



A Seminar on
**BEYOND PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: LESSONS FROM
RECIPROCAL *WATERSHARED* AGREEMENTS IN SOUTH AMERICA**

|Thursday, Feb-11, 2016| 16:00 – 17:30|

|SIAS Meeting Hall, Baneshwor | Kathmandu|

Watershared is a commitment of more than 125 municipal and regional governments across the Andes to protect their upstream water sources by conserving their forests, using three complementary mechanisms:

- Municipal Water Funds: new local institutions to finance watershed management
- Reciprocal Watershed Agreements (RWA): reciprocity-based incentives for private and community conservation
- Protected Area Creation: the locally-managed protection of upstream water factories

The *Watershared* commitment is that by 2025 one quarter of the Colombian, Ecuadorian and Bolivian forests important for providing safe drinking water, irrigating crops and producing hydropower, are protected by their local residents. *Watershared* is thus a grassroots adaptation to climate change: simultaneous mitigation, adaption and development by and for local communities. Since 2009 Ecuador's FORAGUA Regional Water Fund has joined 11 Municipalities (with 6 more in process) in an 80-year trust fund mechanism to support watershed protection across southern Ecuador. Water fees generate ~\$1.4 M each year, paying to protect 217,000 hectares that supply water to more than 615,000 people. In Bolivia, 250,000 water-users have signed agreements with 4,000 upstream landowners to conserve 200,000 ha of water-producing forests. These reciprocity-based conservation agreements are in return for alternative development projects such drip irrigation, fruit and honey production and improved cattle management. Meanwhile, indigenous Guarani in Bolivia and peri-urban municipalities in Colombia have declared the legal protection of more than 250,000 ha of water sanctuaries. This presentation will describe these initiatives in detail, and discuss what of the *Watershared* experiences might be applicable to Nepal.

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