

Biodiversity Conservation Efforts:, Realities, Challenges and Potentialities

**Nabaraj Dahal
Bhola Bhattarai
Nepal**

Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- National and Local Efforts
- Merits and Drawbacks
- Challenges
- Possibilities

Introduction: Nepal at a Glance

- 147181 Sq. Km (0.03% of world area)
- 27 million population
- 29% forest area
- Rich Bio-diversity (Bird 5.5%, Mammals 3%, Butterflies 5%)
- More than 7000 Plants species
- Some endemic to Nepal
- 80% Populace depend on subsistence agriculture



Introduction...

- Altitudinal Variance (65-8848 m)
- Eco-regions: 200
- Ecosystems: 118
- Forest Type: 35



Introduction

Bio-Diversity: The presence of all fauna and flora in a specific area under consideration

Major wild lives: One horned Rhino, Elephant, Tiger, Red Panda, Crocodiles, Pheasants, Butterflies

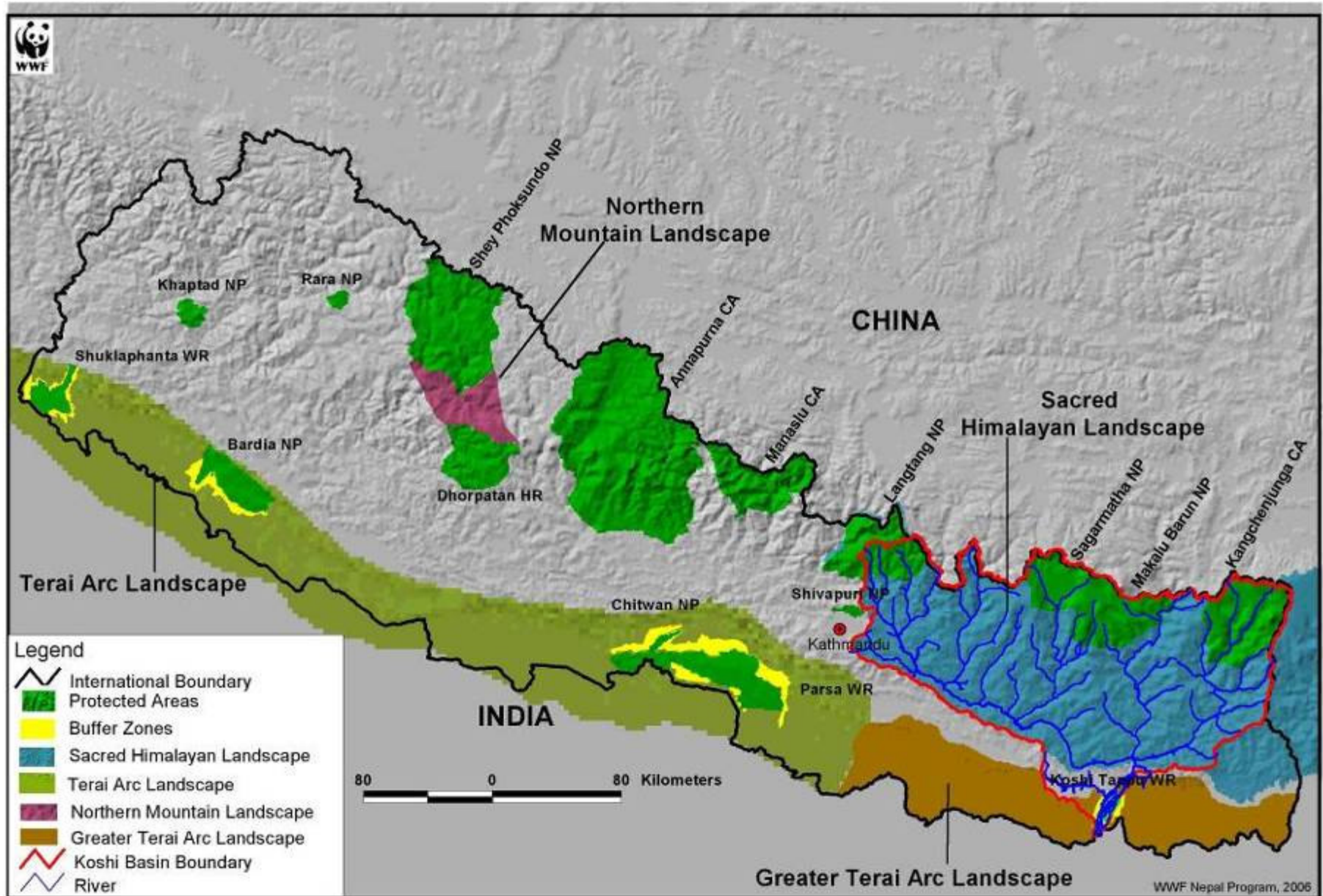


National Initiatives

- Development of **National laws** and **bylaws** in promoting biodiversity conservation
- **Ratification** of international conventions, treaty and protocols related to biodiversity conservation including **CBD**
- **Nepal Biodiversity Strategy Plan Preparation: 2002**
- **Nepal Biodiversity Implementation Plan:2004**
- **Access to Benefit Sharing bill is drafted before 8 years but not yet endorsed.**

- Establishment and expansion of PAs including NPs, WR, HR, CAs.
- Concept of Buffer Zones
- Promulgation of Community Forestry Campaign

National Initiatives.. Government



National Initiatives: Forest Management

- **Community Forestry**
- Leasehold Forestry
- Private Forestry
- Government Managed Forestry
- Religious Forestry
- Collaborative Forest Management

Local Efforts: Communities

- Community Forestry Program recognize local ownership and thus get back the **lost greenery**
- Multiple effect of CF in biodiversity protection, management and enhancement through implementation of Sustainable Forest Management(SFM)
- Frequency, diversity and coverage of valuable wildlife in CF increase in local effort

Community Efforts

मुलुक

संक्रान्तिमा अब चरा मारिँदैन

हरक वर्षको माघेसंक्रान्तिका बेला पालुङ क्षेत्रमा अरु चराहरूको काल आउँछ्यो। त्यसमाथि पनि चराहरू सजिलैसँग मारे पाउँदैनथे। 'परम्परा'को नाउँमा चराहरूलाई लखेटी लखेटी धकाएर मारिन्थ्यो। यही परम्पराबाट अहिले पनि गाउँघरमा 'भ्याकर खेदाइ' शब्दावली प्रचलनमा छ। तर यसपालि पालुङ क्षेत्रमा 'भ्याकर खेदाइ' भएन। माघेसंक्रान्ति आयो-गयो, चराहरू मरेनन्। सामुदायिक भएपछि अहिले राम्रै पालुङका बच्चाहरू हराभरा छन्। वनमा चराचुरीमा पनि चढेका छन्। समुदायमा आएको जागरणका कारण तिनीहरू गुलेलीको निसानाबाट जोगिएका छन्। 'अरु बेला त माने। चरा प्रचलन हटेकै छ, माघेसंक्रान्तिमा पनि हट्यो, राई भयो', मेरुकाको सामुदायिक वन उपभोक्ता समूहका अध्यक्ष देवराज उप्रेती भन्छन्।

माघेसंक्रान्ति भर्षावृत्तिकै नेपालीहरू 'पुसको पाप, माघको खास' भन्ने उखान सम्झन्छन्। संक्रान्तिको दिन खाने तिलको वेइड, फाकु, तल्ले अर्धिल्लो दिनमै तयार पार्ने प्रचलन छ। पहिले पहिले मानिसहरू तल्ले खोल जंगल जाने गर्थे र चरा पनि माथि। परम्पराकै रूपमा विरलमात्र भएकाले बालबालिकाकैले पाकाहरूसम्म चरा लखेट्न बसिन्थे। राईभरिक्रम मानिसहरू मिल्थे, जंगलबाट खेरेर बेसीसम्म ल्याउँथे

अनि अलिबेर बेहोस जस्तै भएकै चराहरूलाई कसैले त्यस्तिकै समात्ने कसैले लाठालीसँग लिक्याउँथे। घनीखोलाका देववहादुर काकी सम्झन्छन्, 'यसरी लखेटिनेमा खास गरी भ्याकर प्रजातिका चरा हुन्थे अरु त सफेला लखेटिन्थ्यो।' चरा मारेर चाड मनाउने चलन भएकाले गाउँघरमा अहिले पनि माघेसंक्रान्तिमा खाडिने मासुलाई सिकार' भन्ने चलन छ।

पालुङ क्षेत्रको जंगलमा नेपालमा मात्र पाइने चरा काँडे भ्याकर पनि पाइन्छ। त्यसो त यस क्षेत्रमा के कति प्रकारका चराहरू पाइन्छन् भन्ने विषयमा अध्ययन हुन बाँकी छ। रूपेश्वर सामुदायिक वन उपभोक्ता समूहका अध्यक्ष राजेश केसी भएका चराहरू केही वर्षपयता आएर मानिसको निसानाबाट जोगिएको बताउँछन्। उनको अनुभव छ, 'पहिले पहिले पियापसलमा पनि गुलेली बेचन राखेको देखिन्थ्यो, अहिले बजारमा पाउन मुस्किल छ।'

बुई वर्षअघि चराका साथी गौतमप्रसाद सापकोटा आएर स्कुलस्कुलमा एक सय प्रकारका चराहरूको आधाञ्जु सुनाएपछि पालुङका विद्यार्थीहरूमा चराभक्त अरु बढेको थियो। अहिले विद्यार्थीहरू 'इको क्लब' गठन गरेर चरा मार्ने नहुने सन्देश दिन धाँकेका छन्।

■ सुरजकुमार भुजेल/मकवानपुर

समाज

संरक्षणमा चासो



संरक्षणमा चासो
बागेश्वरी जंगल क्षेत्रमा राम्रो संरक्षण गरिएको देखिन्छ।

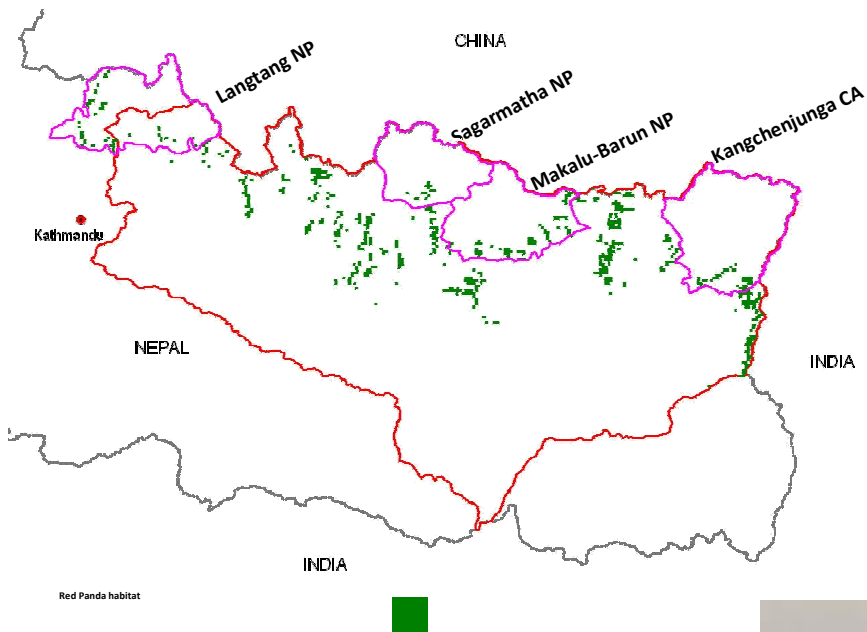
बागेश्वरी जंगल क्षेत्रमा राम्रो संरक्षण गरिएको देखिन्छ।
 बागेश्वरी जंगल क्षेत्रमा राम्रो संरक्षण गरिएको देखिन्छ।

बागेश्वरी जंगल क्षेत्रमा राम्रो संरक्षण गरिएको देखिन्छ।
 बागेश्वरी जंगल क्षेत्रमा राम्रो संरक्षण गरिएको देखिन्छ।

Biodiversity Significance

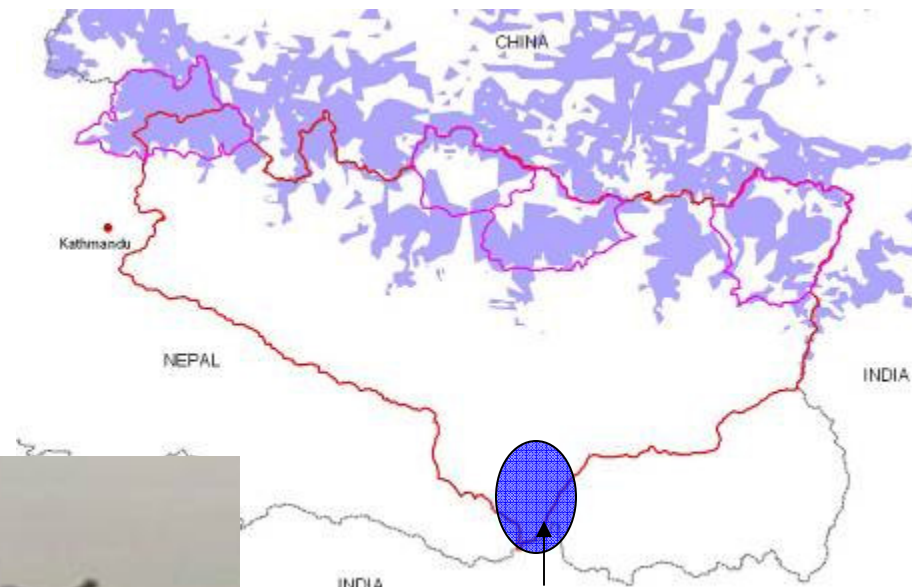
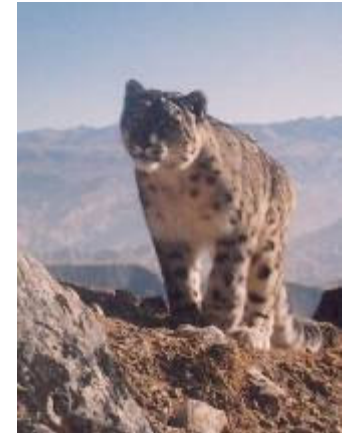


Over 70% of the potential red panda habitat is outside the protected areas in Koshi Basin



Largest extent of Snow Leopard habitat in the Koshi Basin

Snow Leopard



Small population of Gangetic Dolphins in Koshi Tappu

Present Scenario

- **National Park and Wildlife Reserves:** Major Focus of government with huge investment but yet poaching and declining the numbers
- Trying to **expand** the PAs mostly conservation areas ignoring the **peoples right**.
- **Buffer zone** concept in the periphery of PAs
- **Community Forestry** is becoming potential area for habitats as it get back its greenery

Policy and Practice Gaps

- Community and local recognition and ownership still lacking
- Government wants to protect biodiversity by patrolling and ignoring the importance of local people yet.
- However, local people provided several examples of protecting biodiversity in their own effort successfully.
- Yet recognize participation of local people in biodiversity conservation meaningfully

Challenges

- **Lack of Creating ownership among people**
- **Governance:** Biodiversity vs. livelihood and local participation
- **Tenure Right:** Indigenous, forest dependent communities (Chepang, Raute). Both BD and these in trouble
- **Benefit Sharing mechanism** (Government, local community)
- **Payment of Environmental Services**

Challenges..

- **Capacity Building:** Aware why to protect, monitoring skills and documentation system
- **Policy Formulation Process:** Trickle down, no involvement of community and stakeholders . Thus may be unreliable policy, low ownership. Ignore role of IPs and local manager
- Lack of **coordination and Partnership**

Scope

- **Capacity Building:** Community, Stakeholders
- **Biodiversity Monitoring Mechanism Development** (in active participation of local peoples, IPs, forest dependents and government)
- **Recognition** of local skills, knowledge, social and cultural values in biodiversity conservation

Scope

- **Advocacy** campaign from national to grass-root level community(right, incentives, effective biodiversity management mechanism, PES etc.)
- **Piloting** Participatory Biodiversity Monitoring
- **Partnership and Coordination**
- **Consultative Policy Formulation**

Thank for your Patience