

# Stakeholders stress on eco-safe roads

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The rural roads serve as lifelines for many communities in Nepal, but they also cause environmental degradation in the forms of erosion, shallow landslides and river sedimentation.

As a solution, 'eco-safe roads' can significantly reduce economic losses as well as environmental degradation, and even enhance local livelihoods.

With a view to assisting communities in reducing roadside damage through low-cost community-based bioengineering, the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, International Union for Conservation of Nature, along with University of Lausanne, Switzerland, launched a new publication during a one-day national workshop in the capital today.

The workshop on 'Ecosystems for Enhancing Resilience to Disaster and Climate Risks' was organised to explore the concept of eco-safe roads and other ecosystem-based ap-

proaches for disaster and climate resilience in Nepal.

The programme was jointly organised by the Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, IUCN Nepal, United Nations Environment Programme and UNIL. Its objective was to share and exchange knowledge about policy opportunities for mainstreaming Ecosystem Disaster Risk Reduction and Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Nepal. Tulasi Sitaula, Secretary at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation, stressed on the need for a sustainable development model to synergise development with conservation. Braj Kishor Yadav, Chief of Biodiversity and Environment Division, underlined the need to reconcile development with environmental protection.

Yam Malla, Country Representative at IUCN Nepal, stressed that the workshop would provide important insights to prepare the much-needed Eco-DRR policies in Nepal.