

HARIYO BAN PROGRAM



INTRODUCTION

Nepal's remarkable biodiversity provides people with natural resources for livelihoods, maintains ecological balance, and reduces the risk of natural disasters. Over the years, Nepal has endeavored to conserve and manage its biodiversity: 44.74%¹ of the total land area is covered by forest, and 23.39%² of land lies in the protected area (PA) system. With 23.8%³ of the population below the poverty level, poverty is a serious issue in Nepal and many poor and vulnerable people depend on natural resources for their livelihoods and security. Yet, these natural resources and biodiversity are under threat. Factors like overuse of resources from the growing human population; natural disasters; haphazard infrastructure development and increasing impacts from changing climate give serious cause for concern.

Hariyo Ban Program

The program finds its inspiration from the popular saying '*Hariyo Ban Nepal Ko Dhan*' (Healthy green forests are the wealth of Nepal) which emphasizes the links between people and forests. The first phase of the Hariyo Ban Program was launched in August 2011 and concluded in December 2016; it aimed to reduce adverse impacts of climate change and threats to biodiversity in Nepal. Significant progress was made in achieving the Program goal.

The second phase of the Program started in July 2016 and will run for another five years. It builds on the accomplishments and learning of the first phase in addressing biodiversity threats and climate vulnerability. The goal of the new phase is to increase ecological and community resilience in biodiverse landscapes - Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape (CHAL) and the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL). This goal will be achieved through two objectives (a) improving conservation and management of TAL and CHAL landscapes; and (b) reducing climate change vulnerability in the landscapes.

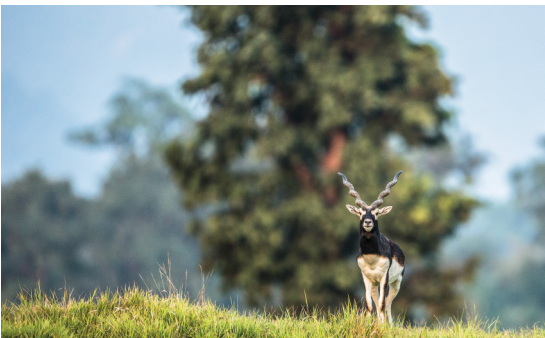
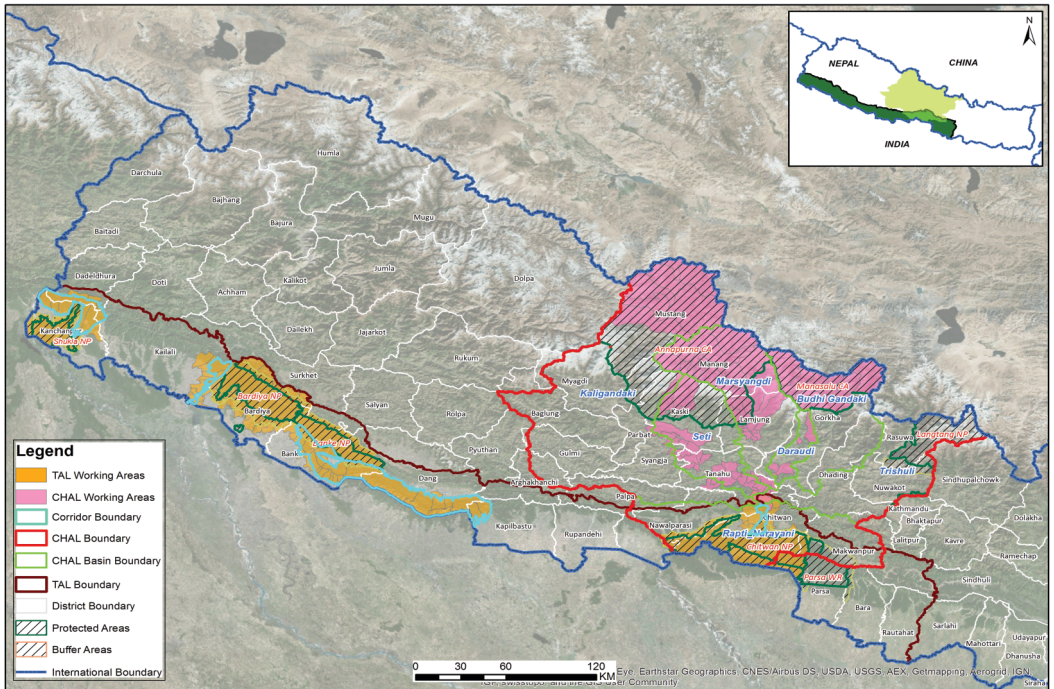
It works on two core interwoven components - biodiversity conservation including livelihoods, and climate change adaptation. Governance and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) are cross-cutting themes. This five-year phase has been made possible with a generous award of USD 18 million from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The program is implemented by a consortium of four organizations - World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) and the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) - with WWF as lead.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FIRST PHASE

- Total number of people benefiting - 284,548
- Number of community based anti-poaching units (CBAPUs) formed - 201
- Hectares of biodiverse area demonstrating improved biophysical condition - 75,376
- Number of people benefitting from alternative energy - 173,860
- Number of adaptation plans supported for implementation - 398
- Number of people employed through cash for work - 16,651
- Number of forest-dependent people benefitting from livelihood interventions - 79,830

WORKING AREAS

The Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape covers all the Gandaki river basin in Nepal, ranging from the dry deserts of Mustang and high Himalayan peaks down through the mid-hills and Churia range to the Terai. The Terai Arc Landscape in Nepal lies in the southern lowland, running from the Bagmati river in the east to the Indian border in the west; it is a transboundary landscape shared with India. Both landscapes have ten-year Strategies and Action Plans under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation. Building on first phase results, the second phase of Hariyo Ban will work at multiple levels in TAL and CHAL to support implementation of the Strategies, from site and landscape to national level, with a strategic focus on specific corridors, protected areas and sub-river basins to pilot, scale up and leverage change in the landscapes. The Program has prioritized the following complexes in TAL: (i) Shuklaphanta National Park - Brahmadev Corridor; (ii) Bardia National Park - Karnali Corridor; (iii) Banke National Park - Kamdi Corridor; and (iv) Chitwan National Park - Barandabhar Corridor. In CHAL, activities will be implemented in three priority sub-basins: (i) Seti, (ii) Marshyandi, and (iii) Daraundi. These areas include all or part of fifteen districts in the two landscapes: Dadheldhura, Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardia, Banke, Dang, Nawalparasi, Chitwan, Kaski, Tanahun, Syangja, Manang, Mustang, Lamjung and Gorkha.



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EXPECTED BIODIVERSITY RESULTS

- Threats to target species reduced
- Threats to target landscapes reduced
- Market-based livelihood alternatives developed and promoted, benefiting both people and biodiversity

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The second phase of Hariyo Ban will scale up successful approaches to address key threats to biodiversity conservation such as unsustainable harvesting of forest products, human-wildlife conflict (HWC), invasive species, climate-induced droughts and forest fire, as well as emerging threats with significant impacts which were not adequately addressed earlier – illegal wildlife trade, and poorly designed and managed infrastructure.

To combat these threats, the Program will implement strategic interventions embedded in the TAL and CHAL Strategies, supporting focal species and habitat management including research and monitoring; species translocation; climate-smarting and implementing conservation area management and species conservation action plans; management of important biodiversity areas; mobilization of local and national level HWC relief funds; capacity

building of Government agencies and communities on Illegal wildlife trade; and engagement with stakeholders who are involved in infrastructure development.

Reducing community dependency on unsustainable extraction of forest resources by creating alternative livelihood opportunities will be a major focus of the Program. The livelihood interventions initiated in the first phase will be geared towards market-based green enterprise development with greater involvement of the private sector. Small-scale enterprise support will focus on forest-dependent ultra-poor people, women and youths by enhancing entrepreneurial skills that are designed to reduce forest pressure, linking them with markets and other input service providers. Medium- and large-scale, climate-smart enterprises will focus in areas where climate vulnerability is high or where there is high potential for sustainable resource development.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The first phase of the Program made significant achievements in reducing the vulnerability of people and ecosystems to climate hazards such as more intensive drought, flood, landslides, riverbank cutting, drying of water sources, disease in agriculture crops, and health issues for people. The second phase of the Program will scale up community level achievements and practices by taking them to a higher level: corridor, watershed, sub-river basin and landscape as appropriate.



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EXPECTED CLIMATE CHANGE RESULTS

- Climate resilience built and adaptation achieved through mainstreaming participatory approaches in local, district, and national planning processes
- Climate-related risks to people and ecosystems reduced through disaster risk reduction and management efforts

Mainstreaming community adaptation plans of action (CAPAs) and local adaptation plans of action (LAPAs) in the regular development planning process of government and stakeholders at local and sectoral level will be one of the main strategic approaches. In addition, the program will support integration of LAPAs with local disaster risk management plans and their implementation, promoting sound GESI and governance practices. Phase II will also support implementation of selected CAPAs and LAPAs that were developed in the first phase by maximizing resource leverage from other stakeholders such as collaboration with the Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) program, incorporating the EFLG Framework in adaptation and DRR plans. Preparation and implementation of integrated sub-watershed management plans (ISWMPs); adaptation-disaster risk reduction integration; scaling up payments for ecosystem services schemes initiated in the first phase; and introduction of time and energy-saving technologies for agriculture and domestic use are other priorities under this component in order to promote climate adaptation, build ecosystem resilience and sustain ecosystem services for human wellbeing.

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI), AND GOVERNANCE

The first phase played an important role in promoting better natural resource management (NRM) governance and GESI in biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation in order to improve the lives of poor and marginalized people and women, enhancing their contribution to biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate impacts. However, due to limited scope of GESI and Governance as cross cutting themes in the first phase, their overall contribution in achieving the program goal was not very visible. This has been rectified in the second phase with addition of explicit result areas.

Strategic interventions will target empowerment of women, Dalit, ethnic and other marginalized groups including economic empowerment; engaging men and decision makers as GESI champions; and challenging stereotyped gender roles. At organization level the focus will be on improving internal GESI and governance policies, standards, and governance practiced by user groups, ensuring equitable access to and benefit sharing

from natural resources for women and marginalized groups; enhancing participation of women, youth, and marginalized people as effective leaders in decision making and advocacy; and building capacity of user groups and other stakeholders including creating an enabling environment to leverage and mobilize resources.

EXPECTED GESI RESULTS

- Improved internal GESI policies, standards, and governance practiced by user groups
- More women, youth, and marginalized people performing effective leadership, decision making and advocacy
- More equitable access to and benefit sharing from natural resources for women and marginalized groups

EXPECTED GOVERNANCE RESULTS

- Improved institutional capacity of user groups
- Improved capacity of user groups to leverage and mobilize resources
- Improved technical capacity of user groups to advance local solutions on biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation issues
- Improved policy and enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation



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SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

As in the first phase, Hariyo Ban Program has a Small Grants Program to ensure applied research and innovation; promotion of innovative science results and technology; piloting new approaches, concepts and tools; capacity building; and taking advantage of opportunities that arise at short notice in the fields of the Hariyo Ban components that ultimately contribute to achieving the Program objectives. In addition, there is new provision for rapid response to disaster management. The grants program has four components: student academic research grants; civil society organization (CSO) grants; Government grants; and rapid response to disaster management.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

M&E will be instrumental in improving overall Program effectiveness through regular field monitoring, periodic review and reflection meetings, capacity building, timely and routine feedback, and adaptive management to make adjustments where needed. Learning and knowledge management will be pivotal in Hariyo Ban phase II. The Program will develop a Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA) Learning strategy that will identify knowledge gaps, pose specific learning questions, facilitate application of theories of change, and describe the process of capturing and sharing knowledge across different stakeholders.

Hariyo Ban Program



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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