

Building a Climate-Responsive Land Governance Framework: A Case from Nepal

Ganesh Prasad Bhatta (Nepal), Reshma Shrestha, Dev Raj Paudyal and Sunil Babu Shrestha

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SUMMARY

Climate change has widespread impacts on land governance systems globally, causing threats to land tenure security, land rights, and land degradation, among others. Climate change-induced disasters increase the vulnerability of communities. Insecure land tenure can diminish incentives for sound land management, leading to environmental degradation. Furthermore, insecure land tenure affects the ability of individuals, communities, and organizations to enact changes to land use that could strengthen adaptation and mitigation efforts. Additionally, limited recognition of customary access and land ownership can increase vulnerability and reduce adaptive capacity. □□To be specific to Nepal, the country is prone to multiple climate change-induced disasters, including glacial lake outbursts, extreme rainfall leading to unprecedented floods and landslides, and land degradation, severely impacting communities. More than 80% of property loss results from such hazards. The country may experience a loss of 2.2% of its annual GDP by 2050, with energy, agriculture, water resources, forestry, biodiversity, and health sectors being most at risk. This scenario underscores the strong nexus between climate change and land in Nepal, which necessitates the need for climate responsive land governance.□□This paper aims to explore the potential for establishing a climate-responsive land governance framework in Nepal, which could serve as a model for other nations with similar vulnerabilities. The study will assess the current land governance system in the country from the perspective of the climate-land nexus and identify the gaps. Global best practices will be considered as the benchmark for identifying gaps, including policy gaps. SWOT analysis will be employed to develop strategies so that a framework for climate-responsive land governance for Nepal could be proposed.□