

The Role of Extreme Weather Events, Mass Movements, and Land Use Changes in Increasing Natural Hazards

*A Report of the Preliminary Field Assessment and Workshop on
Causes of the Recent Damage Incurred in South-Central Nepal (July 19-20, 1993)*



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H.F. Tucker
Director General

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The Steep Slopes, unstable geology, and the intense monsoons combine to make the Hindu Kush Himalayas one of the most hazard-prone areas in the world. As human activities rapidly expand across these mountains, these also become subject to the influence of hazards, often resulting in severe natural disasters. Such an event occurred in Nepal in the Southern parts of the Central Development Region during July 19 and 20, this year.

As an institution focussing on integrated mountain development, ICIMOD's concerns have been directed at identifying alternative methods of hazard mitigation and improving disaster preparedness. In such cases, prevention is always the preferred alternative. With the objective of better understanding the factors and processes involved, ICIMOD organised a discussion of the natural events, bringing together concerned professionals from the Planning Commission, government departments, and the University.

The meeting recommended an immediate reconnaissance study of the affected areas. ICIMOD fielded a reconnaissance study team, consisting of faculty members of Tribhuvan University, to study three of the worst-affected areas. This report contains the findings of the study team and the conclusions and recommendations arrived at from the study team's findings during a workshop held on November 23rd and 24th, 1993.

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E.F. Tacke
Director General

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Megh Raj Dhital

Narendra Khanal

Khadga B. Thapa

E.F. Tacke
Director General

Part One:

The Introduction and Description of Natural Events were written by **Narendra Khanal**, Lecturer, Geography Department, Tribhuvan University, and the Assessment of Climatic Events was prepared by **Khadga B. Thapa**, Reader, Central Department of Meteorology, Tribhuvan University.

Part Two:

Part II was the work of **Megh Raj Dhital**, Lecturer, Geology Department, Tribhuvan University.

Part Three:

The Assessment of Land Use Changes and Their Impact was prepared by **Narendra Khanal**.

Part Four:

The final overall assessment was based on contributions from all three authors and on the Workshop Discussions.

Contents

Part I: THE PRELIMINARY RECONNAISSANCE	1
Introduction	1
Preliminary Discussions Organised by ICIMOD	4
Discussions	4
Recommendations	5
The Natural Disaster Reconnaissance Study Fielded by ICIMOD	5
General Description of the Natural Events (July 19 and 20, 1993)	7
Time-Sequence of Events	8
Past Events Concerning Major Climatic Hazards in the Study Area	9
An Assessment of Climatic Events Occurring during July 19th - 20th, 1993	16
<i>The Bagmati Catchment</i>	16
<i>Vegetation and Settlement</i>	16
Climate and Hydrometeorology	21
<i>The Storms from July 19th to 21st, 1993</i>	24
Conclusions	48
Appendix 1.1: Rainfall Data for the Bagmati Catchment and Its Adjoining Catchments	54
Appendix 1.2: Flow Measurements on the Trek (Sept 1-21) 1993	55
Part II: THE GEOLOGICAL AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL BACKGROUND TO THE HAZARDS	56
Background of the Area	56
<i>Mid-hills</i>	62
<i>Mahabharat Range</i>	64
<i>Siwalik Hills</i>	64
<i>The Terai</i>	64
<i>The Intermontane Valley of Kathmandu</i>	64
<i>The Kulekhani Valley and the Dam</i>	65
<i>The Valleys in the Siwaliks</i>	65
<i>Alluvial Fans</i>	65
<i>River Terraces</i>	65
<i>Floodplains and Channel Bars</i>	66
Mass Movements and Floods	66
<i>Landslides</i>	66
<i>Causes of Mass Movements</i>	67
<i>Flash Floods and Debris Torrents</i>	68
<i>Floods</i>	69
<i>A Note on Rainfall Pattern and Flood Travel Time</i>	69
Field Assessment of Damages by Mass Movements and Floods	69
<i>Mass Movements on Highways and Adjacent Regions</i>	69
<i>Damage to the Tribhuvan Highway and Adjacent Area</i>	70
<i>Plane Rockslide North of Okhar Bazaar</i>	70
<i>Landslides and Gully Erosion on the Slope North of Okhar Bazaar</i>	70

<i>Damage to the Road between Sikharkot and Daman</i>	72
<i>Mass Movement at the Daman Horticultural Farm</i>	74
<i>Damage to the Kunchhal-Kulekhani Road</i>	74
<i>Damage to the Prithvi Highway and Its Surroundings</i>	74
<i>The Jogimara Landslide and Its Triggers</i>	76
<i>The Situation in the Malekhu, Belkhu, and Agra Khola Watersheds</i>	76
Field Study of Alluvial Fans	77
<i>The Kitini Khola Alluvial Fan</i>	77
<i>The Phedigaun Alluvial Fans</i>	77
Damage in a Particular Area	81
<i>Damage around the Kulekhani Reservoir</i>	81
<i>Kulekhani Khola between the Dam and the Confluence with the Bagmati River</i>	82
<i>The Bagmati Valley between Ipa and Gimdi</i>	82
<i>The Bagmati Valley between Gimdi and Kokhajor Khola</i>	83
<i>Sheet Flooding in Karaonje</i>	83
<i>Damage to Raigaun</i>	83
<i>Damage below Raigaun</i>	83
<i>Damage to the Bagmati Barrage</i>	84
<i>Damage to the Kulekhani Penstock Pipe</i>	85
Damage to the Kulekhani I	85
<i>Tailrace Tunnel and Intake of Kulekhani II</i>	85
<i>Damage by the Manohari Khola</i>	85
Conclusions	86
Part III: ASSESSMENT OF LAND USE CHANGES AND THEIR IMPACT	87
An Introduction to Land Use	87
Land, Land Use, and Landslide Activities in the Daman-Palung Area	91
History of Land-use Change	94
Summing Up	95
Part IV: OVERALL ASSESSMENT AND NEEDED ACTION	99
The Workshop	99
<i>Objectives</i>	99
<i>Preparatory Activities for the Workshop</i>	99
<i>Workshop Schedule</i>	99
Overall Assessment	100
Recommendations	101
<i>Organising a High-level Technical Review</i>	101
<i>Development of Settlement Location Guidelines</i>	101
<i>Development of Hazard Maps</i>	101
<i>Preparation of Land-use Guidelines and Mobilising Local Support for Their Implementation</i>	101
<i>Early Warning Systems</i>	102
<i>Environmental Rehabilitation Work</i>	102
<i>Public Awareness of the History of Natural Events</i>	102
<i>Problem-oriented Research</i>	103
<i>Information Networks and Coordination</i>	103
<i>Training in Natural Hazard Mitigation and Management</i>	103

Improvement in Hydrological and Meteorological Stations	103
Environmental Guidelines for Specific Projects	104
Establishment of a Multidisciplinary, Hazard Mitigation Body	104
More Effective Development Policies	104

Appendix 4.1	105
Appendix 4.2	106
Appendix 4.3	108

References	123
Plates	P-1

LIST OF TABLES

1.1:	Flood Relief Operation 2050	2
1.2:	Major Landslides and Floods Associated with High Intensity Rain in the Study Area	12
1.3:	Sizes of the Large Boulders Deposited by the Floods on Kitini Khola in 1915 and the Recent Flood (in m ³)	12
1.4:	Size of the Big Boulders Deposited by the Flood on Phedigaun Khola in 1915 and the Recent One (in m ³)	14
1.5:	Morphometric Characteristics of the Bagmati Catchment Upstream from the Karmaya Barrage (122 masl)	16
1.6:	The Mean Annual Rainfall for the Bagmati Catchment	21
1.7:	Extreme Rainfall Events on Record (Including the July 20th Storm)	42
1.8:	Return Period Estimation for the July 19-20 Rainfall Event	48
2.1:	Daily Automatic Rainfall Records at Simlang and Tistung, July 1993	60
2.2:	Daily Automatic Rainfall Records at Simlang and Tistung, August 1993	61
2.3:	Details of Gate Opening and Closing at Kulekhani Dam	82
2.4:	Details of the Bagmati Barrage	84
2.5:	Siltation of the Bagmati Barrage after the Flood of July 21, 1993	85
3.1:	Frequency of Landslides by Land Use Types	91
3.2:	Landslides in a Pakho Bari (maize field) near Kunchhal Village	92
3.3:	Frequency of Landslides and Geology	93
3.4:	Frequency of Landslides and Land-use Characteristics	94

LIST OF FIGURES

1.1:	The Bagmati Watershed	17
1.2:	Longitudinal Profile of Kitini Khola	18
1.3:	Longitudinal Profile of Bagmati River	19
1.4:	Average Monthly Discharge for Bagmati River Near Barrage	20
1.5:	Monsoon in Kathmandu/Nepal (1984-1975)	22
1.6:	Mean Annual Rainfall of Bagmati Catchment (1982-1990)	23
1.7:	Five-year Running Means Kathmandu (Airport)	25
1.8:	Five-year Running Means (Hariharpur Gadhi)	26
1.9:	Five-year Running Means (Markhu)	27
1.10:	Five-year Running Means (Chisapani Gadhi)	28
1.11:	Five-year Running Means (Daman)	29
1.12:	Average Monthly Distribution of Rainfall and Discharge (Bagmati River)	30
1.13:	Surface Chart, 1800 UTC, July 17, 1993	31
1.14:	Surface Chart, 0600 UTC, July 18, 1993	32
1.15:	Surface Chart, 0900 UTC, July 18, 1993	33
1.16:	Surface Chart, 1800 UTC, July 18, 1993	34
1.17:	Surface Chart, 0600 UTC, July 20, 1993	35
1.18:	Surface Chart, 1800 UTC, July 20, 1993	36
1.19:	Surface Chart, 0600 UTC, July 21, 1993	37

1.20:	Surface Chart, 0300 UTC, July 20, 1993	38
1.21:	Surface Chart, 1800 UTC, July 22, 1993	39
1.22:	Isohyets on July 19, 1993	40
1.23:	Isohyets on July 20, 1993	41
1.24:	Hyetograph July (19-20) 1993 (Tistung)	43
1.25:	Hyetograph July 19-20, 1993, Simlang (Kulekhani)	44
1.26:	Hyetograph, 19-21 July 1993, Hazam	45
1.27:	Isohyets on July 21, 1993	46
1.28:	Isohyets on July 22, 1993	47
1.29:	Return Period Vs Rainfall (Markhu)	49
1.30:	Return Period Vs Rainfall (Daman)	50
1.31:	Return Vs Rainfall (Chisapani <i>Gadhi</i>)	51
1.32:	Return Period Vs Rainfall (Hariharpur <i>Gadhi</i>)	52
2.1:	Tectonic Subdivisions of the Himalayas	57
2.2:	Map of the Bagmati River and Its Tributaries between Kathmandu and the Barrage at Canteen Showing Major Faults, Landslides, and Settlements	58
2.3:	Geological Map of Tistung-Kulekhani-Bhainse Dobhan Area (After Stocklin & Bhattarai, 1978)	59
2.4:	Longitudinal Profile of the Bagmati River	63
2.5:	Sketch of a Debris Slide	67
2.6:	Sketch of a Plane Rockslide	67
2.7:	Sketch of a Rotational Slide	67
2.8:	Sketch of bank scouring by a river	68
2.9:	Stereographic projection of joints, Km 64 on the Tribhuvan Highway. Upper hemispherical projection	70
2.10:	Engineering-Geological Map of a Western Part of Okhar <i>Bazaar</i>	71
2.11:	Stereographic projection of joints from the slope north of Okhar <i>bazaar</i> . Upper hemispherical projection	72
2.12:	Engineering-Geological Map of a Part of the Tribhuvan Highway Between Shikharkot and Daman	73
2.13:	Stereographic projection of joints from the road section between Shikharkot and Daman. Upper hemispherical projection	72
2.14:	Engineering-Geological Map of a Part of the Horticultural Farm, Daman	75
2.15:	Stereographic projection of joints from the Jogimara rockslide. Upper hemispherical projection	76
2.16:	The Kitini Khola Fan at Palung	78
2.17:	Cross-Sections of the Kitini Khola	79
2.18:	Longitudinal Profile of the Kitini Khola	80
2.19:	Stereographic projection of joints from the area between Sulikot and Thulotar. Upper hemispherical projection	82

LIST OF MAPS

1.1:	Flood Relief Operation 1993	3
1.2:	Flood Relief Operation 1993	6
1.3:	Areas Affected by Very High Intensity Rainfall on July 19 & 20, 1993	10
1.4:	Timing of Major Mass Movements and Flooding Activities Associated with the High Intensity Rainfall on July 19 & 20, 1993	11
3.1:	Daman, Palung, Tistung Areas: Drainage Network and Area of Extensive Damage Caused by the Event on July 19, 1993	88

LIST OF GRAPHS

1.1:	Profile of Bagmati River from Barrage to Chiruwakhola	13
1.2:	Profile of Agra Khola from Mahadev Besi to Chisapani	15

LIST OF CHARTS

3.1:	Land Types and Their Uses	90
3.2:	Factors Which Are Responsible for Triggering the Disaster of July 19 and 20, 1993	96