

# **Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)**

## **Organizational Profile and Structure**

### **Introduction:**

Federation of Community Forestry User's Nepal (FECOFUN) is a representative organization of Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) across the country with offices one in central level, 7 provinces, 77 districts and 530 local levels in Nepal. FECOFUN emerged from the idea that forest users from all parts of the country should be linked in order to strengthen the role of users in policy making processes. FECOFUN works at grass root and community level with the motto of Sustainable Natural Resources Management (NRM), community rights, gender equity, social inclusion, justice and prosperity. Since its establishment in 1995, FECOFUN has grown into a social movement organization with about 14 million people represented, all of whom are forest users. Out of total 22,266 CFUGs of Nepal, more than 17000 CFUGs are the members of FECOFUN. In Nepal, total 2.2 million hectares forest area has been handed over to 2.9 million households (Sources: Department of Forest, 2019). FECOFUN is an innovator and advance organization to practice Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) from federal to local FECOFUN chapters, representing 50 percent women with equally divided portfolios in the Executive Committee including people from all regions, ethnic groups, differently able people, and ultra poor.

### **Goal:**

The goal of the federation is to promote and protect the rights of community forest users through capacity strengthening, economic empowerment, sustainable natural resource management, technical support, policy advocacy, policy development, national and international networking and to uphold the values of good governance, inclusive democracy, institutional rights, prosperity, gender balance, and social justice.

### **Objectives:**

FECOFUN has identified the following objectives to fulfill its goals.

1. To promote cooperation and mutual good-will among CFUGs, FECOFUN, and other stakeholders.
2. To dialogue, coordinate and collaboration with Government agencies and non-government organizations to establish good relationship and networks among interest-groups
3. Campaign to ensure inclusiveness, social justice, good governance and grass root democracy within CFUGs
4. Encourage proper utilization and equitable distribution of resources derived from community forests to foster improvement in the socio-economic conditions of deprived sections of community
5. To secure the interests, rights and justice of community forest users by providing advocacy and empowerment through education
6. To contribute in the capacity building and creating awareness at community level
7. To support for climate change and bio-diversity conservation
8. To improve livelihood of forest users through enterprise development

**The major working areas of FECOFUN (Thematic Areas):**

FECOFUN has been working under different thematic areas to achieve the goal and objectives coordinating and collaborating with governmental, non-governmental organizations, civil society, projects and international donors:

The major thematic working areas are as follows:

- Organizational strengthening, CFUG support and good governance
- Secure community rights including land tenure
- Enhance gross root level democracy
- Policy advocacy and legal support
- Sustainable management of forest and Forest Certification
- Climate change, biodiversity and environmental conservation
- Renewable energy technology and energy efficiency
- Organizational development and capacity building
- Women's empowerment, gender equity and social inclusion
- Enterprises and livelihood promotion through timber and non-timber forest products
- Coordination and collaboration with local, provincial and federal government
- Networking among national and international right based organizations and institutions
- Working together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
- Communication and development including media campaign

**Working Procedures:**

To achieve the defined objectives without jeopardizing unanimously accepted provisions of the Constitution and based on periodic vision, strategies and programs as approved by the National General assembly, FECOFUN shall undertake the following activities through collaboration and coordination with governmental, non-governmental organizations, civil society, projects and international donors:

1. Organize or participate in the meetings, workshops, interactions, seminars with a view to build capacity of FUGs on various programs like community forestry, agro-forestry, bio-diversity, non-timber forest products, medicinal plants, income generation activities and environmental conservation.
2. Mediate and cause to mediate or make necessary arrangements to resolve conflicts among FUGs.
3. To assist FUGs across Nepal in establishment and consolidation of FECOFUNs according to the organizational structures as defined in this Constitution.
4. Provide technical assistance in FUG formation and forest handover process especially in the areas where there is no external support for such an activity.
5. Conduct and cause to conduct studies and researches on forestry, environment, bio-diversity, climate change, wildlife management, forest based entrepreneurship and marketing of forest products to disseminate useful information to concerned stakeholders and scholars and publish bulletins and books, produce audio-visuals and sell those publications for income generation.
6. Promote or encourage mutual cooperation among National bodies, organizations, local authorities and other institutions for conserving forests of Nepal, bio-diversity and the environment (included within objectives).

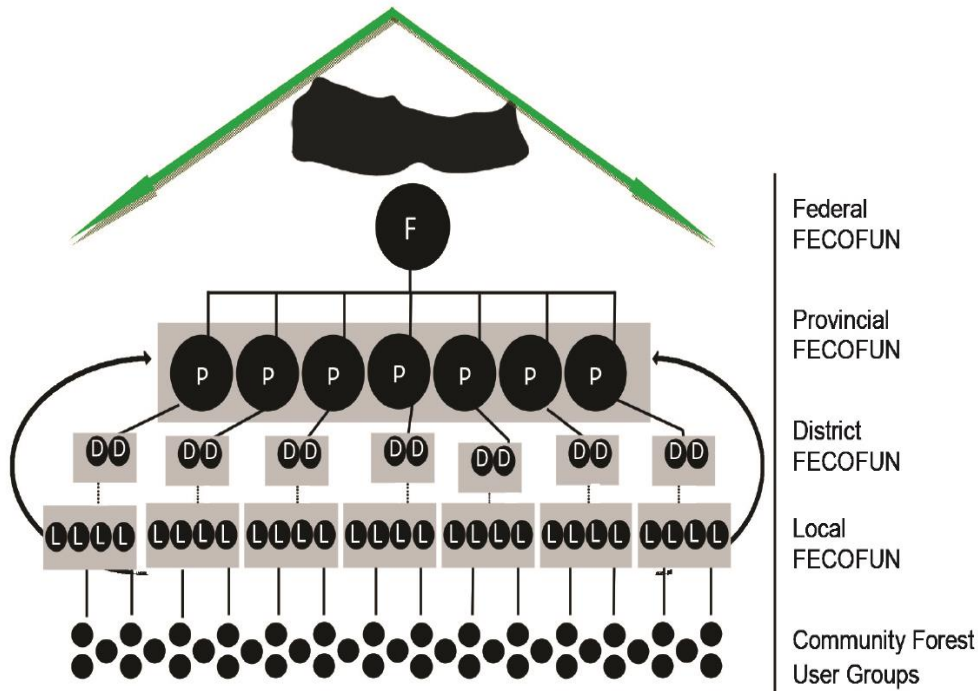
7. Conduct in-depth discussions with FUGs through its organizational units, under close consultation with District FECOFUN before policy decisions directly concerned to community forest and users.
8. Offer feedback and contribute to policy formulation process to retain the rights of forest users. However, there has to be a balanced cooperation with different bodies, unions, civil societies, projects and political parties in the consultation process.
9. To facilitate or cause to facilitate in marketing of forest based products of FUGs, local FECOFUN and District FECOFUNs in national and international markets.
10. Encourage eco-tourism campaigns in community forest areas on the basis of its feasibility and development potentials.
11. To develop or cause to develop Monitoring and Evaluation system in all units of FECOFUN to make the learning process of FUGs further effective.
12. Formulate Regulations to regulate financial transactions to achieve the objectives of FECOFUN and to identify or mobilize the resources. Then, implement the Regulation to regulate other essential administrative activities.
13. Perform or cause to perform all other programs or activities to achieve the set objectives.
14. To implement a special program to develop leadership capacity of targeted groups. (The target groups are marginalized, minorities, backward class, Indigenous people, women, Dalits, physically handicapped, hinterland, youth, Madhesis, Terai people, ultra-poor, and people from remote areas).
15. To develop green jobs through enterprises based on sustainable forest management and agro-forestry management.
16. To maintain the institutional memory, the experiences and learning of previous office bearers of FECOFUN at all levels and that of other CF activists through institutionalization.

**Organizational structures of FECOFUN:** (1) With economic, administrative and managerial autonomy, but under an integrated and uniform policy, FECOFUN shall have the following organizational structures:

- a) Local level Federation
- b) District level coordination committee
- c) Provincial level Federation
- d) Federal (National) Federation.

**Figure 1** below shows the structure of FECOFUN.

- (2) The tenure of office FECOFUN at all levels.
  - Local level Federation - 4 Years
  - District level Federation - 4 Years
  - Provincial level Federation - 4 Years
  - Federal Federation - 4 Years



**Figure 1:** Organization Structure of FECOFUN

**Financial Resources:** The federation shall have a separate fund of its own. The fund shall comprise the following amounts:

- a) Amount received from fees, such as membership fees, entry fees, renew fees, etc.
- b) Grants, donations, or assistance received from any individuals or institutions.
- c) Grants received from Donors, INGOs and bilateral projects with prior approval of Nepal Government or of foreign countries.
- d) Amount collected from members and staff as organizational fees and amount earned from consultancy.
- e) Amount collected from FUGs as service charge.
- f) Amount earned from selling of publications.
- g) Amount received by the Federation from any other sources.

**Previous and ongoing projects works:**

- a. Hariyo Ban Program II
- b. Hariyo Ban Program I
- c. Strengthening Capacity of Nepal's Water Users to Adapt to Climate Change at the Central and Grassroots Levels – Forest Users (PANI)
- d. Transiting to green growth: natural resources in Nepal (TGGN)
- e. Develop Tarai-based advocates to fight for rights of Terai people
- f. Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) Program
- g. Organizational Strengthening
- h. Reproductive Health
- i. Policy Advocacy Campaign
- j. Promoting people's Participation in the constitutional Process (Jana Awaj)
- k. Women participation in community forest and constitutional assembly

- l. Biogas program
- m. REDD+SES
- n. REDD+ Project
- o. Natural Resource Conflict Transformation Initiative (NRCTP)
- p. Demonstration of Sustainable Forest Management with Community participation in Nepal
- q. National and community level awareness generation and training and capacity building on reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)
- r. Support for REDD/RET Capacity Building Program
- s. Community forestry support Program, etc

**Human Resources:** Institutional development and implementation of the project work required human resources will be hired based on Financial and Administrative policy of FECOFUN.

**Organization Infra-structure:** FECOFUN has its own total 3 building divided into Secretariat, Project and Resource building, which is located in Bhaktapur.