Call for Membership for a Community of Practice (CoP) on Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

Kathmandu University School of Management (KU SOM) Policy Lab
Balkumari, Lalitpur, Nepal

1. Background

The KU SOM Policy Lab (Policy Lab) is an Academic Think Tank within the Kathmandu University School of Management, dedicated to addressing public policy challenges in Nepal. It brings together experts, a specialist team, and university students in a creative space to analyze complex policies, evaluate them, and recommend reforms that serve the general public. At the Policy Lab, programs are designed to ensure that policy scholars and practitioners have the opportunity to tackle socially relevant and topical issues, understand stakeholder interests, and develop concrete solutions using a policy design approach grounded in real-world contexts. Throughout the process, the Lab uncovers a wide range of policy issues with a focus on diverse segments of the community at the center of public debate, dialogue, and discourse. Binding these ideas, the KU SOM Policy Lab is establishing a multi-sectoral Community of Practice (CoP) on Nature-based Solutions, not limited to farms, forests, or water sources. The COP at the national level is a platform that brings together research institutes, universities, practitioners, policymakers, researchers, private sector representatives, and civil society actors to exchange knowledge, inform policy, and strengthen collaborative action to produce synergy on Nature-based Solutions. As part of this effort, the COP plans a series of meetings, discussions, and panel discussions to deepen dialogue among members and generate actionable insights every quarter in collaboration with Lutheran World Relief (LWR) under Promoting Nature-based Solutions for Mitigating Wildfire Risks to Restore Farm-Forest-Water Nexus Through Locally Led Approaches in Nepal (PunarUtthan Program).

2. Objectives

- To build a diverse, cross-sectoral community of individuals and organizations engaged in or interested in Nature-based Solutions
- To create a platform for regular dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and collaborative problem-solving through meetings and panel discussions to produce knowledge and documentation
- To inform policy and practice on Nature-based Solutions through the collective expertise of the community, including mitigating wildfire risk.

3. Salient Features of the Community

The COP convenes periodically through:

- Meetings for coordination, updates, and planning for innovative ideas
- Smaller and focused discussions on specific themes
- Panel discussions featuring expert speakers on selected Nature-based Solutions topics
- Conduct online/virtual meetings of CoP where/when it is needed.

4. Who Can Be Members

The KU SOM Policy Lab invites applications from organizations working on or interested in Nature-based Solutions, including but not limited to:

- Government stakeholders/policymakers
- Research institutions
- National and international universities
- Private sectors/business firms
- Civil society and community-based organizations

5. Roles and Responsibilities of Members

- Participate in meetings, discussions, and panel sessions and disseminate learnings
- Contribute knowledge, experience, and perspectives relevant to Nature-based Solutions
- Support dissemination of community outputs within their respective networks when/where possible
- Adhere to the community's shared values of openness, collaboration, and mutual respect

6. Selection Process

- Interested organizations submit a Letter of Interest (LoI)
- Applications are reviewed by the KU SOM Policy Lab
- Selected members will be notified and onboarded into the community.

7. Duration of Membership

Membership remains valid initially for 3 years, subject to annual review.

8. How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit their applications via the following links by December 04, 2026:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_dMex6g2vnit1HJ0MJ-glnLjUE478SinIwewrmuCsM0/edit

Associate Professor Arjun Kumar Shrestha, PhD
Acting Dean
Kathmandu University School of Management, Balkumari, Lalitpur