



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FACT SHEET

Social, Environmental, and Economic Development Office

Hariyo Ban Project

BACKGROUND

Any threat to Nepal's biodiversity and its varied ecosystems has a direct impact on the 80 percent of the population that depends on natural resources for their livelihoods. Recognizing this, the Government of Nepal (GON) has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change adaptation, by being a signatory to various international accords as well as through introduction of numerous national policies. Moreover, Nepal is considered a model for community management of forests, with over 18,000 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), which have contributed to the increase of forest cover throughout the country.

However, Nepal still faces serious environmental threats to its biological resources due to exploitative practices, unplanned urban expansion, illegal logging and poaching, forest fires, and erratic rainfall as a result of climate change. The high dependency of the most vulnerable sections of the population on forest resources such as timber, firewood, and other non-timber forest products is a main cause of deforestation and forest degradation. These problems are further compounded by poor governance, political instability, social exclusion, poverty, illiteracy, and an increasing demand for forested land for farming purposes. In addition, climate change is a risk multiplier that drastically increases threats to biodiversity and people, particularly the most vulnerable.



Rhinos in Chitwan National Park. Photo: Hariyo Ban Program

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The five-year, \$39 million Hariyo Ban project falls under the U.S. Government's Global Climate Change Initiative, and is designed to reduce threats to the country's ecosystems through interventions in two critical bio-diverse areas covering over a third of the country: the Terai Arc Landscape and the Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape. The project is designed to help communities build resilience to adverse effects of climate change and improve the livelihoods of Nepal's most impoverished communities. Closely aligned with the GON's Three Year Nepal Biodiversity Strategy and the National Adaptation Plan of Action, Hariyo Ban provides policy support at the national and sub-national levels to promote biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, and climate change adaptation for poverty alleviation and economic growth.

SNAPSHOT

Life of Project: August 2011 – December 2016

Goal: To reduce the adverse impact of climate change and threats to biodiversity in priority landscapes of Nepal

Implementing Partners: World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in partnership with CARE, Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), and National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)

Geographic Focus: The Terai Arc Landscape and Chitwan Annapurna Landscape, complemented by policy work at the national level, covering 23 districts in the West, Mid-West and the Far-West region of Nepal.

Total Project Amount: \$39 Million

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Improve Biodiversity Conservation

- Reduce threats to targeted species and/or terrain
- Restore habitat connectivity for movement of targeted species to climate-safe areas
- Strengthen the internal governance of community groups and small non-governmental organizations
- Increase incomes of vulnerable people and forest communities by introducing alternative sustainable sources of livelihood to reduce threats to biodiversity
- Improve national policy and planning conditions to facilitate sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation

Ensure Landscape Sustainability

- Support the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies, and working guidelines that reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+)
- Develop national capacity for forest inventory management, greenhouse gas monitoring, and equitable distribution of climate finance benefits among all stakeholders
- Analyze and systematically address the factors contributing to deforestation and forest degradation
- Develop, test, and expand sustainable methods for disbursement of carbon credits

Increase Adaptation to Climate Change

- Engage the GON and the private sector in understanding the impact of climate change and climate change adaptation options
- Establish participatory systems for monitoring vulnerability in targeted communities
- Pilot and expand actions reducing vulnerability to climate change
- Provide support for climate change adaptation policies, strategies, and guidelines

KEY RESULTS

Hariyo Ban efforts have enabled nearly 163,000 of the poorest and most vulnerable people to build the resiliency they need to thrive by preserving biodiversity, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to a changing environment, and sustainably managing their natural resources. At the end of the project, USAID expects to achieve the following key results:

- Reduce/sequester 3.3 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions
- Bring over 500,000 hectares of degraded or deforested forest areas under improved management
- Provide direct capacity building and livelihood support to approximately 180,000 people to help them cope with adverse impacts of climate change
- Improve policies and plans encompassing forestry, biodiversity, and climate change adaptation in Nepal
- Improve the capacity of the government of Nepal and civil society for sustainable management and equitable use of forest and biological resources
- Increase the capacity of GON and CFUG in maintaining forest inventory, and greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting
- Improve and expand climate adaptation options for rural communities

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