SIAS
SOUTHASIA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES





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About this report

The Annual Report 2025/26 presents SIAS's key activities and achievements for the period from July 2025 to June 2026. It begins with an overview of thematic accomplishments, followed by a summary of our academic and policy-relevant publications alongside opinion pieces published across various media platforms. The report then outlines SIAS's engagement and outreach at national and international forums together with capacity-building initiatives and events designed to strengthen the capacities of local communities and stakeholders. The report then highlights key initiatives such as the Future Himalayan Research Seminar Series and concludes with the organisational development strategies undertaken during the period.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Krishna Gyawali
Chairperson

The year 2025/26 has been a phenomenal year for the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS), marked by meaningful achievements, strengthened partnerships, and continued research engagement to promote evidence-informed policy processes.

SIAS has reinforced its expertise in qualitative and quantitative research while expanding its interdisciplinary capacity over the past years. Our portfolio of projects spanning climate change and migration, natural resource governance, forest landscape restoration, human-wildlife conflict, women's economic empowerment, springwater management, and urban resilience reflects our enduring commitment to transformative research and evidence-based, inclusive policy processes. Through continued collaborations and new partnerships, including with Dublin City University, Ireland and the Horizon Europe research network. SIAS has further consolidated its reputation as a growingly trusted institution advancing research for sustainable development in South Asia.

SIAS made notable progress in integrating research with policy and action during this period. Through national symposiums, province-level dialogues, multi-stakeholder engagements, and community-level workshops, we promoted consequential conversations among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and local communities. Our engagement on themes such as human-wildlife conflict, localisation of climate finance, gender-responsive budgeting, women-led enterprises, and inclusive springwater governance demonstrates how grounded research can inform national and global policy frameworks. Our research earned international academic recognition, with a study co-authored by SIAS researchers on socio-ecological transitions and human-wildlife relations in Nepal's farming landscape named a Top-Cited Article (2025) in the Journal of Agrarian Change. SIAS's 15th anniversary celebrations, featured by a staff retreat and the 16th Annual General Meeting, reflect both institutional maturity and a forward-looking vision. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Executive Director, the management team, the staff, partner institutions and members of the board for their unwavering commitment, persistent support and hard work. As we look ahead, SIAS remains steadfast in its mission to bridge science, society, and policy for a more just and sustainable future for the people and ecosystems of South Asia and beyond.

Meanwhile, **the 2026 monsoon season brought unprecedented, catastrophic disasters to Nepal, severely impacting the vulnerable Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river corridors.** Characterised by massive rockfalls, avalanches, and debris flows, these events caused tragic loss of life and extensive property damage, with similar crises striking other regions nationwide. These predominantly climate-induced disasters serve as a clarion call to transition toward a new infrastructure development paradigm. Navigating this shift requires rigorous, evidence-based research to enhance the climate resilience and structural security of critical physical assets—such as roads and hydropower plants—while safeguarding human settlements. SIAS views this crisis as a clarion call to critically examine past initiatives and realign future efforts toward fostering a sustainable, nature-positive, and human-centric development pathway.

I am confident the institute is well positioned to build a research-fed and evidence-informed resilient roadmap to work toward that direction.

MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dil Khatri, PhD
Executive Director

I am delighted to present the Annual Report 2025/26 of the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS). This has been a year of consolidation, expanded partnerships, and deepened engagement as SIAS continued to strengthen its position as a leading policy research institute in Nepal and across South Asia. Our work has remained grounded in a commitment to bridging research, policy, and practice ensuring that knowledge production contributes directly to inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development outcomes.

Throughout the year, SIAS advanced its mission across four thematic areas: natural resources and rural livelihoods; climate, disaster and urban resilience; landscape management and ecosystem services; and decentralisation, gender equality and social inclusion. A total of eleven research projects, eleven workshops and policy dialogues, six Future Himalayan Research Seminars and thirty-seven publications came out of this work. In terms of publications, SIAS released four articles of Volume 9 of the New Angle journal alongside ten peer-reviewed articles in international journals, four book chapters, twelve blogs and opinion pieces, one policy brief, four research and event reports, one booklet, and one symposium proceedings. The details are set out in the pages and annexes that follow.

A significant milestone this year has been the expansion of New Angle into the SouthAsian Journal of Social Science and Public Policy, broadening the journal's scope from a Nepal-focused publication to a regional peer-reviewed platform with an expanded editorial board comprising editors from India, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. SIAS also applied for accreditation with the UNFCCC and joined the Disaster Preparedness Network (DPNet)-Nepal, marking important steps in expanding our institutional reach.

Our outreach extended beyond borders. SIAS researchers contributed to global conversations on climate justice, migration, water governance and disaster risk reduction at the SANDEE 2025 conference, the Conservation Asia Congress Nepal 2026 and the PoLLEN Conference 2026. Capacity building remained central to our work, including the SIAS-UoE summer school, writing workshops, and community-level training on enterprise development and financial literacy.

As SIAS marked its 15th anniversary this year, we paused to reflect on how far we have come and how much remains to be done. I am grateful to our Board, our researchers, our partners, and the communities whose trust made these achievements possible. We promise to move forward with renewed commitment to rigorous, inclusive, and policy-relevant research.

I appreciate the efforts made by Barsha Gautam, Salu Basnet, Pradip Dhakal, Sajjan Regmi, Gyanu Maskey, Anushiya Shrestha, Rubina Adhikari, Govinda Paudel, and Sushant Acharya for compiling this report.

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Form
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
ANU	Australian National University
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CoP	Conference of the Parties
CPI	Climate Policy Initiative
CREW	Co-producing a Shock-Resilient Business Ecosystem for Women-Led Enterprises
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DCU	Dublin City University
DFO	Division Forest Office
DPNet	Disaster Preparedness Network
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal
FHRS	Future Himalayan Research Seminar
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFSD	Institute for Study and Development Worldwide
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
NARC	Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NASC	Nepal Administrative Staff College
NDRI	Nepal Development Research Institute
NWCF	Nepal Water Conservation Foundation
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PoLLEN	Political Ecology Network
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SANDEE	South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics
SIAS	Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies
SLU	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UoE	University of Edinburgh
WECS	Water and Energy Commission Secretariat
WLEs	Women Led Enterprises



1. ABOUT SIAS

Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) is a Kathmandu-based policy research institute working at the intersection of research, policy and practice in Nepal and across South Asia. Since its establishment in 2011, SIAS has been committed to being a 'centre of excellence' for research and policy engagement. SIAS seeks to contribute to evidence-based policy and sustainable development across interconnected areas, including natural resources management, climate change, water security, urbanisation, disaster risk management, rural livelihoods, ecosystem services and local governance. Alongside research, it strengthens the capacity of researchers, policymakers, and professionals, and provides a platform for scholarly exchange. It works closely with local governments and national and local organisations in Nepal, and with research institutions and partners across South Asia, Europe, the Americas, and Australia.



1.1. Legal Status

SIAS is a not-for-profit institution registered under the Company Act of Nepal. It operates under the rights conferred by the Company Act and other applicable laws and adheres 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 practice, 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 nurtures, organises and advances critical knowledge, research and scholarly learning across South Asia. Its activities are currently centred in Nepal, with collaborations extending to North India, Bhutan and Bangladesh. In the coming years, it intends to expand its geographical coverage further in the region.

1.4. Governance

SIAS comprises a group of professionals and is governed by a Board of Directors (BoD) elected by the General Assembly. The internal management of the institute is led by a Management Committee (MC), chaired by the Executive Director (ED). The MC includes Programme Director, thematic leaders and the Finance and Administration Manager (member secretary). The MC is accountable to the BoD (see Figure 1) and Project leaders are responsible for managing and delivering projects, with strategic guidance from the ED and MC.

The BoD has established the Administrative and Financial Policy 2011 to guide SIAS's operations and ensure accountability, transparency, and quality. The policy provides guidelines for financial management, procurement, expenditure, reporting, fund mobilisation, banking and auditing. SIAS has also endorsed its Human Research Ethics Policy 2016, Publication and Authorship Policy 2018, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy 2022. Together, these policies ensure an inclusive research process and deliver high-quality outcomes.

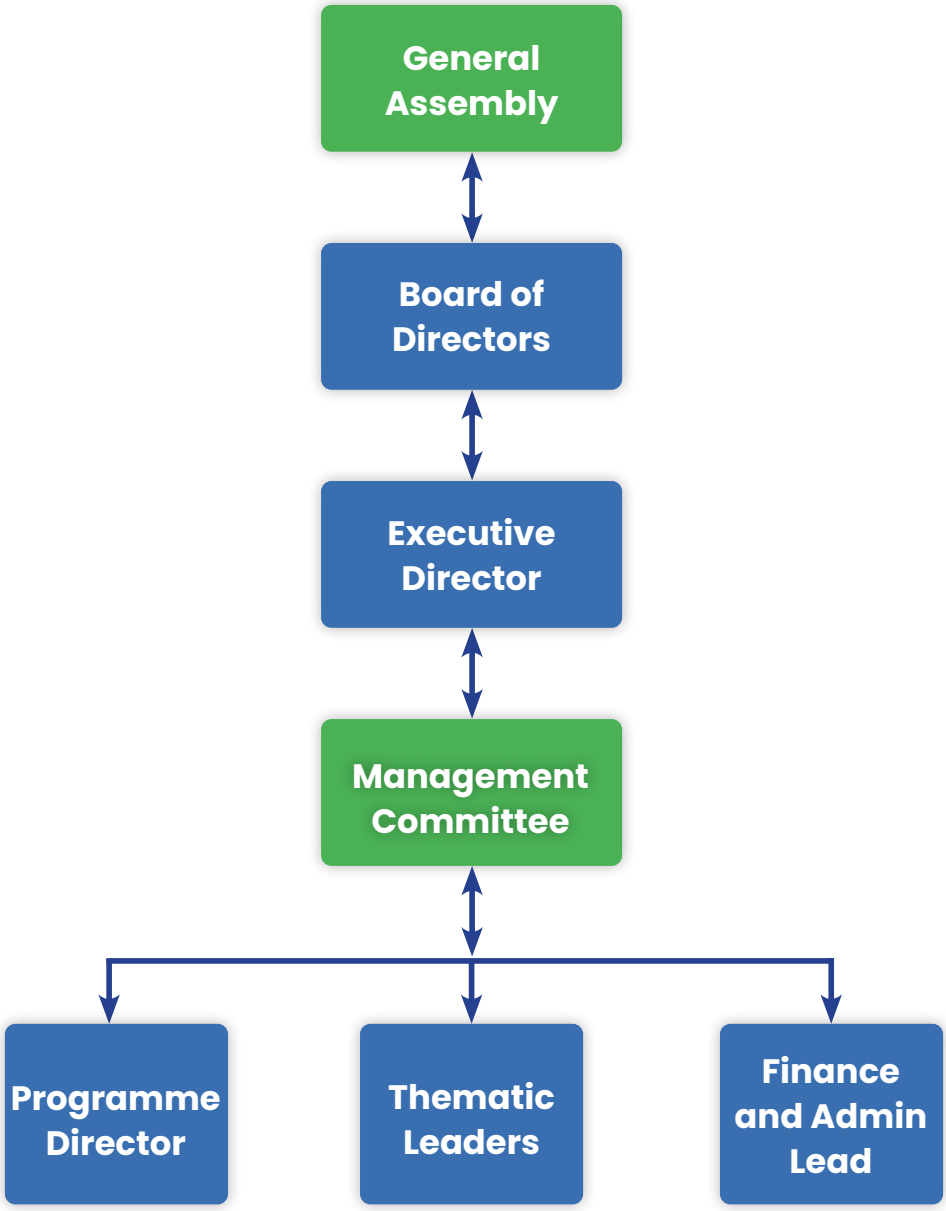


Figure 1: SIAS Governance

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.



Inform practitioners, policymakers, and epistemic communities (researchers and academics) through diverse forms of communication and disseminate the knowledge generated through research and policy analysis.



2. SIAS THEORY OF CHANGE

SIAS has adopted a theory of change as its organisational development framework (Figure 2). The framework shows how SIAS contributes to evidence-informed policy and practice for inclusive and sustainable development. In response to evolving socio-environmental conditions, national policy priorities, and research collaboration opportunities, SIAS has revisited its thematic priorities and identified four core areas: i. Natural resources and rural livelihoods; ii. Climate, disaster, and urban resilience; iii. Landscape management and ecosystem services; and 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) that inform and strengthen the capacities of local communities, policymakers, practitioners, and academic communities (Figure 2 target audiences), while fostering evidence-informed policies and practices. To achieve this, SIAS uses four interconnected approaches: research and innovation, critical policy engagement, capacity enhancement for researchers and stakeholders, and communication and dissemination (Figure 2 approaches).

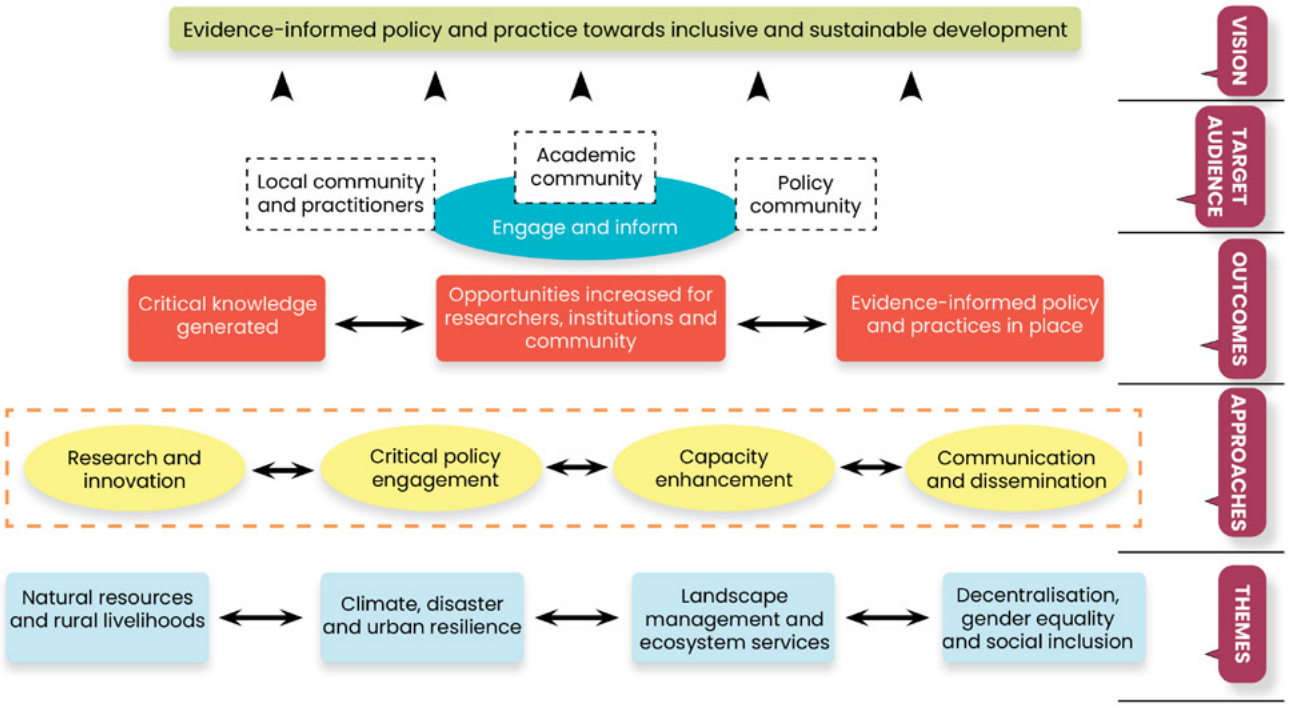


Figure 2: SIAS theory of change





3. THEMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS





3.1. Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods



SIAS actively promotes inclusive and sustainable natural resource governance of forest, land and water, examining how strengthening the management of these resources improves rural livelihoods. Our work investigates how changing forest-people relationships, shifts in springwater uses and availability, and the broader political economy of resource governance shape rural communities and their livelihoods. Under this theme, our work spans subsistence and commercial farming, forests and rangeland management, forest landscape restoration, farmer-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:

- 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 emerging challenges, such as intensified human-wildlife encounters, often leading to crop damage and threats to humans and livestock, and how these impact smallholder farmers and threat rural farming systems.
- We are also documenting local traditional and ecological knowledge and community experiences of springwater use and management.
- Analysing the nexus of (mis)use and (mis)management of natural resources and implications for rural livelihoods, SIAS has been advocating for addressing sectoral silos and adopting an integrated approach for strengthening natural resource governance in Nepal.
- Since youth migration has become a major issue in the mid-hills of Nepal, we are also analysing how young people perceive the increasing abandonment of agricultural land, and how they engage with these abandoned lands.
- SIAS organised various local and national-level workshops to bring these issues into wider policy discussions (see Annex 2).



3.2. Climate, Disaster and Urban Resilience



The Himalayan region's fragile geology and widespread poverty make it highly vulnerable to climate change and disasters, risks compounded by rapid and unplanned urban growth and informal settlements in high-risk zones. Our research and policy engagement generates evidence to inform policies and practices on climate-induced disasters, climate finance, migration, and urbanisation.

Major highlights:

- Our long-term research on migration as a climate adaptation strategy moves beyond simplistic explanations of migration and unpacks its complex dynamics. Ethnographic research with teams in Nepal, Bhutan, Peru, and Ethiopia has deepened our understanding of how climate change intersects with migration decisions across different socioeconomic and geographical contexts.
- Combining survey data, qualitative narratives, and contextual analysis, SIAS has continued to generate climate and disaster related insights. Our multi-scalar study on localising climate finance in Nepal identified key challenges such as misaligned priorities, limited capacity, and governance gaps that hinder effective and equitable climate finance delivery.
- Policy dialogues with policymakers, researchers, and civil society became instrumental in drawing attention to accountability, coordination, and accessibility in climate financing and promoting disaster-sensitive urban planning and safer, more inclusive and equitable cities.
- SIAS researcher co-authored the "Climate-resilient provincial road infrastructure design and development Directive 2026" of Bagamati Province, a landmark policy guiding the mainstreaming and integration of climate and disaster risk resilience and adaptation considerations in infrastructure planning.
- Through action research on springwater governance, we tested participatory spring-shed solutions with local governments. Moving beyond stand-alone interventions, the project shows that adaptation endures when it is embedded in everyday resource governance and municipal planning.



3.3. Landscape Management and Ecosystem Services



Landscape management and ecosystem services are vital to addressing the Himalayan region's growing challenges. Restoring degraded landscapes contributes to reviving ecosystem functions- including carbon sequestration, and the rejuvenation of springs and other water sources reducing water scarcity and water-induced disaster risks and promoting biodiversity and local livelihood opportunities. SIAS unpacks the interconnected drivers and processes of watershed degradation and promotes context-specific, science-based, and inclusive 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 had impacts on biodiversity, human well-being, and carbon sequestration.
- Through comparative research in Nepal and India (Himachal), we focus on strengthening theoretical understandings of community-based forest management and landscape restoration, and whether and how such management benefits local communities and their livelihoods.
- Our findings show that sustained community participation and strong local institutions underpin long-term restoration outcomes. This contributes to global debates and to strategies for making restoration more inclusive and resilient.
- Our study also examines the complexities arising from retreating agriculture, mainly from the underutilisation of farmland and the reclaiming of landscapes by expanding forests triggered by widespread land abandonment.
- By generating evidence on how hydro-social dynamics can (re)produce inclusion and exclusion and affect livelihoods, SIAS seeks to promote inclusive springwater governance and design and implement policy-oriented socio-technical solutions.
- SIAS undertook Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) case studies on drinking-water and carbon-based schemes with the aim of drawing lessons for innovative climate financing.



3.4. Decentralisation, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion



SIAS places women and disadvantaged groups at the centre of its work and highlights their role as key actors in building resilient, equitable, and prosperous rural futures. Our research in this area focuses on how local and provincial governments in Nepal are exercising devolved authority and resources and the constraints they face under federalism. Across projects, SIAS has shown how gender and social hierarchies shape access to resources and participation in decision-making.

Major highlights:

- Our research has highlighted that while the devolution of resources and authority has created opportunities for local governance, strengthening local governments' overall institutional capabilities is crucial for carrying out their entrusted roles effectively.
- SIAS has documented evidence on and drawn attention to the issue of mismatch between the devolved responsibilities and local governments' institutional capacity through publications and policy feedback across multiple sectors. In doing so, challenges and opportunities for localising climate finance, and strengthening climate action in Nepal have been a key focus.
- Building on research insights, we have conceptualised a framework for women's economic empowerment and SIAS is engaging in bridging the constraints faced by women-led agricultural and forest-based enterprises.
- Recent publications related to Gender-Responsive Budgeting and the Gender-Responsive Water-Energy-Food-Environment Nexus are examples of SIAS's relentless effort towards inclusive and integrated approaches to policy and practice (see Annex 6).









4. OUTPUTS IN NUMBERS









11 Research Projects

Publications



4 New Angle Journal, Volume 9 (1)



10 International peer-reviewed journal articles



4 Research and event reports



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



1 Booklet



4 Book chapters



1 Policy brief



1 Symposium proceedings

Events



11 Major research and policy related events: Workshops(5): National (3), Local (2) Policy Dialogues (6)



6 Future Himalayan Research Seminar Series



3 Capacity-building events



3 Writing workshops



21 Participation in international forums/events by SIAS members



18 Participation in national events (seminars, workshops, conferences) by SIAS members



5. KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNICATION

5.1. Academic and policy-relevant publications



SIAS researchers published ten articles in internationally peer-reviewed journals and four book chapters, further broadening the institute's global academic presence this year. A study co-authored by SIAS researchers, 'Examining socio-ecological transitions and new human-wildlife relations in farming landscapes of the Nepal Himalaya,' was recognised as a Top-Cited Article (2025) in the Journal of Agrarian Change. Further, SIAS's action research on 'Co-producing a Shock-Resilient Business Ecosystem for Women-Led Enterprises (CREW)' was featured in an ICLEI South Africa handbook, highlighting how participatory research can transform local governance and market systems for women's economic empowerment. SIAS also produced a policy brief, a booklet, symposium proceedings, and research and event reports (see section 4 above for an overview and Annex 6 for details on publications).



This year, SIAS has upgraded the Journal's scope from Nepal to South Asia as 'New Angle: SouthAsian Journal of Social Science and Public Policy' and the work on the first regional issue is in process. The added regional editors are from universities and research institutes in India, Bhutan and Bangladesh. As part of this transition, SIAS is also finalising the special issue on 'Women's Empowerment in Natural Resources Management in the Himalayas' (Vol. 9, No. 1), published annually by the institute (see Annex 6). In parallel, another special issue on 'Nepal's Community Forestry at the crossroads' (Vol. 10, No. 1) is underway.

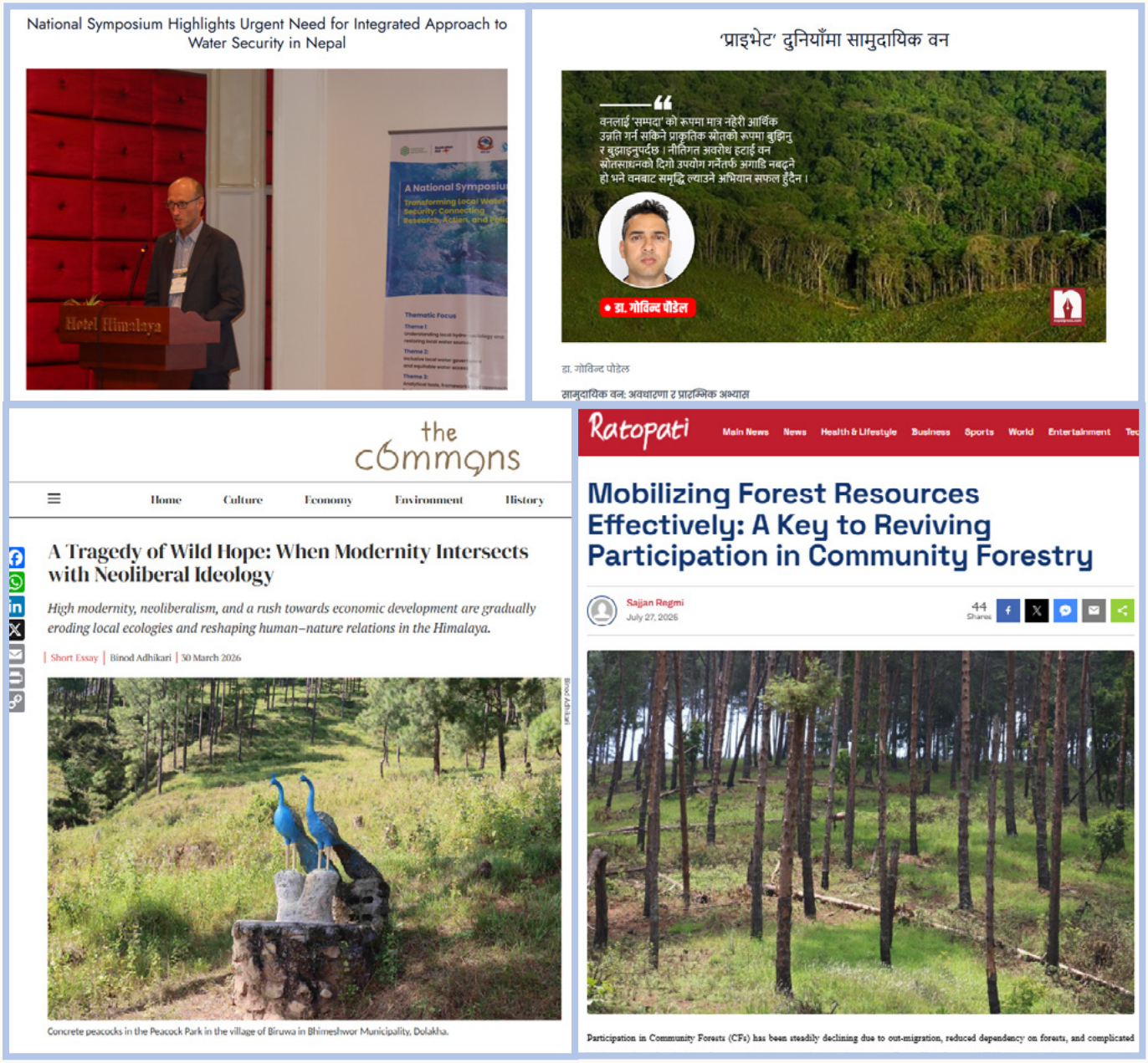
SIAS also took an unconventional approach to sharing its research through 'Just Climate', an audio essay published in PULSE: The Journal of Science and Culture (Volume 12, 2025). It draws insights from researchers in Nepal, Kenya, and Nicaragua and reframes climate resilience as a relational process rooted in justice and equity, shaped by the social, political, and economic contexts communities navigate (see Annex 6).



5.2. Media coverage

SIAS's activities have been widely covered in national newspapers and online news portals, enhancing its visibility and public outreach. SIAS researchers published twelve blogs and opinion pieces: ten in English and two in Nepali on different national and international platforms (see Annex 6).

These pieces addressed diverse themes such as community forestry participation, climate-induced migration, water security, forest governance, and the intersections of modernity with neoliberal ideology. The participants and faculty from the SIAS-University of Edinburgh summer school also contributed six blogs reflecting on cross-cultural partnership and fieldwork.



National Symposium Highlights Urgent Need for Integrated Approach to Water Security in Nepal

'प्राइभेट' दुनियाँमा सामुदायिक वन

the commons

Home Culture Economy Environment History

A Tragedy of Wild Hope: When Modernity Intersects with Neoliberal Ideology

High modernity, neoliberalism, and a rush towards economic development are gradually eroding local ecologies and reshaping human–nature relations in the Himalaya.

Short Essay | Binod Adhikari | 30 March 2026

Concrete peacocks in the Peacock Park in the village of Biruwa in Bhimeshwor Municipality, Dolakha.

Ratopati

Main News News Health & Lifestyle Business Sports World Entertainment

Mobilizing Forest Resources Effectively: A Key to Reviving Participation in Community Forestry

Sajjan Regmi
July 27, 2026

44 Shares

Participation in Community Forests (CFs) has been steadily declining due to out-migration, reduced dependency on forests, and complicated







6. ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY







6.1. National, regional, and international outreach

This year, SIAS has significantly strengthened its institutional presence through organising, presenting at and participating in sub-national, national and international workshops, dialogues, symposiums, and academic forums (see Annex 5). The following are the highlights of national, regional and international engagements.

- In collaboration with the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) and other national and international collaborators, SIAS coordinated the National Symposium 'Transforming Local Water Security: Connecting Research, Action, and Policy' (see Annex 2).
- SIAS co-organised the Sixth South Asian Conference on Public Policy and Governance with the Nepal Administrative Staff College.
- SIAS also convened multi-stakeholder dialogues on women-led agricultural and forest enterprises, climate finance and financial governance, and disaster risk reduction, bringing together government officials, financial institutions, and civil society.
- SIAS organised a province-level dialogue with the Industry, Tourism and Environment Committee of the Bagamati Provincial Assembly on women's economic empowerment through natural resources, bringing parliamentarians and researchers together to explore inclusive policy pathways.
- As part of our collaborative research on springwater governance, SIAS researchers worked closely with an interdisciplinary team of researchers from Nepal and Australia as well as local and federal government representatives.

At the regional and international levels, SIAS researchers presented at the SANDEE 2025 international conference on development and environmental economics, the Conservation Asia Congress Nepal 2026, and the Political Ecology Network (PoLLEN) Conference 2026 in Barcelona, participating as panellists, presenters, and contributors to key discussions (see Annex 5). 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.





6.2. Future Himalayan Research Seminar Series

The Future Himalayan Research Seminar (FHRS) 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.

During this period, SIAS organised six seminars with both in-person and online participation (see Annex 3). The topics addressed a wide range of critical issues, including the emotional, spiritual, and cultural dimensions of climate-induced loss; labour migration and its gendered dynamics; socio-material adaptation of irrigation infrastructure; community-led climate change adaptation strategies; the impact of COVID-19 on youth livelihoods and debt; and indigenous water management technologies and their relevance to contemporary challenges. Each session included interactive discussions, promoting experiential learning and collaborative knowledge exchange. Through FHRS, SIAS has reinforced its commitment to creating meaningful spaces for dialogue, reflection, and interdisciplinary learning.

6.3. Capacity enhancement

SIAS continues to encourage emerging researchers to reflect on research and methodological insights and contemporary issues through academic, media-based, and other intermediary publications. Senior researchers at SIAS engage the emerging researchers in collaborative writing and provide guidance to sharpen their key arguments, enhance analytical writing skills, and ensure coherent writing.

During this period, three writing workshops were held (see Annex 4), providing opportunities for co-learning and collaborative academic writing among the project team members and between the different research projects' teams. Concurrently, SIAS continues to enhance the capacity of stakeholders through policy dialogues and focused capacity-building events. As part of its broader stakeholder capacity enhancement efforts, SIAS and FECOFUN Dolakha organised multi-stakeholder dialogues, financial literacy and enterprise development training events (see Annex 2).

SIAS also engages research associates and visiting researchers in various thematic areas of research. For example, a PhD researcher at the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University, joined SIAS as a visiting researcher for three months through a research mobility/secondment arrangement under the EU-funded research project on female entrepreneurship. The annual summer school hosted by SIAS fosters cross-learning among the University of Edinburgh master's international students and faculty and SIAS researchers. In 2026, SIAS convened the programme virtually, engaging the students in key research themes of SIAS and in active interactions with experts, policymakers, and communities.





7. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT









7.1. Institution building

SIAS marked its 15th anniversary this year with a staff retreat and held its 16th Annual General Meeting, reflecting on institutional growth and setting future strategic directions. Against this milestone, the institute undertook several initiatives to strengthen its standing as a leading think tank. At the same time, it continued to expand its network and partnerships across international, regional, and local levels (see section 7.2).

SIAS thematic leaders, together with fellow researchers in forest, water, urban and disaster, and climate change, have proactively been 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 applied for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) accreditation, completing a key step in positioning SIAS to engage in the Conference of the Parties (CoP) in the future. Furthermore, SIAS has joined the Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal (DPNet-Nepal) and has also initiated new research collaborations during this period.

SIAS researchers translated research findings into local and vernacular languages and distilled them into various knowledge products while the institute continued to provide platforms for deliberation among different stakeholders and the academic community. It also continued building a multidisciplinary team of researchers and developing capacity in quantitative research. Senior researchers have actively mentored emerging scholars through collaborative writing, publication efforts, and capacity development programme.

Institutional policies, ethical standards and gender-balanced, socially inclusive practices remain central to both office and field activities. Transparency and learning were sustained through the annual report, a quarterly newsletter and website and social media updates, and the annual staff performance evaluation encouraged reflection on individual achievements, publication and participation in national and international forums.





7.2. Partnership and funding diversity

SIAS has continued to strengthen its collaborations with existing partners while expanding its networks through new research grants with both long-standing and emerging national, regional, and international partners. Despite increasingly competitive and constrained research funding, SIAS has successfully secured several competitive grants. This has enabled SIAS to establish stronger connections with stakeholders across land, water, forestry, and agriculture. Through multidisciplinary action research initiatives in springwater governance and climate-migration, SIAS has brought together physical and social scientists worldwide to address complex socio-environmental challenges.

This year, SIAS partnered with the Horizon Europe research and training network, led by DCU, connecting 20 partners across Europe and Asia to promote North-South knowledge exchange on female entrepreneurship. SIAS also began research on care for people and landscapes with the UoE and Herne Katha, combining research and storytelling to generate meaningful impact for resilient rural futures in the mountains. Partnerships at the local and national levels expanded further with local governments and other institutions (see Annex 7).











8. WAY FORWARD

As SIAS moves ahead, the institute remains committed to advancing climate-resilient development policies and practices grounded in rigorous, evidence-based research. Building on fifteen years of engagement across natural resource governance, climate and disaster resilience, and inclusive local governance, SIAS will continue strengthening the research–policy–practice interface, deepening partnerships across South Asia and beyond, and generating scientific evidence that can meaningfully inform decision-making at local, national, and regional levels.

At the same time, SIAS recognises that scientific evidence alone cannot address the complex socio-ecological challenges facing the Himalayan region. The institute will therefore continue to draw on and integrate local and indigenous knowledge systems alongside scientific approaches, ensuring that solutions remain grounded, inclusive, and responsive to the lived realities of the communities it serves. As we move forward, SIAS reaffirms its commitment to knowledge generation, evidence-informed policy engagement, and bridging knowledge systems, nurturing the next generation of researchers, and contributing to a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for Nepal and the wider South Asian region.

ANNEX 1: PROJECTS









List of projects during this year

1. CLIMIG - A New Interdisciplinary Framework for Studying the Relation between Climate Change and Migration

Project period: 2022 - 2028

Funded by: Swedish Research Council

Collaborators: University of Gothenburg, University of Oslo, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Organisation of Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, Ethiopia

Project Objectives: 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)

Project period: 2024 - 2027

Funded by: Swedish Research Council via SLU

Collaborators: Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU), and Ashoka University (India)

Project Objectives: 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)

Project period: 2025 - 2027

Funded by: Climate Policy Initiative

Collaborators: Forest Action Nepal, Climate Policy Initiative

Project Objectives: 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.

4. A Study on Participation of Local People in Community Forestry in the Mid-hills of Nepal (DMRS II)

Project period: 2025 – 2026

Funded by: Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, United States.

Project Objectives: 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 3,600 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)

Project period: 2023 - 2028

Funded by: Swedish Research Council

Collaborators: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

Project Objectives: 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. SIAS- University of (UoE) Field Course

Project period: 2022 - 2026

Funded by: University of Edinburgh

Collaborators: University of Edinburgh

Project Objectives: 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.

7. Co-producing a shock-resilient business ecosystem for women-engaged enterprises in Nepal (CREW)

Project period: 2021 - 2025 (one-year extension)

Funded by: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada

Collaborators: Aria Solutions, NIMS College, Himalayan Bio-Trade Pvt. Ltd. (HBTL)

Project Objectives: 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.

8. Governing climate resilient futures: Gender, justice and conflict resolution in resource management (JUSTCLIME)

Project period: 2019 - 2025

Funded by: Swedish Research Council

Collaborators: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) Sweden, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, University of Science and Technology, Kenya

Project Objectives: To examine the links between gender and social inequalities, conflict, and their impact on sustainable and resilient climate development pathways.

9. MUHAN- Springwater management, agriculture and resilient livelihoods in the mid-hills of Nepal

Project period: 2024 - 2028

Funded by: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Collaborators: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australian National University, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, and Nepal Development Research Institute

Project Objectives: 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.

10. Centring Care to Cope with Change: Engaging Policy and Practice to Maintain Resilient Rural Livelihoods and Mountain Landscapes in Nepal (CARE)

Project period: 2025 - 2027

Funded by: UKRI – Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC Impact Acceleration Grant)

Collaborators: The University of Edinburgh (UoE) and Herne Katha

Project Objectives: To place the concept of "care" at the centre of resilience thinking and practice in Nepal. To promote socially grounded, locally informed, and care-centred approaches to building resilient rural livelihoods and mountain landscapes in Nepal by facilitating dialogue, reflection, and learning among policymakers and practitioners, and creating space to connect community experiences with resilience policy and practices.

11. FEMENA

Project period: 2026 - 2029

Funded by: European Union, Horizon Europe (Grant Agreement No. 101182944)

Collaborators: 20 partners from Europe and Asia (10 Europe, 10 Asia) spanning universities, research institutes, NGOs, and policy/communication organisations.

Project Objectives: FEMENA draws on world-class expertise to design an inter-disciplinary, international and inter-sectoral research and training programme that addresses the central questions of how female entrepreneurship is framed, fostered, and promoted across Asia. It seeks to understand the factors that determine entrepreneurial opportunities for women and to analyse how these factors vary across cultural, political, and institutional contexts in Asia and Europe, and to help shape policy and practice that better supports women entrepreneurs.

ANNEX 2: WORKSHOPS AND POLICY DIALOGUES

Workshops

S.N.	Events	Date	Key Highlights
National			
1	National Symposium on "Transforming Local Water Security: Connecting Research, Action, and Policy"	20 Mar 2026	SIAS, together with NDRI, The Small Earth Nepal, IWMI, NWCF, and the Australian National University (ANU), in collaboration with WECS and with support from ACIAR and CSIRO through the Muhan project, organised a national symposium on strengthening local water governance. The event brought together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and development partners to exchange knowledge across disciplines and generations, and to chart pathways for inclusive, and sustainable local water governance amid worsening climate change and water insecurity.
2	6th South Asian Conference on Public Policy and Governance	9–10 Apr 2026	Co-organised with the Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC), SIAS contributed actively to discussions on climate governance, disaster risk, and community forestry. Dilli P. Poudel chaired the session on Climate and Disaster Risk; Kunja Shrestha presented on localising climate finance in Nepal; and Govinda Paudel shared insights on the future of community forestry. Together these contributions reinforced the need for stronger policy implementation, decentralised decision-making, and inclusive approaches to sustainable development in Nepal.
3	Unpacking and Bridging the Financial Barriers to Empower Women-Led Enterprises in Nepal	22 Jan 2026	Organised by Climate Policy Initiative - India (CPI), SIAS, and ForestAction Nepal with support from IDRC, the event convened stakeholders around climate finance for women-led enterprises. Discussion identified policy gaps, limited collateral, informality, and weak market access while also emphasising solutions such as financial innovation, value-chain integration, and capacity building.
Local			
4	Workshop on Kosebali (Beans) Production, Harvesting, Pest Control, and Conservation	22 Nov 2025	Hosted by Sagarmatha Livestock and Agriculture Cooperative with support from Ramechhap Ward-5 and SIAS, this technical workshop covered kosebali (beans) production, pest management, and conservation. Facilitated by NARC officer Mr. Bikash Bhusal, participants learned about beneficial insects, safe pesticide use, and non-chemical pest control, and prepared three types of jholmol.
5	Three-day Capacity Development Training to Women-Led Enterprises, Dolakha	15-17 Mar 2026	As part of CAFiN project, SIAS conducted training in Charikot for women-led enterprises in Bhimeshwor Municipality, Dolkaha. Sessions built foundational entrepreneurship knowledge, market understanding and developing practical business planning skills. Participants expressed strong appreciation for the training, noting that the interactive and experiential learning methods provided valuable insights into their businesses.

Policy Dialogues

S. N.	Events	Date	Key Highlights
1	Province Level Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment through Natural Resources: Opportunities, Challenges and Innovation	21 Jul 2025	Organised by the Industry, Tourism and Environment Committee of the Bagamati Provincial Assembly together with SIAS and ForestAction, the dialogue brought together provincial parliamentarians and researchers to discuss research findings and inclusive policy pathways for WLEs. Dr Mani Ram Banjade (SIAS) presented insights from the IDRC-funded CREW project, underscoring the need for policy intervention and institutional capacity building.
2	Local Level Dialogue on 'Wildlife on the Farmland: Problem, Struggle, and Mitigation	6 Nov 2025	Convened under the WildPest project, this dialogue brought together local farmers, municipal representatives, and forestry officials to share experiences, reflect on ongoing research findings, and explore practical solutions to the growing challenges posed by wildlife on farmlands.
3	Forest-Based Enterprises: Opportunities, Challenges, and Collaboration	22 Aug 2025	Jointly organised by SIAS, District FECOFUN Dolakha, and Bhimeshwor Municipality, this event convened the District FECOFUN Chairperson, Deputy Mayor, District Forest Officer, SIAS Executive Director, and a panel of community forest leaders and entrepreneurs. Participants concluded that community forests hold strong enterprise potential, but that success depends on responsible management, learning from past failures, and supporting genuine entrepreneurs.
4	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Women-Led Agricultural and Forest Enterprises	7 Apr 2026	Organised by SIAS with FECOFUN, this dialogue drew interviews with 20 enterprises and local stakeholders. Discussions covered grazing restrictions in community forests, access to forest resources, duplication of grants, enterprise support models, subsidised loans, crop raiding, enterprise registration and renewal, and market access for local products.
5	Youth in Community Forestry: Opportunities and Challenges	30 Nov -1 Dec 2025	Organised by SIAS together with the Division Forest Office Dolakha and District FECOFUN, this two-day event engaged 36 youths from 35 CFUGs in discussions on the motivations, barriers, opportunities, and challenges for youth in community forestry. It concluded with a 12-point Youth Declaration calling for 25% youth representation in CFUG committees, stronger forest resource utilisation, promotion of forest-based enterprises, and expanded youth employment opportunities.
6	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Nepal's Access to Climate Finance and Financial Governance	4 Jun 2026	Organised by SIAS with FECOFUN, this dialogue brought together local government representatives, financial institutions, development partners, and sectoral agencies to discuss opportunities and challenges in accessing and governing climate finance in Nepal. Presentations by Dr Mani Ram Banjade (SIAS) and Mr Krishna Gyawali, former Secretary of the Government of Nepal and a current SIAS Board Chair, addressed Nepal's climate vulnerability, the status of climate finance and the governance needed for effective local delivery.

ANNEX 3: FUTURE HIMALAYAN RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

S.N.	Events	Date	Key Highlights
1	Beyond the Tangible: Floods and Invisible Losses in Mustang, Nepal	25 Jul 2025	Kunja Shrestha presented ethnographic insights from Lubrak and Kagbeni, two villages in Mustang affected by floods in 2021 and 2023. The presentation introduced the concept of "invisible loss" – the emotional, spiritual, and cultural impacts that often remain unrecognised in disaster recovery and climate policy.
2	The Migrant Labor Question	29 Aug 2025	Jeevan Sharma (University of Edinburgh) explored why Nepali men and women continue to migrate despite risks of exploitation and ill-health. Discussions highlighted the health paradox, debt cycles, and gendered dynamics, as well as the ambiguous role of the Nepali state, while recognising migration as a source of both hardship and dignity.
3	Socio-Material Bricolage and Irrigation Infrastructure: Evidence from Different Case Studies	17 Oct 2025	Prof. Maarten Loopmans (University of Leuven, Belgium) delivered a thought-provoking talk drawing lessons from Turkey and Malta on how communities creatively adapt technologies and institutions to fit local realities.
4	Community-Led Climate Change Adaptation Strategies: Proactive Measures and Key Determinants	11 Dec 2025	Dr Kumar darjee shared community-driven adaptation, from shifting agricultural practices to local disaster preparedness, highlighting the role of local knowledge and decision-making in strengthening climate resilience.
5	Mortgaged Futures? Diary Research into Youth Livelihoods and Debt during COVID-19	19 Jan 2026	Professor Anna Barford (University of Cambridge) and Kaajal Pradhan (Kindernothilfe Nepal) presented a youth-led study gathering over 1,400 diary entries from 50 young participants during Nepal's second lockdown. Findings highlighted job losses, income instability, and reliance on short-term debt, emphasising the need for inclusive recovery policies and social protection.
6	Indigenous Water Management Technologies and Practices: Understanding their Scientific Basis for Contemporary Innovation	30 Apr 2026	Dr Umesh Nath Parajuli explored on indigenous knowledge systems, rooted in ecological and socio-cultural contexts can offer practical and climate-resilient solutions to contemporary water challenges.

ANNEX 4: CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS

Writing workshops

S.N.	Events	Project	Date	Key Highlights
1	Writing Workshop at Khimti, Ramechhap	DMRS II	29 Jul - 4 Aug 2025	SIAS researchers worked on drafting a paper unpacking the root causes behind the limited operability of Community Forest Operational Plans (CFOPs) and outlining options to make them more contextual and useful, and to shorten and reduce the cost of the revision process.
2	Writing Workshop at Khimti, Ramechhap	WildPest and Uncertainty Network	17 - 22 Aug 2025	The team visited Boch and Dharmaghar, Dolakha. A writing workshop was later organised in Khimti for the project researchers.
3	Writing Workshop at Khimti, Ramechhap	WildPest (farming–wildlife relations) and Cafin (Climate Action Financing through Women and Social Enterprises)	29 Nov - 5 Dec 2025	SIAS research team - Dil Khatri, Sushant Acharya, Govinda Paudel, Dilli P. Poudel, and Sanjaya Khatri - conducted a writing workshop in Khimti, Ramechhap. The team reflected on the core ideas of the paper and successfully developed and submitted an abstract for the PoLLEN Conference, to be held in Barcelona from 29 June to 3 July 2026.

ANNEX 5: PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL FORUMS BY SIAS MEMBERS

International

S.N.	Participants / Presenters	Date	Programme	Participation/ Panelist and Presenter	Organisers
1	Gyanu Maskey, Sanjaya Khatri, Kunja Shrestha, Andrea Nightingale	27–28 Aug 2025	CLIMIG Project Update and Planning Workshop	Participants	University of Gothenburg
2	Binod Adhikari	23–25 Sep 2025	Agri4D 2025: Nurturing Regenerative Food Systems in a Changing Climate	Participant	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden
3	Dilli P. Poudel	29 Oct 2025	Roundtable: Strengthening and Expanding Duryog Nivaran's Network in Nepal	Participant	Duryog Nivaran - South Asia Network for Disaster Mitigation
4	Gyanu Maskey, Anushiya Shrestha	7 Nov 2025	Symposium on Connecting Research and Policy: Key Lessons from the Chitwan Valley Family Study	Participants	ISER-N and the University of Michigan (ISR)
5	Sanjaya Khatri, Gyanu Maskey	20 Nov 2025	Webinar: Launch of the report "Just Transition and Care: An International Inquiry"	Participants (Virtual)	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
6	Anushiya Shrestha	25–27 Nov 2025	Third Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Science–Policy–Finance Dialogue: From Risk to Resilience - Nature-Based Solutions for a Green, Resilient and Inclusive Hindu Kush Himalaya	Panelist	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR), Bhutan and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
7	Dilli P. Poudel, Dil Khatri	12–14 Dec 2025	International Conference on Development and Environmental Economics	Participants	ICIMOD-SANDEE

S.N.	Participants / Presenters	Date	Programme	Participation/ Panelist and Presenter	Organisers
8	Kunja Shrestha	24 Dec 2025	Expert Consultation on Migration-Livelihood Interlinkages: Building a Coordinated Policy Response	Participant	NDRI and AWO International
9	Dilli P. Poudel	8–9 Jan 2026	IDRC Regional Meeting, New Delhi	Participant	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
10	Dil Khatri, Govinda Paudel	20–22 Jan 2026	Sensing Darjeeling: Experiential Ethnographies Across Time	Participants	Workshop convenors, Darjeeling, India
11	Dilli P. Poudel	25 Jan 2026	The Green Development of the China–Nepal Economic Corridor	Presenter	IGSNRR (CAS) and the Central Department of Geography, TU
12	Gyanu Maskey	27 Jan 2026	Webinar: Migration amid Climate Change – Adaptation, Displacement, and People Trapped in Place	Participant	Migration Policy Institute (MPI)
13	Gyanu Maskey	3 Mar 2026	Webinar on Accessing International Funds for Climate Loss and Damage in Nepal	Participant	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
14	Kunja Shrestha	24 Mar 2026	Promoting a Human Security and Gender Equality-Based Approach to Migration	Participant	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
15	Mani Ram Banjade	26 Mar 2026	CityFood Webinar	Presenter	ICLEI CityFood Programme and GAIN
16	Binod Adhikari	16–17 Apr 2026	FOCALI Annual Meeting 2026, Gothenburg	Presenter	Forest, Climate and Livelihood Research Network (FOCALI)
17	Binod Adhikari	1–2 Jun 2026	Pre-Conference Workshops (Conservation Asia)	Participant	DICE and ATREE

S.N.	Participants / Presenters	Date	Programme	Participation/ Panelist and Presenter	Organisers
18	Binod Adhikari, Govinda Paudel	3–5 Jun 2026	Conservation Asia Congress Nepal 2026	Presenter	Society for Conservation Biology (Asia, Nepal Chapter) and BCRCF
19	Anushiya Shrestha, Meeta Sainju Pradhan	15 Jun 2026	Capacity-Sharing on Scaling Agrifood and Water Innovations in South Asia	Participants	CGIAR Scaling Hub South Asia (anchored by IWMI)
20	Gyanu Maskey, Dil Khatri, Sanjaya Khatri, Kunja Shrestha, Andrea Nightingale	21-23 Jun 2026	CLIMIG Project Meeting, Gothenburg	Participants	University of Gothenburg
21	Kunja Shrestha, Gyanu Maskey, Dil Khatri, Sanjaya Khatri	28-Jun-26	PoLLEN Conference	Presenters	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and University of Barcelona, Spain

National

S.N.	Participants / Presenters	Date	Programme	Participation	Organisers
1	Dilli P. Poudel	26–27 Jul 2025	Towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship Ecosystem	Participant	Nepal Entrepreneurship Forum, King's College
2	Dilli P. Poudel	13–14 Oct 2025	4th National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction	Participant	NDRRMA with support from DPNet Nepal
3	Salu Basnet	2 Nov 2025	National Workshop on Groundwater Study Findings Sharing and Learning	Participant	International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
4	Sanjaya Khatri, Govinda Paudel, Dil Khatri, Binod Adhikari, Gyanu Maskey, Sushant Acharya, Dilli P. Poudel	16 Nov 2025	IoF Seminar (presented by Prof. Andrea J. Nightingale)	Participants	Institute of Forestry (IoF), Tribhuvan University
5	Gyanu Maskey	26–28 Nov 2025	Chautari Annual Conference – Panel on Climate Change and Conservation	Panelist / Chair	Martin Chautari
6	Sushant Acharya	27 Nov 2025	National Debate on Nepal's Agricultural Sector Transformation	Participant	Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)

S.N.	Participants / Presenters	Date	Programme	Participation	Organisers
7	Kunja Shrestha	5 Dec 2025	Book Discussion: "Market and Monastery: Capitalism in Manangi Trade Diaspora"	Participant	Martin Chautari
8	Sushant Acharya, Govinda Paudel	11–12 Dec 2025	National Conference on Invasive Alien Species Management in Nepal	Participants	National-level organising committee
9	Samiksha Ghimire	21 Dec 2025	Environmental Peacebuilding Summit 2025	Participant	Centre for Social Change (CSC)
10	Gyanu Maskey	16 Jan 2026	National Sharing Workshop on the IoF's GEDSI Strategy and Safeguarding Action Plan	Participant	Institute of Forestry (IoF)
11	Kunja Shrestha	23 Jan 2026	Climate Change, Migration and State Capacity: The Limi Valley Experience	Participant	Centre for Social Innovation and Foreign Policy (CESIF)
12	Kunja Shrestha, Dilli P. Poudel	27 Jan 2026	Operationalizing the Framework for Global Climate Resilience (FGCR) in Nepal	Participants	Practical Action
13	Sanjaya Khatri, Binod Adhikari, Kunja Shrestha	30–31 Jan 2026	Workshop: The Craft of Qualitative Analysis – Moving Beyond Description	Participants	Association for Nepal and the Himalayan Studies (ANHS) Kathmandu Center
14	Salu Basnet	26 Mar 2026	The Third Pole Series-6: Nadi ra Nari (World Water Day)	Participant	The Small Earth Nepal (SEN) and partners
15	Dilli P. Poudel	10–11 Apr 2026	Co-Creating Cities: Youth Leading Urban Change	Panelist	Youth-centric media, Sunsari
16	Dilli P. Poudel	8 Jun 2026	30th Anniversary Celebration of DPNet Nepal	Participant	DPNet Nepal
17	Dilli P. Poudel	24 Jun 2026	Inception Workshop: Inclusive Climate Finance for Vulnerable Communities in Asia-Pacific (ICCAP)	Participant	APRACA with the Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal
18	Meeta Sainju Pradhan	25–27 Jun 2026	National Conference on Sustainable Agri-Food Systems (SAFS 2026)	Panelist / Moderator	Agriculture and Forestry University, Chitwan

ANNEX 6: PUBLICATIONS

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ANNEX 7:
PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

International Organisations	National Organisations	Sub-National / Local Organisations
Ashoka University, India	Aria Solutions 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)	Charikot / Bhimeshwor area CFUGs
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Digo Bikash Institute (DBI)	Dhulikhel Municipality
Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO), Norway	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN)	Diktel Rupakot Majhuwagadhi Municipality
Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)	Forest Action Nepal	Gaurishankar Rural Municipality
Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), India	Federation of Community Forest User Group of Nepal (FECOFUN)	Kamalamai Municipality
Indian School of Business (ISB), India	Institute of Forestry (IoF), Pokhara	Malarani Rural Municipality
Institute for study and Development Worldwide (IFSD), Australia	Institute of Social and Environmental Transition Nepal (ISET-N)	Manthali Municipality
Keystone Foundation, India	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Melung Rural Municipality
King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Thailand	International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	Ramechhap Municipality
Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway	Kathmandu University (KU)	Sagarmatha Livestock and Agriculture Cooperative Ltd

International Organisations	National Organisations	Sub-National / Local Organisations
Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)	Sandikharka Municipality
RECOFTC - Centre for People and Forest, Thailand	Meromicrofinance Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd (Bank)	Sunkoshi Rural Municipality
Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan	Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE)	District FECOFUN, Dolakha
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden	Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)	Division Forest Office, Dolakha
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), India	Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)	Herne Katha
University of Cambridge, UK	Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)	Sailung Rural Municipality
University of East Anglia, UK	Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI)	Myagde Rural Municipality
University of Edinburgh, UK	Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF)	Modi Rural Municipality
University of Gothenburg, Sweden	National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET)	
University of Leuven, Belgium	NIMS College	
University of Minnesota, USA	Niti Foundation	
University of Oslo, Norway	Practical Action, Nepal	
Dublin City University, Ireland	The Small Earth Nepal (SEN)	
	Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS)	

ANNEX 8: SIAS STAFF



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