

2. Description of Kakani Panchayat

Kakani Panchayat is located north-west of Kathmandu Valley in the middle hills of Nepal and is one of the 62 Panchayats of Nuwakot District. It has a market centre, Ranipauwa, and is divided into nine wards. Ranipauwa is located 27 km., an hour's drive, from Kathmandu on the Kathmandu Trishuli Road. This road, a 68 km.* all-weather hill road, passes through six of the nine wards of Kakani Panchayat and connects Kathmandu to Bidur, the headquarters of Nuwakot District (Maps 1, 2 and 3).

2.1: Physical Layout

Kakani Panchayat is located on both sides of a hill, 2064 metres high, which forms a natural barrier between Kathmandu Valley on its southern side and Rasuwa district on its northern side. It lies on the north-facing slope, except for Ward 6, with altitudes ranging from 2064 to 900 metres within an aerial distance of 6 km. leading to great agro-climatic changes. Its south-west boundary is with the Kathmandu Valley, while its remaining boundaries are with Thanapati, Chaturale, Madanpur, Belkot, Chuthe and Okharpauwa Panchayats of Nuwakot District (Plates 1, 2 and 3).

Kakani Panchayat was called Kakanidharapani Panchayat before 1971 and was similar in area to the present Panchayat Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8. The remaining areas were added to it from adjoining Panchayats to form the present Kakani Panchayat. Wards 1 and 2 from Madanpur Panchayat, and Wards 3 and 4 from Chaturale Panchayat, were already part of Kakani Panchayat by 1977, while Ward 9 from Thansing Panchayat was added during 1981. Throughout the last sixteen years, the area of Kakani Panchayat has increased in size from 4 to 9 Wards. Its area in 1977/1978 was 2395.7 hectares. Its land-use pattern is divided into outward sloping terraces, forests and level bench terraces followed by scrub, gullies, pasture etc. Outward sloping terraces constituted 37.1 per cent of the total land (887.6 hectares) followed by 36.9

per cent of forest (884.4 hectares) and by 12.8 per cent of level bench terraces (305.6 hectares) (Figure 1 and Table 1).

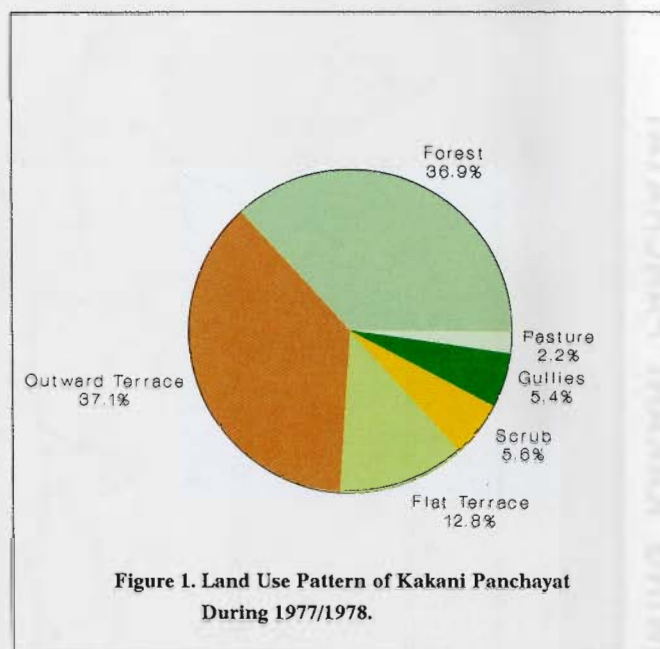


Figure 1. Land Use Pattern of Kakani Panchayat During 1977/1978.

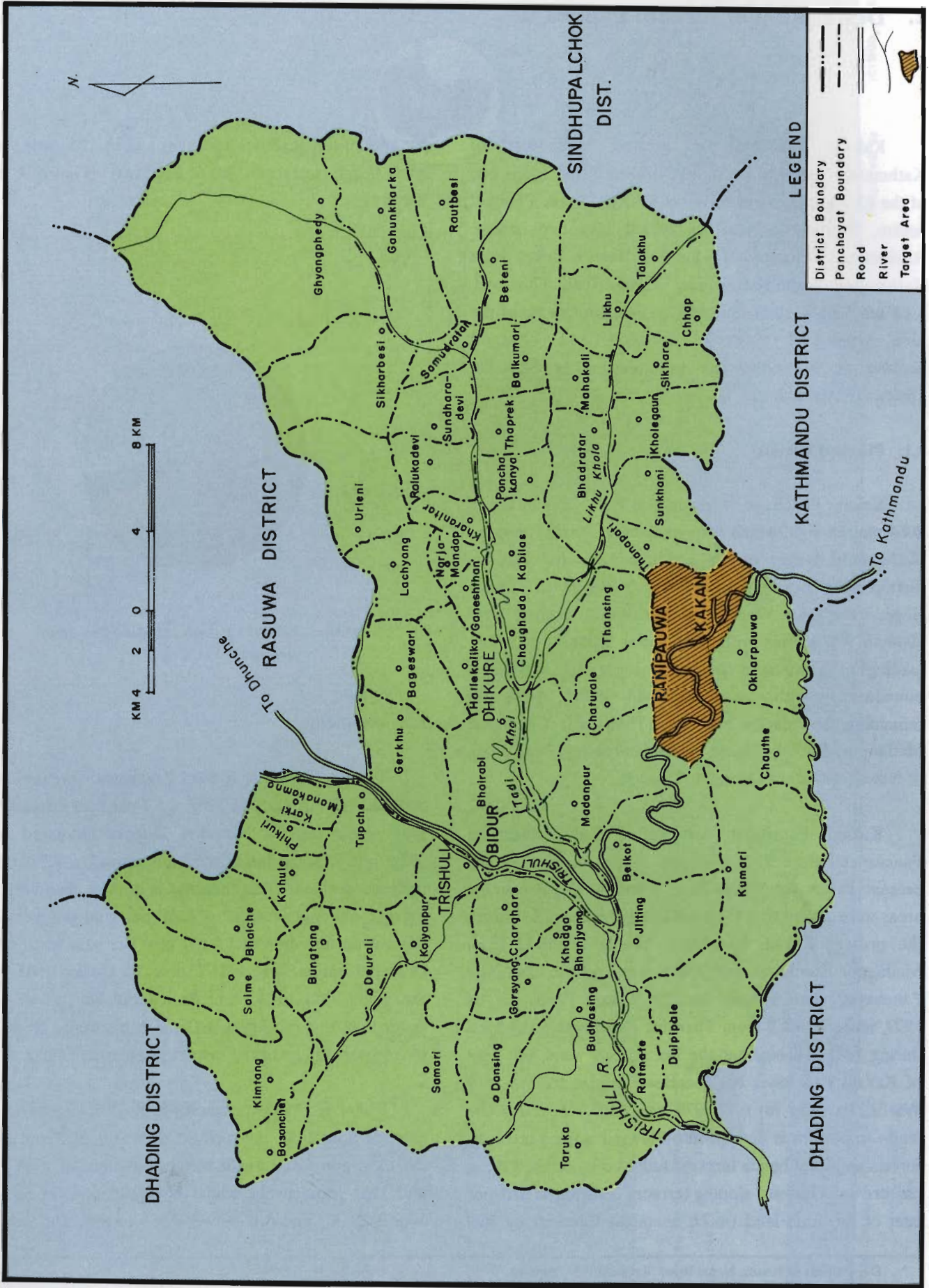
2.2: Population

The population of Kakani Panchayat increased from 5004 to 6702 during 1981-1987, a 5.7 per cent increase per year, while that of Nuwakot District increased from 202,976 to 253,802 during the same period, a 4.2 per cent increase per year. This increase is greater than both the average national increase of 2.62 per cent per year and the average increase of 1.8 per cent per year for the hills of Nepal during 1971-1981 (Table 2). During 1981-1987, the population of Kakani Panchayat has grown even faster than that of Nuwakot District, increasing from 2.47 to 2.64 percentage of the district population (Table 3).

There are 1146 households in Kakani Panchayat, the average household size being 5.8. Wards 3, 5 and 9 are the most populated wards with populations of 1094, 1025 and 1161 respectively, while the population for each of Wards 1,2,4,7 and 8 is between 500 to 600. The majority

* Department of Roads, Nepal Road Statistics 1985, Page 12.

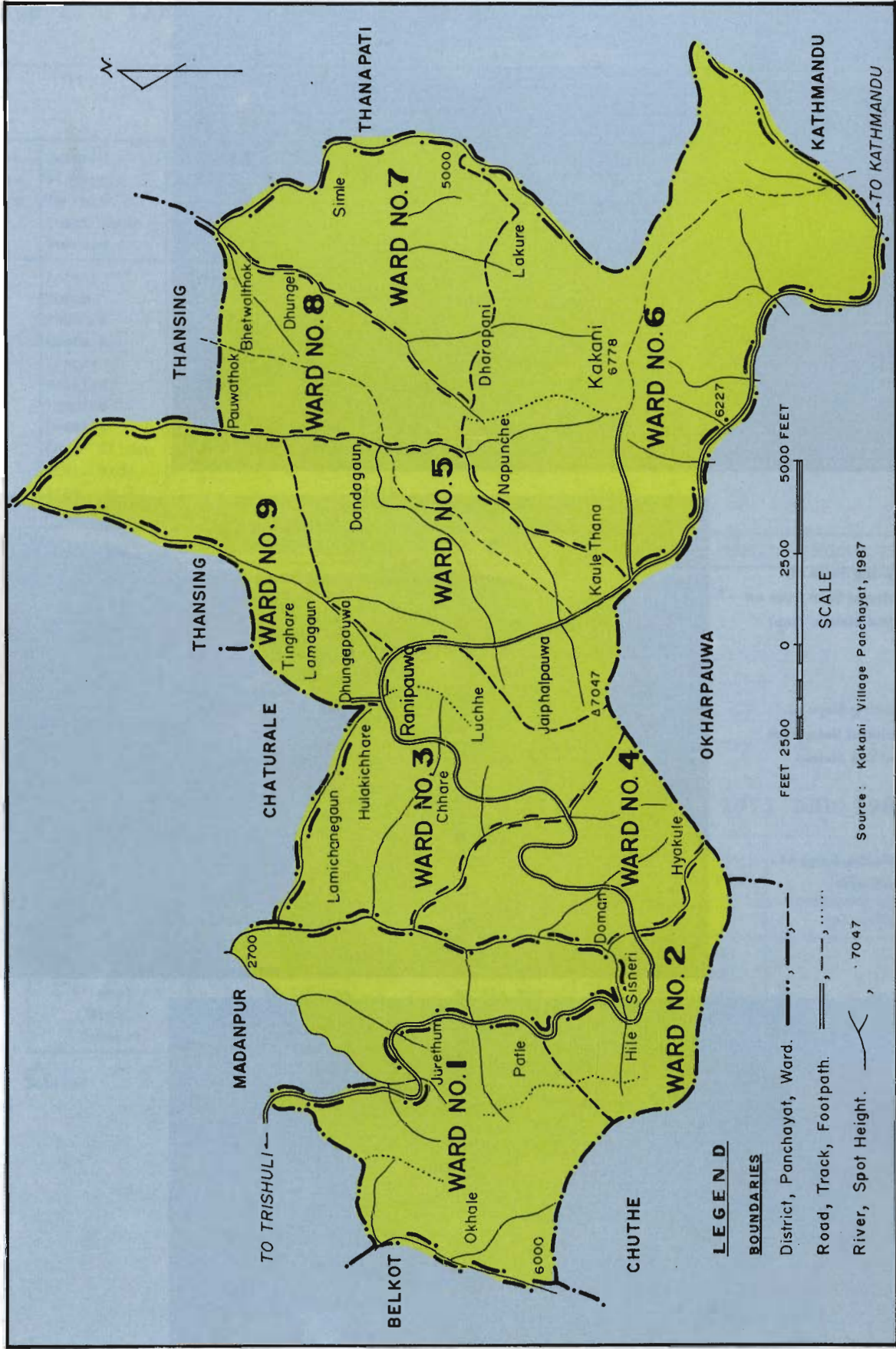
Map 2. MAP OF NUWAKOT DISTRICT SHOWING KAKANI PANCHAYAT



Source : APROSC, June 1983.

Prepared by ICIMOD, April 1988.

Map 3. MAP OF KAKANI VILLAGE PANCHAYAT



Source: Census Map, 2036-37.
 Note: Panchayat and Ward Boundaries prepared by the Census of 036-37 has been officially changed. Boundaries shown on the map only represent viewpoints of Kakani Panchayat leaders and do not imply on the part of ICIMOD any judgement on the legal or other status of the territory of Nuwakot District.

Prepared by ICIMOD, May 1989.



Plate 1. The North Facing Slope of Kakani Panchayat Seen from an Altitude of 2064 Metres (top)



Plate 2. The North Facing Slope of Kakani Panchayat Seen from an Altitude of 600 Metres (middle)

Plate 3. The South Facing Slope of Kakani Panchayat (bottom)

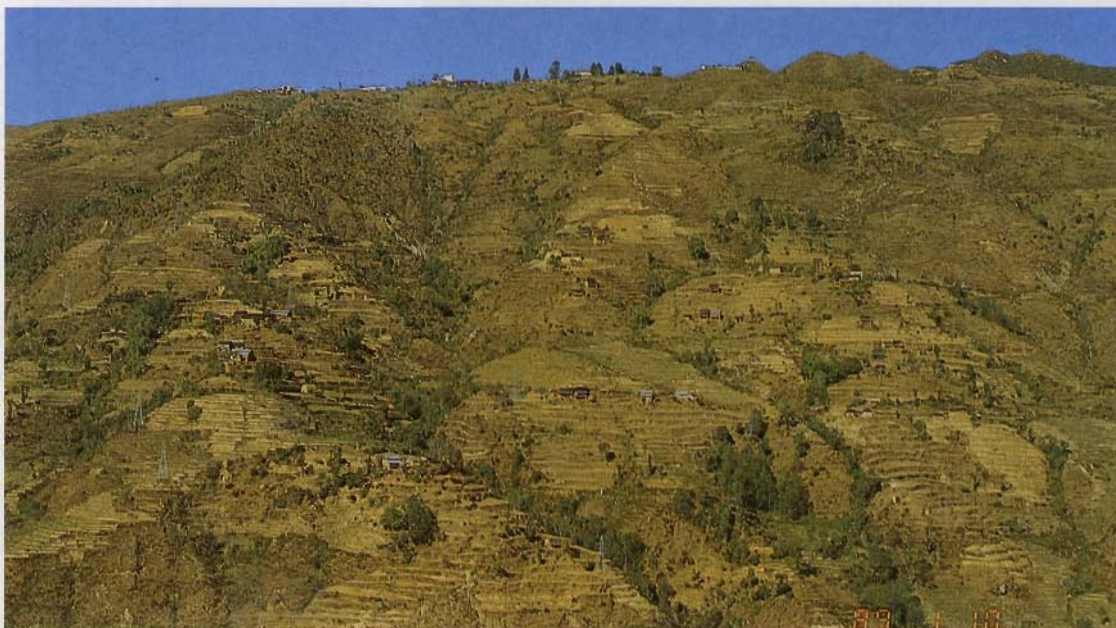


TABLE 1. LAND USE PATTERN OF KAKANI PANCHAYAT DURING 1977/1978.

TYPE		WARD NO									TOTAL	PERCENT AGE OF LAND
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Private Land	Outward Sloping	1064730	1088930	1546648	1257415	826383	1271855	816865	407605	595645	8876076	37.1
	Terrace Level Bench											
	Terrace	16420	1155	519882	145165	669085	166870	319755	673855	544185	3056372	12.8
Public Land	Forest	1236705	1448410	1339620	659400	666650	2913810	468850	-	110745	8844190	36.9
	Scrub	-	217510	17220	11060	6630	166130	224630	464185	238675	1346040	5.6
	Pasture	143595	213085	54820	1680	79200	12690	630	2670	20350	528720	2.23
	Roads & Tracks	19755	12895	31360	18825	59365	28110	9130	-	22570	202010	0.8
	Gullies	65295	2140	48300	114651	220745	47280	38570	380630	130920	1048531	4.4
	Temples	3500	400	150				245	285		4580	-
	Cemetery	300									300	-
	Land Slides			2465					555		3020	-
	Govt. Blds											
	Area Rocks			13015			33670				46685	0.2
							70				70	-
TOTAL		2550300	2984525	3573480	2208196	2528128	4640415	1879230	1929230	1663090	23956594	100

Source: Cadastral Survey Branch, Maintenance Survey Section, Bidur, 1977/1978.

Note: Areas are given in square metres. 1 Hectare = 10,000 square metres.

Area of Kakani Panchayat = 2395.7 hectares.

TABLE 2. POPULATION CHANGES BY REGION BETWEEN 1971 AND 1981.

Regions	1971	1981	Absolute Change	Percent Increased between 1971-1981
Mountain Hills	*1,138,610	*1,302,896	164,286	14.43
Terai	*6,071,407	*7,163,115	1,091,708	17.98
Nepal	*4,345,966	*6,556,828	2,210,862	50.87
Nuwakot	**11,555,983	***15,022,839	3,466,856	30.00
	172,718	*202,967	30,249	17.50

Source: 1. * Central Bureau of Statistics, 1987, page 18, Table 2.1.
 2. ** Central Bureau of Statistics, 1975, page 01-01 to 02.
 3. *** Central Bureau of Statistics, 1984, page 1-2.

of Kakani farmers are Tamangs, Brahmins, Chettris and Newars have settled at elevations lower than 1300 metres.

2.3: Climate*

Kakani Panchayat can be divided broadly into three climatic zones: subtropical, warm-temperate and temperate. The climate is sub-tropical below 1000 metres, warm-temperate between 1000 to 1700 metres and temperate above 1700 metres.

The altitude of Tara Gaon Hotel at Kakani is 2064 metres, while that of Kathmandu and Trishuli are 1324 metres and 595 metres. Their corresponding average temperatures are 14.7°C + 0.5°C (Kakani), 18.3°C + 0.3°C (Kathmandu) and 22.1°C + 1.2°C (Trishuli). The temperature decreases with altitude at the rate of 0.5°C per 100 metres on the north - facing slope, while on its south - facing slope it decreases with altitude at the rate of 0.49°C per every 100 metres.

The precipitation in the hills varies with altitude. It ranges from 2300 to 3200 mm. in Kakani (altitude, 2064 metres), from 1200 to 2000 mm. in Kathmandu and from 1500 to 2200 mm. in Trishuli. The average annual precipitation of Kathmandu is 1534.21 + 229.28 mm.,

while that of Kakani and Trishuli are 2732.4 + 437 mm. and 1774.5 + 358.8 mm. The precipitation increases with altitude, by 161.9 mm./100 metres on the southern slope (Kakani - Kathmandu) and by 65 mm./100 metres on the northern slope (Kakani - Trishuli). The maximum precipitation occurs during July in Kathmandu and Trishuli and during August in Kakani. More than eighty per cent of the total rainfall occurs during the monsoon season (June - September).

2.4: Natural Resources

The following natural resources, that have supported and brought changes to the lives of Kakani communities, have been selected for this case study. They are agricultural land, forest, grazing land and water. The condition of these natural resources affects the agricultural economy of Kakani Panchayat. Other natural resources, such as sunlight are beyond the scope of this paper. Agricultural land is under private ownership, whereas the remaining three are on common lands which do not belong to any individual. Any changes that occur in them are either due to government, private or natural interventions. They directly affect Kakani communities residing around them and they indirectly affect the lives of millions of people living downstream.

TABLE 3. POPULATION OF KAKANI PANCHAYAT AND NUWAKOT DISTRICT BETWEEN 1981 AND 1987.

Year	Total Population in		Percentage of District Population
	Kakani Panchayat	Nuwakot District	
*1981	5004	202976	2.47
1987	** 6702	*** 253802	2.64

Source: * Population Census, Central Bureau of Statistics, 1981.
 ** Kakani Village Panchayat, 1987.
 *** District Panchayat Secretariat, Nuwakot, 1987.

* This section about climate is based on the report provided by Chalise, S.R., and Khanal, N.R., 1988, "Climate and Its Implications".