

STATEMENT OF PROPOSE FOR NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS IN FORESTRY.

It is a nature of human mind that hunger of knowledge always increases as his get knowledge piled up. While going through different phages of life, human mind gets developed and seeks opportunities to amass knowledge about surrounding he is living; try to explore as much as he can. This appetite of knowledge ultimately drove me towards the field of Natural Resource Economics in Forestry from Agriculture Science.

I was always fascinated by plants, animals and other biological entities around; like to spend time observing nature during my childhood and teen. Driven by keen interest to understand the natural processes and explore more about it, I joined Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, after completion of higher secondary level in biological science, to get involved into it. In institute during my undergraduate, I got lot of chances to understand biological phenomenons, plant physiology, host pathogen inter-relationship, role of agriculturist in plant protection etc. Because of these activities perfectly matching my interest, I came to the conclusion that opting agriculture science as my academic subject and career is the best decision that I made in my life.

During my third semester as an undergraduate, I studied "Environmental Science and Agro-Ecology" which augmented my understanding of the food chain and food-web inter-relationship occurring in nature along with the inter-relationship between agriculture and forest which was further triggered by subjects that provide advance knowledge related to environment economics, environmental sciences, biodiversity etc. These subjects became crucial to understand some basic aspects of natural resources management in Forestry. Further, I found that forests are gene-bank for livestock/crops improvement as well as primary source of wild varieties and landraces of improved and hybridized livestock/crops which are commercially cultivated now-a-days. Besides, my intense hunger of knowledge to understand inter-relationship of agriculture and forestry helped me to get involved into it searching different research articles; going through them to gratify my hunger, my attraction towards forestry increased day by day.

While going through research articles, some facts and figures about forest and biodiversity of Nepal further attracted me towards forestry. According to The Status of Nepal Mammals: The National Red List Series 2011 published by Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal out of 208 mammal species of Nepal, Pygmy Hog (*Porcula salvania*) is regionally extinct, 23% are considered as nationally threatened with extinction, 4% are considered as critically endangered, 12% are endangered and 7% are considered as vulnerable and 3% are considered near threatened. Mammals like Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*), Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*), Greater Evening Bat (*La io*), Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Indian Chevrotain (*Moschoila indica*), Gangas River Dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*), Tibetan Gazelle (*Procapra picticaudata*) etc. are considered as critically endangered whereas Red Panda (*Aliurus fulgens*), Greater One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Bengal Tiger

(*Panthera tigris tigris*), Asian Elephants (*Elephas maximus*), Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*) etc. are listed as endangered.

Also floras like Serpentine (*Rauvolfia serpentina*) is considered as critically endangered; Cycas (*Cycas pectinala*), Podocarpus Mountheak (*Podocarpus narnifolia*), Mangolia (*Tahauma hodgsonii*), Gnetum (*Gnetum montanum*), Himalayan Yew, Dioscorea, Cyush-cush Yam (*Dioscorea deltoidea*), Indian Kino Tree (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Orchids etc. are considered as endangered and May Apple (*Podophyllum hewandrum*) as vulnerable and are listed in the Endangered Species Protection Act of Nepal Government, Red List of IUCN and CITIES.

Due to poaching and illegal trade, reduction in prey base, deforestation, habitat losses and degradation, human-wildlife conflict, disease transmission, poor conservation awareness, weak law enforcement and various other reasons these floras and faunas are being rarefied in our forests. Beside that climate change and change in weather pattern forced those species towards the process of extinction making surrounding unfavorable. Every year rise in temperature has shifted biodiversity northward. Species that are found in lower belt of Nepal are shifting upwards and they are no more found in same location as previous. Flowers like Rhododendron, national flower of Nepal, start flowering prior to their appropriate flowering season. Similarly, forest lands are converting into barren land becoming vulnerable to flood and landslides. Not mentioned here, many species of animals, birds, insects and plants are vulnerable and will be under the threat of extinction if proper attention is not given and appropriate policies are not developed to protect them in time. If these vulnerable and endangered species get extinct within few years or decades, Nepal has to lose huge biodiversity facing ecological disturbance as well as massive source of national income resulting reduction in national GDP.

Due to these facts and figures, I realized that heavy research related to their niche, habitat and territory, feeding habit, life cycle, protection policies etc. should be conducted to protect those endangered species. Due to this catastrophic situation of wild species in Nepal, I decided to choose Natural Resource Economics in Forestry in MS and as my future career. After completion of my MS degree in above subject from your university, I believe that I can work in favor of those species; conduct various researches and contribute lot towards conservation of those species particularly in my country.

Going through website of University of Tennessee- Knoxville, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Institute of Agriculture, Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, I found Assistant Prof. Neelam Chandra Poudel, conducting research in Natural Resource Policy and Economics focusing in wildlife aspect of natural resource which I believe to suit best with my field of interest.

I believe your prestigious university will be best platform for me to gain knowledge and understand further with the help of advanced research tools and technologies, infrastructures and facilities. It is my pleasure to be part of your university and conduct research under assistantship.

Also, I ensure that I will be valuable asset for your university. If I get opportunity to be admitted in your university, I will be following rules and regulations, norms and values contributing my best towards the welfare of university with my knowledge and experiences that I gained till the date.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bijesh Mishra', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

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