

Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into community forestry in Nepal



Together we are BirdLife International

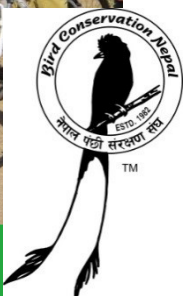


The global Partnership for **nature** and **people**

Why is biodiversity important?



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Community forestry in Nepal

- Nepal has 18,133 CFs, covering 1.7 million ha (28% of forest area), and benefiting 2.24 million households.
- Government policy promotes CF for all accessible mid-hills and high mountain forests and some Terai districts; an estimated 3.5 million ha has potential to become CF.
- These forests are home to much endemic and threatened biodiversity.



Community forestry in Nepal...

- is considered successful (improving livelihoods, strengthening institutional capacity)
- is a strategic pillar within Nepal's NBSAP.



Government commitment

- ‘By 2020, all community managed forests to include a biodiversity chapter in their management or Operational Plan and respective user groups to effectively implement those plans’

Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan



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Project Aim

This project aims to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services protection more effectively into CF in Nepal, to benefit people and wildlife.

Project objectives

1. To demonstrate the value of integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into community forestry (and inform tools and guidance) through collating case studies from the region
2. To raise awareness, improve understanding and strengthen capacity of key staff of DoF, FECOFUN, CFUGs and NGOs/programmes involved in CF.
3. To pilot new approaches to biodiversity mainstreaming by updating Operational Plans (OPs) and monitoring procedures for 14 Community forests

Project objectives

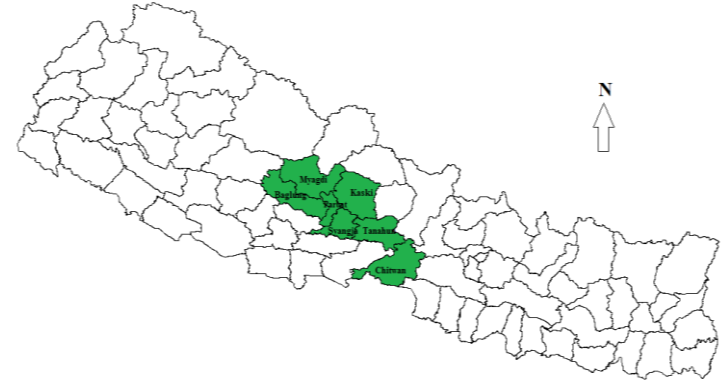
4. To produce an official Biodiversity Supplement to national CFM Guidelines
5. To ensure that lessons learned on capacity building, awareness and integration of biodiversity into forest management inform CF approaches throughout Nepal and Asia.



What have we achieved so far?



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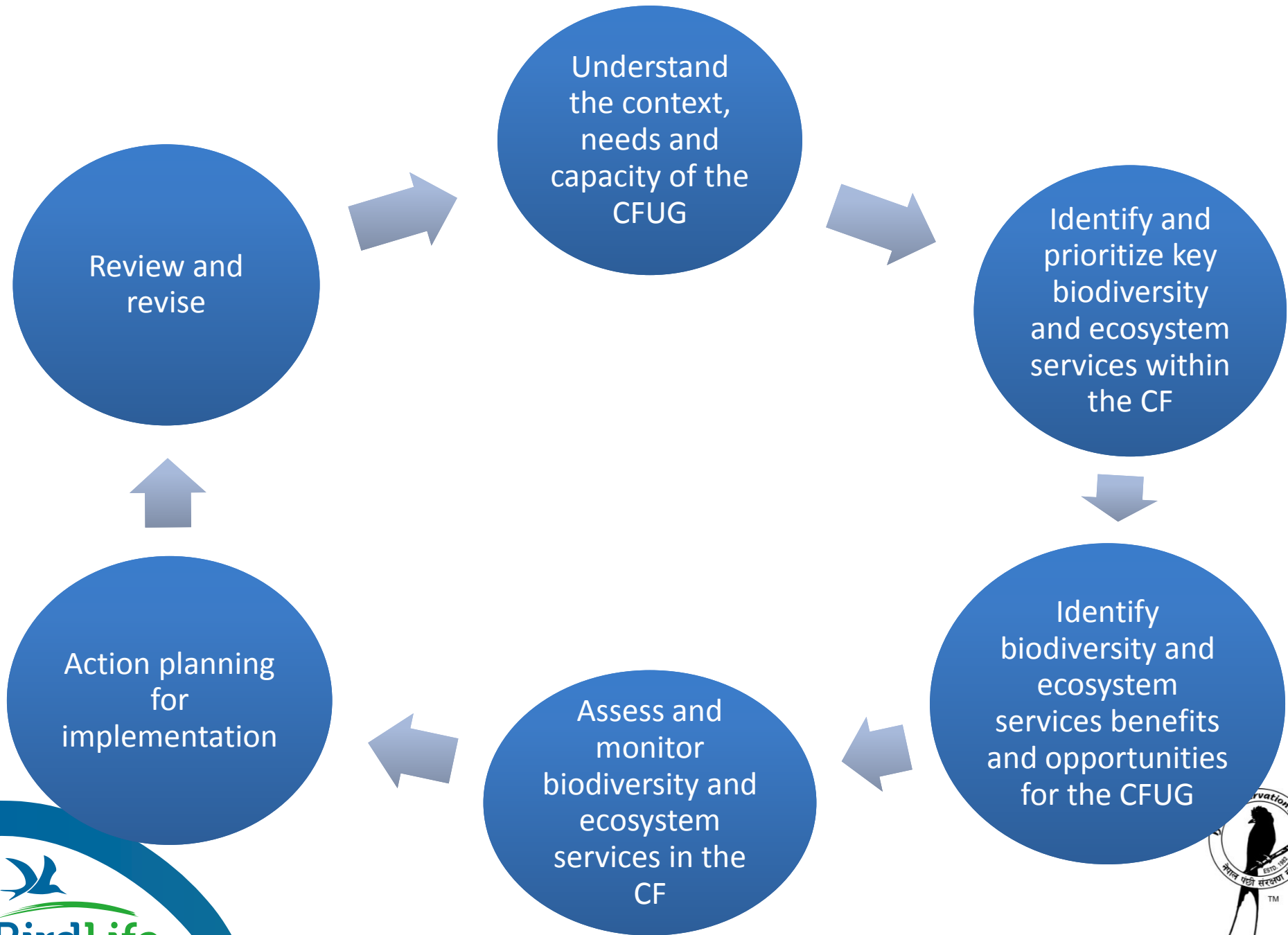
What have we achieved so far?

- Engaged national experts to:
 - Develop framework for 'Biodiversity Supplement' to operational planning guidelines
 - Kick-start development of training for Forest Officers, FECOFUN staff and other stakeholders

**Experts Workshop on
3rd and 4th March, 2016
Draft of Program Itinerary**

3rd March 2016

Time	Activities	Remarks
09:00-09:30	Arrival of Participants	
09:30-09:40	Registration and Tea/Cookies	
09:40-09:50	Welcome and Introduction of BCN	
Development of the Project and Workshop		
09:50-09:55	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Community Forestry in Nepal:	
09:55-10:25	Case study and in-depth desk review	Dr. Narendra MB Pradhan Ishana Thapa
10:25-11:55	Integrating Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Community Forestry	
11:55-12:25	Management in Nepal'- Case study	
12:25-13:10	Integrating Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Community Forestry	
13:10-13:40	Lunch	
13:40-14:00	Introducing a framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into Community Forestry	Dr. Rajendra K.C. Dr. Bhuvan Keshar Sharma
14:00-16:30	Additional considerations for a biodiversity framework	DoF Presenter
16:30-16:45	Group Discussion and development of outline of Biodiversity supplement	Billy Fairburn Jenny Merriman
16:45-17:00	Next steps with the biodiversity supplement	Ishana Thapa (?)
Conclusion and Closing		
4th March 2016		
09:00-09:30	Arrival of participants	
09:30-09:35	Registration and Tea/Cookies	
09:35-09:35	Introduction and Objectives of the Workshop	
Capacity Development for Integrating Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Community Forestry		
09:35-10:05	Approaches of Forest Training Centers in Capacity development for Integrating Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Community Forestry	Parbat Raj Thani
10:05-10:35	Challenges	
10:35-11:15	Capacity development for Integrating Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Community Forestry in relation to NBSAP, New Forestry Policy and Strategy	
11:15-13:00	Process	
13:05-14:00	Recap of day 1 - revisiting the draft framework	
14:00-14:30	GROUP WORK - discuss and develop outline of training, linked to supplement	Ishana Thapa ? Billy/Jenny?
14:30-15:30	Lunch-Break	
15:30-16:30	Discuss and develop outline of training, linked to supplement (continued)	
16:30-17:00	Next steps with training development	
Conclusion and Closing		



Our next steps

- Develop supplement and training
- Present to experts at workshop in Q3
- Begin to deliver training to Forest Officers and other stakeholders
- Begin pilot work with at least 14 Community Forest User Groups at key sites to incorporate biodiversity into their operational plans



Working with local partners



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Challenges



Challenges



Challenges

- Regular turnover of government employees/project focal points
- Need to balance differing views and opinions of Department of Forests and FECOFUN
- Low awareness of biodiversity and ecosystem services importance within key stakeholder groups

Lessons learnt

- Important to keep key stakeholders engaged to develop sense of ownership (even if focal staff keep changing!)
- LTSI very accommodating through a difficult first year – shouldn't be afraid to request a change if unforeseen circumstances arise

Thanks!

- Questions?