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## Background:

Machhapuchhre Development Organisation (MDO) is a non-profit and non-governmental community-based organization registered in Kaski District Administration Office and affiliated with Social Welfare Council in 1989 to facilitate initiatives in community self reliance. MDO has been implementing community development activities to improve the livelihood of local communities in rural integrated approach with major focus on conservation of Panchase ecological belt. MDO emphasize a right based, participatory approaches to development where rural people especially women and disadvantaged groups are partners rather than the subjects and objects of development.

MDO project area currently encompasses naturally and culturally rich Panchase lekh and 13 VDCs of Kaski, Parbat and Syangja district adjoining it. The area coverage of MDO is more than 400 sq. km. including the Panchase forest, the homes of several watersheds (river, tributaries and gullies) that forms the major source of nation's renowned lake i.e. Phewa Tal. Potential beneficiaries within the MDO area include more than 65,000 people of approximately 12,000 families.

## Vision:

- To establish a society, which has no exploitation, is self-reliant and equitable.

## Mission:

MDO is committed to achieve the following.

- Social and economic empowerment of target group (Women, disadvantaged / under privileged group).
- Active participation of target group through decentralization and good governance.
- Promotion of organizational activities by networking / coordination with supporting organizations and line agencies.
- Enhancement of gender balanced programs to access resources through building institutional capacity of target group and community based organization.
- Management of natural resources and bio-diversity for sustainable livelihood.

## Goals:

For qualitative livelihoods in sustainable manner, MDO has set the following goals:

- Focus on promotion of social and economic actions for social and economic empowerment of target group
- Access to resources of target group through effective implementation and good governance.
- Promotion of effective coordination and networking with supporting organizations and line agencies.
- Access of women on resources and decision making through gender friendly program.
- Conserve environment for better livelihood through sustainable tourism.

## Objectives:

- To enable communities to identify problems in their communities, formulate and implement activities to solve those problems and better manage their resource base.
- To enable communities to mobilize human resources and financial capital from local and external sources to support local development initiatives.
- To enhance the capacity of a wide range of organizations at the community and district levels for promotion of sustainable community development programs.
- To reduce poverty and improve the quality of living in a sustainable manner by implementing integrated conservation and community development programs.
- To raise awareness about existing social (gender and children) structure.

## Approach and Strategy:

- MDO seeks participation and involvement of both male and female in all phases of the program i.e. from need identification, planning, implementation to evaluation, in collaboration with direct involvement of local organizations and government agencies in guaranteeing long term sustainability.
- MDO believes that singular, sectoral development activities alone will not lead to sustainable community development, thus MDO is a strong advocate of an integrated approach. Furthermore, recognizing that MDO shares project cost with local communities, organizations and government agencies in the form of cash or kind in creating

ownership feeling and a sense of responsibility that adds in sustainability of the project.

## Core Programs:

### Natural Resource Conservation

- Action research and Surveys,
- Afforestation and Nursery management,
- Local seed user groups and forest user groups formation and support,
- Forest management activities (fencing and stone wall construction, silviculture etc.),
- Conservation awareness activities,
- Alternative energy technologies (Improved cooking stoves, biogas, solar, back boiler) promotion.

### Sustainable Community Development

- Adult literacy and education programs,
- Drinking water scheme construction and maintenance,
- Community trails, school and buildings construction and repair,
- Early child care development and sanitation support programme
- Community based organizations (CBOs) and local self-help group's formation and support,
- VDCs level community based child care development center establishment,
- Saving - Credit group formation and management,
- Income-generation activities promotion and support.

### School education, health and sanitation

- Child clubs formation and support,
- Toilets, rubbish pit and drinking water distribution and construction in local schools,
- School maintenance and repair tools distribution,
- Thematic weeks (Hand washing, Toilet promotion, Re-hydration, School cleaning) celebration in schools,
- School brochure, publicity materials and information board publication and distribution,
- Teachers, headmasters and school management committee member's capacity enhancement.

### Organization Capacity Building & Training

- Institutional strengthening of local communities, CBOs and local self help groups,
- Educational and Exposure visits for community members and staff,
- VDC periodic plan formation and support,
- Conduction of seminars, meetings and workshops at local, district and regional level.

#### **Gender Empowerment and Development**

MDO, establishing oneself as a gender resource organization in Kaski district has been conducting several programs as

- Gender friendly institutional practice and resource mobilization,
- Gender integration in all conservation and development programs,
- Advocate, Campaign on gender equality, disparity, empowerment and social justice,
- Extend free legal consultation and support for women in raising voice against violence,
- Networking and gender-sensitive linkages,
- Capacity enhancement for gender equality and equity,
- Formed gender allies at community, VDCs and district level.

#### **Networking & Partnerships:**

MDO's is committed in maintaining network and professional partnerships between community based organizations, NGOs, INGOs and government line agencies in order to share experiences and resources, avoid duplication of work and ensure more benefits and sustainability of the project. MDO's fundamental partners so far for sustainable community development endeavors are of various levels as:

**Local level:** Self help groups (mother group, water user group, saving-credit group, child club etc.), CBOs, CFUGs, District Development Forum and government authorities as VDCs, Schools, and DDC and line agencies.

**National Level:** Non-governmental organizations at district/national level, Civil Society Development Council Nepal and bilateral/multilateral agencies (Fund Board, UNICEF, UNDP, WWF, JICA, LFP and CNGO).

**International Level:** Development Fund, Norway; Future in Our Hands (FIOH), Green Movement, Sri Lanka; Community Based Native Seeds Research Center (CONSERVE), Philippines; Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) & Asian Women Foundation (AWF), Japan; Redd Barna, Norway; Trickle up, USA.

#### **Organization Structure and Management:**

Eleven members executive body from diverse ethnicity and areas of expertise that is elected by the general assembly every three years provides overall policy direction and guidance to the organization and ensures its smooth functioning. MDO also has an advisory body comprising eleven members from various discipline of society including former chairperson of the organization. Staff members share the role as facilitator and responsibilities according to their capacities in different projects. Altogether 86 members (14 honorable, 54 life members, 18 general members) are affiliated in MDO.

**Publication:** Annual report, quarterly bulletin (Panchase), booklet (Bikash ra Adhikar; in Nepali), brochures, posters, Pamphlets, Documentary (Bikas ko bato tira Panchase).

#### **Awards and Recognition Received:**

MDO integrated conservation and sustainable community development initiatives for more than a decade and half has been recognized by several awards and recognition.

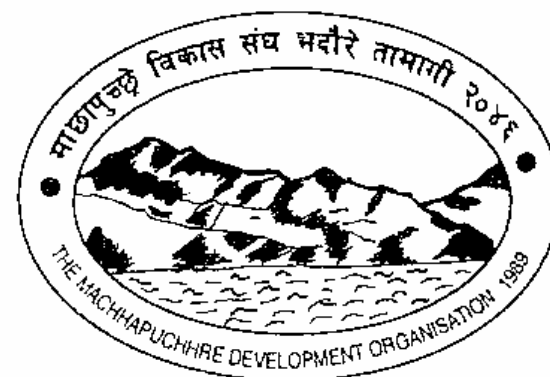
- Abraham Conservation Award from WWF in 1997 A.D.
- National Environment Award from HMG/ Ministry of population and environment, Nepal in 2056 B.S.
- Recognition from different VDCs, Schools and Community based organizations.

#### **For further information please contact:**

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# **MACHHAPUCHHRE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (MDO) Western Region, Nepal**

*FORMALLY ESTABLISHED IN 1989  
 WORKING WITH RURAL COMMUNITIES SINCE 1983*



*"MDO works hand in hand with a diversity of people and organizations at the grassroots level involving them in all phases of its integrated conservation and rural development programs enabling them to develop sustainable livelihoods for the benefit of one and all."*