PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

FOR HERITAGE RECOVERY PLAN

A PUBLICATION OF
PARYA SAMPADA
PROJECT

2022



Funded by:

switchasia GRANTS PROGRAMME

In Association with:

Implemented by:

UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

In Partnership with:

LUMANTI SUPPORT GROUP FOR SHELTER



PARYA SAMPADA:

Sustainable Tourism and Green Growth for Heritage Settlements of the Kathmandu Valley is a project funded under SWITCH – Asia intervention of the European Union in partnership with UN-Habitat. The core objectives of this project is to facilitate the Sustainable Goals (SDG) of the Government of Nepal in achieving the New Urban Agenda that contributes to particularly: SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and communities and SDG 12 - Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Disclaimer:

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Why Heritage Recovery Plan?



After 2015 devastating earthquake, the traditional settlements of Kathmandu Valley were severly damaged. Hence, 'PARYA SAMPADA' project was conceptualized targeting to preserve heritage of traditional settlements post earthquake and also aimed to connect heritage with tourism and environment for sustainable development. Heritage Recovery Plan is a part of PARYA SAMPADA project in which Heritage Recovery Plans of ten traditional settlements from four municipalities of Kathmandu Valley were prepared. The ten traditional settlements are Thecho, Thaiba and Chapagaun from Godawari Municipality, Lubhoo, and Siddhipur from Mahalaxmi Municipality, Kirtipur, Panga and Chovar from Kirtipur Municipality and Kisipidi and Balambu from Chandragiri Municipality.

It worked on four aspects of heritage recovery. They are:

1. Documentation of traditions, tangible and intangible heritage
2. Preparation of recovery plan and proposal
3. Develop promotional materials and activities
4. Capacity building of community

A participatory process was applied throughout the project.

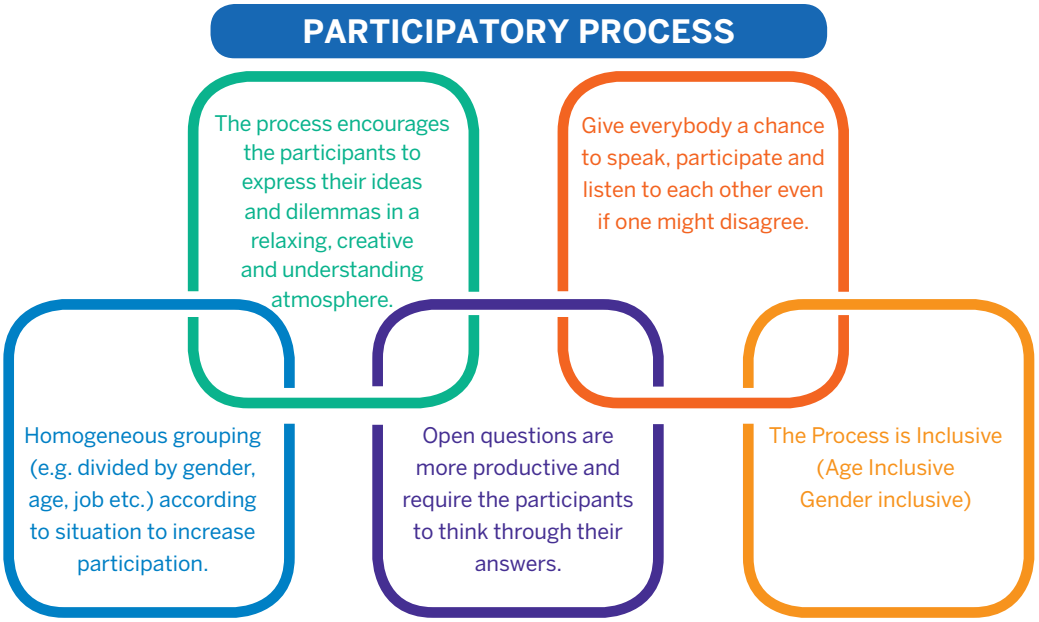
Participatory Process



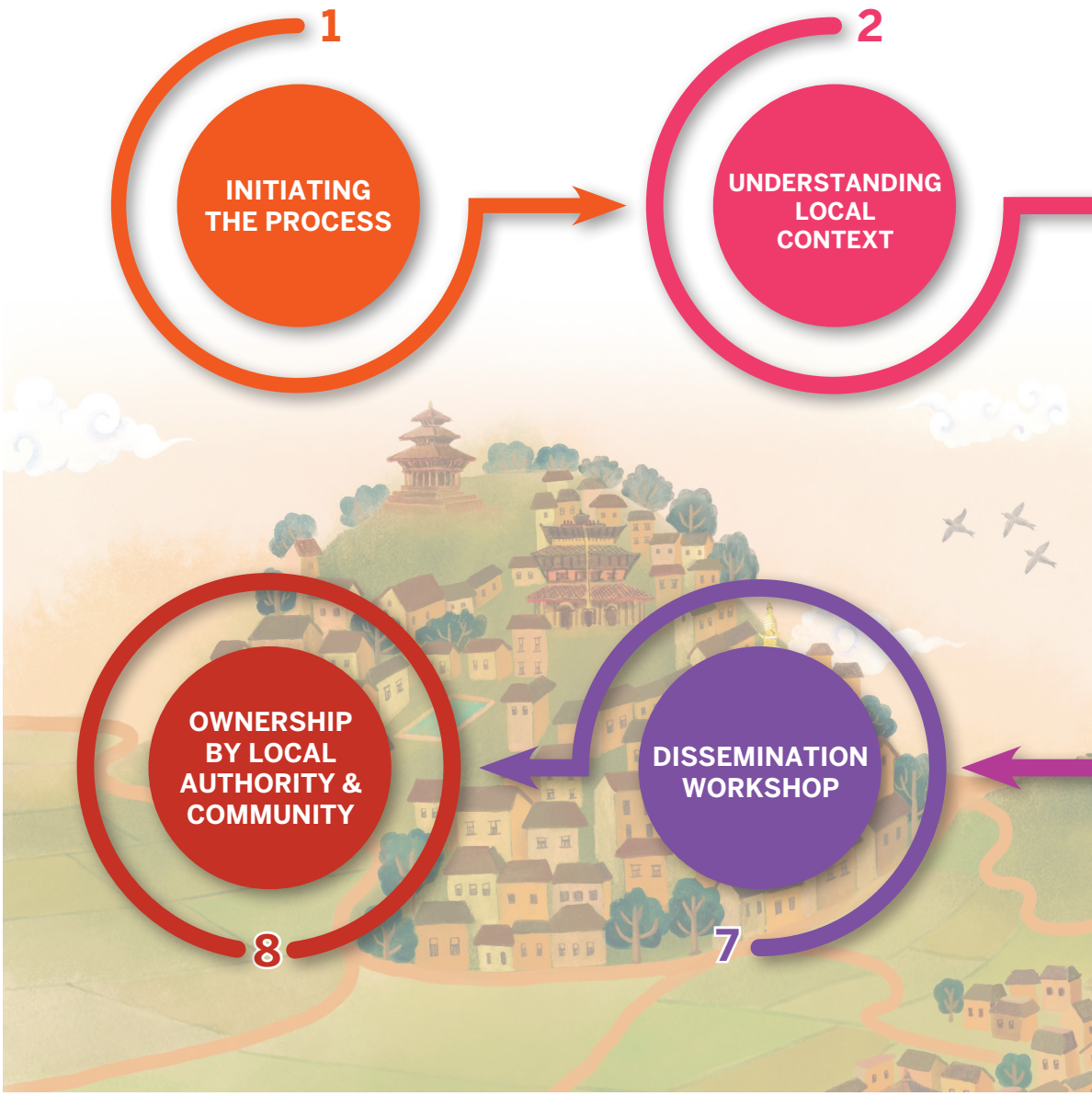
Participatory process ensures the maximum involvement of local community in the collective decision making process. It can be used at all stages of the project, in documentation, analysis, planning and reflection.

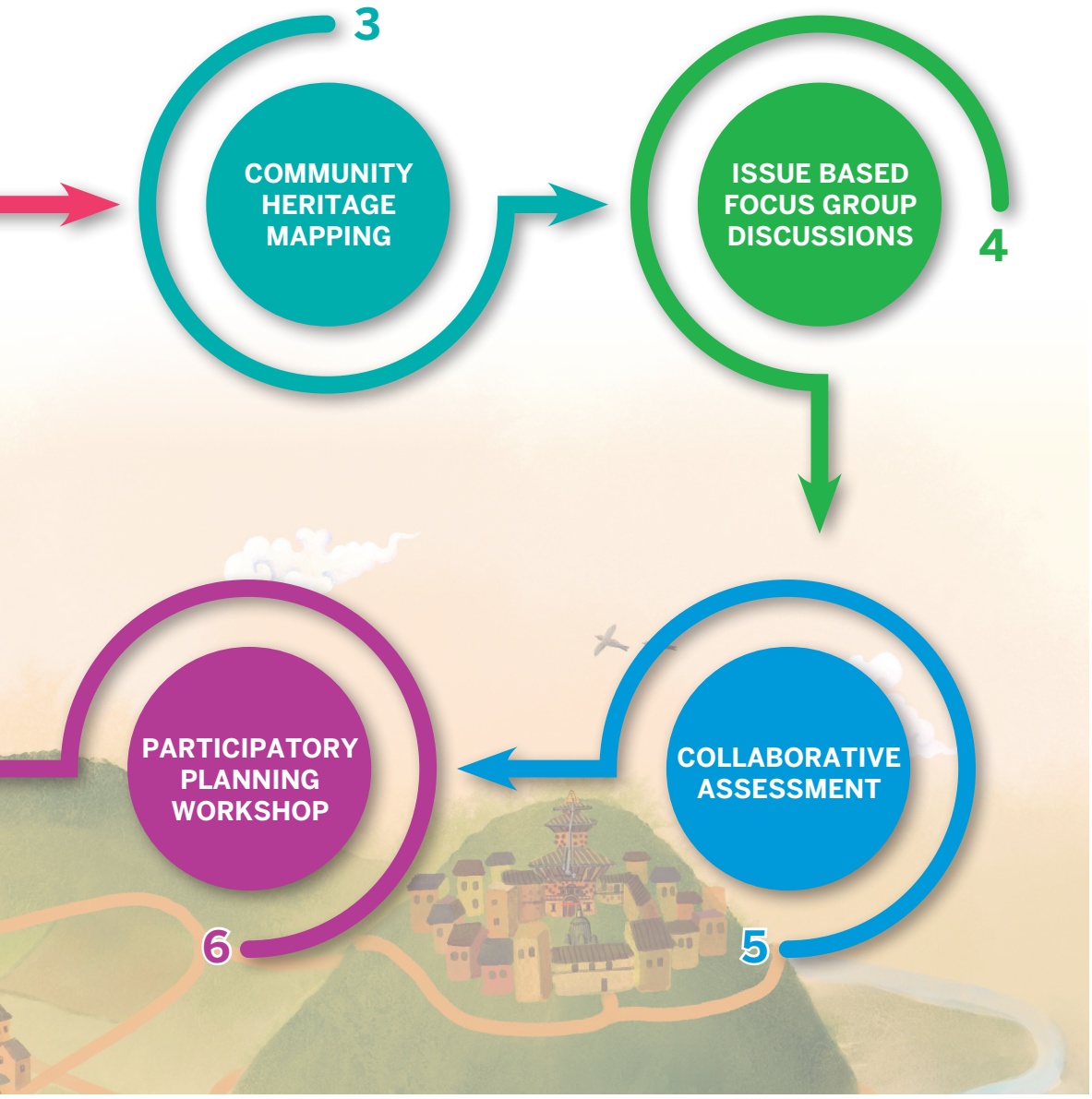
> **“ The participatory process ensures the active participation of local community and local government so that the plan prepared is valued, owned, implemented and continued by the concerned stakeholders. ”**

The participatory approach links everyone and involves all actors to actively collaborate in the development process. Participatory process promotes active cooperation towards understanding and working for solutions.



Participatory Process For Heritage Recovery




3
COMMUNITY HERITAGE MAPPING
ISSUE BASED FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS
4
PARTICIPATORY PLANNING WORKSHOP
6
COLLABORATIVE ASSESSMENT
5

1 Initiating the Process

“ Be Informed ”



Various levels of introductory meeting was conducted to establish a comfortable environment with local authority and the community as well.



1. Inception Meeting in Municipal Level

- Identifying the potential working site in each municipality for Heritage Recovery Plan
- Objective of the project was discussed.

2. Inception Meeting in Ward Level

- Introduction of key stakeholders
- Identifying the various potentials



3. Introductory Meeting with stakeholders from all four Municipalities

- Agreement regarding Objective and Process of project among all stakeholders.
- Discussion and Identification of strengths and challenges (SWOC) in each municipality regarding heritage attributes.
- Continuing gaining on peoples' awareness on the entire processes and understanding of the results of the undertakings as well as the relevance of each action taken.
- Empowering people to think and plan together through vigorous interactions so as to bring all the related details about the community into consideration.





2 Understanding Local Context

“Seeking on Local Knowledge System”

1. Collection of related published/ unpublished information, old testimonies from historians.
2. Site observation and site measurement of important landmarks which are culturally and historically significant
3. Built Environment Mapping - monuments, buildings, resources, infrastructures, etc.
4. Documenting and transcribing the stories told by the senior citizens.
5. Talking with community to bring their own unique experiences and interpretations through memories & stories.
6. Walking with the communities on jatra routes to understand its system and importance.
7. Behaviour Mapping- reflects a very real experience of the cultures and conditions of the place and people
8. Observing how the important monuments are currently being used, together with the people.





“Understanding communities’ perception on heritage and what they value in their culture and tradition, devising a tool for a better understanding.”






SAMSUNG





3 Community Heritage Mapping

“Hearing Unheard Voices”



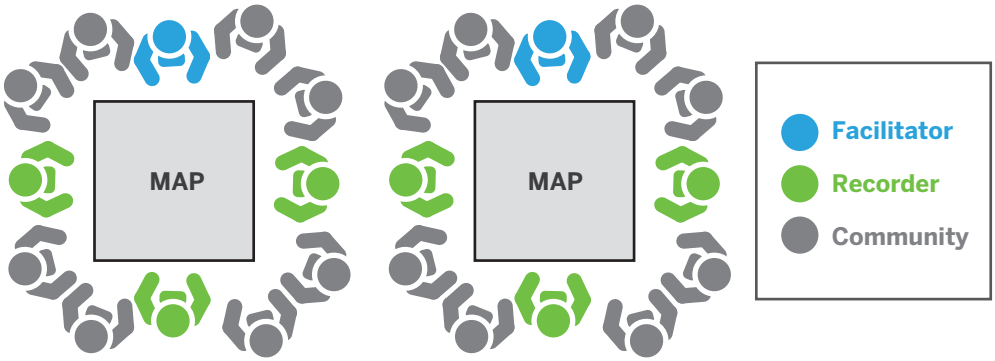
Community Mapping Process in heritage conservation is a way that people learn about their cultural assets, current needs and resources relating to an issue that they face. The collected information is used to understand the value of assets, state of the resources, size of a problem. It initiates dialogue and sensitize on the tangible and intangible heritage of their locality.

The mapping process also helped to empower the community by building a common knowledge base about their place and heritage which have immense value. Method used in the mapping process:

1. Different tools like sticking photos of monuments to help local community understand the map.
2. Use of stickers, pictures, diagrams, symbols and pinning notes on the map to express your experiences, observation, memories, stories and incidents.
3. All the key points in response to particular questions are collected in sticky notes and laid out on the maps to create a spatial link. Later collective analysis is done by sorting the notes into different categories.

SETTING UP COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

SETTING	OBJECTIVES
Divide into 2 groups, each facilitated by an architect	Small group discussion encourages participation
Volunteers to record the discussion	Record and translate discussions into professional language
Tracing paper will be placed on the map, letting participants mark places with Tikas and sticky note	Relate the answers spatially
A set of symbols are created	For easy and systematic marking





Community Heritage Mapping

Why Heritage Mapping is important for the process?

- Mapping helps to identify and understand problems better in a comprehensive way.
- Mapping brings community members and local partners on a common ground with common understanding of their heritage and cultural identity
- Mapping enables and empower people to share, analyse and enhance their knowledge and conditions

Using participatory diverse methods:

They help to draw in as many people as possible to undertake learning and analysis on an equal basis.



1. Know your Place:

It is a game to identify the monuments, landmarks, resources, through name or their photographs and place in the map. This helps to remember the lost heritage, value the common assets and significance of the resources.

2. Know Your Script:

Ranjana Script Calligraphy events was conducted in association with Nepal Lipi Guthi to promote traditional script. These scripts are mostly used in the inscriptions, these events helps community to understand and identify the historical artifacts.





3. Choose wisely:

It is polling or voting game. When there is various options available and community is in dilemma on what they want, it helps to clarify the actual and best option for their community



4. Community Children Art workshop:

Sometimes art speaks more than words. Art can be the creative way of expressing ideas. The art was expressed as an answer to the questions: What do you like most in your place? What do you want your place to be in future?



5. Story telling Session:

Folk stories mostly includes the history, origin, culture and religion of the settlements. These stories can be one of the mediums to hand down the traditions from past to future generations. Therefore, such story telling sessions are one of the tools to sensitize the community, specially children by making them understand better about their culture, history and heritage.

4 Issue Based Focus Discussions

“Aspiration and Perception”

Issue based ‘Focus Group Discussions’ helped to verify the collected information as well as understand aspirations and perception of specific community groups and understand what they value in their heritage, what they have done and what they want to do to preserve it. Mostly discussion is conducted in small groups so that everyone can have their opinion heard. It involves group members in fact-finding and intense discussion on a defined question, theme and issue. Several focus group discussions were conducted with various stakeholders in inclusive way.

1. Women group
2. Guthi,
3. Youth club
4. Neighbourhood cluster,
5. Cultural group like musical group, Bhajan group, etc
6. Other community groups like Tole sudhar samitti, Cooperative members, etc








5 Collaborative Assessment

“Where We Stand”







Through this process, figuring out the major potential and challenges become easier. Various consultation meeting are organized where informal dialogues are the effective way to discuss and come up with new solutions to particular challenges. These responses are validated by giving reflections, pointing out wrong statements and filling out missing data/information.

> **“Learning to identify a community’s strengths and weaknesses, as well as the opportunities and challenges helps to develop awareness on situation, thus adds points to strategic planning and decision making”**



Use of SWOC (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities & Challenges) analysis tool

- Focus in three Aspects: natural, built and socio cultural for comprehensive assessment
- For analyzing internal and external factors that may affect recovery of settlement.

6 Participatory Planning Workshop

“ Exploring Options ”





After determining and gathering information, many options are put forward to the community. Participatory planning is essential in moving and mobilizing the community as well as other relevant actors to come up with new solutions to particular challenges. It can also help a community to create a shared plan. Here, a group is engaged to conceptualize a vision for their place in the future. It helps to engage participants to produce an action plan to address a specified issue.

Mapping and modelling are common tools used for planning major one or two open space.

1. Two or three dimensional- modeling:
    - Can be created using paper and pens, sand, earth, sticks, stones, leaves and a variety of other materials.
    - A very powerful form of expression, especially for non-literate people
2. Voting example houses, priority voting,
3. Learning from good practices, precedents

7 Dissemination Workshop

“ To Evaluate and Reflect „

With the inputs from collaborative assessment, planning workshop and other discussions, The HERITAGE RECOVERY PLAN PROPOSAL was prepared for public exhibition. All documentation and plan proposal were disseminated to community to collect feedback and suggestions. Addressing all feedback and suggestions, the final report was prepared.











8 Ownership of the Process by Local Authority and Community

“Access to the Common Knowledge Base”

- All documents (documentation reports, proposal report and map catalogue, were handed over to municipality, wards and community heritage groups. Editable files were provided to municipality so that municipalities themselves can modify and update the documents according to the need.
- The proposal helped municipalities and people to prioritize the projects while allocating the budget.
- All the materials are made available in an open source so that any one from community, students, researchers can also get access to the information.

https://unhabitat.org.np/project_publication_list/parya-sampada







“Building and acquiring knowledge and developing mutual support and learnings among the community and its partners are important for continuous growth.”

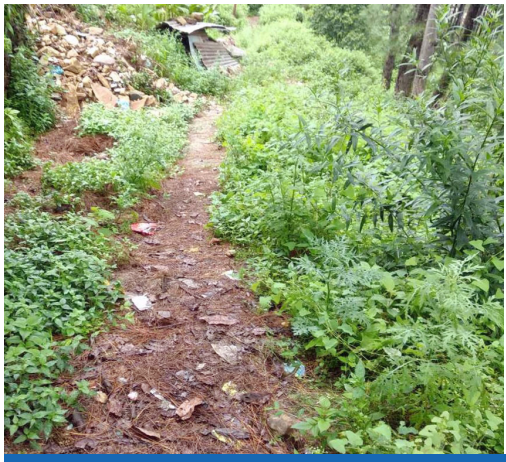
Plan and Act Collaboratively

“Work Together”

By getting the community and its partners to come together & discuss and work jointly, they understand the project better and it is easier for implementation.

Before	After
	

Ganedyo Falcha of Kisipidi, Chandragiri Municipality





Shree Adinath Jatra Marga of Chovar, Kirtipur Municipality

Before	After
	

Shree Mahalaxmi Mahabhairav Bagaicha at Lubhoo, Mahalaxmi Municipality





Hiti Ga: of Chapagaun, Godawari Municipality

Note:
The information on this booklet took reference from CAN Handbooks and adapting it to local context. Lumanti Support Group of Shelter is a part of Community Architects Network, supported by Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR).

For More Information, Please refer:
communityarchitectsnetwork.info

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