



Hydropower development in Nepal

Water and energy security in South Asia

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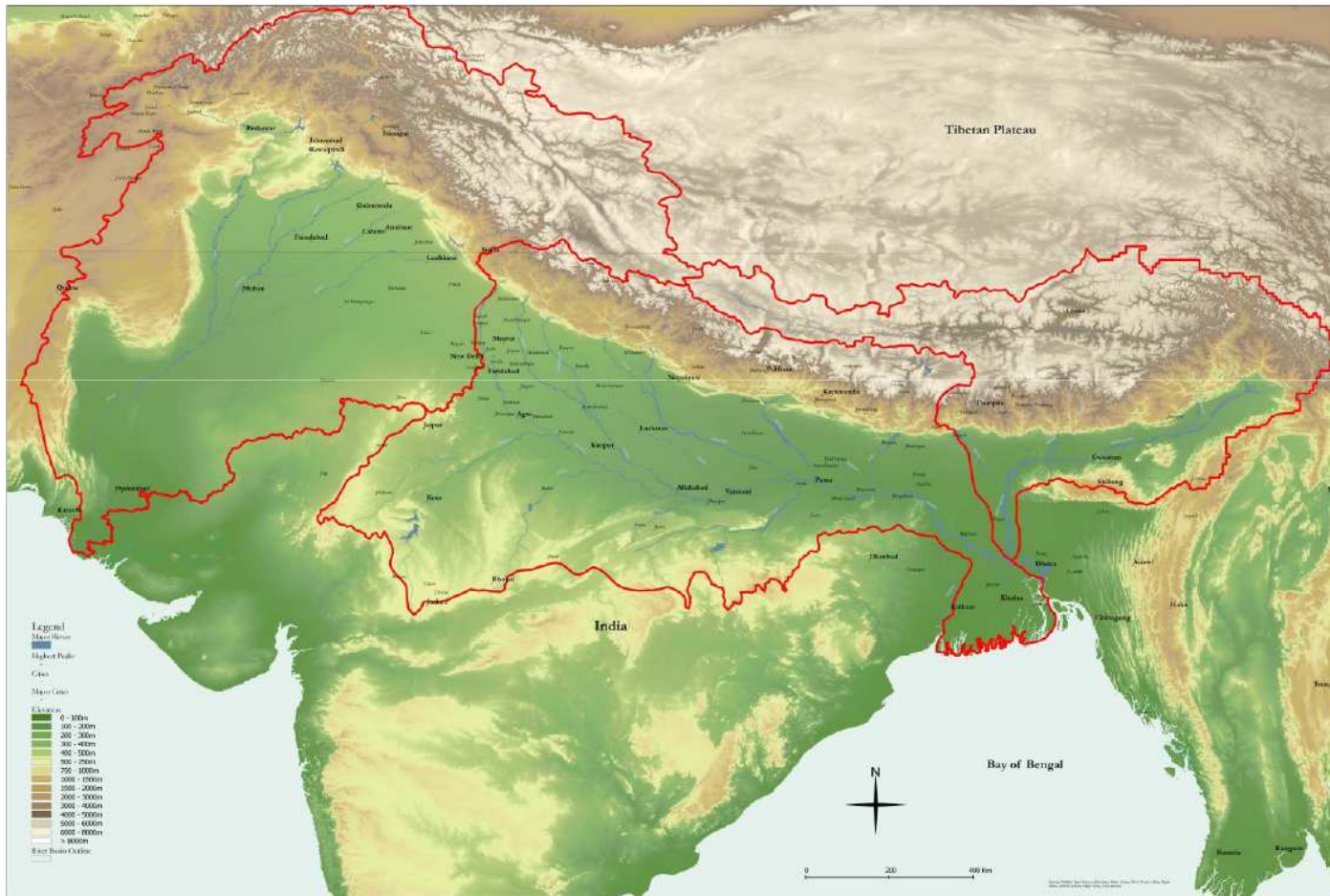
What is the Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP)?

- Seeks to increase water, food and energy security in South Asia to facilitate economic growth and improve livelihoods, targeting the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and girls
- Based on a 12 year design with A\$50m secured for 2012 -16
- Targets 3 sectors where Australia uniquely placed to contribute & that support enabling environment for economic growth and trade:
 1. **Water resource management**
 2. **Agricultural productivity**
 3. **Energy access**



Geographical focus of SDIP

- Himalayan river basins - Indus, Ganges & Brahmaputra



Water and energy security in South Asia

Nepal, India, China and Bangladesh



- Water availability is expected to decline across the region – energy deficit, hinder econ devt
- 55% of Nepal population below poverty line and ~40% have access to electricity (outages 12-18 hours/day), lack of access to safe drinking water
- Less than 5% of Nepal's economic hydro potential developed
- Nepal dependent on foreign income for hydro devt
- Rapid devt of hydro without sufficient risk mitigation will have significant costs

Hydropower development in Nepal - SDIP



- Investment is in run of river hydro
- Mostly small to medium scale (up to 250MW but may include support for existing large scale projects already underway)
- IFC/World Bank are supporting investment in hydro devt in Nepal & cross border electricity export to India
- CSIRO is broadening the scientific base on which hydro siting decisions are made

What role for public participation?

Challenges

From experience we know that key challenges include:

1. Failing to provide adequate information to public
 2. Predetermining outcomes of EIA/SIA processes
 3. Privileging scientific/technical discourse
 4. Using “consultation” that promotes one-way flows of information (Martin 2007)
- ...although the presence of international actors may be a *necessary* condition for the application of superior standards, it is not *sufficient* to ensure compliance with them” (Choudhury, 2014)

What role for public participation?

Opportunities

- CUTS International - access to CSOs and supporting 'grassroots' advocacy
- Examining the opportunity costs of pursuing alternative energy sources
- Meaningful inclusion of gender considerations
- Considering how to achieve a net benefit for local, national and regional populations
- Working to ensure the public have a voice in project decision-making – so that the local also speaks to the global

- “...social mobilisation by civil society organisations has been the main catalytic agent in bringing change to project decision-making” (Choudhury, 2014)

Thank you

Adaptive Social & Economic Systems

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Typology of impacts (Hennen et al, 2004)

IMPACT/ISSUE DIMENSION	1. RAISING KNOWLEDGE	2. FORMING ATTITUDES	3. INITIALISING ACTIONS
Techno/Scientific Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical options assessed - Comprehensive overview of consequences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting the political agenda - Stimulating public debate - Introducing scenarios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reframing of Debate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New action plan - New orientation in policies
Societal Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structure of conflicts made transparent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self reflection among actors - Blockade running - Bridge building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Decision Making Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New forms of governance introduced - Intensification of public debate
Policy Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy objectives explored - Existing policies assessed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-structuring the Policy Debate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More comprehensive policy - Policies evaluated through debate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision Taken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy alternatives filtered - Innovations implemented - New legislation passed