

6th National Conference 2024

Locally-led Climate Adaptation

People Justice Governance



CONFERENCE PROCEEDING REPORT

September 23–24, 2024
Bardibas, Mahottari District,
Madhesh Province, Nepal

Member Organizations:

The Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D Dialogue) brings together a rich combination of expertise, practical insights, and diverse educational backgrounds in climate change, environmental issues, women's rights, and sustainable development. This collaborative effort is supported by a diverse and committed membership of nongovernmental and non-profit organizations, which together enhanced the understanding of these important issues with a various perspective. The members of the Dialogue are as follows:



6th National Conference 2024 was made possible through the collaboration and support of key organizations dedicated to locally-led climate adaptation. The event was organized in partnership and collaboration with:



FOREWORD

The 6th National Conference on Locally-Led Climate Adaptation, hosted by the Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D Dialogue), took place in Bardibas, Madhesh Province, Nepal, on September 23–24, 2024. The conference brought together various stakeholders, including governmental officials, local communities, and climate experts, to discuss innovative methods and approaches to address climate change through local adaptation strategies. The event included field visits showcasing rainwater harvesting, solar energy systems, and nature-based solutions for flood resilience and sustainable land management, emphasizing the pressing need for climate action in the province.

The national conference focused on key discussions regarding the challenges and opportunities faced by Madhesh Province, which is experiencing significant climate impacts, including changes in rainfall patterns, water scarcity, and increased temperatures. Several speakers, including mayors and community leaders, shared insights on how to implement locally-led solutions to enhance water conservation, promote sustainable agriculture, and improve the livelihoods of vulnerable populations.

The significance of nature-based solutions, such as bioengineering and tree plantation, to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on local communities was highlighted during the event.

Thematic sessions explored important issues including the effectiveness of adaptation efforts in alleviating the poverty and inequality, mobilization of climate finance for local initiatives, and creation of supportive policy environment for adaptation. The role of gender inclusion, community participation, and intersectional approaches to climate justice were highlighted as essential for effective and successful climate adaptation. Participants also emphasized the need for strong governance frameworks, enhanced financial support, and stronger coordination between government entities and local communities to promote sustainable adaptation initiatives.

The conference concluded with a call for increased collaboration and prompt action to address the climate challenges confronting Madhesh Province and other at-risk areas. This highlighted importance of locally-led adaptation efforts to build climate resilience and achieve sustainable development results.



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1 BACKGROUND

Nepal is one of the countries most susceptible to climate change, facing significant challenges such as glacier melting, unpredictable rainfall, and frequent climate-related disasters. Recent incidents, including GLOF in Thame (2024), Kagbeni, Mustang (2023), Melamchi and Manang (2021), and floods in the far-western province (2019), have had a severe impact on lives, livelihoods, agriculture, water supplies, and biodiversity. However, despite being a signatory to major international agreements like the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and having national policies like the NAPA, LAPA, and the National Climate Change Policy, the implementation of these frameworks is still inadequate, particularly as the risks to communities continue to escalate.

The adaptation discourse in Nepal has largely centered around the formulation and implementation of LAPAs, but many local governments have struggled to integrate LAPA priorities into local planning and budgeting. This disconnect highlights a wide concern in adaptation efforts, where projects often focus on building resilience in vulnerable sectors, such as agriculture, rather than addressing the needs of the peoples and communities

linked to these sectors, such as farmers. This highlights the necessity the need for a re-evaluation and redesign of adaptation initiatives to more effectively address the interconnected challenges of climate change, poverty, and inequality. The global need to enhance adaptation efforts is growing, and while the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) is advancing, it still requires specific, measurable targets, indicators, and mechanisms to effectively mobilize finance, technology, and capacity building. It is essential to address these gaps in order to strengthen the GGA framework by 2025 and to enhance support for adaptation in developing countries like Nepal.

As a result, Consequently, Climate and Development Dialogue, a collaborative forum of civil society organizations working in climate change, sustainable development and gender organized a National Conference on 'Locally-led Climate Adaptation.' This conference aimed to advance Nepal's efforts in developing a resilient and sustainable future, emphasizing improved adaptation governance and equitable climate justice in response to climate change.

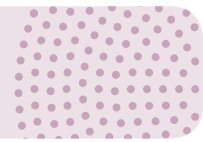
2 PARTICIPATION

The conference was attended by a total of 135 comprising 94 men and 41 women. The participants represented a diverse group, with 31 individuals from indigenous communities and 3 representatives from Dalit and other disadvantaged groups. The event also witnessed participation from a range of sectors, including 29 government officials, 93 representatives from civil society organizations, and 10 media personnel.

The key stakeholders who were present in the conference included the Chief Minister of Madhesh Province, the Chief from District Coordination Committee - Mahottari, mayors and deputy mayors of various municipalities and rural municipalities in Madhesh Province, as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, women's organizations, media, and civil society organizations.



3 FIELD VISIT



During the field visit, various climate adaptation and conservation schemes were observed at multiple locations of Madhesh Province. In Bardibas Municipality-3, Rajabas, the team observed rainwater harvesting ponds and a solar energy system utilized for sustainable water management. Additionally, the team examined the underground seepage water-raising technology for irrigation in Ratu River, along with bio-engineering efforts on earthen dam embankments aimed at enhancing flood resilience in response to the effects of Ratu River.

The visit to Mithila Municipality-11, Bahunmara and Kalapani, involved an inspection of a drinking water supply system that employs cutoff wall and ferro-cement technology. A five-storey water recharge pond was observed

in the Ratu River area, which supported natural resource management. The importance of managing torrents and gullies using nature-based solutions, including bio-engineering techniques for sediment control and water recharge, was key focus during the visit.

The concluding stop in Kushmari and Parsa Sangrampur focused on rehabilitation of degraded land. The riverbed farming and fruit plantation projects encompassed 100 and 256 bighas, respectively, providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for local households. The visit involved interactions with local user groups regarding the implementation and effects of these initiatives. The exposure visit highlighted several innovative approaches for conservation of Chure, climate adaptation, and sustainable natural resource management.



4 OPENING SESSION

4.1 Nagdev Yadav, Community Development & Advocacy Forum Nepal

Mr. Nagdev Yadav, from Community Development & Advocacy Forum Nepal, commenced the session by welcoming the guests and providing an overview of the national conference and its background. Mr. Yadav provided an overview of situation, emphasizing the critical status of Madhesh Province, where there has been considerable loss of life and property as a result of floods and landslides during the monsoon season. He pointed out the changing rainfall patterns, which have caused problems with water recharge, resulting in the depletion of hand pumps, tube wells, and other water sources. He recounted how, last year, Janakpur and Birgunj faced severe water shortages, as tube well water levels dropped, disrupting the drinking water supply to residents and leading to schools' closures due to temperatures reaching to a maximum of 40 degrees Celsius. To address these challenges, he proposed the construction of additional dams and implementation of other nature-based solutions to capture water during the monsoon across all rivers within the Chure ranges. He stated that improving water retention in the Chure range could significantly aid in groundwater recharge.





4.2 Ms. Pragya Sherchan, Prakriti Resources Centre

Ms. Pragya Sherchan, from Prakriti Resources Centre, welcomed the conference by sharing insights about the Climate and Development (C&D) dialogue and the network of member organizations involved. She extended a warm welcome to all attendees and dignitaries announcing the title of the conference and emphasizing that this is the sixth national conference dedicated to locally led adaptation, people, justice, and governance.

4.3 Keynote Presentation

Mr. Ajaya Dixit, a Climate Change Expert, presented the keynote address, titled “Climate Change: Locally Led Adaptation Prospects and Proposals,” which focused on in-depth exploration of Nepal’s climate adaptation landscape. He outlined the effects of changing climate patterns and rising temperatures on agriculture and water resources, emphasizing the importance of locally led adaptation efforts. Initiatives such as improved irrigation systems and micro-hydro power projects were emphasized as crucial for building grassroots resilience. He also identified significant challenges, such as fragmented legal frameworks, a lack of comprehensive data, and insufficient coordination among ministries. He emphasized the need for stronger policy frameworks, coordinated resource management, and greater support for locally led efforts to improve the effectiveness of these adaptation initiatives.





5.1 Ms. Sunita Singh Budhathoki, Deputy Mayor of Mithila Municipality

Ms. Sunita Singh Budhathoki, the Deputy Mayor, discussed the water scarcity issue of the Ratu River's, presenting it as a global challenge that extends beyond just Madhesh Province. She highlighted local requests to shift summer vacations from Jestha to Shrawan to respond to temperature changes and called for effective local governance in climate action. Her proposed strategies included increasing awareness, conducting

needs assessments, implementing targeted interventions, and offering post-disaster support. She emphasized the importance of coordination among all three-level of governments to ensure that funds are utilized effectively and to prevent unintended harm. She recommended conducting geographic assessments for budget planning and prioritizing research on water-efficient planting to avoid spring depletion.

5.2 Mr. Kamal Budhathoki, Mayor of Harion Municipality

Mr. Kamal Budhathoki, the Mayor, highlighted the significant shift in temperature, pointing out that water scarcity has become more evident in Madhesh. He emphasized the significance of conserving the Chure range as a critical measure for environmental protection. The municipality provided support for the removal of Masala trees (Eucalyptus species) because of their significant water consumption and began efforts for tree planting and other conservation initiatives in specific areas of the Chure range. Mayor Budhathoki stressed the need for strong collaboration with the provincial government in these efforts, considering the conservation of the Chure range as a crucial approach to safeguard Madhesh and address the environmental challenges faced by the province.



5.3 Mr. Bhola Prasad Pokhrel, Mayor of Karjanha Municipality

Mr. Bhola Prasad Pokhrel, the Mayor, highlighted the significant effects of the Baba Tal dam's construction, which took three years and has significantly contributed to groundwater recharge. The project covered 213 hectares and included the planting of 11,500 trees, along with riverbed farming in previously barren areas. This project has improved the livelihoods of approximately 243 households by creating new income opportunities. Furthermore, the municipality has launched a campaign to raise awareness about fodder plantation to promote sustainable agricultural practices. He stated that collective action can bring about meaningful change.



5.4 Mr. Suman Lal Karn, Chief of District Coordination Committee, Mahottari

Mr. Suman Lal Karn, the chief of DCC, emphasized the pressing issue of water scarcity affecting the agricultural sector and other areas. He supported the adoption of adaptation measures, such as implementing rainwater harvesting systems, to conserve water effectively. In doing so, the community can greatly improve water availability and promote sustainable agricultural practices, he concluded.



5.5 Hon. Satish Kumar Singh, Chief Minister, Madhesh Province

Hon. Chief Minister, Satish Kumar Singh highlighted the persistent challenges in Madhesh, pointing out that deforestation has remained unchanged for years, leading to flooding during the monsoon season and resulting in fatalities due to climatic effects. The local communities faced significant vulnerabilities due to climate change, and despite continuous development efforts, progress has yet to achieve the ambitious goals set in the past. He suggested adopting a more coordinated structure for initiatives instead of working individually, highlighting the plans for a large-scale plantation program targeting one crore trees. He also expressed concerns regarding the Masala tree (Eucalyptus species) exacerbating water scarcity and suggested for seeking expert consultations to identify appropriate alternatives. He emphasized the necessity of a collaborative approach among all stakeholders to effectively address the challenges.



5.6 Ms. Saloni Pradhan Singh, Former Member, National Planning Commission

Ms. Saloni Pradhan Singh, the former member of NPC, stated about the significance of discussing climate change, highlighting the importance of the Climate and Development (C&D) Dialogue. She stressed the need to prioritize intersectionality, with women at the forefront of any climate intervention, and called for a structured and systemic approach to ensure their inclusion. She encouraged the guests to honor their commitments and commence the promised actions promptly.



6 THEMATIC SESSIONS



6.1 Theme 1: Effectiveness of Adaptation Actions in Addressing Poverty and Inequality

Moderator

Ms. Muna Pokhrel from Tewa moderated the thematic session on the effectiveness of adaptation actions in addressing poverty and inequality. She commenced by presenting Tewa and its ongoing initiatives, setting the framework for the discussion. Ms. Pokhrel, subsequently, introduced the case presenter, Mr. Jagadish Bhatta from CARE Nepal, who proceeded with his presentation. This was followed by the introduction of the panel speakers, Ms. Lila Chaudhary from Samridha

Abhiyan and Mr. Saroj Pokhrel from ActionAid International Nepal. After the presentation, she invited the panelists to share their insights, facilitating an engaging discussion on how climate adaptation efforts can contribute to reducing poverty and inequality.

Case Presenter

Mr. Jagadish Bhatta from Care Nepal highlighted the effectiveness of community-based adaptation efforts in addressing poverty and inequality. He elaborated that how the projects implemented by CARE Nepal in the Siraha and Saptari districts have empowered the local communities by integrating their needs with climate resilience strategies. Projects such as the Farmer Field Business

Schools (FFBS) and Climate-Smart Village Networks (CSVN) played a significant role in improving adaptive capacity. Main activities under these projects included sustainable agriculture practices, adaptive water management, and income diversification across including drip irrigation, fish farming, vermicomposting, and crop diversification. The purpose of these activities was to improve agricultural productivity while also improving water use efficiency in climate-sensitive areas. The approach combined traditional knowledge with contemporary adaptation techniques to support marginalized groups, promoting inclusive development. He proposed the policy recommendations for scaling up successful practices across other areas, supporting green enterprises and organic farming, and to ensure local government's engagement in climate action.

Panel Speaker

Ms. Lila Chaudhary from Samridha Abhiyan, contributing to the discussion in this session, recalled the establishment of a female user group that led to the establishment of Samridha Abhiyan. The objective was combating soil degradation caused by chemical fertilizers, which has also resulted in more hospital cases. She doubted whether local governments would heed the voices and concerns of youth regarding these issues. She also recalled that her team launched the "Mato Bachau Abhiyan" (Save the Soil Campaign) to address the problem, which also involves raising funds to produce and sell organic compost, as well as providing training to women to produce compost at home. She showed her concern on the limited access to resources by minority groups which is further exacerbated in case of women thanks to unbalanced household workload between men and women, being the women side heavier. She pointed out disparities in services between men and women, highlighting the need for policies to address gender inequality.

Mr. Saroj Pokhrel from ActionAid International Nepal emphasized the importance of the global climate justice movement, highlighting the need to address women's increased workload and the lack of programs targeting their specific needs. He urged for greater investment in climate-smart technologies (CSTs) that reduce women's burdens and time constraint. He stressed the importance of applying an intersectional perspective to comprehend the different degrees of vulnerability to climate impacts. In addition to the urge for promoting CSTs, he underscored the need to improve access to basic services, as many people in society still lack essential resources. He called for initiatives to tackle these accessibility challenges.

Audience and Case Presenter/Panel Interaction-Key Points

- ▶ Discussion emphasized the negative impacts of haphazard chemical fertilizer use and the need for organic alternatives.
- ▶ Proposal to establish grant subsidies for businesses focusing on organic fertilizers.
- ▶ Addressing the low participation of women in sustainability initiatives.
- ▶ Suggested additional training for youth and women, as highlighted by Ms. Lila Chaudhary, to boost their involvement in sustainable practices.
- ▶ Creating market connections for women farmers.
- ▶ Promoting village-level associations for women's empowerment.

Session Summary

- ▶ The session witnessed how effective adaptation actions can significantly reduce poverty and inequality within communities.
- ▶ Emphasizing the transition from chemical fertilizers to organic alternatives is crucial for addressing soil degradation and supporting sustainable livelihoods.



- Increasing women’s participation in adaptation initiatives is vital for achieving equitable development and tackling gender disparities.
- Investing in climate-smart technologies can reduce women’s workloads, thereby enhancing their capacity to adapt to climate impacts.
- Strengthening market connections and providing targeted training for women farmers are essential strategies to improve their role in sustainable adaptation efforts.

COPs will be crucial for establishing effective mechanisms to channel these funds. Nepal’s policies prioritize community-level funding, with 80% of climate finance allocated to local communities, but there is a need to evaluate how effectively these allocations are being implemented. In Madhesh Province, approximately 27% of the FY 2024/25 budget is allocated to climate-relevant projects, leading to concerns regarding the efficient use of this fund. The session moved forward with highlighting the need to reevaluate the distribution of federal funds to ensure that more resources are allocated to the local level. This also emphasized the adoption of innovative financing approaches and sustaining local demands for climate action to achieve successful adaptation results.

6.2 Theme 2: Mobilizing Climate Finance for Adaptation Actions at Local Levels

Moderator

Mr. Pratap Maharjan from Mercy Corps Nepal facilitated a session on mobilizing climate finance for adaptation actions at local levels, during which important insights were shared. The discussion highlighted that risk transfer involving the private sector and government can significantly enhance local adaptation efforts. With global climate finance reaches trillions, the forthcoming

Case Presenter

Mr. Suman Chapagain from Practical Action concentrated his presentation on Index-Based Flood Insurance (IBFI), a risk management tool designed to compensate for flood-related damages based on specific water level metrics under Nepal’s Weather Index Insurance Policy. This insurance system requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including the Department of Hydrology, insurance



companies, cooperatives, and farmers. Although there were challenges, including restricted criteria for determining indexes and delays in payment, the scheme offered significant opportunities to expand coverage to other climate-related disasters. Notable achievements included the integration of IBFI with flood early warning systems and an increase in the number of insured farmers and land coverage. The project was supported by the Insurance Resilience Solution Fund and Global Parametrics and Stonesteps including key coordination support from local governments and the National Insurance Authority.

Panel Speaker

Mr. Prabin Man Singh from Prakriti Resources Centre presented research findings on budget distribution across the three levels of government, showing that 73% of the budget is allocated to the federal level, 9% to local levels, and only 11% to provincial levels as per the Decentralized Climate Relevant Budget in FY 2023/2024. He stressed the need for a greater focus on climate adaptation at the local level, where the effects of climate change are most acutely experienced. Since 2015, approximately 5 billion USD has been allocated for climate-related activities in Nepal. However, this funding seems insufficient to comprehensively address the magnitude of the challenge, necessitating additional financial support. He also called for a research that offers guidelines for more equitable allocation of climate finance to ensure adequate funding for adaptation efforts. He also shed light on redirecting additional resources to local governments for truly effective locally led adaptation, enabling them to implement meaningful climate action on the ground.

Ms. Sunita Singh Budhathoki, Deputy Mayor of Mithila Municipality, emphasized that 27% of local government spending is directed towards climate change adaptation (CCA)

in sectors including agriculture, energy and tourism. However, she also told that the significant portion of the budget continues to be centralized at the federal level, even though local governments are shouldering a greater burden. She highlighted the lack of adequate research and expertise, which complicates efforts to accurately allocate funds for CCA, and pointed out the significant dependence on international donors due to insufficient funding. Much of the finance is directed towards post-disaster recovery, such as flood rehabilitation, rather than to proactive adaptation measures. She identified key challenges, including poverty, inequality, and a widespread lack of awareness among marginalized communities about climate change and adaptation strategies. She pointed out that budget allocations, including climate finance, are often power-centric rather than informed by climate risk or a systematic approach, which hinders effective integration between climate change and development. Additionally, governance issues and the exploitation of natural resources for personal gain further exacerbate the problem. Despite these challenges, she expressed her confidence in potentials and opportunities like flood insurance for vulnerable communities and capacity-building initiatives to promote awareness and inclusivity. She stressed that changing behaviors remains a more formidable challenge than policy-making, calling for stringent policies that are not only well-crafted but actively enforced to support meaningful climate action.

Audience and Case Presenter/Panel Interaction-Key Points

- ▶ Insurance companies are increasingly receptive to providing coverage for environmental risks.
- ▶ For afforestation campaigns, it's suggested to prioritize quality over quantity by focusing on fewer trees and forming groups dedicated to the conservation of native species.



- › The finance ministry is working on better fund allocation, using software to enhance budget transparency at the local level.
- › To increase funding for local governments, community-driven demands are essential, with ongoing efforts in some districts supporting this approach.
- › In Madhesh Province, the mindset that development is only recognized through visible infrastructure highlights the need for a broader understanding of development, incorporating environmental sustainability and community well-being.

- › Improving fund allocation and community-driven demands is crucial for increasing local government funding.
- › Challenges include centralized funding, lack of awareness in marginalized communities, and governance issues, highlighting the need for proactive adaptation and capacity-building initiatives.

6.3 Theme 3: Building policy environment for enhancing adaptation actions

Moderator

Ms. Pragma Sherchan from Prakriti Resources Centre moderated the third thematic session, guiding the discussion by highlighting the need for policies that enhance and scale up climate adaptation practices. She raised key questions about the kind of policy environment required to strengthen these adaptation strategies and also briefed the potential policies that could be implemented to increase their impact. Ms. Sherchan, then, introduced the case presenter, Mr. Sohan Lal Shrestha from DidiBahini, and invited panel speaker, Mr. Nagdev Yadav, President of the Community Development & Advocacy Forum Nepal, to share their insights on the theme.

Session Summary

- › The session highlighted the importance of mobilizing climate finance for local adaptation to enhance community resilience. While 80% of climate finance is allocated to local communities, concerns about effective implementation remain.
- › Innovative tools like Index-Based Flood Insurance were discussed for managing climate risks and expanding disaster coverage.
- › There is a need for more equitable budget distribution, redirecting resources from the federal level to local governments.



Case Presenter

Mr. Sohan Lal Shrestha, DidiBahini discussed Nepal's adaptation journey, which started with early policy discussions in 1994 and concluded with the formulation of the National Adaptation Plan in 2023. He emphasized the importance of a governance framework that focuses on the role of local governments in adaptation strategies, addressing policy fragmentation and ensuring effective coordination. At the community level, challenges such as resource limitations, inadequate policy enforcement, and a lack of adaptive learning hindered the implementation of climate adaptation programs. He also highlighted the importance of integrating gender and social inclusion (GESI) in adaptation policies to promote the active participation of marginalized groups and ensure that policies are responsive to their specific needs. He concluded his presentation with the recommendations for strengthening adaptation efforts which include - sustainable agricultural practices, the integration of traditional knowledge with contemporary methods, and the investment in the capacity building for local institutions.

Panel Speaker

Mr. Nagdev Yadav from Community Development & Advocacy Forum Nepal pointed out gaps in effective implementation of policies which exist at various level of governments. He emphasized the Chure region's critical role as a lifeline for local communities; however, it faces significant challenges like water scarcity and resource depletion, with the Forest Act's impact on conservation being limited. He noted discrepancies between IEE/EIA reports and actual conditions, which have worsened the situation for local people. He stressed that effective Chure conservation requires coordinated adaptation and mitigation efforts. He also pointed out the vulnerability

of settlements located near Chure rivers to climate change, which has prompted efforts to protect these communities through reservoirs, dams, and other infrastructure projects.

Audience and Case Presenter/Panel Interaction-Key Points

- ▶ The need to uplift marginalized people, who are more vulnerable to climate change, was discussed as a priority.
- ▶ Stakeholder participation is crucial in shaping a strong policy environment for effective adaptation strategies.
- ▶ While Nepal's implementation of LAPA was praised, there was a call to integrate Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRP) for better outcomes.
- ▶ The discussion emphasized that both adaptation and mitigation efforts are essential and must be pursued simultaneously.

Session Summary

- ▶ Strengthening local governance and stakeholder participation is critical for building a robust policy environment that effectively enhances climate adaptation efforts, with a focus on addressing the needs of marginalized and vulnerable communities.
- ▶ While Nepal's Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) has been successful, integrating it with Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRP) is necessary to improve outcomes and address the growing risks from climate change.
- ▶ Both adaptation and mitigation must be prioritized together, particularly in regions like the Chure, where water scarcity and environmental degradation pose significant threats to local communities.





6.4 Theme 4: Connecting Local Adaptation Actions to Global Goals

Mr. Prabin Man Singh from Prakriti Resources Centre highlighted the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and the ongoing negotiations related to the Paris Agreement from 2015. He referenced the Global Climate Resilience Framework established at the recent COP in Dubai, which outlines climate-resilient activities across seven sectors: Water Resources, Agriculture and Food Security, Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Health, Infrastructure, Human Settlements, and Disaster Risk Reduction, with a focus on gender equity and social inclusion. Discussions are underway to develop indicators to measure the framework's effectiveness, with criteria expected in the next two years. He emphasized the critical importance of water management in adaptation efforts, noting that conserving water can significantly mitigate climate challenges. He cautioned against potential maladaptation, stressing the need for a multisectoral, community-based approach that considers socio-cultural impacts. Addressing climate crisis, poverty, and inequality together is essential, necessitating more robust policies and implementation strategies at the sectoral level; he concluded.



7 DECLARATION READING

Ms. Sarah Sigdel, SAHAS Nepal, formally presented the declaration adopted by the conference, which is elaborated upon in Annex 1.



8 CLOSING SESSION AND VOTE OF THANKS

Mr. Prakash Subedi from Care Nepal delivered the closing remarks, extending sincere gratitude to all participants from various organizations. He expressed appreciation for their valuable contributions, which played a key role in the success of the C&D Dialogue's 6th flagship event. He also underscored the importance of collective efforts in advancing climate justice, aligning with the declaration issued during the National Conference on Locally-led Climate Adaptation. He emphasized that locally-led initiatives must prioritize vulnerable communities and ensure sustainable, transformative adaptation measures moving forward.



ANNEX 1

BARDIBAS DECLARATION: CLIMATE JUSTICE AND GOVERNANCE

We, the undersigned civil society organizations, communities affected by and at risk to climate impacts; local governments, and media, gathered in Bardibas for the National Conference on Locally-led Climate Adaptation: People Justice Governance on Ashoj 8, 2081 (September 24, 2024), issue this declaration:

We call for locally-led climate adaptation that is people-centered, and ensures that the most vulnerable are protected and heard. We demand, climate justice through equitable policies and actions that prioritize the rights and needs of communities on the frontlines of climate change. We urge for strong, transparent, governance, with accountability at all levels, to ensure that adaptation is fair, inclusive and effective in safeguarding lives and livelihoods of communities at risk.

We,

- ▶ Express deep concern over the escalating climate impacts, including climate-induced losses and damages across Nepal, from the high Himalayas to the Terai.
- ▶ Stress that rapid and deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are essential, as greater mitigation will reduce the need for adaptation.
- ▶ Acknowledge the numerous climate adaptation projects and programmes being implemented in Nepal and the valuable lessons learned.
- ▶ Recognize that current adaptation efforts are inadequate to protect the lives and livelihoods of people and communities vulnerable to climate impacts.
- ▶ Express concern over insufficient mobilization of both domestic and international finance to enhance adaptation efforts.
- ▶ Take note of the ongoing negotiations on the Global Goals on Adaptation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and emphasize the importance of these discussions in aligning solutions with Nepal's unique adaptation needs.

We call for the following principles and actions in all current and future climate adaptation initiatives in Nepal:

1. Climate Justice must be at the heart of all adaptation efforts, focusing on people and ecosystems.
2. Adaptation interventions must address the interlinked challenges of climate crisis, poverty and inequality.
3. Adaptation must move from incremental to transformative approaches, with the country's development policies and plans facilitating fundamental shifts in resource management, market systems, and human interaction with nature.
4. Intergenerational equity must be a key consideration; ensuring future generations have the capacity and resources to address future climate risks.
5. Long-term and sustained adaptation actions are essential to build resilience of people and communities against current and future climate impacts.
6. Risk transfer and reduction measures, which minimize both economic and non-economic losses and damages, must be scaled up, along with investments in early warning systems and other risk reduction measures.
7. Climate change must be mainstreamed into public financial management at the local, provincial and federal levels to leverage domestic and international finance for adaptation.
8. Adequate resources and a supportive policy framework must be ensured for effective implementation of adaptation plans. Governments must prioritize a congenial policy ecosystem, backed by adequate and predictable financial resources for scaling adaptation.
9. Independent evaluations of major adaptation programmes and projects must be conducted to draw lessons for improving future interventions.





Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC)

Ghumti Sadak Marg, Bhimsen Gola,
Mid Baneshwor, Kathmandu.

Email: info@prc.org.np

Web: www.prc.org.np