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PROCEEDINGS

Cross-border sharing of experiences in biodiversity management in the Kailash Sacred Landscape

Nepal and India



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15–17 December 2018

Khalanga, Darchula District, Sudurpaschim Province, Nepal

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Abbreviations

ANCA	Api Nampa Conservation Area
CHEA	Central Himalayan Environment Association
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
GBPNIHESD	Gobind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development
GESI	Gender equality and social inclusion
KSL	Kailash Sacred Landscape
KSLCDI	Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative
MAPs	Medicinal and aromatic plants
NRM	Natural resource management
NTFPs	Non-timber forest products
RECAST	Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology
RM	Rural municipality
WII	Wildlife Institute of India

Background

The Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI) is a transboundary cooperation programme that since 2012 has been applying the landscape-level conservation and development approach in a mutually delineated area shared by China, India, and Nepal. Following a consultative process with national partners in the three countries, KSLCDI invested in strategic interventions that integrate livelihoods programmes with ecosystem services.

Biodiversity is an important resource in the Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL). It provides numerous ecosystem services, ranging from the provision of food, fuel, and shelter to cultural services including religious pilgrimages and tourism. The landscape serves as the habitat for numerous species of plants, including many important medicinal plants such as panchaule (*Dactylorhiza hatagirea*), jatamansi (*Nardostachys jatamansi*), kutki (*Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora*), and yartsa gunbu (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*).

Yartsa gunbu is a caterpillar fungus that grows naturally in the northern alpine grasslands of Bhutan, India, Nepal, and the Tibetan plateau of China at an altitude of 3,000–5,000 masl.¹ Recognized for its medicinal value,² it provides high economic returns to mountain communities living in subsistence economies.³ Consequently, yartsa gunbu trade has become an important economic activity in the KSL, with its major market in China. Its sustainable harvesting, environmental management, and cross-border trade have become pertinent transboundary issues of concern in the KSL. National governments within the landscape are introducing guidelines and policies for sustainable harvesting and management practices, but policies and regulations for collection and trade of yartsa gunbu differ from country to country.

Understanding the importance of yartsa gunbu to mountain communities in the landscape, the KSLCDI programme has been working on various aspects of its management since 2013. These include preparing awareness materials, conducting awareness and capacity-building workshops,

initiating audio-visual and technical documentation of pertinent issues, and supporting the development of policies for its sustainable management.

With different governing policies across the border, collaboration and cooperation are crucial for better management of yartsa gunbu and its ecosystem in the KSL. Moreover, the dimensions of this resource's cross-border trade need to be comprehensively understood. In addition to yartsa gunbu, the trade – especially illegal trade – of biodiversity is also a pertinent issue in the landscape's cross-border areas. The Darchula (Nepal)–Dharchula (India) cross-border area is known for illegal trade, particularly of wildlife products.

Local communities have an important role in managing biodiversity in the landscape. With the federal system of governance now in practice in Nepal, the role of local communities in biodiversity management will be highly significant. Local municipalities and civil society will play an even more crucial role in the sustainable management of biodiversity in the landscape. Across the border in Pithoragarh District of India, local communities are engaged in biodiversity conservation through Van Panchayats and other community organizations.

Given the inextricably intertwined socioeconomic and environmental ties between the neighbouring local and pastoralist communities from India and Nepal in this part of the KSL, a cross-border workshop was organized in Khalanga, Darchula District, on 15–17 December 2018 to share experiences and engage in discussions regarding transboundary rangeland management.

Tourism as an economic incentive for resource conservation and livelihood

Within the KSL, trade and tourism provide much needed economic incentives to address both conservation and development goals. Similar to yartsa gunbu trade, tourism provides important entry points to facilitate cross-border interactions in the KSL. In particular, heritage, ecotourism, and rangeland tourism present important livelihood opportunities for the communities inhabiting the KSL. Darchula (Sudurpaschim Province, Nepal) and Dharchula (Uttarakhand State, India) serve as cross-border/transnational areas with huge potential for promoting heritage, ecotourism, and rangeland

¹ Zhang, Y., Xu, L., Zhang, S., Liu, X., An, Z., Wang, M., & Guo, Y. (2009). Genetic diversity of *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*, a medicinal fungus endemic to the Tibetan Plateau: Implications for its evolution and conservation. *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, 9(1), 290.

² Gupta, G., & Manvitha, K. (2017). Yarsagumba: A miracle mushroom its history, cultivation, phytopharmacology and medicinal uses. *International Journal of Herbal Medicine*, 5(2): 69–72.

³ Shrestha, U. B., & Bawa, K. S. (2014). Economic contribution of Chinese caterpillar fungus to the livelihoods of mountain communities in Nepal. *Biological Conservation*, 177:194–202.



tourism. At the institutional level, strategic orientation towards and documentation of areas of cooperation for promoting transboundary tourism have been initiated to help develop understanding of and pathways for cross-border tourism in the KSL. This cross-border sharing experience was utilized as a platform to start dialogue and planning regarding cross-border tourism development in the Darchula–Dharchula shared landscape.

Conservation and sustainable use of rangelands

The KSL's rangelands serve as an important habitat for several species of flora and fauna. Rangelands provide the basis for livestock production, which contributes to the livelihoods of local communities. The local agro-pastoral communities residing in Darchula District, Nepal, and Pithoragarh District, India, have historical and cultural linkages. Livelihood opportunities are very limited in the region, so cross-border trade of livestock and medicinal plants is an important source of income.

Workshop objectives

The workshop's main objective was to bring together civil society and local administrative authorities, along with district, state, and national-level authorities, to address critical issues concerning biodiversity management and livelihoods and harness opportunities in the cross-border area of KSL-India and KSL-Nepal.

The workshop objectives included the following:

- Gain an understanding of the status of and trends in yartsa gunbu management (including legal provisions) in KSL-India and KSL-Nepal
- Identify potential solutions for pressing issues concerning yartsa gunbu management in the landscape
- Identify pathways for curbing the illegal trade of medicinal plants and wildlife in the landscape

Workshop highlights

Local-level consultation on biodiversity management in KSL-Nepal

The cross-border workshop was preceded by a local-level consultation on biodiversity management within KSL-Nepal. The main aim of the consultation was to identify issues related to the governance mechanism of biodiversity management, primarily focusing on yartsa gunbu. This helped improve understanding of the conflict of interest of various stakeholders in Darchula while also providing insight into the management practices and governance in Bajhang and Humla districts.

SESSIONS I AND II

GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS RELATED TO YARTSA GUNBU MANAGEMENT

The sessions included discussions on the status and management issues of yartsa gunbu in KSL-Nepal. The session aimed to bring together all stakeholders involved in yartsa gunbu governance in Darchula to initiate interactions on issues and challenges that have emerged over the years. This was vital as conflicts of interest exist between Api Nampa Conservation Area (ANCA) Management Committee/User Committees and the rural municipalities (RMs). In addition, the session included sharing of experiences from the implementation of “Yartsagumba Management (Collection and Transportation) Directives, 2073”, which was developed by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) in 2017. The Directives provide guidelines for conservation, collection, and utilization of yartsa gunbu in Nepal’s protected areas. The main highlights of the discussions were as follows:

- With the establishment of a new tier of governance, revenue collection from yartsa gunbu and other medicinal and aromatic plant (MAPs) and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) is a disputed issue between the ANCA Council and the RMs. The legislation is confusing in this regard as yartsa gunbu collection sites fall under the jurisdiction of both ANCA and the RMs. The discussions ended with all agreeing to resolve this matter during future meetings.

- It was suggested that better coordination must be achieved among ANCA, the ANCA Council, and RMs on conservation plans, including coordination in sustainable yartsa gunbu management.
- Furthermore, there were discussions on possible amendments to the “Yartsagumba Management (Collection and Transportation) Directives, 2073”, especially in regards to the starting dates of the collection season. Participants argued that the dates vary depending on the location and should be made more flexible accordingly.

SESSION III

SHARING OF EXPERIENCES FROM THE GENDER AND GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP (2016) FOR IMPROVED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM)

A session was organized for sensitization on the gender and governance aspects of NRM through sharing of experiences. This session built on a previous workshop that was conducted in 2016 for members of the ANCA Management Council to sensitize them on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) issues. The main highlights of the session were as follows:

- A discussion was held on the deep-rooted nature of gender inequality and social exclusion at various levels of society both within formal and informal institutions. This can only be removed by establishing and promoting equal rights for women and men.
- The participants recognized that sustainably managing the natural resource base will require good coordination and cooperation among relevant stakeholders, along with transparency and accountability.
- Lastly, key local organizations such as the ANCA Council, RMs, and community groups should play the role of a facilitator at the community level for gender-responsive planning and inclusive interventions.

Cross-border exchange on sustainable management of yartsa gunbu: A road map for sustainable management

SESSION I

STATUS AND TRENDS OF YARTSA GUNBU IN KSL-INDIA AND KSL-NEPAL (INCLUDING LEGAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE IN BOTH COUNTRIES)

The second day of the workshop involved cross-border exchange of experiences in biodiversity management. Government officials, partner institutions, and community members from KSL-India also participated in the discussion. The participants shared the legislation on yartsa gunbu in the two countries, as well as the challenges and potential solutions for sustainable yartsa gunbu management. The following points were discussed:

- Discussions were held on the sanctioned start of yartsa gunbu collection season, with representatives from KSL-Nepal agreeing to look into the matter and suggest amendments. Similarly, representatives from KSL-India indicated the possibility of postponing the start of yartsa gunbu harvesting season from March to coincide with Nepal's official start date in late May.
- Waste management, consumption and sale of alcohol, and gambling were identified as major issues at the collection sites. Through the continuous involvement of both the government and KSLCDI, some sites in both KSL-India and KSL-Nepal have begun digging pits for waste disposal.
- Illegal poaching and collection of MAPs and NTFPs present considerable challenges during the collection period.
- Deforestation, primarily for fuelwood, has devastated the fragile ecosystem, possibly resulting in the decline of yartsa gunbu availability. KSLCDI has been committing to raising awareness on this major issue in both KSL-India and KSL-Nepal; consequently, some collection sites have started promoting the use of alternative sources of energy.
- Grazing was also identified as a major problem in and around collection sites. All the required items for the collection period are transported on goats, sheep, and donkeys since the collection sites are inaccessible by vehicles. These animals are then left around the site for grazing, which could adversely affect yartsa gunbu availability at points where collection and grazing areas overlap.

- Cross-border learning exchange was suggested to improve knowledge of collection practices, storage, and cleaning of yartsa gunbu, among other matters.

SESSION II

GENDER DIMENSIONS OF YARTSA GUNBU MANAGEMENT

This session was more specific to gender and marginalized groups. It helped create a better understanding of their roles in the management and governance of yartsa gunbu in the landscape and provided insight into cross-border experiences on yartsa gunbu management. The session also highlighted the challenges of commercial exploitation and overharvesting of yartsa gunbu and the importance of GESI in yartsa gunbu marketing and trade practices, given that women and marginalized groups have limited roles in the trade. The highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- Improving GESI is crucial in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of development interventions related to NRM.
- Awareness must be raised among women and marginalized groups regarding commercial exploitation, over harvesting of yartsa gunbu, and habitat degradation due to climate and other changes.
- Women play a crucial role in controlling activities such as alcohol consumption and gambling in collection camp sites. GESI in camp management is therefore vital during yartsa gunbu collection season.
- Women's role in the sustainable harvesting of yartsa gunbu using local knowledge and techniques was discussed.
- The roles of women and disadvantaged groups in revenue collection and designing GESI-responsive development projects in the landscape were discussed. They are vital in ensuring a GESI-responsive approach to existing policies, acts, and directives.

SESSION III

CHALLENGES TO AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS FOR YARTSA GUNBU MANAGEMENT IN THE KSL

This session reviewed issues, challenges, and solutions with regard to sustainable yartsa gunbu management. Participants from both countries shared frequently experienced problems on and off



the collection sites. The major issues identified were as follows:

1. **Waste management in and around collection sites:** In most collection sites, waste management has become a major issue, with plastic waste littered throughout sites.
2. **Deforestation for fuelwood:** The cutting of trees around camp sites for fuelwood during the collection season has been on the rise.
3. **Illegal poaching and trade of wildlife and other forest products:** Illegal activities such as poaching and trade of NTFPs also occur during yartsa gunbu collection season.
4. **Overlapping of grazing lands and collection sites:** Goats and mules used for transporting supplies are often left in and around collection sites for grazing.
5. **Differences in experiences and learning across the border:** Both sides shared their unique and common knowledge and experience so that collection, management, and storage of yartsa gunbu can be improved.
6. **Participation of women and marginalized groups:** Such groups must be given larger roles in the governance and management of yartsa gunbu.

SESSION IV

SIGNING OF A COMMUNITY-LEVEL AGREEMENT ON YARTSA GUNBU MANAGEMENT

This session involved the signing of a community-level agreement on sustainable yartsa gunbu management (Figure 1 and Annex 1). The major issues which were identified in the previous session allowed action points to be formulated and agreed upon by communities and local authorities from both sides.

SESSION V

VALIDATION OF REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS (TOURISM AND RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT)

Day III was dedicated to knowledge/information sharing and gathering to promote transboundary tourism and rangeland development in the KSL. The session included presentations and group work on thematic topics (tourism and rangelands) in order to share what transboundary tourism and rangeland development mean in the contexts of the KSL and Darchula–Dharchula, build an understanding of the existing challenges and opportunities, and propose preliminary action plans.

For tourism development, the challenges can be broadly categorized into lack of awareness, access, and facilities (mostly accommodation). In addition, obtaining permits (India–China) is also complicated. Despite these challenges, there are ample opportunities in the landscape such as the tourism potential of Mt Api and Mt Nampa, scope for heritage and religious tourism (including access to Mt Kailash), new roads in the pipeline, and opportunity for capacity building of communities for tourism. More information on these discussions can be found in Annex 2.

Similarly, for rangeland development, the identified challenges included the decline of both livestock and medicinal plants. This trend can be attributed to deforestation, land degradation, climate change, and improper waste management. The opportunities here include the possible movement of livestock across districts for grazing. Similarly, the introduction of rotational grazing as well as identification of alternative grazing sites can help manage the conflict between livestock grazing and collection of medicinal plants as the sites usually overlap. More information on these issues can be found in Annex 3.

After two days of deliberations, participants at the workshop from India and Nepal came up with the following action points:

1. Implement waste management in and around yartsa gunbu collection sites and ban the sale of alcohol, gambling, and other forms of such entertainment deemed harmful
2. Control and possible banning of fuel wood extraction in and around yartsa gunbu collection sites and promotion of alternative sources of energy
3. Initiate cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders to curb illegal poaching and trade in wildlife parts and other forest products
4. Ban of grazing in camp sites during yartsa gunbu harvesting season and, where possible, practise rotational harvesting of yartsa gunbu
5. Organize cross-border community interaction and exposure visit programmes for cross learning and experience sharing on sustainable yartsa gunbu harvesting and management
6. Encourage women's participation and governance at different levels to address impacts of climate change, commercial exploitation, and over-harvesting of yartsa gunbu in order to ensure sustainable management

Conclusion

The workshop provided a good platform to share cross-border knowledge and experiences in conservation and management of biodiversity (mainly yartsa gunbu). Furthermore, it brought about an understanding of policies, governance, and other issues concerning the sustainable harvesting and management of yartsa gunbu. GESI in NRM (particularly yartsa gunbu management) was a new, otherwise neglected subject discussed in the workshop. The workshop also led to a cross-border community-level agreement on sustainable yartsa gunbu management. Additionally, the event also provided an opportunity for discussions on regional assessments of tourism and rangeland development, helping the identification of challenges and opportunities, and preparation of action plans.



Annexes

Annex 1: Community-level cross border agreement on sustainable yartsa gunbu management

Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative organized a two day workshop on *“Cross border sharing of experiences on biodiversity management in the Kailash Sacred Landscape India – Nepal”* dated 16 – 17 December 2018 at Khalanga, Darchula, Sudurpaschim Province, Nepal. The workshop was organized with an aim to share and understand sustainable management practices of yartsagumba at the community level. After the two days deliberations, the participants at the workshop from India and Nepal come up following action points.

1. Waste management in and around yarsagumba collection sites including banning sell of alcohol, gambling and other forms of such entertainment deemed harmful and with negative connotations.
2. Control and possible banning of cutting trees for fuel wood in and around yarsagumba collection sites and promotion of alternative sources of energy.
3. Initiation of cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders to curb illegal poaching and trade of wildlife and other forest products
4. Banning of grazing in and around yarsagumba camp sites during yarsagumba harvesting season and, where possible practice rotational harvesting of yarsagumba
5. Organize cross-border community interaction and exposure visit programs for cross learning and experience sharing on sustainable yarsagumba harvesting and management
6. Encourage women participation and governance at different levels to address impacts of climate change, commercial exploitation and over-harvesting of yarsagumba in order to ensure sustainable management

कैलाश पवित्र भू परिधी संरक्षण तथा विकास पहल कार्यक्रमले मिति १६ – १७ डिसेम्बर २०१८ खलंगा दार्चुला जिल्ला, सुदुर पश्चिम प्रदेशमा जैविक विविधताको व्यवस्थापनको लागि भारत नेपाल अन्तर्देशिय अनुभव आदान प्रदान कार्यक्रम सम्बन्धमा दुई दिने गोष्ठी आयोजना गरिएको थियो। उक्त कार्यशाला गोष्ठीमा समुदायस्तर यासागुम्बा व्यवस्थापन बारे भारत र नेपाल को सहभागी बिच बृहत छलफल पश्चात निम्न बमोजिमका धारणा तथा सुझाबहरु सहमत भएका थिए:

१. यासागुम्बा संकलन क्षेत्रहरुमा फोहर व्यवस्थापनका साथै मदिरापान, नाचगानर निर्देशिका बन्देज गरीएका अन्य कार्यहरु नियन्त्रण तथा व्यवस्थित गर्नका लागि यासागुम्बा संकलन पूर्व र संकलन समयमा क्याम्प क्षेत्र वरिपरी आबस्यक निगरानी तथा उचित व्यवस्थापन गर्ने गराउने।
२. यासागुम्बा संकलन क्षेत्र तथा वरपर रुख कटानलाई नियन्त्रण र बन्देज गराउने, रसके सम्म अन्य उर्जाका श्रोतहरु उपयोग गर्ने।
३. बन्यजन्तुको चोरी शिकार तथा अबैध व्यापार नियन्त्रण गर्न सम्बन्धित सरोकारवाला बिच समन्वय र सहकार्यको पहल गर्ने।
४. यासागुम्बा संकलन क्षेत्रहरुमा चरिचरण निषेध (संकलन अबधिभित्र) गर्ने र साथै संकलनका लागि चक्र प्रणाली अपनाउने।
५. आन्तरिक सिकाईका लागि समुदाय समुदाय बिच अन्तरक्रिया तथा भ्रमण (Exposure visit) कार्यक्रमहरु आयोजना गर्ने र सम्भव भए सम्म अन्तरदेशीय (भारत – नेपाल बिच) समुदायस्तरीय अनुभव आदान प्रदानका लागि आवश्यक पहल गर्ने।
६. जलवायु परिवर्तनको प्रभाव (Climate change impacts), बजारमुखी बढी आय आर्जनका लागि बढी संकलन (Commercial exploitation, over harvesting) गर्दा दीर्घकालमा पर्न सक्ने असरहरुबारे र

यार्सागुम्बा संरक्षण र दिगो विकासका लागि महिला सहभागिता र सुसासनको महत्व र भूमीका बारे समुदायस्तरमा बृहत जन चेतना गर्नु पर्ने महसुस गरियो।

कैलाश पवित्र भू-परिधि संरक्षण एवम विकास पहल परियोजना के अंतर्गत नेपाल के खलंगा, दार्चुला, सुदुरपश्चिम प्रांत में १६ १७ दिसंबर २०१८ को इंडिया नेपाल में जैव विविधता प्रबंधन अनुभवों को सीमापार साझाकरण पर दो दिवसीय कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यशाला का आयोजन सामुदायिक स्तर पर यार्सागुम्बा के सतत प्रबंधन प्रथाओं को साझा और समझने के उद्देश्य से किया गया था। दो दिनों के विचार-विमर्श के बाद, कार्यशाला में भाग लेने वाले भारत और नेपाल के प्रतिभागियों के बीच निम्नलिखित कार्यवाही बिंदुओं पर सहमती हुयी;

१. यार्सागुम्बा संग्रह क्षेत्रों के आसपास ठोस-अपशिष्ट पदार्थों पर प्रबंधन। शराब, जुआ और अन्य मनोरंजनो पर प्रतिबंध लगाए।
२. यार्सागुम्बा संग्रह स्थलों के आसपास ईंधन की लकड़ी के लिए पेड़ काटने पर संभावित प्रतिबंध लगाए और ऊर्जा के वैकल्पिक स्रोतों का प्रचार करें।
३. वन्यजीवों का गैर कानूनी शिकार और वन उत्पादों के व्यापार को रोकने के लिए प्रासंगिक हितधारकों के बीच सहयोग और समन्वय की शुरुआत किया जाये।
४. यर्सगुम्बा कटाई के मौसम के दौरान यारसगुम्बा शिविर स्थलों के आसपास चराई पर प्रतिबंध लगाए। यर्सगुम्बा की घूर्णन कटाई जहां संभव हो वहा प्रयास किया जाये।
५. टिकाऊ यर्सगुम्बा कटाई और प्रबंधन पर क्रॉस लर्निंग और अनुभव साझा करने के लिए सीमापार समुदाय में बातचीत और एक्सपोजर विज़िट प्रोग्राम आयोजित किया जाये।
६. टिकाऊ प्रबंधन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए जलवायु परिवर्तन, वाणिज्यिक शोषण और यर्सगुम्बा की अधिक कटाई के प्रभावों को हल करने के लिए विभिन्न स्तरों पर महिलाओं की भागीदारी और शासन को प्रोत्साहित किया जाये।

Name and Signature

- 1) Chakra Singh Hyanki ANCA-C Champaur
- 2) Dr. Vikram Singh Negi
- 3) Bishnu Lama Namkha Rural Municipality Humla
- 4) Binita K.C. (Ranger) ANCA Darchula
- 5) Ajendra Sharma Bhangale
- 6) Surendra Singh Mahata. Marmara Rural 5 Darchula
- 7) Navraj Pant
- 8) HIRAK Singh DHAMI ANCA member
- 9) Ashok Singh Bohara Bhang-9 Chhangpru
- 10) Devendra Singh Rokaya ANCA member Chhangpru

- (11) Narendra Singh Parihar Researcher GBPNIHESD Kosi-Almora
 (12) Naupen Bishet Project Asst. CHEA Nainital
 (13) Chandra Danyal Dat
 (14) हरिश्चंद्र सिंह जेठा संपन्न हिमखोला
 (15) Dhiran S. Budhathokar 137 ash - 2
 (16) Chomcha Singh Karki Apitimal - 2
 (17) Pooja lothyat ANCA member
 (18) मन्दा कुँवर कार्यपालिका सदस्य
 (19) Arthi Kala RA, KILCBI W.I.I. D. Dun
 (20) Namghang Dorje Lama student from Namche Municipality
 (21) Raju Ghumro ALO, ANCA
 (22) Sitarom Phuyal Ranger, ANCA
 (23) Naresnik Ray Bhu " "
 (24) Manoj Anasthi " "
 (25) Seni Bishet WII, Ichadun
 (26) Tapil Kumar B.K. Ranger ANCA
 (27) Bhayal Mr Baran ANCA member
- Signatures:*
 P. arandor
 Danyal
 Bishet
 Harish
 Pooja
 Arthi
 Namghang
 Raju
 Sitarom
 Naresnik
 Manoj
 Seni
 Tapil
 Bhayal

Annex 2: Findings from group work – Challenges and opportunities in transboundary tourism in Darchula–Dharchula

	Particular	Challenges	Opportunities
Tourism development	Attractions: Mountains, cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to destinations • Lack of awareness • Accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Api and Nampa • Heritage and religious sites
	Activities: Trekking, hiking, biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India–China permit • Maintenance of trekking trails • Promotion of diverse culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Kailash and Manasarovar • Foot trails • Cultural programmes to showcase ethnic festivals and traditions of the region
	Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No airport • Poor road access • No bridges • Lack of proper sanitation facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darchula–Tinker road • Gokuleshwar–Khandewari road
	Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route map for tourists • Basic facilities for tourists required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase the Byans community and culture to attract tourists • Improve routes with facilities for tourists
	Facilities/services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good accommodations • Lack of medical facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility in India only provided by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. • Homestays
	Human resources (availability/capacity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of guides, cooks, and hotel operators • Limited human resources owing to migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local tourism-based livelihood options for communities • Capacity building can be done by local authorities and organizations

Proposed action plan to promote transboundary tourism in Darchula–Dharchula

Activities	Location	Responsibility		Timeline		
		Lead	Support	Short term (1–2 years)	Medium term (3–5 years)	Long term (5–10 years)
Accessibility	Darchula–Tinker road Gokuleshwar road	Central government	Provincial and local governments			✓
Annual general meeting	Darma, Byans, Joljibi	Community members	Government officials and local organizations	✓		
Local fairs (Joljibi mela, Gokuleshwar mela)	Khandeshwari/Byans	ANCA	RM	✓	✓	
Establish hotels and homestays	Sunsera, Tumling, Huti, Changru, Paribagad, and Paiyaghat	Local government	Provincial government	✓		

Annex 3: Finding from group work – Challenges in rangeland development in Darchula–Dharchula

Area of challenges	District level	National level	Transboundary level
Livestock production and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing trend primarily because of lack of rotational grazing, forest degradation, and increasing focus on medicinal plants and foreign employment Overlapping of grazing areas and medicinal plant collection areas Unmanaged grazing during yartsa gunbu collection period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as at district level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign employment
Medicinal plants (raw)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of medicinal plants in decreasing trend due to climate change; increase in number of collectors overgrazing; and increased fires and pollution due to overuse of plastic products Lack of storage, transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as at district level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lax rules and policies have affected trade outside the country
Medicinal plants (processed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of medicinal plant processing factories within districts Lack of investors Lack of government plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as at district level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of markets Indians collecting yartsa gunbu from selected sites in Darchula, Nepal
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of awareness and promotion; difficult terrain; lack of infrastructure and roads; and lack of hotels/homestays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as at district level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of information centres

Opportunities in rangeland development in Darchula–Dharchula

Area of opportunities	District level	National level	Transboundary level
Livestock production and use for transport and products such as meat and milk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock production (e.g. sheep, horse, donkey, cattle, yak) depends on rangelands Animals such as bears, snow leopards, porcupines, Himalayan tahrs, and musk deer are increasing Increase in market demand for livestock products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free movement of livestock from Darchula to Bajhang and Bajura for grazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditionally, livestock come from Garbyang to Api Nampa for grazing Grazing has affected the conservation and production of medicinal plants and conflicts with resource harvesting
Medicinal plants (raw)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection within districts after obtaining a permit from ANCA and the forest office generating revenues Rich in medicinal plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Medicinal plants (processed)	Not available	Available	90% of processed medicinal plants are exported to India and China
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic tourism, particularly cultural, is growing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for inter-district tourism (cultural, pilgrimage, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional and cultural tourists from Kumaon and Garhwal region

Annex 4: Workshop agenda

Date	Day	Programme
15 December 2018	Saturday	KSL-Nepal meeting Session I: Discussion on ANCA UC–Gau Palika interactions Lunch: 12:30–13:30 Session II: Experiences from the implementation of the 2073 BS yartsa gunbu guidelines Tea break Session III: Sharing of experiences from the Gender and Governance Workshop (2016) for improved NRM
16 December 2018	Sunday	Cross-border exchange on sustainable management of yartsa gunbu: A road map for sustainable management Session I (plenary discussion): Status and trends of yartsa gunbu in KSL-India and KSL-Nepal (including legal provisions applicable in both countries) Session II: Gender dimensions of yartsa gunbu management Session III (group work): Challenges and potential solutions for yartsa gunbu management in the KSL: Sustainable harvesting Environmental conservation Group work presentation and plenary discussion Session IV: Signing of the community-level agreement for yartsa gunbu conservation and its endorsement
17 December 2018	Monday	Cross-border meeting Validation of regional assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rangeland • Tourism

Annex 5: List of participants

No.	Name	Institution	Gender Male	Female	Contact
NEPAL					
1	Bhumi Raj Upadhaya	DNPWC	✓		
2	Robin Gyalang	MoFE	✓		
3	Gelbu Bohra	Member of Parliament, Sudurpaschim Province	✓		9749507986
4	Keshav Parajuli	DFO – Baitadi	✓		9805267603
5	Hari Pandey	DFO – Darchula	✓		9858755145
6	Bishnu Bahadur Lama	Namkha RM, Humla	✓		9858390365
7	Namgang Dorje Lama	Namkha RM, Humla	✓		9863143688
8	Rajendra Dhami	Saipal RM, Bajhang	✓		9868588050
9	Dilip Singh Budathoki	Byans RM, Darchula	✓		9749503500
10	Prem Singh Dhami	Naugad RM, Darchula	✓		
11	Surendra Mahata	Marma RM, Darchula	✓		9749520358
12	Mangal S Dhami	Byans RM, Darchula	✓		9759507405
13	Nanda Kunwar	Duhu RM, Darchula	✓		9749165761
14	Chakra Singh Hyanki	Chairperson, ANCA Council	✓		9749604444
15	Bhagat Thekre	ANCA Council Member	✓		9868014567
16	Prem Lothyal	ANCA Council Member	✓		9749564986
17	Devendra Rokaya	ANCA Council Member	✓		9865774830

18	Prabhat Budthoki	ANCA Council Member	✓		9749974476
19	Chandrawati Karki	ANCA Council Member		✓	9865794503
20	Mohan Joshi	ANCA Council Member	✓		9749539022
21	Chandra Singh Karki	ANCA Council Member		✓	9749519732
22	Harak Singh Dhami	ANCA Council Member	✓		9749565246
23	Navraj Pant	ANCA Council Member	✓		9749528265
24	Binita KC	ANCA Council Member		✓	9867539637
25	Sitaram Phuyal	ANCA Council Member	✓		9845539925
26	Ashok Bohra	Byas Ward 1, Darchula	✓		9759507401
27	Dhirendra Budathoki	Byas Ward 2, Darchula	✓		9749511407
28	Hemendra Bohra	Byas, Darchula	✓		9851086801
29	Naresh Kumar	ANCA	✓		9895680195
30	Ishwori Joshi		✓		9759503744
31	Dev Bahadur Tamang	DNPWC	✓		9842029754
32	Bhubaneswar Chaudhary	ANCA	✓		093-420497
33	Manoj Avasti	ANCA	✓		9868897908
34	Jaman Singh Dhami	Darchula	✓		
INDIA					
35	Vinay Bhargav	DFO, Pithoragarh	✓		
36	Sunil Kumar	Range officer Dharchula	✓		9410943015
37	Rajendra Singh	Range officer Dharchula	✓		9851230341
38	Vikram Negi	GBPNIHESD	✓		9720752546
39	Narendra Parihar	GBPNIHESD	✓		8285480567
40	Arti Kala	WII		✓	9837717918
41	Soni Bisht	WII		✓	9639650128
42	Naveen Bisht	CHEA	✓		9410346737
43	Harish Singh	Rung Community India	✓		9458184827
44	Jaspal Singh	Rung Community India	✓		9458587394
45	Mamta Singh	Rung Community India		✓	9411120522
46	Durga Singh	Rung Community India	✓		
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS			39	6	45
RESOURCE PERSONS					
1	Yadav Upriety	RECAST	✓		9843772554
2	Kishore Mehta	CCO- ANCA	✓		9759503545
3	Raju Ghimire	Assistant Warden ANCA	✓		9849821300
4	Indra Singh Nagari	ANCA	✓		9749524850
5	Min Bahadur Gurung	ICIMOD	✓		9841314368
6	Anu K Lama	ICIMOD		✓	9861448675
7	Srijana Joshi Rijal	ICIMOD		✓	9851129600
8	Sunayana Basnet	ICIMOD		✓	9841907778
9	Pradyumna JB Rana	ICIMOD	✓		9813816868

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