

Ten Million Bamboo

for restoration of degraded land
and improvement of livelihoods
in Chure Region



Government of Nepal
**President Chure Terai-Madhes
Conservation Development Board**



Background

This project targets the Kamala and Kankai river basins of eastern Nepal, aiming to rehabilitate 25,000 hectares of land through bamboo agroforestry. This initiative seeks to enhance the climate resilience of local communities and restore ecosystems, while providing income-generating opportunities for smallholders and forest users. Key strategies include establishing bamboo nurseries, developing bamboo-based enterprises, and conducting research on bamboo value chains and ecosystem services. This project addresses the urgent need for sustainable management of the Chure Region, which faces significant challenges such as land degradation, erosion, and biodiversity loss due to unsustainable agricultural practices and deforestation.



Sector
Agroforestry



Proposed Location
Kamala and Kankai river Basin,
Eastern Nepal



Land Area
25,000 hectare

Brief About Project Location

Primary Areas:

Implemented in the Kamala River basin (2,084.46 sq.km) and Kankai River basin (1,497 sq.km) in eastern Nepal

Population: Approximately 610,000 across 120,000 households; density of 290 people per km² (2011 census)

Coverage:

Initial coverage: 25,000 hectares
Potential expansion: Up to 250,000 hectares

Kankai River Basin:

Predominantly in Jhapa and Ilam districts.
Population: About 127,476 in 28,362 households

Kamala River Basin:

Sindhuli District: 47% coverage
Udaypur District: 20% coverage
Siraha and Dhanusha Districts: 19% and 14% coverage, respectively

Economic Activities:

Agriculture and husbandry are major local occupations

Salient Features

Enhanced Income Opportunities:

Establishment of nurseries and bamboo agroforests to improve livelihoods for smallholders and forest users, supporting both local and national manufacturing needs.

Private Sector Involvement:

Development of bamboo-based enterprises with significant participation from larger private sector entities.

Value Chain and Ecosystem Studies:

Comprehensive research on bamboo value chains, alongside mapping and economic valuation of ecosystem services including carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.

Capacity Building:

Training programs for local participants, especially youth and women, in cultivating and managing bamboo agroforests and related business enterprises.

Sustainable Funding Mechanisms:

Implementation of mixed funding strategies to ensure the project's ongoing development and sustainability.

Project Rationale

Ecological Vulnerability:

The Chure Region, covering 13.60% of Nepal, houses about four million poor households in fragile and marginal areas is geologically young and prone to water-induced erosion, exacerbated by forest encroachment, shifting cultivation, and chaotic settlements.

Resource Mismanagement:

Unplanned development leads to unsustainable forest use.

Environmental Degradation:

Unsustainable practices degrade Chure's fragile ecosystem.

Bamboo as a Sustainable Solution:

Bamboo agroforestry provides ecological and erosion benefits.

Economic and Social Benefits:

Bamboo boosts livelihoods and land productivity.

Strategic Implementation:

Focuses on bamboo value chains and ecosystem research.

Sustainable Management Practices:

Bamboo management plan includes marginalized groups.

Water Security and Ecosystem Services:

Bamboo enhances water security, reduces runoff.

Project Major Activities

- Species' selection and co-design of bamboo agroforestry systems determined by ecological and socioeconomic conditions
- Establishment, and training in management of, bamboo and other species' nurseries
- Training in bamboo and other species' planting and management
- Value chain development
- Review of policies and regulations to ensure an enabling environment.

Estimated Project Cost

NPR 6.65
Billion

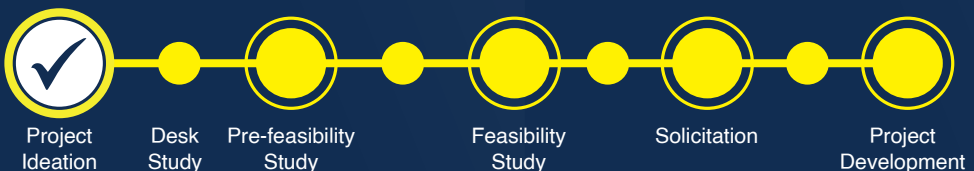
\$ 50
Million

Project Implementation Modality



Public Private Partnership
(PPP)

Project Implementation Timeline



Project Benefits

- **Carbon sequestration per year at maturity of approximately 425,000 tonnes**
- **Total carbon sequestration of approximately 10.5 million tonnes over the 30-year project period.**
- **Soil erosion and landslide control**
- **Water source protection and water recharge in both basins**
- **Contributions to Sustainable Development Goals:**
No Poverty (1); No Hunger (2); Healthy Lives (3); Gender Equality (5); Clean Water (6); Clean Energy (7); Decent Work and Economic Growth (8); Industry and Innovation (9); Reduced Inequalities (10); Sustainable Communities (11); Responsible Consumption and Production (12); Climate Action (13); Life on Land (15)
- **Poverty reduction:**
Estimated net revenue from 1 ha of bamboo of USD 600 per year (5 years after planting). Nepal's poverty line in 2022/23 was set at an average income of USD 550 per year, with around 20% of the total population and around 24% of the rural population below the line. Bamboo agroforestry suggests likely reduction of poverty.

Relevant Agencies

- The project will be co-led by the Ministry of Forest and Environment and President Chure–Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board and the Ministry of Forest and Environment.
- The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) will provide technical assistance.
- Farmers' groups, forest user groups, larger private sector entities, cooperatives, and HIMAWANTI Nepal will be partner organizations for implementation.
- The President Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board is the primary point of contact for this project.

About the Agency

The Government of Nepal launched the Presidential Chure Conservation Program from the Fiscal Year 2009/2010 to conduct Chure Conservation as a campaign. As the work of Chure Conservation is a multi-dimensional, multi-faceted and multi-stakeholder issue, the Government has exercised the right given by Article 3 of the Development Committee Act 1956 to conduct it in a coordinated manner. The President Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board was formed through the Formation Order 2014 by the Government of Nepal. The aim of the President Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board is to achieve economic prosperity with the continuous flow of environmental goods and services in the Chure-Terai Madhesh Dun with protected and natural balance. The goal of the Board is to support national poverty reduction and a prosperous Nepal through conservation of natural resources of the Chure Region under sustainable management and promotion of ecological services.

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