



Nepal Climate Change Support Programme - Phase 2

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume I



Plantation and fencing at Gahatari village in Narayan Municipality of Dailekh district in Nepal; Photo credit: Dinesh Ghimire/Mott MacDonald

Message from Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment

I am very happy to introduce the first edition of NCCSP2 quarterly newsletter that gives insight into our support to the climate vulnerable communities.

Nepal is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. The Ministry of Forests and Environment has formulated National Climate Change Policy 2019 and Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) Framework 2019 to tackle issues of climate change at local, provincial and federal levels.

Among many other initiatives of the Ministry, NCCSP2 is a flagship climate change programme to support municipalities and communities to adapt and build resilience of infrastructures, livelihoods, services and institutions in Karnali, Sudurpaschim and Lumbini provinces of Nepal.

NCCSP2 is also collaborating with the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment of Karnali province in addressing cross-boundary issues of multiple municipalities in river basin planning and management. NCCSP2 re-focussed its plans and interventions to support COVID-19 response and green recovery.

I would like to wish NCCSP2 team the very best in increasing the adaptation and resilience of vulnerable communities to existing and future climate vulnerabilities and risks.

Thank you,
Dr. Radha Wagle
Joint Secretary
Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment

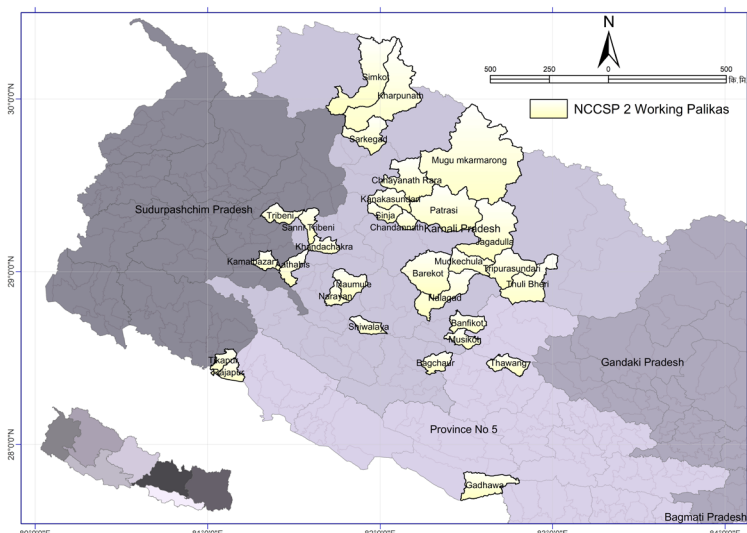
About NCCSP2

NCCSP2 (2019 to 2023) is a UK Aid funded programme, implemented by Government of Nepal with Technical Assistance (TA) from Mott MacDonald and Fund Management assistance from Chemonics International. The aim is to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to existing climate related shocks and future climate change. NCCSP 2 supports municipalities to mainstream climate resilience within their local development plans in line with the Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) framework 2076 (2019).

Key outcomes:

1. Government-mainstreamed and inclusive climate resilience in long-term development planning.
2. Effective and transparent systems set up at local level to manage national and international sources of climate finance.
3. Effective service delivery leading to climate resilient livelihoods, particularly of vulnerable communities.

NCCSP2 working areas for FY 2020/21



Key updates from NCCSP2

- NCCSP2 welcomed Dr. Radha Wagle, new National Project Director/Joint Secretary for Climate Change Management Division/Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE).
- A second Programme Steering Committee meeting was held virtually on 4th September 2020 with participation of 15 committee members.
- Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed between 30 municipalities and NCCSP2 TA (Mott MacDonald) in all three target provinces.
- Programme Implementation Guidelines for municipalities approved by MoFE and shared with municipalities jointly with technical and financial capacity building.
- 190 LAPA schemes are planned for FY 2020/21 which will be implemented by 30 municipalities.

Working hand in hand with local governments

NCCSP2 aims to support climate vulnerable communities in Nepal through partnership with municipalities. Municipalities are directly responsible for implementing the programme. NCCSP2 TA is providing relevant technical assistance on resilient engineering, application of technological innovation, and engagement and strengthening of community participation. In the selection of LAPA schemes, Mott MacDonald as TA works closely with the Municipalities on surveying (social and technical), feasibility screening, preparing estimates, improvements of designs of works, and preparing high quality and detailed project plans and reports.

Within the project period, NCCSP2 aims to support 950,000 climate vulnerable people in Western Nepal.

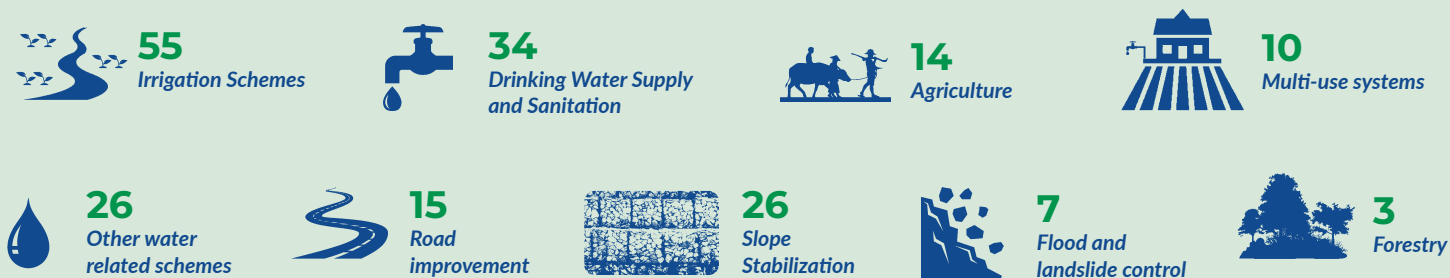


The British Embassy Kathmandu handing over MoU to the Mayor of Rajapur Municipality of Bardia district to kick off field interventions of NCCSP2. Photo by: Dinesh Acharya/Mott MacDonald

Progress on Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA) Schemes

A total of 190 LAPA schemes are proposed by 30 municipalities through the seven-step municipality planning process for the fiscal year 2020-2021.

A sectoral snapshot of the LAPA schemes



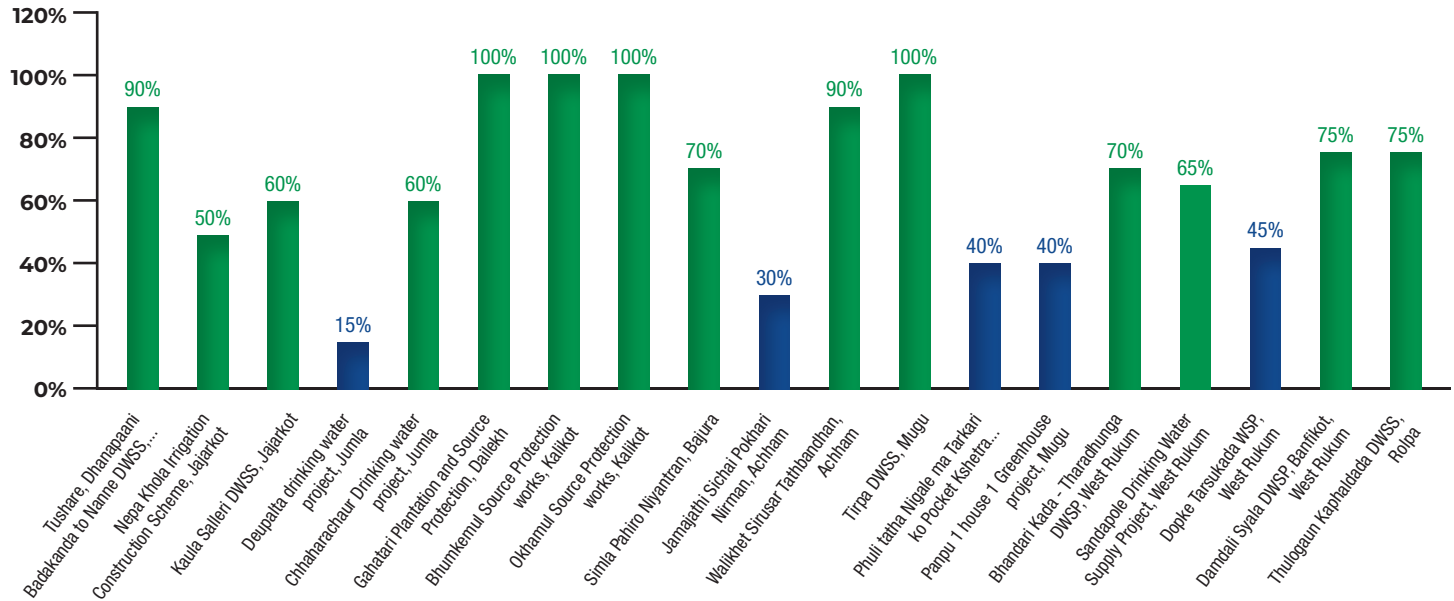
Physical progress of 190 LAPA schemes



Fast-tracking COVID-19 response and Green Recovery

In May 2020, NCCSP2 started 19 climate change adaptation and resilience interventions as a COVID-19 response and recovery in 11 municipalities. A total amount of NPR 34,293,778 was allocated which focused on drinking water, irrigation and agriculture schemes. All drinking water projects supported in promoting hand washing amongst community members during COVID-19.

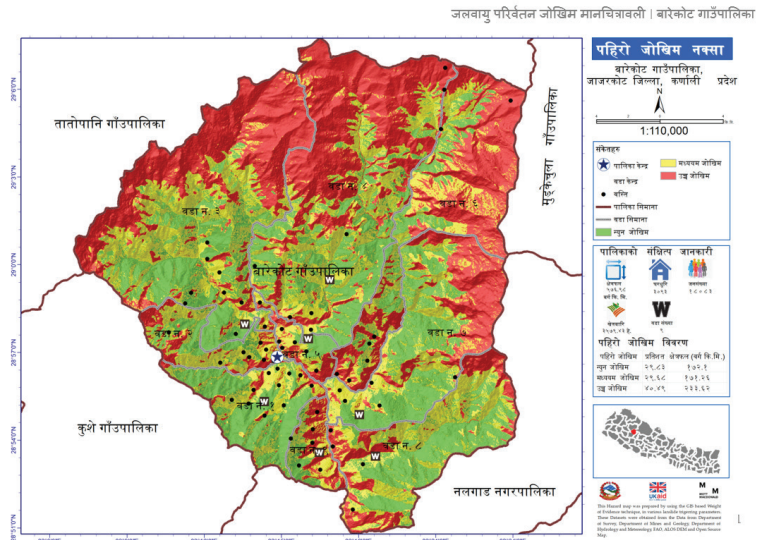
PHYSICAL PROGRESS OF 19 LAPA SCHEMES



Hazard Atlas preparation and demonstration

Hazard atlases for 28 municipalities have been prepared and shared by NCCSP2. These atlases mainly focus on landslide and flood hazard mapping at municipality, ward and settlement levels. This information supports evidence-based planning of interventions to address identified hazards. The maps should ensure that LAPA schemes address real hazards in vulnerable locations and contribute to adapt to climate change adaption and resilience building.

NCCSP2 will support the municipalities in using the atlases to understand hazard triggering factors, organize participation in hazard mapping in the future, and sharing the information across technical teams in municipalities and wards.



Climate model village

The Climate Model Village has been initiated by NCCSP2 at Nalgad municipality in Jajarkot, putting forth the exemplary concept of a village which comprises of themes such as a) Agriculture and Food Security, b) Forest, Bio-diversity and Watershed, c) Water Resources and Energy and d) Climate Change Awareness, Eco-tourism and Waste Management.

Gurshe Khola micro-catchment area in Nalgad municipality was selected for the implementation of model village as per the approved programme implementation guidelines. Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment (Karnali Province), Divisional Forest Office Jajarkot, Nalgad Municipality and NCCSP2 TA collaboratively selected possible interventions through reconnaissance survey.

NCCSP2 team is currently gathering socio-economic, environmental, bio-physical and climate information, and carrying out technical survey of planned interventions.

Funding modalities of NCCSP2

NCCSP2 is a government-led programme, and the financial aid from UK Aid is channeled through government treasury. While NCCSP2 started last year in an 'off-Treasury' modality (the funds were paid out by the Fund Manager), in the present fiscal year, all financial aid is being channeled through the government systems 'on-treasury.' This is expected to reduce management costs and improve accountability and ownership of the municipalities and province. The use of the government financial system will support in building sustainability and will help Nepal to spend climate change resilience funding in an integrated way.

Virtual training on the application of bio-engineering in the design of flood control and irrigation schemes

Three sessions of application of bio-engineering was organized for 65 technical municipal staff to foster climate change resilience in flood control and irrigation schemes.

The tools and knowledge will help engineers and sub engineers to design more environment-friendly infrastructure schemes in the spirit of 'green recovery.' "We were very happy about the training and we learned a lot about detail design on flood control, landslides, erosion, bio-engineering, irrigation. The training was very clear and useful" said most of the participants during evaluation of the training.



Bringing water to the community



Balkrishna Budha, 30 is a resident of Thulogaun community in Thabang rural municipality in Rolpa district, one of the climate vulnerable communities in Nepal. Balkrishna, like many other people in his community, lived majority of his life without proper supply of water. "We were facing a huge scarcity of drinking water since many years. On top of that, there has been increase in climate warming and long drought period and water sources present earlier have now reduced or vanished," says Balkrishna.

The difficulties of Balkrishna's community will soon be addressed by the NCCSP2 supported Kaphaldada Thulogaun drinking water supply project. Focusing on green recovery and climate resilient development of the community, the approach strengthens the local and provincial development policies and plans.

The municipality, province government, and community members are all contributing funds, making it a truly collaborative effort to address the water scarcity. "We were busy in completing this project even during the monsoon and COVID-19 crisis, ensuring proper precautionary measures," shares Balkrishna. Safe drinking water fulfills many dreams of the people and has also created much-needed jobs for both men during a period of severe job scarcity and loss of household incomes.

Safe drinking water is provided to 111 households, two primary schools, and a health center, ensuring proper maintenance of scheme as per approved operation and maintenance guidelines of Thabang Rural Municipality. The community will be able to use the water for multiple purposes, such as re-using waste water for kitchen gardening to promote vegetable farming.

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