

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. The government and its development partners have implemented various projects for river (basin) improvement in the Bagmati River Basin. Major government initiatives have been through the High Powered Committee for Integrated Development of Bagmati Civilization (HPCIDBC) on river improvement within Kathmandu Valley and through the district offices of the departments of irrigation, water-induced disaster prevention, and soil conservation and watershed management; and local bodies (municipalities and district and village development committees).

2. Various development partner initiatives have supported the government in implementing projects focusing on watershed management, water supply and sanitation, wastewater treatment, irrigation development, water-induced disaster prevention, flood management, river improvement, and solid waste management. Initiatives are also focusing on water and land resource database management and modelling, including flood forecasting and early warning systems. The table lists proposed and ongoing projects.

Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
Water Supply and Sanitation			
ADB	Melamchi Water Supply Project ¹	2001–2014	317.0
	Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Improvement Project	2012–2016	116.0
	Kathmandu Valley Wastewater Management Project	2013–2018	118.0
Irrigation, Drainage, and Flood Protection			
ADB	Water Resources Project Preparatory Facility	2013–2016	13.8
World Bank	Building Resilience to Climate Related Hazards	2013–2018	31.3
Government of India	Nepal–India Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (embankment extension)	Ongoing	Annual budget support

ADB = Asian Development Bank.
Source: Asian Development Bank.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

3. Apart from several government-led initiatives, which are implemented primarily through the HPCIDBC, the major development partner initiatives within the Bagmati River Basin are being undertaken by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The World Bank project on Building Resilience to Climate Related Hazards, funded by the Strategic Climate Fund, will strengthen the capacity of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology to mitigate climate-related hazards by improving the accuracy and timeliness of weather and flood forecasts and warnings for climate-vulnerable communities. The project will also support the development of agricultural management information system services to help farmers mitigate climate-related production risks. While the flood forecasting systems to be established under the World Bank project will be established in two basins in the east and west, the forecasting system to be established will be within the Bagmati River Basin. During project design, ADB held extensive consultations with the World Bank and will continue to collaborate to ensure systems in place are compatible.

¹ Cofinanced by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Nordic Development Fund, and OPEC Fund for International Development.

During implementation, ADB will continue to engage with other partners who may engage in future development initiatives within the basin.

4. The aim of improving water security and climate-resilient development requires synergy between projects. For example, river improvement for the upper Bagmati will require timely completion of (i) wastewater treatment and management, (ii) river improvement and management including solid waste management, and (iii) additional flow augmentation. The goal of achieving the anticipated river improvement targets will not be achieved without all these three activities being completed on time. This requires close coordination of the ADB-funded Kathmandu Valley Waste Water Management Project² and local bodies dealing with solid waste management and this project. The project steering committee will include key stakeholders representing ongoing projects and other government agencies, enabling greater coordination and synergies for development in the river basin. The project will build partnerships with nongovernment organizations to undertake social mobilization, build a communication strategy, and implement watershed improvement works.

5. Since the project focuses on integrated water resources management (IWRM), coordination among all stakeholders is inherent. Consultations will be held with all key stakeholders in the development of the river basin organization and the river basin master plan.

C. Achievements and Issues

6. The project was prepared in close coordination with government and development partners. As the project is planned at the river basin level, multiple stakeholders and sectors are involved. The project scope was decided in consultations with development partners and their interventions. Achieving the project outcome will therefore depend on the successful and timely completion of related projects, in particular the ADB-funded Kathmandu Valley Waste Water Management Project and Melamchi Water Supply Project.

7. This project is unique because the developed interventions are based on IWRM with the river basin as the fundamental planning unit. This implies that interventions in one sector or region need to ensure no adverse impacts in other sectors or regions sharing the same water resources

D. Summary and Recommendations

8. The project scope was approved by the project steering committee, which includes representation from all relevant government agencies and civil society: the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat, the ministries of finance and urban development, HPCIDBC, the Kathmandu Valley Development Authority, departments of irrigation and water induced disaster prevention, municipalities, Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, the Federation of Nepalese Industries, chambers and commerce, and two civil society members. The Ministry of Urban Development, the executing agency, will ensure that project implementation is carried out through a similar mechanism ensuring overall coordination among these agencies and the development partners.

² ADB. 2013. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan and Grant and Administration of Loan and Grant to Nepal for Kathmandu Valley Wastewater Management Project*. Manila (Loan 3000, Grant 0342, Loan 8269).