

Status of ICCAs in Nepal and their Potentials in Achieving Aichi Targets

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The Country Context

- ***Diversity:*** in terms of culture, language, religion, geography that follows with diversity of meaning nature and biodiversity.
 - More than 102 caste/ethnic groups (CBS 2001), and of them 59 as indigenous people (the High commission for the Relisting of the Indigenous People in Nepal formed in 2009 had submitted its report by proposing 83 distinct communities as indigenous peoples in 2010).
 - More than 8 religions (2001)
 - More than 93 languages spoken (2001)
 - Three major eco-regions
- ***Socio-cultural and Political history:*** unitary political ruling systems since 1770s (its long time effects upon the indigenous peoples)

Where do ICCAs may exist in Nepal (possibility)

- Existing in different Eco-regions

- Mountain
- Hills
- Terai

- Existing in different forms

- Buffer Zones
- Wetlands
- Community forests
- Landscape Connectivity
- Ramsar
- Sacred landscapes (e.g. Beyuls)
- Grazing and rangelands etc.

- Existing in different types

- Large
- Medium
- Small

- Location

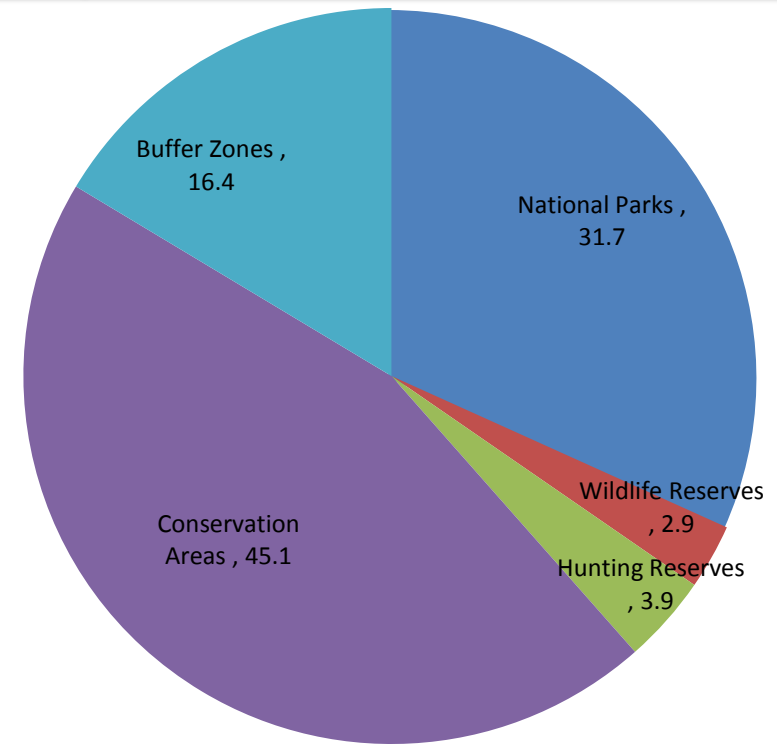
- Within formal PAs (23.23%)
- Outside the formal PAs



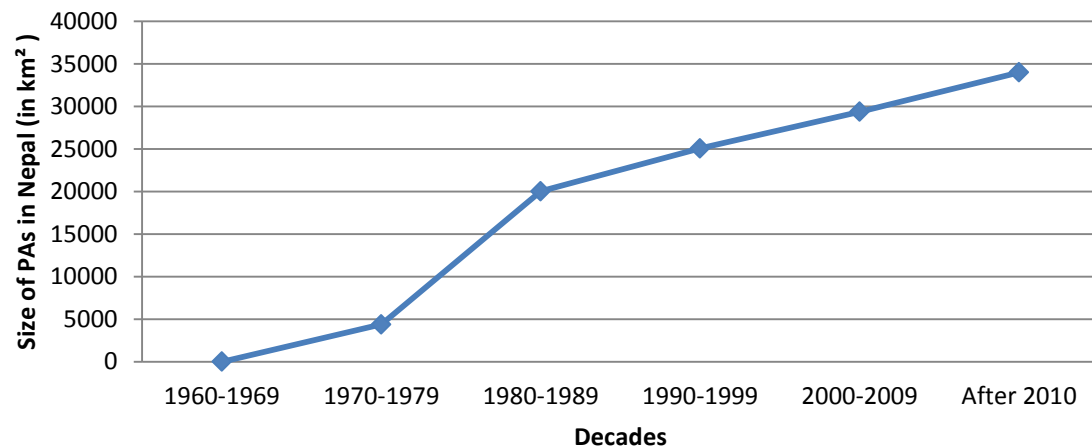
PAs in Nepal

- Establishment of modern protected areas in 1973 (Royal Chitwan NP);
 - Followed by the formulation and enactment of National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act (NPWC) 1973
- Number and size of PA- rapidly increased (23.23 % of land territory) over the years and decades;
 - NP (N: 10) (Area: 18853 km²) (31.7%)
 - CA (N: 6) (Area: 15426 km²) (45.1%)
 - WR (N: 3) (Area: 979 km²) (2.9%)
 - HR (N: 1) (Area: 1325 km²) (3.9%)

Of them BZ in 12 PAs (16.4%)



Size of PA (increased in decades)



Looking PAs in Nepal form the eyes of PA governance types

Governance type → Categories of PAs ↓	Governance by government	Shared governance	Governance by indigenous and local communities
National Parks (10)	<i>Sagarmatha, Shey Foksundo, Shivapuri, Rara, Bardiya, Chitwan, Makalu Barun, Khaptad, Langtang, Banke</i>		
Wildlife Reserve (3)	<i>Suklaphanta, Koshi Toppu, Parsa</i>		
Hunting Reserve (1)	<i>Dhorpatan</i>		
Conservation Area (4)		<i>Annapurna, Manasalu , Ampinampa, Gaurishankar</i>	<i>Kanchenjunga</i>
Buffer Zones (12)		<i>Buffer zones in all the national parks and wildlife reserves.</i>	
Total Area (%)	38.5	55.6	6.0

Policies, Acts and Regulations Related with Conservation/Bio-Diversify in Nepal

- **Policies and Strategies:**

- Forest Policy, 2000
- Leasehold Forest Policy, 2002
- Mountain Development Policy, 2002
- National Wetland Policy, 2003
- Water resources Strategy, 2002,
- National Biodiversity Strategy, 2003
- National Water Plan 2007-2027 etc.

- **Acts:**

- Local Self Governance Act 1999
- Environmental Conservation Act 1996
- Forest Act 1993
- National Trust for Nature Conservation Act 1982
- Land and Watershed Conservation Act 1982
- Pastureland Nationalization Act 1975 etc
- National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973

- **Country as signatory of ILO 169**

- **Guidelines:**

- Kanchanjungha Conservation Area Management Guideline 2005
- Buffer Zone Area Management Guidelines 1996
- Conservation Area Management Guideline 1996
- Mountain National Park Guideline 1980
- National Park and Wildlife Conservation Guideline 1975 etc.

Strengths and Weaknesses of Existing Policies, Acts and Guidelines (in the eyes ICCA)

Strengths

- Limited access to resources (forest and forest product), i.e. based on the management plans,
- Formation of user committees/groups for managements,
- Certain benefit sharing (e.g. 35-50% PA incomes)
- Limited compensations for local communities (crop damage, wildlife depredation)
- Participation,
- Realization of IPs and LCs knowledge and practices

Weaknesses:

- Governance systems: diverse interpretation
- Participation: rhetorical
- Legal recognition: lacking
- Respect... reward....to the ICs and LCs for their contribution to the biodiversity conservation: not yet
- Legal recognition, promotion and advancements of IPs and LCs's customary institutions and practices: not clear yet
- Autonomous rights to IPs and LCs: not yet
- International norms and standards (e.g. free and prior consent rights): not complied
- Sectoral policies: controversial

What is happening Around ICCAs in Nepal

- ICCAs were (due to unitary ruling system) and are (due to political instability, political polarization, existing laws, migration etc) in threats
- However,
 - IPs and LCs leaders are organized: ICCA Network Nepal formed
 - Some initiatives for interactions, debates, discussions: in different levels (local, regional, national)
 - Become an issue of discussion: among the stakeholders of biodiversity conservation
 - Some preliminary studies: study, case documentations, publications
 - Some policy dialogues, lobby and networking initiated (but limited)

Opportunities of meeting Aichi Targets

- Despite all threats, ***hundreds of ICCA exists in different parts of the country*** (both inside and outside the PAs, eco-regions): potential to get legal recognition in future
- ***The existing diversity***: related with the nature, biodiversity conservation
- To have ***larger area (45% out of total PA) under conservation areas***: good signal of acknowledging IPs and LCs roles and contribution; and of them KCA is a best in terms of ICCA
- To have ***larger area (56% out of total PA) under shared governance***: good start towards recognizing IPs and LCs
- Recent national policies: more progressive

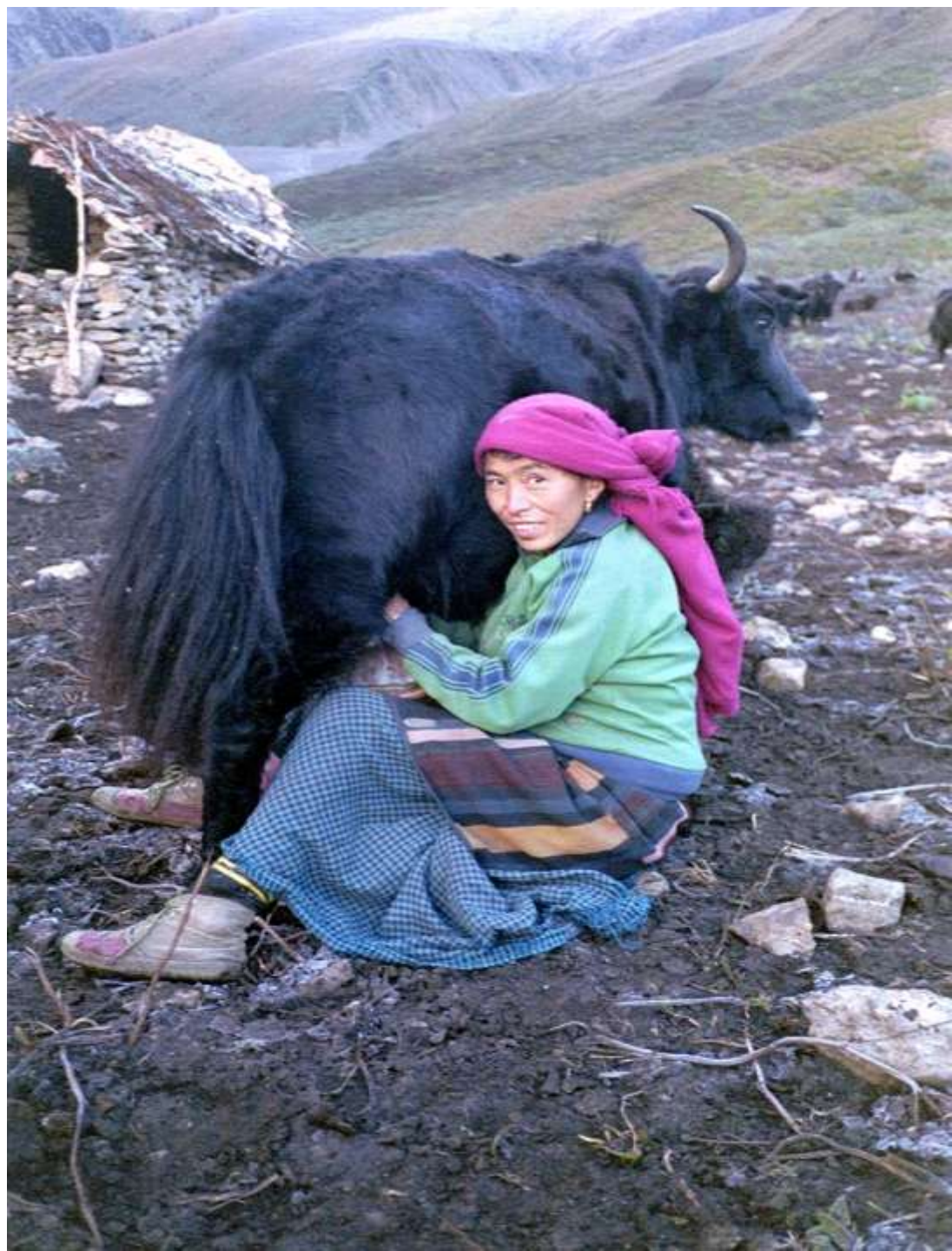
Constraints of Meeting Aichi Targets

- Study, documentation, prepare national data base: not yet
- Conceptualizing what biodiversity and how it can be conserved: Techno-bureaucratic domination
- Policy making processes: more complicated
- Skills and capacity in influencing the policy makers: very weak
- Political instability and political polarization: making the issue complex and controversial
- ICCAs: lack of supports for their enhanced capacities (even it is zero from government side)





















Thank you!