

## GGBP Case Study Series

# Climate Change Planning in Nepal

Related Chapter: [Planning and Coordination](#)

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Country: [Nepal](#)

Sector(s): [Cross-cutting](#)

Key words: [Planning](#), [coordination](#), [stakeholder engagement](#), [climate change](#), [renewable energy](#)

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Overarching climate change policy frameworks in Nepal include the expanded National Adaptation Plan of Action 2010; National Climate Change Policy 2011; National Framework on Local Adaptation Plans for Action 2011; and a Low Carbon Climate Resilient Development Strategy (currently under development). Climate resilience has also been integrated into planning processes at the national, sectoral, and program levels, including the national development plans; agriculture, energy, and forest sector plans; and disaster risk management programs.

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## Context

The main drivers for integrating climate change into Nepal's national development agenda include: the need to address the challenges posed by climate change impacts on Nepal's socioeconomic development goals; the need to effectively engage with, implement, and maximize the benefits of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the need to make socioeconomic development practices and natural resource management practices climate friendly; and the need to mobilize and manage climate finance

effectively (Ministry of Environment, 2010; Climate Change Policy, 2011).

Engagement of the Government of Nepal (GoN) in the climate change agenda began in earnest in 2007. Since then the country has established a planning architecture, comprising policy frameworks, and institutional and financial arrangements, aimed at developing and implementing a country-driven climate-resilient development agenda.

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## Approach

### Leadership

The Climate Change Council, established in 2009, is the main political body responsible for guiding climate change policies in Nepal. It is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises members from key national, local and sectoral ministries. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE) coordinates climate change planning and reports directly to the Climate Change Council. Senior politicians, including the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of the Constituent Assembly, and Secretaries, have been involved in the drafting and approval of climate change policies and programs. Each ministry has designated a senior officer as the focal person. Technical leadership has been provided by specific line ministries and departments, such as MoSTE and the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (Rai et al., 2013). There have been instances where the planning process has been led by donors, particularly in relation to the design of the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) (Rai et al., 2013b; Ayers et al., 2011). These differences are being resolved and the Nepal climate change planning process is largely viewed as being country led.

### Stakeholder engagement

The Multi-stakeholder Climate Change Initiatives Coordination Committee MCCICC) serves as the key national platform for ensuring regular dialogue and consultations. Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) were established under the expanded National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) involving sectoral ministries and civil society members. The structure has been used to guide the development of subsequent climate change policies and programs. The National Framework on Local Adaptation Plans for Action (National LAPA Framework) has

been developed through participatory action research. The specific steps and tools outlined in the framework have been piloted in 10 sites during the design phase. Learning from these processes has informed iterative design of the framework. The private sector, mainly represented through the Chamber of Commerce, federations, manufacturers of renewable energy products, and national banks, has also engaged in consultations. For instance, the prioritization and selection of the three different energy technologies to be funded under the Scaling up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries Program (SREP) are a result of negotiations between private companies, banks, and the government (Rai et al., 2013).

### Institutionalization

The Climate Change Management Division of MoSTE is responsible for the coordination of climate change responses, whilst the Ministry of Local Development plays a key role in supporting the implementation at the local level. The National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance are responsible for coordinating the integration of climate change responses into the annual and medium-term development planning process. The National Climate Change Policy 2011 states that 80 percent of climate finance should be allocated to support local-level implementation. Under the National LAPA Framework, local bodies are responsible for coordinating the integration of local priorities into the development planning process, whilst citizens' forums (used for annual development planning) are responsible for articulating local adaptation priorities. Line ministries and local bodies have established climate change units, and district energy and environment units are being upgraded to sections to coordinate local climate change planning.

## Evidence generation

Planners have built up evidence, including vulnerability maps and reviews of local sector-specific experience, to address the large gaps in the quality of existing evidence and in relevant capacity. Knowledge management is undertaken by the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology.

GoN has invested extensively in developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks to guide responsive and iterative adaptation planning. The National LAPA Framework and Manual provide guidance on bottom-up evaluation systems. GoN is piloting the Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development framework to develop a bespoke M&E system, and coordinating the monitoring and evaluation of key climate change programs, namely the PPCR and the National Climate Change Support Programme, which is supported by the United Kingdom and the European Union.

## Finance

The Climate Change Budget Code has been developed to support the management of climate-sensitive expenditures in a transparent and accountable way (NPC, 2012). Funding for renewable energy will be channeled via the newly established Central Renewable Energy Fund (CREF, 2013). National-level arrangements to access and manage international and bilateral climate finance are under preparation.

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## Outcomes

Nepal has made significant progress in terms of performance against key objectives, including in:

- The development of adaptation and low-carbon economic development strategies. The GoN has developed and approved the NAPA (2010), the National Climate Change Policy (2011), the National LAPA Framework (2011), a tool for Climate Resilient Planning (2011), and Local Disaster Risk Management Planning Guidelines (2011);
- The integration of climate resilience into socioeconomic development plans and programs. Climate change has also been integrated into sectoral development plans (e.g. agriculture, forestry, and energy). The National LAPA Framework articulates steps and tools for integrating local priorities into local and national development planning processes. To date, 70 local adaptation plans have been prepared. Some of the districts have allocated district funds to implement these priorities. The National Planning Commission has also prepared a toolkit for long-term climate-resilient planning, which presents a four-step approach to climate screening of development plans and programs in Nepal;
- Finance. The Climate Change Budget Code has enabled the integration of climate change into development planning. GoN has secured multilateral and bilateral funding to implement climate change programs. In the fiscal year 2013-2014, 11 out of Nepal's 27 Ministries have a budget allocated for climate-related programs. The total climate change budget amounts to 3.1 percent of total gross domestic product (NPC, 2013);
- Localization of climate planning and coordination. The National LAPA Framework has been approved and 70 local adaptation plans for action (LAPAs) have been prepared in 69 village development committees and 1 municipality across 14 districts. Efforts are being made to support

national roll-out of the framework. Approximately 11.4 percent of the total national climate change budget has been allocated to local programs (against a target of 80 percent) (NPC, 2013).

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## Lessons

Nepal's approach to planning and coordinating climate change responses has been robust. In terms of legitimacy, the process has been government-led, with high-level political and technocratic engagement at the national and local levels. This engagement has been institutionalized and has played a key role in developing and approving policies and programs. The government-led planning process has given emphasis to effective dialogue and engagement with civil society, private sector and donor partners. For instance, the NAPA is an outcome of extensive dialogue between multi-stakeholder groups. Although there have been instances where the government and/or civil society actors have felt that country ownership and local priorities have been undermined (as in the early stages of drafting the PPCR and deliberations on loans/grants as entry points to accessing climate finance) – issues have been addressed and Nepal's climate planning architecture is assessed as being country driven and owned and to have created effective spaces and tools to support multi-stakeholder engagement.

In terms of credibility, the country recognizes the large gaps in the quality of existing evidence and the necessary capacity to generate and manage evidence and information in support of future climate change planning needs. Planning objectives aim at addressing these gaps by establishing a knowledge management center; integrating climate change into academic curricula; and establishing effective monitoring

and evaluation systems in support of responsive and iterative planning. Progress is being made in all these areas. Having acknowledged gaps in climate change specific evidence, attempts have been made to support policymaking with credible evidence sources. For instance, the NAPA document is supported by vulnerability maps that have built on existing data sets. Prioritization of options is supported by an extensive review of sector-specific experience and an understanding of local experiences documented during transects carried out by TWG members. The National LAPA Framework has been developed through participatory action research; the review of existing development systems; and consultation at the national and district levels in all five development regions. The specific steps and tools outlined in the framework have been piloted in 10 sites during the design phase. Learning from these processes has informed iterative design of the framework. LAPAs are now under implementation in 69 village development committees and one municipality of 14 districts of the western part of Nepal. Similarly, the Climate Change Budget Code has been developed after extensive consultation and review of existing experience in development finance.

In terms of relevance, the objectives formulated in the planning process have (in most cases) been informed by the country's development objectives and commitments under the UNFCCC. Adaptation and low-carbon development objectives are in line with national development objectives related to socioeconomic development, poverty reduction, and the promotion of renewable energy. For instance, the SREP Investment Plan complements and is integrated with ongoing developments in the renewable energy sector, particularly the development of the National Rural Renewable Energy Programme (Rai et al., 2013). Some of the mitigation objectives,

specifically around Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+<sup>1</sup>), are currently being assessed in terms of their compatibility with forest governance arrangements within the country.

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## Further Information

Climate Change Council:  
<http://moste.gov.np/ccc>

Multi-stakeholder Climate Change Initiatives  
Coordination Committee (MCCICC):  
<http://moste.gov.np/mccicc>

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<sup>1</sup> See UNFCCC website for more information ([http://unfccc.int/land\\_use\\_and\\_climate\\_change/redd/](http://unfccc.int/land_use_and_climate_change/redd/)

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#### Disclaimer

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