

Proceedings on Regional Technical Meeting
on 'Conservation and Development Strategy'
and 'Regional Cooperation Framework' for
Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation
and Development Initiative

3–4 January 2015, Chalsa, Jalpaiguri, India



About ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, ICIMOD, is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Globalisation and climate change have an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues. We support regional transboundary programmes through partnership with regional partner institutions, facilitate the exchange of experience, and serve as a regional knowledge hub. We strengthen networking among regional and global centres of excellence. Overall, we are working to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services for the billions of people living downstream – now, and for the future.



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Internal Report

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Organized by
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resources Management
CC	Climate Change
CDS	Conservation and Development Strategies
DOFPS	Department of Forests and Park Services
FAR	Feasibility Assessment Reports
GBPIHED	GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
IBA	Important Bird Area
IPA	Important Plant Area
KCA	Kanchenjunga Conservation Area
KL	Kangchenjunga Landscape
KLCDI	Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative
MFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
MoFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation's
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
NWFP	Non Wood Forest Product
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
RCF	Regional Cooperation Framework
RECAST	Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology



Background

In recent years, to more effectively address the growing threats to biodiversity conservation, the management of protected areas has evolved from a species-based conservation approach to a holistic landscape approach with a focus on people's participation. Thus, conservation across the larger landscape involves integration of many global conventions and directives, as well as cooperation at various levels. The Kangchenjunga Landscape (KL) covering parts of Bhutan, India and Nepal, is one of the seven transboundary landscapes identified by ICIMOD and its partners in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. The Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI) is a transboundary program that was launched in 2012.

The KL is a dynamic region with diverse geographical settings, rich biological diversity and unique socio-cultural milieu. Recognizing its regional and global significance, the Governments of Bhutan, India and Nepal agreed to a long-term transboundary collaboration to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the landscape. The three respective governments nominated collaborating partner institutions in their countries as nodal agencies: Wildlife Conservation Division of the Department of Forest and Park Services in Bhutan; GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED) and Forest Departments of West Bengal and Sikkim in India; and the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) and Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology (RECAST) of Tribhuvan University in Nepal. Currently, the KL partner institutions and ICIMOD are in various stages of preparing three crucial documents for KLCDI: Feasibility Assessment Reports (FAR), Conservation and Development Strategies (CDS), and the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF). These are the guiding documents that will strengthen collaboration among the three KL member countries, ICIMOD and partner institutions to collectively achieve the goal and objectives identified for KLCDI, and to add value to individual country level efforts in sustaining ecological integrity and livelihood co-benefits within the landscape.

In this context, ICIMOD in collaboration with GBPIHED and with support from Directorate of Forests from West Bengal and Sikkim, India, organized a two-day regional technical meeting Chalsa, India from 4-5 January 2015. This meeting was designed for technical experts and the nodal agencies who are engaged in the preparation of FAR, CDS and RCF for KLCDI. These documents are expected to serve as the basis for preparing the Program Documents, including impact pathways and monitoring and evaluation plans, for KLCDI.

Objectives

This regional technical meeting will bring together technical experts from the nodal agencies of the KL member countries, policy makers from related government institutions, and conservation and development practitioners to discuss the final draft of the "Conservation and Development Strategies" prepared by the member countries and to finalize the elements/content of the "Regional Cooperation Framework" for KLCDI. The respective country documents will be synthesized to prepare the Program Document for KLCDI.

The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

1. Provide a platform to technical experts and the nodal institutions to make presentations on country level 'Conservation and Development Strategy' and to share and lessons learnt from each other about country specific and regional conservation and development challenges and opportunities.
2. Discuss and finalize the content of the draft 'Regional Cooperation Framework' for KLCDI and to process the document for finalization by the member countries.
3. Foster cooperation, partnership and networking at the regional level among technical experts to address transboundary issues in the KL.

Expected Outputs

1. Final country level draft 'Conservation and Development Strategy' and an opportunity to share and learn from each other about country specific as well as regional conservation and development challenges and opportunities.

2. Final content/elements of KLCDI 'Regional Cooperation Framework' to process for finalization by focal institutions in each member country.
3. Enhanced foster transboundary cooperation for joint action plans to address major conservation and development challenges and opportunities in the KL.

Proceedings

Regional technical meeting on 'Conservation and Development Strategy' and 'Regional Cooperation Framework' for Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation Development Initiative (KLCDI) was organized in Chalsa, West Bengal, India from 3 to 4 January 2015. The programme and participants of the meeting are attached as Annex 1 and 2.

Opening Session

Dr HK Badola, Scientist In-charge and KLCDI Nodal Person, GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED) conveyed best wishes of the Director (GBPIHED) Dr PP Dhyani to the delegates from Bhutan, India and Nepal and other participants and accorded a warm welcome to them.

Dr Rucha Gate, Senior Natural Resource Management and Governance Specialist from International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) extended greetings from the Director General and Director Programme Operations of ICIMOD to the participants. In her statement, she underscored the importance of regional cooperation for landscape conservation and development and reiterated ICIMOD's commitment to supporting it.

On behalf of the Bhutanese delegates, Dr Sangay Wangchuck, Nature Conservation Specialist, Wildlife Conservation Division, Department of Forests and Park Services (DOFPS), Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan expressed his appreciation to the organizers of the meeting. He placed on record DOFPS's commitment to participate, cooperate and fulfill the objective of the KLCDI.

Mr Sagar Rimal, Under Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, joined other speakers in appreciating the organizers of the meeting on behalf of the Nepalese delegates. In his remark, noting Nepal's Kailash Sacred Landscape experience, he said that while conservation and development of landscape offers very good opportunity for regional member countries to work together, implementation of programme calls for flexibility and coordination among the line agencies within countries as well as cooperation among participating regional countries. He also conveyed the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation's (MoFSC) commitment to participate in KLCDI.

Dr VK Sood, Chief Conservator for Forest, Forest Department, Government of West Bengal, accorded a warm welcome to the delegates from the three countries and participants and thanked the organizers of the meeting. In his remark, he underscored the significance of population pressure and the severity of human wildlife conflict in the Indian part, specially the Dooars region of the Kangchenjunga landscape.

Dr PT Bhutia, Special Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Northern Circle, Forest Department, Government of West Bengal, graced the meeting as the Chair. In his inaugural address, giving example of birds, he stated that species movement transcends political boundaries. He emphasized the need for the participating countries to work on transboundary migration of species, particularly elephant. He appreciated ICIMOD's role in promoting a regional cooperation framework for the countries in the Kangchenjunga Landscape to work together in dealing with transboundary issues that affect both nature and people. He viewed that implementation of a regional conservation and development strategy through a regional cooperation framework will lead to resolving the transboundary conservation and development issues. He concluded his inaugural statement by wishing the meeting a success.

The opening session ended with vote of thanks by Mr Karma Phuntsho of ICIMOD who thanked all the speakers of the session, guests and participants. The session was followed by group photograph and refreshment.

Technical Session I: Building a basis for the KL Regional Cooperation Framework

This session was chaired by Dr Sangay Wangchuk, Nature Conservation Specialist, Wildlife Conservation Division, Department of Forests and Park Services, Bhutan.

The session included two presentations – Meeting objective and structure and the Regional Cooperation Framework building process from Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI) and Highlights from KLCDI Feasibility Assessment regional synthesis. The first presentation was made by Dr Nakul Chettri and the second one by Dr Janita Gurung, ICIMOD.

Presentation on Meeting objective and structure and the Regional Cooperation Framework building process

Dr Nakul Chettri said that ICIMOD, as an intergovernmental organization, offers a platform and facilitates mountain learning and knowledge sharing; promotes regional cooperation where necessary; supports capacity building; influences policy in regional member countries based on science; and links knowledge with implementation.

He also mentioned that the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) is less studied biologically, socially, ecologically and economically. While ecosystems transcend national boundaries, transboundary landscape approach to conservation is just beginning. Though countries in HKH are diverse socially, culturally and bio-physically, transboundary cooperation has become a necessity as climatic and non-climatic changes affect these countries alike.

His presentation also covered ICIMOD's transboundary landscape programme – 7 landscapes designed to include representative ecological zones and socio-economic conditions in different latitudes, longitudes and altitudes for study to fill the existing data gap, and to achieve transboundary conservation and development. He pointed out the ecological and socio-economic uniqueness of each of them and their conservation and development objectives.

Then the presentation ran down the process and events that preceded the meeting. It was mentioned that phase I, starting 1997 which spanned till 2012, put substantial efforts on studying the protected areas and corridors in the landscape of the three countries. The learning from that phase lent basis for phase II – transboundary landscape approach to conservation and development – with the first regional meeting conducted in August 2012. This Gangtok meeting recognized the need to focus on (i) innovative livelihood and adaptation to climate change; (ii) improvement of ecosystem management; (iii) monitoring long-term environmental and socio-economic changes; and (iv) promotion of regional cooperation framework for transboundary landscape conservation and development. The presentation confirmed that the Gangtok meeting laid out the timeframe for the preparation of (i) feasibility assessment reports; (ii) conservation and development strategies; (ii) regional cooperation framework; and (iv) implementation plan and stated that the meeting is part of the process to complete the task then decided.

The presentation concluded by spelling out the objectives and the expected outcomes of the meeting as under the following.

Meeting objectives:

1. Present and discuss the draft Regional Feasibility Assessment Report;
2. Present and discuss country level Conservation and Development Strategies and draft Regional Conservation and Development Strategy;
3. Discuss and finalize the content of the draft 'Regional Cooperation Framework' for KLCDI and to process the document for finalization by the member countries; and
4. Foster cooperation, partnership and networking at the regional level among technical experts to address transboundary issues in the KL.

The expected outcomes of the meeting:

1. The Regional Feasibility Assessment Report presented, reviewed and finalized;
2. Country level draft 'Conservation and Development Strategy' and the draft Regional Conservation and Development Strategy presented, discussed and finalized;
3. The content/elements of draft KLCDI Regional Cooperation Framework, presented, reviewed and revised.

Following the presentation, a brief discussion ensued as recorded below.

A participant felt that it is necessary to agree on a common understanding of the word 'development' among the countries taking part in the KLCDI and suggested that this matter be discussed during the session on the Finalizing Conservation and Development Strategy.

As a response to a query of a participant, focus of ICIMOD's different landscapes was reiterated: the focus of the Kailash Sacred Landscape was stated as sacredness and culture; biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and livelihood improvement in the Kangchenjunga Landscape; and conservation of biodiversity and culture associated with the Indo-Malayan and the Palearctic biogeography and the Sino-Japanese faunal and floral elements of the Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape.

Since implementing KLCDI programme would require considerable finance some suggested that the activities be prioritized. Some conceived that interdisciplinary integrated pilot activities can be funded to demonstrate good practices related to innovative livelihood and improvement of management of ecosystems, the result of which can be scaled out and up by governments.

Presentation on Highlights from KLCDI Feasibility Assessment regional synthesis

Dr Janita Gurung from ICIMOD presented the highlights of the Feasibility Assessment Regional Synthesis. The outline of the presentation covered the processes followed in the preparation of country feasibility assessment report and regional synthesis of feasibility assessment report, salient features of the landscape, issues and priorities and way forward.

The presentation covered on the salient features included (i) criteria and boundary delineation; (ii) bio-physical salient features; (iii) demography; (iv) social and cultural characteristics; (v) gender and social inclusion situation; (vi) livelihood and economic characteristics; and (vii) ecological features.

The issues and priorities were presented grouped into two: environmental, and conservation and development. Under the former, changes in temperature, snowing time, reduction in amount of snow, erratic rainfall pattern, prolonged dry season, unpredictable weather and others were presented. Some of the ecological problems presented included shifting of species range, change in forest composition, change in flowering time, shift in harvest time of agricultural crops, and increased incidence of pests, among others.

The conservation and development issues affecting the landscape include human wildlife conflict, unsustainable use of natural resources, deforestation, forest and environmental degradation, land use change, forest fire, degradation of land and soil resources, decline in soil fertility, drying up of water resources, unmanaged tourism and others.

As a way forward, the presentation suggested a transboundary landscape approach to improve ecoregion contiguity, habitat contiguity, protected area connectivity and ecosystem services. In socio-economic terms, improving historical and contemporary trade links, improving transboundary and local tourism, reducing human wildlife conflict, safeguarding cultural assets, improving cultural ties, reducing impacts of climate change and capacitating stakeholders to adapt to change as well as to manage natural resources and improve economic efficiency of natural resources were suggested.

During the discussion, human wildlife conflict was emphasized and reiterated the need for the regional Feasibility Assessment Report (FAR) to be underlined as important. It was also suggested that FAR recognize transboundary wildlife migration an important transboundary issue and suggest ways to mitigate the problem.

The discussion noted contradictory trend; in some countries (India and Bhutan) women population is less compared to male whereas in Nepal it is more;; population in some regions in Nepal actually decreased as opposed to general increase in the landscape; the percentage of poor in a district (Panchthar) in Nepal actually decreased by 41% in a decade. Suggestions were made to update the FAR accordingly.

A participant stated that the FAR should conceive humans as resource managers than resource users to deal with population pressure on natural resources.

The FAR was viewed as conservation heavy and scanty on people, socio-economy and livelihood aspects; a suggestion was made to elaborate information on livelihood and socio-economic aspects since conservation not addressing development needs of the people would not succeed.

It was also observed that the FAR needs to recognize the significance of other transboundary species such as snow leopard and red panda, besides elephant, as well as to include the only Ramsar Site in the landscape – Mai Pokhari in KL-Nepal.

Some participants viewed that regional FAR does not reflect economic damage caused by small mammals such as rats in high altitude and suggested to include it. Similarly, it was suggested that FAR recognize the negative impact of unmanaged high altitude and alpine tourism. However, based on the Kailash Landscape experience, it was suggested that since funds would not be abundant, interventions must be prioritized and made achievable.

Some participants suggested that regional FAR take cognizance of decline in the production of locally important agricultural crops such as barley as the change in land use, with high value cash crop replacing subsistence agriculture, is entailing cultural erosion, increase in disease incidence, pest incidence and reduction in agrobiodiversity. Besides, the regional FAR also has to acknowledge the absence of conservation/biological corridor management in the landscape.

The discussion also noted that there is a need for FAR to emphasize eco-friendly development of agriculture, livestock, and forest production systems (especially private forestry) along with inclusion of river basin approach development to development.

In conclusion, the Chairperson summarized the presentation by underscoring the importance of regional cooperation framework for managing the regional transboundary issues. He also stated that the FAR would lend the basis for the country specific and regional interventions in the landscape.

Technical Session II: Finalizing the Conservation and Development Strategy for KL

Mr Sagar Rimal, Under Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government Nepal, chaired the session.

The session included five presentations: The Impact Pathway for conservation and development targets; Presentation and discussion on Kangchenjunga Landscape (KL) Bhutan Conservation and Development Strategy (CDS); Presentation and discussion on KL India CDS; Presentation and discussion on KL Nepal CDS; and Presentation and discussion: Regional CDS for the KL.

Impact Pathway for conservation and development targets

Ms Lalu Kadel, ICIMOD, presented the Impact Pathway for conservation and development targets. The objectives of the presentation were:

- Setting the scene for country and regional conservation and development strategies;
- Identifying gaps and improving the strategies in line of impact pathway analysis (if realized);
- Using the concept of Theory of Change and Impact Pathway Approach to prepare implementation plan.

The presentation covered Impact and Chain of Results and explained the logical link between inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts. It also covered the blended approach – combined result-oriented and actor-oriented perspectives – of Impact Pathway Analysis; the blended approach was explained through an example.

Key steps followed in Impact Pathway Approach were presented with examples, which included (i) Problem Analysis; (ii) Objective Analysis; (iii) Visioning; (iv) Actor Map; (v) Outcome Logic Model; and (vi) Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The presentation also covered actor mapping, risk assessment and indicators with some examples.

The final part of the presentation explained how the Theory of Change and Impact Pathway approach can be applied in KLCDI with some steps in the context of feasibility assessment completed, conservation and development strategy drafted and implementation plan under process of development. It was concluded with suggestions to apply the concept if the strategy can be improved and to prepare the upcoming impact pathway and plan development workshop in line.

KL Bhutan CDS

Ms Namgay Bida presented the Bhutan Conservation and Development Strategy (CDS). The presentation covered the process followed in preparing the CDS, vision, goal, outcomes, key issues outcomes, strategies and key actions, refer Annex 3.

For KL Bhutan issues presented included (i) Scanty information/research; (ii) Need to improve rangeland management; (iii) Inadequate financial resources; (iv) Increasing pollution; (v) Forest degradation; (vi) Need to improve resource governance; (vii) Rural urban migration; (viii) Weak coordination; (ix) Need to improve capacity.

The presentation identified (i) Human wildlife conflict; (ii) Illegal wildlife trade; (iii) Environmental degradation and habitat fragmentation; (iv) Vanishing culture and tradition; (v) Impact of climate change as emerging threats in KL Bhutan.

A brief discussion after the presentation revolved around the challenge in balancing conservation and development. Some participants expressed the view that conservation connotes sustainable use of natural resources and therefore includes development.

KL India CDS

Dr HK Badola presented the KL India CDS. The presentation mentioned that the CDS was prepared by organizing four community-based stakeholder consultations in the Dooars, two stakeholder consultations in Darjeeling, several brainstorming sessions and national consultation-cum-writeshop. It also provided description of physical, biological, socio-economic, ecological, resource governance aspects, key challenges, threats, major opportunities, guiding principles, vision, goal, outcomes, strategies, priority actions and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, refer Annex 4.

The presentation identified the issues in KL India as (i) Human-wildlife conflicts; (ii) Shrinking drinking water resources; (iii) Illegal trade of wildlife; (iv) Poaching/illegal collection of natural resources and over extraction of NTFPs, firewood, and medicinal plants; (v) Lack of information and knowledge gaps; (vi) Limited livelihood options for marginalized people including tea garden workers; (vii) Declining cultural entity; (viii) Transboundary problem – movement of animals and humans and weak pastureland management; (ix) Unregulated tourism and rapid urbanization; (x) Climate change and vulnerability; (xi) Changing land use pattern and socio-economic level; and (xii) Fragmented governance systems.

KL Nepal CDS

The Nepal CDS, presented by Professor Ram Prasad Chaudhary, covered bio-physical and socio-economic features of the landscape, CDS preparation process, key issues and major gaps, guiding principles, vision, strategic goals, outcomes, strategies, outputs, key activities, implementation mechanism, and monitoring and evaluation mechanism, refer Annex 5.

The issues affecting the Nepal KL were grouped as socio-economy and livelihoods; biodiversity and ecosystem services; resource governance, access to genetic resources and benefit sharing; long-term socio-ecological and environmental monitoring; and enabling environment and regional cooperation.

Socio-economy and livelihoods issues presented were (i) Poor economic and social conditions; (ii) Emerging problems in cash crop production; (iii) Sustainable tourism; (iv) Gender equity and social inclusion; (v) Energy & water management; and (vi) Impact of out-migration. Under biodiversity and ecosystem services issues presented were (i) Forest degradation and habitat loss; (ii) Unsustainable harvesting of plant resources including medicinal and aromatic plants; (iii) Poaching and illegal trade of wildlife; (iv) Inadequate assessment of ecosystem services; (v) Inadequate inventory of biodiversity. Issues related to resource governance and access to genetic resources and benefit sharing are (i) Growing pressure on rangeland biodiversity; (ii) Increasing human-wildlife conflict; (iii) Corridor & connectivity; (iv) Churia management in Nepal; (v) Access to genetic resource and benefit sharing. Under long – term socio-ecological and environmental monitoring issues presented were (i) Baseline socio-ecological data with indicators; (ii) Ground level environmental monitoring; (iii) Pollution; (iv) Invasive alien species (IAS); (v) Land -use & -cover change including Churia region; (vi) Assessment of ice, snow, glaciers, and watersheds; (vii) Assessment of actual & potential impact of climate change; and (viii) Hydro-meteorological stations. Under enabling environment and Regional cooperation issues presented were (i) Transboundary regional cooperation & coordination; (ii) Policy on landscape planning and management; (iii) Sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and regulations; and (iv) Knowledge management.

Discussion after the presentation noted that all the country CDSs have both merits and demerits, but more merits. It was noted that some of the strategies were overlapping, while the activities needed to be screened to make them achievable. On the inquiry about the setting up of sustainable financing mechanism as a strategy, it was clarified that possibilities would be explored to set up trust fund for funding landscape activities by seeking donor funding as well as ploughing back tourism revenue for landscape conservation and development.

Members of Indian delegation from Sikkim proposed to revise the spelling of Kangchenjunga as 'Khangchendzonga' in keeping with Sikkim Government's officially recognized spelling. The floor noted the need to reconcile the spelling in due course of time upon more consultation among the stakeholders.

Regional Synthesis of CDS

Mr Karma Phuntsho presented the Regional CDS. The presentation included the process followed in synthesizing the country CDS, issues and priorities, vision, mission, goal, outcomes, strategies and actions, refer Annex 6.

The presentation highlighted country-specific issues ranging from deforestation to land use change, human wildlife conflict, fragmented protected areas, environmental pollution, land degradation, overgrazing, natural resource use, non-inclusive development, information gap and others. It also highlighted transboundary regional issues ranging from the need to adopt a common framework and principle to manage transboundary ecoregions, wildlife migration, tourism, illegal wildlife trade, grazing, climate change impact, transmission of diseases and others.

The audience found the regional CDS to be very clear, encapsulating the elements of the country CDS. Some asked as to how the regional aspect of the CDS would be implemented to which clarification was given that once the RCF is endorsed by the three countries the implementation plan will be prepared and implemented to deal with regional transboundary issues. The countries, particularly India, urged ICIMOD to facilitate the process of managing transboundary issues through RCF.

A suggestion was made that the regional CDS include an action to commercialize agriculture to improve subsistence economy and cash income of residents of the landscape.

Technical Session III: Developing the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) for KL

The presentation made by Dr Nakul Chettri explained that the goal of ICIMOD's transboundary landscape programme is to ensure that transboundary landscapes are better conserved and managed for sustaining ecosystem goods and services to improve livelihoods and enhance ecological integrity, economic development, and socio-cultural resilience to environmental changes.

The presentation pointed out that RCF will bring together all stakeholders, promote a collective regional voice in global platforms, identify policy issues related to transboundary cooperation and promote adoption of ecosystem management approaches; foster partnerships for science and knowledge development, policy uptake, scaling out of innovations and sustainable and relevant practices; and strengthen capacity at the regional level. It also explained the Preamble of the RCF as mentioned and that the vision, mission and goal enshrined in the regional CDS will govern the RCF.

The RCF will recognize national sovereignty, iterative consultation and participatory management, equitability and inclusiveness, sustainability, partnerships, ecosystem management, transboundary cooperation and knowledge sharing.

The presentation also covered the mechanism for RCF; a Regional Coordinating Body (RCB) will be established which in turn will set up a Regional Working Group (RWG) for the facilitation and implementation of the RCF. Then bilateral coordinating bodies will be set up to coordinate the transboundary activities.

The RCF is envisaged to implement activities including organizing regional workshops, promoting technical and scientific exchange among the partners of the participating countries, conducting specific conservation and development analyses and assessments, developing and institutionalizing knowledge and information sharing mechanism and others.

Following the presentation, three working groups were formed. One group was assigned to review and suggest improvement to Preamble, while other two were assigned to review RCF Process, and Principles and mechanisms respectively.

The group works were presented and discussed in a plenary. The outcomes of the plenary are summarized as below.

On Preamble, the following suggestions were made:

- In paragraph 3, reference to Kyoto Protocol may be made/revised considering how the Protocol is going to be carried forward in the future since it is not longer in effect;
- In paragraph 4, the word 'critical' before ecosystem is to be removed and 'nature dependent livelihood' to be added after 'ecosystem services.'
- In paragraph 7, after 'consultative process' word 'between' to be replaced by 'among.'
- In paragraph 9, after ICIMOD the word 'and GIZ' to be removed and word 'which' after knowledge suggested to be replaced by 'will' would remain unchanged.

On RCF process, the following changes were suggested:

- Under number 5, in the first bullet, after the word 'common', word 'multitiered' to be inserted and the phrase 'and for improving socioeconomically disadvantaged groups' is to be added after 'local communities.'
- Bullet point 2 to be revised as 'Promoting a collective regional voice in global platforms of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the CBD, IPCC, IPBES, and more' and placed as the last bullet.
- Under number 6, in bullet 3, after integration of gender the phrase 'and socially and economically vulnerable groups' to be inserted.
- In bullet 4, the words 'with mainstreaming potential' are to be deleted.
- In bullet 5, the words 'and synergy' to be added after 'partnership.'

On Principles and mechanisms, the changes suggested were as under.

- 'Bilateral technical working group' to be added to deal with bilateral transboundary issues between the participating countries.

The Chairperson concluded the session by reiterating the need to consider revising the spelling of 'Kanchenjunga' as 'Khangchendzonga'. He also announced the Government of Sikkim is in the process of banning commercial use of medicinal plants and burning of agricultural waste. He also said that the Government of Sikkim has instituted compensation mechanism for wildlife depredation, organic farming and 10 Minutes to Earth programme.

Concluding Session

Dr Nakul Chettri presented a way forward as follows:

- Final FAR, 31 of January 2015
- Final and revised CDS, 7 February 2015
- Draft Implementation Plans, 15 February 2015
- Impact Pathway training, 18-20 February 2015
- 3rd Regional Meeting 23-24 February 2015; and
- Final documents and way forward by March 2015.

He requested all concerned to complete the task as per the suggested timeline.

In the presentation, he acknowledged the support and guidance of the Director General and Director Programme Operations, ICIMOD, to the KLCDI. He also noted the support of partners and thanked Dr Sangay Wangchuk and Mr Sonam Wangchuk from Bhutan; Mr Krishna Acharya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, Mr Sagar Rimal and Professor Ram P Chaudhary from Nepal; Dr P T Bhutia and Dr V K Sood from the Government of West Bengal; and Mr Pradip Kumar and Shri C S Rao from the Government of Sikkim for their support to KLCDI.

After his presentation, the floor discussed once again the need to change the spelling of Kangchenjunga and suggested to ICIMOD to explore the possibility of putting it up at the Third Regional Meeting in February 2015. As a response to a query about the outline of Implementation Plan, it was suggested that the outline used for the implementation plan of Kailash be adapted for KLCDI.

Professor Ram P Chaudhary made a closing remark on behalf of the Nepalese delegates in which he thanked the organizers of the meeting. He also thanked Mr Krishna Acharya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation for his contribution. He reiterated the issues and opportunities in the landscape and underlined the need to establish people-to-people contact, besides government level contact, for managing the issues. He also stated that implementation of CDS will call for partnership among all stakeholders – communities, service providers, academic institutions, researchers and scientific communities. It will also involve exchange of experiences and innovative ideas among stakeholders.

Mr Sonam Wangchuk delivered a closing remark for the Bhutanese delegates. He expressed their appreciation to the Government of West Bengal for hosting the meeting as well as to the organizers of the meeting. He stated that KL has made good progress and expressed his appreciation to the partners in the other two countries for their contributions. He felt that KLCDI programme in the last two years has capacitated the Bhutanese team to partake in the KL programme more effectively. He also underscored the need for the CDS to recognize equally conservation of ecosystems and development of communities. He ended his remark by assuring that his team will abide by the suggested way forward.

Dr C S Rao in his remark expressed that the meeting has been fruitful and thanked the participants for their contribution. He also expressed that it will be necessary for the FARs, CDSs, RCF and Implementation Plan to give due importance to ecosystem service valuation, conservation of indigenous species, and improved and

alternative livelihoods. He urged the participants to share the outcome of the meeting as widely as possible among stakeholders. He also mentioned about the far reaching consequences of climate change and felt that dealing with the consequences would call for the combined application of adaptive and mitigation measures. He also reiterated the seriousness of human wildlife conflict in the landscape involving many species such as wild boar and the Himalayan black bear, besides tiger, elephant and others. He expressed his wishes to have a fruitful collaboration with the regional partners and ICIMOD during the implementation phase.

Dr V K Sood formally concluded the workshop by sharing the experience of the West Bengal Government in community-based management of protected areas; he suggested that due consideration be given to community participation while designing and implementing the Implementation Plans. He also mentioned that the West Bengal Government is in the process of delisting the Jore Pokhari Salamander Sanctuary. He underscored the need of mechanisms between the countries in the landscape for resolving bilateral issues. He concluded his address thanking the participants and organizers for the successful meeting.

The workshop ended with vote of thanks by Dr Kailash Gaira, GBPIHED. On behalf of the organizers of the meeting, he expressed his gratitude to all the speakers of the concluding session as well as the chairpersons of the technical sessions. He also thanked the participants for their contributions. A field trip to the Gorumara National Park was organized after the workshop.



Annex 1: Workshop Programme

Day 0: Friday, 02 January 2015

Arrival and check-in of all participants in Sinclairs Hotel, Chalsa

Day 1: Saturday, 03 January 2015

08:30–09:00	Registration	ICIMOD & GBPIHED
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Opening session

Session Chair: Shri PT Bhutia, IFS, Special Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of West Bengal

09:00–10:30	Welcome remarks	Dr HK Badola, GBPIHED
	Meeting objectives	Dr Rucha Ghate, ICIMOD
	Opening remarks	Mr Sonam Wangchuk, Bhutan
	Opening remarks	Mr Sagar Rimal, Nepal
	Opening remarks	Dr VK Sood, India
	Opening address by Session Chair	
	Vote of thanks	Mr Karma Phuntsho, ICIMOD

10:30–11:00	Photo session and refreshments	
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Technical Session I: Building a basis for the KL Regional Cooperation Framework

Session Chair: Dr Sangay Wangchuk, Nature Conservation Specialist, Wildlife Conservation Division, Department of Forests and Park Services, Bhutan

Rapporteurs: GBPIHED + ICIMOD

11:00–11:30	Presentation: Meeting objective and structure + the Regional Cooperation Framework building process	Dr Nakul Chettri, ICIMOD
11:30–12:00	Presentation: Highlights from KLCDI FAR – regional synthesis	Dr Janita Gurung, ICIMOD
12:00–12:45	Discussion	
12:45–13:00	Session closure by the Chair	
13:00–14:00	Lunch	

Technical Session II: Finalizing the Conservation and Development Strategy for KL

Session Chair: Mr Sagar Rimal, Under Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Nepal

Rapporteurs: GBPIHED + ICIMOD

14:00–14:30	The Impact Pathway for achieving conservation and development targets	Ms Lalu Kandel, ICIMOD
14:30–15:00	Presentation and discussion: KL-Bhutan CDS	Ms Namgay Bidha, WCD
15:00–15:30	Presentation and discussion: KL-India CDS	Dr HK Badola, GBPIHED
15:30–16:00	Presentation and discussion: KL-Nepal CDS	Prof Dr Ram P Chaudhary, RECAST
16:00–16:15	Tea break	
16:15–16:50	Presentation and discussion: Regional CDS for the Kangchenjunga Landscape	Mr Karma Phuntsho and Ms Lalu Kandel, ICIMOD
16:50–17:00	Session closure by the Chair	
18:30–20:30	Reception dinner hosted by GBPIHED and ICIMOD	

Day 2: Sunday, 04 January 2015

Technical Session III: Developing the Regional Cooperation Framework for Kangchenjunga Landscape

Session Chair: Shri CS Rao, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Sikkim

Rapporteurs: GBPIHED + ICIMOD

8:30–9:00	Presentation: Draft RCF for Kangchenjunga Landscape	Dr Nakul Chettri, ICIMOD
9:00–10:30	Group work: Preamble, Vision, Goal, Objectives RCF process Principles and mechanisms	
10:30–11:00	Tea break	
11:00–11:45	Plenary discussion and finalization of KL RCF	Facilitated by Dr Rucha Ghate, ICIMOD
11:45–12:00	Session closure by the Chair	

Concluding session

Session Chair: Dr VK Sood, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of West Bengal

12:00–13:00	Way forward with timeline	Dr Nakul Chettri, ICIMOD
	Remarks	Prof Ram P Chaudhary, Nepal
	Remarks	Mr Sonam Wangchuk, Bhutan
	Closing remarks	CS Rao, India
	Session & workshop closure by the Chair	
	Vote of thanks	Dr Kailash Gaira, GBPIHED
13:00–14:00	Lunch	
14:00–18:00	Visit to Gorumara National Park	Facilitated by West Bengal Forest Directorate



Annex 2: List of Participants

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Annex 3: Highlights from the Bhutan CDS

Vision: "Maintaining the ecological integrity of the Landscape without undermining the needs of the local communities

Goal: Enhance ecosystem services for the wellbeing of the local communities and regional beneficiaries through strengthened transboundary cooperation"

Outcome 1: Economic and social well-being of local communities is improved

Outcome 2: Harmonious Co-existence between human and wildlife enhanced

Outcome 3: Ecosystem functions and services in relation to climate change improved

Outcome 4: Resource governance and coordination Strengthened

Outcome 1: Economic and social well-being of local communities is improved		
Sl. #	Strategies	Actions
1	Strengthen and develop community facilities and other income generating activities	Support for Best energy saving devices Support and facilitate hands on training to the recipients of the device(s) Capacity development of local administration on the various eco-friendly infrastructure developmental principles Support and facilitate to Develop/Establish/strengthen ecotourism activities Support and facilitate in exploring and developing other income generating activities
2	Strengthen CBNRM and promote gender equality	Support Participatory resources and market assessment Capacity building and strengthening existing institutional linkages and formation of new groups Formation of women and disadvantage group Diversification and value addition of NWFP
3	Promote rangeland governance and livestock based value chain	Conduct Awareness workshop on relevant guidelines such as Tsamdrol and Sokshing guidelines Support to Promote improved breed Formation of farmers groups and cooperatives Value addition and strengthening the market for livestock produces Conservation of native breed of nublang
4	Strengthening conservation of local traditions, culture and traditional knowledge	Participatory survey and documentation of local traditions and ethno-botanical knowledge Exhibiting the indigenous tradition and traditional knowledge (during festivals, other occasions/gatherings, information /interpretation halls, etc.) Documentation of the Doya culture Develop a Coordination mechanism to synergise all activities undertaken for the TKs. Identification, assessment and preparation of management plans for unmanaged religious and recreational sites
Outcome 2: Harmonious Co-existence between human and wildlife enhanced		
1	Conduct participatory action research on understanding causes of human wildlife conflict	Conduct Elephant surveys (sign survey, radio collaring) Conduct SES
2	Mitigation & adaptation options of HWCM	Habitat enrichment through management of existing habitat and plantation of desired species Installation of solar – Electric fencing through community participation in most affected areas of the landscape Installation of early warning system devices (Siren, search light, construction of watch tower) Formation of community rapid respond team on HWC Encourage change in Agriculture cropping pattern Create awareness on HWC management (Elephant, Bear, wild pig, primates, Big cats & ungulates) Assessing the effectiveness of mitigation measures in place Documentation on TK related to HWC mitigation measures

Outcome 3: Ecosystem functions and services in relation to CC improved		
1	Generate and update socio-ecological data	Collection of new data through surveys Data revalidation Creation of an option/Link to share the data through DoFPS website Up gradation of IT for the users
2	Mitigation of Potential environment risks & hazards	Support in creating awareness to the public Installation of signage Promote organic crops and fruits Identify, analyse and conserve critical watershed Conduct mass environment campaigns and awareness programs Identify and assess potential risk hazards and institute appropriate measures such as GLOFs activities
3	Strengthening NAPA & SAPA	Training & Visit to the experimental sites (success story)
4	Strengthening and promoting community based surveillance and institution	Provide training on PES & mitigation of Green House Gas emissions
Outcome 4: Resource governance and coordination Strengthened		
1	Promote collaboration with stakeholders	Conduct awareness workshops on resource governance & coordination (sustainable harvesting of NWFP, equitable sharing, Sokshing (guidelines)) at the local level Conduct coordination workshops on resource governance & coordination (sustainable harvesting of NWFP, equitable sharing, Sokshing (guidelines)) at the regional level Conduct appraisal workshops on resource governance at the national level Review existing conflicting policies on land act, forest act, environmental assessment act and development acts (road, mining, hydropower, power etc).
2	Promote transboundary cooperation among partner countries	Initiate/Organize transboundary coordination meetings Information sharing amongst KLCDI countries
3	Capacity strengthening at all levels	Ex-country training on landscape management, resource governance, climate change, HWC, ecotourism, disaster preparedness, rangeland governance at regional and national level Exchange Programs amongst KLCDI members In country training on participatory action research on HWC, survey methodologies, disaster preparedness, CC (NAPA & SAPA) for implementing agencies
4	Explore and strengthen innovative mechanism for sustainable financing	Formulate mechanism on income generating activities such as Initiating endowment fund mechanism Compensation for Environment Services/PES
5	Harmonize existing policies/guidelines and strengthen M&E systems	Review existing and relevant policies/guidelines. Review the existing M&E systems

Annex 4: Highlights from the India CDS

Vision: Natural and cultural heritage of Khangchendzonga Landscape are celebrated by the communities living in the landscape through equitable access and conservation of resources

Goal: Conserve natural and cultural heritage of Khangchendzonga Landscape with equitable access and benefits for well being of people with enhanced resilience to climate change through sustainable development

Outcome 1: Natural and agro ecosystem assessed and prioritization

Outcome 2: Socio-economic opportunities with focus on marginal people improved

Outcome 3: Effective natural resource management systems are in place and functional

Outcome 4: Status of trends of ecosystems and human environment understood

Outcome 1: Natural and agro ecosystem assessed and prioritization		
Sl. #	Strategies	Actions
1	Assess and prioritize ecosystems, ecosystem functions and value ecosystem services	Information generation on ecosystems, ecosystem functions, ecosystem services Analysis and understanding of the linkages Identify most vulnerable ecosystems. Prioritize them influencing the drivers to minimize the impacts Valuation of biodiversity function and services
2	Biodiversity, agro-biodiversity and cultural diversity functions and services assessed by including community participation	Identify location specific functional communities and evolve mechanism for active community participation Bio-resources – availability/status/functions’ assessment and scientific validation Inventory-Flora/Fauna & Ethnobotanical evaluation of important bioresources Mass awareness generation, capacity building and enabling delivery Develop mechanism for documentation, preservation and information sharing a Technology intervention for sustainable livelihood opportunities
3	Strengthen and improve ecosystem management through policy review and multi-stakeholder dialogue	Assessment / review of existing policies and identify gaps Implement sustainable conservation and management plans Optimize potential for ABS mechanisms Disseminate sustainable management tools and integrate existing plans and formulate/improve policies Strengthen linkages between stakeholders and line departments
Outcome 2: Socio-economic opportunities with focus on marginal people improved		
1	Diversified livelihood options	Promote high-value cash crops/underutilized /lesser known crops/land races and production MAPs/ NTFPs/ off-season vegetable growing/floriculture Improve livestock production Promotion/improvement/development of Apiculture/Sericulture Ecotourism, homestays, adventure tourism/village tourism etc. Incentivize value addition/ post harvest technology, agroproducts’ marketing/ linkage Small cottage industries, tradition-based carpentry/local handicraft
2	Ensure equitable and fair opportunities for resource and decision making	Assess resource/knowledge base management (customary laws, modern regulations) Prioritize best practices General awareness and capacity building Stakeholders’ analysis and participation (communities, traditional institutions, Cooperatives, BMCs, FCs, SHGs, CBOs, NGOs, local groups, Women, GOs) Strengthen/develop locally available resources (water resources, Water Harvesting, ...) Strengthen social capital (between/within the communities, organizations etc.) for mutual trust
3	Strengthen market access through value chain for agricultural produce	Inventorize, assess and improve marketable products Value chain and economic valuable Establish/strengthen service/ marketing centres/ linkages Strengthen cooperatives and Insurance of agroproducts Identify/ promotion of growers’ groups Exhibition, agro-fairs and agro/seed/food festivals

4	Promote community based sustainable and equitable tourism	Identify/link cultural/natural heritage destinations with ecotourism/agro tourism Skill development of tourism service providers (youth, communities etc.) Conservation awareness and capacity building in tourism sector
5	Capacity building of stakeholders	Develop capacity building mechanism Involve local level stakeholders in resource conservation development Establish training tools in ToT mode
6	Gender equality and women empowerment	Assessment of Social and Gender analysis Educate and campaign gender equity in schools/institutions Ensure women involvement in different groups and cooperatives Participation of women in various activities
Outcome 3: Effective natural resource management systems are in place and functional		
1	Strengthen community participation in natural resource management through in-situ, ex-situ mechanisms	Status assessment: Rare, threatened, endangered and endemic species, invasive/exotic species and natural resources Community participation through inter-institutional (GOs, NGOs, CBOs, etc) coordination Develop plan on natural resources management and establish nature interpretation units Documenting TK for inclusion in national knowledge network Formulate NTFPs extraction guideline and improvising agro – forestry practices Reviving traditional natural resource management practices – religious/ ethnic lines Promote community forestry Sharing and exchange knowledge base
2	Improvement of knowledge on Conservation and management of soil and water resources	Assess soil/ water, including soil erosion and shrinking water resources Organic farming – promote vermi-composting and bio-pesticide Dolomite extraction, siltation and impacts (case: Bandapani-sensitive area) Comparative analysis of soil/water quality and prioritisation Innovative planning for conservation management of soil and water resources Promote innovative interventions and awareness Reviving traditional water conservation approaches
3	Mitigation of human wildlife conflicts	Assess human-wildlife conflicts for specific areas Develop/ implement mitigation in prioritized HWCs through inter-country consultations/ cooperation Formulate monitoring plan to correlate wildlife and its habitats Capacity building in monitoring/mitigating wildlife movements, etc and promote community based volunteer groups involvement in HWCs Coordination with Forest department for minimising wildlife entry to village areas Improve wildlife corridor / habitats Implement the monitoring plan
4	Improved access and benefit sharing through mechanism like National Biological Diversity Act	Establish/strengthen mechanism for inter-institutional coordination Partnership building among local community groups Review – existing national/ state policies/ acts Awareness generation among community through inter-institutional network Reframing existing rules for better ABS Develop community base biological resource management mechanism
Outcome 4: Status of trends of ecosystems and human environment understood		
1	Monitoring mechanisms established in key sites, through participatory approach	Establish monitoring mechanism on physical, biological and social areas functional at landscape, ecosystem, village and plot level Ensure community participation – real-time field observations Develop monitoring mechanism tools – formulate monitoring protocol /modules Strengthen community as ToT and establish network of Resource Persons Ensure uninterrupted data flow at temporal and spatial data scale Generate Climate Change detection models and strengthen understanding short term coping responses Framework/ pursue best practices to avoid climate change impacts, and adaptation Share information at national /regional level through knowledge packages

2	Long term monitoring of biodiversity, ecosystems and climate change	<p>Monitor sensitive/keystone/flagship species: Plant-phenology/animal movements, etc</p> <p>Understand interaction between plant and animals e.g. pollination</p> <p>Monitor key habitats (wetlands, alpine/subalpine, eco-tone, etc)</p> <p>Monitor important ecosystems (Forest types, agro, river, etc): e.g. regeneration pattern, community composition and dynamism, etc.</p> <p>Correlate biodiversity, ecosystem and climate change: modelling</p> <p>Assess CC consequences through community & traditional management systems</p> <p>Strengthen mitigation and adaptation tools</p> <p>Improve understanding CC vulnerability (i.e. exposure, sensitivity and response capacity)</p>
3	Long term monitoring of socio-economic changes	<p>Asses demography, socio-economy and resource management</p> <p>Gain perspectives of indigenous people on SE changes</p> <p>Increase indigenous people participation in CC dialogues and develop adaptation/mitigation strategies</p> <p>Monitor resource use changes</p> <p>Establish socio-economic impact models and overlap with global scenario</p> <p>Enhance adaptive capacity in sustaining food/ health aspect ensuring increasing SE level</p>



Annex 6: Highlights from the Nepal CDS

Vision: Bio-physical and cultural heritages of Kangchenjunga landscape are conserved, socio-ecological resilience to climate change is strengthened and people's access to resources are enhanced while improving enabling environment

Goal: Kanchenjunga landscape is conserved; continues to provide diverse ecosystem services contributing to human wellbeing and its sustainable management and development is ensured by the local communities in a fair and equitable manner while safeguarding environmental integrity .

Outcome 1: Economic and social well-being of indigenous and local communities especially disadvantaged groups and women in the landscape improved.

Outcome 2: Ecosystem structure and functions within and outside protected areas conserved.

Outcome 3: Participatory resource governance and equitable access to natural resources and benefit sharing are improved.

Outcome 4: Long-term socio-ecological and environmental monitoring systems are operationalized /established.

Outcome 5: Supportive policy environment and governance at the national level contributing to regional cooperation are improved.

Outcome 1: Economic and social well-being of indigenous and local communities especially disadvantaged groups and women in the landscape improved		
Sl. #	Strategies	Actions
1	Enhancing on/off farm productivity and diversification of livelihood options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and promote cash crops and livestock products through value chain approach Support to enhance technical and managerial capability for production of cash crop, livestock and fish production with priority on niche products Develop and establish programmes to promote sustainable use of biodiversity based on community-based natural resource management Support to enhance private and agro-forestry through value chain approach Promote community level productive infrastructure and services Assess existing opportunities and potential options to create incentives for indigenous and local communities including women
2	Promotion of local resource-based SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and facilitate potential SMEs Promotion of medicinal and aromatic plants and extension Promote farmers' cooperatives in management of local products Support to enhance technical and managerial capacity of women producers and link them to markets
3	Promotion of sustainable tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop local institutional capacity and human resources Mainstream and capacity development of women in tourism value chains Prepare and implement tourism development plan and develop tourism specific physical infrastructure Prepare and implement conservation plan of cultural and natural heritages Facilitate transboundary cooperation to enhance transborder tourism
4	Promotion of water and energy use in social and environment friendly manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to develop and implement efficient water use and conservation plans at community level Promote efficient water use/multiple water use technologies Promotion of alternative energy technologies Support for enhancing social equity in water access and use
5	Mainstreaming GESI in conservation and development programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate/support institutional formalization of Women and poor, disadvantaged, Dalit, indigenous ethnic communities Strengthen capacity of stakeholders, including CBOs and CBNRM institutions on gender sensitive and inclusive conservation and development programs Case studies on emerging issues such as change in gender roles/relations due to different drivers of change such as migration, policy/legislation, climate change, community led NRM enterprises, tourism in the landscape

Outcome 2: Ecosystem structure and functions within and outside protected areas conserved		
1	Management of ecosystems in protected area system (PAs) and biological corridors and connectivity	<p>Baseline survey of ecoregions and ecosystem types</p> <p>Support to prepare/update and implement district forestry sector plan/forest operational plan/watershed, rangelands and wetland management plans</p> <p>Support to implement President Churia-Terai Madesh Conservation Development programme</p> <p>Prepare and implement participatory management plans of IPAs and IBAs outside PAs</p> <p>Support to update KCA management plan</p> <p>Develop and implement community based conservation plan to protect biodiversity hotspots in KL</p> <p>Facilitate and support community, leasehold, collaborative, protected and religious forests</p>
2	Promotion of private forest, public-land forest and agroforestry	<p>Support private and public land planting and agroforestry</p> <p>Understand the biodiversity values and generate awareness programs for private forest, public-land forest, tea gardens and agroforestry</p> <p>Support to generate incentive and develop market linkages</p>
3	Protection and valuation of ecological communities, species and genetic diversity including agrobiodiversity	<p>Prepare/update and implement Species Conservation Action Plan for threatened species</p> <p>Prepare/update and implement conservation action plan for selected land races</p> <p>Identify major poaching sites and species (and their parts and products) and illegal trade route</p> <p>Generate public awareness about poaching and illegal trade</p> <p>Develop and implement participatory mechanism to control illegal wildlife poaching</p>
4	Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts on ecosystems	<p>Identify vulnerable ecosystems</p> <p>Develop and implement climate adaptation plans and restoration plans for ensuring conservation of ecosystems</p> <p>Strengthen capacity of local communities and institutions for implementing plans towards enhance resilience to climate change</p>
5	Mitigation of potential environmental pollution, risks and hazards	<p>Support to identify hazard prone areas and conduct environmental risk assessment</p> <p>Prepare and implement community based plan to minimize environmental pollution and manage risks and hazards</p> <p>Institutionalize community based environmental risk management system</p> <p>Support awareness generation programme at community level</p> <p>Support to enforce EIA, IEE, EFLGF in all development initiatives</p> <p>Support to develop and implement community based forest fire management programmes</p> <p>Support to control animal and plant diseases</p> <p>Support to update knowledge on status, distribution and vulnerability assessment of IAS</p> <p>Strengthen capacity of local organizations and communities in mitigating environmental pollution, risks and hazards</p>
Outcome 3: Participatory resource governance and equitable access to natural resources and benefit sharing are improved		
1	Development of mechanisms for AGRBS with protection and promotion of traditional knowledge (TK), skills and practices, maintaining ecosystem services, and resource governance	<p>Strengthen capacity of local organizations and communities</p> <p>Support for valuation of ecosystems for REDD+ and PES</p> <p>Enhance accessibility to PES and Climate Investment Fund (REDD+ CDM)</p>
2	Mitigation of human-wildlife conflict	<p>Support to develop human wildlife conflict resolution mechanisms and awareness programmes</p> <p>Facilitate community based crop/ livestock insurance and compensation programs</p> <p>Participatory research on human-wildlife conflict</p> <p>Develop and implement awareness programmes to mitigate human-wildlife conflict</p>

3	Mainstreaming GESI including women in conservation and development programs	Support in documentation, sharing and application of TK including gender perspective Develop capacity of TK practitioners and institutions Facilitate in recognition of traditional medicinal practitioners Support in strengthening capacity of user groups and institutions Facilitate in implementing ABS mechanism/protocol Explore bio-prospecting of medicinal and aromatic plants Develop community biodiversity register toolkit Awareness raising and capacity strengthening for ABS
Outcome 4: Long-term socio-ecological and environmental monitoring systems are operationalized/established		
1	Strengthening and implementing of monitoring protocol and guidelines and mainstreaming them into national planning process at various tiers	Support to develop protocol and guidelines Establish management information system and develop information sharing mechanism Support to conduct community based monitoring at all level Capacity strengthening for program monitoring
2	Long term monitoring of social-ecological and environmental processes at national and transboundary levels	Assess periodically land use – land cover – changes and its social – ecological dimension Support in establishing hydro-meteorological stations along the altitudinal gradient Support in establishing long term ecosystem monitoring sites Monitoring of socio-economic processes
Outcome 5: Supportive policy environment and governance at the national level contributing to regional cooperation are improved.		
1	Formulation and harmonization of policies/strategies/legal frameworks for landscape level conservation and development	Support to enhance line ministries capacity in landscape level policy formulation Support for policy development to enhance private sector engagement in forestry Support in formulating and harmonizing legal frameworks Support to enforce existing legal instruments
2	Ensure multi-stakeholders participation and capacity strengthening at various tiers of governance	Support to develop and adopt tools to ensure landscape conservation and development Enhance coordination and cooperation among concerned institutions/ organizations Support strengthening line ministries' capacity at all level Support strengthening capacity of lead research institutions in research and development Support strengthening capacity of local line agencies and other other civil society organisations (CBOs, FUGs) institutions
3	Institutionalization of sustainable financing mechanism	Support in long-term resource mobilization for conservation and development Enforce regulatory framework to support sustainable financing
4	Strengthening transboundary cooperation among partner countries	Strengthen capacity of GOs, NGOs, CBOs and other related stakeholders Support to establish landscape level knowledge management centre Develop and implement information sharing and dissemination mechanism
5	Transboundary cooperation among partner countries	Support in formulating and harmonizing regional legal frameworks on landscape level conservation and development Support for capacity building and functioning of monitoring of resources along the transborder area Support to promote and regulate transboundary tourism, trade and economic activities Promote information sharing among stakeholders through visits to member countries

Annex 7: Highlights from the Regional CDS

Vision: A transboundary landscape with social and economic wellbeing of inhabitants, and ecological and cultural integrity enhanced.

Mission: Enhance people's wellbeing through development of policy and practices valuing science knowledge, innovations, good evidences and promotion of regional cooperation.

Goal: To improve livelihoods and ecological and cultural integrity of the KL by strengthening ecosystem management and regional cooperation.

Outcome 1: More eco-friendly and productive livelihood options adopted;

Outcome 2: Improved management of ecosystem services within and outside protected areas;

Outcome 3: Improved natural resource governance, equitable access to benefits and cultural integrity;

Outcome 4: Improved cooperation among scientists, academics, practitioners and RMCs in conservation and development interventions;

Outcome 5: Strengthened regional cooperation among participating RMCs.

Outcome 1: More eco-friendly and productive livelihood options adopted;		
Sl. #	Strategies	Actions
1	Promote eco-friendly & more productive livelihood options for local communities;	Diversify livelihood options – tourism, off-farm employment; Enhance productivity – agriculture, horticulture, livestock, forests, agroforestry; Promote enterprises – cottage industries, processing and value addition and so on; Promote efficient and sustainable use of water & energy; Explore setting up crop/livestock insurance programme; Strengthen local culture and tradition – arts, crafts, skills and practices; Strengthen research and technological support.
2	Strengthen management of protected areas, biological corridors & ecosystems outside protected areas	Strengthen conservation effectiveness of protected areas; Promote CBS to manage ecosystems within and outside PAs; Enhance management of forest resources – Government Forests, Community Forests, Private Forests etc. Implement management plans for important floral and faunal areas outside PAs; Strengthen infrastructure – management of PAs and BCs; Enhance scientific knowledge – ecological communities, species, genetic diversity, ecosystem functions and agrobiodiversity.
3	Promote participatory, gender sensitive, inclusive and equitable approaches in natural resource management policy and practices	Remold and harmonize sectoral natural resource policies; Promote policies, institutions and practices that ensure socially and gender inclusive development; Strengthen multi-stakeholder and community-based institutions, including customary institutions; Strengthen mechanisms for coordinated planning & implementation of NRM plans; Promote policies and legislations – equitable access to species and genetic resources, regional cooperation.
4	Strengthen regional transboundary cooperation and actions	Establish and make transboundary cooperation platform functional – resolve cross-border issues of trade of natural resources, and so on; Design and apply common methodologies and frameworks; Develop a regional database and share data, including research findings, good practices and others; Implement transboundary landscape management plans – management of ecoregions, migratory species and others.
5	Monitor environmental and socio-economic changes	Strengthen collection, analysis, management and sharing of meteorological, hydrological, cryosphere data.... Operationalize a system – assessment, analysis and documentation of demographic, economic and social changes; Set up and make a system functional – measure, analyze and document changes in the structure of ecosystems.

6	Strengthen capacity of strategic actors / stakeholders	<p>Enhance managerial & planning capacity – social mobilization, resource management planning, conflict resolution, agroforestry management, forest management...</p> <p>Strengthen technical capacity – soil and water conservation, policy revision/formulation, research, extension...</p> <p>Strengthen capacity for transboundary cooperation – resolving cross-border illegal trade, wildlife migration and so on;</p> <p>Raise awareness – NR use, illegal wildlife trade, poaching, policy change, new technologies, improved natural resource use practices, success stories and others;</p> <p>Strengthen capacity of stakeholders for effective monitoring and evaluation of programme/project.</p>
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