

ECOLOGICAL DISRUPTIONS IN KOSI BASIN: POLITICAL ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

Experience and Knowledge Sharing Webinar

18th September 2020
11am - 1pm



The people in Kosi basin have been living with river ecology and dealing with floods and related problems with a common united front and social cohesion. The construction of embankment in Kosi project from 1954 with the prime objective of protecting people from floods and fulfill the growing interest in hydro-electricity in Nepal which largely disrupted the basin's ecology and livelihood of people living on the two sides of Indo-Nepal border due to factors like change in free flow of water, siltation, inundation, water-logging and related factors leading to further

disruption in water-energy-food nexus. This phenomenon has also fragmented communities into groups of aspirations and interests in the specific local contexts. Evidences show that governance measures related to development, infrastructure, livelihood, flood protection etc were largely in silos without due consideration to basin's ecology in its holistic context thereby enhancing impacts of ecological degradation and clash of interests amongst community groups and confrontation with government.

Towards the larger goal of river ecology and sustainable management of river basin's resources with integration of water-energy-food aspects, it is important that citizens in river basins living in different micro-ecological situations and across national boundaries understand, appreciate and pro-actively engage as primary stakeholders.

For this purpose, appreciation and alignment among the stakeholders on sustainable water resources management and the nexus of water-energy-food in Kosi River Basin at local, sub-basin and basin and trans-boundary levels was facilitated through a trans-boundary dialoguing process, initiated by Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) with the support of The Asia Foundation (TAF), as part of the DFAT supported Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP). Gender dimensions have been consciously considered in such dialogues.

Emphasis is being laid on the emerging contestations amongst various stakeholders at local and trans-boundary levels which are addressed in a way that appreciates the relevance of food-energy-water nexus and the inherent gender based variations towards long term management of river ecology and its resources.

An Experience and Knowledge Sharing Webinar on “Ecological Disruptions in Kosi Basin: Political Economy and Community Perspective” is being organized with the following objectives:

- Understand and unpack the dialoguing process
- Sharing knowledge and best practices on community engagement at the basin level.
- Identifying next steps to preserve and revive river ecology

AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA	SPEAKERS
11.00-11.15	WELCOME AND BACKGROUND	Ms Nandita Baruah , The Asia Foundation-India Dr Shiraz Wajih , Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
11.15- 11.45	POLITICAL ECONOMY IN KOSI- A TRANSBOUNDARY PERSPECTIVE	Dr Ajaya Dixit , ISET-Nepal Mr Manoj Singh , Gorakhpur
	GENDER DIMENSIONS IN KOSI BASIN: REFLECTIONS FROM FIELD	Prof Mahendra P. Lama , Jawaharlal Nehru University Mr Joydeep Gupta , The Third Pole
11.45- 12.00	FOOD-WATER-ENERGY-CLIMATE NEXUS AND GENDER	Dr Anjal Prakash , Indian School of Business
	GENDER DIMENSIONS IN KOSI BASIN: REFLECTIONS FROM FIELD	Ms Nivedita Mani , Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
12.00- 12.15	THE KOSI PROJECT: LEGAL DIMENSIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES	Mr Shawahiq Siddiqui
	DIALOGUES: AN EFFECTIVE MECHANISM FOR JOINT ACTIONS	Ms Preeti Thapa , The Asia Foundation-Nepal
12.15-12.30	DISRUPTED ECOLOGY: LIVELIHOOD CHALLENGES AND ADAPTIVE MEASURES	Dr Shiraz Wajih , Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group Dr Nishikant Gupta , ICIMOD
12.30- 12.45	COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FOR COMMON GOALS: JOINT TRANSBOUNDARY ACTION ACROSS INTERESTS	Community Members from Kosi basin KK Singh , Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
12.45- 13.00	WAY FORWARD: MODERATED SESSION	TAF, GEAG and ISET

SPEAKERS

Dr Anjal Prakash is the Research Director and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad. He teaches at the Advanced Management Programme in Public Policy at ISB. Dr Prakash is an IPCC author who was Coordinating Lead Author of the special report on Oceans and Cryosphere, 2018 and Lead Author of the ongoing 6th Assessment report of IPCC.

Mr Manoj Singh has been in the field of journalism for three decades and is based at Gorakhpur. After working in Rashtriya Sahara and Hindustan Hindi Daily, he founded the independent news portal Gorakhpur News Line in 2014. He is the founder editor of Gorakhpur News Line. His reports on health, environment, human rights issues have been published in BBC, The Caravan, The Wire. Over the years, he has written several reports on Sharda, Rapti, Narayani and Kosi rivers.

Mr Joydeep Gupta is the South Asia Director of The Third Pole, Editor of India Climate Dialogue and India Coordinator of Internews Earth Journalism Network. Joydeep Gupta writes, commissions and edits articles on climate change, water, biodiversity, pollution and sustainable development. He has reported earlier for Indo-Asian News Service, The Statesman, The Sunday Observer and Sunday Mail. Joydeep is the Vice President of the Forum of Environmental Journalists in India. He has a Master's degree in Environmental Economics and Environmental Management from the University of York (UK).

Dr Ajaya Dixit has directed regional research that examined climate change impacts on flood, droughts and food systems in South Asia and transboundary water management. As senior research advisor of Institute of Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) Nepal, he is engaged in climate adaptation research particularly examining the role systems play in building resilience at sub national level.

Mr Shawahiq Siddiqui is an environmental law practitioner based at New Delhi and works on transboundary water cooperation in South Asia.

Dr Shiraz Wajih is the President of Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group. He has worked on issues related to water, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture. He has received Global 500 (UNEP), Light House Activity (UNFCCC) awards and published more than 70 papers.

Prof Mahendra P. Lama is Senior Professor in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Member, Eminent Persons Group set by the Prime Ministers of Nepal and India.

Ms Nandita Baruah is The Asia Foundation's Country Representative in New Delhi, India. She has over 25 years of experience working in the development sector in Asia. She has served in Nepal, Cambodia, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India, and has provided technical support to programs in Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Thailand among others. She has worked with multilateral and bilateral agencies, such as UNODC (ROSA), UN Women, CIDA, and USAID, on national and regional programs addressing women's empowerment, urban governance, regional trade, water governance, migration and mobility, human trafficking, judicial sector reforms and human rights.

Ms Preeti Thapa is The Asia Foundation's deputy country representative in Nepal. She is a peacebuilder, lawyer, mediator, and certified master trainer in mediation and dialogue with more than 21 years of experience in law, human rights, gender, peacebuilding, and governance.

Dr Nishikant Gupta has 10+ years of experience working in the academic and development sector. He is working at the crossroads of climate change, water, and policies to enhance resilience across systems through sustainable interventions. He is an expert on disasters, livelihoods and ecosystem services.

Ms Nivedita Mani has more than 17 years of experience working across India on issues related to rural and urban climate change resilience, disaster risk reduction, ecosystems based resilience, water and sanitation, sustainable livelihoods and gender.

KK Singh is associated with Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group with 20+ years of experience working in the development sector on issues related to Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Resilience, DRR, Health & Nutrition. His expertise is in the field of participatory research, climate resilience, training module development, advocacy and networking. He has implemented /coordinated several national and international projects and has published dozens of peer-reviewed papers, training modules and guidelines on DRR & CCA.

WEBINAR LINK

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87051685308?pwd=clZBT3NVRmRCa2xyUWMwak1nTllxUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 5168 5308

Passcode: farmer

For any technical assistance, please contact:

Mr Ankur Gupta

Mobile No: 9990137940

Email: guptankur1989@gmail.com

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group

HIG-1/4, Siddharthpuram, Taramandal Road

Gorakhpur – 273017 (Uttar Pradesh)

Phone: +91 551 2230004; Fax: +91 551 2230005

Email: geagindia@gmail.com

Website: www.geagindia.org

