

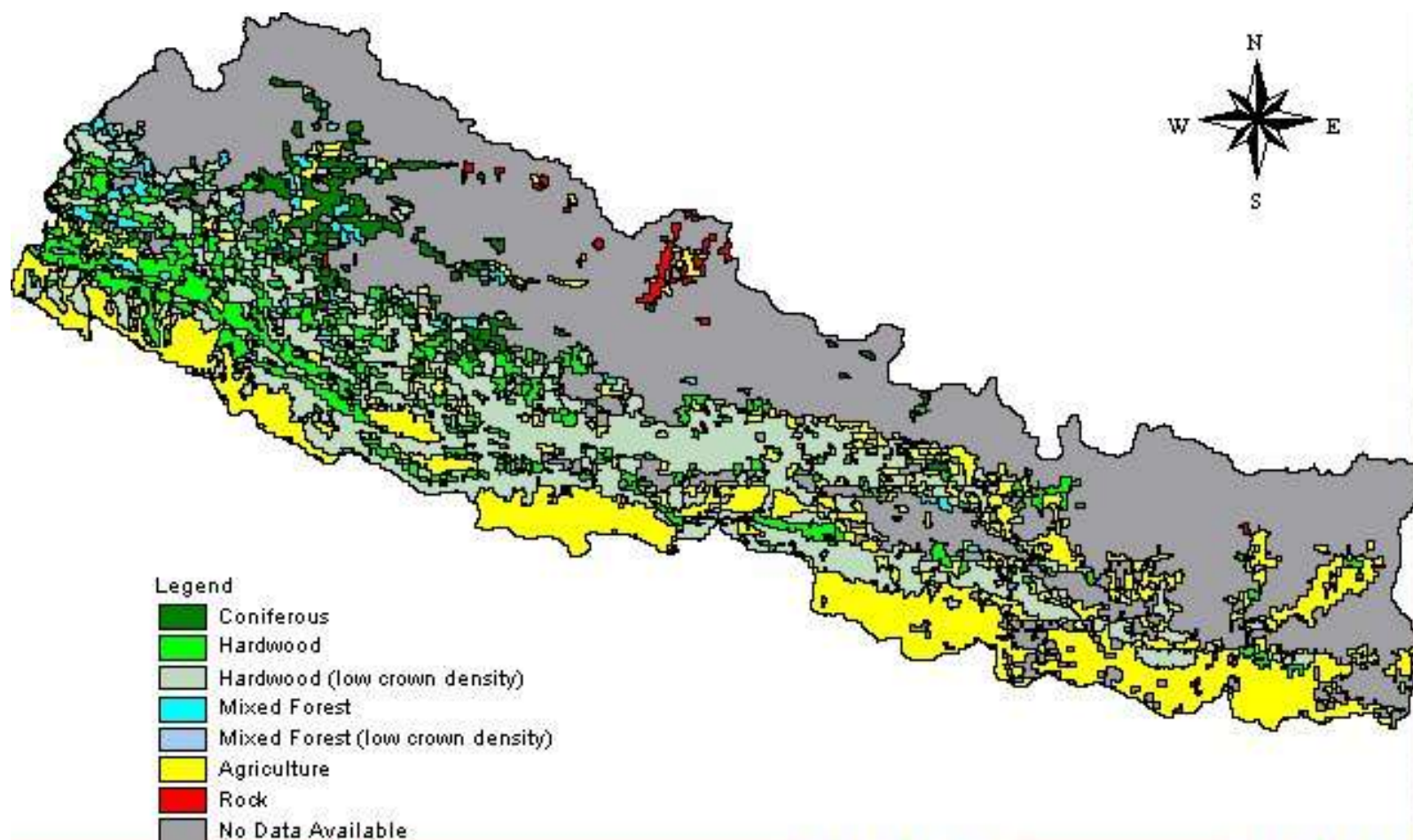
"Preserving Forest Ecosystems in Nepal by Private Forest Initiatives" In the Context of SDG 2030 Agenda

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Context:

The Sustainable Development Goal 15 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is devoted to *“protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”*.





Nepal in Brief

- Population= 28.6 Million
- Area= 147,181 Sq. KM
- Forest Coverage= 44.74% as of now.
- Global Land Mass= 0.1%
- Private Land Ownership is constitutional Rights of Citizen
- It has a rich human culture and natural biodiversity with more than 60 ethnic groups and 70 spoken languages

However, economically, the situation is not that encouraging.

Forest Act 1993

- It identifies two primary kind of forest (national and private) and five secondary kind of forest under national forest (Government Managed, Community Managed, Protected Forests, Leasehold Forest, and Religious Forest & Private Forest).

Nepal Forest Information and Data

- Nepal is home to 8 percent of all the world's population of birds (more than 848 species),
- 4 percent of the world's mammals,
- 11 of the world's 15 families of butterflies (more than 500 species),
- 2 percent of all flowering plants in the world,
- 600 indigenous plant families and 319 species of exotic orchids.
- According to the U.N. FAO, 25.4% or about 3,636,000 ha of Nepal is forested, according to FAO. Of this 14.5% (526,000) is classified as primary forest, the most biodiverse and carbon-dense form of forest. **Nepal had 43,000 ha of planted forest.**

Nepal Forest Information and Data

- Change in Forest Cover: Between 1990 and 2010, Nepal lost an average of 59,050 ha or 1.23% per year. In total, between 1990 and 2010, Nepal lost 24.5% of its forest cover, or around 1,181,000 ha.
- Nepal's forests contain 485 million metric tons of carbon in living forest biomass.
- Biodiversity and Protected Areas: Nepal has some 1240 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles according to figures from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Of these, 2.9% are endemic, meaning they exist in no other country, and 5.6% are threatened. Nepal is home to at least 6973 species of vascular plants, of which 4.5% are endemic. 7.6% of Nepal is protected under IUCN categories I-V.

Forest Ecosystem

- Forest ecosystem is not only for the tree and forest themselves but **forest ecosystem** is a natural woodland unit consisting of all plants, animals and micro-organisms (Biotic components) in that area functioning together with all of the non-living physical (abiotic) factors of the environment.
- Plants and animal species are important to the ecological balance on which all life forms, including humans.
- Plants and animals are important food, pharmaceutical and chemical resources.

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- Plants are at the base of the food chain. Through the process of photosynthesis, plants produce food.
- When humans consume plants or animals that eat plants, they get energy that fuels life.
- Scientists continue to develop new food crops from wild plants which can prove beneficial to sustaining human life if domestic crop supplies are depleted or wiped out by disease, according to the Environment Defence Fund-EDF

Forest Ecosystem in Nepal

- A total of 118 ecosystems, 75 vegetation and 35 forest types have been identified. Involvement of the local people in the management of forest has profound impact on the conservation of bio-diversity. It has been proved by the community forestry practice in Nepal. So far, 1091,581 households are involved in the management of 759,415 ha.

Forest for Human Life:

- We depend on forests for our survival, from the air we breathe to the wood we use. Besides providing habitats for animals and livelihoods for humans, forests also offer watershed protection, prevent soil erosion and mitigate climate change. Yet, despite our dependence on forests, we are still allowing them to disappear, and this is a dangerous sign to threaten ourselves and future generations of human life on earth in long run.
- Globally 2 billion people are directly dependent on forest for their food, shelter, livelihood and fuel security while as in Nepal 70% people are still depending forest for their fuel security, 40% for cattle food, similarly significant number of people dependent on Herbal, wood, timber and non timber products etc.

Private Forest

- All planted, nurtured or conserved forests in any private land that belongs to an individual as per the prevailing law are considered private forests (as per forest act 1993)
- There are about 5,000 (Year 2014/15 was 2,458) registered private forests in Nepal managing more than to 2,400 ha or about 0.04% of Nepal's forests.

- The estimation says that Nepal has potentiality to 300 thousand hector forest can be covered while as of now only 2.4 thousand hector land is used in private forest. So there is high potentiality to private forest in Nepal. Government of Nepal has declared a **forest decade from 2015 to 2025** and promoting private forestry.

Private Forest Registration Certificate in Nepal

Name of Owner=

Name of Forest=

Area of Boundary (four corner)=

Land Area=

No of Trees & Species=

Plantation Year/Month=

०६/०५/९९

अनुवृत्ति नं. (नियम ११ को उपनियम (२) संग सम्बन्धित)
निजी वन दर्ताको प्रमाण-पत्र

नेपाल सरकार
वन तथा भू संरक्षण मन्त्रालय
वन विभाग

जिल्ला वन कार्यालय, भद्रपुर

श्री मानवारी लक्ष्मी खड्का

...तारि-१५/०५-९९ मा...

तपाईंले यस कार्यालयमा निजी वन दर्ता गराई पाउँ भनी दिएको निवेदन उपर कारवाही हुँदा वन ऐन, २०४९ र वन नियमावली, २०५१ को अधिनमा रही देहायको आवादी जमिनमा लगाएको वन पैदावरलाई निजी वनको रूपमा दर्ता गरी यो प्रमाण-पत्र दिइएको छ ।

निजी वनको विवरण:

नाम: शम्भु खड्का

चार किल्ला: पूर्व: त्रिरिङ्ग, खोला
दक्षिण: ५८५, ५८० पश्चिम: आवादी
उत्तर: आवादी
दक्षिण: त्रिरिङ्ग, खोला-प्रसन्नारा

जिल्ला: भद्रपुर

गा.वि.सं./नं.: प्रसन्नारा

वडा नं.: ५/३

कित्ता नं.: ५८५, ५८० र २९९९

क्षेत्रफल: ५-६-९०

वन पैदावारको विवरण

प्रमाण-पत्र दिने अधिकृतको नाम यर: शम्भु खड्का
वर्ग: मि. ५५
दस्तखत: [Signature]
मिति: १५/०५/९९

प्रजाती	संख्या	अनुमानित उमेर	वैफित्व
पाउलेजिमा	६००	०६-१०-९९	
चिउ	५००		
मसुना	५२०		
खोरा	५००		
खोरा	५०		

नोट: यो प्रमाण-पत्र हराएमा, च्यातिपमा वा कसिएमा अर्को प्रमाण पत्र लिन न. २५-(पञ्जीस) सँगै दस्तुर लाग्नेछ ।

Conclusion and Recommendation

- Enough research, study and survey have not been done in Nepal yet in terms of private forest ecosystem perspectives.
- Flash flood and Land degradation is rising every year due to various reasons and the impact of climate change.
- Forest Land coverage increased due to heavy migration and converted the abandoned land into forest (yet to make study in high land, mid hill and mountain area)
- Agro forestry is sustainable solution for both human and forestry ecosystem.

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- Need to provide economic benefits to the Private forest grower to motivate them.
- Mass awareness is needed in the local /community level.
- Financial Services and Incentives to be given to Private forest growers.
- Timber/wood needs of the public to be fulfilled by the private forest .
- Protection, Management and Restoration will be the best approaches to sustain the forest ecosystem through the private forest activities.

Thank you !

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