



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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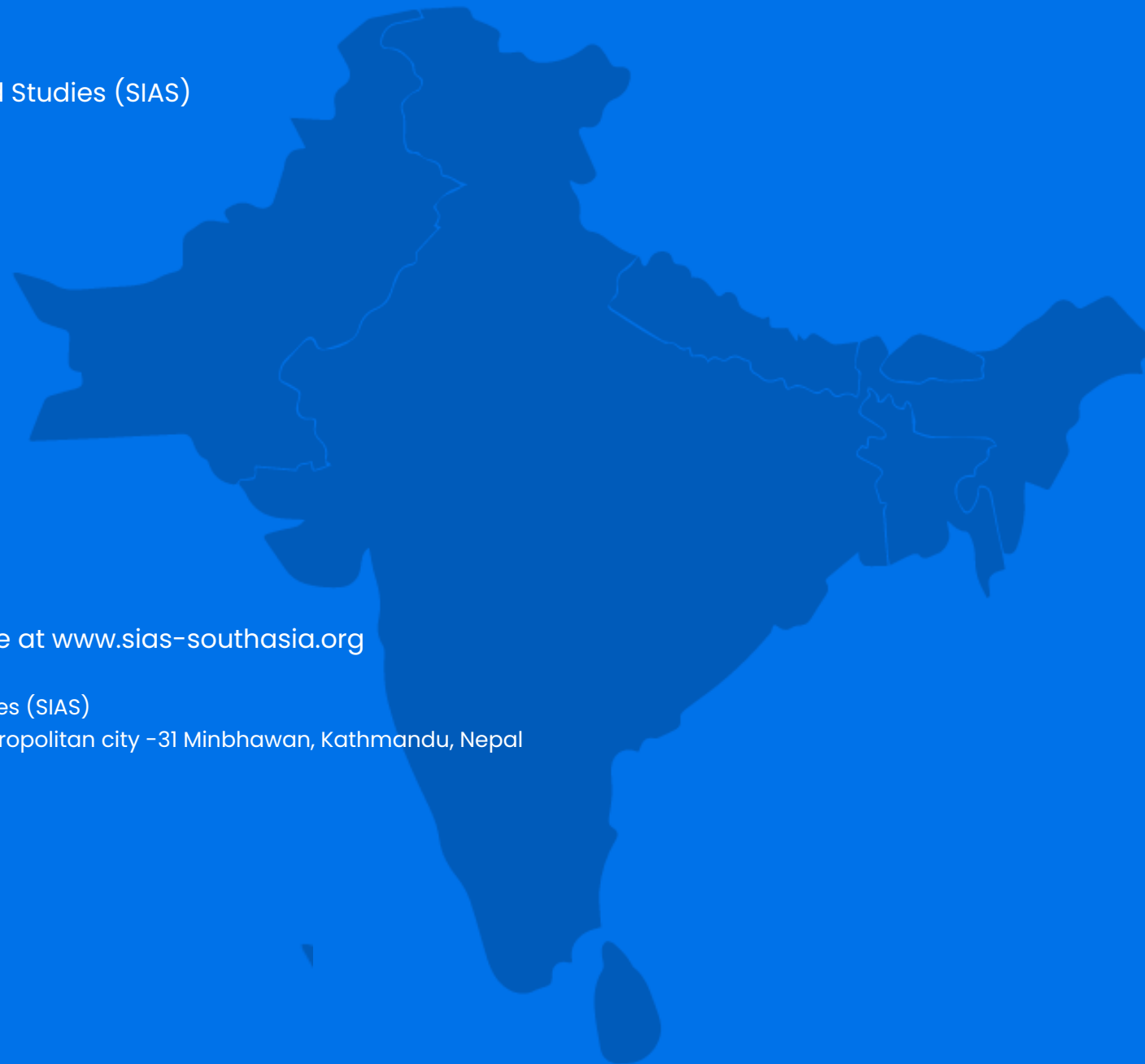
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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



In the year 2021/22, taking forward its legacy, SIAS continued its active involvement on the issues related to the multi-hazard disasters, climate change and natural resources governance and its contribution to the knowledge dissemination in the form of research findings at national and international levels. SIAS is determined to move ahead to deliver its outputs through the flexible working approach we started with the onset of the pandemic.

SIAS has laid its efforts towards institutional development and strengthening in-house capacity, nurturing research capacities and enhancing engagement with a wider range of policy actors, government officials, academics, intellectuals and researchers. SIAS has strived to influence the policy process and moreover be involved in the critical policy review, collective policy feedback collection and engage in dialogues with the respective stakeholders at different levels for internalising the evidence-based policy making. We also extended our collaborations and engagements with the local governments to encourage an inclusive policy making approach. It is commendable that we have been successful in contributing to the key policy issues through our research works, publications and policy engagements. This year too, SIAS continued

its research on various thematic areas: sustainable natural resources management, climate change and disaster risk management, water security and urban resilience, and local governance and policy processes. During this course, we have developed research capacity and intensified policy engagements with an expansion of our research team. Likewise, SIAS continued its involvement in the international research sphere, dialogues and collaborative study.

Overall, 2022 has been an incredible year in delivering the intended research outputs which could not have been possible without cooperation from different stakeholders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board of directors, members, executive director, members of the management committee, all the staff, partners and the collaborators for their invaluable contribution and dedication for achieving the goals of 2021/22 and look forward to receiving similar support in the future as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Netra Timsina', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Netra Timsina, PhD  
Chairperson



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 has been another remarkable year for SIAS aspiring to be recognized as an established think tank and becoming a 'Centre of Excellence'. I feel extremely happy and proud of the inquisitive and hardworking team of researchers at SIAS which made possible the achievements that are reported in this report. This annual report for the year 2021/22 abridges our working approach, activities and engagements during the period.

As in the previous year, we continue to align our research on issues of multi-hazard disaster, natural resource governance, climate change, water security and urban resilience. We also made significant progress in terms of delivering high quality knowledge outputs which not only contributed to the knowledge pool but also provided important evidence policy influence. SIAS has put tremendous efforts into diversifying its funding sources and has been successful in securing globally competitive research fundings. This year, we have initiated a large-scale development research funded by IDRC on women's economic empowerment through agriculture and forest-based enterprise in the aftermath of COVID pandemic. Besides, we have expanded our partnerships and collaborations across local, national and international levels with diverse stakeholders. We continue to work on the regional sphere and strengthen our reach through our research and policy engagement.

This year, we have published six peer-reviewed journal articles including three on a special issue of New Angle on 'Urbanisation and Disaster Risks in the Himalaya'. We also published other outputs such as Op-ed, blogs and research reports on different platforms. We are in the process of editing next special issue of the New Angle on "Understanding Changing Livelihoods, Vulnerability and COVID-19 Pandemic". We continued our ongoing initiative Future Himalaya Seminar series and were successful in organising four seminar series covering the diverse issues this year. Further, we also organised different in-house capacity building training and workshops to nurture and enhance research and policy engagement skills. On the policy front, we have intensified our policy engagements through number of policy dialogues with diverse stakeholders on issues related to forest, water and climate change and urban resilience.

I take this opportunity to thank our institutional partners and collaborators for their continuous support to make this year productive. I appreciate the efforts made by Salu Basnet, Gyanu Maskey, Pradip Dhakal, Parbati Pandey, Dilli Prasad Poudel, Anushiya Shrestha and Monika Giri for compiling this report. I would like to express my gratitude to the hardworking SIAS team for their tireless efforts to achieve our organisational goals. I am also very thankful towards our eminent board members for their continuous guidance and encouragement and look forward to receiving similar support in the days to come.

Dil Khatri, PhD

Executive Director

## ACRONYMS

AAG	American Association of Geographers
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
DSA	Development Studies Association
EADI	European Association of Development Institutes
EGP	Eastern Gangetic Plain
ELUP	Envisioned Land Use Plan
FOCALI	Forest, Climate and Livelihoods Research Network
GCRF	Global Challenges Research Fund
HBTL	Himalayan Bio Trade Limited
ICIMOD	The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
ISB	Indian School of Business

IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFSD	Institute for Studies and Development Worldwide
IOE	Institute of Engineering
ISSET-N	Institute for Social and Environmental Transition Nepal
FEDWASUN	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal
NDRI	Nepal Development Research Institute
NPRN	Nepal Policy Research Network
NWCF	Nepal Water Conservation Foundation
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
SLU	Swedish University of Agricultural Science
UNSW	University of New South Wales



# ABOUT SIAS





Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) is a Kathmandu based policy research institute aiming to become a center of excellence in policy research in South Asia. It was established in 2011 for undertaking research, policy engagement, and scholarly exchange across South Asia and beyond. SIAS operates in a research-policy-practice interface, covering the various themes of sustainable natural resource management, climate change, water and urban resilience, livelihoods and economic development, and local governance and policy processes. It aims to utilise its research to create state-of-the-art knowledge to understand and influence policy processes and foster sustainable development in the South Asia region.



#### Legal Status

SIAS is a not-for-profit 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 of other countries while undertaking its engagements outside Nepal.



#### Governance

SIAS is governed by a board of directors elected by general members. It comprises a group of professionals committed to deliver high quality research and engage in policy processes.



## Vision

SIAS envisions evidence-informed policy and practice towards inclusive and sustainable development. It seeks to contribute to this vision as recognised in Nepal, South Asia and around the globe as a unique South-based high quality policy research organisation, with a reputation as a policy think tank.



## Mission

SIAS's mission is to nurture, cultivate, organise 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.



## Objectives

- Generate action-verified lessons and the state-of-the-art knowledge on environmental, socio-economic and political issues.
- Engage critically in the policy process from national to local levels.
- Develop capacity of research community and professionals.
- Inform practitioners, policy makers and epistemic communities (researchers and academia) through diverse forms of communication and disseminate the knowledge generated through research and policy analysis.

AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

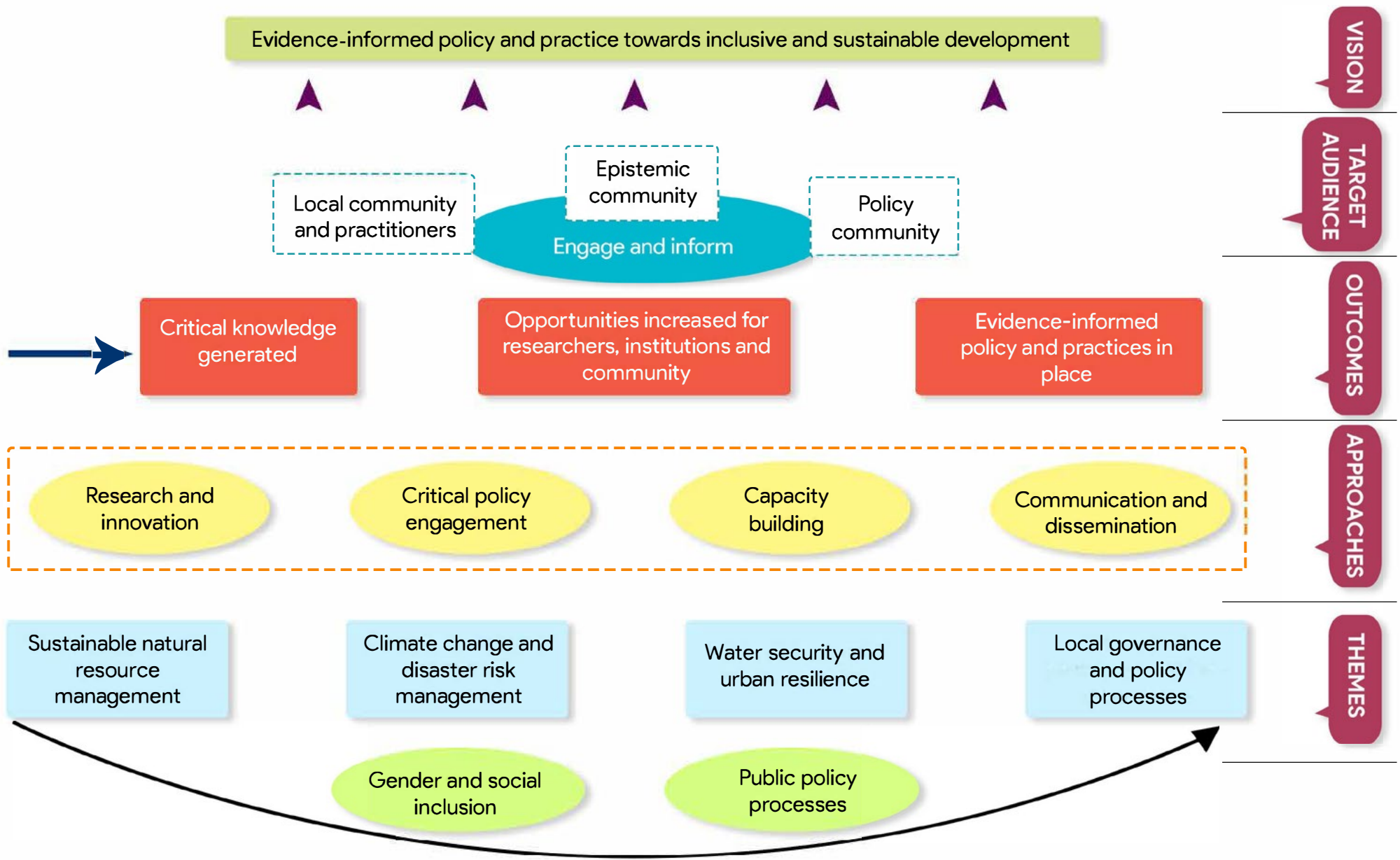
Himalayan  
Horizon  
DHULIKHEL



# SIAS THEORY OF CHANGE

SIAS seeks to contribute towards inclusive and sustainable development (vision) by generating knowledge through action research and critical policy analysis. Further, it seeks to foster evidence-informed policy and practices through engagement with the epistemic community, policy community and community of practices (i.e., local communities and governments). In doing so, it adopts four major approaches: research and innovations, critical policy engagement, capacity building (of researchers and stakeholders), and communication and dissemination. It works across four thematic areas and two cross cutting issues. Figure 1 summarises SIAS theory of change.





**Figure 1. SIAS theory of change**



# THEMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS



## Sustainable natural resource management

SIAS has continued its research and policy engagements toward collective, climate-adaptive, equitable and inclusive natural resource governance. This year, multiple research projects have tried to explore different aspects of natural resources management taking account of the impact and strategies in the post-COVID-19 context. Taking forward its research and policy contributions in the natural resources sector, SIAS continued to document the changing relationship of people with natural resources, such as water, forest and land in the context of high rural migration, changing livelihoods and COVID-19. It has been actively participating and organising dialogues, forums and networks with the local governments. It has also been extending the partnership with different organisations to effectively engage with the diverse stakeholders across multiple levels towards informing the policies and practices related to natural resources management and addressing the uncertainties caused by climate change and stressors in both rural and urban context.

Another important initiative undertaken this year includes our research and engagements in understanding the causes and consequences of growing wildlife encroachment in rural Nepal. We have carried out field research, organised district-level workshops and dialogues exploring existing policy provisions and ways forward for addressing the alarming wildlife risks and the implications for food and livelihood security. Through national-level events, the discussions have also centered around critical reflections on the practice of scientific forestry in Nepal drawing some policy-relevant messages.

In addition to the continued efforts towards developing a better understanding of policy and practice-related gaps and fostering equitable resource governance, this year, SIAS initiated a large-scale development research aiming to create an ecosystem of support for the promotion of inclusive women-engaged agriculture and forest-based enterprises in Nepal. Based on the research findings, the action part of the project will focus on reducing the gender-based constraints faced by women farmers and entrepreneurs in the changing climate, further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project uses the intersectionality lens for analysis and engages with the gender, class, caste/ethnicity disaggregated data. Adopting the approaches commonly used in qualitative research, we bring forward the voices of women and marginalised peoples through key informant interviews, focused group discussions, and separate dialogues.



## Climate change and disaster risk management

Focusing on urban and peri-urban areas to understand the risk of haphazard urbanisation and vulnerabilities of the local communities, SIAS has been collaborating with an international interdisciplinary research team to co-produce an analytical tool to analyse the root causes of multi-hazard risks with the active participation of local communities, local governments, and national level stakeholders. SIAS has also continued to explore the urban marginalisation issues and is contributing toward formulating strategies to enhance the political capabilities of those marginalised people (socio-economically and geographically) in the urban planning and development processes. Importantly, gender is one of the key themes in our urban and disaster risk research and we have analysed the vulnerability and capacity of women and marginalised dwellers of a city taking into account the intersectional aspects. While developing visions of tomorrow's cities, we formed a group exclusively including women and socio-economically poor members of the community and documented their visions for the future development of a risk-sensitive land use plan. Additionally, climate change has been the cross-cutting issue in most of the research and analyses and we have been contributing to support the local governments to deal with climate-related threats through capacity-building initiatives and knowledge sharing through publications (e.g., policy briefs, popular articles, scientific articles). Importantly, this year, we have published two papers on a special issue of the *New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy* on 'Urbanisation and Disaster Risks in the Himalaya', Volume 7 (1), 2021, which analyses disaster risk production and management in the context of rapid but haphazard urbanisation in the Himalayan region.





## Water security and urban resilience

SIAS has been making continuous efforts towards addressing the issue of water governance for ensuring the water security of local communities through our various research and policy engagement endeavors. We have been disseminating our knowledge and insights on water security and urban resilience by proactively documenting and synthesising evidence gathered from different research projects related to water governance under changing climate. This year also, SIAS has published some journal articles and blogs highlighting the need of re-centering the issues of water security and urban resilience and the risk of seeking quick-fix technocratic panaceas to the hydro-social issues. Further, we hosted number of research-policy events i.e., research sharing seminars/webinars, policy dialogues, and policy review meetings. In this process, a wide range of actors including senior government officials, local government representatives, civil society leaders, media persons, and internationally reputed researchers and experts were engaged. Further, SIAS researchers have submitted collective feedback on the draft “National Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (N-WASH) policy” to the Ministry of Water Supply. SIAS in collaboration with Dhulikhel Municipality launched the book documenting the journey of Dhulikhel towards water security, inviting researchers, academia, civil society, and local government representatives from diverse sectors. As a collaborative study with the University of Edinburgh, SIAS has continued analysing past and ongoing research on the theme of ‘Water Resource Management’. Our research has also covered how the COVID-19 pandemic aggravated risks to urban water systems that are already facing challenges due to climate change. Uncovering the issues of marginalisation in infrastructural planning and services in the urbanising contexts and enhancing the political capabilities of those hitherto marginalised have been the core focus of our research and policy engagements in the sector of water security and urban resilience. Further, our research also captures gendered politics in water management that are further complicated by caste-based social divisions and the stories of the disadvantaged communities around the drinking water in different forms- from water source to end use.

## Local governance and policy processes

Our engagement under this theme has been focused primarily on fostering evidence-informed policy dialogues to inform local-level policies and practices. We have been (1) working to identify and understand the issues related to inclusive local governance such as sharing of resources, transfer of technology, and (mis)recognition of knowledge in the federal context, (2) exploring the capability of local governments in containing the COVID-19 pandemic and their preparedness in dealing with its impacts on different sectors, and (3) observing and documenting the strategies adopted by various local governments to deal with the risk brought by the different waves of the pandemic. We convened a virtual forum on exchanging experiences gained by municipalities in responding to COVID-19 bringing together local government officials, academics and professionals. Our engagements and interactions with national level policy actors and institutions such as the National Planning Commission, Policy Research Institute and Social Welfare Council has been strengthened through different policy dialogues and knowledge sharing platforms. These engagements along with key policy messages which are major component of our publications have helped us in extending our networks and partnership with key policy actors in water, climate, forest and disaster sectors and enriching the recognition of our contributions to the national policy processes. Through writing opinion articles in Nepali newspapers, we have also been able to create awareness and get connected to the local people and related stakeholders. Our dialogues at the national and local levels prioritise the participation of women and socially marginalised stakeholders providing space for raising their concerns and better connecting with the decision-makers. Special preparations (such as convenient time, location, focused meetings etc.) and facilitation strategies are adopted by the research team to encourage their effective participation. Particularly, the policy labs have gained appreciation amongst related stakeholders, policy-makers, and epistemic communities as an important forum to co-learn and co-innovate inclusive and effective policy solutions. Our thematic policy reviews emphasize the analysis of gaps in addressing women and marginalised people and the challenges and inconsistencies in the implementation of the existing policy provisions.





# OUTPUTS IN NUMBER



**11**

Ongoing  
Projects



**2**

New Angle Journal Articles,  
Volume 7(1) 2021



**6**

Peer-Reviewed  
Journal Articles



**4**

Research and  
Event Reports



**3**

Op-ed/Blogs : English  
(2), Nepali (1)



**1**

Brochure: Nepali/English



## Events:

### 23 Major Policy and Research Related Events

- International (1), National (9), District (2), Local (3)
- Policy Dialogues (4)
- Future Himalaya Research Seminar Series (4)
- Capacity building events (5)

### 6 Participation in international forums by SIAS members

#### ACADEMIC AND POLICY RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

SIAS researchers have been publishing their research findings in leading international journals. A total of six peer-reviewed journal articles have been published this year. We have published two articles on a special issue of *New Angle* on 'Urbanisation and Disaster Risks in the Himalaya', Volume 7 (1). A special issue of *New Angle* on 'Understanding the Changing Livelihoods, Vulnerability and COVID-19 Pandemic', Volume 8 (1), 2022 is in the editing process. Likewise, four research and event reports have been published on the SIAS website.



## MEDIA COVERAGE

SIAS researchers have written a total of three blogs/OPED (2 English and 1 Nepali). These blogs/OPED showcase the insights of the researchers gained from the public narrative on disaster risk management, migration and wildlife conflict impact on the smallholder farmers and their livelihoods and potential ways to resolving urban informality issues in the country.

### Agriculture Or Migration: A National Priority Conundrum

*In Nepal, much research and popular opinion assumes that rural male out migration is the main culprit for declining agricultural production and performance in rural areas.*

By Rachana Upadhyaya, Stephanie Leder and Yubika Adhikari | Dec. 6, 2021, 1:09 a.m. | Published in Magazine Issue: 3306-35-206-34-38a.g7.2022 (Pouh 25.02.22) | Publisher and Editor: Keshab Prasad Online Register Number: DOI: 584.07425

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed fragility of, not only Nepal's health sector, but also of the agriculture sector and Nepal government's aspirations to be an agriculture driven economy. As pandemic affected the economies around the world and experienced temporary shutdown, Nepali migrants working overseas and in India were forced to return to Nepal. This phenomenon resurfaced the discourse on rural out migration and agriculture, and its linkages.

In Nepal, much research and popular opinion assumes that rural male out migration is the main culprit for declining agricultural production and performance in rural areas. After the pandemic, when these previously migrated men started coming back to Nepal, it was optimistically assumed that they would go back to tilling the land that was left fallow in their absence. However, the causal relationship between agriculture and migration is not that straightforward. To understand how rural out migration affects agricultural practices, and other community management systems, we carried out a research project on 'Revitalizing community management irrigation systems in the context of rural out-migration in Nepal', funded by FORMAS, the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development. As a part of the ongoing research project by the Swedish University of Agriculture and the SouthAsia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS), a household survey was carried out in 376 returnee migrant/migrant households in Doti and Dadelhura in Sudurpashchim province (Far West) to understand motives and motivation of migration and its linkages to agriculture and irrigation. The survey was carried out in early 2021 before the second lock down in Nepal. The findings underscore many complex missing linkages between agriculture and irrigation schemes and rural out migration in Nepal. Most surprisingly, villages with greater male out-migration had more functioning irrigation systems, rather than the expected opposite. According to our extensive field studies, this seems to be linked to the greater involvement in irrigation management of more marginalized groups such as women, youth, and Dalits.

Rachana Upadhyaya, Stephanie Leder and Yubika Adhikari  
Researchers, Graduate Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS)

Weather forecast

Coronavirus in Series  
Latest News and Updates

### वन्यजन्तुको व्यवस्थापन र ग्रामीण अर्थ प्रणाली

सिन्धुपाल्चोकको चौताराका एक किसानले दुखेसो पोखे, 'बाँदर र बँदिलले गर्दा मैले ६० रोपनी जमिन बाँझो राखेको छु !'

काठमाडौं, २८, २०२१ | सिन्धुपाल्चोक, चैते, दिनचक्र, कर्म, किम्वद्वि, चौतारा

स्थानीय तह चुनावका कारण राजनीतिकर्मीहरू गाउँघर फर्किए। तिनीहरू निकै दिन प्रचारमा व्यस्त रहे। फेरि, विकासका जूरूपा सभमा देखेउदै भाषण दिए।

<https://ekantipur.com/opinion/2022/05/11/165223631619077532.html>

### How gaps in disaster knowledge are intensifying the impacts of climate-induced disasters in Nepal

FEBRUARY 17, 2022 | SIAS ADMIN | BLOG

As reported in the Kathmandu Post, "We were at the farm at Kiul bazaar when the flood hit. My husband was trying to steer us towards safety. He asked me and our daughter to start running. He was running towards us when he disappeared in the floods," said Kumari, a resident of Helambu, central Nepal. Kumari's grief summarizes the current reality at Melamchi, a municipality devastated by flash floods, where more than 50 people are feared to be dead. Another resident of the same ward, Nila Bahadur Khadka, continues to wait on the news of his mother who went missing in the floods. "I go to the river every day in search of my mother. I hope to find her soon," said Khadka.

**Scale of the disaster**

With geologically fragile mountains, Nepal faces serious risks from climate change, most of which are already being experienced. Every year, these risks are intensifying yet the country is struggling to fix gaps in disaster policies and strategies. One week into the monsoon season, on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, Melamchi endured intense catastrophic flash floods which resulted in massive human, ecological, and economic loss. Soon after the flood, 1200 people have been displaced and forced to live with no proper source of food or income, lack basic access to health care facilities and continuous risks.

It is estimated that 38 people were killed, and more than 50 are injured. The scale of infrastructure damage is also significant as many houses were submerged, 80 houses completely swept away, highway bridges destroyed, and the \$800 million Melamchi Water Supply Project, which only started supplying water from March 2021 after a 23-year-long wait to operate, was destroyed. Given the precarious situation of the area, those who survived are migrating to other areas where they are struggling to rebuild their lives with little to no resources.

As explained in the Kathmandu Post by 32-year-old Subhadra Rupokhesi of Chonoute in Helambu Ward No 7, "There's only sand left where our fertile land once lay. How long can we live here? So, we decided to go to Kathmandu and try our luck in the city."

**What caused the flood?**

The frequent occurrence of climate induced disasters in Sindhupalchok has left everyone shocked, devastated, and fearful as we try to understand the main cause behind it. ICIMOD and Nepal Engineering Association conducted separate studies in the area which concluded that the Melamchi flood disaster was caused primarily from the breach of a landslide dam that released debris into the settlements continuously for 10 days.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

As in the previous year, this year also, SIAS focused on capacity building of its members through number of programs. SIAS continued its efforts in improving the researchers' research skills through an in-house workshop on ethnographic methods. In addition to this, end note (reference management software) orientation and co-authorship workshops were also organised to enhance the referencing skills and inform the researchers about the responsibilities and rights as the (co)authors respectively. Key experts or external resource persons have been invited in related themes of capacity building events. Future Himalaya Research Seminar series provided in-house and external researchers to share the outputs of their ongoing and completed research works. Integrating capacity building activities in a research project, SIAS has been working closely with the field officers and the project team members and organising training and capacity building workshops to enhance their research skills. Besides, SIAS members have also been actively participating and presenting in the international forums in policy dialogues, workshops, lecture series, methodological and theoretical webinars, international conferences and policy labs. In aggregate, SIAS researchers have participated in six such events as presenters and participants.





# ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT





## Institutional building

Some organisational development initiatives were undertaken by SIAS inclining towards establishing itself as an acclaimed think tank. SIAS has extended its networks and has actively engaged with multiple national and international partners in implementing new research projects and policy engagements. Last year, due to the travel restrictions, we adopted work-from-home practice, whilst this year we refined our working approaches following the rules as revised by the government in the changing post-pandemic situation. In addition, we hosted research and policy events through virtual as well as in-person methods. The annual report provides systematic documentation of the achievements and lessons SIAS gained during this year. We are committed to gender and social inclusive workforce diversity and the team reflects, sensitises and promotes GESI approaches in the office as well as in undertaking field activities. Some of the SIAS researchers have been competitively selected for the higher studies in renowned universities with full scholarships. For example, Ms. Suchita Shrestha was awarded Australia Awards and got enrolled in a fully funded Master's program at the University of Melbourne. She will be an asset for SIAS in the future collaborative works. SIAS has recruited additional staff for different research projects and administrative work this year.



## Partnership and funding diversity

SIAS has been successful in broadening its partnership and widening its funding sources this year as well. It has intensified its collaboration and networking with existing partners. This year, SIAS has been able to secure a large-scale development research fund from IDRC. Our partnership with national stakeholders has also been expanded. For instance, Himalayan Bio Trade Limited has become a new partner of SIAS this year. Similarly, our research partnerships with other research institutes and local governments have been further expanded. Since a few years, SIAS has been engaging in relatively large-scale quantitative research projects apart from its regular qualitative research that has helped broaden our expertise. Our engagement in quantitative research has contributed to expand our research portfolio as an institution with expertise in both qualitative and quantitative research. It has also generated opportunities to build networks with diverse stakeholders in the field of natural resources management (land, water, forestry, and agriculture). A list of partners and collaborators of SIAS has been provided in Annex.



# OTHER INITIATIVES



## Policy perspectives in South Asia

In line with its regional engagement strategy, SIAS has been continuing a critical review of national water policy documents, engaging in regional dialogues and reflecting on the policy-practice interface in partnership with the Institute for Study and Development Worldwide (IFSD), Australia.



## Himalayan Policy Lab

Considering the Himalayan fragility in terms of geography as well as being a socially deprived region, the Himalaya Policy Lab engages in an agenda of transformation of Himalayan socio-ecological systems to encompass socio-environmental justice. The Policy Lab is a unique approach to critically discuss policymaking processes involving the use of new policy tools and techniques. It aims at improving policy initiatives by fostering research-community partnerships. SIAS in collaboration with IFSD will organise future Himalaya Policy Lab events.



## Future Himalayan Research Seminar Series

Future Himalayan Research Seminar Series is a platform for national and international researchers and experts to contribute towards fostering critical analytical skills and knowledge development. Beyond presenting and receiving feedback, the seminar also facilitates to build social and intellectual relationships with contemporaries and experts from a diverse array of research tradition within the overarching themes. This year, SIAS conducted four such seminars which were conducted in the hybrid modality i. e., both online and in person. The seminar series were delivered by SIAS researchers as well as international intellectuals visiting Nepal. The seminars conducted this year covered multiple issues such as human wildlife conflict, vulnerabilities through intersectional lens, women and high value agriculture and women and farm bargaining intentions of smallholder farmers.



# ANNEX 1: PROJECTS AND EVENTS

## List of projects during this year

S.N.	Project Name	Project period	Funded by	Collaborators	Project Objectives
1	Co-producing a shock-resilient business ecosystem for women-engaged enterprises in Nepal (CREW)	Nov 2021-Apr 2024	International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada	Aria Solutions, NIMS College, Himalayan Bio-Trade Pvt. Ltd. (HBTL)	(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
2	Learning to 'Leave No One Behind': Equitable and sustainable livelihoods in natural resource governance (Nepal and India) – developing an international research cluster (LLNOB)	May 2021-Dec 2022	UK Research and Innovation	University of Edinburgh and Forest Action Nepal	(1) generate a shared vision of the most pressing research needs; (2) explore the role of learning from previous and ongoing interventions in natural resource governance; and (3) strengthen networks and trial and reflect on technology platforms which support on-going dialogue and future funding applications.
3	Transforming political capabilities for equitable resilience (PolCaps)	Jan 2020-May 2023	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.

4	The practice of resilience in mountain landscapes: exploring risk and landscape investments in rural Nepal (PECA III)	Jan 2020-Dec 2024	Swedish Research Council (VR)	Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU), Forest Action Nepal	To investigate large collective and individual labour investments in the landscape by understanding people's landscape use. It does so in a situation where patterns of out-migration create a situation of rural labour scarcity, which has relatively unknown consequences for land uses and landscapes.
5	Governing climate resilient futures: Gender, justice and conflict resolution in resource management (JUSTCLIME)	Jan 2019-Dec 2024	Swedish Research Council (VR)	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.
6	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.

7	GCRF Multi-Hazard Urban Disaster Risk Transition: Reducing Disaster Risk in Tomorrow's Cities	Feb 2019- Mar 2023	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.
8	SLU-Building Research Collaboration Network: "Forest and agrarian transition, smallholder practices and the new forms of land governance: Building research collaboration among Brazil, Nepal and Peru"	Nov 2018 - Dec 2022	Swedish Research Council (VR)	Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU)	Support 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 Amazon and Nepalese Himalayas
9	Conflict, Violence and Environmental Change (COVEC)	2016-2022	Swedish Research Council (VR)	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway, African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya, University of New South Wales, Australia.	To enhance scientific understanding of how climate change produces concerns for legitimacy, conflict and violence in the governance of forests and water resources.

10	DMRS	Dec 2020-Jul 2023	University of Colorado	National Science Foundation, USA University of Colorado Boulder, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, and Purdue University.	Quantitative data collection through survey from 50 Community Forest User Groups from four districts of western Nepal and contribute in developing papers based on the survey findings.
11	Regional Analysis of Water and Climate Cooperation  Opportunities in the GBM Transboundary Basins of South Asia (TROSA)	1 Jan- 31 Jan 2022	OXFAM	Delve Deep Co. Ltd Cambodia, Kubernein Initiative, India	Review the existing evidence on climate change and larger economic development trends in the GBM basins and map the key stakeholders and identify and analyse key institutional opportunities for improving water and climate cooperation involving national/local governments, private sector, civil society organisations, research bodies and sub-regional (such as SAARC, BIMSTEC and SACEP) and other regional institutions.

## Policy labs and workshops

International				
S.N.	Events	Date	Key Highlights	
1	Knowledge politics in natural resource management: Reimagining resource governance in south Asia	17 November 2021	Conducted to develop cross-country understanding on knowledge politics surrounding governance and management of natural resources in diverse contexts such as biodiversity conservation and urban water management drawing cases from Nepal and India.	



National			
1	Workshop on 'Co-producing knowledge on DRR policies and practices: Lessons from action research', Kathmandu	29 March 2022	Conducted to discuss the issues and insights generated so far on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policies and practices and challenges of DRR governance in the urban context as well as the notion of co-production in designing inclusive and equitable DRR policies and development plans.
2	Workshop on 'Sharing of envisioned Land Use Plan and feedback collection from the community of Khokana', Lalitpur Metropolitan City - 21	2 March 2022	Conducted to share findings of the visioning workshop, sharing eLUP that was designed and based on the findings of the visioning workshop, and collecting comments and feedback of communities and forming a Task Force to develop a single and agreed vision of Khokana.
3	National level inception workshop on 'Co-producing a shock-resilient business ecosystem for women-led enterprises'(online)	26 January 2022	Conducted to impart information about the project, its objectives, and methodology and garner feedback from the participants for improvement.
4	Meeting with project advisors and board members: Co-producing a shock-resilient business ecosystem for women-led enterprises in Nepal (online)	26 January 2022	Conducted to familiarise the attendees with the project development and gather their feedback for further improvements.
5	Khokana visioning workshop, Dhulikhel	29-30 December 2021	Conducted to gather the perceptions of how local communities have envisioned Khokana in the next 20 years and then draw out one common vision to be reflected in the LUP later.
6	Workshop on 'Sustainable and equitable water management', Dhulikhel	27 December 2021	Conducted to share preliminary research findings on good practices, key challenges, and ways forward for sustainable and equitable water management in light of growing urbanisation, commercial farming, and a tourism-based economy.

7	Book launch event: Dhulikhel's journey towards water security: insights for policy and practice, Kathmandu	31 October 2021	Event was attended by participants from diverse sectors including researchers, academia, civil society and local government representatives. Post a discussion session among the participants, copies of the book were also made available to the participants and their institutions.
8	Co-production of Participatory hazard map and research sharing workshop - Khokana	5 October 2021	Conducted to co-produce participatory hazard map (PHM) and share the research findings that have been generated in the last two years by the scientists with the Ward Disaster Management Committee.
9	Discussion on 'Draft National Research Policy', SIAS, Kathmandu	13 June 2021	Conducted to gather suggestions, recommendations and insights on the policy draft from the private and non-governmental research organisations.
<b>District</b>			
1	District level workshop on 'A case of wildlife impacts on farmers', Sindhupalchowk	5 April 2022	Conducted to explore the extent and type of wildlife damage, discuss about existing policy provisions and gather different perspective for the possible way out and policy suggestions.
2	District level workshop on 'Study on impact of wildlife damages', Dhading	25 March 2022	Conducted to explore the intensity and impact of wildlife damages, policy provisions and its implementation challenges and weakness, measures and possible solutions to minimise the farmer-wildlife damages.
<b>Local</b>			
1	Local-level inception workshop on 'Co-producing a shock-resilient business ecosystem for women-led enterprises in Nepal', Dolakha	1 April 2022	Conducted to familiarise the participants about the project's essence and its interventions in Dolakha.
2	Local-level inception workshop on 'Co-producing a shock-resilient business ecosystem for women-led enterprises in Nepal', Ramechhap	20 March 2022	Conducted to familiarise the potential project stakeholders with the project, its approach in their area and its expected outcomes.

3	Local-level inception workshop on 'Co-producing a shock-resilient business ecosystem for women-led enterprises in Nepal', Arghakhanchi	11 March 2022	Conducted to bring together possible project stakeholders of Arghakhanchi and impart information about the project, its approach, and expected outcomes.
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## Future Himalayan Research Seminar Series

S.N.	Events	Date	Key highlights
1	Human wildlife conflict and impact on smallholder livelihoods in mid-hills of Nepal (Online)	19 April 2022	Presentation was based on the preliminary findings of the presenter's ongoing research thesis. The findings were collected from their recent fieldwork in Ramechhap and Dhading
2	Understanding Vulnerabilities through Intersectional Lens in Khokana	10 March 2022	Presentation outlined how vulnerability changes according to context (time and space) and hence cannot be encapsulated under a static and monolithic socio-demographic category.
3	Does high value agriculture do good for women: A case study of large cardamom farmers from rural hills of Nepal	14 January 2022	Presentation outlined gender differences in production and post-production nodes and shared how the involvement of women in the large cardamom value chain affects their capabilities.
4	An examination of the factors impacting on the farm bargaining intentions of smallholder women farmers in the Eastern Gangetic Plains	8 October 2021	Presentation outlined the factors influencing the bargaining intentions of women smallholder farmers in the Eastern Gangetic Plain region (EGP).

## Capacity building events

S.N.	Events	Date	Key highlights
1	Workshop on Qualitative Research: ethnography and note taking, SIAS, Kathmandu	6 May 2022	Conducted to give overview on qualitative research methods, focused on ethnography.

2	Workshop on using EndNote, Kathmandu	8 April 2022	Conducted to familiarise with widely used referencing tool.
3	Sharing and discussion on SIAS publication policy and ethics, Kathmandu	18 March 2022	Conducted to share research and publication ethics and emphasized on the publication policy of SIAS.
4	Capacity building workshop for the CREW project, Nagarkot	9-10 May 2022	Conducted to build a common understanding of the project, explore and refine the concepts of co-production, reflect and share the findings collected until then and plan way ahead for the project.
5	INSA enumerator's workshop	22-23 Oct 2021	Conducted to share the experiences and challenges faced by the enumerators on one-year data collection and overcoming the challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Policy dialogues

S.N.	Events	Date	Key highlights
1	Review meeting of 'National water supply, sanitation and hygiene (N-WASH) policy', Kathmandu	29 April 2022	Critically and collectively review the "National Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (N-WASH) policy" drafted by the Ministry of Water Supply and provide consolidated feedback through a single window.
2	Dialogue on 'Institutional capability of local governments to COVID-19 response in Nepal' (Online)	10 April 2022	Conducted to bring together stakeholders of local government and academic experts with the objective of exchanging experiences gained by the municipalities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3	Dialogue on 'Science and citizen engagement: What can we learn from scientific forest management practices in Nepal', Kathmandu	12 December 2021	Conducted to bring together a diverse set of actors, the dialogue's premise was set to discuss the burning issue of forest management in Nepal and critically reflect on the practice of scientific forestry in Nepal over the last decade and draw some policy-relevant messages.

4	Expert meeting on 'Urban water security in Nepal: Insights for policy and practice', Kathmandu	4 October 2021	Bringing together diverse actors including senior government officials, local government leaders, civil society representatives, and researchers to foster evidence and experience-informed discussions on different aspects of urban water security in Nepal.
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## Participation in international forums by SIAS team members

S.N.	Participants / Presenters	Date	Program	Participation/ Panelist /presenter	Organisers
1	Salu Basnet	20 June, 2022	Water and Wash Futures Opening panel: Responding to climate change: the urgent need to integrate WRM and WASH	Participation	International Water Center, Griffith University, Australian Aid, Water for Women, ADB
2	Dr. Anushiya Shrestha, Dr. Dilli Prasad Poudel and Salu Basnet	22 June, 2022	Water, WASH & Climate: Stories from Practice" Exhibition Session.	Presenter	International Water Center, Griffith University, Australian Aid, Water for Women, ADB
3	Gyanu Maskey Monika Giri	24 May, 2022	Adapting Governance for Inclusive Climate Resilience Gov-Adapt Dialogue II	Participation	Institute for Study and Development Worldwide, University of Oslo, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

4	Sanjaya Khatri Rojani Manandhar Binod Adhikari	Monthly workshop - a 2 hours session once a month place between January and September 2022	'Collective Reflective Learning for Social Inclusion in Nepal's Community- Based Natural Resource Management'	Participation	The University of Edinburgh
5	Sushant Acharya	6 June 2022	CGIAR Research Portfolio Launch and Stakeholder Dialogue in South Asia	Participation	International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
6	Dr. Dil Khatri and Dr. Anushiya Shrestha	6 April 2022	CGIAR NEXUS Gains Initiative Inception Workshop	Participation	International Water Management Institute (IWMI)



## **ANNEX 2: PUBLICATIONS**

## New Angle

**NEW  
ANGLE** | Nepal Journal of  
Social Science and  
Public Policy

New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy, Vol 7(1), 2021.

Urbanisation and Disaster Risks in the Himalaya

Shrestha, A., Poudel, D. P. and Ensor, J., 2022. Inclusive policies, exclusionary practices: Unfolding the paradox of prolonged urban informality debates in urbanising Nepal. *New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*, 7(1), pp.19-43.

The special issue is available at <https://doi.org/10.53037/na.v7i1.66>

Ojha, H. R., Khatri, D. B., Shrestha, K. K., Adhikari, B. and Pokharel, K., 2022. Investigating institutional limits to climate adaptation: A case study of landslide in the mountains of Nepal. *New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*, 7(1), pp.44-66.

The special issue is available at <https://doi.org/10.53037/na.v7i1.71>

## Journal Articles



Khatri, D.B., Nightingale, A.J., Ojha, H., Maskey, G. and Lama 'Tsumpa', P.N., 2022. Multi-scale politics in climate change: the mismatch of authority and capability in federalizing Nepal. *Climate Policy*, pp.1-13.

Shrestha, A., Shah, D.N., Bajracharya, R.M. and Shrestha, S., 2022. Traditional stone water spouts status and its practical significance in urbanizing Kathmandu Valley, Nepal—a review. *Environmental Challenges*, 8, p.100573.

Ojha, H., Nightingale, A.J., Gonda, N., Muok, B.O., Eriksen, S., Khatri, D. and Paudel, D., 2022. Transforming environmental governance: critical action intellectuals and their praxis in the field. *Sustainability Science*, 17(2), pp.621-635.

Acharya, S., Pathak, K. and Pandey, C.L., 2021. Does High-Value Agriculture Build Resilient Livelihood? Insights from the Study of Cardamom and Vegetable Farmers of Nepal. *Journal of Forest and Livelihood*, 20(1), p.1.

Ojha, H.R., Devkota, K., Pandey, C., Shrestha, K.K., Khatri, D., Neupane, K.R., Bhattarai, B. and Zwi, A.B., 2021. Urban water security under a changing climate: Is Nepal's water policy on the right track?. *World Water Policy*, 7(2), pp.296-318.

Maskey, G., Pandey, C., Bajracharya, R.M. and Moncada, S., 2021. Inequity in water distribution and quality: A study of mid-hill town of Nepal. *World Water Policy*, 7(2), pp.233-252.



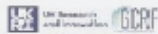


Trend of urban growth in Nepal with a focus in Kathmandu Valley: A review of processes and drivers of change

Nepal Prasad Timsina, with inputs from Anushya Shrestha, 2021 Prasad Poudel and Kishan Upadhyaya

Tomorrow's CITIES Working Paper #01  
April 2022

<http://dx.doi.org/10.7488/era/1947>



#### EVENT REPORT

MEETING WITH SIAS BOARD MEMBERS, ADVISORS, PARTNERS AND PROJECT STAFF

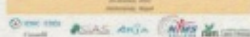
CO-PRODUCING A SHOCK-RESILIENT BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM FOR WOMEN-LED ENTERPRISES IN NEPAL (CREW) PROJECT

30TH JANUARY, 2022



CO-PRODUCING A SHOCK-RESILIENT BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM FOR WOMEN-LED ENTERPRISES IN NEPAL (CREW)

National/Local Inception Workshop



Prepared by:  
Sushanta Bhattacharya, Dipika Das, Dr. Sakshi Ram Bhargava

## Research and event reports

Timsina, N.P., Poudel, D.P., Manandhar, R. and Adhikari, B. 2022. Political economy of urban challenge: contestations and contradictions in urban development in Kathmandu Valley focusing on a case of southern part of Lalitpur metropolitan city. April 2022

Poudel, D. P., Ensor, J. and Barcena, A. (2022). Production of Risks and Local Risk Governance in Kathmandu Valley. February 2022. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7488/era/1947>. Can be retrieved from: <https://tomorrowscities.org/production-risks-and-local-risk-governance-kathmandu-valley>

Rayamajhi, A., Das, D. and Banjade, M.R. 2022. Report on National Level Inception workshop. January 2022. Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS), Kathmandu, Nepal.

Giri, M., Pandey, P., Maskey, G. and Karki, R. 2021. Knowledge Politics in Natural Resource Management in South Asia: Sharing Experience and Learning webinar. November 2021. Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS), Kathmandu, Nepal.

## Chapters in research reports

Khatri, D., Pokharel, B.K., Chhetri, R.B., Poudel, D.P., Chhetri, B.B.K., Khadka, M. and B.K., N., 2022. Local community-based institutions and collective action. In: N.S. Paudel, H. Ojha, M.R. Banjade, R. Karki and S. Tamang, eds. 2021. *Revitalising community forestry in the changing socioeconomic context of Nepal*. Kathmandu: EnLiFT2 programme and ForestAction Nepal. Research Paper Series on Improved Forest Management in Nepal, 2022-01: 1-86

Baral, S., Basnyat, B., Dangal, S., Khatri, D., Paudyal, B.H., Baral, S., Maraseni, T.N., Pokharel, R.K., Kafle, M.R. and Karna, A.L. 2022. Challenges and opportunities of forest management and silviculture. In: N.S. Paudel, H. Ojha, M.R. Banjade, R. Karki and S. Tamang, eds. 2021. *Revitalising community forestry in the changing socioeconomic context of Nepal*. Kathmandu: EnLiFT2 programme and ForestAction Nepal. Research Paper Series on Improved Forest Management in Nepal, 2022-01: 1-86

Shrestha, A. and Poudel, D.P., 2021. Towards understanding marginality in an urbanizing setting: A case of Kavrebhanjyang, Ward 9 of Dhulikhel Municipality.



### Op-ed, Blogs

#### English blogs

Gurung, P. (2021, 22 October). How gaps in disaster knowledge are intensifying the impacts of climate-induced disasters in Nepal. [Blogpost] Available at: <https://sias-southasia.org/how-gaps-in-disaster-knowledge-are-intensifying-the-impacts-of-climate-induced-disasters-in-nepal/> (Published on SIAS Website)

Upadhyaya, R., Leder, S. and Adhikari, Y., (2021, 6 December). Agriculture Or Migration: A National Priority Conundrum. [Blogpost] Available at: <https://www.spotlightnepal.com/2021/12/06/agriculture-or-migration-national-priority-conundrum/>. (Published in Spotlight)

#### Nepali blogs

Paudel, D.P., Khatri, D. and Paudyal, B.H. (2022, 11 May) Wildlife Management and Rural Economic System. (in Nepali) [Blogpost] Available at: <https://ekantipur.com/opinion/2022/05/11/165223631619077532.html> (Published in Kantipur Daily)



#### Video

A video on introduction to Khokana visioning workshop.

The video is available at: <https://youtu.be/6U978vOUB-E>



## ANNEX 3: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

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

National Science Foundation, USA	Meromicrofinance Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd (Bank)	
Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway	Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE)	
Purdue University	Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)	
RECOFTC – Centre for People and Forest, Thailand	National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)	
Stiftelsen The Stockholm Environmental Institute	Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI)	
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden	National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET)	
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), India	Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)	
United Nations ESCAP	NIMS College	
University of Cambridge, UK	Niti Foundation	
University of Colorado, Boulder	Practical Action, Nepal	
University of Indianapols	SMART Paani	
University of East Anglia, UK		
University of Edinburgh, UK		
University of Minnesota, USA		
University of New South Wales, Australia		
University of Science and Technology, Kenya		
University of Sydney, Australia		
University of York, UK		



## **ANNEX 4: SIAS STAFF**



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Research Director



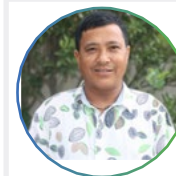
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**Dr. Dil Khatri**  
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**Dr. Dilli P. Poudel**  
Senior Researcher



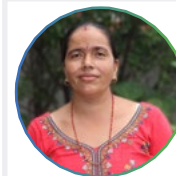
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**Ms. Gyanu Maskey**  
Program Director



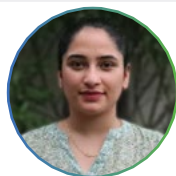
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IT.



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**Ms. Salu Basnet**  
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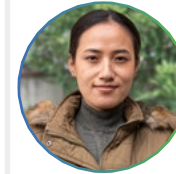
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**Mr. Sujan Shrestha**  
Admin & Finance Manager



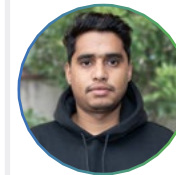
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