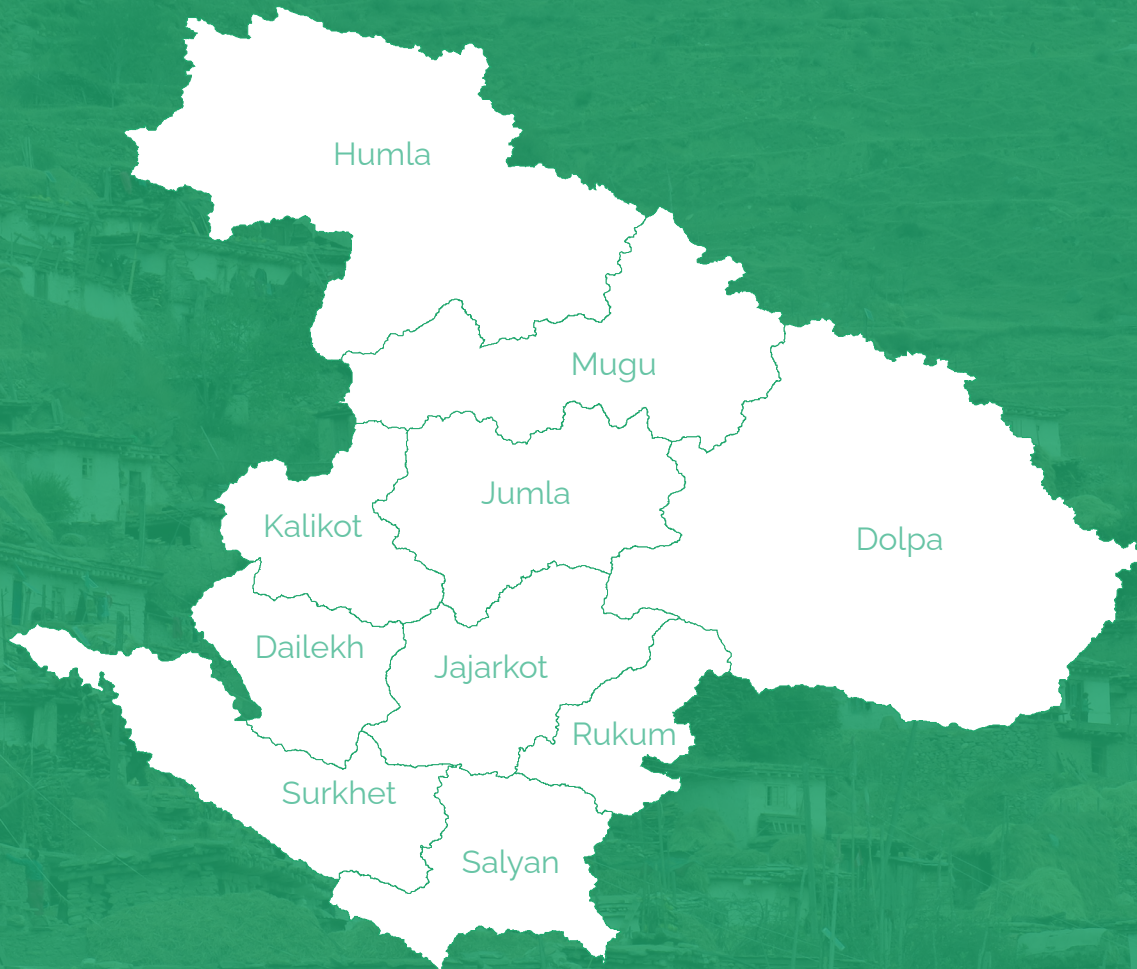




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Assessment *of* Environmental and Climatic Concerns

June 2023

KARNALI PROVINCE

Nepali Yuwa in Climate Action and Green Growth

Funded by:

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Consortium Lead: Youth Innovation Lab



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Data possesses immense significance across various domains and endeavors due to its capacity to offer insights, aid in decision-making, and propel innovation. When combined with open data contributed by community members, it further facilitates the identification of core issues and timely solutions. Embracing data availability as a potent tool for comprehending climatic concerns and societal needs, the Nepali Yuwa in Climate Action and Green Growth Project employs Data-driven Advocacy-TagMe Campaign. This approach uses data generated by youth to promptly identify critical climatic issues and advocate for policy changes.

Promoting digital advocacy as an effective strategy to enhance transparency, the initiative previously highlighted solid waste management concerns in Janakpur, Madhesh Province in 2022. This year, the advocacy efforts will extend to Karnali Province, followed by Sudurpashchim Province in 2024.

In the process of identifying environmental and climatic challenges in Karnali Province, remote consultations with stakeholders were held, guided by the following criteria:

- Evaluation of the environmental context
- Assessment of the affected population
- Determination of priority needs for those affected
- Review of environmental issues from the preceding year
- Examination of governmental actions

Engaging various stakeholders shed light on diverse environmental issues like landslides, floods, forest fires, animal attacks, weather fluctuations, wind/storm events, and plastic

pollution. Among these, landslides emerged as a particularly impactful concern. Over the last five years, 200 landslide incidents have occurred, leading to 117 fatalities, destruction of 706 structures, loss of 319 livestock, injuries to 99 individuals, and 30 people missing.

The region's geographical attributes render Karnali Province prone to landslides. Moreover, existing government efforts, primarily centered on awareness campaigns and information dissemination, fall short in effectively addressing the gravity of the landslide challenge.

In response, a targeted campaign dedicated to landslides becomes imperative, thereby holding the provincial government accountable for addressing this pressing concern. To ensure sustainability and local engagement, the plan includes the involvement of youth from Karnali through the TagMe digital advocacy platform. Additionally, TagMe Campaign strives to engage local youth and professionals via crowdsourcing, empowering them with technology to gather landslide evidence for impactful policy advocacy.

During the outreach phase, these advocates will interact with local youth and community members, providing orientation and collecting landslide-related data using the TagMe app. The data collected will encompass various dimensions, such as historical and current landslide zones, areas prone to susceptibility, underlying triggers, risk factors, water conditions, proximity to vital infrastructure, mitigation strategies, human settlement presence, and nearby landslide incidents.

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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM

BIPAD: Building Information Platform Against Disaster

CBS: Central Bureau of Statistics

COVID: Corona Virus Disease

CREASION: Center for Research and Sustainable Development

CDMS: Center for Disaster Management Studies

DDA: Data Driven Advocacy

DNPWC: Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation

DRR: Disaster Risk Reduction

DRRM: Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

GESI: Gender Equality Social Inclusion

EU: European Union

GLOF: Glacier Lake Outburst Flood

GoN: Government of Nepal

GLOF: Glacier Lake Outburst Flood

HDI: Human Development Index

KII: Key Informant Interview

MoHA: Ministry of Home Affairs

NPC: National Planning Commission

NYCAGG: Nepali Yuwa in Climate Action and Green Growth

PAs: Protected Areas

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

YI-Lab: Youth Innovation Lab

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Intro

Nepali Yuwa in Climate Action and Green Growth (NYCAGG) project is funded by the European Union to promote the involvement of young Nepali people in green growth, environmental protection, and combatting climate change. NYCAGG is a four year-long project that will be implemented in Madhesh Province, Karnali Province, and Sudurpaschim Province through the consortium lead Youth Innovation Lab (YI-LAB), and partners Restless Development, Center for Research and Sustainable Development (CREASION), and Center for Disaster Management Studies (CDMS). NYCAGG started its implementation in Madhesh Province in 2022 and is currently ongoing in Karnali Province.

NYCAGG promotes Nepali youth inclusion in climate action and green economy in the post-COVID recovery of Nepal through their engagement in disaster and climate governance, entrepreneurship, and advocacy. It focuses on working with young people

and empowering and providing them a platform to aid towards the post-COVID recovery and development process. Furthermore, the activities under Climate Fellowship, Climate Smart Entrepreneurship, Mentee-mentorship, Digital Advocacy, and Youth Sounding Board work towards empowering young people, providing them employment opportunities, generating innovative ideas to address climate and environmental issues, and advocating for policy changes to promote environmental protection.

NYCAGG envisions increased participation of Nepali youth in governance, entrepreneurship, and advocacy for climate action through the intervention. The proposed activities of the project fall under five themes which work towards empowering youth, providing them employment opportunities, generating innovative ideas to address climate and environmental issues, and advocating for policy changes to promote environmental protection.

1.2 Project Outputs

The outputs of the project include the following:

- **Output 1:** Opportunities created for embedding youth to gain professional experience in provincial and local governments of Madhesh, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim provinces on DRR and CCA
- **Output 2:** Strengthened capacities of Nepali youth on DRR, CCA, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Madhesh, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim provinces
- **Output 3:** Increased awareness and capacities of provincial and municipal elected representatives and government officials on DRRM and CCA
- **Output 4:** Upgraded and updated DRR and CC-related plans at the municipal level and integrated DRR and CC related datasets into Building Information Platform Against Disaster (BIPAD) Portal
- **Output 5:** Opportunities created by the intervention for youth entrepreneurship, employment, and mentorship in the market of green economy and climate resilience
- **Output 6:** Strengthened capacities of Nepali Youth for data-driven advocacy and policy dialogue on climate change and environment

1.3 About TagMe: Data-driven Advocacy

Data and its availability are a powerful medium to identify the extent of society's needs, problems, and solutions. Open data that is fed by people living in the community further creates opportunities to identify the crux of the issues and address them on time. And the efficient way to make data open is to digitize them. TagMe is a digital advocacy campaign to collect evidence of environmental and climatic issues to advocate for policy change. This assessment is being carried out to identify the major environmental and climatic issues of Karnali province that could be advocated by TagMe Campaign for policy change.

Digital Advocacy will be carried out using a tried-

and-tested, circular, six-pronged approach: 1) Awareness – of a challenge being faced by society and individuals that includes reaching out to youth and sensitizing on the waste management issues, 2) Collecting Evidence – collecting data of the environment concerns to communicate the extend of concern to relevant stakeholders, 3) Incentives - for individuals or institutions to change their practices, 4) Take Action –to address the concern, 5) Policy Dialogue –communicating the collected evidences to policymakers to initiate policy dialogue, and 6) Legislation –use the evidence for policy change and hold stakeholders accountable to commitments made to changing legislation and implementing it.



Six-pronged Implementation Strategy of Digital Advocacy

1.4 Objective of this report

The key objective of this report is to identify the major climatic and environmental concerns of Karnali Province that could be addressed via digital advocacy.

1.5 Methodology

The following methods were used to identify the climatic and environmental concerns that could be addressed via Digital Advocacy Campaign.

- a. Review of journals and publications of environmental and climatic concerns of Karnali Province.
- b. Key Informant Interview (KII) with concerned stakeholders of Karnali Province.
- c. Examine the findings from baseline survey carried out with the project municipalities.

Furthermore, to identify the concern to address via digital advocacy, it should be measurable and could be geo-tagged.

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Karnali Province

Karnali Province is one of the seven provinces of Nepal, located in the western part of the country. It was formed after the adoption of the new constitution of Nepal in 2015 and is named after the Karnali River, which flows through the province. It is the largest province of Nepal with an area of 30,213 sq. KM, represents 21.6% of the total land area of the country but has the least population (1,688,412) and least population density (55.88 per sq. KM) in the country¹. The majority of the people in the province are engaged in agriculture and livestock farming as a mainstay occupation. Subsistence agriculture is common in Surkhet, Dailekh and Jajarkot (CBS 2012). According to the Human Development Report, the human development index (HDI) of Karnali province is low at 0.469, far below the national average (0.490) (UNDP, 2019)².

About 38% of the province's land is covered by forest, including 12.8% grazing land and 3.2% bushland, making the total area 41%. The province shares borders with Lumbini Province and Gandaki Province in the south, China in the north, Sudurpaschim in the west and Lumbini Province, and Gandaki Province

in the east. Geographically, the province is divided into four main regions: the high Himalayan Region, Mahabharat Region, Mid Mountains, valleys, and Chure in the south. Administratively, the province is divided into 10 districts. The province has a total of 79 local governments, comprising 25 municipalities and 54 rural municipalities, with a total of 718 wards. The province is dominated by rugged hills and mountains, with only 6% of the land area (165,910ha) being used for agriculture, which accounts for approximately 3.3% of agricultural land in Nepal³.

The province is surrounded by the Karnali and Bheri river basins that flow west and east, respectively, and encompass fertile agro-ecological systems from the Himalayas, through the mid-hill and Surkhet Valley, to the Siwalik Hills in the southernmost part. The annual temperature ranges from -10°C (November–January) to 30°C (May–July), and annual rainfall ranges from 600 to 850 mm⁴. Despite its natural and cultural richness, Karnali Province faces several challenges, including poverty, lack of infrastructure, and limited access to education and healthcare.

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1. CBS, “National Census 2078 Preliminary Results” (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2021).
 2. http://moitfe.karnali.gov.np/sites/moitfe/files/2020-12/Karnali%20Province%202020_13%20oct%202020_0.pdf
 3. Feasibility study report (2022). Feasibility study of climate resilient livelihoods for vulnerable and marginalized communities for Dailekh and Surkhet Districts of Karnali Province.
 4. The Government of Nepal (GoN), (2015). Review paper on Agrometeorological Service in Nepal. Ministry of Agricultural Development, PPCR/BRCH/AMIS, Project Management Unit (PMU).

2.2 Karnali Biodiversity

Biodiversity conservation and management in Karnali province has been carried out through formal and informal institutions at multiple levels. Formal institutions include the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) which foresees the management of protected areas (PAs). Department of Forest and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) has a shared responsibility to protect and manage forests outside of PAs. The Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Karnali Provincial Government develops policies and executes conservation programs through Divisional Forest Offices. There are several cultural and religious practices that have directly/indirectly

contributed to the conservation of landscapes⁵.

There are 4483 community forests, 861 leasehold forests, 10 religious forests and one protected forest in Karnali province. The community forest is a part of government forests, where day-to-day management rests with forest-user communities. This enables communities to make better use of knowledge and needs to promote more efficient, equitable, and sustainable multifunctional landscapes. Kankri Bihar Protected Forest, an archeological site and adjoining areas covering an area of 175.5 hectares, is the only protected forest located in Karnali province and the first one in Nepal.⁶

5. http://moitfe.karnali.gov.np/sites/moitfe/files/2020-12/Karnali%20Province%202020_13%20oct%202020_0.pdf

6. http://moitfe.karnali.gov.np/sites/moitfe/files/2020-12/Karnali%20Province%202020_13%20oct%202020_0.pdf

2.3 Natural Hazard

According to the Vulnerability and Risk Assessment report 2021⁷, Karnali Province is much more vulnerable to the impact of climate change than the other provinces because of its high sensitivity and low adaptive capacity. Furthermore, Karnali Province is exposed to a range of natural geo-climatic hazards including floods, earthquakes, droughts, Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), snowstorms, cold waves and heatwaves, forest fires, and landslides. The southern lowlands are prone to disasters, such as floods and droughts, and the northern highlands experience landslides and flash floods. Among the 10 districts, Kalikot district is one of the landslide-hazardous districts of the Mid-Western Region. Frequent landslide disasters and land subsidence are common in the district. The disaster risk profile is driven by the interaction of high hazard levels with socio-economic, infrastructure, environmental vulnerabilities, as well as human and climate-induced stressors, such as over-exploitation of natural resources. Food insecurity is a chronic stress in the province. Remoteness compounds the vulnerability of people in the province in several districts, in the mountain and high Himalayas areas. Development planning should consider these risks, and ensure interventions are designed to withstand different shocks and stressors.

In 2022 October, Karnali province was hit hardest by the disaster. The unseasonal heavy rainfall damaged 480 houses while 2,889 families were displaced in various districts of Karnali, including 1,113 in Jumla, 700 in Mugu, 511 in Dailekh, 344 in Kalikot, 155 in Humla, 45 in Surkhet, 11 in Rukum and 10 in Jajarkot. At least 35 people have died, and 20 others were missed after flood and landslides. More than 90 landslides had descended on the Surkhet-Jumla section of Karnali Highway, the lifeline of Karnali Province. 73 landslides occurred in the Kalikot stretch of the highway⁸.

Likewise, if we looked at the past, the Karnali River flooded repeatedly beyond known thresholds in 2014, 2015 and 2017. Floods were reported at their largest in 2015 in what was a one-in-450- year flood.³⁷ According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) about 40,000 families were affected with economic loss more than USD 163 million. Flooding in the rapidly urbanizing city of Birendranagar in Surkhet, Nepal has been intensifying, culminating in massive loss of life and property during July and August 2014⁹.

7. MoFE. (2021). Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and Identifying Adaptation Options in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector in Nepal. Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal. Kathmandu, Nepal.

8. <https://kathmandupost.com/karnali-province/2022/10/13/35-dead-20-missing-in-karnali-floods-and-landslides>

9. https://kppc.karnali.gov.np/noticefile/PPC_Nepal_Regional_Report_Karnali_Province-Final_copy_1616311073.pdf

2.4 Legal Framework for CCA and Disaster

The following is the legal framework that governs the protection of the environment and makes local, provincial, and federal governments responsible for disaster risk reduction and management.

1. The constitution of Nepal 2015, under the Protection of environment: Policy regarding the conservation, management and use of natural resources has mentioned:
 - Making proper utilization of land through proper regulation and management on the basis of productivity of land, its nature, and also by maintaining environmental balance.
 - The State shall pursue a policy of making a sustainable use of biodiversity through the conservation and management of forests, fauna and flora, and by minimizing the negative impacts of industrialization and physical development by promoting public awareness on environmental cleanliness and protection.
 - The State shall pursue a policy of keeping necessary landmass as forest area to strike an environmental balance.
 - The State shall pursue a policy of adopting appropriate ways of minimizing or stopping negative effects on environment if it is there, or if there is a possibility of such an impact on nature, environment, or biodiversity.
 - The State shall formulate and pursue a policy of designing a pre-warning system, disaster preparedness, rescue, relief works and rehabilitation to minimize the risks of natural disasters.
2. The DRRM Act 2017 has outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Provincial Disaster Management Committee and Provincial Disaster Management Executive Committee. The role and responsibilities of the Provincial Disaster Management Executive Committee chaired by the Interior Minister for disaster management are to lay down the provincial level medium-term and short-term policies, plans, and programs subject to the national policy and plan as laid down by the Council and implement them. They are also to facilitate and coordinate the disaster preparedness activities of the local disaster management committees and concerned agencies for their effectiveness; and coordinate and collaborate with the federal, provincial, and local levels including other stakeholders to make search, rescue, and relief operations more effective.
3. Karnali Province Environment Protection Act 2076 (2019) is the legal framework that guides environmental protection and management in Karnali Province. The act outlines the roles and responsibilities of government agencies and stakeholders in ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the province.
4. Karnali Province Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan: This outlines the strategies and programs to address the impacts of climate change in the province. The plan includes measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy, and enhance the resilience of local communities to climate-related disasters.

FINDINGS

3.1 Findings from the literature review

The geographic, geo-climatic conditions and natural resources of Karnali Province endow the province with an attractive natural landscape and a variety of ecosystem services, although these features may also represent a challenge. The province is exposed to natural hazards. In addition, the human environment degradation activities also

contribute to nature hazards. In the past, landslides have badly impacted Karnali Province losing the massive human settlement and infrastructure. The government has initiated initiatives and activities like community forests and has endorsed the act and plan on climate.

3.2 Findings from the primary research

For this assessment, five KII were carried out. This includes an interview with a representative from 1. Bhairabi Municipality, Dailekh 2. Youth Sounding Board 2022 member, Dailekh 3. Mercy Corps 4. Chaukune Rural Municipality, Surkhet

5. Narharinaath Rural Municipality, Kalikot. The interview was carried out with the DRR focal, local youth and DRR expert. They were interviewed to identify the environmental concerns of Karnali Province. (Find more details in Annex 1).

Highlighted in interviews.

- In the name of development and road construction, the environment has been destroyed resulting in landslides and floods. Last year, the municipality experienced landslides effected 500-600 productive land in barren
- Ganesh Prasad Rijal, DRR Focal Person, Bhairabi Municipality, Dailekh
- Last year in Dailekh, Kaalika ward, Naumulya Rural Municipality faced huge landslides. As a part of the response, the Government shifted the affected community into a safe zone but unfortunately, the victim communities and families returned to their own place despite the risk. They didn't stay longer in the place that the government chose for them. The one

and only reason was their regular bread and butter. The government failed to respond to generating their livelihood option. Therefore, they decided to return to their own village despite the life-threatening risk

- Lokesh Giri, Youth Sounding Board 2022 member, Dailekh

- Landslides are a big hazard in Karnali Province. The disaster preparedness plan has identified landslides as the first alarming environmental hazard in Karnali province. After 2015's earthquake, the Karnali province has faced numerous landslides. Most affected during the monsoon season
- Dambar Bahadur Bohara, Senior DRR Manager, Mercy Corps

In summary, interviews with key individuals shed light on the prominent environmental issues in Karnali Province. The conversations revealed recurring challenges, including landslides, floods, deforestation, and pollution. These issues are exacerbated by human activities like road construction and pesticide usage, leading to severe consequences for the environment and human lives. Notably, the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake has seen a rise in landslides during the monsoon season. Although efforts such as relief distribution and community awareness programs are being undertaken, there is a call for more comprehensive policies and initiatives to tackle these pressing environmental concerns effectively.

3.3 Assessing the environmental and climatic concerns for TagMe: Data-driven Advocacy

The following are the environmental and climatic concerns identified by Madhesh Province based on primary and secondary research.

S.N.	Environmental and Climatic concerns	Remarks
1	Animal Attack	Mentioned by a few municipalities during the baseline survey.
2	Deforestation	Mentioned by the majority of the municipalities during the baseline survey.
3	Fire	Mentioned by the majority of the municipalities during the baseline survey.
4	Flood	Mentioned by the majority of the municipalities during the baseline survey.
5	Hailstorm	Mentioned by a few municipalities during the baseline survey.
6	Landslide	Mentioned by the majority of the municipalities during the baseline survey.
7	Loss of biodiversity	Mentioned by the majority of the municipalities during the baseline survey.
8	Pollution	Mentioned by a few municipalities during the baseline survey.
9	Road Accident	Mentioned by a few municipalities during the baseline survey.
10	Snowfall	Mentioned by a few municipalities during the baseline survey.
11	Thunder	Mentioned by the majority of the municipalities during the baseline survey.
12	Waste management	Mentioned by the majority of the municipalities during the baseline survey.

Amongst the issues identified above, landslide, road accident, and waste management could be geo-tagged. From the primary and secondary research, landslides have been frequently reported as the major environmental concern currently faced by Karnali Province. Therefore, Landslides mapping will be the topic for TagMe Campaign.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Annually, Nepal faces the devastating impact of flooding, landslides, and other water-induced disasters, particularly during the monsoon season. These calamities predominantly affect land, livestock, and human lives, and are often linked to climatic changes. The monsoon also heightens the risk of epidemics, posing a significant threat to the Karnali population. Even in the dry season, Karnali Province is not immune to risks, with the potential for fires.

Among these challenges, landslides stand out as major disruptors of lives in Karnali, underscoring the pressing need for advocacy efforts in the region. Data-driven digital advocacy emerges as a vital tool, amplifying local voices and disseminating

evidence-backed by data to influence policies and plans. This approach empowers duty bearers with contextualized strategies and provides communities with transparent access to information, fostering local engagement.

In line with the NYCAGG project, Data-driven Advocacy will involve ten local youths selected through networking and open calls across Karnali Province. Leveraging the TagMe app's gamified approach, these individuals will gather evidence of landslides, including type, mitigation measures, risk factors, and human settlements. The collected data will be presented to the provincial government through policy dialogues, enhancing accountability and urging action on identified issues.

ANNEX

1. People Interviewed

S.N.	Full Name	Affiliation
1	Ganesh Prasad Rijal	DRR Focal Person, Bhairabi Municipality, Dailekh
2	Padam Raj Sharma	DRR Focal Person, Chaukune Rural Municipality, Surkhet
3	Rajendra Shahi	DRR Focal person, Narharinaath Rural Municipality, Kalikot
4	Lokesh Giri,	Youth Sounding Board 2022 member, Dailekh
5	Dambar Bahadur Bohara	Senior DRR Manager, Mercy Corps
6	Pramod Subedi	Natural Resource Manager, Mercy Corps

2. Interview notes

S.N.	Interviewed with	Key highlight of the discussion
1.	Mr. Ganesh Prasad Rijal, DRR Focal Person, Bhairabi Municipality, Dailekh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landslides, floods, storms, lightning, air pollution, weather fluctuation, and hail are the key environmental issues. The productive lands are degrading day by day. Other issues are the animal attacks i.e., monkeys, and porcupines (dumsi) have been destroying the productive land which has resulted the frustration among farmers. • Last year the landslides/flood destroyed 500-600 ropani land resulting the land to be barren. Human activities like road construction are also one of the reasons for destruction. Everyone has been affected. • Regarding the policies/act, paalika has drafted "Jalbaayu Uthanshil Yojana", "Relief distribution standard", Disaster Management Fund.
2.	Mr. Lokesh Giri, Youth Sounding Board 2022 member, Dailekh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic, forest fire, landslides, flood has been a major environmental issue in Karnali province. People have no awareness of environmental hazards. Last year in Dailekh, Kaalika ward, Naumulya Rural Municipality faced huge landslides. In the initiation of government, the affected communities were shifted to other safe places but unfortunately, the communities returned back to their own place despite being a risk zone. The key reason was they were not provided with a livelihood option. • Natural hazards like landslides and floods have damaged roads affecting transportation which has led to the loss of human lives too. • Local youth groups have been doing community awareness programs on the environment, coordinating with local government for community action, using social media to the issues, and reached intellectual people. • Plastic problems have been a major issue in Birendranagar, Chinchhu municipality and in Dailekh. • Government should bring the concept of "Ekakrit Basti Bikash". In Dailekh, there is one house on one hill. If the government provides housing to needy families in the same locality, then the development is possible. Access to school, transportation will be easier.

3.	<p>a. Mr. Dambar Bahadur Bohara, Senior DRR Manager, Mercy Corps</p> <p>b. Mr. Pramod Subedi, Natural Resource Manager, Mercy Corps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landslides are a big hazard in Karnali Province. The disaster preparedness plan has identified landslides as the first alarming environmental hazard in Karnali province. Surkhet has observed flooding as a major environmental issue. • After the 2015 earthquake, the Karnali province has faced numerous landslides. Mostly affected during the monsoon season. Regarding the action, other districts have no major activities. • The dozor activities i.e., road construction drives this kind of environmental hazard. • Forest fire is another key environmental hazard affecting biodiversity. • People in Karnali are also not aware of air pollution and noise pollution. It should be controlled from now on. Only the area covered by the National Park is controlled. • Last year in October 46 people died which is a major loss in last 5-6 years. • At the provincial level the policies related to DRR are in implementation phase. • Mercy Corps has been working in 19 paalikas from Mugu, Kaalikot, Surkhet, Dailekh and Jumla. There are already trained youth on DRR. Each paalika has 40 trained youth. Therefore, in the coming digital campaign they can be engaged.
4.	Mr. Padam Raj Sharma, DRR Focal Person, Chaukune Rural Municipality, Surkhet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the weather, deforestation, landslides, and floods have been major environmental issues in Surkhet which have degraded the quality of soil for agriculture and also resulting in health issues. • People are using pesticides that have been affecting the environment. • The paalika has no specific program on environment and climate action. But has been participating in the programs invited by stakeholders. • A few programmes like awareness, community forest, radio program, jingles are being conducted. • The Chaukune rural municipality is located near the river. In last year during the month of Bhadra and Ashwin, the paalika was badly hit by landslides. The organization named Bhakari distributed relief material. • The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law provided relief distribution packages to all paalikas after the disaster.
5.	Mr. Rajendra Shahi, DRR Focal person, Narharinaath Rural Municipality, Kaalikot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the weather, landslides, and wind/storms have been major environmental issues. • 2077 landslides had badly hit the paalika. 2-3 people died, and many houses were damaged. 28 houses were reconstructed. Besides, it has affected daily lives i.e., schools, office operations, transportation, etc. • Heavy rainfall and forest fire occurs during the month of Jestha – Ashwin and sometimes in Mangshir/Poush too. • The palika has no plan, police or program on environmental issues. • The institutions like Red Cross and provincial government have supported in relief distribution and house construction. • The palika is located in one of the risk areas of landslides.



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