

SCAPES Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement

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Sacred Himalayan Landscape

Annual Report

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for

World Wildlife Fund

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Acronyms

CAUC	Conservation Area User Committee
CBAPO	Community Based Anti-Poaching Operation
CBO	Community Based Organization
CF	Community Forest
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CSIDB	Cottage and Small Industries Development Board
CTEVT	Council of Technical Education and Vocational Training
CVCA	Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
DDC	District Development Committee
DFO	District Forest Office; District/Divisional Forest Officer
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
DSCO	District Soil Conservation Office/Officer
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry's Users, Nepal
FOP	Forest Operation Plan
FY	Fiscal Year
GHTP	Great Himalayan Trail Program
HH	Household
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
IGA	Income Generation Activity
KCA	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area
KCAMC	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council
KCAP	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP)
KLCG	Kangchenjunga Landscape Concern Group
LIP	Livelihood Implementation Plan
LRP	Local Resource Persons
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
PGA	Participatory Governance Assessment
PHPA	Public Hearing Public Auditing
PVSE	Poor, Vulnerable and Socially Excluded Group
PWBR	Participatory Well-being Ranking
SHL	Sacred Himalayan Landscape
SLCC	Snow Leopard Conservation Committee
SM	Social Mobilizers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee

I. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY STATUS AND PROGRESS

a. Introduction:

The Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL) is a transboundary landscape located in Nepal, India, and Bhutan and is the flagship landscape of the Eastern Himalayas Complex. It extends from Langtang National Park in Central Nepal through India's Kangchenjunga Complex to the Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve in Western Bhutan. The high topographic complexity and related climatic variability give rise to significant ecological gradients, and thus, high ecosystem diversity over a relatively small area. Many habitats in this complex mosaic are unique to this mountain system. Forests in some of the target areas are threatened by encroachment from the growing local communities and accompanying agricultural conversion of forested land. In some areas, forests are seriously degraded as a result of over extraction of forest resources and overgrazing. Poaching of endangered species, along with illegal collection and trade of wildlife parts and economically important, rare, and threatened plants, is a serious problem within and outside of the protected areas and across borders. To further complicate the situation, climate change is emerging as a major threat to the biodiversity and livelihoods of the SHL and may exacerbate the impacts of other threats.

Through the support from USAID under the SCAPES program, WWF aims to reach across the border of Nepal and India and protect rare flora, fauna, and cultures in one of the earth's most beautiful and fragile places as well as bring benefits from biodiversity conservation to enhance local livelihoods. SCAPES interventions in the SHL include four components: mobilizing communities for participatory natural resource management, enhancing transboundary cooperation and learning, building resilience of the communities and ecosystem against impacts of climate change, and promoting good governance to ensure that the benefits from natural resource management are equitably shared with the local communities.

b. Highlights:

- 667 ha of forests (12 CFs) brought under community management, 10 FOPs prepared, and 36 CFUGs strengthened for protection and sustainable management of forest resources
- 2,000 ha of pasturelands brought under sustainable grazing regimes
- 27,400 seedlings produced and distributed and 200 ha of degraded forests restored
- Community based participatory biodiversity monitoring practiced by 20 CFUGs and snow leopard and prey base monitoring conducted by 4 SLCCs
- 5 skins of musk deer, dead bodies of a blue sheep and a red fox, 133 sets of musk deer snares, 10 sets of bird snares, and 150 kg of orchids confiscated and 2 illegal traders apprehended as a result of strengthening and mobilizing 12 CBAPO teams and 8 local informants
- 167 HHs benefited from NTFPs, tourism and other income generating activities
- Joint monitoring conducted in the border areas of Kangchenjunga region through the community representatives and government officials from Nepal and India (Sikkim) to identify cross-border conservation issues and to explore feasibility of bi-national peace park
- Landscape level rapid vulnerability assessment of KCA (Tamor sub-basin) completed and climate change risk and vulnerability assessment conducted at 3 vulnerable sites

- 3 community-based local adaptations plans prepared and 4 adaptation plans implemented with the integrated climate adaptation initiatives for community and ecosystem resilience
- Management plan for Kangchenjunga Conservation Area revised to integrate climate components
- Participatory resource and power mapping of 2 VDCs conducted and good governance practices implemented by 10 CFUGs through PHPA, PGA, and PWR
- 779 persons oriented and trained on biodiversity conservation, natural resource management and climate change
- Four local/district level review and reflection meetings held to identify gaps and areas needing improvement for the effective implementation of the activities.

c. Challenges:

- Joint monitoring in protected areas of the border sites of India (Sikkim) took longer than expected to organize due to extra time needed to fulfill formalities. This resulted in a delay in organizing the government/ regional level trans-boundary meeting. Creating the bi-national peace park is also a lengthy process as it requires policy decisions from both of the countries.
- The impacts of climate change are key challenges for SCAPES intervention sites due to higher climate variability. Natural disasters such as landslides and avalanches have been occurring more frequently and, as a result, are posing challenges to implementing planned activities. In 2013 work planning, we reviewed the climate impacts to take these into even greater account for our planned interventions.
- The earthquake in September 2011 destroyed KCAMC's headquarters office, trekking trails, and other community infrastructures. Renovations are now required in places of planned conservation interventions, which continues to be a challenge to the continuation of some planned activities in KCA.
- Construction of unplanned/unannounced infrastructures (such as village and district roads) was also a challenge for planned initiatives at SCAPES sites, as the new development accelerates deforestation and forest degradation. In addition, the road network development may increase illegal trade of wildlife and NTFPs as habitats previously inaccessible are now more open to poachers.

d. Adaptive Management in Action:

- KCAMC was supported with post-earthquake relief support through matching sources to maintain trekking trails and reconstruct KCAMC headquarters, which helped SCAPES to avoid major obstructions in program implementation.
- A livestock insurance scheme was initiated in KCA to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Realizing the original relief rate provision was too low it was revised in FY12 and updated to adjust the rate of relief amount required for the livestock loss experienced in given claims.
- WWF has developed partnerships with relevant organizations at local level for the effective implementation of the activities and leveraging. In FY12, we developed new partnership with Great Himalayan Trail Program for eco-tourism activities.

e. Table of Activity Status:

SN	Activities	Unit	Target	Status
1	Objective 1: Mobilize communities for participatory resource management			
1.1	Sub-objective 1.1:-Community-based sustainable forests and rangeland management			
Nepal 1.1.1	Form and strengthen CFUGs	No	10	On track
Nepal 1.1.2	Provide support for protection and management of forests	No	26	On track
Nepal 1.1.3	Support participatory management of pastures and alpiners	Site	2	Delayed
Nepal 1.1.4	Strengthen participatory biodiversity monitoring practices	No	5	On track
Nepal 1.1.5	Provide support for forest restoration and forest fire control	Site/Group	5	On track
India 1.1.1	Conduct mapping of bio-resources in four major village clusters - Yuksum, Ribdi, Uttarey and Rimbi			Completed
India 1.1.2	Workshop for disseminating data.	No	2	Completed
India 1.1.3	Prepare CBNRM Plan.	No	4	Completed
India 1.1.4	Provide support for CBOs in the restoration of degraded forest land through the creation of nurseries.	No	2	On track
India 1.1.5	Capacity building of user groups			Completed
India 1.1.6	Provide support for ecodevelopment committees in the protection of forests through the use of an alternative to fuelwood	No (HHs)	50	On track
1.2	Sub-objective 1.2:-Community-based sustainable forests and rangeland management			
Nepal 1.2.1	Promote, strengthen and mobilize CBAPO	No	6	On track
Nepal 1.2.2	Strengthen capacity of local enforcement networks	No	8	On track
Nepal 1.2.3	Capacity enhancement and coordination support for enforcement officials and partners	LS	1	On track
India 1.2.1	Support Himal Rakshaks and in monitoring of biodiversity and illegal wildlife activities	No	2	On track
India 1.2.2	Capacity building of Himal Rakshaks	Events	1	On track
India 1.2.3	Develop linkages and mechanisms for information sharing	Events	2	On track.
India 1.2.4	Support Eco Development Committees in illegal wildlife monitoring	No	18	Delayed
1.3	Sub-objective 1.3: Improve livelihoods of local communities through sustainable natural resource management and human wildlife conflict mitigation			
Nepal 1.3.1	Strengthen and institutionalize community based human-wildlife conflict mitigation schemes	No.	1	On track
Nepal 1.3.2	Promote natural resource based income generating activities	No.	2	On track
Nepal 1.3.3/4	Facilitate establishment of tourism product/services based micro-enterprises	No.	2	On track
Nepal 1.3.5	Support KCAMC for sustainable harvesting of problematic animals	No	1	Delayed
India 1.3.1	Strengthen village tourism initiative.	No	20	Delayed
India 1.3.2	Demonstrate innovative techniques to mitigate human wildlife conflict.	No	4	On track.
2.	Objective 2: Enhance transboundary cooperation and learning			
2.1	Sub-objective 2.1: Initiate local and intra-government level transboundary cooperation			

Nepal/ India 2.1.1	Conduct trans-boundary meetings	Events	2	On track
2.2	Sub-objective 2.2: Share and document best practices and initiate joint patrolling (inter-government)			
Nepal/ India 2.2.1	Facilitate sharing of data and best practices and joint publications	No.	1	Delayed
Nepal/ India 2.2.2	Conduct joint monitoring in Kangchenjunga complex	Events	1	On track
Nepal/ India 2.2.3	Feasibility study of bi-national peace park	No	1	On track
3	Objective 3: Build understanding of vulnerability of communities to climate variability and climate change and implement integrated community and ecosystem adaptation approaches to benefit people and biodiversity			
3.1	Sub-objective 3.1: Build understanding of vulnerability and climate change adaptation			
Nepal 3.1.3	Continue rapid vulnerability assessment of KCA	Events	1	On track
Nepal 3.1.4	Support KCA management plan revision	No	1	On track
Nepal 3.1.5	Establish community climate station	No	1	Completed
3.2	Sub-objective 3.2: Support communities in adapting to climate variability and change			
Nepal 3.2.1	Prepare community based adaptation strategy for vulnerable communities	No.	2	On track
Nepal 3.2.5	Support community to implement integrated climate adaptation initiatives	Sites	2	On track
Nepal 3.2.6	Study on effectiveness of climate change adaptation strategy of vulnerable communities	No	1	Completed
4	Objective 4: Ensure equitable benefit sharing and access to natural resource			
4.1	Good governance			
Nepal 4.1.1	Capacitate and strengthen LRPs/SMs	No	25	On track
Nepal 4.1.2	Mobilize Social Mobilizers/LRPs to strengthen good governance	Group	10	On track
4.2	Awareness and capacity building for good governance			
Nepal 4.2.1	Conduct group management and leadership development training	Event	4	On track
Nepal 4.2.2	Build skills and capacity of PVSE HHs to establish small scale enterprises	groups	4	On track
Nepal 4.2.3	Develop awareness on good governance	Episode	48	On track
Nepal 4.2.4	Organize capacity building training for group and stakeholders on pro-poor livelihoods planning	Event	2	On track
Nepal 4.2.5	Orient groups on proper implementation of constitution and FOPs	Group	10	On track
4.3	Policy discourse			
Nepal 4.3.1	Resource and power mapping at VDC level	Event	2	On track
Nepal 4.3.2	Provide CBOs with gender and social inclusion training	Event	2	On track
Nepal 4.3.4	Implement policy and advocacy initiatives	Events	4	On track
Nepal 4.3.7	Provide NRM training to women in CFUGs	Event	2	On track
5	Objective 5: Learning and Sharing for biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation practice			
5.1	Learning and sharing at a global level			
5.1.1	Develop and pilot a climate change adaptation toolbox for practitioners	No	1	Completed
5.1.2	Participate in a review of adaptation monitoring	Event	1	Completed
5.1.3	Contribute to ELAN	No	1	Completed

5.1.4	Improve integration of ecosystems and livelihoods approaches to adaptation	No	1	On track
5.1.6	IIED CBA conference	No	1	Completed
5.1.7	Develop SCAPES communications materials	No	1	Completed
5.1.8	Develop and online site of communicating and sharing across WWF's SCAPES partners	No`	1	Delayed
5.2	Learning and Sharing at a national and regional level			
Nepal 5.2.2	Organize quarterly review, reflection and learning meetings at local level	Event	4	On track
Nepal 5.2.3	Annual review of successes and reflections on areas needing improvement	Event	1	On track
Nepal 5.2.4	Undertake regular program monitoring	Times	2	On track
Nepal 5.2.5	Information Production and Dissemination	Times/No	2	On track

II. STATUS UPDATES: AREAS OF PROGRESS AND SUCCESSES; IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

a. Key short and long-term program objectives for the site.

The overall goal of the Landscape Program in the region is, “to create a Himalayan landscape where the biological and cultural treasures of the world’s highest sacred mountains and deepest valleys are safeguarded while people’s rights over resources are ensured and livelihoods are enhanced and sustained.”

Reaching across the border of Nepal and India this project aims to protect rare flora, fauna, and cultures in one of Earth’s most beautiful and fragile places. In doing so, it will adopt the strategies identified in the government endorsed Sacred Himalayan Landscape Strategic Plan and will build on the experiences from the Terai Arc Landscape program implemented under the USAID-funded Global Conservation Program (GCP) that followed a similar approach.

b. Summary of progress for site

During the third year of implementation, SCAPES continued successful work in community mobilization for participatory natural resource management, curbing illegal trade and poaching, improving sustainable natural resource-based livelihoods, enhancing trans-boundary collaboration for improved biodiversity conservation and reduction of threats to biodiversity through local and inter-government level meetings and joint monitoring, building capacity of vulnerable and marginalized groups in local communities to become more resilient to climate change and empowered to implement integrated community and ecosystem adaptation approaches, ensuring equitable sharing of benefits and access to natural resources for all community members, and promoting learning and sharing among stakeholders at all levels for biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation practices.

c. Activity description

Objective 1: Mobilize communities for participatory resource management

As per the conceptual model included in the work plan, we adopted the three-pillar approach for community based sustainable forest and rangeland management, community based anti-poaching operations, and natural resource base livelihoods to mobilize communities for participatory resource management.

In FY12, we continued to form and strengthen community forest user groups (CFUG) to build capacity and increase their ownership of forest resources management (*see below, activity 1.1.1, for detail*). CFUGs were supported to prepare and implement forest operational plans (FOP) and community based biodiversity monitoring. We also supported community based anti-poaching operations (CBAPO) teams to reduce the threats of poaching and illegal wildlife trade. We continued to support strengthening human wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation schemes through endowment funds for relief.

Sub-objective 1.1: Community based sustainable forests and rangeland management

SCAPES promoted sustainable natural resource management through strengthening community based organizations such as CFUGs, SLCCs, CBAPO teams, and CAUCs. WWF supported the best management practices (based on past experience in promoting community forests in other parts of the country) to provide techniques and tools to achieve long-term sustainability of forest and pastureland management to reduce the causes of the major threats to biodiversity – habitat loss and degradation, and species loss.

Nepal**Activity 1.1.1: Form and strengthen CFUGs. *On track.***

WWF continued to identify potential new community forests (CF) outside KCA in Papung, Falaicha, Kalikhola and Surumkhim VDCs to implement sustainable community based forest management practices. A total of 8 CFUGs were formed and registered to the corresponding District Forest Offices (DFO) after preparing the users' constitution. Users' constitutions are essential for each CFUG, as the document contains information related to the number of households included, socioeconomic status of members, roles and responsibilities of the executive committee, agreed upon decision-making processes, and other relevant rules and regulations for the CFUG.

WWF also continued working with the CFUGs supported in FY10 and FY11 to strengthen them and complete the forest handover process to ensure sustainability of the program goals. After preparing FOPs in coordination with KCAMC in KCA and DFO outside of KCA, 12 CFs comprising 667 hectares of forest were handed over to the respective CFUGs, benefiting 565 HHs. WWF also helped 10 additional CFUGs in FY12 in completing forest inventories to prepare the FOPs.

WWF provided a three-day natural resource management training for the members of newly formed CFUGs building their capacity in participatory resource management. Total 14 CFUG members (5 women and 9 men) participated in the training.

Activity 1.1.2: Provide support for protection and management of forests. *On track.*

WWF continued to support the existing 36 CFUGs with an additional \$11,000 USD in FY12. The funds were mobilized for the effective implementation of FOPs, including silvicultural operations and forest protection through mobilizing forest guards and communities with regular patrols.

Activity 1.1.3: Support participatory management of pastures and alpine meadows. *Delayed.*

WWF continued to support participatory management of pasturelands and alpine meadows. Two herders' groups in Yangma and Golla VDCs of KCA were formed and trained on participatory pastureland management including rotational grazing and corral management. A total of 18 herders participated in the two-day training. Over 2,000 ha of pasturelands were brought under sustainable grazing regimes through the

pastureland management groups. As the rapid Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) proposed in the work plan was not completed during FY12, the support for the above activities was provided through the matching fund. Pastureland management initiatives consisting of creation and restoration of waterholes, invasive species control, trail improvement and pastureland infrastructure will be conducted as per the recommendation of the IEE report. The IEE of the management plan, including pastureland activities, will be completed in FY13.

Activity 1.1.4: Strengthen community-based participatory biodiversity monitoring practices. *On track.*

WWF provided training to 21 CFUGs on community-based participatory biodiversity monitoring in FY11. At the end of the training, action plans were prepared by the CFUGs to conduct biodiversity monitoring. WWF followed the action plans in FY12 and supported 20 CFUGs to conduct community-based participatory biodiversity monitoring. Based on feedback in FY13 we will revise these guidelines to make them more user-friendly. Transect lines were established in the community forests with the help of Local Resource Persons (LRP) for regular monitoring.

WWF also continued to strengthen 4 Snow Leopard Conservation Committees (SLCC) in KCA for snow leopard and prey base monitoring. In FY12, snow leopard monitoring was conducted in all 4 blocks of KCA through SLCCs. A camera trap method was piloted for snow leopard monitoring in Khambachen block through matching fund sources. Analysis of photographs from the camera traps identified four individual snow leopards in Khambachen block. A report containing these findings was shared with KCAMC and DNPWC. The results of the ongoing genomic study will identify the status of snow leopard in KCA and in the SHL.

Activity 1.1.5: Provide support for forest restoration and forest fire control. *On track.*

WWF is continuing to support KCAMC and CFUGs to restore degraded forests through seedling production, plantation (plantation in degraded lands and enrichment planting), and promoting natural regeneration. Seven community-managed nurseries were supported in FY12 to produce seedlings for various species of timber, fodder and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). So far, 27,400 seedlings have been produced and distributed to community and private plantations, contributing to the restoration of about 200 hectares of degraded forest.

Taking into consideration the severity of the impacts of forest fire in the region, WWF initiated community-based forest fire management mechanisms in KCA. Six community-based firefighting groups were formed in FY11 to control forest fire. WWF organized a four-day forest fire management training for those groups to build capacity on fire prevention, preparedness and control. A total of 21 group members (3 women and 18 men) participated in the training. Moreover, WWF provided a set of basic firefighting tools to KCAMC for fire preparedness. Matching support was provided through SCAPES to accomplish the activities.

Outputs/Results

- 667 ha of forest brought under community management through the handover of 12 CFs (1.1.1)
- Protection and sustainable management of additional 836 ha of forests initiated (1.1.1)
- Forest resource inventories completed and FOPs prepared for 10 CFs (1.1.1)
- 200 ha of degraded forests restored (1.1.5)
- 2,000 ha of pasturelands brought under sustainable grazing regimes (1.1.3)
- 20 CFUGs practiced community based participatory biodiversity monitoring (1.1.4)
- 4 SLCCs involved in snow leopard monitoring (1.1.4)
- 6 firefighting groups trained and resourced (1.1.5)

India**Activity 1.1.1: Conduct mapping of bio-resources in three major village clusters - Yuksum, DzoungUttarey, Rimbi and Ribdi. *On track.***

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11. The results are being used to complete Activity 1.1.3.

Activity 1.1.2: Workshop for disseminating data. *Completed.*

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 1.1.3: Prepare CBNRM Plan. *On track.*

CBNRM plans were prepared in village clusters and shared with relevant authorities for integration with Departmental plans, as well. These plans were prepared through detailed PRA exercises with participation from the EDC members and community members from the villages with support of Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee. Two PRA exercises were organized in each cluster to ensure good participation, and around 50 HH members were involved in each exercise.

During the CBNRM plan preparation processes, it became evident that the high use of fuel wood (15 kg per day) with limited access to alternative fuelwood options in most villages was a key issue. Decreased availability of fuel wood species and conflicts with wildlife (which was leading to higher economic losses for most villages) was also of concern among the participating villages. Strengthening village-based organizations was seen as an important issue for the future sustainability of ongoing programmes. Future activities will be based on the CBNRM plans prepared.

Activity 1.1.4: Provide support for CBOs in the restoration of degraded forest land through the creation of nurseries. *On track.*

Six members from two farmers' clubs from the Ribdi cluster received training on creating oak nurseries from the successful and established nursery in Darjeeling. They were trained on various aspects of nursery creation, such as shed construction, bed preparation, and methods of seed collection during the winter seasons. With this

training, the farmers' clubs will be ready prior to the winter season for creating their own seedling banks. More farmers from other clusters of Rimbi and Uttarey will be trained by the master trainers which will help spread the knowledge and impact.

Activity 1.1.5: Capacity building of user groups. On track.

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11. The specific activity of supporting communities in the use of an alternative to fuelwood is now under a new activity, 1.1.6.

Activity 1.1.6: Provide support for ecodevelopment committees in the protection of forests through the use of an alternative to fuelwood. On track.

With the support of 18 master trainers who were trained in FY11, village level trainings were organized on the manufacturing of bio-briquettes in Ribdi, Uttarey (GumpaDara and Sopakha), and Yuksam (Tsong and Kyongtay). A total of 206 community members (69 women, 137 men) participated in the one-day training. In addition, bio- briquette manufacturing machines and stoves were given to local farmers' clubs and CBOs on a trial basis.

During the monsoon season the use of briquettes went down, as expected. This lean season was used to conduct household surveys in two village clusters (Yuksam and Uttarey) to gain a better understanding of the communities' perceptions on the bio briquette as an alternative fuel, and to determine the best way to further promote its usage. The study conducted interviews with nearly 80 households (that either did use or did not use bio-briquettes) as well as partner organizations in the field. Results of the study showed that communities appreciated the use of bio briquette as an alternative fuel, as it does not smoke and burns longer, though there were suggestions on modifying the size of the briquette. Communities were also interested in opportunities to purchase their own molds (at a reduced cost) for making the briquettes, as the current rotational system entails that people wait to take turns, lengthening the time it takes to make briquettes. Communities also requested more training on the bio briquettes, which we will offer after the rains subside.

Outputs/Results

- Two farmers' group trained on nursery techniques to establish nurseries before winter
- 206 persons trained on manufacture of bio-briquettes through support of EDCs.
- 50 HHs in 3 clusters adopt bio briquettes and community's acceptance of bio briquette as an alternative fuel established.
- CBNRM plans for cluster villages established

Sub-objective 1.2: Curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade

Poaching of endangered species along with illegal collection and trade of wildlife parts and economically important, rare and threatened plants in and outside KCA are serious threats to the Sacred Himalayan Landscape conservation target species (snow leopard, red panda, musk deer and NTFPs). Poachers and traders often cross borders through the transboundary villages, where law enforcement and community vigilance is minimal. WWF adopted three

strategies in FY12 to curb poaching and illegal trade of wildlife and NTFPs. The strategies include: mobilizing local youths through community based anti-poaching operation (CBAPO) teams, strengthening capacity of local enforcement networks, and enhancing capacity of enforcement officials and partners.

Nepal

Activity 1.2.1: Promote, strengthen and mobilize CBAPO. *On track.*

WWF strengthened and mobilized all 12 CBAPO teams in FY12 to curb poaching and illegal trade of wildlife and NTFPs. A total of 12 anti-poaching operations were conducted in risk-prone areas and trans-boundary regions of the Lelep, Wallangchung Gola, Yamphudin, and Tapethok VDCs in KCA. KCAMC staff also joined in the anti-poaching operations led by CBAPO teams. No evidence of poaching and retaliatory killings was found in Yamphudin and Tapethok VDC. But, in Yangma valley of Wallangchung Gola VDC, 5 skins of musk deer, dead bodies of a blue sheep and a red fox, and 133 set of snares were confiscated by the CBAPO teams. Moreover, a musk deer was found killed by wild dog in Ghunsa valley of Lelep VDC. WWF also extended community based anti-poaching operations outside of KCA into the SCAPES VDCs, Kalikhola, Surungkhim, Papung and Phalaicha. A total of 11 anti-poaching operations were conducted in risk-prone and transborder regions of Tibet and Sikkim (Surngkhim, Kalikhola, Phalaicha, Papung VDCs) by CBAPO teams. No poaching and retaliatory killings were found in the new areas, however, 10 sets of bird snares were confiscated from the high Himalayan region of Surngkhim.

Activity 1.2.2: Strengthen capacity of local enforcement network. *On track.*

WWF continued its support to KCAMC for building capacity of local enforcement network by mobilizing 8 local informants who collect information from the strategic locations related to poaching and illegal wildlife trade. They are well positioned to help protect their villages against poaching and illegal trade by reporting illegal activity to KCAMC, who then reports to DNPWC for action. About 150 kg of orchid was confiscated and two illegal traders were apprehended in Lelep, through the information network. The local informants' network was also extended into Kalikhola, Papung, Surungkhim and Phalaicha VDCs, beyond KCA, in partnership with Kangchenjunga Landscape Concern Group (KLCG). No poaching and wildlife crime was reported in FY12 from the informants of the newly extended sites.

Activity 1.2.3: Capacity enhancement and coordination support for enforcement officials and partners. *On track.*

WWF continued to support capacity building of enforcement officials to curb poaching and illegal trade. Support promoted effective coordination between KCAMC and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), KCAMC and district level enforcement officials, and between enforcement officials in the district. WWF also supported DNPWC to strengthen coordination with stakeholders at central level to curb poaching and illegal trade of wildlife and NTFPs as well as for the landscape level conservation efforts.

Outputs/Results

- 12 CBAPO teams strengthened and mobilized for anti-poaching operations (1.2.1)
- 8 local informants mobilized to curb poaching and illegal trade of wildlife and NTFPs (1.2.2)
- 5 skins of musk deer, dead bodies of a blue sheep and a red fox, 133 sets of musk deer snares, 10 sets of bird snares, and 150 kg of orchids confiscated and 2 illegal traders apprehended (1.1.1 and 1.1.2)

India

Activity 1.2.1: Support Himal Rakshaks in monitoring of biodiversity and illegal wildlife activities. *On track.*

The Himal Rakshaks organized a monitoring exercise in the high altitude areas covering Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary and Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, using as a guide the biodiversity monitoring handbook prepared in FY11. The exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department (FEWMD), who provided the main funding and WWF provided the required field supplies. WWF also facilitated an orientation and planning meeting prior to the monitoring exercise. During the exercise, the Himal Rakshak demolished one poachers' camp above Sindrabong and removed numerous snares targeted for pheasants and musk deer. As part of the biodiversity monitoring, the team saw a red panda and encountered signs of snow leopard in the high mountains.

Apart from this, the group has been informally conducting monitoring exercises in their own areas. Many of them are involved in trekking as guides, and this also provides them with an opportunity to carry out monitoring at their own level.

The Himal Rakshaks made the logistical arrangements for the joint monitoring exercise conducted between Nepal and Sikkim, which helped in building their leadership and organizational capacity to think together as a team. This experience will also prove helpful in our planning for future capacity training needs.

Activity 1.2.2: Develop linkages and mechanisms for information sharing. *On track.*

SCAPES conducted a sharing session following the monitoring exercise where the Himal Rakshaks shared their findings with the authorities in charge of the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve. This helped in further establishing the Himal Rakshak team and bringing the activities to the notice of the Forest Department. More needs to be done for the Department to continue value their experiences and the service they provide in conservation.

Activity 1.2.3: Support Eco Development Committees in illegal wildlife monitoring. *Delayed*

This activity is planned to be taken up in September 2012, in coordination with TRAFFIC India.

Outputs/Results

- One monitoring exercise conducted in the high altitude transboundary areas by Himal Rakshaks (1.2.1)
- Sharing mechanism initiated with FEWMD authorities by Himal Rakshak (1.2.2)

Sub-objective 1.3: Improve livelihoods of local communities through sustainable natural resource management and human wildlife conflict mitigation

Community forestry has been proven to be a critical mechanism to improve forest quantity and quality and also an opportunity to improve livelihoods for marginalized families. Improved forest management provides communities with adequate forest products for their subsistence and additional income from sale of the excess goods. It can also provide a base for local ecotourism enterprises and incentives for valuing intact ecosystems. Mountain livelihoods are also vulnerable from crop and livestock depredation. This in most cases also leads to retaliatory killings of wildlife. Effective human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures are critical to increasing incentives to maintain wildlife populations and decreasing the incentives for retaliatory killings. Restoration of the forest corridors provides necessary forest products to the local communities for their subsistence and for safe passages for wildlife.

Nepal

Activity 1.3.1: Strengthen and institutionalize community-based human-wildlife conflict mitigation schemes. *On track.*

In FY08, WWF first began supporting KCAMC's efforts to establish an endowment fund in each of the seven Conservation Area User Committees (CAUC) for human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation. WWF continues to strengthen the HWC schemes through SCAPES. Currently, the amount of the endowment fund is USD 35,312 and benefits 1,257 HHs. The fund is mobilized within the communities at low interest rates (i.e., 12-18%) and the interest generated is used to provide relief for the incidences of cases caused by wild animals (e.g., crop and livestock depredation and human attacks and casualties). KCAMC endorsed the guidelines on how to operate the endowment fund and the CAUCs mobilize the funds. This HWC mitigation scheme was replicated beyond KCA and into Kalikhola in FY11. With the additional support to the schemes in FY12 through SCAPES, the total endowment fund is now USD 2,250 in Kalikhola, benefiting 350 HHs.

Activity 1.3.2: Promote natural resource based income generating activities. *On track.*

A value chain analysis (VCA) of non-timber forest products (NTFP) and medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP) was carried out by WWF in KCA in 2008. Based on the VCA, we are supporting local communities for sustainable harvesting of selected native NTFPs such as Kutki (*Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora*), Chiraito (*Swertia chirayita*), Lokta (*Daphne species*), Argeli (*Edgeworthia gardeneri*) and Allo (*Girardinia diversifolia*). A forest-based micro-enterprises development training was organized in Kalikhola for 22 CFUG members (11 women and 11 men) in FY11.

Following the training, Kalikhola, Gauthale, and Dadheli CFUGs established hand-made paper enterprises benefiting 137 HHs. WWF provided matching funds for all three enterprises through the SCAPES. In FY12, WWF provided enterprise development orientation to the same group of trainees to increase the production of the NTFPs and to link harvests to the market. The training was conducted through the district unit of Small and Cottage Industries Development Board and FECOFUN. Lokta (*Daphne species*) and Argeli (*Edgeworthia gardeneri*) are used as raw materials for paper production. A harvesting plan for both of the species was integrated into the FOPs of respective CFs for the sustainable use of the resources. WWF supported the CFUGs for the effective implementation of the FOPs in FY12. A three-month Allo (*Girardinia diversifolia*) processing and weaving training was provided to 8 CFUG members (7 women, 1 man) in FY12 in collaboration with the Cottage and Small Industry Development Board (CSIDB), Taplejung. This training was particularly focused on poor, vulnerable and socially excluded (PVSE) groups to improve skills for extracting threads from Allo and weaving hand-loomed clothes. Similarly, a 15-day training was provided to 4 CFUG members on improved agro-forestry practices for tea farming in FY12.

Activity 1.3.3 and 1.3.4: Facilitate the establishment of tourism product/services based micro-enterprises and Initiate community managed red panda tourism. On track.

WWF continues to explore the feasibility of implementing components of ecotourism strategies such as hotels, tourist/nature guides, tea shops, camp sites, handicrafts, souvenir shops, and eco-trails. As planned for FY12, WWF supported communities to develop a red panda eco-trail in Gyabla to monitor the species and enhance the livelihoods through ecotourism. Gyabla is an important habitat for red panda and frequent observations indicate the abundance of the species in the area. WWF has supported the CFUG in Gyabla to integrate the red panda management plan into the FOP. WWF continued to develop ecotourism infrastructures in Gyabla to promote homestays, as 14 HHs in the village were trained in basic homestay management skills in FY11. WWF supported the formation of a red panda eco-trail management committee, the construction of 4 toilets and rubbish pits for garbage management, and placement of information boards in strategic locations along the trail.

KCAMC began installing stone walkways along the major trekking trails of KCA in FY09 with the support from WWF. WWF continues to support the efforts to improve the quality of the trails. The Tapethok-Lelep section (about 7.5 km) was improved in FY11 through the stone walkways. In FY12, this work continued and the paving of the Lelep-Jonggim section is now complete. Over 150 HHs directly benefit from the improved trails through tourism and other economic opportunities. WWF also supported KCAMC in repairing and clearing the trails that had been damaged by the earthquake of 18 September 2011. Additionally, WWF supported KCAMC to reconstruct its headquarters office at Lelep through match funds.

An eight-day cooking and hotel management training was provided in Ghunsa for the new hotel owners throughout the trekking trails to develop skills on cooking, hospitality, hygiene, and sanitation, in collaboration with the Great Himalayan Trail Program (GHTP). A total of 22 hotel owners (14 women and 8 men) from Ghunsa, Yamphudin, and Sekathum participated in the training.

Activity 1.3.5: Support KCAMC in sustainable harvest of “problematic” wildlife.
On track.

Sustainable natural resource management initiatives implemented in KCA through the active participation of local communities have contributed to increased biodiversity and numbers of wild animals. As a result, the populations of wild animals such as blue sheep, deer, and wild boar are increasing in KCA. These particular wild animals are seen to be problematic as they raid crops. KCAMC has prepared, after intensive study and population analysis of blue sheep in KCA, a sustainable hunting plan for blue sheep and submitted it to DNPWC for approval. If and when the plan is approved, WWF intends to build the capacity of KCAMC to implement the hunting plan.

Outputs/Results

- 1,607 HHs benefited from the strengthened HWC mitigation schemes (1.3.1)
- 167 HHs benefited from NTFP enterprises, tourism, and other income generating activities (1.3.2, 1.3.3 and 1.3.4)
- 22 HHs trained in cooking and hotel management (1.3.4) and 8 PVSE HHs trained on the skills of hand-loomed weaving (1.3.2)

India

Activity 1.3.1: Strengthen village tourism initiative. *Delayed*

Initial discussions have been organized with field partner CBO Samaj Utthan Samitee, Uttarey, for homestay promotion in Gumpa Dara village. Six households have been identified by them for initiating homestays in the village. This activity was delayed as a JICA-funded ecotourism project of the State Government had also been looking to include both Ribdi and Uttaray in the five potential sites for this phase of their work. Therefore, to avoid duplication we negotiated to have them include Uttarey in the next phase, until some ground work is completed through WWF. This negotiation process delayed our work. Ribdi, however, was taken up by the JICA project in this phase of their work and will build on previous work.

Activity 1.3.2: Demonstrate innovative techniques to mitigate human wildlife conflict. *On track*

In FY12, HWC was reduced in target villages, as compared to previous years and so the need for demonstration did not arise. Therefore, more focus was given to policy-level initiatives. WWF-India was a partner in the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit II organized in Sikkim by Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim that brought together 11 mountain states of India in one platform. WWF presented on human-wildlife conflict at the summit, highlighting interventions made in the field. WWF highlighted that HWC issues in mountainous regions are different than those in the plains. The critical need for having suitable policies was also highlighted at the forum attended by senior government officials, NGOs and other institutes.

Outputs/Results

- 6 households prepared for homestay operation (1.3.1)
- Human-wildlife conflict issues discussed in the sustainable mountain development summit 2 (1.3.2)

Objective 2: Enhance trans-boundary cooperation and learning.

WWF support in transboundary cooperation between Nepal and India (Sikkim) in the Sacred Himalayan Landscape was implemented through organizing transboundary meetings, conducting joint monitoring/patrolling in the border areas, and sharing best practices at local and central levels.

Sub-objective 2.1: Initiate local level and intra-government level transboundary co-operation

WWF supported governments of Nepal and India (Sikkim) in local level as well as regional/government level transboundary meetings to strengthen trans-border cooperation for landscape level conservation.

Nepal/India**Activity 2.1.1: Conduct transboundary meetings. *On track***

WWF facilitated one local level transboundary interaction meeting during the joint monitoring (please refer 2.2.1 for detail) from August 1-6, 2012. District Forest Officers (DFO) of Taplejung and Pachthar districts, the KCA Warden, the KCAMC Chairperson, and a WWF representative participated in the meeting from Nepal. Similarly, the Division Forest Officers (DFO) of Kangchenjunga PA and West, WWF representatives and Himal Rakshak representatives participated from India (Sikkim). A government/regional level transboundary meeting is planned for September 2012 in Nepal. At the local level transboundary interaction meeting during the joint monitoring, both teams agreed that the process of learning and sharing needed to expand to bring in a larger circle of people. Some of the issues discussed:

- Joint monitoring exercise at the level of communities involving the Himal Rakshaks and EDCs from Sikkim and KCAMC and CBAPO team from Nepal.
- Facilitating sharing of experiences of interventions such as ban on grazing at the community level by inviting communities from Sikkim to interact with villagers on the Nepal side. Interactions and experiences shared by communities would be more convincing.
- Capacity building exercises on wildlife crimes with people who had presence on the border areas, herders in Nepal and SSB in Sikkim.
- Implementations of joint ecotourism activities in Kangchenjunga Complex will be useful to minimize herders impact by exploring alternative livelihood options in the area.
- Declaration of bio-national peace park ease landscape management by transboundary level management and cooperation

Outputs/Results

- One local level transboundary meeting organized (2.1.1)

Sub-objective 2.2: Share and document best practices and initiate monitoring (inter-government)

Both Nepal and India have been engaged in landscape level conservation. Curbing poaching and illegal trade is a high priority for both of the countries. Both Nepal and India have mechanisms in place to enable this work. WWF is facilitating the sharing of experiences in order to incorporate best practices into future action against poaching and illegal trade.

Nepal/India

Activity 2.2.1: Facilitate sharing of data and best practices and joint publications. *Delayed.*

WWF facilitated sharing of results from field surveys, wildlife monitoring, and research among the relevant authorities of Nepal and India to enhance cooperation in transboundary biodiversity conservation. We were not able to publish a joint publication in FY12. Efforts made by both of the governments in the SCAPES intervention sites is planned to be shared during the upcoming transboundary meeting to be held in October 2012.

Activity 2.2.2: Conduct joint monitoring in Kangchenjunga complex. *On track.*

A joint monitoring patrol was conducted in Kagchenjunga region from August 1-6, 2012. The monitoring was conducted with the objectives of identifying issues, challenges, and gaps within biodiversity conservation in trans-boundary regions and exploring possibilities of establishing a bi-national peace park in the region. The joint team visited Uttarey, Chitre, Chuwabhanjyang, Barsey Rhododendron Century, Major-Megu, and Gairi areas of the Kangchenjunga region. The team observed field sites and interacted with local communities and herders. Issues identified during the monitoring include: unregulated grazing, deforestation, and forest degradation by herders for corral construction and firewood. A recently opened road tract caused much forest destruction in the Nepali region of the target area. Poaching and trade of wild animals, illegal harvesting and trade of NTFPs, and forest fires were found not to be as serious in the Indo-Nepal border area visited. From Nepal, two District Forest Officers (DFO) from Taplejung and Pachthar districts, the KCA Warden, the KCAMC Chairperson, and a WWF representative participated in the monitoring exercise. Similarly, Divisional Forest Officers (DFO) of Kangchenjunga NP and West, WWF representatives, and Himal Rakshak representatives participated from India (Sikkim).

Activity 2.2.3: Feasibility study of bi-national peace park. *On track.*

Feasibility analysis of bi-national peace parks was conducted during the joint monitoring of the Kangchenjunga region (*see above, 2.2.2*). The team concluded that there is potential for declaring a bi-national peace park within Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) and Khangchendzonga National Park (India) due to the similar types of habitats and connectivity for flagship species, including the snow

leopard. This will be on the agenda for discussion at the regional transboundary meeting.

Outputs/Results

- One joint monitoring patrol conducted in the border areas of Kangchenjunga region through the participation of community representatives and government officials from Nepal and India (Sikkim) (2.2.2)
- Feasibility study of bi-national peace park conducted (2.2.3)

Objective 3: Build understanding of vulnerability of communities to climate variability and climate change and implement integrated community and ecosystem adaptation approaches to benefit people and biodiversity.

We are assessing vulnerability of communities to climate variability and climate change, building community and ecosystem resilience, and implementing integrated adaptation options to benefit local communities, minimize climate impacts and the potential of maladaptation, and reduce threats to natural resources and biodiversity. This is being undertaken at various levels. At a landscape level, WWF is assessing vulnerability using a modified Flowing Forward methodology (with some CVCA inputs), whereas at the local level, WWF and CARE jointly worked with communities to assess vulnerability through a participatory approach using the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) tools. Community-based local adaptation plans were prepared based on the assessment. In FY12, WWF supported local communities to implement integrated climate adaptation initiatives based on these plans.

Sub-objective 3.1: Build understanding of vulnerability and climate change adaptation

As climate change is emerging as a multiplier of threats to biodiversity and livelihoods in mountainous regions, our priority is to instill a better understanding of the potential impacts of climate change within the communities and to prepare them by mainstreaming climate adaptation into conservation and livelihood activities. To achieve this, we supported the development of the landscape level vulnerability assessment of KCA and surrounding SCAPES intervention areas, integrated climate change issues into the KCA management plan, and established a community climate station in a strategic location.

Activity 3.1.1: Prepare computer simulated models for climate change and its future impacts on biodiversity, glaciers, and hydrological flows. *Completed.*

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 3.1.2: Undertake field survey of vulnerable glacier lakes in KCA. *Completed.*

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 3.1.3: Continue rapid vulnerability assessment for KCA. *On track.*

WWF and CARE initiated a landscape level vulnerability assessment (VA) of the KCA and nearby SCAPES VDCs in the Tamor sub-basin in FY11 using a modified Flowing Forward methodology integrating community level adaptation inputs from the CVCAs. Three different workshops were held in FY11 as part of the VA process at the national, district, and community levels in Kathmandu, Fungling, and Lelep, respectively. A total of 62 people participated in the district and community workshops in Fungling and Lelep, including local farmers, representatives of community resource management groups, including forestry, water, and women's groups. In Kathmandu, 16 experts in biodiversity, socioeconomics, and climate change issues gathered to determine key vulnerabilities prioritize adaptation options to address them. The landscape level VA report has been drafted incorporating information from all three workshops and is now in the process of finalization.

Activity 3.1.4: Support KCA management plan revision integrating climate components. *On track.*

KCA is proving to be a model community managed protected area system. Since 2006, it has successfully undertaken protection and management in accordance with the management plan when KCA was handed over to the communities. As the tenure of the management plan ended in FY11, WWF supported KCAMC to prepare the next 5-year KCA management plan. We supported the integration of climate related issues and concerns into the management plan to make it climate smart. The integration is based on the outcomes of the landscape level VA, community based local adaptation plans, field survey of glacial lakes, and snow leopard and red panda habitat modeling. The Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) of the draft management plan, which is mandatory for its endorsement, is in progress.

Activity 3.1.5: Establish community climate station. *Completed.*

WWF supported KCAMC in the establishment of a community climate station at Lelep in FY12. The station is providing basic meteorological information such as temperature, humidity, and rainfall. KCAMC is operating the community climate station and regularly providing information to the communities via user committees, mother groups, user groups, and CFUGs. As most of the communities rely on agriculture and natural resources for their subsistence livelihoods, such information is expected to help them adapt to climate variabilities.

Outputs/Results

- Landscape level rapid vulnerability assessment of KCA (Tamor sub-basin) completed (3.1.3)
- KCA management plan revised integrating climate smart components (3.1.4)
- One community climate station established in KCA (3.1.5)

Sub-objective 3.2: Support communities in adapting to climate variability and change

WWF supported communities in adapting to climate variability and climate change by preparing community based adaptation strategies and plans, implementing integrated climate change adaptation initiatives, and providing climate awareness trainings.

Nepal**Activity 3.2.1: Prepare community based adaptation strategies for vulnerable communities.** *On track.*

Building upon FY11 progress, three additional community-based adaptation plans were prepared in FY12 at Lelep (Ghunsa), Yamphudin, and Kalikhola VDCs. The landscape level VA conducted in FY11 and is in draft and is currently being finalized for dissemination in FY13. It was used in site selection for conducting these assessments. There are now 7 total community-based adaptation plans within SCAPES intervention sites in SHL. WWF used the community vulnerability and capacity assessment (CVCA) tool and its features (such as: hazards mapping, seasonal calendar, historical timeline, vulnerability matrix and stakeholder analysis) to prepare the community based local adaptation plans. A total of 81 community members (28 women and 53 men) were involved in the CVCA process. WWF organized three awareness programs for the same communities on climate change and its impacts before preparing the adaptation plans. The Forest officer of DFO, KCAP project manager, program officer of CARE Nepal, and local resource persons (LRP) facilitated the awareness programs and local adaptation plan preparation processes.

Activity 3.2.2: Conduct training and awareness for communities on climate change and its impacts. *Completed.*

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 3.2.3: Initiate water smart communities in KCA. *Completed.*

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11. In FY12, activities for water security were implemented under activity 3.2.5, as recommended by community based local adaptation plans.

Activity 3.2.4: Initiate concept of farmers schools for local farmers. *Completed.*

The field farmers' school was initiated in FY11. In FY12, activities for the farmers' school were implemented under activity 3.2.5, as recommended by community based local adaptation plans.

Activity 3.2.5: Support community to implement integrated climate adaptation initiatives. *On track.*

WWF and CARE helped prepare community-based local climate adaptation plans at seven vulnerable sites (4 in FY11 and 3 in FY12). WWF supported local communities in efforts to implement the four local adaptation plans prepared in FY11 for community resilience. The local adaptation plans emphasize food, water, and energy security. Agricultural initiatives have been implemented for food security and water smart measures and clean energy were promoted for water and energy security. In addition, WWF continued to support two field farmers' schools in Lelep and Tapethok, which were initiated in FY11 to promote integrated pest management and organic farming practices. The field farmers' school is an informal forum of farmers where they can meet and discuss crop-related issues and best practices. A total of 31

farmers have benefited from participating in the two field farmers' schools. WWF also supported communities in the construction of conservation ponds that collect rain and waste water for the use of irrigating cash crops and kitchen gardens. This activity was implemented in Kalikhola, Papung, Tapethok, and Lelep and aided in making 98 HHs and their communities more water smart. Clean energy and energy efficient technologies were promoted for energy security. WWF supported an additional 291 HHs to install solar lighting home systems.

Activity 3.2.6: Study on implementation effectiveness of climate change adaptation strategy of vulnerable communities. *Completed.*

WWF and CARE conducted a study on the effectiveness of climate change adaptation strategies for vulnerable communities in FY12. The overall objective of the study was to measure the effectiveness of community based climate change adaptation strategy in the SCAPES intervention sites. The external consultant, along with the field assistant and LRPs, visited project sites to capture the first hand status of climate change adaptation. The study concludes that integrated adaptation initiatives developed by the CVCA process and implemented by the local communities are in their initial stage and are a good starts for building community resilience. Major recommendations made by the study include: establishing strong databases and networks for sharing information, integrating ecosystem based adaptation and community based adaptation, and developing linkages and partnerships for adaptation initiatives. The study findings were shared with district level stakeholders and the representatives of major political parties to develop create future cooperation on climate change adaptation measures.

Outputs/Results

- Three community-based local adaptations plans prepared (3.2.1)
- Integrated climate change adaptation initiatives implemented in four sites based on the local adaptation plans (3.2.5)
- Effectiveness of climate change adaptation strategies studied and documented (3.2.6)

Objective 4: Ensure equitable benefit sharing and access to natural resources

SCAPES puts emphasis on the empowerment and capacity building of women, indigenous, marginalized, and vulnerable groups to build their awareness of policies and institutional mechanisms related to equitable benefit sharing, ensure access to natural resources, and promote their involvement in biodiversity conservation.

Sub-objective 4.1: Build capacity of local resource persons and social mobilizers to promote good governance

The community forestry and participatory conservation management systems in Nepal benefit from improved good governance practices. In particular, questions have been raised about whether the benefits of community forestry and participatory community-based conservation management are skewed toward men and those who are already of higher socioeconomic status within communities. To assess the extent to which this is an issue within our program, we initiated the "Participatory Well Being Ranking" tool to identify households that are less

well off than others, as well as the reason for their lower socioeconomic status. Wealth is not determined as a measure of income but rather as a measure of access to natural resources and decision making abilities within CFUGs, CBOs, and other institutions. Practices of social inclusion in terms of caste, gender, and ethnicity are critical issues that impact ability to access resources and participate in decision making processes that affect equitable benefit sharing mechanisms. Transparency and accountability are also very important in these processes. Good governance is a cross-cutting issue that must be considered within the context of the program's portfolio of activities, rather than as a standalone approach. WWF focused on building deep understanding of good governance integration through training, field visits, and management skills improvement exercises. WWF also focused on the intensive mobilization of LRPs to conduct group level activities.

Nepal

Activity 4.1.1: Build the capacity of and strengthen LRPs/SMs. *On track.*

WWF built capacity of 25 LRPs in the SCAPES intervention sites in FY10 to mobilize them for participatory resource management and promote good governance. To further their training, WWF and CARE organized a week-long capacity building session comprised of a three-day good governance refresher training and two-day book keeping and finance training in partnership with FECOFUN. All 25 LRPs participated in both of the trainings. Moreover, a nine-day preparatory class on good governance, forest inventories, forest operational plan, CFUG constitutions, pro-poor planning, and group facilitation skills was organized for LRPs. The preparatory training was conducted in close collaboration with COFSUN, DFO, FECOFUN, KCAMC, and DSCO. Based on the predetermined criteria and interest of the individuals, 15 LRPs were selected to take the Level II skill test; 7 of the 15 selected are women. With the partnership of Community-based Forestry Supporters' Network (COFSUN), 15 LRPs took the Level II skill examination of Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), the authorized agency of the government of Nepal for technical and vocational training. All 15 LRPs successfully passed the examination and were awarded with the national skill certificate and the eligibility of preparing FOPs for the community forests.

Activity 4.1.2: Mobilize LRPs/SMs to strengthen good governance of CFUGs and CBOs. *On track.*

LRPs have been mobilized to facilitate good governance initiatives, with a focus on building capacity in pro-poor livelihoods planning, inclusion of women, Dalit, Janajatis, and other poor and marginalized groups in decision making, equitable benefit sharing mechanisms, constitution/FOP implementation, access to and control over natural resources, and other governance activities. The LRPs were mobilized to facilitate participatory resource management of 26 CFUGs. Moreover, LRPs facilitated Public Hearings and Public Audits (PHPA), Participatory Governance Assessments (PGA), and Participatory Well Being Ranking (PWBR) activities conducted by 10 CFUGs in FY12. A total of 285 CFUG members (114 women and 171 men) participated in the PHPA and PGA process. PHPA will enable users to track on the resource use of the community forests and ensure the equitable sharing of benefits. PGA will identify the governance status of the CFUG with respect to the set indicators.

Activity 4.1.3: Organize an excursion visit on good governance practices for LRPs, SMs, partners and district level stakeholders. Completed.

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 4.1.4: Provide a three-day refresher training (ToT) on good governance for LRPs/SMs. Completed.

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 4.1.5: Organize a three-day office and financial management training for LRPs and SMs. Completed.

This activity was completed and reported in FY11.

Outputs/Results

- 25 LRP/SMs trained on good governance and FOP/constitution preparation processes (4.1.1)
- 15 LRPs certified (Level I and II) by CTEVT as Community Forest Facilitators (4.1.1)
- 10 CFUGs conducted PHPA, PGA and PWBR with active participation of users and with support of LRPs (4.1.2)
- LRPs/SMs mobilized to strengthen the governance and facilitate participatory resource management of 26 CFUGs (4.1.1)

Sub-objective 4.2: Promote awareness and capacity building for good governance

SCAPES is focusing on building capacity of Poor, Vulnerable and Socially Excluded (PVSE) groups by raising awareness on the legal provisions within CFUGs relating to their rights to access natural resources and participate in decision making processes. WWF continued to build the leadership capacity of CFUGs and CBOs for NRM. WWF helped PVSE groups identify additional livelihoods options and promote microenterprises. In addition, WWF engaged PVSE groups to develop outreach materials about governance and legal issues for broad dissemination.

Nepal

Activity 4.2.1: Conduct group management and leadership development training. On track.

WWF and CARE organized four 3-day group management and leadership development trainings for key CFUG members (including: chairpersons, secretaries and treasures) to strengthen institutional capacity of the CFUGs. The trainings were organized in partnership with KCAMC and FECOFUN at Tapethok, Kalikhola, Surumkhim, and Papung VDCs. A total of 87 CFUG members (32 women and 55 men) from 21 CFUGs participated in the training.

Activity 4.2.2: Build skills and capacity in PVSE households to establish small scale enterprises. *On track.*

To provide improved access to income for targeted vulnerable and marginalized groups, WWF and CARE supported the CBOs in identifying poor, vulnerable and socially excluded (PVSE) households through PWBR. WWF supported the preparation of the livelihoods improvement plans (LIP) and business plans for selected micro enterprises of PVSE households. WWF also supported the creation of pro-poor revolving fund guidelines for effective mobilization of community funds. WWF provided matching funds in FY11 in Kalikhola and Damalebhitta CFUGs to initiate micro-enterprises. WWF supported matching funds of \$1,000 USD for 4 CFUGs of Kalikhola and Papung VDCs in FY12, benefiting 493 HHs. Additionally, 8 PVSE HHs from the four CFUGs were supported by new farming livelihoods initiatives including pig rearing and goat farming.

Activity 4.2.3: Broadcast awareness on good governance. *On track.*

WWF and CARE continued to raise awareness on biodiversity conservation and climate change through electronic and print media. A total of 48 episodes of Kangchenjunga Awaj (voice of Kangchejnunga) were aired weekly through Radio Taplejung FM, a popular FM station in the SCAPES intervention sites. News and updates of project initiatives related to governance, climate change adaptation, livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation were included in the messages.

Activity 4.2.4: Organize capacity building training of groups on pro-poor livelihoods planning. *On track.*

SCAPES organized two 4-day pro-poor livelihoods planning training for CFUGs, CAUCs, CAUGs, MGs, and CBOs to develop livelihoods improvement plan (LIP). A total of 40 community members (19 women and 21 men) from CFUGs, CAUCs, CAUG, MGs, and local CBOs participated in the trainings at Lelep and Surungkhim. Four CFUGs prepared LIPs after the training. WWF supported a matching fund of \$1,000 USD to implement the LIPs.

Activity 4.2.5: Orient groups on proper implementation of user group constitutions and FOPs. *On track.*

Eleven 1-day orientation trainings were provided to CFUG members on the provisions of CFUG constitutions and FOPs. In collaboration with FECOFUN and COFSUN, we highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the CFUGs along with their rights over the resources with particular reference to the provisions of community forestry guidelines of the government of Nepal and their own constitutions and FOPs. A total of 349 members (147 women and 202 men) from 11 CFUGs attended the trainings.

Outputs/Results

- 87 CFUG members trained on group management and leadership development (4.2.1)

- 4 CFUGs established and run microenterprises focusing on PVSE households (4.2.2)
- 48 episodes on conservation, climate change and governance broadcasted through local FM radio and 1,000 copies of calendars with the conservation messages printed and disseminated (4.2.3)
- 40 community members from CFUGs, CAUCs and CBOs participated in training on pro-poor policy, planning and LIP (4.2.4)
- 349 members of 11 CFUGs trained on the provisions of the constitutions and FOPs of groups (4.2.5)

Sub-objective 4.3: Policy discourse

Considering the importance of policy discourse to ensure equitable benefit sharing and access to decision making process to PVSE groups, SCAPES continued resource and social power mapping to demonstrate correlation between access and power status. The results can help to increase access of the PVSE group in decision making and equitable benefit sharing.

Nepal

Activity 4.3.1: Map resources and power at VDC level. *On track.*

WWF and CARE conducted power and resource mapping of Yamphudin and Surumkhim VDCs to analyze the status of power exercise and resource allocation/distribution at the VDC level, using the underlying causes of poverty analysis (UCPA) tool. A total of 75 stakeholders (35 women and 40 men) including representatives of major political parties, KCAMC, CAUC, CFUG, local NGOs, government line agencies, FECOFUN, school teachers, health workers, and other major stakeholders participated in the process. Participants from political parties committed to include the results of power and resource mapping with a focus on marginalized, poor, and vulnerable communities in upcoming planning processes.

Activity 4.3.2: Provide CBOs with gender and social inclusion training. *On track.*

CARE and WWF organized two 3-day training sessions on gender and social inclusion to CFUG and CBO members in collaboration with FECOFUN (outside KCA) and KCAMC (inside KCA). The training highlighted on fundamental gender and social inclusion issues including rights of the users, gender equity and equality, access to and control over resources, and opportunities of women, Dalit, Janjatis, and poor. A total of 42 CFUG members (17 women and 25 men) participated in the trainings.

Activity 4.3.3: Organize sharing workshop on the analysis of underlying causes of poverty. *Completed.*

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 4.3.4: Implement policy and advocacy initiatives. *On track.*

WWF and CARE organized five events of community group interaction in the Tapethok, Olangchungolla, Yamphudin, Surimkhim, and Kalikhola VDCs to identify

prevailing issues of governance, biodiversity conservation, equitable benefit sharing, and local livelihoods. The major issues discussed were human wildlife conflict, lack of inclusive executive committees of CFUGs, difficulties in implementation of pro-poor policies, inequitable distribution of resources, and unclear demarcation between private and government forest. The events were organized in partnership with the Nepal Federation of Journalists, Taplejung and KCAMC. A 1-day district level workshop was organized to share the issues with concerned stakeholders and developed a participatory joint advocacy plan on prioritized issues at district level. A total of 21 stakeholders participated in the workshop including the Chief District Officer, DDC, DFO, District Education Office, District Health Office and representatives of political parties.

Activity 4.3.5: Develop model for pro-poor forest operational plans. Completed.

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 4.3.6: Develop pro-poor revolving fund guidelines. Completed.

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 4.3.7: Provide NRM training to women in CFUGs. On track.

CARE and WWF organized two three-day trainings on natural resource management with the focus on female members of the CFUGs to empower them on participatory resource management. 43 members (27 women and 16 men) from 6 CFUGs of Lelep, Tapethok and Kalikhola participated in the training. The training was facilitated by DFO, FECOFUN, KCAMC, and LRPs.

Outputs/Results

- Participatory resource and power of 2 VDCs mapped (4.3.1)
- 75 persons trained on the methods and application of resource and power mapping (4.3.1)
- 42 CFUG members oriented on social inclusion, power relations, and gender issues (4.3.2)
- 27 female CFUG members trained in sustainable natural resource management systems (4.3.7)
- 21 stakeholders at district level made aware with the issues on the local level policies

Objective 5: Promote learning and sharing for improved biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation across SCAPES landscapes and beyond.

Sub-objective 5.1: Promote learning and sharing at global level

Activity 5.1.1: Develop and pilot a climate change adaptation toolbox for practitioners. Completed.

With separate WWF-UK and WWF-US funding, the WWF Network Climate Adaptation Team has launched an on-line adaptation toolbox for the WWF Network.

While still in development and beta testing, the toolbox aims to help conservation practitioners to navigate the bewildering array of adaptation tools and select the most appropriate tools for their job in hand. The toolbox includes sections on background on climate impacts; critical components of “Good Adaptation”; how to integrate adaptation into conservation work; methods and process; scoping and stakeholder analysis; stakeholder participation; assessing vulnerability; developing an adaptation strategy; monitoring and adaptive management; adaptation financing and fundraising; partnerships; enabling tools for good adaptation; and glossary of terms. Through SCAPES, we will continue to contribute content for best practices and lessons learned from our work in the three landscapes and this is a great resource for our teams to directly seek information from across our network. At this time, it is not expected that the online adaptation toolbox will become a public site.

Activity 5.1.2: Participate in a review of adaptation monitoring. *Completed.*

Along with other WWF-US colleagues, SCAPES staff participated in the April Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group monitoring discussions and the July adaptation toolbox development workshop, with support from the USAID-supported Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) program. Through these conversations and sharing, we are staying abreast of the latest in adaptation methods, tools, and activities and challenges that colleagues are facing in adaptation monitoring principles and guidelines. We will bring this learning into our own SCAPES adaptation planning and into the SCAPES Partners adaptation learning initiative.

Activity 5.1.3: Contribute to the Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network. *Completed.*

The Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network (ELAN) – a partnership of WWF, CARE, IIED and IUCN – was not successful in its efforts to raise the second phase of funding. We did contribute learning into the first phase of the partnership and ELAN partners continue to work together informally to advance ELAN goals.

Activity 5.1.4: Improve integration of ecosystems and livelihoods approaches to adaptation. *On track*

In FY12, WWF-US has continued to bring together our climate-smart WWF Project and Program Management Standards and the Flowing Forward Vulnerability Assessment methodology. Our adaptation team continues to advance our vulnerability assessment and planning methodologies and adaptation mainstreaming, bringing new skills to staff across our Network and testing our methods in our landscapes. In consultation with CARE, we are integrating people and livelihoods into our ecosystem approaches. We expect the next iteration of guidance in FY13.

Activity 5.1.5: Integrate climate change adaptation in to the WWF Standards. *Completed*

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 5.1.6: Fifth International Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change. *Delayed.*

We did not send SCAPES staff to participate in the Community based Adaptation conference in Vietnam in April 2012 due to availability of the appropriate staff. WWF did send several staff from across our Network including from the Eastern Himalayas and the Amazon. We do anticipate sending SCAPES staff next year to share our experiences and learn from our other WWF colleagues and partners.

Activity 5.1.7: Produce WWF SCAPES communications materials.

This activity was completed and reported on in FY11.

Activity 5.1.8: Develop an online site for communicating and sharing across WWF's SCAPES partners. *Cancelled.*

WWF assessed the role of an online platform to help communication across our landscapes. After consulting with teams, it was clear that a new platform would not be successful. With a WWF International intranet, a new WWF-US intranet site in beta testing and several existing adaptation platforms, our teams did not feel that an additional platform outside those they already visit was something they had time to contribute to. So we will continue to communicate and share our lessons and successes through channels our teams do use.

Outputs/Results

- Adaptation online toolbox available for WWF practitioners (5.1.1)
- Participation in a review of adaptation monitoring (5.1.2)
- SCAPES learning contributed to Phase 1 of ELAN (5.1.3)
- Refinement of integrated vulnerability assessment methodology (5.1.4)

Sub-objective 5.2: Promote learning and sharing within Nepal and India and at a regional level

WWF promotes learning and sharing best practices at landscape, national, regional and global levels for effective conservation and management of natural resources. We accomplish this through reflection, review meetings, periodic monitoring for adaptive management, and evaluating the effectiveness of program implementation.

Nepal**Activity 5.2.1: Contribute to Climate Summit for Living Himalayas, Bhutan, 2011. *Completed.***

This Activity was completed in FY11 and reported in the FY11 Annual Report.

Activity 5.2.2: Organize quarterly review, reflection and learning meetings at local level. *On track.*

WWF and CARE conducted four events of quarterly review and reflection meetings at KCAMC and district levels to discuss and share the best practices, gaps, lessons learned, and areas of improvement for effective implementation of SCAPES activities. Representatives from DFO, FECOFUN, KCAMC, DDC, KLCG, COFSUN, CAUCs, CFUGs, and NGOs participated in the meetings.

WWF also organized a planning and action workshop in Phidim, district headquarters of Pachthar, to discuss the issue of community forestry implementation. Due to the Kipat (de-facto and de-jure land tenure rights), the community forestry program implementation is delayed in Phalaicha VDC. The workshop participants did reach consensus to implement a community forestry program.

Activity 5.2.3: Organize annual review and reflection meeting at national level.
On track.

WWF and CARE jointly held an annual review, reflection, and learning meeting at September 3-7 2012 in Kathmandu. Twelve representatives from WWF and CARE participated in the workshop. As part of adaptive management, results to date were reviewed and the conceptual model, threats analyses, and results chains were updated.

Activity 5.2.4: Undertake regular program monitoring in the field to track progress and identify improvements needed. *On track.*

WWF and CARE conduct regular field monitoring to track progress and identify areas for further improvement, and field level regular monitoring is done by KCAP.

Activity 5.3.5.: Information production and dissemination. *On track.*

WWF supported FECOFUN and COFSUN to develop and print 1000 calendars for the Nepali year 2069. The calendars featured information on biodiversity conservation and climate change; they were distributed to communities and stakeholders at the district level. Moreover, we supported communities, media, and partners in producing informational materials to raise awareness on conservation and climate change. Media trips to the SCAPES intervention site helped to widen coverage in news at local and national newspapers.

Outputs/Results

- Four district level quarterly meetings held, documenting success stories, best practices, gaps and areas needing improvement (5.2.2)
- One unit of field program monitoring conducted from WWF program office (5.2.4)

III. MEASURES AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Adaptive Management Measures Taken Based on Current Context

As the FY12 work plan was approved in January, at mid-year there has been a greater emphasis on activities supported with SCAPES matching funds and follow on activities from FY10 and FY11.

Lessons Learned

- Cross-border joint monitoring is an effective means to develop common understanding between authorities on cross-border conservation issues.
- Working with local partners such as FECOFUN, KCAMC, COFSUN, HCF, and KLCG is cost effective and builds local capacity in biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.
- Local level partnership with specialized organizations/agencies (such as Great Himalayan Trail Program for ecotourism and Small and Cottage Industry Development Board for NTFP enterprises) is critical to achieving our results.

IV. Next Step(s) and Priorities

WWF will continue its efforts to create community ownership for forests, as this is a key step toward sustainable natural resource management. Expanding sustainable natural resource management activities to the other sites will necessitate strengthening institutional capacity of the CBOs managing local resources. WWF will use best management practices based on past experience and innovation in promoting community forests in other parts of the country to provide techniques and tools to achieve long-term sustainability. We will continue our strategy of mobilizing local youth to curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the project areas. We will strengthen community based biodiversity monitoring within the community forests. We will also work to restore forest corridors that provide necessary forest products to the local communities for their subsistence, while at the same time providing safe passage for the wildlife and reducing events of human wildlife interaction.

We will institutionalize transboundary cooperation with neighboring countries India (Sikkim) and China (Tibet). Based on the ten-point agreement with India (Sikkim) during the transboundary meeting held in June 2011, and understanding developed during the cross-border joint monitoring in August 2012, we will continue efforts to establish a bi-national peace park in the Kangchenjunga region.

WWF will also expand community based integrated climate adaptation initiatives to include further projects on water spring protection, conservation ponds, clean energy sources, forest conservation and restoration, improved agriculture and farming practices (including integrated pest management), and awareness raising in climate change. The community will be trained on how to diversify their livelihood opportunities and encouraged to build household level resilience.

WWF knows that financial sustainability is very important for community based management. We will support KCAMC to develop sustainable financing mechanisms within KCA, such as implementation of sustainable harvesting plan of blue sheep, sharing benefits from hydro projects, and managing tourism revenue.