

Satoyama Initiative Regional Workshop, Kota Kinabalu Malaysia, 18 – 20 April, 2017

Mainstreaming People's Knowledge in Biodiversity Conservation in Sacred Landscapes of Nepal

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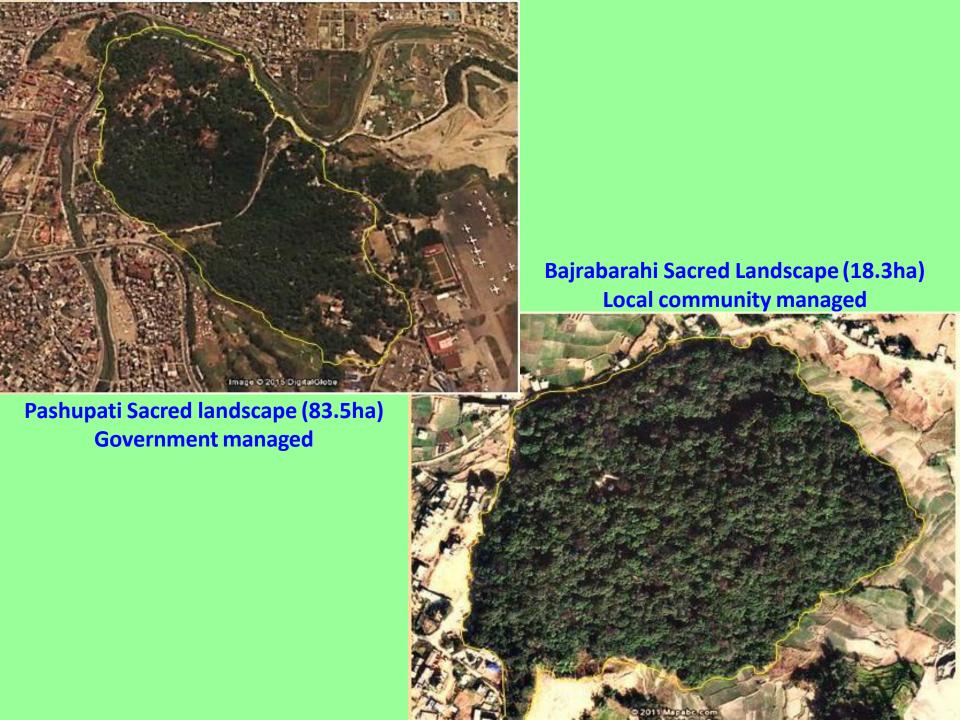
In Nepal,

It is a century old tradition of dedicating a forest patch to local deity.

This practice has given birth to a tradition of conserving biodiversity.

People have realized that -

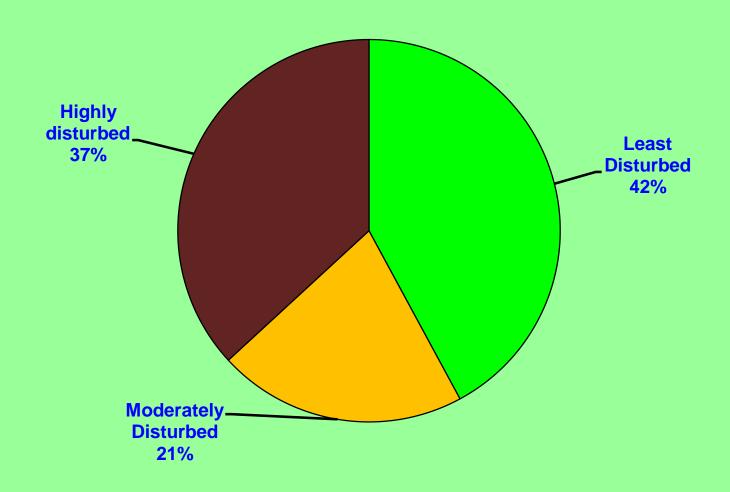
Sacred landscapes are not only the sites of social, cultural and spiritual values but also the <u>sites of biodiversity conservation</u>.



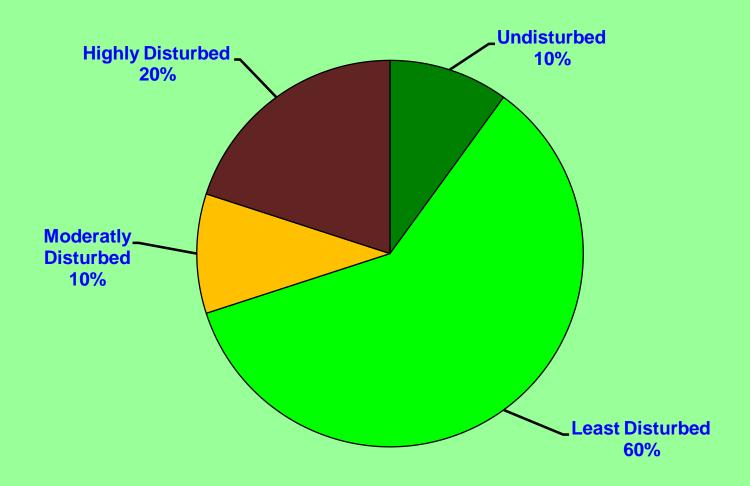
Forest Types & Tree Diversity

	Pashupati Sacred Landscape (83.5ha)	Bajrabarahi Sacred Landscape (18.3ha)
Forest Types (based on tree diversity)	Schima-Pyrus Forest	Neolitsea Forest
	<i>Myrsine-Persea</i> Forest	
	Quercus-Myrsine Forest	
Tree Diversity	17 species	18 species

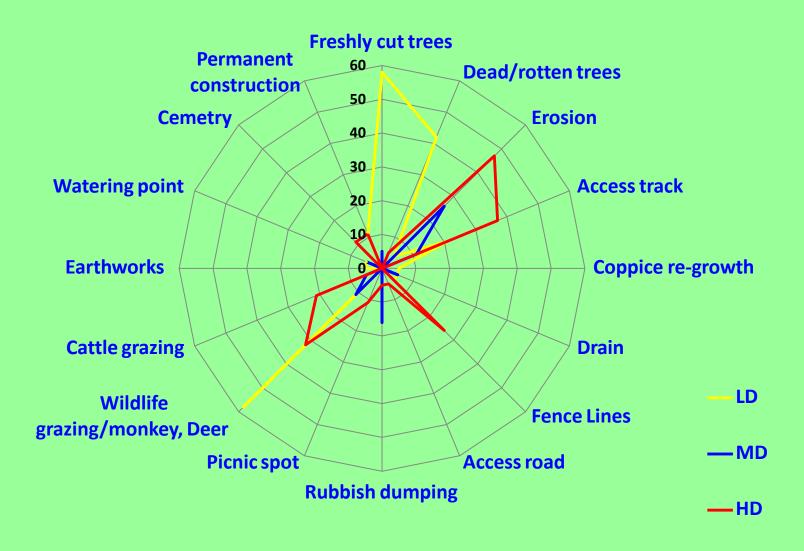
Disturbance status of Pashupati Sacred Landscape



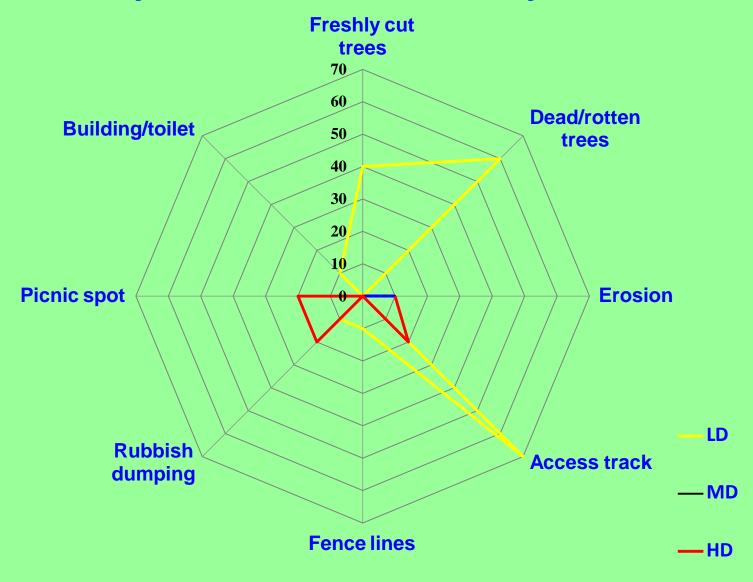
Disturbance status of Bajrabarahi Sacred Landscape



Intensity of disturbances in Pashupati SL

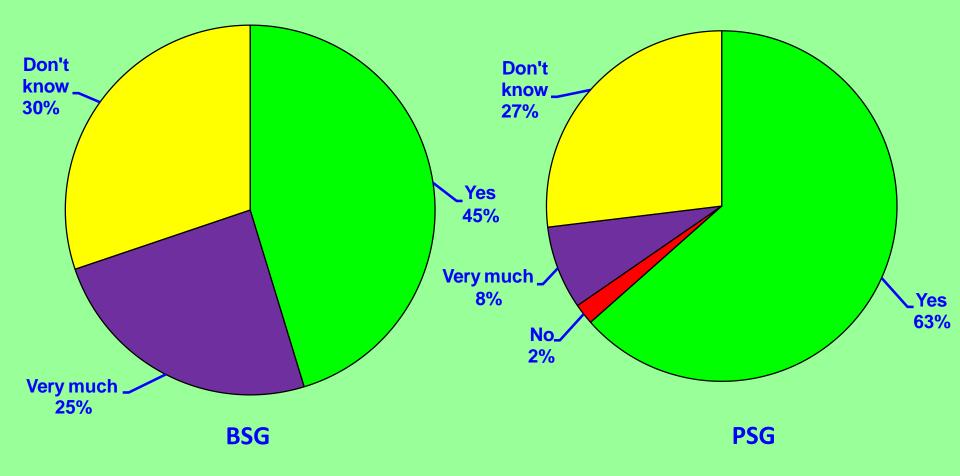


Intensity of disturbances in Bajrabarahi SL



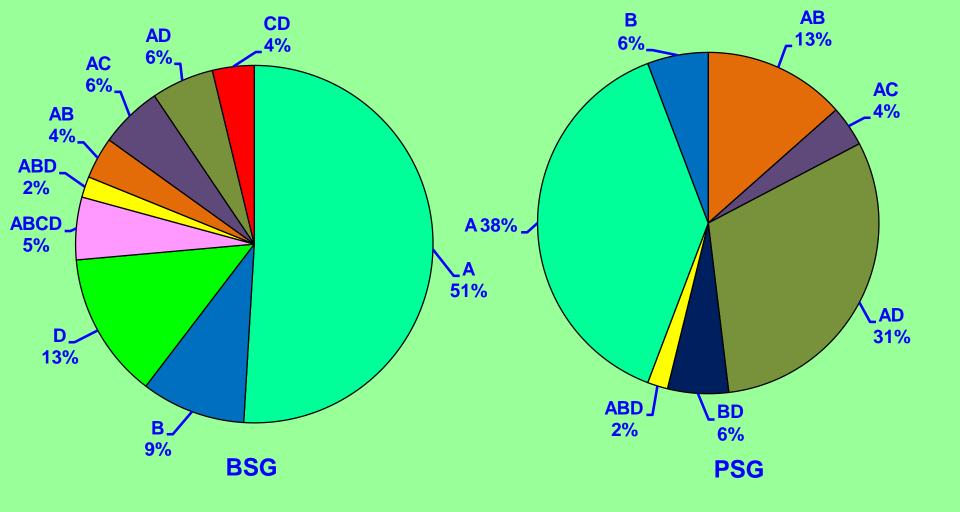
What are the gaps?

- Little explored, understudied and unrecognized as a highly valued system important in biodiversity conservation,
- Incomplete inventory of sacred landscapes nationwide,
- Not included in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2020), and
- Mainstreaming of modern conservation knowledge.



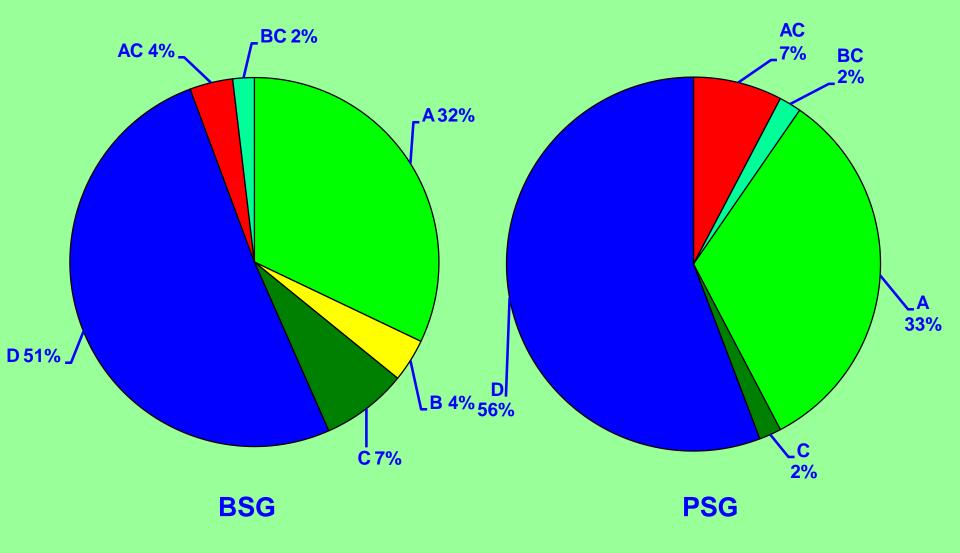
Peoples' knowledge

Importance of sacred landscape in biodiversity conservation



Objective of sacred landscape establishment

(A-religious purpose, B-religious motivation, C-income generation, D-biodiversity conservation)



Role of sacred landscape

(A-religious activity, B-income source, C-biodiversity conservation, and D-all options)



Need to solve the challenges by

- Strengthening the institutional capacity
 by management initiative, training, use of modern conservation
 tools, government support
- Enhancing the local capacity
 by active involvement of stakeholders in all kinds of decision making levels and introduction of local conservation laws
- Mainstreaming conservation knowledge
 by creating awareness campaigns, mainstreaming knowledge and
 research activities at local level
- Conserving the local religious values
 mainstreaming the school level knowledge to respect local
 religion and cultural values in relation to nature conservation



RECOMMENDATIONS

PROTECT AND CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY BY MAINSTREAMING THE CONSERVATION KNOWLEDGE AND ENHANCING LOCAL CAPACITY

