

Incorporating ecosystem resilience into vulnerability impact assessment: experience from EBA in mountain ecosystems programme in Nepal



Summary

Panchase Protected Forest lies in nine Village Development Committee (VDCs) of Kaski, Parbat and Syangja districts of Western development region. 'Panchase' meaning 'Five Seats', is the meeting place of five peaks. The region has great biological, cultural and aesthetic values. It represents an important ecological zone which is less addressed amongst the country's protected areas and is the only corridor linkage between the Lowland (Chitwan–Nawalparasi) and Annapurna Himalaya ranges. It was recorded in 2012 as having area of 57.76 sq kilometres and characterized by sub-tropical and temperate vegetation varying from 1450 to 2517 meter.

There are more than 589 flowering plant species recorded; 107 species of medicinal plants, 8 species of fiber yielding plants, 23 species of natural dye yielding plants, 18 wild species potential for floriculture, 56 species of wild mushroom, and 98 species of ferns. Wild animals found include the Asian Black Bear (*Selenarcto thibetanus*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*), Fox (*Vulpus vulpus*), Jackal (*Canis aerus*), Wolf (*Canis lupus*), and Monkey (*Macaca mulata*).

The major issues for the Panchase region are extensive use of forest leading to degradation; open grazing of livestock round the year, decline in orchid species, threats to wildlife due to poaching and soil erosion.

IPSI Activity Cluster

Cluster 1: Knowledge Facilitation

Cluster 4: Capacity Building

Duration of the project: 1 year

Budget: Yen 33,72,637



Challenges/risks:

- Working with 500 households and the existing Community Forestry Users' Groups, farmers; groups, irrigation management groups, women's group, among others, and build their capacities

Opportunities:

- Understand the concepts of climate change and associated vulnerabilities and resilience
- Develop technical capacities for planning
- Support knowledge transfer and experience sharing – including learning from sites that are already apparently experiencing changes in line with predictions on future climatic conditions within the country
- Training on land rehabilitation, crop management, forest and NTFPs management and tourism

Impacts/benefits:

- Capacity of Local Stakeholder Enhanced on EbA Planning, Executing and Monitoring
- Develop methodologies and tools for EbA decision-making in mountain ecosystems
- Assessment of EbA Methodology and Tools, Options and Indicators for Monitoring Available to Decision Makers in Nepal
- Publication of handbook of EbA Measures (EbA Menu of Services)
- Enhancement of methodologies and Tools for EbA design and implementation
- Implementation of EbA pilots at ecosystem level
- Improve Capacities of Government Agencies to Plan, Implement and Monitor EbA Actions
- EbA Measures can be incorporated into Select Sectoral Policies and Strategies/Plans
- Lesson on EbA to be produced and disseminated Nationally and Internationally

