

## BACKGROUND

Nepal initiated modern development and conservation processes from 1950. Nepal used to be an exporting country for agriculture merchandise. Over sixty percent of Nepal's land was under forest cover. The ways development we practiced until now pushed Nepal at the rank of 138<sup>th</sup> of 169 countries; one of the poorest in the world with poverty level similar to the sub-Saharan African countries of Uganda and Rwanda. Once food surplus Nepal is now food deficit one keeping citizens of 45 districts (of 75 districts) under hunger. Conservation pride Nepal often claims in effect observe diminished forest cover to 28 percent, massive landslides, unprecedented floods and drought, losses of human life and so on.

We believe our past conservation and development actions as completely driven by others. Backstopping institution helped us realizing about it. They helped in prioritizing the issues; funded to some extent; built human resources and led us the way. Now, the time has come to sustain these efforts, because conservation has more relevancies on changing political and social dimensions with shifting knowledge, technology and practices. What had happened earlier perhaps has some relevancy as learning phenomenon. Now, what we need is to determine the process of how would we be proceeding? We need to demonstrate our capacity to view conservation and development as agenda of nationalities. Our experiences - successes as well as failures - are equally important to pay on this process.

Our process of conservation and development actions should be altered, and this must be done through a call of collective commitments, inputs, and actions in harmonizing nature conservation on sustainable basis. Such demonstration should not be a pushed-impact rather it should be driven by real need. For this, 101 conservationists, environmental institutions, businessman, industrialists, and others have come up with a consensus for their collective inputs and actions in envisioning an autonomous, non-political, non-profitable and charitable Conservation Development Foundation Nepal (CODEFUND) established in June 6, 2011 and is affiliated with Social Welfare Council which aims to promote conservation development in Nepal.

**Vision:** Collective inputs and actions of each Nepalese harmonizing with conservation development lead to have prosperous, self-sustaining, dignified and just life.

**Mission:** To empower and ensure well being of the Nepalese community (women, poor, marginalized and indigenous people) and its environment to have access/control; harmonize social and environmental conflicts through conservation development efforts from collective inputs and actions.

**Goal:** By 2025, to make each Nepalese contribute for conservation development in order to feel proud as a citizen to ensure prosperous, wisdom, peace and sustained environment in Nepal.



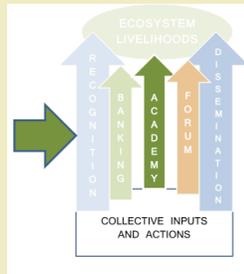
WHAT IS WRONG?

VIEWING CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AS AGENDA OF THE NEPALESE

CODEFUND IS A GOOD START

## OBJECTIVES

1. Establish conservation development forum and seek conservation financing mechanism through national and international networking; partnership; professional services; and propositions based on collective inputs and actions.
2. Demonstrate conservation of biodiversity and natural resources to improve ecosystem health by empowering community, and share incentives that respect social and environmental justice, governance and equity, Influence at policy level, legal and socio-economic space for safeguarding ecosystem health and services, and
3. Generate impacts through conservation researches; knowledge development; innovative practices; and their dissemination with an initiation of conservation academy; green communication; and green recognition.



## PROGRAMS

CODEFUND deliberates a mechanism to access individuals, community and institutions - including government and non-government organization - intended by actions to promote nature conservation and sustain livelihoods by sharing their spirits and vigor. The strength of CODEFUND depends on the scale of inputs of individual and institutions that produces and reproduces impacts based on values; trusts; knowledge; resources; governance and advocacy. It relies on seven commanding programs in which collective inputs and actions would form a strong foundation with 5 strategic pillars to sustain ecosystem conservation and livelihoods of the Nepalese communities. They are:

### Collective Inputs and Actions

CODEFUND intends to bring the collective strength of the Nepalese to make great change in conservation development as they did in restoration of Singhdarabar once burnt in Kathmandu in 1972 and Phewa lake in Pokhara burst in 1974; and to cope over massive flood imposing threats to globally endangered one-horned rhino and Gharial in the Royal Chitwan National Park in 1983. Any one may be interested to know that what in fact have superimposed over those tragic events to overcome. In each of these events then collection inputs of the Nepalese citizens and those who love Nepal were sought to build what these appears now. Could we repeat similar process for the conservation development ?

Collective input is an approach that brings collective strength of the Nepalese to generate knowledge and resources for powerful actions based on self-reliance, which ultimately makes Nepali feel responsible and accountable to demonstrate sustainable development practices. CODEFUND aims to demonstrate the strengths of the Nepalese communities in conservation development from the way beginning of its establishment.

With this strength realized, 101 charter CODEFUNDERS who are the founders of CODEFUND has initiated conservation development actions through their inputs which is utilized to sustain programs and actions of CODEFUND. Collective inputs and actions aims to establish a sustainable financing mechanism that enhance faith; cohesiveness; self-help and vigor among Nepali and others i.e., national & international institutions; trade; industries, individuals and so on.

### Conservation Development Forum

CODEFUND believes on individual response of communities and institutions which has profound learning and values to influence on ecosystems and livelihoods. Their voices need streamlined to make conservation actions effective and result-based. An optimal strategy to replenish this gap is a provision of having forum that exerts cohesive and continuum effort in communicating conservation progresses. Hence, CODEFUND calls for an action forum that enables such communities and institutions to bring their voices; to advocacy their concerns; share their experiences and explore opportunities through appreciation; acceptance; consideration; recommendation and cooperation. This forum would be a self-help desk to review and recognize works of conservation organization; share strength and opportunities; and explore innovative means and approaches to make conservation a powerful and driving development process in Nepal.

### Conservation Banking

Conservation banking (CB) is to denote financing protocol that respect and promote environmentally sound practices. Nepal has entered to a stage of materializing CB practice. Clean energy banking is already operable in Nepal as an example for the cause of energy promotional works. Now, Nepal has to go beyond it with an objective of having CB towards sustaining conservation development that strongly integrates ecosystem health and human well-being. Unlike commonly operating banks, the strength of CB relies on income benefits that entirely promotes conservation agenda as well as distribute benefits to depositors and investors.

CODEFUND as a non-profit body would make no economic benefits from CB. A protocol would be developed for sustaining conservation demo. CODEFUND would approach pro-conservation banks and institutions to cooperate in having CB for following purposes:

1. Explore and provide green financing sources to promote conservation development at broader scale.
2. Ensure hassle-free access of green operators including women, poor and marginalized communities through CB for conservation development and livelihoods actions.



INPUTS OF ONE PAISA A DAY IS FOR A GREAT CHANGE.

It makes a collection of millions of paisa a day is plenty for sustaining conservation development actions. Investment of such collection really matters a lot if utilized in energy, drinking water, irrigation, industry, health, tourism and other sectors. What Nepal requires to nationwide call for collective inputs and do invest those inputs as share investment, and deliver good results.

## Conservation Academy

Conservation should be a foremost theme and put on top priority in education system. It becomes more pertinent to Nepal, which is small but rich with natural resources and biodiversity. Development of Nepal would be easier with sustainable conservation of these resources. It justifies of putting conservation education at top in the development priority. Hence, CODEFUND calls for conservation academy in Nepal. For this, CODEFUND had several informal meeting with District Development Committee of Kaski and Lekhnath Municipality for a collaborative start with a piloting of wetlands education center under UNDP/SGP support in 2009; Pokhara based Action in Mountain Community facilitated this process. Further, the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with CODEFUND organized a caucus meeting in April 19, 2012 to discuss about it. Since water is becoming next generation issue, outcome of meeting in the ministry and learning from piloting of UNDP/SGP support, we realized the relevancy of Wetlands Academy to function as conservation academy with following objectives:

1. Coordinate with various education centers and establish wetlands academy to facilitate communities and institutions for water focused nature conservation education, training and researches.
2. Enable communities and institution to promote innovative conservation actions that focus conservation development initiatives through awards and grants.
3. Provide research facilities to promote conservation knowledge, innovation and documentation.

## Green Dissemination

Nepal has diverse conservation learning in terms of geography; ethnicity; culture; religion; tradition and so on. This is very important that these learning should go disseminated among global communities. Further, globalization and emerging issues like climate change have an increasing influence in the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and livelihoods of mountain communities. Many such matters are yet to go among the Nepalese communities as well. Time has come now that Nepal should publicize both global and national conservation agenda through a committed and fulltime green television channel effectively. A green channel when in operation helps disseminating wide range of conservation issues in a cost effective way.

## Green Recognition

CODEFUND is aspired from the conservation actions generated through individual efforts-cum- contributions. Recognition of such contribution is important for the perpetual success of any action undertaken for the conservation. Several consultations would explore the field where recognition be made, and how recognition package be collaborated or coordinated with different institutions. This initiative helps immortalizing conservation works of the communities at their individual strengths, inscribing their contribution in the green glory pages of conservation history, and



disseminating their unforgettable performance to larger audiences. Objectives of green recognition are:

1. Explore individuals that have their past and present committed and demonstrated in altering conservation status of in Nepal, and immortalize them as conservation hero by awarding incentives.
2. Provide catalytic assistance to forerunners and smart of conservation students and teachers for study and researches.

### Demonstration of Ecosystem Conservation and Livelihoods

Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans; the Regional Strategic Framework of the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region; Sacred Himalayan Landscape; Terai Arc Landscape; Churia Area Program and NAPA have addressed the linkages between ecosystem conservation and livelihoods to harmonize nature conservation with livelihoods. Still, Nepal requires streamlining globalization and climate change issues as major drivers with an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of people. Internalizing those strategies as collective actions is essential. CODEFUND therefore commits its programs to contribute in achieving goals of all the government and non governments strategic frameworks with respect to biodiversity conservation; integrated development; sustainable livelihood and poverty reduction; integrated water management, etc. But there are several threats prevailing around our ecosystem which needs addressed while CODEFUND feels entirely for the demonstration of conservation development that focus on environmental change and ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.



### DEMONSTRATION SITE

CODEFUND aims to work in the 75 districts of Nepal. In the initial phase, 4 VDCs in different regions like Chulachuli (Ilam district); Chimdi (Sunsari district), Rajarani (Dhankuta district), and Motipur (Kapilvastu district) are selected for demonstration.



### STRATEGIC INTERVENTION

#### Advocacy

CODEFUND persistently does advocacy for conservation development forum; conservation academy; conservation banking; green dissemination; green recognition and demonstration of ecosystem management and livelihoods. In fact, these all are gaps that Nepal needs fulfilling. CODEFUND not necessarily perform all these in isolation. It collaborates in each effort made any time by any institutions wherever possible.

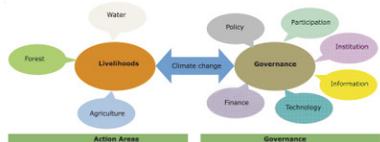


#### Partnership with government

CODEFUND strongly pledges for government role as the prime actor for conservation development - at centre, districts and villages. In village, it is mandatory that CODEFUND signs memorandum of understanding with VDC for a basic working principle of sharing project secretariat in VDC building. Because of this shared strength, capacities of VDC at the end build up to provide full services to its citizens in an effective manner.

#### Focus areas for demonstration of ecosystem and livelihoods

Diagram shows action areas as major environmental components i.e., water, forest and agriculture) contributing to livelihoods, and governance (policy, institution, participation, information, technology and finance) being main device to achieve conservation development impacts at VDC level. Emerging issues like climate change connects both spheres.



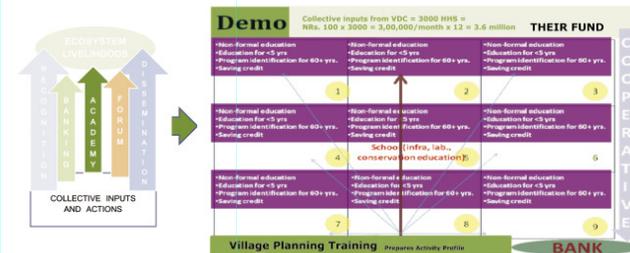
#### Collective inputs and actions at VDC level

CODEFUND adopts self-reliance principle for sustaining conservation development. For this, each household requires exploring their inner strength reaping prosperity much rewardable in terms of economy. For this, CODEFUND calls each household in VDC to contribute community decided fund on regular basis. This is essential to understand that this fund is not for the purpose of CODEFUND, but for community themselves. CODEFUND mentors on how such collection will bud to their prosperity, wisdom and peace.

#### Village planning: A must case

Village planning is must before any interventions made in target VDC. This participatory planning prepares community/institutions of VDC to explore, prioritize and implement

their need based activities. Further, this planning also helps developing solidarity among communities for a management of VDC level cooperative. See flow diagram how different components contribute to conservation development in target VDC.

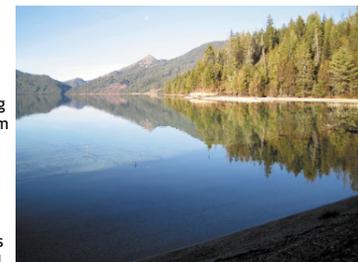


#### Knowledge management

Knowledge is the main driver of any social and environmental changes. Knowledge discovers techniques and technologies. Hence, knowledge management is an entry of intervention for conservation development. Schools in the VDC are normally knowledge centers; therefore CODEFUND strongly pledges one school be emerged as quality knowledge center.

#### Micro-enterprise: A mandatory provision

Considering village economy being next drive for prosperity, CODEFUND thrusts on a mandatory provision of natural resource based 3 micro-enterprises in target VDC. This provision helps building social harmony among communities from economic sovereignty.



#### Nature conservation

Nature conservation is central in each intervention made; so CODEFUND insists for 40 percent of VDC be forest covered.

Join us for making conservaton development are own agenda

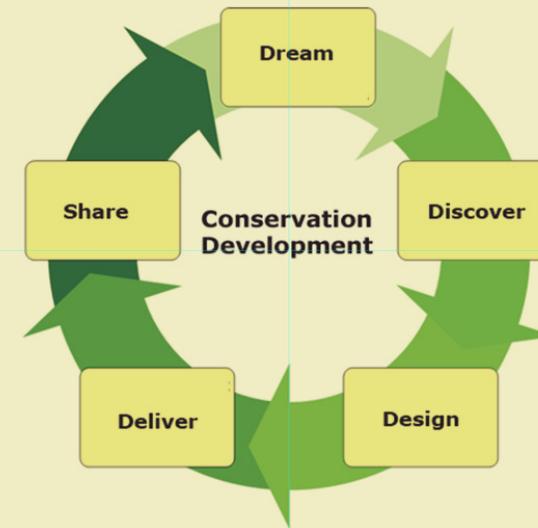
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CODEFUND

### Conservation Development Foundation



*Conservation development is a dynamic process of creating enabling environment based on self-reliance guided by the principle of ecosystem based management generating development impacts on prosperity, wisdom and peace.*