

Ecosystem based Road Side Bioengineering :

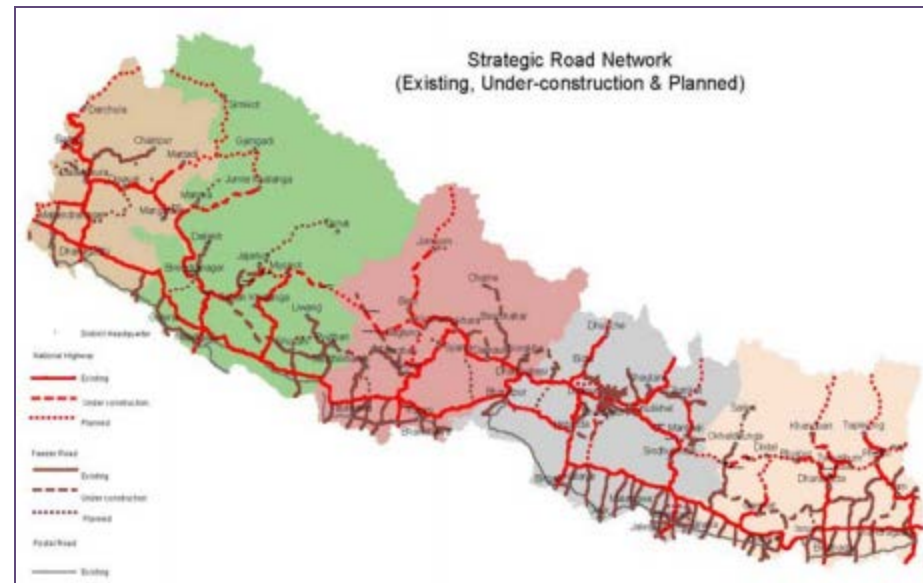
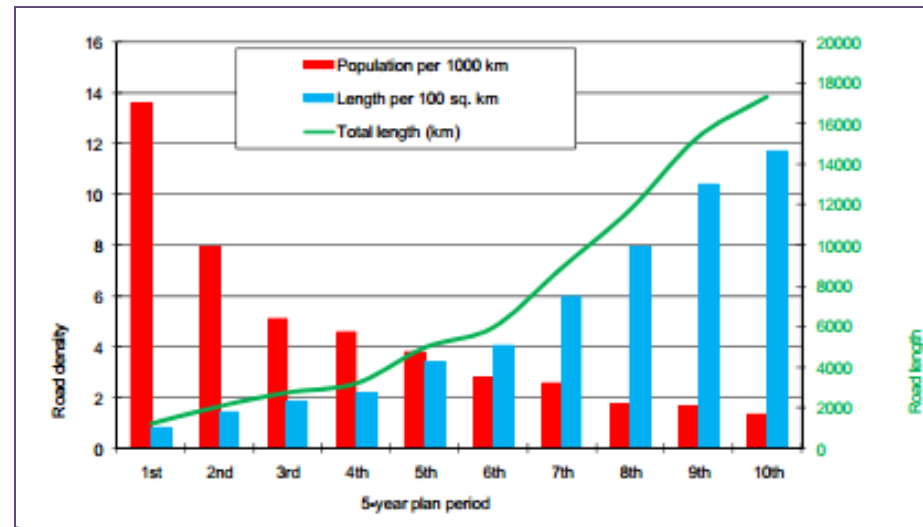
A Case from Rural Mid Hills of Nepal



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Overview

- Over the past decade, roads have increased exponentially from 7330 km in 1990 to 51,000 km in 2013
- The Government of Nepal is planning to expand the road network from 9 km to 15 km per 10,000 people
- Haphazardly constructed rural roads has caused economic & environmental losses including in the protected forest area
- Such roads are commonly wiped out during heavy monsoon



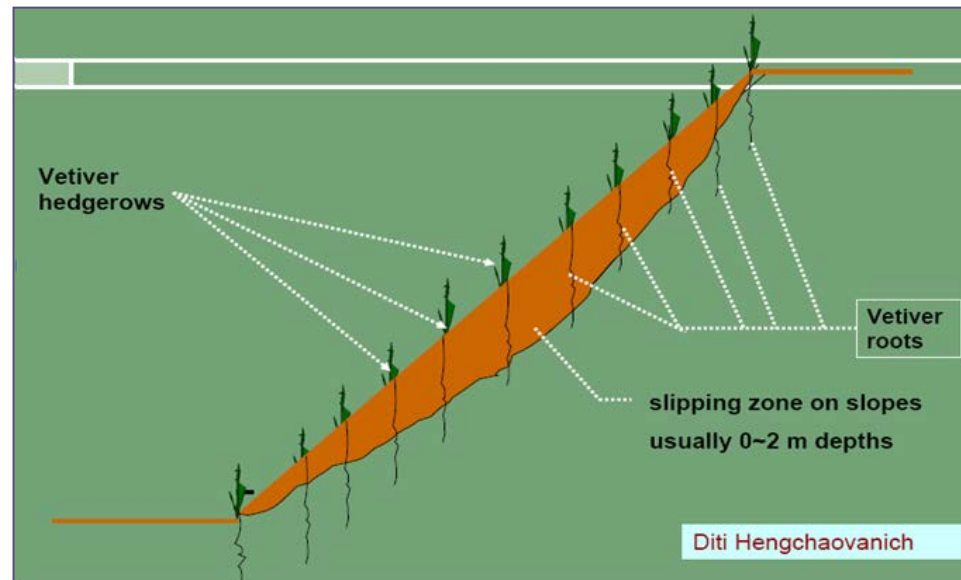
Overview

- Unplanned roads
 - one of the leading causes of slope instabilities
 - accelerates severe erosion rates
 - leads to economic losses by destruction of agricultural land, loss of lives and property
- Promotion of road side bioengineering could be an effective Ecosystem based Disaster Risk Reduction approach in these areas



What is Road Side Bioengineering and Why

- Bio-engineering, or the use of vegetation with simple structural engineering works along the road side slopes is a method for
 - slope stabilization
 - control of run off and their effects (soil erosion and transportation of sediments)
- Bio-engineering methods range from the very simple plantation of appropriate deep-rooted species, to a combination of vegetation and more elaborate civil engineering

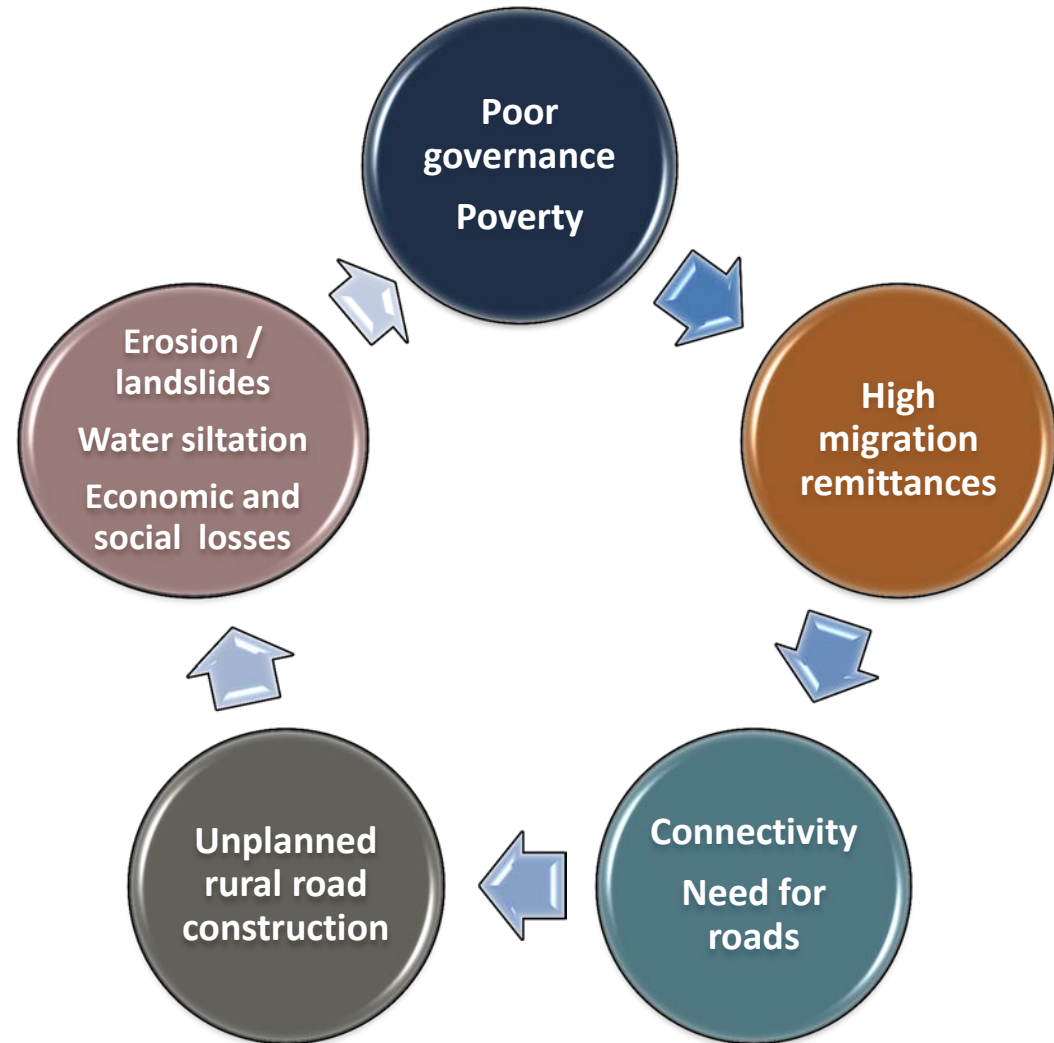


What is Road Side Bioengineering and Why

- It is important because:
 - Cost-effective
 - Could use locally available materials or locally adapted methods
 - Could be used in different places (along road side slopes, river banks, cultivated terraces)
 - Opportunities for integrating local and scientific knowledge
 - Not only stabilize slope and control the runoff and erosion, but also supports or enhances building the resilience of ecosystems



Community Relevance



Objectives

- Piloting of bio-engineering methods by establishing demonstration sites in different areas
- Capacity building of local & national development, environment & DRR actors
- Advocate Ecosystem-based DRR (local to global)
- Bio-engineering and socio-economic research



Methodology Adopted

- Participation of both community and local government institutions from inception by formalizing the process
- Baseline study/ Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis
- Participatory Community Risk and Bioengineering Mapping
- Establishment of nursery for Bioengineering species and demonstration site selection
- Socio-economic Research
- Bio-physical research (for selection and identification of appropriate local plant species)
- Integration of local knowledge and science



Preliminary Results

- Establishment of demonstration sites
- Raise interest towards bioengineering to the communities and already adopted/replicated by other communities in protected forest areas
- Starting of climate data base of three sites
- Showing the positive results and the results was covered by the national



Challenges and Lesson Learned

- Establishing or formalizing the coordination mechanism with the government agencies is time consuming
- Increasing motivation of communities to participate in project
- Sustainable management of bioengineering demonstration sites
- Climate constraints – heavy rain/ drought
- Obtaining sufficient bio-physical data on climate variables and soil loss
- Could be an effective tools or upscale for conservation of protected areas





THANK YOU