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Presentations	Session 2.2	<i>Beyond Forestry: Knowledge Practices for Sustainable Landscapes with Trees.</i>

*Abstract Session 2.2 – Recognising and Resisting Injustice: Knowledge Practices Amongst Nepal’s Forestry Professionals.*

The future of inclusive forestry in Nepal depends on forestry professionals ‘who can recognise subtle patriarchal roots of gender injustice’ writes Bhattari (2017), however this is no easy task as ‘the overwhelming majority of the male workforce—in the government, civil society and private sector—has been embroiled in the patriarchal ideologies and apparatus of forest governance that have evolved over many decades’. This paper uses the notion of knowledge practices to explore this ‘recognition of injustice’ amongst Nepal’s forestry professionals, and the relationship between recognition and the ‘ideologies and apparatus’ of Nepal’s forest governance. The challenges embedded in forestry professionals’ knowledge practices are explored by drawing on over fifty interviews and ethnographic insights, and in going beyond forestry, this paper goes beyond the typically black-boxed and essentialised ‘forestry professional’ and unsettles the false dichotomy between ‘the professional’ and ‘the personal’. Nepal’s forestry professionals represent a plurality of knowledges, emerging from unique positionalities and personal experiences; however the demand for quantifiable, short-term project outputs (attributed to funders and donors) shuts down their opportunities to meaningfully practice their knowledge. This paper articulates how, in order to resist injustices within both forest user communities and forest institutions, professionals are demanding a greater focus on learning – from the lived realities of forest users, from each other as practitioners, from qualitative engagements with complexity and processes of change, from so-called mistakes and weaknesses, and ultimately from greater reflection. Through such learning and reflection comes the opportunity to resist injustices and create sustainable community forests.