

Introduction

Association of Family Forest Owners, Nepal (AFFON) is an umbrella organization of family forest owners to ensure the tenure and usufruct rights of those forest owners. It was established in 8th March 2015 and legally registered in Social Welfare Council (SWC) and District Administration Office, Kathmandu. AFFON takes initiatives in contributing to the national slogan "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali". AFFON has been working with its partners to empower communities through democratic natural resource management since 2016.

Vision

"One Family, One Family Forest; Prosperous Nepal, Our Campaign"

Mission

Create economic opportunities to the family forest owners through policy advocacy and capacity development

Goal

Economic transformation of family forest owners by securing rights on forest resources of private lands through responsible and sustainable forest management

Objectives

To conduct advocacy for ensuring rights on private land and forest resources

To attain economic transformation of family forest farmers through responsible and sustainable management of family forest

Output Areas

- Institutional development and strengthening
- Right based advocacy
- Green enterprise development
- Sustainable forest management
- Gender equality and social inclusion
- Information and knowledge management
- Climate change mitigation, adaptation & disaster management
- Collaboration and networking

Strategy

- Development of common opinion on policy issues and result-oriented intervention in policy making through building a network of stakeholders with similar aspirations at different levels in the country.

- Coordination, cooperation and exchange of experiences and learnings at the international level by establishing a network and cooperation between the organizations and concerned bodies that are working on forest, environment and family forest sector
- Coordination and cooperation with the parliament members, political parties, journalists and other organizations and individuals at different levels to create common understanding on family forest friendly policy formulation
- Capacity building activities will be carried out to central, province, district and local level leaderships and staff in coordination and cooperation with Government, national and international stakeholders.
- Policy level cooperation will be made for the payment for ecosystem services (RES) through evaluating the contribution made by the family forest in the field of environment
- In coordination and cooperation with the local government and stakeholders, the district and local chapters of the AFFON will be expanded and family forest promotional programs will be organized
- Technical and advocacy capacity of farmers will be enhanced by mobilizing local facilitators in close coordination with supporting agencies
- The leadership development of the campaigners coordinating and cooperating with the local, district, federal Governments
- Official dialogue will be held with policy makers and stakeholders to formulate policies, acts, regulations and guidelines to establish full rights of forest farmers in conservation, promotion, use and sale and distribution of family forests
- Establishment and promotion of forest-based enterprises by increasing coordination and cooperation with banking and financial institutions and private sectors.
- The contribution, made by the family forest sector to the national economy and employment generation, will be accounted for.
- Contribution of family forest to the environment, biodiversity conservation and food security will be disseminated preparing IEC materials.
- Promote agroforestry practices and small enterprises, coordination and cooperation among the Government agencies, private sectors and supporting agencies will be maintained.
- Cope with the climate change impacts, adaption and mitigating actions will be conducted like plantation

campaigns, promoting fast growing species in barren and degraded private lands.

- Organizational policy advocacy, campaigns and its outcomes will be documented and communicated to the concerned agencies and stakeholders.
- Create a conducive environment for scholars and other researchers to conduct studies and research on family forest related themes.
- Campaigns, activities and publications of the AFFON will be made accessible to all the researchers and curious people uploading those in the network of email, website and facebook.
- Gender equality and social inclusion policies and strategies will be updated and implemented.
- Democratic system will be strengthened by making the organization a well-governed, transparent and accountable.
- Appropriate criteria will be formulated and implemented for equitable sharing of the benefits and opportunities.
- Ensure the participation and access of Dalit, Janajati and women in program planning, implementation and benefit sharing.
- A national campaign will be launched for the establishment of social justice and strengthening of good governance.

Specific Objectives

- To strengthen the association by expanding the organizational structures and increase the membership.
- To make the organization dynamic and systematic maintaining good working relations among the organizational structures.
- To enhance the professional skills and capacity of the working committees, members and employees of the association by mobilizing internal and external resources.
- Prepare and implement advocacy plans by identifying issues on the basis of advocacy strategy
- To create green employment and achieve national prosperity through sustainable management of family forests, ecotourism, promotion of micro enterprises and other forest-based enterprises
- To review and documentation of advocacy campaigns' experiences, learnings and achievements for effective advocacy campaigns to future
- To enhance rights- based advocacy capacity of AFFON leaders and members
- To conserve water sources and minimize the risk of soil erosion by plantation and technologies.

- To carry out advocacy campaign effectively by coordinating with the public media.
- To establish a well-organized national level knowledge center for research and information
- To update and communicate internal and external information related to family forest
- Model agroforestry plots will be established to enhance food security of farmers.
- To increase greenery by planting multi-purpose trees and plants on private lands.
- To develop leadership and increase social justice implementing recognized values of gender equality and social inclusion of AFFON focusing women, janajatis and backward communities
- To make the programs and activities well-organized and accountable conducted by all chapters of AFFON.
- To conducting campaigns for farmer friendly policy by strengthening coordination, cooperation and partnership with national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- To conduct studies and researches on biodiversity conservation and disaster management
- Strengthening the rights of family forest farmers to their rights by informing them about climate change and related treaties and conventions
- To conduct advocacy with the Government of Nepal for the formulation of policy on the contribution of family forest to mitigation and adaptation of climate change and payment of ecosystem services.

Past Projects and Partnership

- Forest and Farm Facility - UN Food and Agriculture Organization (2017- 2021)
- Multi-stakeholders Forestry Program (2016)
- CARE Nepal (2016)
- Plantation campaign to promote agroforestry and improve bio-diversity in 3 bio-corridor- WWF Nepal (2018- 2019)

Ongoing Projects and Partnership

- ❖ Empowerment of Communities through democratic natural resource management- Danish Forestry Extension (2016-2022)
- ❖ Enhancing private sectors' engagement in climate resilience building business and NAP implementation- UNEP (2021-2022)

- ❖ Forest and Farm Facility - UN Food and Agriculture Organization (2022)

Partners/ Coordination

- Ministry of Forest and Environment and its different divisions
- International Family Forest Alliance (IFFA)
- International Mountain Partnership Program (IMPP)
- Danish Forestry Extension (DFE)
- United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- CARE Nepal
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Nepal
- Forest Action
- British Council, Nepal
- United Nation Environment Program (UNEP)

Working Documents and Publications

- AFFON's Constitution
- Financial and Organizational Regulation
- Human Resource and Office Management Regulation
- AFFON's Five years' strategy (2021- 2026)
- AFFON's Communication Strategy
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan
- Book of Case Stories
- AFFON's Advocacy Plan (2022- 2026)
- Contingency Plan
- AFFON's Policy Paper
- Agroforestry Handbook

Research/ Study

- Family forest's opportunities and Challenges
- Analysis of Federal Forest Policy
- Analysis of Federal Forest Act, 2019
- Value-chain analysis of *Alnus nepalensis*
- Role of family forest on biodiversity conservation

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Association of Family Forest Owners, Nepal (AFFON)

Central Office: Shantinagar-31, Kathmandu
 Contact No.: 014621400
 Website: www.familyforestnepal.org
 Email: info@familyforestnepal.org
 Facebook: Familyforest Nepal