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**THE CENTER FOR
PEOPLE AND FORESTS**

RECOFTC - USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Developing a Demonstration Site:

Community Forestry, Gender and Climate Change Adaptation in Nepal

Project brochure



Background

The people of Asia and the Pacific are highly vulnerable to impacts from climate change and climate variability due in part to the high concentration of people living in vulnerable coastal areas and river basins. Many countries in the region are experiencing frequent and intense flooding, drought and storm events.

Furthermore, with over 450 million people in the Asia-Pacific region relying heavily on forests and forest products for their lives and livelihoods, helping them – particularly, local women – adapt to climate change is of major importance.





To help address this issue, RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests with support from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific are working together to empower local communities in the region to take climate action into their own hands and protect their community's vital forestry resources.

Developing a demonstration site on community forestry, gender and climate change adaptation in Nepal

RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests with support from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific are working to empower local women in the village of Bishnupur, Nepal to take climate action into their own hands and protect their community's vital forestry resources.

Forests supply food and provide a diverse range of commercial and domestic goods – such as timber, medicine, nuts and fruit – to some of the world's most vulnerable communities. In Nepal, and around the region, changes in weather patterns and rising temperatures are threatening forest resources and resulting in climate change-induced declines in food supplies, among other impacts.

Bishnupur, a village in Sarlahi district of Nepal's southern Terai, is home to a 'women-only' Community Forestry User Group (CFUG). A community-based organization comprising a governing committee comprised of women who govern, manage and use forest land and resources that have been allocated for community use.

These women-led groups are promoted by Nepal's Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and international donors as a conduit to empowering women and improving their livelihoods. Through the activity, regional experts will work with local community members to identify priority climate change adaptation interventions for the forest and surrounding community in Bishnupur.

Implemented for at least two-years, the activity will support the community as well as local government in developing proposals related to climate sensitive forestry and accessing financial resources to implement these interventions.



The activity will further establish Bishnupur as part of RECOFTC's initiative to establish community forestry climate change adaptation 'demonstration sites' in all of its focal countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) to promote learning and the replication of best practices on the intersection of climate change adaptation, forests and female empowerment.

Project objectives

The activity will provide support to the women-only CFUG in line with the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) national strategy to improve forest management and conservation. The activity's primary objectives are to:

1. identify and implement best practices for gender-responsive climate change adaptation in a women-only CFUG;
2. support the District Forestry Office in the development of CF-CCA project proposals for funding; and
3. develop a long-term demonstration site on participatory CF-CCA.

Key CF-CCA interventions will be identified through a participatory Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, and then tested and monitored over the course of two years. The activity will provide seed funding for the initial implementation of CF-CCA initiatives, and will work with local and national levels of government as well as the CFUG in identifying, piloting and ultimately scaling up best practices in community forestry-based climate change adaptation.

Additionally, the activity will promote learning and replication nationwide through visits by representatives from national/sub-national MoFSC and other Nepal government officials, civil society organizations, CFUGs from other regions of Nepal, and other interested parties. The women-only CFUG will participate in all program activities, and therefore benefits will accrue directly to women.



Learn more about the project and download project publications at: <http://www.recoftc.org/site/Community-Forestry-Gender-and-Climate-Change-Adaptation-in-Nepal/>

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THE CENTER FOR PEOPLE AND FORESTS

RECOFTC's mission is to enhance capacities for stronger rights, improved governance and fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forested landscapes in the Asia and the Pacific region.

RECOFTC holds a unique and important place in the world of forestry. It is the only international not-for-profit organization that specializes in capacity development for community forestry. RECOFTC engages in strategic networks and effective partnerships with governments, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, local people and research and educational institutes throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. With over 25 years of international experience and a dynamic approach to capacity building – involving research and analysis, demonstration sites and training products – RECOFTC delivers innovative solutions for people and forests.

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USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific

A project of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA), USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific supports nations across Asia and the Pacific to obtain financing for actions addressing the impacts of climate change. Implemented by AECOM International Development, the program is designed to share information and best practices about climate fund requirements and help governments prepare bankable projects and build capacity to access the existing pool of climate change adaptation finance from international and other sources.

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