



# German bilateral cooperation on sustainable forest management

- Overview -
- Experiences and lessons learned -
- Implications for avoided deforestation -

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On the occasion of

UNFCCC Workshop on

**Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries**

Rome; 30 August to 1 September 2006

# Overview on German bilateral cooperation with developing countries in the forestry sector

- **Annual budget: 125 million Euro**
- **Support to approximately 150 projects in more than 50 countries**
- **Support to several regional organisations such as**
  - **COMIFAC (Central Africa)**
  - **ASEAN (South East Asia)**
  - **OTCA (Amazon)**
  - **SADC (Southern Africa)**



# Overview on German bilateral cooperation with developing countries in the forestry sector

## Sector concept “Forests and sustainable development”

- **Overall Goal:** poverty alleviation and securing the forests’ indispensable ecological balancing function on a global scale;
- **German Development Cooperation for SFM is framed around 6 thematic areas:**
  - Forest protection and reforestation
  - Support of consistent policy frameworks
  - Combating illegal logging
  - Certification
  - Strategies for financing SFM
  - Shaping and implementing the international forest regime

# Experiences, impact and lessons learned

- **Poverty reduction:**  
e.g. Nepal: employment creation for forestry workers  
crafts persons and employees in small enterprises  
Brazil: 20 % increase of household income in pilot  
regions of Mata Atlantica
- **Forest Protected Areas:** e.g. Pendjari in Benin,  
Burkina Faso and Niger; Tri-National Sangha in  
Cameroon, CAR and Congo Republic
- **Forest Rehabilitation and Reforestation:** e.g.  
Columbia, China, Vietnam
- **Support to Certification:** Cameroon, Indonesia, China  
Malaysia, Brazil
- **Indigenous forest areas:** e.g. 44 million ha in Brazil

# Churia Forest Development Project (ChFDP) Nepal

## Protecting and managing community forests in Eastern Nepal



The Churia hills rise along almost the entire length of the Himalayan range in Nepal, up to an altitude of 1,000 m. They used to be densely forested, but on a plot-to-plot and agricultural areas have forced the forests back.

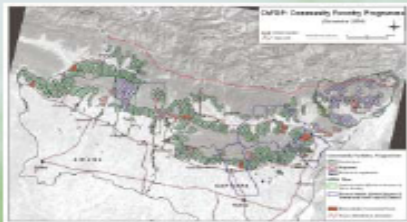
For decades, people have been migrating into the plains south of the Churia hills. They flee to this fertile area to escape the poverty in other parts of Nepal and even in India. As the population rises, however, land is becoming scarce. More and more people are settling on the slopes of the Churia hills, clearing forest, cutting down firewood and gathering the fruits of the forest. The ecosystem of the forests has long been under excessive strain. The result is soil degradation and flooding. The water table is dropping. Harvests worsening – a vicious circle which leads to more poverty. And as impoverishment grows, people increase their pressure on what is left of the forests.

### The Project

A project initiated jointly with the Nepalese Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and the people in the three poorest districts (Sindhuli, Saptari and Udayapur) has brought together forestry protection and poverty reduction since the early 1980s. In order to restore the ecological equilibrium of the Churia forests for the benefit of the people:

- user groups protect and manage community forests in order to reverse degradation
- a savings and credit programme allows the poor and landless too to start up their own economic activities
- an agro-forestry programme taps alternative sources of firewood and construction timber as well as new sources of income
- a soil protection programme improves water supplies and water quality

Before the project started, people who settled in the forests or used them were chased away by the forestry authorities. Today, Nepal's new forestry policy legitimises and promotes the forest user groups. They are officially registered as the owners of the forest. The project helps them select suitable areas, survey the community forest and produce a management plan. For the first time the people have the right to manage parts of their "forest on their own, and thus to improve their economic situation.



## What did we achieve?

Today, the project reaches about 680,000 people, or 40 % of the population of the three districts. More than half of them are women. Many belong to the lower caste or are the "poorest of the poor". 26 user groups (40,000 households) have been registered. Rights of use for 265 forest plots covering a total of 44,800 hectares have been secured.

44,800 hectares forest are protected and managed on a sustainable basis by user groups today. This translates into more than 30 % of the entire forested area in the three districts.

The biodiversity of plants and animals has risen again in the community forests.

Women occupy 41 % of the new 5-time and 27 % of the temporary jobs.

The savings and credit programme has significantly improved the food security in around 19,000 households (40 % of the households covered by the programme). In 20 % of them, the food supply was increased for two more months in the year, and in 12 % food security has improved by six months.

To date, the users have had an income of more than USD 405,800 from their community forests. The user groups received the income generated from the forests in local development projects, such as literacy programmes for women and the poor, grants for poor school pupils, schools, village roads and drinking water plant, medical and hygiene care and for loans issued to poor members families. 25 % of income (USD 100,000) has been deposited in savings accounts.

While democracy in Nepal is diminishing, the user groups continue to uphold a democratic culture. The groups are thus seen as seeds which can be used to re-establish democracy once the country has overcome its internal crisis.

Since the project was launched, the people have invested more than USD 500,000 in the form of their own work inputs or via salaries in protecting the forests.

Illegal logging in the community forests has dropped drastically. About 50% (20,000 hectares) of the total degraded areas in the three districts, which had a vegetation cover of less than 10 %, have regenerated thanks to the work of user groups and are today already generating profits.

Women in particular are benefiting from the new democratic culture in the user groups. Formerly they were not involved in decision-making, but today they form one-quarter of the board members of user groups. Furthermore, 130 women from user groups have been elected to leadership posts in the development committees of the villages and districts.

To date, 959 full-time jobs have been created for teachers, forestry workers, craftspeople and employees in small enterprises with an annual per capita salary of USD 270. 12,000 temporary jobs have been generated in the construction industry, agriculture and forestry.

### Forests and livestock: the success of Mahuli milk cooperative, Saptari

The people of Mahuli and Gadhimari set up their own cooperative, the Adarsha Milk Producers Cooperative Limited. The cooperative, with an annual turnover of Rs. 40-50 million (about USD 500,000 – 750,000), has its roots in community forests, and emerged from the four user groups of Baramari, Mahuli, Mahari and Mahapur. Individual household plots of fodder tree and green plantations within the community forests have resulted in tremendous improvements in animal husbandry and milk production.

Today, about 400 farmers are selling 4,000 litres of milk a day to the cooperative, which in turn sells 1,000 litres to the local markets and the rest to the Dairy Development Corporation. The cooperative has its own refrigeration plant, the first in the country to be owned by a cooperative.

All members of the user group point out that community forests, raising livestock and raising the cooperative are closely interlinked. Ram Khatu, the chairman of Mahuli user group told us: "If there had been no community forests, we would have left this place". The poor of the village have also benefited from the cooperative, which provides small credits. Those who used to earn a living by selling firewood now have up to four cattle. As Ghansu Baidya said: "Without the forests we would not be able to keep cattle, let alone sell it. Where would we go then to borrow money in times of need? Life would be very, very difficult."



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## The Millennium Development Goals



MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education. MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. MDG 4: Reduce child mortality. MDG 5: Improve maternal health. MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development.

gtz  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

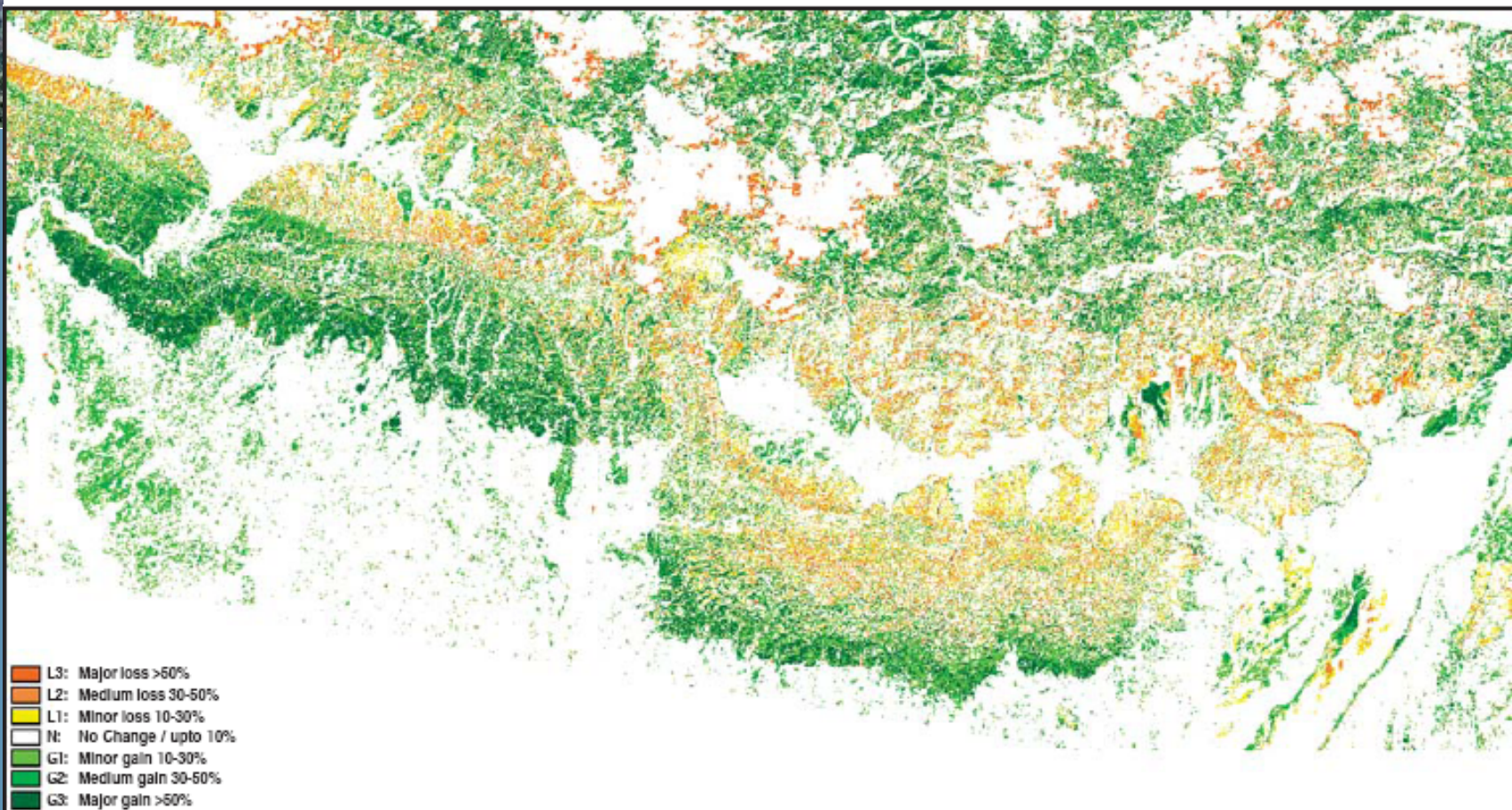
GOPA  
German Organisation for Project Assistance

## Example MDG Poster

Download: [http://www.geo-media.de/index\\_mdg.html](http://www.geo-media.de/index_mdg.html)



# Churia Forest Development Project (ChFDP) Nepal

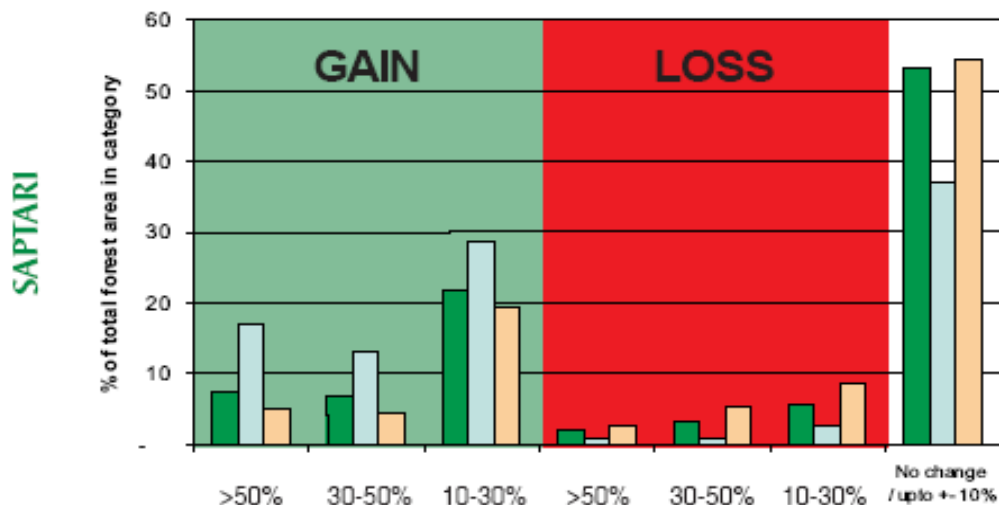


**Forest cover change map for ChFDP area (1992-2002)**

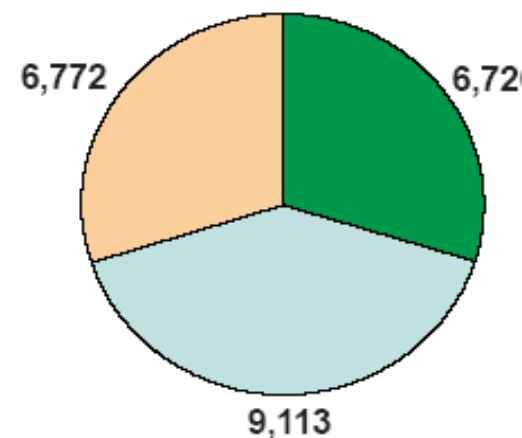


# Churia Forest Development Project (ChFDP) Nepal

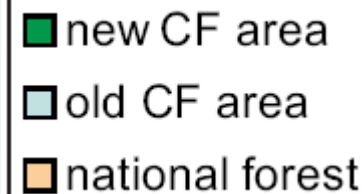
## CROWN DENSITY CHANGE IN COMMUNITY FOREST AND NATIONAL FOREST, 1992-2002



## FOREST TENURE IN 2002 (area in hectares)



**Example:**  
**Crown Density Change in District Saptari**



# Experiences, impact and lessons learned

- **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation (RED)** has not been a focus of German bilateral cooperation; but pilot projects now planned
- Indirect impact of **Capacity Building** on avoiding deforestation; clear attribution not possible
- Projects are less successful if they are not well integrated into national structures (ownership)
- All the efforts of Financial/Technical Cooperation have not been sufficient to significantly reduce deforestation rate at a larger scale
- Market based mechanism could make a difference (complementarity to TC; scaling up)



# Challenges and implications for avoided deforestation

- **Reliable national baselines**
- **How to deal with countries / regions with high forest cover and presently low deforestation rate (e.g. Congo basin)**
- **Monitoring (methods, accuracy)**
- **Large scale incentives could be helpful to scale up positive impact of bilateral programmes**
- **System (“mechanism”) should be simple; uncertainties and errors in data collection could be compensated by discount**
- **Need for capacity building**