

Update III (3 February 2025)

Project: Safeguarding Mountain Biodiversity: Investigating and promoting sustainable conservation of endangered tree line species of Nepalese Mountain.

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- 1. Community level discussion:** We have conducted all community level discussions like Key informant interview (KII), focal group discussion (FGD) and awareness campaigns at school level. In total four KII were done with representatives from local homestay association, local conservation unit of Annapurna Conservation area, trekking agencies and local conservation area management committee (CAMC) (Image 1 and Image 2). Similarly, two focus group discussions were carried out at Lwang and Ghachok area with women's group and local farmer group including people of homestay, youth clubs and forest user group (Image 3 and Image 4). KII was focused on discussing conservation approaches, local forest uses, available energy source and consumption patterns, and herding and trekking management in the region. At community level discussion, the project focused on understanding the perception of local people regarding mountain forests and endangered species. Similarly different issues like local energy sources and consumption patterns, herding practices and its intensity, indigenous practices of forest conservation, and local livelihood options were discussed. Our team member Bimal Kumar Yadav conducted this activity.



Image 1: KII with homestay



Image 2: KII with CAMC

- 2. Awareness campaigns:** Two awareness campaigns including quiz competition were carried out at two schools of the project area namely: GauriShankar Manilal Secondary School Machapuchhre Rural Municipality - 9, Kaski and Saradha Ma Vi, Machapuchhre Rural Municipality- 2, Kaski. The winners of the quiz competition (students) were awarded with certificate and prize (Image 5-10). Our team member Bimal Kumar Yadav conducted this activity.



Image 3: FGD at Lwang



Image 4: FGD at Ghachok



Image 5: School level awareness campaign



Image 6: School level awareness campaign



Image 7: Prize distribution to winner of Quiz competition at Sarada School



Image 8: Prize distribution to winner of Quiz competition at Gaurisanakr School



Image 9: Group photo of participants of School level Awareness campaign



Image 10: Sample Certificate of Certificate handed over to winner of Quiz Competition

- 3. Collaborative Conservation Planning Workshop:** The collaborative conservation planning workshop was carried out at Annapurna Conservation Area Project Unit office Lwang with the participation of representatives from local government, community level conservation management committee, homestay associations, trekking agencies, hotel owners, and forest user groups (Image 11 and 12). The planning workshop mainly focused on the issues pertaining to the tree line area due to unmanaged herding, trekking and hotel construction, ongoing conservation approaches, SWOT analysis, role of each stakeholder for mountain forest conservation and the way forward for sustainable mountain biodiversity conservation. The one-day planning workshop was moderated by the experts Mr. Bikash Adhikari, Assistant Professor at Tribhuvan University and Bipin Kumar Adhikari.



Image 11 and 12: Conservation Planning workshop

4. **Broadcast of Radio Jingle:** Our team has prepared FM Radio jingle which is about the awareness of the tree line species and the role of local communities for the conservation of endangered tree line species. It is prepared in Nepali and was aired for 1 month in daily basis through local FM named Everest FM 93 MHz, Kaski. The radio jingle is provided as a separate attachment.
5. **Media workout:** Our work of mapping the tree line forest using LiDAR technology with the help of Rufford foundation is published in different local and national online media in Nepali language. We are planning to publish a community level discussion in the local newspaper soon. The links of published news are:
 - a. Nagarik News: <https://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/social-affairs/1460326-1735989696.html>
 - b. Khabarhub: <https://khabarhub.com/2025/04/731479/>
 - c. Everest Post: <https://www.theeverestpost.com/2025/01/04/507653/>
 - d. Paschim Today: <https://paschimtoday.com/news-details/85699/2025-01-04>
6. **Future planned activities:** We have finished almost all our activities, and we are focusing on data management and analysis, production of manuscript and submission to international journals, and providing final update to Rufford. We have planned the following activities in the below mentioned time period:
 - a) Publishing news in local newspaper about community level discussion and findings by February 2025.
 - b) Data Management and analysis by April/May 2025.
 - c) Final Update to Rufford by June/July 2025.
7. **Long-term activity (by 2025):** Manuscript will be prepared and submitted to international journal as it takes time and Rufford will be acknowledged during publishing the manuscript. One article will be about land use cover and land use change in Annapurna and future predictions under future Shared Socio-economic pathways and another will be analysis of forest at tree line ecotone. Our team member Anisha Aryal and Bimal Kumar Yadav are helping with this.