

**Leveraging collaboration for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Koshi Basin
(Satellite Event for the Resilient HKH Conference)
2 December 2017
Jhanghat Hall, TEWA**

Background

The transboundary Koshi Basin is home to more than 40 million people who depend on its rich natural resources. It is also a multi-hazard environment, one of many in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH), where floods, landslides, and droughts affect millions of people every year and disrupt sustainable development. Disasters in the region often have cascading transboundary impact with upstream-downstream linkages. In addition, an increase in the incidence of extreme weather events due to climate change and environmental degradation is expected to magnify the frequency and impact of such disasters. Women and marginalized communities are most vulnerable as they lack access to information and capacity to prepare for disasters and deal with their aftermath. Gender-based norms and other socio-cultural factors also tend to increase their vulnerability.

Often, communities affected by disaster continue to struggle to resume their livelihoods or take up alternative ones several years after its occurrence. Although there have been efforts to improve disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the Koshi Basin, DRR policies and practices often lack a multi-hazard approach. Additionally, stakeholders are often unable to capitalize on the knowledge and capacities presented by the transboundary nature of disasters. Upstream-downstream linkages in the Koshi Basin can be a basis for shared disasters and provide opportunities for DRR and livelihood improvement. Institutions and stakeholders could collaborate to adopt a standardized, multi-hazard risk assessment approach. Extensive and effective cooperation can be achieved by sharing knowledge and fostering practices that address the transboundary scale of disaster.

The Koshi Basin Programme at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has been working with partners to increase understanding of disasters in the basin and the capacity of stakeholders to improve preparedness. The networks created in this process and through ICIMOD partners can be leveraged to identify areas for collaboration and knowledge sharing between institutions and stakeholders in the basin. In 2016, a Knowledge Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilient Livelihoods in the Koshi Basin was organized in Patna, Bihar by the Koshi Basin Programme in partnership with the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority, National Institute of Disaster Management, National Disaster Management Authority. The DRR Roadmap for Bihar based on the Sendai framework is currently being implemented. In Nepal, the Disaster Risk Mitigation Bill, which has a provision for establishing a National Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management Centre, has been endorsed. This satellite event during the ResilientHKH Conference will provide an opportunity to bring together key policy and decision makers, scientists, and practitioners to discuss how regional collaboration can be strengthened for DRR to ensure resilient livelihoods in the Koshi Basin.

Target audience: Scientist, policy makers and practitioners in the Koshi Basin working on DRR and livelihoods.

Questions that will be discussed:

1. What are the current practices which are working well and challenges for regional collaboration for DRR in the basin?
2. What are the opportunities to enhance regional collaboration for DRR in the short, medium and long term?

3. What roles can government institutions, civil societies and scientific communities play in enhancing regional collaboration for DRR in the Koshi Basin?

Expected contribution to the main conference

- Set of recommendations for enhancing collaboration and cross-learning in DRR towards resilient livelihood based on the experience and learning in the Koshi Basin.

Format:

1. Panel discussion
2. Group discussion on regional collaboration for DRR in group for policy, practice, research with representation from livelihood and gender
3. Summary/recommendation formulation

Tentative agenda

9:15 -9:30	Registration (Tea/Coffee)	Govinda Shrestha
9:30 - 9:40	Welcome	Kanchan Shrestha, ICIMOD
9:40 – 10:40	Panel Discussion	Moderator: Ramesh Vaidya, ICIMOD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Gretchen Kalonji, Dean, Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction; Sichuan University - Hong Kong Polytechnic University • Arti Singh, Deputy Director, FMISC, Water Resources Department, Bihar, India (TBC) • Ram Gopal Kharbuja, Deputy Director General, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Government of Nepal • Jyoti Raj Patra, Project Manager, Transboundary Rivers of South Asia
10:40 – 11:45	Group Discussion among all participants	Group division Group facilitators: 1. Policy : Abid, Nilhari Neupane 2. Practice: Samjwal Bajracharya, Amina Maharjan 3. Research: Santosh Nepal and Faisal Qamer, Kamala Gurung
11:45 – 12:00	Break	
12:00 – 12:15	Reporting back from the groups	Representatives from the group
12:15 – 12:30	Summary and Vote of Thanks	Arun Bhakta Shrestha, ICIMOD
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and Networking	