

**Strengthened Actions for Governance
in Utilization of Natural Resources
(SAGUN) Program**

**‘No Cost Extension’ Performance Report
(October-December 2006)**

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Table of Contents

List of acronyms	ii
1. Introduction	1
2. Vision	2
3. Over all objectives and specific objectives of SAGUN Program.....	2
4. Geographical Focus and Target Audience	3
5. Highlights of No Cost Extension Period Performance	3
5.1 Forestry and Buffer Zone (FBZ) Component.....	3
5.1.1 Institutional support to Model CFUGs.....	4
5.1.2 Capacity enhancement of CFUGs and saving credit groups.....	4
5.1.3 Support to advocacy functions of the CFUGs	5
5.1.4 Public Hearing and Public Auditing	5
5.2 Irrigation Component	7
5.2.1 Strengthen women’s sensitization groups (WSGs) capacity in the WUAsthrough Saving Credit Cooperative:	8
5.2.2 Strengthen advocacy and Strategic planning Capacity of NFIWUAN.....	10
5.2.3 Support WUA assembly to institutionalize women representation:.....	11
5.2.4 Human resource (HR) strengthening in WUAs	12
5.2.5 Documentation.....	12
5.3 Partnership for Hydropower Component.....	12
5.3.1 Coordination and Communication Forum	12
5.3.2 Capacity Strengthening of Hydropower Project Affected Communities	13
5.3.3 Participatory Implementation and Monitoring of Mitigation Plan	13
5.3.4 Strategic / Periodic Planning of VDCs.....	13
5.3.5 Public Auditing.....	13
5.3.6 Monitoring of Small Scale Livelihood Activities	13
5.3.7 Consolidation of Overall Learning / Dissemination.....	14
5.3.8 Follow up of the Progress of Revenue Distribution Guidelines andProvide support as needed.	14
5.3.9 Advocacy Initiative	14
5.3.10 Major Issues and challenges	15
5.4 Policy Advocacy Campaign –I.....	16
5.4.1 Start up and support activities.....	16
5.4.2 Workshop/training/seminars/media advocacy.....	17
5.4.3 Policy advocacy forum/periodic meetings/participatory policy review	17
5.4.4 Communication and dissemination.....	18
5.5 Policy Advocacy Campaign-II	19
5.5.1 Strengthen Civil Society Forums at District Levels.....	19
5.5.2 Women Advocacy Forum Strengthening and Mobilization	19
5.5.3 Campaign for violence against women.....	20
6. Major issues/challenges.....	21
7. Lessons learned.....	21
8. Prospect for the future:.....	21

Annexes

List of acronyms

BZ	Buffer Zone
BZUG	Buffer Zone User Group
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CDO	Chief District Officer
CF	Community Forestry/Forest
CFUG	Community Forestry User Group
COFSUN	Community Forestry Support Network Nepal
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DDC	District Development Committee
DFO	District Forest Officer/Office
DLCC	District Level Coordination Committee
DoI	Department of Irrigation
EC	Executive Committee
EMAP	Environmental Management Action Plan
FBZ	Forestry and Buffer Zone
FEBUCON	Federation of Buffer Zone Community Forest Users Nepal
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest User in Nepal
FEHOPAC	Federation of Hydropower Project Affected Communities
FOP	Forest Operational Plan
GSM	Gender and Social Mobilizer
HR	Human resource
IBRAD	Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development
IDO	Irrigation Divisional Office
ISF	Irrigation Service Fee
LRP	Local Resource Person
LSGA	Local Self-Governance Act
LSGR	Local Self-Governance Regulations
MMHEP	Middle Marshyangdi Hydroelectric Project
MoPE	Ministry of Population and Environment
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
NCAS	National Centre for Advocacy Studies
NCE	No Cost Extension
NEFEJ	Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists
NFE	Non-Formal Education
NFIWUAN	National Federation of Irrigation Water Users' Association of Nepal
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PAC	Policy Advocacy Campaign
PAN	Permanent Account Number
PEIMC	Participatory Environmental Impact Monitoring Committee
PHPA	Public Hearing and Public Auditing
PWBR	Participatory Well-Being Ranking
RBA	Rights Based Approach
RDN	Rashtriya Dalit Network
RIMS	Resource Identification and Management Society

SAGUN	Strengthened Actions for Governance in Utilisation of Natural Resources
SCO	Saving Credit Organization
SPNP	Shey Phoksundo National Park
SSLA	Small Scale Livelihoods Activities
TOT	Training of Trainers
UG	User Group
UMHEP	Upper Modi Hydroelectric Project
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
WAF	Women Advocacy Forum
WDP	Women, Dalit and poor
WM	Women Motivator
WSG	Women Sensitization Group
WUA	Water Users Association
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

SAGUN No Cost Extension Performance Report (October-December 2006)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Strengthened Actions for Governance in Utilization of Natural Resources (SAGUN) Program has been in operation in Nepal since mid-November 2002 for almost 4 years and three months. The program objective is to ensure that Nepal's natural resources are managed in a democratic way; that the performance of selected institutions is improved to meet the principles of good governance; and, in particular, that the benefits derived from natural resources are equitably distributed to the local communities. The program includes four components: (1) Forestry and Buffer Zone, (2) Irrigation, (3) Partnership for Hydropower and (4) Policy Advocacy Campaign.

CARE Nepal, as the Prime Recipient, is working on: (1) Forestry and Buffer Zone in Banke, Bardia, Kailali Districts; (2) Partnership for Hydropower component in Lamjung, Kaski, Ramechhap and Dolakha Districts; and (3) Policy Advocacy Campaign-II in Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Kapilvastu, Banke, Bardia, Surkhet and Kailali Districts. CARE Nepal also implemented irrigation component in the No Cost Extension period.

Part of the SAGUN Program is also being implemented by three sub-grantee partners:

- RIMS-Nepal is working on community forestry in Dhading District;
- WWF Nepal is working on the buffer zone development in Dolpa and some parts of Mugu Districts; and
- FECOFUN is working on the Policy Advocacy Campaign-I in all 24 districts including Dang, Pyuthan, Salyan, Rolpa and Rukum Districts.

During this reporting period, the Program has significantly demonstrated its good results by meeting most of the objectives of the Program. Some highlights of the results are implementation of Public Hearing and Public Auditing (PHPA) processes, which is also published by the Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC), Bangkok in its 'Insight: Notes from the field'. They have been very effective in promoting good governance practices in terms of transparency and accountability among user groups and executive members. The Participatory Well Being Ranking (PWBR) initiative is another example. It has proven effective in identifying and supporting livelihood improvements among poor households, improved access to equitable benefit sharing from community forestry and buffer zone activities, irrigation management and hydropower development, and by involving participants in capacity building programs. Likewise, mobilization of local resource persons (LRPs) has been effective in the current operating environment, and successful in empowering larger numbers of grassroots level people to increase their participation, awareness, knowledge, and rights to information.

The program's focus on the women, *Dalits* and the poor in various capacity building activities has resulted in their increased representation in the equitable decision-making process. Furthermore, the SAGUN Program has given due consideration to equitable access to and benefits from natural resources, particularly among marginal people including the poor. As a result, they have been able to play influential decision-making roles on issues and matters related to their rights and equitable distribution of benefits and revenues. The activities of associated government agencies has also been considerably improved, with increased hand-over of community forests, improved service delivery systems, and transparency on all-important information, policies, rules, regulations, etc., regarding natural resource (forest and water) management. Currently, government staffs are regularly facilitating a rights based approach (RBA), and have participated in advocacy and

governance related training and workshop events, including technical training related to community forests and buffer zone management.

Over the SAGUN Program period, the community level advocacy training, workshops and development conducted by the SAGUN Program have been effective in initiating important changes among the user groups. There are also policy advocacy issues at the district and national levels, designed to ensure livelihood improvement and resource sustainability.

The rationale for the NCE included consolidation of SAGUN learning, policy feedback documentation, smooth and logical phase-out of critical activities, institutional sustainability of primary network, community initiated activities to strengthen good governance in NRM, integration of LRPs (local resource persons) with community groups and network and rational form operational and management perspective.

This report presents the progress made by different components of the SAGUN Program in the No Cost Extension period (October-December 2006).

2. VISION

The program envisions that “at the end of the four year period, *good governance practices are internalized by natural resources management groups at all levels, supporting a code of conduct of equity in access to and benefits from local forest and water resources, specifically benefiting women and other disadvantaged people. There will be increasing productivity of natural resources under local management that is transparent, accountable and directly supporting poverty alleviation, rural community development and national economic growth. Partnerships in natural resource management will resolve conflicts locally and nationally, and thus contribute to re-establishing peace in Nepal.*”

3. OVER ALL OBJECTIVES AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF SAGUN PROGRAM

The overall objective of the program is “*to ensure that Nepal’s natural resources are managed in a democratic way; that the performance of selected institutions is improved to meet the principles of good governance and participation; and in particular, that the benefits derived from natural resources are dispersed in accountable and transparent ways to the local communities and that they and other earned revenues are equitably distributed.*”

There are six specific objectives to address the overall objective:

Specific Objective 1: Strengthen organizational structures, governance and accountability, and technical capacities of Natural Resource Management (NRM) user groups, to ensure (a) resource sustainability and biodiversity conservation, (b) group sustainability and (c) participation of women and other disadvantaged groups.

Specific Objective 2: Strengthen the financial management capacities of NRM groups, and their capacity to monitor benefit and revenue-sharing within their own groups, communities, locally elected bodies: Village Development Committees (VDCs) and District Development Committees (DDCs) and at higher levels.

Specific Objective 3: Strengthen the capacities of relevant NGOs and user federations/ coalitions in the civil society, and of selected private service providers, to work with and assist line

agencies, local NRM groups and local elected bodies to achieve Specific Objectives Nos. 1 and 2, above, and to promote their own strong advocacy role.

Specific Objective 4: Assure more timely communication between all stakeholders of NRM development in Nepal, to (a) share lessons learned and best practices, (b) promote parallel planning, coordination and implementation, and (c) participate in policy discourse.

Specific Objective 5: Document and disseminate best practices and lessons learned regarding local NRM group development and support, to (a) enhance concurrent Program implementation, (b) inform future strategic planning, (c) enhance governance skills, (d) plan and monitor benefit-sharing, and (e) inform policy review and development.

Specific Objective 6: Raise the level of understanding among Nepal's NRM civil service at large (all levels) and ensure their ownership of current environmental governance and social development concepts, philosophies, field methods and implementation strategies.

4. GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS AND TARGET AUDIENCE

The program was developed to build on the successful establishment of NRM groups in 18 districts in Nepal to increase their ability to manage precious natural resources such as forest and water that support their livelihoods. The program target audiences are local NRM groups as the primary beneficiaries, and selected Local Resource Persons and organizations as the local implementing partners, whereas the target audience for the Partnership for Hydropower Component will be the local affected people from the hydropower development.

5. HIGHLIGHTS OF NO COST EXTENSION PERIOD PERFORMANCE

5.1 FORESTRY AND BUFFER ZONE (FBZ) COMPONENT

A number of activities have been implemented by the Component in the No Cost Extension period. Major highlights of the activities have been presented below.

Reskilling of LRPs and women motivators:

Local Resource Persons and Women Motivators have been instrumental in providing various kinds of support to the CFUGs and BZCFUGs. This activity was conducted to re-skill LRPs and women motivators on community forestry, RBA, governance, advocacy and social inclusion, to ensure continuity of their services as legitimate institutions to provide services to the user groups after phase-out of the Program.

Currently, more than 120 LRPs are involving in the component providing excellent services to the user groups as well as government counterparts. These training have also created an enabling environment for them to better qualify in the skills test for their legitimization for their services, so that the LRPs and women motivators are better able to function in community forestry, to serve the user groups and earn their livelihood even after phase-out of the Program.

In the NCE period a number of activities have been focused for providing new skills of governance particularly on social inclusion. The training was conducted in Banke, Bardia and Kailali districts.

In Bardia, the LRPs formed Community Forestry Support Network (COFSUN) to address their concerns and mobilized it to provide awareness training on transparency and accountability to the

CFUGs and BZCFUGs. It is expected that institutionalization of LRPs will be instrumental to provide their support to the needy UGs in the future. In Kailali, members of the *Dalit Jagaram Samuha* have also been trained on the social inclusion which will foster their participation and representation of women, Dalits and the poor in the decision making process, in access to resources, and in benefit sharing. The training was conducted in coordination with Rashtriya Dalit Network (RDN) based at Kailali.

A total of 5 events of training were conducted in Banke, Bardia and Kailali districts which was participated by 129 participants including 62 women and 38 Dalits.

5.1.1 Institutional support to Model CFUGs

Based on the experiences of the past 4 years in good governance in community forestry, the concept of model CFUGs have been emerged to reach out to support large numbers of needy user groups with limited human and financial resources and time. The objective of the model CFUGs is to build themselves up as role models in the districts in good governance in their forest resources management, so as to influence other user groups (UGs) with their successful works for broader replication in a gradual manner. A total of thirty-eight model CFUGs were identified in Banke, Bardia, and Dhading Districts.

A total of 24 model CFUGs were provided various support for their institutional and technical capacity enhancement, and linkage development with external agencies. A total of 989 users including 803 poor and 231 Dalits have benefited from this activity. Support activities include income generation activities like goat raising, support for rickshaw, cycle repairing shop, leaf plate making and retail shops. Furniture support was also provided to some CFUGs for effective functioning of their offices. Distribution of improved cook stoves, sewing machine and capacity enhancement training were also provided.

In Bardia, CFUGs have also provided matching fund of Rs. 188,870 (52 %) out of a total of Rs. 364,870. Remaining support was provided through SAGUN Program. This also demonstrates that CFUGs are increasingly providing their resources for the wellbeing of poor users, hand in hand with the Program support.

5.1.2 Capacity enhancement of CFUGs and saving credit groups

Various activities were conducted to strengthen technical and organizational capacities of the CFUGs and Saving Credit Groups. In the NCE period, financial management and public auditing training was conducted in the VDCs of restricted area in Dolpa. The training embraced several aspects such as record keeping, office management, group auditing, correspondence and process of public hearing and public auditing. These activities have been implemented newly in the restricted area after the improvement in political scenario in Nepal.

Similarly, various trainings were also organized on saving credit schemes, which was participated by members of the Sister Groups. The training focused on group fund mobilization, saving and credit schemes and simple record keeping systems.

A total of 30 women including 4 Dalit women from 10 sister groups participated in the training and managed to build up their capacity in saving and credit schemes.

5.1.3 Support to advocacy functions of the CFUGs

After the implementation of various activities related to good governance, CFUGs have been involved in different advocacy functions to amplify their voice demanding to address their concerns. There is still considerable number of issues related to social and natural resource management that need to be addressed at local and district levels. Empowerment of marginalized members of the society such as women, poor and Dalit is imperative for effective advocacy. In this regard, the Component conducted various activities to provide necessary advocacy skills to Women Advocacy Forums (WAF), Dalit organizations and Federation of Buffer Zone User groups.

A total of 20 events of were implemented in Banke, Bardia and Kailali districts in which 717 participants took part including 378 women and 379 Dalits. In Kailali, social inclusion training was conducted for the members of *Dalit Jagaran Samuha* and training on Dalit rights in partnership with Rashtriya Dalit Network (RDN).

In Bardia, Dalit Sewa Sangh was provided support to express their solidarity against oppression of Dalits in Doti. Similarly, newly formed Federation of Buffer Zone User groups (FEBUCON) was also provided support to form their constitution and in the registration process. As a result FEBUCON is now registered in the District Administration Office. Women Advocacy Forums were provided support in Banke. These activities have empowered the rights holders to raise their voice against discrimination and also claim their rights as ensured by different rules, regulations and policies.

5.1.4 Public Hearing and Public Auditing

PHPA has remained an effective tool for ensuring transparency and accountability in financial management, equitable benefit sharing, decision making processes, etc.; thereby improving and institutionalizing governance practices in the user groups. A total of 8 events was conducted by BZUCs, Sister groups and CFUGs in Bardia and Dolpa. In Bardia it was not planned in the original plan but was conducted due to high demand form the users groups. More than 80% households have participated in the PHPA process with encouraging participation of women, Dalits and poor. Major issues raised in the PHPA in clued:

- Need of pro-poor activities
- Increased representation of Women Dalits and Poor in the executive committees
- Need for participatory process in plan preparation
- Transparency of group fund

Major outcomes:

- Allocation of Rs. 101,980 for pro-poor activities, which helped 43 poor households for their economic empowerment,
- Increased representation of women and poor in the ECs after reshuffling, from 30 to 46% of women and from 3% to 18% of women and poor have been represented respectively
- A total of Rs. 105,000 of misused has been committed for recovery by the EC members

Interaction workshop on roles of different stakeholders:

The role of civil society, private sector and government line agencies is crucial for sustainable forest management. SAGUN Program has been focusing on capacity strengthening of CFUGs/BZCFUGs and relevant GLAs. However, based on SAGUN experience to date, it is

evident that understanding among civil society organizations, the private sector and government line agencies is not as much as anticipated. As a result, they seriously lack direct coordinated actions for the same purposes, resulting in non-achievement of desired objectives and, in some instances, some conflict among them. Periodic interaction among the stakeholders is essential to understand rights, responsibilities and limitations of each other. Interaction workshops were conducted in order to make these agencies accountable to the welfare of the user groups and for the sustainable management of the forest

In the NCE period, interaction workshops have been held in Banke, Bardia and Kailali districts in which DFOs, district FECOFUNs, representatives from CDOs, political parties, journalists, NTFP collectors and traders actively participated. In Bardia, FEBUCON was supported to organize the interaction program. In Banke a working paper was presented by a lawyer on roles of different stakeholders on forest conservation. The processes and outcome of the interaction workshop was also published in the local newspaper *Hamro Chunauti*. At the end of the workshop, the stakeholders have made commitment to perform the agreed roles and responsibilities.

A total of 113 participants including 22 women and one Dalit participated in the interaction program. However, timber contractors did not participate in these workshops which shows that they are still reluctant to participate in such interaction meetings despite repeated requests for participation. As this was the initial period, it seems that more dialogue is required to bring them in the interaction process.

It is expected that there will be more coordinated efforts among these agencies in the future to ensure sustainable management of CF for the benefit of the user groups as a whole.

Institutionalization of best practices:

After the execution of SAGUN Program for more than four years, many activities and processes have evolved as best practices. The NCE period envisaged having better understanding among CFUGs and other stakeholders on how to institutionalize these practices. Some of the best practices include PHPA, PWBR, mobilization of LRPS, allocation of group fund for pro-poor activities, land allocation to poor users for NTFP cultivation, good governance assessment, Women Advocacy Forums etc.

Increasing number of CFUGs have begun to incorporate the best practices of good governance into their constitutions and FOPs which demonstrates that the institutionalization process is being strengthened.

Documentation and publication of best practices:

Various materials have been produced and disseminated in the NCE period. These include the following:
The following materials were produced in Bardia.

- Must know information about CF
- Progress, lessons learned and issues of SAGUN Program
- Guidelines for preparing CFUG's constitution from governance perspective

In addition, in Dolpa best practices and lessons learned is regularly published and disseminated through quarterly newsletter 'Phoksumdho'. Similarly, RIMS Nepal provides regular support to *Ukali* magazine, which has large circulation in the mid-hill communities. The magazine publishes simple, user friendly articles targeted to grassroots people. SAGUN RIMS has been publishing series of articles on good governance and best stories from the field. It is circulated to the groups in SAGUN Program area as well. Similarly, the Program has managed to publish 'Public Hearing and Public Auditing in the Community Forestry User Groups: A summary or process, outcomes

and lessons learned from the SAGUN Program in Nepal' in the RECOFTC's Insight: Notes from the Field Issue 1. 2006.

Income generation from resin tapping:

Income generation through resin tapping in the community forests has been aimed to promote livelihoods of the poor community forest users. Support to the resin network was mainly focused in this reporting period. Account and record keeping was organized for network members. Similarly, Interaction workshop was organized for resin collectors and CFUG representatives. These workshops focused on sharing the opportunity, lessons learned and challenges in resin tapping.

A total of 13,233 kg of resin was collected from 25 CFUGs, which was sold to the private company @ Rs. 25 per kg of resin and generated a total amount of Rs. 3,30,825. Out of this, the collectors received Rs. 1,32,330 (40%), Rs. 32,100 (9.8%) has been spent on transportation, Rs. 9,925 (3 %) as contribution to resin network and local tax of Rs. 8,616 (3%). The CFUGs have made a net profit of Rs. 1,47,854 or about 45% of the total income from the sell of resin. Though the amount of resin produced has been less than anticipated due to less time for collection, resin collectors, who were mostly the poor users of the CFUGs, have been able to receive substantial share of the income.

The Kalikasthan CFUG, has already committed to mobilize 25% of the total income from resin tapping in its pro-poor activities. Thus, the resin tapping program is going to be a good opportunity to mobilize resources of the CFUGs for the wellbeing of poor people.

Details of the progresses are attached in the Annex-1.

5.2 IRRIGATION COMPONENT

Irrigation component of the SAGUN Program has had significant impact on good governance among Water Users Associations (WUAs) for equitable water distribution; maintenance cost sharing and irrigation service fee (ISF) collection. During the tenure of the SAGUN Irrigation component, several innovative ideas had emerged for WUA institutional capacity building. As described in the rationale, No-Cost Extension (NCE) was planned for some specific crucial activities under the SAGUN Irrigation component for three months.

In the NCE period, the component implemented some crucial activities in the 13 WUAs of irrigation systems and focused in supporting into 5 WUAs- Women Sensitization Groups (WSG) implemented saving and credit program. Over 100 % of the planned activities were completed in the NCE period.

In this period major activity focus remained on strengthened WSG supported Saving Credit Organization (SCO), supporting WUA in pro-poor focused programming with the support of micro-enterprise activities, strengthened Human Resource (HR) capacity of WUAs, strengthening strategic planning capacity of NFIWUAN and support WUA in institutionalization of their existing practices of increased women representation in WUA and equitable maintenance cost sharing through supporting in their general assembly.

The achievements of the NCE program of this reporting period are shown in the attached Annex-2 whereas the major highlights of the achievements are given below:

5.2.1 Strengthen women's sensitization groups (WSGs) capacity in the WUAs through Saving Credit Cooperative:

During the SAGUN Program period, 13 WUAs have initiated various innovative works for WUA capacity strengthening. Out of many innovative ideas generated by WUAs, one was the formation of Women's Sensitization Groups (WSGs), which has been effective in increasing the representation of the women in WUAs and local water user groups. Before formation of the WSGs, both the representation of women and Dalits and their access to irrigation water was limited. Similarly, community raised the issues of limited access of the program impact to the land holders only.

WUAs realized the need to move forward towards increased livelihoods of poor, Dalits and the landless in their command areas as well. WUAs started Saving Credit activities within the WSGs by forming various sub-groups where many landless, poor and Dalits could organize themselves. Five WUAs namely, West Gandak, Khageri, Panchakanya, Manusmara –II and Hardinath-West have formed saving credit groups and started saving through these groups. The WUAs have focused on the poor, Dalits and the landless, by mobilizing WUA resources for the benefit of such groups. The status of group members in various WUAs is presented in Table- 1

Table- 1 Status of members in Saving Credit Groups formed under Women Sensitization Groups in the WUAs

Name of the systems	S/C Group	#Women Member	Dalits	Land less	No. of members according to land holding (Katha)				Remarks
					<5	5-10	10-20	>20	
Gandak	17	121	10	6	10	17	37	51	27 % hh are Ultra-poor ¹ Total saving- Rs. 4868/
Khageri	13	537	51	42	124	218	94	20	71.5 % women are Ultra-poor Total saving- Rs. 130,000/
Panchakanya	1	25	0	0	6	13	3	3	76 % women are Ultra-poor. Total saving-12950/
Manusmara II	7	273	72	10	159	48	10	46	83% women are from ultra poor households Total saving-. 28560/
Hardinath West	3	68	17	3	22	18	8	17	93% women are from ultra poor households. Total saving- 23500/
Total	41	1024	150	61	321	314	152	137	Total savings - 199878/

¹ As defined by the government, farmers holding less than 10 Katha land are ultra poor.

A total of 4 events of Saving and Credit (SC) training was organized to the representatives of the 41 groups of saving credit from 5 WUAs. A total of 115 WUAs members including 22 Dalit/Janajati and 8 men actively participated in the training. They acquired knowledge on promotion of SC program in their groups and disseminated within the groups members. The groups with assistance from program staff, conducted Participatory Well Being Ranking (PWBR) in the groups and categorized members into A,B,C,D wellbeing groups. The criteria for PWBR were as follows:

Group D:

- having no own land
- working on others land
- food secure up to 3 months
- not educated members in family; and,
- earning living from wage labor

Group C:

- less than 5 Katha land
- food secure for 6 months
- members in family less than SLC education
- not having government jobs; and,
- skilled work employment seasonally

Group B:

- land size 5-10 Katha
- members educated with SLC education
- small temporary local job holder; and,
- food secure for 9 months

Group A:

- well off
- more than 10 Katha land holding
- service holding member in family in government or other agency; and,
- food secure for whole year.

The program supported two events of skill development training for entrepreneurship development which was provided for A and B category members identified by WSG. A total of 44 women including 17 dalit and Janajati were participated in the training. With the facilitation of the program staff; WUA, WSG, SCO representatives, Irrigation Division Office (IDO) developed a micro-enterprise support strategy and prepared guidelines to support A and B category of the groups. WUA/ WSG, SC groups and members identified the micro-enterprise to conduct by the members of C and D category and managed the priority of supporting members. Joint meeting of groups, WUA, WSG, SCO representatives, Irrigation Division Office (IDO) identified the members to support with micro-enterprise, second turn members who would receive support, interest rate, repayment installment, matching grant from WSG/ WUA etc. Matching grant was at least 10 % in the groups to support micro-entrepreneur.

In 5 WUAs/ WSGs; 41 SCOs have started 8 types of micro-enterprises (See Table-2 for details). Those micro-enterprises were conducted based on the interest of the individual members, skills developed from the training, cost benefit analysis done during training, observed market opportunities, traditional practice and the experience in the sector.

Table-2 Micro-enterprises by ultra-poor members of SCO

SN	Types of Enterprises	No. of Enterprises	Remarks
1	Candle preparation	17	Participants from training initiated.
2	Bindi/Tika Preparation	14	Participants from training initiated.
3	Selling of Vegetable/ Fruits	10	Village outreach/ Ghumti Pasal
4	Selling of Milk	5	-
5	Goat raising	11	-
6	Sewing	3	At village level from the trained person from other agency.
7	Village shop	8	Ghumti Pasal.
8	Cycle repairing	2	Village level centre.
Total	8	70	

The support for micro-enterprise was provided for the first time to 42 Dalits and Janajatis belonging to the D category. It was supported to increase income at household level through economic empowerment. Seed money was provided to WSG/ WUA for implementing the micro-enterprise activities from the members for which WSG/WUA Groups have provided at least 10% as matching. The installment for repayment and duration is fixed by the groups based on the nature of micro-enterprise. The WSG/ Group will mobilize the grant for C category members in the next turn. The fund will be matched with WUA/group fund, which revolves in the same group for increased income in the future.

5.2.2 Strengthen advocacy and Strategic planning Capacity of NFIWUAN

From the program inception, NFIWUAN has been an important partner of SAGUN Program for extending advocacy and good governance services to WUAs on irrigation policy, ISF collection, equitable water distribution and other water management related issues. It has been advocating on existing irrigation issues in relation to overall policy in irrigation development, ISF collection, increased access to resource allocation by Department of Irrigation (DoI), Operation and Maintenance (O and M) activities, and legal status of WUAs in favor of general water users. From the various forums and discussions, it was realized that NFIWUAN remained relatively weak in programming and institutional management. Therefore, four days long strategy development workshop was supported from the program for central committee members where 25 members including 6 female and 1 Janajati participated. Similarly, further support was provided for proposal development for their institutional support with the newly developed strategy. Now, NFIWUAN has its 10 years long programming strategy and proposal at hand. The long term planning of NFIWUAN clearly states the program and its Vision, Mission and Goal. They have requested to CMISP and IWRMP (ADB and World Bank supported program) to support on their strategy through Department of Irrigation.

WUAs have identified local, district and national level advocacy issues for strengthening good governance in irrigation management. Most of the local and district level irrigation management issues are addressed in-depth, whereas national level issues related to irrigation management policy have only recently been initiated. In this regard, NFIWUAN is committed to further support and continuation of the emerging issues of Policy Advocacy..

5.2.3 Support WUA assembly to institutionalize women representation:

WUA, within SAGUN implementation period, had made various decisions, rules and norms for governance. However, they are not clearly reflected in the constitutions, which could be diluted in the future without their proper documentation for institutionalization. Thus the activity was planned to institutionalize decisions and practice in WUA constitution that would be in favor of women, Dalit and marginalized population. For this, Irrigation program provided support for especial WUA general assembly in two systems.

Manusmara –II WUA conducted general assembly in this period and incorporated the decisions of mandatory provision of 33 % of women at all tiers of WUAs and equitable maintenance sharing arrangement from all categories of users in canal. This has provision has ensured legitimize and institutionalize good governance practices and good decisions of WUA.

Similarly, Kamala – East has had problem of election from last 7 years. The Program had supported in facilitation in preparation of constitution and election committee in the past. To expedite the process further, support for initiation of election campaign was provided in the NCE period. Out of total 22 minor and 109 tertiary committees, program could support in election of 9 (40%) and 32(29%) committees respectively (see Table-3 for the status of election in Kamala East WUAs).

Table- 3 Status of Election of WUA-Kamala- East

Committees		Branch	Minor	Tertiary	Total
Total Committees		8	22	109	139
Currently elected/formed committee		0	9	32	41
Total members in committee (according to constitution)		104	242	981	1327
Nos. of elected members	Total	-	83	265	348
	Men Dalits/ Janajati	-	9	51	60
	Other Men	-	47	151	198
	Women total	-	17	63	80
	Dalit/Janajati women	-	8	21	29
	Other women	-	9	42	51
Currently elected women, Dalit and Janajati in key positions	Chair person	-		4	4
	Vice chair person	-	3	11	5
	Secretary	-		7	7
	Treasurer	-	2		2
Total		-	5	22	27

The election support in WUA became successful to ensure representation of more women, Dalit and Janajati in WUA election. The status of WUA election shows the significant increase in representation. The representation of women in 9 minor out of 22 is 27% and 24% in 32 out of 109 tertiary committees. Similarly, representation of Dalit and Janajati is 20.5 % (17 out of 83 minor committees) and 27 % (72 out of 265 tertiary committees). Also the representation in both minor and tertiary by Dalit is 25.6 % (89 out of 348).

5.2.4 Human resource (HR) strengthening in WUAs

During the course of implementation of the SAGUN irrigation program, Local Resource Persons (LRPs) and Gender Social Mobilizers (GSMs) were successfully developed with high competency for facilitation of specific training. The human resources developed in the WUAs needed to be further linked up with the government agencies at the district and national levels in the irrigation sector. The LRPs who graduated from the authorized agencies could be re-skilled through general training-of-trainers (TOT) and other skills so that they could better manage to support WUAs responding to the emerging needs.

The program conducted a 7 days long TOT for 40 selected LRPs including 17 female and 9 Dalits from 12 WUAs. The training enhanced their capacity and built confidence for future facilitation and developed linkages with other agencies and WUA.

Program circulated the bio-data of the LRPs in DoI, IDO, NFIWUAN and concerned WUAs for their future mobilization.

5.2.5 Documentation

Two documents namely; *Learning of Good governance in Irrigation and Community Participatory Evaluation of SAGUN Irrigation Program*, have been published in this period. The publications have been circulated to all CARE Nepal projects and concerned agencies for their review and reference.

5.3 PARTNERSHIP FOR HYDROPOWER COMPONENT

The No Cost Extension (NCE) of the Partnership for Hydropower Component remained mixed in terms of program implementation in all three Program sites: Upper Modi, Middle Marshyangdi and Khimti I. Completion of VDC periodic plans, conduction of review and phase over workshops, completion of documentary production and telecasting works are the successful side of program implementation. Whereas, consolidation of learning, follow up of target group level activities, completion of focus group discussions and reflection workshop for SSLA in Khimti I site could not be completed fully due to staff transition and workload on remaining staff, including the team leader, who was also supposed to lead Irrigation component. The resolution made by Lamjung district level phase over workshop to give continuity to DLCC and PEIMC and finalization of revenue sharing guidelines by Dolakha and commitment from Ramechhap DDCs to endorse the task force recommendation through the district council meeting are the key achievements during this period.

Following sections present the highlights of the reporting period whereas the quantitative plan and progress of activities is presented in Annex-3.

5.3.1 Coordination and Communication Forum

All together, three review cum coordination workshops were completed during this period. All together, 136 participants (24 women and 3 Dalits) participated in these workshops. As highlighted above, Lamjung district level workshop made a resolution to give continuity of DLCC and PEIMC even after phasing over of SAGUN Program until the MMHEP construction work continues.

5.3.2 Capacity Strengthening of Hydropower Project Affected Communities

Nabajagaran Women Network, Lamjung which was formed with the support from the Hydropower Component had organized a rally against dowry system. Approximately 500 people took part in the rally, which was covered by media like Nepal 1 and Image TV Channels. Community level review workshops were organized in UMHEP and MMHEP, where altogether, 56 participants (30 women and 2 Dalits) took part. The target group activities could not be monitored due to the lacking of field staff such as women motivators, who did not continue during this period.

5.3.3 Participatory Implementation and Monitoring of Mitigation Plan

PEIMC continued its monitoring activities in MMHEP. Separate reflection meeting was not felt necessary, as the agenda were discussed during the district level phase over workshop.

5.3.4 Strategic / Periodic Planning of VDCs

Progress in this activity was more than anticipated, as the VDC periodic plan was based on a truly bottom-up and participatory approach was liked by the community people. All together, seven VDCs (two from Lamjung, 3 from Dolakha and 2 from Ramechhap) completed periodic plans. Other two VDCs from Ramechhap had also partially completed their plans. They could not organize their final workshop to finalize the periodic plans. During the planning process all together 1103 participants (184 women and 105 Dalits) took part.

5.3.5 Public Auditing

This activity could not be completed, as there were no such demands for support from the target groups. Political environment did not change as anticipated to conduct VDC's public auditing.

5.3.6 Monitoring of Small Scale Livelihood Activities

Focus group discussions covering all the recipients of SSLA and joint reflection workshops with the representatives of SSLA recipients and facilitating CSOs was planned to monitor and evaluate the process and outputs of SSLA. UMHEP and MMHEP completed these activities as planned, but Khimti I could not do so, because of staff transition during this period.

All together, 269 participants (160 women and 109 Dalits) participated in the discussions and reflection workshops. The recipients were found highly encouraged with the support provided to them including various trainings. Further, the recipients, who were found mostly left out from community organizations, were found highly encouraged from their affiliation to CBOs. Interestingly, some of the recipients found them not addressed by their respective CBOs have also formed their own sub-group to put forward their issues and concerns to the respective CBOs.

Beside this, all together 32 poorest households from UMHEP area received 3-day training on goat raising and material support in terms of two goats per households. Three poorest households received material support in terms of two goats per family from DDC's Poverty Alleviation Fund, Kaski. All Those thirty five families were provided matching support for *khora* (shed) construction from District Livestock Service Office, Kaski.

5.3.7 Consolidation of Overall Learning / Dissemination

The findings from consultant's study including our learning were shared with the representatives of central level government agencies, representatives from the apex bodies of hydropower project affected communities, local implementing partners and the donor by organizing progress review workshop. Three episodes of documentary were prepared and telecasted through *Ankhihyal* in partnership with Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ).

Other documentation and consolidation activities could not be completed mainly due to two reasons. First, all the pilot initiatives are at mid-way far away from concluding the learning. Secondly, the NCE period with less staffing, specially the team leader shared with Irrigation component and later on transition of staff made the documentation and dissemination works difficult.

5.3.8 Follow up of the Progress of Revenue Distribution Guidelines and Provide support as needed.

The Program provided supported to the initiations of the Dolakha and Ramechhap districts to prepare revenue sharing guidelines. Support was provided to study visit of Makwanpur district, technical and logistic support to the task force preparing guidelines and conducting workshop. Dolakha district has been able to come up with the decision for revenue sharing guidelines, whereas Ramechhap DDC has made commitment to endorse the task force's recommendation by the forthcoming district council meeting.

5.3.9 Advocacy Initiatives

The advocacy initiative funded through matching fund from CARE is also continuously progressing. During this period, the national ad-hoc committee of the Federation of Hydropower Project Affected Communities (FEHOPAC) finalized their statute and submitted to District Administration Office, Kathmandu for registration. The District Administration Office has forwarded it to the Ministry of Home with its recommendation; the MoH again forwarded it to MoWR for the same. Hopefully, the Federation will be registered soon.

Key changes

Few changes have been observed during this period, which are enumerated below:

- The Government of Nepal made amendment in the Local Self Governance Regulation (LSGR) clearly mentioning that the “hydropower accrued revenue to the DDC shall be allocated to the affected VDCs/Municipalities”. Member Secretary of the Revenue Sharing Central Monitoring Committee, MoLD informed during the SAGUN Progress review workshop that they are going to develop a detailed guideline incorporating the learning and recommendations from SAGUN Program. Once the guideline is in place, it will fulfill the Specific Objective # H2 of the Partnership for Hydropower Component.
- During this reporting period, following the amendment in LSGR, DDC Ramechhap and Dolakha had been found seriously engaged in preparing hydropower accrued revenue distribution guidelines. They requested SAGUN Program for facilitating the guidelines preparation process. They visited Makwanpur DDC for gathering their experiences and formed a task force to prepare guidelines. During the finalization workshop, Dolakha

DDC has finalized its guidelines based on the recommendations of the task force. However, DDC Ramechhap has committed to finalize it by the forthcoming district council meeting. This is one of the key achievements during this period. If materialized, it will fulfill the Specific Objective # H2.

- The district level phase over workshop of Lamjung district made a resolution to give continuity of DLCC and PEIMC as introduced by SAGUN even after the termination of SAGUN Partner for Hydropower Program. This is also one of the key changes of this period. If materialized it will contribute to achieve Specific Objective # H1.

<p>Box – 1</p> <p>SAGUN has contributed in amendment of LSGR</p> <p><i>“There are many environmental impacts due to big hydropower project construction and people living in the project area must be compensated. In this issue, program like SAGUN raised awareness of project affected communities thereby voices of affected people came more strongly. Looking on that the hydropower revenue which was being disbursed up to District Development Committee according to Local Self Governance Act (LSGA) is now to be distributed to Village Development Committees and Municipalities on the basis of impacts and extension of services. This is the provision of third amendment in LSGR.. This amendment is done on the basis of many good suggestions received from SAGUN. Here, I would like to add that we are going to develop a procedure document in line with this policy and suggestions received from SAGUN will be included as well.” - Dhruva Prasad Dahal, Member Secretary Revenue Distribution Central Monitoring Committee, Ministry of Local Development (Source: Video report prepared by NEFEJ).</i></p>	<p>Box – 2</p> <p>Participatory impact monitoring creates enabling environment</p> <p><i>“In MMHEP, a PEIMC is formed under DLCC including representatives from power developer, government line agencies and affected communities. And this PEIMC carried out filed monitoring, submitted findings and weaknesses in DLCC and sorted it out. Hence, this can be termed as best practice. Such practice started in MMHEP and this can contribute to enabling environment for smooth construction and operation of hydropower development.” Dilip Sadaula, Department of Electricity Development (Video report prepared by NEFEJ).</i></p>
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5.3.10 Major Issues and challenges

Not many issues and challenges were faced during the period, except related with the extension of program towards a logical ending. The program received requests, demands, pressures from the target communities, and district level stakeholders through different forums such as workshop, meetings for the extension of program till the pilot program came to a logical end. This was the biggest learning, challenge for the SAGUN-Partnership for Hydropower Team.

5.4 POLICY ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN –I

Policy Advocacy Campaign-I was implemented by the Federation of Community Forestry User Groups Nepal (FECOFUN) in 24 districts. During this reporting period, PAC-I has completed 38 events against the 40 proposed events organizing 15 different activities successfully. A total of 2,024 participants including 947 women and 25 *Dalits* participated in these activities. Following sections highlight the major activities performed during this reporting period. The quantitative progress of the activities is presented in Annex-4.

Inclusiveness within the FECOFUN

Third national assembly of the FECOFUN was successfully conducted and new executive committee was elected. The next major achievement of the assembly was the amendment of the constitution of the FECOFUN in favor of the social inclusion in terms of caste, gender and geographic regions. As a result, new executive committee represented by minority groups such as *Chepang, Tamang, Rai* and *Madhesi* and high altitude areas such as Mugu district was formed. The PAC -I Program Coordinator Mr G.S. Panday was elected as a new chairperson of the executive committee

Participatory review of PAC –I program

A two days workshop with newly elected FECOFUN central committee members was organized to review progress, achievements and issues of PAC –I. The progress review provided an opportunity to share PAC -I status with new central committee members. The participants expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of the activities.

Initiation of discussion on conservation issues

The PAC-I actively initiated a debate among FECOFUN members to recognize a strong role of local community for Rhino and Rhododendron conservation leading to the livelihoods improvements of local people.

5.4.1 Start up and support activities

One event of alliances and networking at international level was organized to develop linkages and share experiences in advocacy and joint forest management with forest user groups and other institutions. The 13 member group including 4 women and 1 *Dalit* represented by a wide range of institutions such as National Policy Advocacy Forum, Member of Parliament, Government, CARE Nepal, FECOFUN and PAC -I district level facilitators. The group visited National Center for Advocacy Studies (NCAS), Pune; Ghodganga Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, Pune and Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development (IBRAD), Kolkata.

Following are the main objectives of India tour

- To learn and discuss on advocacy, movements and Rights Based Approach to Development
- To share the stories of success and failure of Natural Resources Management in Nepal
- To make a formal or informal alliance and networking with the organizations/institutions having similar goals and objectives of FECOFUN

Main learning from the tour:

During the tour participants had interactions among different organizations/ individual people who are working for people's rights and justice.

- Sugar farmer cooperative was one of the effective and impressive activities where farmers are working together in economic empowerment. They have good network through out the country. This was a good example of people's cooperative and alliances and networking for farmer's justice and their rights.
- Advocacy must be based on RIGHT BASED approach to development.
- Advocacy must be based on constitutional values.
- Advocacy is a political process. It can not be separated from politics.
- Advocacy is not a separate action. It is an organized set of actions.
- Advocacy is not a tool but a process.
- Converting enemy into a friend is the result and the best way of advocacy

5.4.2 Workshop/training/seminars/media advocacy

Two regional level issue based workshops were conducted in Sarlahi and Bardiya during the period to facilitate issue based advocacy at regional. The workshop organized in Sarlahi was mainly focused in CF issues in Terai including inclusion of distance users in CFUGs. Like wise, the workshop held in Bardia identified emerging issue of Permanent Auditing Number (PAN) for CFUGs. Similarly, inclusion of poor households in CF, boundary conflicts between buffer zone and community forests, royalty rate of NTFPs and review of operational plan and constitution of CF were discussed.

A total of 88 individuals (29 women and 5 *Dalits*) representing CSOs, political parties, Government and FECOFUN participated in two issue based workshop/seminars at regional level. Similarly, 44 participants (10 women and no *Dalit*) from eastern 11 districts received advanced advocacy training organized in Dharan. In addition, two issue based workshop/seminars were carried out in Taplejung and Rasuwa during the period.

The main issue raised by the participants in Taplejung was conservation of Laligurans habitat. Laligurans is multi purpose tree having ethno botanical value and its habitat has been depleted day by day due to the people's pressure for firewood and cultivation. The workshop remained successful in developing common understanding on the importance of conservation of Laligurans and its ethno botanical value in local medicine. This was first initiation from District FECOFUN chapter on this issue. The participants representing different CSOs and concerned stakeholders have expressed their commitment in working together for Laligurans conservation.

Participants from Rasuwa raised issue of operational plan and management of the NTFPs. These two issue based workshops were participated by 84 participants (17 women and no *Dalit*) representing CSOs, political parties, Government, and FECOFUN members.

5.4.3 Policy advocacy forum/periodic meetings/participatory policy review

One meeting of National Policy Advocacy Forum was organized in Kathmandu, which was participated by 25 participants (3 women and 3 *Dalits*). The meeting was focused to discuss on the land rights of the local people to forge micro, meso and macro linkages. Similarly, a demonstration and mass rally was organized in Kathmandu that was taken part by 1,500 participants (800 women) representing CSOs and political parties. The demonstration and rally was used as a campaign to highlight the community forestry issues to wider audiences.

5.4.4 *Communication and dissemination*

One case study on documenting policy influences was carried out during the period. The study mainly focused on processes for policy influence at different levels applied in PAC program districts. The study documented major policy changes at different level in program districts. Recommendations have been made for the promotion of effective policy advocacy initiatives.

Similarly, three video documentaries were produced during the period to highlight issues affecting the livelihood of target beneficiaries and their policy implications at various levels, participatory identification of issues, campaigns and rallies in support of issues, development of advocacy strategy and plans. These are: (a) process and learning of PAC program in Nepali and English language. (b) Networking and alliances at national and international level and their importance in policy formulation and (c) Third general assembly of the FECOFUN, it documents the process and conduction of third national assembly of the FECOFUN, which can be utilized as a networking demonstration material.

A number of IEC materials were published and disseminated during the period to share information on advocacy tools, process, lessons and experiences. It includes (i) Poster on process of advocacy, (ii) Advocacy campaign in newspaper, (iii) Experiences and collection of changes from PAC program (iv) Concept of Advocacy Forum (v) RBA manual (vi) Governance manual (vii) Annual Performance Report in Nepali and English medium (viii) Compilation of Declaration and (ix) Administrative and Financial Management handout for CFUGs. The Human Interest Stories (HIS) are included in two IEC material namely experiences and collection of changes from PAC program and advocacy campaign in newspaper.

Two field visits were organized by Bara and Morang district chapters of FECOFUN for policy makers, FECOFUN Central Committee members and journalists. A total of 53 individuals (12 women and 9 *Dalits*) participated in the programs. In addition, 122 participants (53 women and 5 *Dalits*) representing policy advocacy forum of the districts including FECOFUN members visited different districts and interacted on social and CF related issues. The events were organized in Pokhara, Rupandehi, Siraha and Kanchanpur clusters.

A national level workshop on Rhino conservation was organized. A total of 95 participants (19 women and 2 *Dalits*) representing FECOFUN district chapters, civil society organization, political parties and their sister organizations participated in the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to discuss on the roles of different actors and explore the appropriate conservation policy. Conservation experts and concerned stakeholders including Government officials participated in the workshop.

Following are the main issues raised during the work shop.

- Policy should be formulated in favor of the indigenous people who are displaced from conservation areas (Mushahar, Bote and Majhi).
- Wildlife conservation can not be effective unless the socio-economic issues of the local people are addressed and their role in the policy process made more apparent.
- The representatives of the local people strongly raised the voice in favor of the people centered policy in conservation.

Without involvement of the people in conservation, government can not control rhino poaching. Therefore, government should handover management responsibility of the national park to local people.

The third national assembly of the FECOFUN was held in Kathmandu during 20-25 December 2006. All together 370 participants including the representatives of the 73 district FECOFUN chapters participated in the assembly. The major achievement was the amendment of the constitution of the FECOFUN in favor of the social inclusion. For the first time, new executive committee represented minority groups such as *Chepang*, *Tamang*, *Rai* and *Madheshi* and high altitude areas such as *Mugu* district.

5.5 POLICY ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN-II

Policy Advocacy Campaign-II was implemented in 7 districts. Major highlights of the progress during the SAGUN NCE period are given below. The quantitative progress is presented in Annex-5.

5.5.1 Strengthen Civil Society Forums at District Levels

For the last four years many civil society groups (CSOs) and networks, including CFUGs, WUAs and SCOs, have identified and forwarded their district level issues like autonomy of CFUGs according to Forest Act and regulations, handover of forests in Tarai and Siwalik areas, access to and control over resources by poor, women and *Dalits*, equitable sharing of cost and benefits to all users in irrigation management, abolition of year round electricity demand charge in lift and dip tube-well irrigation, unequal wages between men and women while doing a job of same nature. Networks/federations of these CSOs were advocating on these different issues at district level through the formation and mobilization of constituencies in order to generate and amplify a common voice among all CSOs.

Following this process, district level civil society forums were formed and mobilized in all program districts to widen the constituency on behalf of district level rights holders. Consequently, the forums are developed as a common forum of all civil society organizations to organize issue based meetings, expressing solidarity and mobilizing their constituency on behalf of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded people.

During the reporting period, the program supported and facilitated the district level civil society forums in all program districts to organize 33 events of issue based interaction meetings and campaigns. Altogether 3,662 participants including 2,497 women and 387 *Dalits* participated in such interaction programs. Some of the major issues raised in such interaction are: meaningful participation of women, *Dalit* and poor in decision making key positions of CSOs, forging linkage between CSOs and local government through sharing of budget and programs, settlement and land rights issues of freed *Kamaiyas* and landless people, campaign against *Beth Begari*² system as well as institutionalization and sustainability of CSOs. This support has also facilitated ongoing advocacy process of FECOFUN, NFIWUAN, Women Advocacy Forum (WAF) and other networks to identify district level policy issues, analyze policies, and expand their constituency at the district level through the effective mobilization of district level civil society organization's forum.

5.5.2 Women Advocacy Forum Strengthening and Mobilization

The PAC-II is currently working with women's advocacy forums in all program districts. These forums are functioning at both grassroots and district levels. These forums have initiated several advocacy campaigns against social discrimination, inequitable access to and control over natural resources by different groups of people, inequitable access to DDC and VDC funds, and violation

² *Beth Begari* is a traditional system in *Chaudhary* community where voluntary contribution of labor in favor of landlords is practiced.

of human rights. In the reporting period, the project supported WAFs to make them able to function independently and more effectively.

Similarly, attention was paid by the CSOs to link district level WAFs with regional and national women rights organizations and forums to mainstream their issues with broader women's rights movement. During the reporting period, WAF in project districts conducted 40 events of issue based interaction and altogether 1,576 participants including 1,480 women and 444 *Dalits* participated in the interaction workshops and meetings.

As a result of this support, the capacity of WAFs enhanced to influence DDC and VDC planning and budgeting on behalf of women, organizing women's movements against discrimination, forging linkage with women's networks at different levels. For instance WAF in Kailali decided to stand as a member based people's organization and initiated to distribute membership to about 3,000 women. Similarly, all district level WAFs in the project districts organized violence against women campaign on 10 December 2006, the world human rights day.

5.5.3 Campaign for violence against women

An interaction program between grass roots and national level women activists was organized in Kathmandu on 3 and 4 December 2006 as part of "The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence". Altogether, 36 women from program districts representing violence victim and members of women advocacy forum participated in the program. Following "The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence" program, some informal interaction and discussion programs were organized on 3rd December. The first part of this interaction was organized between grassroots and national level women activists and the second round interaction was an interaction of the participants with the Hon. Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare Ms. Urmila Aryal.

The major concerns and issues raised by grassroots women in this interaction were:

- Appropriate laws to ensure equal wages between men and women while doing a job of same nature.
- Provision of allowances for all widows without discriminating against their age limitations and types of incidence.
- Abolition of all kinds of violence against women and provisions to compensate the victims.
- Abolition of Dowry and *Chaupadi* system.
- Ban on free production and trade of alcohol.
- Abolition of *Haliya* system.
- Effective implementation of recent initiations taken by the government like citizenship from mother's name, property rights, mandatory provision of at least 33% women etc.
- Effective participation of women in upcoming constituent assembly process.
- Institutionalization and effective mobilization of Women Advocacy Forums.

The discussion provided a good opportunity to grassroots women to share their struggle with national level women rights activists and policy makers and also to become familiar with different policies and provisions related to them. In turn, the national level activists and policy makers got an opportunity to learn first hand experiences, lessons and struggles of women in different parts of the country. Ultimately, it has contributed to develop a direct linkage between the women activists working at different levels. It has been realized that the interaction remained fruitful to work as a bridge to link grassroots women's movements with national level women rights movement through sharing and cross learning. This process has empowered many powerless women and instilled a hope in them that they are in a right track to claim their human rights and justice.

6. MAJOR ISSUES/CHALLENGES

There were no significant issues raised in this reporting period. The operating environment greatly improved and facilitated smooth implementation of the Program activities. As a result, it was possible to conduct activities in the restricted area of Dolpa where the program activities could not be implemented in the past due to insurgency.

The PAC Component faced challenges on how to translate essence of the eight point agreement between FECOFUN and the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation into filed implementation. However, some district FECOFUN chapters were able to influence district level authorities for its effective implementation.

There was great demand for the extension of SAGUN Program from the communities, local bodies and other stakeholders in the Hydropower and Irrigation Component areas. Institutionalization of some of the initiatives taken by the Program could have been greatly enhanced had the Program continued beyond NCE. However, the SAGUN Extension Program will try to build on the synergy and explore any opportunities to strengthen the groups, particularly to address the concerns of the women, poor and socially excluded people.

7. LESSONS LEARNED

Strengthening good governance practices in the NRM groups is a time taking process. Implementation of good governance activities over the years had resulted in evolution of best practices. However, for sustainability of the program intervention, it is essential that these best practices are institutionalized beyond internalization. Particularly, in the Hydropower and Irrigation Component the institutionalization process could not be strengthened due to short time span. However, there is a great opportunity for sustainable impact through institutionalization of such practices in the Forestry and Buffer Zone Component in the SAGUN Extension Program.

8. PROSPECT FOR THE FUTURE

Completion of the NCE period has provided a fresh impetus for institutionalization process of various efforts of the SAGUN Program. In the SAGUN Extension Program, the institutionalization process for some of the best practices of good governance will be expedited in the old districts. In the new areas, the initiatives will be replicated encompassing new programmatic focus of livelihoods improvement of the poor communities.

Annexes

STRENGTHENED ACTIONS FOR GOVERNANCE IN UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SAGUN (Forestry/Buffer Zone) Program
NO COST EXTENSION Progress Report
(October 2006 to December 2006)

Component: Forestry/Buffer Zone

Cluster: Nepalgunj

Key Implementing Agency: CARE, WWF and RIMS Nepal

S.N.	Activities	Focus Group	Unit	Qualitative Indicator	Quantity												Remarks
					CARE			WWF			RIMS Nepal			Total			
					Plan	Prg.	%	Plan	Prg.	%	Plan	Prg.	%	Plan	Prg.	%	
F1	Strengthened CFUGs and BZUGs with enhanced technical and organizational capacities to ensure biological diversity, resource utilization, sustainability, equitable benefit sharing the groups' own sustainability through community development activities.																
1.1	Re-skilling of LRPs and Women Motivators through workshops and training on Community Forestry, RBA, Advocacy, Governance and Social Inclusion	LRPs/WMs/ Dalit Jagaran Sangh	Event	The training mainly focused on social inclusion. In Bardia, support was provided through district chapter of Community Forestry Support Network (COFSUN). In Kailali, the women motivators and members of Dalit Jagaran Samuha were also involved.	4	5	125	0	-	-	1	0	0	5	5	100	A total of 129 participants took part in the training with 62 women and 38 Dalits.
1.2	Institutional support to Model CFUGs	Model CFUGs	Group	Activities focused to provide support to livelihoods improvement of the poor, study tour, furniture purchase etc.	26	24	92	0	-	-	10	0	0	36	24	67	
1.3	Training on financial management and public auditing, transparency, accountability and predictability on the basis of equity concept for CFUGs	CFUGs/ BZUGs	Event	Training conducted in the restricted VDCs focusing on PHPA, account keeping and transparency for the Executive Committee members.	0	-	-	1	1	100	0	-	-	1	1	100	A total of 14 members including one woman participated in the training.
1.4	Training for eco-club teachers and members	Teacher	No.		0	-	-	1	2	200	0			1	1	100	
1.5	Training to saving-credit groups	Sister groups	Person	Training provided to sister groups. It focused on group fund mobilization, saving credit schemes etc.	0	-	-	1	1	100	0	-	-	1	1	100	A total of 30 women participated from 10 sister groups.
F2	Strengthened capacity and increased active participation of women, the poor and other disadvantaged groups (Dalits/ Poor) in CFUGs and BZUGs through consensus decision-making process and leadership positions.																
2.1	Leadership training for newly elected EC members	Women, Dalits and Poor	Event	The training focused on group mobilization, gender, good governance and so on.	5	5	100	1	1	100	0	-	-	6	6	100	A total of 156 participants participated including 97 women and 46 Dalits (34 women).
2.2	Revolving Fund Support to Poor	CFUGs	Group	Rules and regulations related to fund mobilization for pro-poor activities were developed in the workshop. SAGUN Program provided Rs. 25000 and six groups provided Rs. 95,000 as matching fund to operate the revolving fund.	6	6	100	0	-	-	0	-	-	6	6	100	A total of 195 poor participants joined the workshop including 157 women and 21 Dalits (21). There were 153 poor (20 women) users among them.
2.3	Support for advocacy functions	Dalit Jagaran Manch/WAF	Event	In Bardia, Dalit Sewa Sangh was supported to provide solidarity against	15	20	133	0	-	-	0	-	-	15	20	133	A total of 717 participants took part in

S.N.	Activities	Focus Group	Unit	Qualitative Indicator	Quantity												Remarks
					CARE			WWF			RIMS Nepal			Total			
					Plan	Prg.	%	Plan	Prg.	%	Plan	Prg.	%	Plan	Prg.	%	
		/ BZMC		Doti incidence of Dalit oppression. Support was also provided to newly formed federation of BZUCs, FEBUCON. In Kailali, support was provided to RDN and Dalit Jagaran Samuha for advocacy on Dalit rights. Women Advocacy Forums were supported in Banke.													different activities. This included 378 women and 379 Dalits (162 women).
2.4	Governance Literacy Classes for Women, Dalits and Poor	Women, Dalits and Poor	Center	Non-formal Education with governance literacy classes were conducted in Dolpa.	0	-	-	3	3	100	0	-	-	3	3	100	A total of 62 women including 9 Dalits participated in the literacy classes.
2.5	Employ Women Motivators /Community Mobilizers	WM/CM	Person		14	14	100	3	4	133	0	-	-	17	18	106	Women Motivators and Community mobilizers continued their service in the NCE period as well.
F3	Revision of OPs and an adequate numbers of new CFUGs identified and mobilized with help of clear guidelines, to fulfill demands and needs of local communities for active management control over the community forest.																
3.1	FOP Renewal	CFUGs	Group	In Dhading FOPs were renewed incorporating the elements of good governance.	0	-	-	0	-	-	4	2	50	4	2	50	
F4	Strengthened capacity of CFUGs and BZUGs in overall accountability, monitoring and advocacy functions to a) monitor service delivery by government b) monitor benefit/revenue sharing among the groups themselves, in the communities, park offices and local elected bodies (VDCs and DDCs) and higher.																
4.1	Public hearing and public auditing	CFUGs/BZUGs	Group	PHPA was conducted in Dolpa by 2 BZUCs and 3 sister groups. The EC members committed to recover Rs. 105,000 of the misused fund.	0	-	-	3	5	160	0	-	-	3	5	160	The PHPA event was participated by 102 members of the CBOs including 59 women and 14 Dalits. In addition, PHPA was also conducted in Bardia by 3 CFUGs, which was not planned originally but conducted due to the demand by the CFUGs. Similarly, 2 events of PHPA was also conducted in Banke district.
F5	Strengthened capacities of relevant civil society NGOs/CBOs and networks, including FECOFUN and selected service providers in the private sector, to a) establish clear role and responsibilities of networks, b) provide advocacy functions, c) strengthen CFUG organizational and technical capacities for 'active forest management' and resource sustainability, and d) ensure good governance, economic viability and group sustainability.																
5.1	Training on Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion	NGO/CBOs/ Federations	Event	The training was conducted to impart knowledge on gender, equity and social inclusion among the CFUG members.	0	-	-	0	-	-	2	2	100	2	2	100	A total of 51 members including 39 women and 16 Dalits participated in the training.
5.2	Interaction workshop on roles of civil society, private sector	Federations/ NGOs/	Event	In Banke and Kailali the interaction workshop was conducted with	3	4	133	0	-	-	0	-	-	3	4	133	A total of 113 persons including 22 women

STRENGTHENED ACTIONS FOR GOVERNANCE IN UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (SAGUN) PROGRAM
QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (No Cost Extension Period)
(October to December 2006)

Component: Irrigation

Cluster : Bharatpur

Key Implementing Agency : CARE Nepal

S.N	Activities	Target Group	Unit	Total	Quality Indicators	Plan	Progress	Percent	Remarks
I-1.	Strengthen Women Sensitization Group (WSG) capacity in WUA through Saving Credit Cooperative and Mobilization								
I-1.1	Training for Saving Credit Cooperatives	WSG	events	3	A total of 4 events of Saving-Credit training was organized for S/C members from 41 groups where 8 men and 107 women participated including 22 Dalits and Janajati. The participants were well familiarized with promotion of S/C activities and shared with their members.	3	4	133	
I-1.2	Micro-enterprise training	WSG	events	279	A total of 2 events of micro-enterprises training was conducted where 44 female including 17 dalits and Janajati participated from 5 systems namely WGIS, KgIS, PKIS, MIS- II and HIS- West. They all developed skill on preparing Bindi , candle, cycle repairing, retailer local shop and goat raising etc.	2	2	100	
I-1.3.	Micro-enterprise development support	WSG	events	1	A total of 70 saving members from 41 groups of 5 WUAs / WSG including 68 females and 11 dalits grpup members were supported for micro enterprises program and benefiting directly from the activities.	30	41	137	
I-2.	Strengthen advocacy and Strategic planning Capacity of NFIWUAN								
I.2.1	Strategic planning Workshop	NFIWUAN	events	2	25 membes including 6 female from certral committee of NFIWUAN partipated 4 days long workshop and developed VMGO, Stratgic plan taking 10 years VMGO and program proposal accordingly.	1	1	100	
I-1.3.	Support WUA assembly to institutionalize women representation.								
I.3.1	Support General Assembly	WUA	Nos		2 WUA supotted for general assembly viz MIS-II and Kamala East Irrigation system In the GA, WUA ensured for female representation in their executive body at all level of WUA in their constitution. And Kamala - East ensured increased representation of female and Dalit/ Janajati in current election.	2	2	100	
I-1.4	HR strengthening in WUA								
I-1.4.1	GSM Support	WUA	Pax	30	30 GSMs were supported in 13 Irrigation systems. Their support was very useful in collecting information on ISF , parcellary map and dissimination of SCO information on groups.	30	30	100	
I-1.4.2	LRP Mobilization support	LRPs	person/ Day	225	23 male and 17 female LRPs were mobilized for facilitating SCO,collecting information on ISF , parcellary map and dissimination of SCO information on groups for 225 days.	225	225	100	
I-1.4.3	General TOT for LRP	LRPs	events	2	A total of 40 LRP including 9 Dalits and Janajati partipated 7 days long training where they developed confidence in facilitating and developed network for facilitating training with other agencies and WUA.	2	2	100	

**STRENGTHENED ACTIONS FOR GOVERNANCE IN UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (SAGUN) PROGRAM
QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (No Cost Extension Period)
(October to December 2006)**

**Component: Partnership for Hydropower
Cluster: Kathmandu
Key Implementing Agency: CARE Nepal**

SN	Activity	Unit	Quality indicator	Plan	Progress	Percent	Remarks
A	Coordination and Communication Forum						
1	Conduction of reflection meeting / workshop, DLCC	Event	All together 136 participants (24 women and 3 Dalits) in MMHEP and Khimti I took part in phase over and review workshop	3	3	100	
2	Conduction of reflection meeting / workshop, CLCC	Event		1	0	0	It was not felt necessary during this period
B	Capacity Strengthening of Hydropower Project Affected Communities						
B1	Target communities focused						
1	Continuation of best practices by the target groups		on their own based on the plan of action developed within September 2006				The target groups carried out their activities but could not be gathered due to the lack of field staff such as motivators during the period
2	Support to follow up target group level activities from respective apex bodies	Event		3	0	0	It was not demanded from the apex bodies.
3	Organize community level review workshop	Event	All together 56 participants (30 women and 2 Dalits) in UMHEP and MMHEP took part in community level review workshop	3	3	100	
B2	Networks / federation focused						
1	Support advocacy initiatives of the networks / federation		As per the need of the federation				Women Network of MMHEP affected area took a rally against dowry, which was telecasted by Nepal 1 and Image Channel
C	Participatory Implementation and Monitoring of Mitigation Plan						
1	Conduct reflection meeting of PEIMC	Event	Assisted Participatory Environmental Impact Monitoring Committee (PEIMC) of MMHEP to continue monitoring the second batch of monitoring activities.	1	1	100	Reflection meeting was carried out together with activity # A.1, district level phase over workshop
D	Strategic / Periodic Planning of VDCs						
1	Support to finalize and publication of VDC's periodic plan	VDCs	- All together 7 VDCs (2 Lamjung, 3 Dolakha and 2 Ramechhap) completed periodic pland. Other 2 VDCs of Ramechhap partially completed except the final workshop. - All together 1103 (184 women, 105 Dalits) representing VDCs and district lvel stakeholders participated during the process of formulating VDCs periodic plan	3	9	300	Higher the progress is to give continuity of the main phase.
E	Public Auditing						

SN	Activity	Unit	Quality indicator	Plan	Progress	Percent	Remarks
1	Support public auditing of Civil Society Organizations	No.		6	0	0	No demand was received from the CSOs for supporting their public auditing.
2	Support public auditing of VDCs	No.		5	0	0	Could not be done because of the political environment for VDC's functioning.
F	Monitoring Small Scale Livelihood Activities (SSLA)						
1	Conduct focus group discussion of SSLA recipient households	Event	All together 200 SSLA recipients (124 women and 87 Dalits) from UMHEP and MMHEP participated in focus group discussion	15	7	47	It could not be carried out in Khimti I area due to staff transition
2	Conduct reflection workshop of SSLA recipients and SSLA facilitating CBOs	Event	All together 69 participants (36 women and 22 Dalits) representing SSLA recipients and facilitating CBOs from UMHEP and MMHEP participated in focus group discussion	3	2	67	It could not be carried out in Khimti I area due to staff transition
G	Consolidation of overall learning / dissemination						
1	Complete case studies on resettlement, impact of SSLA process, impact of program activities specially targeted for marginalized community	No.		3	0	0	Case study on resettlement was dropped out, as comprehensive resettlement policy is under preparation from National Planning Commission.
2	Consolidate findings / learnings (resettlement, community involvement in hydropower development and environmental management, overall learning) in the form of guidelines and learning documents	No.	General learnings were shared with DDCs and VDCs during the phase over workshops.	3	0	0	It could not be completed due to two main reasons as the learning became incomplete suggesting a guidelines would also be immature.
3	Disseminate overall learning by organizing workshop	No.	Outcomes of independent consultant's study and our learnings were shared during progress review meeting. Learnings were also telecasted through Ankhijhyal through NEFEJ.	1	1	100	It was also shared at the district level phase over workshop.
4	Publish consolidated learning document	No.		1	0	0	Again could not be completed due to workload of staff and staff transition.
H	Follow up the progress of revenue distribution guideline and provide support as needed		as needed				Supported exposure visit, task force meeting and preparation of revenue sharing guidelines for Dolakha and Ramechhap districts.

STRENGTHENED ACTIONS FOR GOVERNANCE IN UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (SAGUN) PROGRAM
QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (No Cost Extension Period)
(October to December 2006)

Component: Policy Advocacy Campaign- I (PAC-1)

Key implementing Agency: FECOFUN and CARE Nepal

SN	Activities	Focus Group	Unit	Quality Indicator	plan	progress	%	Remarks
A	Start up and support activities							
f	Alliance and networking at regional and district level							
	ii) Alliance and networking at international level	FECOFUN	Event	13 Participants (4 women and 1 Dalit) participated in alliance and newtworking at International level	1	1	100	This activities was conducted at India (Mumbai and Calcutta)
SO1	To develop common understanding on governance, RBA and advocacy and enhance advocacy capacity of NRM based federations, other CSO and political parties at district and national levels.							
1.2	Advance advocacy training							
1.2.1	Advanced advocacy training at national level	Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders	Event	44 participants (10 women and no Dalits) received advanced advocacy training at central level	1	1	100	This activity was organized in Dharan with the participation of 11 districts of Eastern Nepal and Udayapur.
1.3	Issues based workshops/seminars							
1.3.1	Issue based workshop/seminar at national level	Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders	Event	84 participants (17 women and no Dalit) representing CSOs, political parties, government and FECOFUN participated in 1 day issues based workshop	1	2	200	A total two activities were organized in Taplejung (participants were from Taplejung and Panchthar) and Rasuwa against the palnned 1 activity
1.3.2	Issue based workshop/seminar at Regional level	Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders	Event	88 participants (29 women and 5 Dalits) representing CSOs, political parties, G and FECOFUN participated in issue based workshop/seminars.	2	2	100	These activities were organized in Sarlahi (participants from Sarlahi, Bara, Rautahat and Mahottari) and Bardiya (participants from Bardiya, Dailekh, Surkhet, Dang, Salyan, Pyuthan, Banke, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Baitadi, Bajhang and Bajura.
1.4	Media advocacy							
1.4.3	TV program	CFUG/BZFUG/Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders	Episode	15 minutes long TV programme was broadcasted twice a moth (15 days interval) through Akhijhaya, Kantipur, Nepal TV and Channel Nepal Television . This program was mainly focused on policy, its implementation issues and experience sharing of the CFUGs	3	5	166.67	Giving emphasis of its importance, two additional episodes were broadcasted
1.4.4	Radio program	CFUG/BZFUG/Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders	Episode	8 episodes of Radio program broadcasted through FMs from different locations of country.	4	8	200	Giving emphasis of its importance, four additional episodes were broadcasted

SN	Activities	Focus Group	Unit	Quality Indicator	plan	progress	%	Remarks
SO2 Objective 2: To formulate and mobilize advocacy forums at district and national levels to effectively mobilize constituencies to influence policies								
2.2 Periodic meeting/workshop of policy advocacy forum								
2.2.1	Periodic meeting/workshop of policy advocacy form at national level	Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders	Event	25 participants (3 women and 3 dalit) were attended in periodic meetings of national level policy advocacy forum .	3	1	33.333	Giving high priority to another activities and the unavailability of forum's members, the remaining activities couldn't be completed
2.3 Policy advocacy campaign on burning issues								
2.3.1	Policy advocacy campaign on burning issues at national level	Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders	Event	1500 participants (800 women) representing CSOs political parties participated in a national level policy advocacy campaign on burning issues	1	1	100	This activities was organized as a PRABHAT PHERI on the occasion of third national general assembly of FECOFUN. Different CSOs and NGOs were in the activity showing different byaners and playcards having the slogans of forestry rights.
SO3 Objective 3: To establish an effective communication mechanism to document and disseminate lessons learned and best practices of the programme .								
3.1	Conduct field case studies	CFUG/BZFUG/Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders	Event	All total 1 case study was conducted in this period assessing the influence of PAC on policy influence	1	1	100	The case on documenting policy influences trough PAC
3.2	Production of video documentary	CFUG/BZFUG/Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders	Event	All together 3 video documentaries were produced in this period	3	3	100	These 3 video documentaries include Process of PAC, Networking / Alliances and process of 3rd general assembly of FECOFUN
3.5	Publication of information, education and communication (IEC) materials (leaflet, policy analysis documents, case)	CFUG/BZFUG/Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders	Package	Different IEC materials were produced and disseminated in this period.				These IEC materials include Poster on process of advocacy (1000 copies), Advocacy Campaign in Newspaper (1000 copies), Experiences and collection of changes from PAC program (1000 copies), Concept of advocacy forum (1000 copies), RBA manual (500 copies), Governance manual (500 copies), Annual performance report in Nepali and English medium (1000 copies), Compilation of declaration (1000 copies) and Administrative and Financial handsout for CFUGs (1000 copies)
3.6	Field visit of policy maker, FECOFUN central members and journalists.	Policy makers, FECOFUN central members and journalists	Event	53 participants (12 women and 9 Dalit) representing policy makers, journalists and FECOFUN members) visited program districts	2	2	100	These activities were organized by Bara and Morang FECOFUN seeing the importance of field visit by the stakeholders of these regions.
3.7	Cross visit of policy advocacy forum members	Policy advocacy forum members	Event	122 participants (53women and 5 Dalits) representing policy advocacy forum, CSOs including FECOFUN members visited different districts and interacted on social and CF related issues.	4	4	100	Mahakali cluster(Baitadi, Dadeldhura,Kanchanpur and Bajag),Pokhara cluster(Kaski, Lamjung,Tanahu,sanjya, Parbat abd baglung), Siraha cluster(Siraha,Saptari,Dhanusa and Sarlahi) and Butwal cluster(kapilbastu,Palpa, Gulmi and Rupendhei)
3.8	National workshop on policy advocacy	CFUG/BZFUG/Federations/CSO/NGO/political parties and other key stakeholders This workshop was held in Kathamdu on "Inclusiive Constitution Assembly and Women Rights on Natural Resources".	Event	95 participants (19 women and 2 Dalits) representing FECOFUN district chapters, civil society organization , political parties and their sisters organization participated the this workshop.	2	2	100	This activity covers the program on Rhino's horn exploitation (organized in Kathmandu) and review, reflection and further planning of PAC program
3.10	General assembly of district and central FECOFUN	District and central FECOFUN	Event	FECOFUN's central and district chapters supported to organize general assembly	2	5	250	Third National General Assembly of FECOFUN and General assembly of Dhading, Salyan, Dang and Rukum.

**STRENGTHENED ACTIONS FOR GOVERNANCE IN UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (SAGUN) PROGRAM
QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (No Cost Extension Period)
(October to December 2006)**

Component: Policy Advocacy Campaign- II (PAC-II)

Key Implementing Agency: CARE Nepal in partnership with 8 local partners

S N	Activities	Target group	Unit	Quality indicator	Quantity			Remarks
					Plan	Prog.	%	
1	Strengthen district level forum of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	PVSEs through District level forum of CSOs	# of issue based interaction	24 events of issue based interaction will be conducted by district level CSOs	24	33	137	33 events of issue based interaction and campaigns were conducted by district level CSOs. Altogether, 3,662 participants including 2,497 women and 387 <i>Dalits</i> participated in the issue based interactions.
2	Strengthen district level forum of Women Advocacy Forum (WAF)	PVSEs through District level forum of WAFs	# of issue based interaction	24 events of issue based interaction will be conducted by district level WAFs	24	40	167	40 events of issue based interaction and campaigns were conducted by district level WAFs. Altogether, 1,576 participants including 1,480 women and 444 <i>Dalits</i> participated in the interactions.
3	Review and reflection meeting of partners	Implementing partners	# of meetings	Two events of partners meeting will be conducted	2	2	100	Two events of partners meeting conducted. First event was during the startup period and the second was for review and reflection of the program. Altogether 30 participants including 10 women participated in such meetings.