

Koshi Basin Initiative

Working towards resilient livelihoods and sustainable development in the transboundary river basin



What motivates us?

The Koshi basin has some of the most complex and interlinked issues related to its resource use: productive use of available water despite seasonal variation in water supply, maintenance of ecosystem services, agriculture production, biodiversity conservation, and hydropower generation to name a few. Water-related disasters such as floods, droughts, and landslides are common across the basin. Together, they present unique challenges of water resource management at various scales for over 35 million people who call the basin their home.

What we do

We develop actionable solutions under the broader framework of integrated river basin management. We make knowledge and technologies available for planning and adaptation at the local, regional and national level. Principles of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) are integrated into all major activities to promote inclusive policies and decision making on water resource management.

Support evidence-based policy interventions



Develop and test actionable and appropriate water-related adaptation pilots



Develop an enabling environment to strengthen regional cooperation at all levels of governance



THREE PILLARS OF OUR WORK IN THE BASIN

Our achievements



DATA AND KNOWLEDGE PLATFORMS FOR IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING

We established the Koshi Basin Information System (KBIS), and the Koshi Gender Portal where researchers and policy makers can access information related to climate change scenarios, water availability and demand, hazards, biophysical changes, and socio-economic change.



SCALED UP ADAPTATION PRACTICES

We have tested innovative practices such as springshed management and community-based flood early warning systems (including transboundary cooperation), and developed integrated watershed management and water use master plans for wider uptake in the basin.



COLLABORATION FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

We have brought together over 80 organizations from the three basin countries working on water-related disasters to strengthen collaboration between researchers, practitioners, policy makers and institutions through the Koshi Disaster Risk Knowledge Hub (KDKH).