viable, equitable and feasible federal structure in Nepal. The project activities are shaped around following three key objectives.

1. Develop analytical insights and evidence into how natural resource rights, equity and justice can be integrated into the new federal governance structure
2. Facilitate critical and reflective discourse and deliberative processes around federalism in Nepal
3. Provide recommendations to the Constituent Assembly (CA) on the natural resource justice dimension in the federal governance in Nepal



In particular, it makes efforts to engage representatives of civil societies, political parties, intellectuals, media and researchers in critical discourses and deliberation with regard to how new structure of federalism can and should account for the variation, values, characteristics and distribution of different types of natural resources (mainly forest, land, water, minerals and other economic resources) to create equitable states of new Nepal. The major activities of the project are developing analytical insights and evidence in

relation to natural resource and economic opportunity, facilitating critical and reflective discourses and deliberative processes in making new constitution; and providing recommendations to the CA. Currently the project is continuing its lobbying and networking with various stakeholders especially civil society leaders, political party members and CA members; it is also building special working alliance with the natural resource rights groups on the issues of land, forest and water.

### **Knowledge Management and Dissemination**

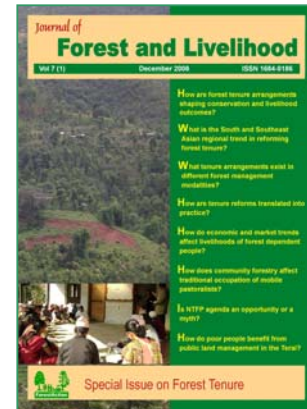
Publication and documentation has become one of the integral part of ForestAction activities. It has published a range of publications such as journals in English and Nepali languages, articles in peer reviewed international journals, conference papers, posters, action guidebook, training manuals, policy briefs,



occasional updates, discussion papers and technical notes. It has also published a couple of video documentary. Each of these publications has specific objectives and importance. Following are some of the publications of ForestAction in 2008.

### *Journal of Forest and Livelihood*

In the year 2008 ForestAction have published Volume 7 (1) of the Journal of Forest and Livelihood which is specially focussed on the forest tenure in Nepal. This journal is the outcome of a collaborative research study carried out by ForestAction in collaboration with CIFOR, Indonesia and was funded by IDRC and Ford Foundation. This special issue of JFL contains eight articles that analyses various dimensions of forest tenure as they relate to conservation and livelihood outcomes. The articles explore and document forest tenure issues in the context of subsistence management as well as commercial utilization of forest products in various ecological zones of Nepal and South East Asia.



### *Books*

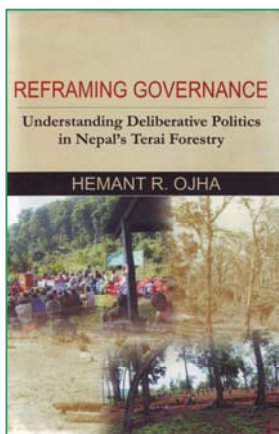
**Title:** Reframing Governance: Understanding Deliberative Politics in Nepal's Terai Forestry

**Author:** Hemant R Ojha

**Publisher:** Adroit Publishers, New Delhi, India

**Copyright:** Author, 2008

**ISBN:** 9788187392835



This book is primarily based on the PhD thesis of the author. The book develops a fresh approach to understanding governance using key concepts of Pierre Bourdieu (symbolic violence, doxa, field and habitus) and Jurgen Habermas (deliberative politics). Taking a case study of forest governance in Nepal Terai, the book analyses Habermas's ideal of deliberative governance from the perspective of Bourdieu's theory of practice. The case study shows that despite growing rhetoric of participatory and decentralized governance of forestry in Nepal, the actual practices of forest governance in Nepal Terai are controlled by dominant actors (mainly techno-bureaucratic and feudal political agents), with limited deliberative spaces actually available to, or proactively claimed by the disadvantaged groups of people dependent on forests. The book demonstrates how rhetoric of participation and inclusion is actually a part of symbolic instrument of domination, and reproduction of pre-existing power relations. The analysis shifts the usual emphasis on 'conscious will' and 'rational

behavior' of individual human agents as the key elements for understanding governance, to an approach that interrogates the often overlooked symbolic structures of governance that systematically disadvantage some and privilege others. Thus, the book proposes that the analysis of governance and politics should be expanded to include the processes of domination and hegemony in the symbolic domain, including language and processes of deliberation, through which power relations are reproduced in a society.

**Title:** Communities, Forests and Governance: Policy and Institutional Innovations from Nepal

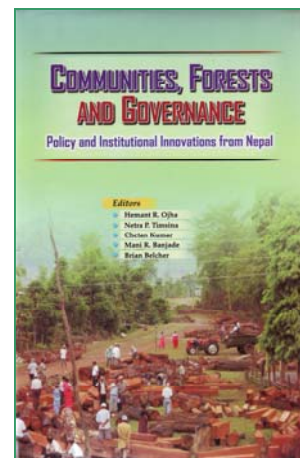
**Editors:** Hemant R Ojha, Netra P. Timsina, Chetan Kumar, Mani R. Banjade and Brian Belcher

**Publisher:** Adroit Publishers, New Delhi, India

**Copyright:** Authors, 2008

**ISBN:** 9788187392842

This book is an outcome of a collaborative research project between CIFOR and ForestAction Nepal, with funding support from International Fund for Agricultural Development. This book demonstrates the pitfalls and potentials of community-based and collaborative management programs. In particular, the analysis highlights the slow progress achieved when programs are implemented without a basic consensus on the broad framework for decision-making, making them highly contested in practice. The Nepal experience shows the importance of deliberation on policy and program agendas with affected people, including local communities. While community based approaches are often assumed to be more equitable, the case studies in this volume show the limits of devolution (moving power from state to community) and the importance of strengthening the capacity of community organizations to become effective and equitable managers of forests. At the same time, the cases show the degree of autonomy that is needed to provide the conditions for effective local-level collective action and resilient local institutions.



Perhaps what is most important is that these stories show how, over time, community-based forestry programs move beyond a narrow conception of a 'government program', to an independent social arena where civil society groups, state agencies and international actors contest each other for diverse resources, power and positions. Nepal's experience shows the potential of civil society action at multiple scales to make forest governance transparent, accountable and democratic. The degree to which community-based programs address issues at upper layers of governance, such as district or other sub-national arenas is rarely considered by program planners, yet the empirical examples illustrate the importance of integration of these levels. This kind of integration and accountability is crucial in order to combat the ways in which subtle agendas of centralization are promoted in the name of participation, devolution and decentralization. Finally the book demonstrates the importance of learning, negotiation and experimentation to achieve successful, sustainable and democratic forest governance in Nepal.

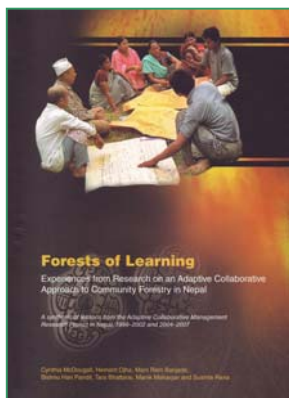
**Title:** Forests of Learning: Experiences from Research on an Adaptive Collaborative Approach to Community Forestry in Nepal

**Authors:** Cynthia McDougall, Hemant R Ojha, Mani Ram Banjade, Bishnu Hari Pandit, Tara Bhattarai, Manik Maharjan and Sushila Rana

**Publisher:** CIFOR, Indonesia

**Copyright:** CIFOR, 2008

**ISBN:** 9789791412773



This book is a synthesis of lessons from the Adaptive Collaborative Management Research project in Nepal since 1999-2002 and 2004-2007. The lessons in this research synthesis were generated through the direct engagement of 11 CFUGs, 7 meso forums and some change agents at both levels, in developing, leading and reflecting innovations on CFUG practices. Despite its nobility and people-centered concept, community forestry in Nepal is facing several challenges of inclusion, democratic governance, equity, poverty reduction, and sustainable resource management. To address the challenges some methodological approaches on adaptive collaborative management has



been applied in CFUG, district/sub-district and national policy making levels during last several years (1999-2007). The book provides key lessons from the project and suggests some methodologies in facilitating adaptive collaborative management in community forestry that give emphasis on social learning, inclusive decision-making and equity orientation. This book is intended as a resource for policy makers and civil society practitioners alike, as well as researchers and others interested in pro-equity and livelihood innovations in community forestry. Through its clear conceptual and research lesson focus, this synthesis complements and is a sister publication to the hands-on guidebook entitled 'Facilitating Forests of Learning'.

### *Research Project Reports*

During the year 2008 ForestAction have produced a number of project reports which are listed in the following Table 1.

**Table 1: Project Reports Prepared by ForestAction during the Year 2008**

SN	Name of Authors	Reports
1	Banjade, M.R. and Paudel, N. S.	Improving Equity and Livelihoods in Community Forestry. Site report. Patle Community Forest Users Group, Lalitpur
2	Banjade, M. R. and Paudel N. S.	Improving Equity and Livelihoods in Community Forestry. Site report. Saghukhola Ratopahara Community Forest Users Group, Baglung
3	Banjade, M.R. and Paudel, N. S.	Improving Equity and Livelihoods in Community Forestry. Site report. Suspa Community Forest Users Group, Dolakha
4	Bhattarai, B.	Decentralization and Women's Rights in the Community School Sector of Nepal: Status, Challenges and Opportunities
5	Chhetri, R.B.	Gender Justice or Tokenistic Participation? Enlisting of Women in Farmers Managed Irrigation Systems (FMIS) of Nepal
6	Chhetri, R.B., Timsina, N.P., Luintel, H., Regmi R., Bhattarai B. and Magar, R.A.	Decentralization and Promotion of Women's Rights in Nepal: Exploring Constraints, Opportunities and Intervention Avenues. Final Scientific Report
7	Chhetri, R.B., Timsina, N.P., Luintel, H., Regmi, R., Bhattarai, B. and Magar, R.A.	Decentralization and Promotion of Women's Rights in Nepal: Exploring Constraints, Opportunities and Intervention Avenues. A Final Project Narrative
8	ForestAction and OTCDC	Rapid Need Assessment Report of Arghakhanchi District
9	ForestAction and SSDC	Rapid Need Assessment Report of Kapilvastu District
10	ForestAction and HICODEF	Rapid Need Assessment Report of Nawalparasi District
11	Luintel, H. and Timsina, N.P.	How Effective is the Community Forestry in Recognizing Women as Empowered Agencies?
12	Paudel, N. S. and Banjade M. R.	Improving Equity and Livelihoods in Community Forestry. Site report. Sundari Community Forest Users Group, Nawalparasi
13	Paudel, N. S., Banjade, M. R. and Dahal, G. R.	Improving Equity and Livelihoods in Community Forestry. Country report. Kathmandu, Nepal
14	Paudel, N.S. and Bhandari, K.	Conservation of Wetlands in Chitwan Valley, Technical Report, ForestAction Nepal, Kathmandu
15	Regmi, R.	Decentralization and Gender Justice in Nepal: Local Governance Perspective

### Articles, Conference Papers and Book Chapters

Articles, conference papers and book chapters authored by the professionals of ForestAction are listed in the Table 2.

**Table 2: Articles, Conference Papers and Book Chapters Prepared by ForestAction Professionals in 2008**

SN	Authors	Publications
<b>Articles</b>		
1	Banjade, M.R. and Paudel, N.S.	Mobile Pastoralism in Crisis: Challenges, Conflicts and Status of Pasture Tenure in Nepal Mountains. <i>Journal of Forest and Livelihood</i> . 7(1): 49-57
2	Banjade, M.R. and Paudel, N.S.	Economic Potential of Non-timber Forest Products in Nepal: Myth or Reality? <i>Journal of Forest and Livelihood</i> . 7(1): 36-48
3	Luintel, H. and Chhetri, R.B.	Understanding Tenure Security in Community Forestry. <i>Journal of Forest and Livelihood</i> . 7(1): 1-5
4	Ojha, H.R.	Nepalese Foresters: Technocrats or Deliberative Scientists? <i>Initiation</i> . 2(1): 180-182
5	Ojha, H.R., Cameron, J. and Kumar, C.	Deliberation or Symbolic Violence? The Governance of Community Forestry in Nepal. <i>Journal of Forest Policy and Economics</i> . In Press
6	Paudel, N.S., Banjade, M.R. and Dahal, G.R.	Handover of Community Forestry: A Political Decision or a Technical Process? <i>Journal of Forest and Livelihood</i> . 7(1): 27-35
<b>Conference Papers</b>		
1	Banjade, M.R., Paudel N.S. and Dahal, G.R.	Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach for Managing Community Resources: Achievements and Challenges. A paper presented in the Fifth National Workshop in Community Forestry, 9-11 November 2008, Kathmandu
2	Dhungana, S.P., Pokharel, B.K., Bhattarai, B. and Ojha, H.R.	Discourses on Poverty Reduction from Forestry in Nepal: A Shift from Community to Household Approach? Proceedings of an International Conference on Poverty Reduction and Forests: Tenure, Market and Policy Reforms, held in Bangkok.
3	Ojha, H.R., Subedi, B.P., Dhungana, H. and Paudel, D.	Citizen Participation in Forest Governance: Insights from Community Forestry in Nepal. Paper presented in the Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy: Institutions, Public Participation and Environmental Sustainability: Bridging Research and Capacity Development, 10-11 May, 2008, Yale University, New Haven
4	Ojha, H.R., Khanal, D.R., Paudel, N.S., Sharma, H. and Pathak, B.	Federation of Community Forest User Groups in Nepal: An Innovation in Democratic Forest Governance. Proceedings of an International Conference on Poverty Reduction and Forests: Tenure, Market and Policy Reforms, held in Bangkok
5	Paudel, N.S. and Luintel, H.	Conservation of Forest Biodiversity in Nepal: A Reflection from Participatory Action Research Processes, Resources Himalaya, Kathmandu
6	Paudel, N.S.	Can Market be Part of Decentralization Process? A Review of Nepal's Buffer Zone Programme. Proceedings of an International Conference on Poverty Reduction and Forests: Tenure, Market and Policy Reforms, held in Bangkok



7	Paudel, N.S., Banjade, M.R. and Dahal, G.R.	Handover of Community Forestry: A Political Decision or a Technical Process? Paper presented in the Fifth National Workshop in Community Forestry, 9-11 November 2008, Kathmandu
<b>Book Chapters</b>		
1	Bampton, J., Banjade, M.R. and Ebregt, A.	Collaborative Forest Management in Nepal's Terai: Policy, Practice and Contestation. In H.R. Ojha, N.P. Timsina, C. Kumar, M.R. Banjade and B. Belcher (Eds.) <i>Communities, Forests and Governance: Policy and Institutional Innovations from Nepal</i> . Delhi: Adroit Publishers. Pp: 110-141
2	Bhattarai, B., Dhungana, S. and Kafley, G.P.	Poor-Focused Common Forest Management: Lessons from Leasehold Forestry in Nepal. In H.R. Ojha, N.P. Timsina, C. Kumar, M.R. Banjade and B. Belcher (Eds.) <i>Communities, Forests and Governance: Policy and Institutional Innovations from Nepal</i> . Delhi: Adroit Publishers. Pp: 92-109
3	McDougall, C., Ojha, H.R., Pandey, R.K., Banjade, M.R. and Pandit, B.H.	Enhancing Adaptiveness and Collaboration in Community Forestry in Nepal: Reflections from Participatory Action Research. In R. Fisher, R. Prabhu and C. McDougall (Eds.) <i>Adaptive Collaborative Management of Community Forestry in Asia: Experiences from Nepal, Indonesia and the Phillipines</i> . Indonesia: Centre for International Forestry Research. Pp: 50-90
4	Ojha, H.R., Timsina, N.P.	Community-based Forest Management Programs in Nepal: Lessons and Policy Implications. In H.R. Ojha, N.P. Timsina, C. Kumar, M.R. Banjade and B. Belcher (Eds.) <i>Communities, Forests and Governance: Policy and Institutional Innovations from Nepal</i> . Delhi: Adroit Publishers. Pp: 212-239
5	Ojha, H.R., Timsina, N.P., Kumar, C., Belcher, B., Banjade, M. R., Chhetri, R.B. and Nightingale, A.	Community-based Forest Management Programs in Nepal: An overview of Contexts, Policies, Practices and Issues. In H.R. Ojha, N.P. Timsina, C. Kumar, M.R. Banjade and B. Belcher (Eds.) <i>Communities, Forests and Governance: Policy and Institutional Innovations from Nepal</i> . Delhi: Adroit Publishers. Pp: 25-54
6	Paudel, N. S., Sharma U. R. and Budhathoki, P.	Protected Area Buffer Zones: New Frontiers for Participatory Conservation. In H.R. Ojha, N.P. Timsina, C. Kumar, M.R. Banjade and B. Belcher (Eds.) <i>Communities, Forests and Governance: Policy and Institutional Innovations from Nepal</i> . Delhi: Adroit Publishers. Pp: 142-170

### *Discussion Notes*

Discussion notes published by FA professionals in the year 2008 are given in the Table 3.

**Table 3: Discussion Notes Prepared by ForestAction Professionals in 2008**

SN	Authors	Discussion Notes
1	Ojha, H.R. and Bhattarai, B.	Making REDD Work for the Forest-dependent Poor: Civil Society Perspectives from the South
2	Ojha, H.R., Dahal, N., Baral, J., Subedi, R. and Branney, P.	Making REDD Functional in Nepal: Action Points for Capitalizing Opportunities and Addressing Challenges

## Guidebooks and Manuals

Guidebooks and manuals published by ForestAction and its partner organizations in the year 2008 have been presented in the Table 4.

**Table 4: Guidebooks Prepared by ForestAction and its Partners in 2008**

SN	Authors	Publications
1	ForestAction	Guidelines on Off-season Vegetable Production ( in Nepali)
2	European Commission, BNMT, ForestAction and WVAF	Training Manual on Psychosocial Counseling (in Nepali)

## Policy Briefs

ForestAction Policy Briefs are the outcome of its involvement in different in-depth research in the field of natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, decentralization, gender and social inclusion, climate change and livelihoods. During the year 2008 ForestAction professionals along with other co-authors working in the related field have published different policy briefs, which are listed in Table 5.

**Table 5: Policy Briefs Published during the Year 2008**

SN	Authors	Policy Briefs
1	Banjade, M.R., Subedi, R., Khanal, D. and Kanel, B.	<i>Samudayik Ban: Ek Crore Janatako Samubik Abhiyan: Rajya Punarsanrachanaako laagi Nepalko Maulik Abhyas</i>
2	Bhattarai, B.	Balancing Gender in Community School Governance: Reality and Policy Imperatives
3	Chhetri, R.B.	Decentralization and Women's Participation in Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems of Nepal
4	Chhetri, R.B., Timsina, N.P., Bhattarai, B., Regmi, R., Luintel, H. and Magar, R.A.	Decentralization and Women's Participation in Nepal: Policies and Practices
5	Luintel, H. and Timsina, N.P.	Making Forestry Decentralization Effective in Empowering Women Agencies
6	Ojha, H.R.	Transforming Nepal's Terai Forest Governance: A Policy Perspectives
7	Ojha, H.R. and Bhattarai, B.	Making REDD Work for the Forest-Dependent Poor: Civil Society Perspectives from the South
8	Paudel, N.S. and Bhatta, S.	Impacts of Decentralized Governance on Biodiversity: Lessons from Participatory Conservation in Chitwan National Park, Nepal
9	Paudel, N.S., Banjade, M.R. and Dahal, G.R.	Devolution Challenges in Nepal's Community Forestry in the Context of Emerging Market Opportunities
10	Regmi, R.	Voices for Change: Gender Justice in Nepal's Local Governance



## Networking and Alliances

ForestAction, being one of the important actors in Nepal's forest policy process, networking and alliance building are among the key areas of activity. We are constantly engaged with a range of actors in this field as part of our research and development action around issues of environmental governance, forest management and livelihood promotion. We engage both with formal and informal processes that induces reflections, learning and actions around various aspects in forestry sector. Some of the important processes where ForestAction has been involved can be summarized as follows:

- *Reducing emission from deforestation and degradation:* ForestAction has actively contributed the national process of R-PIN preparation to prepare the country for carbon trade particularly REDD mechanism. Recognizing its contribution and the capacity to work for preparation of R-PLAN and on the carbon trade matter, it was selected as one of the multi-stakeholder task team members by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.
- *Fifth community forestry national workshop:* Recognizing the potential contribution of ForestAction, it has been selected as one of the organizers of fifth community forestry national workshop. It has deputed and mobilized its human resources in different activities for the success of the workshop. For instance, its professionals reviewed the workshop papers, provided advisory services to the overall management of the workshop, prepare and present the papers in the workshop, participate during the workshop, etc.
- *Community forestry international seminar:* Again recognizing the potential contribution of ForestAction, it has been selected as one of the organizers of an international seminar in community forestry to be held in Kathmandu in 2009.
- *Economic, social and cultural rights campaign:* ForestAction have been actively participating in the capacity of alliance member to promote the economic, social and cultural rights in Nepal.
- *Forestry sector restructuring:* Following some of the concrete contributions by preparing papers and facilitating the national debate and discourse on the forestry sector restructuring process in 2007, ForestAction remained in the network and lobbied for the forestry sector restructuring at different levels – involving in feeding constitution building process, democratizing policy process, debate and discourse facilitation through institutional innovations and pointing out improvement in bureaucratic practices.
- *National policy learning group:* As an active member of the National Policy Learning Group (NPLG) which was formed with an aim to expand spaces for citizens' voice and active role in forest policy process, and to facilitate progressive (inclusive, deliberative and democratic) policy outcomes in the forestry sector. Some of the understanding that the group has agreed were to engage both with the public administration and civil society, to provide constructive support to the forestry policy process, to engage in a learning process through internal communication and through periodic interaction with diverse stakeholder groups and individuals, to explore and lead different action agendas of policy process and to engage with mass media- specially radios and newspaper. As action points, the group further agreed to form an email network to facilitate communication among the members and circulate policy related issues or information, to organize regular interaction and talk program and to engage in both short term agenda and long term processes. However, the group has been somehow passive in the recent past.
- *Participation in GACF:* International Workshop on Strengthening the Federation and Network of Community Forestry in Asia was organized by the Global Alliance for Community Forestry (GACF) during 8-11 November, 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal. "We the forest peoples of Asia commit to work together to safeguard our forest rights" was the assertion made by representatives of Forest Peoples' Networks during this workshop. Representatives of community forest networks from Nepal, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, and Canada attended the meeting to discuss a common agenda and steps for action. Hemant R Ojha of ForestAction Nepal shared some insights into networking and knowledge dimensions. He presented conceptual and practical tips on how knowledge sharing and learning can enhance the power of networks. Dr. Naya Sharma Paudel of ForestAction Co-facilitated the Workshop.

## Academic and Consultative Contributions

### *Academic Contributions*

As a strategy of ForestAction to be informed from, and involved in the academic sector, it has established a very close link with the Universities in the field of research and teaching. ForestAction have been providing opportunities to various university professors to be involved in the research projects and organizational affairs of ForestAction. At the same time, it has encouraged its professional staff to provide various types of specialized academic inputs by teaching graduate students in different universities and colleges. For instance, Mr. Harisharan Luintel, Dr. Naya Sharma Paudel and Dr. Hemant R Ojha taught in Kathmandu Forestry College under Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu University and College of Development Studies under Pokhara University, respectively. These types of interface of ForestAction professionals and the university professors have given unique opportunities to learn new ideas and innovations not only to the involved professionals but also to the graduate students.

### *Professional Consultancies*

The professionals of ForestAction have been providing various types of specialized consultancy inputs including program development, policy analysis, issue analysis, and training facilitation both at national and international levels. Brief descriptions of some of such professional consultancies are given in the following paragraphs.

#### **1. Project Name:** Knowledge Development and Brokering on Payment for Environment Services

**Project Period:** August-December 2008

**Client/partner organization:** SNV

In June 2008, SNV and ForestAction Nepal started dialogues on the possibility of partnering in knowledge brokering on Payment for Environmental Services (PES) in Nepal. Accordingly, an agreement was reached between the two organizations with a broader objective to “explore and develop operation and management modalities for a PES in Terai, and provide preliminary policy inputs for anchoring PES as a development approach in state’s investment programmes in natural resource management”. The partnership activity was designed to achieve following three specific objectives:

1. Analyse the current knowledge in the field of PES and propose a framework for framing policy and programmes on incentive-based mechanisms between upstream-downstream communities
2. Establish generic selection criteria for piloting of PES in central Terai
3. Establish multi-stakeholder forum on PES at national and central Terai level

The PES team at ForestAction reviewed all important forms of knowledge that exists globally on PES. The important source of the knowledge was internet, contacts and communication with key experts and scholars in the field, and participation in various PES related forums.

The main finding is that the idea and the approach of PES are evolving globally, notably in Latin America, China, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Several international as well as national agencies have spearheaded the processes, including donors, national forestry agencies and international research organizations (such as World Agroforestry Centre). Initiatives can be found in all of the four major types of environmental services – biodiversity, carbon sequestration, watershed, and ecotourism. In Nepal, Kulekhani is projected as a successful pilot PES site. There are several other emerging initiatives in Nepal – such as financial rewards to communities in the buffer zone around national parks – which are not explicitly known as PES schemes and yet carry certain aspects of it.



**2. Project Name:** Review of LFP Mid-West Partnership Program

**Project Period:** Mid June – Mid July 2008

**Client/partner organization:** Livelihood and Forestry Program

Livelihoods and Forestry Program (LFP) had commissioned an independent review team and was coordinated by Dr. Netra Prasad Timsina on behalf of ForestAction's sister organization Environmental Resource Institute. The team was assigned to review the effectiveness and early impact of the modalities and mechanism of Partnership Programme (PP) of LFP in Rapti zone of mid-west region of Nepal. The review was particularly focused in geographical and social reach of LFP PP at at community (user groups), district and national levels. The review identified major strengths; areas of improvement and learning specific to three specific areas of concerns namely a) forest management and group governance, b) mechanism and modality of PP, and c) ownership and sustainability of processes and outcomes of PP. The review work was highly appreciated by the LFP and the report was regarded as highly quality work.

**3. Project Name:** Review of Project on Enhancing Family Nutrition and Income for Improved Livelihoods of Resource Poor and Disadvantaged Groups through Integrated Home Gardens in Nepal: Home Garden Project, Phase II

**Project Period:** Mid November – Mid December 2008

**Client organization:** SDC - Nepal

The Home Garden Project (HGP) is being implemented since 2002 in 13 districts of Nepal by Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), a national NGO with the financial support of Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC-Nepal). SDC formed an independent review team and was coordinated by Dr. Netra Prasad Timsina. This review was carried out from 27 November to 15 December 2008 with an aim to make an overall assessment of the projects and provide suggestions to the strategic direction of the HGP.

## Workshop, Seminar and Training

Different international, national, district and community level workshops, seminars and trainings conducted by ForestAction during 2008 are listed below.

### *International Level*

#### Regional Conference on Decentralization, Local Power and Women's Rights in South Asia

A three day regional conference on Decentralization, Local Power and Women's Rights in South Asia: Trends in Participation, Representation and Access to Public Services was co-organized by IDRC, India, ForestAction Nepal and HIMAWANTI Nepal in August, 2008. Participants of this conference were women activists, gender specialists, social inclusion specialists, natural resource manager and decentralization specialists from Canada, Pakistan, India and Nepal. Six constituent assembly members - Ms Pampha Bhusal,



Ms Puspa Bhusal, Ms Jai Puri Gharti, Ms Binda Pandey, Ms Renu Yadav and Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba also participated in the workshop. Professionals from different governmental and non-governmental sector from Nepal actively engaged in different session of the workshop. The workshop came up with a number of issues related to women's right in various decentralized sectors and policy recommendations.

### *National Level*

#### Rapid Need Assessment Training

A three day Rapid Need Assessment (RNA) training was organized by BNMT, ForestAction and WVAF along with 11 consortium partners on May, 2008 in Kathmandu. The main objective of this training was to enhance the capacity of district partner organizations, district project coordinators and project officers to create baseline and assess the need of stakeholders to run the Fostering Health and Livelihoods of Conflict Affected People in Nepal (VCP) project effectively and efficiently.

#### Project Management Training

A three day Project Management Training was organized by BNMT, ForestAction and WVAF along with 11 consortium partners on July, 2008 in Kathmandu. The objective of this training was to enable the participants (head of partner organizations, district project coordinators and project officers) to develop and adopt essential knowledge, attitude and skills to manage VCP project in an effective way in the local context.



#### Mental Health and Psychosocial Counseling Training

Six-day training on Mental Health and Psychosocial Counseling Master Training of Trainer was organized in August, 2008 by BNMT, ForestAction and WVAF along with 11 consortium partners in Kathmandu. The training was provided to the senior paramedical staff of District Health Office/District Public Health Office of 11 working districts of VCP project. It was expected that after the completion of this training they would provide the same training to health workers at the district level.

### *District/Community Level*

#### Good Governance Training

Good Governance Trainings were organized separately in the three clusters of RPISF project (one each in Baglung, Lalitpur, and Nawalparasi districts) for the local volunteers of participating CFUGs. Main objective of the training was to impart the knowledge and skills of facilitating to the volunteers on 'Good Governance' in the CFUGs. Tools such as presentation by experts on different aspects of good governance, group discussions, games, individual reflection, and others were used during the training. Total participants of the training was 76, consisting of 39 Female and 64 Male.



### Community Forestry Management Trainings

Community Forestry Management Trainings were organized in three clusters of RPISF project districts - Baglung, Lalitpur and Nawalparasi districts. The main objective of this training was to sensitize local volunteers about the management aspects of community forests including key principles of forest management, defining objectives of forest management, understanding meanings of inventory data and implementation of prescriptions of operational plans. In addition, discussions were also facilitated on the issues such as Climate Change, Environmental Impact Assessment/Initial Environment Examination, Paying for Environmental Services, etc. Total participants of the training was 76, consisting of 39 Female and 64 Male.

### Value Chain Analysis Workshop/Training

Three two-day trainings/workshops were organized by RPISF project team in December in Lamatar area of Lalitpur district, Nawalpur area of Nawalparasi district and Kushmisera area of Baglung district. Local entrepreneurs, community leaders and other stakeholders were participated in the workshops. Value chain analysis is a preliminary and paramount task for promotion and trading of forest products, and enterprise development. For this purpose, workshops at community and meso (district and sub-district) levels were organized in all the clusters and districts followed by the analysis of market, technology and policy related issues.

### Livelihood Support Trainings

VCP project has conducted various skill development trainings to enhance the livelihoods opportunities of the conflict affected vulnerable people of the project area. Altogether 30 skill development trainings were conducted in 11 project districts and total 681 individuals were directly benefited from these trainings.



With the help of materials and/or toolkit support along with skill development trainings, most of the participants are engaged in self-managed enterprises.

### Capacity Building Trainings to Health Workers

To provide efficient health services to the conflict affected people it has conducted different capacity enhancement trainings to the health workers in its 11 working districts. Altogether 1210 health workers, specially, members of Health Facility Management Committee, health assistants, auxiliary health workers, female community health volunteers and traditional healers were benefited from these trainings.

## **Capacity Building and Human Resource Development**

As part of organizational capacity building, exposure and strategic alliance building with international and national actors and processes, ForestAction manages and encourages its professionals to participate in different such programs. It also provides scholarship and internship to the graduate students as and when relevant to its programs.

### *Workshops, Conferences and Trainings*

Following Table 6 gives a glimpse about the participation of ForestAction professionals in different international and national activities in 2008.

**Table 6: Participation of ForestAction Professionals in Different Workshops, Conferences and Trainings**

Participants	Program	Program Organizer and Venue	Schedule
Banjade, M.R. and Ghimire, L.	RIU Innovation Challenge Fund (ICF) Asia Grant Holders' Meeting	RIU, UK (Bangkok)	19-24 Jun 08
Banjade, M.R., Luintel, H., Ojha, H.R., Paudel, N.S. and Thapa Maharjan, J.	Fifth Community Forestry National Workshop	Department of Forest and Partners (Kathmandu)	8-11 Nov 08
Banjade, M.R. Chhetri, R.B., Luintel, H., Ojha, H.R., Paudyal, B.N., Regmi, R., Sannyashi, N. and Timsina, N.P.	Decentralization, Local Power and Women's Rights in South Asia: Trends in Participation, Representation and Access to Public Services	IDRC (India), (Kathmandu)	6-8 Aug 08
Bhandari, K., Bhandari, T., Paudyal B.N., Sannyashi, N. and Thapa, T.J.	Project Management Training	BNMT, ForestAction and WVAF (Kathmandu)	22-24 Jul 08
Bhandari, K., Bhandari, T., Paudyal B.N., Sannyashi, N. and Thapa, T.J.	Rapid Need Assessment Training	BNMT, ForestAction and WVAF (Kathmandu)	16- 18 May 08
Bhandari, K.	International Long Term Training on Planning and Management for Sustainable Regional Development in Mountain Regions	INWENT (Germany)	Apr 07-Mar 08
Chhetri, R.B. and Sannyashi, N.	International Conference on Decentralization, Local Power and Women's Rights: Global trends in Participation, Representation and Access to Public Services	IDRC, Canada; United Nations Development Program ( UNDP), Mexico and Government of Mexico, (Mexico)	18-21 Nov 08
Luintel, H.	Asia Pacific Leadership Program	East West Center and University of Hawaii (Hawaii and China)	Aug 07- May 08
Paudel, K.P.	PhD Continue	The University of Reading (UK)	Sept 03-Mar 09
Paudel, N.S.	RRI Cross Regional Meeting cum Writing Workshop	Rights and Resources Initiative (UK)	19-26 Jul 08
Paudel, N.S.	GACF, Asia Regional Workshop	GACF and FECOFUN (Kathmandu)	8-11 Nov 08



Paudel, N.S.	RRI- Nepal Planning Workshop	RRI (Kathmandu)	12-13 Nov 08
Paudel, N.S.	British Academy/Economic and Social Research Council Fellowship	Department of Anthropology, University College London (UK)	Aug 07 – Sept 08 (3 month)
Rana, S.K.	MSc in Mountain Forestry	Boku University, (Vienna, Austria)	Oct 07-Sep 09

### *Scholarship and Interns*

**Scholarship:** During the year 2008, ForestAction has provided scholarship to 2 graduate students of Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology to carry out their master dissertation. This scholarship is provided from an ongoing RPISP project of ForestAction. This fellowship will be granted for 3 years. In each year 2 students will be provided with the grant. Besides this, ForestAction has policy to provide scholarship to few graduate students subject to availability of fund and matching the dissertation of student with ForestAction ongoing project.

**Interns:** ForestAction has developed a policy to appoint interns to provide learning opportunity to the fresh University graduates particularly students from natural and social sciences background. During the year 2008, ForestAction has provided intern opportunity for 5 graduates in its different projects (payment of environmental services and federalism, innovations systems, and natural resource management).




## Financial Transaction

ForestAction Nepal follows the double entry account system as per the international accounting principle. The following is the statement of the total funds available, expenditures and balance during the Fiscal Year 2064/065.


**Forest Resources Studies And Action Team (ForestAction)**  
**Satdobato, Lalitpur**  
**Fund Accountability Statement**  
**Financial Year 2064/65 (17 July 2007 to 15 July 2008)**

	Particulars	Schedules	Amount Rs.	Total Amount Rs.
<b>A.</b>	<b>Total Funds During the Period</b>			<b>19,606,920.24</b>
	Opening balance	1	8,720,634.43	
	Funds from donors	2	9,769,234.62	
	Funds from Training and other Activities		945,889.78	
	Interest on Bank Balance		171,161.41	
<b>B</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>			<b>10,416,523.78</b>
	Programme	3	8,897,941.20	
	Administration	4	1,518,582.58	
<b>C</b>	<b>Balance of Funds</b>			<b>9,190,396.46</b>
	Bank and cash balances	5	7,950,392.84	
	Advances and receivables	6	1,573,402.12	
	Payables	7	(333,398.50)	

As per our report of even date

  
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 Harisharan Luintel  
 Coordinator

  
 Dr. Ram B Chhetri  
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## Our Publications



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