

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL VIRTUAL OBSERVATORY (MEVO) PROJECT, NEPAL.

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ABSTRACT

The Mountain EVO project entitled "Adaptive Governance of Mountain Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation enabled by Environmental Virtual Observatories" is a joint research initiatives implemented in Nepal, Peru, Ethiopia and Kyrgyzstan. The main objective of the project is to reduce the poverty by providing the better information on ecosystem services on which local livelihood is depended. The upper mustang region is climatically rain shadow and arid. The major ecosystem services of the region are water, agriculture and pasture land. Changes in precipitation and temperature pattern have severely affected snow accumulation and water yield for irrigation. In this context, the project aims to address the knowledge gap especially on water availability and its proper management mainly based on the citizen's knowledge and scientific measurements. It is an effort of coproduction and co-sharing of knowledge. For achieving the goal, the project has installed scientific instruments for water flow monitoring and precipitation on its case study site. The output of the results will be shared to local community and local level decision makers through various means so that they can better informed on the existing ecosystem services and enhance their livelihood.

KEYWORDS: Ecosystem services, livelihood, precipitation, temperature