



# Nepal: Bagmati River Basin Improvement Project - Additional Financing

Project Name	Bagmati River Basin Improvement Project - Additional Financing	
Project Number	43448-014	
Country	Nepal	
Project Status	Proposed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Loan Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	Loan: Bagmati River Basin Improvement - Additional Financing	
	concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund	US\$ 63.00 million
	TA: Capacity Building of the Bagmati River Basin Water Management Institutions	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 600,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development	
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Rural flood protection - Water-based natural resources management Water and other urban infrastructure and services - Other urban services - Renovation and protection of cultural heritage - Urban sewerage	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	The Bagmati River Basin Improvement Project (current project) will improve river health and flood management in the BRB. The additional financing is required to expand the current project, including (i) consolidation of water management institutions; (ii) expansion of riverbank beautification works; (iii) mobilization of the riverine community; and (iv) the design, building, and operation of a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The additional financing is also required to cover the cost overruns to the current project, the performance of which is on track.	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The BRB has important cultural and economic value for the people of Nepal. The water of the Bagmati River is considered holy and is used for cultural and ritual ceremonies practiced at the many significant riverbank temples. The river flows through Kathmandu Valley, which is the administrative and economic center of the country, and Nepal's gateway for tourism. The river provides most of the city's drinking water in its upper basin, with hydropower generation in the upper and middle basins, and large-scale irrigation in the lower basin.</p> <p>The BRB is considered the most water-stressed river basin in Nepal. Kathmandu City's rapid and unplanned expansion has placed tremendous pressure on the upper river system. In the absence of appropriate solid waste and wastewater management, the river has become an open sewer with high fecal contamination, a heavy solid waste load, and physicochemical pollutants. River pollution is further aggravated in the dry season when 80% of the river flow is withdrawn for drinking purposes. The condition of the riverbanks has been increasingly degraded by solid waste dumping, encroachment, and uncoordinated works by various government departments. The physical deterioration of the riverine environment has created a public health hazard, as well as the loss of cultural and recreational amenities for urban communities.</p> <p>Under the current project, civil society organizations were established and have become active stakeholders in the protection of sections of the upper Bagmati River in the Kathmandu Valley. The organizations need to be further strengthened, and their activities extended to other stretches of the river. Beautification works have used nature-based solutions, which have renewed residents' appreciation of the Bagmati River, but these works cover only about half of the urban area. Expanding their scope to include other culturally significant river stretches, including restoring riverine heritage buildings, would significantly increase the current project's impact. These historic buildings, which were severely damaged during the 2015 earthquakes, are closely related to the river and have significant cultural importance for Kathmandu's citizens. River water availability will increase through the completion of upstream water storage under the current project, which will allow targeted releases of water during the dry season, but additional work is needed to capture and treat contaminated water to improve water quality for reuse in the main river branch. A flood forecasting and early warning system was developed, but more end-user training activities are needed to enhance communities response to flood warnings.</p>	
Impact	A clean, green, and healthy Bagmati River system that is full of life and valued by all (Bagmati Integrated River Basin Development and Management Plan 2018 -2038)	
Outcome	River health and flood management improved	
Outputs	Systems and capacity for integrated and participatory river basin management established Riverbank environment in urban areas improved Water availability in the basin during dry season increased and watershed conservation improved Functioning flood forecasting and early warning system for the Bagmati River Basin utilized	
Geographical Location	Bagmati River, Tukucho	
<b>Safeguard Categories</b>		
Environment	B	
Involuntary Resettlement	B	
Indigenous Peoples	C	
<b>Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects</b>		
Environmental Aspects		
Involuntary Resettlement		

## Indigenous Peoples

### Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

### Business Opportunities

**Consulting Services** The recruitment of consultants will follow the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, as amended from time to time).

**Procurement** The procurement of goods and works will follow the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, as amended from time to time).

Responsible ADB Officer	Arnaud M. Cauchois
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, SARD
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Urban Development Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

### Timetable

Concept Clearance	31 Oct 2013
Fact Finding	19 Jun 2018 to 05 Jul 2018
MRM	17 May 2019
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	20 Aug 2019

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/43448-014/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/43448-014/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=43448-014">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=43448-014</a>
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