Carbon offset, participation & sustainability

a case study from the Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal

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Gaurishankar Carbon Offset project rationale

Pressure

State

- Land degradation
- Biodiversity loss
- Compounded by climate change

Response

Carbon offset & co-benefits:

- Ecosystem services & resilience
- Livelihood outcomes
- Improved governance
- Mitigation

Unconventional approach to carbon offsetting

- Science-based: strong research & capacity development
- Adaptive collaborative management: learning from success and failure
- Long-term commitment
- No financial interests of funding & facilitating organizations
- No expensive certification schemes
- No coarse tier carbon assessments as with CDM A/R, etc.
- High carbon price: ~ 26 US$ (5x voluntary carbon market prices for REDD+ & A/R)
- Strong focus on co-benefits

Accompanying Research

- Since 2016: 5 Master thesis: 2 students TU Nepal, 3 students; Joint supervision A & NP
- Social Sciences: Anthropological assessment, livelihood resilience, transformative learning
- Natural Sciences: Effects of land use on carbon storage & plant species diversity, regeneration ecology of *Quercus* species

Capacity building

- Fire management
- Nursery management
- Silviculture

Our target

BOKU carbon offsetting