

Regional Environmental Policy Dialogue on 'Securing land rights of women and indigenous peoples in the face of climate change in South Asia'

took place in Kathmandu
on 4-6 April 2023



KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Theme 1: Policy and Legal Reform

- 1.1 Expand Joint Land Ownership (JLO) policy at country and regional levels incorporating JLO provision on annual plan and program of the government.
- 1.2 Prevent development-induced displacement of people in the contexts of conservation and infrastructure development by effectively implementing the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) by the relevant government agencies having interagency coordination and collaboration to better assess the situation and find solutions for the affected communities.
- 1.3 Build synergies between climate change adaptation, disaster management and land management initiatives to reduce climate risks on vulnerable communities by joint activities at local, regional and national levels, involving actors such as development organizations, CSOs/NGOs, environmental defenders and grassroots people.

Theme 2: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

- 2.1 Legal frameworks at national and local levels should recognize Indigenous Peoples (IPs) as law subjects and ensure their land and environmental rights are protected.
- 2.2 Global, regional, national, and local land and environmental actors, including government agencies, should integrate gender and intersectionality analysis throughout the development processes, ensuring inclusivity and addressing diverse needs.
- 2.3 Ensure meaningful participation of diverse stakeholders in climate change planning recognizing the role of traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems in land and environmental protection.

Theme 3: Community Engagement and Empowerment

- 3.1 Ministry of Lands should provision capacity development training, mechanisms, or support for the key stakeholders (policymakers to grassroots actors) from the national to local level on sustainable land management, linked to the land classification (i.e. protected areas, agricultural land, disaster prone areas, industrial areas and etc.).
- 3.2 Ensure the robust implementation and monitoring mechanisms of land rights protections, in translating policies into action by actively engaging with the rights-holders, especially by establishing special provisions for the landless, IPs, and women.
- 3.3 Stop criminalizing environmental and human rights defenders and recognize them as the stewards of the environment.

Theme 4: Research, knowledge exchange, and capacity building

- 4.1 Cross-sectoral collaboration between line ministries, departments and relevant agencies for periodic policy reviews, and assessments to enhance policy integration should be encouraged.
- 4.2 Governments and CSOs should consider multi-stakeholder platforms to regularly conduct information sharing and capacity-building workshops to enhance understanding and utilization of land and environment-related data, supporting advocacy efforts, public policies, and decision-making processes;
- 4.3 Ensure the robust implementation and monitoring mechanisms of land rights protections, in translating policies into action by actively engaging with the rights-holders, especially by establishing special provisions for the landless, IPs, and women.

Theme 5: Collaboration and Partnerships

- 5.1 Form a regional network to act upon ensuring adherence to international human rights policies by all nations in South Asia to protect the human rights of environmental defenders, including women and land rights activists
- 5.2 Launch a regional campaign on ensuring gender equality in the agricultural sector through promoting gender responsive policies and budgets at the national level in the South Asia region.
- 5.3 Strengthen existing regional/national campaigns on implementation of Sustainable Development Goals especially goals on Zero Hunger [SDG2], Gender Equality [SDG 5], Reduce Inequality [SDG 10], Climate Action [SDG 13] and Life on Land [SDG 15]



नेपाल सरकार
भूमि व्यवस्था, सहकारी तथा गरिबी निवारण मन्त्रालय
सिंहदरबार, नेपाल

