

# Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in South Asia



CCAs are defined as, “*natural and modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity, ecological services and cultural values- voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples and other local communities through customary laws or other effective means*”.

In the South Asian context these areas are referred to as Community Conserved Areas (CCAs). This is for a number of reasons, including the fact that the term 'indigenous' *vis-a-vis* communities is not officially accepted in many South Asian countries. There are also a number of local communities (not necessarily classified as *indigenous*) heavily dependent on natural resources and actively engaged in conservation.

One year (2008-09) study undertaken to understand  
Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)  
in South Asia

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## Partners

Bangladesh : Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh

India: Kalpavriksh

Nepal: ForestAction, Nepal

Pakistan: Tahir Rasheed and Hameed Ahmed  
and the Sustainable Use Specialist Group-Central Asia  
(SUSGCASIA)

Sri Lanka: Anandalal Nanayakkara

# Key Findings

- Research, Documentation and Mapping
- Creating awareness and integration into larger landscape policies (including PAs)
- Connectivity across the landscape level



- Appropriate Legal and Policy Environment
- Networking of CCAs communities across the region
- External support
- Livelihood security and benefits



Looking at *CCAs* in an  
integrated  
landscape.....

