

## IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

### Basic Information

Title of case study	COMDEKS Project: Uttarakhand landscapes		
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Other contributing organization(s)	Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU		
Author(s) and affiliation(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Format of case study	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords	Mountains, Agriculture, Erosion, Alternate livelihoods, Protected areas		
Date of submission	6 March 2017		
Web link	<a href="http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6011/communities_in_action_comdeks.pdf#page=92">http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6011/communities_in_action_comdeks.pdf#page=92</a>		

### Geographical Information

Country	India			Location(s)	Uttarakhand State				
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link	<a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@30.2377947,79.4785079,10z?hl=en">https://www.google.com/maps/@30.2377947,79.4785079,10z?hl=en</a>								
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
Uttarakhand has a wide variation in altitude from about 350 m to about 7,800 m on the mountain peaks bordering Tibet and Nepal. This landscape is characterized by mosaics of rich biodiversity hotspots, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, interspersed with rivers, deep valleys, glaciers, flower valleys and high peaks. Most of the population lives in rural areas, and communities earn their living through traditional forestry, agriculture and animal husbandry.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
Agriculture is the most prevalent livelihood, although its ability to support families has been declining as agricultural production has fallen and migration has diverted much of the male population to cities seeking factory work. One of the consequences of the migration of men away is that managing the landscape has become an increasingly female task. Land management adds an additional dimension to the many challenges that women face. Tourism is also important to the local economy.									

### Contents

Status	Ongoing	Period (MM/YY to MM/YY)	06/2011 – 12/2017
Rationale			
Livelihoods that once existed within a balanced landscape have come under pressure with increasing population density. The changing demographic and economic conditions have not only disrupted livelihoods but also increased pressure on natural resources, further impacting family life and driving out-migration. Lack of local infrastructure and weak understanding by policy makers has further aggravated the situation.			
Objectives			
Enhance provision of ecosystem services through conservation activities and sustainable use of natural resources; Improve agricultural productivity by promoting sound and sustainable agricultural practices, resulting in increased food security and income generation; Promote alternative livelihood options to enable access to markets and local financial institutions; Strengthen institutional systems by promoting sharing of knowledge and information, and more participatory decision making			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Continuing community consultation to increase local ownership and empowerment of women; Capacity enhancement to open up new livelihood opportunities such as organic farming and food processing, and reviving dairy farming; Constructing energy and enterprise infrastructure and introducing appropriate technologies; Promoting ecotourism by local providers; Creating linkages with government to support local projects			

Results	
134 village meetings have occurred since the project planning process started. These continued consultations have been particularly empowering to women; 48 training and capacity building workshops have been conducted; Small infrastructure projects have been completed to provide new energy services and give communities the capability to start local enterprises; NGOs and CBOs directing local projects have interacted on a regular basis with relevant state authorities	
Lessons learned	
The village mapping exercise was found to be an essential tool to create understanding among community members; Regular and timely village meetings are very helpful in building a rapport and mutual respect and trust; Some projects have successfully utilized community “wealth ranking” exercises, where communities decide which households belong to different wealth categories, so that some project benefits can be specially targeted; Informal, issue-based groups have proven to be essential in organizing project activities	
Key messages	
A stress on sustainable enterprise development, creation of alternative income streams for those living near parks, and adding value to agricultural efforts while making them more environmentally sound marks the overall approach. Regular meetings and increased contacts between communities for the purposes of skills training and knowledge sharing are now beginning to create a network of actors. While community members have embraced the integrated approach, it will require more time for the socio-economic benefits of the approach to become clear.	
Relationship to other IPSI activities	This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project
Funding	Funding of USD 265,045.00 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS India.

## Contributions to Global Agendas

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the following global agendas respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

### CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	●		●			●			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
		●	●				●	■	

### UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

●	●			●		●		■	■
		●			●				