



Peri-urban Water Security

Conflict and Cooperation over Natural Resources in Developing Countries (CoCOON)

Conflict and Cooperation in the Management of Climate Change (CCMCC)

Newsletter

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About the project

The dual impacts of climate change and urbanization on water security in South Asia are escalating. Their combined effects are increasingly being felt in peri-urban areas, which tend to bear the burden of intensifying water and land pressures associated with urbanization. These processes of climate change and urbanization are raising concerns related to water & land security, with inequitable distribution of scarce natural resources between urban and peri-urban areas.

A consortium of north-south institutions brings together experience, skills and know-how in research, capacity-building and knowledge generation in its project 'Climate Policy, Conflicts and Cooperation in Peri-Urban South Asia: Towards Resilient and Water Secure Communities'. This collaborative endeavour, spanning four years (2014-2018) and four cities (Khulna in Bangladesh, Kathmandu in Nepal, and Gurgaon and Hyderabad in India), seeks to fill two major knowledge gaps.

- a) How urbanization and climate change interact in inducing water insecurity in specific settings, creating potential for conflict or even cooperation?
- b) How current water, climate change and other relevant policies influence the potential for water-related cooperation and conflict?

The research project aims to improve mutual learning, strengthen institutional and community capacities to optimally manage water security and bolster resilience. It also endeavours to support and empower communities to effectively use, manage and govern their water resource against a backdrop of water insecurity caused by climate change and urbanization.



Peri-urban village in Hyderabad study site

Objectives

The project aims to produce and share innovative knowledge on peri-urban water security in South Asia, with the twin objective, to influence climate change policies and enhance the resilience of peri-urban communities through improved cooperation and decreased conflicts around peri-urban water security. The project would create opportunities for improved livelihoods for the poor and marginalised, women and ethnic groups, and to craft climate smart strategies and actions at the local, national and regional levels. With this aim, the project has designed three key objectives:

a) Knowledge, Research and Innovation: The project evaluates and compares the changing insecurities, vulnerabilities, incidences of conflict, and options for cooperation associated with climate change and urbanization as experienced in the peri-urban areas of the selected cities. Building on this, it will assess the effects of water, climate and other relevant policies on resource-related conflict and cooperation in peri-urban water resources.

b) Development: The project promotes collaborative efforts between scientists, policy-makers, NGOs, private enterprises and local stakeholders. The project will foster community resilience and help devise pathways for increasing water security through equitable and sustainable institutional transformations. This will hopefully yield new frameworks and tools for generating an understanding on conflict and cooperation, sensitizing public opinion and creating an appropriate policy mix to reduce risk-exposure.

c) Capacity Building: The project engages in 'south-south' and 'north-south' capacity-building of the consortium partners, of the stakeholders involved in peri-urban water security issues, and of the academic world. It aims to build the critical development capacity of communities by providing them platforms for dialogue with service providers to improve service delivery and to better articulate their rights to water and other utilities; besides enhancing their livelihood skills to increase adaptive capacity.



Project updates 2014-15

Following are the activities completed in the year 2014-15 in the four study sites:

Research

Bangladesh	India	Nepal
1. Extensive field visits are completed in Khulna to identify the issues relating to industrial/ agriculture water use, water logging, salinity in drinking water, and climate based migration in periurban areas.	1. Extensive field visits were made in Hyderabad and Gurgaon to identify the study sites.	1. Site selection in Kathmandu valley is completed, Hanumante Basin is the study site for the in-depth analysis to understand and explain interlinkages between elements of conflict and cooperation in regards to water security
2. Collection of secondary data to map the peri-urban areas is completed.	2. Using the secondary data collected, 16 criteria were used to identify the 4 periurban study sites in Hyderabad. Identification of study sites in Gurgaon is also complete. Research in Gurgaon is exploring the dynamics of conflicts and cooperation over water across three canals.	2. Draft literature review for the study is initiated (WIP)
3. Identification and selection of the two study villages is completed.	3. Questionnaire/Checklist was finalized discussing with the project coordination team that served as a guidance tool for interaction with various community members	3. Questionnaire/Checklist was finalized discussing with the project coordination team that served as a guidance tool for interaction with various community members and other stakeholders encountered

Capacity Building

Bangladesh	India	Nepal
1. Group discussions completed at the study sites, to engage local communities in prioritising the issues at village level.	1. SaciWATERS organized farmers training on the theme "Sustainable Agricultural practices and Rainwater Harvesting Techniques" in Peddapur Village.	Capacity Building activities were halted due to the earthquake.
2. Two community based meetings were organized to prepare communities to discuss the issues with the local authorities.	2. A background paper 'Periurban water security, conflicts and cooperation: a review of the concepts and literature (Vishal Narain and Sumit Vij)' was prepared as part of the curriculum development activity of the project. The note is to be included in the course on <i>Water Security and Conflict Management</i> at TERI University, New Delhi.	

Advocacy & Knowledge Sharing

Bangladesh	India	Nepal
1. Group discussions completed at the study sites, to engage local stakeholders in prioritising the issues.	1. SaciWATERS has collaborated with Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) for spreading awareness among students at the school and college level about rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge techniques.	1. A consultation meeting on water issues in the Kathmandu Valley was organized, with a special focus on conflict and cooperation in peri-urban areas, by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and MetaMeta.
2. Two community based meetings were organized to prepare communities to discuss the issues with the local authorities.	2. A mutli-stakeholder workshop was organised to foster dialogue among them on issues of peri-urban water security, set a base for research uptake by sharing preliminary project findings with stakeholders and build a commitment to action, and to learn and network with other researchers on similar projects.	
3. Newsletter for the year 2013-14 was prepared by the partners.	3. SaciWATERS organised street plays (<i>Kalajatha</i>) to create awareness on climatic variations, negative impacts of industrial pollution, and how to promote sustainable agriculture practices.	
	4. Project website and brochure are prepared by SaciWATERS.	
	5. Clippings are captured for themes such as perceptions on climate change, urbanization, water insecurity, and conflicts & cooperation. A documentary is planned as an activity for the next year.	



Publications

Bangladesh	India	Nepal
1. Work-in-progress	1. A special issue of the South Asian Water Studies (SAWAS) journal on the theme 'Urbanization and periurbanization: challenges for water governance in South Asia'. Guest Editor: Dr. Vishal Narain. Slated for release on March 1 2016.	1. Draft paper on literature review & institutional/actor mapping for peri-urban areas is in progress.
2. Country level scoping study report is completed	2. Report completed of national level workshop on peri-urban water security, conflicts and cooperation in Hyderabad	2. Country level scoping study report is completed
	3. Country level scoping study report is completed	

Consortium Partners



WAGENINGEN UR
For quality of life

Wageningen University is the only university in the Netherlands that specifically focuses on the theme 'healthy food and living environment'. We do so by working closely together with governments and the business community. University's research and education are based on a fundamental scientific approach and accordingly geared toward application in practice. This is achieved through the close collaboration between different fields of expertise including both natural and social sciences. Wageningen University's researchers are active around the globe, and the university hosts students from over 100 countries.

SaciWATERS

SaciWATERS, the South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies, is a policy research institute based in Hyderabad, India. From its inception in 2001, it has focused on critical issues related to water resources management in South Asia. A key endeavor at SaciWATERS has been to enhance the dominant water resources management paradigm in the region with a consideration of all issues using a pro-poor human development approach. The emphasis is on the accumulation of new knowledge through a combination of research, capacity building, and advocacy. Accordingly, it partners with universities and academic institutions from across global north and south to fundamentally reshape water resources knowledge systems in South Asia.



Institute of Water and Flood Management
Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET), Bangladesh

Institute for Water and Flood Management (IWFM) is a premier institute for the advancement of knowledge and development of human resources in water and flood management, under the aegis of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka. The institute pursues research and capacity development in the field of water and flood management that is vital to the country's social and economic development. The

institute also provides advisory and consultancy services to the government and to non-governmental organizations.

JJS **J a g r a t a J a g r a t a J u b a S h a n g h a (JJS)**, is an environmental & social development organization working since 1985 in the South-west region of Bangladesh. JJS has its main base in Khulna but works in several regions of the country. It deals with pro-poor issues and poor occupational groups, vulnerable women, children and various other marginalized groups. Since its inception, JJS has been actively involved in addressing and implementing various strategies that will alleviate poverty. It encourages greater engagement between civil society and other social actor's.

ICIMOD **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas region. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues. It support's regional transboundary programmes through partnership with regional partner institutions, facilitate the exchange of experience, and serve as a regional knowledge hub.



**META
META**

MetaMeta provides research and consultancy services in water governance, and offers specialized communication products geared to the international resource management & development sectors. MetaMeta has also developed innovative new models for managing and monitoring complex programmes.

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