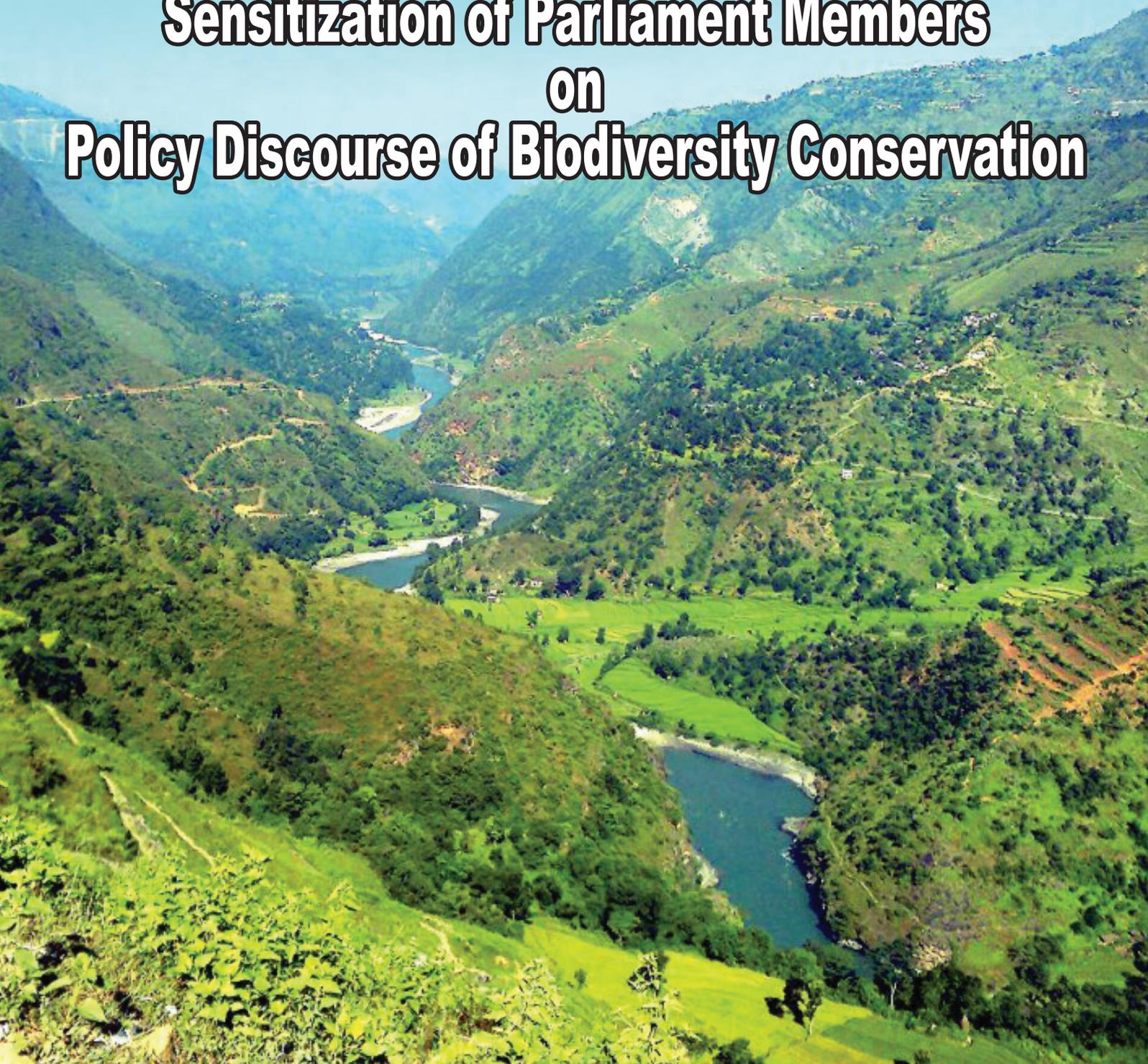


Hariyo Ban Program

Sensitization of Parliament Members on Policy Discourse of Biodiversity Conservation



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 1 |
| CHAPTER ONE | |
| INTRODUCTION..... | 3 |
| 1. Background..... | 3 |
| 1.2 Objectives of the Workshops..... | 5 |
| 1.3 Working Area and Pathways..... | 5 |
| 1.4 Limitations | 6 |
| CHAPTER TWO | |
| APPROACH, METHODOLOGY AND DELIVERABLES | 7 |
| 2.1 Approach..... | 7 |
| 2.2 Methodology | 7 |
| 2.3 Major Deliverables and Status of Participation..... | 7 |
| CHAPTER THREE | |
| SESSIONS OF THE WORKSHOPS | 9 |
| 3.1 Opening Session..... | 9 |
| 3.2 Technical Sessions | 10 |
| 3.2.1 Concept and Practices of Biodiversity and Climate Change Conservation | 10 |
| 3.2.2 Knowledge Enhancements on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change in Context of Social Values, Belief and Landscape Level | 10 |
| 3.2.3 Importance of Livelihood Improvement through Biodiversity Conservation and climate change resilience | 11 |
| 3.2.4 Importance of Biodiversity in the Context of Federal Structure..... | 12 |
| 3.2.5 Gender and Social Inclusion from the Perspective of Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change..... | 12 |
| 3.2.6 Biodiversity Conservation and Infrastructure Development | 13 |
| 3.2.7 Biodiversity and Environmental Impact Assessment | 13 |
| 3.3 Summary of the Overall Presentation: Status and Policy Implications..... | 13 |
| 3.3.1 Policy Implication | 14 |
| 3.3.2 Reflections and Remarks of the MPs and Political Leaders; | 15 |
| 3.4 Closing Session..... | 16 |
| CHAPTER FOUR | |
| CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS..... | 17 |
| 4.1 Conclusions | 17 |
| 4.2 Recommendations:..... | 18 |
| CHAPTER FIVE | |
| DECLARATION FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PARLIAMENT..... | 20 |
| ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOPS | 23 |

Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|---------|--|
| ACAP | Annapurna Conservation Area Program |
| CARE | Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CBO | Community Based Organization |
| CHAL | Chitwan Annapurna Landscape |
| CITES | Convention for International Trade for Endangered Species |
| CMS | Convention on Migratory Species |
| DFO | District Forest Office |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| FECOFUN | Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal |
| ICWCC | International Consortium for Wildlife Crime |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Natural Resources |
| GESI | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion |
| GHG | Green House Gases |
| GLOF | Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding |
| IEE | Initial Environmental Examination |
| NFYN | National Federation of Youth NGOs |
| NGO | Non Governmental Organization |
| NTFP | Non-Timber Forest Product |
| NTNC | National Trust for Nature Conservation |
| MPs | Members of Parliament |
| REDD | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation |
| SAWEN | South Asia Wild life Implementation Network |
| TAL | Terai Arc Landscape |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| VDC | Village Development Committee |
| WHS | World Heritage Site |
| WWF | World Wildlife Fund |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Federation of Youth NGO Nepal (NFYN) in financial and technical support of Hariyo Ban Program, WWF Nepal organized two national level workshops on "**Sensitization of Parliament Members on Policy Discourse of Biodiversity Conservation**" in Godawari, Lalitpur on the dates of 12 -13 and 26 -27 August 2016. More than thirty members of the parliament representing the CHAL and TAL areas attended the one and a half day long event chaired by Hon. Janak Raj Chaudhary, the Chairman of Environment Protection Committee of the legislative parliament. The main objectives of the program were;

- To enhance knowledge and understanding of the members of parliament on biodiversity value and issues at landscape level;
- To enhance knowledge and understanding of the members of parliament on issues related to climate change; and
- To explore ways forward in addressing the biodiversity issues in improving the livelihoods of communities.

The workshops featured seven papers from relevant experts followed by interactive discussions. The major issues covered were: concept and practices of biodiversity conservation and their linkages on the social values, climate change resilience and biodiversity in federal context, environment impact assessment and infrastructure development, and biodiversity conservation from GESI perspective. The presentations were brief and the focus of the event was on networking and discussion as a means to form concrete ideas about the roles the MPs could play in policy intervention for biodiversity conservation and climate change. The participants contributed robustly to the discussions in the interactive sessions leading to the following recommendations: i) Initiation of integrated approach, ii) Allocating certain percentage of CAISP fund in environment protection, iii) Policy amendment for establishing safeguarding units for biodiversity conservation.

A notable success of the workshops was reflected in the declaration of commitments by the MPs towards biodiversity conservation and environment friendly development intervention. At the end of the workshops, all the participants declared their commitments to: i) address the biodiversity conservation and climate change impact by creating enabling environment and utilizing National/International

Executive Summary

financial and technical opportunity for optimum benefits of the country, ii) initiate necessary steps in the development /formulation of ecotourism policy and procedure for attractive destinations in Nepal by conserving biodiversity, iii) initiate enabling environment for allocation of definite percentage of project cost for environmental conservation, etc.

The detailed report on the workshops is divided into five chapters with the first chapter shedding light on the need, objectives, scope and limitations. The second chapter is concerned with the approaches, methodology and deliverables. The highlights of the presentations from the experts are presented in the third chapter. Likewise, conclusions and recommendations have been presented in the fourth chapter. The final chapter is related to the commitments and declaration for policy formulation process.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1. Background

The USAID-funded Hariyo Ban Program is a five-year program that started in August 2011 mainly working in two landscapes: Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) and Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape (CHAL). The TAL runs east-west in the low-lying Terai, and the CHAL covers a vast altitudinal gradient from the Trans Himalayan region north of the Annapurna range to Chitwan in the Terai. The two landscapes cover twenty nine districts and intersect at Chitwan and Nawalparasi districts. These two landscapes have very high biodiversity value and support about ten million people from diverse ethnic groups, many of which depend on forests, subsistence agriculture and livestock farming and have limited alternative livelihood opportunities. Many poor and geographically isolated communities have limited or no access to basic amenities including health and education. Environmental degradation in these landscapes is widespread and poverty rates are high, which at par create threats to both the people and the biodiversity. In addition to many people, the ecosystems too are highly vulnerable to climate change, particularly in the CHAL (National Federation of Youth NGO Nepal , 2014).

The overall goal of the Hariyo Ban program is to reduce adverse impacts of climate change and threats to biodiversity in Nepal. The designated objectives are: to reduce threats to biodiversity in target landscapes; to build the structures, capacity and operations necessary for effective sustainable landscape management with a focus on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) readiness; and to increase the ability of targeted human and ecological communities to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

The Hariyo Ban Program is designed to benefit the community forest user groups and climate vulnerable communities in these two landscapes with a special attention to the poor, Dalits, women, the excluded and highly marginalized Janajatis. The program focuses on effective sustainable landscape

INTRODUCTION

management, with an attention on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and increasing forest carbon sequestration through biodiversity conservation, sustainable management of the forests and enhancement of forest carbon through plantations. The program also works to reduce threats to biodiversity, and helps vulnerable ecological and human communities to adapt to climate change.

A successful implementation of any such plan requires that its environmental impacts are well assessed. Therefore, biodiversity mainstreaming appears as a necessary tool for achieving the goals of sustainable development. Mainstreaming biodiversity is all about integration of the goals of biodiversity conservation with the goals of sustainable development, poverty reduction including climatic change adaptations. For mainstreaming biodiversity, a key step is to capacitate the political actors regarding the issues of biodiversity conservation, climate change, sustainable landscape and gender and social inclusion. When the MPs are capacitated, they internalize the biodiversity concerns into the development efforts of all kind. Familiarizing the MPs with the natural resource management issues can be instrumental for both enacting sound policies and circulating their knowledge at the community level. At the policy level, the MPs can contribute by forwarding the bills favorable for biodiversity conservation and their efficient implementation while at the community level they can spread awareness and sensitize local people on environmental affairs through their interactions and speeches. In both ways, there are better chances of improving the livelihoods of the people. Thus, capacitating the political actors on biodiversity concerns is a must.

The program undertaken by NFYN focuses on the enhancement of knowledge and capacity of the MPs in Nepal in terms of biodiversity conservation, climate change, sustainable landscape and gender and social inclusion. Enhancing the knowledge of the MPs and sensitizing them in the stated issues is necessary for the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the plans of sustainable development, poverty reduction including climate change adaptation.

The outcome of this program is the enhancement of knowledge and capacity of forty MPs and political leaders (based on need and availability) on various issues of biodiversity conservation. At the same time, the capacity of the MPs has been enhanced in nine districts of the CHAL area. Upon the completion of this program, the participants got to have a greater understanding regarding linkages between biodiversity and development issues and effectively bridge the knowledge gap of political actors regarding the impacts of conservation in development activities. The role of MPs in biodiversity conservation and climate change with gender and social inclusion in the landscape of the CHAL area were explored. The program moreover empowered the political actors to engage in policy formulation regarding the issues of biodiversity conservation. Also, these programs could be a platform for sharing the experiences and discussing the path ahead for development without disruption of biodiversity. The feedback of the MPs on different issues are shared for knowledge management and documented as the opinion expressed by the participants.

1.2 Objectives of the Workshops

The overall objective of the workshops was to foster a greater understanding of biodiversity conservation and environment friendly development among the political actors in order to empower them to contribute in policy formulation and enactments.

The specific objectives of the programs were:

- 1 To foster a greater understanding of biodiversity value and issues at landscape level among the members of parliament;
- 2 To enhance knowledge and understanding of the members of parliament on climate change issues; and
- 3 To explore ways forward in addressing the biodiversity issues in improving the livelihoods of communities.

1.3 Working Area and Pathways

As the Chitwan Annapurna Landscape (CHAL) is considered as one of the most viable sections of Nepal from the perspective of Natural Resource Management (NRM), the workshops were basically designed to sensitize and capacitate the MPs of the CHAL area. The landscapes and watersheds in the CHAL area are an important foundation for the conservation of biodiversity, which include the different ecosystems. Therefore, in consensus with the Hariyo Ban team, the MPs from the ten districts namely Chitwan, Tanahun, Kaski, Palpa, Syangja, Parbat, Baglung, Mustang, Lumjung and Magdi were selected. It was increasingly necessary to broaden their knowledge about the consequences of landscape fragmentation and its detrimental effects in the ecological functions. In Nepal, there is limited concern in the political and policy level about the biodiversity and landscape management. However, the landscape and terrains are very critical for soil and water conservation, whose functions are instrumental for biodiversity and to maintain the landscape for ecological process.

There are many highlands and valleys in the CHAL area, which are very important to ecological functions to sustain and to increase the productivity. It is indeed very necessary to protect biodiversity in this area to counter the landscape fragmentation and to support the soil and water conservation. The conservation of watersheds all along the CHAL area, thus, required the conservation of biodiversity with political awareness. However, empowerment of the MPs enforced to reduce the landscape fragmentation through the Environmental Committee in the parliament by formulating policy to enhance biodiversity conservation.

1.4 Limitations

Although the workshops were successful in sensitizing and capacitating the members of parliament regarding the issues of biodiversity conservation and climate change, all targeted MPs could not attend the workshop due to various unavoidable circumstances. Also we could not rest assured that a onetime event is enough for sensitizing the participants. Similar more workshops and programs should simultaneously be conducted so as to oversee how far the insights from the workshops are practiced during the policy formulation.

CHAPTER TWO

APPROACH, METHODOLOGY AND DELIVERABLES

2.1 Approach

The workshops held were based on the two basic approaches: transfer of knowledge and stimulation of discussion. Based on the informal consultations with the Hariyo Ban team, the concerned stakeholders (the MPs and political leaders) and the NRM experts, an approach of knowledge transfer was practiced. The materials, best practices and experiences were shared in the workshops through the PowerPoint presentations in order to facilitate learning. The next approach adopted was stimulation. As the MPs are the vital part for the enactment of sustainable, suitable and adequate laws and policies, they need to be enthusiastic and proactive. Thus, discussions and declarations of commitments were made on proactive role of the MPs in policy making process while sensitizing them.

2.2 Methodology

In line with the objectives, the deliverables of workshops were set. The policy and planning of different activities relevant to biodiversity conservation and climate change initiatives were collected, catalogued and reviewed to develop an effective pathway of program delivery. The resource materials were prepared and delivered based on the availability of the resources, expertise of experts and the needs and expectations of the MPs.

A set of knowledge enhancement and capacity building contents were developed, designed and discussed with the Hariyo Ban team taking into account the needs of MPs. The delivery of the contents was exclusively used as the guide post for the MPs.

2.3 Major Deliverables and Status of Participation

The workshops were mostly focused on the MPs of the CHAL area wherein altogether thirty MPs, fifteen in each workshop, participated and interacted on the possibility of safeguarding environmental aspects, ecology and topography. The workshops were successful from the perspective of deliverables

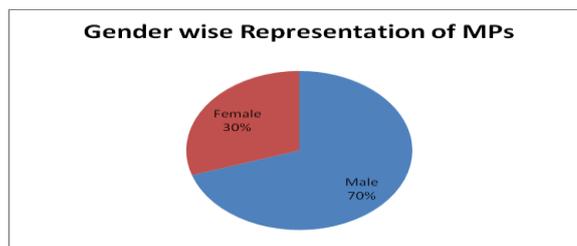
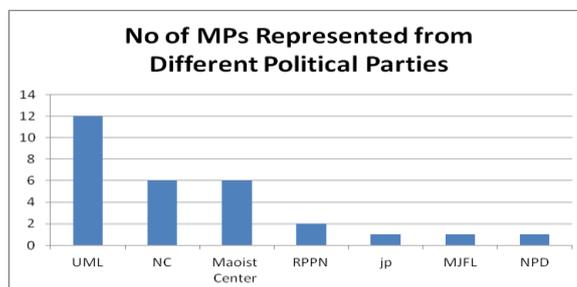
Approach, Methodology and Deliverables

as well as participation. As mentioned in the table 1, the experts covered all possible issues which require policy intervention in the new political realm and constitutional transition. Based on these deliverables, presentations and discussions were made taking into account the possible intervening role to be played by the MPs in the due course of policy formulation.

Table 1: Major Deliverables of the Workshops

| Sessions | Major content |
|---|--|
| Sharing of findings and commitments of the district level training/workshops | Key findings of the workshops held in nine districts. |
| Concept and practices of biodiversity and climate change conservation | National biodiversity scenario, climate change concept and implication to Nepal. |
| Knowledge enhancement on biodiversity conservation and climate change in context of social values, belief and landscape level | Achievement, Strategies, Opportunities, Threats and Challenges of Biodiversity. Four dimensions of biodiversity such as conservation, conflict, communities and crime were highlighted. |
| Importance of livelihood improvement through biodiversity conservation and climate change resilience | Values of biodiversity and the linkages with livelihood improvement, Climate resilience policy. |
| Importance of biodiversity in the context of federal structure | Biodiversity in context of federal structure, issues and way forward in federal structure. |
| Gender and Social Inclusion from the perspective of biodiversity conservation and climate change | Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in biodiversity and Role of the members of parliament. |
| Biodiversity and infrastructure development | Importance and role of infrastructure in development and green infrastructure inclusion and implementation. |
| Biodiversity and environmental assessment | Environmental assessment in context of biodiversity, present status of Environmental assessment and the way forward. |

Likewise, almost eighty percent MPs of CHAL area representing various political parties participated in the workshops. Thus, the workshops were crucial to transfer the issues of drawbacks in the environmental policy and its consequences in the CHAL area to the MPs having various political ideologies. Furthermore, the inclusive participation of the MPs (from the perspective of gender) also added value to make them sensitized from GESI perspective as gender equity and social inclusion was the major deliverable prepared to have a discussion on its prospects and challenges in line with biodiversity conservation and climate change.



CHAPTER THREE

SESSIONS OF THE WORKSHOPS

3.1 Opening Session

Aiming to sensitize the Members of Parliament (MPs) on policy discourse of biodiversity conservation and climate change, two workshops were conducted on the dates of 12-13 and 26-27 August, 2016 at Godawari. Altogether thirty MPs participated in the workshops. Hon. Janak Raj Chaudhary, the Chairperson of the Environment Protection Committee of the legislative parliament chaired both the workshops. Each workshop was divided into two sessions: opening and technical session wherein the presence of Mr. Netra Sharma Sapkota from USAID, and Dr. Shant Raj Jnawali, Biodiversity Coordinator, Hariyo Ban Program II, added value in making the workshops effective.



In his opening statement, Mr. Mani Pokharel, Advisor of NFYN emphasized the importance of raising awareness on biodiversity conservation and climate change issues in public policy to combat its challenges. He admired the initiatives of the Hariyo Ban program in developing practical actions to effectively achieving policy interventions on biodiversity concerns. He expected that these workshops could help transfer the knowledge about the biodiversity conservation to the MPs. Similarly Mr. Netra Sharma Sapkota expressed his views regarding the need of conducting the workshops. He added that the role of MPs remains crucial in enforcing environment friendly policies that could address the challenging issues related to biodiversity conservation of the CHAL and TAL areas.

3.2 Technical Sessions

Seven experts, delivered interactive presentations, focusing on the Natural Resource Management (NRM) issues that need immediate policy intervention. The major issues covered were: concept and practices of biodiversity conservation and their linkages on the social values, climate change resilience, and biodiversity in federal context, environment impact assessment and infrastructure development, and biodiversity conservation from GESI perspective. The experts mostly focused on how policy intervention could help safeguard environment. The major highlights of the presentations have been presented below:

3.2.1 Concept and Practices of Biodiversity and Climate Change Conservation

Presenter: Dr. Rajan Kumar Pokharel, Expert

Main contents and messages of the session

Forest encroachment, forest fire, uncontrolled grazing, haphazard infrastructure construction, theft of the forest production, the illegal hunting and trade of wild animals, conflict between human and wild animals are the major threats to biodiversity conservation. Likewise, effect of climate change results high precipitation, snow melting, flood due to glacier outburst, land slide, floods, drought, downward shift of water level and plant species shifting in upper elevation.

Dr. Pokharel suggested following policy measures which can be addressed through policy intervention:

- Sustainable forest management throughout the country,
- Stall feeding management for cattle,
- Rearing of improved and high breed cattle,
- Sustainable supply of wood and firewood,
- Promotion of bio-energy,
- Promotion of renewal energy such as wind, solar and air,
- Replacement of plastic based products,
- Capacity building activities related to climate change mitigation and adaptation at all levels,
- Participations of all the stakeholders at all levels related to effects of climate change,
- Implementation of climate change adaptation program in vulnerable areas,
- Focus in implementation of climate change program in the interrelated sectors such as livelihood, water resources management, economic sector, agriculture system, etc.,
- Implementation of international treaties, protocols and conventions related to environment.

3.2.2 Knowledge Enhancements on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change in Context of Social Values, Belief and Landscape Level

Presenter: Dr. Maheshwor Dhakal, Expert

Main contents and messages of the session:

- Nepal started the management of protected area system in 1970 AD from species level and shifted management approach gradually to ecosystem, integrated conservation development program approach, landscape to finally trans-boundary level.

- Major biodiversity management activities are: Habitat management of wetland and grassland, Involvement of local communities in Buffer zone program, Relief and compensation mechanisms in human-wildlife conflicts, Law enforcement for controlling poaching and illegal trade, Trans-boundary cooperation with India and China and Policy reformation and organization reformation for capacity building and strengthening of organization.
- Major issues in protected area systems are habitat degradation and loss, wildlife crime, human-wildlife conflicts, extraction of sand, stone and gravel, alien invasive species and grazing and firing.

Dr. Dhakal stressed the four dimensions of wildlife conservations are imperative for protected area system such as wildlife conservation by the management of grassland, wetlands, prey-base and ecosystems, involvement of local communities by increasing participation, increasing access and benefit sharing to people, improving livelihood of people, addressing human-wildlife conflicts solution by providing relief and compensation to people, controlling crimes in wild poaching and illegal trade of animals and plant parts as a intervening aspects in policy making level.

3.2.3 Importance of Livelihood Improvement through Biodiversity Conservation and climate change resilience

Presenter: Dr. Jhamak Bahadur Karki, Expert

Main contents and messages of the session:

- Livelihood could be improved through biodiversity conservation such as direct uses by promoting ecotourism, use of timber products and non-timber forest products and indirect uses such as environmental services (water, air, scenery, aesthetic, cultural, and religious).
- Similarly sport hunting produces significant income through hunting fees, safari costs (guides, accommodation, trophy fees, etc.) and reinvest into conservation programs.
- Wildlife husbandry, wildlife ranching (reindeer herding, game ranching (wildlife farming/Deer farming, wildlife hunting, subsistence hunting, commercial hunting, sport hunting and harvested on living animals for Velvet, Semen, Musk, Venom, etc. Products from dead animals are used for meat, pelts and furs.
- Similarly nutritional value of wildlife, wildlife share in human diet, wildlife potential as food supply, ecological role of wildlife and socio-cultural significance of wildlife are also equally important.

Dr. Karki suggested following strategic actions which can be settled through policy intervention:

- I. Conserve and reforest upstream/upriver watersheds to naturally regulate stream flow, reducing the risk of flash floods, erosion, and landslides, and maintaining dry season flows,
- II. Encourage farmers to plant climate resilient traditional crops and keep climate resilient livestock breeds for their ecological zones, and Provide reliable weather forecasting services to farmers.

SESSIONS OF THE WORKSHOPS

- III. Reduce the risks of disease outbreaks following natural disasters by promoting good health and sanitation practices and ensuring access to medical services,
- IV. Identify safe areas to which climate affected or climate vulnerable people can temporarily or permanently relocate in a planned way and as a proactive measure include these shelter areas in district and river basin land use plans to create safer villages.

3.2.4 Importance of Biodiversity in the Context of Federal Structure

Presenter: Dr. Prabhu Budhathoki, Expert

Main contents, messages and way forward of the session:

- Biodiversity is a global property and also governed by global mechanisms as more than twenty conventions and protocols related to environment are signed by the developed as well as developing countries.
- The main challenges of biodiversity conservation are: poverty, population pressure, low development, small areas/size, pollution/climate change and land of competitions.
- Issues for federal structures are: variation in number of protected areas, variation in income and income distribution, consideration of inter-provinces collaboration and issues of public participation in protected areas.

The major intervening issue Dr. Budhathoki raised was: Federal agencies are found effective in environmental protection whereas local authorities are effective in resources utilization (an experience of the US) and, thus, Nepal can think about the ways of managing natural resources at federal as well local level through policy making level.

3.2.5 Gender and Social Inclusion from the Perspective of Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change

Presenter: Mr. Shyam Prasad Sharma, Expert

Main contents, messages and way forward:

- Biased policy measures regarding the use of natural entities (i.e. use of land and forest product) from gender perspective have become the major hurdle in the protection of biodiversity.
- Gender and social inclusion is imperative for enhancement in different perspectives about forest and biodiversity based on gender and social inclusion, in different understandings of environmental effect about flood, drought and use of forest products.
- It is also necessary to provide traditional and scientific knowledge and skill in relation to biodiversity conservation, use and equitable benefit.

3.2.6 Biodiversity Conservation and Infrastructure Development

Presenter: Mr. Shuva kant Sharma, Expert

Main contents and messages of the session:

- Macro level investment scenario
- Green infrastructure processes at the context of national laws, guidelines and infrastructure planning
- Key features of conservation friendly infrastructures
- Highway construction approaches and biodiversity conservation
- Environment impacts/issues
- Aligning linear infrastructure

Conservation friendly infrastructures are required for wildlife habitat areas, considerations for wildlife dispersal routes, construction of underpasses and overpasses and insect friendly overhead and underbridges. Attention is required in construction of infrastructure for disposal of soil, water and air pollution, long term slope instability and increased sedimentation, access routes for wildlife and smaller species, possible increment of poaching and smuggling activities.

3.2.7 Biodiversity and Environmental Impact Assessment

Presenter: Mr. Batu Krishna Upreti, Expert

Main contents and messages of the session:

- Total investment in EIA preparation is in range of 0.001 to 0.1% and cost for mitigation is less than 5 % and it is insignificant investment in EIA.
- In EIA process as per the Water Resources Policy, 2001, 10 % of water should be distributed in downstream but it is not implemented.
- Commitment is essential for improvement in EIA process.
- It's urgent to introduce strong monitoring and reporting systems and adopt 'must-do', 'do no harm', and 'take ownership' approaches in EIA.
- Sustainable development and environment conservation do not produce immediate results.
- Social development, economic development and environment conservation go side by side for sustainable development.

3.3 Summary of the Overall Presentation: Status and Policy Implications

The presentations were useful in motivating the MPs, and letting them realize the importance of biodiversity in improvement of livelihood and maintenance of the ecological services. The issues of biodiversity conservation, climate change and forest management have the symbiotic relationship. The workshops, therefore, were successful in changing the aptitude and perception of the MPs in identifying the core issues to be addressed in the due course of policy formulation process.

SESSIONS OF THE WORKSHOPS

As the major objective of conducting workshops was to enhance the knowledge of MPs in the issues of NRM (particularly biodiversity conservation and climate change) and its impact on livelihood and community, the sessions were divided in such a way that the MPs could get sufficient information regarding the status and way forward to the respective issues. During the discussion sessions, MPs collectively opined to delegate power to the local agencies (i.e. the DDCs and VDCs), that can help protect the biodiversity in a better way. The MPs also showed interest in raising the issues related to environment not only in the parliament but within the agenda of discussion in central committee meetings of their respective parties. MPs were also sensitized to identify the big projects which have done EIA/ IEE in the districts and to look into the implementation status of mitigation measures. Thus, the aptitude and perception of the MPs have resonated with value of biodiversity conservation and climate change resilience. It leads the MPs to put forward to have policy intervention in mega projects to allocate separate budget for the implementation of mitigation measures prescribed in EIA/IEE reports.

Additionally, the MPs were also sensitized on the possible ways forward regarding the environment management in the context of federal structure. How the federal government should treat the issues of environment conservation and what relationship of the federal and local governments should be in the process of environment conservation has been major concern of Nepal. Thus, the experts floored issues and discussed about the possible policy interventions.

Furthermore, the issue of encroachment of forest and loss of biodiversity and its effect on climate change was also floored. The focus of the workshops was to sensitize the MPs in such a way that they could become ‘an eye opener’ on these issues so that it could be endorsed in the policy formulation process. The MPs were very excited to have careful discussions on various issues related to biodiversity conservation like landscape linkage, implementation of mitigation measures in mega projects and climate change resilience programs.

3.3.1 Policy Implication

Series of discussions have figured out the following policy implications which need to be addressed through policy intervention. The major implications have been presented below:

- Policy intervention for sustainable management of forest throughout the country which could ensure stall feeding management for cattle, rearing of improved and high breed cattle, sustainable supply of wood and firewood, capacity building activities and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Focus in implementation of climate change program in the interrelated sectors such as livelihood, water resources management, economic sector, agriculture system, etc.
- Implementation of international treaties, protocols and conventions related to environment.
- Enhancement of four dimensions of wildlife conservations are imperatives for protected area system such as wildlife conservation by the management of grassland, wetlands, prey-base and ecosystems, involvement of local communities by increasing participation, access and benefit sharing to people, improving livelihood, addressing human-wildlife conflicts, providing relief and compensation, controlling crimes in wildlife poaching and illegal trade of animals and plant parts as a intervening aspects in policy making level.

- Conserving and reforesting upstream/ upriver watersheds to naturally regulate stream flow, reducing the risk of flash floods, erosion and landslides, and maintaining dry season flows.
- Identifying safe areas to which climate affected or climate vulnerable people can temporarily or permanently relocate in a planned way and as a proactive measure include these shelter areas in district and river basin land use plans to create safer villages.

3.3.2 Reflections and Remarks of the MPs and Political Leaders;

The MPs and political leaders found the workshops rich in content and useful for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into policies and practices. The initiative taken by the Hariyo Ban program on biodiversity conservations was appreciated by the MPs. Most of the MPs recommended that more workshops should be organized at the national and regional levels. Their specific remarks were as follows:

- Door to door campaign is essential for promotion of biodiversity and awareness in climate change.
- Allocation of definite percentage of budget in biodiversity and environment conservation by the DDCs and VDCs is necessary as it trickles down the resources at the grass root level.
- Awareness for biodiversity and climate change is required for likeminded stakeholders (i.e. villagers, local political leaders, youth and so on) of local level.
- Proper way of extraction of sand, boulder and gravel is essential for protection of environment.
- Setting measure of mitigation for effects of climate change is essential.
- Clear cut vision and national policy is necessary for protection of natural resources.
- Collaborative and integrative development vision is necessary for development of agriculture, industry and settlement.
- People should be made aware about environment friendly development.
- Local level stakeholders should be capacitated for biodiversity and environmental protection.
- Monitoring and evaluation activities are necessary for environmental protection.
- Effective policy on land use is necessary.
- Coordination is necessary for minimization of environmental challenges.
- Community forestry program should be in priority for maintenance of environment.

3.4 Closing Session

Mr. Janak Raj Chaudhary, the Chair of sessions, mentioned that the workshops enhanced and enabled the MPs for policy/law formulation, advocate for conservation of biodiversity and environment and climate change resilience. He thanked Hariyo Ban Program and National Federation of Youth NGO Nepal (NFYN) for organizing the workshops. He expressed his firm commitment towards the biodiversity conservation and making the development undertakings environmental friendly.

Mr. Chaudhary noted that the issues discussed in the workshops would be fruitful to table the bill related to biodiversity conservation and environment in the legislative parliament and to have extensive discussion on the related issues in future. He further drew attention of the MPs regarding the possible approach of managing biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation in the context of federal restructuring. He urged to come up with a far-reaching policy which can be a milestone for safeguarding the natural entities of Nepal, (i.e. the wetland, RAMSAR, forest timber and species) and also showed concern on the economic benefit of the biodiversity conservation and possibility of extracting fund from international arena for mitigating carbon emission.

He was thankful to all the experts who delivered sessions regarding the burning issues of biodiversity conservation and climate change and showed his commitment to table the issues in the concerned forum including the legislative parliament. Finally, he issued the declaration of the workshops and closed the program.



CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusions

Policies are clear plans about how a political vision will be achieved and how ideas will be implemented into actions. Policies should contribute to economic development and social progress. To achieve socio-economic progress, policies should always be based on the theory of change¹ as it generally endeavors to create change in three main areas: behavioral, institutional and state of life change. Thus, the strength of policy depends on how, and to what extent it contributes for the stated changes.

The workshops were actually conducted linking this theory into practices focusing mostly the CHAL area. The MPs are basically deployed to play a legislative role. They exercise on enacting laws and policies in the parliament which should be based on the theory of change. On the top of this, the MPs have some social responsibility as well. They are the political representative of their respective constituencies and, thus, have to fulfill the need and aspiration of their voters. In this connection, the MPs have responsibility of enacting policies that could address the need of local context.

The topography of CHAL area covers the entire region of the Gandaki basin. The CHAL strategy has explored two ways: Damauli to Madi Khola and Damauli to Panchase biodiversity paths as the major area to be taken into account for protection and preservation of biodiversity. However, the entire CHAL area is dwelling of various plants, species and animals. Though current environmental scenario is acceptable for the adaptability of the animals, plants and species, a slight escalation of temperature may create risk in the normal lives of animals and plants. To cope up with this challenge, an immediate policy intervention is required from the perspective of climate change adaptability.

¹ 'Theory of change' is an outcomes-based approach which applies critical thinking to the design, implementation and Supervision of initiatives and program intended to support change in their contexts.
http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/pdf/outputs/mis_spc/DFID_ToC_Review_VogeIV7.pdf

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Likewise, protection and management of the North –South watershed is also a major concern of the CHAL area, a slight negligence of which may create unmanageable challenges in the southern part. Contrary to this, well management of linkage of the North - South regarding watershed management can create the multiplier effect in socio- economic and ecological advancement. Similarly, the migration trend resulting from increasing rate of deforestation can also create challenge in the protection of CHAL area. The environmental impact resulting from infrastructure development is also a major concern that needs immediate policy intervention to safeguard the biodiversity. Besides, conflict between animal and human being, protection of the routes of animals, and widening of the protection area are also in need of policy intervention.

Again linking the scenario with the theory of change, it can be said that MPs of the CHAL area can play vital role in policy reformation which can ensure the behavioral, institutional, and state of life change. Behavioral change can be ensured in terms of the changes in the behavior, relationships, activities of the people, groups and organizations targeted by the policy in protecting biodiversity and ensuring climate change adaptability. Institutional change can be ensured in terms of shifts in the function or a behavior of an official body or organization. Similarly, state of life change can be ensured in terms of the changes in the quality of people’s daily lives. Finally, these changes ultimately help for paradigm shift in the context of the CHAL area.

4.2 Recommendations:

Based on the experts’ presentations and discussions, the following recommendations have been made by the MPs on conservation of the biodiversity and promotion of the environment friendly development:

Initiation of Integrated Approach:

One door approach is required for the effective implementation of the policies related to biodiversity conservation and climate change. For this, a coordinated role between the line ministries of the Government of Nepal and concerned stakeholders should be established to accelerate the biodiversity conservation practices. The MPs can play role in coordinating such practices from policy making level that can address the challenging factors of biodiversity conservation in a holistic approach.

Allocating Certain Percentage of CAISP Fund in Environment Protection:

Linking to the local level infrastructure development, the Government of Nepal (GoN) has initiated the Constituency Area Infrastructure Special Program (CAISP) aiming to allocate the budget of Rs. 30 million annually for the infrastructure development of constituency area. In this connection, the MPs can play role in amending the CAISP directive to allocate certain percentage of CAISP fund for the environment conservation of the particular constituency.

Policy Amendment for Establishing Safeguarding Units for Biodiversity Conservation:

Community based environment safeguarding units can be established to protect forests from illegal logging, poaching and wildlife crime. It can support the parks’ authorities by monitoring wildlife,

helping to control forest fires, and providing critical information about ongoing illegal activities. The MPs can play role in enacting directives focusing such community based safeguarding units so that such units could feel ownership in their duty. This approach would be fruitful in building tripartite relationship between the MPs, the community and the Government of Nepal.

Moreover, the following recommendations can be put forward for accelerating conservation practices:

- Identify the critical areas in the districts for protection and management of forest for biodiversity conservation.
- Delineate important watershed areas from the perspective of landscape linkages to connect with various communities, leaseholds, and religious, collaborative and national forests including the protected areas.
- Biodiversity is one of the crucial natural resources ingredients for the improvement of rural livelihoods. Therefore, the resources from the DDC and VDC should pull to initiate conservation activities effectively in the districts in coordination with the District Forest Office (DFO) and the District Soil Conservation Office.
- Identifying the mega project which has carried out EIA/IEE in the districts and monitoring the implementation status of the prescribed mitigation measures. The effective implementation of mitigation measures helps for the conservation of biodiversity and environmental stability.
- There are lapses in mega projects in the implementation of prescribed mitigation measures during the operation of the project. Hence, to ensure the implementation of the prescribed mitigation measures, such mega projects have to allocate separate budget at the beginning of the project operation.

CHAPTER FIVE

DECLARATION FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PARLIAMENT

The workshops on “**Sensitization of Parliament Members on Policy Discourse of Biodiversity Conservation**” closed with the commitments from the attendees to work together towards improving the livelihoods of the people through biodiversity conservation and environment friendly development intervention. All the participants supported the idea that mainstreaming biodiversity and climate change considerations into policies and practices is essential in order to improve the lives of the people and achieve the goals of sustainable development. Both workshops resulted in a declaration of a number of commitments of the members of parliament towards biodiversity conservations and environment friendly development intervention as follows:

1. To address the biodiversity conservation and climate change impact by creating enabling environment and utilizing National/International financial and technical opportunity for optimum benefits of the country;
2. To initiate necessary steps in the development /formulation of ecotourism policy, and procedure for attractive destinations in Nepal by conserving biodiversity;
3. To initiate enabling environment for allocation of definite percentage of project cost for environmental conservation;
4. To initiate enabling environment for integrated developmental program and preventive policy for wildlife crime and wildlife conservation;
5. To create enabling environment for regulation of uncontrolled extraction of sand, boulders and stone;
6. To create enabling environment and policy for community based biodiversity conservation and equitable distribution of benefit of conservation;
7. To create enabling environment for formulation of appropriate wildlife and biodiversity law, environmental conservation law, appropriate amendments of law and its simplification in the parliament;
8. To initiate increment in appropriate amount of compensation budget for the people affected and victimized by wildlife;
9. To create enabling environment in formulation of the policy and procedure regarding biodiversity and environment friendly infrastructure; and
10. To create enabling environment in formulation and effective implementation of national policy of integrative planning, infrastructure development and operation.

जैविक विविधता संरक्षण र जलवायु परिवर्तन अनुकूलनका लागि व्यवस्थापिका संसदका माननीय सदस्यज्यूहरूले जाहेर गरेको घोषणा पत्र २०७३

नेपालमा जलवायु परिवर्तनको बढ्दो असर तथा प्रभावलाई न्युनिकरण गर्दै, जैविक विविधताको संरक्षण सँग सम्बन्धीत जिल्ला स्थीत राजनैतिक नेतृत्वले दिनुभएको सुभावलाई मध्यनजर गर्दै, जैविक विविधता एवं जलवायु परिवर्तनको क्षेत्रमा कार्यरत सरोकारवाला निकायले समय समयमा आफ्नो अवधारणा सार्वजनिक गर्दै आएको र सोही क्रममा २०७३, भाद्र ११ गते WWF/Hariyo Ban Program सँगको सहकार्यमा राष्ट्रिय युवा गैर सरकारी संस्था महासंघ नेपालले ललितपुरको गोदावरीमा आयोजित “Sensitization of Member of Parliament on Policy Discourse of Biodiversity Conservation.” विषयक कार्यक्रममा भएका जैविक विविधता एवं जलवायु परिवर्तनको विषयसंग सम्बन्धित केन्द्रीय स्तरमा व्यवस्थापिका संसदका माननीय सांसदज्यूहरू सँग भएको छलफल तथा अन्तरक्रियाबाट केन्द्रीय स्तरमा राष्ट्रिय नीति निर्माण र त्यसको कार्यान्वयन गर्ने सन्दर्भमा निम्न कुराहरूमा ध्यान दिनुपर्ने आवश्यकता औल्याउँदै यो घोषणा पत्र जारी गर्दछौं।

- जैविक विविधताको संरक्षण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तनको प्रभावलाई सम्बोधन गर्ने क्रममा राष्ट्रिय तथा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय क्षेत्रमा प्राप्त प्राविधिक तथा आर्थिक अवसरको नेपालले अधिकतम फाइदा हुने वातावरण सिर्जना गर्ने ।
- जैविक विविधता संरक्षण गर्नुका साथै नेपाललाई पर्यटकको आकर्षक गन्तव्यको रूपमा विकास गर्न पर्या पर्यटनको विकास गर्न नीतिगत एवं प्रकृयागत रूपमा आवश्यक पहल गर्ने ।
- ठुला परियोजना सञ्चालन गर्दा वातावरणीय पक्षलाई विशेष ध्यान दिई परियोजनाको लागत रकमको निश्चित प्रतिशत रकम वातावरण संरक्षणमा खर्च गर्ने वातावरण बनाउन पहल गर्ने ।
- बन्यजन्तु अपराध रोकथाम गर्न नीति निर्माण गर्नुका साथै बन्यजन्तुको संरक्षणका लागि एकिकृत कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गरिनुपर्ने ।
- अनियन्त्रित रूपमा निकासी भइरहेको ढुङ्गा, गिट्टी तथा बालुवाको नियमन गर्दै जैविक विविधताको संरक्षणका कार्यक्रम समुदायमा आधारित हुनुपर्ने र त्यसको लाभको वितरण समन्यायिक रूपमा गरिनुपर्ने ।
- बन्यजन्तु तथा जैविक विविधता सम्बन्धी कानूनको कार्यान्वयनमा जोड दिई वातावरण संरक्षणका कानूनहरू निर्माण, संशोधन, सरलीकरणका लागि व्यवस्थापिका संसदमा छलफलको लागि पहल गर्ने ।
- मानव तथा बन्यजन्तु विचको द्वन्द्वलाई न्यूनिकरण गर्दै पिडित परिवारलाई हालसम्म उपलब्ध गराइरहेको रकममा यथोचित बढाउन पहल गर्ने ।
- पूर्वाधारको विकास गर्दा वातावरण मैत्री र जैविक विविधताको संरक्षण गर्ने गरी विकास निर्माणका कार्यहरू अगाडी बढाउने सन्दर्भमा नीतिगत तथा प्रक्रियागत व्यवस्था गर्न पहल गर्ने ।
- विकास निर्माणका क्रियाकलाप सञ्चालन गर्दा एकिकृत योजना निर्माण गरी प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयनका लागि राष्ट्रिय नीति निर्माण गर्न पहल गर्ने ।

११ भाद्र २०७३

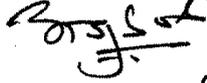
जैविक विविधता संरक्षण र जलवायु परिवर्तन अनुकूलनका लागि
व्यवस्थापिका संसदका माननीय सदस्यज्यूहरूले जाहेर गरेको
घोषणा-पत्र २०७३

१. माननीय जनकराज चौधरी, सभापति, बातावरण संरक्षण समिति

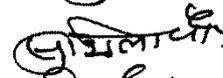


परियार
२. माननीय बिष्णुमाया ज्ञेवाली, चितवन, नेपाली कांग्रेस

३. माननीय अर्जुन प्रसाद जोशी, पर्वत, नेपाली कांग्रेस



४. माननीय शसिला चौधरी, दाङ, नेपाली कांग्रेस



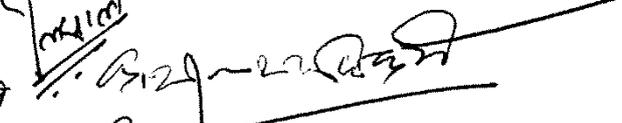
५. माननीय प्यारेलाल राना, कैलाली, नेपाली कांग्रेस



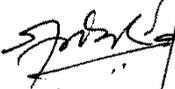
६. माननीय विकास लम्साल, पर्वत, नेकपा एमाले



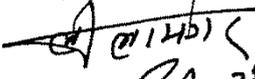
७. माननीय काशिनाथ अधिकारी, चितवन, नेकपा एमाले



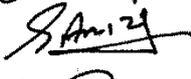
८. माननीय ^{कुँड} ज्ञेवाली अन्नसारी, पर्सा, नेकपा एमाले



९. माननीय लिला मगर, बर्दिया, नेकपा एमाले



१०. श्रीमाया थकाली, मुस्ताङ, नेकपा एमाले



११. माननीय नर बहादुर थापा मगर, बागलुङ, नेकपा एमाले



१२. माननीय हरीलाल ज्ञवाली, कैलाली, नेकपा माओवादी केन्द्र



१३. माननीय तुलसा राना, पाल्पा, नेकपा माओवादी केन्द्र



१४. माननीय मन बहादुर थारु, बर्दिया, नेकपा माओवादी केन्द्र



१५. माननीय कमला शर्मा, काठमाडौं, राष्ट्रिय प्रजातान्त्रिक पार्टी नेपाल

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOPS

First Workshop participants'

| SN | Name | Designation | Organization |
|----|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | Janak Raj Chaudhar | MP | MJFL |
| 2 | Ramchandra Pokhrel | MP | NC |
| 3 | Chandra Bd. Kuwar | MP | NC |
| 4 | Radha Krishna Kandel | MP | UML |
| 5 | Tuk Bhadra Hamal | MP | UML |
| 6 | Nirmal Prakash Subedi | MP | UML |
| 7 | Lila magar | MP | UML |
| 8 | Rajani Chaudhari | MP | UML |
| 9 | Nabaraj Sharma | MP | UML |
| 10 | Chham Bd. Gurung | MP | Maoist Centre |
| 11 | Shanta Kumar Darai | MP | Maoist Centre |
| 12 | Keshari Gharti magar | MP | Maoist Centre |
| 13 | Rajeshwori Devi Shah | MP | RPPN |
| 14 | Shibalal Thapa | MP | JP |
| 15 | Milan Kumari Rajbanshi | MP | NPD |

Second Workshop participants'

| SN | Name | Designation | Organization |
|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Janak Raj Chaudhar | MP | MJFL |
| 2 | Bishnu Pariyar | MP | NC |
| 3 | Arjun Pd. Joshi | MP | NC |
| 4 | Sushila Chaudhari | MP | NC |
| 5 | Pyarelal Rana | MP | NC |
| 6 | Bikash Lamsal | MP | UML |
| 7 | Kashi Nath Adhikari | MP | UML |
| 8 | Juned Ansari | MP | UML |
| 9 | Lila Magar | MP | UML |
| 10 | Shreemaya Thakali | MP | UML |
| 11 | Narabahadur Thapa Magar | MP | UML |
| 12 | Tulsa Rana | MP | Maoist Centre |
| 13 | Man Bd. Tharu | MP | Maoist Centre |
| 14 | Hari lal Gyawali | MP | Maoist Centre |
| 15 | Kamali Sharma | MP | RPPN |

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