Landscape journey

A process tool for practitioners

ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

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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 Himalaya – 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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A process tool for practitioners

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Acknowledgements

Message from the Director General

Journeys have been part and parcel of my professional and personal life. I have been extremely fortunate to be able to journey through the magnificent Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) landscape and interact with its people. These journeys provided me wonderful opportunities to learn and share knowledge with a number of people from different backgrounds. I am sure all of us have had similar experiences. The idea of a landscape journey process that is more deliberate and structured takes this joyful experience of a journey and turns it into an innovative tool or an approach that allows us to understand and make better choices about landscapes.

I have been lucky to be part of at least a couple of such journey processes. The one currently underway in the Godavari landscape in Lalitpur, Nepal has started to bring about greater collaboration among multiple stakeholders towards a shared vision of 'Hamro Godavari, Ramro Godavari' (our Godavari, good Godavari) with a mission of a clean and green Godavari. A multi stakeholder forum has been set up at the ICIMOD Knowledge Park in Godavari after the second iteration of the landscape journey. I am sure that the forum will have its role cut out in the days to come. I also had the opportunity of joining the landscape journey process in Tsirang, Bhutan. The process provided space and vision for integrated actions at the local level in the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan in as many as three key result areas.

I must compliment the landscape journey team for sharing their account of 16 journeys from as many diverse landscapes and for weaving it together to bring out key process steps in this guidebook for practitioners. I look forward to extensive use of the process tool in ICIMOD's programmes, initiatives and themes over the next Medium Term Action Plan (2018–2022). I am sure that hundreds of partner institutions across our eight member countries in the HKH and beyond will find the landscape journey to be an exciting process through which to look beyond sectoral and disciplinary boundaries, and seek holistic and integrated solutions for the wellbeing of landscapes and people.

David Molden
Director General, ICIMOD

Foreword

Breaking silos and shifting towards transdisciplinary approaches is the need of the hour, more so in the context of our collective commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and addressing complex changes in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. The landscape journey, as an evolving process tool, has shown great potential in bringing together inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary perspectives for developing shared understanding and preparing the ground for integrated actions and long-term solutions. As many as 16 journeys featured in the guidebook bear testimony to this and all these evidently show strengthening of nature–people relationships.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) brings applied science to bear on policy and practice for co-developing sustainable solutions and contributing to resilience building in the HKH region. The landscape journey process draws upon science, policy, and practitioner constituencies to develop holistic understanding and integrated solutions. This guide book captures the application of landscape journeys in an array of situations – from the development of holistic understanding about landscape elements and issues to their application in integrated planning and the implementation of landscape conservation and development initiatives. It has also found place in curriculum for capacity-building programmes on landscape governance.

These landscape journeys provide opportunities for people-to-people contact irrespective of social barriers, breaking hierarchical barriers to people–policy connect, strengthening people–nature relations in balancing conservation and development, and promoting transdisciplinary approaches involving stakeholders to resolve issues and apply need-based solutions, among others.

I am sure that this process tool will be useful not only to the programmatic and thematic work of ICIMOD but also find extensive use in the work of partner organizations in the HKH and beyond in the years to come. My compliments to the authors and the larger landscape journey team for bringing out an innovative process tool.

Eklabya Sharma
Deputy Director General, ICIMOD

Preface

The winter of 2002 has a special place in my memory. A journey, the Satpuranachal Yatra (a journey to the Satpura Landscape) was planned with a handful of colleagues in the Seoni Forest Circle, Madhya Pradesh, India where I was posted as Conservator of Forests. Over a period of two weeks, the team traversed the east–west stretch of the Satpura hill ranges in the state of Madhya Pradesh, passing through some of the most bio-culturally rich areas, interacting with a range of stakeholders. The 'yatra' (journey) was accompanied by a rich display of the biocultural diversity of the Satpura landscape, in exhibit form, mounted on a mobile van, to be used as a prop for initiating discussions and getting people to further engage and co-create. The yatra process helped discuss issues around bio-cultural diversity and richness, its conservation, and the ways to enrich livelihoods through sustainable use. The process also allowed us to see how disconnected policy–practice–science could be. It also put us in touch with hundreds of champions – practitioners and traditional knowledge holders – who were doing things differently. Subsequently, in 2003, half a dozen landscape yatras were organized in Seoni district that would feed into local-level planning for conservation of biodiversity and livelihood enhancement.

A stint at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India (2010–14) gave me an opportunity to share and seek enrichment of the journey process in a range of situations. Journeys through the Kailash and Kangchenjunga landscapes in India and yet another journey through the Satpura Landscape in

Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, India were the most prominent ones made during this period. A brief engagement with the Askot–Arakot decadal journey led by Dr Shekhar Pathak and his team from the People's Association for Himalaya Area Research (PAHAR) in Uttarakhand, India in 2014 was inspiring. Work at ICMOD from 2015 onwards provided several opportunities to further enrich the process tool across landscape initiatives in India, China, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan.

The journey mode brings with it the excitement of learning and exploring things, together with multiple stakeholders. The journey

is about a shift in perspective – from sectoral to inter-sectoral, from single discipline to interdisciplinary. The journey process brings appreciation of landscape elements, the challenges and opportunities therein, and a shared understanding/vision that could drive the strategy and actions. The guide book tries to capture this exciting process and the steps involved therein.

This guide book is in no way a complete work, neither does it try to provide answers to the complexity of multiple issues that landscapes/ ecosystems and people face today. It does, however, provide a simple but interesting process to landscape approach practitioners to try things out differently. It is hoped that the evolutionary journey of the process tool will be a continuous one in the hands of hundreds of practitioners in the years to come.

Brij Mohan Singh Rathore

Acronyms and abbreviations

CBS	Centre for Bhutan Studies
CDI	Centre for Development Innovation
CEMP	Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring Plan
CIRC	Community Information Resource Centre
CNP	Chitwan National Park
CS	Conservation Strategy
FYP	Five Year Plan
FWED	Forest Wildlife and Environment Department
GBPNIHESD	GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development
GNH	Gross National Happiness
GNHC	Gross National Happiness Commission
GMSF	Godavari Multi Stakeholders Forum
HI-LIFE	Landscape Initiative for Far-eastern Himalaya
HKH	Hindu Kush Himalaya
HKPL	Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape
HOA-CCP	Horn of Africa Climate Change Programme
HOAREN	Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Network
IBA	Important Bird and Biodiversity Area
ICFRE	Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
ICIMOD KP	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development Knowledge Park
IMI	Integrated Mountain Initiative
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KBR	Kangchenjunga Biosphere Reserve
KCC	Kangchenjunga Conservation Committee
KIB	Kunming Institute of Botany
KNP	Khunjerab National Park
KSLCDI	Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative
LCT	Life Cycle Thinking
LSJ	Landscape Journey
LSY	Landscape Yatra
LU	Lanzhou University
MBSR	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction
MEA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MoAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forest
MoEF&CC	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
MONREC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
MTAP	Medium Term Action Plan
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
PA	Protected Areas
PAHAR	Peoples Association for Himalayan Area Research
PURA	Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas
PVA	Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SORALO	Southern Rift Association of Land Owners
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN	United Nations
UWICER	Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research
VTR	Valmiki Tiger Reserve
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

About this process tool for practitioners

The *Landscape Journey: Process tool for Practitioners* provides insights into how the landscape approach can be understood, conceived, applied, and promoted using the landscape journey process tool.

The toolkit is divided into five chapters. Chapters 1 and 2 deal with the conceptual narrative of the landscape approach and the landscape journey. Chapter 3 captures 16 landscape journey accounts leading to Chapter 4, which picks up lessons learnt from 16 journeys, revisits conceptual understanding, and narrates a way forward. Chapter 5 details how one can go about organizing landscape journeys.

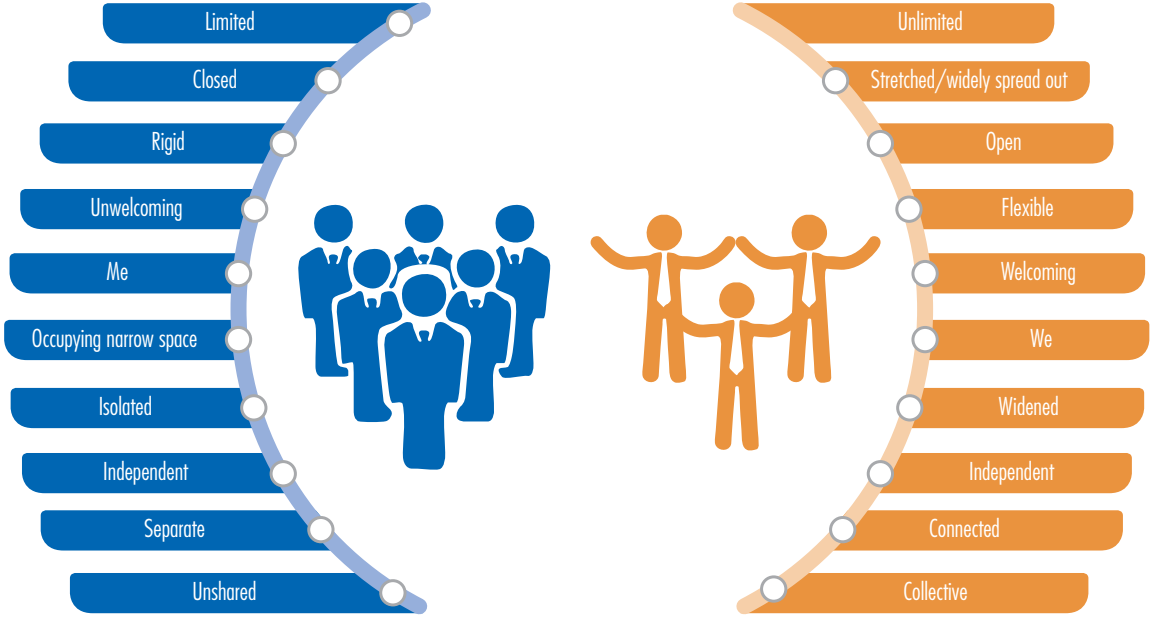
This 'toolkit' begins with an explanation of the 'landscape approach' – the idea that sets the foundation for integration and holistic understanding (Chapter 1). It then talks about the basic idea behind the 'landscape journey process tool' and it's fit with the landscape approach (Chapter 2). Experiences of 16 journeys organized within their own geographic and thematic backgrounds are then shared (Chapter 3). Reading through these journeys, one can visualize how diverse the journey process and the lessons from them can be. Building from the stories, lessons, and challenges arriving these journeys, a 'common thread' or the essence of landscape journey is then built up (Chapter 4). This is meant to provide clear insights to practitioners on the purpose and scope of the landscape journey. The chapter further helps build a narrative on how this innovative process tool can be applied in the wider context of achieving sustainable (mountain) development. The final chapter (Chapter 5) presents broad guidelines for organizing the 'landscape journey' – the pre-requisites and the outputs (Chapter 5). However, these are only indicative steps for organizing the journey, innovations happen as the practitioners undergo the journey process.

Building on many participatory approaches and adult learning principles, the 'practitioners toolkit' is meant to connect, complement, and converge interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral perspectives towards shared understanding and actions. The landscape journey as a process tool brings with it the excitement of journeys, while weaving together the key principles of the landscape approach.

Chapter 1: Landscape approach

Brij MS Rathore, Bandana Shakya, and Rajan Kotru

To introduce the landscape approach to participants of a training workshop, you may start with a simple exercise. First, ask them to stand wherever they are and take position as shown on the left in the figure below. Now, ask them to extend their arms as shown on the right. Notice how they adjust as they extend their arms. Ask the group how they feel about these two positions. Here are some of the responses.



The responses on the left remind us of conventional sectoral approaches. The responses on the right give us a window to the landscape approach. During the landscape journey process, we can try this as an exercise with the journey participants to understand the essence of the landscape approach.

Landscapes could be seen as socio-ecological constructs that thrive on relationships and interconnectedness. Interacting ecosystems in a given landscape provide a range of ecosystem services that benefit people living in the landscape and those beyond (MEA, 2005). Water, biodiversity, biomass, nutrient recycling, carbon sequestration, pollination, and cultural services are some of the services that ecosystems provide. Large landscapes provide unfettered movement of species, not bound by administrative or political boundaries. Mountain landscapes are seen as key to the wellbeing of people within the landscape and beyond (upstream/downstream).

Of late, landscapes within and across countries are being transformed by multiple factors including globalization, markets, demographic change, technology, climate, natural hazards, and so on. The close-knit bio-cultural fabric of mountain landscapes too is fast changing on account of these multiple drivers of change. Rapid economic growth is driving fragmentation of habitats within landscapes, loss of forest and biodiversity, increased human–wildlife conflict, pollution and waste, declining ecosystem services, and increased disaster events. It is also leading to increased social disconnect and disharmony.

Sectoral responses are ineffective in dealing with the challenges of fast-changing landscapes. The silo mentality and reductionist thinking have seriously undermined systems thinking. Sectoral as well as disciplinary blinds have often undermined the development of long-term solutions. While we may claim progress in one sector, other sectors are inadvertently affected. The incoherence of sectoral policies may lead to a zero sum game. Each sectoral intervention comes with an institutional preposition and often there are far too many institutions and not enough interconnectedness between them.

Sustainable development challenges call for holistic and integrated solutions rather than sectoral and single discipline-based ones. Moreover, these need to address issues of scale, with full participation and ownership of multiple stakeholders. There is a gradual realization that natural resource management challenges are interdisciplinary and cut across different thematic sectors, and across the socio-cultural and economic spectrum. Sectoral solutions are therefore inadequate to address these challenges, since one issue is influenced by another and one institution or one sector alone does not have adequate knowledge and experience/resource to holistically address the challenges. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underscore the need to see connectedness across different goals. Goal 17 specifically calls for coherence in policy and institutions (UN, 2015).

The landscape approach has to be seen in the above context. The approach aims at "reconciliation of competing social, economic, and environmental objectives" in a given landscape. Value systems or principles governing the landscape approach continue to be documented along with examples of such approaches from across the world (Sayer et al., 2013). The conventional approach to natural resource management is slow to gravitate towards the landscape approach. Popularizing the landscape approach has not been easy, as evident from progress made over the last decade and half. However, there are examples that inspire confidence. Key elements/ principles of the landscape approach that distinguish it from the conventional approach of natural resource management are described in Table 1.

The landscape approach is still emerging and breaking new ground. The landscape journey needs to be seen as an innovation which is evolving as a useful process tool to help break silos and move towards a shared understanding and vision of sustainable landscapes.

Landscape approach	Conventional natural resource management approaches
Multi stakeholdership Deals with a mosaic of land-use/ecosystems within a landscape, requiring engagement of multiple disciplines and stakeholders to define the problem/challenge and arrive at the solutions	**Limited stakeholdership** Addresses a given land use or an ecosystem; usually led by the sector related to such land use to define and address the problem; e.g., forest or agriculture sector led by respective agencies; Inter-sectoral connect rather weak, engagement of stakeholders limited
Multi-scale Land use assessed at multiple scales underscoring relational dimension and interdependence; e.g., protected areas seen along with buffer zones, surrounding multiple use forests and corridors, and other land-uses	**Scale narrowly defined** Mostly concerned with the given area: e.g., a forest block or forest stand, a protected area; their relational aspect to other land use and the same land use at different scales is limited
Shared understanding and vision Requires shared understanding and vision fostered across multiple stakeholders concerned with different land use/ecosystems of the landscape	**Sector-specific understanding** Relies mostly on sectoral hierarchy; communication to build common understanding is largely within the sector
Focus on multiple ecosystem services Stakeholders value/prioritize multiple ecosystem services from different ecosystems differently; the approach reconciles these values in a spatially explicit manner; use of zonation to reconcile competing interests	**Only a few ecosystem services prioritized** The focus is usually on one or two ecosystem services, primarily provisioning services; the management tries to maximize production of these services from a given ecosystem; e.g., a forest ecosystem to maximize production of key provisioning services of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs).
Inclusive participation Strongly rooted in the precepts and practice of participatory approaches binding multiple stakeholders; collaboration and partnership are key instruments	**Limited participation** Participation usually limited to one or two key stakeholders for a given sector; e.g., forest department seeking local community participation in the forestry sector
Integrated planning Landscapes seen as interacting ecosystems; e.g., forest, agriculture, pastures/grazing land, water bodies/riparian areas, habitation; actions in one sector/ecosystem impacts others; emphasis on integrated participatory planning, implementation, and monitoring involving multiple land uses and multiple stakeholders	**Sectoral planning** Sectoral planning addresses the issue within the sector/ecosystem with limited links to other sectors; e.g. forest plan, livestock plan, and agriculture plan each being promoted by one or the other agency with limited connect to other plans in the same area
Multi-stakeholder platforms Platforms or institutions for multi stakeholder engagement at different scales help in shared understanding and negotiations	**Platforms for sectoral stakeholders** Functional platforms/institutions for multiple stakeholder participation limited; platforms exist for sector-specific stakeholders
Constant learning and adaptation Uncertainties and multiple perspectives demand continuous learning and improvement	**Learning limited** Participatory approaches that have evolved over the last 2–3 decades in different sectors/programmes appear to have stagnated in terms of capturing diversity

Chapter 2: The landscape journey as a process tool

Brij MS Rathore, Bandana Shakya, Ranbeer Rawal and Rajeev Semwal

2.1 Landscape journey

A landscape journey (LSJ) is a participatory process that brings together multi-disciplinary/inter-sectoral team(s) in a given landscape to develop holistic appreciation and understanding of landscape elements and the issues therein. It is meant to establish connectedness and convergence among actors, sectors, and disciplines at different scales towards shared understanding, visions, and actions.

A landscape journey is not a leisure activity like nature tourism; rather, it is an exciting process with a purpose – to facilitate careful observation of landscape elements, and meaningful communication and interactions among stakeholders representing multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral perspectives for shared understanding and commitment for action.

It is a process that facilitates 'connect' with:

- Different landscape elements (nature, people, culture, economy, traditions, etc.)
- Different sectoral perspectives (government line agencies like forests, water, agriculture, livestock, rural development, community, private sector, etc.)
- Different disciplines (social, physical, and biological sciences)
- Stakeholders representing science–practice–policy constituencies and a deeper 'self'

Improved connect leads to shared understanding, strategy, and actions with greater ownership from multiple stakeholders. As outlined by Beierle and Konisky (2001), the landscape journey enables better relationships among stakeholders, building stakeholders' capacities for managing landscape issues, thereby facilitating quality decision making.

2.2 The journey mode

Across the globe, since ancient times, yatras or journeys through landscapes at various spatial scales have played a significant role in understanding and communicating the dynamism and interplay of nature, culture, and society (Ingold, 1993). People from diverse walks of life such as pilgrims, mountaineers, traders, administrators, and scientific and natural explorers have historically explored mountain landscapes for different purposes. All these journeys/yatras have helped build historical, bio-physical, socio-cultural, and economic perspectives and contributed significantly to a comprehensive understanding of mountain landscapes. In a landscape, means of livelihoods, socio-cultural practices (i.e., spiritual experiences, music, dance, folklore, customs, etc.), and natural resource management practices (i.e., biodiversity conservation, agriculture, watershed management, etc.) all co-evolve. As this happens, an all-encompassing pattern of life with specific (and sometimes unique) expressions of values, norms, and traditional knowledge emerges and ensures harmony between nature and the local inhabitants of a given landscape. However, environmental, socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and technological factors have dramatically changed all of these interconnected, mutually reinforcing, and sustainable patterns of yore. A journey through the landscape, with landscape stakeholders, therefore becomes an interesting process of appreciating the landscape and gaining a more rounded understanding of issues that the stakeholders see from their perspectives. Using the journey mode with inter-disciplinary teams helps in building an understanding in a most engaging way. The LSJ approach with its inherent simplicity has the potential to help stakeholders find this connect for developing sustainable solutions. The journey or yatra also brings excitement, an integral part of our quest for new knowledge and experience.

2.3 Good fit with landscape approach

Stakeholder engagement at multiple scales in a given landscape, understanding of landscape issues based on shared perspectives of diverse stakeholders, shared vision for collaborative actions, clarification of rights and responsibilities, improved capacity of stakeholders, and continual learning and adaptive management are elements that show a good fit of the landscape journey with the landscape approach principles.

2.4 Three phases of the landscape journey

Broadly, landscape journeys can be divided into three phases: pre-journey phase (preparatory phase), journey phase, and post-journey phase. While Part II of the guide book details all that goes into organizing an LSJ, it is important to not that each phase contributes strongly to the next one. Repeated journeys in the same landscapes or elsewhere bring progressive refinement. In terms of duration, an LSJ can a day to 2–3 days or a week or couple of weeks long. The post-journey phase may highlight the need for more detailed investigation or baseline studies.

2.5 Participatory approaches

The landscape journey uses various participatory tools and methods such as stakeholder mapping, resource mapping, transect walks, ethnography, team meetings, reflections, partnership brokering, and stakeholder dialogue at different scales. The landscape journey as process tool builds upon the essence of these different tools/ methods in a journey mode.

Chapter 3: Journey experiences across 16 landscapes

3.1 Many *yatras*, many connects

Multiple landscape journeys under the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative

Ranbeer S Rawal, Ravindra K Joshi, and Ajay Rastogi

Introduction

The transboundary Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI), with an operational area of about 31,000 km^2, spread over China, India, and Nepal. It aims to improve biodiversity conservation in the landscape and bring sustainable livelihood benefits to local communities. As a transboundary initiative in the Himalaya, it has remained innovative in its approach, evolving in nature, and iterative in its process. The programme has gone through an intensive documentation-focused preparatory and start-up phase (2009–2012) and an action-oriented implementation phase (2013–2017).

Among other innovative, iterative, and evolving approaches tested during different stages of the project, the landscape journey (more popularly known as landscape yatra in the Indian part of the landscape) has carved its own niche. Following historical evidence, at the very beginning of KSLCDI, the project's Indian partners considered the idea of a landscape yatra as an effective process tool to (i) connect with the land and people, (ii) facilitate social interaction in a participatory manner, and (iii) understand transitions in nature and society. More importantly, a landscape yatra was identified as a process to overcome disconnects among landscape players. These disconnects manifest in various degrees within and across various arms of service delivery, particularly between

government agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs), government agencies and scientific institutions, government agencies and communities, etc. Further, it is evident that different agencies of the government, with similar mandates and objectives, often end up working in silos, thereby reducing the effectiveness of programmes. For scientific institutions, the disconnect between lab-to-land and land-to-lab, and the inability to scale up the success of pilots remain key concerns which limit the potential of innovations. In the same vein, despite the overwhelming growth of the private–sector across India, its engagement to ensure long-term well-being of nature and communities has remained very limited in this remote landscape. Likewise, also apparent is the disconnect of public–private partnerships, which could reconcile conservation needs and growth. The use of the landscape journey as an evolving approach that is simple enough to act upon has received acceptance among a wide range of stakeholder constituencies (Rawal et al., 2015).

The beginning – realizing potential

The preparatory and start-up phase of KSLCDI witnessed several journeys undertaken by the Kailash-India country team. A joint transboundary journey was also conducted by Indian and Nepali teams. These journeys helped the Indian team generate rapid landscape-level information and conduct a needs assessment for developing a comprehensive long-term implementation plan.

Deep dives into conceptual understanding

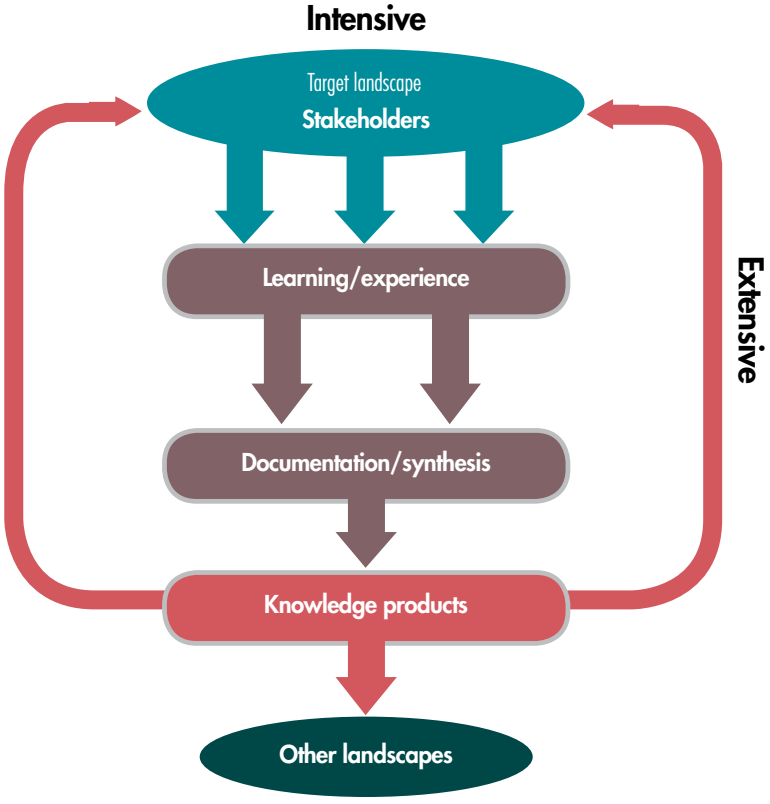
Encouraged by the success of the yatra in its preparatory phase, a series of consultations within and beyond the KSL-India team were organized, leading to consensus on a broad framework of two distinct but interconnected journey phases: (i) 'virhad' or 'visrat' (extensive or horizontal) yatra – this broadly captures and familiarizes the team with a broad sweep of landscape elements as well as the related issues, challenges, and opportunities, and

Yatra matters

Yatras have played a significant role in understanding and communicating the dynamism of nature, culture, and society since time immemorial. The Kailash Sacred Landscape, at the tri-junction of the Tibet Autonomous Region (China), India, and Nepal, forms a unique biophysical and cultural entity which has historically been an attraction for journeys – pilgrimages, spiritual journeys, adventure and mountaineering, trade, tours, and scientific voyages by early British administrations. Notably, the yatras of religious leaders, explorers and geographers, administrators, scientists and naturalists, writers and spiritual seekers have helped build historical, bio-physical, and socio-cultural perspectives of the landscape and its surroundings. More recently, yatras conducted by the People's Association for Himalayan Area Research (PAHAR) team and group pilgrimages to Kailash Mansarovar have added to the knowledge base. Besides these, thousands of people have passed through the landscape for centuries in caravans conducting barter and trade. All these journeys have shaped this bio-physically and socio-culturally diverse landscape of significant global value.

(ii) 'gahan' (intensive or vertical) yatra, which employs scientific rigour and methodologies to collect and analyse information on specific aspects/key issues. Two phases help in facilitating planning, implementation, and monitoring programmes to ensure the long-term well-being of nature and people.

With this broader understanding, as many as 10 landscape yatras were undertaken during the planning and implementation phase of the Kailash Initiative (2013–2017) in the Ramganga, Gori, Kali, and Dhauli valleys of the Kailash landscape in Pithoragarh district, India.



Oragnizing the yatra: The team

To capture insights and effectively use the 'yatra way', the focus was on constituting the right team of 'yatris' (journey mates). It generally comprised four kinds of yatris: scientists/academicians/researchers, policy makers, and practitioners, and local leaders/innovators. Journeys were organized for various purposes. Special planning, training, and orientation remained key constituients of all these yatras and attempts were made to conduct them in remote unexplored areas. The core of each yatra was adequate and informal interaction with local communities. These journeys also formed a key part of the communication strategy of KSL-India. All yatras followed the principle of remaining low profile and cost effective. They also involved de-briefing to diverse stakeholder groups. The duration of most yatras was 6–10 days; however, in remote, inaccessible areas, some yatras extended for over 15 days.

Yatra contributions and uptake

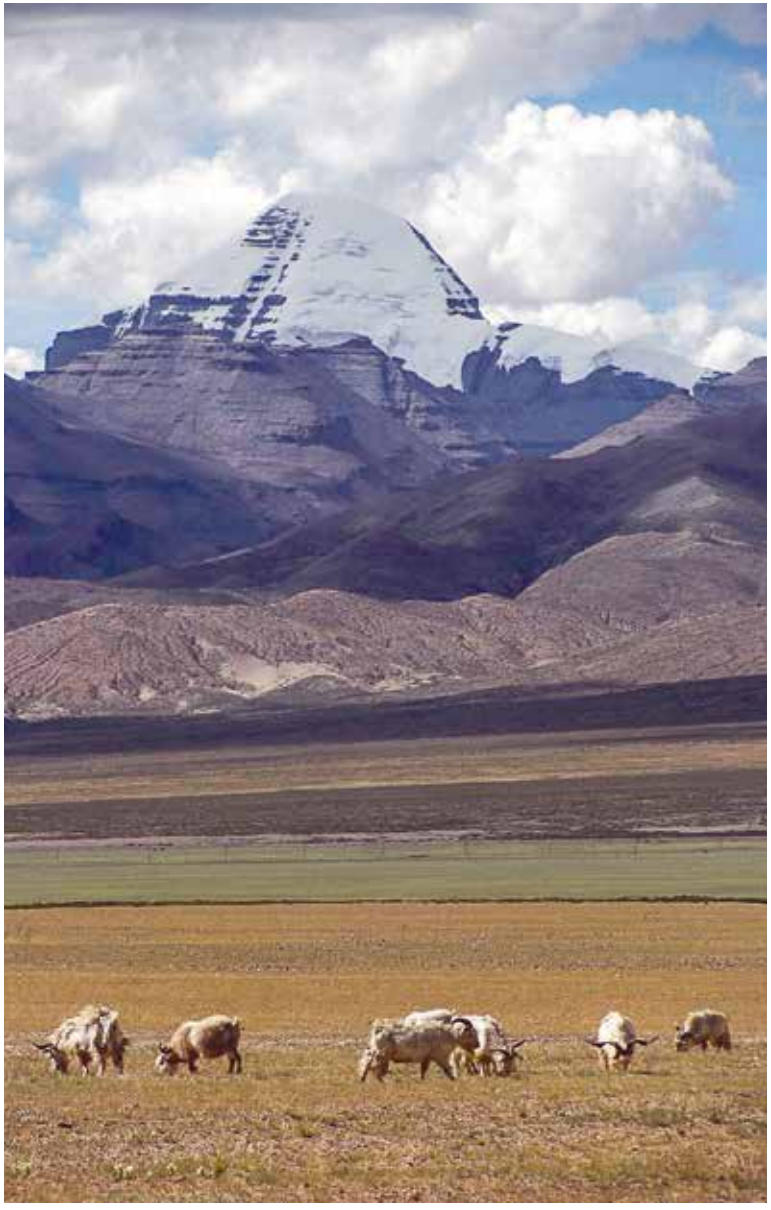
While each journey has specific outcomes and learning, the overarching outcomes are summarized as follows:

- Yatras have greatly contributed to: (i) better understanding of the interface between and transitions of systems (natural, cultural, economic, political, etc.), ii) understanding of transboundary issues, (iii) assessing opportunities and challenges to meet the Initiave objectives, (iv) prioritizing entry-level activities for facilitating wider stakeholder/social engagement, and (v) identifying opportunities for building synergy with local governance systems and convergence with ongoing programmes and schemes.
- The information generated through yatras during the preparatory phase of KSLCDI was useful in the preparation of three base documents: (i) feasibility document, (ii) conservation strategy (CS), and (iii) comprehensive environmental monitoring plan (CEMP). Also, the outcomes of various on-site consultations,

held during the course of yatra, provided inputs on the needs, aspirations, and options in the landscape. All this provided a strong base for preparing the implementation plan document.

- Encouraged by the outcome(s), particularly the potential mechanism for participatory information and awareness generation, the KSLCDI India team agreed to establish multidisciplinary landscape journeys as an integral part of the long-term implementation plan for KSLCDI.
- Landscape journeys have proven to be an effective way of: (i) self-learning about the landscape and raising awareness among policy makers and local communities, (ii) understanding the range of problems faced by people and their needs in a holistic manner, (iii) assessing successful interventions and locally adapted technologies and their potential for replication in other parts of the landscape, (iv) greater connect/access of senior government officials with communities and practitioners, and (v) interdisciplinary connect to understand and solve complex problems in an integrated manner, in an atmosphere of trust and mutual help. The yatra way has also contributed to bridging the science–policy–practice disconnect.

The extensive coverage of landscapes through these yatras emphasized the need for immediate action on certain prevalent and serious issues, which require policy interventions: (i) road building with sensitivity to ecology, (ii) solid waste/plastic management, (iii) strengthening public transport, (iv) promoting sustainable practices in yartsa gunbu collection, (v) promoting ecotourism, including traditional cuisines and folk art, by building upon the rich bio-cultural heritage, (vi) addressing issues of unprecedented outmigration, (vii) policy support to traditional and niche agricultural crops, and (viii) promoting the idea of an 'organic' state. It also brought to the fore the need to build on the rich indigenous knowledge systems of communities.



3.2 Scaling up

Landscape journey in Barsong, Bhutan for an innovative 12th Five Year Plan

Sanjeev Bhuchar, Tashi Dorji, Surendra R Joshi, and Tshering Samdrup

Introduction

ICIMOD's Support to Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalaya (Himalica) initiative piloted climate-smart technologies and practices in Barshong Gewog (district sub-unit) of Tsirang Dzongkhang (district) in Bhutan. The Local Government Administration of Tsirang as well as ICIMOD's nodal agency in Bhutan, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest (MoAF), recognized the success of climate-resilient practices implemented in Barshong. The Government of Bhutan desired a scaling up of these good practices from the Barshong pilot to the district, regional and national levels. Since Bhutan was in the process of formulating its 12th Five Year Plan (FYP) (2018–2022) at the time, mainstreaming learning from the pilot area into the local five year plan was seen as a good platform for scaling up and sustaining the outcomes of the programme. The landscape journey was applied to achieve this process.

Preparing for the landscape journey

Preparation for the Barshong landscape journey began with several rounds of brainstorming sessions within the ICIMOD team on the use of the LSJ as a process tool for mainstreaming best practices from pilot areas into the larger government planning process. It led to the identification of key topics and specific exercises that could convey the message. The programme was designed to enable participants to understand the fundamental principles of landscape journey through presentations, exercises, and experience on the ground.

The second part of the preparation involved maintaining active communication with Bhutan partners to agree on a suitable timing for the event to ensure maximum participation of relevant stakeholders. Since the purpose of the exercise was to motivate the local government to take up best practices from Barshong to the district-level plan, it required leadership of the Chief District Planning Officer, district sector in charge officials, Gups (Heads of Blocks), Assistant Gups, Block Development Officers, the Secretariat of the District Development Committees, Block Extension Officers, and supporting institutions. Strong support and ownership of the programme by the District Governor and active engagement of key local officials enscured their participation.

The third part of the preparation involved interfacing with local resource experts on the use of landscape journey tools and processes, and details of managing the whole event. Some key members were already oriented to the topic of landscape governance and journey during earlier ICIMOD training events. Proactive engagement from local experts to lead the LSJ process was crucial for local ownership, continuous capacity development, refinement, and for further broadening the scope of the application of LSJ tools.

On the day before the start of the journey, the resource persons revisited the tools to be applied, divided up the roles for each expert, and mobilized necessary materials and toolkits. A detailed road map of the event was discussed and agreed upon.

The Barshong landscape journey

The LSJ began with the participants gathering in a Geog setting. This was essential to connect the participants to actual rural settings in the pilot area. The orientation session made use of participatory tools such as check-in, landscape mapping, and stakeholder

analysis, making participants feel comfortable, and motivating and encouraging them to express opinions and provide inputs, irrespective of whether they might be right or wrong. A check-in session in the morning, connecting to nature and bringing a local context to spirituality, well-being, and happiness were part of the exercises. Tools focused on connecting a multidisciplinary team of stakeholders to the environment, bio-culture, and society of Tsirang in order to build a shared sustainable vision and develop integrated and collective actions.

Field visits provided opportunity for the participants to observe and appreciate the efforts of Barshong farmers in adopting climate-resilient practices. As the saying goes, seeing is believing, and there was no ambiguity among participants regarding the benefits and scalability of the technologies and practices adopted by the communities in Barshong.

In-house sessions reinforced the science and logic behind what was promoted in Barshong in terms of sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation. These were also linked to Bhutan's development philosophy of 'gross national happiness'.

The group work provided block officers and representatives an opportunity to connect to their own landscape and working area, revisit their ongoing plans, and make preparations to replicate technologies that are working well in Barshong. The participants also understood what resources are required, who the stakeholders to network with are, and what policy and technical inputs are required.

Experience-sharing by local champions and practitioners further motivated the participants on the need to go beyond sectoral boundaries and the need for a multi-disciplinary team to work collectively in the landscape.

Over the course of the three days the landscape journey process encompassed, the participants got a better sense of the concepts of 'landscape' and 'landscape governance', and also connected with each other. They visited Barshong (a Himalica pilot area) to understand the landscape's key elements – natural, socio-cultural, physical, institutions, and livelihoods – by experiencing the place through the senses – seeing, hearing, smelling, and touching, and understanding how the different elements are interconnected. The participants also observed different climate-smart practices piloted in Barshong through Himalica and interacted with farmers to learn about the strengths and challenges. The process also included story-telling by a progressive young farmer and inputs from Himalica team members from Tsirang and ICIMOD on the good practices piloted in Barshong, value chains, and springshed management. On the third day, the participants identified climate-resilient technologies and good practices from the Himalica pilot site in Barshong for inclusion in the local 12th Five Year Plan for Gewogs in Tsirang.

The sharing of the outcome of the event by the participants with local leaders, the Vice Governor, the District Judge, and senior decision makers, in the presence of the Director General of ICIMOD and the Secretary of the Ministry of Agricultural and Forests (MoAF) in Thimphu was crucial for ensuring ownership and uptake of the outcomes at local/district and national levels.

Landscape journey outcomes

The landscape governance journey process helped in connecting different local stakeholders (government and community) and enabled them to weave together innovative action plans for their 12th FYP for Tsirang district. Most importantly, the LSJ contributed in taking forward Bhutan's 12th FYP implementation strategy in the direction of the three Cs: consolidation, coordination, and cooperation.

Participants come together for a check-in session each morning

A progressive farmer from Barshong shares his story

The journey also helped in identifying the links between piloted good practices (Box 1) in the 12th FYP and the local government's key result areas.

The following elements of the journey process worked well:

- Advanced planning for the landscape journey
- Support from the district administration/District Governor for organizing the journey
- Having national resource persons on board as lead facilitators
- Collaboration with Barshong Gup and administrative officers in the journey process
- Selection of landscape governance tools, methods, and presentations to support the 12th FYP process
- Active collaboration among team members

The landscape journey process was very useful because it enabled the team members to get a better sense of the elements of Tsirang's landscape and see how they are interdependent. They also realized

Box 1: Resilient practices identified from Himalica pilot, Barshong for local 12th Five Year Plan of Gewogs in Tsirang, Bhutan

- Vegetable farming techniques
- Improved goat shed with stall feeding facility
- Low-cost water harvesting
- Low-cost plastic greenhouse
- Biochar
- Bio digester with improved cattle shed
- Napier grass cultivation for sustainable land management
- Farmer-led innovative credit scheme
- Springshed management

the need for different stakeholders to work together to reach their respective goals and seek complementarity. The journey could have been extended by one more day to allow more time for stakeholder analysis.

According to Tsheltrim Dorji, Senior Planning Officer at the Tsirang Dzongkhag Administration, the landscape journey organized by Himalica was very timely because it happened when "we are all involved in the process of drafting the local-level 12th Five Year Plan. The journey was relevant to identifying integrated plans for three local government key result areas: gainful employment and enhanced local economy, enhanced food and nutrition security, and enhanced community health and water security".

3.3 Building shared understanding

A landscape journey to Mu Lar-Nam Ru watershed, Putao, Kachin, Myanmar

Naing Zaw Htun, Aung Maung, Saw Htun, Kyaw Zay Ya, Sambung Sin, Ghulam Ali, and Bandana Shakya

Background and context

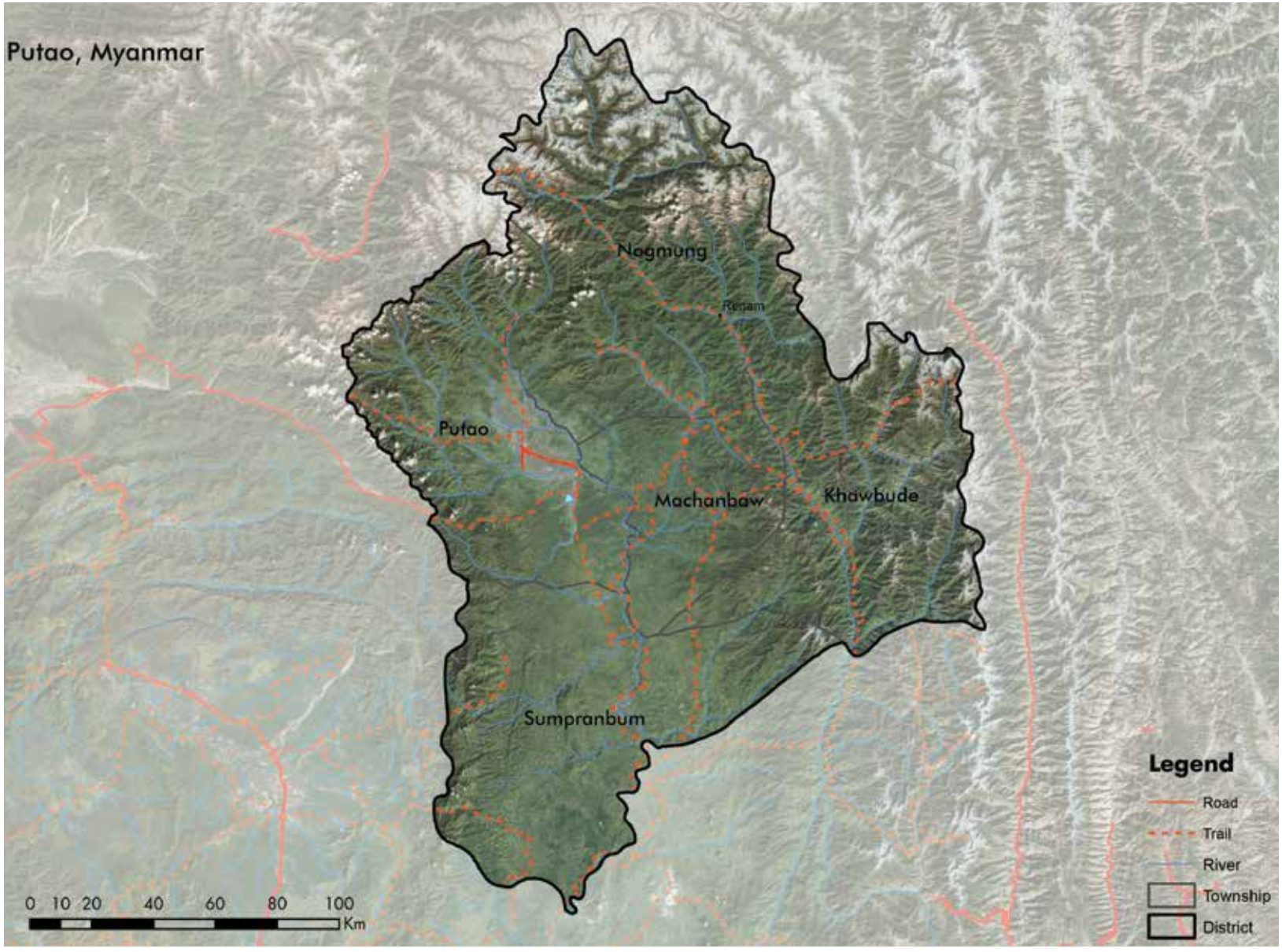
The landscape journey to Mu Lar-Nam Ru watershed in Kachin State, Myanmar was organized as a part of the regional transboundary Landscape Initiative for the Far-eastern Himalaya (HI-LIFE). The HI-LIFE Initiative facilitates regional cooperation between China, India, and Myanmar to promote integrated conservation and development in the far-eastern Himalayan landscape shared by the three countries. The pilot site is located in the micro watershed of Malikha in the Putao district in northern part of Kachin State and includes seven villages. The site is adjacent to the Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary.

The purpose

The purpose of the landscape journey was to build shared understanding about integrated landscape management, and to identify conservation-linked livelihood opportunities for the communities at the pilot site.

Planning and organization

The Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), Wildlife Conservation Society, Myanmar, and ICIMOD jointly organized the journey from 23 February to 3 March 2016. A series of events were planned: orientation programme, visit to villages, consolidation of village-


Putao, Myanmar
Nogmung
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Machanbaw
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Road
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Township
District

level outputs, debriefing to decision-makers at the district and centre, and core team meeting and discussions on way forward actions.

The landscape journey required careful planning and a step-wise procedure. Before the journey, the Forest Department and Wildlife Conservation Society, in consultation with the Putao district government and community, selected the pilot site, identified multidisciplinary participants, and prepared a detailed itinerary. The journey started with a stakeholders' workshop at Myitkyina, where Kachin State authorities were informed about HI-LIFE and the essence of the landscape journey process tool. The next meeting was the orientation workshop at Putao where the District Administrator and journey participants were briefed about the objectives of the landscape journey. Participatory games were used to explore interdisciplinary strength among the participants. Groups for a village walk were formed ensuring that each group had balanced representation of thematic expertise and experience.

A transect walk in four villages involved careful observation of landscape elements, interaction with the communities, and mapping of issues, challenges, and opportunities. Every evening, a reflection session was organized to explore the extent of understanding among the participants. During the session, participants also shared their stories and experiences. Lessons, ideas, and opinions from each village were consolidated into developing a shared understanding of the landscape. This led to the identification of challenges and opportunities. The journey participants came up with a consolidated way forward action for the pilot site. The consolidated outputs were then shared with the District Administrator and other officials during the debriefing session.

Key outcomes

While the journey helped participants understand and connect with the ground realities and peoples' needs, it also helped them to assess their own potential, perspectives, and limitations. Importantly, multidisciplinary perspectives that allowed convergence of thoughts, ideas, resources, and values among the participants could be unbundled.

The participants represented different government departments (forestry, livestock, rural development, fisheries, education, general administration), academia (agriculture, conservation, forests, livestock, culture), communities, NGOs, and INGOs. Collectively, they could explore various landscape elements, understand the conservation significance of the area, and the livelihoods and development needs of the communities. They jointly discussed a multitude of issues – health, education, environment, wellbeing, and traditions and culture.

The immediate follow-up actions included a baseline survey on innovative livelihood potential along with a concept design of the Community Information Resource Centre (CIRC) with a provision of community capacity building on conservation linked with livelihood opportunities (to foster community tourism, sale and promotion of local produce, and promotion of local entrepreneurship) and a training of trainers on innovative livelihoods.

About the process

The landscape journey has been a resource-intensive process requiring time, resources, and effort from a large number of participants from various disciplines. It is important that journey participants are informed well in advance about the objective, process, expected outcomes, and timeframe. Four of seven villages were covered during the journey. Other villages had similar landscape elements, and although representative members from other villages were included as journey mates, they felt that community members from the remaining three villages missed out on the opportunity to learn and understand the process.

The landscape journey helped understand sectoral mandates or perspectives. It became a good process to build a shared perspective. The process also facilitated meaningful interactions between communities and government officials. It introduced a participatory planning process where communities could voice their opinions and share their vision for the landscape. It was also an important exercise to mobilize and motivate various stakeholders to contribute collectively to broader landscape-level outcomes.

Community members were happy and noted that it was the first time government officials from different departments had come together for consultation and collective planning with the community. Debriefing sessions were particularly rewarding when villagers shared their collective understanding, vision, and plans, and the District Administrator talked about how their issues fall within government policies and plans, what could be achieved in the short term, and what requires further discussion. The debriefing session allowed higher-level authorities to visualize the ground realities and the aspirations of the communities they develop policy for.

Overall, this journey helped develop a holistic understanding of the area and explore probable partnerships for collective conservation and livelihood interventions.

3.4 Building bridges

A landscape journey to Bing Zhong Luo Township, Gongshan, Yunnan, China

Yang Yongping, Fu Yao, Yang Shuo, Bandana Shakya, and Brij MS Rathore

Background

The landscape journey to Bing Zhong Luo Township in Baoshan Prefecture, Yunnan, China was organized as a part of HI-LIFE. Facilitated by ICIMOD, HI-LIFE is a regional transboundary landscape conservation and development initiative between China, India, and Myanmar. Facilitation of conservation-linked livelihood opportunities is one of the major objectives of the Initiative. Bing Zhong Luo Township was identified as a pilot site. It has four administrative villages and 31 natural villages.

Bing Zhong Luo is a relative large, flat, and open land in the Nu River Valley with a total land area of 823 km^2. In spring, peach blossoms bloom along the farmlands against a backdrop of white snow-clad mountains. Outsiders call it a wonder land. Four ethnic groups inhabit this landscape: Lisu, Nu, Dulong, and Tibetan. Bing Zhong Luo has a population of around 6500.

Rationale

The purpose of the landscape journey was to understand landscape elements and issues, and identify appropriate innovative livelihood options that promote conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage, and create a balance between conservation and development actions.

Planning and organization

ICIMOD and the Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB) co-organized the landscape journey from 17 to 26 April 2016. A series of preliminary meetings were organized to familiarize the organizing team with the process tool, to identify the sites, and to plan logistics and permission to visit the sites. The lead institution in China, the Kunming Institute of Botany, facilitated in-country requirements both for participants within China and journey mates from ICIMOD. Permissions and visa processes were worked out since core team members were from different countries. Local partners in the Liuku Prefecture and Gongshan County were informed of field consultation, and travel details were finalized.

The core team also came up with the idea of 'bus-shops' or workshops on the move, while traveling to sites that involved 10–12 hours of journey. They used this time to discuss the essence of the journey, and the expectations and roles of the core team members. It also involved watching documentaries and videos, and sharing

information on the geo-political scenario and background of the sites. The lead partner spoke about the changes taking place in the area and the current political attention it is receiving.

The formal landscape journey began with an introductory meeting with prefecture officials at Liuku in the presence of the Vice Governor and Director of the Forestry Bureau. The core team lead from China, Yang Yongping, Vice Director, Kunming Institute of Botany, explained the purpose of the journey and the broader objective of regional cooperation within HI-LIFE. One local official joined the onward journey to the pilot site.

The journey progressed as more local officials joined and township authorities were briefed. A transect walk included a visit to several administrative villages. The idea was to observe culture, traditions, cuisines, lifestyles, and livelihoods, and discuss some ideas on conservation-linked livelihood opportunities with communities and local authorities. The journey concluded with a meeting involving county ecotourism officials. The debriefing meeting planned with the prefecture authorities had to be cancelled due to landslides that blocked the road on the journey back.

After the journey, the core team reflected on interactions with journey mates and discussed way forward actions.

Key learning

The journey team experienced the physical and cultural landscape of Bing Zhong Luo Township – from splendid views of the Nu River Valley to the snowy mountains of the Gaoligong range; from the relatively urbanized town to villages settled in more remote mountains; the Catholic church started by a French missionary more than 100 years ago and a Tibetan Buddhist Monastery next to it. The team also witnessed the most important festival of the Nu people,

which literally translates to “flower festival”. This festival is held to worship a goddess and to pray for a good new year. The cultural elements strongly embedded in the breathtaking and awe-inspiring scenery and rich biodivesity provided uniqueness to the landscape.

The landscape journey provided an opportunity for shared understanding of the ground reality, drivers of change, and possible response through government schemes and programmes. Actions that reinforce and support government vision and actions for innovative livelihoods were discussed and identified. It was realized that although government vision and policy are clear, there is a need to prepare people towards collectively achieving the national vision.

The landscape journey connected ideas and opinions of interdisciplinary stakeholders such as the Gongshan Bureau of Culture, Sport, Broadcasting and Television; the Gongshan Government; the Bureau of Gongshan Agriculture Science and Technology; Jia Sheng Village Commission; the Qiu Natong

Village Commission; Bingzhongluo Agriculture Service Center; the Bingzhongluo Bureau of Land and Resources; and the Bingzhongluo government.

The HI-LIFE Intiative had a good opportuntity to help county/township governments to improve their ecotourism development plan by helping them to come up with an integrated tourism plan at the local (administrative village/natural village) level. A rapid survey of the potential for community-based tourism was planned as an immediate follow-up action.

The landscape journey as a process tool

The landscape journey was demanding in terms of planning and information sharing before the journey. At times, even after good planning, field situations can change, which calls for flexibility and impromptu decision making. The process tool offers that flexibility, and core team members have the responsibility to think and act quickly as the situation develops, and steer interaction processes in a productive manner in every kind of situation.

The landscape journey provided first-hand experience to connect with landscape elements, an opportunity to interact with a wide range of stakeholders, and understand interdisciplinary perspectives while seeking clarity on necessary actions. Importantly, the landscape journey allowed the participants to imbibe the essentials of the 'tool' itself in building a connection between different stakeholders, between themes, issues, experiences, and expertise. One of the team members, Yao Fu, reflected, "Having discovered the usefulness of the process tool, I would like to use it for my research project. It will be good to develop a Landscape journey process toolkit in the near future."

3.5 Seeking collaborative planning

A landscape journey to Miao and M'Pen villages, Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh, India

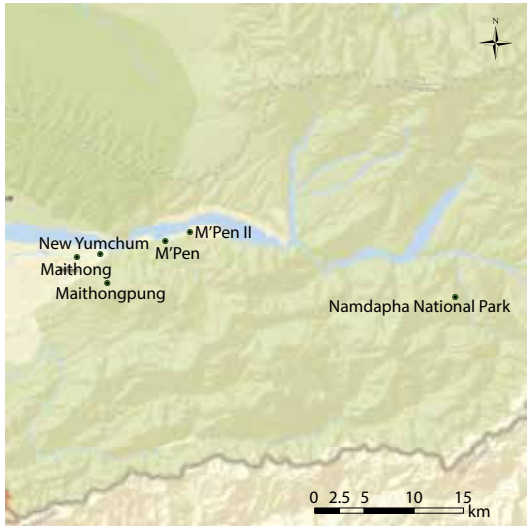
Prasanna K Samal, Mahendra S Lodhi, Bandana Shakya, and Brij M S Rathore

Background and context

The landscape journey to Miao and M'Pen villages on the fringes of the Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh, India was organized as a part of HI-LIFE. The India portion comprises an area of 8598 km^2, including the Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve and its adjoining areas.

Purpose of the journey

The overall objective was to gain first-hand experience of the nature, ecosystem, society/people, culture, and dynamic linkages of the landscape and to move towards a shared understanding/vision for integrated actions needed for sustainable



development of the Indian part of the HI-LIFE landscape. It was anticipated that the journey would help promote an integrated approach to addressing conservation and development challenges in the HI-LIFE India landscape.

Planning the journey

The landscape journey was undertaken between 25 May and 2 June 2016, and was jointly facilitated by ICIMOD and the GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD), North East Unit based in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.

Organizing the landscape journey involved several pre-journey planning meetings between ICIMOD and GBPNIHESD. A preparatory meeting was held in Kolkata where the idea of the landscape journey was discussed and a pilot area was proposed. The team from GBPNIHESD made a pre-visit to the proposed site and shared the concept with local governments, village heads, and local NGOs, and discussed the logistics.

The journey

The journey began with an introductory meeting of the core team members who met in Tezpur a day before heading to the pilot site. Core competencies and personal expectations of the journey were clarified among team members and processes of the landscape journey were reiterated by the core team lead.

Once the site was reached, an orientation programme for other journey mates was organized at Circuit House, Miao to share the background and objective of the landscape journey. Staying in the village over the course of the journey was seen as integral part of the process. Heads of different villages were given the lead in terms of facilitating the village stay programme and the participants were divided into groups to cover different villages. A common format for facilitation of interdisciplinary discussions was shared for the village walk and stay. Three cluster villages: New Yumchung, Maithingpung, and M'pen I/M'pen II were covered, touching upon issues concerning approximately 320 households and a population of 1660. Village information was consolidated at the Forest Department Rest House in Deban in the presence of Namdapha National Park officials. A separate session was also organized with field staff of the Namdapha Tiger Reserve. A village cluster-level and district-level debriefing programme was organized at Miao to share the consolidated findings. A state-level debriefing was held at the Forest Department in Itanagar where overall findings and proposed follow-up actions were shared. The aim was to seek support from the state government and its line departments for implementation of identified conservation and development actions in the pilot sites that have implications for the entire HI-LIFE India Landscape. The state-level debriefing was attended by senior government officials headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Principal Secretary, Department of Environment and Forest, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

Journey outcomes

Four key areas of collaboration were identified: ecotourism, bamboo value chain development, integrated orchard management, and improvement of forest areas in buffer areas and villages adjoining the national park.

While the journey helped participants identify the potential, it also made them realize the extent of the challenges. These were mostly related to limited technical capacities and awareness among key actors, inadequate development infrastructure, lack of coordinated efforts, insufficient market linkages, and access to finance.

There was general consensus over: (i) the development of an integrated ecotourism plan building upon the existing draft Arunachal Pradesh Ecotourism Policy, (ii) capacity strengthening of the concerned stakeholders, (iii) microenterprises and value chain development of bamboo and integrated orchard (betel nut, pineapple, black pepper) based products, and (iv) review of past initiatives, schemes, best practices, and lessons with regard to bamboo and collaboration with private sector partners.

Participants also listed some issues that needed further discussions such as land tenure issues (land possession certificate), park–people relations, the issue of 'unclassed state forests', and the need for demarcation and governance at the local level, knowledge asymmetries in the transboundary context, transboundary cooperation with Myanmar to address wildlife crime, and joint planning and management for improving protected area management.

One of the key outputs of the landscape journey has been agreement on the need for multistakeholder institutions at the landscape and state levels. Such an institution would have a key role in ensuring synergy and convergence among key stakeholders towards the goals and objectives of the HI-LIFE Initiative. Subsequent follow up on the decision helped in getting the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh to notify institutions at the landscape level as well as at the state level for convergence and synergetic action.

The landscape journey process

The multidisciplinary approach led to rich interactions among a wide range of actors across disciplines and at different layers of governance. The journey had a mix of thematic experts who could bring in the varied experience and expertise of local actors. In the future, landscape journeys should cover all villages, both on the fringes and within the national park.

3.6 Looking out, looking in

Landscape journey in the Godavari landscape, Nepal

Brij MS Rathore, Laurie Vasily, Samden Sherpa, Udayan Mishra, and Serena Amatya

Background

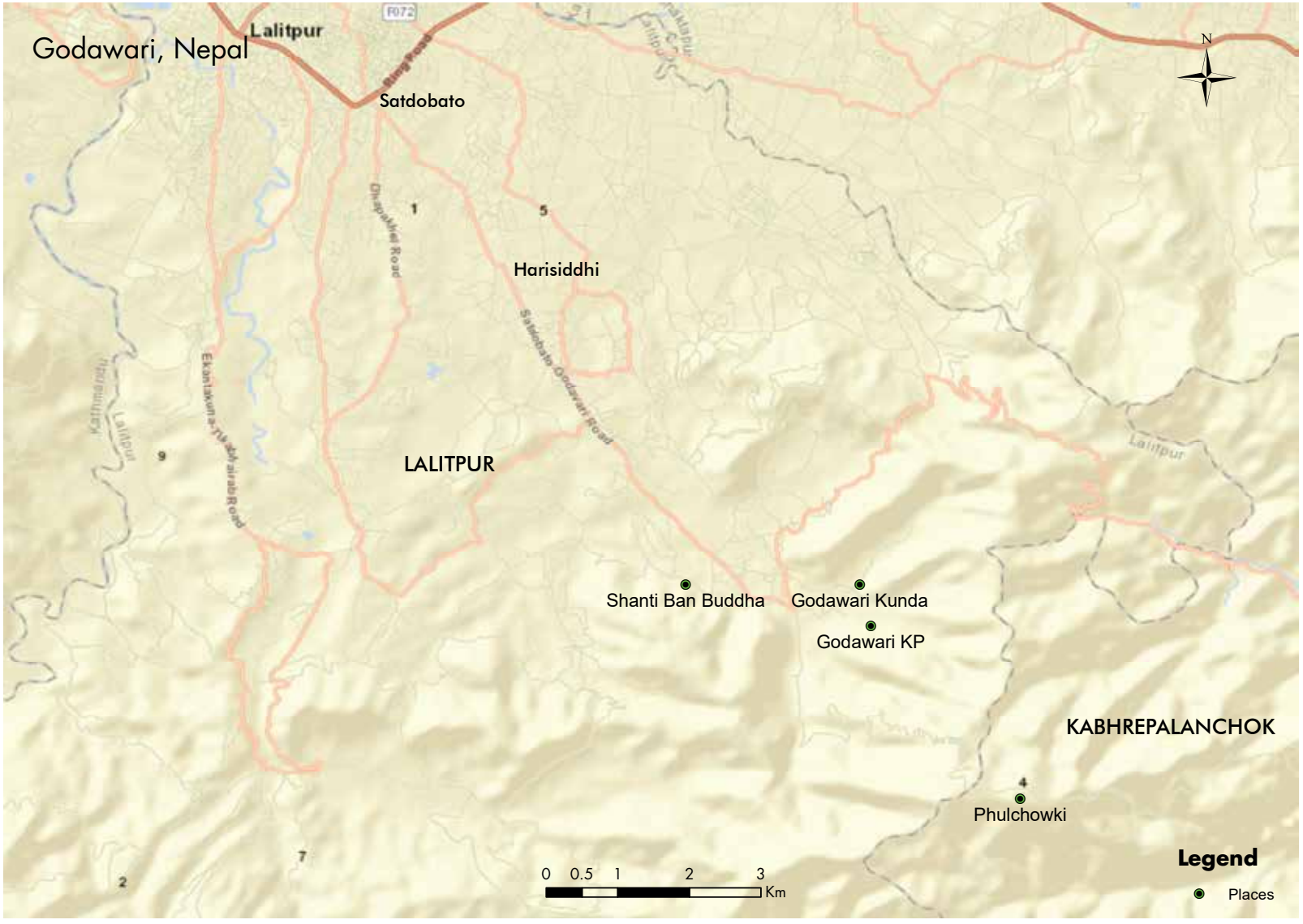
The ICIMOD Knowledge Park at Godavari in Lalitpur, Nepal was set up in March 1993 following a grant of 30 hectares of land by the Government of Nepal in 1992. Over the years, it has become a vibrant forested area and a site to test, select, and demonstrate different technologies and practices useful for sustainable development and natural resource management for farmers and development practitioners who work with mountain communities. The Knowledge Park is sited in the larger Godavari landscape. Situated south of Kathmandu Valley, in the foothills of Phulchowki (2782 masl), the Godavari landscape is rich in biological and cultural diversity. It is designated as an important bird area (IBA) home to an estimated 270 bird species, of which 17 are endangered. Over 50% of the total butterfly species in Nepal can be found in Godavari, and the endangered endemic subspecies, the great hockey stick sailor (*Phaedyma aspasia kathmandia*) is now restricted to these pockets. With some 653 plant species and 22 species of mammals, the richness of the area's biodiversity can hardly be overemphasized. Cultural and sacred elements are interwoven into the ecological fabric of Godavari. The Godavari Kunda, a sacred spring is marked by a neat line of Shaivite shrines; Buddhist monasteries and shrines dot the landscape including at Phulchowki and Shanti Ban Buddha, among others. The forested area of the Godavari Landscape is vested with Community Forestry User Groups or managed by the Forest Department.

A Knowledge Park Technical Committee was set up by ICIMOD in 2016 to provide further impetus to the management of the Knowledge Park. The committee took a view that the Knowledge Park needs to be organically integrated into the larger landscape surrounding it.

In order to do so, the landscape journey was used as a process tool for engaging interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral teams of stakeholders to develop shared understanding, vision, and actions to conserve the unique Godavari landscape, with larger ownership of stakeholders at different scales. The process focused on seeing the ICIMOD Knowledge Park as core area (looking in) while also informing and influencing the larger Godavari landscape (looking out), in collaboration with multiple stakeholders.

Organizing landscape journeys

Three landscape journeys were organized between November 2016 and June 2017. Each journey lasted three days. Common features of these journeys included:


Godawari, Nepal
Lalitpur
Satdobato
Harisiddhi
LALITPUR
KABHREPALANCHOK
Shanti Ban Buddha
Godawari Kunda
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Places

Teams that included experts/professionals from different disciplines, from atmospheric scientist to naturalist. It brought on board multiple stakeholders in the landscape including local bodies, community user groups around forest and water, civil society organizations, experts, government agency representatives at the local level, private sector stakeholders, and the school community, among others. It also involved government line agencies from the district and national levels, particularly the forest and tourism departments.

Each landscape journey began with an orientation session. This was done using interactive exercises which helped the journey team relate with the landscape, the landscape approach, and the idea of the landscape journey to put the landscape approach into practice.

The first journey to the Godavari landscape in November 2016 was more exploratory in nature, getting to see landscape elements and landscape issues in a more integrated manner, using lenses of different disciplines and sectors. The follow-up journeys were more thematic, delving deeper into the issues prioritized during the first journey. Five themes were identified from the first landscape journey – water/springs, forest biodiversity, local livelihoods, atmosphere/energy, and solid waste management. Focus on institutions, governance, gender, and youth were cross cutting issues for all the themes. The second landscape journey took this a step further by identifying key actions under each theme with ownership of concerned stakeholders. The third landscape journey, on the eve of World Environment Day, began with a cleanliness drive involving seven schools with a shared vision of 'Hamro Godavari, Ramro Godavari' (our Godavari, good Godavari). The fourth journey was preceded by follow-up actions involving multiple stakeholders on waste management, which was showcased by the municipality and ward on 5 June 2018. The two-day journey was used as an evaluation process of how effective the actions had been leading up to the multistakeholder forum meeting. The forum meeting reviewed the process and suggested future actions and commitments. It also launched 'Godavari Calling' – an awareness to action campaign to solicit greater engagement of multiple stakeholders in the Godavari landscape.

The journeys used a range of participatory tools/methods including stakeholder mapping, resource mapping, landscape walk, larger community interactions, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, informal meetings, campaigns, and multi stakeholder workshops.

Key outcomes

- The landscape journey process was a great learning experience in terms of an interdisciplinary team looking at landscape issues and building shared understanding. It allowed for bonding among team members and stakeholders.
- Interest from key stakeholders to have collaborative partnerships was evident during this process.
- The highlight of the landscape journey was agreement on a

Godavari Multi Stakeholders Forum (GMSF) as a platform to bring multiple stakeholders together on a regular basis for improved communication and shared understanding of issues and follow-up actions.

- It facilitated a deeper understanding of landscape conservation and development issues in an integrated and holistic manner (interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral)
- The process laid the foundation for seeing the ICIMOD Knowledge Park, the Godavari Botanical Garden, the National Herbarium, and their surroundings as an integrated whole within the larger Godavari landscape. The process will also help further equip and strengthen the ICIMOD Knowledge Park to discharge its mandate of knowledge and technology dissemination in sync with the priorities of local stakeholders.
- The landscape journey helped strengthen an interdisciplinary team.

About the process

- The landscape journey has been a useful process of engaging interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral teams for developing shared understanding and actions towards the vision of a clean and green Godavari.
- Stakeholder identification/engagement has evolved as an iterative process. Follow-up journeys delved deeper into stakeholder analysis and this was incorporated into the journey design to reach out to the concerned stakeholders.
- The process so far has been facilitated by ICIMOD. However, it is felt that over a period of time, it should be integrated with local bodies/local agencies.
- The process is gradually building ownership of local bodies and relevant stakeholders which was evident during the fourth journey.

3.7 Reinforcing a transboundary connect

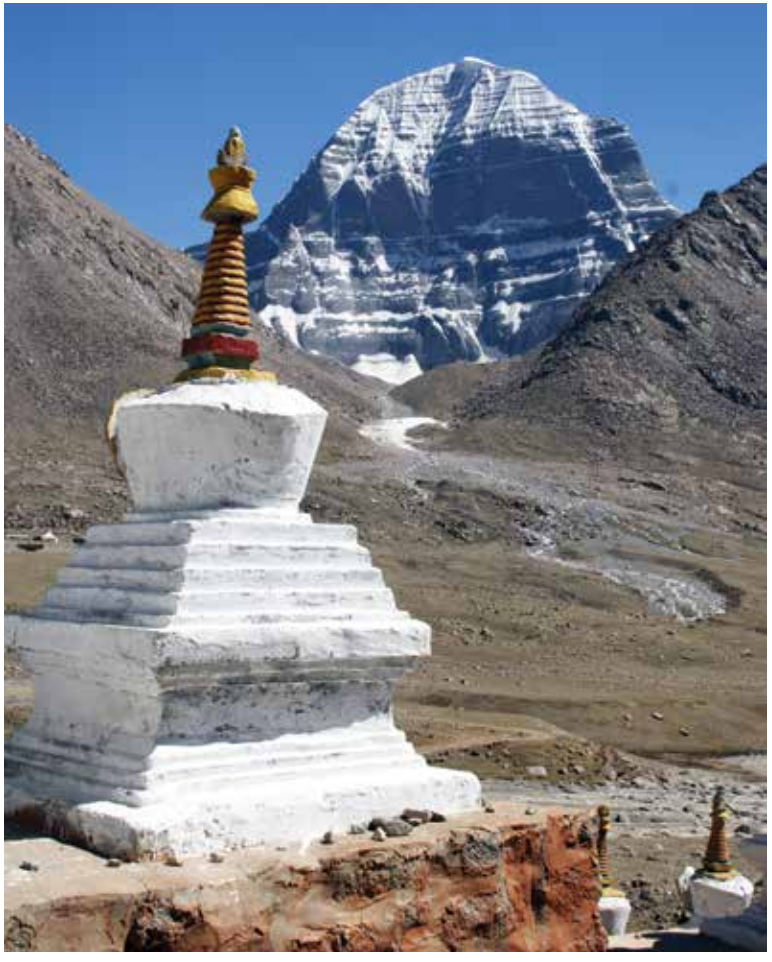
A transboundary landscape yatra through the Kailash Sacred Landscape in India and Nepal

Krishna P Oli and Gopal S Rawat

Context and rationale

The Indo-Nepal transboundary yatra was organized under the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI), jointly implemented by ICIMOD and partners in China, India, and Nepal. The regional initiative aims to promote transboundary cooperation for biodiversity and cultural conservation, ecosystem management, sustainable development, and climate change adaptation within the designated area of the Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL). The KSL, with Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar as landmarks, is one of the most remote, biologically rich, and fragile areas in the Himalayan region. It is also highly revered as a sacred landscape, attracting tens of thousands of pilgrims every year. As the upper catchment of four major rivers of Asia – the Indus, Brahmaputra, Karnali, Mahakali, and Sutlej – the landscape provides environmental services to millions downstream.

Various parts of the KSL offer unique socio-cultural and natural resource management practices. In order to learn from such practices and also exchange ideas among KSLCDI partners in India and Nepal, a transboundary yatra was organized by ICIMOD from 29 October to 10 November 2011. The key partners in this yatra were teams from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Government of Nepal; GBPNIHESD, Almora; and other partners from India. The landscape journey also provided an opportunity to understand the greater KSL, interact with different stakeholders, learn about practices and institutions, and explore prospects of transboundary cooperation at different levels – between communities, district-level authorities, and governments in the two countries.



Planning and organization

Extensive homework had to be done before the journey, including preparation of a concept note, discussions with government authorities in India and Nepal for their concurrence on the objectives and processes of the landscape journey, the identification of participants, agreement on the timeframe and journey routes, issuance of invitation letters, logistical arrangements, and so on. Depending on the participant's expertise, the role of individual participants was determined and shared. Thematic areas for discussion were pre-determined.

The journey participants from Nepal and India met and formed six thematic groups: park–people interface and protected area network, challenges in agrodiversity, role of the Forest Department and other agencies, biodiversity, climate change and monitoring, and transboundary issues. The group members interacted with various stakeholders – district line agencies, transboundary goods vendors, customs officers, local and community leaders, members of the 'van panchayat' (village forest council), research institutions, protected area authorities, tribal communities, forest users groups, farming communities, local entrepreneurs, security personnel at the borders, and so on. Based on the theme, participants prepared their checklist for daily observation and shared these in the evening reflection sessions. All discussion points were noted down carefully. High-level officials also joined part of the journey where they provided insights into governance and policy. On many occasions, the original schedule had to be revised due to unpredictable weather conditions in the mountain landscape. The journey ended with a short briefing on lessons and observations to the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Government of India.

Key learning

Cross-fertilization of ideas, approaches, and best practices was an essential aspect of the journey. It was realized that social bonds among the transborder communities were already very strong and that such socio-cultural harmony could be a strong basis for regional cooperation among the governments of both countries. The Indo-Nepal transboundary landscape journey was instrumental in bringing local-level issues and challenges to the attention of government authorities, and other non-governmental orgnizations. It also helped establish a relationship of trust and accountability between different stakeholders and decision-making counterparts in both countries. Unique transboundary relationships, particularly in terms of sharing transboundary resources and benefits, could be well realized.

A very good understanding about hydrological linkages between the countries was established, leading to discussions about transboundary biodiversity and natural resources management and flow of ecosystem services. Participants elaborately discussed on sustainable use of resources, use of medicinal and aromatic plants, local-level trade, agrobiodiversity and transhumance animal rearing, and genetic diversity exchange, including illicit harvest and trade across borders. The spread of invasive alien species and depredation of crops by wild pigs or boars and other wild animals were major concerns. Participants came up with several joint proposals to tackle issues of transboundary concern such as developing a transboundary network of protected areas and joint management of adjacent protected areas with careful attention to park–people interface management. It was observed that protected areas of Nepal had much more organized Buffer Zone Management Committees and that local resident communities were proactively engaged in their management. This was a useful lesson for participants from India.

Effective conservation awareness programmes were prominent in the Indian side of the landscape. It was felt that such efforts are needed in the Nepal side of the landscape. Both parties realized the importance of agro-ecosystems in the landscape, and the need for reviving traditional agricultural systems through joint farming systems. It has been through an informal arrangement between landowners in India and a formal mechanism, 'chaklabandi' (land pooling) in Nepal. This process should be carefully looked into and developed for meaningful implementation. With regard to effective forest management, the need for joint monitoring and capacity-strengthening programmes was realized. Small-scale processing plants for medicinal and aromatic plants are required. These can be established by the Forest Department to allow local employment and benefits to the local community. The current trend is that the landscape supplies the bulk of raw materials for different medicines but receives no significant economic benefits.

The process

The landscape journey was an innovative approach to engage with communities, scientists, and government officials as well as other stakeholders from the two countries to collectively think about and address issues of common concern, as well as issues specific to individual countries.

In the future, to make a landscape journey truly transboundary for the entire landscape, it would be useful if all three countries involved in the initiative could participate. The journey should be planned in a manner that fully engages science, policy, and practitioner consitituecies at different scales.

3.8 Seeking policy–practice connect

Journey through the Satpura Landscape, Madhya Pradesh, India

Chitranjan Tyagi

Why this journey?

The communities residing in an ecosystem or landscape build a unique social structure to make the most efficient use of natural resources. Over a long period of time, unique local, physical, and biological characteristics along with social structure give rise to a unique culture which is expressed in language, architecture, and arts and crafts. The long interaction between bio-physical elements of the landscape gives rise to unique agricultural and animal husbandry practices and other livelihood activities. The social and cultural diversity in India is an outcome of the diversity of biophysical elements in the landscape.

Landscape journeys are a great medium for the transformation of the human spirit and for initiating change, and are a quick way to reduce prejudice. Travel helps us understand aspects of human civilization which cannot be understood through books and narratives. It not only has a profound impact on the traveler but also significantly influences local community members, who learn to see themselves and their surroundings through the eyes of distant admirers. Local communities are also exposed to the cultural attitudes of diverse people, which leads to transformation and improvement. This mixing of cultures and values brings vigour and acceptance for change. Journeying in a group not only contextualizes issues in the physical landscape, social structures,

and culture but also builds a spirit of collaboration among actors. Walking through the helps develop camaraderie among participants and empathy towards issues affecting communities residing in the landscape. The objectives of the Satpura Landscape Journey were as follows:

- To familiarize actors from diverse backgrounds with elements of the landscape approach for conservation and development
- To understand the interrelationships between land, people, natural resources, biodiversity, livelihoods, and systems of governance
- To initiate a process of collaboration between various players such as government departments, institutions of local governance, non-government organizations, industry, and others
- To engage and initiate effective communication with local communities on local developmental issues and create a platform for interaction between development practitioners, civil society, scientists, and administrators
- To evaluate and understand the efficacy of ongoing developmental programmes
- To identify elements of local planning, programme implementation, and outcomes from the point of view of local communities
- To create high-quality discourse on the landscape approach and prepare a body of knowledge on the landscape journey as a tool for development and conservation

Satpura landscape

The Satpura hills are spread over the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Gujarat forming the central Indian highlands south of the Narmada River. The hills consist of three distinct ranges, namely Maikal in the east, Mahadev in the centre and Rajpipla in west. The landscape is one of the best

conserved areas of the country. These uplands are some of the last repositories of rich biodiversity. The area is mostly inhabited by tribal communities, with some of them categorized by the state as vulnerable tribal groups. The area chosen for the journey is located in the Harrai development block of Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh, in the Mahadev hills. The choice was based on the following distinctive landscape features:

- The area has unique socio-cultural features as it is inhabited by the Bharia tribe who are endemic to the area
- Agricultural practices are still primitive and traditional seeds are used for mostly rain-fed farming. The use of chemical fertilizers is very low
- The remote location has played a significant role in the poor developmental indices of the area; there is lack of access to and delivery of various services and government programmes
- Forest-based activities play a significant role in the livelihoods of the local communities.

- The interesting geographical and geological formation of the area provides an excellent opportunity to understand issues of development and conservation

Organizing the Satpura journey

To bring out a multidimensional view of landscape issues, it was decided to invite participants from diverse backgrounds, e.g., government officers of various departments, members of civil society, social and political scientists, planning professionals, and people working with multilateral agencies. Once the design and dates of the journey were finalized, all the information regarding the area, people, objectives, and a list of 'do's and don'ts' were compiled in a small handbook, which was sent to participants along with the invitation. The main points included in the communication were as follows:

- Ordinarily, it is difficult to enter into a fruitful conversation with tribal communities living in remote areas. Staying with the community in small teams and eating local food provides an opportunity for prolonged interaction which is necessary to help them articulate their issues in an easy and free environment, which is generally suppressed during domineering tours of government officers.
- All team members were advised to keep the itinerary of the journey simple and unpretentious. To make interactions with the community meaningful, participants were asked to consume local food only, as far as possible.
- To learn about various aspects of the landscape, all the teams were asked to include local people and community leaders while walking with local people across the landscape to help understand various issues related to land use and social structure.
- For comprehensive coverage, the group was divided into four teams who started their journey from different places and after walking through the landscape gathered at a central location to facilitate post-journey interactions between participants and community leaders.

Key outcomes of the journey

a. Understanding the landscape approach: All the participants and community leaders felt that the journey was a powerful way of interacting with communities and initiating intra-community dialogue. The landscape approach creates a good opportunity to look at the interconnectedness of various activities and outcomes and how activities in one geography influence outcomes in another.

b. Spirit for change: It was felt that there is a huge gap between policies, programmes, and outcomes on the ground. Centrally designed, top-driven development programmes lack the flexibility

required to respond to the aspirations of local communities. Thus, building trust and relationships and commitment to bring positive change are the most important outcomes of the journey through the landscape.

c. Platform for collaboration: The journey highlighted interrelationships between sectoral programmes and the role of local communities in defining outcomes. It provided an opportunity to understand competing views and interaction among important actors and communities in the landscape. This helped reduce prejudices and bridge the gap, giving way to a spirit of collaboration.

d. Adoption of the landscape approach in new initiatives: Some of the lessons and insights from the journey were incorporated into the Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihoods Improvement Programme (BCRLIP), to build a platform for landscape-level governance. A process of decentralized planning was adopted to reach out to all actors: government agencies, civil society organizations, and Panchayati Raj institutions at the grass-roots level. Capacity-building activities were organized with the help of experts for the technical support groups involved in planning developmental activities at the Gram Sabha level by integrating biodiversity conservation into all sectors of production and programmes of development.

e. Some lessons: The team realized that engagement of local and state-level media in the journey process is necessary to disseminate the ideas and activities of the journey. Also, preparing a report covering the journey process and outcomes is essential to monitoring follow-up actions.

3.9 In quest of happiness

Landscape journey to understand Gross National Happiness, Bhutan

Tashi Dorji, Brij M S Rathore, Abhimanyu Pandey, and Surendra R Joshi

Context and rationale

ICIMOD was founded with a vision to help "men, women and children of the Hindu Kush Himalaya enjoy improved well-being in a healthy mountain environment". ICIMOD's Medium Term Action Plan IV (2018–2022) emphasizes well-being as an overarching theme that needs further conceptualization, probing, and articulation in the organization's work across the HKH region.

Bhutan has since long been investing in well-being and happiness to guide the nation's path to balanced and sustainable development. The Gross National Happiness (GNH) framework is already being used for development planning in Bhutan. It was felt that a first-hand experience of the GNH work in Bhutan could strengthen ICIMOD's understanding of 'well-being' and help broaden the scope of its frameworks (e.g. the multidimensional poverty index and poverty vulnerability assessment) for application in the other regional member countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan).

The landscape journey process tool was applied in November 2016 to develop a comprehensive understanding of the GNH framework from its theoretical conceptualization to its understanding among mutiple stakeholders at different levels of governance and with people from different walks of life in Bhutan.

The nine domains of GNH and its indicators

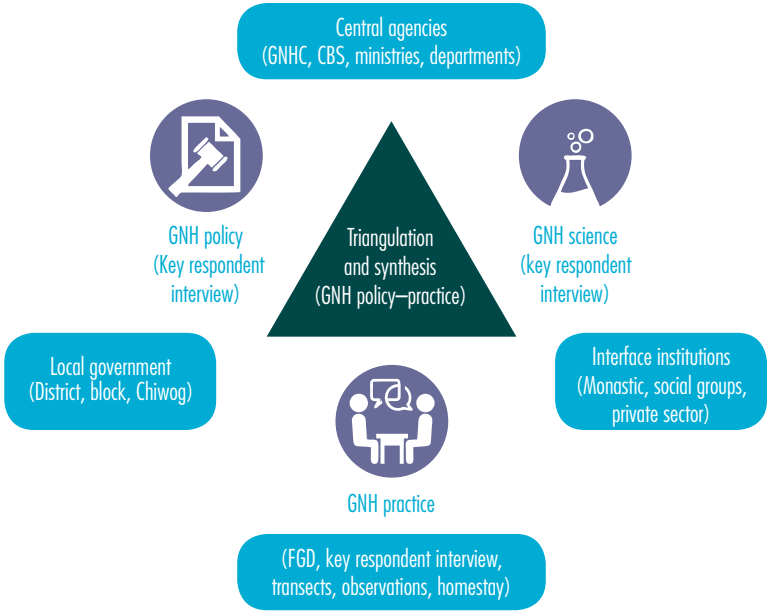
Organizing the journey: Communication and teaming up

A small team at ICIMOD conducted a review of Bhutan's GNH framework to identify areas of complementarity and distinctiveness between this framework and ICIMOD's existing frameworks, such as the poverty and vulnerability assessment (PVA) framework, the resilience framework, and the ecosystem services assessment framework. Effective communication with ICIMOD's nodal ministry in Bhutan, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF), was solicited. The MoAF coordinated with both central agencies and local governments of Paro and Haa districts (Figure 2) to provide unrestricted access to institutions at various levels and meetings with relevant experts/individuals.

Thus, a systematic and timely communication of the agenda, requirements, and potential value of this landscape journey at all levels of governance in Bhutan, through the proper channels, was an important step towards the success of this landscape journey. The Bhutanese representation in this joint-team comprised expert teams from the Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC), Centre for Bhutan Studies (CBS), and the MoAF, with the MoAF providing overall leadership.

An essential step in the delivery was to orient the core team and reach a common understanding of the approach, methodologies, and specific role of each member during the landscape journey. A mix of qualitative methods was used to garner insights and observations, including focus group discussions, interviews with key informants, transect walks, closely experiencing the landscape by staying in the village, and reflection on one key learning each day.

The programme was kept flexible enough to accommodate opportunities for interaction with key informants or other stakeholders emerging over the course of the landscape journey. Quite often, discussions with one stakeholder led to the identification of several other key actors and contributed significantly to enrich the joint team's knowledge and understanding on the subject. For instance, the interactive session with teachers of a high school in Paro led to discussions on value education, which prompted the team to meet with experts from the Teachers' Training Institute and further with the Department of Curriculum Development, both based in Paro.



A landscape journey approach to understanding GNH in policy and practice

In the realms of local government, the Governor and Vice-Governors guided the interactive sessions at the Dzongkhag (district) level, and further ensured active engagement with the leaderships at the Gewog (block/sub-unit of district) and Chiwog (sub-unit of block) levels. While in the field, the team also had opportunities to interact with wider stakeholder groups including schools, curriculum development agencies, monastic institutions, and business operators.

At the Central level, inputs were received from the President of CBS, the Secretaries and Director Generals in the Ministries, and eminent members including the former Prime Minister of Bhutan and a representative from Bhutan's central monastic body.

Key learning

The landscape journey process was relevant to gaining a better understanding of Bhutan's GNH framework, as understood by people situated at different levels of governance and from different walks of life. The approach provided a joint platform for ICIMOD and Bhutanese experts to interact with different stakeholders in Bhutan. It validated the earlier observation that while there were many common elements in the frameworks used by ICIMOD and the GNH, the GNH framework also had attributes of wellbeing that were under-represented in ICIMOD's framework. However, location-specific indicators, such as those of culture and religion, would require further adaptation, and issues of social anomalies such as domestic violence, drug abuse, divorce, and the effects of migration would also require more reflection. Also, more clarity and understanding would be required in the framework's conceptualization of ranking happiness to develop an evaluation methodology that can be applied at the regional level.

About the landscape journey as process tool

The landscape journey process provided interdisciplinary and intersectoral insights into the GNH framework's nine domains and their indicators, and how they were perceived and put into practice at different levels. In a way, the landscape journey was useful in connecting the dots – observing, experiencing and reflecting on the key elements of wellbeing and happiness as they were perceived, interviewed, and practiced on the ground. It was an opportunity for the team to triangulate the views, observations, and experiences of GNH's science, policy, and practice in its home context. It was also an appropriate tool to fathom Bhutan's GNH framework.

It would not be out of context to share a common refrain heard during the journey in the 'cheogs' villages visited, "Our happiness goes down when we see that our neighbouring village does not enjoy the same level of connectivity and infrastructure that we have".

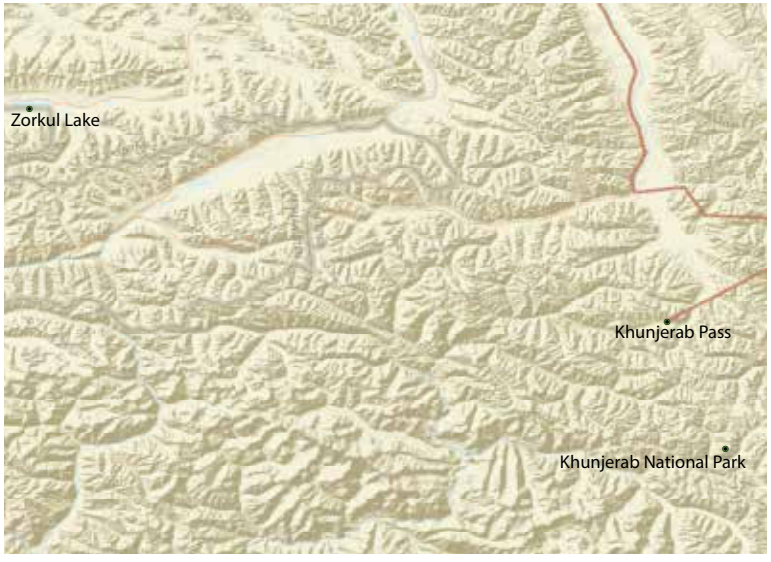
3.10 Building interdisciplinary understanding

A landscape journey through the Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape

Muhammad Ismail, Long Ruijun, Srijana Joshi, and Neha Bisht

Background

Zorkul Nature Reserve is located in south-eastern Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province in eastern Tajikistan, bordering Afghanistan's Wakhan district. It is spread over an area of 1610 km^2 and has been nature reserve since 2000. It has also been identified by BirdLife International as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA).



The reserve occupies a wide valley 320 km east of the provincial capital of Khorugh, lying between the southern Alichur and Vahan ridges of the eastern Pamir mountains at 4000–5460 masl. The landscape consists mainly of gentle slopes of sparsely vegetated alpine steppe. The core of the reserve is the 3900 ha freshwater Zorkul Lake at an altitude of 4125 masl. The maximum depth of the lake is 6 m. Its surface is covered by vegetation. Bar-headed geese and other waterfowl breed on islands in the lake. Although land use in the reserve is prohibited, its surrounds are used as pasture.

Khunjerab National Park in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan's third largest national park, sharing transboundary landscape is adjacent to the Taxkorgan Natural Reserve in China. Khunjerab National Park was established to protect the Marco Polo sheep (as well as snow leopards and blue sheep living in the area). The borders of the park were mapped by George Schaller in 1974, after a short field survey. The park was formally established on 29 April 1979 by Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Khunjerab Pass is close to the national park's northwest corner. World World Fund for Nature (WWF) has created the Khunzerav Village Organization, which relies on people living in the area to report poaching or endangered animal sightings. Over half of the park is above 4000 masl. Khunjerab Pass, the gateway to China via the Karakoram Highway, is at 4934 masl.

Why the landscape journey was undertaken

The purpose of the journey was to develop a shared understanding of key issues related to Zorkul Nature Reserve and Khunjerab National Park. This was done through a multidisciplinary team from ICIMOD and Lanzhou University.

Organizing the journey

An interdisciplinary team from ICIMOD's Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape (HKPL) Initiative and Lanzhou University (LU) initiated the landscape journey in collaboration with national and provincial partners from 26 September to 1 October 2017 in Tajikistan, and Zorkul Nature Reserve and Khunjerab National Park, Gilgit-Baltistan from 6–13 October 2017. The visits involved sites that have been used by the partners for socio-economic and resource assessment as part of the rangeland study. Focus group discussions were conducted with staff to identify issues, challenges, and opportunities in Zorkul Nature Reserve.

At Khunjerab National Park, Pakistan, meetings were held with the community of Gojal, the buffer zone area, and representatives from Forest Wildlife and Environment Department (FWED). The meetings involved presentations from park officials and discussions with stakeholders.

The interdisciplinary team from Lanzhou University and ICIMOD made observations on language and language types from the perspectives of linguistics and anthropology, wildlife and habitat types, floral diversity, and the environmental archeology of the region. The visit also involved a collection of medicinal plant samples from different topographies and ecosystem types.

Key learning

- The park is better managed than Zorkul Nature Reserve and has a good number of trained staff. The communities around the park are also well organized and manage the buffer zone very well. The other parks have an opportunity to learn from the success of trophy hunting in the buffer zone of KNP.
- The journey process helped develop shared understanding of issues related to the landscape. This is a powerful way to interact with communities and initiate intra-community dialogue.
- The team could see gaps between the policies, programmes, and outcomes on the ground.
- The process helped in building relationships and fostering trust and commitment to bring positive change.

Lessons for future journeys

Due to time constraints, a language barrier, and governance issues, some of the LSJ tools could not be applied properly. A total distance of about 2500 km was covered during the landscape journey.

The landscape journey is not to be seen as a one-time event. Post journey follows-ups are just as crucial as the journey itself. The effectiveness of the LSJ will be reduced without follow-up on the issues discussed/agreed upon during the journey.

Comments on the overall usefulness of the landscape journey process

The journey helped develop a holistic understanding of the landscape issues through a better understanding of the needs and issues of local communities, relating with the ecology and culture of the landscape, and listening to/sharing perspectives of multiple stakeholders.

The LSJ process provides a useful tool for learning that is equally beneficial for high, mid-level, and field staff as well as for communities. It provides opportunities for learning over a short period by bringing together interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral insights.

3.11 Experiencing change

A yatra through the Kangchenjunga landscape

Rajeev L Semwal and Brij M S Rathore

Background and rationale

To formulate good policies, policy makers need to be informed by good science and practice. In the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), traditional agriculture, animal husbandry, and forest management are closely interlinked sectors and the defining features of local subsistence economies. Experience has shown that conventional

development approaches guided by sectoral policies followed thus far in the region have been less effective and sometimes even counterproductive. Therefore, development needs to take a different trajectory that combines ecological, economic, and cultural dimensions and include a 'mountain perspective' in relevant national and state-level policies and institutions.

Against this backdrop, one of the mandates of the Mountain Division at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, newly created in 2012, was to strengthen the processes that help understand the changes occurring in nature, culture, and socio-economy at a landscape scale from an interdisciplinary perspective. In order to meet this objective, the Mountain Division facilitated a few pilot landscape journeys during 2013/2014 in different landscapes in the region. The Kangchenjunga landscape yatra in West Sikkim was coordinated by the Sikkim Unit of the GBPNIHESD and conducted from 22–27

February 2014 with support from the State Forest Department, Rural Management and Development Department (RMDD) Government of Sikkim, Kangchenjunga Conservation Committee (KCC) and the Sikkim Office of WWF-India.

The key objectives of the Kangchenjunga yatra were to see (i) the impacts of various conservation and development policies/missions/programmes/schemes/projects on local environmental governance and ecosystem management practices, and (ii) livelihood-earning means and practices, and challenges faced in managing transitions.

Organizing the landscape journey

The Sikkim unit of GBPNIHESD took the lead in identifying landscape stretches and coordinating the journey. The Mountain Division at MoEF&CC organized a consultation meeting in January 2014 in New Delhi in which the coordinator of the proposed LSJ and senior officials from MoEF&CC, GBPNIHESD, ICFRE, WWF-India, and IUCN-India participated. The meeting reviewed the identified journey stretches in West Sikkim, and key roles and responsibilites for organizing the journey were agreed upon.

A landscpae journey should not come as a surprise for stakeholders in the landscape. Therefore, the coordinator of the journey publicized its objectives through a notice in a local English newspaper.

On 22 February 2014, journey mates and members of the coordinating committee met at Gangtok in Sikkim for a pre-yatra briefing/orientation.The yatris were divided into two thematic groups comprising seven to eight members.

The groups undertook a 350 km drive cum trek over five days. They were accommodated in homestays managed by local households. The groups explored landscape elements including rich biodiversity,

changes in ecosystems and associated livelihoods over time, and the key challenges in managing change. They also interacted with multiple local stakeholder groups such as frontline staff of the Kangchenjunga Biosphere Reserve (KBR), eco development committee members; KCC's Zero Waste Centre, former herders, pack animal operators, 'himal rakshaks' (mountain guards) and local inhabitants on various conservation and livelihood issues. Evening debriefing sessions for sharing team insights and journey findings were organized where each individual yatri shared his/her observations with multiple local stakeholders.

Key observations

- The yatra brought about a better understanding of issues and the disconnect as well as the connect between science, policy, and practice. The agroforestry practice of growing cardamom with alder trees had been known to contribute to good production and income (Sharma et al., 1998). The yatra witnessed change in this traditional alder cardamom-based agroforestry model to

a pure cardamom crop being raised on high external inputs. Farmers were introducing new cultivars/varieties (Sawaney and Sarana) of cardamom that can grow without shade and the fertilizing effect of alder (*Alnus nepalensis*) trees but needed external inputs such as irrigation and nutrients for optimum yield. Huge tracts of traditional agroforestry land were being cultivated with these new varieties of cardamom. Here was land use change that begged a research question, as farmers with agroforestry plantations of cardamom with alder were losing yield and therefore switching over to pure cardamom plantations, while alder trees so removed created a glut in the market.

- Effective implementation of rural energy policy by distribution of free cooking gas (LPG) connections and induction stoves by the state government in rural areas to substantially reduce the pressure on forests for fuel wood (policy–practice connect)
- Government programmes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA), as well as support to ecotourism in the state have brought about qualitative change in the lives of rural folks across the landscape. However, climate-induced threats such as flash floods, landslides, and landslips have become frequent and intense in recent times. The natural occurrence of a number of pure stands of Himalayan alder on every slope indicates that the landscape is inherently prone to landslides.
- Interactions with villagers brought forth the issue of multiple micro-plans at the local level, each driven by the concerned sector, with little or no connect to other sectoral plans.
- The Kangchenjunga Conservation Committee (KCC) has been playing a pivotal role in the conservation and livelihoods of local people around Yuksam located in the vicinity of the Kangchenjunga Biosphere Reserve. KCC's initiatives on ecotourism, home stays, and now zero waste have drawn attention at the national level. KCC and KBR management have worked together to develop some of the best practices in waste management.

About the process

The LSJ was organized successfully as planned. It was felt that when undertaking future journeys, key stakeholders, including local communities and line agencies, should be informed about the proposed LSJ well in advance. They should also include orientation of the team, debriefing sessions each evening, and the final sharing of journey outcomes with multiple stakeholders. Due to the short duration of the LSJ, a debriefing session could not be organized in Gangtok.

Usefulness of the landscape journey process

The LSJ provided an opportunity to a multidisciplinary team to broadly understand the issues and their inter-linkages in the Kangchenjunga landscape. The LSJ process helped identify a number of socio-ecological issues, and best conservation and development practices within a very short span of time. The individual journey mate benefited immensely from the shared perspectives and knowledge gained resulting in greater appreciation for multiple view points on a given issue while simultaneously developing the ability to quickly find common ground to nderstand the issue comprehensively.

To quote the Uttarakhand-based People's Association for Himalaya Area Research (PAHAR), experiences from the last four decadal yatras of more than 1100 km from Askot in the east to Arakot in the west in Uttarakhand, "yatras are like good thoughts and good books that help yatris in finding right ways to evolve and transform further".

3.12 Corridor connectivity matters

A landscape walk through the Kanha–Pench corridor

Soumen Dey

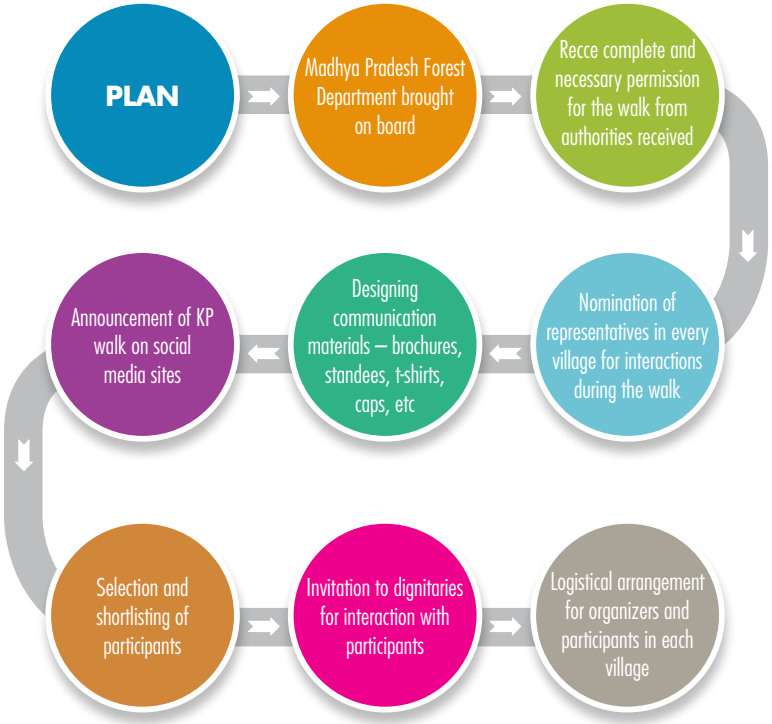
Background and context

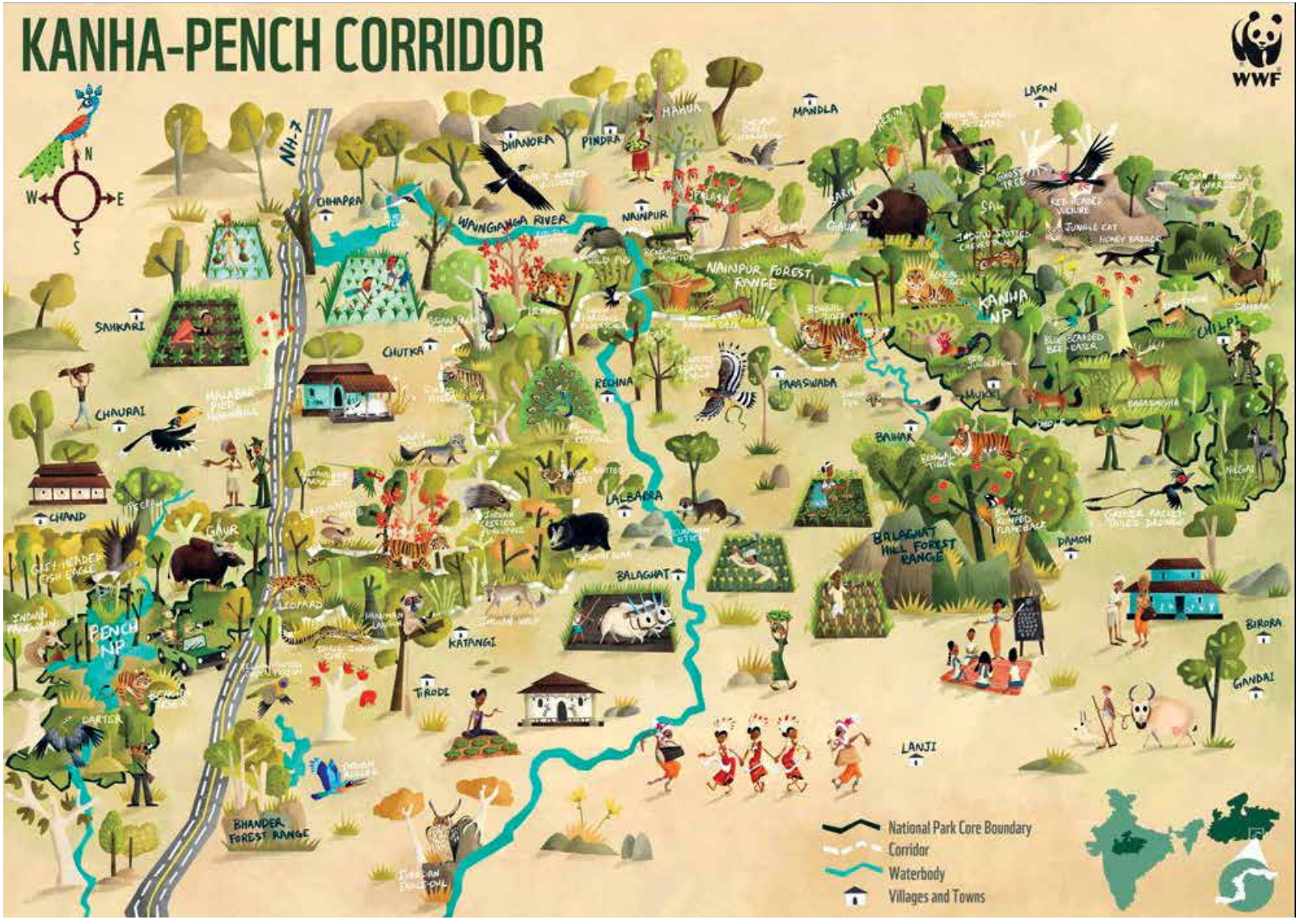
The Kanha–Pench (KP) corridor is located in the Satpura–Maikal landscape and is spread across an area of approximately 16,000 km^2. The corridor acts as an essential link between Kanha and Pench tiger reserves – two important source sites for tigers in Central India. This corridor encompasses 440 villages and is home to many indigenous communities such as the Gonds, Baigas, and Panikas. Besides being the catchment for many small streams, which feed bigger rivers such as the Wainganga and Banjar, the corridor is home to a plethora of rich wildlife species. However, with increasing habitat loss and fragmentation, agricultural expansion and urbanization, pressure on this corridor is immense.

The annual corridor walk aims to create awareness among concerned citizens, and gather support from government and other conservation communities to secure habitats and movement through wildlife corridors in Central India. Every year, a group of individuals from different cities, backgrounds, and age groups are taken for a week-long journey through the rich forests and villages in this corridor.

Organizing of the corridor walk

The Kanha–Pench corridor walk comprised a seven-day landscape journey through a corridor that connects two major source populations of tigers in Kanha and Pench in Central India. It covered a distance of 78 km on foot. The walk was organized by WWF-India in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department. Participants were invited through an online announcement circulated through various websites and platforms. Since seats were limited, the final call on selection of participants lay with the organizing team. A flyer with a pictographic map and an itinerary, including details of the walk – what to expect, and a list of 'do's and don'ts' – were circulated amongst the enthusiasts. Participants closely interacted with communities and field staff of the forest department throughout the walk.




KANHA-PENCH CORRIDOR
WWF
N
W
E
S
NH-7
CHHAPRA
DHANORA
PINDRA
MAHUA
MANDLA
LAFAN
WAINGANGA RIVER
NAINPUR
NAINPUR FOREST RANGE
KANHA NP
SAL
SAHKARI
CHUTKA
RECHNA
PARASWADA
CHAURAI
BAWAR
LALBARRA
CHAND
GAUR
LEOPARD
BALAGHAT
BALAGHAT HILL FOREST RANGE
PAMOH
PENCH NP
KATANGI
TIRODI
BIRORA
GANDAI
LANJI
BHANDER FOREST RANGE
National Park Core Boundary
Corridor
Waterbody
Villages and Towns

This landscape corridor journey involved some wildlife experts and conservation managers from Kanha and Pench tiger reserves and members of WWF-India, who accompanied and guided the participants on separate days of the walk. Some of the key personnel who joined the walk in various stretches included Field Director of the Kanha Tiger Reserve, Field Director of the Pench Tiger Reserve, District Collector of Seoni, CEO cum Secretary General of WWF-India, and the former Director General of WWF International.

Key learing

The seven-day corridor walk looked into major issues affecting the corridors of both the reserves. The following were major observations from participants:

Linear infrastructure development: Development projects in and around the corridor are threatening its long-term functional viability. The upcoming roads and railway lines crossing through the corridor will make the safe passage of wildlife extremely difficult. The death of wildlife on these roads and railway lines is cause for concern.

Human–wildlife conflict and changing land-use: Some of the major threats faced by this corridor are the growing population, developmental activities, unplanned land use development, and an increase in the number of cattle, resulting in a loss of habitat contiguity as well as an increase in human-wildlife conflict.

Challenges to agriculture: Crop depredation by wild animals was one of the major challenges faced by the communities living along the corridor. Such damage was extremely devastating for marginal farmers cultivating small plots of land. The communities also mentioned the lack of irrigation facilities as a major impediment to farming in the region.

Community interaction sessions helped participants understand the direct relationships between community dependency and their co-existence with forests and wildlife. Participants mentioned that these were good platforms to appreciate biodiversity conservation as well as the challenges of managing large landscapes and reserves with complex drivers of change (WWF, 2016). The annual corridor walk has developed into an important process to create awareness about the bio cultural values of the corridor area, the challenges it faces, and the role of public opinion to secure the corridor.

About the process

The annual corridor walk has developed into an important process to create awareness about the bio cultural values of the corridor area, the challenges it faces and the role of public opinion to secure the corridor.

3.13 Connecting deep

A journey to foster place-based education in Majkhali, Uttarakhand, India

Ajay Rastogi and Brandon McNamara

Background and context

The challenges modern human societies face across the globe are complex, dynamic, and far reaching. Loss of biodiversity, industrialization of agriculture, dependence on fossil fuels, and climate change are just a few sustainable development issues playing out across the world today. When considering these challenges on a personal scale, they can seem so big and abstract that it is nearly impossible to make any meaningful change in our day-to-day lives. This sense of incapacity is understandable when, framed at a global scale, the call to action can be overwhelming and disconnected from reality. As facilitators who want to support transformational global change, we need a narrative which focuses on the tangible, positive impacts of addressing these diverse global challenges at both personal and community scales. Place-based education provides an approach for creating experiential, innovative, and transformative curriculum designed to engage participants in local examples of community-based sustainability (Elder, 1998). Another way of describing this would be using the community as a classroom. When the walls of the traditional classroom are broken down and expanded to include the physical, ecological, and social attributes of a place, called landscape, the participants become engaged in a deeper style of learning and connection (Sobel, 2004).

The landscape journey: Why and how ?

Started in 2010, the programme has evolved over time. The participants include groups of undergraduate students (about 25) who undertake the process for about two weeks. A journey through the Majkhali landscape has been developed to investigate and explore themes of community resilience through place-based learning in the Himalayan setting. The planned activities and curriculum provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective leaders, change agents, and communicators in the modern world. Upon the completion of the landscape journey, participants will have a rich, profound, and relevant experience to draw upon as they continue in the journey of life.

Woven in six modules, the journey curriculum is designed around a cultural immersion in the rural mountain community of Majkhali, Uttarakhand. Each day, participants engage with relevant resiliency issues currently facing the community, including transitions in land use, climate change, water use, dignity of physical work, and viability of traditional agrarian livelihoods.

Fostering a connection to your place

The first few days focus on developing a sense of place in Majkhali as the students traverse the landscape. Sense of place is a core component of personal resiliency. 'Your place' includes the geographical and physical attributes of the location, such as the roads, the buildings, the rivers, and the hills, as well as social and cultural attributes such as vocation, festivals, and relationships. It is the many different attributes of your place which make it feel like home. Having a strong sense of place creates a feeling of connection to the various attributes of your place. Nature connectedness, cultural participation, and strong relationships are all part of sense of place. Not only does this contribute to happiness and quality of life, it makes one more resilient in the face of change.

Mindfulness

Mindfulness is embedded in the journey curriculum. A mindfulness workshop introduces participants to the concept and practice of mindfulness, as well as its importance with respect to resiliency.

Mindfulness can be thought of in a variety of ways, from a mental training technique (such as meditation) which promotes awareness and self-reflection, to a fully engaged way of living. Mindfulness has proven effective in coping with stress, which has led to the development of mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR). Additionally, mindfulness can lead to more objective decision making, align behaviors with intrinsic values and create inner motivation to connect with a larger purpose in various stages of life. Nature contemplation is a proven practice which helps encourage a more mindful way of living. Research on 'happiness' is touched upon to bring the latest scientific perspective into context.

Yoga

Ninety-minute yoga classes over a week cover the basic yoga course of the Yoga Vedanta Forest Academy. The participants can thus continue to enhance their practice in several ashrams and retreat centres spread across the world. The theoretical orientation covers several aspects ranging from the physical benefits gleaned from each pose, proper breathing techniques, diet, relaxation, and spiritual growth. The theory of the 'trigunas' (three characteristics of life goodness activity and darkness) is explained in a contemporary context with several examples. Participants learn to recite prayers and realize deep meaning.

Lifecycle thinking

The overarching goal of lifecycle thinking (LCT) is to conceptualize environmental problems as systems-level issues. This framework illustrates the interconnectedness of global communities in today's economic system. The importance of LCT in mindful consumerism is emphasized. A session on aesthetics of consumption and integration in consumer choices complements the lifecycle approach.

Six forms of capital

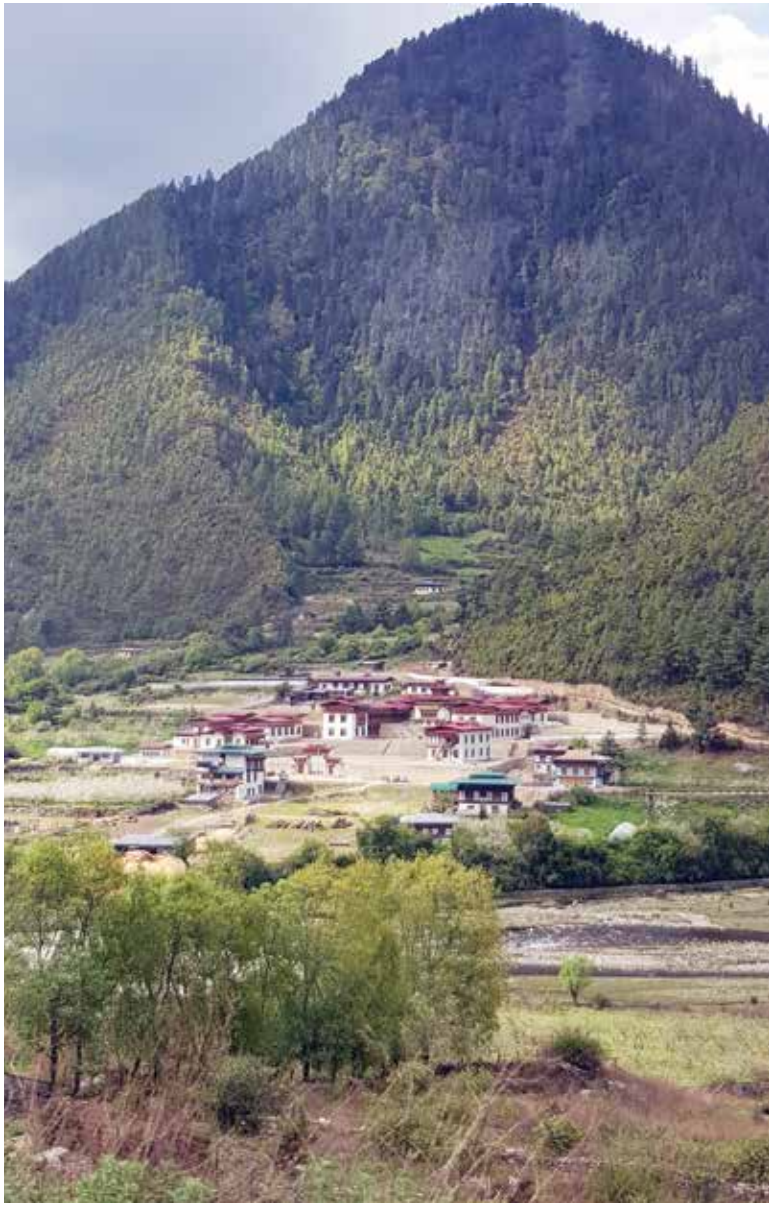
Six forms of capital can describe the world we live in: natural capital, human capital, social capital, spiritual capital, manufactured capital, and financial capital. These are all necessary in an appropriate balance for communities to foster resiliency and sustainability. The case-study of a local women's enterprise based on self help groups showcases how the six forms of capital are built at the community scale. An exploration into fair trade practices also contributes to this framework.

Water, energy, and food nexus

As communities continue to face multiple forms of development and change, there is an growing challenge to provide water, energy, and food to the growing population. Because it takes an enormous amount of water and energy to grow food, it is necessary to understand how water, energy, and food are interdependent and how these relationships influence long-term sustainability and security of supply. This framework connects the previous themes in resiliency to key issues in sustainable development. Biocultural heritage is discussed through the principles of reciprocity, equilibrium, and solidarity to enhance the comprehension of the water, food, and energy nexus in the context of Majkhali. The importance of sovereignty in Mahatma Gandhi's teachings provide further context and perspective with respect to the nexus issue.

Key learning

Participating students in the Majkhali landscape journey find that the approach fosters a deeper connection with nature and a better understanding of resilient living. Nature connectedness is the degree to which an individual includes elements of the natural world in their sense of community. When one's sense of community includes plants, wildlife, and landscapes, they are more inclined to be good stewards of the environment and adopt resilient living practices. At personal and community levels, resiliency is the ability to adapt in the face of adversity, threats, or environmental change. In this context, resilient living is associated with values, behaviours, and lifestyles which contribute to individual well-being and the sustainability of the community at large. The ultimate goal of this landscape journey is for participants to come to a realization about the double dividend which comes with resilient living. Making the conscious choice to embrace resilient living practices has the potential to improve both personal well-being as well as the health of the environment and community at large.



3.14 Understanding landscape elements

A journey through Vindhyan landscape in Kathotiya–Rabbiabad, Madhya Pradesh, Central India

Saurabh Popli

Introduction

Central Indian landscapes are significant for biodiversity values, and home to flagship species such as the tiger. While the region has received attention for its cultural (archaeological and anthropological), biological, mineral, and water resources, little is known about the ways in which the landscape is shaped by humans or the landscape shapes human societies, necessitating a synthetic study that takes into account the interacting impacts of numerous agents.

Kathotiya village, 23.4' N, 77.21'36" E in Sehore district, is situated about 10 km from the city of Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh State in India. It is a tribal settlement, with documentary evidence from the early to middle part of the last century showing that the surrounding ranges were used for sport hunting by the erstwhile rulers of the then state of Bhopal. It lies in a picturesque setting of sandstone cliffs and plateaux rising to a maximum height of 630 masl above dense forest stands of teak and sal. Several rivulets emerge from narrow gorges, onto a narrow basin of cultivated plains, forests, and pasture lands.

Up until the early 19th century, the region saw little change and was mostly inaccessible, with dense forest tracts. The advent of the railways through the region in the later half of the century created demand for railway sleepers (Forsyth, 1888; Buch, 1991). This and the development of a timber-based industry in the region are two major causes for change in the landscape. Nearby, at Kolar, vast forest tracts have been submerged by dam backwaters, part of irrigation and water supply schemes to the city of Bhopal.

Seidensticker (2014) forecasts a 43% loss of the most suitable tiger range by 2020 through agricultural expansion and urbanization. This figure 'does not include habitat loss to mining and supporting infrastructure (such as roads which) if included, would significantly add to the loss of tiger habitat'. With the loss of the tiger, ecosystem-level changes in species, composition, and occurrence are probable.

Why a landscape journey

The School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, India undertakes regional landscape studio projects with students for a landscape character assessment, including the assessment of landscape integrity. The studio projects employ a range of tools to understand changes in the landscape over space and time. Conventional landscape studies however privilege expert knowledge over 'insider' or situated perspectives, which may also remain unnoticed in academic settings. At present, there is no single formal methodology that is universally accepted as a basis for gathering landscape knowledge in complex settings common to India. The landscape journey was used as an innovative approach that allowed landscape knowledge to emerge and sediment in an organic fashion, through direct and participant observation.

This landscape study took place over approximately 12 weeks in academic and field settings from August to November 2016. A variety of tools were employed to collect, analyse, and present knowledge of the landscape, including digital geo-spatial techniques, transect walks, and photography.

Using the format of the landscape journey for three days, the formal study was enriched by multiple stakeholder perspectives, elicited in field settings from participants and direct observation. It served to soften the tunnel vision of planners with rich understanding of the landscape.

Organizing the landscape journey

Pre-yatra planning began in a studio setting at the School of Planning and Architecture. Exhaustive studies of the landscape were prepared through maps and figures; within the natural sciences, explanatory sketches and models were prepared of topographic, geomorphologic, hydrologic, and ecological features, combined with anthropological studies and demographics, yielding rich data that were converted into spatial maps.

The journey was organized with the help of frontline staff of the Forest Department, along with nature enthusiasts with extensive experience in the area. A brief orientation session with students along with forest deapartment staff was held with the help of an interaction exercise that explained the landscape and the landscape approach in an experiential manner. Thematic groups were then formed to explore landsape values.

Data was collected in terms of the bio-physical and anthropic (cultural) attributes. Specifically, data was collected on the physical and perceptual attributes of terrain (landform), ecology (landcover), and human values (land-uses). Detailed data such as terrain characteristics, presence and occurrence of species, lifestyle, as well as nutritional and epidemiological parameters for each of the settlements covered, was gatherd to arrive at a better understanding of human-ecological conditions in the landscape.

Post-yatra, field notes and the data collected were compared with formal maps based on the 'layer-cake' method of landscape analysis to bring out salient bio-physical and perceptual features.

Key learning

The journey highlighted multi-dimensional and ecologically significant aspects of the landscape and the fact that the Central Indian landscapes possess key areas of great biodiversity value where human and landscape health are intertwined.

A series of landscape character areas were identified based on the assemblage of elements such as landform and vegetation types, also relict elements.

A key learning from the journey is that effective conservation in the future will require trust building based on scientific verification and regular communication among scientists, line agency managers, development practitioners, and community leaders, with the acknowledgement that conservation cannot be imposed from above and is ultimately driven by local interests, skills, traditions, wants, and needs. New knowledge and innovative solutions are best conceived when stakeholders with differing interests and knowledge come together to share experience, learn from one another, and participate in decision-making processes. Collaboration and dialogue, as experienced during the journey will facilitate a deeper shared understanding of the challenges, and reduce potential for conflict and redundancies. Developing shared understanding and vision for landscape-level conservation requires platforms for multistakeholder dialogue and shared roles and responsibilities to achieve viable, long-term relationships in human and natural systems.

Considering the accessibility, beauty, and value of this unique tiger landscape, an approach towards conservation action demands mutually reinforcing bottom-up and top-down cooperation measures. This is expected to yield conservation and social benefits.

Benefits or usefulness

Understanding landscapes and landscape approach

Landscape knowledge is constituted within fields of action. Landscape assessments such as ecosystem analysis have been critiqued for their positivist bias and universalism. The landscape journey here serves a dual role; it seeks and actively gleans knowledge outside formal frameworks by integrating multisectoral perspectives and thereby blending the traditional epistemology of 'science' with field-based integrated knowledge and understanding. It is thus not only different in its scope, vision and results, but also in its lens, which is informed by social and ecological perspectives. This can be seen as a shift to process-oriented conservation and landscape management (Seidensticker, 2010).

A landscape yatra thus becomes both a process and a tool for building knowledge and alternative visions and synthesizes them in an attitude of respectful acknowledgement, which is a necessary transformation. It yields rich data and multiple values, and dismantles traditional 'hegemonic' relationships between 'scientific' and 'local' or 'indigenous' .

Landscape journeys provide rich data in ways that enrich academic knowledge. By situating the actual and specific against the general and abstract, the knowledge of landscapes that is gleaned from journeys is human-centred, participatory, and democratic. Thus it is likely to be useful for more responsive planning and design.

3.15 Seeking transboundaryness

A landscape journey to Chitwan National Park, Nepal and Valmiki Tiger Reserve, India

Nawraj Pradhan, Brij M S Rathore, Tashi Dorji, and Rajan Kotru

Background and context

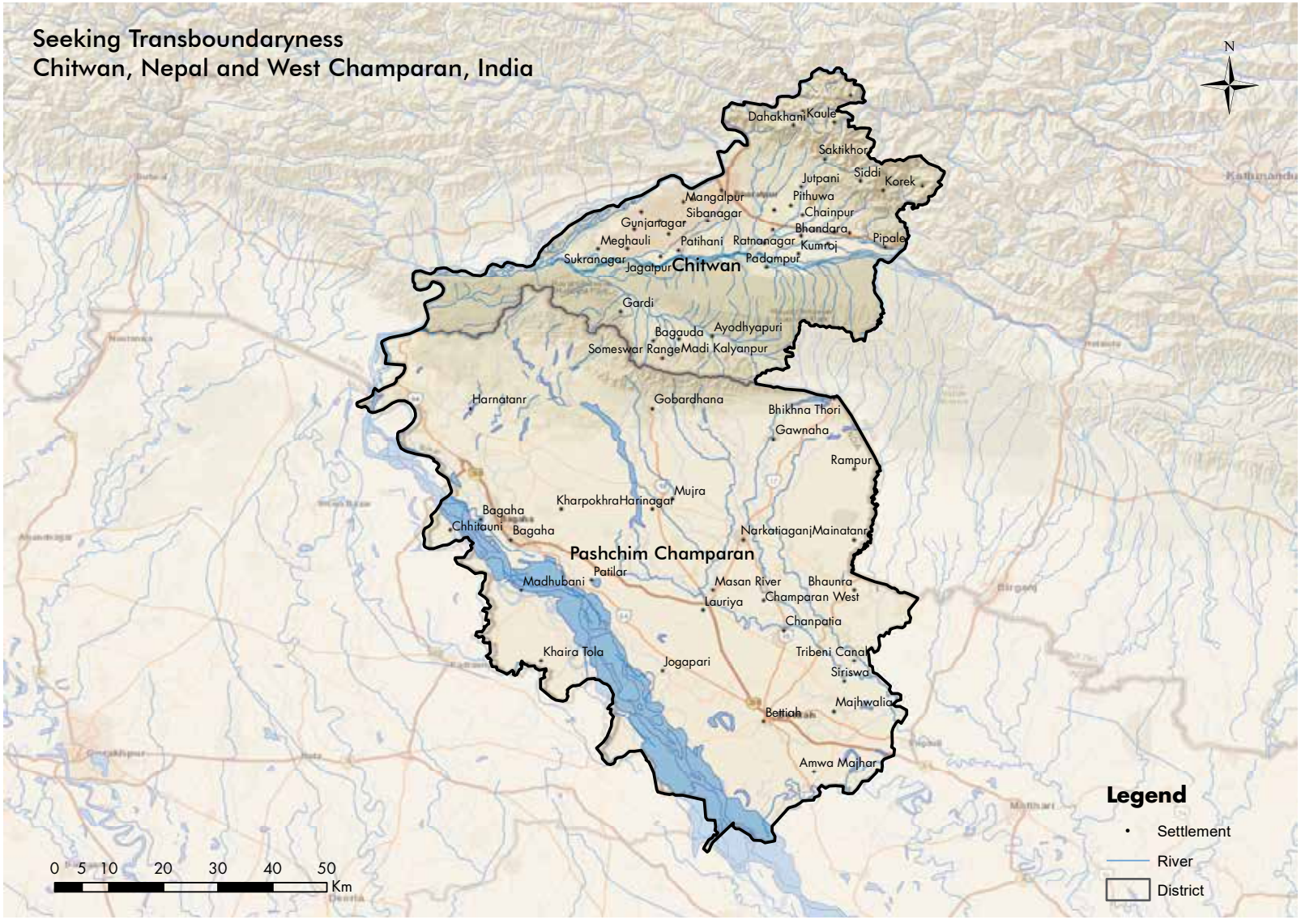
Transboundary landscapes provide a platform for collaboration among countries sharing similar landscapes divided by political divisions to work together to conserve rich biocultural diversity while providing sustainable livelihood options to local communities. Several transboundary initiatives have been launched by ICIMOD and its partners in the fragile landscapes of the HKH. Improving landscape governance is key to the success of transboundary landscape initiatives. The multi-functionality of a landscape as well as the basic principles of the sustainable management of natural resources, stakeholder involvement, and inclusive and informed spatial decision making, are some of the key elements of landscape governance.

To build the capacity of landscape initiative practitioners in landscape governance, workshops were organized to develop and implement curriculum using the Training of Trainers (ToT) mode for the Hindu Kush Himalayan context. One such workshop in Chitwan, Nepal included 25 participants from seven countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The landscape journey, used early in the workshop, was meant to provide a first-hand feel of the landscape elements and the key issues in a transboundary context. The landscape journey was used as a process tool to highlight the key issues viewed from the perspective of multiple stakeholders. The site for the landscape journey included transboundary areas of Madi Valley in Chitwan National Park (CNP), Nepal and the Govardhana area in Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR), India.

Organizing the landscape journey

ICIMOD collaborated with the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) Wageningen University, the Netherlands to design training workshops on landscape governance. A small team from ICIMOD, with support from the Forest and Wildlife Department and other stakeholders in Nepal and India, facilitated the preparation and organization of the landscape journey as part of a landscape governance curriculum. A preliminary visit to CNP, Nepal and VTR, India was made mainly to inform and raise awareness about the event. Based on these preliminary visits, landscape journey field sites were selected and concerned stakeholders were informed about the programme and the profiles of participants. During the journey process, the participants were divided into two groups to undertake the landscape journey which covered Madi Valley, Nepal and Govardhana, India (see map).

The landscape journey involved a range of participatory tools (transect walks, semi-structured interviews, key informant interviews, resource mapping, and focus group discussions) involving stakeholders at different levels. During the journey process, a


Seeking Transboundaryness
Chitwan, Nepal and West Champaran, India
N
Dahakhani
Kaule
Saktikhor
Jutpani
Siddi
Korek
Mangalpur
Pithuwa
Sibanagar
Chainpur
Gunjanagar
Bhandara
Meghauli
Patihani
Ratnanagar
Kumroj
Pipale
Sukranagar
Jagatpur
Chitwan
Padampur
Gardi
Bagguda
Ayodhyapuri
Someswar Range
Madi Kalyanpur
Harnatanr
Gobardhana
Bhikhna Thori
Gawnaha
Rampur
Mujra
Kharpokhra
Harinagar
Bagaha
Chhitauni
Bagaha
Narkatiaganj
Mainatanr
Pashchim Champaran
Patilar
Madhubani
Masan River
Bhaunra
Lauriya
Champaran West
Chanpatia
Khaira Tola
Jogapari
Tribeni Canal
Siriswa
Majhwalia
Bettiah
Amwa Majhar
Legend
Settlement
River
District
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Km

few presentations were made by professionals and experts from the region. The group which visited VTR India rejoined the other group in Madi valley, Chitwan along with VTR officials and three community leaders. A small de-briefing session highlighted the values in the transboundary landscape and its actors, institutions, conflicts, and critical issues. The landscape journey set an early stage for the overall landscape governance training in five modules – namely, thinking and acting landscape perspective, achieving coherence in landscape diversity, making landscape institutions work, creating landscape market values, and managing landscape resources (ICIMOD, 2017).

Key learning/outcomes

- The landscape journey as part of a curriculum on landscape governance was able to highlight real transboundary issues as perceived by various stakeholders from both countries.
- Relationships through marriage, markets, and culture in the transboundary context were highlighted as unifying factors which need to be considered in management strategies.
- Transboundary issues of human–wildlife conflict and illegal wildlife trade between the CNP and VTR landscapes require transboundary institutional mechanisms for regular coordination between authorities at the local, meso, and macro levels. Such mechanisms would also strengthen joint wildlife monitoring/research to reduce human–wildlife conflict and improve overall transboundary landscape management.
- Community-to-community engagement was identified as an important way to improve and synchronize conservation efforts on both sides. A team of three village leaders from Govardhana along with VTR officials participated in the debriefing meeting on the landscape journey at Madi. This could be seen as the beginning of such an engagement.
- Creating a trans-Churia eco-trail to promote ecotourism was seen as an important transboundary connect.
- Although there are already existing mechanisms of collaboration between officials of CNP, Nepal and VTR, India, particularly on issues of wildlife crime, a broader transboundary stakeholder platform was seen as highly desirable by officials and other stakeholders.

About the landscape journey process

The landscape journey process was able to generate a comprehensive picture of the transboundary landscape, its actors, institutions, conflicts, and other issues. The process and outcome from the landscape journey helped the landscape governance workshop and gave participants a firm handle on key issues that inform 'transboundaryness' in landscapes.

Due to the time spent on travel to the VTR in India, participants who travelled to Govardhana area had very little time to engage with the multi-stakeholder process comprehensively. More time for field visits and interactions with various stakeholders during the landscape journey process need to be planned. The landscape journey as a process tool should be undertaken periodically over a space of time and should not be seen as a one-time event.

3.16 Strengthening capacities of landscape practitioners on multi-stakeholder processes

Landscape learning safari in the Horn of Africa

Joyce Engoke, John Ajjugo, and Cora van Oosten

Introduction

The Horn of Africa Climate Change Programme (HOA-CCP) is implemented by the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Network (HOAREN) in collaboration with the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (Wageningen CDI, Wageningen University, Netherlands). Its aim is to create climate-resilient landscapes, communities, and businesses throughout the Horn of Africa. The name 'safari' was adopted from a Kiswahili word, which means 'a walk', reflecting its aim of walking together towards a common destiny. The Horn of Africa harbours an extensive river network, one of them being the River Nile, the longest river in the world, which flows through nine countries. The region is endowed with rich biodiversity, and witnesses extensive transboundary wildlife migrations. However, the region is troubled by many social and political problems. Competing claims on its resources makes it vulnerable to conflict, which is reflected in a growing number of transboundary disputes. At the same time, the region has embarked upon a process of regional integration through enhanced regional trade, infrastructural connectedness, and economic corridors, offering both opportunities as well as challenges for regional collaboration on the ground.

The programme's Theory of Change states that an integrated landscape approach across the countries will contribute to the sustainable management of the region's resources by addressing conflicts and transforming them into collaborative and integrative governance at the landscape level. By offering a regional platform for collaboration between multiple development partners (NGOs, investors, governments, and community groups), conflicts can be transformed, and resilience can be enhanced. It is to this end that the Landscape Learning Safari was created, representing a learning trajectory for members of the network, to promote exchange of knowledge and best practices, and empower them to undertake regional, national, and sub-national environmental advocacy roles.

How is the landscape learning safari organized?

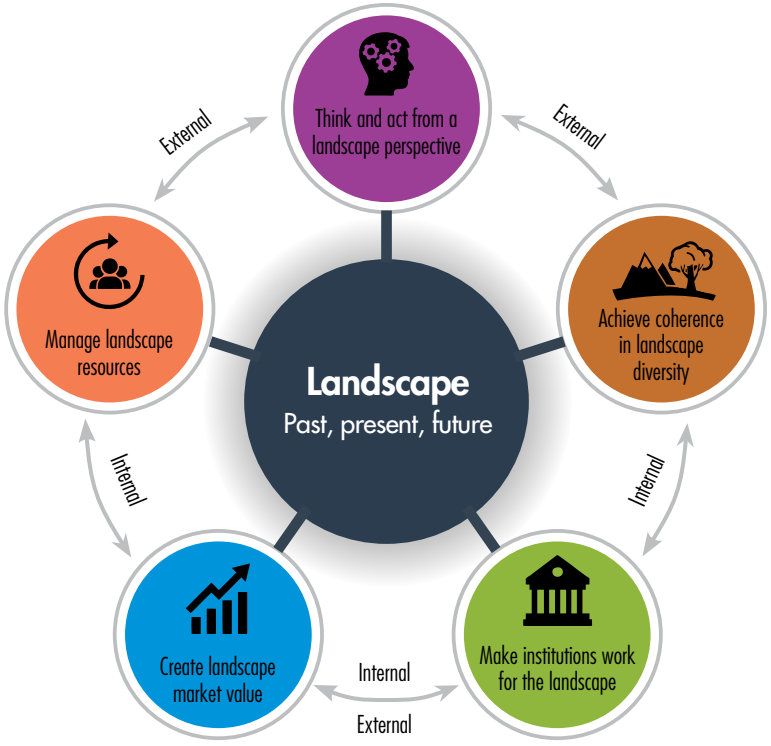
The landscape learning safari is focused on building the landscape governance capacities of a selected group of facilitators, coordinators, and researchers in each of the landscapes taking part in the Safari. Before its start, six landscapes were selected in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia (Somaliland), and Kenya, most of them having a transboundary element. From each of these landscapes, key actors were selected to take part in the safari. Selection took place based on the candidates' core competencies, including their representativeness, gender, commitment, communication skills, and respect for the environment. For each of the landscapes, a capacity needs assessment was carried out, based on which an initial curriculum was drafted. Each component of the curriculum formed the basis for a related workshop. These workshops were held in landscapes that best suited the respective component, thus leading to a sequence of bi-annual workshops, for a period of four years (2015–2018). During the workshops, the focus was on content, but more importantly, on the sharing of experiences and mutual support. The entire process was supported by an online learning platform for safari members only.

After revisions, the curriculum evolved into a more generally applicable 'landscape governance framework', which is quite similar to the landscape governance framework developed by Wageningen CDI and ICIMOD. Its major components were: (i) The capacity to 'think' landscape (the capacity to understand natural-ecological and socio-cultural characteristics); (ii) The capacity to achieve internal coherence (the capacity to take up leadership to embrace a landscape's diversity and facilitate multi-stakeholder networks); (iii) The capacity to make institutions work for landscapes (the capacity to recognize and capitalize on endogenous landscape institutions, build new institutions, and link with external policy frames and markets); (iv) The capacity to create landscape market value (nurturing entrepreneurship, creating sustainable landscape business models, and attracting landscape finance); (v) The capacity to manage resources (knowledge of a landscape's resource dynamics, and the best management options at hand).

Key outcomes

Throughout the safari, facilitators were capacitated and empowered to engage in landscape governance by learning a variety of concepts and practical tools to be implemented in their working area. In general terms, landscape governance in the participating landscapes has improved, although on a small scale. As most of the landscapes are complex and deal with conflicts, it is difficult and sometimes impossible to intervene. Nevertheless, within the Horn of Africa's context, maximum outcomes are being achieved. Two particular experiences should be highlighted because of their relevance and practical success:

- The Gambella Eco-hub in Southwest Ethiopia is a small yet innovative project aimed at introducing permaculture, which is new in the area. Although successful, the project works on a very small scale and has little impact on its larger landscape. Together, the safari's participants and the project's partners applied the landscape governance framework, allowing them to look at the Eco-hub from a landscape governance perspective. They placed permaculture within the larger biocultural characteristics of the landscape; its stakeholder constellations, its institutional frames, and its business environment. As a result, better adapted technologies were adopted, and a more constructive dialogue with Gambella's stakeholders was initiated, both leading to better project outcomes.

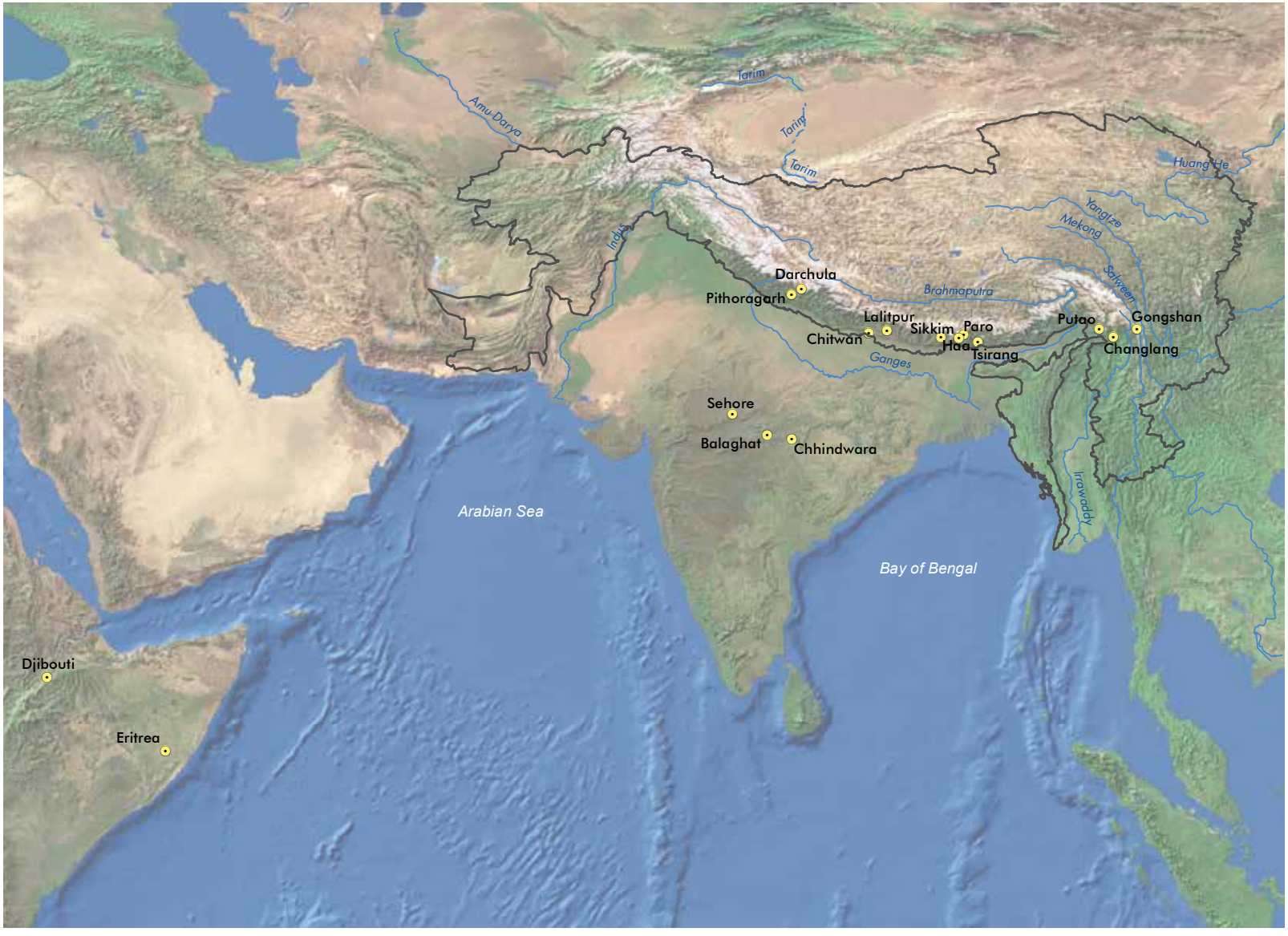


- The Southern Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO) in Kenya is a vibrant member organization, which has initiated a range of small and scattered projects in their landscape. With the help of their safari peers, they applied the landscape governance framework, which helped them to align activities and bring them under a coherent landscape governance logic. First, the components of the framework were translated to the Maasai language for the benefit of the local population. Each of the components was worked out in a culturally responsible manner, providing a solid framework for SORALO to position itself in its rapidly changing socio-cultural, institutional, and business environment. It sharpened their pogramme and gave it a better focus than before.

What went well, and what did not? What should we do differently next time?

The main purpose of the landscape learning safari was to build the capacity of landscape practitioners working at the landscape level; to enable them to guide multi-stakeholder processes and identify opportunities and critical bottlenecks for the sustainable management of landscape resources. The landscape governance framework co-created through the safari was a useful tool to assess landscape governance capacities and develop them further in a participatory manner. Important discoveries were made during the process, as the participants engaged in collective reflection, and supported each other to look differently at their landscape. In this way, the safari truly became a collective walk towards a common destiny. The safari became one of the cornerstones of HOAREN as it created a network of landscape professionals across the region.

Of course, there were challenges such as the dropping out of participants halfway through the process and their replacement by others who had not started building their knowledge from the onset. In the future, a safari would need to have more compulsory elements, forcing participants to stay on board and deliver tangible products in time. Also, more research would be good to document the process and identify the lessons learned while walking. A newly established research group has to fill this gap by drafting a research agenda focusing on regional challenges experienced by all. These additional elements will enhance the success of future safaris, and make them true instruments for collaborative landscape learning at the regional level.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Yangtze
Mekong
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Indus
Darchula
Pithoragarh
Brahmaputra
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Sikkim
Paro
Chitwan
Haa
Tsirang
Putao
Gongshan
Changlang
Ganges
Sehore
Balaghat
Chhindwara
Irrawaddy
Arabian Sea
Bay of Bengal
Djibouti
Eritrea

丙中洛欢迎

Chapter 4: Connecting the dots

Brij MS Rathore and Bandana Shakya

4.1 Typology of the landscape journey

The 16 landscape journeys can be divided into three broad categories based on the purpose of undertaking them. The typology is broad for the purpose of organizing the journeys, although the types are not exclusive.

The exploratory: The journeys to understand GNH in Bhutan and change in the Kangchenjunga landscape seek policy–practice connect in the Satpura landscape, India, and build interdisciplinary understanding, in the Karakoram Pamir landscape were predominantly exploratory in nature. These helped build shared understanding and insights from the journeys have been used for follow-up actions. The annual Kanha–Pench corridor walk aims to crreate greater awareness among stakeholders.

For integrated planning, implementation and monitoring: Three journeys under HI-LIFE – from China, India, and Myanmar – were used to kick-start the planning/implementation of the project. Multiple journeys in Kailash (India) have been undertaken to move towards integrated planning and implementation. The transboundary landscape journey undertaken across Nepal and India falls somewhere in between the first and second category. The journey to Tsirang, Bhutan aimed at augmenting planning for the 12th Five Year Plan. The godavari landscape journey through its multiple iterations is moving towards integrated planning/actions based on a shared understanding of the landscape.

Curricula driven: The landscape governance journey in the Horn of Africa, seeking transboundaryness in the Chitwan–Valmiki Tiger Reserve, place-based learning in the Majkhali landscape, and the journey through Vindhyan landscape in Kathotia to understand landscape elements are examples where the landscape journey has been used as part of academic/training curriculum.

4.2 Common threads

Irrespective of which category these 16 cases fall in, the common threads across them cannot be missed. This section describes the common threads across landscape journeys as they relate to key principles of the landscape approach. Not all the journeys imbibe all the elements/principles of the landscape approach equally, but the core principle of multiple stakeholdership, seeing beyond narrow sectoral boundaries, and the process of building shared understanding and collaborative actions at scale is common to all.

Beyond boundaries

All the landscape journeys cover a mosaic of land-use, ecosystems, and habitations. The journey in Gonghan County in China, Kachin State in Myanmar, and Arunachal Pradesh in India used a cluster of villages in the near vicinity with multiple ecosystems defining the landscape. Multiple journeys in the Kailash landscape (India) used pilot sites (micro watershed) along both horizontal and vertical transects, the Kanha–Pench walk used a corridor area with multiple land use and habitations for repeated walks. The Godavari landscape journey in Nepal used springshed/catchments covering multiple land use and upstream–downstream villages.

The landscape journey in the Horn of Africa used a landscape across six countries to build the capacity of landscape governance practitioners to be effective at multiple scales i.e., regional, national, and sub national. Similarly, landscape governance curriculum targeting participants from four countries used the transboundary Chitwan–Valmiki Tiger Reserve to site the landscape journey. A place-based learning module for ‘connecting deep’ uses multiple ecosystems along with habitations in Majkhali, Almora district, India.

The landscape journeys therefore cover areas which may range from a single village with its multiple ecosystems and people therein to clusters of villages along with its natural elements, to a larger transboundary areas cutting across countries. The LSJ therefore can be seen as process that traverses multiple ecosystems within or across administrative, programmatic, and political boundaries.

Stakeholdership

A majority of the landscape journeys in Chapter 4 have involved multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral teams undertaking the journey process. The journeys have brought together a range of experts drawn from physical science, biological science, social science, art, and literature along with stakeholders from multiple government agencies, private sector, academia, civil society organizations, community members, media, donors, etc. Not that all the LSJs have been able to bring together such a transdisciplinary mix in one go. But wherever multiple journeys have been undertaken, they have become more inclusive of multiple stakeholder engagement. Also it is important to note that not all key stakeholders could be part of journey teams due to time compulsions. But the journey process always provides for reaching out to such key stakeholders, identified beforehand.

After visits to the landscape area/villages, inter-stakeholder meetings at different levels have become a constant feature of the LSJ process. These meetings often bring on board key stakeholders from the concerned landscape as well as those with formal authority / responsibility for landscape management, but not necessarily sited within the given landscape. Such a tiered approach in engaging stakeholders at different scales is important to building ownership for actions. The Kailash Sacred Landscape journeys, for example, through an iterative process of stakeholder engagement brought on board the private sector, which are often unrepresented although they command huge influence.

Appreciation and belongingness

The landscape journey brings appreciation of the landscape values which are often captured through bio-cultural elements, and the richness and uniqueness of ecosystems including agro ecosystems, species diversity, and habitation. The journey team starts relating/connecting to the landscape elements. This is the 'wow factor' that sinks in. All the journeys featured in Chapter 4 have common elements – of getting the teams to see these interacting landscape traits be it forests, wildlife, water/riparian systems, agro ecosystems, habitations, cultural practice etc. within a landscape. While the Kailash transboundary landscape has a richness of sacred and cultural elements, the one in Gongshan County in China presents mesmerizing undulating agro ecosystems embedded in the surrounding forest ecosystems.

The idea of belongingness to the landscape being visited is about the key stakeholders (who inhabit such a landscape or who have interest in the landscape) identifying with the landscape and taking pride. For instance, the communities in the transboundary landscape of Chitwan–Valmiki Tiger Reserve, although divided by a political boundary, have a common feeling of being 'one' thanks to community bonding and ties through marriages, common cultural practices, and trade. The landscape journey, in Majkhali, Uttarakhand, brings out this belongingness through connectedness with nature, culture, and community bonding and bridging.

Understanding interdisciplinary/inter-sectoral perspectives

The crux of a landscape journey is to build a connect among stakeholders from different sectors, backgrounds, and disciplines sharing diverse perspective.

The LSJ provide opportunity for direct observation to the team about the changes and transitions that these systems are undergoing on account of a host of factors. Many of the landscapes have undergone such changes, which may catch the LSJ team by surprise. "Where is my Leiku", bemoaned Yang Yongping while undertaking the journey from Kunming to Gogshan county via Leiku Township and reflecting on the drivers of change. The Satpura landscape journey provided an opportunity to understand competing views among important actors and local communities in the landscape and the opportunity to reconcile the same. "The process helped in reducing prejudices and bridging the gap, giving way to a spirit of collaboration", says Chitranjan Tyagi, the anchor for the landscape journey in the Satpura landscape.

The LSJ process brings to the fore the challenges on account of the degree of disconnects across scientists, policy makers, practitioners, and constituencies. The Satpura landscape journey drove home the point that centrally designed top driven development programmes may lack the flexibility required to respond to the aspirations of local communities. The Kangchenjunga landscape journey in west Sikkim brought to the fore the disconnect between science and practice as seen through the *Alnus*/large cardamom agroforestry system.

Building a shared vision

Developing a shared understanding and vision towards a sustainable landscape has been a concern of most landscape journeys discussed. For example, our Godavari, good Godavari, has been developed as shared vision for the Godavari landscape by the Godavari Landscape Journey team to inspire multiple stakeholders to collective action.

Towards integrated solutions

The landscape journeys were undertaken with the purpose of seeking integrated planning and implementation, and having solicited engagement of multiple stakeholders for building integrated solutions. For example, the multiple landscape journeys undertaken by the Kailash Sacred Landscape teams have been able to converge multiple actors for integrated planning in the pilot landscapes. Encouraged by the use of landscape journey in the preparatory/ planning phase, team Kailash decided to establish a multi-disciplinary yatra as an integral part of the long-term implementation plan of the KSLCDI. The interdisciplinary and inter-sector journey in Tsirang Dzongkhag, Bhutan helped in identifying integrated plans for three local government key result areas.

Evolving/strengthening institutions

Institutional platforms for inter-sectoral convergence at the level of the Namdapha landscape and the state steering committee for convergence and leveraging at state headquarters emerged as an institutional response from the landscape journey under the HI-LIFE initiative. The Godavari landscape journey, in its second iteration, led to the setting up of the Godavari Multi-stakeholder

Forum for sharing information and building a shared understanding for integrated actions. The landscape learning safari in the Horn of Africa offered a regional platform for collaborative actions between multiple development partners from six country landscapes. In the Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihoods Improvement Programme in the Satpura landscape, the elements recorded during the journey were incorporated to build a platform for collaborative action by multiple stakeholders.

Building awareness and capacities

Landscape journeys in general have created awareness and improved understanding on a range of landscape issues across stakeholders. However, in specific cases, building awareness and strengthening capacities for landscape governance has been the key focus. The Kanha–Pench Corridor walk has been able to create awareness among concerned citizens and gather support from government and other conservation communities about corridor values and the need to secure them. This has now become a regular annual feature. The landscape governance framework co-created through the safari in the Horn of Africa has been used to assess current landscape governance capacities and develop them further in a participatory manner. Similarly, the landscape journey across Chitwan, Nepal and Valmiki Tiger Reserve, India has been used in the landscape governance curriculum to bring to the fore the key attributes and issues of landscapes to inform the landscape governance curriculum. The place-based learning curriculum for deeper connect uses the landscape of Majhkhali to take education beyond the confines of the classroom. The School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, India has integrated landscape journey into its regional studies.

Connect with nature and self

A landscape journey cultivates a sense of self-motivation as well as a sense of belonging to the landscape and its elements. It provides opportunities to closely observe and understand nature, and connect to its various landscape elements. Most importantly, to connect with our own selves, instilling a sense of ownership and responsibilities to contribute to sustainable landscape management creates space for self-reflection.

Team landscape

A landscape journey creates an ambience that is open and less formal. Hence, it increases interactions and strengthens bonding among journey mates as an interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral team over a period of time; a team that values relationship, trust, and commitment to bring positive change. Team Kailash, for example, has evolved over time following multiple journeys.

4.3 Landscape journeys – Key learning

The landscape journey has been used as an innovative and evolving process tool. In general, the landscape journeys detailed in Chapter 4 have contributed in:

Understanding disconnect

The landscape journey process has brought to the fore the gaps between policies, programmes, and outcomes on the ground. Centrally designed, top-driven development programmes may lack the flexibility required to respond to the aspirations of local communities. It has also highlighted disconnect between research priorities and community needs and ecosystem needs.

Improving connect based on holistic understanding

The process has led to i) better understanding of the interface and transitions of systems – natural, cultural, economic, political, etc., ii) deeper understanding of the landscape issues in an integrated manner, iii) ascertaining challenges and opportunities contributing to the wellbeing of ecosystems and people, iv) assessing successful interventions and locally adapted technologies and their potential replication in other parts of the landscape, v) prioritizing entry-level activities for facilitating wider stakeholder/social engagement, vi) identifying opportunities for convergence with ongoing programmes and schemes, vii) bringing greater connect/access of senior government officials with communities and practitioners, thus building relationships, trust, and commitment to bring positive change, viii) awareness raising among multiple stakeholders including policy makers, development practitioners, and local communities.

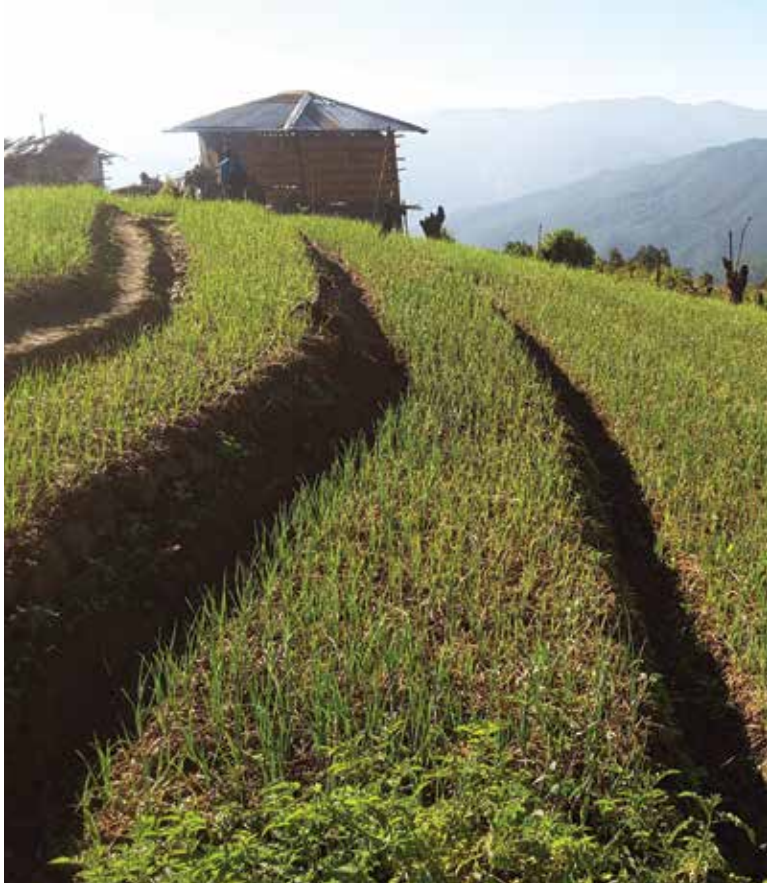
4.4 Evolving and improving

The landscape journey is an evolving process tool which has largely been used by practitioners and planners to some good effect. Some of the journey processes have pointed out the need for better preparation in the pre-journey phase while others have emphasized the need for follow-up in the post journey phase. The need for adequate time during the journey phase and the composition of the core team undertaking the process have found a great deal of emphasis. Only a handful of landscape journeys have been able to emphasize the aspect of 'self connect', a concept that needs space and time for contemplation, and mindfulness as an integral part of the landscape journey.

The landscape journey process, in a way, is a synthesis of many participatory processes of engaging multiple stakeholders blended into an exciting journey mode. The process tool therefore is not meant to be exclusive. As an increasing number of landscape journeys will get underway in the days and years to come, the process tool will continue to get co-created and will be further enriched as the limitations found herein are addressed.

4.5 Way forward

The landscape journey has been gaining traction as a useful process tool to foster interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral teams who see beyond sectoral boundaries. The process has shown tremendous potential in moving towards shared understanding and vision for collaborative actions to ensure wellbeing of people and ecosystems in the landscape.



The landscape journey has been used both at the local level to understand landscape dynamics and interacting ecosystems, as well as at the transboundary landscape level. The process tool will therefore continue to be used and evolve from the local context to subnational, national, regional, and even international contexts. As evident from Chapter 4, the landscape journey process has found application in an array of situations, including the development of a holistic understanding about landscape elements and issues, creating awareness among stakeholders for integrated planning, implementation, and monitoring of natural resource management programmes and their impacts, and in the curriculum for capacity-building initiatives.

Landscape approach-based national projects

Many of the projects within ICIMOD's Regional Member Countries are using the landscape approach for conservation and livelihood improvement. Examples include Secure Himalaya under UNDP India, and the World Bank-supported Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Programme in four landscapes in India; the Strategy and Action Plan: 2015–2025 Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal under the Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal; projects initiated by the Bhutan Trust Fund for Nature Conservation; and similar projects in other member countries. These programmes are strongly embedding landscape-based approaches into conservation and development efforts. The landscape journey process tool could bring dividends for these projects.

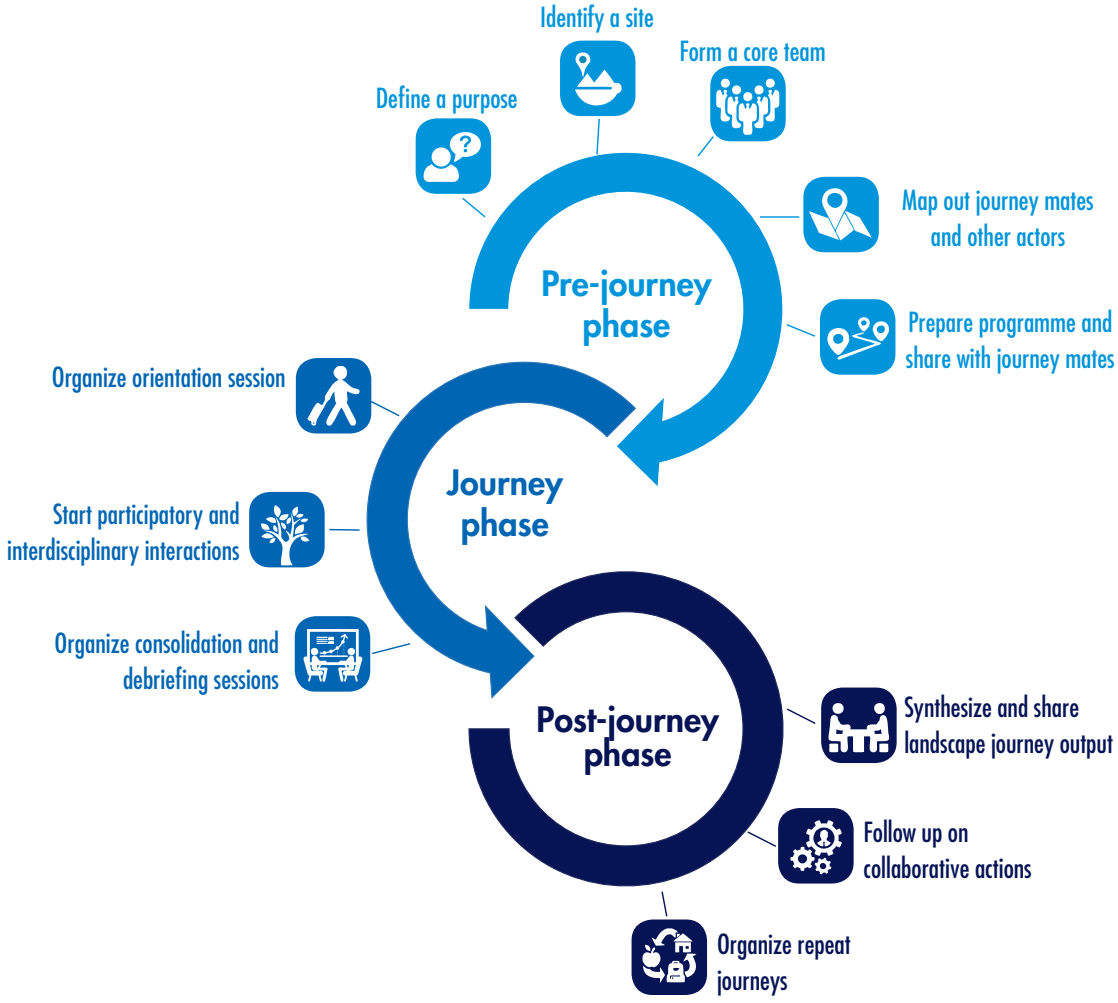
The application of a process tool to engage the private sector can hardly be overemphasized. Engaging the private sector along with sectoral and interdisciplinary players will help is shaping a shared vision and actions for landscape that build largely on synergy and sometimes on tradeoffs. Some of the landscape journeys featured in the guide book have featured good private sector engagement for a win-win situation.

Landscape journeys will continue to inform larger landscape governance capacity-building initiatives and vice versa. A collaborative endeavor on a landscape governance capacity-building framework developed between ICIMOD and CDI has found acceptance in Bhutan and India. In Bhutan, the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER) has included it in its curriculum. Similarly, Lead India is building upon the framework to inform its capacity-building programme for mid-career professionals. The School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal has used the landscape journey approach in the regional studio work in landscape architecture. The Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) a formidable institutional network of scientists, policy makers, and practitioners, in the sixth edition of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit, decided to use the landscape journey process tool in subsequent summits. Similarly, many civil society organizations and government agencies are looking forward to using the landscape journey for bringing improved inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary engagement. There is an opportunity for many national institutions dealing with natural resource management in ICIMOD's RMCs to benefit from the process tool.

ICIMOD as a regional organization will continue to use the landscape journey tool to deepen engagement of multiple stakeholders in its initiatives and programmes at different scales, particularly in its Medium Term Action Plan IV (2018–2022). ICIMOD's partners across transboundary landscapes have engaged with the landscape journey for the last six years, particularly in the Kailash Sacred Landscape in India and in the transboundary context between India and Nepal. Of late, the Far Eastern Himalaya and Kangchenjunga landscapes have started using the process tool to good effect. This will continue to strengthen during the next five years in various phases of the initiatives. The application of this process tool in other Regional Programmes of ICIMOD could also find good traction, particularly in the Resilient Mountain Solutions and River Basin and Cryosphere programmes. In Nepal, particularly in the Godavari landscape, the process tool will continue to be used and further evolve with greater stakeholder engagement towards the vision of 'our Godavari, good Godavari'.

Chapter 5: How to organize a landscape journey

Bandana Shakya, Brij MS Rathore, Ranbeer Rawal, Rajeev Semwal, and Tashi Dorji



5.1 Organizing a landscape journey

Looking at the experiences of various landscape journeys described in Part I of the guidebook, the landscape journey primarily unfolds in three phases:

- Pre-journey (preparatory) phase
- Journey phase
- Post-journey (follow-up) phase

In this chapter, we elaborate on the essentials of each phase and provide some insight into how a landscape journey can be effectively organized and facilitated. Below are some key points regarding landscape journeys we may keep in mind while organizing them:

- A landscape journey is a journey with a purpose
- A landscape journey is about interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral connect
- A landscape journey is about observation, interactions, and analysis
- A landscape journey is about developing shared understanding

5.2 Pre-journey phase

It is a preparatory phase when a landscape journey is conceptualized – the purpose or an objective for the journey is defined, a site is selected, journey mates are identified, and journey details are carved out. Basically, the following questions (see right) are to be answered during the pre-journey phase:

Answering these questions will help in effectively organizing a landscape journey. The first three – defining the purpose, identifying the site and forming a core team – can follow any sequence. All five processes are important.

• Why do we want to organize a landscape journey? • What is our purpose for taking up the landscape journey? • What do we want to achieve out of the journey?	=	**Defining the purpose**
• Where do we want to organize the landscape journey? • Given the purpose, what area would be appropriate? • What geographic scale is appropriate?	=	**Identifying the site**
• Who will lead and facilitate the landscape journey? • Who are the organizers? • Are collaborations with other institutions needed? • Are financial resources in place?	=	**Forming a core team**
• Given the purpose, who should contribute to the journey? • Who are the primary journey mates? • Who would be other relevant stakeholders?	=	**Mapping journey mates and other actors**
• What is the time frame? • What different activities are needed? • What are the expected roles and responsibilities of the journey facilitators and participants • What is the communications plan?	=	**Making a detailed programme**

Defining the purpose

As we see from the case studies, a landscape journey is able to accommodate a wide range of objectives, from developing curriculums and exploring topical issues, to facilitating collaborative planning, monitoring change, evaluating programmes, and promoting cooperation. Clarifying objectives or setting clear goals in the very beginning is an essential pre-journey process that will steer the entire journey process and help the organizer define journey details.

Identifying the site

The site for a landscape journey can span any geographic scale and will depend on the purpose. For example, it can be a:

- pilot site chosen for programmatic interventions
- township comprising of a cluster of villages
- bio-culturally rich area of interest to stakeholders
- micro-watershed comprising of a cluster of villages
- Protected area and adjoining non-protected/buffer area
- corridor between two protected areas, and even a transboundary landscape unit between two countries sharing socio-cultural and historical linkages

Usually, the site for a landscape journey is an area featuring a mosaic of land use and community interactions. The selection of sites may largely follow geographical representativeness, cultural and biodiversity richness, uniqueness, and threat-criteria encompassing physical, biological, socio-cultural, and economic spheres of the landscape. Additionally, the sacred values and aesthetic significance of a landscapes can also be among the selection criteria.

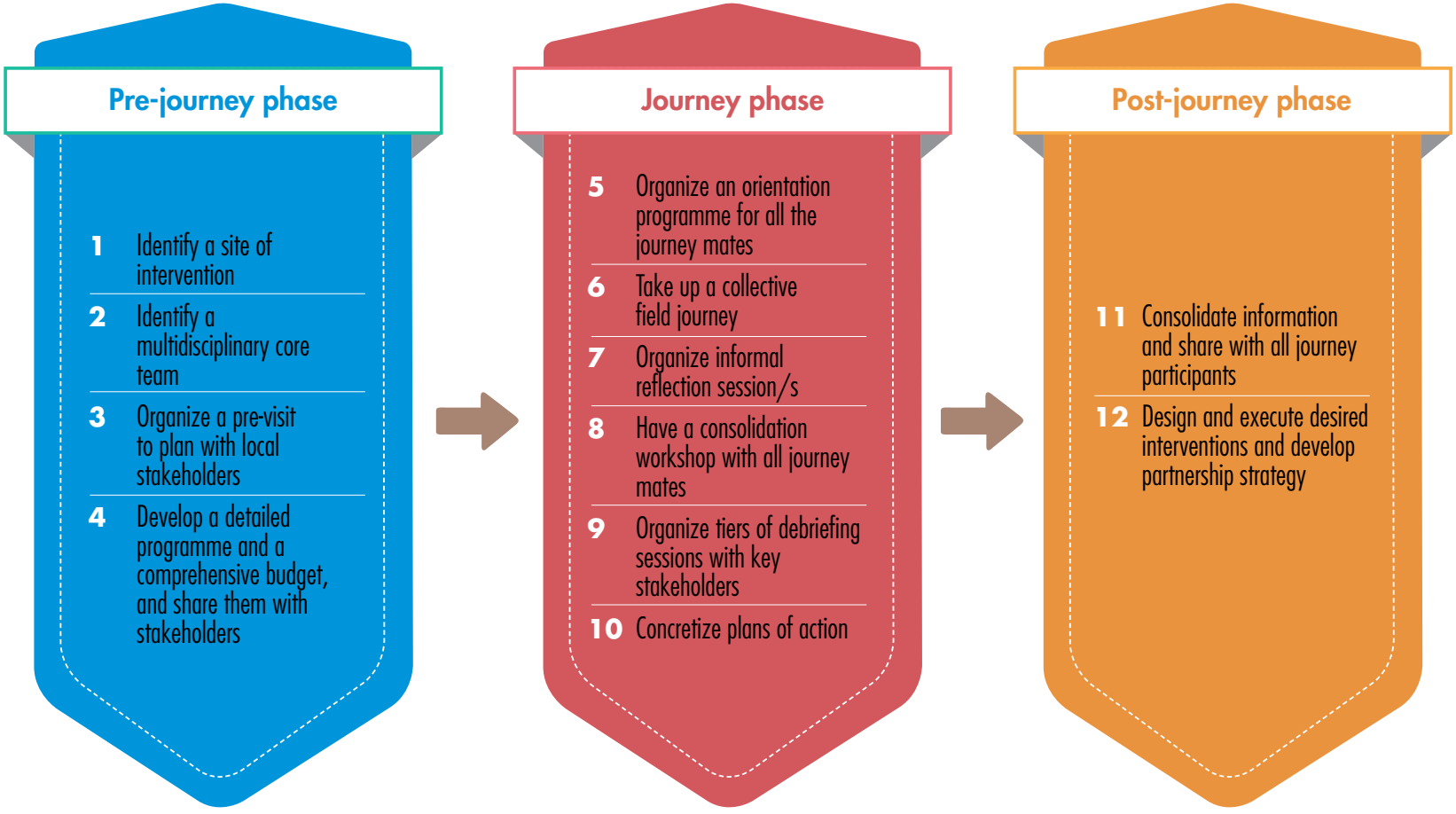
The extent of area covered, its accessibility, and overall logistical facilities, including time requirements, also have to be factored in while selecting the sites.

Forming a core team

It is desirable to make a landscape journey a collective effort rather an individual or institution-led event. In a team, there is a suite of expertise, experience, skills, and competencies. Although it is not mandatory to form a core team, there is certainly more advantage if two or more institutions or individuals come together and jointly facilitate a landscape journey. A journey becomes more interesting if interdisciplinary team members are engaged as the 'core team'.

The composition of core team members and their roles will depend on the purpose defined for the journey. Core team members may come from one institution or different institutions. The key is to have an interdisciplinary team with a balance of thematic discourses, gender representation, skills representation, and essentially with connect at different tiers of management and decision-making systems. Facilitation is enhanced if, among the core team members, there are those with experience of working with the community (in the identified site), one member with programmatic knowledge (as per the purpose), and one with policy-level linkages. It will be advantageous if core team members have skills related to facilitation, motivation, conflict resolution, and partnerships development.

It is desirable to have the core team present throughout the journey as they have varied roles in different phases of the journey (see figure on the next page).


Pre-journey phase
1 Identify a site of intervention
2 Identify a multidisciplinary core team
3 Organize a pre-visit to plan with local stakeholders
4 Develop a detailed programme and a comprehensive budget, and share them with stakeholders
Journey phase
5 Organize an orientation programme for all the journey mates
6 Take up a collective field journey
7 Organize informal reflection session/s
8 Have a consolidation workshop with all journey mates
9 Organize tiers of debriefing sessions with key stakeholders
10 Concretize plans of action
Post-journey phase
11 Consolidate information and share with all journey participants
12 Design and execute desired interventions and develop partnership strategy

While the composition of core team members, their knowledge and skill will influence the process, the strength of the journey increases as it progresses with the assimilation of knowledge from other journey mates and landscape actors with varied exposure, experience, and expertise. The facilitation of a landscape journey through a 'core team' however systematizes its execution.

Mapping journey mates and other actors

The success of a landscape journey depends on the diversity of journey mates – the more interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral the participation, the greater the interaction and understanding among the stakeholders. It helps if the core team take stock of stakeholders relevant to the identified purpose and site for the landscape journey.

It is desirable to include a range of stakeholders – local communities, local institutions, traditional institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector institutions, universities and research institutions, government departments, and media representatives. The basic idea is that outreach to the journey mates is both vertical (along different tiers of decision making and management) and horizontal (across the wider thematic/sectoral spectrum).

The landscape journey process tool allows integration of the interdisciplinary and interdependent 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs). An important goal is Goal 5: achieving gender equality, which can form the basis for all other SDGs and targets. Considering the principles of gender equality and social inclusion while mapping actors and journey mates will significantly enhance the effectiveness of the landscape journey resulting in equitable benefits. The core team can use a pictograph (Annex IV) to sensitize journey participants about the importance of gender perspectives and equitable participation.

We may also keep in mind different interactive sessions and events to map out journey mates. The selection and participation of the right journey mates remains an important success factor for any landscape journey as multidisciplinary interaction is key. The composition of the core team and thematic expertise of journey participants would, however, vary with individual journey objectives. It is desirable to bring representative participation of these five broad categories of participants in all types of journeys:

- academia (researchers, scientists – diverse disciplines)
- civil society (community representatives, local champions – women and men)
- administrators (government authorities, policy makers)
- practitioners (implementers and facilitators of action on the ground)
- private sector (businesses, media representatives)

An important essence of a landscape journey is to establish a connect between stakeholders (for example: community members and decision makers, social science and natural science experts) from the start of the journey. All relevant stakeholders (as far as possible) should journey together.

Making the detailed programme

Although landscape journey programmes are usually flexible and can accommodate changes along the journey, a basic programme outline is needed to systematize it to enable the organizer to facilitate it efficiently and for journey mates to relate to the entire process. The preparation of a detailed programme for a landscape journey includes:

- **Compilation of background information:** This provides journey mates with basic environmental, socio-cultural, and economic contexts of the site. Certain baselines on the number of villages or households, major communities and ethnic groups, major livelihoods, major land uses, challenges and opportunities, if shared with the journey mates prior to the journey, help them better comprehend the context and therefore relate to the purpose of the journey.
- **Deciding on different types of activities and events for the journey:** All landscape journeys entail careful observation, extensive and intensive interactions, collective analysis, and shared understanding of the defined purpose. In order to facilitate these, appropriate participatory methods and tools have to be selected and informal and formal interactive events such as orientation field visits, thematic workshops, and debriefing events have to be planned.
- **Logistics coordination:** If resources and time permit, core team members or one or two members from the core team may make a pre-visit to the identified site to share and redefine the purpose of the landscape journey with the key stakeholders at the identified site. It is desirable to draw out a programme detailing the field visit, village stay with the communities, and community-based consolidation and debriefing events with the key stakeholders, together with logistics and other administrative arrangements. The pre-visit also gives communities the opportunity to be part of the planning process and affirms their ownership in organizing the event. During the pre-visit, the core team may also validate and refine background information on the site, including guiding questions on various themes and issues of concern and priority.
- **Carving out the final programme and sharing it with journey mates:** This is to systematically outline the purpose of the journey, different events, the tentative timeframe, and prospective participants. A landscape journey capitalizes on the use of local resources and local set up and depends less on the use of digital or hi-tech communication tools. It is also important to consider the age of participants while arranging field visits, especially if walking or hiking are required. Another essential aspect is getting consent from identified journey mates for different events and resource persons, together with sharing information about the journey through wider dissemination mechanisms. Developing a landscape journey flyer, handbook, pictograph, and map (if possible in local languages) would make the landscape journey process more comprehensible, interesting, and appealing to the participants. The organizer may also use social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and webpages to share information on the journey or invite wider participation. The time for formal letters to be sent to government institutions for approval, if required, and invitation for debriefing events also have to be factored in and planned for in advance.

The preparatory phase requires adequate time. Therefore it must be planned well ahead of the actual journey to the site. Also, there must be adequate resources for the core team to execute the pre-journey activities. The resources required for the overall landscape journey will depend on its purpose and extent. We share below some of the basic resources needed for a landscape journey:

- **Time:** Time is a very important resource to be invested in the landscape journey. This relates to time for the organizer and the core team members to plan, execute, and follow up on the journey; and time for every journey mate and participant during the journey.
- **Institutional engagement:** The journey requires engagement of several institutions at different layers to put together wide expertise, skills, and experiences.

- Event planning: Usually, informal interactions using participatory tools and tools for adult learning are useful. Some of the debriefing sessions can be more formal, especially sessions with policy makers and administrators.
- Financial resources: It can range from voluntary contributions to contributions in kind to journeys with specified or designated budgets.
- Human resources: Requires engagement and participation of journey mates from different disciplines, backgrounds, expertise, experiences, and responsibilities.
- Logistics: Logistics can range from the simplified to the arranged and the on-the-go to the organized, which may be pre-planned with other landscape actors. They will depend on the financial resources and the programmatic extent of the journey.
- Knowledge management and communications: A very important resource that needs careful planning, knowledge management and communications relates to how core team members communicate with each other, how the organizers communicate with journey mates, how journey mates communicate with each other during the journey, and how journey results are communicated to wider stakeholders.

5.3 Journey phase

The journey phase is when the actual visit to the intended site takes place. It refers to the time for observation of landscape elements, interactions with journey mates, and collective achievement of intended objectives of the landscape journey, as well as reflecion on the entire journey experience. The journey phase entails redefining the journey purpose with journey mates, starting participatory and interdisciplinary interactions, and organizing consolidation and debriefing workshops.

Organizing orientations with journey mates

It may begin with a core team final briefing meeting before the journey begins. If a core team has to travel to the site of the landscape journey from a different place, they can use this travel time for their meeting in the form of a 'vehicle workshop' or workshop inside a vehicle. If core team members are individually travelling from different places to the site, they can spare a few hours to sit together and touch base on these respective roles and responsibilities, and organization of different events before the orientation meeting. The final core team briefing meeting will:

- Reinforce team strength and find out if additional help or support is necessary and how this can be leveraged during the journey
- Reflect on channeling the interdisciplinary strength of the core team and journey participants
- Check on materials for participatory tools and games to be used during field interactions and debriefing workshops

Next is to organize a half-day orientation meeting with the journey mates to reflect on the purpose, objectives, and expected outcome of the landscape journey, and to refine the objectives if needed. The

idea behind the orientation meeting is to:

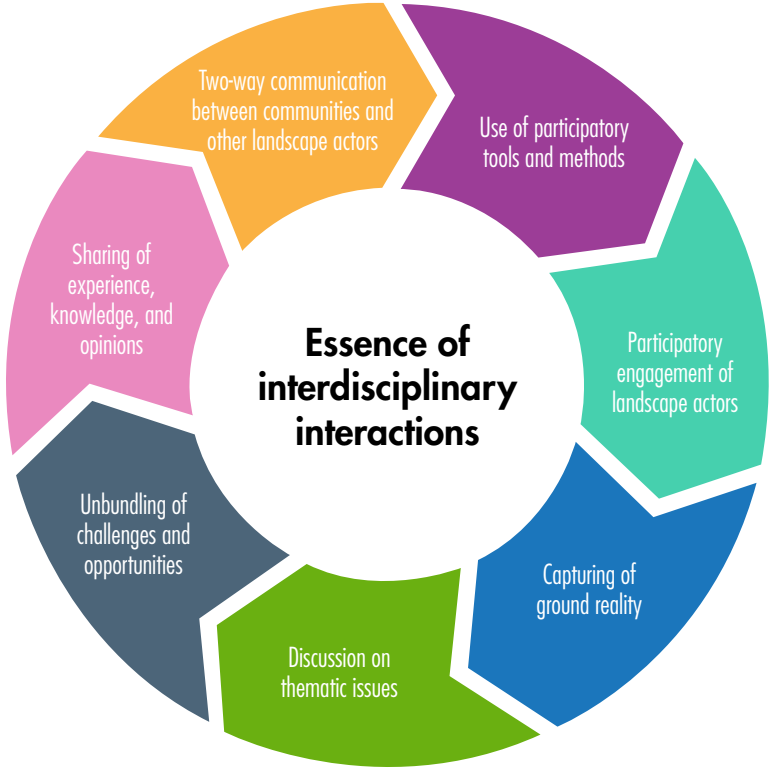
- Clarify on the purpose of the landscape journey, its overall concept and essence to journey mates
- Co-outline desired outputs and expectations
- Share the processes involved in its organization and extent of interactions needed
- Share a list of indicative questions/issues which may be used to bring meaningful interactions among journey mates
- Understand expectations of/from journey mates
- Explore additional landscape actors and when and how they can be included

Starting participatory and interdisciplinary interactions

A landscape journey evolves every day with daily interactions and reflections from the participants. Depending upon the purpose, a series of events can be organized:

- Village walk: A village walk may include a transect walk to observe different land uses, landscape assets (physical, developmental, socio-cultural, natural, and geographical), and interact with communities. If a site for the landscape journey covers a larger area, journey participants and core team members can be carefully divided into groups, ensuring interdisciplinary balance in each group, and different groups can cover different villages and different routes. Core team members may share the guiding questions with the groups so that each group is at the same level of understanding about the purpose and depth of observation and interactions.
- Village stay: Ideally, village stays need to be 1–2 days long to create informal and adequate space for community participation and interaction, essentially to explore and analyze on-the-ground situations and issues of community relevance. While discussing with communities, it is important to listen to them and use appreciative inquiry, and respect their view points and opinions. Field team members need to be sensitive towards the cultures and traditions of the communities, and must present themselves in a cordial and appreciative manner.
- Participatory exercises: Exercises from the PRA toolkit can be used, whenever appropriate, to deepen interactions with landscape actors on site.

Essential aspects of this step are summarized in the figure below:



Organizing consolidation and debriefing workshops with stakeholders

Depending on the purpose of the landscape journey, the consolidation event can be a one-day or half-day event. This event is meant for sharing different groups' observation and insights from the village walks and stays. The consolidation of information is easier and more effective if an indicative list of key points/questions is discussed and shared during the orientation meeting or before the participatory interactions. An example of an indicative list of pointers for a landscape journey which has the objective of facilitating integrated landscape management is given below. However, it is important to understand that these are only some indicative pointers for exploration, there would be many opportunities for on-site innovation as the interaction deepens.

An indicative list of pointers

- Name of village and total number of households
- Approximate population (men, women, children)
- Landscape assets (may use resource maps)
- Key conservation and livelihood issues
- Hazards and disaster issues
- Other socio-cultural, security, economic, and development concerns
- Community vision
- Actions needed to achieve the vision
- Analysis of opportunities/enabling environment, analysis of constraints/inhibiting environment towards achieving the sustainable vision
- Mapping/list of current work and interventions, and extension services; government programmes and schemes, and implementers and institutions present
- Capacity strengthening need
- Roles and responsibilities for intended actions and time frame

Consolidation events are organized to facilitate the creation of shared understanding among journey mates through sharing of observations and analysis of different groups. Core team members and local champions may together facilitate the consolidation event.

Debriefing meetings are more formal and are meant to engage decision makers in the journey process, especially to gain their attention and garner strategic institutional support.

A debriefing meeting can be organized in a series at different levels of constituencies – village/cluster, block/townships, district/country or state/prefecture – depending on the purpose of the journey. The first debriefing session can immediately follow the consolidation event at a village, where local administrators participate and take note of the outputs of the landscape interactions. Subsequent debriefing sessions can happen at different management and policy hierarchy levels, for example, district/country level, state/prefecture level, and central/province level. Debriefing meetings may get more formal as we move up the hierarchy.

Participants of the debriefing sessions are mainly policy planners, key decision makers, programme implementing and extension institutions/organizations/agencies, and experts representing diverse thematic disciplines. However, it is desirable to have community representative or key local-level stakeholders present in debriefing sessions with decision makers. Likewise, the presence of decision makers at village debriefing sessions is essential.

5.4 Post-journey phase

This represents a wrap-up or follow-up phase where findings from a landscape journey are formally synthesized and commitments for collective action are sought, including strengthening of enabling mechanisms for policy and management support. There can be two major activities: synthesizing and sharing of landscape journey outputs and following up on priority actions.

Synthesizing and sharing of landscape journey outputs

This entails a formal documentation of the entire journey process. The core team takes the lead in synthesizing the information and knowledge from all events and prepares a formal landscape journey report with all its key findings, lessons, reflections, and recommendations. The draft is then shared with all journey mates and associated landscape actors for inputs and review and harmonization of findings. Landscape journey outcomes can be made more fascinating and memorable through the compilation of journey photographs or multimedia knowledge products.

Following up on priority actions

This calls for making plans for priority actions such as planning for baseline studies or feasibility assessments or collaborative action research, etc. Follow up activities set the pace for collaborations and the development of partnerships after the landscape journey.

Organizing repeat journeys

The landscape journey serves as a useful evaluation and monitoring tool. The first journey may provide 'baseline' situations for several issues and thematic topics, and repeat journeys may help monitor changes or progress at a given site over the course of a journey.

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Annexes

Annex I: Landscape journey success spectrum

The core team can analyze the success of their landscape journey using the following indicator checklists. The higher the score, the greater the chance that the landscape journey will be effective.

Indicators	3	2	1
Diverse skills and expertise within core team members			
Interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral participation			
Consideration of equitable participation ensuring gender balance			
Landscape journey programmes communicated in advance			
Co-creation of knowledge pitched towards science-practice-policy connect			
Use of both participatory exercises and formal sessions			
Adequate time for field observation and interactions			
Interface between local-level stakeholders and decision makers			
Proactive role of key local stakeholders and champions			
Participation of core team members throughout the journey phases			
Pre-visit to the site by core team members			
Debriefing sessions at different tiers of decision making			
Quick synthesis of journey outputs and follow-up on identified actions			

Annex II: Landscape journey necessities

Intangibles		Tangibles	
	Appreciation for nature and community		Backpack and personal essentials
	Respect for journey mates		Comfortable field clothes
	Expertise, ideas, and opinions		Comfortable field shoes
	Open mindset/flexibility		Medicine
	Self-accountability		Rain jackets/umbrellas
	Enthusiasm		Water bottles
	Friendship		Field books
	Patience		Torch lights
	Positivity		Camera and binoculars

Annex III: Participatory tools and methods applicable in a landscape journey

Annex IV: Gender equity and social inclusion awareness pictograph

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