



EMBEDDING SUSTAINABLE POLLINATION MANAGEMENT INTO NEPALESE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

(JUN 2022 - NOV 2024)

Our project is based in Karnali Province, much of which comprises the threatened Western Himalayan Alpine Shrub and Meadows ecoregion. Karnali is the largest and poorest province of Nepal, with only 23% of the population classified as food secure (UNDP 2020). Many crops in this region (e.g., apples, beans and pumpkins) are highly pollinator-dependent and reliant on a range of native flies (primarily *Eristalis* spp.), solitary bees (primarily *Halictidae*), bumblebees (*Bombus* spp.), and most importantly, the native honeybee *Apis cerana* which has been reported declining in this region. There is strong political will from the provincial and national-level government to promote biodiversity-friendly farming practices. However, various barriers, including a lack of farmer awareness, a lack of capacity, and no evidence to inform policy, prevent this political will from translating into meaningful outputs for farmers on the ground. Working with partners in Nepal and drawing on an evidence base from our ongoing pollination project, this Darwin project will raise awareness of pollination, increase the capacity of individuals and institutions to research and manage pollination services, and facilitate the design of policies to conserve and enhance pollinator biodiversity in Nepal.

WHAT ARE THE OUTPUTS?

Output 1) Pollinator awareness and stewardship program in Jumla district to increase public understanding of pollinators and demonstrate evidence-based pollination-management practices.

Output 2) Pollinator capacity-building programme to equip individuals and institutions with the knowledge, resources and tools to identify, research and manage crop pollinators, enabling them to train and advise others.

Output 3) Pollinator Action Plan for Karnali province to embed pollinator conservation and management into provincial policy, advocating this as a blueprint for a National Pollinator Strategy for Nepal

METHODS EMPLOYED

- We will run 100 pollinator, biodiversity & nutrition awareness classes in Jumla District, reaching 3000 key stakeholders (primarily farmers), with separate women-only sessions. Three pollinator-friendly demonstration farms will be established to showcase the Pollinator Stewardship Scheme.
- We will deliver 7 training courses to 175 agricultural officers, researchers and extension workers from Karnali Province, building capacity in pollinator taxonomy, research and management. A pollination management handbook and training package will be produced and distributed for use in training programs across Nepal. eprint for a National Pollinator Strategy for Nepal