Emerging Concept of Interfacing Forest with Other Ecosystem Services at Transboundary Scale (Hindu Kush Himalayan Context)

Session: Governance and Forest Landscape Restoration

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Transboundary Landscapes Team - ICIMOD
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Orientation:

Rationale Transboundary Landscapes?
What did we do?
What did we learn?
Way Forward!
4 of 34 Global Biodiversity Hotspots

+15,000 endemic species

+80% loss of area estimated by 2100
Transboundary Transects

240 million people in the HKH
1.9 billion people downstream
3 billion people & food security

Transboundary Landscapes
Diversity in the HKH:
Over 1,000 living languages
Overall Programme Goal (20 Years)

Transboundary landscapes are better conserved and managed for sustaining ecosystem goods and services to improve livelihoods and enhance ecological integrity, economic development, and socio-cultural resilience to environmental changes.

Outcome

Improved cooperation among RMCs for sustainable and inclusive ecosystem management in identified landscapes for enhanced and equitable livelihood benefits, contributing to global conservation agendas.
Transboundary Landscapes: Overarching Governance

Programme Supporters

Programme Management Unit

Technical Advisory (On Demand)

National Coordination Committee

National Nodal Ministries National Partners

State Governments District / Prefecture Line Agencies

Local Community Institutions Local Institutions Self Help Groups

Feedback mechanism; Adaptive Management

Programme Implementation Outcomes

Program Focus Areas

Programme Steering –Inter Government Level
Design and Delivery Processes

Anchor, coordination, and facilitation by regional institution

- Consultative process to develop shared understanding
- Feasibility assessments and baseline studies
- Theory of change exercises to understand impact pathway and result chain logic
- Regional (integrated) landscape management strategies, implementation action plan, and regional cooperation framework
- Regional monitoring and evaluation framework and strategies

Preparatory phase
- Countries understand, acknowledge, and agree to the need for regional cooperation for certain geographic area of regional relevance
- Strategic agreement to develop transboundary landscape initiative
- Multi-stakeholder platform
- Stakeholders’ mapping

Start-up phase
- Conceptualizing transboundary landscape initiative

Implementation phase
- Regional and national level actions (includes all research-management-policy, capacity strengthening, knowledge management interventions)
- Reflective monitoring and reviews
- Knowledge dissemination

Common Landscape Initiative Objectives

- Bridging Nations & Communities – stakeholders of landscape, identifying and working with partners,
- Conservation & Development – Innovations and mainstreaming of sustainable ecosystem management approaches at scale in local & national plans, secure/sustain livelihoods, build on cross-border connects
- Building capacities & networks – Local communities, institutions of relevance and strategies for policy/practice influence
Emerging transboundary connect to Forests

• Forest ecosystems intertwined with numerous other ecosystem services
• Strong direct Human-Forest interface
• Climate Change impacts bring complexity
• Landscape issues pertinent: HWC, Illegal Trade, Poaching, Invasive species
• Policy Gaps (e.g. National Forest Policy vs Industrial Policy)
• Institutional mechanisms
• Governance complexity
Policy interfaces and conflicts at the landscape level

- Agricultural policy
- Forest policy
- Land policy
- Pastoralism
- Informal agreement
- Land policy
- International agreement
- Market rules
- Religious rules
- Customary rules
Science and Traditional Paths - Linkages Advanced Modelling Tools

Scalable Integrated Knowledge and Wisdom

Spatial Inferential Intelligence

Scientific Knowledge

Contextual Intuitive Knowledge

Local Wisdom

Artificial Intelligence, Expert Systems
Net Work, Self learning Systems
Visualization, Communications

Motivation
Open Access
- Data
- Tools
- S/W
- Dissemination

Themes
- Forest
- Agriculture
- Wetland
- Rangeland
Response in Forest Management
Spatial Considerations (water)

- Planting trees in headwater catchment reduces quick runoff, increases infiltration and regulates flow downstream.
- Forest type and condition determines water use and retention and infiltration to groundwater stores.
- The type of agriculture determines water use and thus availability further downstream.
- Availability of water in wells and aquifers depends on land use and management within the catchment.
Approaching to “Landscape Approach”
-Spring Sheds at scale
Connecting corridors across nations
HOW: Regional Learning to Policymaking in Hindu Kush Himalayas

- Develop Biocultural Protocols
- People’s Biodiversity Registers
- Exposure visits of Foresters/legislators to India
- ABS Bill and Act, Public Debates, Sensitization of Champions
- Nagoya Protocol Ratified

Kailash Sacred Landscape

- Nagoya Protocol Ratified
- Recognized Learning from India through KSL
Climate Actions at Scale for Resilience Building Upstream-Downstream (Cryosphere-Water Balance-Mitigative Actions)


Strengthen existing/Create New institutional Mechanisms (Common objective win-wins e.g. for Integrated Land Use Planning and/or Matching Interventions)

Economic growth/Trade bilateral-Multilateral Models Compatible Standards and Norms, Capacity Building

Coherent Policy, Planning, Implementation, Review and Update as per new demands
Transboundary Landscapes Programme of ICIMOD got rewarded with “Outstanding Achievement Award 2018” of Renewable Natural Resource Foundation (RNRF), USA