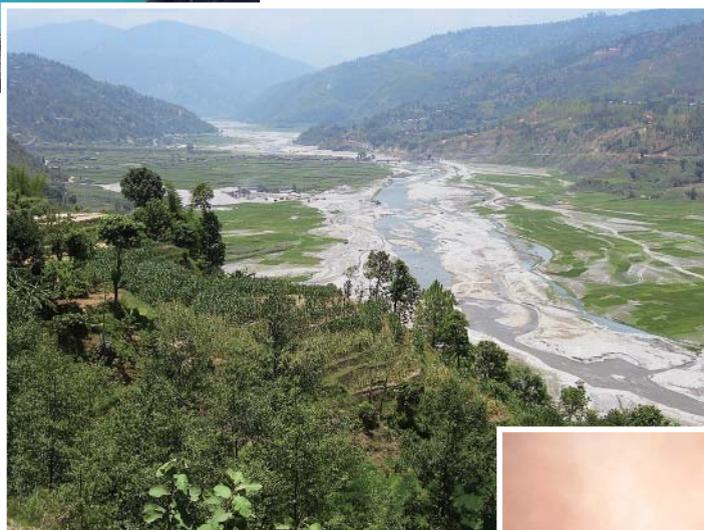




"From Policy To Practice"

KOSHI RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT



for a living planet®

“From Policy To Practice”

KOSHI RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT

Freshwater Program
WWF Nepal



for a living planet®

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Photos: © WWF Nepal

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FOREWORD

WWF Nepal has joined hands with WECS to initiate the integrated management of water resources in Koshi basin. For the first time in Nepal, field piloting of National Water Plan was initiated to translate the policy into practice. We are confident that our partnership with WECS can showcase Koshi River Basin Management Program as a model for conservation and wise use of water and related resources addressing the impacts of climate change and human activities to secure life and livelihoods of generations to come.



On behalf of WWF, I would like to thank WECS for their commitment and support to this ambitious initiative. I would also like to thank our donors, especially Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and WWF Network for supporting our initiative. Our sincere thanks goes to the partner organizations and local communities, without whom we would not have been able to bring this learning ***from policy to practice***.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anil Manandhar". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Anil Manandhar
Country Representative
WWF Nepal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“From Policy to Practice” is a process documentation of WECS and WWF’s joint initiative to first field piloting of IWRM approach as prioritized by the NWP 2005.



The conceptualization of IWRM in WWF Nepal initiated with the participation in the “Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO)” training, Sri Lanka in April 2005, where I met government colleagues from WECS. Thereafter, series of meetings were held with WECS in Kathmandu to formalize our effort to work together in river basin management, which finally resulted in a formal meeting with stakeholders on January 2007.

Being the largest river basin in Nepal, which feeds Ganga in India, and with diverse issues and significances, the Government of Nepal prioritized Koshi River Basin for the first field piloting of NWP 2005. WWF Nepal’s prior engagement within the Sacred Himalayan Landscape with major land area covered by Koshi River Basin, provided a basis for WWF Nepal’s Freshwater Program’s engagement in Koshi.

Now, in 2010, we have been able to achieve a major milestone – the Koshi River Basin Management Program, the first field piloting of NWP 2005. In this regard, on behalf of WWF Nepal, I would like to sincerely thank all those who have been involved from WECS and WWF in conceptualizing, planning, fund raising and implementing Koshi River Basin Management Program.

Thank you and I wish all the success ahead!

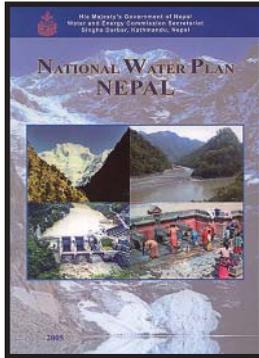
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neera', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Neera Shrestha Pradhan
Manager – Freshwater Program
WWF Nepal

Acronyms

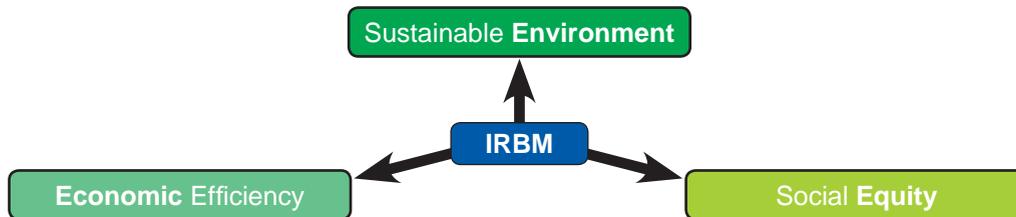
HVC	High Value Crop
IRBM	Integrated River Basin Management
IRMC	Integrated Resource Management Committee
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KRBM	Koshi River Basin Management
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
NWP	National Water Plan
WECS	Water and Energy Commission Secretariat
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

NATIONAL WATER PLAN (NWP) 2005



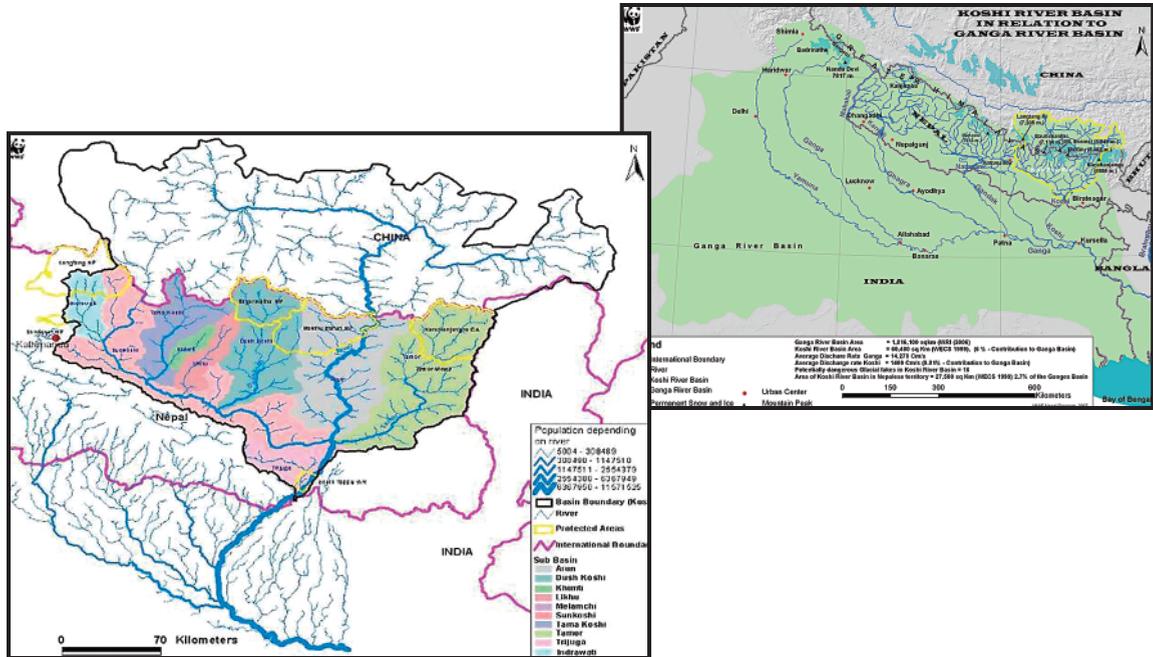
The NWP 2005 was prepared to operationalize the Water Resources Strategy 2002. It postulates doctrine of integration, coordination, decentralization and participation. The NWP prioritizes Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as one of the principle themes for the management of water and related resources.

INTERVENTION APPROACH: “3E PILLAR”



General framework of Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) (adopted from UN 2005)

FIRST FIELD PILOTING OF NWP



The Government of Nepal has prioritized Koshi River Basin Management (KRBM) as the first field piloting of NWP 2005

VISION: KOSHI RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT



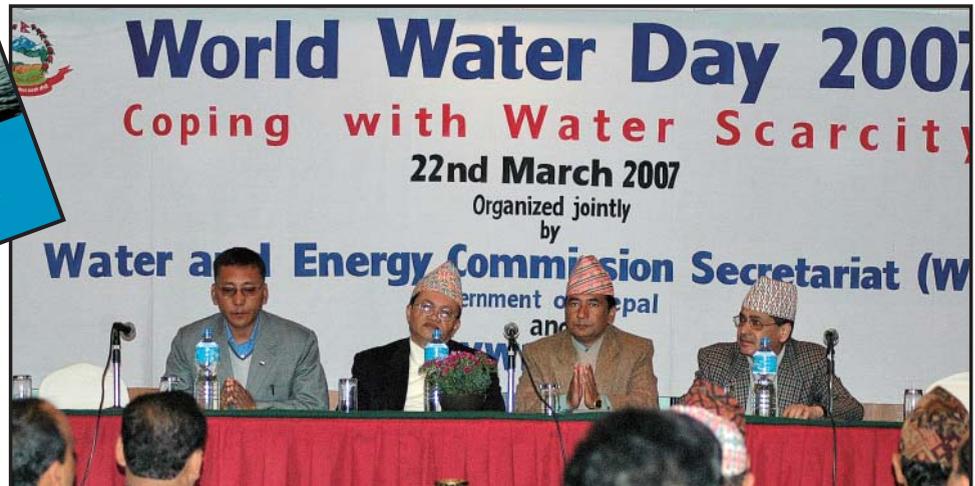
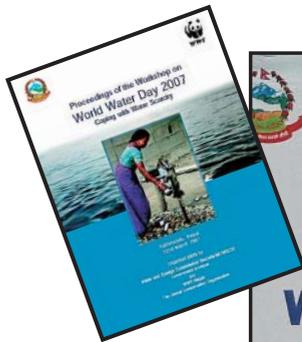
"Country's largest river basin is safeguarded and eco-system integrity is maintained while improving livelihoods and ensuring people's rights over water and related resources."

3 January 2007: First Stakeholders' Consultation in Kathmandu



Mr. Ram Krishna Tiwari, Executive Secretary, WECS (2007) expressed, "WECS will successfully implement the KRBM initiative in support of WWF Nepal."

22 March 2007: World Water Day Celebration



Honorable Minister Mr. Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, Ministry of Water Resources, (2007) emphasized, "The Government of Nepal has adopted the IWRM in its Water Resources Strategy and National Water Plan 2005 to develop and manage water resources."

**22 June 2007:
WECS and WWF MOU sign to first field pilot NWP**



WECS and WWF Nepal signed MOU to establish working relationship between the two organizations and commitment towards implementation of the KRBM program.

9 August 2007: Stakeholders' Consultation in Kathmandu



Mr. Shital Babu Regmee, Joint Secretary, WECS (2007) conveyed that, "There are opportunities for collaboration with various organizations working in water, conservation and social sector for the success of KRBM".

13-14 December 2007: Stakeholders' Consultation in Salleri Dudh Koshi Sub Basin



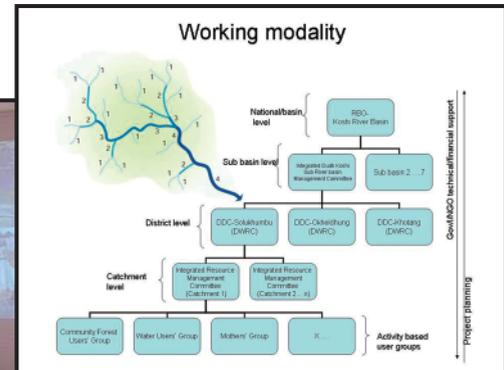
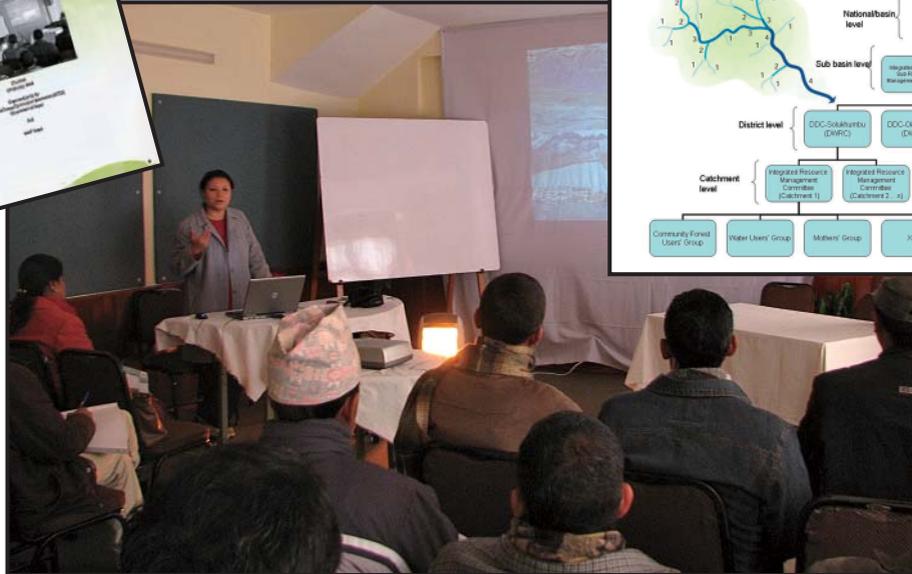
The outcome of the workshop was the detailed list of issues, threat and opportunities for IWRM implementation at local level.

13 January 2008: Stakeholders' Consultation in Biratnagar



The outcome of the workshop was options for KRBM implementation as directed by NWP 2005 and the role of Regional and Sub Basin offices. The meeting also prioritized Dudh Koshi Sub Basin out of seven sub basins of Koshi for the field piloting.

8 February 2008: Stakeholders' Consultation in Dhulikhel



The outcome of the workshop was the modality for project implementation at local level as directed by NWP 2005.

10-13 February 2008: Orientation of Dudh Koshi Sub Basin Stakeholders



The outcome was selection of Siku and Pankhu khola Catchments of Dudh Koshi Sub Basin as prioritized by the local communities for the project implementation.

29 February-9 March 2008: Reconnaissance Survey of Dudh Koshi Sub Basin



The outcome was selection of Siku and Pankhu khola Catchments of Dudh Koshi Sub Basin as prioritized by the local communities for the project implementation.

March 2008: Awareness Raising in Dudh Koshi Sub Basin



Awareness on IWRM is being aired through a local FM radio for 15 minutes every Friday (6:45 -7:00 pm) with coverage within the project area.

January - August 2008: Baseline Study of Dudh Koshi Sub Basin



The outcome of this Socio-Economic and Resource Base Survey (SERBS) was a comprehensive understanding of the status of livelihoods, aspirations, priorities, strategies and dynamics of households in Siku Khola and Pankhu Khola Catchments.

27 November 2008: Registration of Siku Khola IRMC
19 April 2009: Registration of Pankhu Khola IRMC



For the implementation on NWP, Integrated Resource Management Committees (IRMC) were registered in Siku and Pankhu Khola. The IRMCs are the catchment level management bodies under the river basin management governance structure recommended by the NWP 2005.

5 December 2008: Signing of Scope of Cooperation between WECS and WWF



In the next 5 years, WECS and WWF is expected to contribute significantly in river basin management and also ensure that the benefits from its wise-use are equitably distributed among the stakeholders.

December 2008: Formation of Eco Clubs in Dudh Koshi Sub Basin



Prepared more than 3000 Eco Club students as young water leaders to raise awareness on river basin and environmental management.

5 January 2009: Inauguration of Dudh Koshi Sub Basin Project Office



For the first time in Nepal, field piloting of NWP was initiated with an official inauguration of Dudh Koshi Sub-Basin Project Office in Salleri.

25 February 2009: National Launching of KRBM Program in Kathmandu



Mr. Gyanendra Rumdali, IRMC Representative, Pankhu Khola Catchment said, "The local people were highly excited to learn to manage water and related resources wisely following the 3-E approach of IWRM".

**26 March 2009:
First Meeting of KRBM Steering Committee**

**May 2009:
Establishment of KRBM cell in WECS**



April 2009 – January 2010: Scaling up and Conceptualization of Indrawati Sub Basin Project



June 2009: Preparation of Water Smart Communities in Dudh Koshi Sub Basin



Water conservation and multiple use method was introduced to the local communities to prepare water smart communities in the Siku and Pankhu catchments.

October 2009: Establishment of Learning Center in Garma Village, Dudh Koshi Sub Basin



Field demonstration site was established as a learning center for the local communities to learn and share experiences on water conservation and multiple use.

June 2009 – June 2010: Preparation of KRBM Strategic Plan



A ten year KRBM strategic plan is being prepared by WECS in consultation with wider stakeholders to operationalize the IWRM principle as prioritized by NWP 2005.

January - June 2010: Piloting of Livelihood Based Adaptation in Dudh Koshi Sub Basin



Introduced Non Timber Forest Product/High Value Crop (NTFP/HVC) based livelihood alternatives and promoted market linkage in Siku Catchment to improve the livelihood of local communities.

17-18 February 2010: Stakeholders' Consultation in Chautara Indrawati Sub Basin



The outcome of the workshop was prioritization of threats, issues and opportunities and consensus building of the local people and political parties to implement the Indrawati Sub Basin Project.

29 March 2010: Launching of Indrawati Sub Basin Project in Kathmandu



Honorable Minister for Energy, Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat (2010) expressed, "Government of Nepal appreciates the support of Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and WWF to translate the NWP into action through the three year project in Koshi".

16 May 2010: Signing of Project Agreement between WECS and WWF



The Project Agreement was signed to implement KRBM program jointly by WECS and WWF. Subject to availability of funds, WWF shall endeavor to make available US\$ 3,200,000 over a period of five years to undertake various activities commencing from 15 March 2010 to 31 December 2014.

June 2010: Formation of Eco Club in Indrawati Sub Basin



Eco Clubs were formed to prepare young water leaders in Indrawati Sub Basin as in Dudh Koshi Sub Basin.

15 June 2010: Inauguration of Indrawati Sub Basin Project Office

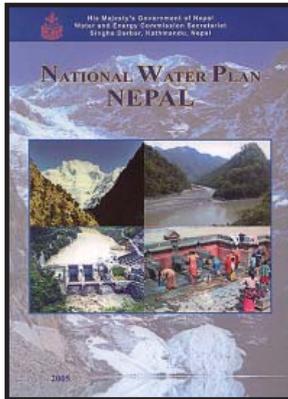


Mr. Anil Manandhar, Country Representative, WWF Nepal emphasized, "The project is the first intervention of WWF Nepal in the Sindhupalchowk district and the success of the entire project depends on the communities' participation and ownership".

**25 June 2010:
Second Meeting of KRBM Steering Committee
to review the yearly progress and plan for the
coming year.**

FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

Major Successes:
January 2007 to June 2010



1. KRBM Program launched
2. Two sub basin offices established and functional for field implementation
3. KRBM Strategic Plan prepared in wider consultation with stakeholders
4. KRBM Cell established in WECS
5. Fund raised for three year field implementation to showcase first field pilot of IWRM as prioritized by NWP 2005 in Koshi.

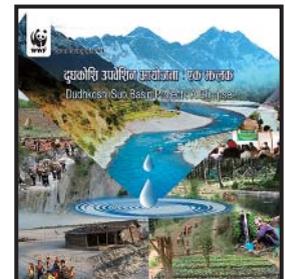
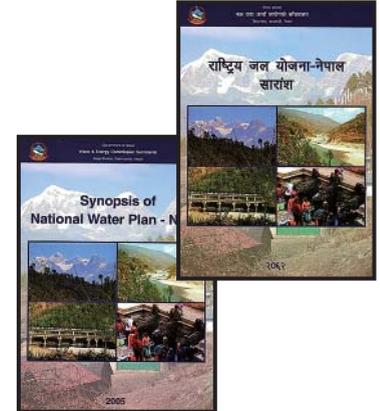
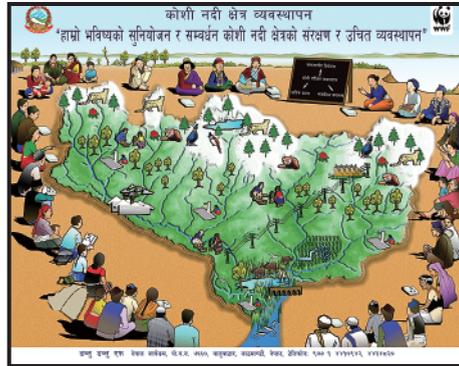
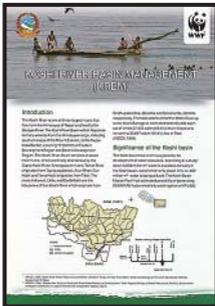
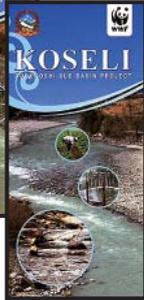
WAY FORWARD

- Conduct optimization of Koshi basin/sub basins
- Showcase Indrawati as a model for field implementation of IWRM
- Establish River Basin Organization - Koshi
- Strengthen KRBM Cell, sub basin offices and IRMCs
- Document successes and lessons learnt for future reference



"Integrated Water Resources Management is a strong tool for freshwater adaptation to address the conservation concerns while at the same time ensuring wise-use of water resources for the benefit of human populations," - Mr. Jon Miceler, Managing Director -Eastern Himalayas, WWF US.

KRBM Awareness Materials





WWF is the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organization, with almost 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 90 countries.

WWF's Mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:

- Conserving the world's biological diversity;
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; and
- Reducing pollution and wasteful consumption

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