

Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP)

River Basins Programme, ICIMOD

ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

Australian
Aid 

The River Basins Programme is currently working on

Improved understanding of climate change, climate variability, and their impact on women, men, vulnerable groups, and the environment to support the development of adaptation-related policy and practices

- New hydropower environmental impact assessment guidelines developed in partnership with IFC and Ministry of Population and Environment, Nepal can contribute significantly to the sustainability of hydropower development in Nepal and has the potential to be replicated in other countries in the region.
- Piloting and research on incentivizing ecosystem management (IEM) and the strong interest shown by Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, Nepal indicated the possibility that the pilot and research can make meaningful contributions to IEM-related policy discourse in Nepal.
- A pioneering hydro-economic modelling exercise assessed the climate resilience of the various benefits generated by dams in baseline and future climatic scenarios. The benefits assessed include hydroelectricity production, irrigation, flood damage control, and benefits of projects. The models showed substantial irrigation and flood control gains from the construction of run-of-the-river hydroelectricity (ROR) schemes.
- Regional engagement and dialogues supported by research on the water-food-energy nexus has indicated the growing interest of national and international stakeholders to identify solutions that minimize trade-offs and maximize synergies.



Adaptive capacity of women and men built for risks related to both environmental and socio-economic changes



- The importance of water use master plans is being recognized in district development plans with rural municipalities allocating their budget for projects identified in the plan.
- In 2017, for the first time, flood early warning information was shared between communities in Nepal and India through community based flood early warning systems (CBFEWSs) in the transboundary Ratu Khola during peak flood season. Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project/Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal has outscaled CBFEWS is one of the tributaries in Koshi; GBDMA, Pakistan has committed to outscale CBFEWS. In Afghanistan, a pilot initiative on CBFEWS has helped to put CBFEWS as an institutional mandate in Focus Afghanistan's risk reduction agenda.
- Solar powered irrigation pump (SPIP) pilots in Nepal demonstrated the possibility to reduce inequity in land ownership through innovative financing mechanisms and by encouraging women farmers to own and operate new technologies like SPIPs. Women farmers were given an additional 10% discount for buying an SPIP, provided that the land on which the SPIP was installed was transferred in their name.
- With the success of SPIP piloting in the mountainous environment of Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan, the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has proposed the replication of SPIP technologies to the Government of Pakistan. The piloting of innovative financing for SPIPs in Nepal has elicited strong interest from the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPIC), the Government of Nepal, to replicate further study. Similarly, a private sector bank in Nepal is working with ICIMOD to provide loans to farmers for buying SPIPs.
- Inland waterways have been noted as an opportunity for mountain connectivity in Nepal's concept note for Promoting Mountain Economies in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries.