

University-Government Collaboration on Climate Adaptation Finance

NEPAL COUNTRY PROFILE



April 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. COUNTRY OVERVIEW	5
3. POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONAL MAPPING AND ENTRY-POINTS	8
3.1. P&I MAPPING.....	8
3.2. ENTRY POINTS.....	19
4. ROADMAP	20
5. NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT	21
6. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS AND WAY FORWARD	22
REFERENCES	23

ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms	Definitions
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CF	Climate Finance
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LUCCC	Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change
MoFE	Ministry of Forest and Environment
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NCI	Nepal Climate Initiative
NFP	National Focal Point
P&I	Policy and Institutions
PoC	Point-of-Contact
PU	Pokhara University
SchEMS	School of Environment Science and Management
TT	Think Tank
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNI-LEAD	LDC University Leadership for Catalyzing Climate-Adaptation Finance

Executive Summary

The objective of this country profile is to provide an overview on the status and the opportunities for university-government collaborations to access finance for climate change adaptation.

Policy framework:

Nepal has formulated and has been implementing several policies, plans and frameworks related to climate change. It has recently amended many of the existing legislative and policy instruments, to contextualize with the frameworks for provincial and local governments. To date, the existing Climate Change Policy (2019) remains the major statutory and legislative provisions that guide the policy framework in Nepal. There are new policies being formulated and initiated to combat Climate Change, Climate Induced Loss and Damage and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

National key players:

The National Environmental Protection and Climate Change Management coordinates as an apex body to provide oversight on the environmental and climate change initiatives in the country. It provides a track to the Ministry and other bodies to integrate climate change and environment-related matters into the national level long-term policies, plans, and Programs and when required. Similarly, the IMCCC serves as the primary national platform for climate change coordination where it engages with the provincial and local-level governments and institutions in climate change-related programs, planning and implementation, and supervises the nation on technical undertakings related to climate change. Finally, the Climate Change Management Division under the Ministry of Forests and Environment functions as a central nodal agency on climate change which leads on formulating climate change-related policies, plans, and programs and implements them in coordination with government and non-government organizations and monitors their implementation.

Main national barriers, challenges and needs for collaborations in adaptation:

There is a need to improve the national data and information management systems to collect, analyze and monitor climate-related data and observation. In order to identify the climate change issues, research needs and gaps for both socio-economic and bio-physical systems including assessment of current and projected impacts of climate change should be strengthened. Along with that there is a need to develop methods and tools to assess and address such issues and develop and implement human resource capacity building plans at different levels of governance by bringing together disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation communities. Similarly, lack of coordination between the academia, civil society and other stakeholders is inhibiting the government in building knowledge and capacities to address climate change issues.

Entry points for university-government collaborations

The adaptation policies and institutional mapping and the in-country consultations between the NCI and the governments representative have contributed to the identification of entry points for university-government collaborations in Nepal:

- Supporting the country implementing a holistic approach: The Government of Nepal is actively working to address the challenges posed by climate change, however, these challenges cut across the silos rather than limit to a single sector. Pokhara University can be effective in it as we had been successfully promoting it for the last 23 years through our programs like training programs for the Government Officials on various aspects of environmental as well as on-going MSc Environmental Science and

Management program.

- Sustainability of climate works - one of the issues on sustainability on the climate change initiatives is because of consistent relocation of its personnel within the government machinery. The university can ensure long term memory of climate initiatives and continuous work.
- Support in defining climate finance: The government needs to develop a definition or a set of criteria to define what climate finance means for Nepal. The NCI can support developing a framework and lead consultations to achieve this goal.
- Developing and implementing a Support MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification): NCI can help design a system to track adaptation finance right from adaptation planning to projects concept development, financing and implementation. The Think Tank can also support the development and implementation of institutional arrangements, a national adaptation financing plan as well as a pipeline of adaptation projects.
- Support establishing a national climate change fund: Nepal Climate Initiative (NCI), can play a key role in supporting the government advancing on this fund development as well as focusing on financing adaptation and resilience.

1. INTRODUCTION

This country profile is a product of the UNI-LEAD project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the benefit of 13 Least Developed Countries (LDC), members of the LUCCC¹ network. The country profile has been prepared for general guidance on the status of university-government collaborations to access finance for climate change adaptation.

The document is part of a series of 13 country profiles produced as part of the UNI-LEAD project. The objective of this exercise is to present the overall situation in terms of collaboration between government institutions (policy makers) in charge of climate actions at country-level and national universities and think tank with the aim of mobilizing domestic and international funding for Climate Change Adaptation.

The country programme has been prepared taking into account four key elements including (i) the best practices guidelines on university-government collaborations in the field of climate change (ii) the country policies and institutional mapping reports, (iii) the reports of various consultation and national stakeholders engagement carried out by the country's points of contacts or the coordination of the established Think Tanks, and finally (iv) expert judgment.

2. COUNTRY OVERVIEW

1	Population (2023 estimate)	30,896,590
2	GDP (2023 estimate)	\$46.097 billion
3	GDP per capita (2023 estimate)	\$1,789
4	Observed and projected climate change risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increased Frequency/Intensity of Extreme Weather Events▪ Increase in Annual Precipitation;▪ Increase in Consecutive Dry Days▪ Increased Temperature
5	Observed and projected climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Food insecurity and malnutrition▪ Heat-related illnesses and vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue▪ Habitat loss, species extinction, and altered migration patterns of wildlife▪ Displacement, migration, conflicts over resources, and economic losses, particularly in rural areas reliant on agriculture and natural resources▪ Water stress, particularly during dry seasons
6	Most vulnerable sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Agriculture▪ Ecosystems▪ Infrastructure▪ Human Health▪ Water Resources
7	Opportunities for climate adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strengthening water management practices, including watershed management, rainwater harvesting, and

¹ Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change

	and resilience-building in Nepal	<p>community-based water governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adopting climate-smart agricultural practices, such as organic farming, agroforestry, and water-efficient irrigation techniques ▪ Integrating green infrastructure solutions, such as green roofs, permeable pavements, and urban green spaces, into urban planning and development ▪ Protecting and restoring ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, and riverine habitats, can provide multiple benefits for climate adaptation and resilience ▪ Harnessing indigenous knowledge and traditional practices can enrich climate adaptation efforts in Nepal ▪ Enhancing collaboration and coordination across sectors, including government agencies, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector.
8	Climate financing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nepal climate financing needs is estimated at USD 2.4 billion By 2030 (IDS-Nepal, PAC and GCAP, 2014).
9	Climate change adaptation challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weak governance structures, inadequate institutional capacity, and limited financial resources constrain effective climate change adaptation planning, implementation, and monitoring at the national and local levels ▪ Nepal's rugged terrain, with its high mountains and deep valleys, presents unique challenges for adaptation efforts ▪ Nepal relies heavily on its glaciers and seasonal snowmelt for water supply, especially during the dry season. Glacier retreat and changes in precipitation patterns threaten water availability, posing risks to agriculture, hydropower generation, and drinking water supply ▪ Changing climatic conditions, including erratic rainfall, increased temperatures, and the spread of pests and diseases, challenge traditional farming practices and food security ▪ Lack resources and capacity to cope with climate change impacts, increasing local communities susceptibility to food insecurity, displacement, and health risks. ▪ Unsustainable resource use, exacerbated by climate change impacts like deforestation, soil degradation, and loss of biodiversity, further undermines adaptive capacity ▪ Limited awareness about climate change, its impacts, and adaptation strategies among policymakers, communities, and stakeholders hinders proactive planning and implementation of adaptation measures.
10	LUCCC University name and address	Pokhara University
11	Host of the	Nepal Climate Initiative (NCI)

	UNI-LEAD Think Tank	School of Environmental Science and Management (SchEMS)
12	UNI-LEAD Point of Contact (PoC) and TT Coordination	Dr. Ajay B Mathema Nepal Climate Initiative (NCI) School of Environmental Science and Management (SchEMS) Pokhara University ajaymathema2@gmail.com principal@schems.edu.np
13	UNFCCC National Focal Point (NFP)	Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance
14	GCF National Designated Authority	Joint Secretary PHONE 977 1 4211837 SKNEPAL40@MOF.GOV.NP
15	Adaptation Fund Designated Authority	Mr. Yam Nath Pokharel Under Secretary (Technical), Head, Adaptation Section Climate Change Management Division Ministry of Forests and Environment Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +97714211996 Fax: +977-9843504633 Email: ynpokharel@gmail.com ; Alternate emails: yamnathpokharel@outlook.com
16	GEF Focal Point	Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal Operational Focal Point since 2023-02-10 Joint Secretary Ministry of Finance, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD) Singadhurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977 1 4211837 Email: sknepal40@mof.gov.np Dr. Krishna Hari Pushkar Political Focal Point since 2023-10-17 Finance Secretary Ministry of Finance Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977 1 4211161 Email: khpushkar@mof.gov.np ; muktiram.acharya@mof.gov.np

3. POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONAL MAPPING AND ENTRY-POINTS

3.1. P&I Mapping

Policies mapping:

No	Policy name (official)	Jurisdiction	Responsible institution(s)	Main policy objective	Secondary policy objective(s) (if relevant)	Policy description	Type of policy instrument	Enforcement level	Sectoral coverage
1	National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	National	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Economic development	Adaptation, Mitigation	The general objective remains the implementation of priority adaptation actions through low-carbon and climate resilience programs, in direct connection with the country's reference document which are the "Nationally Determined Contributions" (NDC).	Climate Strategy	Voluntary	Multisector Projects

2	Second NDC	National	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Economic development	Climate-resilient, Adaptation	The general objective of Second NDC is to intensify efforts to combat the threat of climate change by limiting the rise in global temperature this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius and pursuing measures to further limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.	Target		Multisector Projects
3	Climate Change Policy 2019	National	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Economic development	Resilience, Adaptation and Mitigation,	The general objective of CCP 2019 is to contribute to socio-economic prosperity of the nation by building a climate resilient society.	Climate Strategy	Voluntary	Disaster risk reduction and Early Warning Systems
4	National Framework on National Climate Change Induced Loss and Damage	National	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Mitigation	Adaptation, Mitigation	The general objectives of National Framework on Climate Change Induced Loss and Damage to balance local context with the global processes related to climate change.	Policy support	Voluntary and Mandatory	Rural Development

5	Climate Change Financing Framework	National	Ministry of Finance	Finance access	Mitigation, Adaptation	The general objective of Climate Change Finance Framework is to increasing adaptation investment.	Voluntary approach	Voluntary	Rural Development
6	Climate Adapted Village Program Operation Commission, 2073	National	Ministry of Finance	Economic development	Adaptation, Mitigation	The general objective of Climate Adaptation Village Programme Implementation Guideline is to encourage recycling and other related measures in order to boost the capacity for adaptation.	Voluntary approach	Voluntary	Rural Development
7	Climate Resilient Water Safety Plans Guideline	National	Ministry of Water Supply and Sanitation	Economic development	Resilient, Adaptation	The general objective of Climate Resilient Water Safety Plans Guideline is to provide a preventive risk management system in water system and mitigating public health related hazards in everyday operating conditions and in emergency situations.	Voluntary approach	Voluntary and Mandatory	Rural Development
8	Environmental Protection Act 2019	National	Ministry of Forest and Environment	Adaptation	Adaptation, Mitigation	The general objective of The Environment Protection Act, 2019 is to amend and consolidate law relating to environment	Policy support	Voluntary and Mandatory	Multisector Projects
9	National Framework on Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPA)	National	Ministry of Forest and Environment	Adaptation	Adaptation, Mitigation	The general objectives of the LAPA is to integrate climate adaptation activities into local and national development planning processes and to create a situation for climate resilient development.	Climate Strategy	Voluntary	Disaster risk reduction and Early Warning Systems

10	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act	National	Government of Nepal	Adaptation	Adaptation, Mitigation	Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy 2018 aims to reduce losses caused by disasters to life and property, health, livelihoods and production, physical and social infrastructure, and cultural and environmental heritage	Climate Strategy	Voluntary and Mandatory	Disaster risk reduction and Early Warning Systems
11	GESI and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2020	National	Ministry of Agriculture and Livelihood Development	Economic development		The GESI and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan serves as a guide to other programme personnel/stakeholders, researchers and any interested public and private sector who are interested in GESI mainstreaming processes.	Research, Development & Demonstration (RD&D)	Voluntary and Mandatory	Multisector Projects

Institutions mapping:

N	Institution / Organisation	Actor type	Description of Role	Description of position and core interest(s)
1	Environmental Protection and Climate Change Management National Council (EPCCMNC)	Government/public actors	EPCCMNC carries out acts associated with environmental protection and climate change at the national level in an adequate manner and assesses actions pertaining to the same.	The council anchors strategy for the expansion of widespread practice for the limitation of pollution, management of wastes, and security of national heritages. It further provides essential policy guidance concerning environmental protection and climate change to the provincial and local levels, and to the Ministry for utilization, management, development, and protection of natural, cultural, physical resources and heritages. Besides that, its prime duty is to manage economic resources for environmental protection and climate change and to facilitate the same.
2	Inter-Ministerial Climate Change Coordination Committee (IMCCC)	Government/public actors	IMCCCC serves as the primary national platform for climate change coordination. As a whole, IMCCCC aims to cultivate a consolidated, consistent, and regulated climate change approach in Nepal, which will help adapt and mitigate the risks associated with climate change impacts and contribute to integrating the climate change programmes into the current and future policies and strategies as well.	The committee the engagement of the provincial and local-level governments and institutions in climate change-related programmes, planning and implementation, and supervises the nation on technical undertakings related to climate change.
3	Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE)	Government/public actors	The Climate Change Management Division (CCMD),& under the Ministry of Forests and Environment, was formed in 2018. The Division functions as a central nodal agency on climate	- Carry out research and studies and prepare national and international communication reports on climate change, including GHG inventory and adaptation actions, in coordination with various

			change. It leads formulation of climate change-related policies, plans, and programs, implements them in coordination with government and non-government organizations, and monitor their implementation. It also works as a focal point for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).	government and non-government organizations.
4	Provincial climate change coordination committee (PCCCC)	Government/public actors	The committee entails with the Province level government agencies and representatives of civil society and local governments established in all seven provinces and coordinates climate related activities at sub national level.	Along with forming the cohesive and coherent coordination framework between the federal and provincial governments concerning climate change, PCCCC expands the knowledge and experiences of climate change mitigation and adaptation at the ground level. At the same time, it puts in place inter-sectoral integrated approaches for effective and sustainable adaptation strategies and measures. Through synergies, duplication of climate change-related activities are avoided, and engagement and the localization need for the adaption actions are promoted.
5	NAP Technical Committee	Government/public actors	NAP process is a strategic median that enables the nation to identify, prioritize, and execute medium and long term adaptation needs for adapting to climate change. The NAP formulation process facilitates the integration of climate change adaptation measures into new and existing relevant policies, strategies, programmes, decision making, and budgeting processes at all levels.	The NAP Technical Committee operates to ensure the incorporation of the climate-sensitive approach and mainstreaming of the interlinked climate change issues into the overall development process. The committee contributes to the NAP formulation process by ensuring the harmonization of ongoing efforts and providing technical inputs on suitable adaptation options to identify, prioritize, and integrate into new and existing policies and programs.

6	VRA Technical Committee	Government/public actors	The VRA Technical Committee closely ties the NAP Technical Committee and contributes to the National Adaptation Plans (NAP) preparation process. The committee further guides the Ministry of Forests and Environment to avoid duplication of efforts and works, and helps in creating synergy between similar projects and initiatives.	The committee conducts detailed Vulnerability and Risk Assessments (VRA) in the eight thematic areas and one cross-cutting area as identified by the National Climate Change Policy 2019.
7	Tribhuwan University	Academia think-tank or	Tribhuvan University is a non-profit making autonomous institution funded by the Government of Nepal. There are five institutes and four faculties under which 40 central departments, 62 constituent campuses, and 1062 affiliated colleges in different disciplines are running. Likewise, there are four research centres in TU. Being one of the largest universities in the world in terms of its size and the diversity of programmes, it has been able to fulfill the requirements of large number of students.	Tribhuvan University is committed to making it a source of knowledge and the centre of quality education, setting up a culture of learning in the country and promoting the notion of national and global peace and harmony. The University has its program M.Sc. in Climate Change and Development. This programme examines the social scientific drivers, and consequences, of climate change and associated policy debates. It focuses on the interface between climate change and development, with particular attention paid to the perspective of ecological economics. Students who follow this programme are expected to have employment opportunities in a wide variety of environmental and developmental settings.
8	Kathmandu University	Academia think-tank or	Kathmandu University (KU) is an autonomous, not-for-profit, self-funding public institution established by an Act of Parliament in December 1991. It is an institution of higher learning dedicated to maintaining the standard of academic excellence in various classical and professional disciplines. The mission statement	KU runs academic programs most of which are credited for being introduced for the first time in the country. Business Administration, Pharmacy, Environmental Science, Biotechnology, Human Biology, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Geomatics Engineering, Development

			of the University is “to provide quality education for leadership”. The vision is “to become a world-class university devoted to bringing knowledge and technology to the service of mankind”. The University aspires to serve the nation by fulfilling the needs of the society through the motto of taking knowledge and skills “from the campus to the community.” The establishment and operation of an Environmental Modeling Lab (EML) is an ongoing process which will enhance national human resource’s computational skills in the area of grid and distributed computing. SOE has already identified and delegated faculty members who will be working extensively in this area.	Studies, Social Work, Technical Education, Media Studies, Civil Engineering with Specialization in Hydropower, Landscape Management and Heritage studies, Doctor of Medicine (DM) in Gastroenterology, DM in Neurology and MS by Research in Glaciology count among the pioneering programs in Nepal.
9	Pokhara University-School of Environmental Science and Management (SchEMS)	Academia think-tank or	Pokhara University (PU) was established in 1997 under the Pokhara University Act, 1997. The university developed the Pokhara University Research Center (PURC) in the year 2012, under Pokhara University act 2053. The purpose of its establishment is to promote the scientific and quality research where the PURC has mandatory authority to approve research proposals, conduct multidisciplinary research and monitor their progress. Under every institution that is affiliated with Pokhara University comprise of a Research Management Cell (RMC) which formed solely for the purpose to enable excellence in multidisciplinary research. This RMC has also been formed within SchEMS, which is officially tied up with the Research Committee of Pokhara	The institute has recently received a grant from (Norwegian University of Life Sciences) NMBU in 2021. The project focuses on strengthening the capacity of higher education institutions in developing countries with its thematic area in enhancing the education in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The project aims in building capacity of universities for Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) education and research. The project has been designed to contribute to the goals of the LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) including south-south collaboration working with the most vulnerable to foster collaborative learning and capacity-building. The project title itself incorporates “Co-creating knowledge for local adaptation to climate change in

			<p>University. The School of Environmental Science and Management (SchEMS) was officially established in January 1999 as an affiliate of Pokhara University, Nepal under the Pokhara University Act, 1995.</p>	<p>LDCs”. Similarly, the institution has also developed a course on Master of Science in Environment and Climate Change under the guidance of the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE), with the support from Climate Analytics (CA); and facilitation of School of Environmental Science and Management (SchEMS), the Environment and Geological Management Subject Committee of the Faculty of Science and Technology has prepared the curriculum structure. The development of the course was based on extensive discussion among work group members and subject committee members, individual experts were identified to contribute to the preparation of individual syllabus. The experts represented academia, government and non- governmental practitioners. SchEMS has also been undertaking training workshops for the government, international agencies, non-government organization, and private sectors, mainly in the field of environmental mainstreaming into the development works. Those trainings are consisted on (a) Environmental Impact Assessment, (b) Initiation Environmental Examination, (c) GIS and Remote Sensing application for environmental management, (d) Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>
10	Department of Hydrology and Meterology	Climate Service Providers	<p>DHM has a mandate from Government of Nepal to monitor all the hydrological and meteorological activities in Nepal. The scope of work includes the monitoring of river hydrology, water quality, sediment, limnology, snow</p>	<p>DHM contributes to the global exchange of meteorological data on a regular basis. DHM actively participates in the programs of relevant international organizations, such as, the UNESCO's International Hydrological Program (IHP) and</p>

			<p>hydrology, glaciology, weather, climate, agro-meteorology, air quality and solar energy.]The main objective of DHM is to collect hydrological and meteorological data throughout Nepal, process the data, publish it and disseminate the data to users such as water resource planners, developers, researchers and data seekers for the verification of extreme hydrological and meteorological events required for different purposes. The fundamental goal of DHM is to support for overall development of water resources of the country. Besides, DHM generates information of extreme hydrological and meteorological events and deliver such information publicly in time to save life and property of people.</p>	<p>WMO's Operational Hydrology Program (OHP). In the past, DHM has hosted several regional and international workshops, symposia, seminars and meetings on different aspects of meteorology, hydrology, sediment, water quality and snow hydrology. The department is also a focal point for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and for the meteorological activities of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has recognized DHM as an authority to provide meteorological services for international flights.</p>
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Other relevant entities involved in climate change adaptation in Nepal include:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- USAID
- National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Nepal
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Prakriti Resource Center
- Action Aid Nepal
- CARE Nepal
- Clean Energy Nepal
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO)

- FOREST Action
- ECO Nepal
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)
- Oxfam Nepal
- Practical Action Nepal
- World Wide Fund for Nature Inc. (WWF) Nepal
- Winrock International Nepal
- United Mission To Nepal

3.2. Entry points

Supporting the country implementing a holistic approach - The Government of Nepal is actively working to address the challenges posed by climate change, however, these challenges cut across the silos rather than limit to a single sector. For instance, an effective carbon sequestration initiative requires interdisciplinary solutions drawing expertise from multiple faculties and engaging multiple stakeholders. Only a holistic and multidimensional climate mitigation and adaptation approach can be effective in combating climate change. The government has been struggling to coordinate its expertise, capabilities, and resources that are distributed across the sectors. Promotion of a holistic approach within climate change will be the entry point. SchEMS/Pokhara University can be effective in it as we had been successfully promoting it for the last 23 years through our programs like training programs for the Government Officials on various aspects of environmental as well as on-going MSc Environmental Science and Management program. SchEMS has been undertaking training workshops for the government, international agencies, non-government organization, and private sectors, mainly in the field of environmental mainstreaming into the development works.

It is important to embed climate change in the government undertakings. GoN has devised impressive policy interventions to address climate change, however, it has yet to be effectively enacted into the government undertakings. The recently formed local bodies will be the point of entry for implementation of climate change initiatives. However, these bodies are yet to acquire capacity in climate change despite the provisions. Thus, universities can focus on enabling the capacity of these provincial and local municipalities to address climate change initiatives.

University has the research provisions, which is one of the strongest traits. This needs to be further exploited in the benefit of the battle against climate change. The lesson learnt through its own research and/or universities within its network LUCCC and beyond too can be reflected in the Government initiatives with strong credibility. This process of reflecting can be much quicker through the university system and also widely acceptable.

Sustainability of climate works - one of the issues on sustainability on the climate change initiatives is because of consistent relocation of its personnel within the government machinery. It is considered a regular and necessary process within the government services. However, this compromises the investment outcomes. The personnel change can bring to abrupt stoppage when a year of investment in climate change initiative is about to yield benefits. Thus, if the knowledge base is embedded in university, it can ensure long term memory of climate initiatives and continuous work. However, universities will have to approach these initiatives from an academic and research perspective and provide strong advice to the government. In turn, the government can take administrative action. We believe that GoN has acceptance of this issue, thus it can be advocated to the government. However, it needs to be emphasized that this is not the action to curtail the role, but to amplify the synergy.

Defining climate finance - The government needs to develop a definition or a set of criteria to define what climate finance means for Nepal. This would clearly help assess the donor supported climate finance as well as the national contribution made by the government in tackling climate change.

Developing and implementing a Support MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification)

- It is important that the government develops a system to track adaptation finance right from adaptation planning to projects concept development, financing and implementation. The future think-tank can provide technical assistance to develop and implement the institutional arrangements, a national adaptation financing plan as well as a pipeline of adaptation projects.

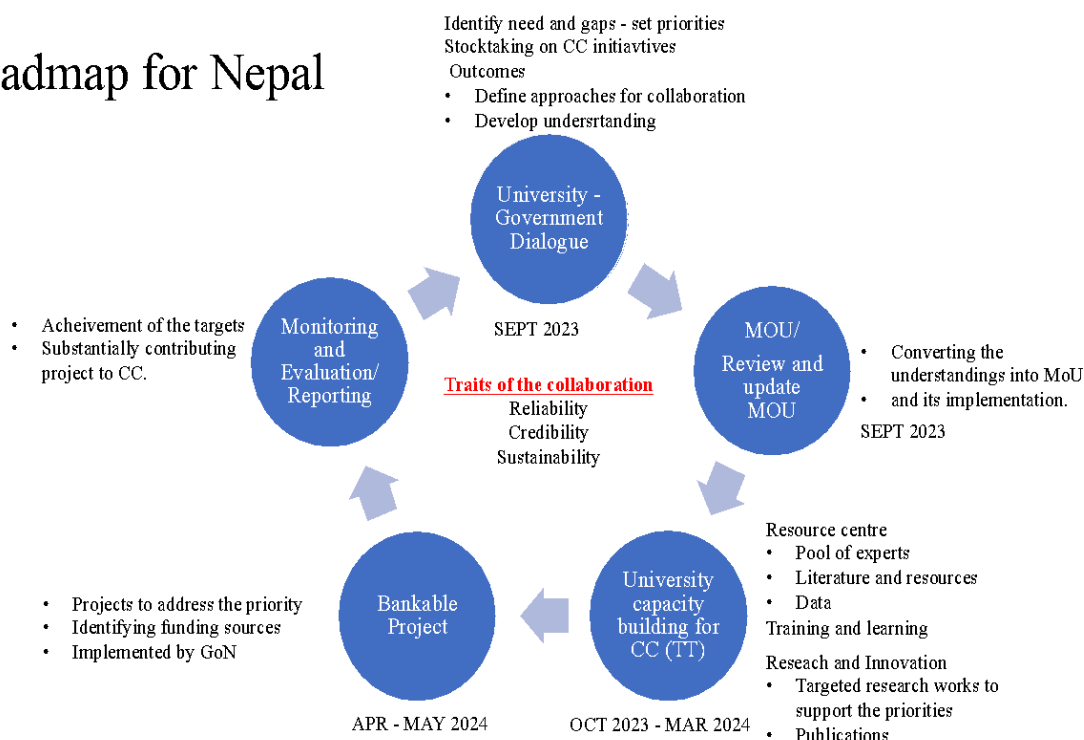
Private sector engagement – Up to now, the private sector is not involved in adaptation financing in Nepal. Acknowledging the potential of the private institutions to support the building of resilience to climate change, the future Think Tank can help develop and implement a private sector engagement strategy in order to bring the private sector onboard of Adaptation Financing as part of their Social and Environmental Responsibilities.

Establishing a national climate change fund - as envisaged in its climate change policy. Such a fund would allow the government to pool and disburse resources, and thus leverage better synergy between different sources of finance. It will also encourage development partners to channel aid through the government system. The future Think Tank can play a key role in supporting the government advancing on this fund development as well as focusing on financing adaptation and resilience.

4. ROADMAP

Following the mapping of the adaptation policies and institutions in Nepal, and at the regional workshop of Kathmandu in July 2023, the University Focal has start drafting a roadmap for university-government collaborations in the country based on the needs assessments they have conducted during the policy and institutional mapping phase. The proposed mapped is the following:

Roadmap for Nepal



This roadmap has been discussed with the government’s official and received endorsement. Since, both parties have been working together with the support from the UNI-LEAD project through the small grants phase 1.

5. NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

Phase 1 of the UNI-LEAD project small grants programme helps the Nepal Climate Initiative (NCI), the new established Think Tank has, identifying gaps in accessing climate finance in Nepal and engage with government counterpart.

A policy briefing document was co-drafted by the two parties on *Capacity Building to Access for Climate Change Adaptation in Nepal*. The report presents the key gaps identified and the proposed strategies/activities for addressing them during the phase 2 programme.

National consultations:

Consultation sessions were conducted with key stakeholders, including officials from the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Ministry of Finance, Climate Change Management Division, and Prakriti Resources Centre. These consultations involved interviews with experts and officials to gather insights and perspectives on the current scenario of climate finance in Nepal.

- **AEPC (Alternative Energy Promotion Centre):** AEPC's involvement provided insights into renewable energy initiatives and their financing mechanisms, considering their focus on promoting alternative energy sources. AEPC plays a crucial role in catalysing GCF-funded initiatives in Nepal, contributing to the country's efforts in addressing climate change challenges and building resilience to its impacts. Through effective project identification, formulation, implementation, and monitoring, AEPC

helps maximize the impact of GCF resources in advancing Nepal's sustainable development goals. Through the consultation we came to know about the gaps related to climate finance implementation in Nepal.

- **IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature):** IUCN's participation suggests a focus on understanding conservation-related financial mechanisms and strategies in the context of climate change.
- **WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature):** WWF's involvement provided perspectives on conservation finance and its intersection with climate finance, especially concerning biodiversity conservation efforts in Nepal.
- **NTNC (National Trust for Nature Conservation):** NTNC's insights have shed light on the financing needs and challenges related to nature conservation projects and initiatives in Nepal.
- **Ministry of Finance:** The Ministry of Finance's participation indicates a focus on understanding national budget allocations, fiscal policies, and government strategies related to climate finance.
- **Climate Change Management Division:** CCMD under Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) provided insights into Nepal's overall climate change policies, strategies, and initiatives, including their financial aspects.
- **Prakriti Resources Centre:** Prakriti Resources Centre have provided expertise on environmental sustainability and climate finance from a non-governmental perspective, offering insights from civil society organizations.

The consultation sessions involved interviews with experts and officials from these organizations to gather diverse perspectives on the challenges, opportunities, and strategies for enhancing climate finance in Nepal. By engaging with such a broad spectrum of stakeholders, the aim would have been to develop a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape of climate finance and to identify potential areas for improvement or intervention.

National workshop

To disseminate the findings on the desktop review and consultations and gather feedback, a workshop was organized by the NCI, inviting all the consulted officials and experts from different universities and organizations working in the field of climate finance in Nepal. The workshop provided a platform for discussions, knowledge sharing, and networking, facilitating a collective understanding of the challenges and opportunities in accessing climate finance.



Fig: Group photo of participants to the national workshop

6. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS AND WAY FORWARD

In Nepal, there are misperceptions regarding issues relating to Climate Change, its impacts and mitigation, climate induced loss and damage, climate finance, disaster risk reduction (UNI-LEAD, 2023a). Clarity is needed for every line ministry, every agency or institution in realizing their respective focus areas. The need to collaborate with every agency has been crucial and is highly recommended. Universities, academic institutions have research provisions, which can be and needs to be further exploited in the benefit of the battle against climate change. Lessons learnt through research within and beyond academia can be reflected in the Government initiatives. Hence, there is a need for collaborating universities and governments to achieve a climate resilient society in addressing climate change initiatives.

During the in-country dialogue and consultations, identified challenges to university-government collaborations in accessing and implementing climate adaptation finance include unclear financial requirements, limited policy frameworks, and difficulties accessing funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

To address these challenges, the parties emphasizes the importance of capacity building across several key areas, and recognized the NCI can play a key role. Institutions need to improve their ability to write successful proposals that align with funding agency criteria, build a robust climate rationale supported by scientific evidence, conduct comprehensive cost-benefit analyses, and strengthen fiduciary matters related to financial management.

Nepal Climate Initiatives (NCI) can be a pivotal player in fostering endogenous capacity building within the country. NCI, under the auspices of the School of Environment Science and Management, aims to enhance expertise in emission calculation and vulnerability risk assessment. Through collaboration with international networks like LUCCC and support from initiatives such as UNI-LEAD funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF), NCI is poised to lead capacity-building efforts in Nepal.

Ongoing initiatives of the NCI include the development of a manual on climate rationale and conducting training sessions and the design and facilitation of short courses for sub-national entities. By prioritizing endogenous capacity building, NCI aims to empower practitioners at

all levels with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate climate finance challenges effectively. By doing so, the Think Tank will contribute to the critical need for capacity building to optimize Nepal's climate finance initiatives, investing in internal capabilities and strategic partnerships to enhance resilience and effectiveness in addressing climate change, particularly at the sub-national level.

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Reviewers:

Jon Padgham

Ajay B Mathema

Laxmi Chhinal

Sneha Pandey

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