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# Community-based management of “Himalayan Viagra” (caterpillar fungus) in remote landscapes of Nepal

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# Community-based management of “Himalayan Viagra” (caterpillar fungus) in remote landscapes of Nepal

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## Research question

How are indigenous communities managing overharvesting of caterpillar fungus in remotely located pastures of Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve in Nepal?



I am traded worth \$5 to \$11 billion annually (Shrestha 2012)



## Results

“One home One Security” strategy adopted to enhance income of communities in Maikot village.

Distant collectors (outside Maikot) were reduced by half due to this strategy.



## Background

Caterpillar fungus is a common property resource that is a major livelihood source (>70% of income) for people living across Tibetan plateau in the alpine region of Himalayas (3000-5000 metres above sea level). Overharvesting of caterpillar fungus has put resource dependent communities livelihoods at stake.



## Method

Case study of Pupal pasture managed by the indigenous Magars and Kami communities. In-depth interview with management committee and survey with 223 harvesters

## Key findings

- Management committee and harvesters (n=223) perceive reduction of distant collectors.
- No written caterpillar fungus management plans at local level
- State unable to govern the pasture, even has rights provided by law.