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Emerging Social Issues Division
Social Policy and Population Section

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Article **Population and Environment in the Hills of Nepal**

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Abstract The middle hills of Nepal contain nearly half of the country's population and more than half of its land area. Increased human interference with the natural environment is responsible for an increasing level of soil erosion, landslides and flash-floods in this area, which severely threaten the ecological balance and the economic development of the country. This article attempts to identify the reasons for these problems despite continuous out-migration from the hills. It provides evidence that the deteriorating man: resource ratio in the hills, combined with their isolation from the national economic mainstream, have set the ecological degradation process in motion. A comprehensive hills development strategy is suggested with particular emphasis on alleviating excessive pressure on limited land resources.

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