

**Chaudhary, Sunita**<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Macquarie University, Australia

**Paristhiki sewa:  
A critical analysis of ecosystem services discourse in Nepal**

**Keywords:** ecosystem services discourse, Nepal, challenges, opportunities, nature-human relationship

**Abstract:**

'Ecosystem services' (ES), directing attention to human's dependence on ecosystems processes and its services, is rapidly gaining momentum in science, policy and practice. Diverse organisations from global to local are adopting the concept to halt ecosystem degradation for human and non-human development. Despite significant advancement, the ecosystem services discourse is criticized for its western-centric focus. Very few studies have been conducted so far to understand the advancement of ecosystem services discourse and its implications on environmental management in developing countries, showing considerable research needs. Identifying how the discourse is unfolding at national scale is important as the relationship between human and non-human societies is largely assumed to be intricate in the developing nations, especially the contributions of provisioning services to poverty reduction. This article, therefore, aims to track the advancement of ecosystem services discourse at national scale by assessing the explicit and implicit adoption of 'ecosystem services' concept in policy and practices, and analyse its implications in shaping and reshaping the human-nature relations in Nepal. In-depth interviews with the decision-makers, practitioners and scientists and a detailed content analysis of the policy documents and social medias were carried out to track the progression of this global discourse in Nepal.