The Fourth South Asia Judicial Roundtable On Environmental Justice
28-29 November, Kathmandu, Nepal

Reinventing sustainable rural development: Utilization of resources and geographical niches

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1. Introduction

2. Changing paradigm on development agendas

3. Linking conservation and development in rural settings

4. Policy implications

5. Challenges and lessons learnt
ICIMOD: A regional platform and enabling centre

- Inter-governmental non-political international organization
- Mountain learning, knowledge and enabling centre
- Promote regional cooperation
- Build capacities
- Link research with policy and practice
HKH: biodiversity significance
Higher ecosystem services values

House 4 biodiversity hotspots, 488 PAs, 331 IBAs

Dependency of one third of humanity

Culturally rich with 1000 living languages

Vulnerable to varied drivers of changes including climate change

HKH: biodiversity significance

Turner et al. 2012

Chettri et al. 2008
Paradigm shift – Conservation Vs Development
Paradigm shift – Conservation Vs Development

- Good governance
- Science-Policy interface
- Capacity development etc.
Paradigm shift – Conservation Vs Development

A UNIFIED FRAMEWORK

A set of six sustainable development goals (SDGs) follow from combining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with conditions necessary to assure the stability of Earth’s systems.

NEW PARADIGM

Earth’s life-support system
Society
Economy

NEW DEFINITION

Sustainable development in the Anthropocene: “Development that meets the needs of the present while safeguarding Earth’s life-support system, on which the welfare of current and future generations depends.”

People

Updated Millennium Development Goals
End poverty and hunger
Universal education
Gender equality
Health
Environmental sustainability
Global partnership

Planetary Must-Haves
Materials use
Clean air
Nutrient (N and P) cycles
Hydrological cycles
Ecosystem services
Biodiversity
Climate stability

Sustainable Development Goals
Thriving lives and livelihoods
Sustainable food security
Sustainable water security
Universal clean energy
Healthy and productive ecosystems
Governance for sustainable societies

Griggs. 2013
Paradigm shift – Conservation Vs Development

DeGroot et al. 2010
Paradigm shift – species to landscape

Landscape/ecosystem approach
- 1998
- 2014

Buffer zone/community based approach
- 1980
- 2002

Habitat/PA management approach
- 1970
- 2000

Charismatic species conservation
- 1930
- 1980
Paradigm shift – species to landscape

Karakoram- Pamir-Wakhan Landscape (KPWL) + Wakhan
High Alpine arid endangered species

Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL)
Sacred landscape with unique biodiversity and culture

Kangchenjunga Landscape (KL)
Corridors and Connectivity

Hi-Life
Biodiversity Hotspots and Endemism

Conceptual Phase of Cheerapunji-Chittagong Landscape
Paradigm shift – species to landscape

• The region is home to many globally significant species and use wide range of habitats beyond the existing PAs and beyond the political boundaries

• More than 20% of the PAs are transboundary in nature with numerous transboundary issues

• Conservation effectiveness questioned as most of the PAs are scattered as ‘conservation islands’, and lack connectivity in between, necessary for viable population as well as in the context of climate change adaptation

• Inconsistent data and diverse research capacity and priority
Linking conservation and development
Linking conservation and development
Kailash Sacred Landscape
Linking conservation and development”
Kangchenjunga Landscape
Policy implications

- **Global**
  - (CBD, WSSD, SDAs, etc)

- **Regional**
  - (Acceptance of transboundary issues and policy initiations)

- **National**
  - (Increased cooperation between national agencies and ability to plan and implement biodiversity conservation)

- **Local**
  - (Sustainable livelihood options for communities, Community participation in conservation)
Challenges and lessons learnt

• Integrative approach is complex and slow

• Trade off between conservation and development (e.g. human wildlife conflict)

• Local people are positive about conservation provided they benefits during the management interventions or do no harm.

• Political will necessary for regional cooperation and long term sustainability of the initiative

• Scaling conservation and development approach need synergy, interdisciplinary team work
Thank you!