



A community gathers for social and resource mapping; a facilitator talks them through the mapping exercise. (WARM-P)

Water use master plan (Nepal)

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DESCRIPTION

A water use master plan supports the development of integrated water resources at the local level; all stakeholders, including disadvantaged groups, take part in the plan.

Aims / objectives: A water use master plan (WUMP) is a holistic, participatory, and inclusive planning process that takes an integrated approach to the management of water resources and uses at the village level. The WUMP specifies the total water budget for its planning unit, the village development committee (VDC), and explores potential uses for it. It empowers marginalized groups to claim their rights to an equitable share of water within and between communities. The WUMP also helps local bodies with annual and periodic planning and project prioritization.

Methods: The WUMP is a 17-step process that includes social mobilization, the formation of inclusive management committees, capacity building for everyone involved in the process, and, as a final step, social assessment using various participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools. Simultaneously, the technical part of the process evaluates the capacity of all water resources and their potential uses. In a workshop facilitated by NGO staff, the community discusses suggestions formulated by the two participatory assessments, prioritizes possible projects, and formulates plans. The VDC representatives decide which plans can be implemented using their own resources and which need external support. The WUMP then organizes a workshop to present these plans to various organizations in order to get their commitment and support. The prioritized projects are implemented according to the WUMP. The plan also contains a series of long-term activities and during the course of its implementation, there is sufficient latitude to allow the community to rectify its original plans in order to put into practise lessons learned during earlier phases and to continue to review and modify the plan as needed.

LOCATION

Location: 15 districts in the Western, Mid-Western, and Far-Western Development Regions of Nepal, Nepal

Geo-reference of selected sites

- n.a.

Initiation date: n.a.

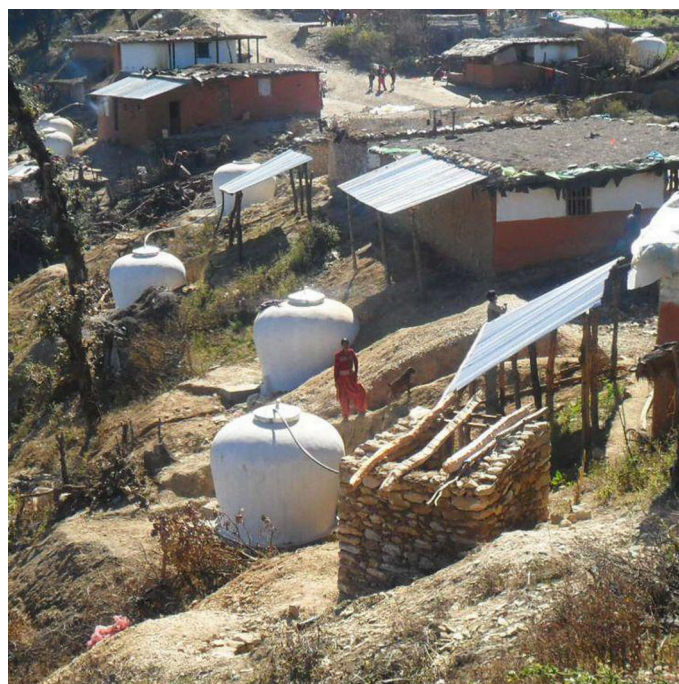
Year of termination: n.a.

Type of Approach

- ☐ traditional/ indigenous
- ☐ recent local initiative/ innovative
- ☒ project/ programme based



A community gathers for social and resource mapping; a facilitator talks them through the mapping exercise. (WARM-P)



Household rainwater harvesting tanks in Dailekh. (WARM-P)

APPROACH AIMS AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Main aims / objectives of the approach

The Approach focused mainly on SLM with other activities (Water conservation, water sources and catchment area)

- Establish inclusive water planning and water resource management at the community level
- Ensure the optimal use of water resources; see that water is equitably and efficiently distributed
- Promote conservation of water and natural resources linked to water; implement water projects based on the plan agreed by the entire community

The SLM Approach addressed the following problems: • Issues on access to water are often contentious, communities often quarrel over water rights

- A lack of coordinated planning at the local level
- A growing demand for water both for domestic and agricultural use
- Water sources are diminishing and the changing climate will further aggravate this

Conditions enabling the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

- **Legal framework (land tenure, land and water use rights):** Ensuring equitable use of water resources is a key feature of the WUMP approach.

Conditions hindering the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

- **Social/ cultural/ religious norms and values:** Communities are reluctant to share water resources and hide the sources of water during planning Treatment through the SLM Approach: Earn everyone's trust through meetings, dialogue, and social mapping that includes all stakeholders including disadvantaged groups.
- **Availability/ access to financial resources and services:** When the WUMP is implemented by the VDC using its own funds it usually takes a long time. Treatment through the SLM Approach: Collaborate and network with resource organizations such as INGOs and donor funded programmes for funding.
- **Institutional setting:** There is no elected body in the VDC and no one takes permanent ownership of the WUMP. Treatment through the SLM Approach: Create an advisory body consisting of representatives from all political parties.
- **Knowledge about SLM, access to technical support:** When the administrative boundaries of a VDC do not coincide with its physical watershed boundaries, it can be difficult to make technical decisions. Treatment through the SLM Approach: Cluster VDCs into groups in the same sub/watershed.
- **Other:** Low awareness of the need for conservation and of the need to use water efficiently Treatment through the SLM Approach: Intensive awareness raising and capacity building programmes

PARTICIPATION AND ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

Stakeholders involved in the Approach and their roles

What stakeholders / implementing bodies were involved in the Approach?	Specify stakeholders	Describe roles of stakeholders
local land users/ local communities	VDC	Equal participation of men and women is encouraged during the social assessment and needs identification phase. During the planning and implementation phases, the participation of women in decision making is ensured through a provision that there be a representation of at least 33% women in the water resource management committees, sub-committees, and users' committees. Disadvantaged groups (Dalit

		and Janajati among others) are requested to participate in numbers proportional to the percentage they represent in the community in all activities and committees.
teachers/ school children/ students		
NGO	HELVETAS	
national government (planners, decision-makers)		

Involvement of local land users/ local communities in the different phases of the Approach

	none	passive	external support	interactive	self-mobilization	
initiation/ motivation				✓		Community meetings, decision taken by the VDC on how to prepare the WUMP
planning				✓		Social and resource mapping, social assessments, technical assessments and planning
implementation					✓	Implementation of the water projects, source protection/conservation
monitoring/ evaluation				✓		Review of the plan, community monitoring during the construction phase, follow-up monitoring during routine operation
Research	✓					

Flow chart

The step-wise WUMP process

VDC = Village development committee

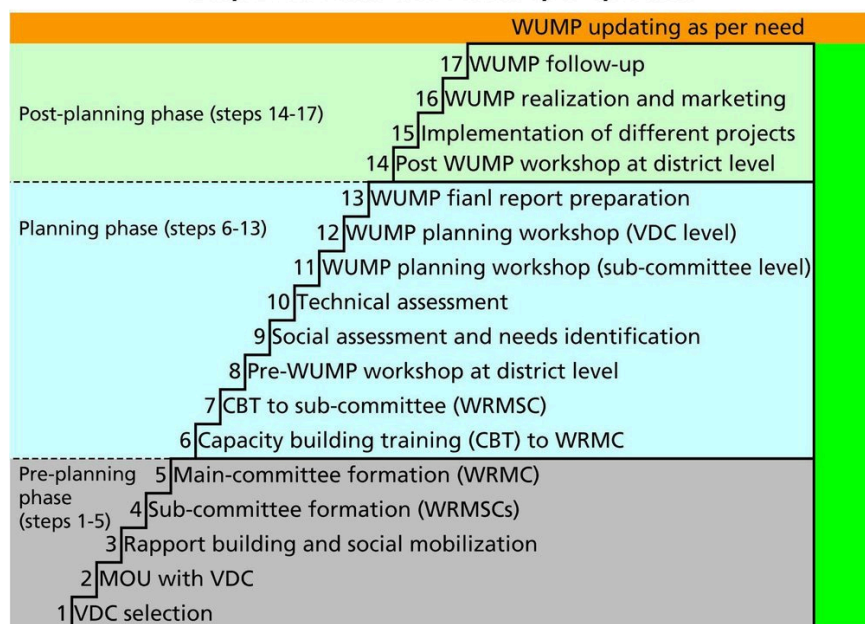
MOU = Memorandum of understanding

WRMC = Water resource management committee

WRMSC = Water resource management sub-committee

WUMP = Water use master plan
(AK Thaku)

Step-wise water use master plan process



Decision-making on the selection of SLM Technology

Decisions were taken by

- ☐ land users alone (self-initiative)
- ☒ mainly land users, supported by SLM specialists
- ☐ all relevant actors, as part of a participatory approach
- ☐ mainly SLM specialists, following consultation with land users
- ☐ SLM specialists alone
- ☐ politicians/ leaders

Decisions were made based on

- ☐ evaluation of well-documented SLM knowledge (evidence-based decision-making)
- ☐ research findings
- ☐ personal experience and opinions (undocumented)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The following activities or services have been part of the approach

- ☒ Capacity building/ training
- ☐ Advisory service
- ☒ Institution strengthening (organizational development)
- ☒ Monitoring and evaluation
- ☐ Research

Capacity building/ training

Training was provided to the following stakeholders

- ☐ land users
☐ field staff/ advisers
☒ Local Community

Form of training

- ☐ on-the-job
☐ farmer-to-farmer
☐ demonstration areas
☐ public meetings
☐ courses

Subjects covered

- Social mobilization and awareness raising orientations, training
- Capacity building and training to WRMC and local service providers

Institution strengthening

Institutions have been strengthened / established

- ☐ no
☐ yes, a little
☐ yes, moderately
☒ yes, greatly

at the following level

- ☒ local
☐ regional
☐ national

Describe institution, roles and responsibilities, members, etc.

Type of support

- ☐ financial
☒ capacity building/ training
☒ equipment

Further details

Support is provided to the VDC for the preparation of the WUMP

Monitoring and evaluation

bio-physical aspects were monitored through measurements; indicators: Follow-up monitoring to check if the water sources are protected, and if the area is conserved by planting technical aspects were monitored through measurements; indicators: Follow-up monitoring to check water sources and number of water projects implemented socio-cultural aspects were monitored through measurements; indicators: Public hearings and audits to ensure transparency and community participation (especially of disadvantaged groups) area treated aspects were monitored through measurements; indicators: Follow-up monitoring of implementation (as shown in the diagram) no. of land users involved aspects were monitored through measurements; indicators: Public review, final commissioning: community contribution and participation (as shown in the diagram) management of Approach aspects were monitored through measurements; indicators: WUMP follow-up: implementation of WUMP (as shown in the diagram) Implementation of WUMP aspects were monitored through measurements; indicators: WUMP follow-up: implementation of WUMP (as shown in the diagram) There were few changes in the Approach as a result of monitoring and evaluation: • All members of the community, even those with water resources on their own land, are willing to share water resources after participating in the WUMP. • Disadvantaged groups participate on an equal footing in management committees and have equal access to water resources. • The community realizes the need to protect water resources and begins to conserve water.

FINANCING AND EXTERNAL MATERIAL SUPPORT

Annual budget in USD for the SLM component

- ☐ < 2,000
☒ 2,000-10,000
☐ 10,000-100,000
☐ 100,000-1,000,000
☐ > 1,000,000

Precise annual budget: n.a.

Approach costs were met by the following donors: national non-government: 75.0%; local community / land user(s): 25.0%

The following services or incentives have been provided to land users

- ☐ Financial/ material support provided to land users
☐ Subsidies for specific inputs
☐ Credit
☐ Other incentives or instruments

IMPACT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Impacts of the Approach

Did the Approach help land users to implement and maintain SLM Technologies?

Water, forests, and land are all interlinked. Proper management of water resources, source protection, and conservation are all part of sustainable land management.

No
 Yes, little
☒ Yes, moderately
 Yes, greatly

Did the Approach empower socially and economically disadvantaged groups?

Disadvantaged groups participate and share benefits on equal terms.

☐ No
☐ Yes, little
☐ Yes, moderately
☒ Yes, greatly

Did other land users / projects adopt the Approach?

This approach has been replicated by the Rural Water Resources Management Project of FINNIDA, the LIVE/EU project, and Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH), a national-level NGO in Nepal. Nepal's Ministry of Local Development, Department of Local Infrastructure and Roads, has expressed an interest in developing WUMPs for all the VDCs in Nepal.

☐ No
☐ Yes, little
☒ Yes, moderately
☐ Yes, greatly

Main motivation of land users to implement SLM

- ☒ Equitable and sustainable access to water resource

Sustainability of Approach activities

Can the land users sustain what has been implemented through the Approach (without external support)?

- ☐ no
☐ yes
☒ uncertain

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

Strengths: land user's view

Strengths: compiler's or other key resource person's view

- Communities appreciate the WUMP approach (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: The Ministry of Local Development has expressed an interest in preparing national guidelines for this process in order to scale it up to all the VDCs in Nepal)
- VDCs own the process both by participating and by contributing to the funding. (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Need to simplify the process and make it more cost effective so that it is easier to replicate.)
- An integrated approach to the use of water resources may help in climate change adaptation. (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Strengthen awareness activities and continue to promote water conservation)
- The WUMP process is inclusive and is managed by the whole community. (How to sustain/ enhance this strength: Continue to strengthen the capacity of disadvantaged groups so that they can participate more actively.)

Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: land user's view how to overcome

Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: compiler's or other key resource person's view how to overcome

- Not all VDCs actively participate in the WUMP. When VDCs contribute funds for the WUMP, they are usually more actively involved.
- Communities can have high expectations for WUMP but their VDCs may have limited resources. The VDCs need to communicate clearly with their community so that they can prepare a realistic plan together.
- Conflicts can arise over the allocation of water resources. The VDC and the management committee must work with the community to see that any contentious issues are resolved equitably.
- At times it can be difficult to get everyone to agree to a given WUMP. The VDC authorities can improve their negotiating skills in order to make their demands heard with donors and district development committees.

REFERENCES

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Date of documentation: Aug. 25, 2015

Last update: Julie 7, 2017

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Full description in the WOCAT database

https://qcat.wocat.net/af/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_2535/

Linked SLM data

n.a.

Documentation was facilitated by

Institution

- HELVETAS (Swiss Intercooperation)
- ICIMOD International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) - Nepal

Project

- n.a.

Key references

- Water use master plan preparation guideline. Lalitpur, Nepal: WARM-P/HELVETAS; Rural Village Water Resource Management Project (2011)
- Proceedings of water use master plan national level experience sharing workshop. Lalitpur, Nepal, HELVETAS (2007):

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