

## Adaptive Strategies for Responding to Floods and Droughts in South Asia

Cooperative Agreement: 367-A-00-02-00211-00  
Institute for Social and Environmental Transition

Final Program Performance Report  
to

U.S. Agency for International Development – Mission to Nepal  
September 27, 2002 - July 31, 2004

### Comparison of actual accomplishments with goals established for period

As outlined in the original proposal, the project timeline is given in the table below:

Project Time Line: Years	Year 1				Year 2	
Phases	Phase					
*Assuming the start is October 2002.	Oct-Dec*	Jan-Mar*	Apr-Jun*	Jul-Spt*	Oct-Dec*	Jan-Mar*
<b>Harvesting International Lessons</b>						
Global Experience Review & site visits						
Development of Guiding Framework						
<b>Field &amp; Regional Institutional Documentation and Implementation Activities</b>						
Initial visits to identify partners						
Project initiation meeting & finalization of partners						
Coordination and Training Meetings						
Coordination and Document Production Meeting						
Field & Institutional documentation by Partners						
<b>Major Dissemination Activities</b>						
Major regional dis. and training conferences						
Local (pilot area) dis. and training meetings						
Major Report Milestones						
Month end of period	3	6	9	12	15	18

Legend:

- Periods of intensive activity
- Periods when work continues at a low intensity
- Internal project meetings
- Major conferences
- Major report milestones



There were three changes in the project timeline above: (1) the period of coordination and document production meetings was moved from Oct-Dec 2003 to Jan-Mar 2004 (year 2 of the project); (2) an extension of the project was granted to end July 2004 (year 2 of the

project); (3) the period of major report production was moved from Jan-Mar 2004 to Apr-July 2004.

This project represents an initial attempt to understand and disaggregate the factors which enable communities to adapt to floods, droughts and climatic variability by examining the courses of action households actually take during flood and drought events, and locating the insights generated in a wider review of regional trends, government programs and systems theory.

The project as a whole has been very successful, the result of a unique collaboration between local grassroots organizations, regional non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and international organizations working across South Asia. All collaborating partners met frequently at the start of the project period to discuss the issue of marginalized communities adapting to and coping with floods and droughts in the Nepal Terai and northern India. Discussions led to a common understanding of the problem - conceptual foundations of adaptive capacity and livelihood resilience - terminology used and the problems inherent in conventional approaches to flood and drought relief. Through explanations and discussions of tried and tested field methodologies used by the various partners in their own projects, an agreement was reached on the best methodology for field studies and interviews to be conducted for this project. Cross-checks between field sites and surveys ensured consistency in data collection and survey methods.

Case studies were conducted in drought- and flood-prone regions of Nepal and India. These were the drought-prone regions of Rajasthan and Gujarat, India, and the flood-prone areas in the Ganga basin along the trans-boundary Rohini and Bagmati Rivers between Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in India and the Nepal Terai.

At the end of the field study period, data from all the field groups were collected, compiled and analyzed. The results were shared with all collaborating partners and discussed over several meetings between project partners. A first draft of the final project document was written as a collaborative effort between all project partners at a major writing workshop, and fine-tuned by the editors. A roundtable dialogue on adaptive strategies for responding to floods and droughts was organized, to which interested individuals and organizations working in the field of climatic variability and change and disaster management and relief from around the world were invited. The project document was finalized and published in the form of a book: *Adaptive Capacity and Livelihood Resilience: Adaptive Strategies for Responding to Floods and Droughts in South Asia* and at the time of writing this report is still being disseminated around the world. A list of individuals and organizations to which the book has been sent by ISET-International is attached to this report and gives an indication of the substantial level of interest generated by the project and the requests for copies of the book that have been received from all countries. This list does not include books sent to individuals and organizations in South Asia by project partners in the region, which would represent a substantial number of books again.

As the project proceeded, a website was created to document the project's objectives and activities. The website provides details of the project's collaborating partners, the concepts behind the project and its objectives, details and maps of the four field survey sites, survey methodologies used, and a schedule and write-up of the major activities during the course of the project. Presentations made by the collaborating partners at the roundtable dialogue are available on the site in their original forms – Word document, PowerPoint and Adobe pdf formats. Lastly, the final project document is currently available on the website in a low resolution pdf format, and will soon be available in high resolution. The website is an extension of ISET's website: [www.i-s-e-t.org/asproject](http://www.i-s-e-t.org/asproject).

**Reasons why established goals were not met (if applicable)**

All established goals were met.

**Other pertinent information including status of finances and expenditures including analysis and explanation of cost over runs or high unit costs.**

Detailed accounting on the project is being submitted through SF 269 and SF 270 forms.

Dissemination list for AS project final document.

Adaptive Capacity and Livelihood Resilience: Adaptive Strategies for Responding to Floods and Droughts in South Asia

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