

**Resource Management at Local Level: 'Platform' Approach for Integration**

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## ABSTRACT

Traditionally, the users' organisations at local level are playing an important role for the management of natural resources by organizing the users. The Government of Nepal through its Water Resources Strategy 2002 and National Water Plan 2005 has emphasized a holistic approach in place of sectoral one for natural resources management at sub/basin level based on the principle of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). It envisages the creation of committee at the sub/basin level, which is lacking at present. But both vertical and horizontal linkage between institutions and among the various water users is sectoral. Therefore, an action research was carried out in Nepal and India to examine the possibility of up-scaling the role of existing natural resource users' group and other stakeholders - local elected institutions and I/NGOs in order to facilitate the evolvement of institution at sub/basin level. The information was collected through checklist in focused group discussions, consultation workshop at the local and district level with Water users group, Forest Users Group and other stakeholders. The dynamics of resource management along with stakeholders' role and processes/methods followed in 'Platform' formation, which is expected to evolve as sub/basin level institutions for IWRM in Nepal and its future is dealt in this paper.

**Key Words:** Resource, Management, Stakeholders, Consultation, Platform

### 1. Introduction

International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in partnership with Department of Irrigation (DOI), Government of Nepal, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)-York and Institute of Water and Human Resource Development (IWHRD), Nepal has undertaken action research on Community Based Integrated Natural Resource Management (CBINRM) from April 2005-2008 November. The major stakeholders in resource management were the forest and irrigation users group in the upstream and fishers, irrigation and boaters were the major water users' in the downstream valley floor area besides, the local elected institutions and I/NGOs were other stakeholders. The Forest Users Groups (FUGs) in the upstream are playing an important role and contributing to the protection of the environment through Community Forest activities which has ensured downstream users' access to the sustained use of water resources on which their livelihood through agriculture and fish farming is dependent.

There are forest users, water users and boat operator's organisation at the local level. Also, District Development Committee (DDC), Village Development Committee (VDC) and the Municipality, the elected bodies are at the district, village and municipality level but they are politico-administrative units organized at geographical boundaries and do not exactly match with hydrological boundary, which is important for integrated approach in resource management. These institutions however do not have the institutional linkages and working relationship among them for resource management, although they are formally organized except the Water Users' group in the upstream. This was firstly, due to the prevailing sectoral policy, rules, regulations and institutions to plan and implement natural resource management activities. As a result there was disconnects between various policies on natural resources management and its

implementation from the central level to the local level because their activities are guided by the sectoral policies. Secondly, the local elected institutions have failed to co-ordinate the natural resource management activities at village and district level, although they exercise some authority under the Local Administration Act of 2001. They are using their authority only to collect taxes from the local users where it applies e.g. land tax from irrigation users and local tax from the fishermen.

This has been acknowledged in Water Resources Strategy (WECS 2002), which has identified following major requirements for integrated approach.

- Overcoming the overlap of authority and non harmonization of related acts and regulations; and
- Mobilisation of community level organisations through District Development Committees (DDCs) and Village Development Committees (VDCs).

These local elected institutions however did not have elected representation at the time of the action research and were functioning under the government appointed officials. A look at the institutional set up at the national, district and local level at present shows that there are no institutions at the sub/basin level with a mandate to oversee the management of natural resources. Government of Nepal through the formulation of the Water Resources Strategy 2002 and National Water Plan 2005 has embarked on the integrated approach in resource management. The present politico-administrative set up, as mentioned earlier, is hardly capable to coordinate and integrate the activities of various resource users and other stakeholders at sub/basin level. Therefore, the strategy and the Plan have proposed for various institutional reforms to facilitate the implementation of National Water Plan. The formation of the sub/basin level committee with representation from concerned stakeholders is one of the major reforms proposed in the document. The Water Resources Strategy 2002 however does not say anything about how the sub/basin level committee will be formed.

### ***Objective of the Action Research***

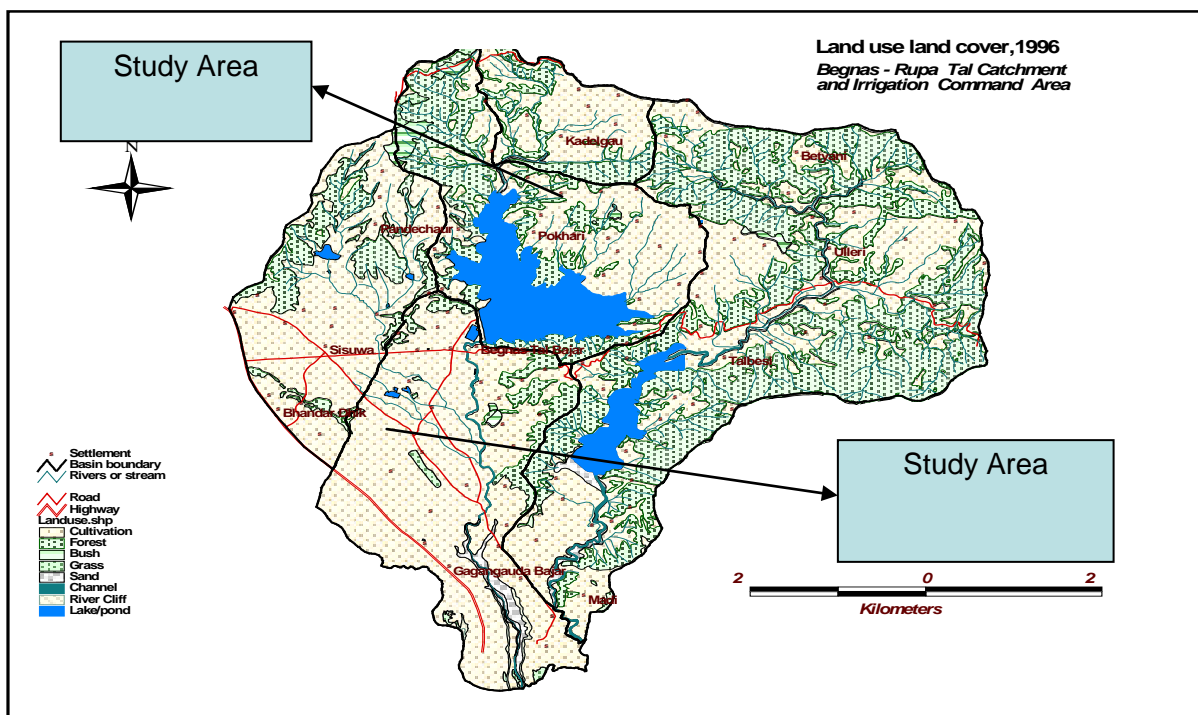
The primary objective of the action research was to identify and implement the mechanism for the formation of the sub/basin level committee to help facilitate the implementation of the National Water Plan 2005.

### **Methodology and Approach of the Study:**

The methodology applied in this action research primarily was study on the legal, policy and institutional provisions to see if they are conducive or constraining the integrated approach for resource management (Desk-top study), resource availability and stakeholders' access to and control on it and role of various institutions in resource management (Field study) and formation of 'Platform' through stakeholder consultation process. The field study was carried out in the Begnas sub-basin, with an area of 75.04 sq. km. Six communities (3 in the upstream and 3 in valley floor each in the location shown in Map 1) were selected for the household study and resource assessment.

Expanding the mandate of the existing resource users group and other stakeholders in resource management is very important in order to facilitate the integrated approach for resource management. There could be two approaches for this – 1) Creation of sub/basin level committee through external intervention and nominating the representation from among the users and other stakeholders in the committee 2) Up-scaling the resource users' and other stakeholders' institutional role for the formation of sub/basin level committee. The action research took the second approach in which up-scaling the role of existing institutions through the stakeholder consultation process had greater prospects for institution building at local level than creating a new one. This is because enhancing the role of existing institutions and inclusion of other stakeholders through appropriate intervention from outside seemed to be useful in the context of existence of strong grass root organisations such as Water Users' Group (WUG) and Forest Users' Group (FUG). The involvement of the stakeholder in the study and sharing of findings from it constituted an important part in problem analysis and in understanding the need for integrated approach in resource management at the sub/basin.

Figure 1. Begnas Catchment



## **2. Institutional Dynamics of Resource Use and Users**

From field investigation it was revealed that the livelihood of the people, with respect to the resource management is agriculture based. The livelihood opportunity from the use of natural resource is limited in the upper catchment compared to lower catchment. The people in the upper watershed are poor in comparison to the downstream users partly due to poor management of Farmer Managed irrigation Systems (FMISs) leading to insufficient availability of irrigation water. This is firstly, due to the traditional land based water right practices, which excludes the inclusion of new users in the existing condition. Secondly, the inability of the users to mobilize adequate resources internally or externally for the improvement of infrastructure, which could help expand the irrigated area and allow inclusion of new users. The improvement in the infrastructure and redefining the existing water right through the inclusion of new users could provide benefits to the farmers. But lack of their linkage with the external agencies, because of their informal nature, they have not been able to access external support needed for infrastructure improvement. Nevertheless, the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system by the farmers has helped in reducing negative effect downstream. Another important factor is that the upper watershed is the source of water to the Begnas Lake and from lake to Begnas irrigation system and the drinking water scheme serving the downstream towns. Likewise, the Forest Users Group (FUG) are formally organized and have been managing forest that is community owned. Households in the community have access to the forest product, mainly the firewood and grass fodder. Organisationally, they are strong but their linkage with other institution downstream is non existent. There is no linkage between the Community Forest Users Group (CFUG) and Water User's Association (WUA) in terms of managing resources. Due to the community forest in the upstream, the watershed is well managed and has been effective in controlling the formation of gullies and checking landslide. These positive effects are acknowledged by the downstream users through their observation of less debris flowing to the lake after the community forestry program upstream.

Though several water user groups are functioning downstream, the irrigation users group of the government supported irrigation system-Begnas Irrigation System and the fishers group who raise fish in the lake are the prominent users in terms of obtaining benefit from the environmental services from the forest and water management. In case of water delivery at Begnas Irrigation System level is concerned, it was assumed that users could manage the internal water distribution on their own in an equitable manner without needing external input. This assumption is not turning into reality mainly because of lack of resources and adequate communication among users. As a result, the water distribution to the branch and tertiary level has remained inequitable leading to several types of water use conflicts. Therefore, each of the user group is trying to maximize the benefit from the lake without making substantial contribution for its sustenance. In such a situation, quite often, conflicts mostly seasonal arise within and among the water user institutions due to their diverging interests. The interest of various resource users group is reflected through their organisational undertaking. This could be attributed to the weak functional linkage both vertical and horizontal between institutions and among the various water users in the downstream because of sectoral orientation. One of the gaps at the downstream is that adequate mechanism for common property resource management has not been developed due to lack of defined ownership of the lake.

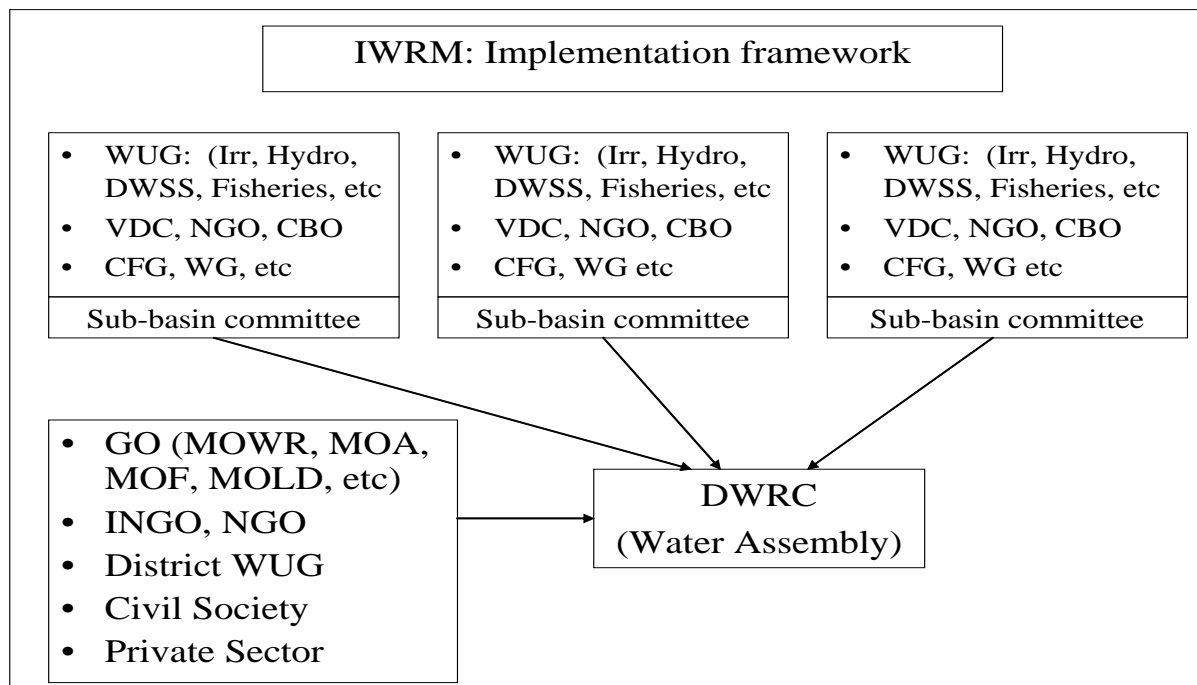
Theoretically, it is assumed that watershed management in the upper catchment helps in maintaining good environment downstream. The users at local level were also found to be aware of the interdependence of resources and its management and recognized the forest-water (upstream–downstream) linkage. The Fishers Group has observed changes in water quality, increase in water level and fish production also due to check in debris flow after the plantation upstream and with the increase in crown cover. But, changes that occurred were due to the linkage between forest and water, which is acknowledged both by the upstream and downstream users, is yet to be established through empirical studies to prove it. This has been hindering the establishment of institutional linkage between the upstream forest users and downstream water users, which is fundamental to the integrated resource management. One of the primary tasks therefore is for establishing this linkage and stakeholders realize that benefit downstream is due to the action of upstream users' and its cost/benefit needs to be ascertained. This would facilitate the introduction of appropriate benefit sharing mechanisms. Foremost of all, the users need to acknowledge and accept the concept of benefit sharing, which is quite new to them. Besides, the enforcement of mechanism is not possible without any intermediary that plays the role of mediator between the resource users upstream and downstream. Inequity in benefit sharing among and across the users at present is not conducive to promote Community Based Integrated Natural Resource Management (CBINRM) and is hindering the process for integrated approach due to lack of stakeholders' interest and participation. Actualization of such linkage at the basin level would be possible only when the governance at the system level is improved to enable users' equitable access to and benefit from resources. In this respect a holistic approach of catchment management in consultation with relevant stakeholder can create a win-win situation for all of them. This is not happening due to lack of relevant policies that delineate the roles and responsibilities of both external and local organisations in common property resource management.

Two sets of institutions have stake in the catchment management. The users' organisations are the local level stakeholders whereas the institutions that influence/ control, facilitate/provide technical support and collect taxes from local stakeholders and also who claim ownership of local resources are the external stakeholders. The institutional linkage among the local stakeholders is horizontal whereas their linkage with the external stakeholders is vertical and sectoral i.e. irrigation users group linked to irrigation office and forest users to forestry office at district level. The horizontal linkage is important for functional linkages among resource user group. Whereas the vertical linkage is important for policy support as the activities of these resource users group is facilitated/controlled by sectoral policies and regulations beside they receive technical and physical support from them. Institutionally, the forest users groups and irrigation users groups at upstream are more isolated in terms of their linkage with downstream water users group, with the local elected institutions and government agencies except the District Forest Office in case of Forest Users Group. It is interesting to note that the FMIS at upstream does not have vertical linkage with government agencies indicating that they do not have access to external resources, which they may require to cope with natural calamities. This has constrained improvement in the irrigation systems to address the equity issue as mentioned earlier.

### 3. The National Water Plan and Sub-basin Committee

The National Water Plan (NWP) 2005 has also envisaged sub-basin committee (Figure 2). The plan has laid emphasis on the decentralised approach in integrated management of resources through the formation of sub-basin committees. The sub-basin committees will have representation of the Water Users Group (WUG), Village Development Committees (VDCs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Community Forest Groups (CFG) and Watershed Groups (WG). The representatives of the sub-basin committees are represented at the District Water Resources Committee (DWRC) which serves as the Water Assembly (water regulating body) at the district level meaning it may not follow the hydrological boundary but the politico-administrative boundary. It also has representation from the related government agencies at the district level. Therefore, the plan has envisaged the inter district Water Resources Committee to capture the resource management issues at hydrological boundary level. The DWRC exist at present but its tasks are limited to the recommendation for issuing of license (mainly for hydro power development) and registration of water users. Its functions need to be redefined to make it an effective institution for the implementation of National Water Plan. The plan however is not explicit in processes to be followed for the formation of sub-basin committees. Therefore, adequate implementation mechanism has not been developed to facilitate the formation of sub-basin level committee, although this has been a major policy focus of the government.

Figure 2: IWRM implementation framework adopted by National Water Plan (NWP), 2005



### ***The 'Platform' Approach***

The action research in collaboration with Department of Irrigation (DOI) and in co-ordination with Water Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), which is tasked for the implementation of NWP, was carried out to facilitate the formation of sub-basin level committee. The action research facilitated the formation of 'Platform' of stakeholders.

Platform is a venue where resource users and stakeholders are brought together to discuss the issues related to resource management and it is believed that this process will contribute to the users and other stakeholders' understanding and thinking on integrated resource management (Pant and Shrestha 2009).

The main purpose of the 'Platform' formation is to provide a venue for the consultation among concerned stakeholders in order to address the problem for integrated management of the natural resources. The discussions in the 'Platform' are issue based wherein the resource users as well as other stakeholders can put their ideas and views. Open exchange of ideas could help in analysis and approaches for solving the issues discussed. This is expected to contribute to people's understanding of the importance of integrated basin management and help learn from each others role in managing the resources. The 'Platform' also provides local stakeholders a venue where they can discuss local knowledge and practices, finally contributing to development of better management of natural resources.

So, as also envisaged by the National Water Plan 2005, the platform had representation from members of existing water users group, forest users group, women group, local government, NGOs and advocacy groups. The 'Platform' did focus on

**Institutions:** Policy, legal, institutional provisions, role, responsibility and scope of work of different organisations for natural resource management in the basin context.

**Linkages:** Both vertical and horizontal linkage between water-forest-land-users and linkages between two users' organisations in managing natural resources (Example: linkage between forest and water; fisheries and irrigation) and overlaps.

**Issues:** Related to policy, legal and institutional provisions, implementation mechanisms; facilitating and constraining factors and their implications in integrated management.

### ***Role of Facilitators***

Various actors played an important role in the formation of the 'Platform'. The project team and the local NGO played the lead role in the formation of the 'Platform' with the active support from users' organisation and other Community Based Organisations (CBOs). The Project Team with support from local NGO (SORUP) worked as external facilitator to promote integrated natural resource management in consultation with the local stakeholders. In this respect, the project team undertook following activities.

1. Initiated dialogue with the local stakeholders on Community Based Integrated Natural Resource Management (CBINRM).
2. Undertook research on various aspects of CBINRM and shared it with the stakeholders.



3. Held discussions with stakeholders (Government Agencies and other local level stakeholders) individually to know their view on CBINRM and garner their support for the same.
4. Helped organize the 'Platform' meeting and facilitate the discussion.
5. Helped formation of executive committee to prepare plan of actions for CBINRM.
6. Helped document the discussions in the meeting.
7. Facilitated arrangements to ensure the sustainability of 'Platform' after the project work is phased out from the area.

The project team along with community people and other stakeholders helped build consensus among stakeholders on addressing issues on CBINRM. With so many sectors in resource management, getting people together to reflect on issues towards integrated natural resource management was challenging. Municipality was expected to lead the 'Platform' but could not due to absence of elected representatives.

#### ***Role of SORUP in Platform facilitation***

SORUP facilitated organize 'Platform' meeting and executive committee meeting by contacting representatives of local stakeholders as they had knowledge of the community and were part of research team. They served as a link between the project team and the community, and executive member of General Assembly (GA).

#### ***Role of Stakeholders***

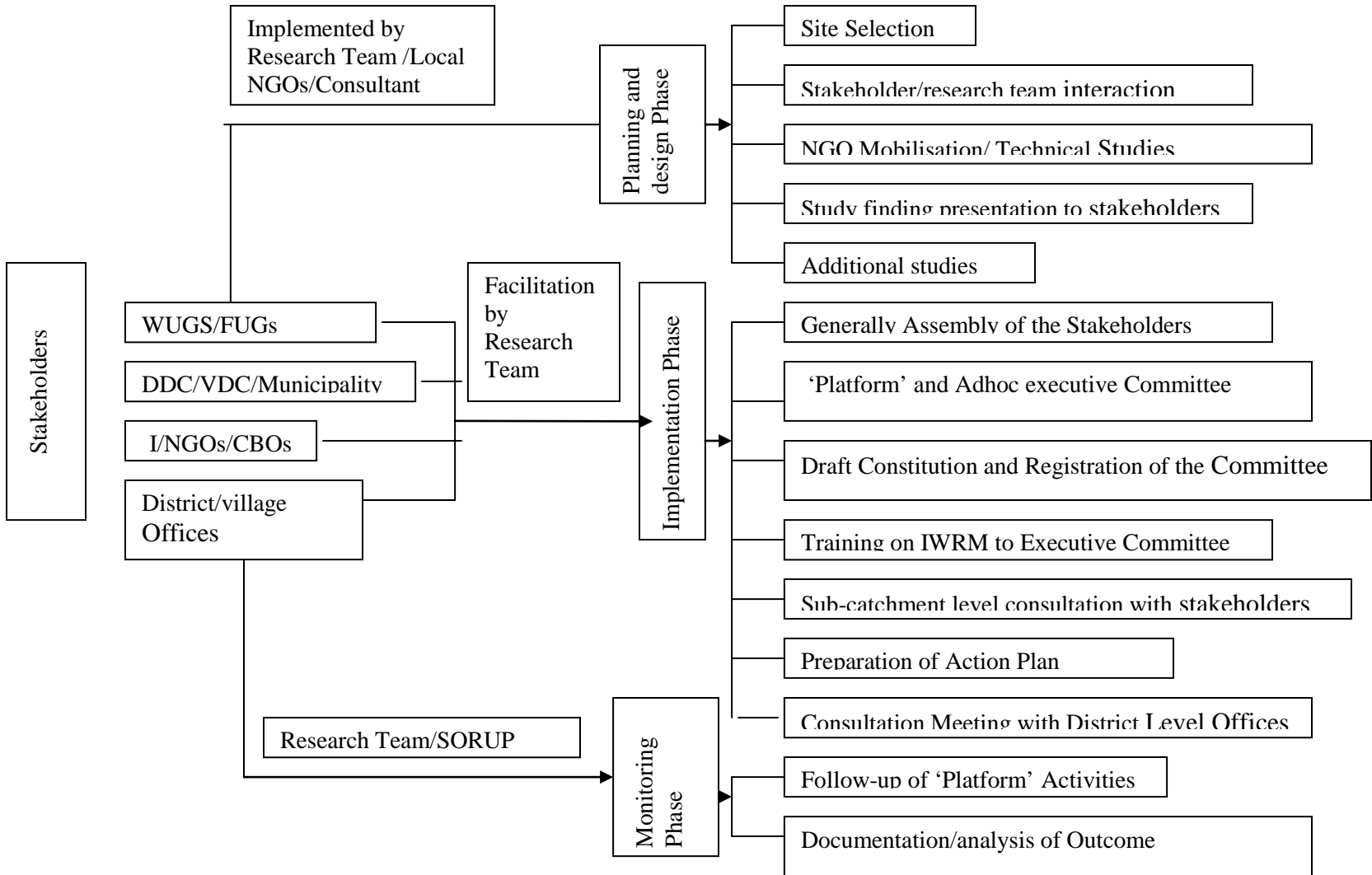
The representatives nominated by water users, forest users, and other local stakeholders participated in the 'Platform' meeting. The officials from the DDC, irrigation and forest office and Municipality were also present in the meeting. This was the local level meeting of 'Platform' stakeholders and they contributed in identification of the problem and analysed gaps in linkages and integrated management of resources through the brainstorming session of the stakeholders. After finalization of the institutional linkages and issues in resources management, the second level meeting focused on - how productivity of resources can be enhanced? The meeting concentrated on following work:

- Prepare and agree on the TOR of the 'Platform' (ad hoc executive committee) in relation to the roles and responsibilities of the other organisations working in the Begnas Basin area.
- Agree on areas of work (mostly related to information system, managerial and institutional) for improving productivity of resource uses.
- Prepare and agree on action plan.

The 'Platform' formed by the project also required formal recognition to act as a legal entity. The ad-hoc committee therefore prepared the constitution, discussed it and got approved in the stakeholders' representative meeting.

The approach applied in the formation of 'Platform' is presented in following schematic diagram.

**Schematic Diagram of 'Platform' Approach**



#### **4. Sub-basin Committee vis-à-vis ‘Platform’ and Implementation of Action Plan**

The sub-basin committee proposed for the implementation of the National Water Plan has more of a coordinating role than of executing agency implementing activities on its own. The sub-basin level committee is to identify programs for integrated resource management and seek the technical and financial support from the government agencies, NGOs and other development agencies in the district for the implementation of the activities that helps manage resources for the benefit of the local users. Likewise, the district level agencies are to coordinate with the sub/basin committee when implementing their development activities in that particular sub-basin, so that the activities supports the local need and benefits the users. The District Water Resource Committee (DWRC) is to co-ordinate the activities of both the sub-basin committee and the development agencies through Water Assembly at the district level (Figure 2) according to the National Water Plan. The full implementation of the National Water Plan 2005 therefore, demands the intensive interaction between the government agencies, sub-basin committees and District Water Resources Committee (DWRC). This was the ideal situation envisaged in the National Water Plan.

But in absence of the full implementation of the National Water Plan at the time of action research, the DWRC was not fully functional; therefore, linking of ‘Platform’ with the DWRC was not possible. But the ‘Platform’ also required formal recognition to act as legal entity, therefore, it was officially registered as an NGO with District Administration Office (DAO), headed by the Chief District Officer (CDO) who is also the chairperson of the DWRC, and has acquired legal recognition. The second meeting of the ‘Platform’, recognized the need for preparation of action plan in order to keep the ‘Platform’ activated. Therefore, the project helped develop action plans for Begnas catchment management by providing services of a facilitator. The ‘Platform’ members helped in organizing meeting in various parts of the sub-basin to have consultation with the stakeholders on activities to be included in the action plan and the modalities for its implementation. The preparation of the action plan was towards creating the linkage between the agency and local resource users for operationalising the provisions made in the National Water Plan 2005. The action plan was expected to be implemented by the ‘Platform’ in coordination with the government agencies, I/NGOs, users and other stakeholders working at district and local level by mobilizing resources from government agencies, local elected institutions, I/NGOs, other public and private sectors. Therefore, the project team organized a district level meeting of the stakeholders to inform them about the formation of the ‘Platform’ and to facilitate linkage between the ‘Platform’ and district level agencies. The district level meeting was attended by the district level government agencies, DDC, I/NGOs, project researchers and representatives of the ‘Platform’, who made the presentation about the ‘Platform’. The presentation and discussions mainly focused on provisions of the National Water Plan 2005, the prioritized activities in the action plan prepared by the resource users, the role of ‘Platform’ for its implementation and the role of district level agencies in the implementation of the activities. The district level agencies were supportive of the idea and assured of necessary help.

A follow up of the ‘Platform’ activities after one year of its operation, and after completion of project work revealed that it was not fully functional as envisaged during its formation. During

this period the 'Platform' was able to organise village level consultation and executive committee meeting was held regularly and was exploring suitable modality for its operation. The analysis of their functioning showed the following possible causes for this situation.

Firstly, the government has not implemented the National Water Plan in full fledged by setting up the required institutional mechanisms at the district and local level. The existing overlaps and contradictions between rules, regulation, laws and institutions have not been removed to facilitate the integration. Because of this the agencies at the district and local level are following the sectoral policies and guidelines, thus inhibiting the integrated approach at the local level. In absence of necessary reforms at the central level, the district level agencies did not have clear mandate to follow the implementation of National Water Plan 2005 and have their limitations to carry on activities on their own.

Secondly, the DWRC, which is mandated to play a key role in the basin management is still dormant and has not been able to provide necessary guidance to the concerned agencies involved in the preparation and implementation of the district plans. Therefore, the 'Platform' could not establish the linkage with the DWRC through which it could have established linkages with development agencies both government and I/NGOs at the district level. In absence of such linkage, it could not generate necessary support from the district level offices for the implementation of its action plan. It should be noted that the National Water Plan 2005 has not envisaged the functioning of sub-basin committees in isolation.

Thirdly, as per the provision of National Water Plan 2005 the DDC and VDC's are to mobilize local NGOs and the CBOs. But there is absence of the elected representatives due to stalled local election for over a decade now. The government officials, who manage these institutions have little incentives to work with the local CBOs and are more focused on administrative functions. Therefore, the 'Platform' members and also the CBOs are reluctant to approach them as easily as they could have approached to their elected representatives at district and local level.

Fourthly, the local units of the major political parties have much say in local affairs and most of the decisions of the DDC, VDC and municipality are done in consultation with their representatives. Thus, the support from these parties is a must for the functioning of any of the organisation/ institutions at the local level. In that respect the 'Platform' could not garner support from all the parties at local level due to local political dynamics as some of the parties thought that they do not have adequate representation in the 'Platform' to influence its decision. Therefore, the active support from the local parties was lacking to make it functional.

Finally, the 'Platform' tried to initiate some income generating activities on their own to raise cash resources themselves to meet their operational expenses and to implement some locally prioritized activities e.g. lake cleaning. For this, they approached the fishers' group to develop an arrangement for fish raising in the Begnas lake. However, the negotiations failed as the fishers group were reluctant to allow a separate group to raise fish in the lake. In this connection it is important to note that the DDC and the municipality is collecting tax of NRs.1 per kg of fish from the fishers group without any substantial contribution for the management of the lake. This could have been a perennial source of income for the functioning of the 'Platform'.

Overall it could be said that the lack of clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities of the sub-basin committees and DWRC vis-à-vis its linkages with other agencies in relation to the resource management seems to be an obstacle to introduce new institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the Water Resources Strategy 2002 and the National Water Plan 2005.

## **5. Analysis and Conclusions:**

The action research carried out in one of the catchments in the western part of the country was aimed at operationalisation of the integrated approach in resource management as envisaged in the Water Resources Strategy 2002 and National Water Plan 2005 of the Government of Nepal through 'Platform' approach. The 'Platform' was expected to function as sub-basin committee facilitating integrated resource management at sub/basin level by expanding the mandate of the existing institutions. Understanding the issues, mainly focusing on policy, legal and institutional barriers, issues on dynamics of resource use and users at local level and more importantly exploring the possibility of enhancing role of existing users' group in resource management were the important component of the study. The desk-top study on the legal, policy and institutional review revealed that there are disconnects and contradictions in sectoral provisions which is not conducive to the facilitation of the integrated approach at the local level. Therefore, it required timely revisions and amendments in policy and legal provisions.

The action research in the field followed a participatory approach by involving the stakeholders at every stage of the study and its implementation. The feedback from the users and its incorporation constituted an important aspect of the action research. The intricacies of resource management, the access to and benefit from it, role of various stakeholders, formal/informal institutional linkage among resource users and its implications in management were useful in helping users understanding of the need for integrated approach. The interaction between them provided an opportunity to learn from the experiences of each other and some of the experiences were shared among them for better resource management. It was felt that the network relationship between various users was not adequately identified and its potential was not fully realized to the benefit of all the stakeholders. This led to the realization that strengthening relationship among the users group and with local institutions, government agencies and other external institutions was necessary for expanded mandate for integrated activities on land and water management. This paved the way for the formation of the 'Platform' for which the stakeholders, with the facilitation of the research team and the local NGO, actively participated.

The stakeholders were enthusiastic and the initial activities of the 'Platform' were encouraging as they drafted their constitution, officially registered as an NGOs with the government and prepared 10 years plan of action of their own. The organisation of the meeting at local level and with the district officials at the district level was encouraging because of the commitment of necessary support both from the users and the officials. However, the 'Platform' could not take its activities further afterwards due to lack of clarity of the functions of the sub-basin committee in Water Resources Strategy 2002 and National Water Plan 2005 and mechanism to link them to the District Water Resources Committee (DWRC). The DWRC at the time of formation of the 'Platform' was still dormant and was not in a position to co-ordinate the line agencies activities and link it to the sub-basin. Therefore, the lack of support from the district level agencies and, lack of elected representatives at the local level left the 'Platform' without adequate linkage to

the local level and district level institution. That linkage was important in terms of accessing resources, both technical and financial, for the sub-basin planning and implementation of activities for the benefit of the stakeholders. The effort to generate their own resources by the 'Platform' was also not successful due to the skepticism from the resource users at the local level and lack of political support from the political parties at the local level.

In overall, the lesson learned from the action research is that the policy formulation in itself is inadequate unless it is backed by legislative and institutional reforms for its effective implementation. The action research however, was able to fulfill its objectives for following reasons:

Firstly, it has developed an approach for organizing stakeholders at the sub/basin level for initiating consultation among themselves on the issues for integrated resources management. The initiation of the consultation in itself was important in the development of institution for integrated approach.

Secondly, the research was able to make stakeholders understand the intricacies of resource management and linkages of their individual activities with other by undertaking researches on the various aspect of the resource management, access to and control of resources and the benefit. This enabled the research team to elicit their participation for 'Platform' formation.

Thirdly, the processes applied in the formation of 'Platform' are important in the backdrop of clear understanding of how do we go about the formation of sub-basin committees as envisaged in the Water Resources Strategy and National Water Plan. Therefore, the processes could be replicated to other sub/basins also.

Finally, the 'Platform' could be up-scaled to function as sub-basin committee when the National Water Plan comes into full implementation.

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