Mountain Natural Resources

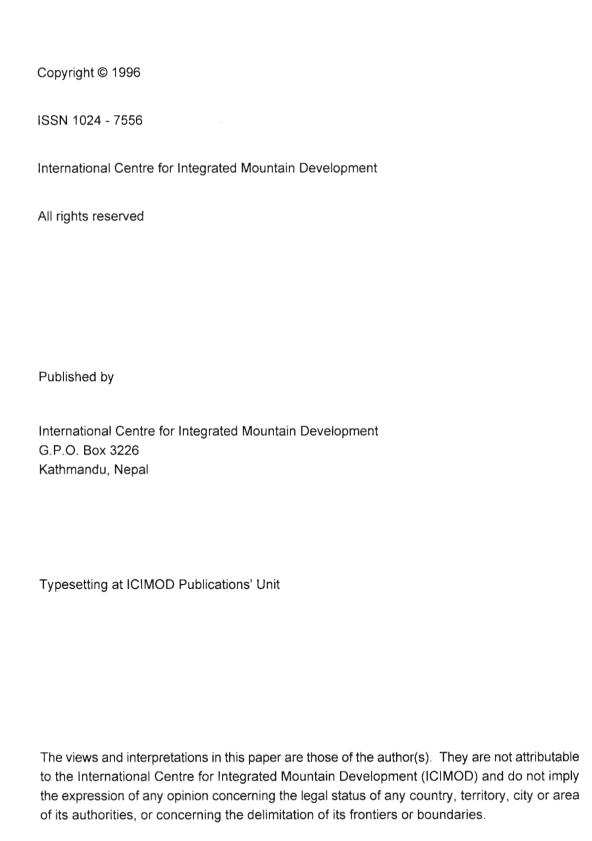


Discussion Paper Series No. MNR 96/3

Community Forestry in India and Nepal

Learning from Each Other

M. Hobley, J.Y. Campbell, and A. Bhatia



Community Forestry in India and Nepal

Learning from Each Other

M. Hobley, J.Y. Campbell, and A. Bhatia

MNR Series No. 96/3

Mary Hobley is an independent consultant from the U.K.; Jeffrey Y. Campbell is a Programme Officer, Community Forestry and Environment, Ford Foundation, New Delhi; and Anupam Bhatia is the Regional Coordinator, Participatory Natural Resources' Management Programme, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Preface

Forest areas in the uplands play a critical role in maintaining quality watersheds in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. While the policies for maintaining common property resources may vary across countries, experience indicates that these boundaries collapse when common issues are addressed. This becomes obvious when we study the emergence of participatory forest management in the countries of Nepal and India.

While Nepal is, today, acknowledged as a pioneer in promoting community forestry, India too has made a beginning in this direction by approving an enabling government order to encourage joint forest management in forest areas.

Both the countries are today well on the way to transforming forest management from custodian mechanisms to people oriented approaches; are addressing technical forestry issues which give priority to the needs of forest communities; are evolving collaborative forest management plans in consultation with communities, and are beginning to focus on emerging issues of equity in sharing of usufruct and benefits.

This paper makes a case that there are tremendous learning opportunities between Nepal and India and that stronger interlinkages based on mutuality can contribute to our common goal of ushering in sustainable forest management in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas.

The authors have drawn upon their considerable experience in community forestry and joint forest management in writing this discussion paper.

Contents

Introduction
Historical Background
The Evolution of Community Forestry in Nepal
Development of the Forestry Institution
The Development of Community Forestry
The Forest Act of 1993
Rules and Regulations to the Forest Act of 1993
The Emergence of Joint Forest Management in India
Search for Appropriate Community-level Institutions
Indigenous Community Forestry Systems vs. Imposed Institutions
Who is the Community? Deciding on the Level and Group for Community Forestry 12
Who Are the Users?
Sharing and the Shift in Control
Implementing Community Forestry and Joint Forest Management
Participatory Management Planning
Technical Management or Post-formation Support
Value Addition and Income Generation
Training and Orientation for Participatory Forestry
New Developments between Village-level Institutions
The Forest Bureaucracy: Current Problems and Future Directions
The Pace of Community Forestry and Joint Forest Management
Conclusions
References