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Threat assessment and mitigation planning

a tool for community forest management activities in Nepal

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Enterprise-Based Biodiversity Conservation

- **Where:** 5 High mountain districts in western Nepal
- **Partners:** 5 Local partner NGOs, 5 District Forest Offices, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, private sector, and local communities
- **Outcomes:**
 - 43,630 ha of high biodiversity forests and pastures under effective management (against the target of 30,000 ha);
 - 66 Community Forest User Groups organized and with secure tenure - documented adaptive management; about 1/3 with FSC certification;
 - 35,227 small-scale producers participating in NTFP enterprises generated US \$1,479,000 in 2004 (last year of GCP funding); enterprises still operating today with increased revenues
 - improved policy provisions and implementation in community forestry nation-wide.



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Threat Assessment and Mitigation Outcomes

- 90% of project CFUGs assessed threats and opportunities, identified root causes, prioritized & developed mitigation plan; 80% executed mitigation measures; 50% reviewed and reassessed the status
- Prioritized threats for mitigation were: illegal and destructive harvesting; unmanaged grazing, uncontrolled fire, forest encroachment and slash-and-burn, and illegal hunting of wild animals – underlying causes were poverty & dependence on forest; limited access and ability to benefits
- Value-added enterprises, clarity of governance & benefit sharing were instrumental to effective management planning and enforcement of mitigation & biodiversity enhancement measures



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Threats based approach is effective when

- Communities are empowered (organizing at various levels, improving access and tenure rights, knowledge and skills for managing resources and groups)
- Economic incentives created and tools for sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation provided
- Scientific knowledge systems, innovations and perspectives are integrated
- Broader level policy, research and networking intervention made for enabling environment