

Community Based Forest Management

A successful story

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What is Community Forestry?

Why is the community-based forest management important?

Community Based Forest Management

- Community Forestry
- Village Forestry
- Social Forestry
- Joint forest management
- Collaborative Forest Management
- Common property management
- Participatory Forestry

Why CBFM?

1. Empowers Local Communities

- Gives legal rights and responsibilities to local people to manage forest resources.
- Encourages stewardship and accountability through local ownership.

2. Promotes Sustainable Forest Management

- Reduces overexploitation and promotes conservation practices like reforestation and controlled harvesting.

3. Improves Livelihoods

- Provides income through the sale of timber, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and eco-tourism.
- Creates jobs in forest management, processing, and marketing.

Why CBFM?

5. Fosters Social Inclusion and Equity

- Encourages participation of women, indigenous groups, and marginalized communities.
- Promotes equitable benefit-sharing and democratic decision-making.

6. Reduces Conflict and Enhances Governance

- Local management reduces disputes over forest use and access.
- Strengthens local institutions and governance structures.

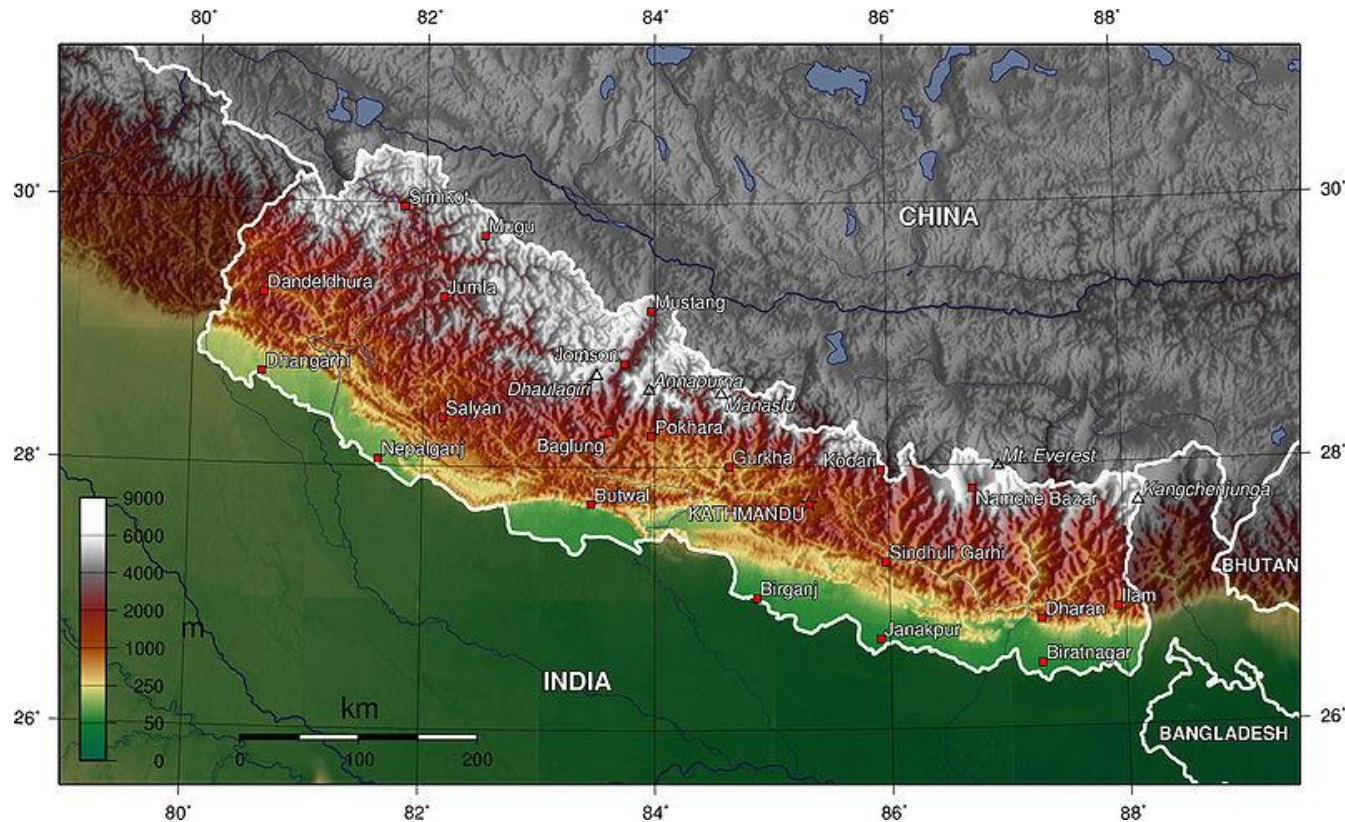
7. Generates income – and domestic resources for forest management

- Membership fee
- Sales of Forest products
- Fines and penalties to the misusers

A case from Nepal

Nepal

- Small country (147,181 sq km)., about 1/7th of BC size, between two giants; China and India
- Elevation range – 60 m to 8848 m



Low Land Terai



Hill forests (High Land)



Forestry in Nepal

- 45% forests including shrubs and mountain herbs
- Has rich biodiversity due to drastic elevation differences (150m to 8848 m)
- 19.42% of total land cover is under protected area system
- Forestry is very important component of rural economy and livelihood in Nepal.
- People depends upon forest for fuel wood, fodder, timber and high value medicinal plants

Forest management history

- **No real management system existed until 1990.**
- **Previous management mostly focused on harvesting of forest for timbers and agriculture land expansion**
- **Nationalisation of forest (1951):**
 - Forest belongs to nobody but to the state. Birta was abolished. Had negative impacts...illegal harvesting increased significantly

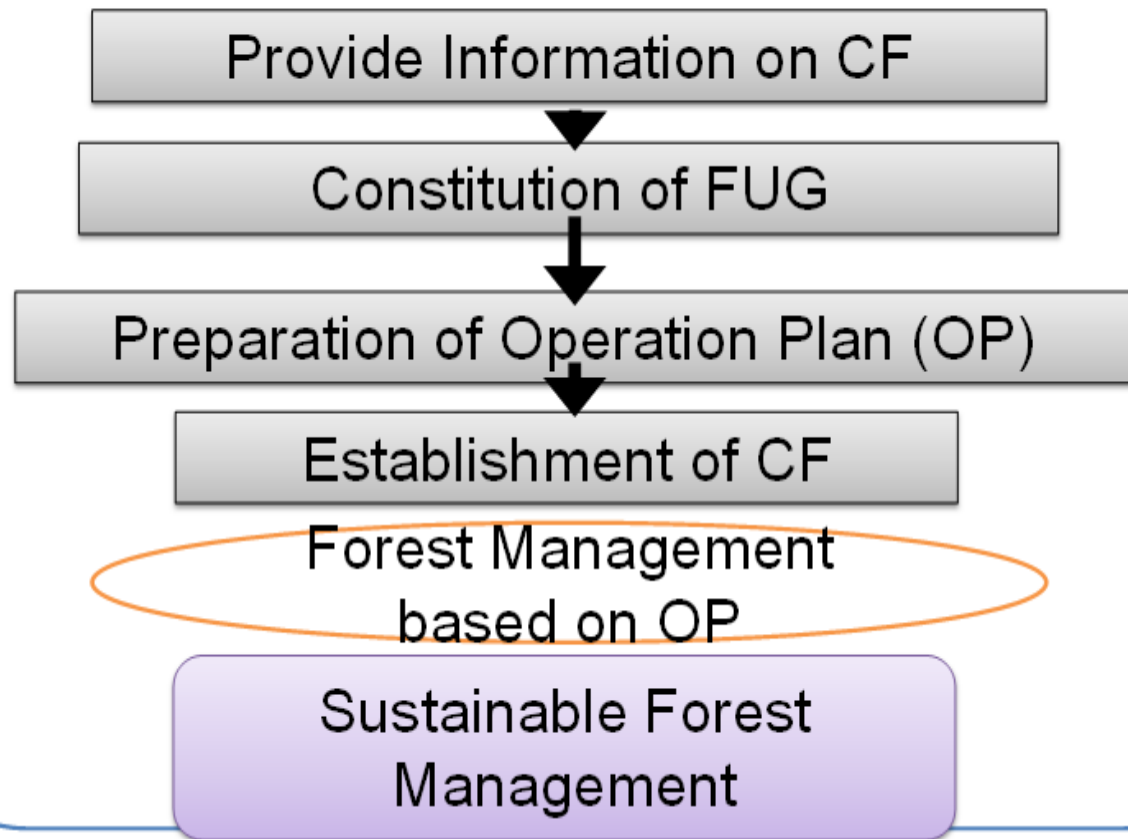
Forestry programmes in Nepal 1990 to date

- Community forestry programme
- Leasehold forestry programme
- Parks and protected areas programme
- Community based buffer zone forest management (around the protected areas)
- Collaborative forest programme (government and people)
- National Forest Programme (govt only)

Community forestry (1990 to date)

- is the most popular policy
- Local community as an autonomous body
- Self governance system
- It recognizes Community forestry user groups (CFUG) as a key body to manage the forest resources
- CFUGs are defined by community themselves
 - based on community settlement pattern and resource use history

CF Process



CF Handing over process

1. Identification of Potential Forest Area

- The District Forest Office (DFO) identifies accessible national forest areas suitable for community management.

2. Formation of Community Forest User Group (CFUG)

- Local forest users organize themselves into a CFUG.
- The group must be inclusive, representing all households dependent on the forest.

3. Preparation of the CFUG Constitution

- The CFUG drafts a constitution outlining its structure, membership, decision-making processes, and responsibilities.

4. Preparation of the Operational Plan (OP)

- With technical support from the DFO, the CFUG prepares a detailed OP.
- This includes forest inventory, management objectives, harvesting plans, conservation strategies, and benefit-sharing mechanisms.

CF handover process

1. Approval of the Operational Plan

- The DFO reviews and approves the OP, ensuring it aligns with national forestry policies and legal frameworks.

2. Official Handover of the Forest

- Once the OP is approved, the forest is formally handed over to the CFUG.
- The CFUG receives legal rights to manage, use, and benefit from the forest resources.

3. Implementation and Monitoring

- The CFUG implements the OP, manages the forest, and conducts regular monitoring.
- The DFO provides periodic technical support and oversight.

4. Renewal and Revision

- The OP is typically valid for 5–10 years and must be renewed or revised based on forest conditions and community needs.

Key contents of CFUG OP (FMP)

General Information

- Name and location of the CFUG
- Forest area and boundaries
- Demographic details of user households

Forest Resource

- Types of forest (natural, plantation)
- Tree species composition
- Timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs)
- Biodiversity and wildlife presence

Forest Management Objectives

- Conservation goals
- Sustainable use of forest resources
- Livelihood enhancement and income generation

Silvicultural and Management Activities

- Thinning, pruning, and harvesting schedules
- Plantation and regeneration plans
- Fire control and pest management

Key contents of OP (FMP)

Utilization Plan

- Rules for harvesting timber, fuelwood, fodder, and NTFPs
- Distribution mechanisms among users
- Pricing and marketing strategies

Benefit Sharing Mechanism

- Equitable distribution of forest products and income
- Provisions for marginalized groups (e.g., women, Dalits, indigenous people)

Institutional Arrangements

- Roles and responsibilities of the CFUG executive committee
- Decision-making processes
- Conflict resolution mechanisms

Financial Management

- Budget and income sources
- Expenditure plans
- Record-keeping and auditing procedures

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Indicators for forest health and resource use
- Community-based monitoring systems
- Reporting to the District Forest Office

Key contents of CFUG Constitution

1. General Information

- Name and address of the CFUG
- Date of formation
- Forest area under management

2. Membership Details

- Criteria for membership
- List of member households
- Rights and responsibilities of members

3. Organizational Structure

- Formation of the Executive Committee
- Roles and responsibilities of office bearers (Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.)
- Term limits and election procedures

4. Decision-Making Process

- Procedures for general assembly meetings
- Quorum requirements
- Voting rights and consensus-building mechanisms

Key contents of CFUG constitution

5. Benefit Sharing Mechanism

- Guidelines for equitable distribution of forest products and income
- Special provisions for marginalized groups (e.g., women, Dalits, indigenous people)

6. Rules and Regulations

- Forest use rules (e.g., harvesting, grazing, firewood collection)
- Penalties for rule violations
- Conflict resolution mechanisms

7. Coordination and Collaboration

- Interaction with government agencies, NGOs, and other CFUGs
- Participation in federations or networks

8. Amendment Procedures

- How the constitution can be revised or updated
- Approval process for amendments

9. Legal Compliance

- Adherence to the Forest Act, Forest Rules, and community forestry guidelines

Key highlights of CF governance system

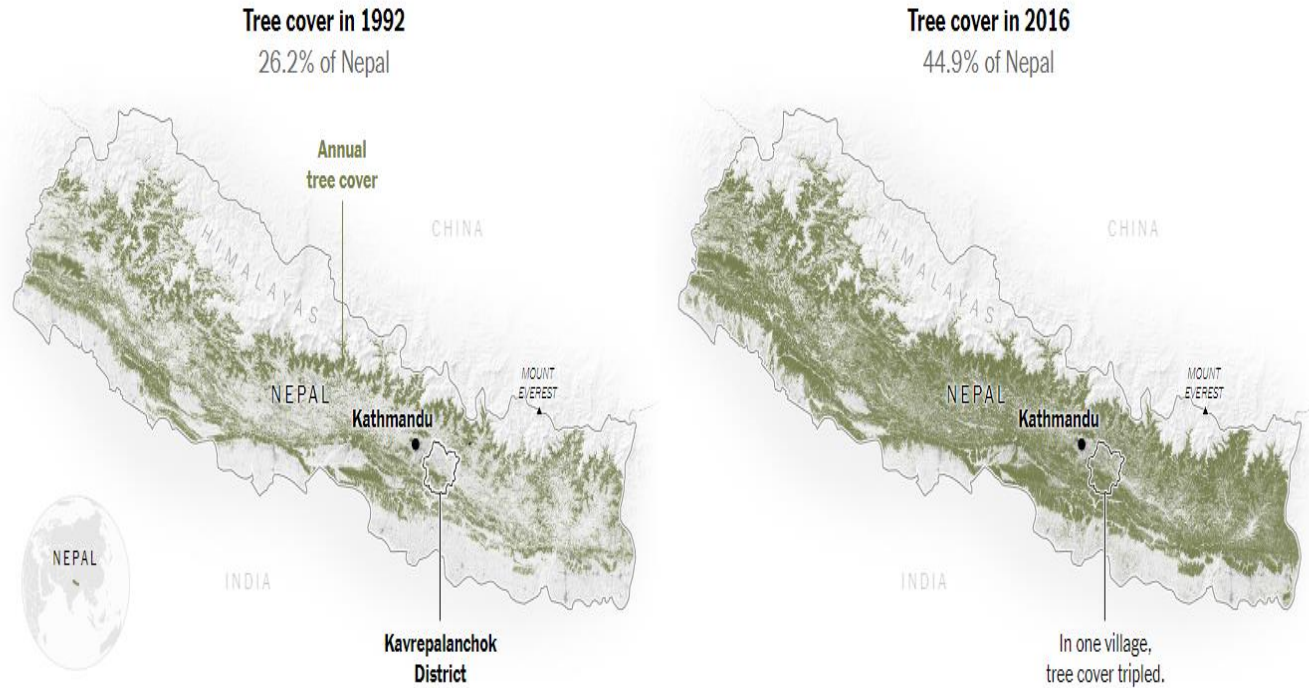
- FUGs make forest management plan
- FUGs make their own constitution
- FUGs forest protection and management decision
- FUGs generate money and 100% income goes to them
- They can use surplus funds in any kinds of community development works
- The FUG can fix the price of forestry products irrespective of governments royalty.
- FUG can transport any forest products simply by informing the DFO
- The FUG can establish forest-based industries
- FUG can punish mis-users who offend against the rules of the OP

Achievements

By the end of 2024

- Over 22,000 are formed managing more than 2.35 million hectares of forest (> 35% of total forests).
- Over 16 million people are involved (> 40% of total population in Nepal)
- Forest Cover Expansion: Nepal's forest cover increased from 26% in 1970 to 46% by 2016, and continues to grow due to community forestry efforts
- Generate cash income over 10 million USD/Year
- Community forestry has a strong federation in Nepal with the highest number of members in the country, with strong political power.

covering 45 percent of the country's land.



Note: Green areas show land that is mostly covered by trees, based on analyses of satellite imagery. Source: Jefferson Fox, Jamon Van Den Hoek, Kaspar Hurni, Alexander Smith and Sumeet Saksena. By Pablo Robles

“When the forests were common property people abused them”

Jiri 1968



Jiri 2000



Focus on whole ecosystem



OUR WORK ▾ WORKING AREAS ▾ TOGETHER POSSIBLE ▾ KNOWLEDGE HUB ▾ GET INVOLVED ▾



CONTACT

Terai Arc Landscape recognized as UN World Restoration Flagship

Posted on 13 February 2024

Kathmandu, Nepal, 13 February 2024 – The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) has today been recognized and honored as one of the seven UN World Restoration Flagships as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This exceptional conservation outcome has been possible under the leadership of the Government, stewardship of the communities and engagement of civil society. This collaborative effort has helped protect and restore forests, increase species population, enhance ecosystem services and transborder corridor functionality. This has garnered international recognition, positioning the Terai Arc Landscape as a pioneer in implementing landscape-level conservation practices worldwide.

Extending over 900 km from the Bagmati River, Nepal, in the east to the Yamuna River, India, in the west, TAL covers an expansive area of 51,000 km². In Nepal, the area extends from the Bagmati River in the



Restored forest in Terai Arc Landscape

Nepal has nearly tripled its wild tiger population since 2009

By Zoe Sottile, CNN

🕒 4 minute read · Updated 1:47 PM EDT, Thu September 15, 2022



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13 April 2021

By Anbarasan Ethirajan, BBC News

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Key issues and challenges

- Institutional:
 - Growing demands for CF
 - DF faces difficulty for regular monitoring of CF
 - Huge lag in renewable of operational plans

Challenges Contd..

- Technical
 - DF is supposed to provide technical guidance to CF but due to lack of capacity, they are facing problems
 - Community is still behind in terms of proper value addition and marketing of forest products and therefore products are not getting proper value

Contd

- Social/Political
 - CFUG is becoming strong body and becoming more political
 - Equitable distribution of forest resources is a matter of big debate

Group tasks

Progress, challenges, issues, and opportunities and way forward to advance CF in Mozambique

Policy consider: Policy/legislation, community dynamics, institutional framework, capacity, tenure, market factors etc.,

Four groups

Time: 1 hour for discussion and 1 hour presentation

Select: Group coordinator and rapporteur