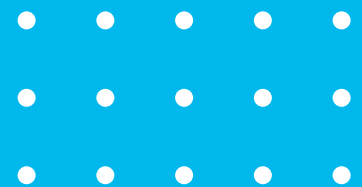




# Annual Report 2079/2080



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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Partners, Donors and Friends,



It is with immense pleasure that I present to you the latest issue of ANSAB's annual report, highlighting our activities, achievements and financial situation in the fiscal year 2079/80. This year's report features ANSAB's accomplishments that helped to promote communities through enterprise-oriented natural resource management.

During the last year, ANSAB successfully implemented 6 projects, producing promising outcomes and valuable insights at the community level. These projects spanned over biodiversity conservation, climate-resilient agriculture, community-based enterprise-oriented natural resource management, sustainable management of high-value NTFPs, engagement of forest-dependent beneficiaries in REDD+ processes, and the technical education & vocational training.

Continuing our focus on community-based initiatives for biodiversity conservation, we initiated the implementation of the National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) with the aims to establish sustainable forest management pathways in Nepal for biodiversity conservation, with the potential to connect to responsible markets in the long run. Developed in collaboration with ANSAB, NFSS for Nepal sets specific standards for sustainable forest management. Over 7,500 hectares, involving 40 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), have been technically capacitated for sustainable management, emphasizing biodiversity conservation, social benefits, and governance. Some of these forests have already revised management plans in line with NFSS. Additionally, ANSAB implemented FairWild certification for wild herbs, enhancing the governance of sustainable resource use and providing premium benefits to local harvesters in the remote Himalayan region. Our efforts to improve governance in the forest and farm sectors at the local level were furthered through the Public-Private Community Alliance (PPCA) approach, refined based on previous years' experiences. The lessons learned from field implementations will offer valuable insights for the natural resource management sector on a national, or even international scale with similar socio-environmental settings.

At international level, ANSAB concluded the Asia-Pacific FCPF Capacity Building Project on REDD+ with a regional sharing workshop. This facilitated constructive dialogue among representatives of local communities, indigenous people and civil society organizations, government REDD+ focal points and Asia Pacific regional level observers, covering 10 FCPF countries. With this program, set of capacity building activities have been agreed and documented for meaningful participation of indigenous people and local communities in REDD+ processes. Furthermore, ANSAB organized an international market access workshop connecting Nepalese NTFP producers and traders with international buyers from China, India, Europe, and America, fostering potential trade relationships.

These achievements would not have been possible without the support from our donors, partners, board members, advisory board members, and our truly dedicated and professional staffs. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continuous support and solidarity for our noble cause. I look forward to working together again in the coming years.

Thank you.

Bhishma P. Subedi, PhD  
Executive Director



पाँचआँल

## ABOUT ANSAB

ANSAB is a Nepal-based non-profit, non-government organization committed to biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement. It places community empowerment and economic incentives at the heart of its approach, and generates knowledge and results through applied researches and studies to implement innovative solutions, such as the creation of enterprises based on the sustainable use of natural resources, establishment of payment for environmental services, and advancement of ecosystem based commercial agriculture that increase communities' resilience, their standards of living and promote social equity. For over last three decades, 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-stakeholder collaboration.

## 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 climate change.

## 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.



## PROGRAM FOCUS AND APPROACH

### **Pro-Poor Economic Development**

- » Ecosystem-based commercial agriculture (Food and nutrition security; Organic, climate resilient and remunerative farming practices; Home gardens; School gardens)
- » Community-based farm and forest enterprise, and Value chain development (Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs); Biomass based energy; Organic fruits and vegetables; Ecotourism)
- » Community welfare and protection (Drinking water; Technical education and vocational training; One health; Disaster relief and recovery)

### **Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Climate Change**

- » Agroforestry
- » Sustainable forest management incl. forest certification
- » Participatory biodiversity monitoring
- » Ecosystem services incl. forest carbon, REDD+
- » Climate change adaptation and mitigation

### **Networking, Policy and Research**

- » Enabling policy environment through networking and multi-stakeholder platforms collaboration
- » Evidence-based policy analysis
- » Socio-economic and bio-physical research and studies

### **Capacity Building and Services**

- » Capacity building from grassroots (incl. marginalized groups, indigenous people and local communities) to policy through trainings, study tours, technical assistance, market information, business planning and publications
- » Experimentation and demonstration of best practices



**PROJECTS**

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND AGROFORESTRY PRODUCTION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

This project, built on ANSAB's past work and experience on community-based enterprise-oriented natural resource management, is being implemented in four municipalities of Nawalpur district: Madhyabindu Municipality, Kawasoti Municipality, Binayi Tribeni Rural Municipality, and Hupsekot Rural Municipality. ANSAB and Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature and Environment (MHS) have been implementing this project with generous support by the International Climate Initiative (IKI), on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany and the MHS from September 01, 2021 to August 31, 2024.

The project initiated implementation of the National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) with 40 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), covering a total forest area of over 7,500 ha. To date, 14,032 ha of forest and 260 ha farmland have been brought under improved management through forest fire prevention and control, sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), sustainable forest management activities and the adoption of organic and wildlife friendly farming practices.





The conservation measures and provisions for sustainable harvesting of NTFPs are being included in the development of community forest management plans, based on a biodiversity and ecosystem services assessment and forest inventories. Community level forest fire awareness and control networks and committees, incl. two local fire brigades, are formed for prevention and faster response to forest fires. Firefighting equipment such as rakes and water sprayers have been provided to 30 CFUGs.

25 farmers groups for organic production have been formed, organizing a total of 519 farming households who benefit from improved knowledge and capacities on organic production and handling practices, market linkage, and access to government programs and facilities. 125 households have been supported with improved cooking stoves, reducing fuelwood use by 40% at household level. The cultivation of essential oil-bearing and wildlife-repellent plants and production of essential oils has started, diversifying revenue options for the communities while reducing human-wildlife conflict.



With the formation of a public-private community alliance (PPCA) in Kawasoti and planning meetings in other three municipalities, discussion on the needs and potential interventions in forestry, agriculture and ecotourism sectors were formed among key stakeholders. The discussions assist the strategic planning of the municipalities. Institutional and organizational management trainings have been initiated with Nawalpur district and four municipal level community forestry networks. A 5-year strategic plan for Nawalpur district-level community forest network was developed. Promoting local eco-tourism, a tourism map including major attractions, tourism products, and relevant information for tourists was developed in close collaboration with the Kawasoti municipality and Nawalpur Hotel Professional Association. A school excursion program has been developed and is being implemented with the local schools, enhancing knowledge and skills of students in ecology and environmental topics through guided field trips and educational activities.



## HIMALAYAN PLANTS FOR PEOPLE: SUSTAINABLE TRADE FOR BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

This project aims to secure the local incomes and healthcare, threatened by declining biodiversity and natural resource access, linked to overharvest of medicinal species. This project is being implemented from July 2021 - June 2024 with funding support by the UK Government through Darwin Initiative, and in partnership with TRAFFIC and other partners. This project is being implemented in Jumla, Mugu, Humla, Bajhang and Darchula districts of Nepal.

This year, the detailed resource inventory of three prioritized species (Jatamansi, Kutki, and Himalayan Fritillary) and other associated NTFPs were carried out in 29 target CFUGs in five project districts. With this, detailed resource inventory has been completed in a total of 37 CFUGs, out of which 29 are new and 8 are from the previous Darwin Initiative project implemented in Jumla and Mugu.



The status of the resource governance in target areas and status of forest management plans were analysed against the FairWild and Organic standards. The identified gaps in the CFUG operations of each district were compiled and shared with district stakeholders during the sharing and validation workshops in each of the project districts, seeking stakeholder opinions and their contributions. Based on the gap analysis, the project has begun to revise the CFOPs incorporating provisions of FairWild and Organic standards.

3 Trainers of Trainings (ToTs) events on participatory plant resource management, sustainable harvesting techniques, monitoring, FairWild and Organic standards were carried out. Based on these ToTs, a total of 29 CFUGs level trainings were conducted for harvesters, processing workers, CF executive members and local forest users. These trainings have built the capacity of harvesters in sustainable harvesting methods and practices to manage forest resources in a sustainable manner. It has also improved the record and account keeping at CFUGs level, maintaining traceability, enhancing social responsibility and encouraging equitable trade for CFUG harvesters and processors.

The NTFPs harvesters' registration systems were established in 29 CFUGs. Each CFUG has a register to maintain the list of harvesters which includes detailed information such as age and sex of harvesters, NTFPs collected and their type, average collection volume, season of collection, and average price sold to the aggregator. A total of 3,212 NTFPs harvesters were formally been registered within 29 harvester's sub-committees at CFUGs level in 5 project districts.



The FairWild premium fund operational guidelines was revised and re-established for the fair and equitable distribution of the benefit obtained from the trade of the FairWild certified products in Jumla district. A new committee for operationalizing the FairWild premium fund has been formed, and orientation on the FairWild premium fund has been provided during the refresher trainings in Baghjale and Lamteli CFs.

The Nepalese producer enterprises was supported to organize a “Pre BioFach meeting” at ANSAB where the representatives of different Nepalese companies participated the meeting, prior to attending BioFach. Likewise, the Sustainable Herbs Program (SHP) of the American Botanical Council videographed ANSAB’s work to document sustainable harvesting practices of wild plants, including socioeconomic aspects of harvesters and communities. This documentary promotes the legal and sustainable international trade of wild-harvested plants from the alpine meadows of the Bajhang district of Nepal.

2 local processing enterprises were supported in the project sites: 1 in Jumla namely ‘Malika Essential Oil Processing Enterprise’ through repair and maintenance of the boiler, net and chimney pipe of the Jatamansi processing facility, upgrading the efficiency of the Jatamansi processing enterprise. 1 in Bakhang namely ‘New Srijana Sristi Oil Production and Processing Enterprise’ through the construction of a shade house/warehouse.

ANSAB arranged and supported a third-party FairWild certification audit for Himalayan Bio-trade Limited (HBTL) in three CFUGs of Jumla namely Baghjale, Lamteli and Bhaleni CFUGs, for two supply chains (Jatamansi and Kutki).



## MAKING TECHNICAL EDUCATION PRACTICAL AND ACCESSIBLE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES: A PILOT INITIATIVE IN NEPAL

The technical education & vocational training (TEVT) program developed by ANSAB with support from the Estee Lauder Companies is being implemented in Dolakha district of Nepal since 2016. The objective of the TEVT program is to support local communities to improve overall education in general and provide practical technical education & vocational training to youth in particular, which would serve as an example for making technical education practical and increase accessibility of marginalized population.

Building on the learnings and experiences from the previous years, ANSAB carried out the fifth year of the program with the objectives to a) increase access of poor and marginalized youths to TEVT, b) strengthen the TEVT providers to improve quality and practical aspects of education, and c) capacitate TEVT students on self-employment and job-placement. During the last year, 4 students from two TEVT schools namely Jiri Technical School and Sarba Secondary School received scholarship support to study Diploma of Agriculture (3-years program). Out of the 4 students, 2 students are female, 3 are indigenous and 1 is Dalit. Furthermore, 8 students studying Diploma in Agriculture have received 3 months on-the-job-training (OJT), during which period they gained practical working experience on ecofarm management with application of technical skills and knowledge on agriculture value chain and marketing by closely working with ANSAB, local government, farmers and agro-entrepises for three months. As of now, 20 students have received scholarship support and 32 students have received OJT.



School gardening program has been initiated to two new general schools (Jiri Higher Secondary School and Dhanmale Basic School). These schools have been supported through development of nursery sheds, and provision of seeds of different crops and garden tools and equipment, along with the training to the principal and focal teacher for the operation of the school gardens. With this, the schools supported by the program to develop school gardens have become 6. For the 4 school gardens established during the previous phase, ANSAB field staff has been providing technical advisory and backstopping support. A plan of school garden activities have been developed in these schools in consultation with the school principal and focal teacher, and the 21-week course of school gardening have been started in the 2 new schools with mobilization of the focal teacher who was trained earlier during the previous phase.

Jiri Technical School was supported with the high value NTFP demonstration plot with fencing. The plot covers an area of 0.25 acre with plantation of endemic medicinal and aromatic plants and other remunerative crops. The orientation class on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) was organized, especially on their identification, commercial value, and enterprise development for the students of Diploma of Agriculture benefitting 40 students. With the orientation classes, the students were familiarized on entrepreneurship, enterprise development and business planning in the NTFP field, which could be helpful for them if they start their enterprises on their own. Furthermore, to assist the students to prepare for their job application after their study, an orientation class was organized on resume and cover letter writing for the final year students of Diploma in Agriculture program.



# INCREASED RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE AND AGRO-ECOSYSTEMS IN KARNALI, NEPAL THROUGH ADOPTION OF CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

ANSAB is implementing climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) - rollout activities as part of the Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystem (GRAPE) project, with support from GIZ. The project is jointly financed by European Union, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Germany. ANSAB is responsible to implementing climate-resilient agriculture technologies and practices across nine municipalities spanning Surkhet, Dailekh, and Humla districts within the Karnali region of Nepal. The main objective of the CRA rollout is to demonstrate improved productivity and resilience of the agro-ecosystem against climate risk and vulnerabilities while reducing emissions from the agriculture sector. This project officially started in October 2022 and is expected to be completed by October 2024.

The project aims to reach out to 1500 households (HH) as direct beneficiaries and impact an additional 1500 HH as indirect beneficiaries within the project area. The beneficiaries are distributed among three clusters: 300 in Humla, 600 in Dailekh, and 600 in Surkhet, organized into 64 groups, with 14 in Humla and 25 in Dailekh and Surkhet each.

The CRA measures implemented in the project areas are broadly categorized into technologies and practices, along with related capacity-building activities. The summary is presented in the following figure.

CRA Technologies and Practices	Microclimatic modification Tunnel farming-enhancing efficiency and use including Efficient crop calendar, appropriate crop choices, space management, drip integration, mulching, and integration of vertical structures)	Capacity Building
<p><b>Water Management.</b> (Conservation, efficient storage, and use. This includes soil cement pond, modified soil-cement pond, lifting irrigation, application of drip, mulching, &amp; management of critical irrigation timing)</p>		<p><b>Farmers, their groups, and cooperatives in adoption of CRA technologies and practices.</b> (Trainings, learning events, improving access to markets and inputs through strengthening supply chains)</p>
<p><b>Soil &amp; plant nutrient management.</b> (Application of improved farmyard manure (FYM) and urine; compost, vermicompost, Trichocompost, Jholmol)</p>		<p><b>Formation and strengthening of producers' groups and cooperatives to produce and manage selected crops including quality potato seeds at local levels.</b> (Formation of cooperation PBS seed support, Rustic Storage construction and management, trainings, strategy workshops)</p>
<p><b>Disease and pest management.</b> Application of botanical pesticides (Jholmal-3), bio-pesticides (BT, Trichoderma, Azotobactor, Metarhizium), mechanical traps)</p>		<p><b>Municipal government- in CRA integration in their policies, plan, and actions</b> (exposure visits, CRA &amp; economic governance trainings, dialogue events to discuss identified challenges/opportunities)</p>
<p><b>Post harvest management.</b> (potato seed/apple storage facilities)</p>		<p><b>Establish CRA demonstration sites at schools.</b> (as a teaching and learning platform and support revision of curriculums accordingly)</p> <p><b>VC actors, particularly input suppliers - to supply technologies and inputs.</b> (Discussion events, Exposures &amp; Participation)</p>





## USAID Biodiversity

ANSAB is implementing the USAID Biodiversity (Jal Jangal) project, in partnership with the DAI, Rupantaran, and Center for Molecular Dynamics - Nepal (CMDN). This project aims to reduce multiple threats to the ecosystem and wildlife species and conserve nature, enhance human well-being, and safeguard Nepal's biodiversity to improve the health of ecosystems, fight environmental crime, and improve the ability of communities to prepare for and adapt to impacts caused by climate change and natural disasters. The activity will achieve measurable conservation targets within the biodiversity-rich, terrestrial, and freshwater ecosystems in and around the Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape, Kailash Sacred Landscape, Terai Arc Landscape, and the proposed Karnali Conservation Landscape while increasing resilience to climate change and contributing to the inclusive and sustainable development of Nepal. The priority areas (as shown on the map, below) address a wide range of considerations, including ecological aspects, socio-economic factors, river corridors, their connectivity with livelihoods and climate vulnerability.

'A preliminary list of MSMEs for each target geography offering nature-based products and services' as part of the Study of nature-based enterprise opportunities' was drafted. Similarly, an initial list of high-value plant species and climate resilient agriculture technologies was prepared including agroforestry, or alternatives to unsustainable practices like overapplication of pesticides. This is expected to support a comprehensive study of high-value plant species and climate resilient agriculture practices in coming years. The study is designed as part of the USAID Biodiversity's plan to support environmentally friendly production, such as drought and wildlife-resistant varieties, processing equipments etc.

## Asia-Pacific FCPF Capacity Building Project on REDD+

ANSAB, as the recipient of the Asia Pacific FCPF Capacity Building Project on REDD+ of the World Bank, implemented the FCPF REDD+ capacity building program for civil society organizations (CSOs) and local communities (LCs) in the Asia Pacific region. The overall objective of this project was to strengthen the engagement of targeted forest-dependent beneficiaries in REDD+ processes and decision-making at the country and regional levels. The beneficiaries of this project were CSOs and LCs in 11 FCPF countries: Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu, who benefited from regional activities. Among them, three countries—Fiji, Nepal, and Vietnam—were eligible for in-country level capacity-building activities through sub-projects. This project was implemented from August 2021 to February 2023.

ANSAB carried out the regional level capacity building activities, such as the review of REDD+ and capacity building initiatives at each country and regional level, and the Asia Pacific level sharing workshops involving participants from national and regional level CSOs, government focal points, CSO observers and the members of the regional advisory committee of the Project. National level capacity building activities were carried out in Fiji, Nepal, and Vietnam were carried out by three sub-grantees, which were selected competitively in the first year of the project. Best practices and lessons learned associated with the REDD+ capacity building activities in national and regional level have been documented that provide useful information for carrying out capacity building and other programmatic activities that would increase meaningful participation of and benefit to the local communities and CSOs in REDD+ processes.

Sub projects		Best practices
<b>FECOFUN, Nepal</b>	1	District level multi-stakeholder's forums on REDD+ established synergy between government line agencies and CSOs regarding the sharing of information and lessons learnt about REDD+.
	2	The collaboration among civil society organizations (CSOs) contributed to advancing other advocacy efforts of FECOFUN, such as safeguarding community rights within Forest Regulations. More than 12 CSOs came together and issued a joint statement about the issues posed by Forest Regulations 2079.
	3	Local communities found visual illustrations were useful to understand the key messages during training.
	4	The sub-project's close working with similar initiatives, such as with the World Bank's EnAble project increased synergy, such as during the development of relevant resource materials on ERP and REDD+.
<b>PanNature, Vietnam</b>	1	Appropriate training programs were developed based on local knowledge and information collected through household interviews and community groups.
	2	Engage experienced partners to facilitate capacity building activities in unfamiliar locations. Seek local partners as valuable resources, including relevant stakeholders, capable and enthusiastic individuals, experts, and projects.
	3	Providing relevant content, directly to the concerns of CSOs, will attract effective participation and contributions of all parties.
	4	Establish relationships between stakeholders in the same issue to share information and work in an effective way.
	5	PanNature complimented the government program through its indepth field knowledge and practices.
<b>GTM, Fiji</b>	1	GTM changed their timing of community visitation to 7-9pm in the evenings. This appeared to be an ideal time to talk to the communities in a relax mood to get the maximum information out of them.
	2	The capacity-building activities involved the use of traditional/indigenous approaches, such as the Talanoa sessions to share perspectives on REDD+ and ERP, and traditional/indigenous terminology meaning ecological restoration such as "Vakabulavanua" equating with REDD+.
	3	GTM used the established forums, such as faith-based forums to convey the REDD+ message to the community people, and also to explore the potential of the forums to contribute to Fiji's REDD+ program.
	4	Partnering with the government as did by GTM with the Provincial Conservation Officer (Nadroga Navosa Province) can be replicated for the improved results of capacity building programs.

Sub projects		Key lessons
<b>FECOFUN, Nepal</b>	1	The cascading approach of training communities on REDD+ through the trained local resource persons was helpful in increasing outreach to a greater number of beneficiaries.
	2	The training materials should be developed in local languages for effective information dissemination.
	3	Partnering with other projects with similar objectives adds value to the project.
<b>PanNature, Vietnam</b>	1	Ensure diligent oversight of the development and implementation of pertinent policies, taking prompt action in response to policy promulgation progress.
	2	Work closely with local authorities in the process of policy advocacy and policy implementation. Involving these stakeholders in the project implementation process to support the main targeted groups of the project.
	3	By deliberately choosing partners and regions with limited experience in the domain of payment for forest environmental services, the project's interventions will generate significant interest and yield positive outcomes.
<b>GTM, Fiji</b>	1	Additional capacity building is required at the land owning units (LOUs) level to address fundamental and crucial topics such as Access and Benefit Sharing, Social Inclusion, and Carbon Proprietary Right Ownership.
	2	Enhanced collaboration among government stakeholders is essential to ensure their active participation in capacity building and community awareness initiatives. This collaboration becomes crucial for addressing sector-specific issues that may arise during community-level capacity building forums.
	3	Tribal and religious leaders could serve as the champion for Fiji's future ERP capacity building awareness campaigns.
	4	The sustained direct involvement of the Indigenous (iTaukei) Ministry in community-level capacity building activities holds significant importance.

### These sub-projects yielded the following lessons:

- ✓ Increased synergy and collaboration with FCPF, local governments and other projects with similar objectives will increase the quality and outreach of the outcomes.
- ✓ Direct involvement of IPLCs can be fostered by developing training materials in local languages; and using effective visual media, interactive tools.
- ✓ Development of trainers at the local level, who could be used for training and capacity development activities, is instrumental to the success of REDD+.





# HIGHLIGHTS

## Regional Workshop of Asia-Pacific FCPF Capacity Building Project on REDD+

ANSAB and Tebtebba jointly organized the regional sharing workshop from February 12 to 14, 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop brought together 65 representatives from the 10 FCPF countries which included representatives from the IPOs and CSOs that implemented the sub-projects, REDD+ focal points from ERP countries (Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Vietnam), CSO/IP FCPF observers in the region, members of the regional steering committee (RSC) for IPs, regional advisory committee (RAC) for CSOs/LCs, regional organizations working on REDD+ and the World Bank (WB). The workshop stimulated a constructive dialogue among the IPLCs in the region to share first-hand experiences and best practices, identifying gaps and challenges, drawing lessons learnt from REDD+ and ERP related projects of their country and community, and in end, identifying the ways forward.

The regional workshop provided CSOs and LCs with the opportunity to network with, learn from and access the knowledge of other stakeholders implementing similar work. The workshop participants were divided into 3 groups one for non-ERP countries and 2 for ERP countries. Face-to-face opportunity in the workshops facilitated the exchange of ideas, project challenges, and strategies for engaging with the REDD+ agenda and process. The regional sharing workshop provided opportunities to the participants, incl. from the non-ERP countries to learn from experience from the ERP countries for effective participation of IPLCs in REDD+ process and benefitting from ERP. CSOs and LCs were able to contribute beyond their small communities and partake in a wider network of practitioners, thereby thinking beyond and also becoming a part of global community of practitioners. Regional learning events fostered a wider community of practitioners who were empowered to share sub-project successes, and who were inspired to look at potential opportunities going forward, based on the lessons shared by other practitioners. The group level discussion and reflection on best practices and success cases in ERP countries and non-ERP countries is presented below.

Non-ERP Countries (Cambodia, Thailand, Bhutan, Pakistan, PNG)	
1	The efforts should focus on how the traditional livelihoods can be accommodated in the sustainability of REDD+ and how can REDD+ benefits address the needs of those adversely affected communities within the country.
2	The multiple work burden of women makes it difficult for them to engage in REDD+ processes.
3	Greater emphasis should be placed on the integrated utilization of resources, aiming to foster sustainable livelihoods and providing communities with opportunities to engage in carbon emissions reduction efforts.
4	IPLCs' engagement will facilitate more efficient and effective REDD+ implementation
5	Other subsidiary livelihoods and ecosystems are excluded in the overall REDD+ scheme (e.g. goat herders in Pakistan) which should be improved
6	If IPLCs are capacitated, they can engage in independent Voluntary Carbon Markets

## ERP Countries

(Fiji and Vietnam)		(Indonesia, Laos PDR and Nepal)	
1	Participation of women and youths in REDD+ can be increased through: their inclusion in decision making forum, conducting research, and providing assistance to technology for communication and networking	1	Communication and outreach should be the prime element of the REDD+ process.
2	Local level CSOs esp. those working with IPLCs need institutional strengthening more than ever	2	The capacity building resources (training materials, Participatory Rural Appraisal--PRA tools) should be developed in local languages
3	There's a need for constant monitoring and evaluation during stages of programs and project implementation	3	Donors should make the mechanism of participation for IPLCs as a criterion for support. The donor's responsibility is to make sure the international standards of participation are operationalized
4	The need for collaboration and networking at local, national, and regional level is crucial	4	FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent) should be made mandatory for any REDD+ process.
5	The governments need to delegate more roles and responsibility to IPLCs and communities	5	Nepal Government has developed Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Framework, which should be adopted in every initiative including REDD+.
6	Some of the practical steps that could be undertaken by donors, government and IPLCs to enhance participation of women and youths and access to benefits are: (1)	6	Women as local resource persons are mobilized in REDD+ orientation and forest carbon monitoring (e.g., facilitation of Dalit women in Bara and Banke districts, Nepal)
	More consultation between donors, and IPLCs at project formulation and project implementation stage, (2) governments need to include participation of IPLCs in their decision-making forums--not top-down approach (3) Innovative ways, such as involvement of youths in rocket stove preparation should be sought to encourage and entice youth participation for sustainability of projects	7	For CSOs, avoiding conflicts of interest and maintaining integrity is the most important thing when advocating for the community rights in REDD+.
		8	Nepal's progress in mainstreaming gender in REDD+ processes should be replicated in other countries (like mandatory 50% women in community forest committees and FECOFUN Executive Committees.)
7	Adult learning methodologies should be used to deliver effective trainings. Training materials should be in a simple language and should use more pictures	9	Institutional memory of any organization should be passed down the leadership to make the REDD+ processes more effective
8	There should be a clarity on who owns the carbon rights and on the prospects of current market carbon price (From Fiji's case)	10	Developing the community level leaders as the lead trainers for onward training to the local communities is cost effective and sustainable for effective knowledge transfer, as they will be available to the local communities even after the project period

## Market Access Industry Workshop

ANSAB and Nepal Herbs and Herbal Association of Nepal (NEHHPA) jointly organized the Market Access Workshop on June 8 and 9, 2023 in Kathmandu. This workshop received primary funding from the UK AID's Darwin Initiatives 'Himalayan Plants for People: Sustainable Trade for Biodiversity and Development' project and partial support from the USAID Biodiversity activity.

The general objective of the workshop was to establish connections between Nepalese producers and international buyers who are interested in sustainably managed and fairly-traded products from the Nepal Himalayas. The specific objectives of this workshop were to: i) create opportunities for the Nepalese entrepreneurs to introduce and engage with the international buyers, mainly from India, European Union, United States and others; ii) provide a platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging practices related to FairWild certified products and services among the buyers and producers; and iii) facilitate trust-building and foster understanding between Nepalese traders/producers and buyers from importing countries.

The workshop facilitated B2B meeting to encourage direct engagement between Nepali exporters and the buyers, both in-person and virtual. This enabled the participants to further develop trade linkages and showcase their products and samples. The international delegates expressed great satisfaction with the workshop. The participating companies appreciated the initiative and found the workshop to exceed their expectations. They were able to engage with a large number of domestic exporters, view samples and exchange contact details for further business conversations. While the expectation was for the workshop to focus more on organic products, the delegates still considered it a success in terms of building relationships.



## Baseline Forest Carbon Assessment in Eastern Nawalparasi, Nepal

ANSAB carried out a comprehensive assessment of forest carbon stock in the four municipalities of eastern Nawalparasi district: Kawasoti Municipality, Madhyabindu Municipality, Hupsekot Rural Municipality, and Binayee-tribeni Rural Municipality. The assessment aimed to establish the baseline of forest carbon stock, crucial for monitoring changes resulting from sustainable forest management activities introduced by the project.

ANSAB and Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung (MHS), with funding support from the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and MHS are implementing the 'Nature Conservation and Agroforestry Production in Rural Communities' project in these four municipalities of eastern Nawalparasi district. This project contributes to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, and enhances livelihoods and the development perspectives of local communities through improved community-based forest and farm management practices.

The project activities focused on approximately 20,000 ha of forests within the four municipalities, but it is expected that adjacent forest areas will also benefit from these activities. Hence the total area of forests within the four municipalities was considered for the assessment, employing standard methodologies for sampling, forest carbon inventory, and analysis as per IPCC guidelines. The study, conducted in a total area of 48,298 hectares, utilized 56 permanent sample plots distributed across dense and sparse forest strata.

Results indicate a mean forest carbon stock of 561.62 tCO<sub>2</sub>e ha<sup>-1</sup>, with a total forest carbon stock of 27.125 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e for the project area. Dense forest strata account for over 81% of the total carbon stock, while sparse strata contribute approximately 19%. Based on the estimated reference emission level from the Government of Nepal's Emission Reduction Program in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) region, the project area is projected to experience a decline in forest carbon stock of 36,863.37 tCO<sub>2</sub>e yr<sup>-1</sup>. However, the project aims to reverse this trend by increasing the total forest carbon stock by 665,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in three years through improved forest management practices in line with National Forest Stewardship Standards (NFSS).

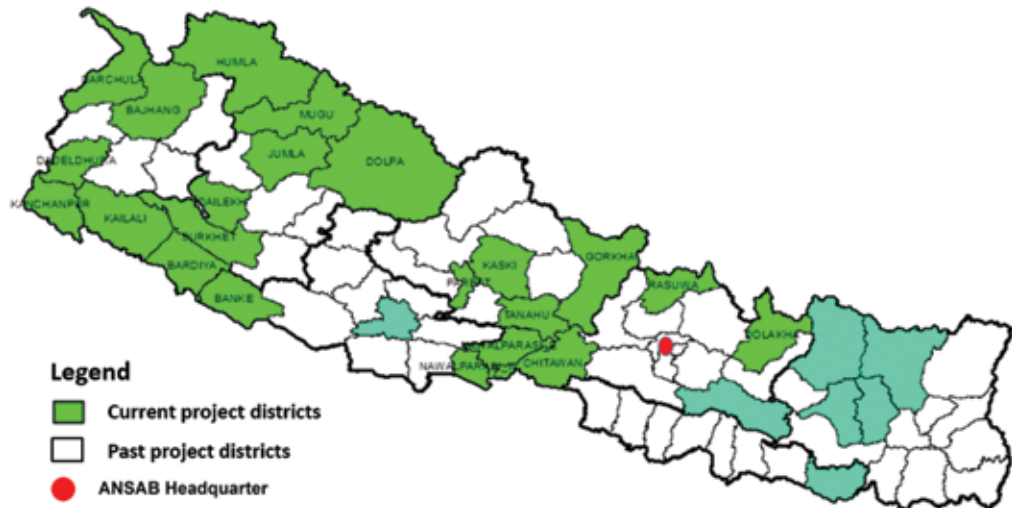
To achieve this goal, ANSAB plans to capacitate community forest user groups, revise forest management plans in line with the NFSS, and implement sustainable forest management practices to address major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

A field-level assessment scheduled for the third year will measure changes in forest carbon stock post-intervention.



## GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

### DISTRICTS OF NEPAL WHERE ANSAB PROVIDED SERVICES



### COUNTRIES WHERE ANSAB PROVIDED SERVICES



# FINANCIAL REPORT

**ANSAB Nepal**  
Baneshwar, Kathmandu  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
As at Ashad 31, 2080 (July 16, 2023)

Particular	Notes	Current Year (NPR)	Previous Year (NPR)
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non - Current Assets</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4.1	3,556,611.33	3,416,563.75
Revolving Fund Scheme		4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00
<b>Total Non - Current Assets</b>		<b>7,556,611.33</b>	<b>7,416,563.75</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4.2	44,053,159.88	101,335,609.74
Fixed Deposit	4.3	150,585,000.00	85,000,000.00
Receivable from Donors	4.4	12,750,917.91	666,819.82
Advance/Accounts Receivable from Others	4.5	14,199,697.34	3,874,703.82
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>221,588,775.13</b>	<b>190,877,133.38</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>229,145,386.46</b>	<b>198,293,697.13</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; RESERVES</b>			
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Fund	4.6	29,146,683.29	24,633,159.96
<b>Designated Funds</b>			
ANSAB Research & Development Fund (AR&DF)	4.7	114,274,615.01	104,761,047.49
ANSAB Core Program Fund	4.7	59,474,023.61	56,442,110.96
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
Project/Donor Fund	4.8	5,757,886.81	4,033,261.04
<b>Total Fund</b>		<b>208,653,208.72</b>	<b>189,869,579.45</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	4.9	20,492,177.74	8,424,117.68
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>20,492,177.74</b>	<b>8,424,117.68</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Reserves</b>		<b>229,145,386.46</b>	<b>198,293,697.13</b>

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Account form integral part of Statement of Financial Position

As per our report of even date



Basudev Neupane  
Sr. Manager -Admin & Finance



Dr. Bishma P. Subedi  
Executive Director



CA. Kiran Dongol  
J. B. Rajbhandary & DiBins  
Chartered Accountant





Barsha Shrestha  
Treasurer



Radhesh Pant  
Chairperson



ANSAB Nepal

Location: Kathmandu, Nepal  
Date : 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**ANSAB Nepal**  
Baneshwar, Kathmandu  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
For the Year Ended Ashadh 31, 2080 (July 16, 2023)

Particular	Note	Current Year (NPR)	Previous Year (NPR)
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>		<b>11,235,397.16</b>	<b>12,917,080.16</b>
General Fund	4.10	11,235,397.16	12,917,080.16
<b>Designated</b>		<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>
ANSAB Research & Development Fund	4.10	-	-
ANSAB Core Program Fund	4.10	100,000.00	-
<b>Restricted</b>		<b>87,213,997.32</b>	<b>40,767,271.68</b>
DI 27-Himali	4.10	12,535,628.36	12,654,211.00
ELC-TEVT 6	4.10	2,659,524.00	-
ELC-TEVT 5	4.10	1,640,092.00	2,761,058.00
ELC-TEVT4	4.10	-	1,114,556.00
FCPF-CBP3	4.10	41,911,513.18	6,862,339.40
ForestEye-2021/22	4.10	-	405,620.60
GIZ-Grape	4.10	8,277,560.88	-
IKI-Prakriti	4.10	20,189,678.90	11,215,005.68
PPCA	4.10	-	5,754,481.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>98,549,394.48</b>	<b>53,684,351.84</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>		<b>6,721,873.83</b>	<b>4,886,082.64</b>
General Expense	4.11	5,821,221.83	4,886,082.64
General Program Expense	4.11	900,652.00	-
<b>Designated</b>		<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>
ANSAB Research & Development Fund	4.11	-	-
ANSAB Core Program Fund	4.11	100,000.00	-
<b>Restricted</b>		<b>87,213,997.32</b>	<b>40,767,271.68</b>
DI 27-Himali	4.11	12,535,628.36	12,654,211.00
ELC-TEVT 6	4.11	2,659,524.00	-
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FCPF-CBP3	4.11	41,911,513.18	6,862,339.40
ForestEye-2021/22	4.11	-	405,620.60
GIZ-Grape	4.11	8,277,560.88	-
IKI-Prakriti	4.11	20,189,678.90	11,215,005.68
PPCA	4.11	-	5,754,481.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>94,035,871.15</b>	<b>45,653,354.32</b>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) before Taxation</b>		<b>4,513,523.33</b>	<b>8,030,997.52</b>
Income Tax Expenses	4.12	-	-
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		<b>4,513,523.33</b>	<b>8,030,997.52</b>

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Account form integral part of Statement of Financial Position

As per our report of even date

  
Basudev Neupane  
Sr. Manager -Admin & Finance

  
Dr. Bishma P. Subedi  
Executive Director

  
CA. Kiran Dongol  
J. B. Rajbhandary & DiBins  
Chartered Accountant



  
Barsha Shrestha  
Treasurer

  
Radhesh Pant  
Chairperson



ANSAB Nepal

Location: Kathmandu, Nepal  
Date : 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## DONORS AND IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

ANSAB works with a variety of donors and partners to effectively and sustainably implement its approach. Through its numerous past projects it has developed a network of partnerships with different institutions, including government and non-government entities, national and international organizations, universities, private companies and research institutions. ANSAB sincerely acknowledges the following donors and partners for their support in Fiscal Year 2078/79:

### DONORS

- » Estee Lauder Companies through Tides Foundation, USA
- » GIZ/Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystem (GRAPE) project
- » International Climate Initiative (IKI) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany
- » Manfred-Hermsen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, Germany
- » Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)/World Bank
- » UK Government through Darwin Initiative
- » USAID through DAI Global LLC

### PARTNERS

- » Ashapuri Organics, Nepal
- » FairWild Foundation
- » Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Nepal
- » Himalayan Bio Trade Pvt. Ltd., Nepal
- » Himalayan Naturals Pvt. Ltd., Nepal
- » Jiri Municipality, Dolakha, Nepal
- » Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Nepal
- » Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal
- » ProFound - Advisers in Development, the Netherlands
- » Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, UK
- » Traffic International, UK
- » University of Copenhagen, Department of Food and Resource Economics, Denmark
- » University of Oxford, UK

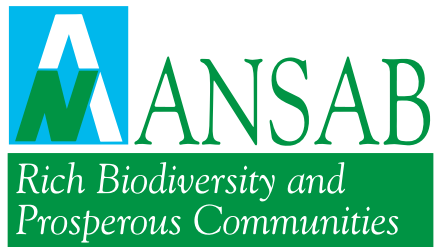
## ANSAB TEAM

### ANSAB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Radhesh Pant	Chairperson
Dr. Netra P. Timsina	Vice-chairperson
Dr. Bhishma P. Subedi	Secretary (Ex-Officio)
Ms. Barsha Shrestha	Treasurer
Ms. Shova Adhikary	Member
Late Prof. Dr. Abhoy Kumar Das	Member
Mr. Ram Hari Subedi	Member

### ANSAB EMPLOYEES

Dr. Bhishma P. Subedi	Executive Director
Mr. Puspa L. Ghimire	Programs Director
Mr. Sudarshan C. Khanal	Manager-Research, Planning & Communication
Mr. Basudev Neupane	Senior Manager-Finance & Administration
Ms. Puja Parajuli	Manager-Finance & Administration
Ms. Aakriti Poudel	Manager-Operation & Outreach
Mr. Sushil Gyawali	Enterprise Development Expert
Dr. Nabin Raj Joshi	Forestry & Climate Change Expert
Mr. Shankar Bhattarai	Project Coordinator
Ms. Laxmi Rana Magar	Senior Assistant-Finance & Administration
Mr. Chandika Amgain	Field Project Coordinator
Ms. Neelam Tripathi	Agriculture Officer
Mr. Deepraj Bhusal	Forest Officer
Mr. Vinod Chapagain	Field Project Coordinator
Mr. Shraban Kumar Basnet	Field Project Coordinator
Ms. Sushila Bhatta	Forest Enterprise Facilitator
Mr. Resham Karki	Forest Enterprise Facilitator
Mr. Chhuyung Dorje Lama	Forest Enterprise Facilitator
Mr. Keshav Rokaya	Cluster Coordinator
Mr. Rajan Sah	Cluster Coordinator
Mr. Manoj Pant	Cluster Coordinator
Mr. Man Bahadur Shahi	Cluster Coordinator
Mr. Lab Bahadur Jirel	Agriculture Technician
Mr. Uddhab Adhikari	IT Specialist
Ms. Asmita Bhandari	Intern
Ms. Pushpa Bhattarai	Intern
Mr. Binod Shrestha	Senior Messenger
Mr. Bishnu Poudel	Driver
Mr. Ravi Khatri	Driver
Ms. Tulasa Khatri	Kitchen Help
Mr. Dil Bahadur Gurung	Office Security Guard
Ms. Nani Maya Gurung	Office Cleaner



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**ANSAB-Nepal**

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Kathmandu, Nepal

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