



Community Based Adaptation Programme- Phase 3

CBA Annex to OP7 Country Programme Strategy

Purpose:

The CBA Nepal strategy is prepared to supplement the SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy in order to support implementation of Community Based Adaptation Programme in Nepal by UNDP-GEF SGP

Background

In 2022, SGP entered into a third phase of partnership with the Government of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to fund the Community Based Adaptation Programme (CBA) in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Building on the global momentum towards locally led adaptation (LLA), the main goal of this new phase of CBA funding is to further enhance the capacities of local communities across priority landscapes/seascapes by building their social and ecological resilience to climate change.

CBA Phase 3 Goal:

Climate resilience is built in the Asia and Pacific regions through inclusive community-based and locally-led adaptation.

CBA Phase 3 Outcomes:

The goal of the CBA programme will be supported by three programme-level outcomes:

1. Socio-economic and climate resilience is enhanced in select landscapes/seascapes through implementation of locally-driven CBA solutions.
2. Local communities and CSOs are capacitated for effective CBA and LLA implementation, knowledge sharing, and policy representation at national levels.
3. CBA solutions and innovations are replicated, scaled up and mainstreamed at the local and national levels.
4. CBA and LLA approaches integrate principles of 'leaving no one behind' with an emphasis of inclusion of women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth and persons with disabilities.

Climate impacts

Nepal is a mountainous country with altitude varying from 59m at low land to highest 8848m, Mt Everest- the highest summit of the world. The three distinct physiological zones running along east to west- the lower Chure hills, middle Mahabharat Mountains and higher Himalayan ranges, are dissected by deep river valleys and gorges. This altitudinal variation and sloping terrain provide a range of climatic zones from sub-tropical to alpine, rich in biodiversity, landscapes, wetlands, forests and grasslands. Nepal

receives an average annual precipitation of 160 mm but about 80% of annual rainfall comes during the monsoon season between June and September.

Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change and climatic induced disasters. As per climate risk index, Nepal ranks as the 10th most affected country in the world. Nepal's climate vulnerabilities are the results of combination of fragile mountainous topography and ecosystems, highly variable monsoon-driven hydrology, unplanned settlements, and a lack of resilient infrastructure.

The number of flood events, storms, erosion, and landslides are on the rise, resulting in loss of life and livelihoods. Incidences of dry spells, droughts, forest fires, heat-waves, flash floods, and disease outbreaks are also increasing. Mountains are warming faster than the plains, triggering melting of ice and permafrost, formation of new glacier lakes and retreating glaciers. This in turn increases the risk of glacier lake outburst floods and landslides.

Approximately 80 percent of its population is at risk from natural and climate-induced hazards, including extreme heat stress, flooding, and air pollution. Erratic rains also adversely affect rain-fed agriculture of small farmers. Country Climate Development Report of WB (2022) predicted the number of people in Nepal annually affected by river flooding caused by climate change could double to around 350,000 in 2030 (from 157,000 in 2010). In 2022, Nepal experienced three instances of heavy flooding that existing infrastructure was unable to cope with. In just one event, 20,000 people were displaced in the Koshi river basin.

Alignment with national climate priorities

The CBA Nepal strategy takes into consideration of all dimensions of climate vulnerability as prioritised in the National Adaptation Program (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). In line with NAP, this strategy will prioritise thematic sectors such as agriculture and food security, health drinking water and sanitation, forestry and biodiversity conservation, water resource and energy and gender and social inclusion process. Likewise, the strategy will also focus NDC especially in renewable energy targets and climate smart agriculture and forestry targets. In the same vein, Nepal CBA will also contribute to SDGs- especially Goal 1- No Poverty, Goal 2= Zero hunger, Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 7- Affordable clean energy, Goal 11-Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 12 Sustainable production and consumption, Goal 13- Climate action, and Goal 15- Life on Land

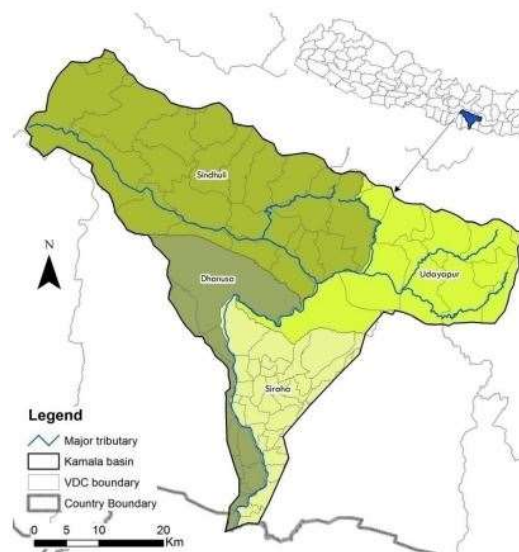
CBA Nepal strategy will prioritise climate change resilient water management, nature based solutions to landslide and food security and diversification of crop with improved and climate agriculture techniques. The CBA strategy is designed considering both present and future risks especially considering the increased flood and drought magnitude and frequency, a reduction of rain-fed crop yields, long term decrease in water availability and an increase in water and mosquito borne diseases. During the life of each individual CBA project, and consequently the program as a whole, communities should observe a measurable reduction in their vulnerability to climate risks due to flooding, droughts and landslides

Geographic focus

CBA Nepal will focus on two districts of the Kamala River Basin- Sindhuli and Siraha.

The Kamala Basin is important in terms of agricultural production, but has complex issues related to high levels of poverty, flooding, landslide, drought, heat-wave, sediment erosion, and water resources distribution and availability during the year.

Spread over 2100 square km, the Kamala Basin covers three physiographic zones: Middle Mountains (20%), Chure or Siwalik (64%), and Terai (16%) embracing areas of 41,181 ha, 133,647 ha and 33,618 ha, respectively. The Middle Mountains zone is concentrated in the north part of the Basin with elevation varying from 800 to 2,200 msl, bedrocks composed of phyllite, quartzite, limestone. Its fertile soil is used for terraced farming to produce mainly rice, wheat and maize crops, and fruit. The Chure or Siwalik zone is located in the central part of the basin with the elevation varies from 150 to 1,200 msl. Predominantly composed of tertiary conglomerates, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone, the physiography has been impacted by progressive processes of erosion and degradation of vegetation aggravated by selected deforestation. Its soils are highly susceptible to erosion. The lower part of Chure, also known as Dun valleys, has fertile soils suitable for agriculture. The Terai is where most of the people live and economic activities happen. Due to the predominantly flat topography and fertile floodplain soils, this part of the basin is where most of the irrigated agriculture occurs.



The Kamala River Basin

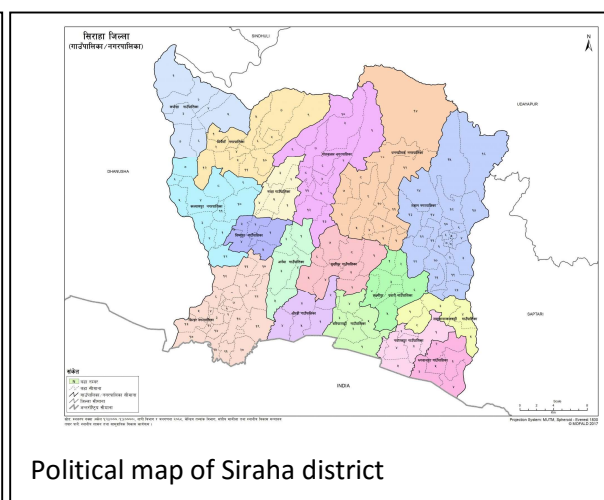
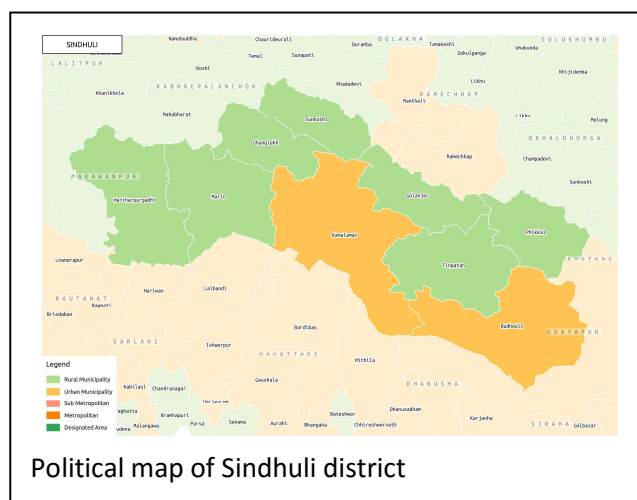
Damage from flood is compounded by landslides, mainly in the Chure region, produced by high level of soil erosion causing accumulation of sediment in irrigation infrastructure. Likewise, drought and heat-waves are also frequent having severe negative impact on agriculture and epidemics. Additional to natural phenomena, human activities are exacerbating the impacts of both floods and landslides.

Sindhuli represents the middle mountain zone or upstream whereas Siraha lies in Terai plains or downstream. For CBA Nepal, two municipalities namely Kamalamai and Dhudhau Municipalities of Sindhuli are selected as these are high risk zone as identified in Disaster Preparedness and response plan of Sindhuli (2077). Likewise, riverbank area of the Kamala river in Siraha which includes two municipalities and one village municipality are prioritised in CBA Nepal. The details are included in the table 1.

Table 1. Description of CBA Area

District	Population	Area	Coordinates	Disaster risk	Indigenous peoples
Sindhuli					
Kamalamai	71016	482.57	27.19603 N 85.89813 E	Flood, landslide, river cutting, agriculture land damage, drought and epidemics	Tamang, Magars, Newar, Danuwar, Kami, Sarki and Majhi
Dudhau	70207	390.39	26.98812 N 86.26432 E		
Siraha					

Karjanha village municipality	38940	76.84	26.87136N 86.20819 E	Flood, river cutting, agriculture land damage, drought and epidemics	Dalits including Mushahar, Koiri, Chamar, Teli, Tharu and Dhusadh
Kalyanpur Municipality	58872	77	26.75976 N 86.22462 E		
Siraha Municipality	95410	94.2	26.66737 N 86.20835 E		
Total 2 districts, 4 municipality/1 rural Municipality, Population 334,445; Area 1,121 sq Km					



CBA Thematic Areas

1. Water security and resource management
2. Agriculture, fisheries and food security
3. Land degradation
4. Disaster risk reduction (DRR)

Thematic Areas: Nepal being landlocked country, SGP Nepal will focus on 4 areas except the ocean and coastal zone management. Of the 4 areas, water security and resource management and Agriculture fisheries and food security will be given priority.

1. Water security and resource management: Access to clean water and sanitation is an economic enabler and is vital to building climate resilience. However, many communities across Nepal still lack basic water access. Climate change, which directly impacts the water cycle, and issues of 'too much water during flood and too little water during drought' acts as a multiplier of the risks of water scarcity by increasing the variability and unpredictability of water resources. Thus, sustainably managing water resources is a critical aspect of the CBA programme. Rainwater harvesting, nature-based solutions (NBS) such as watershed rehabilitation and enhancements to water storage capacities will be employed by the CBA programme to improve both domestic and agricultural water supply and access.

2. Agriculture, fisheries and food security: Droughts, flooding, river cutting, river deposition, shifting seasons and increased variability in rainfall and temperature patterns continue to affect agricultural

production across the globe as well as in Nepal. These impacts are even more severe for smallholder farmers. For rural farming communities this can lead to food insecurity, poverty, poor health, nutrition and wellbeing. To cope with these challenges CBA projects will invest in sustainable agro-ecological production techniques including terrace farming, SALT management, riverbed farming, fisheries to boost productivity and income generation.

3. Land degradation: Being major focal area of GEF, this CBA thematic area will focus on nature-based solutions (NBS), agro-ecology and sustainable land management practices to improve ecosystem services and address some of the drivers of land degradation.

4. Disaster risk reduction (DRR): DRR takes a systematic approach to adapting to climate change-induced hazards with a focus on preventing these hazards from evolving into full-fledged disasters. It includes a wide range of adaptation activities, such as risk and vulnerability assessments, utilizing early warning systems, improving multi-sectoral communication and collaboration, and education and awareness. DRR, disaster management and preparedness will be a cross-cutting theme in this new CBA phase.

Cross Cutting themes:

- Enhancing socio-ecological resilience and productivity of landscapes.
- Supporting nature-based solutions grounded in cultural and societal values around the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystem goods and services.
- Prioritizing social inclusion and traditional knowledge- the CBA programme will ensure that interventions are socially sensitive and inclusive and that women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities are actively brought into the CBA process as key agents of change.
- Building organizational, technical and management capacities and raising awareness.
- CSO-government-private sector dialogues and platforms- establishing multi-stakeholder dialogues and platforms to serve as a space to bridge the gap between local communities, local governments and the private sector and to provide opportunities for communities' voices to be heard, their needs to be understood, and their challenges to be recognized and addressed by various decision makers at local, regional and national levels.
- Building durable partnerships and networks with key local, national and regional stakeholders
- to support broader adoption of CBA approaches.

Social Inclusion and Gender Mainstreaming

There are several barriers that limit participation of women, youth, and person with disabilities, *dalits* and other disadvantaged social groups in development projects in Nepal. Pre-conceived mind-sets about the roles of men and women in the society, limited access to productive resources by the women and unfavourable physical conditions for the women, are some of the barriers that limit women's participation in project activities. Likewise, high illiteracy rate and extreme poverty among the marginalized groups, dominance of other caste groups over them, and geographical remoteness are some of the key contributing factors that prevent the socially disadvantaged and marginalized groups including the youth and the disabled people from coming into the mainstream.

The CBA Nepal will strive to remove these by taking an inclusive and GESI friendly approach of implementation. It will empower the women, *dalits*, *youth*, *people with disabilities* and other disadvantaged groups to participate in community-based adaptation initiatives. Emphasis will be given to capacity building of these groups for their meaningful participation in decision making processes.

National steering committee will ensure Gender Checklist will be considered while reviewing and approving CBA project. Priority will be given to the project led by women, person with disability, youth and indigenous people and or led by these organisation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The CBA Nepal views M&E as an important component of project implementation. No project will be approved without an M&E plan, including quantifiable indicators and targets, where possible. Occasional group meetings and workshops with project managers and other key stakeholders will be organized to review and revise the monitoring strategies that are best suited for the types of field projects funded by GEF SGP Nepal.

The GEF SGP Country office will analyse the M&E reports submitted by individual projects to keep track of the projects' progress and give feedback to the organizations to make corrections where necessary. The projects will be visited preferably at least before the release of the second and third instalments. The visiting team will interact extensively with the implementing CSO/CBO and other project stakeholders, and will also directly observe the progress in the field. Feedback, comments and suggestions will be given in writing to the implementing partner organization and reported to the National Steering Committee. The release of the second and third instalments shall be dependent on satisfactory reports from the organization and the visiting team. Public auditing of projects will be encouraged in order to maintain financial transparency and contribute to result-based management approach. Final evaluation may be done in a workshop mode, where the implementing organization and the stakeholders will together reflect on and evaluate the project and its outcomes.

At the project level, the M&E facilitates identification and resolution of problems, enhances project performance and ensures congruence of project implementation with GEF criteria and CBA priorities. It also provides a basis for ensuring technical and financial accountability, supports to build local capacity to implement and manage projects successfully, and promote participatory learning based on experiences.

The M&E further supports adopting participatory approaches for VRA and developing VRA guideline, which can be used for project monitoring and assessment, project design, identifying problems to be addressed, and potential courses of action to be taken. Participatory research methodology can be used to assess the baseline, developing theory of change during project conceptualization, and bringing consensus among the stakeholders about project objectives, strategies and interventions. A simple structure of the project level M&E plan is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. M&E Plan at the Country Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source
CBA strategy	Framework for action including identification of community projects.	NC, NSC, country stakeholders,	N/A
As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS and CBA strategy Review.	Assess effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management.	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analyzed with CPMT colleagues.	Staff time, Country Operating Budget
Annual Monitoring Report Survey	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tools to record and analytically present results to donors.	NC in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final country submission for further action.	Staff time, operational budget
CBA Portfolio Review	Methodological results capture of the portfolio at a given point to note impact level change as well as broader adoption. The goal is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning, and support to strategic development/ implementation of CPS.	NC, NSC	Staff time, operational budget Global technical M&E support can be expected.
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all Project and Country Programme inputs in SGP database.	NC	Staff time