



AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES



SYMPOSIUM INVITATION

GAURISHANKAR CONSERVATION AREA REVISITED

STATUS OF CURRENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021
01:00 P.M. NPT (09:15 A.M. CEST)
VIRTUAL (ZOOM WEBINAR)
<https://oeaw-ac-at.zoom.us/j/93417077969>

BACKGROUND

Research activities in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (GCA) were initiated in 2015, with a kick-off meeting in Kathmandu on 22nd of April titled “Research Methodology for Integrated Forest Management in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Central Nepal Himalayas”. The subsequent ill-fated fieldwork campaign did not result in expected outcomes as it was suddenly interrupted by a massive (7.8M_w) earthquake, known as the Gorkha earthquake, which took place on 25th of April, 2015. The project team soon realized that pursuing the initial aims was impossible and hence a follow-up project was initiated in 2016, within the carbon offset project framework of BOKU University. The aim of the ongoing long-term carbon offset project is to provide scientific evidence for decisions that help to improve livelihoods, to increase resilience and to help overcoming negative consequences of the 2015 earthquake event, all embedded in an accountable carbon sequestration framework.

The symposium presents the status of scientific research in GCA, both within and beyond the BOKU carbon offset project. It provides a platform to share current research of various disciplines, strengthens existing collaborations and establishing new links. The summary and discussion session aims at providing input for future activities at GCA.

ATTENTION

All time slots in the program are provided as Nepal Standard Time, NPT (UTC+05:45) and as Central European Summer Time, CEST (UTC +02:00)

PROGRAM

SESSION 1: OPENING AND INTRODUCTION

01:00–01:10

09:15–09:25

Opening

Georg Gratzner | Austrian Academy of Sciences and BOKU University, Austria

Mohan Devkota | Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Klaus Katzensteiner | BOKU University, Austria

01:10–01:25

09:25–09:40

Manish Raj Pandey | National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal

Managing Gaurishankar Conservation Area: Challenges and priorities

01:25–01:40

09:40–09:55

Klaus Katzensteiner | BOKU University, Austria

Five years of carbon sequestration in GCA: A summary

01:40–01:55

09:55–10:10

Mohan Devkota | Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Current activities at GCA

01:55–02:00

10:10–10:15

BREAK

SESSION 2: BOKU CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROJECT

02:00–02:15

10:15–10:30

Sascha Mohnke | BOKU University, Austria

Carbon offset projects at BOKU – a critical review

02:15–02:30

10:30–10:45

Owen Bradley | Austrian Research Centre for Forests, Austria

GCA – Baseline calculation of carbon stocks

02:30–02:45

10:45–11:00

Jokin Idoate | BOKU University, Austria

Regeneration Ecology of Quercus species in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal

02:45–03:00

11:00–11:15

Bishnu Pandey | Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Alternative management options for GCA

03:00–03:15

11:15–11:30

BREAK

SESSION 3: RESEARCH CONTEXT AND COLLABORATION POTENTIALS

03:15–03:30
11:30–11:45

Georg Gratzner | Austrian Academy of Sciences and BOKU University, Austria
SDGs in a Himalayan context: What has been achieved so far?

03:30–03:45
11:45–12:00

Niels Schwab | University of Hamburg, Germany
Update on treeline research activities in Rowaling Valley

03:45–04:00
12:00–12:15

Gabriele Tautscher | University of Vienna, Austria
Urmila Tamang | Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Nepal
Local participation: Suggestions 2016/17, recent socio-economic changes, and new challenges

04:00–04:15
12:15–12:30

BREAK

04:15–04:30
12:30–12:45

Lauren Dietemann | Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Switzerland
Sushma Chinnal | Women's Rehabilitation Centre and Tribhuvan University, Nepal
A local perspective on the forests: who are the stakeholders? what are the conflicts? resolutions? insights from participatory stakeholder analysis methods

04:30–04:45
12:45–13:00

Nadine Plachta | University of Toronto, Canada
Citizens, Loss, and Reconstruction: Infrastructural Transformations in Post-Disaster Nepal

SESSION 4: OPEN DISCUSSION

04:45–05:30
13:00–13:45

Summary and moderated discussion
Viktor J. Bruckman | Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria

ORGANIZERS:

Commission for Interdisciplinary Ecological Studies (KIOES),
Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW)
Institute of Forest Ecology (IFE), University of Natural Resources and
Life Sciences (BOKU)

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ACCESS LINK: <https://oeaw-ac-at.zoom.us/j/93417077969>

Cover image: View of traditional terrace farming on steep slopes and
the Gaurishankar mountain (7.134 m) in the background. © Viktor Bruckman