

Forest Sector Policies in promotion of NTFPs in Nepal

International Policies

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, 1973)

Nepal has been a signatory of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Flora and Fauna since 1973 and a number of plant species (15) are listed in CITES under various appendices (CITES 1995). There is one species in Appendix I which was already extinct from Nepal, 9 species in Appendix II and 6 species in Appendix III (Annex 1). Twenty six mammals, nine birds and three reptiles that are listed as threatened species as per National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 are also included in the CITES appendices except Hyaena and Common crane (Ghimire, 1999).

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1993)

CBD (1993) has influenced on the aspects of environmental policy objectives and legislation in Nepal. It is one of the signatory country in the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1993)* that has been ratified by His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) in 1994. Basically, it is a global policy that aims at conserving biodiversity through the sustainable use of genetic resources with due considering on equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources (CBD, 1993; HMG, Nepal Gazettes, 1994). Hence, it allows commercial and other utilisation of genetic resources and obliges the country to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other contracting parties. It has mandatory to the Conference of Party (COP) to develop and implement National Biodiversity Strategy and action plan in their own country. The Article 8 and 9 of the CBD state *in situ* and *ex-situ* conservation of biological resources so that each contracting party shall draw an attention on maintaining and regulating their own resources including NTFPs.

IUCN (1994)

IUCN (1994) prioritized 60 plant species for conservation with categorizing species in different red list category (cited in Shrestha and Joshi 1996). The list was updated and contained 34 IUCN Red List plant species in its webpage on December 2006 but the species indigenous to Nepal reported in the Red list were 29 (Annex 2). The list contains both the common and uncommon species and it was due to lack of adequate update data of species distribution and their conservation status.

Conservation Assessment and Management Planning, Pokhara, Nepal (2001)

Conservation Assessment and Management Planning (CAMP) 2001 prioritized 51 plant species for conservation. The species prioritized were from midhills and mountain areas. The species were prioritized because the most species were threatened due to overexploitation. Overexploitation was severe due to accelerating commercial demands. This could also seriously impact the population levels of the taxa concerned and has direct bearing on the quality and ultimate loss of habitat (Annex 4).

Important Plant Areas and Species (ESON/Plantlife International) (2006)

A short list of 30 priority species of medicinal plants was prepared through extensive consultation of the literature using several indicators (commercial demand, rarity, slow growth, potential for regeneration, and difficulty of propagation) (IPA Report 2006). Available information on the geographical distribution of the prioritized medicinal species was then used as the main ingredient to determine the Important Plant Areas (IPAs) for medicinal plants in Nepal. A hierarchical approach was taken to the identification of the IPAs, resulting in recognition of 16 IPA Complexes with 55 IPA sites and 238 IPA niches. The complexes are backed up by the information of presence of prioritized medicinal plants, major vegetation types, threatened, endemic and endangered species, types of threat, etc.

Important Plant Area Complexes of Nepal

Source: ESON, 2006

IPA Complexes	Name of Sites	No. of Niches
Karnali	Humla, Mugu, Jumla, Kalikot, Dolpa	36
Upper Mahakali-Seti	Darchula, Bajhang, Bajura	18
Lower Mahakali-Seti	Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Doti, Achham	14
Upper Annapurna-Manaslu	Mustang, Manang, Gorkha	30
Upper Bheri-Rapti	Jajarkot, Rukum	6
Lower Bheri-Rapti	Dailekh, Surkhet, Salyan	6
Terai Arc Landscape-Nepal	Kailali, Bardiya, Banke, Dang, Palpa, Nawalparasi, Chitwan, Parsa, Bara	19
Lower Dhaulagiri-Annapurna	Baglung, Myagdi, Parbat, Kaski, Lamjung	23
Rapti-Lumbini	Pyuthan, Rolpa, Gulmi, Arghakhachi	6
Upper Bagmati	Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok	17
Narayani	Makawanpur, Bara	3
Upper Janakpur	Dolakha, Ramechhap	7
Lower Janakpur	Sindhuli, Sarlahi	4
Udayapur	Udayapur	3
East Himalayan	Solukhumbu, Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung	36
Far Eastern midhills	Terathum, Panchthar, Ilam	10
TOTAL	Total No. of Sites = 55	238