

Recommendation

Programs focusing on poor, women and disadvantaged groups (DAGs) should be launched effectively and efficiency way in the near future. Free distribution of benefits among the poorest, encouraging the income generating activities and fair and equitable benefit sharing should be implemented for the better mechanism of reducing the poorest of the poor people in an area. Collectively, conducive policy, Poor's better access to resources and reduced vulnerability is positive indication of effectiveness of the BZ Program for biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement. It was found that the CFUGs in the area were very much active and was doing appreciative pieces of initiatives to motivate and mobilize local community towards conservation and management of their natural resources together with the wildlife conservation inside the park.

Therefore, the management system of BZCF should be further boosted by providing economic, institutional and moral supports by the park and donor agencies so as to develop the well institutionalized local stewardship in conservation.



Photo: Bardia National park is a prime habitat of Tiger. Due to increase in poacher within park, they are going to disappear so local community have been managing through formation of eco-club toward Tiger conservation

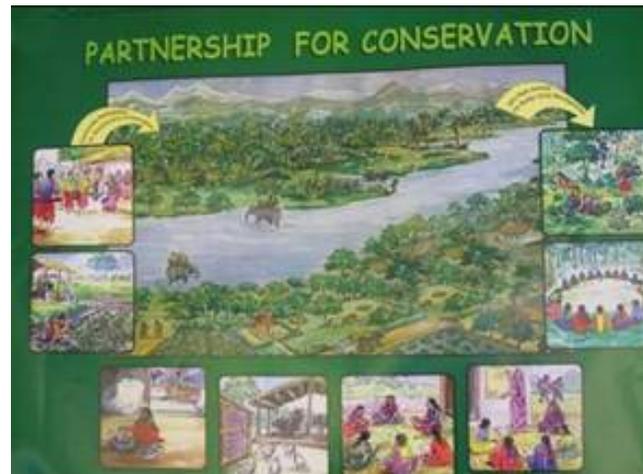
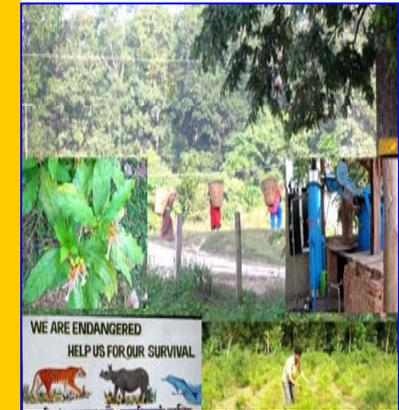


Figure: Overall Community-based biodiversity conservation model in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park

An Assessment of Community-based Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvements in the Buffer Zone of Bardia National Park, Nepal

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Introduction



Nepal has shown high commitment in biodiversity conservation with the promulgation of innovative conservation policies and laws. It has occupied over 19.42% of its total area under the protected area (PA) system that safeguards a rich variety of ecosystems and species. Bardia National Park (968 km²) is one of the well reputed parks for its unique biodiversity. The 327 km² area around the periphery of BNP that extend in 17 VDCs of Banke, Bardia, and Surkhet districts has been declared as Buffer Zone. Community-based biodiversity conservations are bottom-up activities that bring individuals and organizations together

to work towards achieving desired environmental goals.

The Main thrust of the study

This study entitled “**An Assessment of Community-Based Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement in the Buffer Zone of Bardia National Park, Nepal**” was carried out in five Buffer Zone Community Forests (BZCFs) of Bardia and Banke districts. The main thrust of the study was to assess the impacts of buffer zone Program in the socio-economic indicators of the local communities (women, poor and disadvantaged groups (DAGs) and



biophysical indicators of the buffer zone forest. Various tools of PRA including semi-structured questionnaire, focus group discussions were applied to collect the data. Simple qualitative method was used for data analysis.

Conclusion

Almost all the users have the positive responses toward the BZCF Program. Skill, attitude and behaviour of the users have positively improved after the formation of BZCF. Out of the five BZCFs, Rammapur BZCF was found more decision power, effective fund rising mechanism and poverty focus programs rather than four. Index of Relative Ranking (IRR), Index of Perceived Analysis (IPA) and x²-test were used to check the people perception toward BZCF. Index of Relative Ranking (IRR) was received the maximum value 0.9 on biodiversity conservation activities. It is the indication of increasing awareness level on biodiversity conservation due to different trainings and seminars conducted by NP office, CARE/Nepal, WWF/Nepal, etc. Although poor have the lower extension or approach in livelihood capitals than better off, their livelihood have been progressively increasing after the BZCF so natural capitals have gradually increased and more effectively implemented among five livelihood capitals in the present situation.