

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

## ROLE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES (IKP)

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Local communities use Indigenous Knowledge and Practices (IKP) to manage ecosystems and their services. They also act as custodians. IKP includes culture and society specific skill to manage the resources in certain groups. Increasing landslides, longer drought periods, unprecedented floods and other disasters are causing damages to local infrastructures such as trails, wooden and chain bridges, irrigation systems, stone spouts and shelters. Climate change further exacerbates vulnerabilities.

### RATIONALE

Locally driven practices of managing forests, water and other resources can reduce adverse impacts of environment degradation and climate change. IKP can help improve adaptation strategies in cost effective way in solving local problems including those induced by climate change.

### MANAGEMENT AND USE OF IKP

When communities face stresses, they attempt to the change management practices. Traditional shelters are more environmental-friendly and cost effective through they may not be safe against other hazards such as earthquakes. Local institutions generally take a lead in the management of IKP.

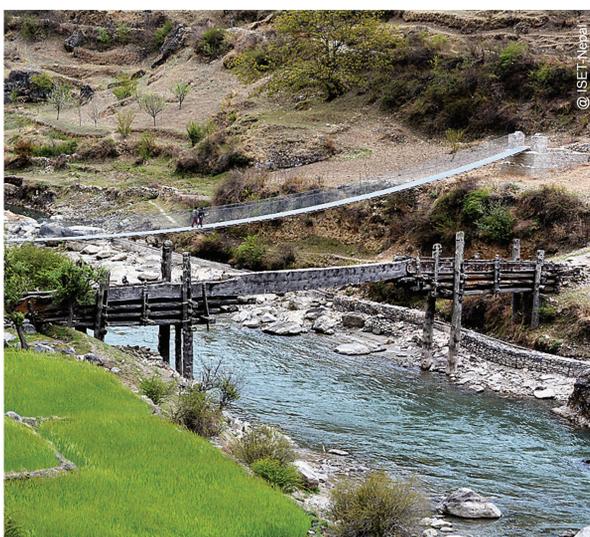
### IKP AND MODERN SCIENCE

IKP needs to be integrated with natural and social science methods for making adaptation practice more locally rooted.

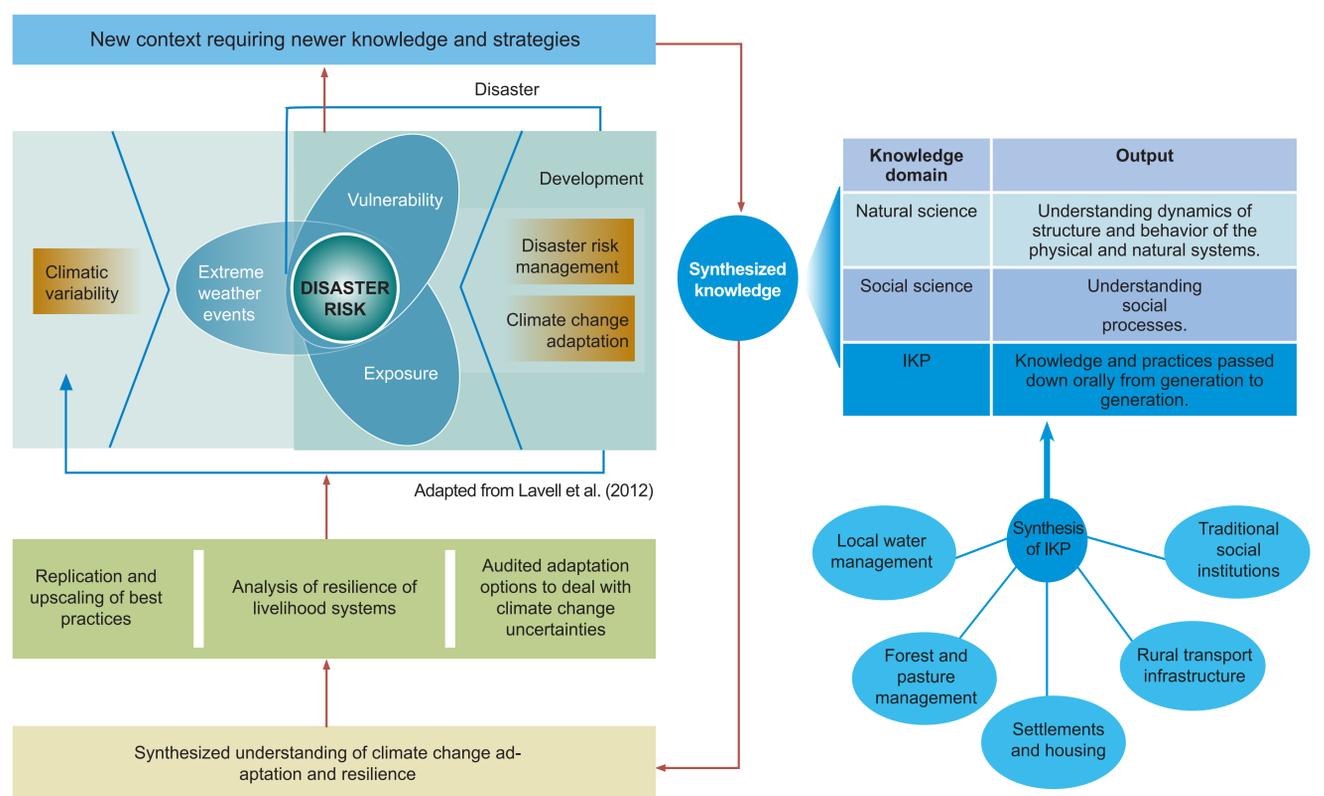
### CHALLENGES

Despite its importance and the relevance to climate change adaptation, IKP receive low priority from governments and aid agencies.

- IKP yet to be formally recognized as a source of knowledge for designing and planning for local adaptation measures.
- Financial and institutional support for sustaining IKP does not exist.
- Most IKP have evolved in a limited geographical region, culture, and community, and may not be applicable in other areas



Jumla type wooden bridge



Use of IKP in Infrastructure in Nepal

### WAY FORWARD

- Implementing agencies and development partners can support IKP holders and facilitate their interaction to build synergies between IKP and modern knowledge communities.
- Government and the policy level-decision makers should together indigenous knowledge holders, researchers and practitioners together in a common platform.

### CONCLUSION

IKP can be a useful basis for implementing local development plans and actions that can better tackle climate change risks.



Baglung type wooden bridge



Plinth raised wooden house of Tarai region

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