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About this report

The Annual Report 2024/25 presents SIAS's key activities and achievements for the period from July 2024 to June 2025. It begins with an overview of our thematic accomplishments, followed by a summary of our academic and policy-relevant publications, and opinion pieces featured in various media outlets. Subsequently, the report shows SIAS's engagement and outreach at national and international forums, as well as our capacity-building initiatives and events organised to enhance research and writing skills of emerging researchers. The final sections focus on organisational development strategies undertaken during the period and key initiatives including the Future Himalayan Research Seminar Series.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Krishna Gyawali

Chairperson



The year 2024/25 at Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) marks another distinct year in meaningful progress, strengthened partnerships and continued research engagement to generate evidences to foster evidence-informed policy process. This annual report presents a glimpse of major activities that we accomplished during this period.

Over the past year, SIAS has further reinforced its expertise in qualitative research while expanding its capacity to conduct large-scale quantitative studies, reinforcing its role as a hub for interdisciplinary research and policy engagement. Our expanding portfolio of projects ranging from climate change and migration, diverse resource governance, forest restoration and human-wildlife conflicts and women's economic empowerment to urban resilience and water security reflects our enduring commitment to evidence-based, inclusive, and transformative research. Through continued collaborations and the growth of new networks with national, regional, and international partners, SIAS has reinforced its reputation as a trusted institution advancing research for sustainable development in South Asia.

During this period, SIAS made remarkable strides in integrating research with policy and action. Through high-level policy dialogues, symposiums, and local workshops, we fostered meaningful conversations among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and communities. Our engagement on themes such as gender-responsive budgeting, climate finance, and participatory forest governance demonstrates how localised research can inform national and global policy frameworks and contribute to crafting future strategies. These collective efforts reaffirm our belief that sustainable and just transformations require knowledge that is co-produced with communities and rooted in their lived realities.

The fiscal year 2024/25 has been a significant period for SIAS, marked by successful delivery of research outputs and securing multiple funds for carrying out new research initiatives. I am equally proud of SIAS's continued investment in capacity building through field courses, mentoring programs, and writing retreats. Through its research, publications and policy engagements, SIAS continues to identify the key policy gaps at local, national and global levels. At the same time, our active participation in international research networks by involving ourselves in global dialogues, cross-border research partnership and collaborative studies has greatly enriched SIAS and consolidated its contributions to knowledge. As we look ahead, SIAS remains steadfast in its mission to bridge science, society, and policy for a more just and sustainable future.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Directors, executive director, management committee, staff, partners, collaborators and communities we work with for their invaluable support and commitment to fulfilling the goals of SIAS. Your trust and collaboration continue to inspire us to push boundaries and deepen our impact.

Together, we will continue to envision and build resilient futures for the people and ecosystems of the South Asian mountains and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krishna Gyawali', is placed over a dotted line.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dil Khatri, PhD
Executive Director

It is my immense pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) for the year 2024/25. This year has been a period of continued growth, learning, and deepened engagement for SIAS as we further strengthened our position as a leading policy research institute in Nepal and the South Asian region. Our work has remained grounded in the commitment to bridge research, policy, and practice ensuring that knowledge production directly contributes to inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development outcomes.

Throughout the year, SIAS has continued to advance its mission through diverse research, outreach and policy engagement activities such as dialogues. A total of 12 projects were implemented, contributing to knowledge generation and evidence-informed policy discussions. We organized eight major policy and research-related events, including workshops at various levels. SIAS researchers participated in 14 international forums, strengthening our international engagement and collaborations. In terms of publications, SIAS released Volume 9 of the New Angle Journal, alongside five peer-reviewed articles in international journals, 15 op-eds/blogs, two policy briefs, and one booklet.

We have focused on advancing discourses that address pressing development challenges. Through consultations, dialogues, and collaborative initiatives, SIAS has helped generate actionable insights and policy-relevant recommendations. Similarly, SIAS continued to strengthen its role as a knowledge hub by fostering critical exchange and dialogues among researchers and policy makers and practitioners and capacity building.

Our outreach extended beyond borders, reflecting SIAS's growing presence in regional and global conversations while remaining deeply grounded in local contexts. Collaborative engagements, knowledge-sharing activities, and partnerships have reinforced our role in connecting diverse perspectives towards advancing inclusive approaches to research and development. Capacity building remained a cornerstone of our work, with initiatives designed to support emerging scholars, promote experiential learning, and encourage cross-cultural exchange. These efforts not only strengthened individual skills but also contributed to building a wider network of engaged and informed professionals committed to addressing contemporary challenges. None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our researchers, the guidance of our Board, the support of our partners, and the trust of the communities we work with. We extend our sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to our journey.

Looking ahead, SIAS remains committed to generating critical knowledge, evidence-informed policies, and promoting inclusive and sustainable development. We will continue to act as a bridge between research-policy-practice, engage in broader conceptual and policy discourses, amplifying voices from the Global South towards contributing to a more sustainable and just future.

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Dil Khatri".

ACRONYMS

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AGM	Annual General Meeting
BoD	Board of Directors
CEPT	Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
ED	Executive Director
FHRS	Future Himalayan Research Seminar
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IoE	Institute of Engineering
ISPONRE	Institute of Strategy, Policy on Natural Resources and Environment
MC	Management Committee
SLU	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
SPI	Solar Powered Irrigation
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nation
UNFCCC	United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. ABOUT SIAS



Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) is a Kathmandu-based research institute committed to becoming a 'Centre of Excellence' in policy research across South Asia. Founded in 2011, SIAS provides a platform for research, policy engagement, and scholarly exchange across South Asia and beyond. With a focus on the research-policy-practice interface, SIAS undertakes impactful studies and advances evidence-based policy solutions for addressing societal challenges, including natural resource management; climate change; water security, urbanisation; disaster risk management; rural livelihoods; ecosystem services and local governance. Its mission is to generate cutting-edge knowledge that informs and shapes public policy, strengthen the capacity of researchers, policymakers, and professionals, and foster sustainable development across South Asia. SIAS collaborates closely with research institutions and partners across South Asia, Europe, the Americas, and Australia.



1.1. Legal Status

SIAS is a not-for-profit institute registered under the Company Act 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.



1.2. Vision

SIAS envisions establishing itself as a leading think tank that supports evidence-informed policy and practices, fostering 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.



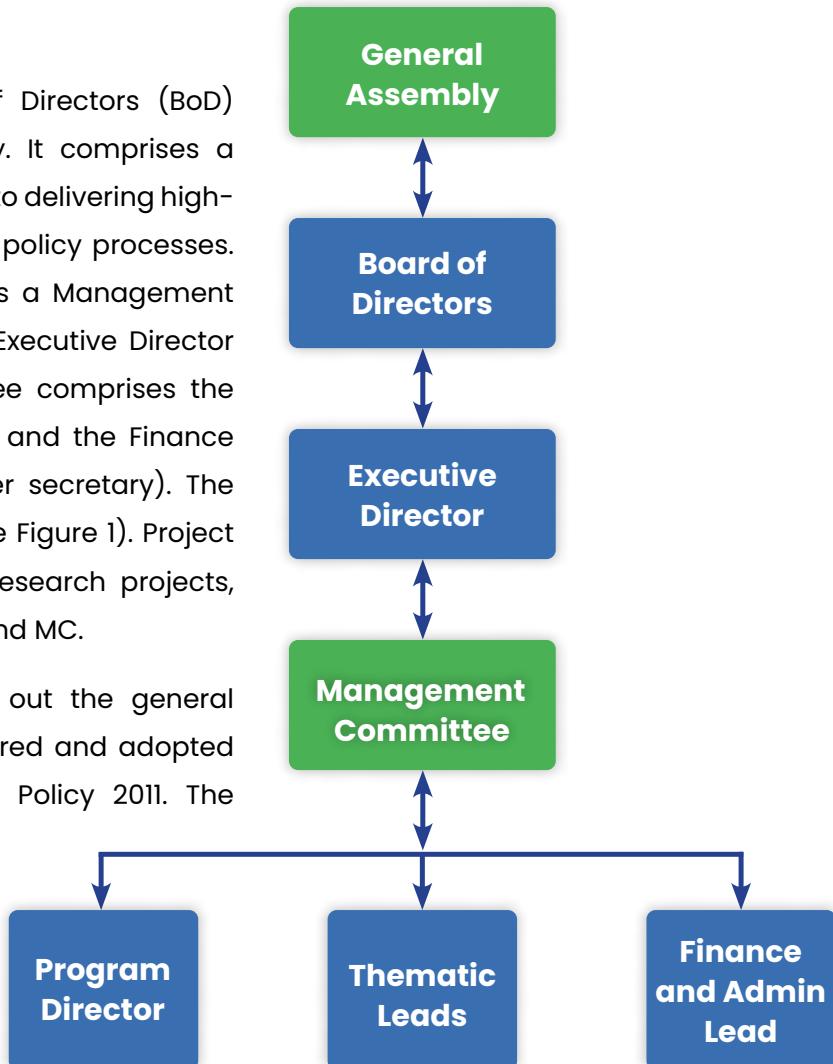
1.3. Mission

SIAS's mission is to nurture, develop, organise and advance critical knowledge, research and scholarly learning across South Asia. Based in Kathmandu, it currently focuses its activities in Nepal, with collaborations expanded to India and Bhutan. In recent years, SIAS has also initiated collaboration with Bangladesh, and intends to expand its geographical coverage in the region.

1.4. Governance

SIAS is governed by a Board of Directors (BoD) elected by its 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 the Finance and Administration lead (member secretary). The MC is accountable to the BoD (see Figure 1). Project leaders are authorised to drive research projects, with strategic inputs from the ED and MC.

The SIAS Board of Directors set out the general strategic direction and has 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.



1.5. 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 and engage in developing research networks and coalitions.
- Inform practitioners, policymakers, and epistemic communities (researchers and academia) through diverse forms of communication and disseminate the knowledge generated through research and policy analysis.

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 central 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).

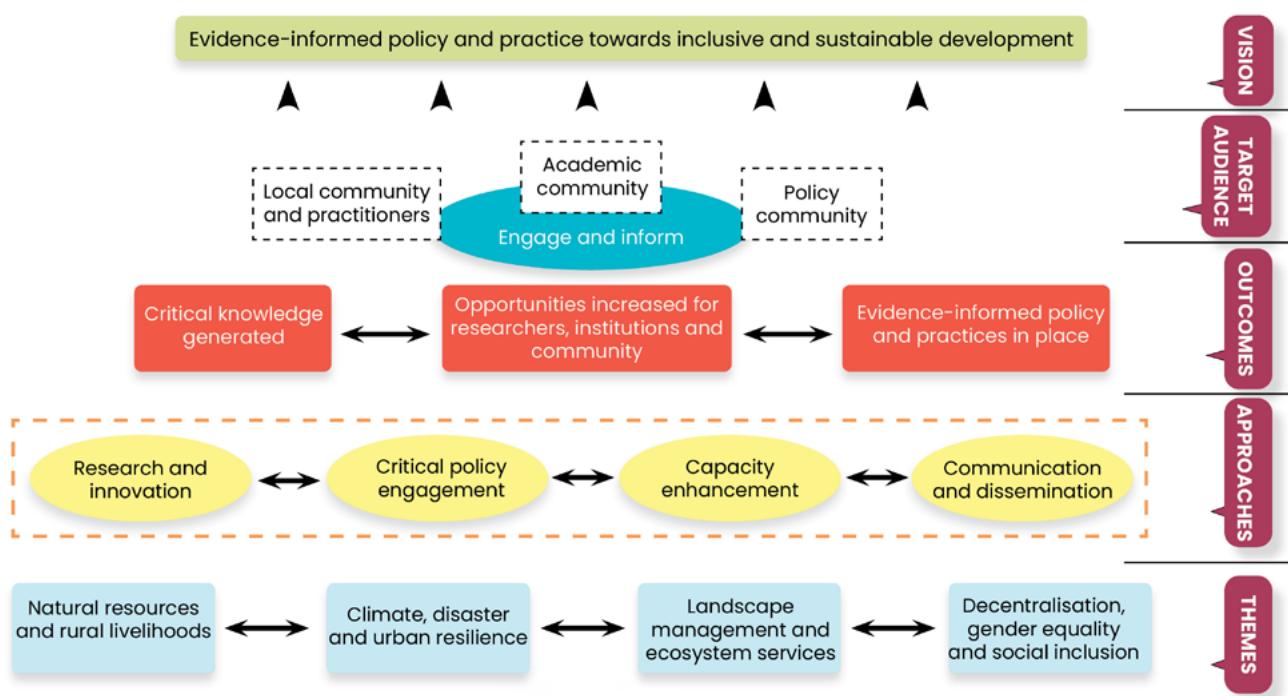


Figure 2: SIAS theory of change

3. THEMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS



3.1. Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods

SIAS has been actively promoting inclusive and sustainable approaches to natural resource governance. We have been researching the intricate relationships between natural resources such as forests, land, wildlife and water, with a particular focus on how strengthening the management of these resources contributes to enhance rural livelihoods. Our research at SIAS investigates how shifts in nature-people relationships and the broader political economy of resource

governance affect rural communities and their livelihoods. Under this theme, our work covers subsistence and commercial farming, forest and pasture management, forest landscape restoration, farmers and wildlife interactions, inclusive and sustainable management of springwater sources, and agro-forestry enterprises that support household income, create employment opportunities and contribute to the local and national economy.



Major highlights:

- Through multiple research projects, we have continued to explore resource management within a changing socio-economic context shaped by rural-migration, livelihood transitions and post-COVID-19 recovery in Nepal and the Southasia region.
- Guided by political ecology and intersectional perspectives, our core focus is identifying and addressing barriers to fair and sustainable resource governance, while supporting the [economic empowerment of women](#) and

other marginalised groups.

- We are analysing the emerging challenges, such as intensified [human-wildlife encounters](#), often leading to crop damage and threats to livestock, which further strain smallholder farming systems.
- Bringing these issues into wider policy discussions, SIAS organised various local, and national-level workshops on issues such as institutional functionality of community forest user groups, forest resource governance, wildlife problem and mitigation, and agriculture and forest-based enterprises.

3.2. Climate, Disaster and Urban Resilience

The Himalayan region, with its fragile geology and widespread poverty, is highly vulnerable to climate change and disasters. Rapid and unplanned urban growth, often at the cost of rural and peri-urban areas, along with informal settlements in high-risk zones, has further increased these risks. In this context, SIAS has been actively addressing the linked

challenges of climate change and urban resilience through research and policy engagement. Our work focuses on generating evidence to inform policies and practices related to climate-induced disasters, climate finance, migration, and urbanisation—issues that directly impact people's lives and livelihoods.



Major highlights:

- We are part of a long-term research project that focuses on [migration](#) as an adaptation strategy to climate change. In doing so, we have advanced this discourse by moving beyond simplistic explanations of migration and by unpacking its complex dynamics.
- SIAS has also adopted an interdisciplinary approach and mixed methodologies that integrate survey data, qualitative narratives, and contextual analysis to generate deeper insights for addressing climate and disaster issues.
- SIAS carried out a multi-scalar study on barriers to localising climate finance in Nepal. Analysing across federal, provincial, and local levels, the research identified key challenges such as

misaligned government priorities, limited capacity, and governance gaps that hinder effective and equitable climate finance delivery.

- Our research also focuses on water governance in the context of growing urbanisation, climate change, local water politics and increasing conflicts and contestations in relation to accessing water as well as justice and equity concerns.
- SIAS also convened policy dialogues with policymakers, researchers, and civil society, to draw attention to the importance of accountability, coordination, and accessibility of climate financing as well as to promote disaster-sensitive urban planning and foster safer, more inclusive and equitable cities.

3.3. Landscape Management and Ecosystem Services

Landscape management and the provision of ecosystem services are vital to tackling the growing challenges in the Himalayan region. Restoring degraded landscapes contributes to reviving ecosystem functions, rejuvenating springs and other water sources, reducing water scarcity and water-induced disaster risks, and promoting biodiversity and local livelihood opportunities. SIAS seeks to unpack the interconnected drivers and processes

of watershed degradation while fostering the integration of local and traditional knowledge. By promoting context-specific, science-based, and inclusive approaches, SIAS strives to enhance local capacities in designing, testing, and implementing nature-based solutions that support sustainable environmental management and strengthen food, water, and livelihood security.



Major highlights:

- SIAS continues to work on collaborative research examining how, and under what conditions, past [restoration efforts](#) in community-managed forests have impacts on biodiversity, improved human well-being, and contribution to carbon sequestration.
- Through a mixed-method and comparative research in Nepal and India (Himanchal), we focus on strengthening theoretical understandings of community-based forest management and landscape restoration.
- Highlighting how sustainable community participation and strong local institutions underpin the long-term positive outcomes of restoration initiatives, our study contributes not only to global debates but also to future strategies that can make

restoration more inclusive, resilient, and impactful in the face of climate change.

- SIAS has strengthened comparative understanding of ecological challenges by promoting cross-country research across the Himalayan region that has fostered a rich perspective on shared vulnerabilities and unique landscape dynamics.
- We are also exploring how changing springwater availability and use influence water access and local livelihoods in the context of accelerating climate change and other socio-economic changes. By generating evidence on how these hydro-social dynamics can (re)produce inclusion and exclusion and affect livelihoods, SIAS seeks to promote inclusive springwater governance and foster equitable and sustainable livelihood opportunities, particularly for women and marginalised communities.

3.4. Decentralisation, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Our research in this area focuses on how local and provincial governments in Nepal are exercising the authority and resources devolved to them, and the challenges they face under the federal governance structure. SIAS contributes to local and national policy processes through rigorous research, evidence-based stakeholder dialogues across all levels of government, and by sharing knowledge from its key thematic areas. Since its establishment, SIAS has prioritised gender equality and social inclusion, working to ensure that marginalised voices are meaningfully represented in natural resource management and climate governance. Across its research, SIAS has



shown how gender and social hierarchies influence access to resources and shape participation in decision-making. By placing women and disadvantaged groups at the centre of its work, SIAS highlights their role as key actors in building resilient, equitable, and prosperous rural futures.

Major highlights:

- Our research has highlighted that while the devolution of resources and authorities has created opportunities for strengthening local governance, it is important to strengthen local governments' overall institutional capabilities, crucial to carry out their entrusted roles effectively.
- Building on research insights, we have conceptualised a framework for women's economic empowerment and inclusive governance at both local and national levels.
- We are assessing key barriers and opportunities faced by women entrepreneurs in accessing finance and ways of improving their financial access.
- SIAS has also been reviewing the federal policies in agriculture, forestry, cooperatives and economic policies from gender and social inclusion and

women's economic empowerment focus to understand the policy implementation challenges, the policy-practice gaps, and issues related to sectoral coherence, that enable or constrain women's empowerment in these sectors.

- At the local level, SIAS has supported municipalities in adopting Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) as a tool to integrate gender perspectives into planning and financial decision-making.
- By establishing peer-learning platforms, SIAS created spaces where multiple municipalities could share experiences, challenges, and innovations, fostering cross-learning on how GRB can be effectively embedded in local governance systems. These efforts not only promote gender-sensitive budgeting practices but also strengthen institutional accountability and inclusiveness in local development processes.

4. OUTPUTS IN NUMBER





12

Ongoing Projects

Publications



5

New Angle Journal,
Volume 9 (1)
(5 articles)



4

International peer-reviewed journal
articles



6

Research and event
reports



12

Op-ed/Blogs (12): English
(10), Nepali (2)



1

Policy Brief



1

Booklet



1

Book
Chapter

Events



8

Major research and policy
related events

Workshops:

National (3), Local (4)

Policy Dialogues (1)



5

Future Himalaya
Research Seminar
Series



3

Capacity building
events



4

Research club (2)



6

Writing workshop



14

Participation in
international forums
by SIAS members

4.1. ACADEMIC AND POLICY-RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS



SIAS researchers have actively shared their work in leading national and international journals, contributing to both academic debates and policy discussions. In 2024–2025, SIAS researchers have published four articles in internationally peer-reviewed journals. Similarly, five articles have been published in a special issue of *New Angle: Nepal Journal*

of Social Science and Public Policy, an internationally peer-reviewed journal article published annually by SIAS. The title of this issue this year was ["Women's Empowerment in Natural Resources Management in the Himalayas" \(Vol. 9, No. 1\).](#)

Our team also published a policy brief exploring the intersection of digital technology and the agriculture sector, highlighting how digital tools are transforming farming



practices while creating both opportunities and challenges for women farmers. In addition, an introductory booklet on the sustainable management of wintergreen (in Nepali), aimed at sharing knowledge on sustainable practices and various processes of wintergreen distillation with CFUG representatives and other stakeholders. Our peer-reviewed publications further emphasised the vital role of agricultural cooperatives in promoting commercialisation and women's empowerment, advancing gender-responsive budgeting at the local level for inclusive planning, and improving women's access to financial credit.

4.2. MEDIA COVERAGE

In this period, SIAS has continued to make significant contributions to national and international discourse through research, publications, and media engagement. Its activities and events have been widely covered in national newspapers and online news portals, enhancing visibility and outreach. During this period, SIAS researchers have published twelve blogs/ OPED, 10 in English and 2 in Nepali, covering a diverse range of topics including gender equality, fiscal decentralisation, engineered disaster, conservation justice, and insights from field experiences in Nepal. These offer insights into diverse natural resource governance,

livelihoods and disaster related issues reflecting the intersection of environmental and social dimensions in SIAS's research.

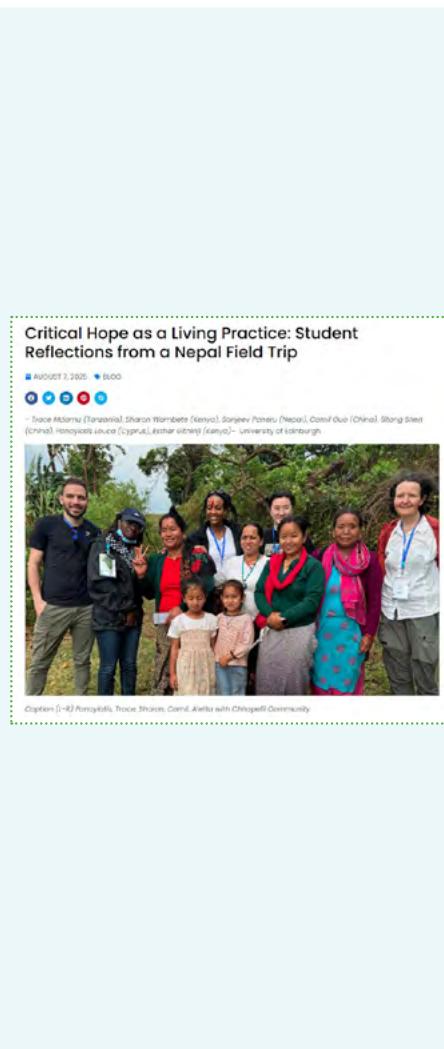
SIAS research and perspectives have also gained prominence through mainstream media and academic platforms, including the YouTube feature Diktel: The Story of Water in the Mountains (in English and Nepali), which highlighted community experiences in water management and was featured in Diktel Water Forum. Collectively, these outputs illustrate SIAS's commitment to knowledge co-creation, dissemination, and policy dialogue, demonstrating how research can engage diverse audiences, inform decision-making, and foster inclusive and resilient development practices.



सामुदायिक वनको ४ दशक: हरियालीतर्फको नेपाल, अब सलागि दिगो व्यवस्थापन

विश्वव्यापी अविभागी जनसङ्ख्या, शहरीकरणसँगै बढेको छ, वन क्षेत्र घटेको छ । तर, नेपालमा ठिक तरटो जनसङ्ख्या, शहरीकरणका पूर्णाधार पनि बढेका छन् । तैपनि वन क्षेत्रमेत उल्लेख्य बढेको छ । यसको प्रभाव करारण सामुदायिक वन अभियान हो ।

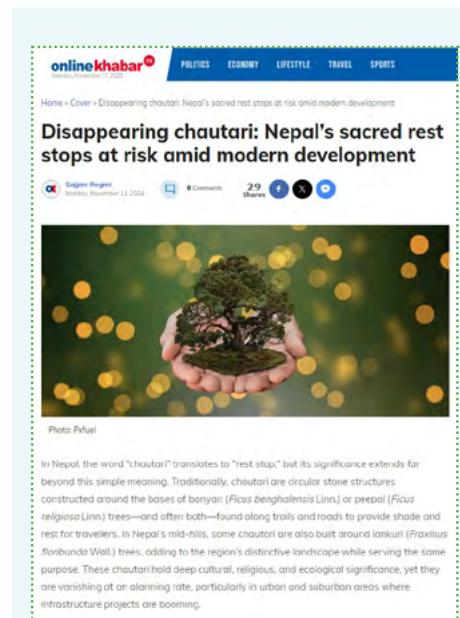
Dr. Gaurav Pandit



Critical Hope as a Living Practice: Student Reflections from a Nepal Field Trip

Tracey Midway (Tanzania), Sharon Wimbire (Kenya), Sonjeyi Tamang (Nepal), Celia Quo (China), Sheng Shen (China), Homayous Souza (Cyprus), Ismar Ulwej (Kenya) – University of Edinburgh

Caption (l-r) Tracey Midway, Sharon Wimbire, Celia Quo, Sheng Shen with Chitwan Community



Home > Cover > Disappearing chautari: Nepal's sacred rest stops at risk amid modern development

Disappearing chautari: Nepal's sacred rest stops at risk amid modern development

by Gagan Regmi | Monday, November 11, 2019

29 shares

Photo: Pchutai

In Nepal, the word "chautari" translates to "rest stop," but its significance extends far beyond this simple meaning. Traditionally, chautari are circular stone structures constructed around the bases of banyan (*Ficus benghalensis* Linn.) or peepal (*Ficus religiosa* Linn.) trees—and often both—found along trails and roads to provide shade and rest for travellers. In Nepal's mid-hills, some chautari are also built around lonkuri (*Ficus villosa* Willd.) trees, adding to the region's distinctive landscape while serving the same purpose. These chautari hold deep cultural, religious, and ecological significance, yet they are vanishing at an alarming rate, particularly in urban and suburban areas where infrastructure projects are booming.

4.3. NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENTS



This year, SIAS further strengthened its national, regional, and international presence by organising and participating in national and international workshops, dialogues, symposiums, and academic forums. At the national level, SIAS co-organised a symposium on women's economic empowerment through natural resources, bringing together multiple stakeholders to identify challenges, share good practices and innovations, and develop approaches that inform policymakers and other key actors. Similarly, the dialogue on climate change and migration convened researchers and practitioners from Nepal and abroad, providing a platform to critically reflect on the complex links between climate and migration and to explore potential pathways for research and policy. Additionally, as a part of our collaborative research on springwater governance, SIAS researchers worked closely with interdisciplinary team of researchers from Nepal and Australia as well as local and federal representatives. Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the expanding network of SIAS through its research-based commitment to fostering inclusive, evidence-based dialogues on issues of critical importance to Nepal.

At the regional and international levels,

SIAS researchers represented the institute in a wide range of forums, participating as panellists, presenters, and contributors to key discussions. They engaged in global debates on inclusive climate change adaptation governance, water policy, urban resilience, and disaster risk reduction, while also contributing to critical conversations on climate justice, migration, and the challenges of precarious water futures beyond South Asia. These engagements have not only facilitated knowledge exchange but also positioned SIAS as a prominent research institution from Nepal and the broader South Asian region in international forums. Through these, SIAS has strengthened collaborations with global peers, and expanded its networks. These international contributions underscore SIAS's commitment to connecting local and regional experiences with global debates.

4.4. CAPACITY BUILDING

SIAS has continued to strengthen research and writing capacities through a series of workshops, writeshops, and research club activities. These initiatives provided a platform for researchers, collaborators, and students to enhance their academic writing, analytical, and presentation skills while engaging with peers in constructive dialogue.

SIAS organised and co-hosted several writing workshops to promote collaborative academic writing. The Uncertainties Network Writing Workshop brought together partners from Nepal, India, Bhutan, and Sweden to write draft book chapters on uncertainties in mountain ecosystems. In addition, SIAS researchers held project-based writing sessions to draft papers, provide feedback, and refine publications. These workshops created space to work on journal articles, review data, and strengthen the thematic focus of ongoing publications.

Senior researchers and experts at SIAS continue to strengthen the research capacity of emerging scholars. During this period, Dr. Govinda Paudel led a session on effective note-taking, Dr. Sony Baral facilitated a discussion on Systematic Literature Review, and Dr. Adam Pain conducted a seminar on critical reading. These sessions collectively enhanced participants' methodological understanding, analytical skills, and academic writing, fostering their ability to

conduct rigorous and robust research.

The SIAS research club, which started two years ago to support young researchers within and outside SIAS, continued this year as well. Two sessions were organised during this period. In one seminar, a Master's student from Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) shared her thesis findings on social equity and climate adaptation in Nepal's mid-hills). The other session focused on practical orientations on Microsoft Word and Excel, led by the SIAS Admin team.

SIAS organised a two-week field course for Master's students from the University of Edinburgh, UK. Facilitated by experts in natural resource management, the course included field visits outside the Kathmandu valley where students interacted with local communities and discussed human–wildlife encounter. These engagements offered insights into Nepal's environmental and development challenges. Based on their experiences, the participating faculty and



5. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT





5.1. Institution building

During this period, SIAS undertook several initiatives on organisational development towards further strengthening its reputation as a leading think tank. Building on its strategic direction, SIAS has revised its thematic priorities and designated thematic leaders in forest, water, urban and disaster and climate change. These thematic leaders are playing a key role in driving research agendas, expanding institutional networks, and engaging in policy processes through organising or contributing to policy dialogues, symposiums, workshops, and other knowledge-sharing platforms.

SIAS has continued expanding its network and fostering partnerships across international, regional, and local levels. A notable step in this direction was the organisation's application for accreditation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), positioning SIAS to engage in the Conference of the Parties (CoP) in the future. In addition, SIAS has also initiated new research collaborations during this period, which include the new research with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)/ the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the University of Dublin, and the University of Gothenburg

SIAS has placed a strong emphasis on research outreach and increasing its visibility through consistent updates to its website and active engagement on social media platforms. In doing so, we have prioritised translating the knowledge generated by researchers into local and vernacular languages and distilling key findings into accessible formats for diverse audiences.

Furthermore, SIAS researchers have remained committed to upholding and reflecting on institutional policies and ethical standards through regular internal discussions and reviews of the organisation's ethical guidelines, publication and authorship policies, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policy, and administrative and financial protocols across both research and operational activities.

SIAS is also striving to build its multi-disciplinary team of researchers and develop capacity on some aspects where we are relatively weak. In this process, we are committed to strengthen our quantitative skills and team. We have carried out a major quantitative survey and are collaborating with researchers with expertise in quantitative research. In parallel, SIAS has invested in team-building activities such as retreats and refreshment events, while senior researchers



have actively mentored emerging scholars through collaborative writing, publication efforts, and capacity development programs.

SIAS remains committed to fostering gender and social diversity within its workforce, actively promoting gender-balanced and socially inclusive approaches both in the office and in field-based activities. To ensure transparency, accountability, and institutional learning, SIAS continued its practice of systematically documenting achievements and lessons through the publication of its annual report and quarterly newsletters. Furthermore, the annual staff performance evaluation process has encouraged individual reflection on yearly achievements and facilitated the setting of future goals, including publication targets, participation in national and international forums, and alignment with the organisation's core values.

Furthermore, SIAS has continued its flagship events such as deliberative forums and Future Himalaya Research Seminar Series, continuing to provide platforms for deliberation among different stakeholders and the academic community, respectively.

SIAS has also undertaken a strategic review of the *New Angle* journal, revising its scope and guidelines. As part of this effort, discussions are underway to expand the journal's reach to a regional audience and to introduce a general issue starting from Volume 11, marking a shift from its previous focus solely on thematic special issues.

5.2. Partnership and funding diversity

SIAS has continued to strengthen its collaborations with existing partners while actively expanding its networks by pursuing new research grants in cooperation with both long-standing and emerging national, regional, and international partners. Despite the increasing challenges of securing competitive research funding, SIAS has successfully obtained highly competitive grants. This expertise has enabled SIAS to establish stronger connections with diverse stakeholders in natural resource management, including those working in land, water, forestry, and agriculture. Through multidisciplinary action research initiatives such as the "Climate and Migration" and improved and inclusive springwater governance, SIAS has actively fostered collaborations that bring together physical and social scientists worldwide to address complex socio-environmental challenges. These efforts not only strengthen interdisciplinary approaches but also open new pathways for innovation and impact. Further, SIAS has expanded its partnership at the local and national level with different local governments, research, and other institutions. A detailed list of SIAS's partners and collaborators is provided in Annex 7.

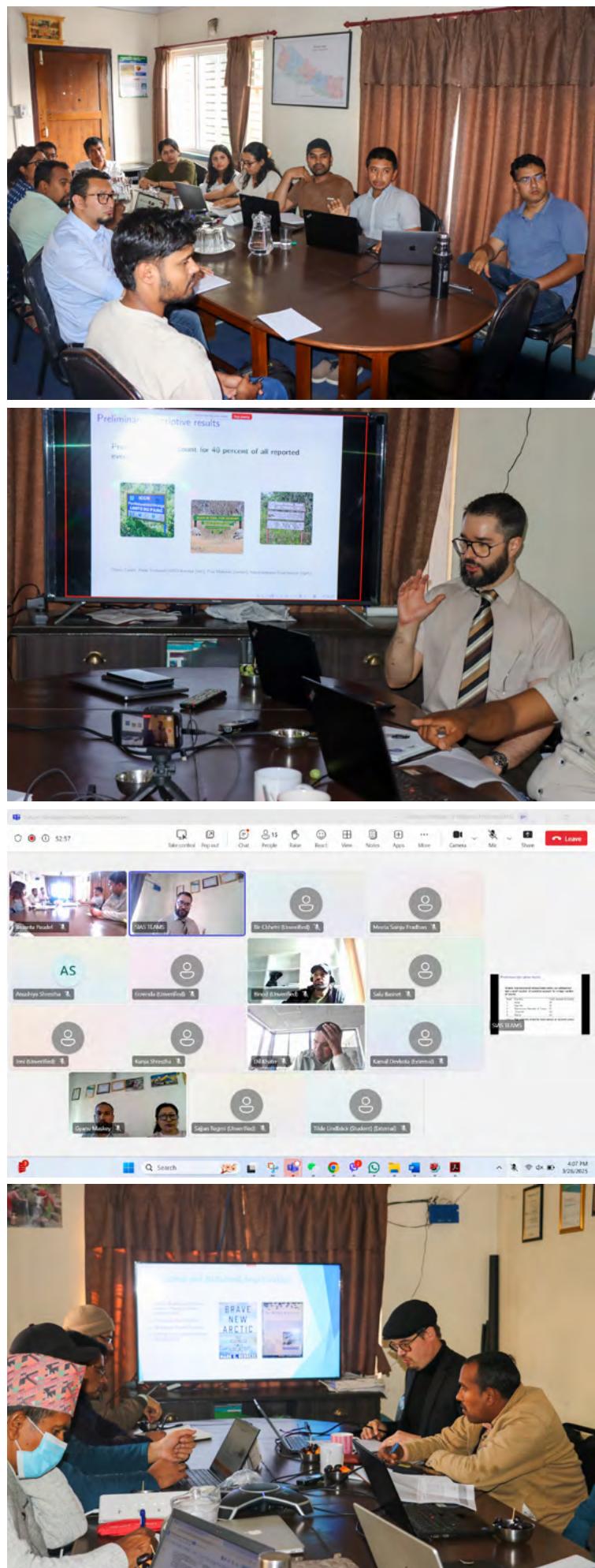
6. OTHER INITIATIVES



6.1. Future Himalayan Research Seminar

The Future Himalayan Research Seminar (FTRS) is a flagship initiative of SIAS designed to promote a culture of scholarly exchange and collective learning. It serves as a platform for both national and international researchers and experts to present their work, share experiences, and engage in meaningful dialogue. Each year, SIAS invites leading experts to contribute to strengthening critical analytical skills and advancing knowledge development. Beyond research presentations and feedback, the seminar also fosters social and intellectual connections among peers and experts from diverse research traditions, all within the broader thematic focus of the seminar.

During this period, SIAS organised five seminars featuring presentations by its researchers, international scholars, and visiting practitioners. Conducted in a hybrid format, the seminars allowed both in-person and online participation. The topics of the seminar covered a wide range of critical issues, including violent events linked to environmental enforcement, locally grounded understandings of climate change that integrate community knowledge, the multifaceted concept of care and others. Details of the seminars have been listed in Annex 3. Each session included interactive discussions, fostering experiential learning and collaborative knowledge exchange. FTRS has reinforced SIAS's commitment to fostering meaningful spaces for dialogue, reflection, and interdisciplinary learning.



ANNEX 1: PROJECTS



List of projects during this year

S. N.	Project Name	Project period	Funded by	Collaborators	Project Objectives
1	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. The initiative also aims to generate solid scientific knowledge on a crucial yet less understood aspect of the relationship between climate change and migration.
2	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 various historical and institutional dimensions of forest governance influence large-scale tree planting activities. It also aims to contribute to linking broader environmental priorities with local societal objectives that potentially support people's needs, interests, and wellbeing.
3	Climate Action Financing through Women and Social Enterprises (CaFiN)	2025 -2026	Climate Policy Initiative	Forest Action Nepal, Climate Policy Initiative	To develop a scalable model for improving financial access of women entrepreneurs by assessing key barriers and opportunities. Key activities of the project include landscaping study of existing agriculture and forest-based enterprises, propose a model in access to finance and action research. Additional project activities include local and national level dialogues, documentation and sharing of knowledge, publication of policy briefs and journal articles. It will promote equitable, inclusive and environmentally sustainable enterprise growth for women's economic empowerment.

S. N.	Project Name	Project period	Funded by	Collaborators	Project Objectives
4	A Study on Participation of Local People in Community Forestry in the Mid-hills of Nepal (DMRS II)	Jan 2025 – May 2026			To explore the status of people's participation in community forestry and suggest alternatives that could increase people's participation and strengthen forest-people relations in the context of mid-hills of Nepal. It examines CFUG's governance including forest products' use and benefit-sharing mechanisms that influence participation. Key activities include a survey of 3600 households, qualitative fieldwork, Dialogues at local and national level. This research will provide evidence for policy change that strengthens participatory forestry practices and promotes equitable, sustainable, and community-driven forest management in Nepal.
5	Wild animals – Biodiversity or Pest? Creating local dialogues for dealing with farming-wildlife conflicts in rural Himalayan landscapes (WildPest)	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 potential mitigation strategies and contributes to ongoing policy processes.
6	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 a shared analytical framework, conduct comparative analyses and identify innovative research ideas for future comparative studies across the Himalayas.
7	Addressing the issue of climate change through Strengthened literacy, Hands-on knowledge and Awareness (ASHA)	Feb 2023- Dec 2025	The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)- Elsevier	Dalit Women's Right Forum (DWRF)	To enhance climate literacy and awareness among women and girls in two municipalities in Western Nepal, while promoting the development of women-led green enterprises.

S. N.	Project Name	Project period	Funded by	Collaborators	Project Objectives
8	SIAS- University of (UoE) Field Course	Apr 2022-2025	University of Edinburgh	University of Edinburgh	To provide an opportunity for master's students to understand environmental 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 natural resource management and gain practical knowledge and insights into environmental and development issues in the Global South.
9	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 (IDRC), Canada	Aria Solutions, NIMS College, Himalayan Bio-Trade Pvt. Ltd. (HBTL)	To co-produce practical 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 a supportive ecosystem for inclusive women-led enterprises; (3) enhance the capacity, agency and voices of target beneficiaries (4) disseminate knowledge to inform policies and practices that strengthen women's economic empowerment.
10	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 examine the links between gender and social inequalities, conflict, and their impact on sustainable and resilient climate development pathways.

S. N.	Project Name	Project period	Funded by	Collaborators	Project Objectives
11	MUHAN- Springwater management, agriculture and resilient livelihoods in the mid-hills of Nepal	Oct 2024- Sep 2028	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australian National University, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, and Nepal Development Research Institute	To empower communities and strengthen local water governance in Nepal's mid-hills by piloting participatory solutions, generating knowledge and governance options, building stakeholder capacity, and integrating spring-shed management into policy and planning.
12	Sustainable farming transitions in South Asia: producer wellbeing and equity (SuFA)	2024-2025	National University of Singapore	National University of Singapore	To systematically document the methods used to promote sustainable agriculture and forestry transitions through both policy advocacy and practical field activities and to qualitatively investigate farmer attitudes towards these transitions in Nepal, particularly regarding shifts in labour allocation, food consumption, and subjective wellbeing.

ANNEX 2: WORKSHOPS AND POLICY DIALOGUES



Workshops

National			
S.N.	Events	Date	Key Highlights
1	Dialoguing Dilemmas: Exploring the Intersections of Climate Change and Migration in Nepal	4 May 2025	SIAS convened a dialogue on the complexities of researching climate-induced migration. As climate change reshapes livelihoods, landscapes, and movement patterns, understanding its linkages with migration has never been more urgent. However, this understanding cannot rest on simplistic causality. The dialogue underscored the importance of hybrid methodologies that integrate both quantitative and qualitative approaches grounding analysis in contextual realities of Nepal Himalayas, reflecting the underlying socioeconomic, political, cultural, and geographical nuances shaping mobility.
2	Inception Workshop	3-5 Apr 2025	The inception workshop of the Muhan Project in Sindhuli was held in Kathmandu. This interactive event brought together research teams from Australia (CSIRO, ANU) and Nepal (SIAS, NDRI, and NWCF), along with representatives from Kamalamai Municipality and Sunkoshi Rural Municipality. It was honoured by the presence of Her Excellency Ms Leann Johnston, Australian Ambassador to Nepal and representatives from ACIAR and the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS).
3	Symposium on "Women's Economic Empowerment through Natural Resources: Opportunities Innovations and Challenges"	24 Feb 2025	SIAS, in collaboration with Forest Action Nepal and other organisations, organised a symposium on "Women's Economic Empowerment through Natural Resources: Opportunities, Innovations and Challenges". The event brought together government representatives, researchers, development partners, civil society, and private sector actors to understand the current opportunities and challenges (Theme 1), share best practices and innovations (Theme 2), and discuss the frameworks, approaches and methodologies (Theme 3) for advancing women's economic empowerment.
Local			
	Gender Responsive Budgeting: Practice, Processes, and Learning	19 Apr 2025	Malarani Rural Municipality in Arghakhanchi, with technical support from SIAS, organised an Inter-Palika interaction on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). Representatives from four Palikas shared practices and lessons learned in mainstreaming GRB into local planning, providing a meaningful platform for peer learning and highlighting achievements and ongoing challenges in designing inclusive, gender-responsive development programmes.
	Workshop on Resin Collection in Dolakha District: Current Practices, Challenges, and the Way Forward	7 Jan 2025	A workshop in Charikot, Dolakha, jointly organised by the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) and District Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) Dolakha, brought together representatives from community forests involved in resin collection, contractors, forest officers (including the Divisional Forest Officer), SIAS researchers, and District FECOFUN. The workshop highlighted current resin collection practices, key ecological, legal, and operational challenges, and explored collaborative solutions for sustainable forest management.

3.	Community Forest Visioning Workshop: Gaurishankar Rural Municipality	17- 20 Dec 2024	The District Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) and the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) organised a visioning workshop in Wards 3 and 4 of Jyaku, Gaurishankar Rural Municipality. The workshop brought together representatives from three community forests, selected based on their size and the number of households, to discuss strategies for sustainable forest management.
4	Interaction program on Gender Responsive Budgeting in Malarani Rural Municipality, Sandhikharka	11 Nov 2024	The interaction primarily targeted Municipal Council members and heads of Divisions to raise awareness on the significance of GRB and provide essential skills for its implementation. It highlighted Nepal's historical and current policies promoting the inclusion of women and marginalised groups and provided a comprehensive overview of the GRB process. A key outcome of the interaction was the formation of a five-member committee to monitor and facilitate gender-responsive planning and budgeting in Malarani.

Policy Dialogues

S. N.	Events	Date	Key Highlights
	Opportunities and Challenges of Climate Finance for Inclusive and Resilient Development in Nepal.	25 Apr 2025	SIAS with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) hosted a consultative session at Yalamaya Kendra, Patan Dhoka, on climate finance for inclusive and resilient development in Nepal where experts emphasised the urgent need for inclusive, accountable and systematic approaches. SIAS presented a comprehensive analysis of barriers to localising climate finance in Nepal, followed by a panel discussion with distinguished speakers who shared diverse perspectives on climate finance related challenges and opportunities.

ANNEX 3: FUTURE HIMALAYAN RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES



S.N.	Events	Date	Key Highlights
1.	Violence in Conservation Enforcement: A Global Comparative Study and a Research Agenda	28 Mar 2025	Dr. Nathan Cook, Assistant Professor at the Paul H. O'Neil School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Indianapolis, delivered his presentation through three themes. He introduced the research objective of creating a global database of violent events associated with environmental enforcement, categorized as one-way violence by officials and two-way violence involving local communities towards the enforcement officials. He also discussed the concept and growth of militarised conservation in response to the poaching crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa.
2.	Thinking Climate as Clime: Aquatic Land, Anthropocenic Water, and Multispecies Assemblies	21 Feb 2025	Prof. Jelle J.P. Wouters, Professor in Anthropology and the Director of Research & Development at Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan introduced the concept of Clime studies, emphasising local understanding of climate change and integrating technical knowledge with human experiences to diversify climate insights. He contrasted this with Climate Science, which relies mainly on methodological models and quantitative approaches.
3.	The Care of Things: Methodological Imbrications	27 Dec 2024	Dr. Syed Shoaib Ali, postdoctoral researcher at SIAS gave a stimulating presentation on the concept of care and its methodological implications, highlighting its dimensions/arenas and relationships with maintenance. The seminar explored the different forms of care, its impact on our understanding of infrastructure and technoscience, and the complex relationship between care and critique. It concluded with a discussion emphasising the relevance of the concept of care for research as well as development interventions.
4.	Seat at the Table: Diversity and Accountability in the Deliberative Process	4 Oct 2024	Dr. Slesh A. Shrestha, an independent researcher from Kathmandu, presented on a Community-Driven Development (CDD) project implemented in 108 villages in Pakistan. Villagers were organised into Community Organizations (COs), which sent delegates to a Village Organization (VSO) that allocated grants. His findings were based on the experimental design in which villages were subjected to either inclusion mandate (40% representation from women and poor), a ratification mandate (allocation decisions ratified by the village) or both.
5	Tomorrow's Cities: A Concept and Practice. A five-year multinational inter-disciplinary research project.	27 Sep 2024	Dr. Dilli Prasad Poudel, Senior Researcher and Thematic Lead on Urban and Disaster at SIAS, presented on the "Tomorrow's Cities" project, a five-year multinational interdisciplinary initiative. He outlined its mission to provide urban planners with tools for creating risk-resilient and equitable cities. A key outcome, the Tomorrow's Cities Decision Support Environment (TCDSE), was developed through learning in Khokana (Nepal), Istanbul (Turkey), Quito (Ecuador), and Nairobi (Kenya), and later implemented in Rapti/Deukhuri (Nepal), Nablus (Palestine), Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania), and Chattogram and Cox's Bazaar (Bangladesh).

ANNEX: 4 CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS



Writing workshop

S. N.	Events	Date	Key highlights
1	JustClime writing retreat	16 –19 Apr 2025	SIAS researchers participated in a writing retreat in Namobuddha under the JustClime project. The retreat focused on discussing and revising the draft of a journal article developed as part of the project, while also planning the Climate Dialogue and discussing the project blog.
2	The Climate Uncertainties Network writing workshop	10 – 12 Feb 2025	The Climate Uncertainties Network team represents three ecosystems in mountainous regions: Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) in Nepal, the Keystone Foundation in the Nilgiris, India, and the Royal Thimphu College in Bhutan, along with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Facilitated by SIAS, the writing workshop provided a platform to review and refine draft book chapters on the uncertainties faced by rural households, share preliminary drafts, and address feedback from reviewers.
3	Writing workshop at Khimti, Ramechhap	8 –11 Jan 2025	SIAS researchers from the WildPest and ComPlant research projects participated in a writing workshop in Khimti, Ramechhap. The purpose of the workshop was to support researchers in developing their draft book chapters through focused discussions and in-depth writing.
4	Writing workshop at Khimti, Ramechhap	15-18 Dec 2024	The WildPest team organised a writing workshop in Khimti, Ramechhap, bringing together project members to engage in collaborative writing and reflection. Alongside the writing sessions, the team held a project meeting to review progress and plan upcoming activities. The workshop also included bilateral discussions focused on <i>New Angle</i> papers.
5	Writing workshop by Uncertainty Network team at SIAS	2 –6 Aug 2024	The Uncertainty Network project team organised a writing workshop at SIAS. Team members focused on writing and reviewing the structure, empirical data, and thematic focus of the ongoing book chapters. This collective effort enabled the researchers to develop preliminary drafts and facilitated discussions on the planning of upcoming project activities.
6	Writing workshop at Dhulikhel	17 –20 Jul 2024	The writing workshop, held as part of the UoE Summer School, provided participants with dedicated time to develop and draft various sections of their respective papers.

SIAS Research Club

1	Ms. Tilde Lindbäck	2 Apr 2025	Sharing of preliminary research findings	Tilde Lindbäck, a master's student from Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), shared the preliminary findings from her ongoing master's thesis research. Her presentation, titled "Social Equity and Adaptation: A Comparative Case Study from Mid-Hill Nepal", reflected on the intersection of climate change, power, adaptation, vulnerability, equity and social identities in Nepal's agricultural sector and rural livelihoods. She shared key preliminary findings from her field research in Lyanglyang (Ramechhap) and Boch (Dolakha) villages.
2	Mr. Sujan Shrestha and Mr. Pradip Dhakal	5 Jul 2024	Orientation and Consultation of Microsoft Word and Excel	This session, facilitated by Mr. Sujan Shrestha and Mr. Pradip Dhakal, introduced participants to the basic functionalities of Microsoft Word and Excel, along with essential design techniques. Researchers and staff actively engaged in the session, practising the skills demonstrated by the facilitators.

Institutional Capacity Building

1	Dr. Govinda Paudel	31 Jan 2025	Capacity building session on Notetaking for Researchers	Dr. Govinda Paudel, Senior Researcher at SIAS, highlighted the importance of effective notetaking for researchers, explaining that it helps organise information, track research progress, and retain key ideas. He also introduced tools such as Google Keep, which allow quick capture of notes, images, and audio, and the setting of reminders, supporting efficient and organised research work.
2	Dr. Adam Pain	3 Sep 2024	A Seminar on Critical Reading	This seminar, conducted as part of the SIAS Research Club Capacity Building Session, was facilitated by Dr. Adam Pain. Researchers were divided into four groups to review two papers each and share their analyses. The session included group exercises based on pre-reading and reflections, with Dr. Pain providing feedback and guidance on critical reading techniques.
3	Dr. Sony Baral	26 Jul 2024	Systematic Literature Review	The session focused on the importance, process, and practical applications of a Systematic Literature Review (SLR). Dr. Baral provided in-depth guidance on how SLRs can contribute to high-quality academic research, outlining the various stages involved, and demonstrating how researchers can apply these methods in their own work.



ANNEX: 5 PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS BY SIAS MEMBERS



S. N.	Participants /Presenters	Date	Program	Participation/ Panelist / presenter	Organisers
1	Dr. Dil Khatri and Prof. Andrea Nightingale	19 Jun 2025	Engaging Civil Society for Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation Governance' as part of the OECD/DAC Civil Society Day 2025.	Panelists	OECD/DAC
2	Dr. Gyanu Maskey	1-4 Jun 2025	AAS-in-Asia Conference	Participant	AAS & Social Science Baha
3	Dr. Anushiya Shrestha	10-17 May 2025	RESILIENT RULES Workshop: Evolution of Institutional Diversity	Participant	University of Zaragoza
4.	Dr. Dilli P. Poudel	11 Mar 2025	South Asia Urban Roundtable	Participant	The University of New South Wales (UNSW)
5.	Dr. Sushant Acharya	24-26 Feb 2025	Future of Capacity development for young researchers in the Global South: Opportunities and Challenges	Panelist	International Foundation for Science
6.	Dr. Gyanu Maskey	28 Jan 2025	Understanding Water Policy in Nepal	Participant	This webinar was organised as part of South Asia webinar series.
7.	Dr. Dilli P. Poudel	27-28 Jan 2025	International Symposium on "Earthquake Risk Reduction in the Himalayan Region"	Participant	Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), Kritipur Municipality, University of Bristol (UK) and National Society for Earthquake Technology Nepal (NSET)
8	Dr. Gyanu Maskey, Dr. Dil Khatri and Mr. Sanjaya Khatri	14-15 Nov 2024	Workshop of Climate Migration at University of Gothenburg	Participants	University of Gothenburg
9	Dr. Anushiya Shrestha and Ms. Salu Basnet	13-16 Nov 2024	Precarious Water Futures and the End(s) of World(s): "An Integrative Dialogue Across Disciplines and Societies."	Presenters	Käte Hamburger Centre for Apocalyptic and Post-Apocalyptic Studies (CAPAS), Heidelberg University, Germany.
10	Dr. Gyanu Maskey and Dr. Dil Khatri	11-13 Nov 2024	Cross-country synthesis workshop on climate justice at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala	Participant	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala

11	Dr. Mani Ram Banjade and Dr. Sushant Acharya	23 Oct 2024	Pre-COP29 briefing webinar: Women's empowerment in the context of climate ambition	Presenters	Gender Equality in a Low Carbon World (GLOW) Programme
12	Dr. Anushiya Shrestha	2–6 Sep 2024	International Training Workshop for Climate	Participant	The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and the Elsevier Foundation in Beijing, China
13	Dr. Syed Shoaib Ali	31 Jul 2024	Environmental forms after the apocalypse: Postcolonial science and society amidst industrial ruins	Participant	European Association for Study of Science and Technology and the Society for Studies of Science and Society
14	Dr. Syed Shoaib Ali	19 Jul 2024	Renovations for the Anthropocene: A Himalayan case study of green revolution, honeybees, and the future of postcolonial agricultural sciences	Presenter	Anna Krzywoszynska, University of Oulu

ANNEX 6: PUBLICATIONS



NEW ANGLE: Vol. 9 No. 1 (2024): Special issue on Women's empowerment in natural resources management in the Himalayas

- Moktan, M. R., Sunwar, J., Choden, Y., & Rinzin, P. (2025). Shared tasks but unequal burdens: Gender, agriculture and empowerment in Bhutan. *New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*, 9(1), 61–80. <https://doi.org/10.53037/na.v9i1.120>
- Shrestha, S., Giri, S., Sharma, P., Aryal, S., & Sapkota, P. (2025). Understanding forces of resistance in gender mainstreaming in Nepal's forest bureaucracy. *New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*, 9(1), 41–60. <https://doi.org/10.53037/na.v9i1.118>
- Shrestha, A., Acharya, S., Banjade, M. R., Pradhan, M. S., & Basnet, S. (2025). Gender Responsive Budgeting for women's empowerment: A collaborative engagement in Malarani Rural Municipality, Nepal. *New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*, 9(1), 29–40. <https://doi.org/10.53037/na.v9i1.105>
- Acharya, S., Banjade, M. R., Shrestha, A., & Sainju Pradhan, M. (2025). Strengthening women's economic empowerment: The post-COVID re-opening of the weekly market through participatory action research and deliberative forums in western Nepal. *New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*, 9(1), 18–28. <https://doi.org/10.53037/na.v9i1.103>
- Gurung Goodrich, C., & Bastola, A. (2024). Financial institutions and women's access to credit: Implications on women's empowerment, collectives and natural resource management. *New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*, 9(1), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.53037/na.v9i1.95>

The screenshot shows the website for the *New Angle: Nepal Journal of Social Science and Public Policy*. The header features the journal's logo and navigation links for About, Current, Archives, Submissions, and Announcements. A search bar is also present. The main content area displays the "Vol. 9 No. 1 (2024): Special issue on Women's empowerment in natural resources management in the Himalayas". Below this, six research articles are listed in a grid format, each with a thumbnail, title, authors, and page range. The articles are:

- Financial institutions and women's access to credit: Implications on women's empowerment, collectives and natural resource management by Chanda Gurung Goodrich, Aditya Bastola, PDF (1-17)
- Strengthening women's economic empowerment: The post-COVID re-opening of the weekly market through participatory action research and deliberative forums in western Nepal by Sushant Acharya, Mani Ram Banjade, Anushya Shrestha, Meeta Sainju Pradhan, PDF (18-28)
- Gender Responsive Budgeting for women's empowerment: A collaborative engagement in Malarani Rural Municipality, Nepal by Anushya Shrestha, Sushant Acharya, Mani Ram Banjade, Meeta S. Pradhan, Salu Basnet, PDF (29-40)
- Forging partnerships for women's economic empowerment: A case of agro-based commercialisation of legumes in Ramechhap, Nepal by Anushya Shrestha, Sushant Acharya, Salu Basnet, Meeta S. Pradhan, PDF (41-55)
- Understanding forces of resistance in gender mainstreaming in Nepal's forest bureaucracy by Segura Shrestha, Sushma Giri, Pragati Sharma, Sarawati Aryal, Prativa Sapkota, PDF (41-60)
- Shared tasks but unequal burdens: Gender, agriculture and empowerment in Bhutan by Mani Ram Moktan, Jaya Sunwar, Yesha Choden, Pema Rinzin, PDF (61-80)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Pain, A., Khatri, S., Marquardt, K., & Khatri, D. B. (2025). Dancing with uncertainty in the Himalayas in times of multiple crises. *Progress in Development Studies*, 25(1), 45–63. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14649934241303619>
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SIAS in media

S.N.	Title	Media Name	Published Date	News Link
1	Diktel: The story of water in the mountains	YouTube	Mar 4, 2025	https://youtu.be/P4R1uFDwbBU?si=OQpXtHf-T7XoGfna



ANNEX 7: PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION



International Organisations	National Organisations	Sub- National /Local Organisations
Ashoka University, India	Aria Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Besisahar Municipality
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)	Centre for Disaster Studies, Institute of Engineering, T.U.	Bhimeshwor Municipality
Australian National University (ANU)	Clean Energy Nepal (CEN)	Dhulikhel Municipality
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Digo Bikash Institute (DBI)	Diktel Rupakot Majhuwagadhi Municipality
Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO), Norway	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN)	Gaurisankar Municipality
Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)	ForestAction Nepal	Kamalamai Municipality
Climate Policy Initiative, India	Federation of Forest User Group of Nepal (FECOFUN)	Malarani Rural Municipality
Indian School of Business (ISB), India	Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk	Melung Rural Municipality
Institute for Studies and Development Worldwide, (IFSD), Australia	Institute of Forestry (IoF)	Ramechhap Municipality
Keystone Foundation, India	Institute of Social and Environmental Transition Nepal (ISET-N)	Sagarmatha Livestock and Agriculture Cooperative Limited
King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Thailand	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Sandikharka Municipality
Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway	International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	Sunkoshi Rural Municipality
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú	Kathmandu University (KU)	Dhulikhel Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Committee (DDWSUC)
RECOFTC – Centre for People and Forest, Thailand	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)	
Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan	Lumanti- Support Group for Shelter Regional	
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden	Meromicrofinance Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd (Bank)	
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), India	Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE)	
University of East Anglia, UK	Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)	
University of Edinburgh, UK	National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)	

University of Minnesota, USA	National Development Research Institute (NDRI)	
University of Gothenburg, Sweden	National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET)	
University of Oslo, Norway	Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)	
	Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF)	
	NIMS College	
	Niti Foundation	
	Practical Action, Nepal	
	SMART Paani	
	Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS)	

ANNEX 8: SIAS STAFF





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Admin & Finance Officer



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Thematic Lead- Water



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