

NEPAL

Ecosystem-based Adaptation 2019-2022



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Creating 120 hectares of improved terraces on farmland to reduce soil erosion and water run-off, thereby boosting crop productivity



Building 36 water conservation ponds, 24 community rainwater harvesting devices, and 36 filtering dams – all of which increase water supplies for vulnerable communities



Updating 100 community forest management plans to include Ecosystem-based Adaptation interventions



Restoring at least 1,000 hectares of forests and 450 hectares of rangeland in 10 municipalities

PROJECT TITLE:

CATALYSING ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT NATURAL CAPITAL AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN DEGRADED FORESTS AND RANGELANDS OF NEPAL

EXECUTING ENTITY:



Ministry of Forests & Environment,
Government of Nepal

KEY TARGETS:

1,450

Hectares of forests and rangeland restored to protect communities from climate change

57,170

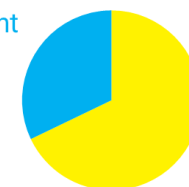
Individuals benefitting directly from the project's interventions

96

Water storage and harvesting structures built for climate-vulnerable communities

FUNDING:

GEF Grant
\$5.2m



Cofinance
\$11m

Supported by the
Least Developed Countries Fund

UN
environment
programme



INTRODUCTION

- Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia with a population of around 30 million. Climate change has been threatening the quality and quantity of water supplies in the country.
- This project is increasing the capacity of the government and local communities to use Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) to adapt to climate change in forests and rangelands in mid-hill and high mountain areas of Nepal.
- The project's main approaches include: restoring forest and rangeland ecosystems to protect communities from climate impacts; strengthening the technical capacity of Nepal's institutions to implement EbA; mainstreaming EbA into national policy; constructing infrastructure for water conservation; and introducing alternative climate-resilient livelihoods.

TECHNOLOGIES & METHODS

- **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)** is central to the project's activities. EbA is the strategy of protecting or restoring ecosystems to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on people.
- For example, the project is **restoring forests** as they protect communities and crops from drought by retaining moisture in the soil. Restoring forests and **rangeland habitats** also binds the soil together, holding back soil erosion caused by intense rainfall.
- The restoration process is choosing indigenous tree and grass species that: i) are **climate-resilient**; and ii) **provide benefits** to indigenous and local communities (e.g. medicines).
- In 3 Districts, the project is establishing **tree nurseries** with a combined capacity of 150,000 seedlings to support restoration activities.
- The project is creating 120 hectares of **improved terraces**. Terracing is an agricultural technique that reshapes the land into a series of level or gently sloping platforms to **slow the movement of water** on the soil surface, thus reducing soil erosion and increasing the amount of water available for crops.
- To complement the EbA measures, the project is building **infrastructure to conserve and store water**, including 36 filtering dams, 36 water conservation ponds, and 24 community rainwater harvesting devices.
- To encourage the uptake of EbA in Nepal, the project is **training 150 national and district officials** in implementing EbA, while producing an **EbA upscaling and financing plan**.
- 3 **Community Livelihood Improvement Plans (CLIPs)** are being developed for local communities in forest and rangeland ecosystems. The project is conducting field visits to identify climate-resilient, income-

CLIMATE IMPACTS

- In Nepal, increasing **variability of rainfall** is resulting in drought conditions during the dry season and more intense flooding during the monsoon. Combined with increasing temperatures, this leads to high levels of topsoil erosion on farmland, hampering crop productivity and food security.
- The increase in floods and droughts also results in the **loss of forests and rangelands**, harming communities that depend on natural resources (e.g. timber) for day-to-day living. In Nepal, a majority of people still depend on subsistence agriculture and natural resources for livelihoods.
- The **unsustainable extraction** and degradation of forests compounds the climate-induced impacts because **forests reduce droughts and floods** by absorbing water in the soil and recharging groundwater supplies.

PROJECT LOCATION



The project is being implemented in 3 municipalities in Achham District, 5 in Dolakha District, and 2 in Salyan District.

-generating practices for the new livelihoods.

- 2 **national awareness campaigns** are being organized across a wide spectrum of audiences from policy level to schoolchildren to generate awareness of EbA. Activities include a **radio programme, magazine articles, and 4 educational tools** used by government institutions to integrate EbA in educational programmes and national planning.

CONTACTS

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