



MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT NEPAL (MCA-NEPAL)

Daet: 13 January 2023

Statement

MCA-Nepal not involved in cutting of trees in Dang

MCA-Nepal learned that approximately 1,500 trees along a 22 km stretch of the east-west highway within Rapti Rural Municipality Dang were cut down and our attention has been drawn to media reports of MCA-Nepal's involvement in the cutting of trees.

The stretch includes a section for road maintenance work by MCA-Nepal. This tree cutting was done completely without MCA-Nepal's knowledge or consultation, and directly conflicts with the environmental regulations in Nepal and our environmental and social guidelines.

Immediately upon learning about this incident, MCA-Nepal and MCC personnel conducted an urgent site visit, met with local government officials, and is undertaking a review of the impacted segment to determine next steps.

The Government of Nepal established MCA-Nepal on 18 April 2018 under Development Board Act, 2013 BS as the accountable entity to implement a program co-funded by Nepal and US Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation.

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