

5. THE STUDY AREA: KATHMANDU VALLEY

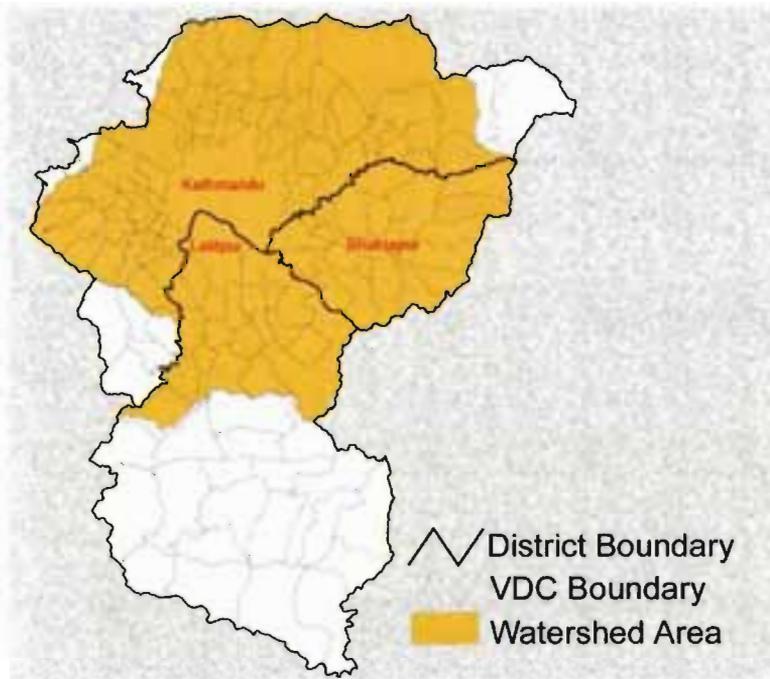


Figure 1: **Kathmandu Valley Based on the Watershed Boundaries**



Figure 2: **Location of Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur Districts**

The area of Kathmandu Valley is based on a watershed boundary covering 81 per cent of Kathmandu district, 32 per cent of Lalitpur district, and the whole of Bhaktapur district (Figure 1). The Kathmandu Valley has three large cities, viz., Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur, and many small market towns. Several studies have been carried out on the Valley, but the areas and boundaries provided by them do not coincide (IUCN and HMG/Nepal 1995). The reported area ranges from 596 to 760 sq. km. In this study, the area of the Kathmandu Valley is calculated from a topographic map on a scale of 1:25,000; the area is 583 sq. km.

For the present study, the study area is considered to be the entire administrative district boundaries of Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur (Figure 2) so that aggregation of data at the district and sub-district levels can be carried out easily. Another reason for choosing the district boundaries is that district databases can be used by different stakeholders working in the districts. There are altogether 131 village development committees (VDCs) in the Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur districts: 67 in Kathmandu, 41 in Lalitpur, and 22 in Bhaktapur.