

Profile: Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF)

Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF), a Kathmandu based non-governmental organization, aims to improve understanding of the water and its intrinsic function in human society and nature. It generates and disseminates water knowledge on interrelated issues that affect use and management of water through interdisciplinary research, publications and engagement in public debates with specific focus on the Himalaya-Ganga region. NWCF supports initiatives of building capability of young professionals to analyze issues related to water management, thus creating a pool of interdisciplinary analytical expertise. At the grass-root level, NWCF helps strengthening institutional capacity of community and civil society groups for informed participation of local people in decision making processes of water management.

While the dominant perspectives of most water researches are still focused on use and management of blue water, NWCF began its field research on managing green water in upland areas since 2002 with an understanding that only a small fraction of the intense monsoon rains survives on the hill slopes as soil moisture to sustain floral life. The livelihood of the mountain communities who cannot access water from the blue water sources depends largely on the duration for which post-monsoon green water is available in required quantity. Improving green water situation through the use of ponds show that food production can be increased by about 30 - 50 percent while the landslides and gullies are stabilized at a nominal cost without using expensive conventional structures. Natural regeneration of vegetation on slopes that otherwise remain barren has improved significantly providing fuel and fodder for the local people. NWCF has been organizing public debates through its regular interaction programme (in Nepali *pani satsang*) on the need to promote the concept and means of managing green water. It has published training materials and books in Nepali language for local water managers to manage green water. The books describe various issues surrounding green water and its management. Current research of NWCF is focused on the question of how best can the methods of managing green water help meet the challenges posed by emerging global environmental changes and the likely water stresses in the upland areas.