Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in South Asia
CCAs are defined as, “natural and modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity, ecological services and cultural values—voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples and other local communities through customary laws or other effective means”.

In the South Asian context these areas are referred to as Community Conserved Areas (CCAs). This is for a number of reasons, including the fact that the term ‘indigenous’ vis-

a-

vis communities is not officially accepted in many South Asian countries. There are also a number of local communities (not necessarily classified as indigenous) heavily dependent on natural resources and actively engaged in conservation.
One year (2008-09) study undertaken to understand Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in South Asia.

The study and publication have been supported by SwedBio and the Global Environment Facility, Small Grants Programme.
Partners

Bangladesh: Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh

India: Kalpavriksh

Nepal: ForestAction, Nepal

Pakistan: Tahir Rasheed and Hameed Ahmed and the Sustainable Use Specialist Group-Central Asia (SUSGCASIA)

Sri Lanka: Anandalal Nanayakkara
Key Findings

• Research, Documentation and Mapping

• Creating awareness and integration into larger landscape
  • policies (including PAs)

• Connectivity across the landscape level
• Appropriate Legal and Policy Environment
• Networking of CCAs communities across the region
• External support
• Livelihood security and benefits
Looking at CCAs in an integrated landscape.................