

Field perspectives on forest governance



Bharat Pokharel
Country Director HELNETAS
Swiss Intercooperation Nepal

Kaspar Schmidt
Team Leader Environment
and Climate Change

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Field perspectives on forest governance

... with a focus on tenure



Jiri Nepal compared

1968

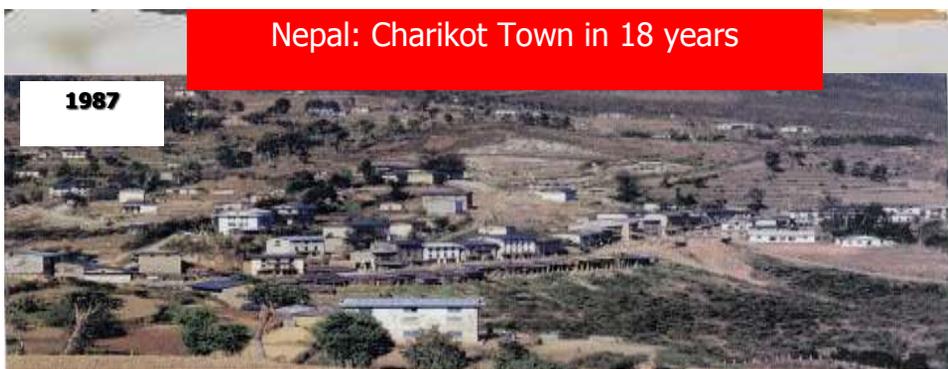


2011



Nepal: Charikot Town in 18 years

1987



2011



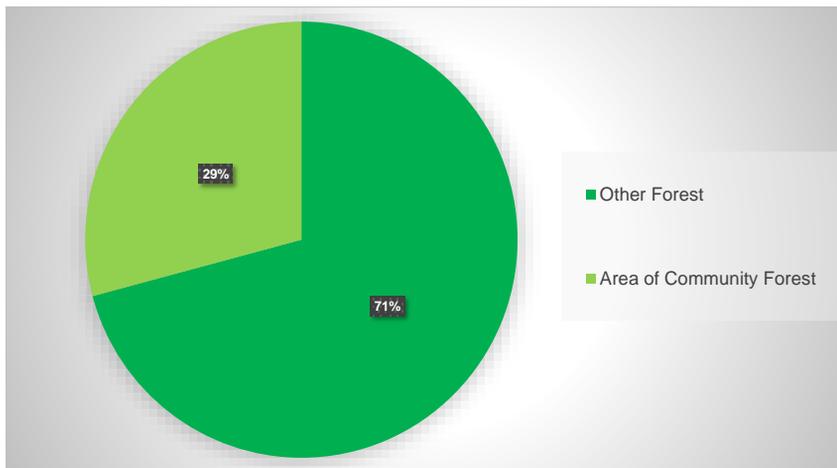
Dadapakhar Nepal in 1978



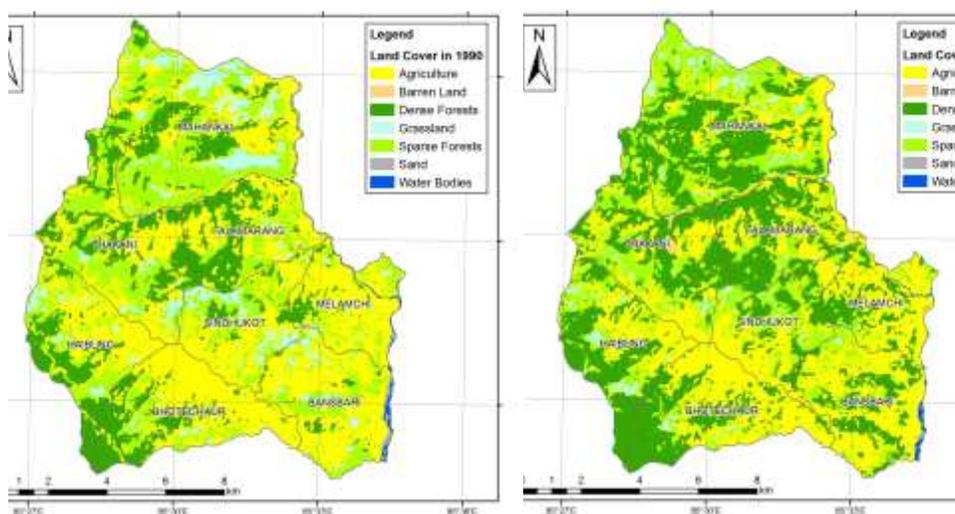
Same area in 2011



Proportion of Community managed forests 1987-2014



Landcover status in 1990 and 2010



Forest outcome in 20 years



Regimes	Change into		No change
	New forests in %	Improved forests in %	Remained as it is in %
Community managed forests	33	20	37
Privately owned and managed forests	11	25	40
Government managed forests	17	15	56

Main messages



Good news is that -

- Forests have **improved** in all regimes
- Community forests have done very well followed by private and then government managed forests

Challenges remains in terms of -

56% government managed forests, 40% private forests and 37% community forests remains **unchanged**

Learning

Institutional, ecological and economic development do not happen simultaneously, rather it can be achieved sequentially – institutions followed by ecology and then only economy

Achievements, lessons learnt



People drive change

Strong bottom-up desire for change, changes in tenure regimes more likely to happen under conditions of scarcity of resources ('environmental crisis')

Political context - opportunities for change in forest tenure regimes

Political change provides opportunities for change in forest tenure regimes (Bhutan, Nepal); political instability risks blocking progress (Madagascar)

Multi-stakeholder approach recognising the plurality of interests and stakeholders

Recognition of local people's capacities to manage forests – change in attitude

Existing management capacities of communities increasingly recognised, but still sometimes put in question

Role change for forestry staff

From ensuring forest protection to supporting other stakeholders in forest management.



Achievements, lessons learnt



Local forest tenure arrangements, power relations

Recognise complexity of existing local tenure arrangements and power structures and relations in decision making on resource management; as one of the first steps when preparing an intervention;

Legal pluralism

Complexity of traditional rights, often not (fully) compatible with formal law
Collaborative norms (Sp 'normas comunales', Andes): regulating access to resources and resource management based on cultural values and management practices of local communities; complementary to legal norms; collaboration of local governments crucial for elaboration, adoption and implementation of norms.

Long term commitment as a precondition for supporting change

Community forestry development as a social learning process, benefits from long term commitment, dedication and patience, grateful for long term commitment of SDC and other partners and donors.

Achievements, successes



... beyond tenure

Gender and social equity

Affirmative action (Nepal):

- woman and man of every household members of CFUGs
- quota for women and disadvantaged groups (locally defined) for executive committees

National community forestry guidelines (2009):

- Compulsory allocation of 35% of income to extreme poor
- Well-being ranking pioneered in SDC-funded project (NSCFP)

Most progress when (national) legislation and rules and bottom-up demand for change converge;

Transparency and accountability

Transparent decision making in committees and groups, flow of information, record and book keeping etc. (Bhutan, Nepal, other countries), public hearings to promote accountability

Tool: governance coaching at group level to encourage transparency, accountability etc.



Continuing challenges



Conservative trends

Overly conservative communities (Himalayas), 'green grabbing': very 'conservative conservation' approaches continue excluding local people from forest use/management (Madagascar)

Linkages groups - local governments – forest service

Better linkages between user/management groups and local governments, relationships and accountability mechanisms between local groups – local governments - forest service (Kyrgyzstan, Bhutan)

Traditional vs administrative boundaries of forests

Complexity of bureaucratic procedures and requirements - transaction costs

Balance between ensuring compliance with laws and norms transaction costs

Equity and balancing power relations

Intra-group equity, power relations; inter-group equity: disparities in resource endowment between different groups, ways to balance out such disparities, role of state, federations, others?

What rights?

Devolution of management and use rights or of full bundle of property rights (ownership)?

Thank you



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