

FACT SHEET

MARCH 2020



PAANI

The PAANI project is strengthening Nepal's ability to manage critical resources in the Karnali, Mahakali and Rapti river basins. Funded by USAID as part of its on-going investment to strengthen the country's natural resource management capacity, SNV implements activities, as a sub-contractor to Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI) until November 2020

Water resources are under pressure

The Karnali, Mahakali and Rapti river basins cover more than one-third of Nepal's land area, jointly host 79 watersheds and a high eco-diversity. They are a critical freshwater source and an economic resource for many communities. The rivers also have a high development potential, for example for aquaculture, (eco-)tourism, or hydro-power.

Inadequately planned development interventions, weak policy implementation and climate change threaten their biodiversity, local communities and present risks to the sustainable development of the entire area.



The project is focusing on 12 water sheds located in the Karnali, Mahakali and Rapti river basins.

Strengthening capacity to manage critical water resources

The PAANI project (meaning water in Nepali) is improving the capacity of local communities and authorities to properly manage river resources, as well as increase the resilience of local communities and degraded aquatic ecosystems.

The project is targeting four goals to achieve these objectives:

1. Improve collaborative decision-making processes in twelve priority watersheds;
2. Support sustainable hydro-power and infrastructure development, disaster risk management and participatory governance at the river basin level;
3. Strengthen the policy environment at the national level, and;
4. Expand the knowledge base and build the capacity

for on-going learning across all governance levels.

Based on its long-term presence and sector knowledge, SNV has been invited by DAI to implement several project activities. SNV is focusing on three result areas:

1. Mainstreaming gender and social inclusion in all project activities;
2. Coordinating field activities in Karnali province;
3. Professionalising economic activities such as the local fishery and other relevant value chains.

SNV is contributing directly to the following activities:

- Improving watershed management to reduce threats to and conserve biodiversity as well as enhance human well-being;
- Establishing a long-term funding mechanism for river basin management and innovation;
- Water users and policy-maker have an improved understanding of and behaviours on sustainable water use and biodiversity;
- Establishing platforms for the sustainable management of the river basins, ensuring connections between river systems, communities and ecosystems along the river

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For more information

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