

# Mountain Natural Resources



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Series No. MNR 96/1

## **Nepal Madhyasthata Samuha**

### **Jalbire Women's Community Forest Group**

Sapana Pradhan Malla

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# Nepal Madhyasthata Samuha

The Nepal Madhyasthata Samuha was brought together in August 1994 by ICIMOD's Participatory Natural Resources Management Programme. Members of the forum include representatives of government, NGOs, and the private sector. The forum focuses on conflict resolution.

## Jalbare Women's Community Forest Group

Since its inception, the Samuha has collectively participated in two training programmes on conflict resolution, generated several case studies on conflicts in community forestry, and has been instrumental in organising a one-day national seminar and a four-day regional workshop on conflicts and their resolution.

The case study by Sapana Pradhan Malla, emerging over the last one year. This study highlights the circumstances surrounding a dispute between a women's forest user group and the Department of forests, Nepal. We hope that this discussion paper will stimulate community forestry policy-makers, practitioners, and users to examine the consequences of policy, action, and utilisation so that many potential disputes can be prevented or resolved without causing damage to village-level institutions and the resources they are attempting to manage.

**Sapana Pradhan Malla**

This case study will also be made available in Nepali and Hindi.

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Sapana Pradhan Malla is an Advocate of the  
Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Nepal

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# Nepal Madhyasthata Samuha

The Nepal Madhyasthata Samuha was brought together in August 1994 by ICIMOD's Participatory Natural Resources Management Programme. Members of the forum include representatives from the Jalbire Women's Community Forest Group, the Ministry of Forests, Nepal, and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

Since its inception, the Samuha has collectively participated in two training programmes on conflict resolution, generated several case studies on conflicts in community forestry, and has been instrumental in organising a one-day national seminar and a four-day regional workshop on conflicts and their resolution.

The case study by Sapana Pradhan Malla, 'Emerging over the law: a year of conflict resolution in Nepal', describes a dispute between a women's forest user group and the Department of Forests, Nepal. We hope that this discussion paper will stimulate community forestry policy-makers, practitioners, and users to examine the consequences of policy, action, and utilisation so that many potential disputes can be prevented or resolved without causing damage to village-level institutions and the resource they are attempting to manage.

**Sapana Pradhan Malla**

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Sapana Pradhan Malla is an Advocate of the  
Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Nepal

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# PREFACE

The *Nepal Madhyasthata Samuha* is an inter-institutional forum which aims to enhance understanding of the causes and impacts of conflicts about natural resources. The *Nepal Madhyasthata Samuha* was brought together in August 1994 by ICIMOD's Participatory Natural Resources' Management Programme. Members of the forum represent senior policy-makers; non-government organisations, both national and international; professionals from bilateral programmes; and individuals interested in conflict resolution.

Since its inception, the *Samuha* has collectively participated in two training programmes on conflict resolution, generated several case studies on conflicts in community forestry, and has been instrumental in organising a one-day national seminar and a four-day regional workshop on conflicts and their resolution.

The case study by Sapana Pradhan Malla is one of several emerging over the last one year. This study highlights the gender discrimination underlying a dispute between a women's forest user group and the Department of Forests, Nepal. We hope that this discussion paper will stimulate community forestry policy-makers, practitioners, and users to examine the consequences of policy, action, and utilisation so that many potential disputes can be prevented or resolved without causing damage to village-level institutions and the resources they are attempting to manage.

This case study will also be made available in Nepali and Hindi.

Social and Gender-related Impacts

Loss of Confidence in the DOF

Economic Impact

Institutional Impact

Ecological Impact

Impact on the Department of Forests

Gender Implications

Legal Issues

Exploring Possible Recommendations

Policy Level

Departmental Level

District Forest Office Level

Community Level

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## GLOSSARY

<b>ha</b>	hectare (2.5 acres)
<b>cuft</b>	cubic Feet
<b>DFO</b>	District Forest Officer
<b>DOF</b>	Department of Forests
<b>HMG</b>	His Majesty's Government
<b>JWCFG</b>	Jalbire Women's Community Forest Group
<b>OP</b>	Operational Plan
<b>SCF</b>	Save the Children Fund
<b>WRFD</b>	Western Regional Forestry Directorate

## SPECIES

<b>Local Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>
<i>Sissoo</i>	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>
<i>Kapur</i>	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>
<i>Khair</i>	<i>Acacia catechu</i>
<i>Sal</i>	<i>Shorea robusta</i>
<i>Siris (white)</i>	<i>Albizia procera</i>
<i>Chilaune</i>	<i>Schima wallichii</i>
<i>Saj</i>	<i>Terminalia alata</i>
<i>Mahuwa</i>	<i>Madhuca latifolia</i>