

**Project Name:** Ecological Studies, Threats Assessment and Conservation of *Cycas pectinata* in Eastern Nepal

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### Major activity

1. Permission from Department of Forest and Soil conservation, GON, Kathmandu.
2. Preparation of questions for the questionnaire survey
3. Pilot Survey

### Background

During this pilot study survey, we visited three designated project sites: Jalthal forest patch(1), Chure-bahundangi forest area (2) of Jhapa district and betana-letanag-chulipokhari forest area (3) of Morang district. The pilot survey was carried out in collaboration with local communities and forest guards. Major activities were

- Discussion with community forest user group and Forest Guards
- Jungle walks with Forest guards
- Interaction with local people and local level NGOs

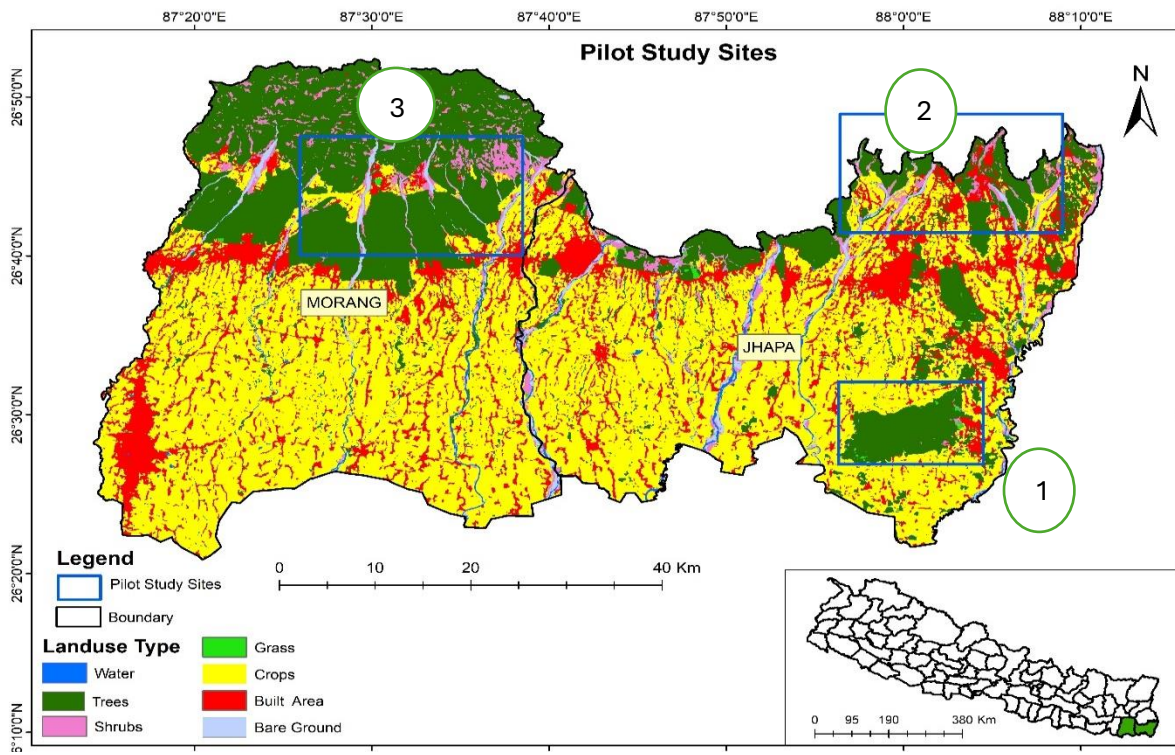


Figure 1: Location map of Project site



Megasporophylls



Seedlings



Female



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Male

Figure 2: Life stage of *Cycas pectinata*





Figure 3 :Group discussion with community forest user group and Forest Guards





*Figure 4: Interaction with local people and local NGO.*





*Figure 5: Interaction with local NGO.*



*Figure 6: Jungle Walk with Forest guards*



## Major Findings

As per our site observations and discussions with local people, forest guards, and the community forest user group, we identified the following major impacts on threatened *Cycas* plant:

- Invasive species like *Chromolaena odorata*, *Mikania micrantha*, and *Lantana camara* dominate the natural habitat of *Cycas*.
- Forest fires are one of the major causes of the decline in its population



*Figure 7: Cycas in Mikania and Chromolaena dominant habitat*





*Figure 8: Cycas in home garden*