

Study Tour Package on

ENTERPRISE ORIENTED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



WHY THIS PACKAGE?

ANSAB takes pride of its program areas on biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction which are visited by students, journalists and personnel from different government, nongovernment, and intergovernmental organizations of national and international levels. Because of ANSAB's exemplary and innovative programs in community based natural resource management, the number of visitors has increased over time. With this consideration, ANSAB has developed the study tour package in order to make such tours more efficient and cost-effective.

POSSIBLE CLIENTS OF THIS PACKAGE

This study tour package is designed to provide participants the firsthand knowledge and experience on grass roots issues particularly, in relation to community forestry, Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), forest based enterprises, and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) plus. The tour is believed to be highly beneficial for those interested in community based natural resources management through enterprise based approaches. The possible range of the clients for the tour ranges from the beginners to the policy practitioners.



WHY TO VISIT ANSAB PROGRAM AREAS?

Nepal is a country with abundant natural resources. Realizing these natural resources could be utilized sustainably for the economic development of the poor rural community, ANSAB started its action to maximize the sustainable use of NTFPs in many parts of the country. In a restless two-decades journey of biodiversity conservation and rural development, the organization has achieved more than just a success by establishing 1,166 economic entities (out of which 68 are natural products based community enterprises to process and market the products more systematically) which has directly created employment 32,648 (including 15,693 female) people and an indirect benefit to 78,828 economic participants till date.

ANSAB has set up examples of programs on poverty reduction at grass root level with effective biodiversity conservation. ANSAB has been able to achieve this success as it focuses community empowerment and economic incentives at the heart of its approach, believing that as people benefit from natural resources they become more motivated to protect them – and vice-versa. ANSAB implements a variety of innovative solutions in line with this core conviction, such as the creation of enterprises based on the sustainable use of natural resources, especially NTFPs, and the establishment of payment-schemes for environmental services, especially REDD plus. During the two decades of its establishment,



ANSAB's facilitation for poverty reduction while conserving biodiversity can be listed under the following activities:

- Train and raise awareness of the community groups on different aspects of biodiversity conservation and enterprise development
- Facilitate community entrepreneurs to produce market driven quality products with sustainable use of the forest resources
- Design sub-group model to provide opportunities for the poor and disadvantaged groups
- Promote value chain by linking producer groups to the manufacturing companies, and national and international buyers
- Assist in certification of forests and forest based products as per the international standards
- Provide other financial and non-financial services to the community groups
- Identify opportunities to link the current community forest management to the context of changing climate regime

Since its establishment, ANSAB is widely regarded as a pioneer and a leading organization in the region and its expertise is being regularly sought by development agencies, national governments and international NGOs. Its innovative approach has been recognized by numerous awards notably the second prize for the "Most Innovative Development Project" from Global Development Network in 2008. It has notably pioneered Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in Nepal and introduced the concept of subgroups to ensure that ultra-poor and marginalized people benefit from their natural resources.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY TOUR

With its experience and expertise on Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), sub groups, NTFP based enterprises, REDD plus, biodiversity monitoring, and FSC certification; ANSAB proposes for the following agendas for observation and discussion during the tour in ANSAB program areas:

- CFUG activities to support ultra poor; impacts of conservation and social development; enterprise activities
- Enterprise model; steps and stages of establishment process; benefit sharing mechanism; marketing and raw material sourcing strategies; financial management; enterprise management system; process of production and technology
- Sub group concept and history; initiation of sub group process; procedure of subgroup formation; CFUG and sub group relationship; saving credit and fund mobilization; land allocation and management; record keeping system; other sub group activities; challenges and lesson learnt; suggestions for replication
- FSC certification – process and benefits; challenges and lesson learned; suggestions for replication

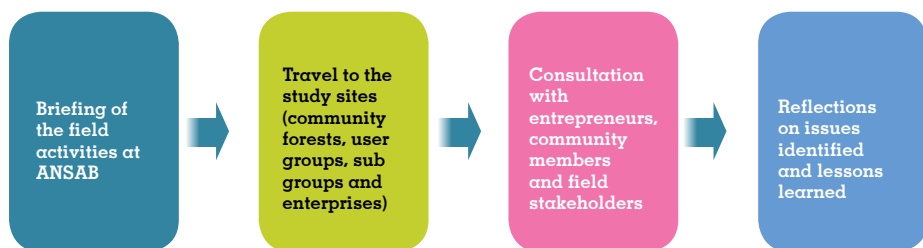
MAJOR THEMATIC AREA FOR THE STUDY TOUR

- Community forestry
- Entrepreneurship development, Local resource persons and Sub groups
- Community based forest enterprises development models
 - Handmade paper enterprises
 - Essential Oil Enterprises
 - Bio-Briquette Enterprises
 - Allo thread and clothes making enterprises
 - Community managed timber depot
- Community based REDD plus program
- Incentive based biodiversity conservation model
- Sustainable forest management certification



PACKAGE PLAN

The tour is planned to demonstrate on what community forestry can do in terms of pro-poor enterprise development, incentive based biodiversity conservation, value chain promotion, local capacity building and opportunities in context of changing climate regime. The participants in the study tour will get enough opportunities to learn different interventions in ANSAB program areas establishing and managing community forest based enterprises. Involvement of the poor and women in forest management from planning to implementation will also be observed during the study tour. The package will be planned as follows:



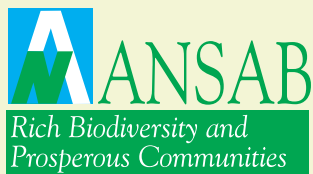
MAJOR SITES FOR STUDY TOUR

The study tour mainly focuses on ANSAB project districts. Selection of the field sites depend upon the total number of days the visitors can contribute to the tour. The shortest study tour could be of four days and the visitation sites would be those in nearby districts from Kathmandu. The long tours may range upto 15 days and involves the program areas in remote parts of the country as well. Details and descriptions of the major sites for the field visit are available upon request.

COST OF THE TOUR

Costs of the tour vary depending upon the sites and number of days to visit. Costs are determined through mutual discussion between ANSAB and the clients according to the selection of sites, number of participants and the length of the tour. ANSAB's overall objective is to expand the knowledge and field experience on natural resource based community enterprises in Nepal and, as such, it strives to keep costs as low as possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT



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