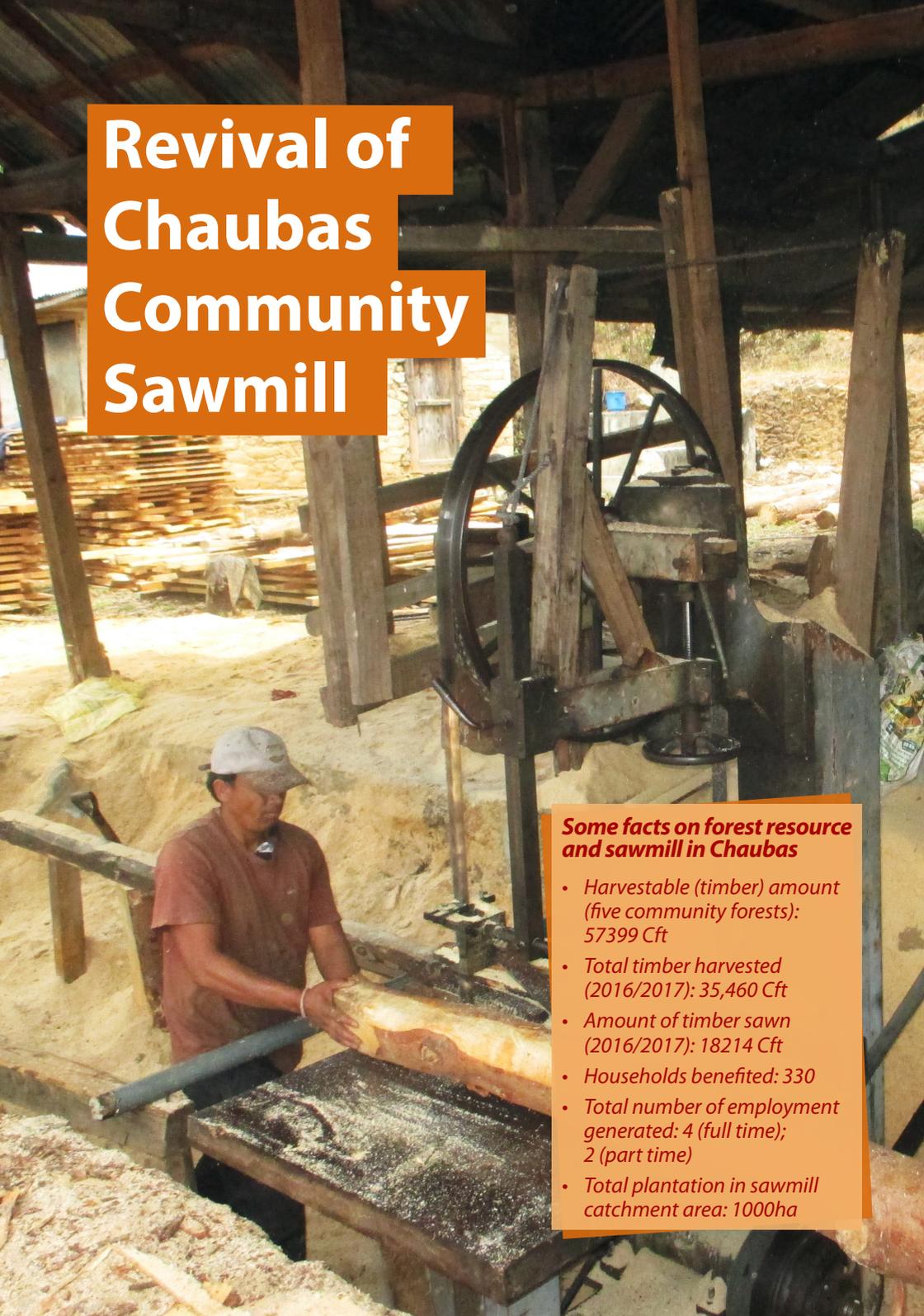


Revival of Chaubas Community Sawmill



Some facts on forest resource and sawmill in Chaubas

- *Harvestable (timber) amount (five community forests): 57399 Cft*
- *Total timber harvested (2016/2017): 35,460 Cft*
- *Amount of timber sawn (2016/2017): 18214 Cft*
- *Households benefited: 330*
- *Total number of employment generated: 4 (full time); 2 (part time)*
- *Total plantation in sawmill catchment area: 1000ha*

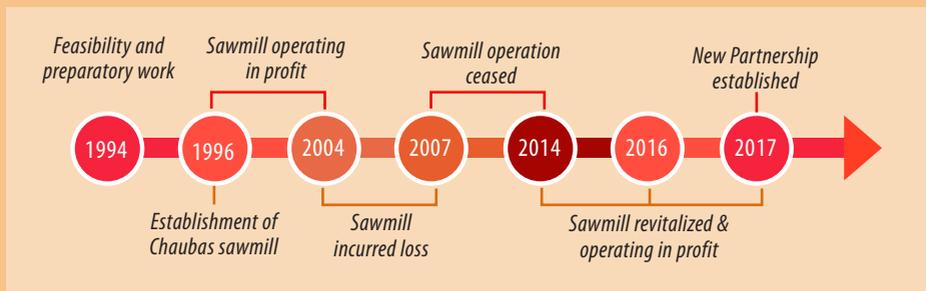
The **Chaubas Bhumlu Community Sawmill**, established in 1995 in Kavre district, is situated in the centre of a dense pine plantation forest. Chaubas sawmill was supported by the Nepal-Australian Forestry Project. The sawmill experienced gradual financial loss and ceased its operation completely in 2012. The mill was a symbolic identity of community initiative of green economy and carried a strong Australian legacy in Nepal. The EnLiFT project adopted a participatory action research approach that brought it back to full operation in 2014. This note provides key actions, outputs and lessons learnt from Chaubas sawmill.



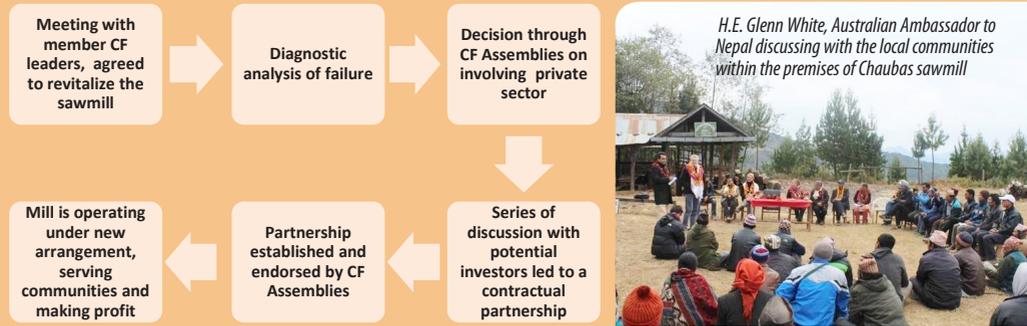
Why did the saw mill cease?

The Chaubas Bhumlu sawmill ceased to operate completely in 2012. The closure of the mill is attributed to couple of reasons listed below.

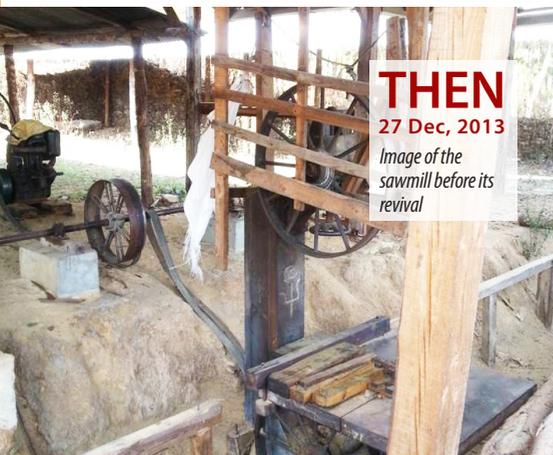
- Internal governance problem of the community forest user groups (CFUGs)
- Maoist insurgency and associated extortion
- Government policy not supportive for community-based enterprise
- Collective decision making process was not fit for the institution
- Corruption and embezzlement of financial resources



Key steps adopted for sawmill revival



Key steps	Rationale
Meeting with four Community forests	Develop better understanding of the sawmill context and local expectations and identify potential areas for intervention
Diagnostic analysis of failure	Dig out the reasons for failure of sawmill, sketch the strengths and weaknesses of previous institutional options
Presentation and discussion with CFUGs	Share the findings of the diagnostic analysis, seek views of CFUG members on the type of partnership modality, build consensus among all members on engaging private actors as share holders
Agreement on partnership modality	Agree on the partnership modality, finalize the shareholding between community and private
Presentation and endorsement at the general assemblies	Endorsing through the highest authority, build ownership and ensure compliance during the sawmill operation
Potential investors invited	Ensure transparency on investment, increase the scope for potential investors to invest in sawmill
Partnership re-negotiated and established	Possible alternative investment modality explored, flexible options to increase the chances of investment



THEN
27 Dec, 2013
Image of the sawmill before its revival



NOW
26 Nov, 2016
People actively involved in carrying sawing and transporting logs

Outcomes

- Once ceased sawmill is now operating with profit. The profit is invested in improving the machinery and equipment.
- About 330 households in four CFUGs in Chaubas benefited with sawn timber for post-earthquake reconstruction.
- Four full time and two part time employment generated.
- Community-private partnership has been established as a viable institutional arrangement. It can be a model in CF enterprises in Nepal where many solely community led enterprises have failed.

Peoples' voices

This sawmill has come as a blessing for us, especially for the earthquake victims, to rebuild our houses. Without its presence here in Chaubas, re-construction would have taken forever,

- A local woman and earthquake victim of Chaubas

This sawmill had been struggling to operate even after a long time since its establishment. This new partnership modality might be a breakthrough which can revive an already dead institution,

- Chaubas Sawmill Manager

Chaubas sawmill was in a dire need of intervention to break the deadlock. The support from EnLiFT project has really been instrumental in bringing this dead sawmill to life. Not only has this sawmill been brought to life, it has re-created opportunities for the people of Chaubas.

- Newly elected chair of Bhumlau Rural Municipality

Timber in our forests was growing old and useless after the cessation of this sawmill. Its revival has given us the opportunity to utilize our resources. Now it seems like we really have a purpose to manage our forest.

- Chair of Chapanigadhi Community Forest, Chaubas



Director General of DoF, Mr Resham Dangi along with forest officials and other stakeholders in an interaction during Chaubas visit on Feb 19, 2016



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