

# NACA NEWSFLASH

News and Events for the Friends of NACA

## NACA Event

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**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 11:00AM TO 12:30PM EASTERN TIME**

NACA ZOOMINAR # 08

**REENGAGING NEPALI DIASPORA**  
*Cultural Heritage and Identity*

Nepali festival season is just around the corner. Join us for a (virtual) reflective dialogue session on our diaspora experiences and get connected with NACA friends and colleagues

Register at <https://nepaliacademics.org/event-4507387>

**NACA**  
Nepali Academics in America

NACA is organizing its 8<sup>th</sup> Zoominar focused on **Nepali Diaspora Cultural Heritage and Identify**.

Please join us for a reflective dialogue on Sunday, October 17, 11:00am-12:30pm EST.

You can get connected through Zoom. ID: 813 1264 0237

For more information: <https://nepaliacademics.org/event-4507387>

## Members Spotlight

### Dr. Rajan Parajuli



Dr. Rajan Parajuli is an Assistant Professor in forest economics and policy in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University (NCSU). He specializes in market modeling, forest product trade and policy analysis, economic impact analysis, forest carbon and bioenergy markets, forest finance, and community forestry in Nepal. His applied research program primarily revolves around a theme of sustainable uses of natural resources for economic development. As an applied natural resource economist, he integrates socioeconomic theories and resource management tools to explore economic trade-offs and socio-ecological balances between natural resource conservation and utilization in a sustainable manner. Dr. Parajuli regularly teaches a course on natural resource economics and markets at NC State.

After completing his undergraduate in forestry from Tribhuvan University, Dr. Parajuli received his Ph.D. in forest economics and policy, along with an M.S. in forest economics and management, and second M.S. in finance from Louisiana State University. Before joining NC State in 2018, Dr. Parajuli was a forest economist at Texas A&M Forest Service and a forestry consultant in Nepal.

Recently, the National Science Foundation, Dynamics of Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems (NSF-DISES) has funded Dr. Parajuli's research (co-principal investigator) to work on the community forestry program in Nepal. The project focuses on exploring the relationships between community forestry in Nepal and (a) the social capital and livelihoods of communities, (b) rural out-migration, and (c) land-use decisions, including the role of community forestry in moderating the effects of COVID-19. His another project (as PI) has been funded by the USDA NIFA's AFRI Competitive Grants Program to evaluate the COVID-19 impacts on the forestry supply chain in the southern United States.

At NACA, Dr. Parajuli currently serves on the Strategic Initiatives Committee and the Newsflash editorial team. He was on the conference committee of the NACA Inaugural Conference held in the past spring. He is highly interested in collaborating with NACA members on interdisciplinary projects dealing with socio-economic and natural systems in Nepal.

## Members Spotlight

### Dr. Sushil Adhikari



Dr. Sushil Adhikari, P.E. is a professor in the Biosystems Engineering Department and the director of the Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts at Auburn University (AU). Dr. Adhikari earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Tribhuvan University, Nepal, M.S. in Energy Technology from Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, and Ph.D. in Biological Engineering from Mississippi State University.

In addition to teaching, he conducts research related to biofuels and bioproducts, especially in the field of thermochemical conversion. Dr. Adhikari's research focuses on biomass gasification, pyrolysis, algae liquefaction and upgrading, anaerobic digestion (AD), and hydrogen production. He has published more than 135 peer-reviewed journal articles and eight book chapters. He was named in Thomas Reuters' report "The World's Most Influential Scientific

Minds: 2014" and was recognized as the Alabama Distinguished Young Agricultural Engineer in 2010. Dr. Adhikari has received multiple awards including the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station Director's Research Award in 2011, the AU President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award in 2012, the American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers New Holland Young Researcher Award in 2013, the AU College of Agriculture Dean's Advising Excellence Award in 2015, the AU College of Engineering Senior Researcher Award in 2019. In addition, he has also received the AU College of Agriculture Dean's Grantsmanship Award for multiple years.

His work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, United States Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Electric Power Research Institute, Southeastern SunGrant, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, and others. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Alabama.

Dr. Adhikari is a member of NACA and was involved in organizing the NACA Inaugural Conference held in April, 2021. He is interested in finding ways to collaborate on bioenergy, bioproducts, and waste management and contribute to decarbonizing the Nepalese economy with other NACA members and beyond. Adhikari lives in Auburn, Alabama, with his wife, Sangita, and two daughters Arya (10) and Diya (3). He is from Dang, Nepal.

## Recent Peer-reviewed Publications

Adhikari, J., **Shrestha, M.**, & **Paudel, D.** (2021). Nepal's growing dependency on food imports: A threat to national sovereignty and ways forward. *Nepal Public Policy Review*, 1, 68-86. <http://nppr.org.np/index.php/journal/article/view/10>

Bista, R., Zhang, Q., **Parajuli, R.**, Karki, R., Khanal, B.B., & Song, C. (2021). Cropland abandonment in the community forestry landscape in the middle hills of Nepal. *Earth Interactions*, 25, 136-150. <https://doi.org/10.1175/EI-D-21-0006.1>

Mustafa, D., **Nyaupane, G.**, Shrestha, K., Buzinde, C., Thanet, D. R., & Vandever, V. (2021). Scalar politics of Indigenous waterscapes in Navajo Nation and Nepal: Conflict, conservation and development. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 1-23. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/25148486211007853>

**Paudel, J.** (2021). Home Alone: Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health. *Social Science & Medicine*, 285, 114259. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114259>

**Paudel, J.** (2021). Why are People Energy Poor? Evidence from Ethnic Fractionalization. *Energy Economics*, 105519. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2021.105519>

**Dhakal, N. P.** (2021). *Kali - A Bear of Chitwan. Teka Sumaha Nepal, Maligaun, Kathmandu, Nepal* (Book)

## Research Grants, Awards and New Jobs

**Dr. Rajan Parajuli** (Co-PI, Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University), along with colleagues Drs. Erin Sills (Professor and Head of FER), C. Song and R. Bilsborrow, and L. Band from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, received funding from the National Science Foundation. The full award is \$1.6 million and the portion to NCSU is \$300,000. The project is *DISES: Influence of community forestry on the dynamics of integrated socio-environmental systems in Nepal*. The period of service is 12/01/2021-12/31/2024.

**Dr. Arun Khatri-Chhetri** joined **Save the Children** as an advisor for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture in its Global Food Security and Livelihood Program. He will be based in Washington DC, USA and his working regions include Africa and South Asia.

**Dr. Nilesh Timilsina** will be moving to **Clemson University** as an Associate Professor in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation starting January, 2022.

**Dr. Netra Chhetri** is promoted to **Professor**, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, College of Global Futures, **Arizona State University**.



## Opportunities

### Job Opportunities:

The Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources (<https://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/>) at North Carolina State University invites applications for a fully-funded PhD assistantship to work on the project "Influence of Community Forestry on the Dynamics of the Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems," beginning in fall 2022. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation, Dynamics of Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems (NSF-DISES).

The project focuses on the relationships between community forestry in Nepal and (a) the social capital and livelihoods of communities, (b) rural out-migration, and (c) land use decisions, including the role of community forestry in moderating the effects of COVID-19. The selected student will work with Drs. Erin Sills and Rajan Parajuli on household surveys in Nepal, data analysis, and publications. Expressions of interest will be reviewed starting October 15, 2021 and continue on a rolling basis. For more information, contact Drs. Erin Sills ([sills@ncsu.edu](mailto:sills@ncsu.edu)) and Rajan Parajuli ([rparaju@ncsu.edu](mailto:rparaju@ncsu.edu)).

### Event:

**International Symposium on the Dynamics of the Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems: Implications for Natural Resource Management in Asia.** This virtual event will be hosted by Carolina Asia Center on Saturday, **November 6, 2021**. There will be 16 scholars from the US, Canada, China, Nepal, and India to speak at the Symposium for the day. The Symposium is open to the public. Please visit <http://go.unc.edu/dises> for detailed program information and register to attend.

## Nepal Corner

Endangered vulture population on the rise in Nepal  
<https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2021/09/04/ornithologists-hint-at-slight-rise-in-endangered-vulture-numbers-over-past-two-years>

New climate report paints bleak future for Nepal  
<https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2021/08/12/what-new-climate-report-that-paints-a-bleak-picture-means-for-nepal>

Bats that can spread Nipah virus abundant in Nepal  
<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/bats-that-spread-nipah-virus-are-found-in-abundance-in-nepal/>

Oldest campus in Nepal, Trichandra College, to be reconstructed.  
<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/trichandra-college-and-ghantaghar-to-be-reconstructed/>

Measles eradication process has not been fully successful in Nepal  
<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/measles-patients-detected-in-jajarkot/>

Underground gas and petrol resources located in Dailekh, Nepal  
<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/seismic-survey-proves-gas-and-petrol-in-dailekh/>

Dolphin population increasing in Karnali river, Nepal  
<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/kailali-sees-increase-in-the-number-of-dolphins/>

Swiss government provides grant for vocational and technical education in Nepal  
<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/swiss-govt-approves-rs-188-billion-in-grants-for-implementation-of-enssure-ii-project>

Nepal Agricultural Research Council to develop hybrid rice varieties with International Rice Institute  
<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/narc-irri-partnering-in-hybrid-rice-tech-project>

## NACA Newsflash

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