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**Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management  
and Rehabilitation**

**COMPLETION REPORT**

**Supporting Community based Sustainable Forest Management and Economic  
Empowerment of Women**

October 2014- March 2018

[Supervisory Agency- Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation]

[Executing Agency-HIMAWANTI Nepal]

[18 August 2018]

## BASICINFORMATION

Project Title (ID)	Supporting Community based Sustainable Forest Management and Economic Empowerment of Women		
Supervisory Agency	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation		
Executing Agency	HIMAWANTI-Nepal		
Implementing Agency	HIMAWANTI-Nepal (Kathmandu District Chapter), Ashmita Nepal and Community Resource Management Centre		
Date of Project Agreement: [05/09/2014]			
Duration of implementation: [10/14-09/17] ( extended by 6 months and period becomes 10/14-03/18)			
Total project budget (in USD)	559,208.00	APFNet assured Grant (in USD)	412238.00
Actual project cost (in USD)	559,208.0	APFNet disbursed Grant(in USD)	356170.67
Disbursement Status		Date of disbursement	Amount(in USD)
Initial disbursement		December 2014	153,068.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> disbursement		May 2016	150,000.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> disbursement		June 2017	53,102.67
Project external evaluation(retained)		-	14,000.00
Balance to be disbursed		-	40864.28
Reporting Status		Schedule <sup>1</sup> implementation	Project progress status <sup>2</sup>
First MYR reporting (10/14-03/15)		On track	Satisfactory
First Annual reporting (10/14-12/15)		On track	Satisfactory
Second MYR reporting (01/16-06/16)		On track	Satisfactory
Second APR reporting (01/17-12/17)		On track	Satisfactory
Third MYR reporting (01/17-06/17)		On track	Satisfactory
Third APR reporting (01/17-03/18)		On track	Satisfactory
Work completion report (01/17-03/18		On track	Satisfactory

<sup>1</sup>Schedule <sup>1</sup>implementation status could be on track/behind/ahead of schedule

<sup>2</sup>Project progress status could be ranked as satisfactory, dissatisfactory, moderately satisfactory, moderately dissatisfactory

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## **Executive Summary**

**"Supporting Community based sustainable forest management and economic empowerment of women in Central region of Nepal"** is a three year demonstration project supported by Asia Pacific Network on Sustainable forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), Beijing, and PR of China. The project is run by the consortium of the three organizations in three districts: Kathmandu, Makwanpur and Sarlahi, in each of the three thematic areas, namely: eco-tourism, handicraft development and essential oil production, respectively along with the sustainable management of 13 community forests covering 1,375 Hectare of forests benefiting more than 4,317 households. The project is facilitated by the Project Secretariat run by Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI), Nepal. This three year project is supervised by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC).

After three-year implementation of the project, the following achievements have been obtained:

### **1) Forest management planning and policy strengthening**

- Community based ecotourism enterprise development policy enhanced in Nepal;
- Community forest management mechanism through spider web for improving forest governance assessed;
- Documentation of income and expenditure for Forest User Groups started;
- Supplementary and income generating programs to promote disadvantaged groups in community forest designed and implemented through community forest fund;
- Poor women became leadership in local level organizations and cooperatives.

### **2) Community based aromatic herbs enterprise development in Sarlahi site**

- Value chain of aromatic herbs - Citronella, Palmarosa, Mentha and Lemon grass analyzed;
- Land under high transmission lines utilized through plantation of aromatic herbs;
- Marketing of aromatic herbs plants conducted;
- Support received from District Forest in aromatic herbs business;
- 12 ha plantation of aromatic herbs established;
- 2 distillation plants been managed by women group as a micro-enterprises.

### **3) Community based Ecotourism enterprise development in the Kathmandu**

- Operational plan with the consideration of eco-tourism revised;
- A detailed ecotourism management plan developed in Kathmandu Chandragiri sites through collaboration with the CFUGs, local government, and political entities.
- Manpower in ecotourism trained;
- Ecotourism services developed, including 10 km green trail, graphical map by the engineer with rigorous discussion with stakeholders, 2 bird watching towers (Machan), four toilets, 2 guard rooms, 4 picnic spots, 1 garden, water supply system with well and 1 children park;
- Women empowered from poor and marginalized through eco-tourism development

### **4) Community based wooden handicraft business development in Makwanpur site**

- Value chain analysis of wooden handicrafts strengthened;

- Women trained on wooden handicraft making, including 50 participants (42 women and 8 men), mainly on carving windows door, wooden masks, photo frames, basket, flower vase, bamboo product.
- A sales center in Makawanpur established;
- Marketing of wooden handicraft through exhibition Fair conducted;
- 30 local women capacitated on handicraft business in preparing attractive design and quality products (new gift items like key rings, bell stands for table, bell stands for wall and double and single photo frames) and using new machines and equipment.

**5) Sustainable Forest Management**

- Capacity building on sustainable forest management conducted;
- Demonstration plot for sustainable forest management established;
- Improved harvesting tools (cross cut saw, bow saw, hand saw, file, Bill hook, axe, sharpening stone, filing clamp, measuring tape, Diameter tape etc.) provided to Forest Users for the application of silvicultural practices with the training on use of improved harvesting tools;
- nursery in three project sites established;
- 13 forest management plans in three project sites established.

**6) Alternative energy**

- Capacity building on improved cook stove conducted;
- Alternative energy facilities for poor households installed.

In summary, the project helped poorer women in their livelihood improvement through promotion of forest based enterprises and sustainable management of forests.

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## 1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

**"Supporting Community based sustainable forest management and economic empowerment of women in Central region of Nepal"** is a three year demonstration project supported by Asia Pacific Network on Sustainable forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), Beijing, and PR of China. The project is run by the consortium of the three organizations in three districts; Kathmandu, Makwanpur and Sarlahi, in each of the three thematic areas, namely; Eco-tourism, Handicraft development and Essential oil production, respectively along with the sustainable management of 13 community forests covering 1,375 Hectare of forests benefiting more than 4,317 households. The project is facilitated by the Project Secretariat run by Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI), Nepal. This three year project is supervised by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), presently renamed as the Ministry of Forests and Environment.

Along with the enterprise development, the project has provided technical and functional support in sustainable forest management (SFM) of the community forests (CF) and support in enhancement of Good Governance of the community forests User groups (CFUG) in all three project sites. HIMAWANTI-Nepal has focused on Economic empowerment through Eco tourism in six Community Forests of Kathmandu district. In Makwanpur district, four CFUGs have been engaged in the handicraft enterprise development along with SFM and good governance practices, the thematic area led by Ashmita Nepal. In Sarlahi district, essential oil based enterprise have been initiated in three CFUGs led by Community Resource Management Center (CRMC), Nepal.

Community forest in Nepal has been exemplified as most successful program for participatory resource management. Rightly so, these forests have been successful in restoring degraded lands and habitats for wildlife. Till now, 22,266 user groups are managing community forest which included 2.9 million households. A total of 2,237,670 hectares of forest are being managed by people living nearby the forest with technical and facilitation support from government and stakeholders.

Women and poor households are primarily dependent on community forest for making their livelihood. Now, with the maturity of CFs and strengthened CFUGs, we should explore for entrepreneurship options from forest to uplift livelihood of those directly dependent people. In the community based forest management practices, women's roles in forest management are usually limited to those of subsistence need while men's roles are more linked to commercial purpose. Women have less access to and control over the resources as well as getting less benefit from forest resource utilization and decision making process in community based forest management.

The project sites are located in the central region of Nepal covering mid- hill, terai and inner terai region. Based on the situation analysis conducted before, the major issues identified on the project area are the lack of proper sustainable forest management, lack of women empowerment, alternative livelihood options, and insufficient production and marketing of possible enterprises. In Makwanpur and Sarlahi district, Community forests are mainly dominated by Sal Species (*Shorea robusta*). The users have poor capacity and knowledge of implementation of silvicultural



practices and harvesting of forest products for sustainable forest management. The community forests are also suffering from natural disaster including flood and fire. Poor capacity of users for marketing in essential oil and handicraft in Sarlahi and Makwanpur district, despite the availability of sufficient forest resources has limited their opportunities for income and alternative livelihoods. Young stage Schima- Castanopsis forests dominates the Cfs in Kathmandu district and are not properly linking with forest management. The ecotourism is highly potential in Kathmandu sites but the users had not yet explored this service from their forests yet at institution level.

The project has identified the issues on sustainable forest management and income generation along with rehabilitation of small patches degraded land. The loss of forests and degradation of forest cover were successfully restored the forests through CF program. However limited capacity of forestry agencies in terms of their technical, human and financial resources in sustainable forest management has resulted in weak management. The project has adopted multiple strategies to help FUGs in SFM as well as income generation. The project has focused to assist on sustainable forest management and improve the forest condition through the mobilization of the forest dependent community and to generate the opportunity for the livelihood enhancement through women lead enterprise development. The major issues identified on the project area are the lack of proper sustainable forest management, lack of women empowerment, alternative livelihood options, and insufficient production and marketing of possible enterprises. The users are also facing the problems of poor capacity in implementing silvicultural practices and harvesting of forest products for sustainable forest management. Poor information of market linkages in essential oil and handicraft marketing in Sarlahi and Makwanpur district respectively

### 1.1. Project progress

In the first year, the project intended to set the baseline for the overall outcomes. Majority of the activities were concentrated in the synergy gathering, data collection, encouragement to CFUGs for good governance and preparation of plans for sustainable forest management (SFM). Each of the project partners had mutually agreed and share of responsibilities to achieve the targeted goal of the project as per the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by them. The consortium implemented some baseline data collection, good governance assessment, forest management plan preparation, revision and review of the operation plans and constitution of the CFUGs, value chain analysis of identified products for enterprises, meetings, orientation workshops to communities, engagement of the local government, nursery management, handicraft training, plantation of aromatic herbs and green trail construction in the part of enterprise development. Suppliers of the harvesting tools were identified and provided the tools. Sustainable forest management trainings were conducted with the support from concerned district forest office. In first year of project period, handicraft training was started in Makawanpur. Plantation of the aromatic herbs were done in Sarlahi. Green trails construction was started along with exposure visits in Kathmandu. The exposure visits were fruitful in encouraging communities to work in the project. In this year, progress was achieved in assessing the CFUGs and their capacity building.

Most of the activities were completed in the first year included nursery establishment, application of silvicultural practices, low impact harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products, local

resources person mobilization, development of ecotourism management plan, ecotourism services development, training on ecotourism management, training on wooden handicraft for local communities, aromatic herbs planting in community forests, marketing of aromatic herbs, sale center establishment, installation and use of 90 solar panels, installation and use of 300 improved cooking stoves (ICS). However, some activities that could not be completed in this year were application of silvicultural practices, ecotourism services development, installation and use of 75 biogas devices, and participatory planning and community forest management mechanism improvement coaching.

In the second year, the initial four months was spent for revising AWP2 and awaiting approval from APFNet on 6 May 2016. The project implementation started on only third week of May. In this year, most of the activities were completed which included nursery management, application of silvicultural practices, low impact harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products, local resources person mobilization. Further, the ecotourism services development, training on ecotourism management. Additionally, Trainings on wooden handicraft for local communities, Marketing of Aromatic Herbs Planting in Community forests, Marketing of Aromatic herbs, Sale center establishment. Furthermore, Installation and use of 90 Solar panels, Installation and use of 300 improved Cooking Stoves (ICS). By the end of December 2016, most activities for Project year two have been accomplished.

In the third year, some remaining activities of second year like ecotourism services development work were completed. AWP3 has implemented after transferred fund from the APFNet. In 2017, Nepal has successfully completed local level election in May, July and September and central level in November and December. This has affected project activities and has delayed the implementation. Due to Election Code of Conduct, it became difficult to implement activities in the field because of political instability during election period. Considering this fact, Project Management Team has requested to expand project for 3 months from 1 January 2018 to 30 March 2018. The remaining work planned in third year were completed during this extended period.

## 1.2. Project goal and specific objectives

The goal of the project is “community forests and local livelihoods well developed and managed in sustainable ways as well as models and approaches on SFM recognized and applied by government and other communities”.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- 1) Demonstrate sustainable forest management practices and promote alternative energy to reduce pressure on forest and carbon emission
- 2) Promote development of community forest based mini-enterprises to improve wise use of forest resources and livelihood of marginalized communities
- 3) Draw good models of best approaches in which communities are empowered to manage and use forest resources in a sustainable way

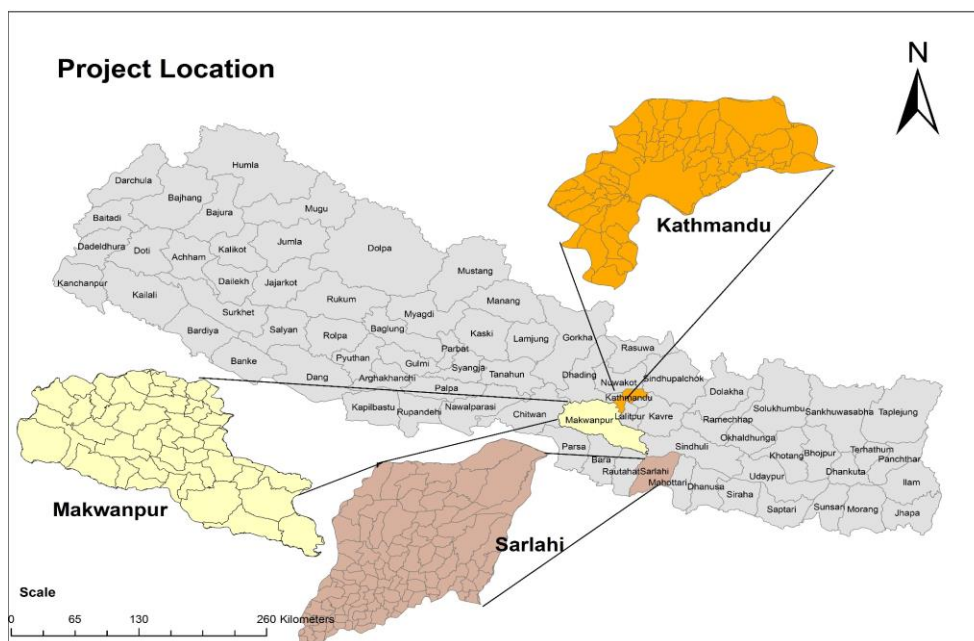
### 1.3. Project expected outputs and outcomes

Output 1: Sustainable forest management practices demonstrated and the local communities' capacity on SFM built or improved;

Output2: The income generated from community forest increased obviously through development of community forest based mini-enterprises;

Output 3: Alternative energy is promoted and pressure on forest and carbon emission are reduced;

Output 4: Community forest management mechanism improved, including decision making, financial management, benefit-sharing, forest management planning and so forth.



## 2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.1 Project schedule and implementation arrangements

A total of 13 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) were included in the project. In each demonstration site, the main activities were focused on community based sustainable forest management (SFM), forest based enterprise development and women empowerment. In addition, it has tried to reduce pressure on forest through alternative energy promotion. The project has tried to improve livelihood of poor, women and marginalized communities of those CFUGs. In addition, it has focused on improve forest condition through sustainable management of forests and enrichment plantation.

The project was initiated in October 2014 and it became difficult to fully implement the project in the first year. Effective months were less than seven months because of devastating earthquake which was further aggravated by the long term unrest in the Terai region. Overall implementation was carried out through HIMAWANTI Nepal consortium initiative garnering synergy, complementarily and filling technical gaps while embedding close coordination with Department of Forests, District Forest Offices, Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs). The Federation of Community Forest User Nepal (FECOFUN), grassroots level CBOs and NGOs, government line

agencies were coordinated in respective districts. The participatory processes have been employed for the planning and implementation of the project. Activities were implemented in partnership with community Forest Users.

A project steering committee (PSC) was formed comprising of consortium partners, Forest User Groups from three targeted districts and government (DoF). The PSC provided the guidelines to the project implementation team and project consortium partners. The project management team (Secretariat) has recruited program director, thematic officers and account officer. While recruiting the project staff, work force diversity has been maintained. The HIMAWANATI Nepal implemented the activities for Kathmandu, Ashmita Nepal for Makwanpur district and CRMC for Sarlahi district.

The following activities have been completed:

- Forest inventory survey for each project site with baseline data of 3 demo sites;
- Development of forest management plans for each site;
- Nursery establishment for SFM (Kathmandu, Makwanpur and Sarlahi);
- Application of silvicultural practices with regular technical and material support;
- Harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products for better use of forests;
- Trainings on SFM for local communities;
- Development of ecotourism management plan;
- Revision of community forest operational guideline for ecotourism;
- Ecotourism services development: prepared infrastructure and services;
- Training on ecotourism management: intensive training for CFUGS on ecotourism;
- Trainings on wooden handicraft for local communities on handicraft production;
- Construction of handicraft production house a for the manufacturing and storage of produced handicrafts in the Makwanpur;
- Value chain analysis and marketing of wooden handicrafts;
- Value chain analysis of aromatic herbs (Citronella, Pamarosa, Mentha and Lemon grass);
- Awareness raising event on value chain of aromatic herbs;
- Aromatic herbs planting in community forests more than 5 ha land of CF planted;
- Marketing of aromatic herbs: Established marketing committee of CF representative and establishment of sales centre;
- Installation and use of 75 biogas devices;
- Installation and use of 90 solar panels for illumination for better health and independence of fossil fuel and thereby decreasing carbon emission;
- Installation and use of 300 Improved Cooking Stoves;
- Assessment and reassessment of community forest management mechanism through spider web.

#### **Description of Project Activities:**

The following activities have been completed in the implementation of project.

Output/ Activity	Description of Activities
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<b>Output 1: Sustainable forest management practices are demonstrated and the local communities' capacity on SFM built or improved.</b>	
<b>Activity 1.1</b> Forest inventory survey for each project site	In the first year, the baseline data collection and forest inventory survey were collected and conducted in the 13 forest communities. The database is useful in preparation of forest management plan.
<b>Activity 1.2</b> Trainings on SFM for local communities	In each of the project district, trainings on the SFM were conducted with minimum of 10 users from each CFUGs. Total participants were 130 received the training. The field observation has been managed during the training for the exposure and demonstration on Sustainable Forest Management. This created better environment adoption of the training outcomes.
<b>Activity 1.3</b> Development of forest management plan for each site	Thirteen community forest management plans were designed based on the discussion with the user groups and the reports from inventory. Each of the management plan was in line with the government policy and endorsed by the DFO.
<b>Activity 1.4</b> Nursery establishment for SFM	Three nurseries with one in each sites (Kathmandu, Sarlahi and Makwanpur) were established and operated. The nursery provided seedlings for the plantation and distribution to the local community. Fast growing fodder, fruit, NTFPs and other multipurpose tree species were produced in nursery. Seedlings were planted in the community forest, agricultural fields and home garden. These tree species can meet their basic needs of fuel wood, timber, fodder and medicinal use.
<b>Activity 1.5</b> Application of Silvicultural Practices	Silvicultural practices were done in 8 Community Forest User Groups of three Districts (Mahankal, Ganeshdevi Bandevi and Mahalaxmi in Kathmandu; Nuireni and Piple Pokhara in Makwanpur and Janajyoti, Nadneshwar and Radha Krishna in Sarlahi). They were done on the basis of operational plan of respective CFs where silvicultural practices have been mentioned. Five users from each community forests were trained. The project has supported users for sustainable forest management such as weeding, pruning and 3D extraction (dead, decayed, and diseased) activities through the application of silviculture techniques. Thinning activities on the forest were done according to the silviculture treatment guideline. The 130 trained local resource persons were mobilized in the proper use and handling of instruments. Technical assistance for such facilitation were gained from District Forest Office or independent Forestry experts for consultancy.

	<p>One demonstration plot was established in Setidevi CF in Kathmandu. In Makwanpur, silvicultural operations were done in three community forests (Newreni Chisapani, Manakamana and Banaskhandi Devi). Three demonstration plots have been established in Sarlahi (Radhakrishna, Janajyoti and Nandeswor Community Forests).</p> <p>In year III, the application of silvicultural practices in four community forests (Chandragiri Sachet CF, Mahalaxmi CF, Ganeshdevi CF and Mahakali) in Kathmandu, four CFs in Makawanpur and three CFs in Sarlahi.</p>
<p><b>Activity 1.6</b></p> <p>Harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFP)</p>	<p>The project supported 13 CFUGs with improved harvesting tools, and other tools that included bow Saw, Cross Cut Saw, Hand Saw, Harvesting Axes, Logging Axe, Knives, Sickles, Files, Saw Blades, Helmets, and Gloves. Harvesting tools distributed to the CFUGs in presence of respective DFOs. Importantly, 130 participants from 13 community forests trained on the proper use and handling of instruments by technical assistance from the DFO staff. The tools were utilized during annual harvesting time and during the silvicultural treatments. 52 users from 13 CFUGs participated and were trained. Among them 42 were women participants who were trained on proper use and handling of instruments.</p>
<p><b>Activity 1.7</b></p> <p>Construction of Fire line</p>	<p>This activity has been omitted during the revision of AWP 2.</p>
<p><b>Activity 1.8</b></p> <p>Local resource person mobilization (LRP)</p>	<p>Two LRP for Kathmandu as there was six CFUGs and one LRP in each other district were hired. LRP coordinated the field level activities and regularly updated the project management team on the progress of the activities. The LRP also supported the implementation of ecotourism activities in Kathmandu, wooden handicraft business in Makwanpur and Aromatic oil business in Sarlahi.</p>
<p><b>Output 2: The income generated from community forest increased obviously through development of community forest based mini-enterprises</b></p>	
<p><b>2.1 Community based Ecotourism enterprise development in the Kathmandu</b></p>	
<p>Activity 2.1.1</p> <p>Revision of community forest operational guideline for ecotourism</p>	<p>Operation plan of Lagalagepakha CF was revised for the endorsement and management facilitation of the ecotourism in Kathmandu. The CFUG constitution was also revised.</p>

<p>Activity 2.1.2</p> <p>Development of ecotourism management plan</p>	<p>Eco tourism management plan was prepared with rigorous consultation with community users, local government and political parties. Various data were generated such as birds, wildlife, butterflies and forest resource of the area for the potential assets for the eco-tourism. Similarly, selected 14 participants were provided with exposure visit to Ghalgaun and Bhujung of Lamjung district to understand the home stay facility, how they operate, and techniques of management.</p> <p>The project hired an expert to facilitate in preparing ecotourism management plan. Ecotourism management strategies such as zoning for visitor use, visitors site planning and design, sustainable infrastructure design, revenue generating mechanism, visitor monitoring and management incorporated in ecotourism management plan.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1.3</p> <p>Ecotourism services development</p>	<p>The project has developed ecotourism services in the area of Laglage Pakha community forest of Chandragiri area of Kathmandu sites. The following ecotourism services developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 km green trail were constructed in first year.</li> <li>• The graphical map of Lagalagepakha was prepared by the engineer with rigorous discussion with stakeholders.</li> <li>• 2 bird watching towers (Machan) were established.</li> <li>• 4 toilets were constructed.</li> <li>• 2 guard rooms were prepared.</li> <li>• 4 picnic spots were prepared.</li> <li>• 1 garden was developed.</li> <li>• The water supply system was developed in picnic spots with water tank and taps.</li> <li>• 1 children park was prepared.</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 2.1.4</p> <p>Training on eco-tourism</p>	<p>The training on park management and promotion of ecotourism in the area has been provided to ecotourism management committee. 5 experts in the field of ecotourism were hired for the training. 25 participants from six CFUGs participated in the training. Five days ecotourism management training included Community ecotourism education and awareness, linking communities, tourism and conservation, built their capacities to design and implement ecotourism programs. In this training benefit sharing mechanism were also discussed. Within CFUGs, a separate park management committee was formed and capacitated for park management and benefit sharing.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1.5</p> <p>Marketing and Publicity of</p>	<p>A brochure was prepared for marketing and publicity of the park. Hoarding board prepared and displayed in the area. Furthermore, on 25th December 2017 a meeting with cable car company was</p>

the park	<p>organized for enhancement of ecotourism and linkage to cable car. For promotion of tourism youth club were mobilized. The project coordinated with Youth Network on sustainable development Nepal that supported to mobilize youth of ecotourism area for promotional and motivational support. Further, on 1 January 2018, one meeting organized with CFUG and youth group. The meeting decided to mobilize youth in that area. Lagalage Pakha FUGs made list of people for joint trekking with Chandragiri cable car, youth and CFUG. The project has handed over ecotourism facilities to CFUG to Laglaga Pakaha CF from HIMAWANTI Nepal. The Forest User group took ownership on the ecotourism infrastructures.</p>
<b>Activity 2.2 Community based wooden handicraft business development in Makwanpur site</b>	
<p>Activity 2.2.1</p> <p>Value chain analysis and marketing of wooden handicrafts</p>	<p>Value chain analysis of the wooden handicrafts have been conducted. The value chain has identified various areas of coordination, policy bridging, and market value along with net profit to the communities.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2.2</p> <p>Construction of handicraft production house</p>	<p>This activity has been omitted during AWP revision.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2.3</p> <p>Trainings on wooden handicraft for local communities</p>	<p>Basic level wooden handicraft Training:</p> <p>A six months training was conducted on basic level wooden handicraft training with rigorous exercise for the participants. Altogether 50 participants were trained. Various woodcarving tools and equipment as part of training materials were purchased and essential basic equipment provided to the trainees. Participants were selected on the basis of well being ranking, current interest and recommendation from CFUG. 41 female and 9 male participants were selected from 4 CFUGs. Training inauguration program was held on 27 August 2015 by Chief Guest Dr. Akhileshwor Lal Karna Central Regional Director of MFSC and started from 1st Sept 2015. Mr. Babu Lal Waiba and Co-trainer Misses Bijaya Dulal were hired from the project. A number of individuals and organizations including CFUGs, NGOs, DFO and APFNet visited the wooden handicraft trainings and shared their ideas and experience with trainees. The event was widely reported by local news paper and radio stations.</p> <p>Advance Wooden handicraft Training:</p> <p>A three months Advance Wooden Handicraft Training (WHT) was conducted for further skill enhancement. Thirty women belonging to deprived and marginalized groups, who participated in the basic</p>



	course were selected. WHT started from 10 Aug 2016 in the same place. Mr. Raj Ananda Shilpakar from Kathmandu worked as the resource person. He is one of the famous artists of Nepal and had got a lot of experiences on wooden handicraft work. All participants are involved in the woodcarving and they have earned about NRs. 450,000.
Activity 2.2.4 Marketing of wooden handicrafts	
Activity 2.2.4.1 Establishment of Company and Sales center	Two community micro enterprise has been established in Makwanpur district with the support from project. The enterprise given name is "ShramJivi Mahila Kastha Kala Udhyog" of Piple Pokhara and Niureni chisapani CFUG and Manakamana Mahila Kastha Hastakala Laghu Udhyog of Manakmana CFUG. The project helped to establish sales centre in Makawanpur district. Before registered in small cottage enterprise office a temporary sales centre has been established in the local market. After establishing two micro enterprises, the temporary sales center replaced into permanent sales centre through the micro enterprise group at Hetauda Bazar. The enterprise group have been producing handicraft and bring them to the sells centre for selling. Key stakeholders from district such as district handicraft association federation of Nepalese industry and commerce and different cooperatives within the districts has been identified as the partners of the project.
Activity 2.2.4.2 Exhibition Fair	<p>Makwanpur Exhibition :</p> <p>Exhibition program of Wooden Handicraft products made by trainee of held on 31st Jan to 1st Feb 2016 in Motel Avocado, Hetauda, and Makwanpur. The Exhibition was organized by Regional Forest Directorate Makwanpur, on the occasion of Annual assembly of foresters of Central Development Region. The exhibition was held to display the community works and development works implemented by different CFUGs and District forest offices. On this occasion RFD and DFO provided the Wooden Handicraft Women Group of Makwanpur to display their products and promote them. The main objective of exhibition fair was to inform and promote wooden handicraft products to different participants of the program from different districts.</p> <p>Kathmandu Exhibition:</p> <p>Exhibition of wooden handicraft products was done in Kathmandu during program of "World Wood Day" celebration from 21st March - 25th March 2016. The participants of the training participated in</p>

	the exhibition to promote wooden handicrafts among local, national and international participants.
<b>Activity 2.3 Community based aromatic herbs enterprise development in Sarlahi Site</b>	
Activity 2.3.1 Value chain analysis of aromatic herbs (Citronella, Pamarosa and Lemon grass)	The value chain analysis has been conducted on aromatic herbs based enterprises in Sarlahi. Various factors affecting the production, marketing and distribution were identified in the value chain analysis. This helped community users for aromatic herbs plantation and marketing promotion.
Activity 2.3.2 Awareness raising events on value chain of aromatic herbs	In order to facilitate the aromatic herbs enterprise development, various meeting, workshops, discussions and awareness raising movements have been organized in Sarlahi district. It helped users to mobilize on production and marketing of aromatic herbs. One observation tour of aromatic herbs was also managed for the selected users. The users have reviewed the different modalities of forest management.
Activity 2.3.3 Aromatic herbs planting in community forests	The under-utilized land under the high transmission line has been utilized through plantation of aromatic herbs. Aromatic herbs plantation been also managed in community forests land by uprooting the lantana camara, an invasive species that is harmful to forests. The project established a total of 12 ha. Plantation of aromatic herbs in the forest area of Radhakrishna, Janajyoti and Nandeswor Community Forest Users. FUGs also made the enrichment plantation of Lemon grass, Pamarosa, Citronella in three community forests. Weeding and Irrigation facilities through pumping underground water has been provided in the plantation sites.
Activity 2.3.4 Marketing of aromatic herbs	<p>A marketing committee has been formed with the responsibility of dialogue with private sectors for getting more prices on the products. The marketing committee members have worked with private sectors for promoting markets. District Forest office complimented through constructing a store house in Nandeswor Forests to keep the plant materials in the store to protect from direct rain and sun.</p> <p>A cooperative has been formed with the involvement of leasehold group and sub group members of Nandeswar Community Forest with 25 institutional members of group.</p> <p>A processing plant has been established in Nandeswor Community. 40 women members were involvement in the operation of mini-enterprises.</p>

	An agreement has been made with Himalayan Bio-trade by Radha Krishna Community Forest Users to provide organic products of aromatic herbs. One processing plant is under construction in Radha Krishna Community Forest for organic production.
Activity 2.3.5 Establishment of sales center	The sales centre was established in Lalbandi in coordination with the marketing committee and Radha Krishna Community Forests. In sales centre, the sample and marketing information were kept to the buyers and farmers. This is the contact point for market of essential oil for farmers and buyers.
<b>Output 3: Alternative energy is promoted and pressure on forest and carbon emission are reduced</b>	
<b>Activity 3.1</b> Installation and use of 75 biogas devices	A total of 75 Biogas plants were installed in ultra poor households of community forests to mobilize pro-poor groups in forest management and forest rehabilitation. The households were selected on the basis of their interest and availability of cow dung and sewage. The land is also needed for the construction of biogas plant.
<b>Activity 3.2</b> Installation and use of 90 solar panels	A total of 90 Solar Panels (55 watt) with solar tubular battery, charger controller and 5 LED bulbs were distributed to the poor households of community forests. The community members have been facing the load shedding during the pick hour for evening time. They are getting limited service of electricity hanging bulbs in village houses. The solar light helped school children to study at night. In project sites, the Community Forest User Groups are encouraged to participate more on SFM after the installation of solar panel.
<b>Activity 3.3</b> Installation and use of 300 improved cook stove	A total of 300 improved Cook stoves were installed in the project sites as an incentive for community users to contribute in forest rehabilitation. The cook stove is based on the technology with a simple modification of the improved cook stove which uses a metal burner which allows oxygen to pass from the bottom and ash to filter. The cook stove has a firewood chamber, airflow chamber, two cooking chamber and one chimney. The burner attached in stove has helped to complete burning of biomass and reduce indoor air pollution.
<b>Output 4: Community forest management mechanism improved, including decision making, financial management, benefit-sharing, forest management planning and so forth</b>	
<b>Activity 4.1</b> Assessment and reassessment of community forest management mechanism	The assessment of the good governance of the CFUGs has been conducted in 13 CFs. The analysis was able to diagnose the current status of the CFUGs in relation to transparency, accountability, rule of law, inclusiveness and gender equity. This has given us brief idea on the approach we should take before any intervention of the

through spider web	project. The report has shown there were areas of improvement in major areas such as transparency, inclusiveness and rule of law.
<b>Activity 4.2</b> Regular assembly and meeting of executive committee	The project provided support to executive committees of 13 CFUGs in conducting regular assembly and executive committee meeting. This has increased the frequency of meeting which in turn have brought decision making process more democratic and inclusive. The regular meeting and assemblies have been completed. This helped to make the transparent decision from executive committee.
<b>Activity 4.3</b> Participatory planning and community forest management mechanism improvement coaching	Participatory planning and community forest management mechanism improvement coaching were carried out in 13 CFUGs. The project facilitated implementation of participatory planning and community forest management mechanism coaching including the sensitization on annual progress for reporting, mechanism for dissemination, users' participation and active and meaningful participation.
<b>Activity 4.5</b> Public hearing and auditing	The public hearing program were conducted in Lagalage Pakha CF in Kathmandu. Piple Pokhara CF in Makawanpur and Nandeswor CF in Sarlahi. This helped CFUG members for the program review and provided feedback for future implementation.
<b>Output 5: Good models of best practices of community based sustainable forest management disseminated to policy makers and practitioners</b>	
<b>Activity 5.1</b> Yearly Project review meeting /Workshop	The Project Steering Committee meeting were conducted for approving Annual Working Plan and Annual Report. One PSC meeting was organized on 2 October 2016 during mid-term evaluation where PSC members as well as Professor Dr. Dawoei Zhang and Mr. Li Zhaochan were also involved. Basically this meeting was focused on the review of progress and future plan. In the meantime, Professor Dr. Dawoei Zhang had shared about mid-term evaluation result. And he said that MTE was succeeded and gave 80-85% marks. The yearly project review meeting organized each year with the relevant stakeholders and project management team.
<b>Activity 5.2</b> Publication and dissemination	The project has published brochures for the sharing of project goals and intended outcomes. Moreover, there have been regular publishing of radio program, video program in the national news channel, interviews of the key stakeholders and project related members. One brochure of ecotourism was prepared in the Kathmandu. Six case studies were published in the Nepal newspaper. One video documentary was prepared and dissemination.
<b>6. Project Monitoring, evaluation and Reporting</b>	

<b>Activity 6.1</b> Internal Monitoring and Evaluation	Frequent monitoring visit have been done in the Kathmandu, Makwanpur and Sarlahi. Representative from Department of Forest and APFNet focal point Mr. Prakash Lamsal and respective districts forest staffs were also involved in the field monitoring. Frequent monitoring of the project related activities in the district have been conducted by the project secretariat to facilitate and ease the project implementation.
<b>Activity 6.2</b> External Evaluation	The Midterm evaluation was done from 27 September to 2 October 2016. Professor Dawaoei Zhang and Li Zhaochen came to Nepal for midterm evaluation. APFNet has received the Mid-Term Evaluation Report from the evaluator was given 80-85% of rating, the project has been implemented in a good manner. There needs to be a big marketing effort to sell products from the mini-enterprises. It is necessary to make a good use of the tree nurseries, enhance forest productivity, and build up SFM capability and rules. The overall implementation and management of this project is successfully completed. Final evaluation has been planned in August 2018 from APFNet.

## 2.2 Project resources and costs

APFNet has disbursed fund each year after the approval of AWP. The project costs were maintained and activities were completed as per AWP. After the completion of project, the external evaluation is retained by APFNET and the cost variance by 10% or more by category against approved project budget is also remained. The summary of project financial details is presented below with variance.

Cost Description	Expenditures	Anticipated budget	Variance percentage	Justification
Project staff	44,285.07	41,166.02	7.8	
Consultancy	26,991.90	27,000.00	0.03	
Meeting and training cost	62,026.45	63,995.01	3.08	
Field activities	196421.18	198,157.74	0.88	
Publication and dissemination	22,389.66	23,591.92	5.10	
Monitoring evaluation and audit	14537.00	29506.41	50.73	External evaluation by APFNET
Procurement	5330.00	5823.45	8.47	
Overhead	25052.74	25485.45	1.70	
	397034.00	414726.00		

The project funds included APFNET funds and kind contribution from the implementing organizations. APFNET has disbursed fund three times to the executive agency. The financial resources were used in the project with the kind contribution. In the implementation of project in the field, the financial resources were used along with contribution from members of groups involved in the activities. Labour wages were contributed by local users in nursery establishment, harvesting, ecotourism service development, wooden handicraft training, aromatic herbs

plantation, sales centre establishment. The individual household provided kind contribution from wages in biogas installation, solar panel installation and cook stove installation. Local materials and non-skill labor were contributed from the individual households. The expert from the implementing partner provided technical services as kind contribution in eco-tourism management plan preparation, marketing and publicity and documentation process. All kind contributions were also recorded for the transparency of project implementation. The summary of kind contribution is presented below.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Kind contribution (USD)</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Kind contribution (USD)</b>
1.4 Nursery establishment	1414.69	3.2 Solar panel	6000.00
1.6 Harvesting	2079.85	3.3 Improved cook stove	3000.00
2.1.2 Develop ecotourism plan	465.72	4.2 Regular assembly	1000.00
2.1.3 Ecotourism service Development	30594.46	4.4 participatory planning	1300.00
2.1.4 Ecotourism training	565.10	4.5 Public hearing	1000.00
2.1.5 Marketing and publicity	555.86	5.1 yearly review	2000.00
2.2.3 Handicraft training	8500.0	5.2 Publication and media dissemination	1001.51
2.2.4 Marketing/ Fair	1500.00	Project staff PD	3440.76
2.3.3 Aromatic herbs plantation	17099.57	Finance Manager	5896.13
2.3.4 Marketing	6000.00	Field coordinators	5896.13
2.3.5 Sales centre	5505.19	Office assistant	2235.45
3.1 Biogas	11250.00	Office assistants in field	6706.38

The financial records were kept as per financial rules and regulations. The organization has its procurement policy, financial policy and recording of income and expenses. The Executive agency has kept the records as per the financial rules and regulations.

### **2.3 Procurement and consultant recruitment**

During the project period 4 Dell laptop, 3 Desktop computers and 4 Brother Computers were purchased from overhead expenses. And now that become old and less functional. Therefore, it is decided to keep in the HIMAWANTI Nepal, CRMC and Ashmita Nepal.

<b>SN</b>	<b>Name of the good</b>	<b>quantity</b>	<b>location of installment</b>
1	Dell Laptop	2	HIMAWANTI
2	Dell Laptop	1	ASHMITA
3	Dell Laptop	1	CRMC

4	Desktop computer	1	HIMAWANTI
5	Desktop computer	1	ASHMITA
6	Desktop computer	1	CRMC
7	Brother Printer	2	HIMAWANTI
8	Brother Printer	1	ASHMITA
9	Brother Printer	1	CRMC

During the project implementation, local consultant(s) were hired to fulfill specific tasks and functions for the project. The consultants were hired for development of ecotourism management plan, value chain analysis. The following consultants were used.

S.N.	Name	Functions
1.	Prashant Paudel	Preparation of eco-tourism management Plan
2	Nirmal chapagain	Value Chain Analysis
3	Sita Aryal	Value chain analysis
4	Keshav Aryal	Publication and documentation
5	Niranjan Thapa	Forest management Plan preparation
6	Bikal Dahal	Forest management Plan preparation
7	Niraj Babu Bhatta	Forest management Plan preparation
8	Mina Joshi	Forest management Plan preparation
9	Harish Bahadur Chand	Forest management Plan preparation
10	Hem Bahadur Katuwal	Bird and mammal survey for eco-tourism Management plan
11	Hari Basnet	Bird and mammal survey for eco-tourism Management plan
12	Kanchan Parajuli	Bird and mammal survey for eco-tourism Management plan
13	Sandesh Lamichhane	Bird and mammal survey for eco-tourism Management plan
14	Mankal Rai	Bird and mammal survey for eco-tourism Management plan

## 2.4 Monitoring & evaluation and reporting

During the implementation of project, frequent monitoring of the project related activities in the district have been conducted by the project secretariat to facilitate and ease the project implementation. In each year, the project team has reviewed the progress and identified the issues. After the implementation of AWP 1, the project secretariat has revised the AWP 2 and 3 considering the issues identified in the implementation of the project. Initially home stay was planned in Kathmandu, but this became difficult and revised the activities. The contribution from implementing partner in salary of project team was also revised. The monitoring was also done by APFNET focal person from Department of Forests and suggested to improve the implementation.

Three DFOs of the project district monitored handicraft training site in Hetauda Makwanpur on 21 December, 2015 and plantation area of Sarlahi on 22 December, 2015. Representative of the consortium partners and Project Director were also involved in the monitoring. The monitoring

field has recommended for the marketing of products. DFO Sralahi has initiated the establishment of NTFP cooperative in Sarlahi and CRMC has initiated the linkages with private sectors. As a result, the market of lemon grass, Pamarosa and Citronella were identified and users have started to sell the products in private company.

Field visit was done by Department of Forest and Project Director from dated 12 and 17 September in the Kathmandu, 15-16 September 2016 in the Makwanpur and Sarlahi. They made further suggestion for further improvement of the project.

Furthermore, field monitoring was done in Makwanpur and Sarlahi on 24-26 December 2016 where Prakash Lamsal (APFNet focal person), PD, FD, Journalist, consortiums were involved. Furthermore, consortiums were also involved in during field monitoring.

### **Mid Term Evaluation**

Midterm evaluation was done from 27 September to 2 October by Dr. Daowoei Zhang and Mr. Li Zhaoachen. The project was satisfactory and was given 80-85% of rating. It is a matter of pride for the Project team to note that the evaluator has ranked the project has been implemented in a good manner, and most of the activities have closely competed. Besides that, it is really appreciated for the attentively implementing of the project to carry out the most effective approach of sustainable forest management and income generation for the households and women in these communities under this project.

However, even this project had given a grade as 80-85% of rating, but there are some recommendations proposed by the evaluator for further improvement as below:

- There needs to be a big marketing effort to sell products from the mini-enterprises
- The purpose and future use of the demonstration forests need to be identified and implemented
- The overall impact of alternative energy component needed to be studied and possibly expanded to the 13 CFUG and beyond.
- Make a good use of the tree nurseries, enhance forest productivity, and build up SFM capability and rules
- The need to be a coordinated effort in building a good community forest management model and promote it to other CFUG in the economy.
- Possibly make a higher allocation of CF income to forest management.
- Provide endorsement from the GoN and work with the GoN to publicize/promote the model of best practices in community forestry management in Nepal.

The overall implementation and management of this project is successfully completed.



## 2.5 Dissemination and knowledge sharing

**Project website:** Project has published its official website which contains information related to project activities, its scope and achievements. For the effective and transparent procurements all the vacancies, Request for Proposal (RFP) and Request for Quotations (RFQ) are being published in the website. The website is in both English and Nepali language.

**Project brochures:** Further project has published brochures for the sharing of project goals and intended outcomes. One brochure of ecotourism was prepared in the Kathmandu (Brochure sent to APFNet China). Six case studies were published in the Nepal newspaper. Furthermore, for promotion of ecotourism Facebook was opened which address is [https://www.facebook.com/ecotourism.laglagepakha?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/ecotourism.laglagepakha?ref=br_rs). And email also opened email address is [ecotourism.laglagepakha@gmail.com](mailto:ecotourism.laglagepakha@gmail.com)

**Videos:** 2 video programs were telecasted in television channel.

**Feature news:** 5 feature news/articles were published/broadcasted.

- Likewise interview of project staffs/board members of consortium partners/stakeholders were published/broadcasted in the television. For examples, Video program-Governance assessment by spider web of Newreni Chishapani CFUG was broadcasted in Team television Makwanpur.
- Articles-Wooden handicraft training - Chinari Sandesh weekly paper.
- Interview of trainees in wooden handicraft training- Karobar rastriya dainik
- Wooden handicraft training feature news was published in Kantipur dainik
- Inauguration of wooden handicraft training- in Sajhaakura dainik and Samaj Patrika
- Wooden handicraft production-Group formation-news in Hetauda today and Sajhaakura paper. The publication and video are given in the annex XVI.

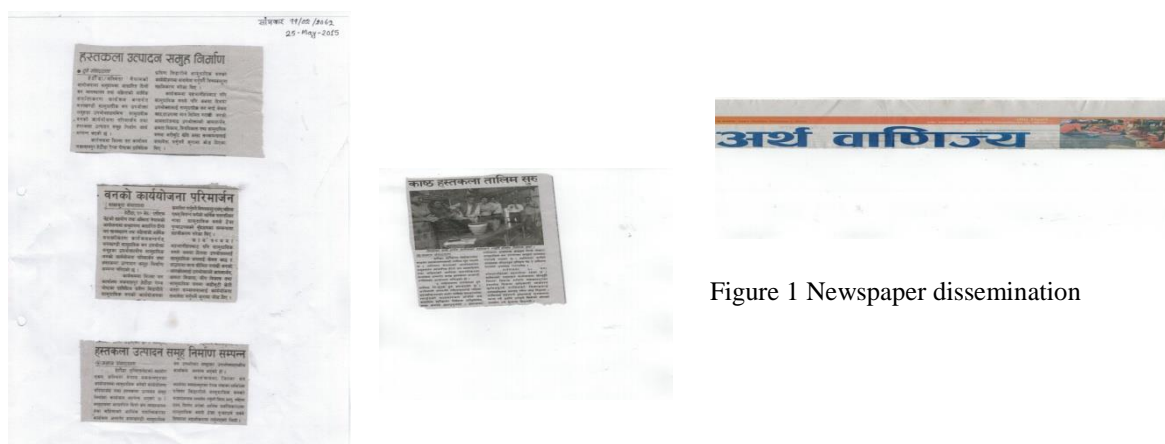


Figure 1 Newspaper dissemination

Two video documentaries were prepared -one is from English language and other is from Nepali

language. One video documentary was displayed in the Sagarmatha TV of Nepal which is given in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riMRAsvN-tM>. Furthermore, same documentary from English language is kept in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PexAf9eG7rg>

Most importantly, case study of Sarlahi also displayed through Sagarmatha TV during news time which is given in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtbnrSKssdA>

Furthermore, wooden handicraft success story was published in the "Chinari Sandesh" newspaper.



Figure 25 Success story of wooden handicraft publishing in the local Newspaper "Chinari Sandesh"

Additionally, EOI of ecotourism management plan and marketing management plan development are kept in its official website. The EOI put both in English and Nepali languages. <http://www.wetcofe.com/en>.

### 3. PROJECT PARTNERES' PERORMANCE

#### 3.1 Performance of Supervisory Agency (if any)

The Project steering committee successfully fulfilled its role of reviewing and providing feedback on the project's annual progress report, midterm report and annual reports. The supervisory agency Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and under these institution like District Forest office and range post office always support for this project planning, monitoring and implementation support. The reviews were timely, detailed, and invaluable for improving the project. The focal point from Department forest always ready for support project, doing so in a timely and efficient manners, and was very supportive of the project's endeavors. They provided comments and suggestions on the report and outputs, and helped ensure all activities were carried out successfully.

#### 3.2 Performance of Executing Agency

##### Project management

Project had different hierarchy of management, Project Steering Committee being top facilitator,

while Project Management Committee is the main governing body of the project. Similarly, in the secretariat office, one Project Director and one finance head are working. In the meantime, each district, District Project Coordinator, Finance Assistant and Local resource Persons have worked to support the project. Due to provision of personnel funds for financial head and 3 field coordinators efficient management of the project has been achieved for fulfilling specific project objectives. Furthermore, verbal and writing communication among 3 NGOs as well as other stakeholders has helped to success project.

Frequent monitoring of project has been done by District Forest Office, consortium partners as well as from PD. Monitoring has been done from three levels. First level, monitoring has been updated by PD with consulting to DPC on the basis of day to day by phone and email. However in the Kathmandu, DPC self-meet to Project Director most of the time so that he has been updating day to day update to PD. Furthermore, in the second level, District Forest office also has been done close monitoring of APFNet Project. And in the third level, consortiums also have been doing self-monitoring, evaluation and reflection of program.

#### **Project Management Team:**

As per the need of the project, staffs at each districts were hired relatively late due to compliances on procurement policies. During the project design it was supposed that each executing agency would allocate some time for their existing staffs to work for the project and budgets were allocated accordingly. But when the actual project started, the need for full time staffs were recognized and thus recruited.

Due to the deficit in the budget however, the payment to the full time project staffs have been done by each organizations. Due to already deficit budget (as community has to support cash budget), this increased extra budget to partner organization. Regular meeting were conducted with project team and with the government and other stakeholders. This has helped to understand the situation among stakeholders. In order to keep track of the information, the monitoring of the field work was regular during this project period. To keep records of the monitoring, a clear performance measurement framework has been designed under which each partner will evaluate their progress of the activities.

### **3.3 Budget and Financial management**

Budget and financial management work has been done by Secretariat office HIMAWANTI Nepal. The Finance coordinator has provided all financial report to Auditor to audit the report. Grant budget was received by the project secretariat through APFNet based on the annual work plan. This was later disbursed to partner organization based on their semester planning. Each disbursement was based on the performance of the last semester. This has affected in the second installment transfer which ultimately affected the final expenses in the period. The overall reporting of the budget versus expenses is presented in the annex with explanation.

### **3.4 Performance of APFNet**

APFNet was very supportive and friendly throughout the entirety of the project, and their contributions met and exceeded the expectations of the project's management team. They provided useful feedback on the project planning, and the distribution of funds. This was mainly achieved through refinements to the Annual Work Plan. Grant money was provided in a timely manner. No delay occurred during the entire project period. There was excellent communication between APFNet and the Director for each and every step of Project management. In the second year of Project implementation it was difficult to cash contribution from consortiums partners so that APFNet understood that problem and they easily accepted that problem. APFNet provided timely and useful feedback on the project's progress reports. This information was invaluable for improving project strategies, objectives, and outputs. During midterm evaluation of Project, evaluation team admired APFNet Project and provided 80-85% marks.

## **4. PROJECT PERFORMANCE**

### **4.1 Project achievements**

#### **Major Achievements of the Project**

The project has focused to assist on sustainable forest management and improve the forest condition through the mobilization of the forest dependent community and to generate the opportunity for the livelihood enhancement through the women lead enterprises development. Following achievement has been achieved from the implementation of project.

#### **Forest management planning and policy strengthening**

- Community based ecotourism enterprise development policy enhanced in Nepal;
- Community forest management mechanism through spider web for improving forest governance assessed;
- Documentation of income and expenditure for User Groups started;
- Supplementary and income generating programs to promote disadvantaged groups in community forest designed and implemented through community forest fund;
- Poor women became leadership in local level organizations and cooperatives.

#### **Community based aromatic herbs enterprise development in Sarlahi site**

- Value chain of aromatic herbs - Citronella, Palmarosa, Mentha and Lemon grass analyzed;
- Land under high transmission lines utilized through plantation of aromatic herbs;
- Marketing of aromatic herbs plants conducted;
- Support from District Forest in aromatic herbs business received;
- 12 ha plantation of aromatic herbs established;

#### **Community based Ecotourism enterprise development in the Kathmandu**

- Operational plan with the consideration of eco-tourism revised;
- A detailed ecotourism management plan developed in Kathmandu Chandragiri sites through collaboration with the CFUGs, local government, and political entities.
- Manpower in ecotourism trained;

- Eco-tourism services developed, including 10 km green trail, graphical map by the engineer with rigorous discussion with stakeholders, two bird watching towers (Machan), four toilets, 2 guard rooms, 4 picnic spots, 1 garden, water supply system with well and 1 children park;
- Women empowered from poor and marginalized through eco-tourism development

#### **Community based wooden handicraft business development in Makwanpur site**

- Value chain analysis of wooden handicrafts strengthened;
- Women trained on wooden handicraft making, including 50 participants (42 women and 8 men), mainly on carving windows door, wooden masks, photo frames, basket, flower vase, bamboo product.
- A sales center in Makawanpur established;
- Marketing of wooden handicraft through exhibition Fair conducted;
- 30 local women capacitated on handicraft business in preparing attractive design and quality products (new gift items like key rings, bell stands for table, bell stands for wall and double and single photo frames) and using new machines and equipment.

#### **Sustainable Forest Management**

- Capacity building on sustainable forest management conducted;
- Demonstration plot for sustainable forest management established;
- The improved harvesting tools (cross cut saw, bow saw, hand saw, file, Bill hook, axe, sharpening stone, filing clamp, measuring tape, Diameter tape etc.) provided to Forest Users for the application of silvicultural practices with the training on use of improved harvesting tools.
- nursery in three project sites established;
- 13 forest management plans in three project sites established.

#### **Alternative energy**

- Capacity building on improved cook stove conducted;
- Alternative energy facilities for poor households installed.

#### **4.2 Summary of progress Status**

<b>Output/Activity</b>		<b>Progress Status</b>	<b>Progress Quantity</b>	<b>Delivery Rate (%)</b>	<b>Verification Indicator</b>
<b>No.</b>	<b>Activities</b>				
	Inception workshop at central level	Completed	inception workshop	100	Participants list
1.1	Forest inventory survey for each project site	Completed	13 inventory	100	AWP report
1.2	Training for SFM for local Communities	Completed	Trained community users	100	AWP report
1.3	Development of forest management plan for each site	Completed	Plan developed	100	AWP report
1.4	Nursery	Completed	3 nursery	100	AWP report

Output/Activity		Progress	Progress Quantity	Delivery	Verification
No.	Activities	Status		Rate (%)	Indicator
	Establishment for SFM		established		
1.5	Application of silvicultural practices	Completed	Demo plot established	100	AWP report
1.6	Harvesting of timber and non-timber	Completed	Harvesting done	100	AWP report
1.7	Fire line construction	removed		-	
1.8	LRP mobilization	Completed	LRP mobilized	100	AWP report
2.1	Community based ecotourism development in Kathmandu Site				
2.1.1	Revision of CFUG operation plan for ecotourism	Completed	Plan revised	100	AWP report
2.1.2	Ecotourism Management plan development plan	Completed	Plan developed	100	AWP report
2.1.3	Ecotourism services development	Completed	Ecotourism developed	100	AWP report
2.1.3.1	Green Trail	Completed	10 km green trail	100	AWP report
2.1.3.2	Bird watching zone construction	Completed	2 towers	100	AWP report
2.1.3.3	Toilets construction	Completed	4 toilets	100	AWP report
2.1.3.4	Guard room construction	Completed	2 guard rooms	100	AWP report
2.1.3.5	Picnic Spots construction	Completed	4 picnic spots	100	AWP report
2.1.3.6	Gardening construction	Completed	1 gardening	100	AWP report
2.1.3.7	Pure Water Supply construction	Completed	Water tank and pipe constructed	100	AWP report
2.1.3.8	Support to community for home stay facility	removed			
2.1.3.9	Children Park construction	Completed	1 children park	100	AWP report
2.1.3.10	Graphical map design for the eco park	Completed	Graphical map designed	100	AWP report
2.1.4	Training on ecotourism	Completed	Ecotourism management	100	

Output/Activity		Progress	Progress Quantity	Delivery	Verification
No.	Activities	Status		Rate (%)	Indicator
	management		training		
2.1.5	Marketing and publicity of the park	Completed	Park publicity with hoarding board, brochure	100	AWP report
2.2	Community based wooden handicraft business development in Makwanpur				
2.2.1	Value chain analysis and marketing of wooden handicrafts	Completed	Value chain report	100	AWP report
2.2.2	Construction of Handicraft Production house	Handicraft			
2.2.3	Training on wooden handicraft for trainees (including 3 months for Advance Wooden Handicraft Training)	Completed	Basic training for 50 participants and 30 participants for advanced training on wooden handicrafts	100	AWP report
2.2.3	Community Handicraft Enterprises Equipment	Completed	Equipments	100	AWP report
2.2.4	Marketing of wooden handicrafts				
2.2.4.1	Establishment of company and sales centre	Completed	2 enterprise established Sale center established	100	AWP report
2.2.4.1	Exhibition Fair	Completed	Products in exhibition fair	100	AWP report
2.3	Community based aromatic herbs business development in Sarlahi site				
2.3.1	Value chain analysis of aromatic herbs (Citronella, Pamarosa, Mentha and Lemon grass)	Completed	Value chain analysis report	100	AWP report

Output/Activity		Progress	Progress Quantity	Delivery	Verification
No.	Activities	Status		Rate (%)	Indicator
2.3.2	Awareness raising on the value chain of aromatic herbs	Completed	10 sensitization workshop	100	AWP report
2.3.3	Aromatic herbs planting in community forests	Completed	12 ha. plantation established	100	AWP report
2.3.4	Marketing of aromatic herbs	Completed	marketing	100	AWP report
2.3.5	Establishment of sales center	Completed	Sales center established	100	AWP report
3.1	Installation and use of 75 biogas devices	Completed	75 Biogas installed	100	AWP report
3.2	Installation and use of 90 solar panels for illumination	Completed	90 solar panel installed	100	AWP report
3.3	Installation and use of 300 Improved Cook Stoves	Completed	300 cook stove installed	100	AWP report
4.1	Assessment and reassessment of governance through spider web	Completed	13 assessment	100	AWP report
4.2	Regular assembly and meeting of executive committee	Completed	Assembly and committee meeting	100	AWP report
4.3	Participatory planning and forest governance improvement coaching	Completed	Planning prepared	100	AWP report
4.4	Public hearing and public Auditing	Completed	Public hearing	100	AWP report
5.1	Yearly Project review meeting	Completed	Yearly review	100	AWP report
5.2	Publication and media dissemination	Completed	Publication	100	AWP report
5.3	Summarizing best practices of community based sustainable forest management from the project.	Completed	Best practices documented	100	AWP report



Output/Activity		Progress	Progress Quantity	Delivery	Verification
No.	Activities	Status		Rate (%)	Indicator
6	Monitoring and Evaluation				
6.1	Internal Monitoring and audit	Completed	Internal monitoring conducted	100	AWP report
6.2	External evaluation (retained by APFNet)			=	AWP report
7	Project Management				
7.1	Project Director	Completed		100	AWP report
7.2	Admin & Finance Director	Completed		100	AWP report
7.3	Field Coordinator-3 person	Completed		100	AWP report
7.4	Office Assistant	Completed		100	AWP report
7.5	Office Assistant	Completed		100	AWP report

## 4.2 Project Impacts

There is a rising trend to look at forests as a major component of landscapes and to promote landscape approaches for natural resource management. Forest issues are being recognized more and more as cross-sectoral issues linked to social, economic, environmental and cultural issues. From the implementation of project, the following impacts have been observed.

### A. Impact on economic activities and livelihoods

Three forest based enterprises have been established in three project sites. Poorer women have generated income from sales of aromatic herbs and wooden handicraft products.

Two community micro enterprises were established in Makwanpur district with the support from the project. The participants of wooden handicrafts from Piple Pokhara and Niureni Chisapani Community Forest User Groups have established the micro-enterprise in the name of Shram Jivi Mahila Kasthakala Udhyog. The participants from Manakmana Community Forest User Group have established micro-enterprise in the name of Manakamana Mahila Kasta Hastakala Laghu Udhyog. Both micro-enterprise Group have agreed to establish a sales centre in the city. In Hetauda city, they have established Sales centre for marketing of wooden handicrafts. The women enterprise groups are now producing handicraft and bringing them to the sales centre for selling. After establishing the sales centre, the women groups have earned NRs. 451,655.00 (USD 4385.00) from the selling of the wooden handicrafts products. The wooden handicraft products have been demanded by the government offices, federations and local business holders as gift items.

In Sarlahi, aromatic herbs have been planted in three community forests. Community forests have provided lands for aromatic herbs plantation to the poorer women. 13 poor women members were involved in the plantation in Radhakrishna community forest. After plantation, they have

harvested the plants six times at the end of December 2017 and generated NRs.320,000.00 (USD 3200). In Janajyoti community forest users, 20 poor women involved in the group and generated income of NRs. 720,000.00 (USD 7,200.00) from sales of aromatic herbs. In Nandeshwor Community Forest, 48 poor women members involved in the group and has generated NRs. 360,000.00 (USD 3600) from the sales of aromatic herbs. The landless women generated income from their spare time working in the lands provided by the community forest users. Two distillation plants have been established in Sarlahi with the facilitation from APFNET project. One distillation plant has been established in Radhakrishna community forests with the initiation of women group and Forest User Group. Another was established in Nandeswor Mahadev Community Forest with the support from Forest User Groups and women group. These distillation plants have been managed by women group as a micro-enterprises.

The price of organic essential oil has been agreed by Himalayan Bio-trade is NRs. 3,500.00 (USD 34.00) for Pamarosa, NRs. 2000.00 (USD 19.50) for Lemon grass and NRs. 1700.00 (USD 16.50) for Citronella. Women users are motivated to expand the plantation of aromatic herbs in community forests. The plant materials has been sold to the processing company located in Sarlahi. After the initiation of committee, the processing company has provided additional NRs. 100.00 to the existing price of Lemon Grass, Pamarosa and Citronella. The three community forests have initiated to take benefits from the sales of aromatic herbs. A sales centre has been established and market linkages established with private company for the production of organic products.

## **B. Impact on sustainable forest management and forest rehabilitation:**

The practices of sustainable forest management and forest rehabilitation have been implemented in thirteen community forests. The demonstration plots were established for different demonstration of silvicultural practices in community forests. In each district, nursery has been established and operated. Fast growing fodder, fruit, NTFPs and other multipurpose tree species were produced in the nursery. The species were recommended by community users and were planted in their agricultural fields or home garden, CF and get maximum benefits in short period of time. These tree species can meet their basic needs of fuel wood, timber, fodder and medicinal use

Enrichment Plantation in community Forests helped in forest rehabilitation. A total of 11,000 seedlings were planted in community forest in Sarlahi. The main species of forests are Sissoo, Eucalyptus, and Sal in association with Lagerstroemia, Bombax, Terminalia, syzygium, Tectona and Emblica. The forests were also enriched with the plantation of fodder and forage species. Broom grass (Amriso), Ipil, Bauhinia, Napier and stylo were also planted in the sites. The old trees were dried in the forests and users are not using those resources properly. The high transmission line is also gone through the forests of Janajyoti and Nandeswor community forests. The initiation of forest management with the plantation of forage species, aromatic herbs and income generating species were planted. In Makwanpur, 200 seedlings of medicinal plants were planted in Newreni Chishapani (species: harro, barro, Amala, Tej Paat, Sindure and Tanki), and about 250 seedlings of different species were planted in Piple Pokhara CFUG (species: harro, sissoo, khair, amriso and amala). And about 100 seedlings were distributed to users to plant in their private land. In Kathmandu, about 10,500 seedlings planted in Masine area of Chandragiri.

The species were Pinus, Cupressus. In Sarlahi, about 10,000 seedlings planted in Radhakrishna Community Forests. This helped in enrichment plantation of Shorea, Emblica, Paulinia, Emblica.

### **C. Impact on women empowerment and gender and social inclusion**

In Makawanpur, 28 women among those 42 trained were involved in wooden handicraft business. In Sarlahi, 75 women have been involved in aromatic herbs business. Women became successful for making wooden handicrafts such as carving windows door, wooden masks, photo frames, basket, flower vase, bamboo product. Advance level training enabled 28 women to have started to make more attractive and clean designs.

NTFP cooperative has been registered in Sarlahi in July 2017 with the involvement of two sub groups of Nandeswar Community Forest, two sub-groups of Ram Janaki community forest and two sub-groups of Budda Community Forests and 19 leasehold Forestry groups of ward no 1 and 10 of Lalbandi Municipality. Women became capacitated on aromatic herbs business.

### **D. Impact on capacity building of community people**

The capacity building of CFUGs on sustainable forest management is one of the most important impact of the programme. The local community were trained in three districts. Six month basic level raining on wooden handicraft capacitated 42 women and 8 men from deprived and marginalized groups for making wooden handicrafts. Poor women developed their knowledge on entrepreneurship and wooden handicraft and motivated for the establishment of mini-enterprise. They have started to use softwoods, dead trees and fallen logs as raw materials for handicraft production. This helped to reduce the use of new and healthy trees in forests. The project has provided additional fund for training equipments, machinery, wood and trainers. The participants became capacitated to prepare products like door, windows frame, theki (wooden Vessel), three layered frames, statues and photo frame with different frames. They have started to make more attractive and clean designs.

### **E. Impact on policy and enabling environment**

Ecotourism initiatives in CFUGs has contributed to the development of policy on Community based Ecotourism enterprise development in Nepal. After the implementation of ecotourism enterprise development initiatives in Kathmandu, forest official has focused ecotourism development in community forests. The Operation plans (OP) of six CFUGs in Kathmandu were revised and kept ecotourism provisions in the operational plan. The eco-tourism management plan has been prepared with rigorous consultation with CFUGs, local government and political parties. Various data were generated such as birds, wildlife, butterflies and forest resource of the area for the potential assets for the eco-tourism. Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation has provided ecotourism and park management budget in their annual programme.

### **F. Impact on improving forest governance**

The assessment of Community Forest User Groups have visualized the status of community forest in terms of poor record keeping, irregular committee meeting and assembly, poor participation in decision making and structure of executive committee. The user's members realized the need for

the revision of their operational plan and improvement of their participation in forest management. The users of Nandeswor Mahadev CFUG were supported by District Forest Office to change their leadership. The project team has made follow up with the users committee and managed general assembly. The general assembly has selected new executive committee in the leadership of new chairperson. The new chairperson has initiated the revision of operational plan and adopted sustainable forest management activities with the preparation and implementation of annual plan. The committee members have initiated regular committee meeting. They have established demonstration plots and initiated the harvesting practices as per the operational plan. The executive committee members have selected poor members and provided support in the aromatic herbs plantation and establishment of distillation plant in their community forest. In the meantime, they have also planned for increasing the plantation area for aromatic herbs for poor people. They have conducted general assembly on time.

### **G. Impact on infrastructures and sustainability**

Two viewing towers, 4 designated picnic areas, two rest shelters along the trail, toilet facilities, drinking water and 2 staffed welcome centers were established as part of ecotourism infrastructure in Lagalage Pakha CF in Kathmandu.

The CFUG needs to decorate for more tourists' attraction. Therefore, considering this fact, Lagalage Pakha Community Forest User group coordinate to District Forest Office for fund allocation, DFO promised to provide fund for further management. Furthermore, 30 Lakh fund has been allocated from Province no-3 for ecotourism further management like stone paving, decoration. Cable car Company of Chandragiri also plan to bring this area to their mainstream.

Aromatic herbs production groups have made agreement with private company for selling of aromatic herbs harvested materials and essential oil. Sunaulo Hariyali Aromatic Herbs Plantation Women Group of Radhakrishna CFUG has made agreement with Himalayan Bio-trade of Kathmandu for producing and selling of organic essential oil. The long term agreement identified the role of different stakeholders for organic certified products. Himalayan Bio-trade will facilitate for getting the organic certification and CFUG will support women group for providing land and establishing distillation plants in community forest.

A sales center has been established in the city of Makawanpur (Hetauda Bazaar). The property right of the selling centre belongs to poor women members of community. A total of 30 participants have been involved in the manufacture the products in the building of Piple Pokhara Community Forests and run the sale center in Hetauda city area. The sales center act as the outlet to channelize the products to the market.

### **H. Impact on health and education from support activities**

Poor Women in the project sites are facing the problems in the kitchen with the smoke full of tears in eyes covering the mouth and coughing. With the installation of improved cook stove, it had reduced exposure to smoke and reduced drudgery of women as they spend less time collecting

fuel wood, cooking and washing dishes. They found that men has helped them in the kitchen because of clean environment. Community Forest User Group are having the positive effect in some limit after the distribution of ICS. The poor women have installed the cook stove and they are happy with this initiation.

In project sites, Community Forest User Groups have selected poor household for solar panel distribution. The community members have been facing the load shedding during the pick hour for evening time. They are getting limited service of electricity hanging bulbs in village houses. When there was no electricity, children don't use to study at all and those who study should use the oil-lamps as compulsion which produces the smoke that leads to problem in their eyes and in breathing too. The programme provided solar to the household who have no electricity facilities. These support helped women groups in mobilizing forest based enterprise promotion and sustainable forest management.

### **4.3 Sustainability**

#### **Eco-tourism enterprise in Kathmandu**

In Kathmandu, ecotourism infrastructures were established in Lagalage Pakha community forests. The forest users have made provisions to take minimum fee of Rs. 1000.00 from the picnic team for the use of whole day picnic spot. The hiking from the entry point in the green trail to the Chandragiri hill was also managed by Lagalage Pakha for the group of school student and visiting groups in the guidance of hiking guide. The hiking guide will charge Rs. 3,000.00 from each group. The hiking group should be provided a whistle and safety tools on hire. The group will be explored two viewing towers and two rest shelters along the trail.

DFO will contribute to promotion of ecotourism in all aspects. Provenance 3 has allocated 3 million fund for ecotourism promotion for this area. Nepal tourism board and other agencies related tourism will also contribute to promotion of tourism area.

#### **Wooden handicraft business in Makwapur:**

Both micro-enterprise Groups (ShramJivi Mahila Kasthakala Udhyog and Manakamana Mahila Kasta Hastakala Laghu Udhyog), established by training participants have established Sales centre for marketing of wooden handicrafts. The women enterprise groups have been producing handicraft and bringing them to the sales centre for selling and decorating in centre. The wooden handicraft products have been demanded by the government offices, federations and local business holders as gift items.

In wooden handicrafts, the key stakeholders from district such as district handicraft association, federation of Nepalese industry and commerce and different cooperatives within the districts has been identified as the partners of the wooden handicrafts business. All the stakeholders and CFUGs promised to support the women group in business development process. The women groups have prepared a business plan for wooden handicraft enterprise development.

### **Aromatic Herbs business in Sarlahi:**

In Sarlahi, three community Forest User Groups (Radhakrishna, Janajyoti and Nandeswor Community Forest User Groups) were involved in the cultivation of aromatic herbs (**Lemon grass, Pamarosa, Citronella, Mentha and Chamommile**). The Forest User Group have formed sub-group from poor and marginalized women from forest users. The Forest Users have provided land to sub-group for the plantation of aromatic herbs. The landless women generated income from their wastage time working in the lands provided by the community forest users. The waste land under the high transmission line has been utilized through plantation of aromatic herbs. 13 poor women from Radhakrishna Community Forests, 20 poor women from Janajyoti Community Forest User Groups and 48 poor women members Nandeswor Community Forest were involved in the group and planted aromatic herbs in community forests.

For the sustainability of aromatic herbs, the following arrangement has been made;

- Forest User Groups have provided land to poorer households focusing on women groups for new plantation of aromatic herbs and further expansion of aromatic herbs in community forests. These groups are named as aromatic herbs production group. Women group will manage the plantation of aromatic herbs in community forest lands.
- Aromatic herbs production groups have made agreement with private company for selling of aromatic herbs harvested materials and essential oil. Sunaulo Hariyali Aromatic Herbs Plantation Women Group of Radhakrishna Forest User Group of Lalbandi, Sarlahi has made agreement with Himalayan Bio-trade of Katthmandu for producing and selling of organic essential oil to Himalayan Bio-trade. The long term agreement identified the role of different stakeholders for organic certified products. Himalayan Bio-trade will facilitate for getting the organic certification and Forest User Group will support women group for providing land and establishing distillation plants in community forest.
- One distillation plants have been established in Sarlahi with the facilitation from APFNET project. The distillation plant will be managed by women group as an micro-enterprises.
- The price of organic essential oil has been agreed by Himalayan Bio-trade is NRS. 3,500.00 (USD 34.00) for Pamarosa, NRS. 2000.00 (USD 19.50) for Lemon grass and NRs. 1700.00 (USD 16.50) for Citronella. Women users are motivated to expand the plantation of aromatic herbs in community forests.
- NTFP cooperative has registered in Sarlahi in July 2017 for marketing of aromatic herbs business. The Cooperative was registered with the involvement of two sub groups of Nandeswar Community Forest, two sub-groups of Ram Janaki community forest and two sub-groups of Budda Community Forests and 19 leasehold Forestry groups of ward no 1 and 10 of Lalbandi Municipality. These groups were previously located at Netrgunj VDC of sarlahi district. Total 25 groups were involved in the cooperative. District Forest Office, Sarlahi has also provided support to the cooperative for their office establishment.

- At this stage, Nandeswor Community Forest has established a processing plant (distillation unit) in Nandeswor Community Forests sites with the targeting of organic essential oil production with the support of increasing production in Sarlahi. 40 poorer households have also invested minimum amount Rs. 5000.00 (USD 48.50) in the distillation plants and they were also involved in the micro-enterprise initiative of aromatic herbs.

## **5. CONCLUSION, LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Conclusion**

The following conclusion has been made from the project implementation.

- This project has been implemented in 13 community forest users in three pilot districts. The CFUGs were empowered to implement sustainable forest management activities and establish their mini-enterprises way ahead of their schedule and possibly beyond their own financial capabilities. These communities experienced and learned from these activities to produce an impact on improving the social stability, economic progress, and environmental sustainability of these communities.
- Ecotourism development process and mechanism have been great example for community forestry sector of Nepal.
- Some impacts of this project, especially the distribution of solar panel and improved cook stove to needy members of involved CFUGs, financial upliftment from enterprise are apparent and promising. The aromatic herbs business is more profitable than without the project. Although the degree of forest sustainability in the future and income generation capability of mini-enterprises established under this project is not known, there is evidence that this project has steered these CFUG on the right track.
- At individual household level, the trained resource persons with sustainable forest management and mini-enterprise (wooden handcraft-making and aromatic herb) activities are women who came from poor families. All of the trainees received a daily compensation that roughly equals to the average daily salary of local farmers, which helps them financially. The CFUGs have distributed solar panels and ICS, to mostly underprivileged households. The alternative energy component of the project helped poor households financially and socially as well as help achieve environmental sustainability. The direct beneficiaries of this project welcome it wholeheartedly.
- Local government and political parties are highly positive towards the progress of the project, this has positively affected the project outputs. Likewise, in all three districts sustainable forest management trainings enhanced community performance on the forest management which will be owned by stakeholders. Demonstration on harvesting of the forest products and silviculture practices has enhanced CFUG confidence on community forest management.
- While the project implementation had significant positive impact to the community, there were some issues of concern which were raised during the project implementation which needs to be considered during next phase of the project implementation.
- The wooden handicraft business became important effort for sustainable forest management and establishing micro-enterprise managed by poor women. These products were also obtained from the sustainable forest management. Women involving in the household chores in the morning started to work in wooden handicraft in the day time and encouraged to get

income from the business. Participants were recognized in the local area for the design of their wooden work.

- The project has an impact on improving the social stability, economic progress, and environmental sustainability of local communities. Some impacts of this project, especially the distribution of solar panel, installation of biogas scheme and Improved Cook stove to needy members of participating CFUG and the economic impact of aromatic herbs, are apparent and promising.
- Solar, bio-gas and improved cook stove are highly relevant and important for poor households involved in community forest users. The alternative energy component have contributed in reducing smoke and indoor pollution, particularly for women and children. It made members motivated for forest management and rehabilitation. Women groups took it positive and demanded more support in alternative energy interventions. It helped to assist on sustainable forest management and improve the forest condition through the mobilization of the forest dependent community. In the meantime, the support has motivated users to generate the opportunity for the livelihood enhancement through the women lead enterprises development.
- Forest governance has been improved along with forest based mini-enterprise. The linkage and coordination among stakeholders have been increased. Participation of women and poor were also increased in the income generating activities. The user Groups have started documentation of income and expenditure and better office management. The decisions of executive committee meeting and assembly were disseminated to users. The executive members and general members became aware on provisions of CFOP and Constitution and amended them. The process of selling and distribution of forest products were also informed to the users.
- The supplementary program to promote disadvantaged groups and income generating program for poor were designed and implemented through community forest fund. The users and committee members have identified their roles and responsibilities and performance became satisfactory to the users. This has increased the frequency of meeting which in turn have brought decision making process more democratic and inclusive. It helped to improve Community forest management mechanism including decision making, financial management, benefit-sharing, forest management planning and so forth. The forest governance has made poor women in leadership in local level organizations including cooperative.

## **5.2 Lessons learned and recommendations**

The following lessons have been learned from the implementation of the project.

### **A. Replication in other area**

The villagers have possessed a positive attitude towards ecotourism, wooden handicrafts and aromatic herbs business since the beginning of the project. The forest based enterprises can be replicated in the other area of Nepal

### **B. Lead the promotion effort from Government**

The GoN (DFO) must be involved and lead the promotion effort. The coordination and linkages makes the programme successful with the contribution from stakeholders. Regular connectivity and communication with CFUGs, stakeholders are most important. There must be a strong



ownership and leadership in DFO in promoting the model to other CFUG. Without a strong commitment and leadership in DOF in publicizing and promoting the model to the district, the impact of this project would be severely limited. In Sarlahi, District Forest Office has coordinated with community forests to give the lease land for poor members based on well being ranking from community forests. The community users and leasehold users have been coordinated and established a cooperative in promotion, plantation and establishment of marketing of aromatic herbs.

**C. The alternative energy component should be expanded to the 13 CFUG and beyond**

The distribution of solar panel has been demanded by community users. The alternative energy projects should be expanded to other members (and to other communities) to ensure forest sustainability.

**D. Ensuring the leadership of women in business is crucial**

The members of the 13 CFUG especially women are motivated and actively participating in their community forest activities, and are eager to expand their businesses in ecotourism, wooden handicraft-making, and aromatic herbs respectively.

**E. The use of spider web should be expanded**

The spider web used by various CFUG is a good assessment tool. With good publicity and support from the government, the spider web can be used by all CFUG in the economy.

**F. Marketing plan and sales of product**

Marketing plan and Efforts should be focused to sell products from the mini-enterprises

**G. Expansion of demonstration**

The purpose and future use of the demonstration forests need to be expanded in other areas.

**H. Cooperative formation can be strengthened for business promotion**

Formation of cooperative can be one option for the business promotion in three districts.

**I. Empowering women in forest based enterprises**

Disadvantaged community and women can do these kinds of work. The villagers have gained required knowledge and skills through training provided by the project and are educated on risks involved. For these work mix male and female involvement are better to maintain sustainability of project.

**J. Regular connectivity and communication**

Regular connectivity and communication with CFUGs, stakeholders are most important. The coordination and linkages makes the programme successful with the contribution from stakeholders.

**Area of the replication**

This three districts demonstration work can be replicated in the other districts also. Therefore, it seems high possibility to replication in another districts for ecotourism promotion, wooden

handicraft and aromatic plant plantation and promotion. This work has high replicability which will support women economic upliftment in other part of Nepal. This area is a model area for learners, university and other individuals. Project related activities need to be revised to match CF OP of CFUG and preferable season. The silvicultural treatment and nursery has to be done on time. Time and budget need to be managed according to need of each activity. The following can be replicated.

**Community based ecotourism development:**

Community based ecotourism development will be managed in the nearby areas of the local city. This can be promoted in Ramechhap, Lalitpur, Makwanpur, Parbat, Okhaldhunga and Kaski areas. The contribution from local government is expected in eco-tourism promotion.

**Aromatic herbs business:**

Aromatic herbs plantation can be managed in terai in the areas under high voltage transmission lines, forest fringes. The location will be Mahottari, Dhanusha, Siraha, Bara districts of Nepal. This should be linked with the sustainable forest management and enrichment plantation. The organic production of aromatic herbs and their marketing will be focused in future intervention.

**Wooden handicrafts Business:**

The wooden handicrafts are also another important intervention that can be replicated for sustainable management of forests. This should be expanded in inner Terai areas where soft wood can be used in woodcarving. The project location will be Makawanpur, Chitwan, Dang, Palpa, Tanahu districts.

**Sustainable Forest Management:**

Sustainable forest management and enrichment plantation will be linked in each business. The enrichment plantation and demonstration of forest management practices should be demonstrated.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

The following recommendations have been purposed.

- The learning of the project should be replicated in other parts of Nepal. The coordination with stakeholders should be promoted for new project design;
- Training/orientation/field visit to staff will enhance project outcome. Necessary orientation should be provided to staff to comply the APFNet reporting on program as well as on finance so that it would keep documents and project activities in track from the starting;
- Exposure visits should be organized to community members to motivate and encourage the project implementation;
- Exposure visit of District Forest Officers and DoF APFNet focal person to Beijing for encourage government stake in the programme;
- Men's engagement to increase women's participation must be entertained for the sustainability of the project;
- Financial incentives should be provided to marginalized and poor participants who compromise their daily wage for project activity;

- There is requirement of entrepreneurship development training for the trainees which will help to prepare business plan and knowledge of enterprise development;
- Participation of male members in wooden handicraft training is also seen important;
- Leadership and capacity building training for women is also required to become a successful leader and lead their business;
- Monitoring and evaluation of related person, organization and supporting agents is required to provide useful feedbacks and support for sustainability and improvement of their business;
- Similar project should be designed and implemented for further period.

## Annexes

### A. Project Implementation status

Output/Activity		Progress Status	Progress Quantity	Delivery Rate (%)	Verification Indicator
Activity No.	Activities				
	Inception workshop at central level	Completed	inception workshop	100	Participants list
1.1	Forest inventory survey for each project site	Completed	13 inventory	100	AWP report
1.2	Training for SFM for local Communities	Completed	Trained community users	100	AWP report
1.3	Development of forest management plan for each site	Completed	Plan developed	100	AWP report
1.4	Nursery Establishment for SFM	Completed	3 nursery established	100	AWP report
1.5	Application of silvicultural practices	Completed	Demo plot established	100	AWP report
1.6	Harvesting of timber and non-timber	Completed	Harvesting done	100	AWP report
1.7	Fire line construction	removed		-	
1.8	LRP mobilization	Completed	LRP mobilized	100	AWP report
2.1	Community based ecotourism development in Kathmandu Site				
2.1.1	Revision of CFUG operation plan for ecotourism	Completed	Plan revised	100	AWP report
2.1.2	Ecotourism Management plan development plan	Completed	Plan developed	100	AWP report
2.1.3	Ecotourism services development	Completed	Ecotourism developed	100	AWP report
2.1.3.1	Green Trail	Completed	10 km green trail	100	AWP report
2.1.3.2	Bird watching zone construction	Completed	2 tower	100	AWP report
2.1.3.3	Toilets construction	Completed	4 toilet	100	AWP report
2.1.3.4	Guard room construction	Completed	2 guard room	100	AWP report
2.1.3.5	Picnic Spots construction	Completed	4 picnic spots	100	AWP report
2.1.3.6	Gardening construction	Completed	1 gardening	100	AWP report
2.1.3.7	Pure Water Supply construction	Completed	Water tank and pipe constructed	100	AWP report

Output/Activity		Progress Status	Progress Quantity	Delivery Rate (%)	Verification Indicator
Activity No.	Activities				
2.1.3.9	Children Park construction	Completed	1 children park	100	AWP report
2.1.3.10	Graphical map design for the eco-park	Completed	Graphical map designed	100	AWP report
2.1.4	Training on ecotourism management	Completed	Ecotourism management training	100	
2.1.5	Marketing and publicity of the park	Completed	Park publicity with hoarding board, brochhure	100	AWP report
2.2	Community based wooden handicraft business development in Makwanpur				
2.2.1	Value chain analysis and marketing of wooden handicrafts	Completed	Value chain report	100	AWP report
2.2.3	Training on wooden handicraft for trainees (including 3 months for Advance Wooden Handicraft Training)	Completed	Basic training for 50 participants and 30 participants for advanced training on wooden handicrafts	100	AWP report
2.2.3	Community Handicraft Enterprises Equipment	Completed	Equipment	100	AWP report
2.2.4	Marketing of wooden handicrafts				
2.2.4.1	Establishment of company and sales center	Completed	2 enterprise established Sale center established	100	AWP report
2.2.4.2	Exhibition Fair	Completed	Products in exhibition fair	100	AWP report
2.3	Community based aromatic herbs business development in Sarlahi site				
2.3.1	Value chain analysis of aromatic herbs (Citronella, Pamarosa, Mentha and Lemon grass)	Completed	Value chain analysis report	100	AWP report
2.3.2	Awareness raising on the value chain of aromatic	Completed	10 sensitization workshop	100	AWP report

Output/Activity		Progress Status	Progress Quantity	Delivery Rate (%)	Verification Indicator
Activity No.	Activities				
	herbs				
2.3.3	Aromatic herbs planting in community forests	Completed	12 ha. plantation established	100	AWP report
2.3.4	Marketing of aromatic herbs	Completed	marketing	100	AWP report
2.3.5	Establishment of sales centre	Completed	Sales centre established	100	AWP report
3.1	Installation and use of 75 biogas devices	Completed	75 Biogas installed	100	AWP report
3.2	Installation and use of 90 solar panels for illumination	Completed	90 solar panel installed	100	AWP report
3.3	Installation and use of 300 Improved Cook Stoves	Completed	300 cook stove installed	100	AWP report
4.1	Assessment and reassessment of governance through spider web	Completed	13 assessment	100	AWP report
4.2	Regular assembly and meeting of executive committee	Completed	Assembly and committee meeting	100	AWP report
4.3	Participatory planning and forest governance improvement coaching	Completed	Planning prepared	100	AWP report
4.4	Public hearing and public Auditing	Completed	Public hearing	100	AWP report
5.1	Yearly Project review meeting	Completed	Yearly review	100	AWP report
5.2	Publication and media dissemination	Completed	Publication	100	AWP report
5.3	Summarizing best practices of community based sustainable forest management from the project.	Completed	Best practices documented	100	AWP report
6	Monitoring and Evaluation				
6.1	Internal Monitoring and audit	Completed	Internal monitoring conducted	100	AWP report
6.2	External evaluation (retained by APFNet)			=	AWP report
7	Project Management				

**Trial Balance**

S.N.	Particulars	Dr	S.N.	Particulars	Cr
1	<b>Project Staff Cost</b>	44285.07		1st Disbursement	153068.00
2	<b>Consultancy Cost</b>	26,991.90		2nd Disbursement	150,000.00
3	<b>Meeting and Training Cost</b>	62,026.45		3rd Disbursement	53,102.67
4	<b>Field Activities Cost</b>	196,421.18		Receivable	40914.00
5	<b>Publication and Dissemination cost</b>	22,389.66			
6	<b>Monitoring Evaluation and audit</b>	14,537.00			
7	<b>Procurement</b>	5,330.00			
8	<b>Overhead cost</b>	25,052.74			
	<b>Total</b>	397034.95		<b>Total</b>	397034.00

### C. Value chain analysis repots

#### a) Summary of Value Chain Analysis Report of wooden Handicrafts

The value chain analysis of wooden handicraft was conducted in Makwanpur to provide in-depth information (resources, product, finance, price, technology and others. And the current status of forest resources which is potential for wooden handicraft value chain in order to support the livelihood of the four community forest user groups (CFUGs) through sustainable forest management. The study has identified major species used for wooden handicraft, their growth potential, and market trend (demand and supply) of products. The study developed value chain map of wooden handicraft that shows the chain actors, their roles and interrelationships. The study has also developed the sustainable strategy for value chain strength and good governance and potentiality of value chain. Value chain analysis of wooden and bamboo handicraft has been done through the preparation of value chain map with the help of district level stakeholders in coordination workshop that depicts the chain actors, their functions and inter-relationship.

The value chain analysis of wooden and bamboo handicraft enterprise with the consultation of district and national level stakeholders and traders reflected that the district level stakeholders, trader and exporters were found willing to provide more value add activities at producer and community level. The district and national level stakeholders are interested for skilled based training, market linkage and willing to support for exhibitions. The exporters are interested to export handicraft products to third countries specially



Europe, USA and UK if quality and mass product can be produced at community level.

Wooden handicraft enterprise is directly dependent on the health of value chain actors, productive capacity of the CFs and the private land. So, the good network and relationship must be needed among forester, CFUGs, wooden handicraft production group and members from Handicraft Company. Government, private sector and concern stakeholder's investment should be enhanced for wooden and bamboo handicraft enterprise/company considering the market need of mass production rather than small scale production units. Women, disable and dies-advantage people from CFUGs should be benefited by forest based enterprise. Quality support services for the development of trained human resources, investment, insurance and infrastructure. A transparent system should be place in each value chain from raw materials collection to the final product export.

The registration of community based forest enterprises is complex and confusion because of no specific legal provisions/policy are developed. They are registered under the category of small and cottage industries. As per the industry and trade related policies (2010, 2009, 2006, and 1992) micro-finance institutions are giving emphasis to agro-based enterprise rather than forest-based enterprise on investment. Regulatory mechanism for the transportation of forest products are enforced by many institutions (forest offices, check points, police posts, DDC, VDC, municipalities on the way, tax offices etc) without a proper coordination. Marketing of the forest products in an international market is difficult for micro-enterprises due to small quantity of production, lack of modern technology, lack of quality standard and insufficient capacity to comprehend exporting procedures. There are no clear policy provisions or legal mechanisms to ensure equitable distribution or fair share of financial profits in total chain of production & marketing of forest products.

The business has the opportunities of increasing market demand of wooden and bamboo handicrafts for gift and decorations in national and international market. There is the possibility for market and product expansion and easily availability of soft wood species in CFs and motivated and committed CFUGs for sustainable handicraft enterprise development. There are traders available in different level (i.e. local, district, regional, national) and no professional wooden and bamboo handicraft companies are available in Makwanpur district. There is decreasing raw material supply and worker for wooden handicraft production in Kathmandu and increasing market demand, so it is good opportunities to produce handicraft in Makawanpur for sustainable production and market linkage because Makawanpur is close to Kathmandu having rich wood and non-wood resources. It has availability of supportive organizations for exhibition, input supply, training facility and market linkage.

#### **b) Summary of Value Chain Report of aromatic herbs business**

The value chain analysis was conducted for aromatic herbs potential for extracting essential Oils. Citronella, Lemongrass, Chamomile, Pamarosa and Mentha were included in the analysis. The primary beneficiaries in this value chain improvement program will be the rural communities and



farmers involved in collection and the cultivation of domesticated herbs. The other beneficiaries are the private sector entities involved in the processing, trading and marketing.

Government staff and entities will also benefit from improved training, capacity building and improved legal and regulatory frameworks. Market for Essential Oils is slowly increasing stage in Nepal and these products are mostly exported as raw materials or some final products to India, European Countries and China. Lemongrass, Pamaroja, Citronella, Chamomile and Masala are not traded in commercial way because of legal issues on these sector provide approval from the Government of Nepal. The present study analyzed in depth Regional markets (such as Nepalganj) and Central Market in Kathmandu. Products from Mid-western parts go through Jumla and to Indian border market place Rupedia. The other channel for these products is Birtamod & Biratnagar based markets. Products from the Central parts of Sarlahi come mainly to Kathmandu. The major market for MAPs in India is Khari Bauli market in Delhi. Manufacturers and processors in India still prefer raw materials due to lack of quality control, certification and testing facilities in Nepal.

The Essential Oils value chain is characterized by the informal nature of its upstream base (producers, gatherers and collectors) and its better organized and more formally structured actors downstream (processors and exporters). Overall, the value chain operates with little vertical integration and almost no horizontal collaboration at the producers' level. Producers and collectors have little access to end-market information; obtain fewer benefits relative to other. The buy back guarantee will be made with the traders for the products and small processing plants will be established for the quality product.

## **D. Summary of Eco-tourism development plan**

### **Background**

HIMAWNATI Nepal has been supported to ecotourism development in the Chandragiri area of six CFUGs. Therefore, in this context, it takes 3 years from initial to final stage. In this manual, we have kept our experiences, knowledge and processes for eco-tourism development.

Chandragiri forest is situated a close proximity of Kathmandu valley, just a few kilometers in the south and is 2475 meters from the sea level. The forest also serves as a border between Kathmandu and Makwanpur districts (SMCRF, Report). The forest has high potential to develop as a tourist destination because from here one can see the magnificent view of snow-capped mountains ranging from Annapurna to Mount Everest and the breathtaking view of Kathmandu valley. It will not be wrong if anyone says, it feels like seeing whole Nepal from the hill.

The forest of the Chandragiri hills is rich in biodiversity. One of the study conducted by SMCRF recorded 14 species of mammals, 137 species of birds, 53 species of butterfly and 9 species of herper to fauna where as in case of floral diversity, this hill has both natural and reforested forests with mixed vegetations like Schima spp., Castonopsis spp., Pinus spp., Alnus spp. The other important aspect of this forest regarding biodiversity is this forest lies very close to the Fulchoki mountain forest and near to the north-south corridor of Parsa wildlife reserve–Shivapuri Nagarjunnational park–Langtangnational park and these areas are highly diverse with rich forest ecosystem system. Besides natural beauty Chandragiri hill is also rich in cultural heritage. The cluster of six community forests (CFs) has the people of different religion, culture and linguistic orientations. The ethnic group like Tamang, Magar, Gurung, Lama and Sherpa hold the majority in the community whereas Sapkota and Dalit are in the minority. This CFs has many settlement enclaves occupied by nearly household settlements. Each ethnic group has their own tradition and culture with unique faiths and practices and this uniqueness are their identity.

Though there exist the diversity in the communities, of these six CFs in terms of caste, culture, tradition, religion and so on but people respect each other identity and are able to set an example of harmony. Mainly people of Chandragiri hills follow two religions, namely Hinduism and Buddhism, but the followers of both religions celebrating each other's festivals. It proves that the bonding between the people of the two religions is strong and is helping in creating a peaceful ambience.

Hence, Chandragiri hill had high potential for developing as a suitable tourism destination in the outskirt of Kathmandu valley. Some infrastructures are developed in order to support tourism, but still are not enough. The condition of these structures seems to be medium to normal. For instance the roads are not fully pitched and also exist some problems like electricity supply, communication mode, and proper and sufficient accommodation facilities for visitors, health services, etc. These management plans explore the solutions of the stated problems and help in developing Chandragiri hill as a prime destination for tourists.

Objectives:

- To give information about ecotourism development process.
- To give information about what types of process were followed during the ecotourism development

Following steps were done during implementation of the ecotourism program;

1. Feasibility Study and community forest selection for ecotourism promotion
2. Revision of community forest operational guideline for ecotourism
3. Management plan preparation
4. Ecotourism services development
5. Training on eco-tourism
6. Marketing and Publicity of the park
7. Coordination to different stakeholders for sustainability

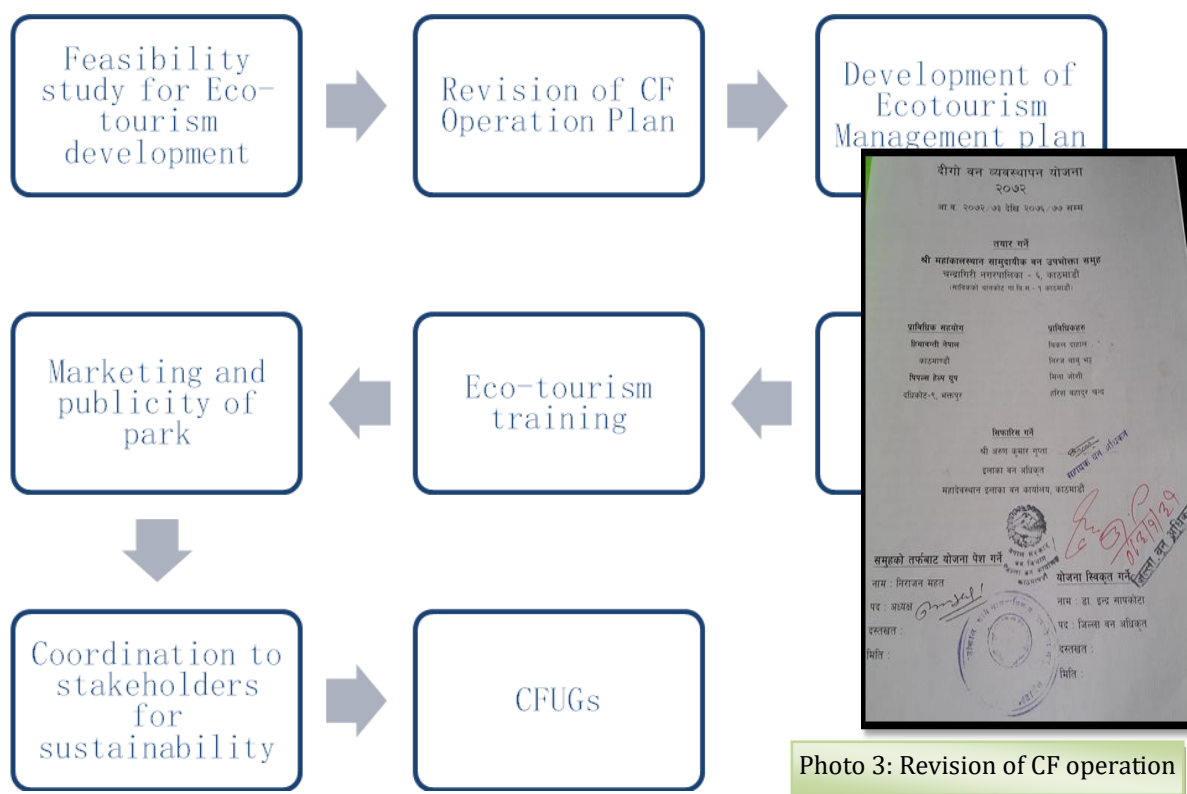


Photo 3: Revision of CF operation

The description ecotourism development is given as follow;

### 1. Feasibility Study of ecotourism development

HIMWANTI Nepal has done feasibility study of ecotourism development in the different place on-the basis of ecotourism development criteria. On the basis of criteria, Chandragiri area was selected. The criteria were nearby road access, possibility of parks and picnic spots, CFUGs interest and commitment, market, opportunities for hiking, to observe sightseeing and bird watching, pilgrimage of Bhaleswor Mahadev Temple for Hindu devotees etc.

### 2. Revision of Community Forest Operational Plan for eco-tourism

Operation plans and guidelines have been revised for the endorsement and management facilitation of the ecotourism at six CFUGs in Kathmandu. The given figure 1 gives the sample of revised CF operation plan and approval from District Forest Office, Kathmandu.

### 3. Development of ecotourism management plan

Eco tourism management plan was prepared with rigorous consultation with CFUGs, local government and political parties. Various data were generated such as birds, wildlife, butterflies and forest resource of the area for the potential assets for the eco tourism. Similarly, selected 14 participants were provided with exposure visit to Ghalgaun and Bhujung of Lamjung district to understand the home stay facility, how they operate, and techniques of management. On field observation and head to head interactions were fruitful to encourage the local communities for home stay and eco-tourism facilities.

Ecotourism management plan completed with rigorous consultation with CFUGs, local government and political parties. The project hired an expert to facilitate in preparing ecotourism management plan. The ecotourism management plans involving the stakeholders and ecotourism

management committee. Ecotourism management strategies such as zoning for visitor use, visitors site planning and design, sustainable infrastructure design, revenue generating mechanism, visitor monitoring and management incorporated in ecotourism management plan.

Ecotourism management plan completed and it showed that the Chandragiri hill had high potential for development as a suitable tourism destination in the outskirts of Kathmandu valley, mainly due to its natural beauty and religious myths further it had a possibility of developing as a religious site. Various private institutes are investing here which is a good sign for the local inhabitants of Chandragiri because it will certainly enhance the income generating activities, infrastructure development and employment opportunity to the locals. Economic upliftment with sustainable forest management to help in economic empowerment of the local community, where forest resources need to be managed sustainably by using their existence value.

This tourism management plan was prepared with participation of local community members and consultation with relevant stakeholder. Management plan of all CFUGs and tourism management plan of other similar areas were intensively reviewed. Field observation and consultation with local community zoning was done based on the intensity of use. Chandragiri hills and adjacent area contains various religious sites (temples) including very famous Bhaleshower temple at the top of Chandragiri hills. CFUG of this area provides habitat for different nationally and internationally important wildlife namely Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), Golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*), leopard cat (*Protonailurus bengalensis*) and other bird species. Sloppy and steep topographic terrain of this area is covered by various types of temperate deciduous forest where pine forest is major attraction for both nature lover and researcher.

One day hiking from Matatritha or from newly developed hiking trail from Laglagepakha CFUG could be a major tourist attraction. Apart from this, bird watching, sightseeing and picnic for family can be best alternative who wants to enjoy nature but trekking is not possible. With development of picnic spot, bird watching tower, garden and Children Park within 10-minute distance from each other will act as a very strong tourist attraction. In present situation to achieve balance between tourism activities and sustainable forest management activities in all six CFUG is very essential. There will be various impacts on local community and environment. This will support in local economy and alternative job opportunity but mitigation of other potential negative impacts requires holistic approach from all CFUGs. Area of this development is very diverse in both social and environmental context but has very high potentiality to be a best destination for one-day refreshment.

The tourism plan is developed to promote ecosystem-based tourism with active participation of local people. For doing so, environment, people, community, infrastructure development risk and benefit sharing mechanism has been considered. Main activities for promotion of tourism in this area can be done by collaboration of all CFUG for infrastructure development, sharing of benefits, planning and maintaining existing infrastructure. Since this site is in juvenile stage for this activities which requires promotion through all possible social media and broad-casting media. It is expected that the coordination with all stakeholder from local to nation level will be developed. Practicing tourism will degrade and disturb natural ecosystem and there is need of special action plan to recover and maintain those losses.

For proper management of these tourism activities, a member management committee had been purposed from Laglagepakha CFUG. Proper functioning of these tourism activities would be managed with the role and responsibilities of actors in appropriate manner. The coordination with all CFUG members and proper planning with expert had been managed in the plan.

#### 4. Ecotourism services development

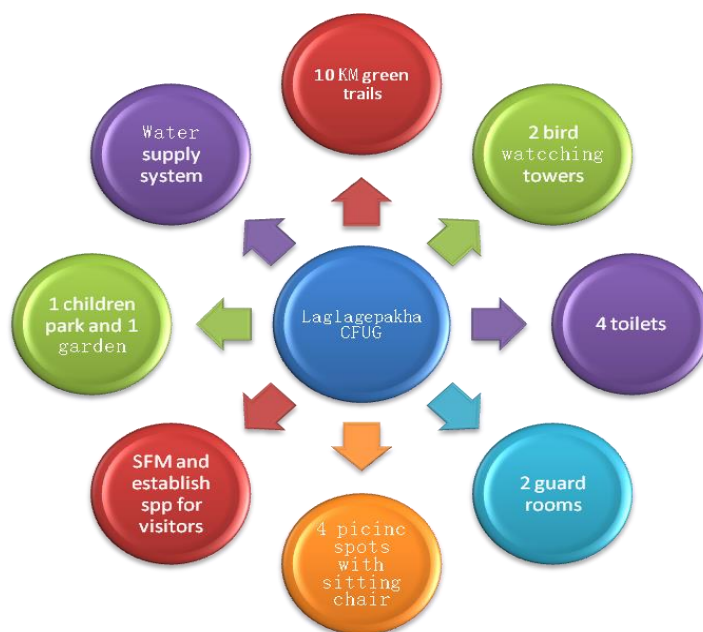
The green 10 Km. green trail was developed. For ecotourism services development, graphical map was prepared by Engineer with rigorous discussion with HIMAWANTI Nepal, PD, DPC, LRP and CFUGs. Graphical design and map were prepared before construction of all these infrastructures.

Different infrastructures for ecotourism services have been developed inside the Lagalage Pakha community forest including 2 bird watching towers (Machan), 4 toilets, 2 guard rooms, 4 picnic spots, some sitting chairs, 1 garden, water supply system and 1 children park.

Furthermore, introductory signages for birds and tree species have been established for visitors. Different types of materials such as cement, brick, iron rods, supply pipes, wooden logs, steels, concrete and sand etc were used for these infrastructures.



Photo 4: Picnic Spot



#### 5. Training on eco-tourism

The training on eco-tourism related to park management and promotion of ecotourism in the area has been provided to ecotourism management committee. Five experts in the field of ecotourism were hired for the training. 25 participants from six CFUGs were participated in the training. Five days ecotourism management training included community ecotourism education and awareness, linking communities, tourism and conservation built their capacities to design and implement ecotourism programs. In this training, benefit sharing mechanism were also discussed. Within CFUGs, a separate park management committee was formed and capacitated regarding park

management and benefit sharing.

### Procedure of eco-tourism training

Eco-tourism	Basic concepts of Eco-tourism
	Policies, Guidelines and existing updates
	Products of Eco-tourism
Management plan	Basic concepts of Eco-tourism and management plan sharing
	SWOT analysis of Chandragiri ecotourism management plan
Marketing	Ecotourism and marketing approach
	Linkage and collaboration with stakeholders
Management	Park management committee formation
	Benefit sharing mechanism system
	Waste management
Forest policies	Basic principle of eco-tourism and forest policies and guidelines
	Way forwards for CFUGs

## 6. Marketing and Publicity of the park

For marketing and publicity of the park one brochure was prepared of the Kathmandu eco-tourism area. Furthermore, 20 renowned people visited in the ecotourism area of the Thankot. Where 20 participants were included from different stakeholders? Furthermore, on 25 December 2017 we organized meeting with Cable Car Company. We coordinated cable car Company for enhancement of ecotourism and linkage to cable car. They committed to send at least 50 Tourist per day for green trail. They committed to see our products through walking green trail.



For promotion of tourism youth club were mobilized. The project coordinated with Youth Network on sustainable development Nepal that



Photo 5: Hording board

Photo 6: Meeting with youth club for Eco-tourism promotion, Thankot

supported to mobilized youth of our ecotourism area for promotional and motivational support. Furthermore, on 1 January 2018, we organized one meeting with CFUG and youth group of that area and decided to mobilize youth in that area. Furthermore, we made list of people for joint trekking with Chandragiri Cable Car, youth and CFUGs. The project has handed over ecotourism facilities to CFUG to Laglage Pakaha CF from HIMAWANTI Nepal. The Forest User group took ownership on the ecotourism infrastructures. Brochure has developed and printed for publicity for the eco-tourism activities.

## **7. Coordination to different stakeholders for sustainability**

For the sustainability of eco-tourism service development at Thankot, the program was organized joint trekking for promotion and coordination with Chandragiri cable car, youth club, and CFUGs. Similarly, they were coordinated with Chandragiri Municipality, Nepal tourism board, Ministry of Forest, Department of Forest, Illaka Forest Office, Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal, and so on. The brochure gives information of the eco-tourism activities at Thankot.

### **E. Summary of Forest governance assessment**

The governance component aims to strengthen the governance of Forest User Groups (FUG) by facilitating support to FUGs in Group Governance, assessment of governance by using spider web, conduct participatory wellbeing ranking of FUGs and conduct participatory governance assessment. These activities was implemented in six community forests of Kathmandu, four of Makwanpur and three of Sarlahi district.

Forest governance is defined as the set of principles and rules under which power is exercised and practiced in all spheres, from private to public in the management of forest resources. The concept of "good governance" often emerges as a model to compare ineffective economies or political bodies with viable economies and political bodies. The concept centers on the responsibility of governments and governing bodies to meet the needs of the masses as opposed to select groups in society. Aid organizations and the authorities of developed countries often focus the meaning of "good governance" to a set of requirements that conform to the organization's agenda, making "good governance" imply many different things in many different contexts.

The strengthening of governance of Forest User Groups (FUGs) is the important aspect of Sustainable Natural Resource Management. The Practice of good governance in the community forest user group is helpful for keeping the group live and functioning. The main four pillar of good governance ie Transparency, Accountability, Participation and Consensus Oriented were practices in the assessment process with their sub-indicators to make a spider web which is empowering tool to analyze the governance present status and compare with ideal to reach.

Assessment and reassessment of community forest management mechanism through spider web was done in each community forest. Facilitator was hired by the partners. Working committee, stakeholders, Janajati, dalit and Forest users group were selected for assessment .The spider web is a simple and diagram based representation of users' perception on the pillars of governance of community forest users. Facilitator was facilitated community forest users to rank the indicators by themselves.



Assessment of the good governance of the CFUGs has been conducted in the project sites. The analysis was able to diagnose the current status of the 13 CFUGs in relation to transparency, accountability, rule of law, inclusive and gender equity. This has given us brief idea on the approach we should take before any intervention of the project.

The report has shown there are areas of improvement in major areas such as transparency, inclusiveness and rule of law. The spider web base assessment result were printed and fixed on wall of the respective CFUG office. In order to facilitate the governance and management practices, meetings supports have been provided to executive committees of 13 CFUGs. This has increased the frequency of meeting which in turn have brought decision making process more democratic and inclusive.

The component helped to improve Community forest management mechanism including decision making, financial management, benefit-sharing, forest management planning and so forth.

**The four indicators used in each pillars are as:**

1. Transparency
  - Documentation of income and expenditure and office management.
  - Communication and dissemination mechanism decisions of executive committee meeting and assembly.
  - Know-how of key provisions of Community Forest Operational Plan (CFOP) and CFUG Constitution to executive members and general members.
  - Process of selling and distribution of forest products.
2. Participation
  - Structure of executive committee members whether it is according to CFD guideline to not.
  - Decision making process – decisions made with elite capture or consensus.
  - Annual planning, implementation and monitoring.
  - Benefit sharing mechanism (Capacity Building, Pro-poor supported etc).
3. Accountability
  - Practice of responsibility of executive committee members.
  - Pro-poor focused programme planning and implementation (Fund mobilization in pro-poor programme).
  - Practice of equity in forest products and other benefit distribution.
  - Dissemination of decision of assembly and public hearing and auditing.
4. Consensus Oriented
  - Policy formulation, planning as goal and objectives of CFUG.
  - Networking, Coordination and relation.
  - Advocacy on identified issues and settled in the issues with wider consultation.
  - Human Resource Development – Forest management and Group management.

Assessment with marking was exercised in the participation of key executive members, general members including women and other disadvantaged groups. The scale (1 to 4) was fixed to marking of each indicator valuating 1 is the weakest and 4 is the highest performance, total value of all

indicators of respective pillar is the result for assessment of the respective pillar of the governance of CFUG. The table 1 has shown the evaluation of present status of governance.

**Table 1 Evaluation criteria of governance status in CFUG**

Symbol Value	Marking Range of total value of assessment	Result
1	up to 16	Poor
2	16.50 - 32.00	Medium
3	32.50 - 48.00	Good
4	48.50 - 64.00	Very Good

On the basis of such assessment, the spider web was prepared and visualize to participants. Participants felt that they have to improve the weakest part than followed the governance action plan preparation with their commitment. The over result of three districts has sown in table 2.

**Table 2 Governance status of LFGs**

SN	Districts	No. of LFG	Present governance status			
			Poor	Medium	Good	Very good
1	Kathmandu	6	0	6	0	0
2	Makawanpur	4	0	4	0	0
3	Sarlahi	3	1	2	0	0
Grand Total		13	1 (8%)	12(92%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

The assessment of LFG showed that majority of LFG are medium and good status of governance and very few are poor and very good.

The spider web is the visible tool to visualize and realize to the participants of the assessment workshop. The spider web was printed to keep in the LFGs office which will be visualize to general members of CFUG and supported to compare later. The flex was placed in the CFUG office or appropriate place.