10 Years in Nepal
What the Hariyo Ban Program Taught Us about Integrating Community Resilience, Climate Adaptation, and Biodiversity Conservation

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Timeline of background events in Nepal

1996-2006: Maoist insurgency

2006: Peace Agreement between government and Maoists

2007: End of monarchy

2008: Nepal became a republic; elections held

2009: Coalition government formed by Maoists who subsequently pulled out

Impasse over constitution
Timeline of background events in Nepal

- **2011**
  - End of United Nations peace monitoring mission

- **2012**
  - Integration of former rebel fighters into the military
  - Constituent Assembly dissolved after failing to produce a draft constitution

- **2014**
  - Severe flooding in Terai

- **2015**
  - Major earthquake
  - Passing of Nepal Constitution defining Nepal as a secular country
  - Six-month blockade of Indian border protesting the constitution

- **2017**
  - General election and government restructuring
  - Severe flooding in Terai

- **2020**
  - COVID-19 pandemic
**Goal**

To increase ecological and community resilience in two biodiverse landscapes in Nepal

**Main components**

Biodiversity conservation  
Climate adaptation

**Crosscutting themes**

Gender and social inclusion (GESI), governance, and market-based livelihoods

**Duration**

2011-2021
Landscapes where Hariyo Ban works

CHITWAN-ANNAPURNA LANDSCAPE
TERAI ARC LANDSCAPE

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Nepal has **20 protected areas and 13 buffer zones** covering **23%** of the country.

- **45%** of land in Nepal is covered by forest; **38%** of this is community forest.

- Nepal’s community forestry is recognized globally as a **successful model** of decentralized forest management.

- **22,266 community forest user groups** - FECOFUN is the largest network.

- **14 million people** (over 50% rural population of Nepal) are engaged in community forest management.
“If stakeholders are better able to conserve and benefit from biodiverse natural resources and adapt to climate change in a manner that diversifies livelihood options, improves gender equality and social inclusion, and promotes good natural resource governance, then people and ecosystems in the target landscapes will be more resilient.”
**Biodiversity conservation**

Conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services by taking a landscape-level approach and tackling biodiversity threats

- **Reducing threats** to species, forests and watersheds
- **Restoring landscape** connectivity and ecosystem services
- **Combatting** wildlife crime
- **Reducing** human-wildlife conflict

Tiger numbers increased from **198 to 235** between 2013 and 2018 (close to Nepal's internationally declared target for doubling tiger numbers)
Hariyo Ban approach

Livelihood support
Improving the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable forest-dependent people in key parts of the landscapes

- Promoting market-based enterprises through natural resources, agriculture, and ecotourism
- Providing skills training to increase employment opportunities for forest-dependent youth

110,100 people benefited from livelihood interventions
Climate change mitigation
Supported national REDD+ readiness and tackled drivers of deforestation/forest degradation in the first phase

4.9 million tons of carbon emissions reduced/sequestered and 173,860 people benefited from alternative energy in phase 1

- Supported government to formulate REDD+ policies and strategies
- Built capacity for forest inventory and greenhouse gas monitoring
- Tackled drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- Piloted payments for ecosystem services schemes
**Climate change adaptation**
Identifying climate risks to people and nature, and building stakeholder capacity for adaptation.

- **Supporting government** to mainstream climate adaptation into planning processes.
- **Supporting communities** to adapt to climate change.
- Introduced **differential climate impact analysis and response** to help the most vulnerable people.
- Promoting **disaster risk reduction and management** to reduce climate risks to people and ecosystems.

Climate change resilience improved for **288,499** people in phase I and **120,266** people in phase II.
Hariyo Ban approach

**Governance**
Improving internal governance of natural resource management (NRM) groups, and facilitating links with local government

- Strengthening *institutional capacity* of natural resource user groups
- Helping user groups to *leverage and mobilize resources*
- Building *technical capacity* of user groups for local solutions to conservation and adaptation
- Strengthening *policy and enabling environment*

Natural resource management groups leveraged approximately **US$1,304,280** for conservation, adaptation and management

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**Hariyo Ban approach**

**GESI**

Ensuring participation of women and marginalized groups in decision-making and equitable sharing of benefits from natural resources

- Improving **GESI policies, standards and governance** at multiple levels
- Increasing **leadership by women, youth and marginalized people**
- Promoting **more equitable access and benefit sharing** in natural resource management

91 groups developed internal GESI policies and 117 GESI subcommittees were formed in natural resource management groups to deal with gender-based violence issues and FECOFUN plans to scale this up to all 77 districts in Nepal

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Hariyo Ban: responding to changes and opportunities

- Working at all levels with new federal government for better enabling environment, scaling up and sustainability
- Responding to policy opportunities: e.g. formal establishment of Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape
- Providing relief and promoting green recovery and reconstruction after disasters like the 2015 earthquake
- Adapting way of working during COVID-19 pandemic and supporting partners
Hariyo Ban: factors contributing to program’s success

- **Composition** of the program’s consortium
- **Close working relationship** with government and other partners
- **Existing** community-based natural resource management organizations and their networks
- **Synergies** across components
- **Landscape approach**
- **Opportunity** to contribute to enabling policy environment
- **Acceptance** by local governments of existing adaptation and integrated watershed management plans
- **Small grants program**
- **Leveraging resources** from government, community organizations and private entrepreneurs
- **Length of program** (10 years) and Nepal’s longer-term experience of landscape level work
Hariyo Ban: some lessons learned

- Generate adequate knowledge before working in the field
- Ensure strong focus in critical parts of the landscapes rather than being spread too thinly
- Adopt river basin approach in landscape conservation with greater focus on water
- Involve private sector early on when developing livelihood/enterprise models
- Collect enough baseline data in order to quantify results and demonstrate scale of achievements
We would like to acknowledge the commitment of many people who made the Hariyo Ban Program possible including the consortium partners; core program team; Government of Nepal; USAID; Indigenous peoples, communities and community-based organizations; other civil society partners; private sector partners and academic institutions.

http://www.wwfnepal.org/hariyobanprogram