



Engaging Local Government in Transdisciplinary Research and Resilience Building for Landslide Risk Reduction in Mountain Districts of West Nepal

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Nepal, located in the Himalayan arc, is one of the most landslide-prone countries in the world. Natural features such as steep slopes, fragile geology and the high intensity of rainfall, together with deforestation, on-slope irrigation and non-engineered road construction, magnify landslide risk. Various efforts have been made to reduce these risks and to build resilience of local people. However, these efforts seem inadequate as the risk associated with landslide is increasing. In order to build community's resilience to this increasing risk, experts from different disciplines should work together to develop innovative ways to find the best possible solutions. Realizing this, our five-year ongoing research project, Landslide EVO, aims to build resilience towards the landslide risk of local communities, and has been trying to engage local government along with academia, scientists and the local communities themselves. Here, we present our experience and opportunities from engaging local authorities in multi-disciplinary research conducted in two remote mountain districts of west Nepal. With the help of low-cost water level sensors and rain gauges, we are assessing rainfall patterns, river flow regimes, soil type, and geology, along with the social aspect of hydrological-related disasters, to better understand local disaster risks. Also, we demonstrate our capacity-building activities for the local authorities through training and workshops to develop their understanding and knowledge of risk and resilience. Our experience suggests that working closely with researchers from different disciplines, government authorities, and the local community, helps to better understand issues related to natural hazards, as well as knowledge transfer for enhanced project sustainability in two remote mountain regions of Nepal.