

Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS)

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Experts' Consultation:

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVING WATER SECURITY IN THE UPPER ROSHI WATERSHED, DHULIKHEL, KAVRE VALLEY

May 7-8, 2016
Dhulikhel

This workshop will examine the evolving land use change dynamics on the Roshi River watershed area in upstream Dhulikhel, to understand how changes in mining, agriculture, forestry, rural-to-urban migration, governance and impacts of natural disasters affect the watershed. Insights contributed through this consultation workshop by experts will inform future research and policy strategies for the region.

Water security in Nepal is a challenge. Rapid urbanisation trends and climate change challenges and threatens natural resources, biodiversity and their management. In this context, Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) and the University of Cambridge, supported by the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) programme, has been conducting empirical research on water security and livelihoods in Dhulikhel and its surrounding communities in the Kavre district.

SIAS has convened this meeting/workshop to bring together a range of scientists and policy-makers to capture a diverse set of relevant expertise on the evolving threats and opportunities confronting the Roshi watershed. Specifically, this workshop will address the following objectives:

- Collect experts' views on the biophysical impacts and processes affecting the watershed as a result of increased stone quarrying,
- Understand individual decision-making, socio-political processes and governance responses to persistent out-migration and subsequent declines in agriculture as a land use, and how this impacts on the watershed,
- Understand the contribution of forests and community institutions on the maintenance of the watershed,
- Identify and prioritise the possible future scenarios and opportunities for upper Roshi watershed management
- Identify future research agendas and needs

After a visit to the fieldsite, during which participants will be able to observe the fieldsite at first hand, experts will be expected to reflect through succinct summaries on their observations of the field in relation to their area of expertise. The key areas of focus are the interrelationships between stone quarrying and water yield, forest types and water discharge, the impact of water extraction and management by Dhulikhel on upstream communities; the overall sustainability of the observed land use processes, and the synergies and trade- offs between ecosystem services.

Tentative Program

| Date | Time | Activities |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| May -- 7 | 11:00 | Gather at Koteshwor and Departure to Dhulikhel from Kathmandu |
| | 12:00 | Check In to the Room at Mirable Hotel, Dhulikhel |
| | 12:30 | Lunch at Mirable Hotel |
| | 13:00 | Introductory meeting, short presentation by SIAS researchers followed by brief Overview, Objective and Output |
| | 14:00 | Field visit to Bhumedanda (upper Roshi watershed) |
| | 17:30 | Back to Roshi Bazar (VDC Office) |
| | 18:00 | Leave for Dhulikhel from the field |
| | 19:00 | Rest in Hotel |
| | 20:00 | Dinner |
| May – 8 | 7:00 | Breakfast |
| | 8:00 | Reflections (4-5 key striking points) from experts 5-6 minutes each |
| | 9:00 | Presentation on hydrological analysis by SIAS researchers followed by discussion |
| | 10:00 | Break |
| | 10:15 | Moderated discussion among the participants |
| | 12:15 | Concluding remarks |
| | 12:30 | Lunch |
| | 13:30 | Depart to Kathmandu |