

What can participatory photography and bottom-up approaches teach us about water?

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Interests

- 1 What can we learn from local communities about the crucial role water plays in a climate change context?
- 2 How do we engage audiences around water research in new, more interactive ways?
- 3 How to ensure that people's experiences, stories and realities are accurately and ethically captured, represented and shared?



HIMALAYAS TO OCEAN (H2O)

www.himalayastoocean.com



WHAT:

To document the diversity of ways in which climate change is affecting water security, and people's daily lives.

HOW:

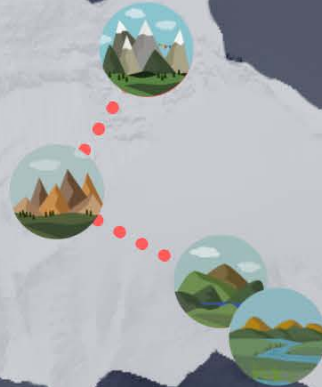
- Guided by scientific research;
- Interview based;
- Using multimedia outputs such as photography, film, and audio recordings;



1. Kali Gandaki Valley,
Mustang
- Mountains -



2. Ullikhola, Gulmi
- Mid-hills -



KATHMANDU



3. Durlunga,
Nawalparasi
- Foothills -



4. Chitwan
- Floodplains -



















Outputs



Workshop with
Nepalese
environmentalists



Immersive
multi-media
exhibitions



International
Conferences



Published in online
media, blogs etc.



Musical
collaborations



Events, webinars &
public engagement

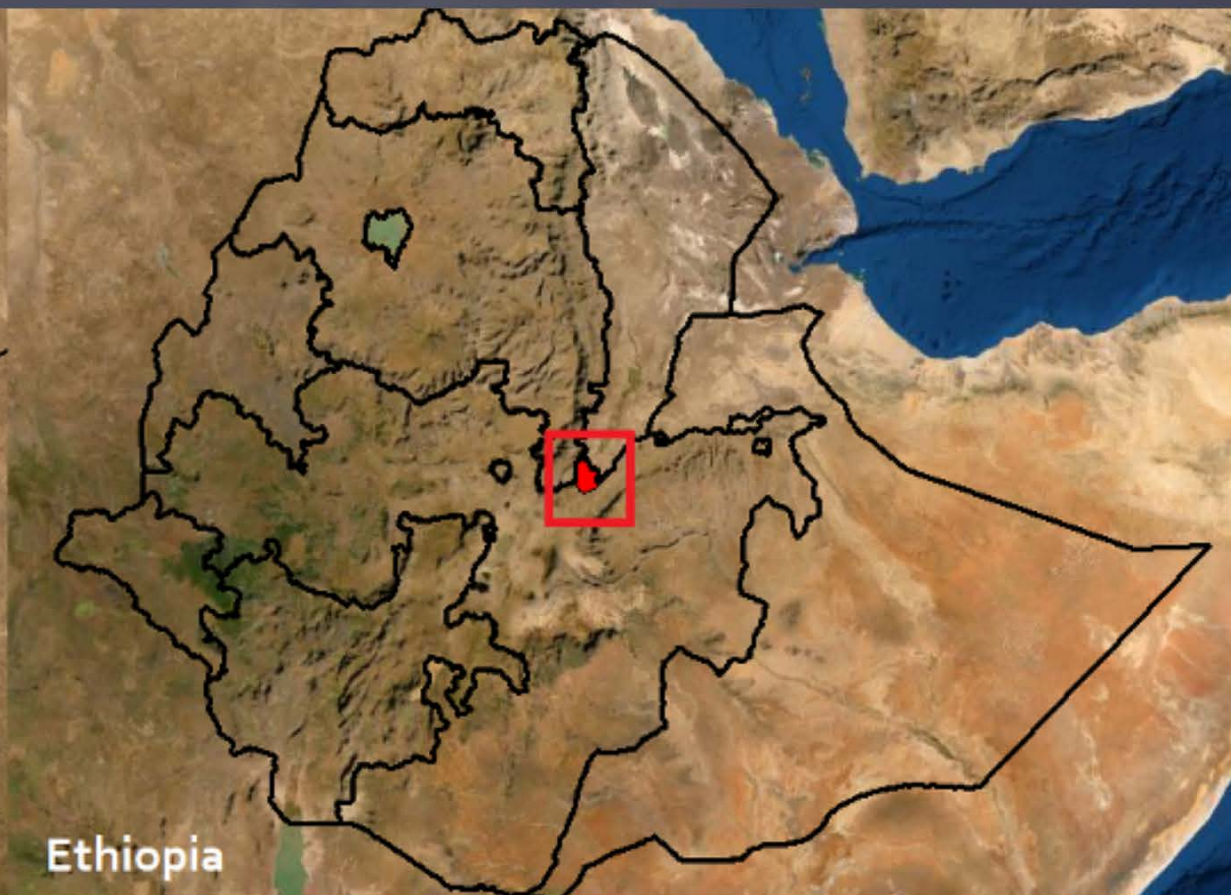
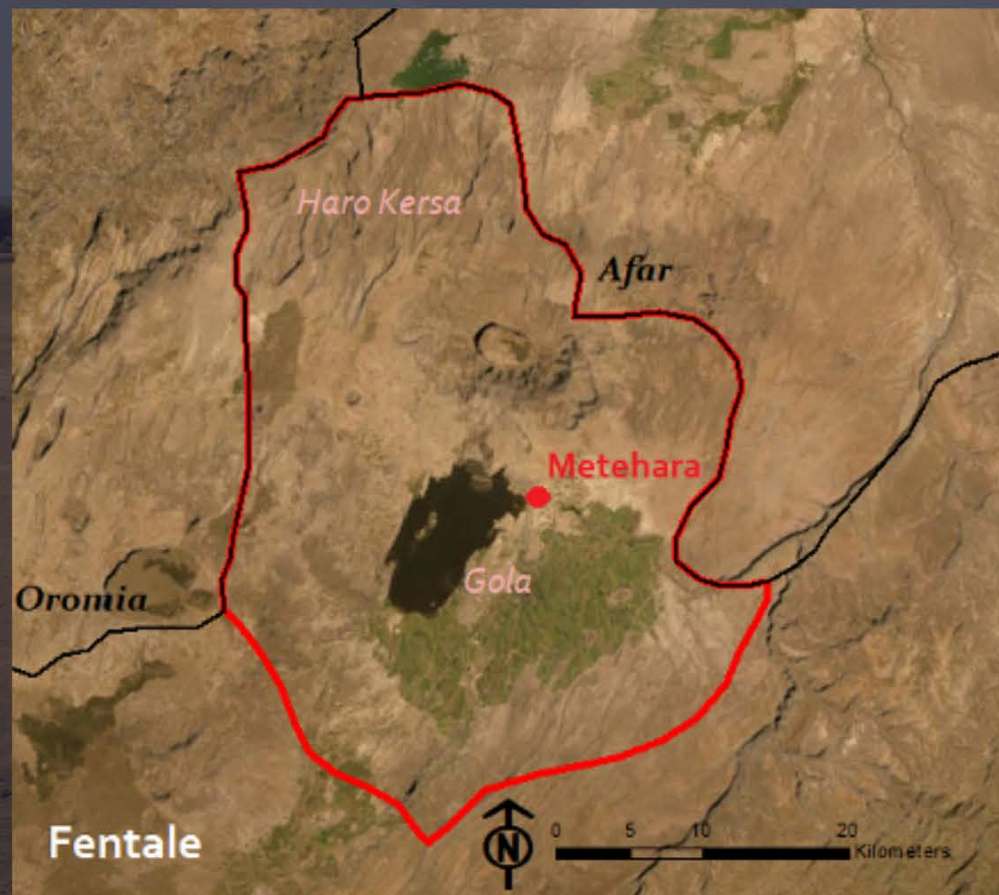
Learnings

- Scope for research-artistic collaborations;
- High demand for this kind of multi-media content;
- However, difficult to measure tangible impacts

WATER SECURITY & CLIMATE

CHANGE IN ETHIOPIA













Learnings

- High demand for scientific-artistic collaborations + multi-media content;
- Photography ethics: whose perspectives are we representing?



Photo Ethics

3 REFLECTIONS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

How do we interact with the communities we photograph?

REPRESENTATION

How are we representing the communities we photograph?

INTERPRETATION

How does the viewer/audience understand the issues captured in the images?











Learnings

DECISION MAKERS

Reported increased understanding of local issues

PHOTO VOICE PARTICIPANTS

- Increased understanding of local decision-making process (who does what, limitations etc.)
- Higher expectations;



Learnings

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Less aesthetics but wider diversity of issues and experiences represented;
- More time and geography covered;
- Community empowerment;

WHAT'S NEXT?

Measuring long-term impact

Final take- aways

POWER OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Value of photography, as a tool for scientific communication as well as a tool for community engagement.

MEASURING LONG-TERM IMPACTS

We need more concrete measures.

PHOTOGRAPHY ETHICS

What we communicate, and to whom, is as important as how we communicate

Webinar series: Development and photography ethics



DO NO HARM: WHY WE NEED PHOTOGRAPHY ETHICS

Savannah Dodd, Director of the Photography Ethics Centre

WHAT A VISUAL GEOGRAPHER HAS LEARNT ABOUT PHOTO ETHICS

Prof Gillian Rose, Head of University of Oxford School of Geography and the Environment

ON REPRESENTATION, POWER AND CONSENT

Martha Tadesse, Humanitarian photographer

ON EQUITABLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PEOPLE WE PHOTOGRAPH

Smita Sharma, National Geographic photographer

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY? THE ETHICS OF COMMISSIONING IMAGES

Tobin Jones, Humanitarian photographer

TOWARDS FAIR & EQUITABLE NORTH-SOUTH PARTNERSHIPS

Dr. Maru Mormina, Ethics Advisor, University of Oxford