

Identification of natural resources at watershed level: an initial step in mainstreaming the federal structure of Nepal

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Federal restructuring of the nation state has become almost common agenda after April 2006 revolution in Nepal. Political parties, ethnic communities, and development planners have started to move towards federal direction in their understanding. Expectation revolution of people is ahead of other issues such as institutional framework and working processes. Identification of extractable natural resources meant for the livelihood of local people becomes the basic requirement to meet these expectations.

The three broad watershed level ecosystem-mapping, especially the forest ecosystem and agroecosystem – Koshi, Gandaki, and Karnali – reveal a basic inventory for the livelihood support of the people. Modernization of agriculture and the processing of non-timber forest products are viable ventures in Koshi, and the tourism and horticulture-related activities are viable in the Gandaki watershed. Likewise, Karnali watershed reveals the possibility of organic farming, horticulture, and rare medicinal plants for livelihood support. Niche specific biodiversity resources inventorization at village level will add the self-sufficiency, relieving the pressure on the central governments.