



# USAID/NEPAL SECTOR FACT SHEET

## NATURAL RESOURCES AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Biodiversity conservation and water resource management are long-standing priorities for the U.S. government’s development partnership with Nepal. As one of the most climate vulnerable and disaster-prone countries in the world, USAID invests to reduce disaster risks and support Nepal’s efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Nepal’s globally significant biodiversity, unique river systems, and growing forests provide opportunities for marginalized Nepalis to emerge from poverty. At the same time, natural disasters repeatedly push the vulnerable into poverty and undermine economic opportunity. USAID collaborates closely with communities to advance disaster risk reduction measures and to build on Nepal’s globally recognized model of community-based resource management. Recent partnerships have resulted in improved conservation practices and outcomes in more than 448,000 hectares of biologically significant area and created new livelihood opportunities for more than 28,000 Nepalis.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

Building on a successful community forestry program that engages 50 percent of Nepal’s population, USAID collaborates with local communities to conserve their natural resources and Nepal’s globally significant biodiversity. USAID advances sustainable development and aids the Government of Nepal to address environmental crime.

## **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

USAID supports Nepal's energy sector through clean energy investments that dramatically expand energy access; promote sustainable hydropower, and advance clean energy generation, including solar and wind. USAID advances urban energy systems including electric transportation to also address Nepal's growing air pollution challenges.

## **CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

USAID works with national and local governments to address the infrastructure needs of vulnerable populations and to increase Nepal's ability to prevent, mitigate, and respond to natural disasters. USAID helps communities, the private sector, and elected officials identify climate change and natural disaster risks and take steps to reduce risks.

## **RESILIENCE OF WOMEN AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS**

USAID focuses on helping Nepali communities and governance systems build resilience to recurrent shocks. USAID engages marginalized and vulnerable people in all stages of project design and management; ensures inclusive development approaches; and invests to improve disaster management abilities and systems.

### **IMPACT/RESULTS:**

- More than 448,000 hectares of biologically significant areas are under improved natural resource management.
- More than 28,000 people have experienced increased economic benefits because of sustainable management of natural resources and conservation.
- More than 103,000 people are now using climate information or implementing risk-reducing measures to improve resilience to climate change.
- More than 7,088 person-days of labor generated for rural and marginalized communities most affected by COVID-19, providing them with NPR 4 million.
- More than USD 1.6 billion mobilized for developing 1,100 MW of hydropower, which will more than double current national generation capacity compared to the baseline.
- Contributed to a 40 percent increase in the rhino population since 2011, and a 94 percent increase in Nepal's tiger population since 2009.
- Reconstructed and handed over 28 schools (serving nearly 8,000 students) and seven health facilities (serving nearly 240,000 people) across five districts.
- Supplied technical assistance on modern safety standards in the construction of more than 48,300 earthquake-safe homes.
- Established nine Reconstruction Resource Centers to supply training and technical assistance support for housing reconstruction.

\*Data from FY2021