

Editorial

While we all are working together towards the achievements of the sustainable development goals, the COVID pandemic has pushed further backward. The economic crisis in the country, especially the low expenditure of development budget has further impacted our effort, including the realization of our vision, “happy Nepali, Prosperous Nepal”. The forestry sector too faces many unprecedented challenges, both politically and climatic factors.

In 2021, we witness the abolishment of the scientific forestry practices in the country, merely through political decisions. We all failed to demonstrate the rationale and success of scientific forestry practices to the political actors, due to the absence of robust scientific knowledge in the area. Moreover, imports of forest products have increased, thereby contributing to the trade deficit in the country. How the forestry is going to be managed in the country and thereby contribute towards the green economy still remain uncertain. Nevertheless, we are committed to forest restoration and celebrating the “decade of forest restoration” from 2021. However, drivers of forest ecosystem degradation are in the increasing trend, where, changing climate, along with forest fire and natural disasters are the major drivers. In addition, community interests and motivation for managing forests sustainably is declining. Rapid rural to urban migration is possessing further threats. On the contrary, government resource allocation in the sector is in a declining trend. Nevertheless, the recent Conference of Parties on Climate (COP 26) has brought some rays of hope for the developing countries to combat the changing climate and restore forests.

Recognizing the importance of forests and biodiversity resources, Nepal has historically taken diverse initiatives towards conserving critical ecosystems. As the country is rich diversity in ecology and society, the efforts and practices taken by different institutions are also diverse. At the same time, a number of academic institutions have been actively involved in producing knowledge for conserving biodiversity and enhancing livelihoods. Since its establishment institute of forestry (IoF), Tribhuvan University Nepal, has dedicated much of its works to train students in the areas of forestry and the allied subjects, thereby expanding its programs and doing research related to forest people and their interactions. The IoF is one of the pioneer institutes of the country that have been taking the lead role in transferring knowledge and building the capacity of the stakeholders and contributing to competent human resources development.

Aiming at understanding the contemporary issues related to forestry, biodiversity and climate change, and thereby contributing to evidence-based policymaking the Institute of Forestry is publishing the forestry journal annually. This issue brings scientific evidence on pertinent issues related to forests, ecosystem services and biodiversity management. We are pleased to bring 12 scholarly works related above themes.

We would like to thank all the authors and contributors. We are equally thankful to all the reviewers who provided significant time and effort for improving the quality of the articles. We appreciate the support from the language editor. We look forward to having the same level of cooperation and support in the future.