

Climate Action – Dhankuta, Nepal

Watershed Management Plan in Dhankuta

Introduction

Dhankuta Municipality, founded in 1978, is a local government in Nepal's Koshi Province. Encompassing 110 square kilometers, it serves a population of 46,440 residents. In response to the increasing water scarcity caused by climate change and human activities, the municipality has spearheaded the Nibuwa Tankhuwa Watershed Management Plan.

About the Watershed Management Plan:

The watershed management plan has a comprehensive set of objectives. In the short term, it focuses on identifying environmental, socioeconomic, and gender issues within the Nibuwa-Tankhuwa Watershed. It proposes mitigation measures, aims to develop a mechanism for integrated watershed management, and strives to leverage resources. In the long term, the plan aspires to ensure a regular supply and proper use of water, adopt a collaborative approach to sustainable watershed management, and establish good governance mechanisms.



Project implementation

Project implementation is a collaborative effort involving Dhankuta Municipality, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), META META, FUTURE WATER, donor agencies, local NGOs, and the community. Initiatives include the installation of recharge ponds, demonstration sites, plantation efforts, and check dams. The plan also promotes alternative livelihoods and integrates principles of meaningful gender participation and equitable benefits.



Management

To ensure effective plan management, steering and task force committees have been established, facilitating policy formulation and coordination at the local level. This structured approach enhances transparency and accountability throughout the management process.



Learnings and scalability

The plan incorporates a learning component, fostering continuous improvement through feedback and adaptation. Capacity-building initiatives for locals and stakeholders contribute to adaptive management. The success of the initiative positions it as a scalable model, promoting best practices in watershed management for other municipalities facing similar challenges.

Expected Impact

Anticipated outcomes involve significant improvements in water quantity and quality within the Nibuwa-Tankhuwa Watershed. The plan is designed to contribute to better conservation and management of natural resources, ultimately enhancing the local livelihoods of women and men in the community.



Challenges Addressed

The plan proactively addresses challenges related to water scarcity, climate change, and socio-economic factors. By integrating various elements, including hydrogeology, institution-building, and collaboration with stakeholders, the plan stands out for its comprehensive approach. It acknowledges and tackles challenges such as drying springs, unpredictable flow regimes, and vulnerabilities in the Himalayan region.

In summary, the Nibuwa Tankhuwa Watershed Management Plan in Dhankuta Municipality serves as a best practice example, demonstrating effective local governance, collaboration, innovation, and adaptability to address critical water-related challenges. The success of this initiative not only benefits the immediate community but also sets a benchmark for sustainable watershed management in similar geographical contexts.