

Co-constructing Conservation and Community Livelihoods



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Community-based conservation has developed local processes

- Local **institutional** mechanism/platform
- Genuine socio-political restructuring at local level – **decentralized** resource governance
- Increased **infrastructure** at community level
- Empowerment, **representation**, and claim over local rights
- Most importantly, increased **biodiversity** and biomass

Emerging issues in Community based Conservation

- Exclusion of the poor and control by elites
- Distribution of resources
- Diminishing livelihood impacts
- Lack of proper use of resources
- Representation
- Contractors controlled commercialization
- Corruption

However, the dynamic relationships between community and conservation developed under community-based conservation has been undermined and eroded in some cases due to two main extra-local forces (phenomena) that have been taking place in biologically important areas in Nepal

First – contractor controlled commercialization in an unprecedented way

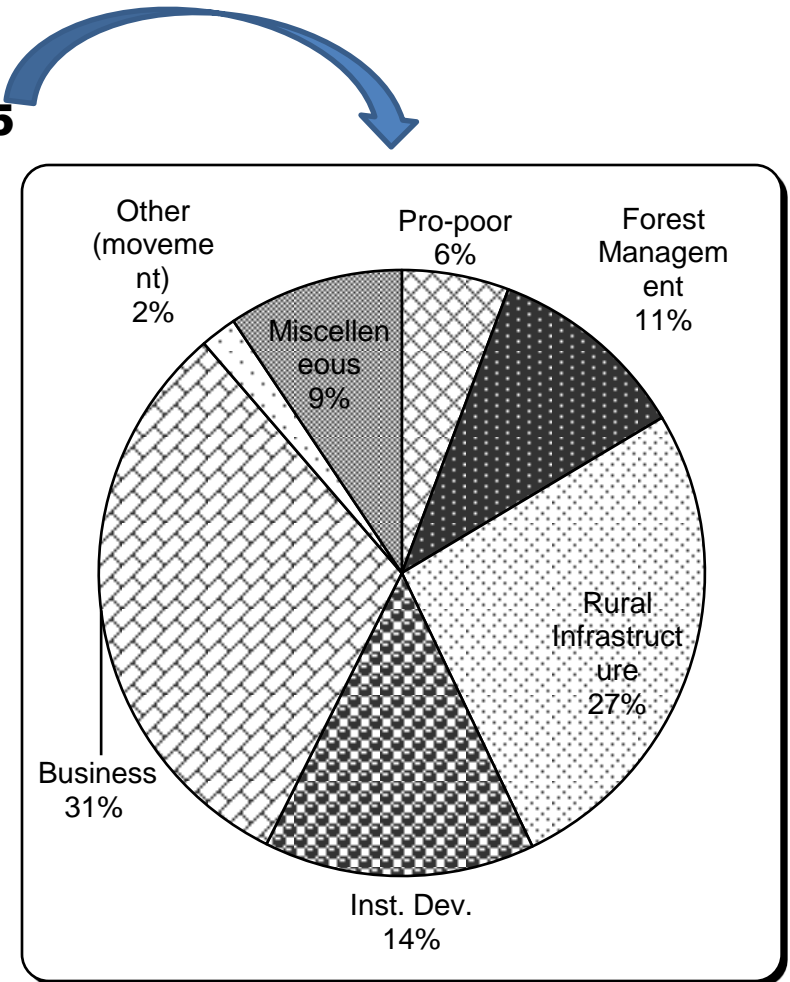


How is commercialization happening?

- Building alliance between contractors, community leaders, and forest officials at local and district level
 - Contractors are increasingly taking leadership role in community groups
 - Formal and bureaucratic institutional mechanism enforced, denying access to decision-making
- Market is distorted in conjunction with local hierarchical structure at community level reproducing the existence of each other

Economy of Sal timber 2009 (Rs/cft)

• Royalty to CFUG -	250 - 375
• VAT -	52
• Forest Development Fund -	5
• Harvesting/gathering -	73
• DFO -	25
• Ilaka Office -	25
• Range Post -	25
• CFUG leaders -	30
• Local movements -	20
• Police (way to Ktm) -	4
• Per Truck to Ktm -	45000
• Load/Unload (per/truck) -	6000
• DDC tax -	300/truck/district
• Sawing cost -	30
• Market price at Ktm:	1700-1900



What has been the impact?

- Subsistence needs (conservation friendly) are undermined
- Has led to further degradation of resources
- Social unrest leading towards violent uprisings



Second – climate change (especially the increased drought)

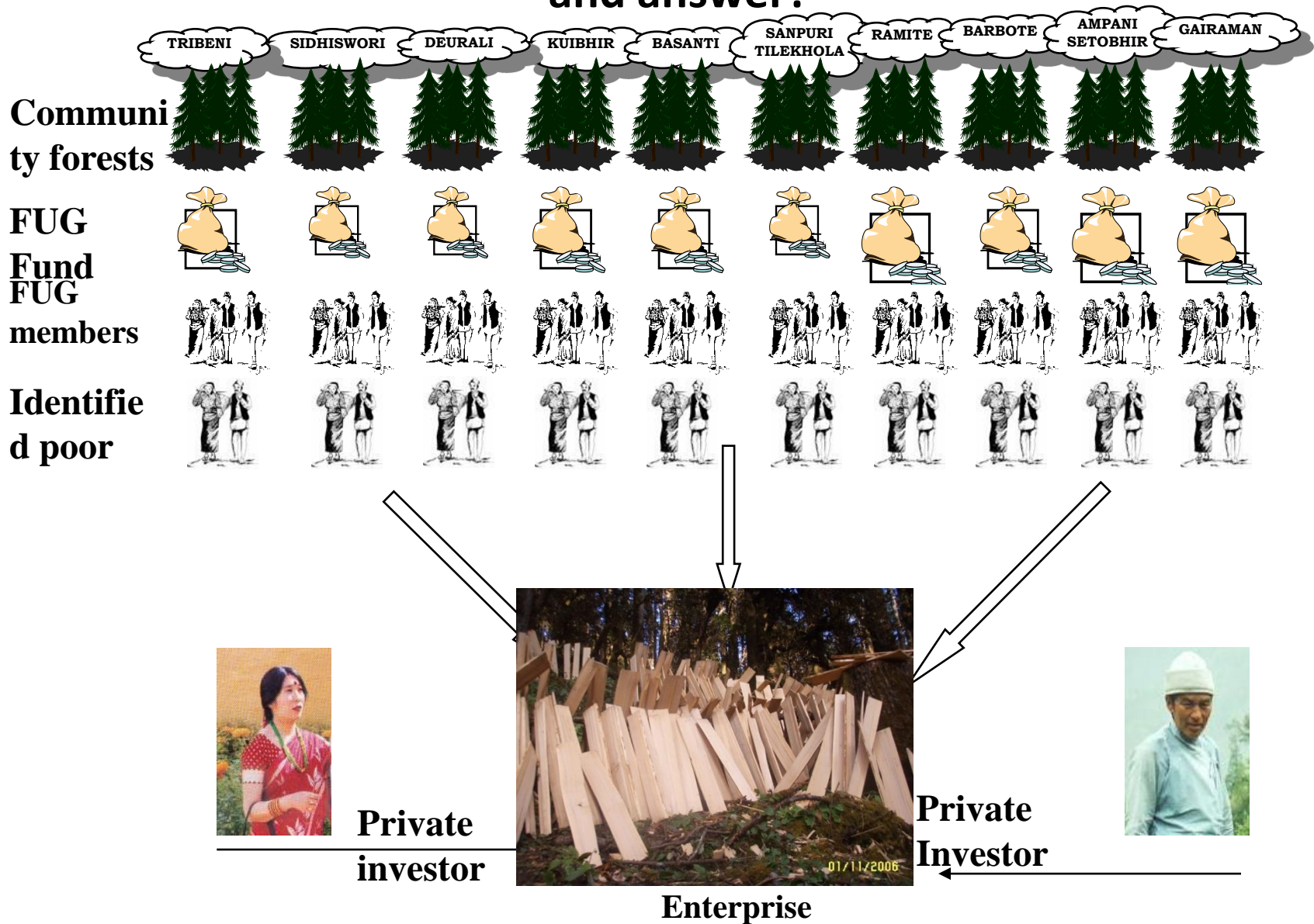


What is happening?

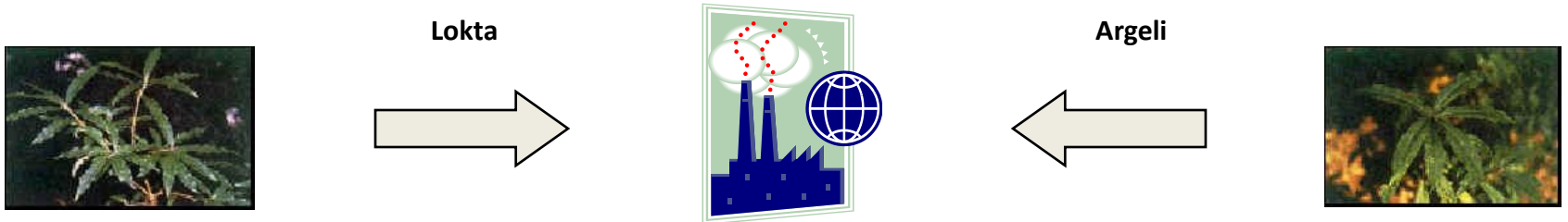
- Change in forest composition (drought resistant weeds, upward movement of species, and decreased regeneration)
- Change in social structure (migration to valleys/low lands, less cattle, pressure on resources)
- Increased conflicts over the claim of resources leading to political division (hill and Terai)
- Low lands (Tiger habitat) is in danger of elimination (Kailali)



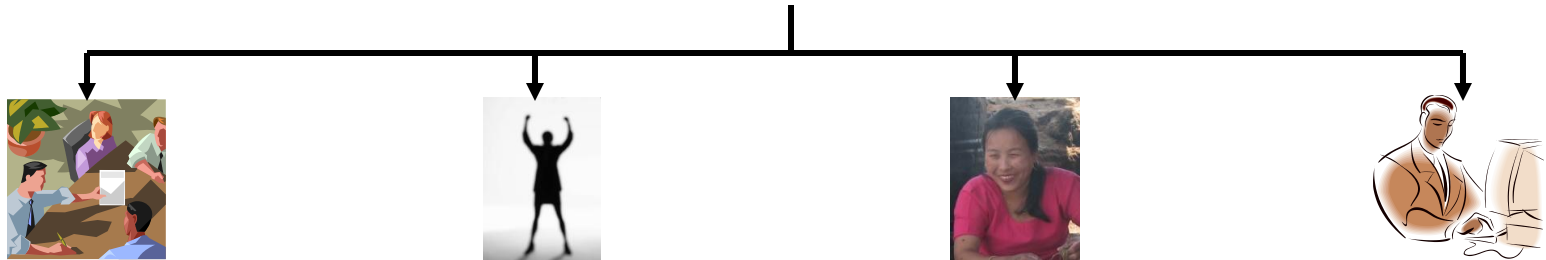
What could be done? Is community-based Enterprise and answer?



It is may be an answer, because



For example: Flow of benefits to Everest Gateway shareholders



Forest User Group (FUG)

- Ownership participation
- Cash dividends

Local Entrepreneurs

- Employment
- Ownership participation
- Cash dividends

Identified Poor FUG Members

- Employment
- Skills training
- Ownership participation
- Cash dividends

Katmandu-based Private Investors

- Network expansion
- Ownership participation
- Cash dividends

Any policy and programs that are formed without considering these phenomena, with fresh understanding on how they shape conservation and peoples livelihood, they are going not only to fail but create an irrecoverable environmental catastrophe soon