

# Hariyo Ban Program Phase I: Achievements and Learning

## Introduction

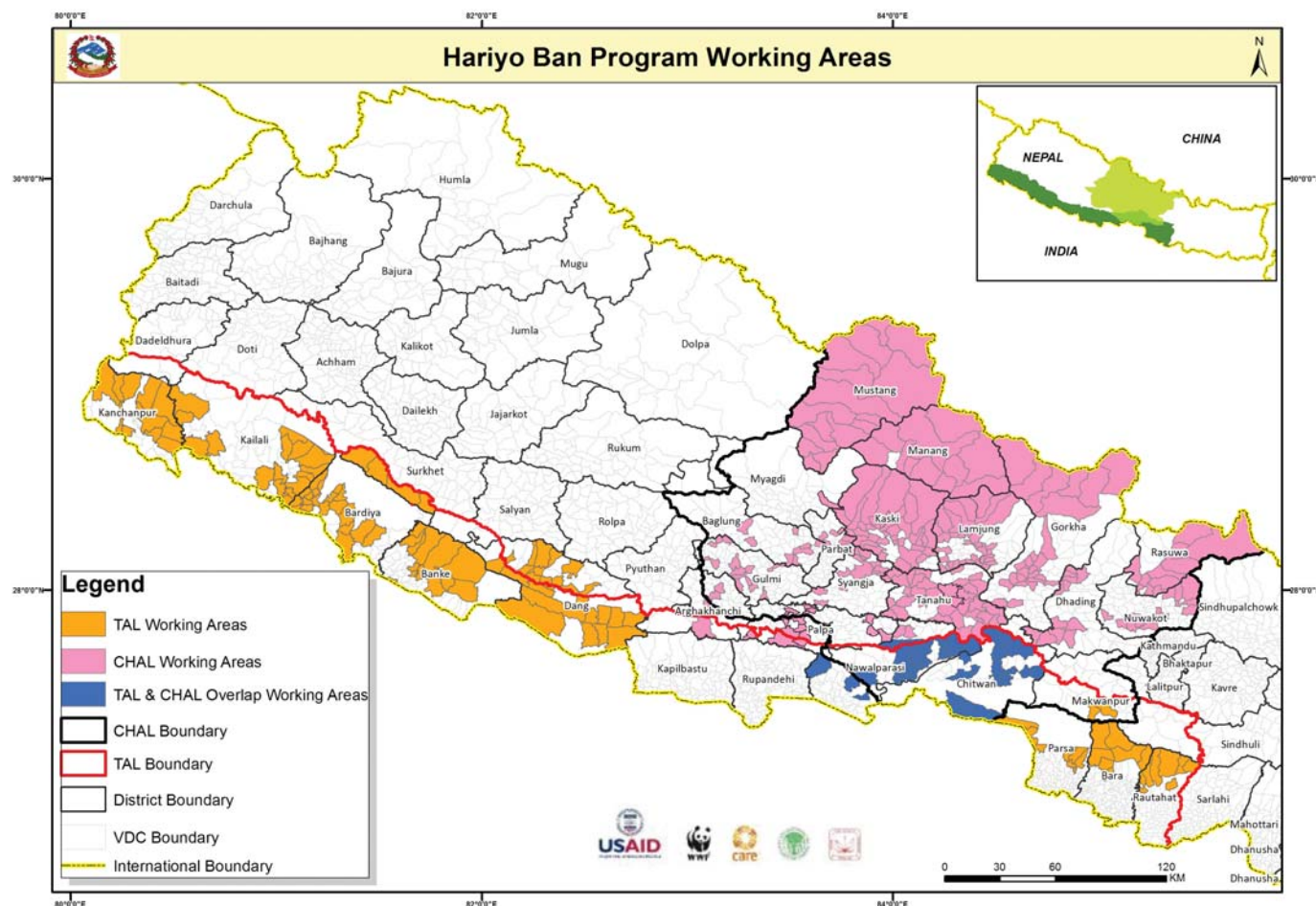
This factsheet outlines the achievements and learning of the Hariyo Ban Program during its first five years. The Program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and is implemented by four core partners: World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), and the Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN). It works closely with a range of stakeholders and beneficiaries including Government; local communities and community-based organizations; non-government organizations (NGOs); academia; other projects; and private sector.

The first phase aimed to reduce adverse impacts of climate change and threats to biodiversity. It worked on three core interwoven components – biodiversity conservation, sustainable landscapes and climate change adaptation – with livelihoods, governance, and gender and social inclusion (GESI) as cross cutting themes. It operated in two landscapes: Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) and Chitwan Annapurna Landscape (CHAL). The first phase was implemented from 2011 to 2016; a second phase will run for another five years.

## Working areas of Hariyo Ban Phase I

- 9 protected areas
- 28 districts
- 355 village development committees
- 46 municipalities
- 4 sub-metropolitan areas
- 1,569 community forestry user groups
- 64 conservation area management committees
- 51 buffer zone user committees

During the first phase the CHAL (covering the Gandaki river basin) was formally recognized by Government as a new landscape in Nepal, and Hariyo Ban supported Government to prepare a Strategy and Action Plan for it, taking a river basin approach. It also supported the preparation of the next TAL ten-year Strategy and Action Plan; both strategies mainstream climate adaptation. Hariyo Ban is now supporting their implementation.



## Biodiversity Conservation



Swamp deer collared and translocated to Bardiya National Park from Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve

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In order to reduce threats to biodiversity, Hariyo Ban has supported Government of Nepal in conserving rare and endangered species, important ecosystem services and critical watersheds. To re-establish populations of three important wildlife species in areas where they previously occurred, the Program worked with various departments of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) and supported translocation of rhinoceros, swamp deer and blackbuck to parts of their former ranges. Conservation of several tree species was promoted including bijay sal and champ. Support was provided to create the National Level Relief Fund for Human-Wildlife Conflict, along with conflict reduction measures on the ground. Long-term research and monitoring of species like snow leopard, swamp deer, and gharial were supported, along with preparation of survey and monitoring protocols and national surveys for red panda and pangolin. The

program also supported MoFSC to develop policy documents including strategies and action plans for Terai Arc and Chitwan-Annapurna Landscapes; species conservation action plans for focal species including pangolin, blackbuck, bijay sal and vultures. Support was also provided to MoFSC to declare the Pokhara lake clusters as a Ramsar site and prepare a climate smart management plan. Fourteen Integrated Sub-watershed Management Plans were prepared and partially implemented.

Hariyo Ban has been working closely with local communities for biodiversity conservation and so far has created 201 new community based anti-poaching units, and strengthened and mobilized 340 existing ones. Community conservation activities were complemented by alternative livelihood promotion activities for forest dependent people. By late 2016, 10,358 marginalized households were supported in green enterprises and about 1,392 youths were provided with skill-based training.

Major Biodiversity Conservation Interventions	Five-year Target	*Progress
Research, monitoring and conservation of focal species (number of plant and animal species)	19	18
Number of community based anti-poaching units established and mobilized	205	201
Number of critical sub-watershed management plans implemented	12	14
Number of members of community natural resource management (NRM) groups with greater capacity and mobilized in biodiversity conservation	27,595	32,727
Number of NRM groups with strengthened governance	300	326
Number of policies supported (strategies, policies, plans)	7	10
Length of electric fence constructed to reduce human wildlife conflict (km)	208	212
Number of community Learning and Action Center (CLAC) established/strengthened for community mobilization	485	485
Number of people benefiting from economic activities (skills training, green enterprises, on and off-farm activities)	78,163	61,244





*Female members of Benipakha CFUG raising hands to show their involvement in vegetable farming*

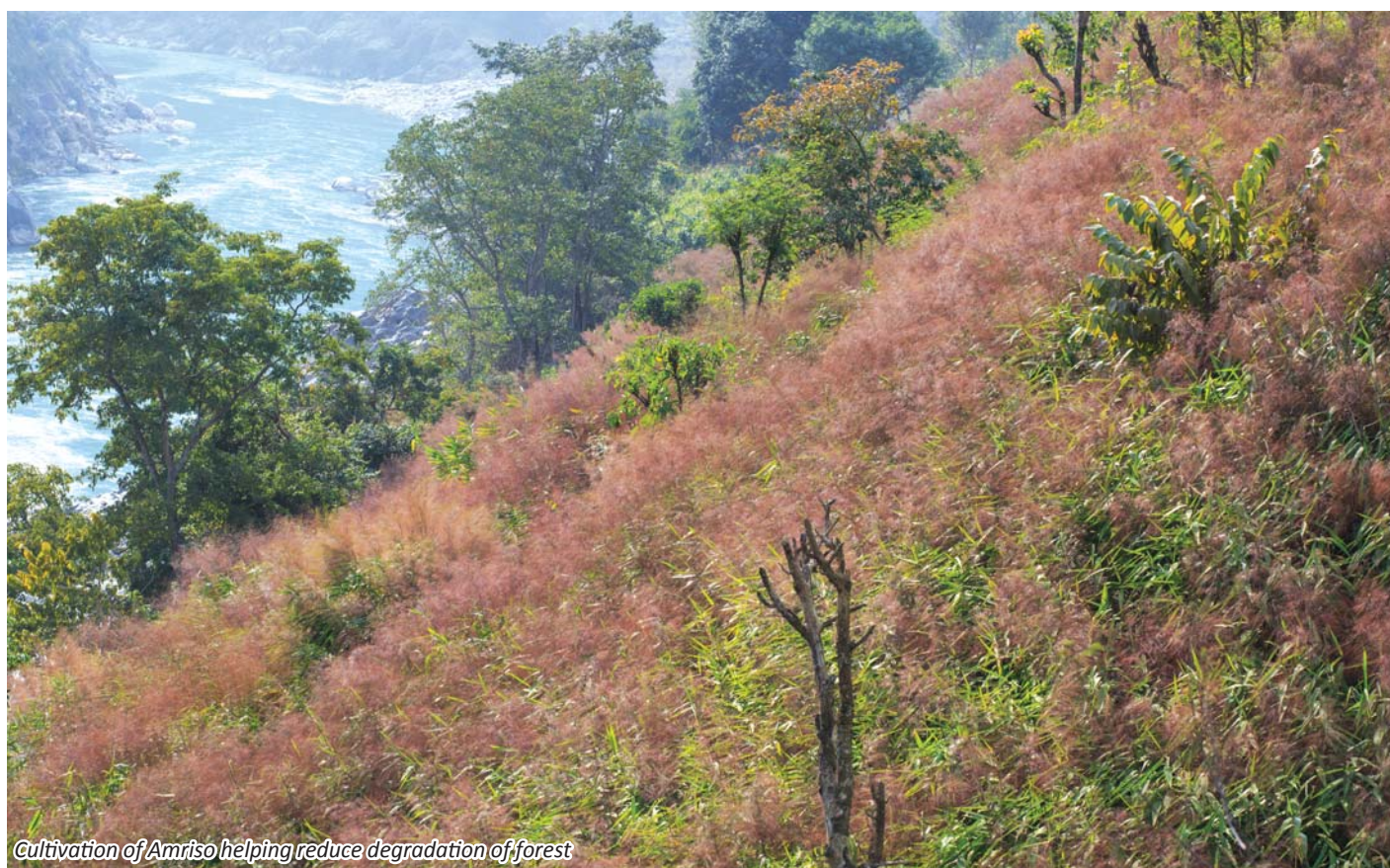
Hariyo Ban has been playing an important role in promoting NRM governance and GESI in biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. The program has enhanced participation and leadership of women and marginalized people in community forest user groups, and promoted equitable sharing of conservation benefits. Forest groups are gradually leveraging resources for the benefit of forest dependent people. The program has also supported Government to develop country-specific indicators for social and environmental standards in reducing emissions

from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). Major GESI actions include: promoting improved internal governance of forest groups; increasing men and decision makers' engagement in promoting leadership of women and marginalized groups; reducing gender based violence (GBV) in natural resources management; and identification and mobilization of change agents for social transformation. GESI is mainstreamed in the climate adaptation component through addressing differential impacts of climate change on women, poor, marginalized, and other vulnerable groups.



*Members of GLAC from Janahith Mahakali CFUG, Krishnapur, Bani*





*Cultivation of Amriso helping reduce degradation of forest*

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Under the sustainable landscape component, Hariyo Ban has been supporting Government to develop enabling policies for REDD+ Readiness in Nepal. This included support to the Forest Policy 2071, Forestry Sector Strategy 2072, and a number of strategies and guidelines for sustainable forest management. We are supporting development of a REDD+ emission reduction project of a REDD+ emission reduction project document for a subnational REDD project in the Terai (the World Bank has already endorsed the project idea note for this). Much capacity at national to local levels has been built for REDD+. The Program has undertaken extensive work to reduce priority drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the landscapes, especially overharvesting of

forest resources (including firewood); uncontrolled forest fires; and overgrazing. It has also worked with communities and Government to restore degraded forest areas, and to improve management practices in community forests, with support to corresponding policy instruments.

In addition, Hariyo Ban collaborated with stakeholders to pilot two payments for ecosystem services (PES) schemes involving improved land use and road construction practices to reduce sedimentation which is affecting economic activities of downstream users. To create an enabling environment for future PES it supported Government to develop a National Policy on PES, and built much capacity at local to National levels.

Major Sustainable Landscape Interventions	Five-year Target	* Progress
Number of people with increased capacity for REDD+ and/or PES	7,814	7,879
Number of people benefiting from alternative energy (including during earthquake recovery)	140,477	147,375
Number of biogas units		6,143
Number of non-metallic improved cook stoves units		18,003
Number of metallic improved cook stoves units		926
Number of community forest operational plans supported for revision	434	481
Number of hectares of new plantation supported	1,793	2,888
Number of hectares restored (through fencing, grassland and wetland management)	No target	65,886
Number of PES schemes piloted (in Phewa and Marshyangdi water catchments)	2	2
Number of policy documents supported	10	10



## Climate Change Adaptation

People and biodiversity in Nepal are facing increasing climate change impacts, which are affecting the way people use the environment and the services it provides. Ecological and human communities are vulnerable to various hazards like floods, landslides, droughts, irregular rainfall, and decreased water supplies. Impacts on people are already apparent; impacts on ecosystems are taking longer to manifest and may suddenly appear in the future as tipping points are reached. In order to reduce vulnerability Hariyo Ban has made significant achievements by implementing climate change adaptation (CCA) activities in TAL and CHAL.

At local level capacity was built in target communities to conduct vulnerability assessments and prepare adaptation plans; a large number of community adaptation plans of action (CAPAs) and local adaptation plans of action (LAPAs) were prepared and the majority were implemented, leveraging over 30% of the financial resources for this from communities, VDCs, and government line agencies. Successful approaches included: incorporation of ecosystem adaptation, governance and differential vulnerability assessment in the LAPA framework; piloting of integration of CCA and disaster risk reduction (DRR), and their mainstreaming in local planning processes; and promotion of upstream-downstream

collaboration for adaptation and resilience building. Support to the Government to integrate and harmonize CCA and DRR policy and guidelines has been initiated. On the learning front, implementation of field level interventions in some places was done in a scattered way without providing an integrated package of support, or without looking at the broader geography, and did not always bring desired results.

The program developed and implemented a large, cascading capacity-building approach for climate adaptation to prepare stakeholders and beneficiaries for all this adaptation work. Technical support was also provided to government in climate change adaptation and implementation of adaptation plans. On the biodiversity front, projections were made of the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity, with recommendations for future conservation, forestry and development. These were applied, along with findings from the CAPAs and LAPAs, in mainstreaming CCA in the TAL and CHAL Strategies. In addition, the Program established two sets of permanent monitoring plots to examine the long-term ecological and socio-economic impacts of climate change in forest and freshwater systems in CHAL, the plots ranging from a few hundred meters above sea level in the Terai to 4,500 m in upper Mustang.

Major Climate Change Adaptation	Five-year Target	*Progress
Number of people trained in climate change adaptation	17,532	18,392
Number of people with increased awareness and capacity, and/or participating in adaptation activities	352,098	367,407
Number of adaptation plans prepared	300	421
Support in implementation of climate adaptation plans (CAPA-325, LAPA-50)	300	375
Number of drinking water supply systems installed and/or maintained	No target	359
Number of irrigation systems installed and/or maintained	No target	156
Number of km of access foot trails maintained	No target	137
Number of drinking water reservoirs maintained for wildlife	No target	81
Number of check dams, dykes and embankments constructed	No target	414
Resources leveraged for climate adaptation (NRs)	21.4 million	21.7 million



Fewa Lake Watershed

## Green Recovery and Reconstruction

The main goal of the green recovery and reconstruction (GRR) component is to enhance the resilience of earthquake recovery and reconstruction efforts in Nepal by identifying and integrating sound environmental practices. The concept is to apply practical, solution-oriented techniques for integrating environmentally sound practices into disaster recovery and reconstruction and DRR, building back better, safer and greener for a more resilient Nepal.

Hariyo Ban obtained additional funding from USAID for green recovery and reconstruction work after the 2015 earthquake, which has been implemented both at central level and in four seriously affected program districts (Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot and Rasuwa). At central level the program worked initially with several disaster clusters, and later with several government ministries and departments, and civil society to mainstream sound environmental practices into official assessments, guidelines and manuals (e.g. post-disaster needs assessment and recovery framework; rapid environmental assessment; school reconstruction guideline; and mason training manual). It has trained engineers; architects; water, sanitation and hygiene professionals; Members of Parliament; mason trainers; media professionals; community radio station staff; district disaster relief committee members; NGO

staff; government line agency staff; district forest officers and others in environmentally sound practices. Since the largest impacts likely to come from housing reconstruction, there attempting to reach from central policy-making level to mason and household level. In addition to the formal training, Hariyo Ban has undertaken outreach on GRR at national and international level.

In the field the program collaborated with partners to support emergency relief, followed by recovery and reconstruction. Livelihood support included activities such as irrigation and livestock provision to restart agriculture, and cash for work schemes to restart household economies and take pressure off forests. Water supply systems were installed or repaired for communities and schools. Foot trail construction and repair reopened access to remote areas for recovery programs, and helped restore social connections and local economies, the latter including the return of tourists. Renewable energy recovery was supported for cooking, heating and light for affected households and communities, some in very remote locations. The Program also established demonstration sites with good environmental practices, including bioengineering to stabilize landslides.

Major Green Recovery and Reconstruction Interventions	Five-year Target	*Progress
Number of person days of employment generated through cash for work	105,000	88,110
Length of foot trails improved/built (km)	20	186
Number of women-headed households benefitting from recovery work	1,200	2,224
Number of women (single women and adolescent girls) benefitting from recovery work	500	3,810
Number of participants trained in GRR at different levels (national, central, district and community level)	700	1,023
Number of people with increased economic benefits from recovery work (excludes cash for work)	14,750	17,401
Number of post-disaster policy documents and assessments supported	1	3
Number of GRR guidelines, briefing sheets and manuals prepared	No target	9



Trail built by Naukunda Users Committee at Ghatte Khola, Rasuwa, Nepal

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## Windows of Opportunity

The Windows of Opportunity grant funds enabled an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to undertake innovative projects that added value to the Hariyo Ban Program through applied research, piloting of promising approaches, policy development, or scaling up activities. The program provided grants to government agencies and NGOs, CBOs, academia and research institutions for innovative projects on biodiversity conservation, sustainable landscapes, CCA, livelihoods, governance and GESI. By December 2016, 53 projects had been conducted by NGOs and 58 by government institutions. Student research grants supported 64 students in Bachelors, Masters and PhD degrees.

## Learning

During the implementation of the first phase of Hariyo Ban in the two landscapes much learning was done, and lessons were implemented wherever possible to enhance program effectiveness. Learning has also been incorporated in the design of Phase II. Some major lessons are listed below:

- Holistic river basin management is essential for landscape conservation, working at multiple levels
- Long-term climate impacts on biodiversity and forestry are still poorly understood and climate change is a major advancing threat for both people and nature
- There are excellent opportunities for PES for long-term financing of biodiversity conservation in Nepal, but it takes a long time and simple approaches are better

- The policy development and approval process took much longer than planned, limiting Hariyo Ban I's time to support implementation of new policies
- GESI and governance tools such as gender-responsive budgeting and community scoreboards (for evaluating quality of services) empower communities but need to be scaled up to higher levels
- NRM groups rich in resources tend not to adopt good governance practices, unlike resource-poor groups
- It is very challenging to ensure livelihood improvements are linked with improved forest condition, and more work is needed on this in phase II
- Integration and harmonization of CCA and DRR policy and practice shows much promise and should be supported
- Local level adaptation is often not enough to address broader ecosystem processes; more experience is needed in adaptation at higher levels
- There has been a very strong response to the green recovery work but it takes time to go from theory to practice; this work should be continued across sectors in order to maintain momentum

## The Way Forward

The same consortium has recently been awarded funding for a second phase of Hariyo Ban, with the goal of increasing ecological and community resilience in the two landscapes. The second phase will build on the foundation of Phase I, applying lessons learned and scaling up promising approaches as it partners with Government, communities and others to implement the landscape strategies of CHAL and TAL.



Members of Chetana CFUG discussing bio-engineering work

\* Data as of 30 November 2016

# Hariyo Ban Program



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