

Conservation Strategies and Approaches for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation in the Mountain Areas of Nepal

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Presentation outline

- Nepal and its brief introduction
- Protected areas and key achievements
- Conservation strategies and approaches
- PA management and governance the Himalayas
- Achievements and challenges
- Key lessons





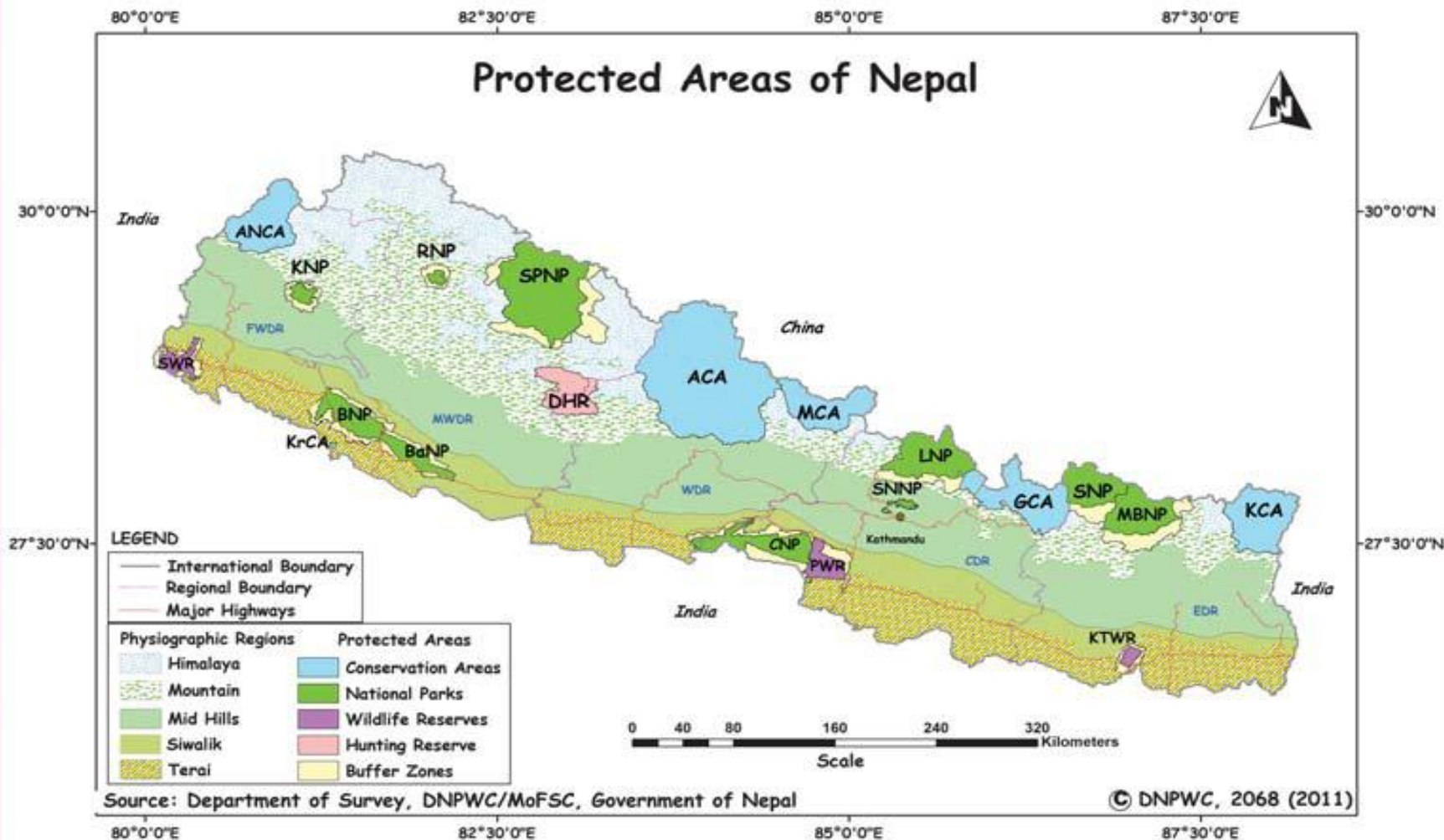
Introduction to Nepal



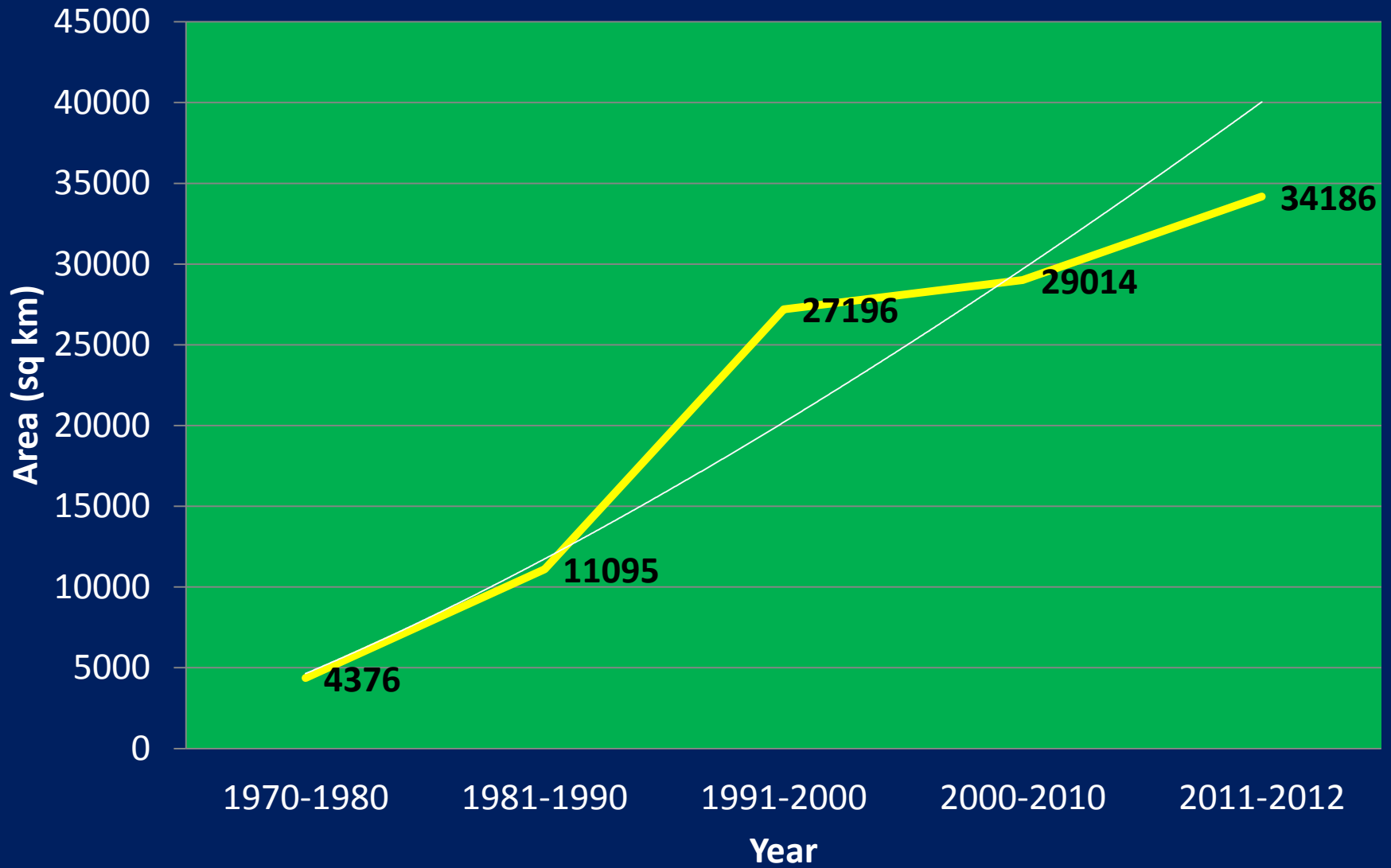
Locked, linked and diverse



Protected Areas of Nepal



PA establishment trend



Key conservation achievements

- PAs cover more than 23% of the surface areas
- Coverage wise one of the top 20 countries in the world & second in South Asia
- Revival of the population of many globally significant species
- More areas under collaborative management



Dynamic conservation approaches

Past

- ❖ **Strict protection**
- ❖ **Species focus**
- ❖ **Control in resource use**
- ❖ **Island approach**
- ❖ **Centralised and government controlled**

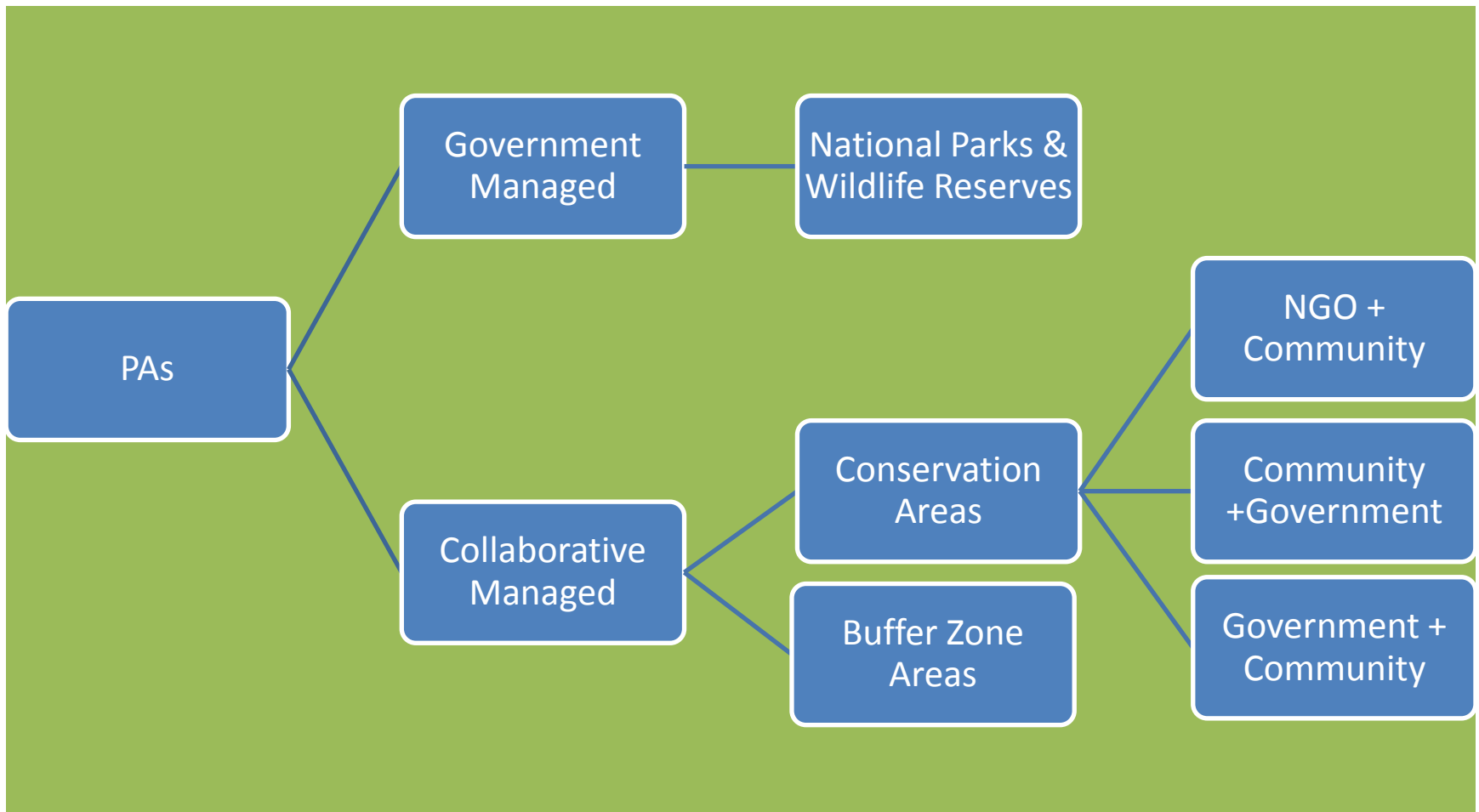
Present

- ❖ **People's participation**
- ❖ **Ecosystem focus**
- ❖ **Resource and revenue shearing**
- ❖ **Landscape approach**
- ❖ **Decentralised and opened to NGO and private sectors management**

Conservation strategies

- Mixed governance and management strategies.
- Conservation with people in creating new PAs and conservation through people in managing existing parks and reserves.
- Balance in protective and participatory approaches.

Governance types



Conservation practices in the Himalayan regions

- NGO managed conservation areas
- Community managed conservation area
- Government managed conservation area
- Govt & community managed
buffer zone areas

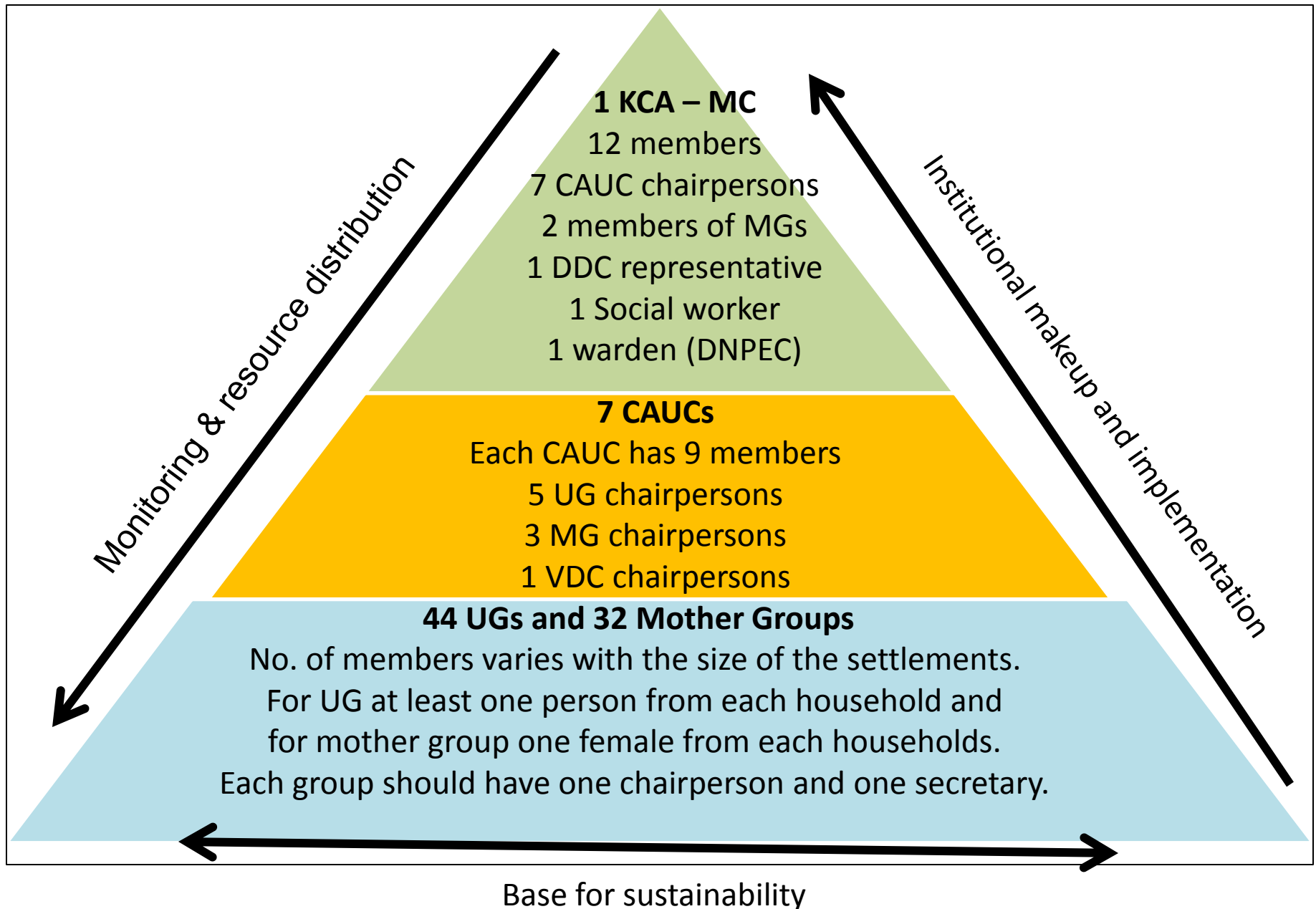


Management objectives, governance types and decision making in the Himalaya PAs

Name of PAs	SNP, MBNP, LNP & SPNP	ANCA	Buffers Zones of SNP, MBNP, LNP and SPNP	ACA, MCA & GSCA	KCA
Category	II	V	VI	V	V
Management Objectives and definition	An area set aside for conservation, management, and utilization of wildlife, vegetation, and landscape together with the natural environment.	Area managed with an integrated plan for the conservation of the natural environment and the sustainable use of natural resources.	An area set aside around a national park or reserve for granting opportunities to local people to use forest products on a regular basis.	Area managed with an integrated plan for the conservation of the natural environment and the sustainable use of natural resources.	Area managed with an integrated plan for the conservation of the natural environment and the sustainable use of natural resources.
Governance type	Government Managed	Managed by government with the support of local communities	Managed by government in collaboration with local communities	Managed by NGOs in collaboration with local communities	Managed by the local communities with the help of government
Decision making	Government sole decision making	Government consultative and cooperative decision making	Government joint decision making	Delegated decision making	Delegated decision making
Level of public participation in management and their decision making power	Low				High



Governance and management framework (Source: Gurung, 2006)



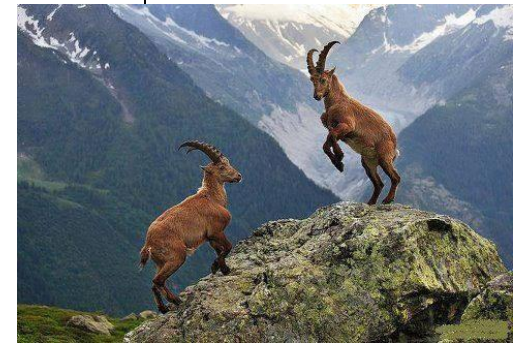
Key achievements

1. Increase in awareness and interests among local communities
2. Improvement in park – people relationship
3. Improvement in the production and distribution of basic forestry products
4. Improvement of vegetation cover and increase in wildlife population
5. Alleviation of financial burden of the government
6. Community empowerment
7. Helping the government to fulfil its international commitment



Challenges and gaps in collaborative conservation in the Himalayan PAs

1. Weak capacity of community institutions
2. Insufficient incomes
3. Unwillingness of the government authorities and NGOs to handover management authorities
4. Difficulty to balance development and conservation activities
5. Elite capture
6. Increasing human – wildlife conflicts
7. Insufficient devolution of authorities
8. Lack of multi-stakeholders approach



Take home messages

- Mixed and diverse governance approaches are more effective than single approach
- Collaborative and integrated management approaches help increase areas under PAs and to achieve conservation objectives
- Roles of government in conservation never end and effective enforcement will remain always vital.
- Community empowerment is key to successful collaborative conservation
 - ***B diversity demands G diversity.***



*Thank you for your
attention*

