**Appendix A**. Contribution of Nepal's community forestry (CF) to the targets of sustainable development goals (SDGs) based on policy support, literature support and experts' opinion

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| **Target number** | **SDGs targets** | **Policy support** | **Literature support** | **Expert opinion (in %)** | **Remarks** |
| **Provisions and contents** | **Reference** | **Themes and contents** | **Source** | **Strong** | **Medium** | **Weak** |  |
| GOAL 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere  |  |  |  |  |
| 1.1 | By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day | Investment in pro-poor programs; establishment of pro-poor revolving funds; prioritizing pro-poor people for income generating activities and resource management | FP (11.4.4); FSS (3.2.1B); (FR 39) | Successful implementation of pro-poor activities; income is correlated with pro-poor programs; pro-poor households are benefitted by revolving fund; substantial contribution to reduce national poverty; increase in physical assets of poor and ultra-poor household  | (Kanel 2006a; Pokharel et al. 2007; Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Meilby et al. 2014; Rutt 2015; Paudel 2018) | 80 | 20 | 0 |  |
| 1.2 | By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions  | Increase livelihood assets of poor; mandatory investment (at least 35% of income) for poor and marginalized people; identification and welfare ranking of households to implement priority programs for poor | NRS (4.3.3); CFDPD (2.4, 3.9) | Significantly reduced rural poverty; inseparable part of rural livelihood; serves as a rural bank for poor people; improves livelihood and quality of life of socially excluded groups; constitutes about 17% of household income of forest-based communities | (Pokharel et al. 2007; Thoms 2008; Shrestha et al. 2010; Bhattarai 2011; Paudel 2012; Lund et al. 2014; Birch et al. 2014; Baynes et al. 2015; Oli et al. 2016; Dahal et al. 2017; Adhikari et al. 2018) | 60 | 40 | 0 |  |
| 1.3 | Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable | Social protection (first priority and secured pro-rights) in resource ownership and benefit sharing; capacity building of vulnerable people | FP (11.4.5); CFDPD (5.7) | Promoting social security through exclusive funds and target programs for poor and vulnerable households; poorest households derive more annual income from forests than rich households | (Kanel 2006a; Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Paudel & Weiss 2013; Oli et al. 2016; Dahal et al. 2017; Luintel et al. 2017) | 70 | 30 | 0 |  |
| 1.4 | By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance | Ensured gender equality and social inclusion; equitable benefit sharing; secured use rights of poor and vulnerable | FSS (3.2.1B); CFDPD (2.1) | Delivery of programs ensuring equal participation of people from all sectors in a stratified society; equal participation on control over and decision-making processes; reduced income inequalities; contribution to livelihood capitals of forest dependent people | (Kanel 2006a; Yadav et al. 2015; Niraula & Pokharel 2016; Oli et al. 2016) | 55 | 35 | 10 |  |
| 1.5 | By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters | Capacity building and empowerment or vulnerable groups; focus on target programs to respond to climate change; increase the resiliency of poor for possible shocks and stresses; integrate climate change adaptation in forest management plan | FSS (3.2.3A); CFDPD (2.3, 3.7, 4.7A) | Serve vulnerable groups of people for climate change adaptation; poorer households derive higher benefits to cope with environmental shocks; community forestry user groups (CFUGs) were the first responder of earthquake disaster for people who were in need of food and shelter | (Shyamsundar & Ghate 2014; Niraula & Pokharel 2016; Epstein et al. 2018; Sapkota et al. 2018) | 40 | 50 | 10 |  |
| 1.A | Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions | Support and encourage community funds to mobilize for livelihood promotion and poverty alleviation; resource mobilization framework and pro-poor livelihood plan in-built in constitution of CFUGs; cooperation with development partners | FP (11.4.4); FSS (3.2.1B); CFDPD (3.2, 5.3, 7.6) | Mobilize both human and natural resources in order to implement pro-poor leadership and livelihood upliftment programs; efficient resource mobilization for local development activities; provisioning of carbon financing as a co-benefit to end poverty | (Staddon et al. 2009; Pandit & Bevilacqua 2011; Yadav et al. 2015) | 30 | 60 | 10 |  |
| 1.B | Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions | Prioritization standards for pro-poor programs; ensured representation through gender equality and social inclusion framework; equitable human capital and institutional development; pro-poor enterprises development programs | FP (11.4.5); FSS (3.2.1B), CFDPD (2.4, 5.7, 7.8) | Policy delegates state's power to user groups to secure rights over resources; devolution of resource management authorities; development policies to support rural and marginalized communities; fund mobilization for pro-poor services and infrastructures | (Nirmal et al. 2009; Poudel et al. 2014; Adhikari et al. 2014; Dahal et al. 2017) | 80 | 20 | 0 |  |
| GOAL 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture |  |  |  |  |
| 2.1 | By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round. | Recognize integrated land use to contribute food security in CF | FSS (3.2.1B) | Addresses food security through livelihood assets in rural households; produce wild food and fibre; CFUGs make considerable expenditure on food production; support food security of poor and marginalized people | (Pandey et al. 2016; Dahal et al. 2017; Karki et al. 2018; Paudel 2018; Epstein et al. 2018) | 30 | 70 | 0 |  |
| 2.3 | By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. | Agroforestry promotion; market access for farm and forest products  | FSS (3.2.1B) | Support livelihood diversification and income generation opportunities; enhance farm-forestry linkages; support in vegetable farming, livestock, fisheries and horticulture; strengthen infrastructure for market and value addition of products; provide inputs to increase agriculture productivity | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Thoms 2008; Bhattarai 2011; Paudyal et al. 2017; Adhikari et al. 2018; Karki et al. 2018; Paudel 2018; Sapkota et al. 2018; Khanal & Adhikari 2018) | 30 | 60 | 10 |  |
| 2.4 | By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality. | Address watershed degradation and desertification through community-based approach to maintain ecological integrity and community resilience; provisioning of some cash crops in community forests | FSS (3.2.4E); FR (28) | Successful in restoring land and habitats to maintain healthy ecosystem; contribute remarkably in protection of eroded and degraded land; doubled the mountain productivity; strengthened adaptive capacity to deal with climate change and extreme events in agricultural sectors; provides agricultural implements; investment in sustainable management of the water sources | (Shrestha et al. 2010; Shyamsundar & Ghate 2014; Bhatta et al. 2014; Niraula & Pokharel 2016; Paudyal et al. 2017) | 20 | 35 | 45 |  |
| 2.5 | By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed. | Promotion of genetic diversity management projects; strengthening community-based management in agrobiodiversity; establishment of community-based seed bank and gene bank | NBSAP (5.4.5 AB-A1/A2); CFDPD (4.7, 7.8) | Demonstrated positive impacts in biodiversity conservation and management  | (Khadka & Schmidt-Vogt 2008; Shrestha et al. 2010; Birch et al. 2014) | 10 | 30 | 60 |  |
| 2.A | Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries. | Enabling environment for investment in community development and improvement of public services; development of networks and associations for research and extension | FSS (3.2.1B) | Make adequate investment in rural infrastructure such as irrigation canals, water supply schemes, community buildings, and extension services | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Pandit & Bevilacqua 2011; Rutt 2015; Khanal & Adhikari 2018) | 20 | 50 | 30 |  |
| GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.7 | By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs | - | - | Raise awareness of health, hygiene and sanitation; invest in health posts, medicine andequipment | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Bhattarai 2011) | 0 | 30 | 70 |  |
| 3.9 | By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination. | Prohibition of programs and activities that are harmful to overall environmental integrity | FA (27) | Maintain soil and water quality; increase access to improved water sources; forest restoration has reversed the hazardous situation | (Lund et al. 2014; Birch et al. 2014; Regmi & Saha 2015) | 0 | 70 | 30 |  |
| 3.C | Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, | Provision of insurance mechanism | NRS (4.4.1) | Provide funding for various health care services in the community | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Bhattarai 2011; Dahal et al. 2017) | 0 | 65 | 35 |  |
| GOAL 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all |  |  |  |  |
| 4.1 | By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes | - | - | Invest in scholarships for poor children, teachers’ salaries, school buildings and furniture | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Bhattarai 2011; Chhetri, Lund, et al. 2012; Poudel et al. 2014; Dahal et al. 2017; Adhikari et al. 2018) | 15 | 30 | 55 |  |
| 4.5 | By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations | Trainings to develop a cadre of skilled workers in the forestry sector and gradually replace untrained workers by accredited workers, giving priority to women, poor and socially disadvantaged persons | FSS (3.2.5 B) | Provides skill-based training for adults; provision of scholarships for educational support | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Pokharel 2009; Bhattarai 2011; Lund et al. 2014; Poudel et al. 2014) | 25 | 65 | 10 |  |
| 4.7 | By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development | Reformation in education system for sustainable forest management; human resource development and management for sustainable development and forestry administration  | FP (11.7.10); FSS (3.2.6A); NBSAP (5.5.5 CE-A1) | Enhance capacity for sustainable resource management; make investment to address multi-faceted issues of development, human rights, gender equality and cultural diversity; enhance skills and expertise on accounting and forest management | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Maharjan et al. 2009; Agarwal 2009) | 20 | 50 | 30 |  |
| GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.1 | End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere | Gender and social inclusion | FP (11.7.1) | No discrimination based on gender | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Agarwal 2009) | 25 | 60 | 15 |  |
| 5.5 | Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life | 50% women representation is guaranteed in executive committee of CFUGs; ensured representation of women in other decision-making groups and committees | CFDPD (2.1, 3.5, 3.7) | Women and marginalized people are empowered to form a socially powerful networks; demonstrated inclusive governance including proportionate representation of women; women leadership showed better performance in some CFUGs | (Kanel 2006a; Thoms 2008; Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Dahal & Cao 2017)  | 75 | 25 | 0 |  |
| 5.A | Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws | Gender equality in resource ownership, control over and decision making is ensured; inclusion in village meetings and respect of women's special abilities | CFDPD (2.3, 3.5) | Equity in benefit sharing, and equal right over resources are the successful attributes; contribute to reduce income inequalities | (Paudel 2012; Adhikari et al. 2014; Oli et al. 2016; Dahal et al. 2017) | 60 | 35 | 5 |  |
| 5.C | Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels | Promote gender equity and inclusive development policies; mandatory provision for equal representation of women at all levels; specification of women empowerment programs | FSS (3.2.1B); CFDPD (2.3, 3.7) | Household income and gender are considered as the major criteria for equity in benefit-sharing; gender equality is reflected at all levels of decision-making process | (Agarwal 2009; Lewark et al. 2011; Poudel et al. 2014) | 80 | 20 | 0 |  |
| GOAL 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all  |  |  |  |  |
| 6.1 | By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all | Empower and safeguard use rights for communities to access, manage and use forest goods and services. | FSS (3.2.1 B)  | Make investment in drinking water supplies, water pipes, well and boreholes; provide access to improved water sources | (Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Pandit & Bevilacqua 2011; Lund et al. 2014; Poudel et al. 2014; Paudyal et al. 2017) | 10 | 30 | 60 |  |
| 6.3 | By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated waste water and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally | Obliged to not to make any environmental pollution and degradation | FR (37) | Water quality is maintained; implementation of health and sanitation programs; considerable investment for clean water supply; improve the watershed health due to handing over forests to communities; purify water flows downstream | (Fleming & Fleming 2009; Bhattarai 2011; Birch et al. 2014; Paudyal et al. 2017) | 20 | 60 | 20 |  |
| 6.5 | By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate | Ensured sustainable management of water resources | CFDPD (4.7) | Provide substantial contribution to integrated water resource management; provide investment in improving irrigation facilities | (Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Niraula & Pokharel 2016; Dahal et al. 2017; Khanal & Adhikari 2018) | 10 | 65 | 25 |  |
| 6.6 | By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes | Regulation of mining activities around water sources; soil conservation; provisioning of environmental services through various water related ecosystems | FR (31); CFDPD (4.7) | Managing ecosystems to protect water sources; enhance hydrological characteristics, ground water recharges and low flows; investment in sustainable management of the water source and surrounding forests | (Shrestha et al. 2010; Shyamsundar & Ghate 2014; Paudyal et al. 2015; Paudyal et al. 2017) | 75 | 20 | 5 |  |
| 6.B | Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management | Recognition of communities for integrated land use contributing to watershed health | FSS (3.2.1 B)  | Successful implementation of programs related with water and irrigation facilities by local communities; abate negative environmental consequences | (Lund et al. 2014; Acharya et al. 2015) | 0 | 30 | 70 |  |
| GOAL 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all |  |  |  |  |
| 7.1 | By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services | Provisioning of programs of improved cooking stoves and biogas | CFDPD (4.6) | Investment and/or shared costs for modern and clean energy, such as biogas | (Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Bhattarai 2011; Khanal & Adhikari 2018) | 0 | 70 | 30 |  |
| 7.B | By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries | Support in identifying alternative source of energy, such as solar power and diesel plant | CFDPD (4.6) | Small hydropower and rural electrification are some of the major investment sector from CF | (Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Pandit & Bevilacqua 2011; Chhetri, Lund, et al. 2012; Lund et al. 2014) | 15 | 65 | 20 |  |
| GOAL 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.1 | Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries | Strengthening CF for its potential to contribute to economic growth | FSS (3.2.1B) | Rural economy is dependent on the performance of CF; generating significant amount of forest-based revenue; CFUGs generate significant income at national account; forestry sector contributes 9.45% in gross domestic product where one third forests is managed by communities | (Pokharel 2009; Bhattarai 2011; Rutt 2015; Paudyal et al. 2017) | 35 | 55 | 10 |  |
| 8.2 | Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors | Focus on economic production; facilitation in forest product selling and enterprise development | FR (32); CFDPD (5.4, 5.5) | A vehicle for economic development in many rural communities in Nepal; stands as a source of income and value addition | (Acharya et al. 2015; Joshi et al. 2018) | 25 | 50 | 25 |  |
| 8.3 | Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services | Employment generation through forestry sector; provisioning of forest-based industry establishment; business plan and fund mobilization for enterprises development | FP (11.7.2); NBSAP (5.4.2 FB-F1); FR (32); CFDPD (5.4) | Increase in forest-based enterprises; broad based strategies for enterprises development is adopted; creates employment opportunities in forest management and harvesting; enhance resource mobilization through forest-based enterprise | (Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Paudel & Weiss 2013; Poudel et al. 2014; Pandey et al. 2017; Khanal & Adhikari 2018) | 30 | 45 | 25 |  |
| 8.5 | By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value | Enabling environment for forest-based employment creation; diversify employment opportunities for forest dependent poor | FP (11.7.2); NRS (4.3.3) | Stepping towards self-sustainability in production which leads to productive employment; more than a million people in Nepal is engaged in CF through the green jobs | (Bhattarai 2011; Paudyal et al. 2017; Joshi et al. 2018) | 15 | 30 | 55 |  |
| 8.6 | By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training | Organizing training for various people and groups to engage in forest and biodiversity conservation activities | NBSAP (5.5.5 CE-A2) | Successful in developing competent human resources; employ labor in the construction of roads, trails and other rural infrastructures; two third of management cost of CF is borne by employment of local labors | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Shrestha et al. 2010; Bhattarai 2011) | 20 | 35 | 45 |  |
| 8.8 | Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment | Assurance of professional security, life insurance of workers and other compensations; enhance the safety and security of forestry workers as per the existing labor laws | FP (11.7.12); NRS (4.4.1) | Provides fund to cure forest labors if get injured; design fire lines and owns fire-fighting devices to create secure working environment  | (Kandel 2007; Bhattarai 2011) | 10 | 60 | 30 |  |
| 8.9 | By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products | Promotion of ecotourism activities for cultural promotion and local economic development; development of participatory models of ecotourism | FSS (3.2.1B); FA (30B, 31); CFDPD (5.5) | Implementation of nature-based tourism programs; promoting sustainable tourism, recreational spot, eco-clubs and landscape beauty | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Bhattarai 2011; Birch et al. 2014; Paudyal et al. 2017; Adhikari et al. 2018)  | 55 | 35 | 10 |  |
| 8.10 | Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all | Establishment of appropriate financing mechanism to fund forestry development; strengthening the financial capacity of communities | FP (11.4); FSS (2.4)  | Moving towards financial sustainability and support for local development; forestry funds are the core features of CF; CFUGs are working as village banks and financial institutions | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Pokharel et al. 2007; Shyamsundar & Ghate 2014) | 20 | 45 | 35 |  |
| GOAL 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation  |  |  |  |  |
| 9.1 |  Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all | Provisioning of fund mobilization for local infrastructure development | FA (30A) | Investment in public services and infrastructure accounts about 40-50% of the total cash income of CFUGs; provides substantial fund for infrastructure development  | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Maharjan et al. 2009; Bhattarai 2011; Chhetri, Lund, et al. 2012; Lund et al. 2014; Paudyal et al. 2017) | 65 | 35 | 0 |  |
| 9.2 | Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry’s share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries | Simplification and enabling environment for industrialization based on forest resources; partnership and networking for forest based industrial development | FP (11.5E); CFDPD (5.5) | Support locally-induced entrepreneurship development; supplying raw materials for small-scale forest-based enterprises | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Paudel 2012; Paudyal et al. 2017) | 15 | 65 | 20 |  |
| 9.3 | Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets | Provisioning of a financial support system for small scale enterprises  | FSS (3.2.1B) | Increased access of soft loans and finance; increase fund mobilization through micro-credit for small scale industrial development | (Kanel 2006a; Pokharel et al. 2006; Thoms 2008; Pokharel 2009; Paudel 2018) | 40 | 60 | 0 |  |
| 9.B | Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities | Respect community based indigenous knowledge; upgrading of domestic technologies; site-specific industrial development by analyzing resource availability | FP (11.4.7); FSS (3.2.1B); NRS (4.4.5); CFDPD (4.6) | Aligned with domestic and traditional approaches to resource management; promoted small-scale forest-based industrial diversification  | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Dahal & Cao 2017) | 30 | 65 | 5 |  |
| GOAL 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.1 | By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average | Facilitation in increased access for poor and marginalized people to natural resources; promotes pro-poor development programs | FP (11.4B); CFDPD (2.4) | Significant contribution to national economic growth through reducing rural poverty; promotion of economic and social equity | (Chhetri, Larsen, et al. 2012; Adhikari et al. 2014) | 10 | 55 | 35 |  |
| 10.2 | By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status | Equity in benefit sharing; inclusive development through forestry sector; capacity building and empowerment of marginalized people | FP (10.4); FSS (3.2.1B); CFDPD (2.3) | Promotes inclusive and equitable benefit sharing; equalizing effects on income distribution; increase positive discrimination for pro-poor and socially excluded groups; provide adequate space for poor, women and disadvantaged group to actively participate in decision making | (Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Lund et al. 2014; Rutt 2015; Dahal & Cao 2017; Luintel et al. 2017) | 45 | 40 | 15 |  |
| 10.3 | Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard | Ensured gender equality and social inclusion; proportional representation of all group of people in the communities | FSS (3.2.1B); CFDPD (2.1) | Bears no discrimination regarding the political parties, and people get ownership through equal opportunities | (Lewark et al. 2011; Rutt 2015) | 55 | 35 | 10 |  |
| 10.4 | Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality | Target program policies for poor women and marginalized people | CFDPD (3.7) | Provides democracy refugee to the citizens confronted by political discrimination; formation of socially powerful networks to achieve equality; promotion of redistributive policy through CF | (Thoms 2008; Nirmal et al. 2009; Rutt 2015) | 25 | 65 | 10 |  |
| GOAL 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable  |  |  |  |  |
| 11.1 | By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums | Coordination and partnership for community development; investment in basic public services and programs | FP (11.4.6); FA (45); CFDPD (7.8) | Almost half of the income is expensed on basic services and public infrastructure and rural development; support various life-sustaining services; provide construction materials for houses, huts, and shades | (Kanel 2006b; Pokharel et al. 2006; Maharjan et al. 2009; Lund et al. 2014; Paudyal et al. 2017; Epstein et al. 2018) | 30 | 70 | 0 |  |
| 11.4 | Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage | Respect spiritual and cultural values of heritage site; encouragement for the protection of cultural and natural heritage | FSS (3.2.1B); NBSAP (5.5.10 TK-A5) | Enhances cultural services and protection of sites that has religious and cultural values  | (Bhattarai 2011; Paudyal et al. 2017) | 30 | 70 | 0 |  |
| GOAL 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns  |  |  |  |  |
| 12.2 | By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources | Mandatory guideline to invest for sustainable forest and natural resource management | FA (30A); CFDPD (5.4) | Empower communities to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner; ensure sustainable forest management through operational plan of the community forests | (Kanel 2006a; Poudel et al. 2014; Pokharel et al. 2015)  | 55 | 35 | 10 |  |
| 12.8 | By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature | Extension and use of information technology to aware people for sustainable management and development; promotion of nature-based tourism | FSS (3.2.1B); NBSAP (5.5.13 CEO-A5); FA (30B) | Development of human resources which are informed and capable of sustainable resource management; create awareness to people for living with nature | (Shrestha et al. 2010; Bhattarai 2011) | 0 | 20 | 80 |  |
| GOAL 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts  |  |  |  |  |
| 13.1 | Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries | Preparation of climate change adaptation plan; support activities in building climate resilient communities | FSS (3.2.1B); CFDPD (4.7A) | Local communities possess better adaptive management to their unique natural and climatic condition; adapting to water stresses and participatory fire management; climate resilient practices; implemente ecosystem-based adaptation; constructed buffer structure to minimize the impacts of disasters | (Adhikari et al. 2007; Paudyal et al. 2015; Niraula & Pokharel 2016; Paudyal et al. 2017; Adhikari et al. 2018; Sapkota et al. 2018) | 25 | 60 | 15 |  |
| 13.2 | Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning | Management plans are aligned with climate change adaptation measures; provisioning of ecosystem services; development of emission reduction strategies; climate smart planning by CFUGs | FP (11.6.2); NBSAP (5.5.8 CC-B3); CFDPD (4.7, 7.8) | Emission reduction is an important objective of forest management; established as an institutional vehicle to deal with multiple forest and climate change measures; potential to offset carbon emission | (Staddon et al. 2009; Poudel et al. 2014; Baynes et al. 2015; Negi et al. 2018) | 60 | 30 | 10 |  |
| 13.3 | Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning | Promotion of indigenous technologies and knowledge to deal with climate change; empowerment and development of human and institutional capacity at the local level | FP (11.6.2); FSS (3.2.3A); CFDPD (2.3, 4.7) | Influential in creating awareness on climate change issues; prepared adaptation plan by rural communities themselves; implemented landscape restoration models by the communities | (Poudel et al. 2014; Paudyal et al. 2017; Adhikari et al. 2018) | 20 | 70 | 10 |  |
| 13.B | Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities | Enabling CFUGs for promoting climate proofing forests; climate integration in management plans; empowering communities for community-based adaptation plans  | FSS (3.2.3A); NRS (4.4.2); CFDPD (4.7A) | Possess cooperative solutions to deal with climate related problems; institutional capacity to contribute to both climate change mitigation and adaptation; decentralized institutional framework for climate related planning and management | (Adhikari et al. 2007; Pandey et al. 2016; Pandey et al. 2017; Sapkota et al. 2018) | 15 | 65 | 20 |  |
| GOAL 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development  |  |  |  |  |
| 14.1 | By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution | Enable institutional partnership for river basin planning, vertical landscape restoration and upstream downstream linkages; conservation of critical landscape | FSS (3.2.4A); NBSAP (5.5.6 LM-B2); | Reduce soil erosion, landslide and floods; sediment control in low lying areas; water retention; improves water quality and purity water downstream; ensure landscape sustainability; global climate regulation and broader ecosystem services | (Paudyal et al. 2015; Niraula & Pokharel 2016; Paudyal et al. 2017; Adhikari et al. 2018)  | 0 | 25 | 75 |  |
| GOAL 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss  |
| 15.1 | By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements | Designed to reflect ecosystem and economic performance; visioning sustainable management ecosystem and watersheds; working plan should consider the pillars of sustainable management and development | FP (11.4); FSS (2.1); FA (25); CFDPD (4.6) | Increase forest cover and improve ecosystem performance; propensity to multi-scalar field of practice for sustainable development; shown a good conservation success of ecosystem management | (Kanel 2006a; Kanel 2006b; Kandel 2007; Thoms 2008; Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Ojha 2014; Dahal & Cao 2017; Adhikari et al. 2018) | 80 | 20 | 0 |  |
| 15.2 | By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally | Ensured sustainable management in CF; obligation to prepare management plans, following the minimum standards of sustainable management; resource mapping and analysis for planning; management plan for minor forest products management | FP (11.1, 11.4); FSS (3.2.1A); NBSAP (5.4.2 FB-A4); NRS (4.4.1); FA (25); FR (28); CFDPD (4.6, 5.4) | Bear promising evidence of sustainable management; successful in creating new forests and halting deforestation rates; implementation of silviculture-based practices; restoration of landscape greenery | (Adhikari et al. 2007; Thoms 2008; Yadav et al. 2015; Pokharel et al. 2015; Baynes et al. 2015; Niraula & Pokharel 2016; Poudyal & Sapkota 2017) | 70 | 25 | 5 |  |
| 15.3 | By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world | Nursery establishment and plantation in open and barren lands; focus on reclamation of degraded lands | FSS (3.2.1B); NBSAP (5.4.2 FB-F2); FR (28) | Successful in greening denuded hills and reverse forest degradation allowing multiple ecosystem services; management and utilization of barren lands | (Shrestha & McManus 2008; Khadka & Schmidt-Vogt 2008; Nirmal et al. 2009; Paudyal et al. 2017; Adhikari et al. 2018; Baral et al. 2018) | 85 | 15 | 0 |  |
| 15.4 | By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development | Improve management practices; sustainable forest management for generating ecosystem services and economic development in mid-hills of Nepal | FSS (3.2.1B); NRS (4.4.1) | Improvement in overall biophysical environment; promising in conservation and management of mountain ecosystems  | (Shrestha et al. 2010; Pokharel et al. 2015; Pokharel & Tiwari 2018) | 80 | 20 | 0 |  |
| 15.5 | Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species | Promotion of landscape restoration and biodiversity conservation planning; community involvement in biodiversity conservation and management; obligation of biodiversity chapter in management plans; biological corridor among community forests; strengthen fire control capabilities | FP (11.2.14); NBSAP (5.4.2 FB-C1, 5.4.2 FB-D1); NRS (4.4.1); CFDPD (4.7) | Instrumental in conserving forests and natural habitats; substantially restored degraded lands; increased plant diversity; huge investment in plantation and fire control; restoration of wildlife habitats  | (Khadka & Schmidt-Vogt 2008; Shrestha et al. 2010; Niraula & Pokharel 2016; Dahal et al. 2017; Dahal & Cao 2017; Pandey et al. 2017; Khanal & Adhikari 2018) | 75 | 25 | 0 |  |
| 15.6 | Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed | Promote access to resources, and equitable benefit sharing to marginalized people | FP (11.4.5); NBSAP (5.5.1 PL-B2); NRS (4.4.5) | Practice of equity in benefit sharing arising from the use of forest resources and biodiversity | (Dahal et al. 2017; Luintel et al. 2017) | 50 | 25 | 25 |  |
| 15.7 | Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products | Decentralization and networking to control wildlife poaching and illegal trade; restriction of illegal hunting  | FSS (3.2.2D); FR (31) | Become effective in patrolling forests as regular work on a rotational basis  | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Lewark et al. 2011) | 30 | 55 | 15 |  |
| 15.8 | By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species | Development and implementation of programs to control invasive alien species through local communities | NBSAP (5.5.7 IAS-B2) | Regular implementation of cleaning and weeding programs in community forests | (Acharya et al. 2006; Shrestha et al. 2010) | 20 | 65 | 15 |  |
| 15.9 | By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts | Biodiversity values and ecosystem services are in-built in operational plan and planning | FSS (3.2.1B) | Integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in management plan and its' duly implementation; due prioritization of activities for ecological sustainability | (Acharya et al. 2006; Shrestha et al. 2010; Baral et al. 2018) | 75 | 20 | 5 |  |
| 15.A | Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems | Mandatory provision to mobilize financial resources for forest and biodiversity; promotion of payment for ecosystem services as a sustainable financing mechanism | FSS (3.2.1B); NBSAP (5.5.14 FG-C2); FA (30A) | Successful in mobilizing resources for biodiversity conservation; carbon financing is expected to increase the financial resources by ten folds | (Staddon et al. 2009; Shrestha et al. 2010; Acharya et al. 2015) | 80 | 20 | 0 |  |
| 15.B | Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation | Prioritize sectors for fund mobilization; improve access to carbon benefits; transparent and just mobilization of financial resources when investing in forest management and community development | FP (11.4.4); FSS (3.2.3B); CFDPD (3.9) | Invested at least 25% of total income in forest management; involvement in REDD+ program would support funds for sustainable forest management  | (Staddon et al. 2009; Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Dahal et al. 2017) | 50 | 30 | 20 |  |
| GOAL 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels |
| 16.3 | Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all | Strengthening forest governance; duly implementation of laws; punishment for action against operational plan; aligned with judiciary process when necessary | FP (11.4D); NRS (4.4.10); FA (27) | Inclusive process in decision making; delivering good governance; proper law enforcement which is better than district level; CFUGs' constitution provides as the basis for taking legal actions | (Chhetri, Larsen, et al. 2012; Nightingale & Sharma 2014; Rutt 2015; Dahal & Cao 2017; Joshi et al. 2018) | 70 | 20 | 10 |  |
| 16.4 | By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime | Proper control of forest and wildlife crime | FP (11.7.13) | Protect forest from illegal exploitation and crime; impose sanctions | (Shyamsundar & Ghate 2014; Dahal & Cao 2017; Paudyal et al. 2017) | 30 | 60 | 10 |  |
| 16.5 | Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms | Provision of duly auditing and reporting; public hearing and public auditing; transparency in fund mobilization; regulating mechanism for financial management | NBSAP (5.4.1 PA-A4); NRS (4.4.10); FR (36); CFDPD (5.2) | Unique reflection of public, transparent system of governance; reduced bribery rates in CF | (Bhattarai 2011; Nightingale & Sharma 2014) | 25 | 60 | 15 |  |
| 16.6 | Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels | Transparent and equitable benefit sharing; effective monitoring system; regularities and duly accounting; self-monitoring and evaluation; accountable and transparent decision making; democratic process in institutional development | FP (11.4.8); FSS (3.2.1A); CFDPD (3.9, 5.2, 5.9, 6.2) | Audit system is influential in improving transparency and decision-making; corruption and embezzlement is very rare; improving institutional culture in resource governance; increase good level of participation and information flow; act as local enablers to partnership; strong institutional at all level, including federation of CFUGs | (Maharjan et al. 2009; Bhattarai 2011; Pandit & Bevilacqua 2011; Chhetri, Lund, et al. 2012) | 65 | 25 | 10 |  |
| 16.7 | Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels | Promotes and strengthen good governance; inclusive representation in decision making; setting of indicators for good governance | FP (11.4D); NBSAP (5.4.1 PA-A4); CFDPD (3.3, 5.2) | Empowered communities for inclusive governance; managing resources responsibly; institutionalized democratic practices; justifiable inclusion of women and minorities in executive committee; establish firmed network and association to safeguard users' right; maintain the social relationship | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Pokharel et al. 2007; Shrestha & McManus 2008; Poudel et al. 2014; Pandey et al. 2017; Negi et al. 2018) | 70 | 25 | 5 |  |
| 16.10 | Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements | Enhance democracy for good governance and public welfare; ensured public access to updated information | FP (11.4.9, 11.4.10) | Promoted human rights and local democracy; enhance capacity and institutional development; public hearing; networking and coordination | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Pokharel et al. 2007; Rutt 2015; Dahal & Cao 2017; Khanal & Adhikari 2018) | 30 | 55 | 15 |  |
| 16.A | Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime | Due provision of wildlife crime control and punishment | NBSAP (5.5.2 IS-A4); FA (49) | Established effective crime monitoring at local level; dispute settling and conflict management; formed social and human capitals for development | (Pokharel et al. 2006; Pokharel et al. 2007; Chapagain & Banjade 2009; Chhetri, Larsen, et al. 2012; Nightingale & Sharma 2014; Niraula & Pokharel 2016) | 30 | 55 | 15 |  |
| 16.B | Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development | Address gaps and inequalities in national policies | NBSAP (5.5.9 GSI-C3) | Respect diversity and inclusive democracy; each member (disregarding political affiliations, financial assets, religious and gender differences) possesses equal right over resources | (Pokharel et al. 2007; Chapagain & Banjade 2009) | 65 | 25 | 10 |  |
| GOAL 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development |
| 17.1 | Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection | Intensive management of forests for commercialization and sales, and fund generation to support rural economy | FSS (3.2.1B); CFDPD (7.7) | Mobilized resources for financing public services; entitled to pay tax to government in some timber species | (Staddon et al. 2009; Rutt 2015) | 30 | 50 | 20 |  |
| 17.8 | Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology | Renovation of CF based on research and study, and technology upgrading; provisioning of technical support; management plans for strengthening technologies | FP (11.4.11); FA (69); (NRS 4.4.1) | Provide training and empower local resource persons; introduced pro-poor innovations | (Nirmal et al. 2009; Lewark et al. 2011) | 20 | 65 | 15 |  |
| 17.11 | Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries’ share of global exports by 2020 | Simplification of permit system for harvesting and sales of forest products outside community and country | FSS (3.2.1B)  | Minor forest products are exported to various national and international markets, through certification | (Lewark et al. 2011; Paudel & Weiss 2013; Shyamsundar & Ghate 2014) | 15 | 30 | 55 |  |
| 17.14 | Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development | Forest management programs and practices should satisfy sustainability requirement; commitment for national policy coherence to satisfy international development obligations  | FP (10.4, 11.7.20) | Policy is based on decentralized and sustainability concept; increasingly adopting forest certification mechanisms to comply with sustainable development | (Kandel 2007; Acharya et al. 2015; Dahal & Cao 2017; Pokharel & Tiwari 2018) | 60 | 25 | 15 |  |
| 17.15 | Respect each country’s policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development | Reflect the national pride of achievement in CF regime to global communities | FSS (3.2.1B) | Nepal is becoming a leader in CF and has the capacity to influence local as well as regional regime politics for conservation and development | (Ojha 2014; Paudyal et al. 2017) | 55 | 35 | 10 |  |
| 17.17 | Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships | Enhanced partnership between community and local government; public-private-community partnership for enterprise development | FP (11.4.6); CFDPD (5.5) | Establish partnership with private sector is growing in the field of forest management, harvesting, sales and value addition | (Pokharel et al. 2007; Acharya et al. 2015) | 15 | 50 | 35 |  |
| 17.19 | By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries | Use of indigenous knowledge and practice on management and administration of CF; institutional development for performance monitoring; identify community-based monitoring indicators  | FP (11.4.7); NRS (4.4.10, 4.4.12) | Builds on existing knowledge to achieve sustainability outcomes, such as periodic well-being ranking; annual monitoring reports  | (Pandit & Bevilacqua 2011; Dahal et al. 2017; Dahal & Cao 2017) | 20 | 60 | 20 |  |

Note: - FP: Forest Policy 2015, FSS: Forestry Sector Strategy 2016-2025, NBSAP: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020, NRS: National REDD+ strategy 2018-2022, FA: Forest Act 1993, FR: Forest Regulation 1995, and CFDPD: Community Forestry Development Program Directives 2014. The numbers and/or characters in the bracket of policy references denote article or chapter or section or sub-section of the respective policy documents.

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