IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
Nepal: Agro-Pastoralism by Sherpa Communities in the North-Eastern Mountains			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)			
Other contributing organization(s) *(IPSI members and/or non-members)*			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC)			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC); Kaoru Ichikawa (UNU-IAS), ed.			
Format of case study *(manuscript or audiovisual)*	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
Agro-pastoralism, rangeland, transhumance			
Date of submission *(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)*		March 2012	
Web link *(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)*	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:5448/SEPL_in_Asia_report_2nd_Printing.web.pdf		

Geographical Information

Country *(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even "global")*									
Nepal									
Location(s) *(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)*									
Solu-Khumbu District									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link *(if location is identified)*									
https://www.google.co.jp/maps/@27.7313154,86.3723351,10z?hl=en									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest		Grassland	x	Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other (Please specify)			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
The Solu-Khumbu district, located in the northernmost part of the Sagarmatha zone in Nepal is inhabited mainly by Sherpa people. Beni village in the Solu region is composed of around 260 households in total. The Junbesi Valley has a mild climate but high precipitation.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
The Sherpa residents in the Junbesi Valley largely practice agriculture, and some of them are also engaged in keeping herds of yaks. Agricultural land extends up to 3,000 m in the vicinity of the settlements with the main products including grains such as wheat, barley, corn and potatoes. The transhumance in the Junbesi Valley is characterized by its vertical migration over a relatively short distance despite the significant difference in the elevation to the rangelands at nearly 4,500 m.									

Contents

Status *("ongoing" or "completed")*	Completed	Period *(MM/YY to MM/YY)*	03/2012
Rationale *(why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed)*			
This study was commissioned to be included in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia".			
Objectives *(goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study)*			
This chapter provides an overview of rangeland management and pastoralism in the area.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Literature review, field observation.			
Results			
There are a number of factors contributing to the recent decline in the number of herders. This is considered to be partly attributable to the reduction in the area available for rangelands due to the enforcement of the Forest Act. Other factors include the changing preferences among the new generation and the availability of work in overseas labor markets.			
Lessons learned *(factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities)*			
The shrinking access to pasture lands due to new legal institutional interventions leaves largely unexploited the natural resources of the grasslands, which is the main endowment of the mountainous areas. With the decline in grazing opportunities, a good deal of the knowledge about such herbal plants will be gradually lost.			
Key messages			
Planning for new interventions in socio-ecological production landscapes (SEPL) should consider the interests of the indigenous and local communities and the richness of their traditional knowledge in relation to the ecosystem services that have been delivered to communities over the centuries.			
Relationship to other IPSI activities *(if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.)*			
This case study originally appeared in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia". *This Summary Sheet was produced by UNU-IAS alone.			
Funding *(any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study)*			
This study was commissioned by UNU-IAS.			

Contributions to Global Agendas

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

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the "direct" or "indirect" contributions to the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

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)

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

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	■	■			■