



# Young Researcher

*Rejuvenating research among young aspiring minds*

## What is Young Researchers' Circle ?

Realizing the need for an active and motivated network of the research-oriented individuals, a group of coherent individuals was formed with a major focus on water-related research themes namely Young Researchers' Circle (YRC). YRC, a voluntary, independent, non-profit circle of young researchers/students, was formulated with an aim to promote and support citizen-science based water resource monitoring and management in the Kathmandu Valley and other parts of the country. YRC intends to accomplish its aims of research and knowledge sharing via events, outreach programs, involvement in Smartphones For Water Nepal's (S4W-Nepal) activities, and various networking opportunities. The motto of the YRC is "Rejuvenating research among young aspiring minds."

The major ongoing activities of YRC include participation in S4W-Nepal's Monsoon Expedition 2020, publication of a bi-monthly newsletter, and conducting various water-related research activities. YRC plays a crucial role in the Monsoon Expedition in building a strong network of Citizen Scientists throughout the Kath-

mandu Valley (and other parts of Nepal as well) and motivates them to get involved in water-related research activities. YRC intends to build a good relationship between different colleges of Nepal, mobilize the graduate-level students in water-related research, and help develop their research skills. Apart from that, the significance of YRC newsletter is to connect with young researchers/citizen scientists by informing them about the works and encouraging them to participate in the upcoming events of YRC, sharing knowledge regarding environment-related issues/citizen science, and motivating them to get involved in research activities. In upcoming days, YRC targets to conduct various outreaches, facilitate in managing conferences/events conducted by water-related organizations, etc.

As an integral part of the S4W-Nepal Monsoon Expedition 2020, YRC members are actively involved in constructing their S4W-Nepal rain gauge with locally available materials and sending regular rainfall measurement through an android application called Open Data Kit (ODK) Collect.

## Citizen Scientist's Story



"Namaste, I am Sagar Gosai. I am a third-year bachelor's student studying Environmental Science at Khwopa College, Bhaktapur. I am an enthusiastic youth with a keen interest in the field of drinking water quality and its management. I was motivated and inspired to be a citizen scientist and got involved with S4W-Nepal through an outreach program conducted in my college. I have been actively collecting daily precipitation data for more than two years as well as daily evaporation data for six months.

S4W-Nepal provides a cost-effective gauge (each costs about \$1.50) to record these measurements, which are initially made available to citizen scientists by the organization for free. Considering the plastic pollution issues, I highly appreciate the idea of reused water bottles for measurement as well as cost-effective data transmission methods through mobile application Open Data Kit(ODK). S4W-Nepal has made me aware of the importance of data collection and also helped me develop the capability to easily aware other fellow citizen scientists and local people about the data collection procedures and its importance. I am very happy to be a part of S4W-Nepal and eager to know how the data collected are being used in making wise water resource management decisions."

### The lockdown has also relieved nature, Trishuli River become clean and clear after 12 years

Due to lockdown, sand washing machines and crushers have stopped working in Trishuli River. As a result, the Trishuli River has become very clean. Locals said that large and different types of fishes were also found in the river. So, this showed that sand washing machines and crushers are working without meeting the required standard making the Trishuli River muddy and polluted.

April 10

<https://ekantipur.com/feature/2020/04/10/15865262001104361.html>

### Water AID Nepal to install 50 contactless hand-washing station in Kathmandu and Siraha

Water Aid Nepal (WAN) in collaboration with the Government of Nepal is installing 50 contactless hand washing stations in Kathmandu and 25 in Lahan Municipality of Siraha district for 3 months in order to control the spread of COVID-19. Users can wash their hands without touching the tap as it is controlled by a simple mechanism operated by foot. WAN is also working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), Wash Cluster, and Association of International NGOs and INGO federation to respond for preparedness and response against the possible outbreak of COVID-19 in Nepal.

April 16

<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/wan-installing--contactless-hand-washing-stations-in-kathmandu-valley-and-25-in-siraha-district/>

### Glaring errors in EIAs show that development projects regard them only as a formality

Credibility of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is in doubt and shows the reports are seen just as a formality. EIA report of proposed Sagu Khola Hydroelectric project in Dolakha states that a Fishing Cat was sighted there but actually they prefer slow moving rivers and stagnant lakes of Terai. West Seti Hydro-power Project reported yellow-cheeked tit birds but these birds are found specifically in eastern part of the country. Nijgadh EIA says that the project site at 200 masl is the habitat for two species of pika (*Ochotona* sp. and *Naemorhedus goral*) but those species are found in the high mountains. Such types of mistakes are occurring in many other EIA projects.

May 1

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/latest/nepals-environment-impact--non-assessments/>

An average well provides **1000 liters** of water per day. Over a 10 year period, that's over 3 million liters of clean water.

Source: [www.pinterest.com/peoplewater](http://www.pinterest.com/peoplewater)

### Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) sighted for the first time at an elevation of 2500 m in Nepal

The Bengal tiger was recorded for the first time in the camera trap at an elevation of 2500 m in Mahabharat forest area, Dhadedhura, Nepal. In the joint collaboration of the Terai Bhu Paridhi Program, WWF, and Division Forest Office, Dadeldhura, 32 pairs of camera traps were kept from March 6 –April 6, 2020, in Mahabharat forest area in which Bengal tiger was captured. According to them, whether the tiger was native to the area or not is yet to be studied. The presence of a Bengal tiger at such higher elevation opens opportunities for further research on it (Forest officer, Bishu Prasad Acharya).

April 13

<https://www.khabarhub.com/2020/13/151743/>

### COVID-19, Climate change and future

The major revenue source; tourism and remittance, has been hit hardest by pandemic COVID-19. In this situation, local bodies, provinces, and central government should give top priority to the government sector during annual budget planning so as to avoid food crisis, social-economic decline, and unemployment situation. Sudden and resultful improvement in agricultural production becomes challenging due to increased impacts of climate change. So, the government should plan according to dynamism in social, economic and environmental aspects.

April 17

<https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2020/04/17/covid-19--climate-change-and-the-future>

### Rare double headed snake in Nepal

Villagers from Nawalpur captured a two-headed banded kukri snake (*Oligodon arnensis*). It is only the third twin-headed snake documented in Nepal. The first documented in 1983 keelback (*Fowlea piscator*) and second a common krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*) 2018 in Nawalpur. It was the first record of dicephalic of a krait in Nepal and studied by Kamal Devkota of the Nepal Toxinology Association and his team at Save the Snakes. Police officers rescued the snake and released it in Chitwan National Park.

May 6

<https://www.nepalitimes.com/latest/rare-double-headed-snake--in-nepal/>

### World with or without nuclear power plants

Countries like the United States of America, Russia, France, India, China, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Turkey, and Iran are in favor of nuclear power plants, whereas Germany and Japan are against it. Germany has decided to shut down all nuclear power plants by the end of 2022. Lots of nuclear devastating disasters have happened in the world like the Chernobyl accident in Ukraine, Fukushima in Japan, and the Rhode Island incident in the USA. According to the World Nuclear Association, Kazakhstan, Canada, Australia, Namibia, Niger, and Russia are earning billions of dollars from nuclear fuel.

May 7

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/world-with-or-without--nuclear-power-plants/>





# S4W-Nepal MONSOON EXPEDITION 2020

S4W-Nepal Monsoon Expedition 2020 is a citizen science project that starts from May to September 2020. Through this expedition, we aim to generate spatio-temporal rainfall data across Nepal mostly focused on Kathmandu, Pokhara, Hetauda, Dharan, Biratnagar, and Chitwan and share the gathered information to the public through <http://data.smartphones4water.org/>.

Citizen Science occurs when ordinary people like you help to conduct real scientific research. By participating, you can contribute to our understanding of our world and make it a much better place.

## Education



Learn about the water resources of Nepal while contributing.

## Networking



Get connected with like-minded research loving people

## Fun



Win exciting gift hampers through Weekly Photo Contest and Citizen Scientists of the Month

### A few ways you can participate:

You don't have to have an advanced degree to contribute, and it's something that you can do in your spare time. All you need is a smartphone and two minutes per day.



Install ODK Collect from play store and a local rain gauge in your roof and start measuring the rainfall



Become a S4W-Nepal Ambassador: be involved in recruiting citizen scientists in your network



**“You can't manage a resource, you don't measure”**

- Lord Kelvin

S4W-Nepal



### FIND OUT MORE AT:

-  [www.facebook.com/S4W-Nepal](http://www.facebook.com/S4W-Nepal)
-  [www.instagram.com/S4W-Nepal](http://www.instagram.com/S4W-Nepal)
-  [s4w-nepal@smartphones4water.org](mailto:s4w-nepal@smartphones4water.org)
-  9801841449, 9801841448
-  [www.smartphones4water.org](http://www.smartphones4water.org)

## DID YOU KNOW?



A tap that drips just once per second wastes **7500** liters of water per year.

#s4w-nepal #weeklyquotes

S4W-Nepal has launched the Monsoon Expedition 2020 with a slogan **“COUNT THE DROPS, BEFORE IT STOPS!”**.

S4W-Nepal is recruiting citizen scientists for rainfall measurement across Nepal as a part of the monsoon expedition. Citizen scientists are encouraged to collect daily rainfall data during the monsoon season from May to September.

For more information, please visit the following link:

<https://www.smartphones4water.org/recruiting-volunteers-for-2020-monsoon-expedition/>



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