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# Sustainable Livelihoods

A Sustainable Livelihoods Mainstreaming Strategy

June 2011

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Front cover photograph: Traditional adaptation, a farmer close to Shivapur, Bardiya National Park, protecting maize seeds from wild animal (e.g Elephant)  
Photograph by: Tara Prasad Gnyawali

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# **Sustainable Livelihoods**

**A Sustainable Livelihoods Mainstreaming Strategy**

# PREFACE

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WWF started its conservation works in Nepal in the 1970s focusing on endangered species and later expanded its working modality from being site-specific to including landscapes where critical bottleneck zones and corridors link not just protected areas and buffer-zones but also trans-border areas between India and Nepal in the Terai, and Nepal and Tibet of China in the north. WWF Nepal also expanded its work to include broader development and economic issues through appropriate livelihoods and conservation strategies to contribute to national and landscape economy, improved quality of life and reducing the pressure from program affected and dependent communities living in and around the landscapes as a part of its mission. WWF Nepal's own past practices are evidence of the necessity of integrating appropriate, affordable, acceptable and technically viable livelihood strategies to achieve broader impacts in biodiversity conservation.

In the beginning, revenue sharing conservation approaches that were implemented to address development and livelihoods needs of the community did not adequately define and address people's livelihoods complexities and the underlying and indirect causes that were compounded with conservation threats. On-the-ground learning and experiences helped WWF Nepal to understand the importance of institutional partnerships to address broader contemporary challenges sustaining conservation efforts. In this regard, partnerships were made with key international communities like CARE Nepal for SAGUN program and ADRA Nepal for PHE initiative.

During 2005, with technical support from WWF UK and WWF Nepal, a Sustainable Livelihoods Mainstreaming Strategy was developed and implemented successfully. Building on past lessons and implemented together with partners at different levels, the present strategy aims to capture the broader and contemporary challenges and issues for greater impact and achievement of conservation goals in the given Conservation Strategy Framework (CSF).

I would like to thank our valuable donors, networks and international communities for their technical and financial support; WWF US, WWF UK, WWF Finland, Johnson and Johnson Inc. Ford Foundation, McArthur Foundation and WWF International Secretariat, Social Development for Conservation Global Team and Asia Pacific Region.

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I am confident that the present strategy will not only guide WWF Nepal's programs but also engage new strategic partners, both nationally and regionally, to raise similar understandings on the linkages between conservation and livelihoods.



Anil Manandhar  
Country Representative

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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This strategy document is aimed at enhancing understanding of conservation and livelihoods linkages and the rationale behind WWF mainstreaming sustainable livelihoods and social agenda into conservation efforts. WWF Nepal, through this strategy document, will be able to integrate and reflect recommended strategy from the beginning of conservation planning process, understand the areas of change and achieve broader livelihood impact.

Learning from our past efforts, the present document attempts to address contemporary and critical issues, livelihoods security and environmental services as well as community resilience capacity, resource conflicts and institutional capability. The present strategy document will contribute and enable effective mainstreaming of strategies together with conservation efforts to achieve livelihoods goal, conservation targets, and leave positive footprints in the landscape and regional efforts.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This strategy document has been developed by building on lessons learnt from past efforts of mainstreaming sustainable livelihoods strategies with conservation. The major learning from the mainstreaming of livelihoods strategy is that conservation efforts cannot be sustained until and unless the minimum livelihoods needs of the natural resources users of the landscape are met and they feel that their children are socially, economically, culturally and politically secure. Similarly, if the economic value of environmental services and quality at user's level is not properly understood, the value of loss will be undermined at the cost of present livelihoods needs.

Recent trends and scenarios at national, regional and international levels were reflected upon and considered during the formulation of the Sustainable Livelihoods Strategy. Reviews of WWF Nepal strategic plans, landscape and thematic plans, regional and global strategic plans and priorities, and their relevance and linkages with conservation and development were also conducted in collaboration with partners and relevant institutions. The present strategy document also took into account past efforts and changes that have taken place in landscapes especially in wellbeing at household and community levels, policy and strategic documents, understanding of the definition of conservation and livelihoods linkages at different levels, learning from partners and review of LHI country strategies and livelihoods works. Different evaluations, surveys and cross sector and thematic conclusions were also noted while developing the strategy. Different approaches were also reviewed to increase understanding from a wider perspective. Some of them are: Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy-2008 developed by GoN/MOFSC, Department of Forest; Community Forest Development Guideline 2065; Best Practices of SDC/CFP, DFID/LFP and UNDP/WTLCP on Community Forest Management and Governance; and Right Based Approaches (RBAs) and Governance in NRM of CARE Nepal.

The primary difference between the past strategic document and the present one is that the current one addresses areas of change that are regularly monitored by user communities themselves in order to create a broader impact in people's livelihoods security. This strategy looks at recent challenges and focuses more on livelihoods security through changes in environmental quality such as land productivity, water availability, pollination, wetlands and greenery, and availability of forest and their by-products that directly contribute to physical infrastructure and services. Furthermore, the present strategy stresses on the need to define economic value of environmental and ecological services by comparing rise in income levels with the cost of biodiversity loss. Similarly, this document also gives stress to analysing and identifying the actual vulnerable communities and how they are benefiting from available opportunity and services; this is done by reflecting on analysis criteria, especially to find out the magnitude of actual beneficiaries, whether the delivered benefits and opportunity are reaching out to actual targeted communities and whether their behaviours have changed during or after the strategy implementation period. The document provides a list of recommendations on the modalities, interventions and monitoring mechanisms while linking conservation and livelihoods and also includes a logical linkage framework for local institutions to monitor the changes.

The document is expected to guide different levels of stakeholders working in natural resource management to integrate livelihoods and social works in their framework. The strategies are expected to address broader challenges and drivers defined in WWF Global Program Framework (GPF) in the local and national contexts. The strategy also defines affordable and socio-culturally acceptable ways to implement and reach out to wider audiences and encourage their participation to achieve livelihoods and conservation goals.

The strategy document defines major scopes under the key conservation targets (Forest, Species, Freshwater and Climate Change) that WWF Nepal aims to achieve through its strategic plan in priority landscapes. Integration of good governance and social inclusion, and strong policy and advocacy will also be considered additional areas that play a critical role in achieving broader conservation impacts. Addressing of underlying root causes as well as drivers and challenges to key conservation targets that are directly linked with people's livelihoods will be the major scope of interventions.

The recommended strategy, impact and their monitoring process is aimed at capturing the changes in people's livelihoods and wellbeing brought about by program interventions and other sectoral efforts and contributions. The expected broader areas of changes have been defined as institutional revenue, capability and sustainability, good governance and social inclusion process, livelihoods resources, strategy, vulnerability and coping capacity. The Livelihoods and Good Governance Change Monitoring Manual (LGCM-2010) will be used to periodically measure the efficiency, relevance, and changes in quality of life brought about by the implementation of the strategy.

A conceptual framework has been developed that defines WWF's rationale behind working on livelihoods issues to bring broader impacts in conservation. Strategies under six major areas are recommended which are expected to logically contribute to an increase in food, water, energy, economic and social security; the institutionalization of good governance and inclusion process; and building the capability of NRM groups to monitor the changes and impacts. The strategy document also emphasizes the reflection of results and learning to aid further planning, designing and implementation, and reaching out to wider audiences at local, national, regional and international levels.



COMMUNITY OF KHATA INTAL CELEBRATING HOME-STAY INNOVATION © TARA P. GNYAWALI/WWF NEPAL

# CONTEXT

A pre-requisite for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood is the existence of healthy ecosystem services and sustainable use of its resources.

## NATIONAL CONTEXT

Nepal, a country located between two emerging economy nations - India and China - has a total land mass of 147,181 square kilometers and a population of more than 27 million (2005:CBS). Out of the total population, approximately 85% live in rural areas. A majority of the people living in rural areas rely extensively on locally available natural resources, especially forest, wetlands and rivers to fulfill their basic needs and sustain their livelihoods. About 29% of the total surface area of Nepal is under forest cover. Forests also provide 80% of the cooking energy in the form of fuel wood. In addition, forests also provide fodder for livestock grazing, medicine, and timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) as well as habitats for wild animal.

This dependency on forest and other natural resources has increased along with several broader issues. Some of the critical examples of wide issues associated with broader and longer conservation and the sustainable livelihood goal achievement include:

- Population growth
- Migration
- Human pressure on habitat
- Increasing unemployment
- Rapid Youth (productive age) migration
- Epidemics (malaria, kalazaar, skin diseases, ear-ache etc.)
- Lack of land ownership
- Weak resource governance
- Policy support and institutional mechanism
- Governance and transparency
- Food security and productivity
- Land use distributive inequality
- Discrimination (gender, culture and ethnicity)
- Weak community adaptive capacity to Climate and environmental change

As a result problems such as forest degradation, over exploitation of NTFP/MAPs, wildlife poaching and illegal trade, species loss, human-wildlife conflict and degradation of freshwater systems have become a regular phenomenon. There is a direct correlation among forest, biodiversity, and livelihood. A pre-requisite for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood is the existence of healthy ecosystem services and sustainable use of its resources. The above mentioned problems are acting as a catalyst for environment degradation threatening conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

### Policy context

The importance of conserving forests has been reflected in the official state policy with the allocation of 23.23% of the total landmass under 20 protected areas (including recently announced) and the decision to maintain at least 40% of the country's area under forests (Interim Constitution of Nepal 2008). Furthermore, formulation of various policies and institutions focusing on conservation and sustainable livelihoods also shows its importance. Some important policies are: National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973, Water Resource Act 1992, Forest Act 1993, and Environment Protection Act 1996. However, despite having large protected areas and targeted policies, the implementation of these policies at the ground level is weak. In addition, lack of comprehensiveness and consistency in the sectoral policies, contradictory policies and the sluggish pace of the reform process make it difficult to be effective.





INDIGENOUS THARU COMMUNITY: A CULTURAL ASSET OF TAL © GAUTAM PAUDE/WWF NEPAL

## Social, economic and cultural context

Nepal has a population of approximately 27 million and a growth rate of 1.08% per annum (CBS: 2001). The population density varies according to the nature of habitation and ecological zone, characterized by scattered settlements and low density in high mountain regions, and clustered; river bank growth centered and concentrated settlements in mid mountains and small valleys. However, more recently, rural to urban migration rates have rapidly increased as people are leaving their subsistence lifestyles in rural areas and looking for economic opportunities in growing cities and towns. In conjunction with this, it is a serious challenge to retain people in high and mid-mountain areas, especially the youth, as a large majority of them are either unemployed or under-employed. Those who are employed either work seasonally in India or under contract employment as foreign migrant workers abroad.

Nepal's 10th Five Year Plan sets out the overall national development objective of reducing poverty from 31% to less than 21 % by the end of 2015. The MDG progress report currently estimates Nepal's poverty rate to be at 25.4% (MDG progress report 2010, UNDP). This figure however is contested by another report (MPI-UNDP/OHPI 2010) which states that Nepal's current poverty rate is at 65% which is significantly higher than what the former report states. This also goes to further prove that Nepal still has quite a few challenges in overcoming poverty and therefore in conservation issues since more than 85% of Nepal's population is still living in rural areas, dependent on subsistence farming with the surrounding natural resources as their only means for a livelihood.

The 10th Five Year Plan places particular emphasis on strengthening the economy, decentralization and local government reforms in order to achieve overall national development. However, it also emphasizes the importance and significance of conserving the environment for Nepal's continued development, identifying significant

opportunities for economic development based on sustainable use of natural resources whether it is for the tourism industry; collection, harvesting, or cultivation of NTFPs such as high value herbs; or hydropower generation which is claimed as an important sector for Nepal's growth.

## INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The Global Program Framework (GPF) is a strategic guideline that helps WWF offices around the world to achieve WWF's goals by conserving priority places and species, addressing humanity's ecological footprint and tackling global priority drivers.

GPF has set goals for two major categories: biodiversity conservation and ecological footprint reduction. It has identified a list of priority places and species, and types of ecological and carbon footprints that require attention. In doing so, it has also identified several global priority drivers. The global priority drivers are human-related direct and indirect threats that act as root causes of biodiversity loss and increase human ecological and carbon footprint. GPF has listed out threats and drivers to its priorities (See box: 1). The broad category of threats includes changes in land use, resource extraction and energy production, emission, modifications and movement of organizations, and natural processes. Similarly, the broad category of drivers includes demography, economic process (such as consumption, production, markets and trade), new technologies, and cultural, social, political and institutional processes (production and services).

### Box 1: Livelihoods related Global priority threats and drivers in GPF

1. **Agriculture-** causing extensive habitat loss, especially by key crops such as soy, palm oil , cocoa, rice and bio-fuels
2. **Forestry**
3. **Natural system modification-** especially altered hydrologic regimes caused by dams and water management and use
4. **Fisheries**
5. **Wildlife trade and whaling**
6. **Land use changes-** especially grazing and ranching
7. **Infrastructure development-**especially housing and commercial developments relating to tourism
8. **Invasive species** and other problematic species and genes
9. **Transportation and communication and Infrastructure** especially roads
10. **Aquacultures**

Source: WWF Global Program Framework-2008

## REGIONAL CONTEXT

The negative impact of climate change in the world's ecosystems is already a well-known fact. This adverse impact is even more visible in the Himalayas and the livelihood of the people living in the region. The rapidly changing conditions caused by climate change not only disturb the normal process of nature-making plant species more vulnerable to diseases and pests, causing wildlife to change their natural habitat, degrading and fragmenting natural ecosystems thereby seriously challenging the survival of wildlife in their natural habitat but also fundamentally affect human life dependent on the same natural resource by further increasing dependency and therefore exploitation of resources contributing to further habitat and biodiversity loss. The impact of climate change is therefore not only limited to biodiversity loss but also to people's livelihood. In addition, the variation on climatic condition such as local and regional temperatures, amount of precipitation, rainfall patterns, soil moisture content and extreme events like floods, droughts and hailstorms have negative effect on agricultural productivity and food security in the long term (See Box: 2).

To address these issues, Nepal, including India and Bhutan is moving forward through a transformational program called the Living Himalaya Initiatives (LHI). This program aims to ensure the effective management and conservation of natural and cultural heritage of the Himalayan region through the combined actions of the three governments involved Nepal, India and Bhutan and to raise awareness about climate change globally. More than a billion people in the coverage countries of Living Himalayas Initiative (Bhutan, India and Nepal) directly depend on the Himalayas for their survival. Specifically, glacial retreat due to climate change has made people living in and around this region vulnerable by reducing fresh water flow in the rivers and increasing the risk of major disasters due to GLOF. The following two major strategies under the LHI strategy document (See Box: 3) clearly indicate the broader scope of livelihoods strategy to contribute to effective implementation of these with appropriate interventions in the region.

#### Box 2: Livelihoods related threats/challenges mentioned in LHI

1. Habitat Loss/Conversion: Conversion (Forest encroachment, loss)
2. Habitat Loss/Degradation: Unregulated tourism, unsustainable resource extraction, over grazing, succession of grasslands, invasive species
3. Habitat Loss/Fragmentation: Oil and gas extraction, large infrastructure development.
4. Species Loss: Retaliatory killings, poaching, trade
5. Environmental Flow Alteration: Hydropower development, climate change
6. Climate Change: Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)

Source: WWF LHI Strategy Document 2008

#### Box 3: Livelihoods related strategies in LHI document

- Transformational Strategy 2.2: Broaden and upscale local stewardship of forests, grasslands and wetlands for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods
- Transformational Strategy 3: Promote and facilitate regional management strategies and empower communities and institutions to address human-wildlife conflicts and illegal wildlife trade

Source: WWF LHI Strategy Document 2008

## REVIEW OF WWF NEPAL WORKS

### Strategic Plan (2006-2011)

WWF Nepal began explicitly integrating livelihoods issues in its conservation plan during 2004 when the Strategic Plan for TAL (2004-2014) was formulated. Following that, the livelihoods agenda and issues were strategically reflected in WWF Nepal Strategic Plan (2006-2011) with the strategy, intervention and entry points relevant to sustainable livelihoods being integrated together with conservation targets such forest, species, freshwater and climate change. This strategy document has also prioritized and defined the work on sustainable livelihoods as a means to achieve conservation goals and contribute to bringing change in people's wellbeing. WWF Nepal identified critical livelihoods strategies that could be integrated to achieve conservation targets (See box: 4).

Significant outcomes have been already achieved through effective implementation of the recommended strategy and intervention. Some major interventions and achievements were the establishment of green enterprises based on agriculture, forest and high value and medicinal NTFPs; mobilization of endowment and revolving funds; skill-based entrepreneurship development; capacity building of forest and national park staff communities, CFUG, BZUC etc, institutional capacity and capability building; institutional revenue generation; and appropriate human wildlife response and mitigation measures. Increased access and use of functional NRMGs, CSOs and micro finance services by deprived and assets less community in landscapes. Cooperative and

#### Box 4: Livelihoods related strategy included in WWF Nepal Strategic Plan (2006-2011)

1. Transform traditional institutions compatible with the principles of good governance and conservation
2. Promote social capital networks and safety nets
3. Work with the private sector and other stakeholders
4. Enhance cross sectorial coordination and partnership
5. Promote livelihoods diversification
6. Advocate for policies that promote sustainable livelihoods
7. Integrate peace building and conflict transformation into conservation
8. Promote traditional knowledge and practices
9. Support the development of community based response mechanism
10. Support the revision and formulating of policies to enable local communities
11. Promote the community management and wise use of wetlands

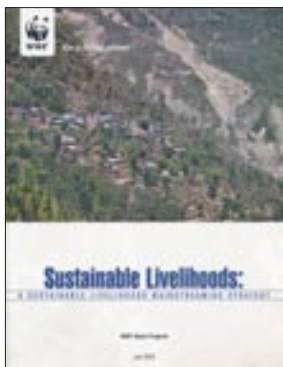
Source: WWF Nepal Strategic Plan, 2006-2011



Saving Credit groups regularly mobilized various revolving and endowment funds benefitting about 15,000 households in TAL and SHL that contributed to diversify pressure on natural capital stock, and bring positive changes in household wellbeing and their coping capacity. Similarly, effective implementation of good governance and social inclusion process, and partnerships with CARE Nepal, ADRA Nepal and Nepal Red Cross Society, contributed to address livelihoods issues in social equity, governance practices and environmental health issues. Evaluation and baseline survey of Kanchenjunga, livelihoods improvement plan for critical sites, WWF involvement with government and other international communities to develop and implement Gender Poverty and Social Equity (GEPSE) policy, involvement in network for formulation of social and poverty policy, and lessons learned documentation and sharing at national, regional and international were some significant outcomes. As an impact, zero retaliatory killing and poaching of key species and local community involvement in critical habitat encroachment are an illustration of the effectiveness and relevance of livelihoods strategy in contributing to bringing changes in people understanding and attitudes of value of biodiversity where they depend on. The mid-term and periodical evaluation reports in the landscapes indicate improvement in access and use of basic community services; more than 40,000 households are benefitting from conservation program and their stewardship in continuously safeguarding landscapes and its natural capital stock is a noteworthy contribution of the local community towards nature. The involvement of women and marginalized farmers in natural resource management process is also a significant achievement. About 38% of the executive members in NRMGs are women and more than 35% of the key positions in NRMGs are occupied by women and marginalized and excluded communities (LGCM: 2010). This is one of the critical changes in the role of women and deprived communities and a value addition to conservation through the change in role dynamics from domestic to natural resource management.

#### Sustainable Livelihoods Strategy (2005)

Over the years, WWF Nepal has learned that addressing people's livelihoods needs and responding to people's strengths and constraints is key to sustainable conservation. Thus, with the aim of including Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) in the various stages of WWF's conservation project cycle management and conservation programs, a full Sustainable Livelihoods Mainstreaming Strategy document was developed in both English and Nepali languages in 2005. The strategy document integrated issues related



to forests, NTFP, and capacity building, which were then crucial to sustain conservation efforts and recommend appropriate methodologies to address anthropogenic pressure on biodiversity and environment.

Besides the Sustainable Livelihoods Strategy-2005, conservation related livelihoods threats and issues were periodically discussed, included and reflected through local, national regional workshops, forum and development of WWF Nepal Strategic Plan (2006-2011), Sacred Himalaya Landscape Strategic Plan (2006-2016), Living Himalaya Initiative Transformational Strategy (2008), Report on Peer Review of Social and Livelihoods Works in LHI countries (2008) and Sustainable Livelihoods Approach Framework Strategy of WWF Bhutan-draft (2009). These strategic documents comprised of broader livelihoods issues, and challenges and strategies linked with conservation and poverty. Integration of identified livelihoods issues through above mentioned strategy plan, document and policy, there positive impacts have been made and proven through different mid-term evaluation reports that include: WWF Evaluation Report by Social Welfare Council (2010), WWF Nepal Annual Technical Progress Reports (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010), TAL Sharing and Learning Workshop Conclusion Report (Palpa, 2009), Bottleneck Level Livelihoods Outcomes Assessment Report for Lamahi (2007), Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Evaluation Report by Mountain Spirit (2007), SAGUN Evaluation Report (2006 and 2010), SAL Measures (2008), DFID/PPA Assessment Report (2008 and 2010), Baseline Status Report of Langtang National Park and Buffer-zone Area (2009), Baseline Status Report of Dudhkoshi River Basin Management (2008), Comprehensive Baseline Survey of SHL-SCAPES(2010), Livelihoods and Good Governance Change Monitoring Baseline Survey, TAL-CBRP (2010) and the Green Enterprises Assessment Report conducted by Practical Action (2010). All these reports concluded and indicated that WWF Nepal's efforts on mainstreaming livelihoods strategy within conservation frame are moderately bringing changes specially in food security (Practical Action Study-2009), increasing access and use of basic livelihoods services (KCA Evaluation Report: 2007); changing wellbeing (TAL-CBRP; Livelihoods Outcome Study: 2007), and changing institutional capability (TAL Evaluation Report: 2007 and LGCM: 2010). This achievement also indicated there are significant improvements in livelihoods assets holdings, use of and access to community services, use of alternative and energy efficient technology, access to natural resource and institutional income and capability, and adoption and practice of good governance principles (See Box 5 & 6). These results mentioned above indicated that earlier recommended livelihoods approach and strategy to conservation were efficient, relevant and effective.

Learning from development and implementation process and the completion of a program cycle of Sustainable Livelihoods Strategy development, it has now become crucial to review and develop a new revised comprehensive strategy that comprises all broader and external issues illustrating the linkage from community to nation and region or micro to macro level agenda. Regarding to this, some questions still remained unanswered - Were the strategies cost-effective? Did the strategies address contemporary challenges and drivers defined in the regional and global conservation targets (such as foot print impact, trans-border trafficking, conflict transformation, environmental quality, food and water security, etc.)? Were the strategies relevant and appropriate to respond to underlying causes and drivers defined in the Global Program Framework and its conservation targets? In addition, there are new challenges and issues which also need to be addressed with appropriate strategies, alignment of livelihoods agenda, and mainstreaming of networks and national policies in order to contribute towards bringing positive impact on natural resources and dependent communities.

**Box 5: Assets/service holding status of SHL-KCA**

SN	Description of Assets/Service Holding	%
1	HHs directly involved in IGAs activities	56
2	Cardamom plantations as a major source of income	45.4
3	HHs are involved in different CBOs/Committee/Group	81
4	Major source of income from traditional farming	49
5	Major source of income from livestock farming	35
6	Women's role in CAUC/CAMC/CFUGs increased	2.4
7	HHs dependent on NR for roofs	73.2
8	HHs with Chitra/Bamboo Roof (thatch/straw:64%)	24.4
9	HHs with Pine-plank/Timber Roof (Zinc roof:26%)	38.8
10	HHs have average food sufficiency months	6.11
11	HHs with year round food security	8.4
12	Literacy Rate (Male:81%, Female 65%) of KCA	73.2
13	HHs safe DWSS (69.7%com, 28% personal)	97.7
14	HHs have access water within five minute time	92.6
15	HHs have improved/safe toilets/sanitation	55.5
16	HHs regularly using health post services	87.4
17	Pregnant women use HP for ANC (TTBAs delivery: 24.4%)	30.4
18	HHs with functional solar energy (ICS:22.7%)	60
19	Avg. fuel wood consumption per year (bhari/bundle)	157
20	HHs using chemical fertilizer (pesticide 3.8)	23

Source: Socioeconomic Survey (2007), Mountain Spirit/WWF Nepal

**Box 6: Assets/service holding status of TAL-CBRP**

SN	Description of Assets/Service Holding	%
1	Better-off HHs (by PWBR process)	13
2	HHs involved in regular savings	59
3	HHs benefiting from Institutional Credit Facility	47
4	HHs benefiting from CF products without any fee	47
5	HHs have safer and more stable houses	22
6	HHs have safer and improved toilets	25
7	HHs have safe/improved drinking water source	64
8	HHs have more than 0.5+ ha cultivable land	39.2
9	HHs have all literate members (eligible)	23
10	HHs have access to modern Boarding school	20
11	HHs have year the round grass sufficiency	14
12	HHs have own productive livestock	58
13	HHs have year the round food sufficiency	38
14	HHs have own commercial vegetable farms	6
15	HHs have functional biogas plant	8
16	HHs obtained basic IGA technical skills	28
17	HHs owned cash crops/HYV farming activity	20
18	HHs involved in enterprise/business/shops	13
19	HHs have regular service/remittance income source	23
20	HHs involved with shared-cropping (land- on-rent)	29

Source: LGCM baseline Survey (2010), WWF Nepal

## Gender and Good Governance Issues Integration

Gender and social exclusion and inequity are one of the major challenges in achieving WWF Nepal's conservation targets. Specifically, the exclusion of disadvantaged people, indigenous communities and women from mainstream development, inequitable benefit sharing and low awareness and knowledge on conservation and their rights are some of the key issues to be addressed. However, steps have been taken to ensure the participation of women and socially excluded groups in the conservation and development process. WWF Nepal also complies with the rules and guideline mentioned in MOFSC/DoF Guiding document for Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy (2008) and the Community Forest Development Guideline (2065) endorsed by MOFSC.

WWF Nepal does not have a separate policy and guideline and refers to the Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy (MoFSC: 2008) of Government of Nepal and implementing it in need basis. WWF Nepal is also a member of the Gender, Poverty and Social Equity (GPSE) working group formed under the MoFSC engaged in developing the GPSE indicators for forest and natural resource management. This involvement produced a deeper understanding of social and gender issues and their relation to resource management process. WWF Nepal also complies with the WWF Network policy on Gender recently developed by Social Development for Conservation Global Team-SD4C and approved by WWF Conservation Committee (See Box: 7) that emphasizes inclusion of gender and social issues in WWF conservation. WWF Nepal's efforts focus on integration and reflection of such national and network policies in the local context.

WWF Nepal has learned from its past practices that weak governance in natural resource management limits local participation and ownership. Governance practices in natural resource management currently faces challenges such as lack of transparency

and accountability, weak and contradictory policies, and lack of institutional capacity to support people. Many of WWF Nepal's conservation programs moves around issues such as resource extraction, human rights, gender and social inclusion, public participation, education, accountability, transparency of institutional and groups efforts, future visioning and predictability, voluntary participation in conservation and development efforts and equal and unanimous benefit sharing from programs and efforts generated. WWF Nepal has deep partnership experiences working and

#### Box 7: WWF Gender Policy Statement

The objective of this policy statement is to ensure that WWF's conservation policies, programmes and activities benefit women and men equally and contribute to gender equity, as part of WWF's broader commitment to strengthen the social dimensions of its projects, programmes and policy work. It describes the rationale for gender mainstreaming in the context of WWF mission, biodiversity and foot print goals and outlines WWF commitment to integrate a gender perspective in our programmatic and operational structures and procedures

Source: Gender Policy Statement, WWF © May 2011

implementing in governance issues. The joint program "SAGUN" with CARE Nepal was one of the best reciprocal learning programs with expert partners. Building on past lesson learning, present strategy will be integrated and implemented keeping the value of good governance principle enabling intuitional process bringing broader changes and impact in social equity and quality of life. As an approach to enabling grass root level, the Community Forest Development. Guideline-2065 promotes the assessment of governance capacity and mandatory provision of public auditing and hearing by CFUGs. This guideline will be one of the reference documents while translating strategies in to action at ground. WWF approach on mainstreaming good governance issues in natural resource management groups enabling integration of basic principle into practice from the beginning of forest operation plan formulation, implementation and ensure inclusion appropriately within document and conservation framework.



CROP-RAIDING IS A MAJOR ISSUE IN MOUNTAIN © KAMAL THAPA/WWF NEPAL





MILKING YAK: A MAJOR INCOME SOURCE FOR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY © KAMAL THAPA/WWF NEPAL



LIVESTOCK GRAZING: A MAJOR LIVELIHOODS STRATEGY OF MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY © UGAN MANANDHAR/WWF NEPAL



# GOAL AND OBJECTIVE

The document further guide WWF Nepal, its partners, and regional and network initiatives to develop a more holistic and adaptive approach that comprises not only identified core issues but also external drivers which are twinned with recent development and impact

## GOAL

The purpose of this document is to recommend strategies that contribute to secure community's livelihoods where the pressure on key biodiversity aspects will be reduced thereby sustaining healthy ecosystems and environmental services. The strategy document will further guide WWF Nepal, its partners, and regional and network initiatives to develop a more holistic and adaptive approach that comprises not only identified core issues but also external drivers which are twinned with recent development and impact to achieve conservation and livelihoods goal.

## OBJECTIVES

The major objective of this document is to deliver sustainable results for livelihoods activities that eventually reducing pressure on biodiversity and ecosystems.

### **Specifically, this document aims to:**

- Ensure community and households capability and sustainable use of natural capital stock for livelihoods security and contribute to reduce pressure on biodiversity;
- Address those aspects of peoples' lives which influence and are influenced by the use and management of natural resources;
- Ensure that enabling policies and institutional conditions are in place;
- Empower local people with the knowledge and skills to participate and make informed decisions;
- Recognize and build upon the traditional knowledge and practices of communities in planning/developing conservation strategies;
- Enable to understand the context and drivers that are interlinked with conservation threats for bringing changes in environment quality and people's wellbeing.

### **What Sustainable Livelihoods means for WWF**

The definition in agreement with the term used by other organizations defines "livelihoods" as all aspects of peoples' lives and should not be limited to those relating to income. In contrast to definitions used by peer organizations (which also include a definition, an approach and a set of principles), the working definition (See Box: 8) gives primary emphasis to conservation and people's relationship with the natural resource base.

#### **Box 8: Sustainable Livelihoods means for WWF**

"Sustainable livelihoods are a holistic approach to conservation which enables people and communities to analyze, decide and act to achieve fair and sustainable management and use of natural resources, and improved individual and community's wellbeing".

Source: WWF's Livelihoods and Social Works, Peer Review Team, 2008, Katmandu, Nepal

## Guiding Principle

Implementation of the recommended livelihoods strategies given in this document will be guided by the following principles in all the phases of the project cycle management. (See Box: 9)

- Conservation can only be successful in the long term if strategies are based on, and compatible with, peoples' current ways of living, their social, political, cultural environments, and ability to adapt.
- Conservation should aim to deliver positive benefits for those people who are dependent on environmental goods and services, and who bear the costs of conservation, environmental degradation and extreme events.
- Conservation should build on local strength, illustrate conservation and livelihoods linkages in tangible forms, holistic and adaptive in nature and place the livelihoods issue as major at the center of conservation programme
- Conservation should ensure social equity of excluded and discriminated groups among the natural resources users on access, use, control over and decision making process.

### Box 9: Guiding Principle:

- Ensuring equability
- Empowering women, deprived and disadvantaged groups
- Building partnership
- Being adaptive and holistic
- Sustainability
- Macro micro linkage
- Building on local strengths
- Livelihoods issues centered

Source: WWF Nepal Strategic Plan (2006-011) and SLA Strategy (2005)



NEW PHE FACILITATORS IN TOT TRAINING, LAMKI, KAILALI © PRAKASH LAMSAL/TAL DHANGADHI



# RATIONAL OF STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

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The rational of livelihoods strategy formulation is relevant because of the community's livelihoods are dependent on biodiversity and ecosystem resources, their livelihoods issues are linked with biodiversity and ecosystem, as well as their livelihoods activities are related with natural and environmental resources. Majority of the underlying and invisible causes to conservation are compounded with livelihoods complexities, social-cultural and political agenda

The majority of communities with whom WWF Nepal works are dependent on natural resources for their livelihood. The people and communities in the high mountains are mostly dependent on livestock farming, tourism, terrace farming, grazing and shifting agriculture whereas people in the mid-hills are more dependent on agriculture, livestock farming, cash crops and NTFP collection, horticulture and small enterprises. Food and clean drinking water security, environmental health, access to clean and alternative energy, basic resource scarcity and environmental challenges are most common in mid-hill and mountain areas. In the Terai, commercial farming, livestock rearing, agro-based enterprises and clearing of forests, either for human settlements or expansion of agricultural land are the some agro-economic activities that lead communities to collect more and more natural resource-based products. National forests, buffer-zones forest and wildlife corridors surrounded by human habitat are especially vulnerable. Understanding economic value of environment, trans-border trafficking and logging, youth retention, resilience building, footprint impact of resource consumption, and linkage of political instability and pressure on conserved biodiversity are considered rational for strategy development. Similarly, transparency in access, use and benefits from natural resource, equity and social inclusion and economic value of biodiversity are key aspects where the recent strategies build on. Looking these contemporary and broader issues and building on own strengths there, more compatible to conservation and implementable strategies are required

The contexts during earlier livelihoods strategy formulation period and now are completely different. The dimension of threats, challenges, drivers, issues and stake of local community national and global priority are almost changed. Underlying causes to conservation threats and livelihoods aspirations are also changed. External drivers are playing crucial role and often limit sustaining conservation efforts. Therefore, as a part of mission to address and achieve desired conservation and livelihoods goals simultaneously, it would be rational formulating appropriate, affordable, acceptable and viable strategies that contribute sustaining livelihoods to reduce pressure on biodiversity and build capability to take conservation initiative. However, the major logics behind strategy formulations are:

- a) Most of the community's livelihoods are dependent on biodiversity and ecosystem
- b) Most of the community's livelihoods issues are linked with biodiversity and ecosystem
- c) Most of the community's livelihoods activities are related with natural resources
- d) Most of the underlying causes and drivers to conservation are compounded with livelihoods complexities



# SCOPE OF WORK

The integrated and holistic approach of addressing livelihoods issues that are rooted within conservation challenges will be the major scope area for this strategy implementation. The scope will illustrate the linkages between issues and strategy adopted to address.

The key challenges and issues related to conservation oriented livelihood have been categorized under seven thematic areas. The Sustainable Livelihoods Strategy document will help address, manage and reflect the linkage between conservation and livelihoods works in a systematically planned manner in these thematic areas. The integrated and holistic approach of addressing livelihoods issues that are rooted within conservation challenges will be the major scope of this strategy. The observed issues are given below (See Box: 10)

## FRESH WATER AND WETLANDS CONSERVATION

Opportunity to promote wise use of wetlands and water resources; promotion of water security to vulnerable communities; multiple use of water for livelihoods and household economy; control and monitoring of water pollution/contamination; support to ensure appropriate reflection of basic principles economic efficiency social equity and environmental sustainability; illegal and unmanaged discharges; habitat pollution; harmful fishing practices such as poisoning and electrocuting; conserving cultural heritages, lakes and streams; sacred rivers and sites preservation.



MELAMCHI: A MAJOR TRIBUTARY TO INDRAWATI © ROSHAN SHERCHAN/WWF NEPAL

## CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND ADAPTATION

Opportunity to build and enhance climate adaptation and resilience capacity of communities; coping capacity; reducing negative impact of climate change on community and resources; response to unexpected vulnerability and disasters; environmental health; increase in use and access of clean and alternative energy; community benefit from Carbon financing and Clean Development Mechanism; institutional capability and sustainability of NRM's with sustainable income generating from biodiversity and carbon credit.



A SCENE OF GLACIER IN RINGMO, DOLA © UCAN MANANDHAR/WWF NEPAL

## FOREST AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

Green enterprises and entrepreneurship; skills and knowledge; ownership building; connectivity and corridor maintenance; environmental flows and services; income source diversification; wild and cultivated NTFPs; best use of wasteland within forest and villages for landless marginal farmers; leasehold forestry; community forest and protection of protected and national forest in and around the landscape; commercial and domestic nursery; religious and other modes of forest conservation promotion are the possible scope areas for intervention.



ONE-HORNED RHINO, OBSERVED IN CHITWAN NP © SABITA MALLA/WWF NEPAL

## SPECIES CONSERVATION

The scope of livelihoods issues addressing within species conservation are mitigation and preventive measures to reduce human wildlife conflict; promotion of eco and nature tourism; diversification of dependency of affected communities natural resources of critical habitats/ buffer zone; social security and support to affected and dependent communities in protected areas and buffer-zones; access to and sharing of park revenue; mainstreaming of governance and inclusion in opportunity; control and decision over buffer zone and forest resources; reducing conflict between national parks and dependent communities.



A ROYAL BENGAL TIGER CUB © MARTIN HARVEY/WWF CANON

## WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL

Opportunity to engage and retain youth through entrepreneurship; anti-poaching; subsidized and easy access loan from cooperatives; use of revolving and relief funds in cooperatives; youth skills and training opportunity; control of illegal and unsustainable use of biodiversity resources; promotion of youth force engagement strategy.



A SKIN OF DEAD SNOW LEOPARD © K. THAPA/WWF NEPAL

## GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Opportunity to enhance understanding of resource governance; equitable access; control and ownership of natural resources; resource distribution; livelihoods security of deprived and asset-less communities; participation, confidence and trust in program and projects; transparency of project activities; motivation of people and partner's participation; contribution to marginalized people to benefit from natural resource management; improved access to quality community services, gender and social policy mainstreaming.



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## POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The scope under this area is to promote strong conducive policies and their implementations for successful conservation and sustaining livelihoods. Engagement in social, livelihoods related policies and developing, formulating and implementation at regional and national levels. Implementation and integration of National and WWF Policies on gender, food security, indigenous peoples, human rights and civil society engaging. Active advocacy and lobbying for conservation-friendly policies for natural resource dependent and deprived family.



REVIEWING COOPERATIVE POLICY © TILAK DHAKAL/WWF NEPAL

### Box 10: Key Observed Issues

- Illegal trade and poaching
- Human wildlife conflict
- Conversion of forest and wetland
- Over exploitation of NTFP MAPs, timber, fuel wood
- Uncontrolled grazing
- Forest fires, slash & burn agriculture
- Land security, tenancy right, conflicts
- Ambiguous and contradictory sectoral policy
- Community ownership & management
- Contamination of water due to toxic residue, fertilizer
- Wise use of freshwater and wetlands resource
- Environmental refugee, climatic challenges
- Low productivity of agriculture
- Limited information on the climate change impact

Source: WWF Nepal Strategic Plan (2006-2011, and draft 2012-2016), Sustainable Livelihoods Strategy (2005)



A LANDSCAPE VIEW CLOSED TO HIGH MOUNTAIN RANGE, SAGARMATHA NATIONAL PARK © KAMAL THAPA/WWF NEPAL.



# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

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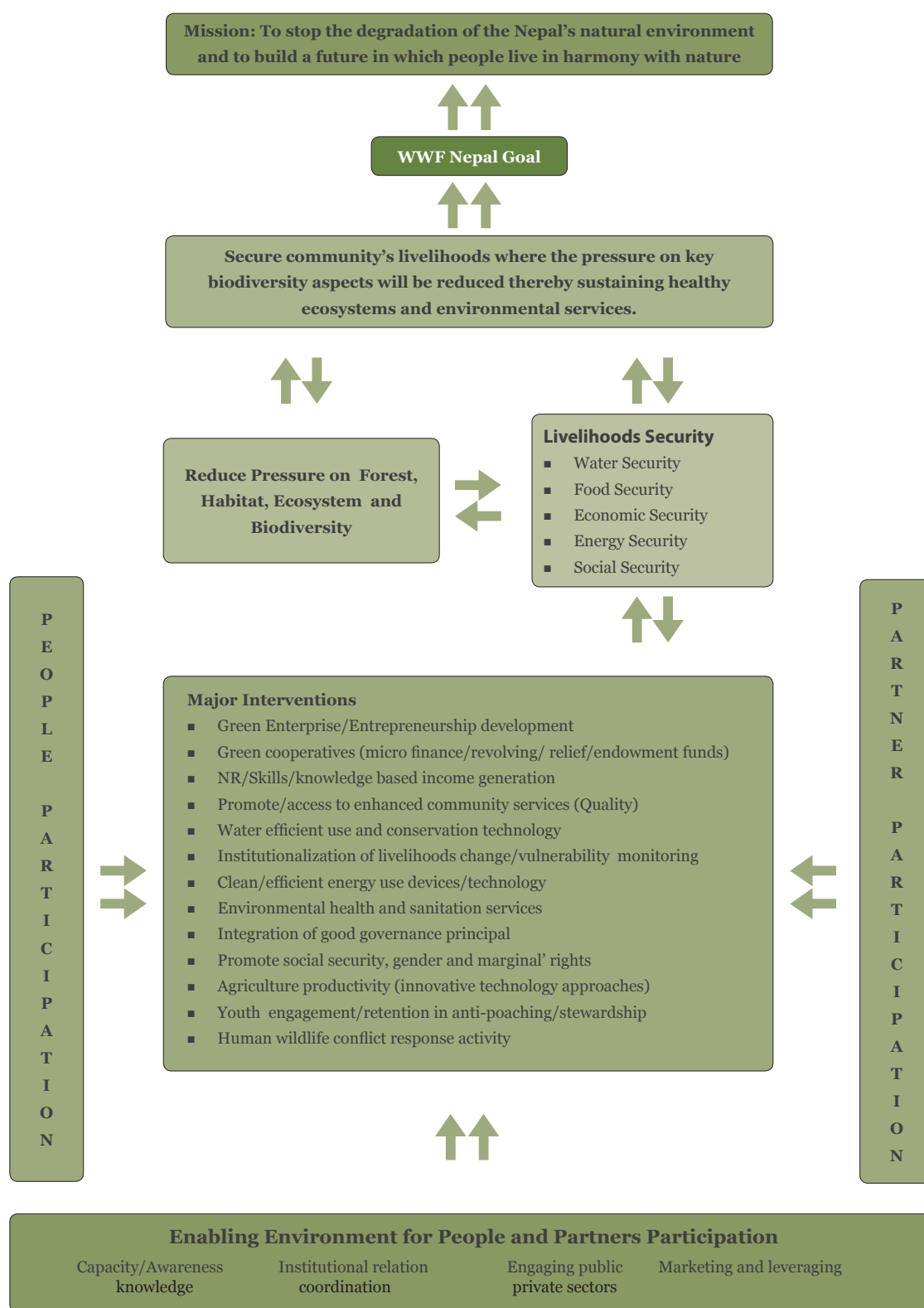
The present conceptual framework emphasizes more on asset holding and building; generating and capitalizing on adaptive capacity; and building capability of local users who are most vulnerable and dependent on natural resources and affected by climate and environmental challenges.

The conceptual framework given below describes the linkages between conservation and livelihoods. Recently, WWF Nepal expanded its implementation sites and themes that critically contributed to both disciplines to eventually build a climate resilient community. The existing conceptual framework is developed and revised from previous frameworks that were limited to specific conservation efforts that emphasized only on forest and NTFP resources enhancing household economy. Compared to previous framework, this emphasizes more on asset holding and building; generating and capitalizing on adaptive capacity; and building capability of local users who are most vulnerable and dependent on natural resources and affected by climate and environmental challenges. Similarly, the framework also describes other aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation that contributes to building the community's coping capacity and resilience. The defined activities will contribute towards improving livelihoods security and reducing human pressure on the ecosystem and biodiversity simultaneously. All these are based on direct learning and working experience with communities and partners at various levels. Energy security and access to energy sources, water security and source conservation, and food security through capitalization of skills and sources that communities adopt are major aspects of this framework. For sustaining conservation efforts in landscapes, it is also expected that community-based natural resource management groups will generate household income and institutional revenue that impact long term sustainability and community engagement. When community and groups start to see the direct economic and material benefits to their livelihoods they can then start to protect, conserve and safeguard the natural resources. It is expected that all interventions will be designed to contribute to a healthy ecosystem and habitat and secured livelihoods. That is why the broader result of the program will eventually contribute to building community and species adaptive capacity to be more resilient and able to face any unexpected changes in the climate and environmental services.

The initial important part of the framework (See figure: 1) involved in this link is building better understanding of an enabling environment among the other theme units and partners. Issues relating to capacity and awareness building, communicating learning and best practices, and promoting demonstrable and tangible results cannot be addressed by WWF Nepal alone. This requires the consolidated efforts of multiple partners, locally, nationally and internationally. WWF Nepal's major landscape interventions in conserving species, protecting habitat and ecosystem, protecting freshwater, curbing illegal wildlife trade and responding to climate change are designed keeping in mind the people living in and affected by programs in and around the landscape. WWF Nepal's interventions therefore reflect the linkage between livelihoods and biodiversity whereby the ecosystem is conserved while securing the livelihoods of the communities.

The major expected outcomes is securing livelihoods of people and communities without creating pressure on natural resources and ecosystems base. WWF Nepal's past efforts such as water smart communities, green enterprises, eco-tourism, sustainable financing for Biogas and livestock and crop insurance will contribute to achieve broader changes and impact in People's quality of life.

**Figure 1: Sustainable Livelihoods Strategy Framework**



© WWF Nepal, Sustainable Livelihoods Strategy framework, 2011





# RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

The strategies recommended here are divided into three categories: basic livelihoods security; governance and social equity; institutional capability and sustainability of the efforts. The major relevant livelihoods strategies and their strategic objectives are outlined below.

## RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

The broader objective of mainstreaming livelihoods strategy is to build healthy ecosystems and secure livelihoods where the pressure on key biodiversity aspects (e.g. forests and habitat, species, freshwater and wetlands) will be reduced and the people will reside where the environmental quality ensured. The possible strategies concluded by larger consultation workshop (See Box: 11) here are divided into three major categories: basic livelihoods security, governance and social equity, institutional capability and sustainability. The major livelihoods strategies recommended for mainstreaming in conservation streams with their strategic objectives are outlined below. (See figure: 2)

Figure 2: Recommended Livelihoods Strategies and Objective

	Strategic Objective	Livelihoods Strategy
1	Support to reduce (diversify) the dependency of marginalized and asset less community on forest and habitat resources	1.1 Diversification of livelihood options through sustainable use of forest resources 1.2 Promoting green enterprises and green job
2	Enhance NRMGs institutional capability to support wildlife affected community (crop, livestock degradation, life casualty and property damage)	2.1 Promotion of community based and responsible tourism (eco, water recreation, wildlife and research etc) 2.2 Develop and implement comprehensive human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategy (preventive and curative measures) 2.3 Support to retention and sustaining youths stewardship against illegal activity and wildlife crime
3	To build climate resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems and vulnerable communities in the landscapes	3.1 Integration of community and ecosystem based adaptation measures 3.2 Promotion and access to renewable and energy efficient technologies use 3.3 Establish equitable benefit sharing mechanism from carbon revenue at the national and local level
4	To improve community based water resource/catchments management in order to ensure sustainable supply of fresh water and conserve critical watershed catchments	4.1 Improve water use efficiency for the economic benefit of local people 4.2 Ensure involvement of affected community in planning and management of water and related resources
5	Enable communities to promote social security specially for identified deprived, asset less and marginalized community	5.1 Integration and reflection of social, gender and governance policies (local, national, regional and networks) 5.2 Ensure proper reflection of marginalization and deprivation issues in Natural Resource Management Groups' legislation and operation plan (e.g. Forest operation plan)
6	To Strengthen and Institutionalize Monitoring and Evaluation System	6.1 Capacitate to institutionalize livelihoods and good governance change monitoring process at different level

### Box 11: Strategies concluded by Larger Stakeholders Consultation

1. Promotion and introduction of climate friendly agriculture practice
2. Enhance adaptive capacity of poor and climate vulnerable people
3. Strengthen community managed green enterprises
4. Strengthen community managed green cooperatives
5. Enhance economic empowerment of NR dependent communities
6. Explore alternatives strategy to reduce timber consumption pressure
7. Engage youths and community leader against illegal trade, poaching and timber logging
8. Reach out larger audience with best practice on environment and poverty linkages
9. Support to pilot multiple economic use of water, wetlands and watershed catchments
10. Strengthen resource governance in NRM institutions
11. Explore the opportunity and benefit from payment of environment services
12. Engage youths and socio-political leaders for sustaining functional biological corridors
13. Enhance users committee's capacity for livelihoods change monitoring
14. Support to advocate/implement/integrate national, regional, and international convention, policies
15. Study and document sacred natural sites in LHI region
16. Engage private sector to ensure shared responsibility and benefit
17. Promote livelihoods diversification
18. Integrate peace building and conflict transformation processes
19. Promote traditional knowledge and practices that are conducive to biodiversity, indigenous and local communities
20. Promote appropriate and affordable alternative energy and the use
21. Ensure the sustainability of local institutions engaged in resource management
22. Develop and implement a comprehensive human-wildlife conflict mitigation (preventive and curative)
23. Support to implement appropriate solutions to building resilience of climate vulnerable community
24. Mainstream social inclusion and good governance in every stages of conservation PCM
25. Communicate best practice that illustrate the linkages between conservation and livelihoods
26. Engage resource dependent communities in every stages of conservation program cycle management

Source: WWF Nepal SLA Strategy Review Workshop 2010, Kathmandu

## AREAS OF CHANGE

The recommended livelihoods strategies are dynamic and flexible in nature and are not time bound. The expected results can be measured as an impact of effective and efficient implementation with appropriate approaches and interventions. The cumulative effects of conservation and livelihoods interventions are expected to bring broader changes in people's quality of life (See Box: 12) which will eventually contribute to reducing pressure on biodiversity, on the one hand, and securing livelihoods of dependent communities on the other.

The change in people's wellbeing, dependency and resilience capacity is diverse even within homogeneous groups. It is therefore important to identify the change within and among the social groups, according to social, cultural, economic and geographical differences, to assess the effective implementation, efficiency and relevance of strategies. To measure the areas of change, WWF Nepal has developed a livelihoods change monitoring information analysis framework (See figure: 3).

### Box 12: Area of changes

1. Institutional Capability (Sustainability)
2. Livelihoods Resources (Wellbeing)
3. Livelihoods Strategy (Pressure/trend)
4. Livelihoods Vulnerability (Issues/trend)
5. Good Governance and Social Inclusion (Equity and Social safety)

Source: WWF Nepal LGCM Manual 2010

Figure 3: Livelihoods and good governance change monitoring information analysis framework

Broader Change Areas	Criteria for Livelihoods and Good Governance Change Monitoring Information Analysis										
	Change in Wellbeing										
	(a) Economic Class			(b) Socially, politically, culturally and gender based dis-advantaged and discriminated groups					(c) Geographical Region		
	Better off	Middle	Deprived	Caste	IPs	Dalits Oppressed	Others Minority	Female Headed HH	Mountain	Hills	Terai Madhes
Change in Resources											
Change in Strategy											
Change in good governance and social inclusion											
Change in Vulnerability (Issues)											
Change in coping strategy											

Source: WWF Nepal, LGCM Manual, 2010



HIGHERED TOMATO: AN INCOME SOURCE OF MARGINAL FARMER © TARA P. GNYAWAL/WWF NEPAL



BHUCHUK (HIPPOPHAE TIBETANA) © DIPESH PYAKUREL/CONSULTANT, WWF NEPAL

## BROADER LIVELIHOOD IMPACTS

Looking at WWF Nepal's past work on biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods that are complemented by mainstreaming sustainable livelihoods approaches and defining poverty-environment linkages, five major livelihoods impact areas have been defined. It is expected that WWF Nepal diverse efforts on conservation and livelihoods contribute bringing broader impact on following.

### Food Security

Efforts on sustaining ecological services, pollination, climate friendly farming and capability to adopt modern farming technology will contribute towards increasing food productivity and benefit food-deficient communities. In addition, through derived asset transformation capability and program efforts, food security will be increased for dependent communities from diverse sources.



QUEST FOR FOOD © TARAP. GNAYWALI/WWF NEPAL

### Water Security

Interventions on conservation of water source/catchments, forest regeneration and protection of streams will help increase water levels and volume and also ensure sustainable water supply to deprived community who are completely dependent on farming. Alternative water storage options and technologies, water smart community, and efficient use technologies will also help communities to cope with and adapt to water scarcity. Conserving watershed areas around cultivable and arable lands will promote habitat of pollinating insects and soil fertility, thereby improving productivity and ensuring food and water security.



FETCHING WATER © TARAP. GNAYWALI/WWF NEPAL

### Energy Security

Promotion of alternative energy and efficient energy use, increasing access to and capability of service providing institutions and NRMGs, and enabling policies are expected to provide energy security for local communities eventually reducing human pressure on biodiversity. Effective implementation of livelihoods strategy along with diverse interventions are expected



TRADITIONAL FUEL USE © TARAP. GNAYWALI/WWF NEPAL

to benefit communities from efficient energy use while generated carbon credit can in turn be used for sustainable use of clean and efficient energy technology.

### **Social Security**

Collective efforts and contributions of partner institutions, effective implementation of policies (social, conservation and sectoral), and good governance and inclusion practices in the landscapes will contribute to enhance social security. This includes securing livelihoods of communities dependent on natural resource; facilitating use, access, control and decision-making on opportunities and conserved resources; indigenous knowledge, skills and practices on health and environment; and honing leadership skills in communities from conservation and development efforts.



INDIGENOUS HEALING KNOWLEDGE © GAUTAM PAUDEL/WWF NEPAL

### **Economic Security**

Cumulative and institutional efforts in increasing economic opportunity, engaging private and government sectors, and promoting green jobs generated by green cooperatives and enterprises are expected to enhance economic security. In addition, institutional income from natural resource management and leveraging will also help build partnerships with the private and semi-private sectors for generating more economic opportunity, engagement and employment.



INDIGENOUS SKILLS © TARA P. GNANAWAL/WWF NEPAL



# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

WWF Nepal's learning on livelihoods monitoring process will be used, which is conducted through regular tracking of results generated by the program and from thematic and consultant reports, periodical reviews and evaluations. Changes in wellbeing and other aspect of life and livelihoods will be captured through change monitoring process while the broader impact areas will be measured at the end or after the project completion by external consultants.

Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency of the recommended strategies is important to justify that the adopted livelihoods strategies are appropriate and relevant to current conservation priorities and can contribute to achieve program goals. To monitor the effectiveness and trends of livelihoods change, WWF Nepal's own livelihoods monitoring framework will be used. This livelihoods change monitoring framework was developed based on own learning process which was learnt (See Box: 13) through regular tracking of results generated by the program and from thematic and evaluation reports, periodical reviews and interactions during the last decades working with partners and community. Although, changes in wellbeing and other aspect of life and livelihoods will be captured through change monitoring process while the broader impacts will be measured at the end or after the project completion by external consultants. Both impact evaluation and change monitoring results will expect to contribute to justify the relevancy and compatibility of implemented livelihoods strategies.

Livelihoods change monitoring and information analysis framework (See: Figure 3) have been developed to demonstrate logical linkages between conservation targets (as defined in strategic plan-2012-2016), livelihoods issues, strategies, interventions and eventually changes and impacts that WWF Nepal will contribute.

The Livelihoods and Good Governance Change Monitoring manual (LGCM-2010) may be one of the guiding reference manual to help monitor the relevancy of the issues and the effectiveness and efficiency of accompanying strategies. The manual will also help assess the benefits to marginal and deprived communities from natural resource management and induced opportunity according to socio-economic, gender and geographical attributes.

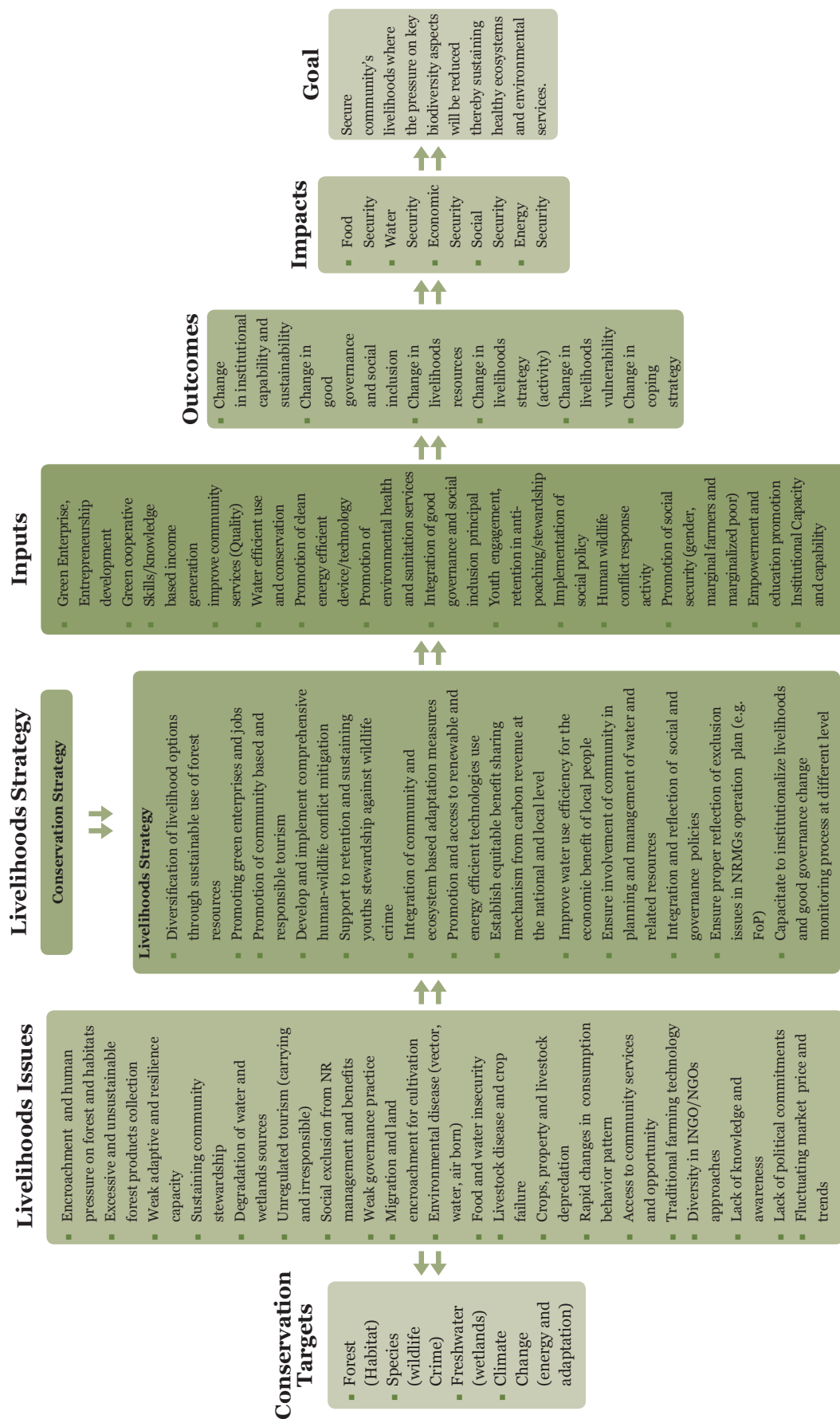
Each strategy recommended in the document will be monitored according to the following anticipated outcomes and impact (See Figure 4).

## **Box 13: WWF Nepal's learning from early practices in livelihoods impact monitoring (Gap analysis conclusion)**

".....completion of program activities is a good accomplishment for an organization, the results from such completed activities may not always be positive. Therefore, while monitoring the program, it is essential to assess carefully whether the program is aimed at bringing positive changes to the livelihoods of the targeted groups..... and this process is developed to achieve these aspects of people's live"

Source: LGCM Manual Pg. 12, 2010, WWF Nepal

**Figure: 4 Livelihoods Monitoring Framework (Strategy efficiency, effectiveness and relevancy)**





# ANNEX

## OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS AND KEY TERMINOLOGIES

- **Sustainable Livelihoods:** “A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base”.  
Source: DFID Guidance Sheet (2001)
- **What Sustainable Livelihoods means for WWF:** “Sustainable livelihoods are a holistic approach to conservation which enables people and communities to analyze, decide and act to achieve fair and sustainable management and use of natural resources, and improved individual and community wellbeing”.  
Source: Peer Review conclusion of WWF’s Livelihoods and Social Works in LHI, 2008, Nepal
- **Target groups:** All natural resource users HHs, living in and around the landscapes, bottleneck, corridors and direct consumers are the program affected and target groups. The target groups are further classified accordingly.
- **Primary Target Groups (Direct Beneficiaries):** These are the households (HHs) and/or community who are directly benefited by the project interventions. Their everyday activities are affected by changes, and therefore availability, in the natural resource base, whose right of access is governed either by the state or the local NRM groups and their constitutions, mandated rules and regulations. These beneficiaries live in and around the landscapes, critical corridors, green economic corridor, river catchments, and buffer zone area and even within PA in the case of mountain. The selected HHs are members of any one of the natural resource management groups e.g. CFUG, BZUG, CBAPOs, SLCC, Cooperatives, CAUC, IWRMC, BZMC, CAUG, MG, NTFP - groups etc. within program affected areas. Those deprived HHs are identified locally through a process of participatory wellbeing ranking (PWBR) among the households and community.
- **Secondary Target Groups (Indirect Beneficiaries):** These are the HHs and/or communities who are partially dependent on public/community forests and other natural resources, and have their life system supported by other income sources as well. They are usually a little better off financially with year-round food sufficiency, but no food surplus.
- **Tertiary Target Groups (Distance Beneficiaries):** These are the HHs or community who do not directly consume resources from either community, state or privately owned lands for their subsistence. However, any change in the natural resources base around them will also affect them, for instance changes in water resources (quality and quantity), market prices of forest products, forest based enterprises, land fertility, floods, decertifications and siltation, supply of fuel wood, livestock, market demands for the products, availability of raw materials for their enterprises etc. These groups indirectly benefit from the project and have alternative options to diversify their livelihoods. The tertiary targets or groups are not directly involved in any NRM based institution or group processes within landscape, but have a high influence in rural community and bureaucracy for resource consumption, large asset accumulation and less engagement in labor-intensive work have political connections and are power-holders, creating pressure and market demand.
- **Better-off HHs:** Identified and defined by Participatory Wellbeing Ranking Process at local level. Based on the data set kept by NRM groups for their working objectives
- **Deprived HHs:** Defined by the Participatory Well-being Ranking Process at local level. Based on the data set kept by NRM groups for their working objectives

- **NRM Groups:** Natural resource management groups indicate any type of groups formed with the objective of natural resource management in the landscapes, have a constitution, membership of users HHS, an executive committee, are democratically formed and represented, have annual plan of action and Operation Plan, regularly audit their income and expense through public auditing and hearing and general assembly, adopt good governance principles and resource management rule and regulation principle legitimately. Examples of NRM groups are: CFUG-Community Forest Users Groups; CFCC-Community Forest Coordination Committee; CBAPO-Community based Anti-poaching Operation; FECOFUN-Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal; Cooperatives; BZUC-Buffer-zone Users Committee; BZMC-Buffer-Zone Management Committee; BZUG-Buffer Zone User Group in Terai Arc Landscape and CAUC- Conservation Area User Committee; CAUG-Conservation Area Users Group; MG-Mother Group; SLCC-Snow Leopard Conservation Committee; CAMC-Conservation Area Management Council; SDG-Socially Disadvantaged Groups; IWRMG-Integrated Water Resource Management Groups; IWRMC-Integrated Water Resource Management Committees in Mountain.
- **Caste/Ethnicity, Dalits and Madhesi:** defined by the NEFIN-National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities; National Aadibasi Uthaa Pratisthan and the Dalit Commission

### Classification of Social/Cultural Groups

Dalit/Oppressed: Damai, Kami, Sarki, Badi, Gandharba, Pote, Khadgi, Dhobi, Kalar, Kakaihiya, Kori, Khatik, Chidimar, Tatma, Pathharkathha, Pasi, Baantar, Maitta (Halkhor), Sarvanga, Chamar, Mushar, Dushad, Paman, Dome, Halkhor, Khatwe

Janjaatee: Tamang, Magar, Gurung, Rai, Limbu, Newar, Thakali, Tharu, Danuwar, Rajbansi, Dhimal, Kumal, Bote, Chepang, Sunuwar, Bhujel, Darai, Thaamee, Taajpuriya, Satar, Sherpa, Dura, Jirel, Pahari, Majhi, Kusunda, Bankariya, Raute, Surel, Hayoo, Raajee, Kisan, Lepcha, Meche, Kushbadiya, Siyar, Lhomi, Thudaam, Jhaangad, Bhote, Topkegola, Dolpo, Free, Mugal, Laarke, Lhopa, Walung, Chhairatan, Taambe, Yakhha, Chhantya, Byaasi, Hyaalmo, Dhanuk, Baramu, Gangai,

Bahun/Chhetri: Bahun, Chhetri, Sanyasi, Raajput, Kayastha, Mardwari,

Others (Excluded): Yadab, Koiri (Kushwaha), Teli, Sudi, Kurmi, Kaanu/Shah, Kalwar, Halwai, Thakur, Bamdhe, Bahayee, Baaniya, Nuniya, Kumhar, Lodhar, Bing, Bandaa, Bhediyar, Maali, Kamarl, Dhuniya, Kewat, Sonar, Malaha, Musalmaan

Source: Aadibaasi Janjaatee Uthaa Rastriya Pratisthaan and NEFIN, 2009

### ■ Landscapes and Programs

#### Terai Arc Landscape-TAL (PABZ, DOF and priority area)

Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Nepal, a landscape level conservation program, aims to connect the core areas between the important protected areas, in the Terai region of Nepal, for the conservation of flagship species- the Royal Bengal Tiger, Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, and the Asian Elephant. TAL-Nepal encompasses an area of 23,199 sq.km and extends from the east to west covering protected areas, national forests, agricultural lands, settlement areas, and water bodies in 14 Terai districts. The landscape ensures the ecological, economic, and socio-cultural integrity of the region by supporting biodiversity rich forests, soil, and the watershed of the Terai and Churia hills. About 6.7 million people with their 4.5 million cattle depend on the forests, soil and watershed of the Terai region for their lives and livelihood.

TAL Nepal is jointly implemented by WWF Nepal, the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, and Department of

Forests under the Terai Arc Landscape–Nepal Strategic Plan (2004-2014) and has a long term vision of 50 years. Besides focusing on species level activities, TAL addresses the livelihoods complexity issues of the people, living in and around Terai, as one of its conservation strategies. A number of conservation related diverse livelihood issues are present in Terai. Out of which, agriculture expansion, forest fires, overgrazing, wild life killing, poaching and illegal timber trade, non-timber forest products collection, fuel wood use etc. are some of the prevailing issues. According to the root cause study, the root causes for these issues are broadly: poverty, increasing population, lack of financial income, weak governance, lack of markets, lack of education and awareness, external forces such as climate change, natural disasters, political instability/insecurity etc.

**Sacred Himalayan Landscape-SHL (KCA, KRBM, SPABZ, LNP and priority area)**

The Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL), a trans-boundary conservation area, covers an area of 39,021 square kilometres and extends from the Langtang National Park in central Nepal to Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve in western Bhutan. Of the total area, 73.5% falls in Nepal. The landscape supports ecological services critical for maintaining biodiversity and includes a diverse range of ethnic groups and cultures. About 80% of the population (5 million) in this landscape depends on the forests, agriculture and tourism for their livelihood. However, people of SHL are hardly getting any benefits from the market linkage for the forest and agriculture products and development initiatives in SHL. Several factors such as trans-human trend, inaccessibility, lack of infrastructure and weak governance are a hindrance to the development in the livelihood of the SHL people. In addition, social and gender discrimination, inadequate recognition of indigenous skills, knowledge, and skills, poverty etc. add more challenges for the livelihood components. SHL therefore aims to conserve this globally important biodiversity by fostering the diverse indigenous cultures and traditions that nurture and preserve nature, as reflected in its conservation vision. SHL focuses its activities on four major areas: Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCAP), Sagarmatha National Park & Buffer Zone (SNBZ), and Langtang National Park (LNP) and Koshi River Basin Management (Dudhkoshi and Indrawati catchment).

■ **Koshi River Basin Management (KBRM) Programm:**

KBRM is a joint intervention of WWF Nepal and Water and Energy Commission (WECS). It is one of WWF Nepal's main programs implemented within Sacred Himalaya Landscape premises. Koshi functions as one of the major life support systems for approximately 5.2 million people living along its basin in Nepal. It provides irrigation facility to about 215,000 hectares of agricultural land. In the KBRM strategy, social equity has been identified as one of the pillars along with economic efficiency and sustainable environment. However, it has addressed livelihood components in all the three pillars as a prime complementary factor.

The economic efficiency pillars talk about eliminating poverty by diversifying the water uses for multiple purposes such as drinking water, hydropower, agriculture, recreation and industrial and commercial use and improvement by promoting economic growth through the wise-use and development of water resources of the basin. Social equity focuses on ensuring equal access of marginalized communities to water and related resources to the water resources, fair and equal sharing of benefits, sharing and involving poor people to ensure involvement of relevant stakeholder in planning and management of projects as well as enhancing decision making capacity of the poor



# GLOSSARY AND TERMINOLOGIES

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<b>ADRA</b>	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
<b>BZ/M/UC/G</b>	Buffer-zone Management/User Committee/Groups
<b>CBRP</b>	Critical Corridor and Bottleneck Restoration Program
<b>CFCC</b>	Community Forest Coordination Committee
<b>CFUG</b>	Community Forest User's Group
<b>CAUC/G</b>	Conservation Area User Committees/Groups
<b>DNPWC</b>	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
<b>DoF</b>	Department of Forest
<b>GPF</b>	Global Program Framework
<b>GLOF</b>	Glacial Lake Outburst Flood
<b>KRBM</b>	Koshi River-besi Management
<b>LHI</b>	Living Himalaya Initiative
<b>LGCM</b>	Livelihoods and Goods Governance Change Monitoring
<b>MAP</b>	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MPI</b>	Multidimensional Poverty Index
<b>NTFPs</b>	Non-timber Forest Products
<b>NBS</b>	Nepal Biodiversity Strategy
<b>NRM</b>	Natural Resource Management
<b>OHPI</b>	Oxford Human and Poverty Index
<b>PABZ</b>	Protected Areas and Buffer-zone
<b>PRSP</b>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
<b>PHE</b>	Population Health and Environment
<b>SLCC</b>	Snow-leopard Conservation Committee
<b>SDAN</b>	Sustainable Development Agenda, Nepal
<b>SLA</b>	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
<b>SPABZ</b>	Sagarmatha Protected Area and Buffer-zone
<b>SAGUN</b>	Strengthening Actions for Governance in Utilization of Natural Resource
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nation Development Program



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# WWF in Numbers

1961

WWF was founded in 1961

+ 100

WWF is in over 100 countries,  
on 5 continents

+ 5m

WWF has over 5 million  
supporters

+ 5,000

WWF has over 5,000  
staff worldwide



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