



VISION

ANSAB has a vision of rural South Asia built on rich biodiversity and prosperous communities. This vision includes rich, healthy and productive ecosystems actively managed and sustainably used by formerly poor local communities. It also features adaptive people and resilient ecosystems able to cope with global

MISSION

Generate and implement community-based, enterprise-oriented solutions that conserve biodiversity and improve the livelihoods of the poorest of the poor while bolstering national economic development and addressing climate change.

ABOUT ANSAB

ANSAB is a civil society organization committed to biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement in South Asia.

Since its establishment in 1992, it has been keeping community empowerment and economic incentives at the heart of its approach, believing that as people benefit from natural resources, they become more motivated to conserve them. ANSAB generates knowledge and results through applied research and studies to implement innovative solutions in line with this core conviction as creating enterprises based on the sustainable use of natural resources, and establishing payment-schemes for environmental services.

ANSAB has a focal position in the field through its work for more than two decades in ecological, technological, economic, and socio-cultural fronts associated to people-centered conservation, management, and use of biodiversity, especially NTFPs, agricultural commodities, biomass-based energy, payment for ecosystem services, and eco-tourism. ANSAB has been consistently evolving, consolidating, institutionalizing and advancing the approaches and strategies for the promotion of community-based enterprises and value chains, natural resources management and biodiversity conservation, enabling policy environment and multi-stakeholders' collaboration.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ANSAB adopts the following guiding principles and approaches while planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating its program activities:

- **Measurable Impact:** ANSAB interventions have been widely tested and applied on the ground. Outcomes are meticulously quantified and compiled through a thorough Impact Tracking System (ITS).
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):** ANSAB programs contribute to the United Nations key objectives for development, more specifically towards "Zero Poverty", "Zero Hunger", "Gender Equality", "Decent Work and Economic Growth", "Climate Action" and "Life on Land".
- **Innovation:** ANSAB believes in continuous learning and is constantly testing new ideas, approaches and methodologies to better achieve its mission.
- **Sustainable Implementation:** ANSAB builds partnership with government, CSOs and private sector and local communities that will be able to pursue the work once national and international funding comes to term.
- **Scientific and Indigenous Knowledge:** ANSAB values indigenous knowledge and combines both traditional and modern scientific methods when implementing projects on the ground.
- **Community-Private-Public Collaboration:** ANSAB works through a multi-stakeholder's approach involving all relevant actors (local producers, harvesters, entrepreneurs, traders, companies, service providers, government line agencies, donors, etc.) in program planning and implementation. It believes in creating community-private-public ownership structures and achieving objectives through joint partnerships and collaborations.



APPROACH

To achieve its vision and mission, ANSAB has continuously evolved by consolidating, institutionalizing, and advancing its approaches and strategies, which are based on the following approaches.

Economic Incentives and Value Chains: ANSAB believes that lasting conservation outcomes can be achieved by creating economic incentives for local communities, who are the primary stewards of natural resources. Accordingly, all programs are designed putting communities at the center, balancing livelihood improvement with biodiversity conservation. To ensure producers benefit from conservation efforts, ANSAB integrates smallholder producers into competitive and rewarding value chains.

Multi-stakeholder Collaboration: ANSAB has a strong track record of facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration by working closely with farmer organizations and local communities, private sectors, government agencies, development partners, academic institutions, and certification bodies. It coordinates and supports several national platforms, including the Nepal NTFP Network (NNN) and the Public-Private Alliance (PPA), Public-Private-Community-Alliance (PPCA) which have strengthened governance, transparency, and coordination across natural resource-based value chains.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI): ANSAB is committed to advancing GESI as a cross-cutting approach throughout its programs and organizational practices. Guided by its GESI Policy, ANSAB adopts a gender-transformative and socially inclusive approach that seeks not only to ensure equitable participation but also to address the structural barriers that limit the meaningful engagement, leadership, and benefit sharing of women, disadvantaged and marginalized groups. GESI considerations are integrated across the entire project cycle through participatory, culturally appropriate, and context-specific processes that respond to local norms, knowledge systems, and social dynamics.

Participatory Action Research (PAR): ANSAB's PAR promotes experiential and collective learning while accommodating diverse perspectives, knowledge systems, and methodologies.

Beginning with conceptual work in the mid-1990s, ANSAB tested and refined practical approaches through field experimentation and systematic learning. Early efforts focused on biodiversity monitoring and community-based enterprise development, which provided the evidence base for promoting community-private sector partnerships, certification and international marketing of forest products, and the sustainable management of NTFPs. As lessons accumulated, ANSAB expanded its work to livelihood diversification and participatory natural resource-based enterprise development, ultimately adopting integrated landscape approaches - covering both farms and forests - that simultaneously address biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and local livelihoods. This progression reflects ANSAB's commitment to adaptive management, where each cycle of implementation, learning, and innovation has informed stronger policies, improved practices, and broader development impacts.

Self-sustainable: ANSAB integrates sustainability into every stage of project design and implementation by strengthening local institutions, market systems, and government ownership so that project outcomes continue beyond external support. Rather than treating sustainability as an exit strategy, ANSAB embeds it throughout project cycle:

- **Strengthening Market and Service Systems:** ANSAB develops sustainable service delivery systems by strengthening LRPs, and enabling producers and MSMEs to continue accessing technical, financial, and business services beyond the project period.
- **Institutionalizing Good Practices:** ANSAB works closely with local, provincial, and federal governments to integrate sustainable agriculture and natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood interventions into policies, plans, budgets, and extension services, ensuring long-term public ownership and investment.
- **Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships:** ANSAB fosters collaboration among communities, government agencies, private sector actors, financial institutions, research organizations, and development partners through platforms such as the PPCA, creating shared responsibility, stronger governance, and sustained investment.
- **Knowledge Management and Learning:** ANSAB documents and disseminates lessons learned, best practices, technical guidelines, and innovations through publications, training, digital platforms, and policy dialogues, enabling knowledge to inform future programs and scale successful approaches.
- **Planned Transition and Local Ownership:** ANSAB adopts a phased transition strategy that gradually transfers responsibilities to local institutions, producer organizations, government agencies, and private sector partners, ensuring they possess the capacity, governance systems, and partnerships needed to sustain project outcomes independently.
- **Backstopping beyond the Project Period:** As an established local organization, ANSAB provides technical and management backstopping to local institutions in a lighter mode until they are fully functional.

DONORS

Bilateral & Multilateral Organizations

Austrian Development Cooperation; European Union (EU); Federal Government of Germany (IKI/BMUKN, BMZ, GIZ); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Global Environment Facility (GEF); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD); Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); UK/Defra Darwin Initiative; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United States Agency for International Development (USAID); The World Bank.

Research & Development Organizations

Global Development Network (GDN); ICCO Cooperation; International Development Research Centre (IDRC); International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie); International Resources Group (IRG); Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV); South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE); World Resources Institute (WRI); World Vegetable Center (AVRDC).

Foundations & Philanthropic Organizations

Aveda Corporation; Blue Moon Fund (BMF); Estée Lauder Companies; Ford Foundation (FF); Global Greengrants Fund; MacArthur Foundation; Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung (MHS); The Rockefeller Foundation; Tides Foundation, Individuals.

PARTNERS

Government, Academic & Research Institution

Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Environment (MoAFE); Government of Lao PDR; Royal Government of Bhutan; Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU); CIFOR-ICRAF; Future Generations Graduate School (USA); IIED; TERI; Tribhuvan University; University of Copenhagen; University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences; University of Oxford; University of Padova; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Yale University.

Civil Society, Networks & Development Organizations

ActionAid; ADRA Nepal; Akasha Academy; Appropriate Technology India (ATI); CIRDAP; CECI; EnterpriseWorks VITA/Relief International; FairWild Foundation; Forest Stewardship Council (FSC); FECOFUN; Grace Trifam Ministry (GTM), Fiji; HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation; ICIMOD; iDE; IUCN; LI-BIRD; Long-Yang e.V. (Germany); Mission East; NEFIN, NTNC; PanNature (Vietnam); Practical Action; RECOFTC; Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI); SRD (Vietnam); TRAFFIC International; UNEP; Welthungerhilfe (WHH); Winrock International; WWF.

Private Sector

Chemonics International; DAI; Ramboll Management Consulting; Terra Global Capital; UNIQUE Forestry and Land Use GmbH; VRock & Company

AWARDS AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

2018	DFID-UK's "Adaptation at Scale – Implementation Prize" (First Prize) for the Ecosystem-based Commercial Agriculture Program.
2016	DFID-UK's "Adaptation at Scale – Protsahan Prize" for the Ecosystem-based Commercial Agriculture Program.
2011	Food and Agriculture Organization awarded "Champion of Asia-Pacific Forests" for its leadership.
2009	Global Development Network's "Most Innovative Development Project Award" (Second Prize) for the Enterprise-Oriented Biodiversity Conservation Model.
2003	Finalist, World Bank's "Development Marketplace Global Competition" for the "People and Markets Conserving Nepal's Biodiversity" concept.

PROGRAM FOCUS

- **Pro-Poor Economic Development:** Natural products and services-based value chain development incl. SMEs, Ecosystem-based Commercial Agriculture (ECA), Biomass-based energy, one health, Drinking water and Education.
- **Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Climate Change:** Sustainable Forest management incl. forest certification, Payment for ecosystem services incl. forest carbon, Agroecology, Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- **Networking, Policy and Research:** Enabling policy environment through studies, networking and multi-stakeholders' platforms, collaboration, evidence-based policy analysis, socio-economic and bio-physical research and studies
- **Capacity Building and Services:** Training, study tours, technical assistance, market information, business planning, incubation and publications

PRO-POOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This program aims to create or strengthen environmentally sustainable markets that benefit the poorest of the poor while promoting social equity, justice and good governance. It supports the entire value chain of targeted natural resource products through a comprehensive range of activities, including:

Entrepreneurship Development: organization of individual and groups; facilitation to identify and develop appropriate leaders; training to develop entrepreneurial skills; establishment of partnerships with local leaders and organizations.

Enterprise Planning and Development: provision of technical expertise to help targeted groups identify enterprise opportunities, undertake feasibility studies and develop business plans; training on enterprise development, business planning, and marketing; development of enterprise management systems for effectiveness and good governance; assessment of technological options; provision of technical advices on product development.

Business Development Services: facilitation of access to different Business Development Services (BDS), such as LRPs, local experts, community resource centres, commercial banks, micro-finance institutions; provision of technical expertise to help BDS providers develop and market effective service packages.

Marketing Information Services: collection, analysis and dissemination of marketing information on NTFPs and spices to collectors, local traders, entrepreneurs and development facilitators through electronic, print and audiovisual media. These services were developed through multi-stakeholder's interactions and include price lists, directories, manuals, market study reports, online databases and market strategies. Their net result is to increase the bargaining power of local collectors, who can get higher prices for their products, thanks to better information.

Value Chain Promotion and Market Linkages: analysis of targeted natural products' value chains in order to find new markets, promote fair benefit sharing mechanisms, improve governance structures, develop trust among stakeholders, promote product standardization and quality improvement, and generate value at the local and regional levels. These interventions help improve relationships between producers and traders and create sustainable linkages between producers and end markets.

Product Certification: promotion of internationally recognized accreditations (FSC, Organic, FairWild, Fair Trade, Wildlife Friendly) to strengthen enterprises' commitment to environmental conservation and social equity while facilitating marketing of local forest products worldwide.



BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This program aims to conserve the rich biodiversity of South Asia, which ranges from tropical forests to alpine meadows. It supports a variety of community-led efforts to manage natural resources and bolster climate change adaptation and mitigation, including:

Enterprise-Oriented, Community-Based Forest Management: capacity building of local communities in forest resource assessments, sustainable harvesting, equitable distribution, good governance, and linking conservation with economic development; technical assistance for the development and implementation of sustainable forest management plans that take into consideration the existing status of forest resources and focus on their conservation.

Forest Certification: support to Community Forestry User Groups (CFUGs) interested in obtaining third party certification and bringing the environmental management of Nepal's forests up to the highest international standards. Since the group certification model is unique in the world and new to Nepal, the program works both to raise awareness among non-certified forest managers CGUGs and to build the capacities of those who are already certified. The program also collaborates with other international organizations on the expansion of certification to other ecosystem services at the landscape level.

REDD-plus: provision of social and technical assistance to local forest stakeholders to bring various forest management regimes under REDD mechanisms. The program plays a prominent role in strengthening the capacity of national stakeholders through the conduction.

of training and workshops, the elaboration and dissemination of guidelines and other informative publications as well as on the ground implementation of pilot projects.

Climate Change Adaptation: strengthening of communities, species and ecosystems' ability to cope with the impacts of climate change. The program creates or develops local stakeholders' groups, promotes good governance and facilitates activities to enhance ecological and social resilience. It further supports the diversification of livelihood options for poor and vulnerable groups by increasing food production and income through the establishment of long-term linkages with scientific and adaptive farm and forest management schemes as well as incentives-based biodiversity conservation projects.

Agroecology and Agroforestry: promotion of organic and agroecological principles in mountain farming and suitable agroforestry practices with a focus on poor and marginalized individuals. These practices help conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem services, sustain land productivity/care and reduce poverty. They also contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Biodiversity Conservation: identification of rare and endangered plant species and their critical habitats as well as establishment of conservation measures at various levels. The program notably develops participatory biodiversity monitoring tools to promote community-based conservation practices. Supports to the stakeholders to comply the national and international commitments on biodiversity conservation.

NETWORKING, POLICY AND RESEARCH

Through its Networking, Policy and Research program, ANSAB works with key stakeholders from grassroots leaders to national government officials to improve the development and implementation of policies related to agroecology, community forestry, NTFPs, biomass-based energy and eco-tourism. It also draws on the expertise of leading national and international companies, public agencies, policy forums and networks as well as non-profits to holistically promote these sectors. More specifically, program activities include:

Networking: coordination of and participation in several important networks, such as PPCA, NNN, PPA, Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN), Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA) and Jodi Buti Association of Nepal (JABAN).

Policy: organization of policy dialogues between local communities, CSOs, governments and the private sector; evidence-based advocacy to local, provincial, federal and international levels on an ongoing basis.

Research: undertaking of researches and studies on all scientific and managerial aspects relevant to ANSAB work, including biological monitoring, biodiversity, community forestry, agroecology, ecosystem services, stock assessment, sustainable harvesting, REDD+, gender analysis, value chains.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SERVICES

ANSAB seeks to impart local communities with the knowledge they need to manage the ecosystems on which they heavily depend in a sustainable and inclusive way. As such, it devotes a lot of energy to capacity building in all its projects. More specifically, program activities include:

Training: organization of trainings in all shape and forms, from grassroots mobilization workshops to environmental assessment field courses to technical coaching on agroecology, Sustainable Forest management, NTFP processing and REDD+. The program mostly targets women, poor and other excluded groups, but several events are also organized at the regional, national and international levels for governmental and nongovernmental organizations, consultants, experts and researchers. Available training packages currently include:

- Entrepreneurship Development
- Enterprise Development Planning
- Business Planning
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Community Forestry Operational Plan Preparation
- Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB)
- Stock Assessment and Sustainable harvesting of NTFPs
- Climate resilient agriculture, Agroecology and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)

Study Tours: organization of field visits for national and international researchers, donors, buyers and partners to study successful CFUGs or community-based enterprises. The program also facilitates exchanges between community forests and enterprises in similar situations to disseminate best practices and foster mutually benefitting business links.

Technical Assistance: provision of advices on an ongoing basis to all institutions with whom ANSAB has worked in the past, from local enterprises, farmers' groups, CFUGs and local, provincial and federal governments and exporting companies; support of partners' projects and programs related to agroecology, climate resilient agriculture, biodiversity conservation, forest resource assessment and community-based enterprise development.

ACHIEVEMENTS

ANSAB's efforts to conserve globally significant mountainous biodiversity of Nepal have set an example for profitable, conservation-based management of forest, pasture, and farm resources. This impactful approach has been implemented in Nepal and other developing countries, demonstrating ANSAB's continued commitment to enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. The organization has successfully designed and implemented over 200 multi-partner, multi-country projects funded by bilateral and multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private foundations. The figures below summarize ANSAB's achievements at a glance.

70+

Districts reached across Nepal, plus 9 other countries

1,300+

Economic entities supported

85,000

Economic participants engaged

NPR 924M

Annual benefits generated

250,000+ ha

Farm & forest land under improved management

100+

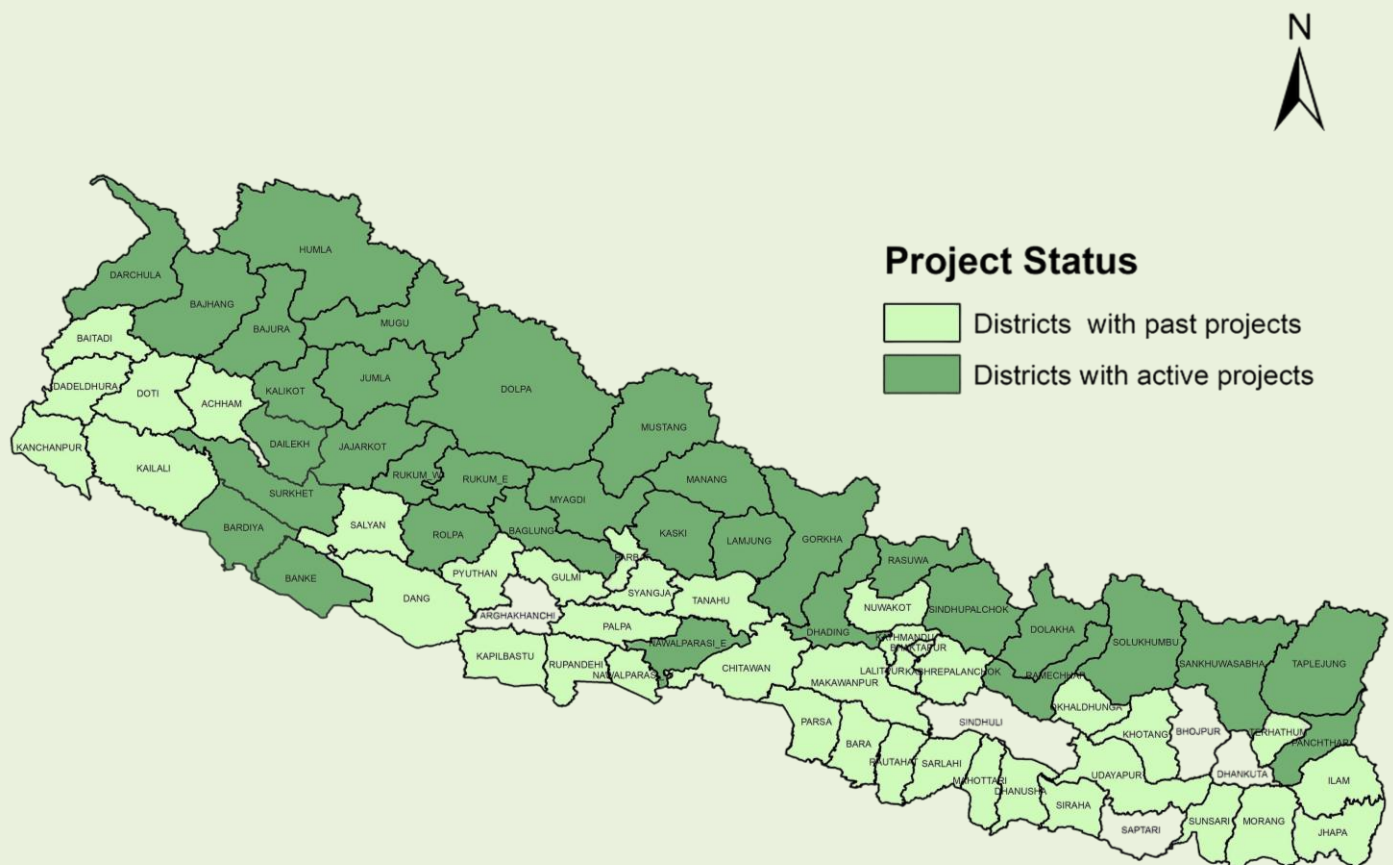
Knowledge products

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Countries where ANSAB Provided Services



Districts of Nepal where ANSAB Provided Services



PUBLICATIONS

ANSAB has published more than 100 knowledge products covering climate-resilient agriculture and agroecology, biodiversity conservation, sustainable harvesting of NTFPs, forest-based enterprise development, REDD+, and other natural resource management topics. These publications serve as valuable resources for policymakers, development practitioners, researchers, and academic institutions. ANSAB publication consists of:

- Annual Reports
- Books & Manuals
- Reports & Case Studies
- Research Articles
- Presentations & Proceedings
- NTFPs Information Sheets
- NTFPs and Spices Price Lists
- Newsletters
- Video Documentaries

Explore ANSAB's publications and other knowledge resources at <https://ansab.org.np/publications/>. All ANSAB publications are available free of charge on our website.

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ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

Since its foundation, ANSAB has implemented over 200 development projects in more than 70 districts of Nepal as well as in other countries incl. Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Lao PDR, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Vietnam and other developing countries.

It is governed by Executive Committee, and employs over 50 staff and has a roster of over 200 experts. Its staff and consultants have extensive expertise in a wide range of fields, including agriculture, forestry, enterprise development, policy research, payment for ecosystem services, natural resource management, private sector engagement, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and certification.



ANSAB

P.O. Box 11035 Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: (977-01)-4597547 or 4578412

E-mail: ansab@ansab.org.np

