

# Forest Caravan 2010 in Nepal

**(Day 7 Update: April 10, 2010)**

**Forest Caravan 2010** executed by FECOFUN, which inaugurated from April 04, 2010 with the slogan *“Campaign for Inclusion and Good Governance in Community Forestry, Rights of Local Communities over Natural Resources and their Recognition in the New Constitution”* has celebrated its seventh day with the regional mass assembly in Bardiya and Kapilbastu districts.

The Forest Caravan teams of Rukum, travelling through Salyan, Rolpa and Banke and Jumla team through Kalikot, Dailekh and Surkhet, reached Bardiya and joined in Regional Mass Assembly at Gulariya of Bardiya. About 50,000 people from different districts mainly from the host district of Bardiya and neighboring district of Banke were participated the program. The Chief Guest Bamdev Gautam Vice-President of CPN (UML) and other guests such as Lokendra Bista secretariat member of UCPN (Maoist), N.P. Saud central committee member of Nepali Congress, Shanta Chaudhari president of Natural Resources Parliament Committee, Ghanashyam Pandey president of FECOFUN, Bhola Khatiwada President of COFSUN addressed the program.

Mr. Gautam as chief guest during his speech appreciated the role played by FECOFUN during the 2062/63 People's Movement and for constitutional writing process and extended his solidarity and support for the movement that FECOFUN led for ensuring the local people's rights over natural resources in the new constitution.

Bardiya Mass Gathering



Bhola Bhattarai addressing the Kapilbstu Mass Gathering



Bhamdev Gautam addressing the Bardiya Mass Gathering



He humbly appeals all to support the movement led by FECOFUN especially in the issue of community forest people's rights. Similarly, all the other speakers of the mass assembly have expressed their commitment to write the new constitution in time and to play their positive role. They have also requested all the parties to concentrate on constitution writing. Likewise, the Forest Caravan team of Gulmi travelled through Palpa, Pyuthan, Arghakhanci, and reached in Kapilbastu and welcomed by the people of Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Kapilbastu. Another Regional Mass Assembly was organized in Kapilbastu where about 50,000 people from the host district and neighboring district participated. Mr. Top Bahadur Raimajhi secretariat member of UCPN (Maoist), as a chief guest and other guests Mr. Pradip Gyawali politburo member of CPN (UML), Mr. Chandra Bhandari and Mohamad Siddiki of Nepali Congress, Mr. Bhola Bhattarai general secretary FECOFUN have addressed the assembly. As a chief guest, Mr. Rayamajhi opined that there is no doubt of ensuring community rights over natural resources it should be ensured in the new constitution but it still need discuss and dialogue on distributing benefits from the forest sector with the principle social justice and equitable distribution. Another guest Mr. Pradip Gyawali put his logic forward that all the major political parties should work together for a common objective of giving the new constitution and to bring peace process to a logical end while Mr. Bhola Bhattarai emphasized on establishing the community rights over natural resources.

The other Caravan Team of Ramechhap, Khotang, Lamjung, Mustang, Sindhuli continued their travel through various districts and with different programs like interaction, small gathering, rallies. The Rasuwa team uttered against Lamtang National Buffer Zone, which has reduced the local people's rights while the Khotang team organized small gathering and interaction on the way. Similarly, the Mustang team reached to Lamjung and Commence their caravan from Bagura reached to Budor with slogan at headquarter, cites and Bajura team reache Doti with their regular activities.



Ghan Shyam Pandey addressing the Bardiya Mass

Cultural Show from Tharu community in Bardiya

