

FECOFUN , Nepal

Nepal's community forestry programme is a courageous, innovative, and forward-looking approach to participatory forest management by local people. It is widely celebrated as a progressive



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policy example of devolving control over forest resources to community-based user groups. The Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) has contributed in large measure to this development.

The Genesis of FECOFUN

FECOFUN emerged out of the idea that Nepal's forest users should be linked to strengthen their role in policy making. FECOFUN is a national federation of forest users across Nepal dedicated to promoting and protecting users' rights. The Federation works to strengthen the institution of community forest users groups (CFUGs) and increase their awareness of forest resource management in order to reduce poverty among local people.

Since its inception in 1995, FECOFUN has grown into a social movement of eight million forest users. More than 11,200 CFUGs across Nepal are affiliated with FECOFUN, and membership is still growing. The Federation has become an effective mechanism for fostering dialogue between policy makers and users, and a learning centre on forest management.

Achievements

FECOFUN has effectively lobbied government officials and politicians, organised marches, demonstrations, signature campaigns, and filed court cases on forest use issues. It has united forest users across Nepal to act collectively for their resource management rights. From these experiences it has

developed expertise in community forestry and its prospects, and has provided technical support to user groups in forest resource management and empowerment. The process and role of the Federation continues to evolve as it faces new challenges. Besides national level advocacy, FECOFUN has made its presence felt in the international arena to secure users' rights and to conserve the environment.

Who runs FECOFUN?

The Federation has a three-tier structure: the village or range post, the district post, and central level committees, with general and elementary category members. Elected representatives of forest user groups from grassroots to central levels run the Federation. A General Assembly, with equitable representation from all districts including minority groups, political interests, and regional balance convenes every three years and is FECOFUN's ultimate decision-making authority. It approves future plans and allocates resources for programmes at the national level. Day-to-day decisions are made by a Steering Committee under the National Executive Committee (NEC). The NEC is composed of 53 members including 28 elected representatives in 14 zones of the country; 20 elected representatives from various ethnic groups including the Dalits, regional representatives, the physical-handicapped, and the poorest groups, and five members nominated by the Central Committee.

FECOFUN's Secretariat is based in Kathmandu and has offices in 75 districts of Nepal and an overall staff of 250. It operates largely on donor assistance (60%) and membership fees of forest users' groups (40%), but is working towards developing self-reliance and reducing dependence on donors.

For more information on FECOFUN

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Website: www.fecofun.org

Green Hill, Bangladesh

Green Hill works for the poor in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Bangladesh, with special focus on women and children, the indigenous, and those in least developed areas. It aims to enable these



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groups to improve their livelihoods and exercise their rights. Since its founding in 1994, Green Hill has reached out to 230,000 poor and deprived populations in 850 villages, or 17% of the total population of CHT, and 19% of the villages in CHT.

Green Hill works in close collaboration with ICIMOD in promoting advocacy skills and strengthening links with regional networks on advocacy and indigenous peoples. Other ongoing projects include sustainable safe water supply and sanitation, promotion of indigenous peoples' rights, entrepreneurship development and promotion, and accountability for people's rights and equity. Among others, they are co-sponsored by WaterAid Bangladesh, DFID, GTZ, ActionAid Bangladesh, Manusher Jonno Foundation, CIDA, and the Grameen Trust.

Major achievements as a result of its projects and advocacies:

- ▶ About 100,000 poor and deprived populations have enjoyed safe drinking water supply, and hygiene education and capacity building efforts have helped improve health and livelihood conditions.
- ▶ More than 800 community-based organisations have been promoted in village development committees and human rights groups, sustaining the village development process. Local government institutions and duty bearers are supporting these groups to access improved education and other livelihood facilities.
- ▶ Training in integrated entrepreneurship, skills development, and micro-finance has supported the livelihoods of some 1021 marginalised borrower families and is empowering those who have so far received about 24 million taka.
- ▶ 125 trainers representing NGOs of three hill districts have been trained in advocacy

For more information on Green Hill

Email: info@greenhill-cht.org

Website: www.greenhill-cht.org

SAWTEE, Nepal

South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) is a regional network of 11 member institutions from five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) whose aim is to enable South Asian communities to benefit from and minimise the harms of changing regional and global economic paradigms as a result of globalisation and liberalised trade. SAWTEE's broad objective is to build the capacity of stakeholders to voice their concerns on these issues through relevant knowledge, information, and skills. It aims to analyse the impacts of multilateral and regional trade agreements and how these agreements function; conduct programmes that enhance the participation of developing countries, particularly least developed and landlocked countries, in the global trading system; contribute towards the process of regional integration within South Asia; establish linkages and promote cooperation with other organisations with similar objectives; and conduct research and advocacy programmes on trade, regional cooperation, and sustainable development issues affecting South Asia.

SAWTEE's strengths lie in networking and partnership building. It has established close links and partnerships with NGOs, the media, academia, research organisations, and government and inter-governmental institutions at national, regional, and international levels. At present it is the secretariat of the National Alliance for Food Security-Nepal, and two other international networks: the Farmers' Rights Advocacy Network and the Least Developed Countries Network for Economic Transformation. SAWTEE's member institutions are active in various national,

regional, and international alliances. Other activities include policy research, sensitisation, and advocacy.

Programmes

Securing Farmers' Rights to Livelihood in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan Region Phase II; Progressive Regional Action and Cooperation on Trade, Phase III; Competition Advocacy and Education Project; Reform and Capacity Building Agenda in the Post WTO Accession Era; Trade, Development and Poverty; Addressing the Impact of Phasing Out Textile and Clothing Quotas on Nepal; and Grassroots and Policy Linkage on WTO Issues.

Publications

Under these programmes, SAWTEE publishes newsletters, discussion papers, monographs, books, briefing papers, and policy briefs. Trade Insight magazine is a major SAWTEE publication that aims to facilitate dialogue on trade and development issues in South Asia.



For more information on SAWTEE

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Website: www.sawtee.org

Freedom Forum, Nepal

Freedom Forum is an NGO working to institutionalise democracy, the protection and promotion of human rights, press freedom, and freedom of expression, and the right to information in



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Nepal. The Forum is registered with the District Administration Office of Kathmandu and the Social Welfare Council of Nepal. The head office is in Kathmandu, with offices in five regional centres to coordinate programmes at the local level.

aims to promote advocacy for a pro-people Right to Information Law to make people aware of the importance of this right.

Legal support

The Forum's 'Strengthening Media through Legal Support Project' with support from DANIDA/HUGOU provides legal support to media and media practitioners in the course of litigation, the conduct of studies on media laws and policies to initiate media reform, and capacity building programmes for mid-career journalists.

Freedom Forum also conducts a regular discussion programme called, 'Dialogue for Democracy' to increase citizen awareness, and under this programme has organised 25 discussion programmes to date. The Forum is also engaged in a 'Media and Social Inclusion Programme' with support from SNV Nepal to promote the role of media in the process of social inclusion. With support from The Asia Foundation, the Forum engages in research and discussions on the relationship between civilian rule and the military, and is working towards a balanced civilian-military relationship under the emerging political set-up in Nepal.

For more information on Freedom Forum

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Website: www.freedomforum.org.np

Organisation's objectives

- › Promotion and protection of press freedom and freedom of expression
- › Monitoring the status of human rights and civil liberties in Nepal
- › Reconciliation and peace building
- › Consolidation of pluralism and the democratic processes
- › Promotion of the right to information

Current activities

Right to Information

With support from ICIMOD, Freedom Forum initiated a 'Citizens' Campaign for the Right to Information (CCRI)'. The programme