

7th National Conference 2026

Bridging Policy and Practice: Harmonizing Climate Governance

Localization | Finance | Justice



Member Organizations:

The Climate and Development Dialogue (C&D Dialogue) brings together a diverse range of expertise, practical experiences, and perspectives on climate change, environmental issues, women's rights, and sustainable development. This collective platform is supported by a committed network of twelve non-governmental and non-profit organizations, contributing to a deeper and more inclusive understanding of these critical issues for the climate justice. The Dialogue members include:



FOREWORD

This report presents the proceedings of the 7th National Conference of the Climate and Development (C&D) Dialogue, organized under the theme “*Bridging Policy and Practice: Harmonizing Climate Governance, Localization Finance Justice*.” The conference was held on 23rd April 2026 in Lamahi, Dang, Lumbini Province, Nepal.

The conference brought together representatives from federal, provincial, and local governments, communities including women groups, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, youths, LGBTIQ+, civil society organizations (CSOs), development partners, and media to reflect on Nepal’s progress and persistent challenges in advancing inclusive and effective climate action.

The C&D Dialogue network, through its member organizations, has been consistently working to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement on climate governance, with a particular focus on localization, climate finance, justice and people. This national conference served as a key platform to foster dialogue

between policy frameworks and ground-level realities, with the aim of enhancing accountability, coordination, and implementation effectiveness. It also equally contributed to the promotion of the work done by the women groups at local level by showcasing their products and utilizing them as conference kits and token of love for the guests and speakers.

On behalf of C&D Dialogue, Prakriti Resources Centre extends its sincere appreciation to the Climate and Development Dialogue’s member organizations for their foresight in convening this crucial dialogue. PRC also commends all speakers, panelists, participants, and partner organizations whose valuable contributions made this conference a meaningful space for learning, reflection, and collective action. It is our hope that the insights generated through this conference will contribute to strengthening climate governance systems that are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable communities in Nepal.

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1 BACKGROUND

Nepal is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to its fragile Himalayan ecosystem, diverse topography, and strong dependence on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water resources, forestry, and disaster-prone livelihoods. Increasing climate-induced hazards including floods, landslides, droughts, heatwaves, and glacial melting continue to pose significant risks to lives, livelihoods, and development gains.

Over the years, Nepal has developed important policy and institutional frameworks for climate action, including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA), disaster risk reduction strategies, and climate-responsive budgeting mechanisms. Despite these advancements, significant gaps remain in effective implementation, coordination across governance levels, and equitable access to climate finance.

One of the major challenges is the persistent gap between policy commitments and practical implementation at the local level. Limited financial resources, weak institutional capacity, fragmented coordination mechanisms, and insufficient localization of climate finance have constrained effective climate

action. In addition, vulnerable groups—including women, Indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, and economically marginalized populations continue to face disproportionate impacts of climate change while remaining underrepresented in decision-making processes.

In this context, C&D Dialogue, together with its member organizations, has been facilitating national and sub-national dialogues to promote evidence-based policy advocacy, and collaborative action on climate governance. The 7th National Conference was organized to address these critical gaps by bringing together diverse stakeholders to discuss pathways for strengthening climate governance, localization of climate action, and climate finance justice.

The conference aimed to generate collective understanding on how policy frameworks can be better translated into effective action, strengthen coordination among stakeholders, and promote inclusive and equitable climate resilience in Nepal. It also sought to amplify voices from local communities and marginalized groups to ensure that climate governance systems are responsive, accountable, and justice oriented.

1

PARTICIPATION

113 diverse participants were part of the conference that comprised of 53 men, 58 women, and 2 individuals identifying as others, among which 49 were representing Indigenous People, 7 were from Dalit, 23 were youths and 5 people with disabilities, reflecting strong gender diversity and inclusion. Key

stakeholders, such as Lumbini Province Planning Commission, Ministry of Forests and Environment, elected representatives from various municipalities, women's organizations, youth networks, media and civil society organizations, actively participated.



3 OPENING SESSION



Ms. Pragya Sherchan, from Prakriti Resources Centre, commenced the 7th National Conference, providing an overview of Climate and Development Dialogue and its member organizations. She highlighted that this event marked the seventh national conference organized under the theme *"Bridging Policy and Practice: Harmonizing Climate Governance"*. She emphasized the importance of such platforms in strengthening dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to address climate change challenges effectively.

She further underlined the significance of organizing the national conference outside the capital city. Referring to the 6th National Conference held in Bardibas, she noted that national-level discussions and policy dialogues should not remain limited to Kathmandu. Instead, such engagements should be conducted closer to communities where climate impacts are directly experienced and where local resilience and adaptation practices are actively being implemented. She also expressed the commitment



Pragya Sherchan
Prakriti Resources Centre

of C&D to continue organizing future conferences in different regions of Nepal to promote wider geographic representation, inclusion, and participation.

Ms. Muna Pokharel from Tewa in her opening remarks, welcomed the chief guest, distinguished guests, and all participants. In her remarks, she reiterated the theme of the conference and emphasized the critical need for coordination and collaboration among government bodies, NGOs, and INGOs to effectively respond to climate change in Nepal. In order to address the existing gaps in the implementation of key policy frameworks such as NDC, LAPA, LDCRF etc., she stressed the importance of incorporating an intersectional lens in climate policies and practices. She concluded by emphasizing the principle *"Jasko Mudda, Uskai Aawaj"* (those affected should have a voice), and highlighted that the main objective of the conference is to bridge gaps between climate governance policies and practices. She expressed her hope that the conference would serve as a meaningful platform to initiate and strengthen this process.



Muna Pokharel
TEWA

■ **Mr. Santa Kumar Maharjan from the Prakriti Resources Centre** delivered a lead presentation highlighting the current status and impacts of climate change at both national and sub-national levels. He noted that Nepal is experiencing rising temperatures and increasing climate variability, contributing to glacier melt and long-term environmental risks. Citing national disaster data, he shared that over 32,000 disaster events have been recorded in the country, with approximately 91% being climate-induced, resulting in significant human and economic losses. Focusing on Lumbini Province, he highlighted irregular monsoon patterns, temperature fluctuations, and erratic precipitation, which have directly impacted agriculture, particularly paddy production, and increased vulnerability to drought. He identified agriculture and food security, public health, and water resources as the most affected sectors.

Mr. Maharjan also discussed the status of climate finance, noting that only a limited share of national and provincial budgets is highly relevant to climate change, indicating gaps in prioritization and allocation. He further referenced Nepal's commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including targets outlined in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the country's long-term net-zero ambitions, while emphasizing challenges in implementation. He highlighted ongoing initiatives such as climate-resilient agriculture practices and early warning systems, which have contributed to minimizing climate risks and reducing loss and



Santa Kumar Maharjan
Prakriti Resources Centre

damage at the community level. From a climate justice perspective, he emphasized that Nepal contributes minimally to global emissions but faces disproportionate impacts, underscoring the need for increased international climate finance.

He concluded his presentation stressing the significance of coordinated action across all levels of government and communities and urging all concerned stakeholders to move from policy commitments to practical transformation.

Ms. Lila Shah, Member, Central Committee, Federation of Nepali Journalists

Ms. Lila Shah, from the Federation of Nepali Journalists highlighted the importance of climate change awareness at all levels of society. She emphasized that climate change affects all stages of human life and has significant impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods, particularly in the Himalayan region through glacier melting, as well as on water resources and forest ecosystems. She stressed the need to strengthen awareness at the grassroots level, noting that meaningful change begins within local communities and contributes to broader national impact. Referring to recent flash floods and other flooding incidents in the Terai region, she observed that although adaptation measures have been introduced, their effectiveness remains limited. She also highlighted the lack of adequate local-level climate budgeting, which constrains effective implementation of adaptation initiatives. She emphasized that more effective and context-specific adaptation strategies are needed, which could serve as strong examples for other provinces and strengthen future resilience efforts.



Lila Shah
The Federation of Nepali Journalists

Ms. Sushila Belbase, Chairperson, NGO Federation, Lumbini Province

Ms. Sushila Belbase from the NGO Federation of Nepal, Lumbini Province, highlighted key issues related to climate change, watershed conservation, and the effective use of climate-relevant budgets. She emphasized the importance of strong coordination between NGOs/INGOs and the Planning Commission at local, provincial, and federal levels to ensure effective implementation of climate policies and promote best practices. She noted that NGOs and INGOs play a crucial role in implementing partners at the community level. In conclusion, she expressed her commitment to strengthening partnerships and supporting improved planning and policy implementation for climate action in Lumbini Province.



Sushila Belbase
NGO Federation

Mr. Pramod Bhattarai, Province Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Environment



Pramod Bhattarai
Ministry of Forests and Environment

Mr. Pramod Bhattarai, Province Secretary at the Ministry of Forests and Environment, emphasized the need to strengthen the use of technology alongside essential natural resources such as water and air in addressing climate change challenges. He highlighted that issues like forest fires are frequently

discussed at national and federal levels, but effective implementation at the field level remains limited. He noted that a significant proportion of development programs are now climate-related, reflecting the growing priority of climate action.

Mr. Bhattarai also pointed out that climate change has contributed to the emergence of new diseases, impacting both the health and education sectors. He acknowledged the contributions of key response actors, including the Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal Police, and other institutions in disaster management and emergency response.

He stressed the importance of stronger coordination between government bodies and civil society organizations to enhance effectiveness and bridge information gaps. Looking ahead, he emphasized the need for more strategic planning of climate-related programs, with greater inclusion of local communities and climate stakeholders to ensure sustainable and impactful outcomes.

Ms. Syani Chaudhary, Deputy Mayor, Tulsipur Sub Metropolitan city



Syani Chaudhary
Deputy Mayor

Ms. Syani Chaudhary, Deputy Mayor of Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City, highlighted the need for accountability across personal, local, provincial, and federal levels, emphasizing that commitments made must be regularly reviewed against actual progress and outcomes. She reflected on changes over time in water resources, forest conditions, and river basin water levels, noting a decline compared to previous conditions. She emphasized the importance of effective management plans and the need to identify and implement policies that deliver tangible results. She also pointed to rising temperatures and their impacts, particularly in the Terai region, stressing the urgent need for improved conservation and management of forests and water resources to strengthen environmental sustainability.

Special Guest: Dr. Dilli Raj Aryal Vice-Chair, Lumbini Provincial Planning Commission

Dr. Dilli Raj Aryal, Vice Chair of the Lumbini Provincial Planning Commission, emphasized the urgency of collectively raising voices on climate change and ensuring that these concerns are effectively addressed through plans and policy advocacy. He noted that while climate objectives have been defined at federal, provincial, and local levels, greater efforts are needed to ensure the fulfillment of these commitments. Highlighting Nepal's minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions yet high vulnerability to climate impacts, he stressed the importance of adopting a holistic approach through both vertical and horizontal coordination across all levels of government. Dr. Aryal underscored the need for clear prioritization by stakeholders, particularly in the context of limited internal resources. He emphasized the importance of optimal resource utilization, focusing on interventions that require lower investment but generate higher impact and sustainable outcomes.



Dilli Raj Aryal
VC, Lumbini Provincial Planning Commission

He further highlighted ecosystem-based solutions as effective approaches to mitigating climate change impacts. Reflecting on past progress, he mentioned the introduction of climate-responsive budgeting and the establishment of climate finance mechanisms during his tenure at the Ministry of Finance as significant achievements, despite the challenges of integrating

diverse climate issues into a single framework. He also emphasized the importance of promoting a green economy, climate-resilient infrastructure, and resilient communities. Additionally, he highlighted the need for knowledge transfer, policy harmonization, and alignment of programs among organizations and government to avoid duplication.

**Chief Guest: Hon. Devkaran Prasad Kalawar
Minister, Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE), Lumbini Province**



Devkaran Prasad Kalawar
Ministry of Forest and Environment

The honorable minister of MoFE emphasized the significance of tree plantation in the current environmental context, highlighting the engagement of community members and youth in the same for environmental protection and national development. He highlighted tree plantation as a key approach for environmental conservation and climate change mitigation. He mentioned that around 25 lakh trees were planted in Lumbini Province in the fiscal year 2082/83, while the target was planting 50 lakh trees, indicating the need to further scale up efforts. The honorable minister also stressed the importance of embankment management, watershed conservation, land restoration and bio-engineering approaches for slope stabilization and disaster risk reduction particularly in districts such as Dang, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Nawalparasi, Banke and Bardiya. Additionally, he urged development partners to work collaboratively with the ministry in conducting awareness campaigns and embankment protection activities at the ward level across six districts to achieve meaningful outcomes.

Ms. Geeta Pandey, Director-Policy Advocacy and Research, KIRDARC in her closing remarks, expressed appreciation to all distinguished guests and participants for providing their valuable time. Referring to Lumbini as a symbol of peace, Ms. Pandey emphasized the relevance of promoting climate justice from this province. She stressed that Nepal contributes minimally to global carbon emissions but faces disproportionate climate impacts, particularly affecting women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities. While Nepal has strong climate policies and plans, significant gaps remain in implementation due to sectoral, thematic, and resource-related barriers.

She underscored that Nepal's climate budget is insufficient, calling for increased international climate finance in the form of grants rather than loans to ensure accessibility at the community level. She also noted that platforms like C&D Dialogue actively engage in international negotiations, advocating on loss and damage, which globally reached around USD 184 billion between 2015 and 2022, an amount beyond Nepal's capacity to address alone. Linking to the event objectives, she emphasized the need to operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund at the provincial level with accessible mechanisms for local communities. From a climate justice perspective, she



Geeta Pandey
KIRDARC

stressed prioritizing women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups through an intersectional approach.

She concluded by calling for collective action among government, private sector, youth, and civil society. Reflecting on policy progress, she noted that earlier national plans lacked sufficient climate focus, but ongoing advocacy has improved recognition. Moving forward, she emphasized that climate governance in Nepal must be inclusive, localized, accessible, and justice-centered, with strong implementation in practice.



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THEMATIC SESSIONS

Theme 1: Decentralizing Climate Governance



MODERATOR

Ms. Renu Shrestha from ActionAid International Nepal moderated the thematic session on Decentralizing Climate Governance. She began by presenting ActionAid and its ongoing initiatives, setting the context and framework for the discussion. She also mentioned that case studies have already been conducted in around 10–12 locations, particularly focusing on conservation-related work, and emphasized that such initiatives should be led by youth to ensure stronger local ownership and sustainability. The dialogue focused on budget allocation patterns and governance structures at provincial and local levels, particularly examining their inclusiveness toward youth and marginalized communities.

CASE PRESENTER

Mr. Sanjit Shrestha from Mercy Corps Nepal, highlighted key challenges in climate budgeting and planning in Nepal. He emphasized that at least 5% of the total budget should be allocated to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Referring to the Sixteenth Periodic Plan, he noted that although a 20% allocation for climate-related activities is targeted, actual allocation remains very low (0.6%–2%). He discussed the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2021–2050, which includes 9 thematic areas and 3 cross-cutting sectors, with 65 typologies and 471 activity qualifiers. However, only 69 qualifiers and 32 typologies have received climate budget allocations. He further noted that only 20–25% of the allocated climate budget is actually spent, highlighting weak expenditure and the need for effective climate budget tracking.

He also pointed out a significant gap between DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), with low allocation and limited expenditure in both areas. Additionally, the budgeting process for DRR/CCA follows a non-linear and inconsistent pattern, affecting effective implementation. He concluded by emphasizing the need for better integration of DRR and CCA, improved budget tracking systems, and more strategic and accountable resource allocation to ensure effective climate action.

Mr. Rahul Dewan from ActionAid International Nepal, highlighted the importance of climate justice for Dalit and marginalized communities, emphasizing that climate impacts are closely linked with equity and access to common resources. He shared findings from research conducted in 13 local areas to document climate change impacts. Among these, four cases were related to common resources, including one on the degradation of water sources, especially during hot seasons, and increasing difficulties in accessing water. He noted that this issue is not only environmental but also a matter of fundamental rights, particularly the right to access natural resources. He referred to key advocacy messages such as “Jalbayu Ma Maar, Sajha Shrot Ma Bhaar” and emphasized three priorities: localizing climate governance, ensuring budgets and finance reach communities, and centering shared resources in climate solutions.

He also discussed the water, land, and forest as essential common resources. He pointed out that access to these resources is becoming more difficult and expensive, with unequal distribution patterns reflected in budget and finance studies, often worsening inequality instead of resolving it. He concluded by stressing the need to move from problem identification to practical solutions and alternatives, and highlighted that while relevant policies exist, effective implementation is essential to ensure equitable access and climate justice.

PANEL SPEAKER

Ms. Indira Kumari Chaudhary Youth activist representative of climate justice, shared experiences from her area on climate change adaptation and natural resource management. She highlighted that her community has conducted mapping of water resources and implemented awareness programs on water conservation, including cleaning campaigns. She also mentioned collaborative efforts with local communities on wetland conservation within forest areas and watershed management, including embankment protection. Water collected from these systems is used for irrigation; however, limited resources and climate stress have made it difficult to fully achieve expected outcomes.

She further noted tree plantation activities aimed at promoting greenery and conserving the environment. In some areas, plantations on barren land have supported community forest development. However, planned activities such as park construction and fish farming could not be implemented due to reduced water availability linked to climate change impacts. She also highlighted loss of grazing land due to infrastructure development, affecting livestock rearing, and raised concerns about inadequate safety measures around

watershed areas. She concluded that climate change is significantly impacting public resources and livelihoods, emphasizing the need for stronger community-based adaptation, improved resource management, and integration of climate resilience into local development planning.

Mr. Krishna Prasad Bastola, Ward Chairperson, Bansgadi Municipality-4, shared key initiatives undertaken during his tenure. He reported replacing plastic garlands with natural flowers during festivals such as Dashain and Tihar and promoting reduced use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture. He informed that 95 biogas plants have been distributed free of cost, with plans to expand this to 200 units in the coming years to promote clean energy. He also highlighted the potential of local water bodies, including Motipur Lake (Lamahi area), for fish farming and development as a picnic site, and Belauri Lake for irrigation and recreational purposes. He noted a social challenge where community participation is often limited due to expectations of financial incentives. He emphasized identifying root causes to develop effective solutions and the importance of responsible citizenship. Finally, he identified forest fires as a major environmental concern in the area, requiring stronger prevention and management efforts.

Key Discussions and Takeaways

- ▶ The discussion highlighted barriers to climate budget allocation and utilization, including weak implementation, governance gaps, and limited accountability.
- ▶ It was noted that some climate indicators are inadequately reflected in budgeting processes, affecting the inclusiveness of climate finance.
- ▶ Emphasis was placed on ensuring that climate finance reaches the community level and on strengthening implementation mechanisms.
- ▶ Emerging concepts such as carbon trading were briefly introduced as potential future opportunities.
- ▶ Concerns were raised regarding waste management, particularly non-biodegradable sanitary waste, with suggestions to promote biodegradable alternatives.
- ▶ Forest fires and field burning were identified as major contributors to air pollution, with recommendations for increased awareness and sensitization programs.
- ▶ Key planning frameworks such as the Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) and the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) were discussed, with emphasis on effective implementation.
- ▶ Biogas initiatives and expansion of livestock farming (up to 70%) were highlighted as part of sustainable energy and livelihood strategies.
- ▶ The importance of policy advocacy and lobbying was emphasized to strengthen climate governance.
- ▶ It was noted that policies alone are not sufficient, and that effective intent, coordination, and implementation are equally important.

Session Summary

- ▶ The session emphasized decentralizing climate governance for climate justice and inclusion of marginalized groups.
- ▶ Major gaps were identified between climate budget targets, allocation, and actual expenditure, highlighting weak accountability.
- ▶ The need to integrate DRR and CCA was stressed for more effective planning and implementation.
- ▶ Strengthening community-level climate finance delivery and localization was highlighted as a key challenge.
- ▶ Key environmental issues such as forest fires, water scarcity, waste, and air pollution were discussed.
- ▶ The importance of improving the implementation of the LAPA and the LDCRP frameworks was emphasized.

Theme 2: Harmonizing Climate and Disaster Actions



MODERATOR

Ms. Smriti RDN Neupane from CARE Nepal moderated the thematic session on Harmonizing Climate and Disaster Actions. She opened the session by presenting CARE Nepal and its ongoing initiatives, thereby setting the context and framework for the discussion. The dialogue focused on the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in policies and plans. It highlighted key lessons from initiatives such as index-based flood insurance and other innovative insurance mechanisms, emphasizing how such approaches can safeguard livelihoods, enhance adaptive capacity, and create an enabling policy environment.

CASE PRESENTER

Mr. Jagadish Bhatta, CARE Nepal highlighted key interventions under the Farmers Field Business School and biodiversity conservation initiatives. He noted that through the project, approximately 13,500 households have benefited, with a strong Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) dimension, where 88% of participation and leadership is by women. He further discussed nature-based solutions such as rainwater harvesting, green jobs, and low-cost soil conservation techniques. He also emphasized the importance of early warning systems and climate information services for strengthening disaster preparedness at the community level. In addition, he highlighted activities related to risk assessment and vulnerability mapping, along with efforts to enhance early warning systems, develop climate-resilient infrastructure, and promote ecosystem-based approaches to strengthen overall community resilience.

Mr. Chakra Bahadur Bam, Practical Action Nepal, highlighted index-based flood insurance and early warning systems (EWS), noting that around 10 million people currently have access, with plans to expand further during 2025–2030. He shared ongoing collaboration in Sudurpashchim, Lumbini, and Madhesh Provinces to develop provincial multi-hazard EWS workplans, emphasizing a shift from flood-only preparedness to a broader multi-hazard approach, guided by “early warning, early action”. He also introduced the flood insurance initiative in the Karnali Basin as a resilience-building practice. In measuring resilience, he referred to the five livelihood capitals, four key disaster-resilient capacities, availability and analysis of resilient resources, and structural/system-level analysis.

At the global level, he noted 76 resilience indicators, including 50 for heatwaves and 12 for floods, categorized into four sections. He highlighted policy provisions across all levels and explained the paperless insurance mechanism linking households, cooperatives, and insurance companies, with ongoing studies to scale up the model.

He also addressed heatwave management and explained the flood insurance process, including farmer eligibility. For instance, a farmer with 1 bigha of land and an estimated production value of NPR 94,000 can receive 100% compensation, depending on the level of flood damage, with claims processed based on the extent of loss.

PANEL SPEAKER

Mr. Dammar Sunar, Executive Director of BEE Group, highlighted the implementation of flood insurance in the Karnali Basin, which was initiated in 2021 in the downstream areas as a mechanism for loss and damage (L&D) recovery. He described it as a good practice initiative contributing to disaster resilience.

However, he also noted several ongoing challenges. These include the need for more detailed studies on area-specific and hazard-specific impacts, as current index-based systems cannot be uniformly applied across all locations. He further pointed out that the insurance claim process remains lengthy, which can discourage timely access to benefits. He emphasized the importance of government support through premium subsidies, which could further encourage farmers to participate in insurance schemes and strengthen overall uptake among communities.

Key Discussions and Takeaways

The session discussed inclusive climate and disaster risk management, focusing on the participation of women, LGBTIQ groups, and persons with disabilities in ongoing programs.

- ▶ It highlighted heatwave risk management efforts, including early warning systems and the development of Heat Action Plans in coordination with local governments.
- ▶ The discussion included school-based experimental initiatives aimed at reducing heat impacts through temperature monitoring and cooling strategies.
- ▶ It also covered ongoing studies on the impacts of climate change on river systems and related vulnerabilities.
- ▶ The panel shared approaches for disability inclusion, including a categorization system (A, B, C, D) used for targeted planning and interventions.
- ▶ Broader challenges in coordination, implementation, and the effectiveness of indicator-based approaches were also discussed, particularly in the context of monsoon-related disaster management.

Session Summary

- ▶ The session emphasized integrating climate adaptation and disaster risk management, with inclusive participation of women, LGBTIQ groups, and persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Key approaches included community-based adaptation, nature-based solutions, flood insurance, and early warning systems.
- ▶ Progress was noted in Heat Action Plans and multi-hazard preparedness, alongside school-based adaptation initiatives.
- ▶ Challenges highlighted included coordination gaps, indicator limitations, and delays in insurance claims, along with the need for stronger implementation.
- ▶ The session stressed policy alignment, government support, and scaling inclusive climate resilience actions.

Theme 3: Intersectional Approach for Climate Resilience



MODERATOR

Mr. Bipin Aryal from Didibahini moderated thematic session on the Intersectional Approach for Climate Resilience. He opened the session by highlighting the importance of an intersectional lens in climate action and presenting ongoing initiatives, thereby setting up the context and framework for the discussion. The dialogue focused on the concept of intersectionality and its importance in climate resilience, exploring how different social groups are differently affected by climate impacts. The session highlighted pathways for more inclusive and just climate action.

CASE PRESENTER

Ms. Pragya from Prakriti Resources Centre, highlighted that gender inequality in society is further deepened by climate change, as its impacts are not gender neutral and affecting different groups differently. She explained that gender is diverse, and within this diversity, some groups face disproportionate impacts due to patriarchal structures, limited access to resources, and exclusion from decision-making processes. She emphasized that historical inequalities and situational factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, physical condition, geography, and socio-economic status shape vulnerability, reflecting the principle of “differentiated and greater impact” and the concept of “leave no one behind.” She also stressed that approaches should evolve with time, guided by the idea of “whose issues, their participation,” and that inclusion must be reflected in policies, budgets, and planning processes.

She emphasized the Gender-Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) approach for Gender Justice through a study jointly conducted by PRC & TEWA, it contributed to developing key nine guiding principles of GJCS, including gender assessment, risk and vulnerability addressing, participation and leadership, access to information, gender-responsive budgeting, equitable benefit sharing, gender-responsive climate action, accountability, and transformative change. She added that indicators were developed for these principles to measure progress and support their effective implementation.

PANEL SPEAKER

Ms. Laxmi Yogi, Deputy Mayor of Lamahi Municipality, highlighted the municipality's efforts in disaster risk management, policy formulation, and inclusive planning. She mentioned the implementation of DRM-related mechanisms, including committees and funding arrangements, and noted that a GESI policy is currently under development. She emphasized ongoing initiatives in capacity building, preparedness, and inclusive budgeting, while also acknowledging challenges such as limited technological capacity, budget constraints, and gaps in inclusion. She further shared examples of collaboration with organizations like UN-Habitat and discussed local initiatives such as improved cookstoves, biogas promotion, and livelihood programs, though these require further strengthening. She also introduced the idea of achieving "more impact with limited budget" and reflected on inclusion issues, including the experiences of marginalized groups such as the LGBTIQ community.

Ms. Salina Chaudhary, ED of Farak Pahichan Samaj Nepal (LGBTIQ), highlighted that the LGBTIQ community continues to face persistent challenges, particularly in housing, employment, and social acceptance from both families and society. She noted that monsoon-related disruptions further affect their livelihoods and daily activities. She shared that a data collection initiative in Lumbini Province (around 480 respondents) had to be halted due to discrimination and lack of community acceptance. She also raised concerns about limited income-generation opportunities and increased mental health risks, including a rise in suicide cases during the COVID-19 lockdown. Despite these challenges, she acknowledged emerging positive changes, such as increased engagement with schools through awareness sessions, while noting that dropout rates among LGBTIQ students remain high.

Mr. Prabin Poudel, Helvetas Nepal, emphasized the importance of accountability mechanisms and mainstreaming GESI (GEDSI) across all development efforts. He highlighted Helvetas Nepal's work in bridge construction, improving access for millions of people. He discussed inequalities in access to drinking water and the importance of WASH standards, noting that solutions should be context-specific across different ecosystems. He also stressed community-level capacity building through a bottom-up approach. Mr. Poudel pointed out that while policies exist at federal, provincial, and local levels, implementation remains a challenge. He emphasized the need to address policy gaps, promote gender-responsive budgeting, and communicate development initiatives in simple, understandable language at the community level.

Key Discussions and Takeaways:

Targeted groups should receive dedicated budgets, with priority given to allowing them to lead and manage those resources.

- ▶ Repeated financial constraints and limited access prevent persons with disabilities from frequently visiting municipal offices and accessing services.
- ▶ Allocating budgets specifically for marginalized groups remains challenging, largely due to low participation of women in the budgeting process.
- ▶ A prevailing mindset still equates development primarily with roads, pavements, and physical infrastructure, overlooking social inclusion and human development aspects.
- ▶ Emphasis was placed on strengthening collective voices of communities and ensuring their concerns reach local, provincial, and federal levels.
- ▶ Participants encouraged stakeholders to actively submit proposals and engage in planning processes to ensure their needs are reflected in policies and programs.

Session Summary

- ▶ The session emphasized the importance of an intersectional approach to climate resilience, highlighting that climate impacts are uneven and shaped by structural inequalities, requiring inclusive and equitable responses based on “leave no one behind” principles.
- ▶ It underscored the need to strengthen GESI/GEDSI mainstreaming, accountability mechanisms, and coordination between policies and implementation, including integration of climate adaptation and disaster risk frameworks.
- ▶ Discussions highlighted the importance of gender-responsive budgeting, inclusive planning, and bottom-up approaches, along with improved communication of policies at the community level.
- ▶ The session also reflected on the persistent exclusion of marginalized groups, including LGBTIQ communities and persons with disabilities, emphasizing the need to strengthen participation, representation, and collective voices in decision-making processes.

6

CLOSING SESSION AND VOTE OF THANKS

Mr. Binod Thapa from SAHAS Nepal, Mr. Binod Thapa from SAHAS Nepal delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the chief guest, special guest, provincial representatives, local government officials, media representatives, and all distinguished participants. He acknowledged the growing impacts of climate change in Nepal and appreciated the efforts

of C&D members in raising awareness, coordinating with stakeholders, and advocating at the community level. He concluded by highlighting the importance of bridging policy and practice for effective climate governance and thanked all participants for their valuable contributions, reflections, and engagement in the event.



7 FIELD VISIT

The field visit was conducted on 24 April 2026 across three locations: Tilganga Jalashaya and surrounding watershed area in Ghorahi, Pajawa Pond in Shivraj Municipality, and the Buddhabhumi Handicraft Production Group in Buddhabhumi Municipality. The half-day visit aimed to observe community-led climate adaptation practices, Pajawa Pond conditions, and local livelihood initiatives for shared learning. A total of 10 females and 11 males from C&D member organizations participated across all sites, alongside local community members in each location.

FIELD 1

At Tilganga Jalashaya, 7 females and 12 males from the local community joined the visit. Participants

observed watershed restoration efforts implemented through collaboration among local government, user committees, and community forest groups under the RAIN Project. Nature-based solutions such as bamboo plantation, vetiver grass, and bio-engineering measures have supported erosion control and strengthened a 160–165-meter embankment. While the site shows growing potential for eco-tourism and biodiversity conservation, livelihood benefits remain limited. Mr. Nar Bahadur KC highlighted improvements in water availability and tourism potential, while noting challenges in income generation and irrigation for local households. Ms. Ranju Chaudhary emphasized the need to better link conservation efforts with livelihoods and local economic opportunities.





FIELD 2

In Shivraj Municipality-10, the visit included 6 females, 6 males, and 6 children from the local community and focused on understanding changes in Pajawa Pond as a shared resources conditions over time. Community members noted declining water availability and environmental degradation compared to the past, when the area supported daily uses such as bathing and livestock. Ms. Malla Pasi and Ms. Pawari Naau reflected on these changes, while Ms. Laxmi Kumari Gupta highlighted the site's cultural importance, particularly for Chhath Puja. Mr. Ajay Chaudhary shared youth-led conservation efforts, and Mr. Shiva Bhakta Thakur emphasized the area's potential for restoration to support livelihoods, irrigation, and tourism.



FIELD 3

The visit to the Buddhabhumi Handicraft Production Group included 12 females and 2 children from the group. Led by Ms. Laxmi Tharu, the initiative focuses on handicraft production using locally sourced materials, linking livelihoods with sustainable resource use. Ms. Lalita Tharu, Ms. Parbati Tharu, and Ms. Pooja Tharu shared experiences on skills development, production, and market access. The group produces items such as dustbins and pen holders, generating an average annual income of around NPR 30,000 per member, though challenges remain in scaling production and expanding markets. Overall, the field visit highlighted the importance of ecosystem-based approaches, community engagement, and strengthening livelihood linkages. It underscored the need for watershed restoration, improved benefit-sharing mechanisms, and enhanced market access to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience.



Climate and Development Dialogue: Together for Climate Justice

Key Reflections and Policy Recommendations

For Climate Justice: From Dialogue to Implementation

जलवायु मुद्दाका लागि: संवाददेखि कार्यान्वयनसम्म



नीति र व्यवहारबीचको खाडल कम गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता: नेपालमा पर्याप्त जलवायु नीति र रणनीतिहरू भए तापनि कार्यान्वयन पक्ष कमजोर रहेको औल्याउँदै, सम्मेलनले “नीति र अभ्यासबीचको दूरी” घटाउन संघीय, प्रादेशिक र स्थानीय सरकारबीच प्रभावकारी समन्वय हुनुपर्नेमा जोड दिएको छ। स्थानीय सरकार तथा समुदायहरू जलवायु प्रभाव र प्रतिकारका अग्रपंक्तिमा रहेका छन्। नीतिगत असमञ्जस, सीमित प्राविधिक क्षमता र वित्तीय पहुँच मुख्य चुनौतीका रूपमा रहेका छन्।



जलवायु सुशासनको स्थानीयकरण: जलवायु संकटको सामना गर्न स्थानीय सरकार र समुदायलाई नै नेतृत्वदायी भूमिकामा सशक्त बनाउनुपर्ने निष्कर्ष निकालिएको छ। विशेष गरी स्थानीय तहमा बजेट विनियोजन वृद्धि गर्न र प्राविधिक क्षमता सुदृढ गर्न आवश्यक रहेको छ। संघीय, प्रदेश र स्थानीय तहबीच एकीकृत योजना प्रणालीको आवश्यकता रहेकोमा जलवायु परिवर्तनलाई सबै तहको विकास योजनामा मूलधारमा ल्याइनुपर्ने र नीति, बजेट र कार्यहरूलाई ठाडो (vertical) र तेर्सो (horizontal) रूपमा समन्वय गरिनुपर्नेमा जोड दिएको छ।



जलवायु वित्तमा सरल र पारदर्शी पहुँच: अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय र राष्ट्रिय स्तरका जलवायु कोषहरू वास्तविक आवश्यकता भएका समुदायसम्म पुग्न नसकेको यथार्थलाई मध्यनजर गर्दै, वित्तीय प्रणालीलाई सरल, पारदर्शी र पहुँचयोग्य बनाउनुपर्ने माग गरिएको छ। प्रदेश तथा स्थानीय तहमा जलवायु वित्त वृद्धि गरी प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयन र अनुगमनका लागि अभि सुदृढ समन्वय र स्रोत परिचालन संयन्त्रको आवश्यकता रहेकोमा जोड दिएका छन्।



समावेशी न्याय र अन्तरसम्बन्धित (Intersectional) दृष्टिकोण: जलवायु परिवर्तनको असर सबैलाई समानहुँदैन। युवा, महिला, आदिवासी जनजाति, यौनिक तथा लैङ्गिक अल्पसङ्ख्य, दलित र अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूको विशिष्ट जोखिमलाई सम्बोधन गर्न र उनीहरूलाई नीति निर्माणको नेतृत्वमा ल्याउन सम्मेलनले आह्वान गरेको छ।



विपद् जोखिम न्यूनीकरण र नवीन प्रविधिको प्रयोग: बढ्दो जलवायुजन्य क्षतिलाई न्यूनीकरण गर्न जलवायु कार्य र विपद् व्यवस्थापनलाई एकीकृत गर्नुपर्ने र ‘इन्डेक्समा आधारित बीमा’ जस्ता नवीन उपायहरू अपनाई जीविकोपार्जन सुरक्षित गर्नुपर्नेमा जोड दिइएको छ।



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