

Nepal's- Local Water Parliament.

Institutional innovation by Nepal Water Partnership (NWP) to promote IWRM.



Mai Khola River

Nepal endowed with significant water resources has adopted the River Basin Management (RBM) concept for efficient and effective use of its water resources potential to meet social, economic, cultural and environmental needs of its people.

Based on the precept that *Water is everybody's Right and its Management everybody's Concern* the NWP initiated its water management concept of "Water Resources in the Hands of the People" focussed at the immediate water shed/ command area of the community that will be up streamed to higher levels within the hydrological horizons for basin wide water management. The need to understand the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) whilst practicing water resources management at the community level is expected to result in effective basin wise participatory management catering to all aspects and needs of all stakeholders in the community. With 6 major rivers and over 6000 rivers and rivulets the implication of successful operationalisation this model has immense significance for the country. The essential thrust of this process is to implement basin wise management at the community level through an institutional arrangement harmonizes and integrates with existing social and cultural norms.

Experience in 4 locations where Village Development Committees (VDC) have been established is very encouraging. The Local Water Parliament (LWP) formed from among the stakeholders of the water resource of the basin at the local level has not only made people aware of basin level management but motivated them to develop plans, strategies and set priorities for the long, medium and short term. Though in the formative stage some positive developments include:

Acceptance and ownership of concept of basin wise management of respective water resources for the benefit of the community/command by locals.

Water resources and its effective utilization has become an important constituent of the development agenda of the community.

Realisation that water resources is a common property of the community and its use should benefit all.

The Vision,

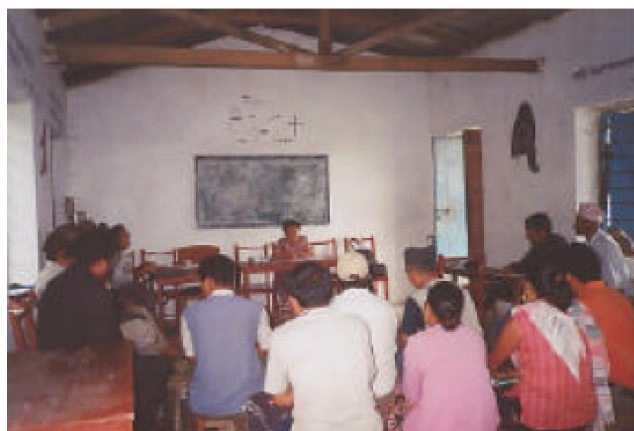
Poverty in South Asia will be eradicated and living conditions of all the people will be uplifted to sustainable levels of comfort, health and wellbeing through coordinated and integrated development and management of water resources of the region.

Water Vision 2025 GWP – South Asia

As a result each VDC

- ❑ Developed a detailed inventory of water sources/resources-point sources, lakes, ponds, rivers and rivulets.
- ❑ Maintained a systematic record of these resources in terms of uses and users including monitoring of source and volumes involved.
- ❑ Initiated a series of Consultations/Dialogues at community level (ward) primarily to inform the community of resources within their VDC and secondly about possible uses of these resources and options-drinking, irrigation, hydro, economic purpose (water mill/industry).
- ❑ The initial work in the District of Ilam in eastern Nepal on LWP has resulted in the community agreeing to resolve issues and conflicts through dialogue.
- ❑ LWP is also in the process of bringing mini/micro hydro power developers/partners to revisit project formulation to ensure issues and concerns of all stakeholders including the community.
- ❑ Gradual movement to basin level management arrangements with representative community participation is the logical expectation of this bottom up based water management initiative .

NWP's role in advising the Constituent Assembly currently drafting a new constitution for Nepal on aspects related to water resources and drafting the required constitutional provisions to delineate the responsibilities of the state and centre to ensure an IWRM approach has provided it an opportunity to influence policy recognition of LWP in future.



Discussion with the community
"We shall make the difference"



Members of LWP prepare resource inventory

Further information on LWP can be obtained from;

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Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in South Asia.
Striving for good governance, equity, access, adequacy, quality, productivity and sustainability in the water sector.

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