

## Field perspectives on forest governance



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## Field perspectives on forest governance

... with a focus on tenure



## Jiri Nepal compared

1968

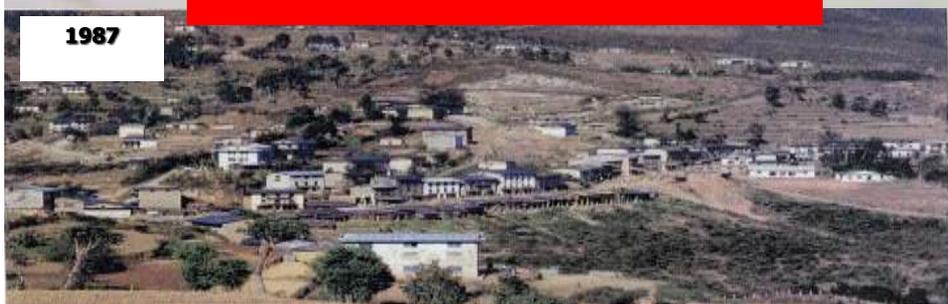


2011



## Nepal: Charikot Town in 18 years

1987



2011



## Dadapakhar Nepal in 1978



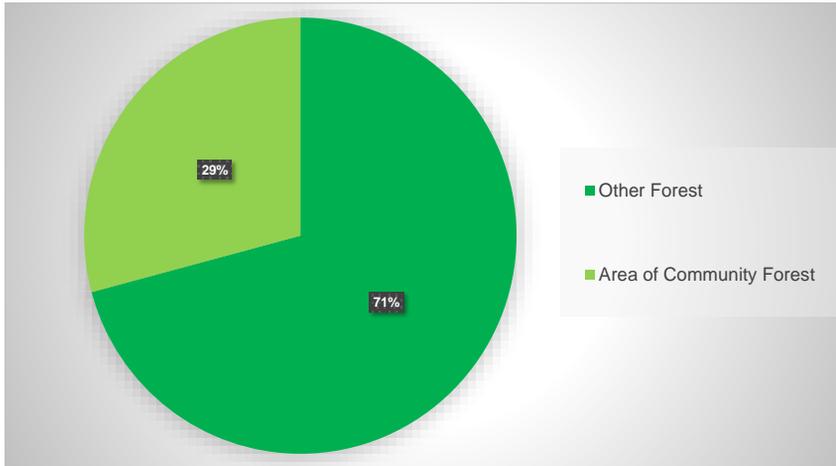
## Same area in 2011



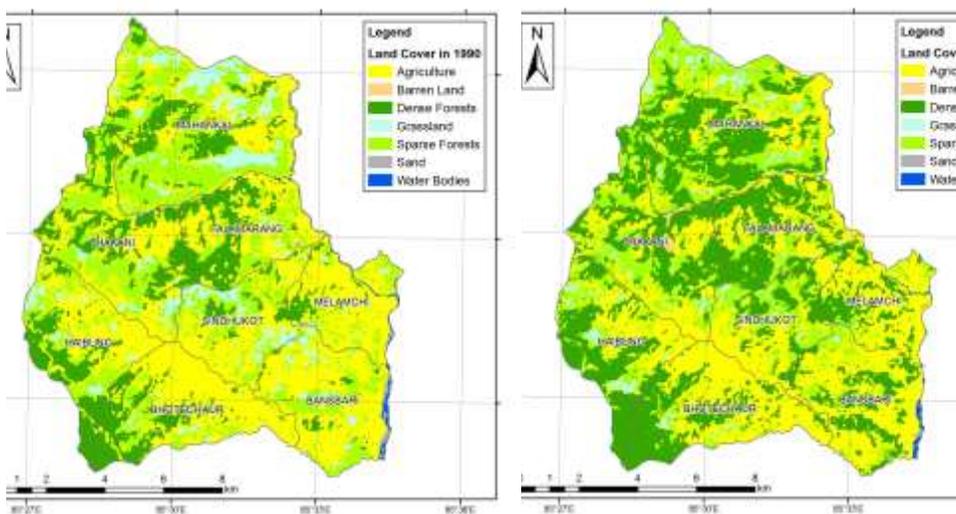
## TREND OF HAND OVER



# 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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