

WORKSHOP PROCEEDING

NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT



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**23 January, 2019
Kathmandu, Nepal**



Climate and Development Dialogue

Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D Dialogue) is an informal common platform of non-government stakeholders that facilitates dialogues, and exchange of knowledge and learning on the interrelations between climate change, development and gender equality. It also works to bridge the knowledge gap in these areas between the national and local levels, and generate collective actions for policy interventions.

Member Organizations:



Foreword

In the recent times, climate change is posing a serious threat to Nepal's environment and sustainable development. Climate induced extreme events such as floods, droughts and landslides are growing year after year to the detriment of sustainable development. This does not augur well for the lives and livelihood of poor and marginalised communities, in particular. Hence, climate considerations and environment conservation are a must for the country's sustainable socio-economic development.

Many organisations from local to international level are working in climate change focussing on the areas of policy, practice and research. What is urgently called for is effective climate change policies and programmes so that actions on the ground are robust and implementable. Many good practices are already under way in the country but experience and learning from the practices are not shared adequately hence not fed into policy discourse on climate and development, public awareness in these areas are yet to be enhanced, and climate and development actions built on learning and experience generated locally. Nepal government is a party to international instruments such as Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals and Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. It is imperative to ensure that these three international agreements are implemented in such a manner that they complement to each other and thereby contribute to promoting climate resilience and sustainable development.

In this context, Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D Dialogue), an informal common platform of non-government stakeholders, which facilitates dialogues, and exchange of knowledge and learning on the interrelations between climate change, development and gender equality, organized a 'National Round Table on Climate Change and Development' 23 January 2018 in Kathmandu. More than 90 participants representing about 60 organizations participated in the event. Climate change, development and gender experts and practitioners shared their insights and experiences in their respective areas of expertise. The outcomes from the discussion will be handed over to the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) as CSO input for the 15th National Plan and for revising the National Climate Change Policy 2011, which is currently under way.

Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC) highly appreciates the active participation and valuable contribution of the representatives from various non-governmental and government sectors in the discussions, which led to generation of a set of recommendations, and applauds the C&D Dialogue's commitment and support to such initiative.

Raju Pandit Chhetri

Executive Director

Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC)

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Workshop Background

Workshop Background

The Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment released by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) states that if global efforts to curb climate change fail, the impact could be far worse; Himalayas could lose two-thirds of their glaciers by 2100. It warns that one-third of Himalayan glaciers will melt by the end of the century due to climate change, threatening water sources for 1.9 billion people, even if current efforts to reduce climate change succeed. The context of these changes will further intensify the climate change threat to people's livelihood, environment and development practices. Every year frequency of flood, drought and landslides is recorded higher. This has made poor people more vulnerable to climate change impacts. Therefore promotion of sustainability can be ensured by addressing the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. Hence, for the country to attain sustainable social and economic development consideration of climate change and environment is a must. Without addressing the implications of climate change impacts, attainment

of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets for Nepal remains just a far cry. Many organizations are working in climate change from local to international levels focusing on policy, practices and research. It is imperative that realistic policies and programmes are developed and implemented effectively to benefit climate vulnerable communities. All stakeholders including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have a crucial role to play in this endeavour. As many experiences, good practices, and learning do already exist in the country, it is high time to share them among diverse stakeholders pursuing similar goal, feed them into policy discourse around climate and development actions and raise wider public awareness. Nepal government has swiftly agreed to international instruments such as Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Sendai Framework (SFDRR) for Disaster Risk Reduction. As these three international agreements go hand in hand and it is imperative that actions on the ground are dovetailed in such a manner that these agreements reinforce each other for climate resilient and sustainable development.

Workshop Objectives

- To promote sharing learning on climate and development actions from international context to sub-national and community levels.
- To contribute to promoting climate resilient and environment friendly development practices in the country.
- To generate input for formulation and effective implementation of required

policy and programmes and meeting SDGs taking Paris Agreement into account.

Opening Session

The workshop commenced with Programme Director Mr. Prabin Man Singh from Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC) welcoming the participants. He highlighted the objective and importance of the workshop and how it will contribute to the policy making.

Chair of the Session	Dr. Nirmala KC (Tewa)
Chief Guest	Ms. Tara Devi Bhatta, Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Sustainable Development and Good Governance.
Special Guest	Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi, Member, National Planning Commission
Guest	Dr. Maheshwor Dhakal, Chief of Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Forest and Environment

Tone Setting for the Event

The opening session was followed by Mr. Raju Pandit Chettri, Executive Director, Prakriti Resources Centre giving a presentation on "Climate Change and Sustainable Development" and thereby setting the tone for the deliberations ahead. He talked about the status of climate change in Nepal, its implications for people's livelihoods and natural resources, and how climate change-induced disasters are causing economic loss and damage. According to Mr. Chettri, while Nepal is still struggling to deliver on basic needs and essential services such as education, health, drinking water, food security and infrastructure, impact of climate change is so prominent in the country that growing incidence of floods, landslides,

drying up of water resources are making matters even worse. There is also huge risk of glacier lakes outburst floods. He cited data of average temperature rise (0.056°C) in Nepal and losses caused by climatic disasters. He also touched upon climate related international agreements and conventions including the Paris Agreement, commitments and policy frameworks, and Nepal's preparation to adopt them as per the country's context and specific needs. Despite its insignificant contribution to climate change, Nepal is experiencing striking effects of climate change requiring the country to invest considerable chunk of its national income in responding climate induced disasters, said Mr, Chhetri also referring to the Nepalese President's address to the COP24, which highlighted

this state of affairs. He further said that with a view to effectively implementing the Paris Agreement Nepal is reviewing related policies and strategies so as to promote climate friendly environment and development efforts compatible with SDGs. Meanwhile, the country is preparing a Disaster Action Plan based on SFDRR. Mr. Chhetri also talked the participants through a framework on resilience and development that took into account all key international commitments on Paris Agreements,

SFDRR and SDGs in four sectors of country's choice: capacity building, technology, research and information and finance. Such an integrated framework helps strengthen the above mentioned four sectors and thereby attain the climate resilient and sustainable development goal. He also stressed the need for channelling international climate funds into community level efforts for climate resilient and sustainable development in an inclusive manner.



Guest Speakers' Remarks



Dr. Maheshwor Dhakal, Chief of Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Forest and Environment, spoke about the country's growing vulnerability to climate change impacts and policy initiatives under way to combat such impacts. Referring to article 2 of Paris Agreement which limits global temperature rise to 1.5-2°C, he said as Nepal also needs to take necessary measures in keeping with its global commitments, the Ministry of Forests and Environment is in the process of revising the climate change policy 2011 and updating the nationally determined contributions. Meanwhile, he informed the participants that discussions are being held at provincial level focusing on decarbonisation pathway through promotion of organic

agriculture and clean energy including hydro power, solar energy, bio gas plants and windmills. Primarily, he added, mitigation measure will emphasize generation and use of renewable energy, while adaptation will be embedded in production in agriculture, livestock and forest sectors. Along the same line, Dr. Dhakal said, the National Planning Commission (NPC) has underscored climate resilient economy in the 15th development plan, which is nearing finalization.

He was of the view that instead of totally depending on international aid in the area of climate change, efforts should be diverted more to community mobilization, engaging community based organizations and the private sector. He also suggested an innovative idea of engaging students pursuing their Bachelors and PhD degrees in development of proposals for Green Climate Fund (GCF) and initiatives in collaboration with the civil society organizations.

Guest Speakers' Remarks



Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi, Member, National Planning Commission (NPC) and special guest of the event stressed the need for productive collaboration between the government, CSOs and the private sector, and pledged to heartily accept the recommendations of the workshop. While informing the participants that the 15th plan approach paper the NPC is working on is nearing finalization, he

said the Disaster Management Act, SDGs and the growing climate change impacts in the country are taken into account while drafting the 15th plan. Meanwhile, a Disaster Management Plan and Civil Society Partnership Framework are also in the offing, he added. Such a framework is expected to promote CSO-government collaboration in diverse areas including programming, service delivery, awareness raising, knowledge sharing, emergency response, research, capacity development and fundraising in addition the advocacy work. Stating that NPC is taking a transformative policy departure, particularly keeping in view the country's transition to federalism, Mr. Shahi said with three tiers of government now in place and local and provincial governments initiating formulation of their own policies and plans, it is an opportunity to mainstream disaster risk reduction, preparedness and management; climate change adaptation and mitigation; and climate resilient sustainable development in such policies and plans. While highlighting the need for climate finance to reduce vulnerability and risk related to climate change and climate-induced disasters at all levels of government, he said discussions on resource gap in realizing SDGs and the way out are under way.

Guest Speakers' Remarks



Ms. Tara Devi Bhatta, Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Sustainable Development and Good Governance and chief guest of the event stated that at present when climate change has emerged as one of the greatest challenges causing global warming, change in rainfall pattern, temperature fluctuation and disasters, the least developed countries have become all the more vulnerable. That is why, she said, it is imperative that “our development plans are climate smart.” She emphatically said, “We should pay due attention to meeting our commitments to the Paris Agreement, SFDRR and SDGs.” She

also told the participants that the parliamentary committee she is heading has been emphasizing that all three tiers of government prioritize the issues of climate change and disasters in their policies, plans and programmes. As for resource gap, Ms. Bhatta spoke of the need for accessing external resources such as Green Climate Fund, and for their efficient and judicious mobilization to address the adaptation needs of climate vulnerable communities. She concluded her remarks suggesting that organizing such events at the community level would benefit larger number of women and men there, who require more knowledge of climate change, its impacts and adaptation measures.



Dr. Nirmala KC, Chairperson of TEWA, who chaired the event, stressed the need for designing the government policies and programmes taking into consideration the growing impacts of climate change and the loss of life and property being caused by disasters in the country. While underlining prevention of human actions that are contributing to environmental degradation and climate change, she noted that the adverse effects of climate change on the country’s natural resources is posing a serious threat to the livelihood of the poor and vulnerable communities. She also pointed out

that women’s heavy dependence on natural resources in their day to day lives and the general denial of their space and say in decision and policy making in general, and climate change and environment conservation issues in particular, have made them all the more vulnerable. She, therefore, put emphasis on gender responsive development policies and plans in the country.

II. SESSION ONE:

Gender Inclusion in Environment and Climate Change Actions

Panel members

Ms. Divya Gurung	Gender Expert
Ms. Basana Sapkota	Oxford Policy Management
Ms. Anita Shrestha	HIMAWANTI

This session was facilitated by Ms. Urmila Shrestha, TEWA



Gender Inclusion in Environment and Climate Change Actions

Ms. Divya Gurung gender expert made a presentation on "Opportunities and Challenges for Women's Rights in the Federal Context of Nepal". Based on her study covering 18 districts of Nepal, she said there has been gradual advancement of women, considerable number of them already holding important positions both in formal and informal entities even in remote areas. She cited the examples of local government structures, which have currently a total of 40% women's representation, and the Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs) with women holding 25% of executive committee positions. However, the progress is unequal with especially women, even among excluded groups and people in the remote areas, lagging far behind men, she noted and spoke about the disproportionate impact of climate change on women. While arguing that women on grassroots level have practical experience and knowledge of climate change and natural resource management, and they are taking adaptation actions, although without being conscious of it, she complained that their experience, learning and perspective are, however, not reflected in government policies and plans. Women in leadership, who may not be as knowledgeable are consulted in policy making process but oblivious to "leave no one behind" grassroots women are left far behind, she noted. Ironically, at times it also seems that "women leaders" are

also playing the role of gatekeepers not allowing women's entry into positions of power or their say in policy and decision making just as influential men are keeping backward men, for example – Majhi & Raji (fisher folks)—out of decision making realm. With the federal system of government now in place, structures like 'Ama Samuha' (mothers' groups) and Citizen's Ward Forum (CWF), which were playing exemplary role in mobilizing the communities, raising public awareness and connecting people to the district line agencies and political leaders, and together working for better service delivery, CWF exists no longer, while mothers' groups are left out in the cold. Currently, with Ward Committees elected on certain political party tickets are all in all and structure like mothers groups are not allowed to bypass them—they cannot directly approach the government agencies concerned even for things as simple as seeds; they have to go through the Ward Committees. Ms Gurung also pointed out the stark absence of inclusive and integrated planning process and mechanism at local government level, she put the possibility of local governments allocating budget for climate change and environment conservation under question. "As long as we cannot influence local government level planning budgeting processes issues concerning climate change will be put on the back burner," she cautioned and suggested that efforts should be made to enable grassroots women to become primary actors in climate change work and hold the Ward committees, which have become all powerful now, to account.

Ms. Basana Sapkota, gender expert from Oxford Policy Management, pointed out the lack of authentic gender differentiated data as a serious barrier to gender-informed policy making and programming. “It is high time that instead of containing ourselves with anecdotal examples, we conducted larger gender-focused research to generate authentic data and evidences,” she said. When it comes to the issue of gender equality, to many, ‘gender’ still means ‘women’, which indicates a serious lack of people’s understanding of what gender is all about, she added. While systematic marginalization has made women more vulnerable, even the efforts that are being

made to address this challenge are fraught with challenges, she noted and further said despite the space that the constitution, climate change policy and NAPA have given for positive discrimination, it remains unimplemented primarily due to sectoral coordination gap. Interestingly, she said, gender related achievement is not made a performance issue for those in related positions of power—not even for gender focal persons of the ministries. Describing the climate change and gender strategy that still is in its draft form (work started in 2015) as a good step forward, she spoke of the need to revise the draft in view of the changed national and international contexts.



Group discussion

The participants were divided into seven different groups and asked to refer to the common questions given to them and identify two key problems along with at least one idea to address them.

Question for group discussion: In the

present context of federal structure with particular reference to women's rights and climate change, what are the problems/issues that have impeded meaningful participation of women and factors that limit women's access to resource? Identify two core problems and one solution.

Group	Issues	Suggestion
1	<p>Limited access to information, skill, knowledge; lack of confidence, and low representation of women in leadership roles.</p> <p>Unequal distribution of resources and lack of meaningful resource mobilization.</p>	<p>Need to set up a powerful commission to govern and ensure efficient mobilization of climate finance from local to national level, particularly focusing on disproportionate impact of climate change on women. Budget allocated for women's development should not be invested in other sectors.</p>
2	<p>Multiple responsibility of women and workload has limited their participation.</p> <p>Weakness of local government has limited the access of women to education and awareness.</p>	<p>Need to set up a powerful commission to govern and ensure efficient mobilization of climate finance from local level to national level, particularly focusing on disproportionate impact of climate change on women. Budget allocated for women's development should not be invested in other sectors.</p>
3	<p>Officials of local government elected on one political party ticket do not address the issues and concerns of the groups who support other political party (political bias).</p> <p>No mandatory policy requiring local government to implement international and national policies.</p>	<p>Enhance capacity and knowledge of local government and institutions</p>

4	<p>Women lack in knowledge of community and national context and capacity to put across their opinions and perspective.</p> <p>Heavy workload on women due to male migration and unbalanced power relation.</p> <p>Lack of accountability among the policy makers leading to indifference to integrate gender issues into policies.</p>	<p>Institutional set up at local level is required for capacity building.</p> <p>Promotion of appropriate technology making them easily available to reduce women's workload. Need awareness raising, pressure group formation and activate citizens to hold duty bearers to account.</p>
Group	Issues	Suggestion
5	<p>The constitution and other policies ensure women's equal participation but their meaningful participation is always lacking.</p>	<p>Implement inclusive policy, planning and development processes at local level to ensure women's participation.</p>
6	<p>Women from poor and marginalized groups more affected and vulnerable.</p> <p>Social and political discrimination obstacle to addressing gender issues.</p>	<p>Require mandatory policy on reservation scheme and access to information for such women.</p> <p>Local government should adopt participatory approach to engaging all local political party representatives and development institutions in making decisions that affect the general public.</p>
7	<p>At local level, families restrict the mobility of women and their access to knowledge and information.</p> <p>Due to a lack of knowledge, experience and capacity among female ward committee members, female groups at local level are not mobilized properly.</p> <p>Women's potentials to contribute to the entire society is not yet recognized.</p>	<p>Special training package required for female ward committee members to enhance their leadership capacity.</p> <p>All the elected leaders and members in local government should be trained on equitable resource distribution.</p> <p>Women should be trained on time management and gender equality to deal with workload and help male members of the family to understand gender equality and act accordingly.</p> <p>Need to develop gender focused administrative mechanism at local and province levels.</p> <p>Need initiation of contribution-based resource distribution scheme.</p>

Recommendations

Climate change impacts are not gender neutral. It is of utmost importance to ensure meaningful participation of women in climate change related policy and decision-making, and design and implementation of adaptation and mitigation programme and projects at all levels. Development and implementation of clear guidelines and action plan for this purpose is highly crucial.

Provide tailored capacity building support for women, elected members from local to national levels in the areas of access to information, environment conservation, climate change and sustainable development.

As women are the best custodians of natural resources the Government must prioritize and invest in building women's leadership in management of natural resources. Design and implementation of natural resources management

programme and projects with women at their centre would go a long way towards harnessing women's leadership potential, utilizing their experience and knowledge in this area and addressing their specific needs in view of the disproportionate impact of climate change they are experiencing.

Allocation of dedicated funds and resources for women in all the projects and programmes.

Launch women-centred programmes and projects. Develop and implement specific policy guidelines and institutional framework for inclusion and participation of women in climate change and development projects and programmes.

It is equally crucial to support women farmers with less labour-intensive innovations and technologies that help reduce the burden of women and girls' unpaid care work and contribute to addressing climate change issues.

Financing Climate and Development Actions in Nepal

Panel Members

Mr. Madhukar Upadhaya	Climate Change and Development Expert
Mr. Pragyanjan Yalamber Rai	GCF Readiness Project, MoF
Mr. Ranjan Prakash Shrestha	European Union

This session was facilitated by Mr. Raju Pandit Chhetri, PRC



Financing Climate and Development Actions in Nepal

The panel discussed developed countries' obligation to support the developing countries to address adverse effects of climate change. Nepal is also entitled to international financial assistance to adapt to climate change impacts. But there is a big concern that the budget expenditure trend shows that the country is spending only about half of the total allocated development budget for quite a long time. As provisioned by the Paris Agreement developed countries have pledged to provide US \$100 billion per year from 2020 to address climate change impacts but the concern is Nepal may not be able to access it and after all government's absorption capacity is also very low.

Mr. Madhukar Upadhaya, one of the panellists informed the participants that climate finance flows into the country through three channels: Public Finance Management System, distinct funding (climate change policy speaks of such funding) and project support mechanism (for example, LAPA). But it does not help in strengthening state policy and mechanism, he said.

While stating that Nepal's Ministry of Agriculture by default has the highest amount of climate relevant budget, he said Nepal is the first country in South Asia to initiate budget coding. Despite various weaknesses in the coding it is an achievement as it helped build the system,



he argued, adding the government's new system of coding is to take gender into consideration.

Mr. Pragyajan Yalamber Rai stated that the Ministry of Finance is working with international entities to access financial resources from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Currently, it is also undertaking a readiness and preparatory support programme with support from the GCF. He explained that the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal Investment Bank Limited, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre and Town Development Fund are in the process of being accredited with the GCF. In order to access resources from the GCF, conducting a vulnerability assessment and building a strong climate rational is crucial. The vulnerability of climate change also determines the investment in particular areas, hence Nepal must work towards this.

Session II was further extended to experience sharing, suggestions, and questions and answers between

participants and panel members. Participant Ms. Nirmala Shrestha suggested that in view of the non-implementation of even some good policies and plans for conservation of natural resources and the knowledge that exists among women, especially, it is crucial to build on local knowledge ensuring that local women are in the forefront of natural resource management. Ms. Suchita Shrestha from SIAS shared her learning from South Africa where, she said the private sector has done good job by preventing climate change from impacting on water resources. She stressed the need for incentivizing climate-friendly water efficient technology. She also said that some private sector companies in Nepal have also come up with good proposals. Deepak Poudel, also a participant, was of the view that at local level, climate finance can be easily distinguished if climate change vulnerability assessment is conducted and budgetary allocation made in support of the most vulnerable

groups based on the assessment outcomes. But, he said, NAPs does not provide the details of how to use its framework. A clear checklist for climate change considerations would be very useful in local projects selection and planning. Mr. Sanot Adhikari was critical of what he called was the ‘projectization’ of climate change work including adaptation action in Nepal and underlined the need for institutionalizing adaptation measures. Mr. Prabin Man Singh spoke about budget allocation practices at local level and informed the participants that out of the six thematic sectors at local government level DRR is the sector that is receiving the lowest budget. In this context, he suggested, organizations working in climate change sector need to work in close collaboration with the municipalities as they have policies and guidelines but no technical knowhow, which CBOs can complement. The question - answer session is summarized in the table below.

Questions to panel members by participants	Answers from panel members
How to differentiate climate finance from development finance?	Mr. Upadhyaya replied that both types of finance contribute to development but the difference is climate finance is meant particularly for adaptation and mitigation measures.
Participants asked Mr. Pragyjan Yalamber Rai to explain the major approach of GCF.	Mr. Rai explained that the seriousness of vulnerability to climate change impacts determines the investment of climate finance.

Mr. Shree Krishna Basnet inquired about the modality of mobilizing climate finance at local (Plaika) level. Further he suggested that technical capacity of local governments need to be improved to combat climate change and manage disaster.

Mr. Upadhyaya explained that development budget addresses 16 SDG targets. Based on the same approach province 3 has initiated stock taking of project implemented in the province. Similarly, Mr Rai informed that VIA framework is developed, and based on that framework, climate funding can be accessed.

Mr. Raju Pandit Chettri inquired about the criteria to receive climate funding from the EU member nations.

Mr. Ranjan Prakash Shrestha from the EU informed him about four different approaches to receiving fund: bilateral cooperation with government, through thematic institutions, regional program and UN organisations.

Mr. Chettri wanted to know from Mr. Upadhyaya about opportunities and challenges to build resilient community and promote sustainable development.

Mr. Upadhyaya said although there is low capacity to deal with climate change issues, awareness level has increased and climate change concerns are widely discussed in parliament. He further informed that Climate Change Financing Framework is being developed by the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Rajan Shrestha, EU representative, informed the participants that based on the government national priority plan, the EU has drafted a Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP), Nepal 2014- 2020. It aims to disburse USD 360 million covering sectors such as education in federalism context, decentralization, climate change and rural development. A total of 20% of the budget is to be invested in climate change. He also stressed the need for national and sub-national governments to identify their adaptation priorities.

Recommendations

1. The Government of Nepal should prioritize accessing international

climate finance from all available sources including the Green Climate Fund to fund programmes and projects prioritized in the development plan. Nepal must prioritize and strengthen national institutions to access these available resources through national entities.

2. Climate finance should be localized. Most of the available climate finance should be channel led to local level and utilized to the benefit of the most vulnerable groups including women and other marginalized groups.
3. The government should facilitate capacity building support for all key stakeholders and ensure their access to adequate climate finance information.

4. National Planning Commission's leadership role is called for in coordinating with concerned line ministries for integration of climate change into the planning process as well as for allocation and prioritization of dedicated climate finance at all levels. One of the most effective ways of doing this is establishment of separate climate related Fund at all levels of Government
5. The Government should ensure transparency and accountability in mobilizing climate finance at national and sub-national levels. It is important to further improve National Climate Change Budget Code and expand similar coding measures to Provincial and Local Government levels.
6. 'Environment and Disaster' hardly find space in the Local Government's priority list. But the current acceleration of environment degradation and the growing frequency and magnitude of disasters in the country calls for a mechanism that places equal weight on environment and disaster as in other five priority sectors in Local Government plans, programmes and budgets.
7. Adequate budgetary allocation for translating policies and plans regarding climate change, natural resource management and disaster risk management into real actions on the ground with women at every stage of the policies and plans is the key to bringing good results.



IV. SESSION THREE:

Building Adaptive and Resilient Community in Nepal

Panel Members

Ms. Apsara Chapagain	COFSUN
Mr. Gehendra Gurung,	Practical Action Nepal
Mr. Bikram Rana	Helvetas

This session was facilitated by Dr. Dharma Raj Uprety



Building Adaptive and Resilient Community in Nepal

Ms. Apsara Chapagain from COFSUN Nepal described climate change as a hot topic for discussion but mostly concentrated in international level. She spoke of the need to increase discussions on this issue at local level as the community people are the key stakeholders, who depend more on natural resources and for that matter have higher stake in their conservation. Highlighting some good initiatives already under way, she said local groups like CFUGs have started integrating climate change adaptation in their operation plans. As the poor, excluded and women are more vulnerable to climate change impacts they should be enabled to take lead on local adaptation planning and programmes, she said, adding but unfortunately climate finance is beyond their reach. She also referred to the climate change policy's provision for investing 80% of climate finance in community level initiatives, which never materialized in practice, though.

Mr. Gehendra Gurung from Practical Action Nepal was of the view that projectization of adaptation, mitigation and resilience building

measures lead nowhere unless there is a practice of building on the knowledge and learning generated from such projects and institutionalizing them. It is not only the communities and other stakeholders involved in such projects, institutions engaged in the areas of policy work, climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer should be equally careful about this. He also stressed the need to increase climate change discussions at community level engaging local people and institutions, enhance their adaptive capacities and support local governments to develop and implement plans that help build resilient communities.

Mr. Bikram Rana from Helvetas underlined the need to adopt four E's principle (Equity, Efficiency, Ecological Integrity and Ethics) of socio-ecological resilience for effective water management. Climate policies should address water related conflict stemming from upstream and downstream benefit sharing, he said suggesting that adoption of 3R measures - Recharge, Retention and Reuse - can be an effective way to mitigate the conflict over resource sharing.

After of the end of the session, the participants were requested to put forth their final suggestions, recommendations, and queries, if any.

V. Open Forum for Discussion

Participants	Participants' views
Ms. Lakpa Sherpa	Social inclusion must be mandatory in climate change adaptation plans and programmes.
Ms. Juna Rana Magar	Disasters are triggered more by development activities. For example haphazard road construction currently under way throughout the country has accelerated soil erosion and enhanced the risk of land slide.
Dr. Chandra Pokhrel	Government institutions carryout everything from policy framing and implementation to monitoring but the results are not satisfactory. Therefore for different tasks different institutions need to be involved.

Recommendations

Conducting country wide vulnerability assessment and producing a national document based on the assessment outcome as a reliable reference material would go a long way towards effective investment of climate finance. Climate resilient development must be the basis for sustainable development. It should be inclusive, participatory and justice oriented.

It is an opportune moment to integrate climate change in the planning processes at the Federal, Provincial and Local Government levels so as to achieve sustainable development. For this purpose development of clear policy and institutional frameworks is urgently called for.

1. Climate change issues cannot be dealt with in isolation, rather they should be integrated into the overall development planning in conformity

with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

2. It is imperative to promote a mechanism of tracking successful and good practices in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation for replication and for scaling up adaptation and mitigation actions.
3. It must also develop appropriate mechanism of promoting climate justice and facilitate effective engagement in international climate change process. At the same time, enhancement of the capacity of multiple stakeholders in the country i.e. Government, civil society and the private sector is the need of the day.
4. The government must also encourage development and implementation of a national plan for promoting green and low carbon economy to curb the use of fossil fuel and thereby combat climate change.

VI. Concluding Remarks

Mr. Rajendra Khanal, DCA Nepal

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Khanal thanked the participants for their active participation and valuable input. He also appreciated C&D Dialogue for organizing the event and also pledged DCA's continued support for such initiatives in the days to come.



VII. List of Participants

S.N	Name	Organization
1	Ivy Thapa	Tewa
2	Pramisha Thapaliya	Climates Nepal
3	Lakpa Sherpa	NEFIN
4	Chameli Ghimire	Tewa
5	Sanjib Sunuwar	SD Sanjal
6	Ajay Pandey	DCA
7	Keerti Singh Pandey	
8	Srishti Jayana	Tewa
9	Sri Krishna Basnet	PRC
10	Sushma Regmi	Tewa
11	Prachan Bhujel	GGIC
12	Bikram Rana	Helvetas
13	Pravakar Pradhan	AITM
14	Jony Mainalya	DBI
15	Nigam Poudel	Team Nepo
16	Nirmala K.C	TEWA
17	Mukhesh Pokhrel	Himal Media
18	Juna Rana Magar	Didi Bahini Women Group, Dhading
19	Safalu Khadka	Utshahi Cooperatives Women Group
20	Vijay Sthapit	IOE Nepal
21	Krishna Pd. Devkota	UN Gorkha
22	Shambhu Dangal	RFCOFTC
23	Ek Raj Sigdel	WWF
24	Maheshwor Dhakal	MoFE
25	Min Bd Shahi	National Planning Commission
26	Mina Kandel	MoALD
27	Anita Shrestha	HIMAWANTI
28	Hrikita Shrestha	Ace International Business School
29	Jawala Basnet	Uthsahit Karyashil Women Group
30	Manoj Bhatta	SDG
31	Sunil Acharya	Practical Action
32	Nod Kumari B.K	Himawanti
33	Suchita Shrestha	SIAS
34	Shanta Upadhya	HI
35	Kopila Rai	INWOLAG
36	Rabin Niraula	Helvetas
37	Manju Manandhar	
38	Rajendra Uprety	National Assembly
39	Binay Dhital	PRC
40	Regan Sapkota	Greenhood Nepal
41	Sanot Adhikari	YAE
42	Sneha Rai	PRC
43	Rajendra Khanal	DCA
44	Madhukar Upadhya	Freelancer
45	Pragyajan Y. Rai	GCFRPS

46	Gehendra Gurung	Practical Action
47	Ranjan Prakash Shrestha	EU
48	Yogendra Subedi	ISET Nepal
49	Prabin Man Singh	PRC
50	Bhawani Shrestha	MahilaJagaradSamuha, Kavre
51	Nirmala Shrestha	Mahila Jagarad Samuha, Kavre
52	Yam Kumari Bhandari	Didibahini Mahila Samuha
53	Kalpana Ghimire Parajuli	Pragatisheel Mahila Bikash Samuha
54	GayatriGhimire	Pragatisheel Mahila Bikash Samuha
55	Mahesh Badal	Action Aid Nepal
56	Dharam Raj Uprety	Helvetas
57	Parmita Chapagain	FNCCI
58	Shova Koirala	WoNEE
59	Lalita Adhikari	Team Nepo
60	Tara Pudasaini	Himawanti
61	Mina Phulara	Himawanti
62	Tara Devi Bhatta	Rastriya Shabha
63	Pradeep Bhattarai	PRC
64	Sanju Shrestha	NYCA/CEN
65	Dr. Manish Raj Pandey	NTNC
66	Pabitr Dangol	DidiBahini
67	Mingma Tamang	Ojaswi Mahila Samuha
68	Bimala Budathoki	Ojaswi Mahila Samuha
69	Nil Kamal Napit	Didibahini
70	Sirapa Tara Tuladhar	Ace College
71	Nanda Kala Pandey	Ojaswee Mahila Bikash Samuha
72	Sita Sunar	Himawanti
73	Mukunda Poudyal	
74	Raju Jati	SAHAS Nepal
75	Kishor Neupane	NYC/ASCOL
76	Maryada Hamal	Subhaaramba
77	Sujata Karki	Nature Khabar
78	Chandra Pokhrel	TU
79	Meeta S. Pradhan	TEWA
80	Suman Giri	EcoSamachar.com
81	Sarika Rai	PRC
82	Merina Khadka	PRC
83	Deepal Poudel	NCPL
84	Pratibha Ghimiri	HIMAWANTI
85	Smriti Maharjan	PRC
86	Unique Shrestha	Radio Sagarmatha
87	Apsara Chapagain	COFSUN Nepal
88	Suman Meha	TDF
89	Subodh Gautam	NEFEJ
90	Basana Sapkota	OPM
91	Dibya Gurung	WOCAN
92	Urmila Shrestha	TEWA
93	Sabitra Ghimire	HIMAWANTI
94	Dhurba Sharma	GMN
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