



Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience: Championing a Digital Generation

Brisbane, Australia 6-10 April

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

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## Presentation Outline

- Setting the Scene
- Impact of Climate Change in Land
- Climate Change - Land Nexus
- Melamchi Case Study
- Need of Climate Responsive Land Governance System
- Immediate Action to develop Climate Responsive Land Governance Framework
- Conclusion

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Some examples of Climate Change induced disasters  
from Nepal; Affecting the Tenure of Land and Forest



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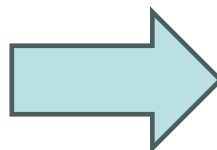
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## Impact of Climate Change in Land

- 
- Glacial lake outburst
  - Landslides / Soil erosion
  - Flooding
  - Forest fire
  - Depleted water sources

- Loss of land
- Desertification
- Reduced agricultural productivity
- Loss of biodiversity
- Water scarcity



- 
- Landlessness
  - Increased Poverty and Economic Insecurity
  - Displacement
  - Disruption in social activities
  - Increased vulnerability
  - Impact on indigenous practices and traditional practices
  - Social conflicts over resources

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## Climate Change - Land Nexus in Legal and Policy Documents

- Policy and Legal Frameworks are in place but Land Tenure Issues are missing
  - Policies: Land Use Policy, 2015; National Land Policy, 2018; National Climate Policy, 2019
- Acts/Regulations;
  - Land Related Act and Rules; Land Revenue Act and Regulation, Land Use Act and Regulation, Land (Survey and Measurement) Act/Regulation
- Disaster Risk Reduction National Action Plan 2018-2030
  - Local Adaptation Plan of Actions to Climate Change (LAPA)
  - National Adaptation Plan of Actions to Climate Change (NAPA)
- Environment Friendly Local Governance Framework, 2021



Limited recognition of the critical role of land tenure in climate change adaptation / resilience

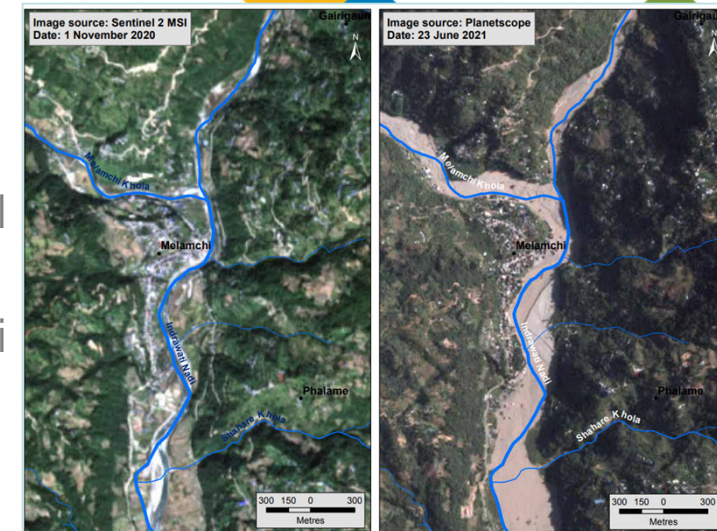
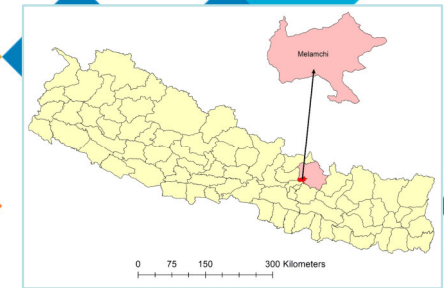
## Climate Change - Land Nexus: In practice

- The issue of Land Tenure/ Land Rights / Land Ownership is overlooked in Climate Discussion
  - e.g. High Level Climate Change Steering Committee – no representation from the Ministry of Land Management
- No specific policies and legal provisions to address the issue of Post Disaster Landlessness
  - Guidelines for housing are available though; no titles are issued to affected family if rehabilitated else
- There is no any provision of addressing landlessness caused by disaster in the DRR National Strategy: Plan of Action (2018-2030)
- Land Use Planning has not been considered as a basis for infrastructure development
- Post-disaster landlessness and tenure loss is NOT in reord
  - Impacts to Informal Settlers?
  - Impacts to social tenure, pasture land, open space, land of public usage ??



## CASE STUDY: MELAMCHI FLOOD

- Disastrous flooding on June 15, 2021 about 50 km from the capital city
  - A stretch of Indrawati basin, 18 kilometer in length, consisting of the Melamchi, Yangri, and Larke rivers that lies in Helambu Rural Municipality and Melamchi Municipality
- Major Losses encountered
  - Altogether 40 casualties (including those reported mission)
  - Destruction of houses, infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, traditional practices, and cultural values
  - Damage to the headworks of a mega drinking water project – Melamchi Project- developed for Kathmandu Valley
  - Multiple Loss to Land Tenure (next slide)



## CASE STUDY: MELAMCHI FLOOD; Multiple loss to land tenure

- About 215 households displaced – have to relocated at new location
- Subsistence farming-based families have incurred a permanent loss or damage of highly valuable agriculture and farm land, especially highly productive paddy fields as well as the harvest of rice – 270 parcels completely lost.
- Communities settled near the river have lost multiple sources of livelihoods such as small shops, agricultural land.
- Riparian communities such as fishing communities faced a higher level of vulnerability due to their dependence on the river for their livelihoods.
- Trout farm holders not only lost their farms but also many people lost their jobs from such farms
- Subsistence farming based families have incurred a permanent loss of highly valuable paddy fields as well as.
- Children also faced disruption in their education due to the loss of school buildings.
- *Altogether a loss of US\$500 million was estimated*



## CASE STUDY: MELAMCHI FLOOD; Findings/observations

- Weak responses to the disaster
  - Nominal compensation (only a sum of US\$4,500 per household)
  - No rehabilitation of lost land parcels yet
  - No rehabilitation of lost houses, especially individual properties yet
  - No rehabilitation or recognition of multiple tenure rights
- In summary: *This case underscores the weaknesses in addressing the issue for land tenure security, ultimately endangering the lives and well-being of its people*



## Need of Climate Responsive Land Governance in Nepal

- To safeguard land rights, strengthen adaptive capacity, and sustain livelihoods.
- To enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate-induced disasters.
- To ensure tenure security, even in the face of losses caused by climate-induced disasters.
- To promote sustainable land and resource management to mitigate climate impacts.
- To empower local communities with the tools and authority to adapt to changing climate conditions.
- **Ultimately, to establish a climate-resilient, equitable, and sustainable land governance system.**

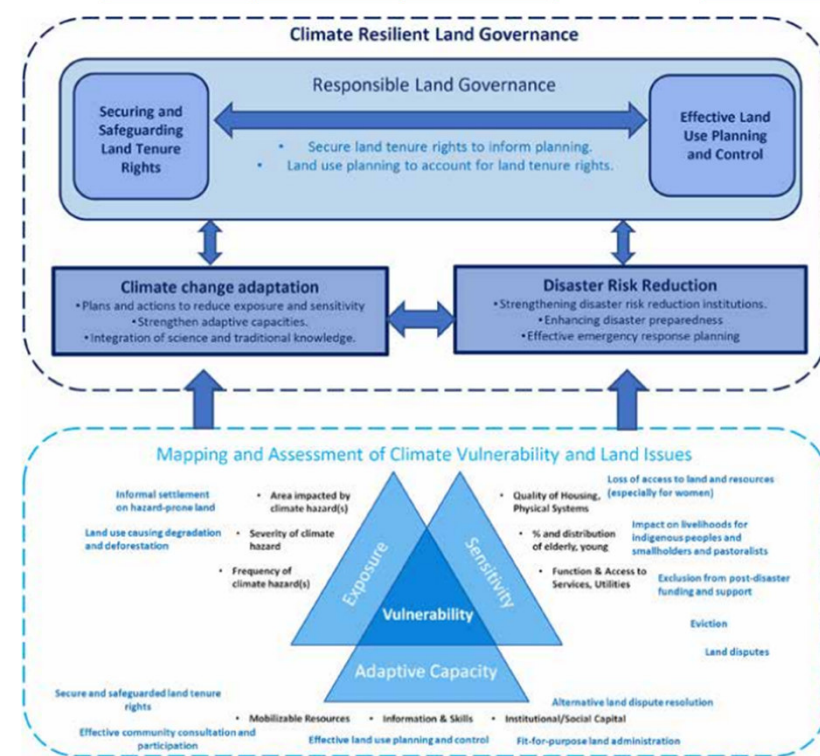
### Call to Action:

Developing a climate-resilient land governance framework is of Immediate Priority in Nepal



# Actions to develop Climate Responsive Land Governance Framework in Nepal

- **Enhancing Awareness**
  - To make aware about how land issues are under threat from the climate induced disasters
- **Assessment of climate change induced impacts in land sector**
  - Adequate human capacity
  - Adequate information
- **Improve the policy and legal provisions**
  - To make sure that impact of climate change in land issues are well addressed
- **Carryout climate responsive land use planning**
- **Strengthen the organisational capacity**



Framework by: Mitchell and McEvoy, 2019)

## Conclusion

- Nepal faces serious threats from climate change, posing significant risks to land issues including land use/tenure/right/ownership
- Little or almost negligible attentions are in place to address these risks
- **Sustainable and climate-resilient land management/governance is essential for a secure future.**
- Developing a “climate-resilient land governance framework” deserves a immediate plan to action
  - with adequate policy and legal framework, governance tools, capacitated governance machinery, among others, in place.





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## The most relevant SDGs related to the presentation and theme of this session

1st  
relevant  
SDG



2nd  
relevant  
SDG



3rd  
relevant  
SDG



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Thank You!



*in case you wish to contact me*







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STEP 1: SELECT HERE THE THREE MOST RELEVANT SDGs  
STEP 2: COPY THE SDG INTO PREVIOUS SLIDE



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