

BROKEN PROMISES

CSOS demands accountability of political parties on environmental commitments

About the Paper

Nepal is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, although it contributes only 0.027 % of the total Greenhouse Gases emissions. A recent ICIMOD report projects one-third of the glaciers in Hindu Kush Himalayan region will melt even if the global temperature rise is limited to 1.5 degree Celsius. This will have long term repercussions on food and water security not only in Nepal but also in the entire northern peninsula of South Asian sub-continent.

Globally climate change is getting more space in political sphere. The United Kingdom and some other countries have declared 'climate emergency' to gain political support

so as to tackle climate change. Nepal has signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, political parties are yet to recognize environment and climate change as a key political agenda hence lack commitment to this issue. Ironically, 2017 election manifestos of all political parties included environment agendas. This paper has been released marking the **World Environment Day 2019 (June 5)** in an attempt to hold the political parties accountable on the promises they made during the 2017-elections to prioritize environment conservation and climate change. This paper provides the snapshots of Nepal's major political parties' positions and perceptions on environment and climate change. It is the outcome

of a review of the 2017 election manifestos of five major political parties – Nepal Communist Party (NCP), Nepali Congress (NC), Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), Bibeksheel Sajha Party and Federal Socialist Forum Nepal, and in-depth interviews with the parties' representatives.

Political Parties Commitment

Environmental Snapshots of 2017 Election manifestos



Nepal Communist Party

Joint manifesto of Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist - Leninist and Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) has made the following promises:

Clean energy development and promotion

-15000 MW electricity generation from hydro, solar, wind, biomass

Natural resource and forest management

- maintain 45 percent forest cover

Water resource conservation

- conservation of Himalayas and glaciers and Chure region

Solid waste management

- promotion of bio-energy and organic fertilizer, ban on plastic use and construction of free public toilets.



Nepali Congress

In its election manifesto the party has made the following commitments:

Natural resources and forest management

- maintain 40 percent forest cover and conservation of chure region

Development and promotion of clean energy

- reduction in use of fossil fuels and increased energy production from renewable sources.

Solid waste management

- control on use of plastic bag.

Pollution control

- application of new technologies in industries to check air pollution in Kathmandu valley.



Bibeksheel Sajha Party

The party promised to work in the following areas:

Natural resources and forest management

- commercial forest management and minimization of wildlife-people conflict.

Social waste management

- adoption of new technologies.

Pollution control

- adoption of new technologies.



Federal Socialist Forum Nepal

Promises made by the party in its manifesto included:

Development and promotion clean energy

- Making the country self-reliant on energy within 5 years, prioritizing small and medium hydropower and renewable energy sources.

Natural resource and forest management

- commercial development and use of forest and conservation of Chure region.

Water resource conservation

- multipurpose and integrated development of big rivers.



Rastriya Prajatantra Party

the party also made the following commitments:

Development and promotion clean energy

- energy generation to reach 10 thousand MW in 10 years, ending load shedding forever, solar street lights promotion and 20 percent tax exemption on electric vehicles.

Natural resource and forest management

- wetland management, Chure conservation, community forest development.

Water resource conservation

- water resources conservation, development of flood and landslide control mechanism.

Observations

- Environment is the area receiving the lowest priority in development agenda of all political parties. Climate change appears nowhere in their priority agenda.
- Political parties largely consider environment as anti-development agenda with the political leaderships demonstrating total indifference to this issue. Political parties also lack ideas and capacity to mainstream environment into development.
- In their meetings political parties hardly include environment and climate change in the agenda of discussions.
- No dedicated committees exist within the parties to frame party positioning in environment and climate change and draw the party leaders' attention to the importance of developing key positions.

- Political parties' manifestos include environment actions, but there are no plans and strategies for execution, review and follow ups.

Recommendations

- It is urgent to inculcate in the minds of political party leaders that environment is not at all an anti-development agenda rather it is not possible to meet the SDGs without integration of environment into development.
- Political parties should form and functionalize dedicated committees to discuss and develop party positions on environment and climate change.
- Civil Society organizations (CSOs) and political party leaders should increase meaningful mutual engagement for building common understanding on environment and climate change.

- Meaningful discussions on policies, bills (Environment Protection bill) and agendas on environment and climate change are called for in party meetings, parliament and parliamentary committees concerned.

- It is imperative to forge inter-party cooperation to build country position on major environment agendas of international importance such as climate change.



Prakriti Resources Centre
107/22 Aruna Lama Marg, Ganesh Basti, Narayan Gopal Chowk, Kathmandu, Nepal
P: +977-1-4428602 | info@prc.org.np



Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) Nepal

Sanepa, Lalitpur, Nepal | PO Box : 20842 | Phone : +977-1-5548321, 5548040
Fax : +977-1-5549093 | email : kirdarc@kirdarc.org | website : www.kirdarc.org
TOLL FREE : 16 600 109 109