

Media Interaction and Field Visit to Koshi River Basin, Nepal

5 – 10 April 2016

ICIMOD

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BACKGROUND

Climate and other environmental and socioeconomic changes pose immense challenges to water resources management and disaster risk reduction in the Koshi River basin, which is shared by three countries, namely China, Nepal and India. This is due to its transboundary nature and high spatial and temporal variation of resource endowment, and upstream-downstream linkages (high degree of interrelationship among water uses and users). To improve knowledge of the basin and foster water-centric regional cooperation, ICIMOD and its partners jointly developed the Koshi Basin Programme – Phase I (KBP-I) during 2010–2012. The KBP-I (2013–2016) was launched in 2013 with funding support from the Australian government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), through its Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP).

The Koshi River basin contains rich biodiversity and is a source of ecosystem services that sustain the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in China, India, and Nepal. The basin plays a key role in the irrigation of downstream areas and has a large potential for hydropower development. However, the basin is highly prone to erosion, sedimentation, and natural hazards, which may increase in magnitude and frequency in the current context of climate change. Population growth, urbanisation, and encroachment have added additional pressure on the basin's freshwater ecosystems. Poor mountain communities are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and the least able to adapt and respond to rapid changes.

In an effort to inform the media about ongoing work and progress under the Koshi Basin Programme the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is organising a Media Interaction and Field Visit to Koshi River Basin from 5 to 10 April 2016. This event acknowledges the important role journalists play in communicating messages to different stakeholders — expanding public understanding and a need for a regional cooperation to maximise benefits of planning and action, and the need to minimise disaster risks.

The main objectives of this study trip are to:

- Provide media persons with firsthand knowledge and information about issues facing the Koshi basin
- Encourage visiting media persons to disseminate the information to media outlets in both countries and expand public understanding of issues in the Koshi basin
- Promote common efforts to maximise benefits and minimise water-related hazards in the basin

The visit will focus on livelihood challenges and issues facing the basin especially from a gender lens, and how ICIMOD has taken a knowledge and competence approach to support river basin management, recognise upstream-downstream linkages for resource planning and spark action.

Partners who will be contributing in this event are the Department of Irrigation (DOI)/GoN, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF), HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and local district authorities as well as ICIMOD thematic experts. The field visit sites are as follows:

- Jure landslide site, Sindhupalchowk District
- Springs and ponds, Kavrepalanchowk District
- Field Visit, Water Use Master Plans, Sindhuli District
- Irrigation system and interaction on water use master plans (WUMPs), Saptari District
- Community Based Flood Early Warning System (CB-FEWS), Mahottari District

OVERALL PROGRAMME AGENDA

DATE (2016)	PROGRAMME
4 April	- Participants arrive in Kathmandu
5 April – Tuesday	- Half-day orientation at ICIMOD - Half-day visit to ICIMOD Knowledge Park - Welcome dinner
6 April – Wednesday	Sindhupalchowk: Field observation of geo-hazard sites, impacts of landslides and hydro-meteorological stations.
7 April – Thursday	Kavrepalanchowk: Field observation of spring recharge ponds and informal interaction with local stakeholders, community.
8 April – Friday	Sindhuli: Field observation up-stream and downstream linkage and informal interaction with local stakeholders.
9 April – Saturday	Saptari: Field Observation of irrigation system and interaction on water use master plans (WUMPs).
10 April – Sunday	Mahottari: Field Observation of community-based early warning systems (CB-FEWS) and interaction with local stakeholders.
11 April – Monday	Travel back to Kathmandu from Janakpur
12 April – Tuesday	International participants depart

Note: Detailed description of each day field visit plan is provided separately.

Day 1: 5 April 2016, Tuesday**Venue:** Annapurna, ICIMOD Headquarters and ICIMOD Knowledge Park, Lalitpur

TIME	AGENDA	Remarks
9:00 – 09:15	Arrival of participants and registration	Govinda Shrestha [tea/coffee]
09:15 – 09: 40	Welcome remarks and introduction of participants	Ms Anja Moller Rasmussen, Senior Manager, Knowledge Management and Communication, ICIMOD
09:40 – 09:50	Opening remarks	Dr David Molden Director General, ICIMOD
9:50 – 10:00	ICIMOD's Programme Operations in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region	Dr Eklabya Sharma, Director Programme Operations, ICIMOD
10.00 – 10.20	Overview of River Basin Management	Dr Arun Bhakta Shrestha, Programme Manager, River Basins Programme, ICIMOD
10:20 – 10:30	Koshi Basin Programme: Closing the knowledge and competency gaps	Dr Shahriar Wahid Programme Coordinator, Koshi Basin Programme, ICIMOD
<i>10:30 – 10:50</i>	<i>Group photo/tea break</i>	<i>Jitendra Bajracharya</i>
10:50 – 11:10	Why media matters to mountains and people?	Mr Gopilal Acharya, Communication Specialist, Knowledge Management and Communication, ICIMOD
11:10 – 11:30	Sharing experiences of environmental reporting \	Mr Guna Raj Luitel Editor, Nagarik Daily, Kathmandu
11.30 – 11:45	Landslides in the Koshi basin: Impacts and monitoring	Mr Deo Raj Gurung Remote Sensing Specialist, ICIMOD
11:45 – 12:00	Springs and ponds in the mid-hills: Experience sharing	Dr Dipak Gyawali, Executive Director, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation
12.00 –12:10	Local water use master planning in Nepal	Dr Nilhari Neupane, Economic Analyst, ICIMOD and Rabin Niraula, HELVETAS
12:10 – 12:20	Upstream downstream linkages in the context of local water use master plans	Dr Santosh Nepal and Ms Harshana Shrestha, ICIMOD
12:20 – 12:30	Community-based flood early warning system at Koshi	Ms Neera Shrestha Pradhan, Water and Adaptation Specialist, ICIMOD
<i>12:30 – 13:30</i>	<i>LUNCH</i>	
13:30 – 14:00	Travel to ICIMOD Knowledge Park	Mr Govinda Shrestha Programme Associate, ICIMOD
14:00 – 14:15	Briefing on the field visit plan	Ms Kanchan Shrestha, Programme Officer, Koshi Basin Programme, ICIMOD
14:15 – 14:30	Briefing on logistic arrangements	Mr Govinda Shrestha Programme Associate, ICIMOD
14:30 – 16:30	Visit to ICIMOD Knowledge Park in Godavari Knowledge Park tour. Demonstration of prototype community-based flood early warning system	Mr Samden Lama Sherpa, Ms Neera Shrestha Pradhan, Mr Narendra Bajracharya, Mr Sundar Rai, ICIMOD
16:30 – 18:00	Return to the hotel	Mr Govinda Shrestha Programme Associate, ICIMOD
<i>18:00</i>	<i>Reception dinner at Hotel Himalaya</i>	

Day 2: 6 April 2016, Wednesday

Field Visit: Jure landslide site, Sindhupalchowk District

TIME	AGENDA	Remarks
07:30 – 10:00	Travel from Kathmandu to Jure landslide site, Sindhupalchowk District	
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break at Gauri Shankar Hotel	Govinda Shrestha
10:30 – 12:00	Travel to Jure landslide site and dam	Deo Raj Gurung
12:00 – 12:45	Observation of Jure landslide and dam	Deo Raj Gurung
12:45 – 13:00	Travel to Chandeshwori Hotel	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch at Chandeshwori Hotel	Govinda Shrestha
14:00 – 15:00	Hydrometeorological station observation	Shahriar Wahid
15:00 – 16:00	Travel to Kothe	Deo Raj Gurung
16:00 – 17:00	- Observation of damage to agricultural fields due to LDOF (landslide dam outburst flood) and - Observation of road damage due to LDOF	Deo Raj Gurung
17:00 – 18:30	Travel back to Dhulikhel Resort for night stay (brief review of the activities in group and briefing of the next day's plan: 15 minutes)	Deo Raj Gurung Naresh Newar Purna Hari Amatya

Day 3: 7 April 2016, Thursday

Field Visit: Springs and ponds, Kavrepalanchowk District

TIME	AGENDA	Remarks
08:30 – 09:30	Breakfast at Dhulikhel Lodge Resort	Govinda Shrestha
9:30 – 10:30	Recap of 6 April 2016	Deo Raj Gurung Nilhari Neupane Naresh Newar
10:30 – 12:00	Travel to Daraune Pokhari	
12:00 – 12:45	Briefing on springs and ponds piloting by partner (on piloting site) at Namu Buddha Hotel	Dipak Gyawali Santosh Nepal
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch at Namu Buddha Hotel	Govinda Shrestha
13:45 – 14:15	Travel to pilot area	
14.30 – 16:30	Field observation in pilot area Informal interaction with community people and local journalists about the role of springs and ponds, the causes of drying, and local initiatives	Dipak Gyawali Santosh Nepal
16:30 – 18:00	Travel from Daraune Pokhari to Dhulikhel Lodge Resort and recap of the day	Santosh Nepal Naresh Newar
	Night stay at Dhulikhel Resort	

Day 4: 8 April 2016, Friday**Field Visit:** Water Use Master Plans, Sindhuli District

TIME	AGENDA	Remarks
06:30 – 07:30	Breakfast	
7:30 – 11:30	Travel from Dhulikhel to Khurkot, Bhimeshwar	
11:30 –12:30	Lunch at Khurkot	Govinda Shrestha
12:30 – 13:00	Travel to Bhimeshwar VDC office	
13:00 – 14:30	Informal Interaction with the local community on water use master plans and upstream and downstream issues at Bhimeshwar VDC office, Sindhuli	Nilhari Neupane Santosh Nepal Rabin Niraula
14:30 – 16:15	Site visit along Adherikhola catchment, Bhimeshwar and Jalkanya VDCs	Nilhari Neupane Santosh Nepal Rabin Niraula
16:15 – 18:00	Travel to Bardibas, Mahottari. Night stay at Hotel Gautam and recap	Santosh Nepal Rabin Niraula

Day 5: 9 April 2016, Saturday**Field Visit:** Irrigation system and interaction on water use master plans (WUMPs), Saptari District

TIME	AGENDA	Remarks
06:30 – 7:30	Breakfast	Govinda Shrestha
07:30 –10:30	Travel from Bardibas to Simrik Hotel, Lahan	
10:30 – 11:30	Early Lunch at Simrik Hotel	Govinda Shrestha
11:30 – 12:30	Travel to Mahuli irrigation system, Mahuli, Saptari	
12.30 – 14:00	Visit to Mahuli irrigation system	Dol representative, Nilhari Neupane, Santosh Nepal, Harshana Shrestha, Bikram Rana, Prabhu N. Chaudhary
14:00 – 16:00	Discussion with VDC representatives, V-WASH-CC members, water users group, local leaders. Discussion on water issues and possible suggested solutions	Prabhu N Chaudhary, Nilhari Neupane, Bikram Rana, Harshana Shrestha
16:00 – 17:0	Summary of the field visit and observation (recap)	Shahriar Wahid, ICIMOD and Juerg Merz, HELVETAS
17:00-18:00	Travel back to Simrik Hotel, Lahan	

Day 6: 10 April 2016, Sunday

Field Visit: Community Based Flood Early Warning System (CB-FEWS), Mahottari District

TIME	AGENDA	Remarks
06:30 – 07:30	Breakfast at Simrik Hotel	Govinda Shrestha
07:30 – 10:30	Travel to Bardibas from Simrik Hotel, Lahan	Govinda Shrestha
10:30 – 11:30	Visit to CBFEWS sites (both transmitter and receiver units) at Lalgadh. Observation of CBFEWS installation sites and interaction with the local caretaker	CBFEWS team (Neera Shrestha Pradhan, Sundar Rai, Sagar Bajracharya, Narendra Bajracharya)
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch at Bardibas Hotel	Govinda Shrestha
12:30 – 13:30	Travel from Bardibas to Sarpallo	CB-FEWS team
13:30 – 15:00	Interaction with the local community at Sarpallo on the usefulness of CB-FEWS and visit to flood vulnerable sites	CB-FEWS team
15:00 – 16:00	Travel from Sarpallo to Janakpur	
16:30 – 17:30	Field trip closing session (group story session)	Naresh Newar, Purna Hai Amatya
18:00	Dinner and local participants depart	Govinda Shrestha
	Overnight in Sita Palace, Janakpur	Govinda Shrestha

DAY 7: 11 April 2016 and DAY 8, 12 April 2016 – TRAVEL BACK

AM	11 April 2016, Monday Travel to Kathmandu from Janakpur	Govinda Shrestha
AM/PM	12 April 2016, Tuesday International participants depart from Kathmandu	Govinda Shrestha

LIST OF RESOURCE PERSONS

1. Anja Moller Rasmussen, Senior Manager, Knowledge Management and Communication, ICIMOD
2. Arun Bhakta Shrestha, Programme Manager, River Basins Programme, ICIMOD
3. Bikram Rana, Team Leader, Building Effective Water Governance in Asian Highlands, HELVETAS
4. David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD
5. Deo Raj Gurung, Remote Sensing Specialist, ICIMOD
6. Dipak Gyawali, Executive Director, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation
7. Eklabya Sharma, Director Programme Operations, ICIMOD
8. Gopilal Acharya, Communication Specialist, Knowledge Management and Communication, ICIMOD
9. Govinda Shrestha, Programme Associate, ICIMOD
10. Guna Raj Luitel, Editor, Nagarik Daily
11. Harshana Shrestha, Research Analyst, ICIMOD
12. Juerg Merz, International Advisor, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
13. Kanchan Shrestha, Programme Officer, Koshi Basin Programme, ICIMOD
14. Naresh Newar, Communications Consultant, Koshi Basin Programme, ICIMOD
15. Narendra Bajracharya, Maintenance Coordinator, ICIMOD
16. Neera Shrestha Pradhan, Water and Adaptation Specialist, ICIMOD
17. Nilhari Neupane, Economic Analyst, ICIMOD
18. Nira Gurung, Senior Communications Officer, ICIMOD
19. Prabhu N. Chaudhary, Director, Mahuli Community Development Center (MCDC)
20. Purna Hari Amatya, Consultant, ICIMOD
21. Rabin Niraula, Researcher, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
22. Sagar Bajracharya, Hydrometeorological Analyst, ICIMOD
23. Samden Lama Sherpa, Knowledge Park Officer, ICIMOD
24. Santosh Nepal, Associate Coordinator, Koshi Basin Programme, ICIMOD
25. Shahriar Wahid, Programme Coordinator, Koshi Basin Programme, ICIMOD
26. Sudina Shakya, Media and Dissemination, KMC, ICIMOD
27. Sundar Rai, Water and Adaptation Analyst, ICIMOD

For further information contact

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