**Supliment 1**

**History of forest policy development in Nepal: Role of forestry science in determining policy and institutuonal practices**

Throughout Nepal’s history, forestry has mostly been about trees and timber. During the Rana regime in 19th century, the interest of the British East India Company was in timber extraction for building railways network in India (Regmi 1971). This was linked to conversion of forest land to agriculture which generated revenue for the Ranas to expand the military (Gutman 1991) which ultimately led to establishment of the forestry department in 1925.

After 1950, the forestry policy was driven by developmental state enhancing the role of state in forest conservation. In 1957, the 1957 Forest Nationalization Act brought all privately-owned forest under management of state administration. The top-down and technocratic approach focused on national economic and conservation values affecting some of the pre-existing indigenous practices of forest management especially in western Nepal that involved food collection from forests (Chhetri and Pandey 1992).

The state control over forest was strengthened through forest regulations in 1961 and 1967. This allowed forestry staff to exercise authority over people using forests and the management of forest products such as timber was gradually centralised. The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) with its two departments (one related to national park and wildlife and the other related to forest) expanded the number of field offices and staff. This establishment was driven by the aim of maximizing revenue from timber and the conservation of bio-diversity further delinking the use of forests from livelihood and food security needs.

In the mid-1970s the priorities shifted from forest to people, influenced by participatory turn in developmental practice. New rules were created to authorize local government called Panchayat to share control over forests with the government, however the rules allowed local elites to control forests working closely with local bureaucrats (Malla, 2000) and again sidelined the issue of livelihoods and food security. Later it was transformed into community forestry that created more opportunity for local people to participate. The community based forest management regimes have become a significant policy arrangement (Ojha *et al.* 2008). They allow local control over forest, but have not supported food security as discussed earlier.

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