# Forest Tenure Status, Trends, Issues & Policy Gaps: Nepal



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#### Outline of Presentation

- Current status and trends of forest tenure
- Impacts of Forest Tenure Reform
- Policy gaps (Based on FAO TCP study)
- Potential Strategies
- and Key Recommendations

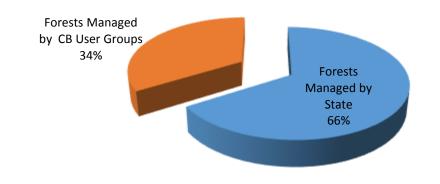
#### Current status and trends of forest tenure

Total Forest Cover in Nepal – 5.96 million hectare i.e. 40 % of total land

mass 14.71 million Hectare

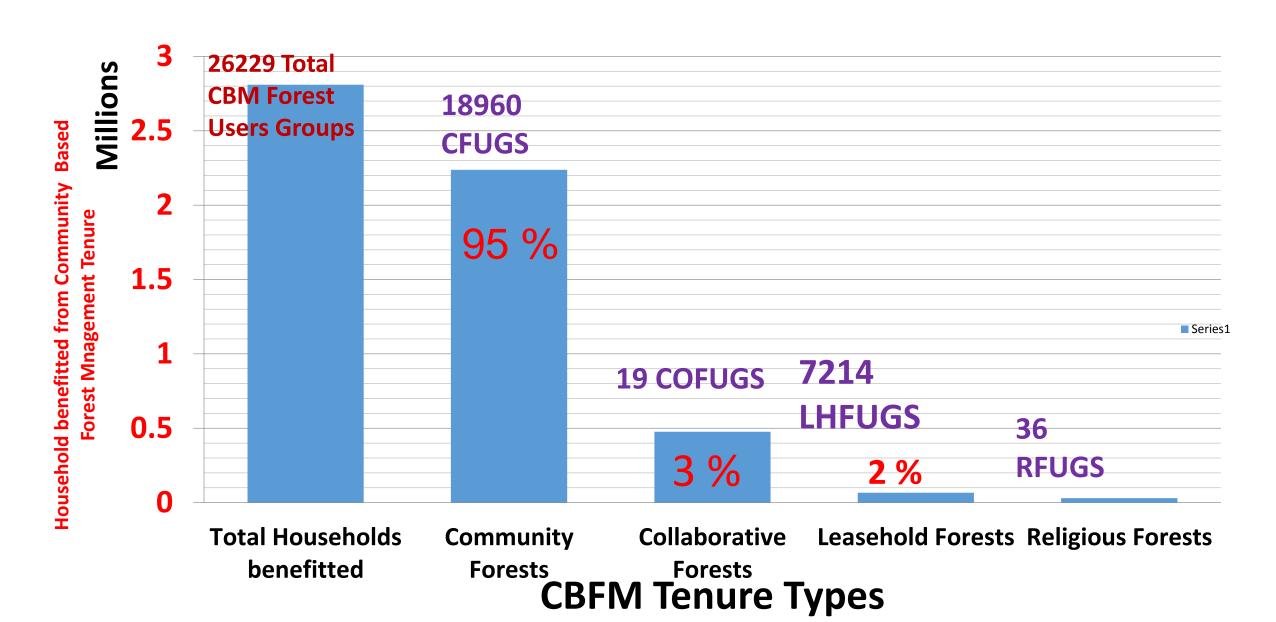
Type	Total	Area covered	Number of Benefitted
	Number	(Ha)	Households
Community	18,961	1798917	2392828
Forest			
Collaborative	23	60588	553262
Forest			
Pro-Poor	7419	42735	75021
Leasehold			
Forest			
Religious	36	2056	
Forest			3600
Buffer Zone CF	677	198550	135400
Forests Under			
State		2.040200	
Management		3.940298	
Forests			2.8 Millions
Managed by		2 024740	
Communities		2.021740	hoiuseholds

# Proportion of forest institutional landscapes by area



Total area of the country	14.7 M ha.
<b>Total Population</b>	26.49 M.
<b>Total Forest Land</b>	5.96 M ha. (39.6%)
Altitudinal Range	<60m – 8848m.

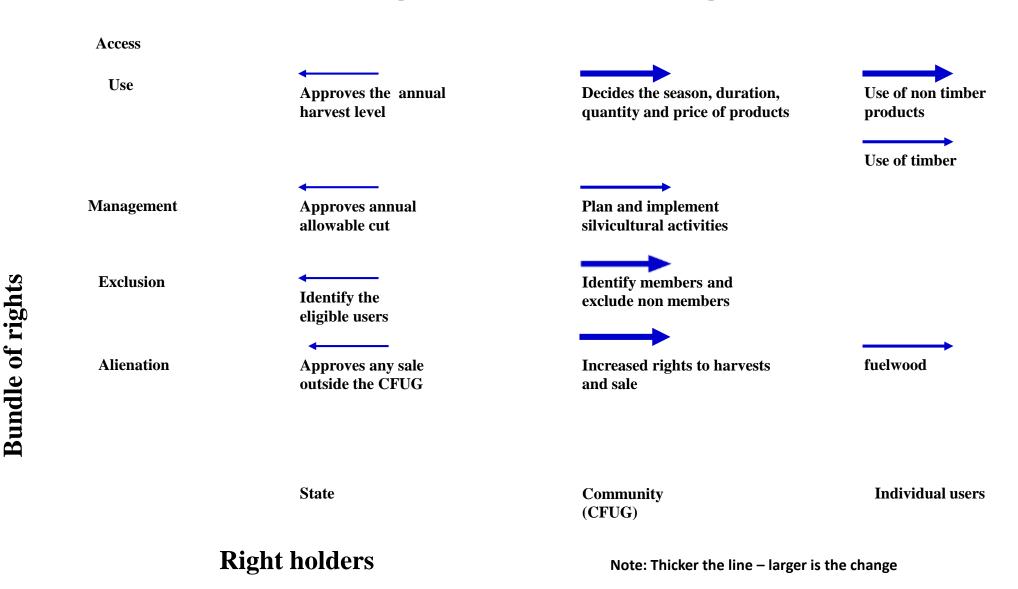
#### Current status and trends of forest tenure Contd



#### Current status and trends of forest tenure Contd

Year 0.25	Policy or Legal Tools	Major Provision
1989	Master Plan for Forestry Sector	Provision of Users' Committees and Community Forest  Management
1993 0.2	Forest Act	recognized FUG as a legal entity, includes provision to hand over national forest to FUG, no withdrawal of forest without following due process of law
19950.15	Forest Regulation	leasehold and religious forests clarified
2000	Revised Forest Sector Policy	Provision of Collaborative Forest  Management in the Terai zone of Nepal
2002	Leasehold Forest Policy	Provision of leasing part of national forest to pro-poor.
2008 <sup>0.05</sup>	Guidelines on LHF, CF, CFM Forestry	Procedure to allocate forest resources use, sell among forest user and out side (if surplus) as well as use profit for community development and livelihood of local people in Nepal
2015	Forest Policy	Further support developing necessary guidelines.
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#### Trends – Change in bundle of rights after CF



Impacts of Forest Tenure Policies in the Livelihoods of Forest Dependent Community of Nepal

(1)Improved Forest Condition and Biodiversity (2) Poverty Reduction and Community Development

(3) Transformation of Foresters' role

(4)
Institutionalization:
Participatory
resource
management

(5) Strengthen Good Forest Governance (6) Increased Women Participation



(7) Scope of Forest Based small enterprise



(Source: Community Forest Livelihoods Impact Study ,2011)

# Issues, policy gaps and challenges pertaining to Forest tenure policy and reform (Based on FAO TCP Study)

- Overlapping, & Short Term tenure rights
- Weak participation of poor HH in decision making and planning process
- Power sharing between national, provinces and local governments is not clear under federal structure.
- No comprehensive HRD plan of MOFSC
- Limited entrepreneurship skills,
- Limited capacity to strengthen forest tenure.

## Key recommendations

- Conducting National Policy dialogues in order to address the issues on overlapping, tenure rights.
- Developing a specific guidance to ensure access to poor, women and marginalized groups in the decision making and planning process for pro-poor activities,
- •Recognition of customary rights and practices: eg. grazing for Yaks and sheep, shifting cultivation, rights to resource of wetlands, cultural use of forest resources etc.
- Capacity building on tenure rights:Institutional capacity building of CBF Groups and Restructuring and Capacity building of MOFSC and staffs.

### Key Recommendations contd......

- Promote and facilitate the process of regular updating of forest management plans.
- •Mainstream forest tenure agenda in program design and implementation, Legal Provision of land allocation within all types of community-based forests
- •Improvement on Forest Act/Bylaws and guidelines to strengthen Forest Tenure- advance forest based enterprises, private sector investment and the market

