The 110 km Marsyangdi Corridor is a 220 kV high voltage transmission line. It is being built through five districts of Nepal to transfer electricity from hydropower generation plants planned in and around the Annapurna Conservation Area to consumers of electricity in India and Kathmandu.

Key Funder: European Investment Bank  
Loan Amount: €95 Million

Project Name: Nepal Power System Expansion Project  
Project Implementer: Nepal Electricity Authority

A grassroots community from Lamjung, Nepal affected by the 220 kV Marsyangdi Corridor transmission line conducted a survey to better understand who among them are affected, how they will be affected, and what their concerns are. The results from the community-led survey are presented below.

Affected Districts:
- MANANG
- LAMJUNG
- GORKHA
- TANAHU
- CHITWAN

Total Survey Respondents: 123

% of survey respondents from specific rural municipalities (gaunpalikas) and urban municipalities (nagarpalikas)

Identity of Survey Respondents:
- INDIGENOUS: 56%
- BRAHMIN/CHHETRI: 42%
- DALIT: 1%

89% Survey respondents’ families have lived in the area for over 100 years

Age and Gender of Survey Respondents:
- 20-29 Yrs: 3%
- 30-39 Yrs: 1%
- 40-49 Yrs: 8%
- 50-59 Yrs: 7%
- 60-69 Yrs: 17%
- 70+ Yrs: 4%
Main Concerns about the Project by Gender

The survey asked communities to identify their top 5 concerns about the project. More male respondents raised economic impacts while more women raised environmental impacts to the land. This is likely because family property is held in men’s names and they receive compensation, while it is mostly women who physically work on the land.

Environmental Impacts

- Impacts on birds and animals
  - Men: 46%
  - Women: 54%
- Lower crop yields
  - Men: 43%
  - Women: 50%
- Cutting down trees and forests
  - Men: 21%
  - Women: 38%
- Sound pollution
  - Men: 7%
  - Women: 21%
- Impacts of other projects in area
  - Men: 11%
  - Women: 8%
- Visual pollution
  - Men: 3%
  - Women: 4%

Social Impacts

- No Free, Prior and Informed Consent
  - Men: 44%
  - Women: 29%
- Safety impacts
  - Men: 39%
  - Women: 38%
- Health impacts on human beings
  - Men: 28%
  - Women: 17%
- Issues due to outside labour
  - Men: 8%
  - Women: 8%
- Not enough local electricity supply
  - Men: 3%
  - Women: 4%

How the Communities Learned about the Project

- Affected community leaders: 80%
- House visits by surveyors: 15%
- Project authority group meetings: 11%
- Local Government: 2%
- Chief District Officer: 2%
- Rumours in village: 2%

Communities are Impacted by Multiple Projects

- 76% respondents affected by the 220 kV Marsyangdi Corridor also reported being affected by hydropower generation projects or other power lines
- 51% respondents affected by the 220 kV Marsyangdi Corridor reported being affected by another high voltage transmission line