

Preliminary Survey of Forestry User Groups
Upper Solu, Beni VDC
Junbesi ward 4, Mopung ward 5, Traktor ward 3
October-November 2001

The informations below came through by questioning one or more members of the concerned User Groups. The result is rather informative than exact, as the informations came from memory rather than from facts or minute reports.

(Comment: One pile of tree is a stack of 5 x 5 x 2 feet)

Junbesi Forest User Group (Junbesi Samudayik Ban)

The forestry land of Junbesi, Beni ward 4, administered by the User Group is around half of the land in the ward. Private owned forests is a little less than the community forest. As Junbesi village itself is dominated by hotels, the need of wood is high. From time to time new hotels are build and the old ones are often in repair. And the use of firewood is comparatively high to fulfill the demands of tourists passing by. As most community members are using the community forest, this land is relatively heavy used.

Members of User Group Committee:

Mr. Jangbu Lama (J.B.) (Chairman)
-- (Vice Chairman)
Mr. Jangbu Lama (Health Assistent) (Secretary)
-- (Treasurer)
Mr. Ang Pasang Lama
Mr. Mingmar Shrestha
Mr. Dawa Gyalzen Lama
Mr. Ang Domi Lama
Mr. Bahadure Lama
Mr. Lhakpa Tenji Lama
Mr. Ongchhu Lama
Mr. Ngima Tenji Lama

Members of User Group:

60-70 families

Area of land administered by User Group:

110 hectare

Species of trees and their main use:

Pine	dominant species - construction, firewood
Fir	roof shingles, firewood
Rhododendron	is now completely finished but now starting to replant
Oak	finished
Daphne	almost finished
Juniper	only small trees

Number of trees cut every year:

Small trees (1/10 pile each)	200 trees	20 piles
Medium trees (5 pile each)	100 trees	500 piles
Large trees (10 piles each)	30 trees	300 piles
total		700-800 piles

Number of trees planted every year:

Pines for the last 3-4 years many transplanted seedlings
Firs previously 300/year from nursery but now no more

Others few transplanted

Use of cut wood:

Pine for house construction 17 trees

Fir for firewood 28 trees

Approximately the same amounts is taken from private forests

Other uses of forest land:

3/4 is forest

1/4 is land for grazing cattle

Medicine plants probably nothing

Daphne for paper - very little

Nursery:

Behind Junbesi Library

Out of function

What is provided from outside:

Nothing now

Earlier :

Technical support

Courses

Water pipes (20 Rs each metre)

Plastic bags (2 Rs each seedling)

Incomes of User Group:

Small trees for fences etc. free

Medium size trees for construction: 500 Rs

Large trees for firewood: 100 Rs

Income of User Group each year:

12.000 Rs

Expenses of User Group each year:

2.000 Rs

+ 2-3.000 Rs when planting + 3 days labour donation each member

Use of surplus:

7-10.000 Rs for development purposes

Last year 25.000 for Gate at Kutang Sutang La

Development of forest:

50 years ago it was more naked. There were fewer trees but they were bigger

In 30 years the big trees will be vanished

Mopung Forest User Group

As Mopung, Beni ward 5 is situated in the head of the valley, the community land is quite extensive, and some of the forest is situated so far from habitations, that it looks like primeval forest with big old trees and rotting dead trees and great diversity.

A special feature about Mopung Forestry is that Tubten Choling Monastery is situated within its area. As fugitives from Tibet, the monks started to settle in the seventies and now there is around 600 monks and nuns within the monastery. Their need of wood has been extensive, and now the slopes behind the monastery is bare and has started to erode. The Tibetans and the Sherpas are living together in a very mutual and friendly way, and both parties are interested in preserving their countryside.

The monastery is administratively divided in the main monastery and in individuals living around and adjacent to the monastery.

As the distance from habitations till the appropriate trees is increasing, more and more large trees is cut down and only used partly for ex. shingles and the rest is rotting.

User Group Committee:

Mr. Namgyal Phurba Sherpa (Chairman)
Mr. Pasang Sherpa (Vice Chairman)
Mr. Tenzing Sherpa (Secretary)
Mr. Chhongba Sherpa (Vice Secretary)
Mr. Kaji Sherpa (Treasurer)
Mr. Jangbu Sherpa (Pangkarma)
Mr. Kanjuk Sherpa (Pangkarma)
Mr. Youkpu Sherpa
Mr. Karma Ongchhu Sherpa (Tajengma)
Mrs. Lhakpa Sherpa
Mrs. Ngima Sherpa (Sumbar)

Area of land administered by User Group:

498 hectare (other estimate 349 hectare)
Besides Phugmoche has 300 ropani
4 private have 250 ropani

Species of trees:

Fir: the dominant species - shingles and firewood
Pine construction, firewood
Rhododendron firewood, fences
Black Oak up to 2700 m - food for cattle
Daphne not utilised so much - paper
Juniper furniture
Magnolia hard and light
Betula furniture
Sangasing (sh) at Simjingma - leaves for cancer medicine

Number of trees cut every year:

A) Members of the Sherpa Community in Mopung Valley:

Small trees 200 for fences, most rhododendron
Medium trees 100-150 for construction, fir, pine, rhododendron
Large trees 100-150 for shingles and firewood, fir, pine
One family use 7-10-15 pile - total 550-600 pile
One big tree in normal cutting size gives 5-6 pile

B) Tubten Choling Main Monastery:

Medium trees normally 20-25 - last 2 years 100 - beams for construction
Large trees 5 for shingles and 30 for firewood (150 piles)

C) Tubten Choling Individuals:

Medium trees 100 for beams and construction
Large trees 30-35 for shingles (new shingles every 7-8 years)
80 for firewood (2 pile every house = 400 piles)

Number of trees planted every year:

From time to time different species is transplanted but help is needed
This year 400 juniper among others for Botanical Garden in Mopung

Other uses of forest land:

50% of the community land is used for grazing
12 members of User Group are grazing yak - no payment
3 herds of yak from Junbesi - no payment
4 herds of goats and yak from outside - payment 500 Rs per year
Yak herders are increasing their grassland with no arguments - an increasing problem
Oak for feeding stuff - only a little
Leaves for compost and madrasas of cows - some

Medicine plants - collected by lama's from Tubten Choling

Food for humans - almost nothing

Nursery:

One little nursery at Mopung School - not in active function

Forestry Department once supported with 4.000 Rs

Transplanting of seedlings is considered more effective

Help provided from outside:

Some advise specially about administration

Mopung took 2. position in Solu-Khumbu for Committee work - received 2.000 Rs

Incomes of User Group:

Small trees free - daphne, rhododendron

Firewood 1 pile for villagers 5 Rs for Tubten Choling 10 Rs

Timber wood 1 foot² for villagers 15 Rs for Tubten Choling 20 Rs

Shingles 100 pcs for villagers 5 Rs for Tubten Choling 10 Rs

Grazing 4 herds á 500 Rs

Income every year:

around 10.000 Rs

Expenses every year:

around 3.000 Rs - for tools, allowance for meetings, office room

Use of surplus:

Surplus are until now kept in bank - 70.000 Rs in stock from 5 years

Plans of using some for broadening of the road from Edingma to Phukmoche

Development of forest:

Forest land close to habitations are extensively overused and even deforested.

Forest around pastures are deforested for grazing land.

There is increasingly less of virgin forest.

Other informations:

The price of 1 pile of firewood for a house owner is

15 Rs for the wood

250 Rs for cutting in forest

750 Rs for transportation to the house

in total 1.000 Rs each pile of firewood

Tragdobuk Forest User Group

Tragdobuk, Beni ward 3, has extensive forest comparative to the number of inhabitants in the valley. And some of the forest is quite inaccessible. The activity of building new houses in the valley and the use of firewood is relatively low. There is a feeling in the valley that the forest here will live forever, even if nothing is done. Every tree felled will produce hundred new by itself.

User Group Committee:

Purba Jangbu Sherpa (Chairman)

Au Dorje Sherpa (Vice Chairman (Ward Chairman))

Maya Tamang (Secretary)

Durmi Sherpa (Treasurer)

Dorje Sherpa Pradhan

9 members in total

Area of Community Forest:

Big

Supports 22 houses

Species of trees:

Fir	shingles, planks, firewood
Pine	not so common - furniture, ceiling, firewood
Rhododendron	only very old is cut - firewood
Oak	many - firewood, food for cattle
Daphne	lot of, but not in local use - sold for others

Number of trees cut every year:

Big trees	150 - of this 200 piles for firewood - only cut by local people around 10 piles each house for firewood not every year cut for construction
Daphne	many - maybe 1000

Number of trees planted every year:

No replanting and no transplanting as it comes by itself

Nursery:

There is no nursery

Other uses of forest land:

Grazing	no trees are cut for this purpose - only lower branches
Medicine	some people are collecting - mostly from outside
Food	Some is finding human food - mostly from outside

Help provided from outside:

No help - only checking

Incomes of User Group:

Firewood	1 pile	for members 10 Rs	for outsiders 28 Rs
Shingles	100 pcs	for members 16 Rs	for outsiders 28 Rs
Planks	200x20 cm	for members 10 Rs	for outsiders 28 Rs
Beams	1 pc	for members 16 Rs	
Grazing	1 sheep	for members free	for outsiders 3 Rs
	1 cow	for members free	for outsiders 5 Rs

Income per year:

15-20.000 Rs

Expenses per year:

0 - 5.000 (- 10.000) Rs

Use of surplus:

around 15.000 for roads and flour mill

Development of forest:

The forest is the same as always and will remain the same in the future