

FUTURE HIMALAYAN RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

# Community Conservation: What the USA Can Learn from Nepal

## Presenter



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Physical presence : SIAS Meeting Hall
Virtual presence : https://bit.ly/3WbvEAB
Date: 20th Nov 2026 (Friday)
Time: 3:30 to 5:00 p.m (NPT)

## About Future Himalayan Research Seminars

Future Himalayan Research Seminar Series on Environment and Development is a research sharing platform to present recent and ongoing studies where researchers can meaningfully engage with each other and share knowledge. Not limiting itself to presentation and feedback loop, the seminar is also a platform for researcher to build social and intellectual relationship with contemporaries and experts from diverse array of research tradition within the overarching theme. The research seminar series is a bi-monthly event with open access to everyone interested. The seminar is planned for 1.5 hours, with first 45 minutes for presentation and the later half dedicated to audience engagement through discussion and debate.

## Seminar Overview

Biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate, yet the evidence suggests that conservation works best when local communities are the primary agents of protection. Nepal's community forests, where legal empowerment of local user groups helped double forest cover, and Namibia's communal conservancies, which drove major wildlife recoveries across vast landscapes, are two leading examples.

These lessons, however, are rarely applied in the United States, perhaps because "community conservation" is seldom used as a term there. US conservationists speak instead of collaborative, cooperative, or collective conservation. Are these approaches community conservation? Grassroots watershed associations, volunteer steward networks, and private landowner initiatives all involve community members, but it is unclear whether they share (or should share) the defining feature of Nepal's model: local authority over resource management, backed by legal recognition.

What can Nepal's and Namibia's experience teach the USA about achieving stronger conservation outcomes? And what can the US experience offer Nepal in return? The overall goal is to explore how deeper community engagement can scale long-term biodiversity outcomes across the globe.

## Presenters Profile

Dr. Teri Allendorf is the Executive Director of Community Conservation in Viroqua, Wisconsin, and a fellow at UW-Madison's Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. She is a conservation biologist who has worked on issues of local communities and conservation since 1994. She was a member of USAID's Biodiversity Team, a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal, and has partnered with NGOs and communities on conservation issues in many countries, including Peru, Cameroon, Myanmar, Nepal, and Malaysia. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in journals and taught courses at the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Future Generations University, as well as short courses in India and Namibia. She has also consulted on biodiversity and forestry projects for USAID in Tanzania, Mozambique, Uganda, Nepal, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Guatemala, and Guyana.

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