



Issue Brief

Opening up Access to Information on Transboundary Rivers – Review of Proactive Disclosure of Information in Nepal

Executive Summary

Information, the power and medium to exercise democracy, is a fundamental human right. It is the right of every citizen to know about information held by public agencies. This right has been safeguarded in Nepal by the Right to Information Act 2007 which makes public bodies liable to disclose their information proactively and on the basis of requests for information filed by the public. This right empowers the public to question the status, process and results of different activities of public bodies and encourage transparency and accountability. This issue brief—the second in a series of three—summarizes the findings of a study conducted by Institute for Social and Environmental Transition – Nepal (ISET-Nepal) on the availability and accessibility of hydrological data and information on the Kosi River in Nepal.¹ Specifically, this issue brief reviews and assesses the extent to which public authorities in Nepal are proactively releasing data and information related to the Kosi River Basin.

In total, 11 government departments and agencies were assessed. The agencies included in the study were the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), Department of Electricity Development, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Department of Roads, Department of Irrigation, Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited, Melamchi Water Supply Development Board, Bhotekoshi Power Company Pvt. Ltd, Project Directorate ADB, Himal Hydro and General Construction Ltd. and Nepal Electricity Authority. The proactive disclosure by government departments was assessed in two phases. In the first phase, the websites of the selected agencies were assessed, and in the second phase site visits to the offices of the selected agencies were conducted. The site visits included an inspection of office libraries and informal interactions with government officials. The proactive disclosure of information was tested against three core parameters: stream flow data, sediment flow data and dams and hydro-engineering structures.

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our programs address critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century—governance and law, economic development, women's empowerment, environment, and regional cooperation. In addition, our Books for Asia and professional exchange programs are among the ways we encourage Asia's continued development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region of the world.

In Nepal, the Right to Information Act 2007 mandates all public authorities to proactively release a range of information held by them. The study found that on the whole, most of the sampled agencies were fairly proactive in releasing information. Out of the data and information obtained, 44 per cent was available on the websites of agencies, 22 per cent in libraries, 11 per cent were in paper copies published from agencies and another 11 per cent could be found at department offices. There were no restrictions on the use of such information. While government agencies do proactively disclose some information, the effectiveness and comprehensiveness needs to be improved. For example out of 11 agencies, only four agencies had complete information. In terms of the usability of the information, approximately 44 per cent of data and information was simple and easy to understand. For example, mean monthly stream flow and sediment flow data provided by Department of Hydrology and Meteorology were presented in simple and understandable format. Most of the assessed data (83 per cent) is available only in English.

Legal Requirements for Agencies to Collect/Proactively Release Information

In Nepal there are a number of laws that mandate government agencies to collect and proactively release information. These include:

Right to Information Act 2007

The Right to Information (RTI) Act was enacted in 2007 with a view to provide citizens with a legal right to access information held by public authorities. It simultaneously places a duty on public authorities to provide information proactively and on request. The law provides for the disclosure of a range of government information, but also places restrictions on the disclosure of information that is genuinely sensitive. These exemptions typically relate to issues of national security, sovereignty, public peace, stability and international relations of Nepal.² Furthermore, section 5 (3) of the RTI Act requires public agencies to proactively update and publish information on a periodic basis. This includes information on:

- The structure and nature of the agency
- Functions, duties, and powers of the agency
- Number of employees and working details of the agency
- Service to be rendered by the agency
- Branch and responsible officer of the service providing agency
- Fee and time limit required for service,
- Decision making process and authority,
- Authority to hear appeal against decisions,
- Description of functions performed, name and designation of Chief and Information Officer,
- List of Acts, Rules, By Laws or Guidelines,
- Updated description of income, expenditures and financial transactions
- Any other particulars as prescribed.

This information should be updated every three months. In addition, the law also provides for the appointment of an Information Officer tasked with disseminating information.

Water Resource Rule 1993

The Water Resource Regulation 1993 is an umbrella regulation that defines the mechanisms for the implementation of the Water Resource Act 1992. It provides for the establishment of a Water Resource Committee in each district for the utilization of water resources and sets out the rights and obligations of water user associations and license holders. It also provides a dispute-settlement mechanism in relation to water use service charges. Section 12 of the Regulation describes the information that can be collected and submitted by users to the District Water Resources Committee to obtain a license for survey and utilization of water resources. A person or corporate body needs to collect information describing the project, map, sources of water and quantity to be utilized, number and types of consumers benefitted, area of water resource to be surveyed and estimated time and total cost for completion of project. Section 19 of the Regulation also highlights the role of the District Water Resource Committee which is required to publish a public notice to inform the public on any proposed water projects. The public can object to a proposed project within 35 days stating the reasons for the objection.

Local Self Governance Act 1999

The Local Self Governance Act 1999 (2055 BS) and its regulations sets out the functions and duties of the Ward Committee, Municipal Council, and the Municipality in relation to drinking water, irrigation, sanitation and water conservation. It also entitles the municipality, rights and powers such as judicial powers, power to impose taxes, service charges and rights over public areas. Section 114(5) of Local Self Governance Act highlights the need to share information of selected projects among the inhabitants of municipality after carrying out feasibility studies.

Environment Protection Act 1997

The Environmental Protection Act 1997 seeks to ensure protection of the environment and proper use and management of natural resources. Section 3 of Environment Protection Act 1997 includes provisions on carrying out an Initial Environment Examination (IEE) and an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA). Section 8 explains the provision for appointing an environment inspector where he/she has to prepare and submit a report to the prescribed authority. Section 6(3) mentions that the Ministry has to make arrangements to provide a copy of this report to the public to render opinion and suggestions in the report.

Electricity Regulation 1993

The Electricity Regulation 1993 sets out the procedure for obtaining a license for hydroelectricity construction. Under the Regulation, licensees should provide information on the quantity of water sources to be utilized. Though it does not explicitly mention the proactive release of information, Section 3 of the Regulation states that a corporate body or person desiring to conduct a survey, production, transmission or distribution of hydroelectricity in the capacity ranging from 100 to 1000 KW shall provide information regarding projects to the secretary through the Electricity Development

Centre. Section 16 also mentions the role of the Electricity Development Centre which is required to publish a notice stating the necessary particulars for releasing the information to the general public after examining the application.

Government and Agency Policies on Dissemination of Data and Information

In Nepal, a few policies that have mentioned the disclosure of information are:

Irrigation Policy 2013

The Irrigation Policy of 2013 is an amendment to the Irrigation Policy of 2003 and aims to provide year-round irrigation facilities to cultivable land and provide timely maintenance of the irrigation infrastructure. The section on research and development in the Policy (Sec.1.6.97) provides for the publication of an irrigation journal which synthesizes studies and research conducted by academic institutions, NGOs and INGOs under the Government of Nepal. Similarly, the section on monitoring and evaluation (Sec.1.6.97) provides for the establishment of a documentation and information centre under the Department of Irrigation to develop a digital library. To facilitate the creation of this library, every office related to irrigation is required to produce a water-use status of the concerned districts and basins annually. This information is to be collated by the Department of Irrigation and published each year.

Local Infrastructure Development Policy 2004

Section 7.6 of the Local Infrastructure Development Policy 2004 states that an information resource centre will be established at the central and district levels in order to make data collection, processing, dissemination and design (on various infrastructure projects such as irrigation, micro-hydro power, water supply etc,) more reliable from local to central level. The information resource centre is also to identify needs of information users and ensure that information is disseminated accordingly.

National Water Plan 2002

Formulated in 2002 by the WECS to implement the activities identified by the water resource strategy, the Plan lays down short, medium and long-term action plans for the water resources sector. It mentions the preparation of a database of land, water and human resources, but does not explicitly mention the proactive release of information.

Proactive Disclosure

1. Agencies and Types of Information Sought

The assessment of the proactive disclosure of information of selected departments and agencies was carried out in two different phases. In the first phase, the websites of all the identified agencies were assessed and in the second phase, the selected agencies were visited, where researchers informally interacted with authorities and conducted site visits of office premises and libraries. In total, 11

agencies were reviewed and assessed. Specifically, the study assessed the proactive disclosure of the following types of data and information i.e. monthly stream flow data (physical measurements to smallest available unit); sediment flow data (physical measurement to smallest available unit); details of hydro-engineering structures (e.g. dams, barrages, bridges, embankments, large industrial buildings, power plants, and reservoirs) on the river and environmental impact assessments for proposed dams/reservoirs and barrages on the stream (see Table 1 for details).

Table 1. List of Departments and Types of Information Assessed

Departments Assessed	Information Reviewed
Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)	Mean monthly stream flow data of different stations of Kosi Basin (past 30-35 years) Mean monthly sediment flow data
Department of Electricity Development (DoED)	Hydroelectricity in Kosi River location and date Historical background and significance of the Saptakoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sunkoshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme
Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS)	Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Likhu Khola Hydroelectric Project with detailed information on possible impacts and mitigation measures EIA report of Dudh Koshi Hydroelectric Project with comprehensive details of impacts and mitigation measures EIA of the Tamur-Mewa Hydroelectric Project
Department of Roads (DoR)	Inventory of bridges in the Kosi Basin with their types and location
Department of Irrigation (DoI)	Inventory of database of irrigation in Koshi Basin Socio- economic impact study of the Sunsari-Morang Irrigation Project Stage-I
Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited	Salient features and operation details of Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project
Melamchi Water Supply Development Board	Salient features and working details of Melamchi water supply project
Bhote Koshi Power Company Pvt. Ltd.)	Salient features and operating details of Bhotekoshi Power company
Project Directorate ADB	Location and structural details of EWH-Koshi Bridge-EWH EIA report of EWH-Koshi Bridge-EWH with comprehensive details of impacts and mitigation measures
Himal Hydro and the General Construction Ltd	Basic structural and location details of Khimti Hydropower Project
Nepal Electricity Authority	Impact Assessment of Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project

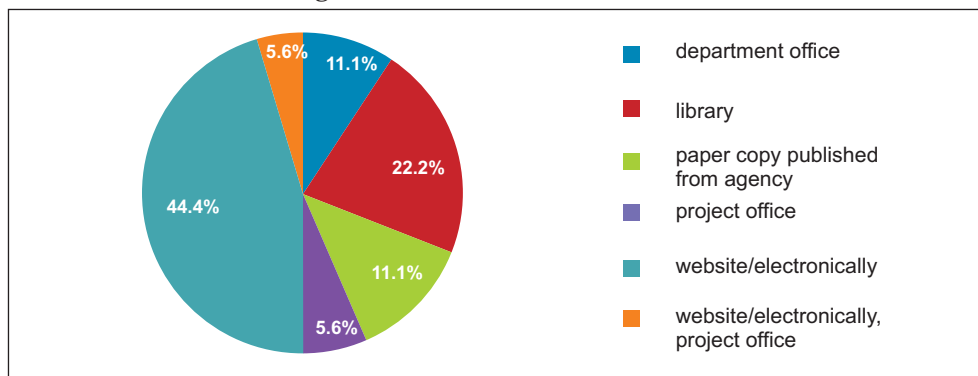
2. Location of Information

Agencies in Nepal reveal a fair commitment to the values of proactive disclosure. A significant amount of information is uploaded on government websites. For example, the websites of DHM, DoR, Irrigation Department, Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited, Melamchi Water Supply Development Board, and Bhote Koshi Power Company to varying degrees have all provided public access to some information on their websites. However, some agencies are less forthcoming than the others, such as the DoED which does not have much on their website but notably the department did provide access to printed matter on request. Similarly, while the website of the DoR has published road statistics data only till 2007 on their website, on request, the department provided the 2011-2012 statistical report from the DoR office. The Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited also provides detailed information on its website about the hydropower project provided including description of the project and financial updates. Others such as WECS, maintain a library where the latest reports of the Tamur-Mewa Hydroelectric Project, the Likhu Khola Hydroelectric Project and the Dudh Koshi Hydroelectric Project are available. Researchers found the EIA reports of hydropower projects to be of a

fairly high standard. The Department of Irrigation also has a library which serves to act as a counterweight to their acronym heavy and outdated website. The library contains a number of research reports on projects such as the Sunsari Morang Irrigation Canal and the Sunsari-Morang Irrigation Project Stage-I.

To analyze the proactive release of information by different agencies, 18 different types of information and data published by those agencies were taken into consideration. Out of these, 44.4 per cent were available on the websites of agencies, and 5.6 per cent on the websites of project offices; 22.2 per cent in office libraries, 11.1 were published in paper copies by agencies, 11.1 per cent were found at department offices and 5.6 per cent at project offices (See Figure 1).

Figure 1. Location of Information



3. Types of Information Available

Of the three different data points assessed as a part of the study i.e. stream flow data, sediment flow data and details of hydro-engineering structures, it was found that information on hydro-engineering structures was most readily available and accessible on agency websites. For example, the library of WECS has the EIA reports of the Tamur-Mewa, Likhu Khola and Dudh Koshi hydro-electric projects which are quite comprehensive and provide a lot of useful information about these projects. Similarly, the DoE provided researchers with access to printed material on the Saptakoshi High Dam Project which had details on the development of the project and its salient features including project location, dam height, water storage capacity, electricity and irrigation potential, water transport and flood controlling facility etc. Other good examples of proactive disclosure include the website of the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited which provides substantial information on its website about the Upper Tamakoshi hydropower project. Information on the project, its key features and other financial information is fairly easy to understand. Another commendable source of information is DoR's website which has uploaded road statistics for the years 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007. The 2011-2012 statistical report which was obtained from the department by researchers in particular is a useful and good document which provides road data for different development regions, zones and districts. In addition to the information on roads, it also consists of an inventory of main bridges with details on the district, bridge type, length and GPS location. There is scope for improvement in the proactive disclosure practices of agencies such as the DoI, which for example maintains an irrigation database on its website. The irrigation database has not been updated since it was first published in 2007 and consequently information on the current irrigation status in the country needs to be included.

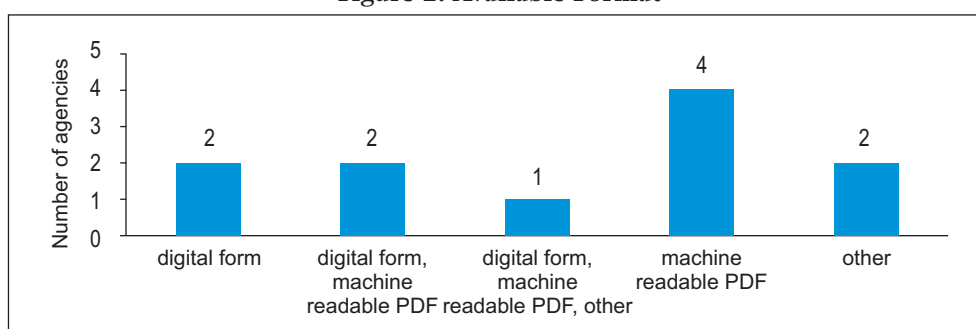
In terms of stream flow data, the website of the DHM provides daily flow measurement data for 11 different rivers in Nepal i.e. Karnali, Babai, West Rapti, Seti, Tadi, Bagmati, Arun, Bhotekoshi,

Sunkoshi, Tamakoshi and Mahakali. Among these rivers, the Arun, Bhotekoshi, Sunkoshi and Tamakoshi are part of the Kosi Basin. River trend information describing the increasing or decreasing status of the river is available for all rivers and this information also provides information on warning levels. A map indicating flood warning is also available on the website. Overall, the information available is of moderate quality with limited flow information. Notably, stream flow data is only available for four (Karnali, Babai, West Rapti and Bagmati) of the 11 rivers and similar stream flow information for rivers within the Kosi Basin was not available. There is also scope to improve disclosure of information by DHM through the provision of monthly average, yearly average, maximum and minimum flow information as well. The DHM website does not provide information on sediment flow data, however it can be obtained from the office on payment of NRs. 5 for each year of data. Notably, sediment flow data that was obtained from DHM was found to have a number of data gaps, with information missing for some years. Other agencies whose proactive disclosure practices were assessed were the Melamchi Water Supply Board whose website has updated information on the salient features as well as progress of the Melamchi Water Supply Project. The websites of the Bhote Koshi Power Company Pvt. Ltd, Project Directorate ADB and Himal Hydro and General Construction Ltd. were also found to provide some information on projects managed and developed by these agencies.

4. Format Available

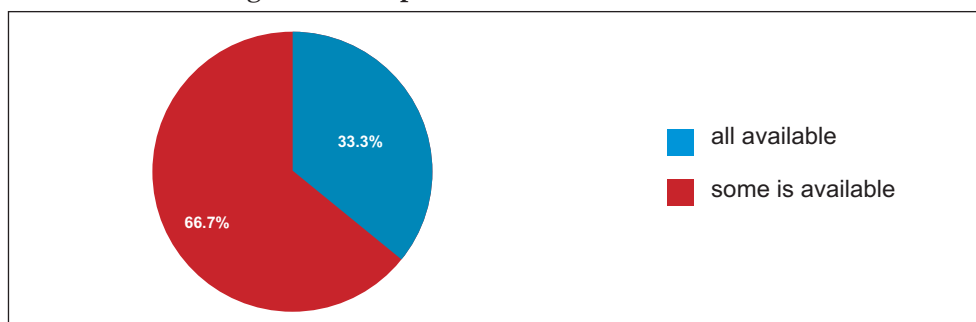
Information was received in a variety of formats including digital, machine readable pdf, printed and video format. Most agencies publish information in a single format i.e. either digital or machine readable pdf form. Out of the 11 agencies, four agencies had information in pdf format. The reports of NEA, DoI, DoR and Project Directorate ADB were available in pdf format. Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited was the only agency that disclosed information a variety of formats. Besides, digital and pdf format, the company has disseminated structural details and location information of the project in video format (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Available Format

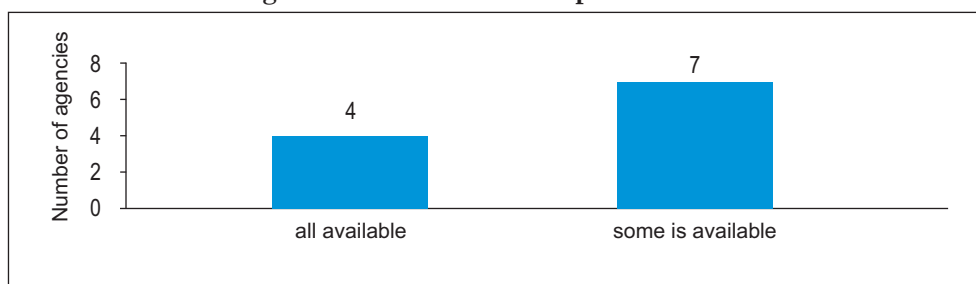


5. Comprehensiveness, Usability, Accessibility and Language

Eighteen different data and information points on stream flow and sediment flow measurement, hydro-structural details and EIA reports from 11 agencies were studied to assess their comprehensiveness. Though the agencies have disclosed a certain amount of information to the public, most information was incomplete and out of date. Of the information available, only 33.3 per cent of data/information was found to be complete while 66.7 percent of the obtained data/information was limited with some required details or information missing (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Comprehensiveness of Information

Out of 11 agencies, only four agencies had complete information available that is, WECS, the Melamchi Water Supply Development Board, the Project Directorate ADB and the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited. Three complete EIA reports about the Dudh Koshi Hydropower, Likhu Khola A Hydropower and Tamur-Mewa Hydropower facilities were available in the WECS library. However, ISET-N researchers were only allowed to go through the reports within the office premises. The Melamchi Water Supply Development Board website has complete structural information on the Melamchi Diversion Scheme and Water Treatment Plant. A detailed design report for the East West Highway-Koshi Bridge-East West Highway provided by the Project Directorate ADB covers the complete structural details of the project. Mean monthly stream flow and sediment flow data for the past 30-35 years is available at the DHM. Yet, this data is incomplete and lacks continuity as there are data gaps of months and even years in some of the available datasets. The DoED provided information on hydropower in different parts of country along with information on the Saptakoshi High Dam Project, but information lacks illustration and elaborative structural details. The draft EIA report of the EWH-Koshi-EWH provided by DoR requires editing and contains somewhat out-of-context information on Village Development Committee status whereas additional maps and photos can be added in the website of Upper Tamakoshi (see Figure 4)

Figure 4. Information Comprehensiveness

Usability

Almost half the information (50 per cent) was moderately difficult to understand. For example, information available on the structural details of most hydropower plants such as the Dudh Koshi, Likhu Khola A, Upper Tamakoshi and Tamur-Mewa are quite technical and difficult to understand for the average person. At the same time, about 44.4 per cent of information was easy to understand. Mean monthly stream flow and sediment flow data provided by the DHM was presented in simple and understandable formats. Information on both the Bhote Koshi Hydropower and the Melamchi Water Supply websites was also easy to understand. Out of the 18 different assessed information points, the report of final design with location and structural details EWH-Koshi Bridge-EWH was

hardest to understand with heavy use of technical terms such as “sieve design”, “Atterberg Limit” and “California Bearing Ratio (CBR)”. A summary of usability of information is provided in Figure 5 and Table 2.

Figure 5. Usability of Information

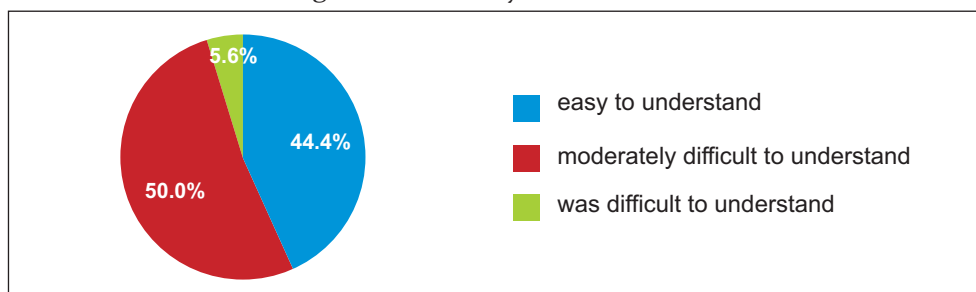


Table 2. Usability of Information Proactively Disclosed by Agencies

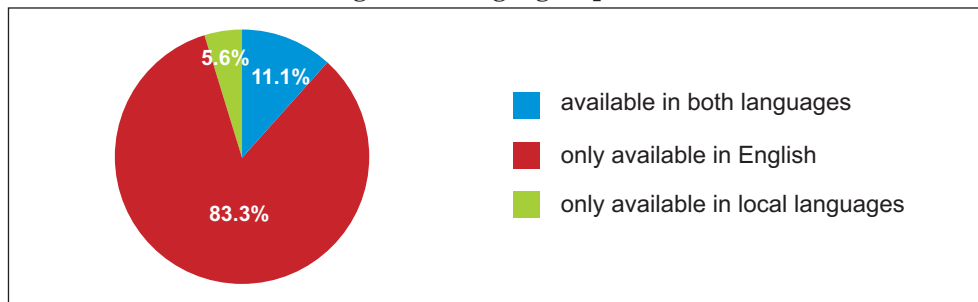
Assessed Information	Easy to understand	Moderately difficult to understand	Was difficult to understand
Historical background and significance and structural details of Saptakoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sunkoshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme			
Basic structural and location details of Khimti Hydropower Project			
Bridge inventory of Koshi Basin with information on its types and location			
EIA report of Dudh Koshi Hydroelectric Project			
Draft EIA report of EWH-Koshi Bridge-EWH			
EIA report of Likhu Khola A Hydroelectric Project			
Hydroelectricity inventory in Koshi Basin Location and Date			
Impact Assessment of Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project			
Inventory of database of irrigation in Koshi Basin			
Location and structural details of EWH-Koshi Bridge-EWH			
Mean monthly sediment flow data			
Mean monthly stream flow data of different stations of Koshi Basin (past 30-35 years)			
Salient features and operating details of Bhothe Koshi Power company			
Salient features and operation details of Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project			
Salient features and working details of Melamchi water supply project			
Socio-economic impact study of Sunsari-Morang Irrigation Project Stage-I			
Stream flow data for flood protection			
EIA report of Tamur-Mewa Hydroelectric Project			

Language

The information that was received was either in English or in Nepali or both. Approximately 83.3 per cent of the assessed information is available only in the English making it accessible to a broader audience, while 11.1 per cent was available in English and Nepali and 5.6 per cent in local languages. For example, the Tamakoshi HP and Melamchi Water Supply are agencies that present information in both English and Nepali. The information on the Saptakoshi High Dam Project provided by the

DoED carries a large amount of background and historical information. However, this useful information was available only in Nepali (see Figure 6).

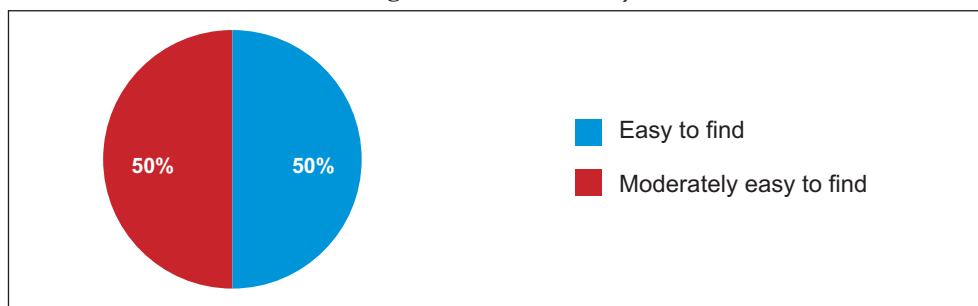
Figure 6: Language Options



Accessibility

During the proactive disclosure exercise, the researchers did not face difficulty while searching for information as it was either easy, or moderately easy to find.

Figure 7: Accessibility



It was easy to find information in nine different agencies as the information was available on websites. The government authorities of the DHM were cooperative and willing to provide stream flow and sediment flow information without any formal request. Still, the researchers filed RTIs asking them to provide information on selected stations. Retrieving daily flow data of the DHM website was a bit lengthy and complicated for first time users due to the presence of several links. In the case of the Department of Roads and Department of Electricity Development, identification of the appropriate authority was time consuming but it was not difficult to receive available documents from those departments. Similarly, in case of WECS, getting access to its library is difficult as the WECS office is located at the Singh Durbar, that is the head office for multiple departments and ministries. Since it is a government agency, visitors require a special pass or recommendation to enter the office premises of Singh Durbar. Otherwise, it is not difficult to search for information at the WECS library. If information was not available at the concerned department, the government authorities even suggested that researchers visit the relevant department or office for the required information. Such assistance eased the search for information to a certain extent.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In Nepal, the RTI Act 2007 mandates all public agencies to proactively release information. There are also laws and policies that mention the collection of data and the preparation of reports, but do not clearly address the proactive release of these reports. One of the findings of this study has been that a

number of agencies in Nepal are proactively releasing information without placing restrictions on the use of such information. Some of the agencies assessed had information available in office libraries which made the process of finding the information much easier. Among the agencies that researchers visited, the library of WECS had updated reports on EIAs, and the Department of Irrigation's library had outdated reports on the Sunsari Morang Irrigation Scheme. Websites were also assessed for the proactive release of information on each of the assessed data points that is, stream flow, sediment flow and dams and hydro-engineering structures. By far, agencies have been found to disclose a significant amount of information relating to hydro-engineering structures such as hydropower projects, water and irrigation projects. In contrast, stream flow and sediment flow data has been more difficult to obtain and where available it has been found to be limited and incomplete. There is need to ensure that data or information presented in websites and agency libraries is revised and updated frequently to ensure reliability and accuracy.

The information available on many websites was moderately difficult to locate, in limited formats and often with key details or information missing. The wider availability of information in various simple and understandable formats such as videos, posters, news prints will serve to enhance the accessibility of this information to concerned stakeholders and target groups. The availability of information in both English as well as Nepali will also benefit a broader audience. Overall, while agencies in Nepal are disclosing a range of information proactively, much can be done to improve the quality of data/information that is being disclosed. It is also necessary to ensure that data or information in the form of available reports, research papers, circulars, MoUs, memos, newsletters and press releases etc., are updated and released in the public domain through websites and library in a timely and regular manner.

Key recommendations emerging from the study include:

- The concerned authorities or agencies need to understand the significance of data and information and should take initiatives to proactively disclose data or information for public consumption and ease of access.
- There should be a central repository of necessary documents which should be made available in the public domain. This way the public will be made aware of the location of different sets of information and will not face difficulties in accessing them.
- The information should be accurate, accessible and converted into user-friendly and machine readable formats. This will enhance the quality and reliability of data/information that can serve as useful evidence in future studies and decision making.
- Information in the public domain such as in library and on websites should be regularly updated so consumers and beneficiaries are kept informed about the progress of the projects.
- The availability of information in simple and accessible formats such as video, poster, news prints is helpful to concerned stakeholders and target groups.
- Information should be available in English as well as the local language so that both local and international audiences will find it easy to comprehend the available information and critically review if needed.
- Continuous feedback and reviews should be provided to public agencies by general public and the civil society on information availability, quality and timeliness. Authorities should also open to suggestions and criticisms.

Acknowledgements

This issue brief was prepared by Anustha Shrestha and Rabi Wenju, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-Nepal (ISET-N). The views expressed here are those of the individual author(s) and do not reflect those of The Asia Foundation or the Skoll Global Threats Fund.

ISET-N is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization established in 2001 to study and analyze developmental issues of a rapidly changing social and environmental context that demands new insights into the emerging challenges to manage resources for sustainable development. ISET-N has dedicated its organizational focus to generate, explore and disseminate knowledge on changing social and environmental context through research, publications and engagement in public debates to address the emerging challenges and issues. More information is available at: <http://isetnepal.org.np/>

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our programs address critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century – governance and law, economic development, women's empowerment, environment and regional cooperation. In addition, our Books for Asia and professional exchange programs are among the ways we encourage Asia's continued development as a peaceful, just and thriving region of the world. More information is available at www.asiafoundation.org

Endnotes

1. In June 2013, The Asia Foundation (TAF) with support from the Skoll Global Threats Fund and in partnership with the World Resources Institute and civil society organizations in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, initiated a project to promote and strengthen transparency and access to data and information on transboundary water governance in South Asia. Over a 15-month period, TAF and its partners assessed the availability of data and information relating to three transboundary rivers in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, while building the capacity of civil society and the media to utilize transparency tools and mechanisms—including the right to information—to push for greater access to data and information on water and climate issues, and disseminate this information within the region. In Nepal, TAF partnered with the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-Nepal (ISET-N) to implement the project.
2. Section 3 (3) prohibits the disclosure of information that seriously jeopardizes the sovereignty, integrity, national security, public peace, stability and international relations of Nepal. It also prohibits the sharing of information which directly affects the investigation, inquiry and prosecution of a crime and may seriously affect on the protection of economic, trade or monetary interest or intellectual property or banking or trade privacy. Any information which directly jeopardizes the harmonious relationship subsisted among various castes or communities and which interferes with individual privacy and security of body, life, property or health of a person should not be shared. Thus it is necessary for public institutions to separate the information before providing it to the applicant.



The Asia Foundation

114, Jor Bagh, (First Floor), New Delhi-110003, INDIA
Tel.: +91-11-47363100 | Fax: +91-11-47363111
www.asiafoundation.org