



# Project Description

## YOUTH LED REFORMATION IN GOVERNANCE

### 1. SCOPE AND CONTEXT

Despite the success of community forests (CFs), it has become a space for high level of corruption in Nepal. The main forms of forest-related corruptions are illegal logging, revenue leakages, bribery, poor account-keeping, exclusion, etc. During the first phase (Phase I) of Targeting for Natural Resources Corruption (TNRC) project, TNRC supported in gaps and need assessment of the governance of selected six Community Forests User Groups (CFUGs) of Nepal.

Proper documentation of CFs decisions and financial activities/transactions are crucial to improve overall institutional governance of Community Forests User Groups (CFUG), which was lacking in most of the CFs as identified through Phase I. Lack of technical capacity of the CFUG members has resulted in irregularities in documentation, reporting, auditing, and information sharing leading to ineffective of community fund in CFUGs.

In the Laljhadi Mohona Corridor, out migration for work is a trend and most of the CFUG members (57%) are youth (mostly female). Phase I reflected lack of knowledge and capacity of new generation CFUG leaders in events and process facilitation on aspects of forest management within CF provisions. In addition, forest watchers and subcommittee youth members (right holders) have inadequate capacity to identify, assess or question the financial management of the CFs.

Sustainable harvest of timber and wood are the major source of income in CFs. Since the withdrawal of the Scientific Forests Management Guidelines by the government of Nepal, harvest of timber and wood have been discouraged. This has resulted in financial losses in CFs, with minimal livelihood support for the poor user group households, decreased participation and interest of users in CFs, making the entire CF system unattractive.

Engagement of youth in conservation has shown outstanding results in achieving zero poaching in Nepal. Likewise, the GoN has emphasized on the importance of youth involvement in preparation and implementation of its policies and plans including the National Youth Policy (2015), Forest Act (2076), Local Government Operationalization Act (2074). Considering 57% of youth as CFUG members, this proposed project would focus on engaging youth population in corruption control initiatives to improve the governance of the CFUG system. The engagement of youth in governance would be a new approach in our work to ensure good governance and reduce corruption in community managed forests.

Building on Phase I, this extension will work on three CFs in Laljhadi-Mohana Corridor in Kanchanpur district in Sudur Paschim province (TAL): Amar Gokul CF, Kopila Janajagriti CF and Ganga Jamuna CF, with youth as agents of change. The project aims to capacitate and engage young people to increase good governance practices and controlling corruption in the CFUGs whilst creating enabling environment for them.

## **2.GOALS, OUTCOMES, ACTIVITIES**

**GOAL:** Promote good governance through youth engagement in community forests in Nepal.

**Outcome 1: Increased skills, knowledge, and capacity of 120 youth in three CFs on good governance, bookkeeping and financial management to influence decision makers to promote good governance.**

**Activity 1.1:** Build capacity of 120 youth (sub-committee members of CFUGs and forest guards) on principles of good governance, bookkeeping and financial management and create ‘youth champions.

**Activity 1.2:** Build the capacity of 45 local youth leaders (also a member of CFUG such as Ward Chairperson, Youth club chair, school principal etc.) to influence decision makers and voice out issues of governance.

**Activity 1.3:** Create interface to conduct interactions between youth champions and local youth leaders.

**Outcome 2: Engage local youth and students in Laljhadi Mohona Corridor to lead on successful and sustained action which supports good governance in the community.**

**Activity 2.1.:** Raise awareness by youth champions among local youth to increase their understanding on importance of financial transparency and accountability in the community.

**Activity 2.2:** Engage students to disseminate the knowledge of good governance to their parents through eco clubs.

**Activity 2.3.:** Provide saplings of local species such as Bamboo, broom grass, gooseberry, lychee, mango etc. for plantation in the fringe of CFs to generate income of CFs.

**Outcome 3: Enabling environment created to monitor and promote good governance practices in three CFs by linking with influential stakeholders.**

**Activity 3.1.:** Create interface between youth champions and CF Executive Committee members for regular sharing of information and enhance their ownership and support.

**Activity 3.2.:** Create interface between youth champions and other relevant stakeholders such as DFO, FECOFUN, local NGOs etc to support youth led initiatives to adopt good governance practices.

## **3.CHANGE EXPECTED**

During the project period right holder will have better, transparent, and systematic information on financial transaction in the project implemented community forests. Community Forest User Committee will be more accountable, participatory, and transparent in decision making process, specifically financial transaction processes. The local youths will have increased capacity and interest working at the interface of right holders and duty bearers to strengthen good governance practices and decreasing corruption. In a long run, the standardized financial management system will be sustained in the working areas and can be replicated in other community forests.

#### 4. GENDER EQUALITY

The project will ensure at least 50 % youth champions as women to empower their role in CFUG. Involvement of women, poor, indigenous communities and Dalit in project activities, and implementation process will be encouraged.

#### 5. DELIVERABLES AND TIMEFRAME

Key deliverables and due dates are:

	Deliverables	Time
	Baseline Report with detailed methodologies, analysis of current work and implementation plan	by March 2023
	Baseline technical and financial report	end of June 2023
	Baseline technical and financial reports including all the photographs and events report	2023

#### 6. TEAM COMPOSITION, QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCY

Team Leader should have at least Bachelor's degree in forestry, sociology, journalism, or similar discipline, preferably specialization in governance. Adequate knowledge on international and legal national frameworks on biodiversity, and climate change will be an additional advantage. They should have experiences in preparing training session plan and facilitating workshops and meetings. Having knowledge and experiences on sustainable development goals, climate change, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, water resource management, sustainable livelihoods would be an added advantage.

The team should include a Local Community Mobiliser. S/he should have at least intermediate degree in forestry, sociology, or relevant subjects. S/he should have over five years experiences in social mobilization at local level. Preferably, s/he should be from the project implementation ward.

#### 7. PREPARATION AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT

WWF Nepal will provide all relevant information to the consultant to begin the process. It will make necessary coordination for outreach with governmental official but the responsibility for inviting and approaching the governmental/non-governmental organizations lies solely on the Consultants. The consultant is expected to arrange her/his own food and accommodation and secretarial services for which the provisions have been made in the contract.

#### 8. BUDGET

The service provider should submit detailed technical and financial proposal that includes detailed breakdown of total budget proposed including fee, travel cost, communication costs, and reproduction of documents in Nepali Rupees. The payment is subject to tax deduction as per prevailing government rules.

*Following activities will be implemented upon completion of this sub-award:*

A	Project Interventions (outcome, and activities)
1	Outcome 1: Increased skills, knowledge, and capacity of 120 youth in three community forests on on-site good governance, bookkeeping and financial management to influence decision makers to promote good governance.
1.1	Build capacity of 120 youth (sub-committee members of CFUGs and forest guards) on principles of good governance, bookkeeping and financial management and create 'youth champions'
1.2	Build the capacity of 45 local youth leaders (also a member of CFUG such as Ward Chairperson, Youth club chair, school principal etc.) to influence decision makers and voice out issues of governance.
1.3	Create interface to conduct interactions between youth champions and local youth leaders.
2	Outcome 2: Engage local youth and students in Laljhadi Mohona Corridor to lead on successful and sustained action which supports good governance in the community.
2.1	Raise awareness by youth champions among local youth to increase their understanding on importance of financial transparency and accountability in the community.
2.1.1	Preparatory meetings
2.1.2	Carryout awareness events through street drama, songs etc.
2.2	Engage students to disseminate the knowledge of good governance to their parents through eco clubs.
2.2.1	Interaction of eco club members, 120 youth leaders and students
2.2.2	Resources for parents-children discussion on good governance.
2.3	Provide saplings of local species such as Bamboo, broom grass, amula, litchi, mango etc. for plantation in CFs to generate income of CFs.
3	Outcome 3: Enabling environment created to monitor and promote good governance practices in three community forest by linkages with influential stakeholders.
3.1	Support to create interface between youth champions and community forest executive committee members for regular sharing of information and enhance their ownership and support.
3.2	Support to create interface between youth champions and other relevant stakeholders such as DFO, FECOFUN, local NGOs etc. to support youth led initiatives to adopt good governance practices.