Spatially Enabled Decision Support in Planning of Resilient Kathmandu Valley

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SUMMARY

Kathmandu Valley (KV), the capital region of Nepal has undergone significant changes in past decades. These changes, primarily the manifestation of haphazard and unplanned development has contributed to the increase in exposure and vulnerability of the populace to disaster risks and climate change stimuli. Kathmandu Valley Development Authority (KVDA), an apex development, planning and regulatory body, is now undertaking several initiatives with the support of GoN and its development partners to implement risk resilient planning and development activities in order to "*Establish Kathmandu Valley as a safe, clean, organized, prosperous and elegant national capital region"*. Evidence based planning and development has been considered as the framework of this initiative and the role played by Spatial Information has been paramount.

In this paper, we highlight the policies and action plans KVDA has formulated and implemented through spatially enabled decision making. Further assessment is made to the requirement of enhanced Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) at the KV level and its roles to implement policies and plans, encourage citizen's participation in decision making for inclusive and integrated urban development. We also highlight on the upcoming initiative "Assessment of Earthquake Disaster Risk for the Kathmandu Valley" based on the Sendai Framework for action and propose how SDI at KV level could support in this initiative. We draw up recommendations for similar SDI implementation upscaled to cover all the urban regions at the national level.

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