



Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS)

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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1. SIAS AT A GLANCE

Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) was established in early 2011 as an indigenous platform for advanced research, policy engagement in Nepal, and scholarly exchange in the South Asia region. It uses an interdisciplinary approach and specializes in advanced studies – research, non-degree teaching, scholarly publications and seminar series. As an initiative that is endogenous to the region, it is expected to fill the critical gap in knowledge generation and capacity strengthening by cultivating and promoting a more engaged practice of social science to address social and environmental challenges. Its research will utilize state-of-the-art knowledge in the South Asian region and globally to understand, unravel and interpret unfolding social, political, economic and environmental dynamics. SIAS works with the following legal status, vision, mission and governance.

Legal Status:	SIAS is a not-for-profit-making institution registered under the Company Act of Nepal. It enjoys rights conferred under the Company Act and other applicable laws, and will uphold to relevant laws of Nepal and, when appropriate and relevant, of other countries in the course of its engagements outside Nepal.
Vision:	SIAS is recognized in Nepal, South Asia and globally as a rare Southern-based high quality research and capacity building organization, and has significant reputation as a policy think tank.
Mission:	SIAS's mission is to nurture, cultivate, organize and promote critical knowledge, research and scholarly learning in South Asia. Its initial focus is in Nepal, Northern India and Bangladesh, with the aim to gradually expand its geographical coverage in the region.
Governance:	SIAS is registered as not-for-profit company in Nepal as per the Company Act 2006. It is governed by a board of directors elected by general members. It is a professionally managed group for delivering high quality research outcomes.

2. RESEARCH

SIAS is engaged in several research projects covering the themes: local governance and public policy; water security, climate change and resource governance; urbanization and disaster governance amongst others. Capacity building and evaluation, gender and social inclusion and environmental justice are overarching themes. The details of the ongoing, new and completed projects during this year are given below:

2.1 Ongoing Projects

2.1.1 Climate Adaptive Water Management Plans for Cities in South Asia (CAMPS)

Project leader from SIAS: Prof Dr Roshan Man Bajracharya	Project sites: Nepal: Dhulikhel and Dharan; India: Haldwani and Dehradun	Duration: 36 months (Starting from 1 April 2016)
Partners and Collaborators: Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (lead institution, Nepal), Centre for Ecology, Development and Research, India (India); University of New South Wales (Australia), University of Sydney (Australia), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (India) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (Nepal)		

Brief description of the project: Climate Adaptive Water Management Plans for Cities in South Asia (CAMPS) investigates urban water insecurity under changing climate in small to medium sized cities in Nepal and north India, and demonstrates governance and city-scale planning strategies for adaptive and equitable management of urban water systems. The specific objectives of the project include: 1) Analyze existing water management systems in four case study cities to identify water management problems and




adaptation issues and opportunities in relation to (a) existing and predicted impact of climate change on water cycles, (b) city-level planning and governance context, (c) socio-economic trends of urbanization in the region, and (d) day-to-day water use practices; 2) Explore, develop and pilot CAEWMPs focusing on priority critical water zones of the four cities adopting collaborative, participatory action and learning approach; 3) Investigate city-scale planning and institutional change pathways for mainstreaming CAEWMPs, with particular reference to economic incentives, transformative knowledge partnerships through collaborative research, onsite trainings and workshops, and institutional innovations; 4) Analyze policy and regulatory barriers to CAEWMPs in the context of Nepal and the two States in India, and demonstrate actionable policy improvement pathways for up-scaling CAEWMPs through active and collaborative engagement of different stakeholders including local government; 5) Develop and disseminate scientific outputs in aspects of (a) governance of critical urban water zones, (b) reframing institutions for urban water system adaptation, (c) effective planning pathways for urban water adaptation, (d) gender sensitive urban water management, (e) policy directions for effective and inclusive urban water systems adaptation, (f) economic analysis of climate adaptive water management options, and (g) analysis of everyday practice of urban water use.

2.1.2 Conflict, Violence and Environmental Change: Investigating Resource Governance and Legitimacy in Transitional Societies (COVEC)

Project leader: Dr. Hemant R. Ojha	Project sites: Gorkha and Khotang districts Nepal	Duration: 3 Years (2016 – 2019)
Partners and Collaborators: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU-Sweden), Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS- Nepal), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NORAGRIC-Norway), African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS- Kenya), University of New South Wales (UNSW- Australia)		
<p>Brief description of the project: The topic ‘environmental change’ is narrowed down to two resources vital for people’s livelihood needs: forests and water. Of particular concern for this research is how the ambitions for managing forests and water resources to help address climate change are often incompatible with everyday livelihood needs for the poor, producing significant tensions. The governance of these resources is explored in two developing countries in the midst of political transition and violence, which are at high risk from climate change impacts, Nepal and Kenya. The work is motivated by deep concern over how the definitions and governance of environmental change appear to cause crises of legitimacy, conflict and violence, such that current responses can exacerbate vulnerability rather than alleviate it. It seeks to understand how we can better inform research and development practice intended to cope with environmental change, social inequalities and vulnerability, and contribute new scientific insights on the complex relationships between violence and environmental change.</p> <p>This four-year research program aims to enhance scientific understanding of how climate change produces concerns for legitimacy, conflict and violence in the governance of forests and water resources. The main research question, what produces conflict and violence in the face of environmental change? attempts an innovative approach to tackling a complex scientific problem, namely: how environmental change becomes bound up in struggles over the legitimacy to govern in transitional societies. The project represents an international collaboration to address a topic of pressing scientific and policy interest.</p>		

2.1.3 Conflict and Cooperation Over REDD+ in Mexico, Nepal and Vietnam (CoCooR)

Project leader from SIAS: Dr Hari Dhungana	Project sites: Lamjung and Chitwan (Nepal)	Duration: 48 months (Starting from Feb, 2014)
Partners and Collaborators: Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (Nepal), University of East Anglia (UK), RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests (Thailand), Institute of Cultural Studies (Vietnam), Winrock International (USA) and Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (Mexico)		
<p>Brief description of the project: The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the evidence on the impact of REDD+ on conflict and cooperation in developing countries through case studies of Mexico, Nepal and Vietnam. All three countries are in advanced stages of developing and implementing national REDD+ Programmes. CoCooR will examine local-level conflict and cooperation over forests in two REDD+ demonstration sites in each country, one site characterized by significant cooperation and the other experiencing pronounced conflict.</p>		
<p>This project focuses on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and related forest-based climate change mitigation actions as a key climate change policy with direct effects on sustainable development and poverty alleviation. In addition, the insights gained, tools developed and capacity strengthened by CoCooR with regards to REDD+ will have wider implications for efforts to understand and influence the impacts of climate mitigation and adaptation policies in settings characterized by multiple stakeholders making competing claims over scarce resources.</p>		

2.1.4 Climate Extremes, Air Pollution and Agro-ecosystems (CiXPAG)

Project leader from SIAS: Anil Bhattarai	Project sites: Nepal	Duration: 2015-2017
Partners and Collaborators: CICERO		



Brief description of the project: CiXPAG will investigate the complex interactions between climate extremes, air pollution and agricultural ecosystems. Climate extremes (e.g., droughts, floods, heatwaves) and air pollution events often co-occur, causing substantial losses in agricultural productivity. We do not yet fully understand how these stresses interact and what the impacts of the combined climate – air pollution effects may be for agricultural ecosystems in some of the most vulnerable parts of the world. This lack of knowledge is particularly challenging considering the threats that climate change and food security pose to society. The novel research proposed in CiXPAG will collect new experimental data and develop new modeling techniques to integrate knowledge on changes in climate extremes and air pollution to assess effects on agricultural productivity. Integration of farmers' knowledge will enable the results to be translated into agricultural adaptation options within the particular socio-economic and political context.

CiXPAG addresses several goals – climate change, pollution and ecosystems – and its objectives are on the forefront of international research. CiXPAG will build up expertise in a relatively new, but important, research field for Norwegian climate research. Generated knowledge and methods can readily be applied to regions beyond the regional focus of this project. CiXPAG is an international collaboration of interdisciplinary experts and is a gender balanced project with a female project leader.

2.1.5 Rethinking Environment and Development in an Era of Global Norms: An Exploration of Forests and Water in Nepal, Sudan and Uganda (REDEGN-II)

Project leader from SAIS: Dr Hari Dhungana	Project sites: Nepal, Sudan and Uganda	Duration: 2016-2017
Partners and Collaborators: University of East Anglia (UEA) and SIAS		
<p>Brief description of the project: The research responds to the unprecedented emergence of global environmental norms intended to reconcile natural resource management with poverty alleviation. Prominent examples of such norms are the social safeguards included in global conventions and the human rights-based rulings of international courts. The norms possess the potential to transform development practice in the future, so long as they effectively support poor people's claims on natural resources and rights to sustainable livelihoods. The increasing significance of global environmental norms challenges research to develop new theory on the dynamics of environment and development that attends to cross-scale relationships between local environmental struggles, environmental mobilizations and global norms. This research employs an environmental justice lens to examine the effects of global environmental norms on poverty alleviation in the Global South through explorations of forests and water.</p> <p>The research seeks to explore whether and how emergent global norms seeking to reconcile natural resource management with improvements in local wellbeing contribute to poverty alleviation in low-income countries (LICs). In stage 1, we have examined how poor women's and men's struggles regarding forests and water are, or are not, taken up in environmental mobilizations, and how this uptake does, or does not, contribute to increases in their well-being. In stage 2, we will shift our attention to the resonance of global norms and international mobilizations with marginalized people's environmental struggles in the South.</p>		

2.2 New Projects

2.2.1 Secondary Data Analysis Initiative: Global Challenges Research Fund Highlight Notice- Developing an Environmentally-adjusted Index for Multidimensional Poverty

Project leader from SIAS: Ngamindra Dahal	Project sites: Nepal and Brazil	Duration: 12 Months (Jan 2017- Jan 2018)
Partners and Collaborators: University of Cambridge, Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies		
<p>Brief description of the project: The project aims to develop and test the possibility of developing an environmentally-adjusted Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) that can help measure progress towards the achievement of the post-2015 SDG agenda. The environmentally-adjusted MPI statistics will be compared to existing MPI statistics to understand the patterns of incidence and experience of poverty and wellbeing, as measured by these alternative indicators. For instance, poverty may be the same if people identified as being poor under the current MPI are the same as those unable to deal with risks of natural hazards and climate change, and unable to access and engage meaningfully with the natural environment. Secondly, there is a need to understand whether the observed improvement in GDP and income (in Brazil) are reflected in the more broadly defined environmentally adjusted MPI. Therefore, the trends in the different MPI dimensions over time and space will be analyzed.</p> <p>Building on the detailed analysis of the Brazilian case, strong existing research and collaborative networks in Nepal will be used to test this measure in a contrasting ODA-eligible context. For globally comparative analyses, it is important for the measures that emerge from this project to be applicable in diverse contexts. Data availability, research capacity and the context for implementation all matter, and are very different in Nepal relative to Brazil. By collaboratively exploring the different needs and challenges of an environmentally-adjusted MPI measure in Nepal with key research and impact partners, the potential for such a globally comparable measure will be investigated.</p>		

2.3 Recently Completed Projects

2.3.1 The Political Economy of Water Security, Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods in the Western Himalayas

Project leader from SAIS : Dr Hemant R Ojha	Project sites: Dhulikhel and Bidur of Nepal; Nainital, Rajgadh, Palampur and Mosoori of India	Duration: 34 Months (November 2013 to Sep, 2016)
Partners and Collaborators: University of Cambridge UK, SIAS, Centre for Ecology and Development and Research (CEDAR) INDIA		



Brief description of the project: This was a combined research project conducted by University of Cambridge UK, SIAS and Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR) INDIA under Ecosystem Service and Poverty Alleviation- ESPA. ESPA is an international research programme, funded as a global public good and designed to produce world-class research and evidence to promote the sustainable management and use of ecosystem services to promote poverty alleviation.

The aim of this research was to understand the political economy of water security in the Western Himalayas, focusing on the role of springs, streams and rivers in catchments surrounding small towns as sources of water. The project considered the range of ecosystem services which flow from these catchments (and how they are accessed and used), promoted multi-stakeholder platforms for broad-basing an ecosystems approach, and assessed how the interests of local stakeholders (especially the rural and urban poor) are represented and discussed in the political economy of negotiations over water in these landscapes. The research focused on small towns in the Western Himalayan region, in the Indian states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and the Hill and Mountain areas of Nepal (cutting across all five development regions). This is a dynamic region which is witnessing a rapid increase in urbanization, especially in small towns, where a range of environmental, physical, economic, social, technological, institutional and political factors impact water security. Each of the jurisdictions has a complex history of political transition, and variations in approaches to decentralization, stakeholder engagement, and urban and rural planning, despite very similar ecological and socio-economic drivers. It is this contrast of political, governance and negotiation contexts that formed the basis for the comparative approach adopted in this project.

2.3.2 Project Name/Country: British Academy Project/Nepal/UK

Project leader from SAIS : Dr Hemant R Ojha	Project sites: Nepal/UK	Duration: 2013-2016
Partners and Collaborators: University of Edinburgh, ForestAction Nepal, South Asia Institute for Advanced Studies, Women Leading for Change in Natural Resource Management and Wind Power Nepal		
<p>Brief description of the project: Fragile political contexts are assumed to be at greater risk from climate change in part because of changes in resources, and in part because of the lack of robust institutions. Nepal is no exception as it is presently re-building the state after twenty years of civil unrest. The political reconstruction coincides with evidence that the Himalayas will suffer some of the most significant impacts from climate change, raising fears about Nepal's long-term ability to adapt to such rapid political and environmental changes. This British Academy funded teaching and learning exchange explored the challenges to climate change adaptation posed by political instability.</p> <p>A series of teaching and research exchanges between the University of Edinburgh, Forest Action Nepal, and the South Asia Institute for Advanced Studies along with other collaborators were undertaken to understand post-conflict and environmental change research, explore the role of research in conflict resolution and to train a new generation of Nepal and UK scholars equipped with research expertise for tackling complex social-environmental issues. A total of 12 series (Himalaya, Climate Change and Development) from June 2013 to Dec 2016 were hosted inviting experts on the climate change sector.</p>		

2.3.3 Climate Change and Rural Institutions (CCRI)

Project leader from SAIS : Dr Hemant R Ojha	Project sites: Dolakha, Lamjung and Rupandehi districts of Nepal	Duration: 2013-2016
Partners and Collaborators: DIIS, Forest Action Nepal, and Southasia Institute for Advanced Studies		

Brief description of the project: This research addresses the knowledge gap that currently exists about the role of district level institutions (specifically local government, agricultural advisory services, agencies involved with natural resource management and farmer organizations) in providing an enabling environment for climate change adaptation. These meso-level (district or sub-district) institutions play a key role at the interface between national policies and individual/community level adaptation efforts. The research programme explored (i) the nature and extent of their engagements and interactions in climate change adaptation, and (ii) the factors and processes that stimulate, constrain or block innovation in relation to climate change adaptation. By investigating the ways that local government, agencies/ groups responsible for natural resource management, agricultural advisory services and farmer organisations respond to climate change, the programme goes further to develop new policy relevant knowledge. One of the observations from this project is that climate change policy processes in Nepal have been largely driven by a technocratic agenda in which donors and their service providers, including the consultants, have been influential. There has been limited representation of the people affected by climate change in these processes. This technocratic, top-down and aid-driven adaptation policy has effectively constrained the space for democratic representation of vulnerable groups in climate policy processes. It has also been incapable of capturing the locally-specific realities of biophysical change, social dynamics, and the vulnerability of people on the ground. Further details of the findings are available at:



<http://www.sias-southasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Climate-change-local-politics-and-institutional-responses-in-Nepal.pdf>

2.3.4 Think Tank Events and Policy White Papers Components of Singha Durbar Project

Project leader from SIAS: Dr. Hari Dhungana	Project sites: Nepal	Duration: 9 Months (Feb-Oct 2015)
Partners and Collaborators: SIAS & Search For Common Ground (SFCG)		
<p>Brief description of the project: This is a collaborative project between SIAS and Search for Common Ground (SFCG) under the USAID-funded Singhadurbar project. The aim of this project was “to create possibilities for a collaborative political culture in the Nepali public imagination” and to “foster dialogues at multiple levels to create a shared national vision for leadership and governance in Nepal.” The project objective was to determine an approach to creating policy papers that is collaborative and seeks common ground between key stakeholders. The Project activities were aligned with the overall goal and objectives of SFCG’s Singha Durbar project. We have adopted a ‘fellowship approach’ as a modality for delivering the project. A total of eight beginning or mid-career Research Fellows have been engaged and supported to conduct policy research on different themes, including Agriculture and Food Security, Climate Change, Constitution Making and Federalism, Disaster Risk Reduction, Education, Migration and Human Trafficking, Local Governance and Elections, and Health and Nutrition. The key outputs of this project include: a) eight policy white papers of national interest, b) eight policy briefs, and c) press releases.</p>		

2.4 SIAS commissioned projects

2.4.1 Regulatory framework on non-governmental research institutions in Nepal: Issues and recommendations for improvement

Study Conducted by: Chiranjibi Bhattarai, Law, Policy and Governance Expert, Kathmandu, Nepal	Partners and Collaborators: SIAS, Forest Action Nepal, ISET Nepal, LI-BIRD	Date: July 2017
Brief description of the project: The main aim of the research is to review the legal, policy and administrative space for CSOs in particular for non-government research organizations (NGROs) in Nepal. Specific objectives of the research are to conduct a review of policy and legal frameworks on NGRO governance in Nepal in order to assess the problems and suggest options for creating an enabling environment for non-government research institutions so that they can function as full-fledged research organizations, having scope also for undertaking international research from Nepal.		

2.4.2 Framework Strategy on Climate Smart Cities in Nepal

Study Conducted by: Lumbini Environmental Services (LENS)	Partners and Collaborators: LENS and SIAS	Date: Sept 2017
Brief description of the study: This study is commissioned by SIAS with Lumbini Environmental Services (LENS) Pvt. Ltd. for the Ministry of Population and Environment to develop a framework strategy with a prioritized list of actions on climate smart cities in Nepal. In order to develop the strategy, this study aims to review the experiences of climate smart cities of a few selected countries/cities and draw lessons for Nepal; provide an overview of current policy framework of Nepal and analyze the gaps; identify key challenges that needs to be addressed, and presented a framework of strategies to systematically address identified challenges and promote climate smart urban development in Nepal.		

3. EVENTS

SIAS organises a number of events, including workshops, seminars, trainings and conferences, as part of the ongoing projects. In addition, research forums and exposure visits are aimed for the in-house and stakeholders' capacity building. Some events are organised in series as part of the projects.

3.1 Workshops and seminars

Following are the workshops hosted by SIAS. SIAS organises several workshops as part of various ongoing projects for the capacity building of early and mid-career researchers.

SN	Workshops	Date	Brief about the event
1	Master research grantee's Mock Defense workshop	Jun 29 2017	Research grantee's preliminary finding sharing and comment collection workshop
2	18 Months after the Nepal's Earthquakes Practical Disaster Justice in the Recovery Work	Dec 6 2016	Workshop organized by SIAS in collaboration with University of New South Wales (UNSW, Australia), Institute of Engineering (IoE, Pulchowk) and ISET Nepal

3	Inception workshop on climate change and equitable water management practices and policies	Aug 3, 2016	City scale inception workshop of CAMPS project in Dhulikhel with the participation of SIAS officials, city level stakeholders from government and non-government sectors
4	Workshop on REDD+ conflict and cooperation: Understanding linkages and outcomes	Oct 24-25, 2016	International workshop on Conflict Analysis at UEA, Norwich, organised by the CoCooR Project 'Conflict and Cooperation over REDD+ in Mexico, Nepal and Vietnam' supported by University of East Anglia, Netherlands organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and UK aid

3.2 Policy Dialogues

SIAS organises Policy Dialogues as part of the ongoing projects and also provides a forum for the policy experts. SIAS organised a Policy Discussion Series (24 discussions) in collaboration with Martin Chautari and also organises joint policy dialogues with NASC on relevant issues.

S.N	Policy Dialogues	Date	Venue	Organized by	Presented by
1	Discussion on fragmented public authority and state un/making in the 'New' Republic of Nepal - (12th seminar of the series Himalaya, Climate Change and Development)	Dec 22, 2016	Martin Chautari	SIAS and Martin Chautari	Dr. Andrea Nightingale
2	Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Dialogue on 'Transforming Forest Conflicts in the Context of REDD+ Implementation in Nepal (CoCooR Project)	Aug 24, 2016	Yala Maya Kendra, Patan	SIAS & University of East Anglia (UEA)	Dr. Hari Dhungana and Gyanu Maskey
3	Think Tank Meeting on 'Mobilizations for Forest Rights and their Policy Uptake: Lessons and Opportunities for REDD+ Nepal' (CoCooR Project)	Aug 22-23, 2016	Hotel Himalaya Horizon, Dhulikhel	SIAS & University of East Anglia (UEA)	Dr. Hari Dhungana and Gyanu Maskey
4	NASC discussion series XX on 'Disaster Governance in Nepal: Policy, Practice and Challenges'	July 28, 2016	NASC	SIAS and NASC	Dr. Chandra Lal Pandey

3.3 Exposure visits

During this year, SIAS hosted local, national and international visits to increase exposure of its own officials, local and national stakeholders. The following table provides information of such visits during the year.

S.N.	Events	Date	Visited by	Purpose
1	Visit to Dapcha of Kavre district, Nepal	Sep 18, 2017	SIAS officials and local stakeholders from Dhulikhel	Observe the practice of recharge pond on revitalising drying springs
2	Visit to Sydney and Canberra, Australia	Aug 22-25, 2017	Senior government officials from Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and Nepal Administrative Staff College led by Secretary of MoFALD	Learn about local and federal governance practices of Australia
3	Visit to New Delhi, India	Nov 8-9, 2016	SIAS officials and stakeholders from Dhulikhel and Bidur	Participate in a research sharing workshop

3.4 Trainings

The following trainings were organized by SIAS as part of ongoing projects and capacity building of the researchers.



SN	Trainings	Date	Venue	Brief description
1	Data analysis training	Jul 17 to 19, 2017	SIAS Seminar Hall	Qualitative and quantitative data analysis training to Master research grantees
2	Training on gender analysis in climate adaptive water resource management	Jan 21 to 22, 2017	Dhulikhel, Kavre	Gender training to SIAS officials and stakeholders from Dhulikhel and Dharan

3.5 Research forums

SIAS Research Forum is a platform to update activities and progress of different ongoing projects at SIAS. In this forum researchers also share the strengths and weaknesses of methodological use, new findings and further planning of the project among the SIAS team. This forum is expected to contribute to improved research methodology, individual learning, capacity building

to fresh researchers and collaboration across the researchers and projects within SIAS. The Fourth series of this forum was hosted on 11 March 2017 at SIAS seminar hall. SIAS officials and researchers based in different countries participated into this forum over skype. The following presentations were made with the respective researchers and discussed during the forum.

S.N.	Presentation Topic	Presented by
1	Conflict and Cooperation over REDD+ in Nepal, Vietnam and Mexico (CoCooR)	Gyanu Maskey
2	Exploring Climate Adaptive Water Management strategies for Sustainable Urban Water in Dharan, Nepal	Kaustuv Neupane
3	Recharge Pond as an Innovative CAEWMPs: Revitalizing Drying Spring in Dhulikhel	Kamal Devkota

3.6 Pani Chautari

Pani Chautari is a unique practice of engaging with research users at the local level to create tangible impacts from the ongoing research. Through this concept, SIAS is facilitating the creation of a forum (Water Forum) inviting representatives from wider sectors related to urban water. 'Pani Chautari' is organized periodically under the "Climate Adaptive Water Management Plans for Cities in South Asia (CAMPS)" project. It is an interactive knowledge sharing and discussion platform at city level in participation of multiple stakeholders, organised at two case study sites in Nepal- Dharan and Dhulikhel. During this year, six Pani Chautari (three in each) were held. The following table illustrates the date and host of those events.



S.N.	Pani Chautari series	Date	Organized by
1	Dharan Pani Chautari-III	Sep 18, 2017	Dharan Sub Metropolitan
2	Dharan Pani Chautari-II	Mar 31, 2017	Dharan Sub Metropolitan and Dharan Water Supply Management Board
3	Dharan Pani Chautari-I	Sep 15, 2017	SIAS and Dharan Municipality
4	Dhulikhel Pani Chautari-III	Jun 19, 2017	Dhulikhel Municipality and DDWUC
5	Dhulikhel Pani Chautari-II	Feb 11, 2017	Dhulikhel Municipality and DDWUC
6	Dhulikhel Pani Chautari-I	Nov 23, 2016	SIAS and Dhulikhel Municipality

3.7 Conference

SIAS organised a conference in collaboration with national and international partners where SIAS officials actively participated and presented their research findings. One conference was hosted during this year.



S.N.	Conferences	Date	Organized by	Presentation/Participation
1	River Basin Research Sharing Colloquium as part of Nepal National Water and Weather Week 2017	Mar 21, 2017	Water and Energy Commission Secretariat supported by APN, ICIMOD, IWMI, SIAS, SEN and WWF	Presentation by Kamal Devkota and Kaustuv Neupane on 'Water security in rapidly urbanising towns of Nepal's mid hills' Participated by: Kamal, Kaustuv and Gyanu
2	Photovoice Exhibition in the Annual Kathmandu Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya	July 27-29, 2016	SIAS, Khasur CFUG and Chelibeti CFUG	Exhibited by CoCooR project team (Gyanu, Hari and Ellen), representatives from Khasur CFUG, Lamjung and Chelibeti CFUG, Chitwan

4. PUBLICATIONS

SIAS publishes journals, policy briefs, discussion papers, books, research reports and media publications as part of either project outputs or individual efforts. The list includes the publications by SIAS, as well as the publications by the SIAS members in which SIAS is acknowledged, are listed below.

4.1 SIAS publications

4.1.1 New Angle

SIAS and Nepal Policy Research Network. (2016) New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy 'Understanding the Land Issues and Agrarian Reform in Post Conflict Nepal'. 4 (1) New Angle. [6 articles]

4.1.2 Policy Briefs

Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR), India, SIAS, Nepal and University of Cambridge, UK. (2016) Policy Brief: The Political Economy of Water Security, Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods in the Western Himalaya, ESPA. [online] Available at: <http://www.sias-southasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Policy-Brief-ESPA.pdf>

4.1.3 Discussion Papers

Devkota, K. and Neupane, KR (2017). Nepal country report: Urban ecosystem and resiliency, Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network, Indonesia.

Dhungana, H., Pain, A., Khatri, D., Gurung, N. and Ojha, H. (2016) Climate Change and Rural Institutions in Nepal. DIIS Working Paper 16, Copenhagen.

4.1.4 Edited books/ Book Chapters

Ojha, H., Dorji, L. and Ghate, R. (2017) Environmental Governance in the Hindu Kush Himalaya in: HIMAP, 2017. Comprehensive Assessment of the Hindu Kush Himalaya. Ch. 16.

4.1.5 Research Reports

Christoplos, I., Aben, C., Bashaasha, B., Dhungana, H., Friis-Hansen, E., Funder, M., Huong, N.T.T., Khatri, D.B., Lindegaard, L.S., Mweemba, C., Ngoan, L.D., Nyambe, I., Ojha, H., Pain, A. and Sen, L.T.H. (2016) Understanding Sub- National Climate Governance: Findings for Nepal Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia. DIIS Report 5, Copenhagen. [online] Available at: http://pure.diiis.dk/ws/files/614369/DIIS_RP_2016_5_WEB.pdf

Joshi, T. and Pandey, C.L., (2016) Post-Earthquake Disaster Governance in Nepal: Reflections from Practice and Policy. South Asia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) [online] Available at: <http://www.sias-southasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SIAS-Post-EQ-Disaster-Governance-Workshop-Report.pdf>

Joshi, T., Pandey, C., B.Khatri, D., Adhikari, B., Ojha, H. and Pain, A. (2016) Local Politics and Administrative Capacity for Disaster Response: Insights from a Case Study of Lamjung District in Nepal, CCRI Case Study Report. Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) and ForestAction Nepal. Kathmandu [online] Available at: <http://www.sias-southasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Local-Politics-and-Administrative-Capacity-for-Disaster-Response.pdf>

Khatri, D.B., Pain, A., Ojha, H., Adhikari, B., Pandey, CL., Dhungana, H. and Joshi, T. (2015) Climate change, local politics and institutional responses in Nepal: A synthesis of research findings, CCRI Case Study Report. Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) and ForestAction Nepal. Kathmandu. [online] Available at: <http://www.sias-southasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Climate-change-local-politics-and-institutional-responses-in-Nepal.pdf>

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4.1.6 OPED/Blog/SIAS in Media

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4.1.7 Journals

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4.1.8 Communication Materials



SIAS has been implementing stakeholder prioritized pilot activities on climate adaptive water management plans and strategies under Climate Adaptive Water Management Plans for Cities in South Asia (CAMPS) project in the project sites of Nepal and India. In the sub-metropolitan city of Dharan, SIAS, in partnership with the Hotel Association of Dharan, has started a collaborative initiative awareness campaign by designing a sticker with a “Save Water” message. The main objective of this initiative is to increase

the awareness of hotel guests on the wise use of water, as they are one of the key water users. The design of the stickers printed is shown above:

5. CAPACITY BUILDING

SIAS aims to build the strong communities dedicated to research and academic works by engaging individuals of varied experience and capacities in the multitude of opportunities available at SIAS. It believes that the continuous investment in the capacity building will enhance the effectiveness of the organisation. SIAS has opened a window of opportunities where experts, students, early and mid-career professionals can remain involved. This results in individual growth and overall organisational growth through internships, studentships, fellowships, exposure visits, training and facilitation, mentorships etc. The following section is an update of the capacity building activities during this year at SIAS.

5.1 Internships

Following students worked as intern at SIAS during this year:

SN	Name	Education	Project Associated
1	Daisy Driscoll	BA in Geography from St John's College, Cambridge University	CAMPS
2	Prithula Thapa,	MA in Anthropology from Tribhuwan University	CoCooR
3	Sushmita Pandey	Bachelor in Liberal Arts, Himalayan White House College	CoCooR
4	Ram Prasad Dhungel Rasmila Balami Anuradha Baral Nabina Prajapati Sanjay Subedi	MSc in Environmental Science from Central Department of Environmental Science (CDES), Tribhuwan University	CAMPS
5	Prabhat Karki	BSc in Environmental Science from School of Environmental Management Studies (SchEMS), Pokhara University	CAMPS
6	Kiran Dahal Manish K.C. Dinesh Chaudhary Mukesh Nepal Sanila Limbu Ranju Sharma Abin Yakha Suman Sambahamphe	BSc in Geology from Central Campus of Technology Tribhuwan University	CAMPS

5.2 Student research grants

Eight highly competent and qualified Masters' thesis students were provided research grants to write their thesis on various themes such as climate change, urbanization, gender, institution, governance and water security under the project "Climate Adaptive Water Management Strategies and Practices" in two cities (Dhulikhel and Dharan) of Nepal. The students, their thesis titles and institutional affiliations are outlined in the following table. Out of 8 students, 4 were male and 4 were female.

SN	Thesis Title	Grantee Name	Institution Affiliation
1.	Impact of climate change on drinking water in Kavre valley- case of uppermost Roshi River.	Anjit Gautam, M.Sc	Institute of Engineering (IOE), Tribhuwan University
2.	Water availability and its implications on gender role in Dharan, Nepal	Anju Pokhrel, MSc	Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuwan University

3.	Impacts of Land Cover Changes on Water Quality at Shardu Watershed, Sunsari	Lalmani Wagle, MSc	Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University
4.	Locally important sources of water and their quality in two municipalities of Nepal	Muna Panthee, MSc	Kathmandu University School of Science
5.	Institutional Analysis of Urban Water Management- The case of Dhulikhel	Priyasha Shrestha, M.A.	Kathmandu University School of Arts
6.	Climate Change Impacts on Drinking Water Along Koshi Highway, Nepal	Sabitri Rai, MSc	Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University
7.	Study of potential private sector investment in water management in Dharan and Dhulikhel municipalities of Nepal	Indeshwor Mandal, M.Sc.	Kathmandu University School of Science
8.	Estimating coping cost of drinking water scarcity: A case study of Dhulikhel and Dharan”	Nirajan Mainali, M.A.	Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University

5.3 PhD Research Grants:

Under CAMPS project, a PhD candidate, Ms. Gyanu Maskey was enrolled through the Kathmandu University, School of Arts. Ms. Maskey will be conducting PhD research on “Assessing water security in the face of rapid urbanization and climate change in cities in the Himalayan region.”

6. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During this year, SIAS engaged with some institutional development initiatives. New partnership buildings for joint project development, publication, capacity building and policy engagement etc. were extended. Our collaboration has been expanded to include government organizations, national and international academic and research institutions, local government institutions, national policy think tanks and local community organizations. The following table illustrates the update of partnership building during this year.

SN	Collaboration with	Collaborated for
1	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development	Exposure visit for the local governance policy and practices in Australia
2	Nepal Administrative Staff College	Mutual knowledge sharing and policy engagement
3	Institute of Engineering	Host policy events, Academic exchange
4	Kathmandu University	Host joint PhD study
5	Dhulikhel Municipality and Dharan Sub Metropolitan City	Link research into municipal policy and practices
6	Dhulikhel Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Committee	Joint piloting of CAEWMPS

7	IUCN, COWATER International, Li-Bird, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Overseas Development Institute	Joint project bidding
8	Small Earth Nepal	Jointly host National Water and Weather Week

6.1 Staff Recruitment

SIAS aims to provide equal opportunities for potential candidates to work with its professionals. While believing on workforce diversity, it also expects highly competent persons to join for quality service delivery. It has recruited the following regular and part time staff during this year.

SN	Name	Position	Full/Part time
1	Ramsara Regmi	Executive Secretary	Full time
2	Ankita Shrestha	Senior Research Associate	Part time

7. SECRETARIAT AT SIAS

SIAS serves as the secretariat of Nepal Policy Research Network (NPRN) and Community of Evaluators Nepal (CoE-Nepal).

7.1 Nepal Policy Research Network

SIAS continued serving the secretariat of Nepal Policy Research Network (NPRN) and engages in and promotes policy research, dialogues and exchanges, and hosts the Nepal Policy Net web portal (please visit: www.nepalpolicy.net) as a web repository of public policy knowledge in Nepal. The NPRN also publishes a new journal New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy.

7.2 Community of Evaluators - CoE Nepal

SIAS has continued serving as the secretariat of CoE-Nepal (www.coe-nepal.org.np)- a non-profit, non-governmental, and non-partisan organization. The team comprises a pool of evaluators, development practitioners, and academicians with national and international work experiences. CoE Nepal is committed to increasing the quality of evaluation by building the capacity of evaluation stakeholders and promoting the theory, practices, and use of evaluation in Nepal.



8. EVENT PARTICIPATION

The following table illustrates the list of different events participated by SIAS professionals during this year.

Date	Event Title	Event Type	Organizers	Participation/ presentation
Sep 22, 2017	Evaluation Code of Conduct	Workshop	CoE Nepal	Participated by Gyanu
Sep 19, 2017	LAPA learning Workshop	Consolidation Workshop	OPM and Practical Action	Participated by Taylor Martin and Suchita Shrestha (Cowater scoping)
Sep 13-15, 2017	Training on “Designing, Managing & Undertaking Impact Evaluations”	Training	CoE Nepal	Participated by Suchita
Sep 13, 2017	Workshop for discussion on Theory of change for proposal GCF	Workshop	IUCN Nepal and NTNC led	Participated by Kamal
Aug 15, 2017	6th Kathmandu Sustainable Urban Mobility Forum 2017	Consultation workshop	Clean Energy Nepal/Clean Air Network Nepal in collaboration with United Nations Environment Program	Participated by Gyanu
Aug 10, 2017	Discussion on local governance Bill 2017	Expert consultation workshop	Samriddhi Foundation	Participated by Kamal
Aug 1, 2017	Digo Jal Bikas Trade-off Arena Workshop	Consultation workshop	IWMI	Participated by Suchita
July 25-28, 2017	Young and Emerging Evaluators Training	Training	CoE Nepal	Gyanu, Ramsara and Suchita
July 10 to 21, 2017	CODATA International Training Workshop in Open Data for Better Science	Training Workshop	CODATA international and Computer Network Information Center (CNIC), Chinese Academy of Sciences.	Kaustuv Raj Neupane

July 10-11, 2017	Public Policy and Governance in South Asia	Policy Discourse and Research Conference	NASC, NITI Foundation, The Asia Foundation and Institute of Public Enterprises	Kamal Devkota-Participant
May 4, 2017	Workshop on Climate Actions for Agriculture, Forest, Water and Food Security	Workshop	Norwegian Institute of Bio economy Research (NIBIO) in partnership ICIMOD and SW Nepal Pvt Ltd	Participated by Gyanu
Apr 23, 2017	Research Policy Dialogue on Payment of Ecosystem Services	Policy Dialogue	ESPA, ICIMOD, IUCN, IWMI, WWF	Kamal Devkota and Kaustuv Neupane - Participant
Apr 3, 2017	Impact of Climate Change on Drinking Water and Urbanization	Discussion Forum	River of Peace Campaign	Kamal Devkota and Kaustuv Neupane -- Speaker
Mar 22, 2017	Climate Change and Water Security in Dharan	Water Day Celebration	Dharan Water Supply Management Board	Kaustuv Raj Neupane- Speaker
Mar 17-19, 2017	National River Summit	National Conference	Nepal River Conservation Trust	Kamal Devkota - Speaker
Feb 13, 2017	Effective Water Governance in Asia Highlands	Research sharing workshop	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	Kamal Devkota-participant
Dec 30, 2016	AGM- Dhulikhel drinking water users committee	Election of User Committee	DDWUC	Kamal Devkota and Kaustuv Neupane-- Election observer
Nov 7-8, 2016	Water security, ecosystem and livelihoods in the Himalaya	Workshop	Cambridge University	Kamal Devkota, Kaustuv Neupane, Tikeshwari Joshi, Ngamindra Dahal and four stakeholders from Bidur and Dhulikhel

Oct 24-25, 2017	Risks and Responses to Urban Futures: Understanding peri-urban dynamics for enhanced ecosystem service benefits	Regional Groups Meeting: Dissemination and Policy Dialogue	IWMI and University of Sussex	Kamal Devkota and Kaustuv Raj Neupane - Presenter cum participant
Aug 21-23, 2017	Eval SDG and Eval Agenda	Workshop	Community of Evaluators Nepal	Kamal Devkota - Participant
2-22 Jul 2-22, 2016	Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program	Non degree leadership course	University of California, Berkeley	Kamal Devkota-Participant
Apr 4, 2017	HARVEST(High Mountain Asia: building Resilience to water Variability using Experiments, surveys and accounts of tradition	Workshop	University of Leeds, UK	Kaustuv Neupane - Presenter
Feb 13-18, 2017	'Audio-Visual Media as a Tool in Research', for Social Science Researchers	Workshop	Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi	Kaustuv Raj Neupane



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