

Adaptation to climate change goes local GWP Nepal Helps to Bridge the Gap of Central Planning and Local Priorities

WACREP: Water and Climate Resilience Programme South Asia (Activity No. 1.3.1C)

Nepal was the first country in the world to officially endorse a Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) as part of its 2010 National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) framework. This bottom-up approach in most climate vulnerable 14 districts is the Nepal's first attempt at translating central-level climate adaptation plans into tangible projects on the ground, by including inputs from vulnerable communities. For each LAPA, communities have prioritised projects which they felt would improve their adaptive capacity.

In this context, GWP Nepal/*Jalsrot Vikas Sanstha* (JVS) has prepared an adaptation plan for Lamatar Village Development Committee (VDC) of Lalitpur district, Kathmandu Valley where nearly 9,000 people live in over 1,400 ha. The plan proposes, creation of an umbrella organisation to tackle unequal water resource distribution – plans for fair distribution of available water supplies and proper water management, and prioritise poor, marginalised, and vulnerable households. In the process of preparation of LAPA, seven steps were followed and trainings were conducted (LAPA manual, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Nepal, January 2013).

GWP Nepal raised awareness on Climate Change (CC) among locals to assess the impacts of CC on local communities, to identify the most vulnerable communities and households and to formulate appropriate adaptation practices to build climate resilient communities. CC sensitisation programmes were conducted in Village Development Committees (VDCs) and at ward level through posters, banners and sharing experiences. Trainings facilitated by GWP Nepal to support implementation of LAPAs in four VDCs (Gola, Manau, Patabhar and Khairi-Chandanpur) of Bardiya districts have enabled local farmers to understand how CC happens and which areas are most vulnerable. Similarly, farmers in three districts Banke, Bardia and Lalitpur districts were trained on conservation and sustainable use of water resources including methods to increase irrigation efficiency.



At the Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation (VAA) planning process, Community Based Vulnerability Assessment (CBVA) was carried out in all nine wards of the VDC. The tools used for VAA were, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and participatory rural appraisals. At the

participatory rural appraisal process, transect walk, resource mapping, seasonal calendar, cropping calendar, hazard profiling and hazard ranking were used.

Assessment of the problems and Adaptation Actions

The potential impacts of climate change were assessed through a discussion with senior and experienced citizens who also validated the measured climate data. The impacts were assessed among the sectors. The causes of problems attached with climate sensitive sectors were discussed and ranked according to their vulnerability.

Sector	Main causes	Community priority	Adaptation Actions
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drying up water sources and reduced water in existing • Improper management of water • Pollution 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain water harvesting • Waste and sewage management • Conservation of streams • Construction of water collection tanks • Seeking of new water sources • Conservation and management of water resources
Agriculture and food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing dry spell • Increasing incidence of pest and diseases • Degrading quality of soil • Inadequate availability of water sources 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of organic farming • Modern agriculture technologies • Irrigation facilities
Forest and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest fire • Less dependency towards forest products • No technical and manual assistance of forest fire • Forest encroachment • Loss of biodiversity 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantations with high value species • Ecotourism • Scientific forest management, • Installation of biogas plant • Export forest products • Equitable accessibility on natural resources
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravelled road and brick kilns pollution 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular service provider in health sector • Regular health services • Increase the capacity of health post

Budget for the Priority Actions:

After identification and ranking of local adaptation actions, they were prioritised considering the climate problems, target groups, vulnerability and gender sensitivity. A total of 137 adaptation actions were developed in consultation with locals and from the intense study of VDC plans and three years budget of Lamatar VDC was prepared based on the prioritised adaption actions of different sectors.

Water and Climate Resilience Programme (WACREP) is an innovative initiative of Global Water Partnership (GWP) South Asia devised to improve the climate resilience of South Asian countries to withstand the impact of climate change. More than 40 climate resilience interventions were undertaken in the first phase of WACREP (October 2013 to March 2015).

This is a Success Story documented by GWP Nepal.

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