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ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Published by:

Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS)

Published year:

2024

Design and Layout:

Pradip Dhakal

Front cover:

SIAS

Back cover:

SIAS

This publication is also available at
www.sias-southasia.org

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CONTENTS

1	 ABOUT SIAS	1
---	--	---

2	 SIAS THEORY OF CHANGE	5
---	---	---

3	 THEMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS	8
---	---	---


4	 OUTPUTS IN NUMBER	16
---	---	----

5	 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	25
---	--	----

6	 OTHER INITIATIVES	28
---	---	----

7	 ANNEX 1: PROJECTS AND EVENTS	30
---	--	----

8	 ANNEX 2: PUBLICATIONS	46
---	---	----

9	 ANNEX 3: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS	53
---	--	----

10	 ANNEX 4: FINANCIAL SUMMARY	56
----	--	----

11	 ANNEX 5: STAFF	57
----	--	----



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



The fiscal year 2023/24 has been a pivotal year for SIAS, marked by the formulation of a Strategic Plan for the next four years. Guided by the strategic document, SIAS revisited its thematic areas and defined four central themes to align with the evolving socio-environmental and national policy landscapes and research funding opportunities. SIAS has continued to make significant contributions to knowledge generation and engage critically with issues related to natural resource governance, climate change, and disaster risks management. This year, SIAS has also made notable success in delivering the intended research outputs, securing highly competitive research grants, and expanding its networks and partnerships.

This Annual Report offers an overview of the significant activities accomplished in Fiscal Year 2023/24. SIAS has focused on elevating its institutional profile, strengthening internal capacity, supporting the research environment, and improving research engagement among its team members. This year our work concentrated on natural resource management, inclusive and interdisciplinary approach to multi-hazard disaster risk management, local governance, gender-responsive budgeting, and the relations between climate change and migration. SIAS is committed to making significant contributions to key contemporary policy issues through research, publications, and policy engagements at national and sub-national levels. We have also continued our collaboration with local stakeholders to support the rural economy with a focus on women's economic empowerment. Additionally, while contributing to the scientific community, SIAS has also greatly benefited from its exposure to the international research sphere, participating in global dialogues, cross-border research partnerships, and collaborative studies.

Overall, the year 2023/24 has been outstanding in meeting our milestones and advancing our mission to establish SIAS as a lead think tank. These achievements have been possible through the hard work and unwavering dedication of our team, as well as the persistent support of our stakeholders. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Directors, members, executive director, management committee, staff, partners, and collaborators for their invaluable support and commitment to fulfilling the mission and goals of SIAS. We look forward to continuing this collaborative effort and receiving similar support in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krishna Gyawali', written over a horizontal line.

Krishna Gyawali
Chairperson



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The fiscal year 2023/24 has been another successful year for SIAS as we continue to strive towards becoming a recognised think tank and a 'Centre of Excellence'. As we move into the new fiscal year, I am thrilled to share our annual report for 2023/24. This report details our achievements, and lessons we have learned throughout the year. This year, we developed a new strategic plan setting direction for the next four years. We have refined our thematic areas as: natural resources and rural livelihoods; climate, disaster and urban resilience; landscape management and ecosystem services; and decentralisation, gender equality, and social inclusion.

We have made notable progress in generating high-quality knowledge outputs that not only advance scholarship but also offer valuable evidence and insights for national and regional policies. During this period, SIAS has successfully secured competitive research funding and is actively expanding our partnerships and collaborations.

This year, SIAS members contributed to science by publishing 16 peer-reviewed journal articles, completed the special issue of New Angle titled on Changing Livelihoods, Vulnerability, and the COVID-19 Pandemic and a new issue on "Women's Empowerment in Natural Resource Management is being finalised. We have also focused on policy relevant text such as policy briefs, blogs, and research reports, which were disseminated across multiple platforms. We continued our flagship initiative of Future Himalaya Seminar series. We also continued SIAS's other co-learning initiative, 'Research Clubs,' aimed at fostering the development of emerging researchers within SIAS and beyond. In terms of capacity building of SIAS researchers, we conducted several workshops, including an advanced scientific writing series. Moreover, we are continuously engaged in sectoral policies through policy dialogues, reviewing of and contributing to policy drafts and participating in national policy platforms on the issues to forest, water, climate change, urban disaster and human-wildlife relationships.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our funders and collaborators for their invaluable support in making our journey productive. I would also like to thank and congratulate SIAS researchers, admin staff and research fellows for making this year fruitful. Special thanks to Salu Basnet, Anushiya Shrestha, Pradip Dhakal, Jaya Pun, Sajjan Regmi, Gyanu Maskey, Dilli Prasad Poudel, Govinda Poudel, and Rojani Manandhar for their efforts in compiling this report. Lastly, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our board members for their ongoing support and guidance.

Dil Khatri, PhD

Executive Director

ACRONYMS

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AESA	Agriculture Extension in South Asia
BDWSUC	Bidur Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Committee
BoD	Board of Directors
BUET	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
CAS	Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resource Research China
CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
CEDAR	Center for Ecology, Development and Research
CEDS	Centre for Disaster Studies
CEPT	Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology
CETD	Center for Environment Tourism and Development
CF	Community Forest
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CICERO	Center for International Climate and Environmental Research
CNRS	National Centre for Scientific Research
COP-28	Conference of the Parties (28 th)
DDWSUC	Dhulikhel Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Committee
DWRF	Dalit Women's Right Forum
EEAP	Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific
EnLIFT2	Enhancing Livelihoods from improved Forest management in Nepal
FEDWASUN	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal
FHRS	Future Himalayan Research Seminar
FOCALI	Forest, Climate and Livelihoods
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
HBTL	Himalayan Bio-Trade Pvt. Ltd.
HDCA	Human Development and Capabilities Association
I.C	Intellectuals Center
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFSD	Institute for Studies and Development Worldwide

IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
IoE	Institute of Engineering
ISB	Indian School of Business
ISET	Institute for Social and Environmental Transition
ISPONRE	Institute of Strategy, Policy on Natural Resources and Environment
KMIT	King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Thailand
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
MC	Management Committee
MOFE	Ministry of Forest and Environment
MuAN	Municipal Association of Nepal
NASC	Nepal Administrative Staff College
NDI	National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
NDRI	Nepal Development Research Institute
NSET	National Society for Earthquake Technology
OSSREA	Organisation of Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa
PGIA	Post Graduate Studies of Agriculture
PIDA	Provincial Infrastructure Development Authority
POLLEN	Political Ecology Network
PSE	Paris School of Economics
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific
SCP	Seed funding for Collaboration and Partnership Projects
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
SIAS	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
SLU	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
SPI	Solar Powered Irrigation
TISS	Tata Institute of Social Sciences
TWAS	The World Academy of Sciences
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFCCC	United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change
UoE	University of Edinburgh



1. ABOUT SIAS

Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) is a Kathmandu-based policy research institute dedicated to becoming a 'Centre of Excellence' in policy research across South Asia. Established in 2011, SIAS serves as a platform for research, policy engagement, and scholarly exchange across South Asia and beyond. With a focus on the research-policy-practice interface, SIAS strives to conduct impactful research and contribute to evidence-informed policy solutions in various areas, including natural resource management; climate change, water security, urbanisation; disaster risk management; rural livelihoods and ecosystem services; democratic processes and local governance. It aims to generate cutting-edge knowledge to understand and influence policy processes, enhance the capacity of researchers, policy actors, and professionals, and foster sustainable development in the South Asia region.

Legal Status



SIAS is a profit-not-distributing institution registered under the Company Act 2006 of Nepal. It operates under the rights conferred by the Company Act and other applicable laws and will uphold to relevant regulations of other countries while undertaking its engagements outside Nepal.

Vision



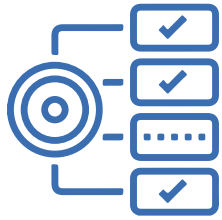
SIAS envisions becoming a leading think tank that supports evidence-informed policy and practices, contributing to inclusive and sustainable development. It is dedicated to achieving this vision and gaining regional and global recognition as a unique, high-quality policy research organisation, based in the Global South.

Mission



SIAS's mission is to nurture, cultivate, organise and promote critical knowledge, research and scholarly learning in South Asia. Based in Kathmandu, it currently focuses its activities in Nepal, with collaborations primarily in North India, Bhutan, and has initiated collaboration with Bangladesh, and intends to expand its geographical coverage in the region.

Objectives



- » Conduct cutting-edge research and analysis and generate action-verified lessons and state-of-the-art knowledge on environmental, socio-economic, and political issues.
- » Engage critically and constructively in the policy process at local, national, and regional levels.
- » Develop the capacity of the research community and professionals.
- » Inform practitioners, policymakers, and epistemic communities (researchers and academia) through diverse forms of communication and disseminate the knowledge generated through research and policy analysis.



Governance

SIAS is governed by a Board of Directors (BoD) elected by General Assembly. It comprises a group of professionals committed to delivering high-quality research and engaging in policy processes. For internal management, there is a Management Committee (MC) chaired by the Executive Director (ED). The management committee comprises the Program Director, thematic leads and Finance and Administration Manager (member secretary). The MC is accountable to the BoD (see Figure 1). Project Leaders are authorised to drive project activities, with strategic inputs from the ED and MC.

SIAS Board of Directors set out the general strategic direction and have prepared and adopted the Administrative and Financial Policy 2011. The policy provides guidelines for the operation of SIAS finances, including the creation and maintenance of its accounts, handling of expenses and reimbursement, handling the petty cash, procurement, financial reporting, fund mobilisation, bank account, and audit. SIAS has also endorsed its Human Research Ethics Policy 2016, Publication and Authorship Policy 2018, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy 2022 to ensure an inclusive research process and deliver high-quality outcomes.

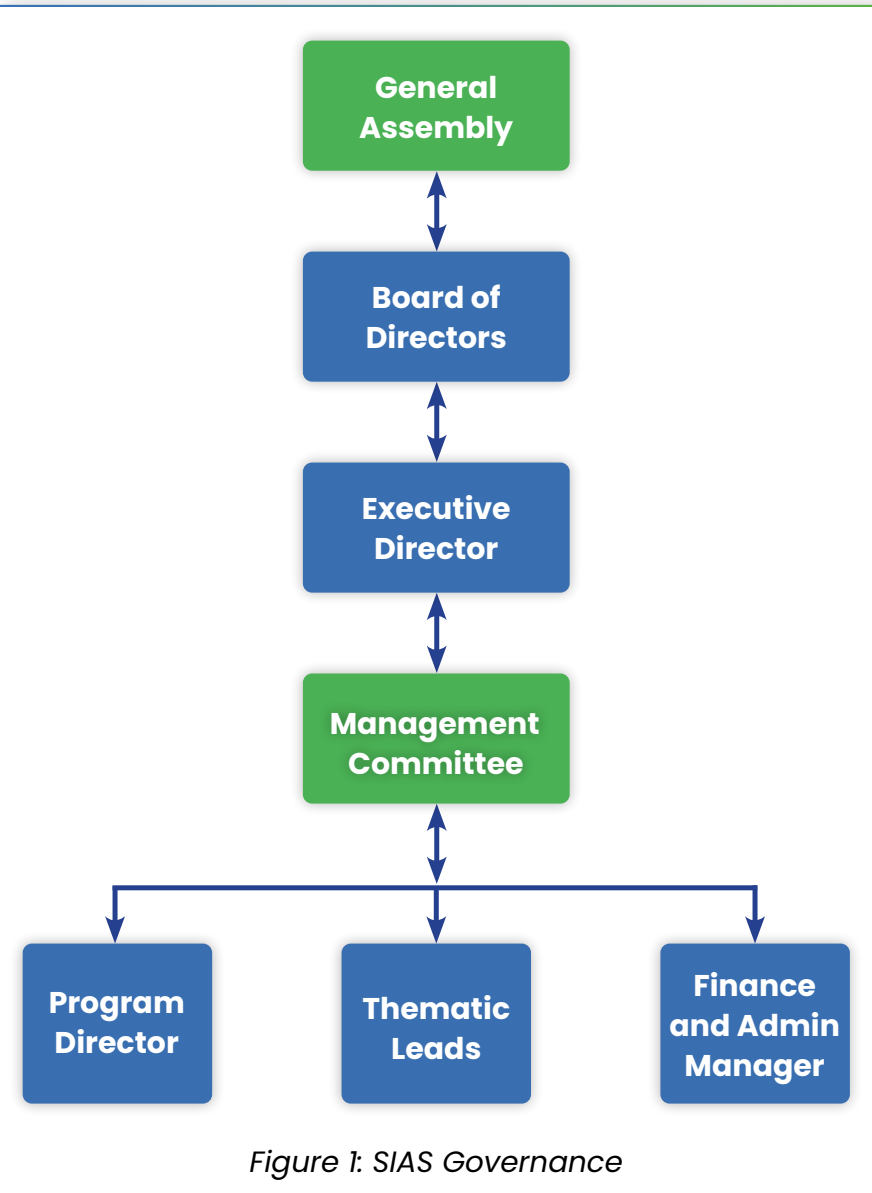


Figure 1: SIAS Governance

SIAS vision and mission



Vision: SIAS envisions evidence-informed policy and practice toward inclusive and sustainable development. It seeks to contribute to this vision as recognized in Nepal, South Asia, and around the globe as a unique South-based high-quality policy research organization, with a 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. Based in Kathmandu, it has currently been focusing its activities in Nepal, with collaborations primarily in North India and Bangladesh, and intends to expand its geographical coverage in the region.



2. SIAS THEORY OF CHANGE

SIAS has adopted the theory of change as its organisational development framework (Figure 2). This framework outlines how SIAS contributes to realising its vision of evidence-informed policy and practice for inclusive and sustainable development. As depicted, SIAS invests in research interventions and policy analysis to achieve desired outcomes, informs its target audience, and works towards its vision. In the light of evolving socio-environmental and national policy contexts and research collaboration opportunities, SIAS has revisited its thematic priorities and identified four focus areas: i. Natural resources and rural livelihoods ii. Climate, disaster, and urban resilience iii. Landscape management and ecosystem services iv. Decentralisation, gender equality and social inclusion (Figure 2- themes). Through these focus areas, SIAS aims to generate critical knowledge and evidence (Figure 2- outcomes) to inform and capacitate policymakers, practitioners, and academic communities (Figure 2-target audience) to foster evidence-informed policy and practices. To achieve this, SIAS adopts four interconnected approaches: research and innovations, critical policy engagement, capacity enhancement (of researchers and stakeholders), and communication and dissemination (Figure 2-approaches).



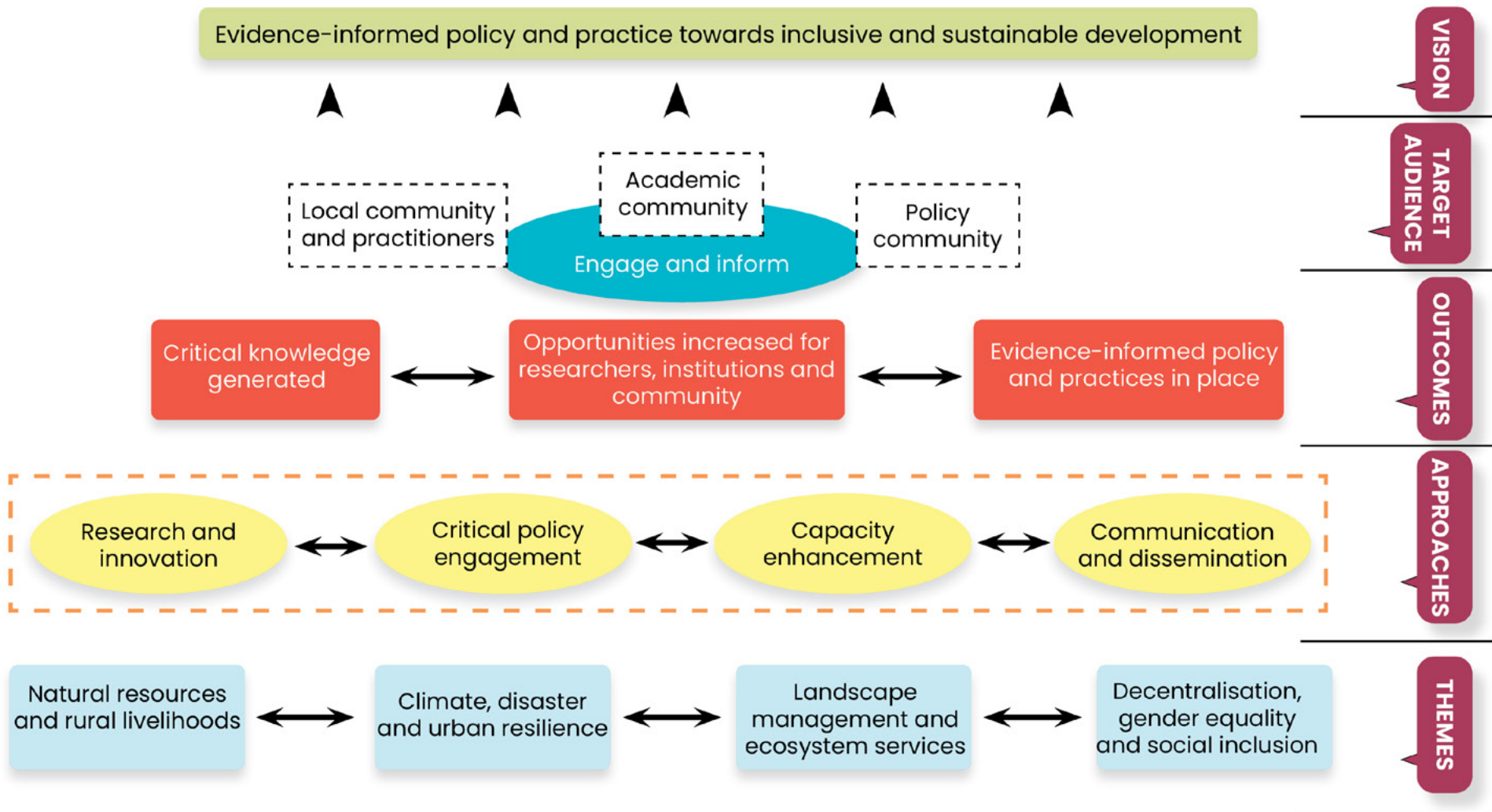


Figure 2: SIAS theory of change



3. THEMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1. Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods

SIAS has been researching the interrelations of forests, agriculture, pasture lands, and rural livelihoods. Our research encompasses the management of natural resources with an emphasis on changing forest-people relationships and the political economy of natural resource management, all of which have implications for rural livelihoods. The research centres around smallholder farming, forest and pasture management and forest landscape restoration, and agriculture and forestry enterprises that support household income and employment opportunities and contribute to the local and national economy. This year also, multiple research projects at SIAS have unpacked different aspects of natural resources management in the face of the changing socio-economic contexts of Nepal and the region. SIAS continues to document these evolving relationships between people and natural resources and changing experiences amidst high rural migration, shifting livelihoods, and post-COVID-19 recovery strategies through its diverse research and policy initiatives. Inspired by political ecological and intersectional perspectives, identifying and addressing the barriers to sustainable and equitable resource governance and economic empowerment of women, and other socially and economically marginalised communities have been the core focus of the research.

SIAS organised various local, provincial, and national level

workshops and policy dialogues on topics such as institutional functionality of Community Forest User Groups, agriculture and forest-based enterprises, sustainable water management, and collective efforts for sustainable and equitable natural resources governance. These events have helped to generate insights into the sustainable management of resources and contributed to improving agro-forestry-based livelihood opportunities. In its efforts to understand and address the critical issues of farming-wildlife conflicts, SIAS has started its new action research project to explore possible ways to mitigate the negative effects of intensifying human-wildlife interactions and contribute to the ongoing policy process. This project aims to investigate wildlife encroachments as an unintended negative consequence of forest recovery and to explore policy and practical measures to address the problem faced by the Himalayan communities. Another action research focuses on how communities in the Himalayan districts could sustainably manage high-value non-timber forest products that enhance income and create local employment opportunities for women and the poor. SIAS is also expanding research networks across the South Asian region and beyond. One of the initiatives is to understand the mountain economies, climate and rural livelihood in Nepal, India and Bhutan. This collaborative research aims to better understand the experiences and responses to the climatic and non-climatic uncertainties that poor rural households in the South Asian Mountains face.



3.2. Climate, Disaster and Urban Resilience

SIAS has continued its research and policy engagements on climate change and disaster-related issues. These efforts have particularly informed policies and practices around urban planning, water management, agriculture, and climate-induced migration that directly affect people's lives and livelihoods. SIAS is undertaking a long-term research project focusing on migration as a strategy for adapting to climate change. It aims to analyse how climate change influences migration dynamics and intersects with other migration drivers that are leading to increased migration. Recently, an intensive household survey was conducted in the mid-hills to understand the patterns of human mobility in response to climate change.

Another achievement of SIAS this year has been the co-production of an analytical tool for identifying the root causes of multi-hazard disaster risks for planning resilient future cities. This involved collaboration with an interdisciplinary team of researchers and the active participation of local communities, local governments, and national-level stakeholders. SIAS has completed the documentation of the visions of diverse communities and handed the book to the Provincial Infrastructure Development Authority (PIDA) of Lumbini Province for the future development of a risk-sensitive land use plan and capital city. Additionally, SIAS's urban and disaster risk research includes

gender and social inclusion as key cross-cutting themes and analyses the vulnerabilities and capabilities of women and marginalised urban inhabitants, taking into account various intersecting identities.

Uncovering the issues of marginalisation in infrastructural planning and services delivery in the urbanising contexts has been another major focus of our research and policy engagements for strengthening urban resilience. In this line, SIAS has rigorously documented local knowledge and perspectives as a strategic tool to strengthen the agency of marginalised groups and shared this information with the local governments. This has helped SIAS in enhancing the ability of socio-economically and geographically marginalised people to participate in the urban planning and development processes.

SIAS has initiated a scoping study of reviewing policies and institutional mechanisms of climate financing and identifying barriers to localising climate finance. In another initiative, SIAS is partnering with the Forest Action and Climate Policy Initiative to explore constraints and opportunities in financing women-led/engaged grassroots organisations in the agriculture and forestry sector engaged in climate-positive economic activities. This study is expected to be instrumental in establishing pathways to finance by enabling appropriate project preparation support through a dedicated facility that could serve as a template for similar projects in Asia.



3.3. Landscape Management and Ecosystem Services

SIAS has been at the forefront of research and engagement aimed at strengthening local water governance, ensuring water security, and addressing gender and social injustices in access to water and water-related decision-making processes. With over a decade of experience focused on sustainable water management, equity, justice issues, and climate-induced risks on water systems, SIAS is committed to foster sustainable and inclusive water management through equitable recognition of knowledge between the community, local government, and other stakeholders. Besides, our research engagements and approaches aim to explore the gendered politics of water and its management, delving into the complexities arising from caste and class-based social divisions. We seek to uncover the stories and differential experiences related to water access, water source management, and decision-making processes.

Engaging with the global debate around forest restoration and ecology, SIAS has initiated a collaborative research project with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Ashoka University (India). The project aims to understand how and under what conditions past restoration activities in community-managed forests improve biodiversity, human well-being and carbon sequestration. The research will focus on advancing theories related to community-based forest landscape restoration thereby contributing to knowledge on how long-term community participation and institution building support the long-term benefits of forest restoration initiatives.

3.4. Decentralisation, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Our research under this theme has been focused on understanding the challenges faced by the sub-national governments in exercising the authority and accessing and mobilising the resources devolved under the federal governance structure. We helped highlight the opportunities and challenges faced by the local governments in utilising the available resources across sectors and effectively undertaking their roles. SIAS engaged in local and national policy processes through rigorous research, research-informed stakeholder dialogues at all three levels of government, and sharing research findings and knowledge across our key thematic areas. Working closely with local governments and communities, we sensitise and strengthen their capacities to adopt nature-based and socially inclusive activities, which contribute to sustainable and just environmental management.

This year, SIAS also organised focused dialogues on disaster risk governance at all three government levels, bringing together relevant stakeholders in a common forum. Additionally, we shared research findings from ongoing action research projects with local stakeholders in all the research sites. The co-production approach, including the deliberative forums, that we adopted in the project has been instrumental in leveraging resources

from the local government to continue and scale up the project-initiated interventions. Recognising the project's role in strengthening local economy and contributing to women's economic empowerment, the funding organisation has provided the project with a one-year extension. SIAS ensured that these engagements were inclusive and involved active participation of women and other marginalised communities. Regular support and sensitisation sessions about the importance of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in the research sites have fostered more inclusive processes. Furthermore, SIAS is conducting GESI-focused in-depth analyses of policies across multiple sectors and identifying the challenges for translating these policies into practice.


SIAS has continued engagements with local communities and stakeholders, who have widely appreciated the efforts aimed at co-producing local resource-based economic opportunities through policy-relevant research on the issue of the exploitation of forest-based resources, male-dominated agriculture value chain, wildlife affecting smallholder farmers, and technocratic water management. SIAS researchers have also participated in events focusing on mainstreaming gender and social inclusion, gender-just low carbon economies and in Women Deliver Conference and contributed to Feminist Statement and Call to Action.






संरचना - कर्मचारी और अग्रणी व्यक्तियों के लिए ?

- संरचना को बदलने के लिए - कर्मचारी को प्रोत्साहित करें
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4. OUTPUTS IN NUMBER

Projects




12 | Ongoing Projects

Publications



6 | New Angle Journal
Volume 8 (1)
(5 Articles and 1 Editorial)



7 | Op-ed/Blogs : English
(6), Nepali (1)




16 | Peer-reviewed
Journal Articles



3 | Policy Brief

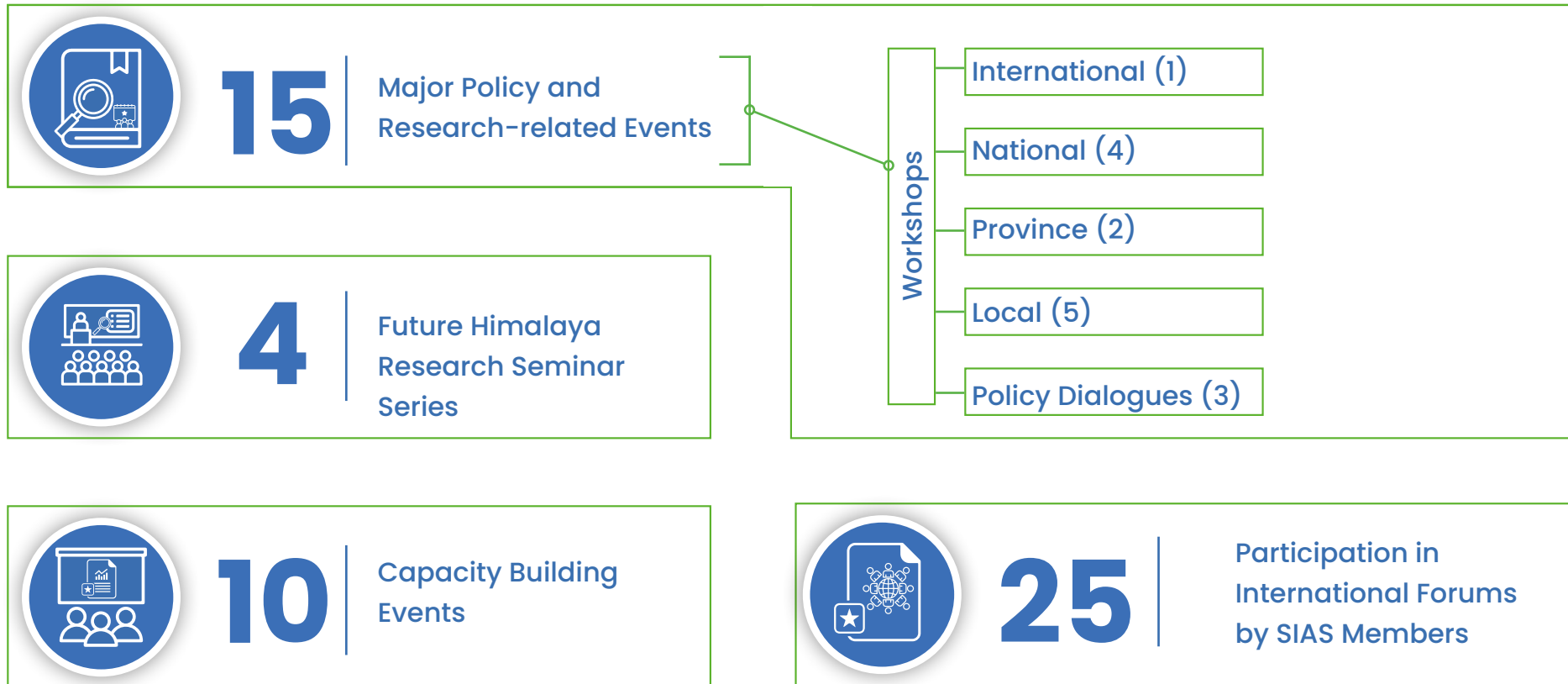


1 | Research and
Event Reports



2 | Book and Booklet

Events



4.1. Academic and Policy-relevant Publications

SIAS researchers have been actively publishing their research findings in leading national and international journals. This year, SIAS researchers have published a total of 16 peer-reviewed journal articles. SIAS also published five articles in a special issue of New Angle Journal, titled "Understanding the Changing Livelihoods, Vulnerability, and COVID-19 Pandemic", Volume 8 (1) which focused on

understanding the short-term and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods and the responses adopted at the local level to cope with the crisis. All the papers for this issue have been published on the website and the issue has also been printed. Additionally, policy briefs (in both Nepali and English language) with recommendations for all levels of government towards developing tomorrow's risk-resilient cities have been published this year. These policy messages have been communicated with different stakeholders, including the local communities and the national and sub-national governments.

Similarly, papers for the issue of New Angle on "Women's Empowerment in Natural Resources Management in the Himalayas", Volume 9 (1), 2023 are under review, with revisions underway, and will be finalised soon. Additionally, a special issue on "Nepal's Community Forestry at the Crossroad" is currently in progress with authors actively working on their manuscripts. This year, SIAS researchers engaged in Tomorrow's Cities project published a book titled "Socialising Tomorrow's Cities: Envisioning a City in Rapti/Deukhuri Valley, Nepal" that underscores the importance of inclusivity, equity, and good governance in developing a risk-resilient and equitable tomorrow's capital city.



4.2. Media Coverage

Different activities and events of SIAS have been featured in national dailies and also widely reported in the online news portal. The national and local level events of Tomorrow Cities project have been featured in renowned online media houses in Nepal, including Deukhuri Today and Kohalpur HD TV. Similarly, the policy brief and book release event were also covered by the local media of Deukhuri.

This year SIAS researchers published a total of seven blogs/Op-ed (5 English and 1 Nepali). These blogs/Op-eds drew on the findings, insights, and experiences of the researchers

on local water management policies and practices, urban disasters, and challenges of sub-national governance in the federal context. One of the blogs focusing on the digital-technology gaps emphasised the importance of addressing the structural issues, gender-related stereotypes, improving digital infrastructures, and digital literacy for bridging the gender divide and enhancing the economic opportunities for rural women farmers in this digital age. Likewise, the other blog showcased the revival of *haat bazaar* (the local weekly market) through the co-production approach thereby contributing to increasing the income and influence of smallholder women farmers at the local level in the post-COVID context.



4.3. National, Regional, and International Outreach and Engagements

SIAS researchers were invited to different national and international conferences, where they participated and presented their research-based findings and contributed to the discussions on a range of themes including forest and livelihood, climate change and inclusive climate action, water security, agri-food system, and environmental justice. Additionally, SIAS researchers also served as panelists and discussants on topics like political ecology, gender, water security, and climate adaptation.

Furthermore, SIAS was represented at COP-28 held in Dubai, joining the global dialogue on climate issues. Building on the experiences of co-production of knowledge for equitable and resilient city planning in Khokana and Rapti Valley of Nepal, the SIAS team provided training and facilitated the implementation of similar actions through visioning workshops in Chattogram and Cox's Bazaar cities of Bangladesh. Last year, the team facilitated a similar workshop in Nairobi, Kenya.

SIAS has also been prominent in knowledge exchange at national and international forums through national-level policy engagement, participation, and contribution in national, regional,

and international dialogues, seminars, and other events. Annex 1 provides a list of the national and international events that the SIAS team participated in this year. Through different thematic focus, these engagements highlighted the importance of sustainable management of natural resources, gender balanced and socially inclusive approach to climate change adaptation and in mitigating the impacts of climate change and disaster-induced risks and hazards. This year SIAS also collaborated for the 12th annual Groundwater Symposium organised to commemorate World Water Day and Nepal National Water and Weather Week. This collaboration was a part of SIAS's contribution to the sustainable management of water resources in the face of its unchecked extraction, global climate change, population growth, ever-increasing water demand, and environmental degradation. Like the previous year, SIAS co-organised the fifth conference on Public Policy and Governance in South Asia with the overarching theme of "Sub-national Government as a Defender of Democratic Governance and Service Delivery".

Our researchers have been actively engaged in disseminating the research outputs/findings through different kinds of media outlets (blogs/Op-ed articles), policy briefs, journal articles, and

books. Besides, the SIAS researchers shared the research insights at local, national, regional and international forums through various workshops, conferences, and policy dialogues. The policy dialogues focused on the importance of bridging the digital gender divide that is persisting amidst the growing digitalisation of the agriculture sector, addressing farming and wildlife issues, and incorporating a multi-hazard risk perspective in planning future cities. The researchers have continued engagement with the CDKN-GLOW platform through participation, learning, and sharing in various online and physical workshops and seminars, and publishing blogs on the website.

SIAS researchers participated in joint meetings, field visits, and workshops as part of the network project “Living with Uncertainties

in South Asia Mountains” at Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan, and Keystone Foundation, India. This international team involving researchers from SIAS, Royal Thimphu College, Keystone Foundation, and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), are exploring how rural households in Bhutan, India, and Nepal experience and respond to climatic and non-climatic uncertainties. Through this joint initiative, this international team of researchers aims to deepen cross-national understanding of the specificities within and across these case study countries and analyse the commonalities and uniqueness of these experiences. The visits also involved the sharing of the preliminary research findings from each country team.



4.4. Capacity Building

SIAS has continued organising a range of capacity-building events to enhance the research skills of emerging researchers, including staff, interns, partners, and collaborators. This year, SIAS continued the advanced scientific writing seminar aimed at improving the academic writing skills of researchers. While two workshops under the scientific writing series were conducted last year, this year, we conducted five additional workshops. These workshops provided immersive and comprehensive opportunities for early to mid-career researchers aspiring to improve their scientific writing skills. In addition to the exchange of experiences, ideas and insights during seminars, the workshop involved tailored guidance from mentors (experienced researchers) which acquainted emerging researchers with different aspects of scientific writing and helped them progress with drafting, revising and finalisation of their scientific articles. Another co-learning platform, SIAS Research Clubs, which was initiated last year to support emerging researchers within SIAS and beyond, continued this year. Two Research Clubs were organised. The researchers presented their findings by using visual timeline methods to capture the voices of people with disabilities and the role of restoration activities in ecological resilience. Additionally, senior researchers at SIAS are continuously involved in enhancing the research capacity of emerging researchers which also includes

providing voluntary contributions to supervising national and international Masters and PhD students.

In addition, SIAS organised a two-week field course for Master's students from the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom. This field course featured renowned researchers and professionals engaged in the natural resource management sector in Nepal as facilitators. The field course included field visits outside the Kathmandu Valley where the students interacted with local communities discussing their first-hand experiences of human-wildlife conflict, water management challenges in the upstream-downstream communities, and the interrelation between tourism, urbanisation, and the environment in Pokhara. These sessions, that entailed field visits and interactions with communities, researchers, academicians, practitioners and policymakers, provided students with valuable insights into the environmental and developmental activities in Nepal, highlighting the efforts of professionals and community members in addressing these challenges. Reflecting on the learning and experiences of the field course, a faculty and a student of the University have published two different blogs.

SIAS also organised an exposure visit for local women champions to observe, learn, network, and enhance their entrepreneurship skills. This visit, organised as a part of an action research project, aimed to empower local women leaders to encourage

and support other women in their communities. Through the Future Himalaya Research Seminar series (detailed in section 6.1), SIAS has continued to offer in-house and external researchers, PhD scholars and affiliates a platform to share their findings, experiences, and insights from their ongoing and completed research and practice-based works.





5. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1. Institution Building

As in the previous year, SIAS undertook several organisational development initiatives which helped strengthen its reputation as a renowned think tank. The most notable achievement of 2023/24 was a comprehensive review of the strategic direction of SIAS, which culminated in the formulation of a new four-year strategic plan of SIAS (Sep 2023-2027). This plan is designed to continuously advance SIAS's policy-oriented research and engagements. SIAS has also launched a new project to understand the influence of large-scale tree plantation on community livelihoods as well as biodiversity; and analyse the historical and institutional dimensions of forest governance. The launch of the new project has helped expand our research partnerships with international research institutes and local governments. Alongside, SIAS also hosted research-sharing and policy events by convening several multistakeholder dialogues at different levels. SIAS is committed to promoting gender and social workforce diversity and our team sensitises and promotes gender balanced and socially inclusive approaches in the office as well as during field activities. SIAS has been systematically documenting its learning and annual achievements through the publication of its annual report.





5.2. Partnership and Funding Diversity

SIAS has continued to strengthen its collaboration and networking with existing partners and has pursued various research grants in cooperation with both long-standing and new national, regional, and international partners. SIAS has succeeded in securing highly competitive research grants and extended its networks and partnerships. Despite growing challenges in securing competitive research grants, the SIAS team continues to make unwavering efforts aimed at excelling and obtaining competitive research funding, a cornerstone to continue conducting cutting-edge research. Over the past few years, SIAS has increased engagements in relatively large-scale quantitative research projects. This expansion, in addition to our qualitative research, has broadened our expertise and enriched our research portfolio, allowing us to evolve as an institution proficient in both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Our engagement in both qualitative and quantitative research has opened additional avenues to build networks with diverse stakeholders in the field of natural resources management including land, water, forestry, and agriculture. Through different projects like “Tomorrow’s Cities” and “Climate and Migration”, we engaged in multidisciplinary action research collaborations that involve physical and social scientists. Similarly, we have continued our collaboration with Keystone Foundation (India), Royal Thimphu College (Bhutan), and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and are collectively developing ideas for future research grants. A list of partners and collaborators of SIAS has been provided in Annex 3.

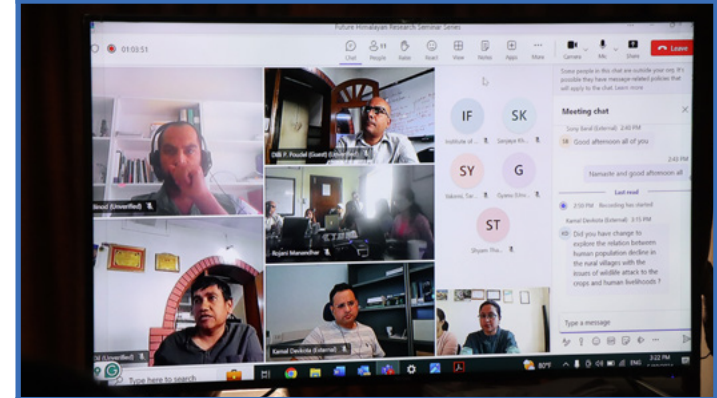


6. OTHER INITIATIVES

6.1. Future Himalayan Research Seminar

Future Himalayan Research Seminar (FHRS) has been a flagship initiative of SIAS that offers a platform to foster a culture of scholarly knowledge exchange and shared learning. This initiative provides an opportunity for both national and international researchers and experts to present their research findings and share their research experiences. Every year, SIAS invites experts to contribute towards enhancing critical analytical skills and knowledge development. In addition to presenting research findings and receiving feedback, the seminar also facilitates the building of social and intellectual relationships with contemporaries and experts from a diverse array of research traditions within the overarching themes.

This year, SIAS organised four seminars featuring presentations by SIAS researchers, international scholars, and practitioners visiting Nepal. The seminars were conducted in a hybrid format, allowing for both online and in-person participation. This year's seminar topics drew attention to issues such as human-wildlife relationships, the need to rearrange the institutional functionality of community forests, the utility of solar-powered irrigation in rural areas of Nepal, the livelihood vulnerability and responses of the local community and the local government in the context of risks such as COVID-19 and climate change. In addition, one of the seminars addressed the methodological challenges encountered by the researcher during COVID-19 and shared his experiences of using digital ethnography as an alternative approach for conducting qualitative research. Each seminar included an interactive discussion session between the session presenters and other participants fostering experiential sharing and collaborative learning.





7. ANNEX 1 : PROJECTS AND EVENT

Annex 1.1 List of Ongoing Projects

S.N.	Project Name	Project period	Funded by	Collaborators	Project Objectives
1	Building Synergies Between Biodiversity, Carbon Sequestration, and Rural Prosperity Through Community Forest Governance (ComPlant)	2024-2027	Swedish Research Council via SLU	Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU), and Ashoka University (India)	To analyse how different historical and institutional dimensions of forest governance influence large-scale tree planting activities. It also aims to contribute to link broader environmental priorities with local societal objectives that potentially support people's needs, interests, and wellbeing.
2	The Network Project - 'Living with Uncertainties in South Asia Mountains'	Jun 2023 - Jun 2025	Swedish Research Council	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden, Keystone Foundation, India and Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan	To deepen cross-country understanding on the specificity of the context of case study countries, mutually develop shared analytical understanding and conduct comparative analysis and to identify innovative research ideas for future comparative research across the Himalayas.
3	Wild Animals – Biodiversity or Pest? Creating Local Dialogues for Dealing with Farming-Wildlife Conflicts in Rural Himalayan Landscapes	May 2023 - Dec 2026	Swedish Research Council	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)	To investigate the linkages between farming-wildlife conflicts and the socio-economic dynamics of agricultural retreat and forest expansion in culturally diverse mountain communities in Nepal. It also explores the possible ways to mitigate the problem and contribute to ongoing policy processes.

4	SIAS- UoE Field Course	May 9-21, 2024	The University of Edinburgh	University of Edinburgh	To provide an opportunity for master's students to understand environment and development challenges in Nepal, and importantly to learn directly from professionals and community members about their strategies to address these issues. It also aims to engage the students in community interaction to discuss issues of natural resource management and gain practical knowledge and insights into environment and development issues in the Global South.
5	ASHA: Addressing the Issue of Climate Change Through Strengthened Literacy, Hands-on Knowledge and Awareness	Feb 2023-Dec 2025	The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)- Elsevier)	Dalit Women's Right Forum (DWRF)	To improve climate literacy and climate awareness among women and girls of two municipalities from Western Nepal and promote women-led green enterprises.
6	CLIMIG - A New Interdisciplinary Framework for Studying the Relation Between Climate Change and Migration	2022 - 2028	Swedish Research Council	University of Gothenburg, University of Oslo, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Organisation of Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, Ethiopia	To establish a bold interdisciplinary research environment comprising the natural and social sciences to examine how climate change affects migration processes in three of the world's most populated mountain areas: the Ethiopian highlands, the Andes, and the Himalaya. It also aims to generate solid scientific knowledge on a crucial but less understood aspect of the relation between climate change and migration.

7	Co-producing a Shock-resilient Business Ecosystem for Women-engaged Enterprises in Nepal (CREW)	Nov 2021-Apr 2025 (one-year extension)	International Development Research Centre	Aria Solutions, NIMS College, Himalayan Bio-Trade Pvt. Ltd. (HBTL)	To co-produce workable solutions for financially sustainable and shock-resilient agriculture and forest-based enterprises for women's economic self-reliance. It further aims to: (1) identify gender-based constraints faced by women farmers and entrepreneurs; (2) create an ecosystem of support for the promotion of inclusive women-engaged enterprises; (3) capacitate target beneficiaries and build their agency and voices; (4) disseminate knowledge and inform policies and practices towards enhancing women's economic empowerment
8	DMRS	Dec 2020-Dec 2023	University of Colorado	National Science Foundation, USA University of Colorado Boulder, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, and Purdue University.	To collect quantitative data through survey from 50 Community Forest User Groups from four districts of western Nepal and contribute to develop papers based on the survey findings.
9	Transforming Political Capabilities for Equitable Resilience (PolCaps)	Jan 2020-March 2024	Economic and Social Research Council	University of York, Chiang Mai University, Stockholm Environmental Institute, ISET Nepal, IoE Pulchowk, Lumanti	To transform the political capabilities of marginalised groups in our study cities (i.e., Nepal and Thailand), so that the integration of development and disaster risk planning occurs in ways that provide them with control over their environment.

10	Institutional Networks and Self-organised Adaptation: Tracing the Democratic Architectures of Climate Response (INSA)	Jul 2019- Dec 2024	Swedish Research Council (VR)	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)- Sweden, University of Minnesota Twin Cities- USA, Indian School of Business (ISB)- India.	To develop the concept of self-organised adaptation to explore how democratic political systems shape local responses to climate risk and changes. It further explores (1) the portfolios of climate risks that different households face; (2) the political channels through which citizens seek support for climate threats; (3) the networks of interaction through which state responses are developed; and (4) the recursive effects of these responses on households' experience of climate risk.
11	GCRF Multi-Hazard Urban Disaster Risk Transition: Reducing Disaster Risk in Tomorrow's Cities	Feb 2019- May 2024	UK Research and Innovation	Institute of Engineering (IoE), Practical Action, National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI).	To find ways of making urban development resilient to multiple disasters by transforming the ways in which urban development and disaster risk is managed so far.
12	Governing Climate Resilient Futures: Gender, Justice and Conflict Resolution in Resource Management (JUSTCLIME)	Jan 2019-Dec 2024	Swedish Research Council	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) Sweden, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, University of Science and Technology, Kenya	To probe the link between gender and social inequalities, conflict, and how they affect sustainable and resilient climate development pathways.

Annex 1.2 Workshops and Policy Dialogues

Workshops

International			
S.N.	Events	Date	Key Highlights
1	International Workshop on Green Development of Nepal - China Economic Corridor	7 August 2023	SIAS together with The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), and China Railway First Survey and Design Institute Group Co. Ltd (FSDI) organised a half-day International Workshop on Green Development of Nepal - China Economic Corridor. The workshop brought together professors, researchers, and experts from various institutions to explore potential modalities, collaborative mechanisms, and frameworks for sustainable development of the Nepal-China economic corridor.
National			
1	Expert Consultation on Sustainable Water Management in the Context of Rapid Urbanisation and Environmental Change	20 July 2023	SIAS expert consultation emphasised the urgent need for sustainable water management in rapidly urbanising areas. Key discussions highlighted the complex challenges of drying springs, the need for collaboration between government and research institutions for evidence-based policymaking, and the overlooked needs of marginalised communities in current water distribution models.
2	Dialogue on Urbanisation and Future Cities	6 October 2023	The main objectives of Dialogue on Urbanisation and Future Cities was to foster knowledge and information sharing concerning the complexities of urbanisation and the vision of future cities.

3	Groundwater Symposium 2024	18 March 2024	SIAS co-organised for the annual Groundwater Symposium to contribute to the sustainable management of valuable groundwater resources in the face of its unchecked extraction, global climate change, population growth, increased water demand, and environmental degradation. Ms. Salu Basnet, Dr. Anushiya Shrestha, and Ms. Gyanu Maskey also presented their poster entitled 'Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Urban Water Governance' during the symposium.
4	5 th Conference on Public Policy and Governance in South Asia	29 March 2024	SIAS was one of the collaborating partners in the 5th Conference on Public Policy and Governance in South Asia organised by the Nepal Administrative Staff College. The SIAS team actively contributed as presenters and discussants in different thematic sessions.
Province			
1	Empowering Community Forest: Vision-Based Planning, Implementation Strategies, and Experience Sharing Workshop	8-9 February 2024	SIAS in collaboration with the District Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN, Dolakha) organised a two-day workshop in Charikot. The workshop's main objectives were to enhance understanding and implementation of sustainable forest management practices and facilitate plan execution of the community Forests.
2	Launch of Socialising Tomorrow's cities book and policy brief at Rapti Valley	6 May 2024	The event aimed to launch the book "Socialising Tomorrow's Cities: Envisioning a city in Rapti Valley" and the policy brief "लुम्बिनी प्रदेशको राजधानी देखुरी/राप्ती उपत्यकालाई समतामूलक र उत्थानशील सहर बनाउनको लागि समुदायको अपेक्षा, नीति तथा सहररी योजना" by the chief Minister of Lumbini Province. The event was also graced by the presence of the CEO of the Provincial Infrastructure Development Authority of Lumbini Province, the Mayor of Shitganga Municipality and the Chair of Gadhawa Rural Municipality.

Local			
1	<i>Haat-Bazaar</i> Management in Sandhikharka: history, present and future	30 August 2023	SIAS, in collaboration with the Vegetables Production and Marketing Group (VPMG) of Sandhikharka, Arghakhanchi, organised a deliberative forum in Arghakhanchi. Key discussions included the need for a market operation procedure to legalise <i>haat bazaar</i> , identifying suitable space and facilities for local farmers, and improving cleanliness and cold storage.
2	Sharing workshop on Urbanisation: Opportunities and Challenges	21 September 2023	The sharing workshop was organised in Rapti valley on 21st September 2023. The workshop was divided into two parts: sharing [introducing the objectives of TCDSE and its implementation and importance in Rapti, initial findings from the fieldwork, Participatory Hazard Mapping (PHM), and the Future Visioning workshop] and reflection (the importance of visioning in city planning, explaining the planning histories of New York, USA, and Australia) followed by group exercise.
3	CREW Research Findings Learnings Sharing with Stakeholders at Sandikharka, Arghakhanchi	26 February 2024	SIAS organised an event to share findings and learnings of CREW project in Sandikharka Municipality of Arghakhanchi. Stakeholders including government and non-government organisations, financial institutions, women farmers, and farmers' marketing groups attended the sharing workshop.
4	INSA Research Findings Sharing Workshop	26 March 2024	SIAS and Dhulikhel Municipality organised a half-day research finding-sharing workshop in Dhulikhel. The main objective of the event was to share the findings of the four-year-long research INSA project that was conducted in eight different villages of four Palikas of Kavre and Ramechhap districts in Nepal. The participants discussed the need to improve subsistence-based farming, discourage the products from neighboring nations, and improve the technological capacity for increasing production.
5	CREW Research Findings Learning Sharing with Stakeholders at Manthali	1 April 2024	It was organised jointly by Sagarmatha Livestock and Agriculture Cooperative, SIAS and Aria Solutions which focused on disseminating insights from the CREW project. Stakeholders discussed enhancing local economies through initiatives like promoting legumes in Ramechhap.

Policy Dialogues

S.N.	Events	Date	Key highlights
1	Dialogue on Urbanisation, Urban Disasters and Future Cities	24 May 2024	This event brought together more than 30 distinguished experts from various institutions and aimed to share key research findings on five years of research, discuss on the current challenges of urbanisation, obstacles to the conjoint contribution of sciences, and what should not miss out in planning the resilient future cities.
2	Digital Technology for Women Farmers and Entrepreneurs in Nepal: A Stakeholder Dialogue	28 February 2024	SIAS along with Aria Solutions organised a national-level dialogue with diverse stakeholders including representatives from policymakers, bankers, digital service providers, researchers, professors, development workers and representatives from bilateral institutions. It aimed to facilitate the discussions among these diverse stakeholders regarding the prospects and challenges of advancing digital initiatives for empowering women farmers and entrepreneurs in Nepalese context.
3	National Level Policy Dialogue on Policy Responses for Growing Wildlife Problems of Smallholder Farmers	13 August 2023	The dialogue aimed to generate valuable insights and recommendations for tackling the growing wildlife problems of small farm holders by bringing together all the stakeholders from federal-level policy stakeholders, different civil society organisations and research institutions. The main objective was to facilitate an open and constructive discussion on these issues and explore potential policy solutions.

Annex 1.3 Future Himalayan Research Seminar Series

S.N.	Events	Date	Key highlights
1	Transcending Techno-centric Approaches and Enhancing Productive Use of Solar Powered Irrigation	28 June 2024	Dr. Netra Chhetri, Professor at the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, Arizona State University, gave a comprehensive presentation and shared his research findings on enhancing the productive use of solar powered irrigation in rural areas of Nepal. He shared strategies to optimise the energy generated by solar powered irrigation (SPI) to improve its utilisation beyond irrigation to maximise the productive use of energy. In addition, Prof. Dr. Chhetri presented some successful examples of community solar-powered irrigation systems.
2	Wild-Animals are Becoming the Pest: Socio-Ecological Transitions and New Human-Wildlife Relations in the Nepal Himalaya Neoliberal Community of Community Forestry in Nepal: A Sociological Drift Promised Much: Delivered Little: A Story of Forest-Based Enterprises in Nepal	20 May 2024	Dr. Dil Khatri, Executive Director of SIAS, Dr. Dilli Prasad Poudel and Dr. Govinda Poudel gave an insightful presentation on issues of escalating wildlife conflict, sociological shift of Community Forest (CF), and the underperformance of forest-based enterprises. After the presentations, there was a vibrant discussion on emerging issues of evolving human-wildlife relationships, reimagining the roles of community forestry in Nepal's shifting socio-economic landscape, and the sustainability and prospects of forest-based enterprises.
3	Lived Experiences of Vulnerability and Struggle for Prosperity Among Rural Households in Nepalese Mid-hills	8 April 2024	Mr. Kamal Devkota, a Ph.D. Researcher, (KU Leuven, Belgium) and Dr. Dil Khatri, the Executive Director of SIAS, delivered a comprehensive presentation illuminating the research context, challenges, conceptual framework and key findings emphasising the intricate nexus between livelihood vulnerability, day-to-day stressors, and the pursuit of prosperity. They underscored the notion that vulnerability stems not from isolated incidents but rather from societal structures and cumulative impact of multiple stressors. Furthermore, they highlighted the policy and procedural obstacles hindering effective responses from local governments and other organisations during times of distress.

4	Digital Ethnography During the Pandemic: A Methodological Turn	18 August 2023	Dr. Sanjay Sharma shared insights into the lessons, experiences, and challenges he faced during the COVID-19 pandemic while conducting field research for his PhD. Dr. Sharma emphasised that digital ethnography, typically considered an alternative methodological approach, can become a mainstream method for conducting qualitative research during crises and normal times. In the discussion session, practical challenges faced by researchers during fieldwork were brought up, emphasising the need for innovativeness in the methodological approaches.
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Annex 1.4 Capacity Building Events

Advanced Scientific Writing Workshop Series			
S.N.	Events	Date	Key Highlights
1	Navigating the Review Process: Tips and Tricks for Journal Article Writing	2 July 2023	Dr. Uttam Babu Shrestha led the session, offering comprehensive guidance on systematic review methodologies, the structuring of scientific papers, and the intricacies of composing journal articles. Dr. Shrestha shared practical tips and tricks for navigating the review process, emphasising the importance of clarity, coherence, and adhering to journal guidelines.
2	Synopsis Focused Reflection Workshop	9 July 2023	During the session mentors shared their insights and feedback on the papers submitted by their mentees. The mentees had the valuable opportunity to discuss their research ideas and receive constructive feedback and suggestions to enhance their project synopsis.
3	Literature Review in Scientific Writing	16 July 2023	Dr. Maniram Banjade facilitated the session, focusing on the purpose of a literature review and various techniques for conducting a systematic literature review. Dr. Banjade emphasised the importance of a thorough literature review in strengthening scientific papers. He discussed different methodologies, tools, and strategies to effectively gather, analyse, and synthesise relevant literature.

4	Thematic Data Analysis and Analytical Writing in Scientific Writing	6 August 2023	The session was facilitated by Dr. Prativa Sapkota, a distinguished research fellow from the University of Melbourne, Australia. Dr. Sapkota mainly talked about Thematic Analysis (TA) as one of the emerging data analysis techniques due to its flexibility. She highlighted how TA can be applied in various qualitative analytical domains, emphasising its adaptability to different research perspectives.
5	Reference Management and Citation Techniques in Scientific Writing	27 August 2023	Dr. Anushiya Shrestha, the Research Director at SIAS, facilitated the session. She shared her valuable insights and strategies concerning effective reference management. The demonstration encompassed various referencing styles and emphasised the importance of preventing unintentional plagiarism. Dr. Shrestha offered practical tips to overcome these challenges.
SIAS Research Club			
1	Disability and Disaster in Times of Crisis: Balancing Urgency and Inclusion in the Bagmati Province	5 July 2023	Abby Ewen, a Ph.D. student from University College London, shared her findings on the ability of visual timeline methods to capture the voices and experiences of people with disabilities, whose voices have been largely silenced in risk and resilience work. The session underscored the need for balancing urgency and inclusion in disaster response.
2	Aesthetics and the Anthropocene	7 July 2023	Syed Shoaib Ali, a postdoctoral researcher at SIAS, discussed his research strategy used to understand the aesthetics of restoration and plantation activities in Himachal Pradesh, India. He shared his insights on how restoration activities can enhance the aesthetic value of landscapes and contribute to ecological resilience.
WRITESHOP			
1	Writing workshop of CREW Team in Dhulikhel	19-22 December 2023	CREW project researchers spent four days in Dhulikhel focused on preparing paper drafts. They concentrated on literature review and enriching the empirical sections of papers on gender-based constraints, sectoral policy incoherence, and policy translation challenges.

2	Writing Workshop by Nepal PECA Team at Panauti	19-21 December 2023	The PECA III Nepal team spent three days in Panauti to advance the ongoing research article on the growing wildlife problem in the Nepalese hills. The team members had an opportunity to allocate focused time for writing and reviewing the structure, empirical data, and theoretical framework of the ongoing papers.
Other Events			
1	Women Champions Exposure Visit	2-8 November 2023	SIAS along with its consortium partners, Aria Solutions organised an exposure visit to Central and Eastern Nepal, enriching the opportunity for local women leaders to observe, learn, network, and enhance their entrepreneurship skills and capacitate them to encourage and support other women in their communities. The weeklong visit involved site visits and interactions with successful women farmers, market actors, local government promoting the agriculture-based local economy, and well-functioning agricultural cooperatives.

Annex 1.5 Participation in International Forums by SIAS Team Members

S.N.	Participants / Presenters	Date	Program	Participation/ Panelist / presenter	Organisers
1	Dil Khatri and Andrea Nightingale	23-28 June 2024	Forest and People: From Skyview to Local Dynamics	Presenter	Paris School of Economics (PSE), The National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France, and other collaborators
2	Dil Khatri and Binod Adhikari	10-12 June 2024	The Political Ecology Network (POLLEN) conference	Panelist and Presenter	POLLEN
3	Binod Adhikari	2-7 June 2024	PhD course/Summer School on 'Rethinking Resource Rights'	Participant	International Environment and Development Studies at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences

4	Rojani Manandhar	5 June 2024	Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP), Evaluation Stories Webinar Series	Participant	Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific
5	Sunom Shrestha	23 May 2024	Reading Research: Extracting Key Data for your Research	Participant	WILEY
6	Anushiya Shrestha	21 May 2024	Himalayan Freshwaters: Assessing the Services and Vulnerability of Freshwater Ecosystems in Himalayas	Participant	Nepal Engineering College, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee
7	Gyanu Maskey	6 May 2024	Interconnected Risks and Pathways of Climate Migration in Somalia	Participant	CLIMIG Project Seminar Series
8	Gyanu Maskey	16 April 2024	Governing Climate Mobility: Reflections on Findings and Multidisciplinary Work	Participant	CLIMIG Project Seminar Series
9	Sunom Shrestha	10 April 2024	Focali: Building a More Locally Responsive Restoration Paradigm (Virtual)	Participant	Focali
10	Dil Khatri, Govinda Paudel, Dilli Prasad Poudel, and Sajjan Regmi	4-5 March 2024	International Conference on Revitalising Community Forestry in the Era of Socio-environmental Crisis, Lalitpur	Presenter, Panelist and chair of a session	Ministry of Forest and Environment, GoN, ACIAR EnLiFT2 project, Institute of Forestry, Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal, and Agriculture and Forestry University.
11	Gyanu Maskey	February-March 2024	Series of Workshops on Writing Op-eds	Participant	Environmental Justice Book Editors
12	Syed Shoaib Ali	9-10 February 2024	Workshop on Compensatory Afforestation at IIT Bombay	Participant	Seed funding for Collaboration and Partnership Projects (SCP), IIT Bombay

13	Anushiya Shrestha	5 February 2024	Regional Capacity Building Training Program on Understanding the Gap in Gendering Water and Climate Science and Engineering Education, Research and Professional Realm: A Global Perspective	Discussant	Nepal Engineering College, Post Graduate Studies of Agriculture (PGIA), Sri Lanka and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)
14	Gyanu Maskey	9 January 2024	Environmental Justice in Nepal: Origins, Struggles and Prospects, Lalitpur	Presenter	University of California, Davis
15	Dilli Prasad Poudel	4-10 December 2023	Pre-workshop Meeting and In-person Training for Work Package1 Deployment in Bangladesh	Key Facilitator	University of Dhaka and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology
16	Gyanu Maskey	4-8 December 2023	Participation in COP-28, Dubai	Participation	UNFCCC, hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
17	Meeta Sainju Pradhan, Gyanu Maskey	2-3 December 2023	CDKN-GLOW Writeshop in Dubai (CREW project)	Participation	CDKN-GLOW
18	Gyanu Maskey	7-8 November 2023	Roundtable Workshop on Population, Physiography, Precarity - Collectively Building A Climate for Peace in South Asia, New Delhi	Moderator	Kubernein Initiative and Adelphi, and supported by the German Federal Foreign
19	Govinda Paudel and Dil Khatri	12-16 October 2023	FLARE 2023 Annual Meeting	Presenter	FLARE secretariat, CIFOR-ICRAF

19	Salu Basnet	9-12 October 2023	Conference on From Research to Impact: Towards just and Resilient Agri-food Systems, New Delhi	Presenter	CGIAR in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
20	Govinda Paudel	24-30 September 2023	Partnership Brokering and Leadership Training in Kandy, Srilanka	Participant	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
21	Sushant Acharya	8-13 September 2023	Conference on Human Development and Capabilities Association (HDCA)	Presenter	Education/Training division of HDCA
22	Dil Khatri, Govinda Paudel and Sanjaya Khatri	5-16 September 2023	Network meeting, field visits and workshops	Participants	Keystone Foundation, India
23	Anushiya Shrestha	28-29 August 2023	Regional Policy Initiative for Circular Economy in Dhulikhel	Participant	Consortium of partners, including Intellectuals Center (I.C) - Nepal, CWAS-CRDF CEPT University - India, Institute of Disaster Management: Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (IDM KUET) - Bangladesh, and Institute of Strategy, Policy on Natural Resources & Environment (ISPONRE) - Vietnam and supported by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
24	Gyanu Maskey	8 August 2023	Webinar on "Loss and Damage in South Asia: What COP28 Needs to Deliver for the Region"	Participant	Climate Analytics
25	Dr. Maniram Banjade	1 August 2023	Integration of Gender and Social Inclusion to Bolster Climate Action Efforts	Panelist	ICLEI and Federal City of Bonn



8. ANNEX 2: PUBLICATIONS

New Angle



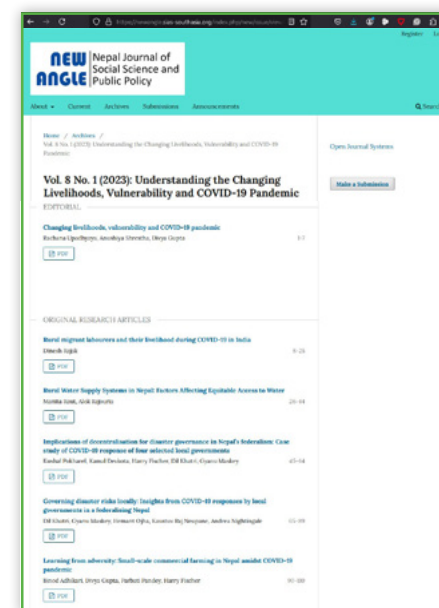
New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy, Vol 8(1), 2022

UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGING LIVELIHOODS, VULNERABILITY AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Journal Articles

					
<p>Rural out-migration and water governance: Gender and social relations mediate and sustain irrigation systems in Nepal</p>	<p>De-agrarianisation and re-agrarianisation in patches: understanding microlevel land use change processes in Nepalese smallholder landscapes</p>	<p>Knowledge infrastructures, conflictual coproduction, and the politics of planning: A post-foundational approach to political capability in Nepal and Thailand</p>	<p>Examining socio-ecological transitions and new human-wildlife relations in farming landscapes of the Nepal Himalaya</p>	<p>Setting a pluralist agenda for water governance: Why power and scale matter</p>	<p>Attempting affirmative political ecologies: Collective transformative learning for social justice in Nepal's community forestry</p>

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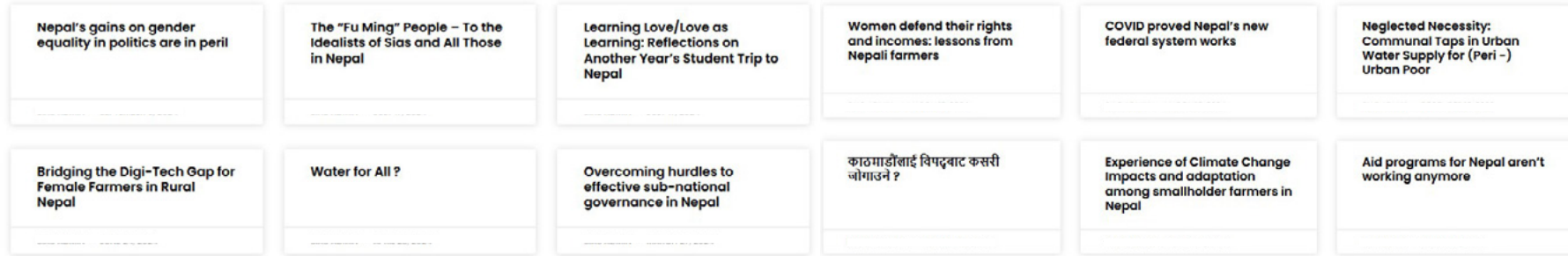
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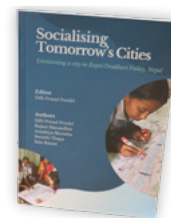
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9. ANNEX 3 : PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

International Organisations	National Organisations	Sub-national/Local Organisations
Agriculture Extension in South Asia (AESAs)	Aria Technologies Pvt Ltd.	Bidur Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Committee
Center for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR), India	Central Campus of Technology, Dharan	Bidur Municipality
Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO), Norway	Centre for Disaster Studies, Institute of Engineering, T.U.	Center for Environment Tourism and Development (CETD), Dharan
Chiang Mai University, SEI Asia.	Clean Energy Nepal (CEN)	Dharan Sub Metropolitan City
Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)	Digo Bikash Institute (DBI)	Dharan Water Supply Management Board
Indian School of Business (ISB), India	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN)	Dhulikhel Chamber of Commerce and Industries
Institute for Studies and Development Worldwide, (IFSD), Australia	Forest Action Nepal	Dhulikhel Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Committee (DDWSUC)
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resource Research China	Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk	Dhulikhel Municipality
King Mongkut's Institute of Technology,	Institute of Social and Environmental Transition Nepal (ISET-N)	Hotel Association of Dharan
Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development	Hotel Association, Kavre
RECOFTC – Centre for People and Forest, Thailand	International Water Management Institute	
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)	

International Organisations	National Organisations	Sub-national/Local Organisations
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), India	Lumanti- Support Group for Shelter Regional	
University of Cambridge, UK	Meromicrofinance Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd (Bank)	
University of East Anglia, UK	Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE)	
University of Edinburgh, UK	Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)	
University of Minnesota, USA	National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)	
University of New South Wales, Australia	National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET)	
University of Sydney, Australia	Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)	
University of York, UK	NIMS College	
United Nations ESCAP	Niti Foundation	
Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing	Practical Action, Nepal	
University of Gothenberg	SMART Paani	
University of Oslo		
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú		
Organisation of Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, Ethiopia		
Keystone Foundation, India		
Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan		



10. ANNEX 4 : FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
Company Not Distributing Profit
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 As at 31st Ashadh 2081 (15 July 2024)

Figures in NPR
Restated*

Particulars	Notes	As at 31st Ashad 2081	As at 31st Ashad 2080
ASSETS			
Non - Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4.1	4,163,474	5,289,506
Intangible Assets	4.2	-	-
Total Non - Current Assets		4,163,474	5,289,506
Current Assets			
Account receivable	4.3	2,290,089	5,142,148
Cash and cash equivalents	4.4	14,834,628	13,881,272
Total Current Assets		17,124,717	19,023,420
Total Assets		21,288,191	24,312,926
EQUITY, LIABILITIES & RESERVES			
Equity			
Capital Fund	4.5	175,000	175,000
Retained earnings and Reserves	4.6	5,581,526	4,905,212
Total Equity		5,756,526	5,080,212
Accumulated Reserves			
Unrestricted Funds/accumulated surplus	4.7	-	-
Designated Funds	4.8	-	-
Restricted Funds	4.9	10,744,051	16,335,447
Other Capital Reserves	4.10	-	-
Total Accumulated Reserves		10,744,051	16,335,447
Non - Current Liabilities			
Deferred Revenue	4.11	693,359	823,882
Deferred Tax Liability	4.12	78,604	99,432
Total Non - Current Liabilities		771,964	923,314
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	4.13	3,782,919	1,369,243
Provisions for Tax	4.21	232,731	604,711
Total Current Liabilities		4,015,650	1,973,954
Total Liabilities		4,787,614	2,897,267
Total Equity, Liabilities and Reserves		21,288,191	24,312,926

The Notes on accounts form an integral part of the financial statements.

For and on behalf of Board of
SOUTHASIA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES (SIAS)


Sujay Pradhan
Finance Manager


Gyanu Maskey
Program Director


Dil Bahadur Khatri, PhD
Executive Director

Date: 2081-05-16
Place: Kathmandu


Krishna Gyawali
Chairperson


Suraj Banjade, FCA
Partner
S. B. P. Associates
Chartered Accountants





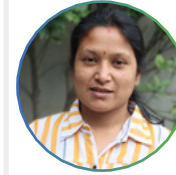
11. ANNEX 5: STAFF



Ms. Alisha Bhujel
Admin & Finance Officer



Dr. Andrea Petitt
Senior Researcher



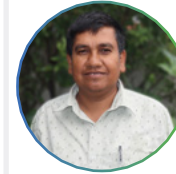
Dr. Anushiya Shrestha
Thematic Lead- Water



Mr. Binod Adhkari
PhD Researcher



Mr. Bishwo Ram Basukala
Driver



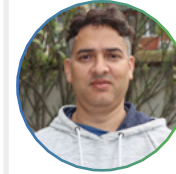
Dr. Dil Khatri
Executive Director



Dr. Dilli P. Poudel
Thematic Lead- Urban and
Disaster



Dr. Dinesh Paudel
Senior Research Fellow



Dr. Govinda Poudel
Thematic Lead- Forest



Ms. Gyanu Maskey
Thematic Lead- Climate



Ms. Januka Thapa
Office Assistant



Ms. Jaya Pun
Research Officer



Mr. Kamal Devkota
PhD Researcher



Dr. Mani Ram Banjade
Senior Research Fellow



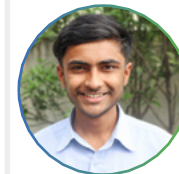
Dr. Meeta Sainju Pradhan
Senior Research Fellow



Ms. Mina Dahal
Project Officer



Ms. Parbati Pandey
Communication and Outreach
Officer



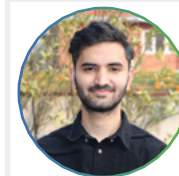
Mr. Pradip Dhakal
Associate- Communication &
IT.



Ms. Rachana Upadhyaya
PhD Researcher



Ms. Rojani Manandhar
Researcher



Mr. Sagardeep Bhusal
Project Officer



Mr. Sajjan Regmi
Research Associate



Ms. Salu Basnet
Researcher



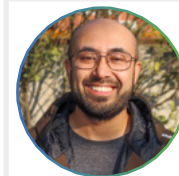
Mr. Sanjaya Khatri
Researcher



Mr. Sujan Shrestha
Admin & Finance Manager



Ms. Sunmaya Magar
Research Officer



Mr. Sunom Shrestha
Researcher



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