Session 649

Evolution and lessons for effective adaptation planning, monitoring and evaluations in Nepal

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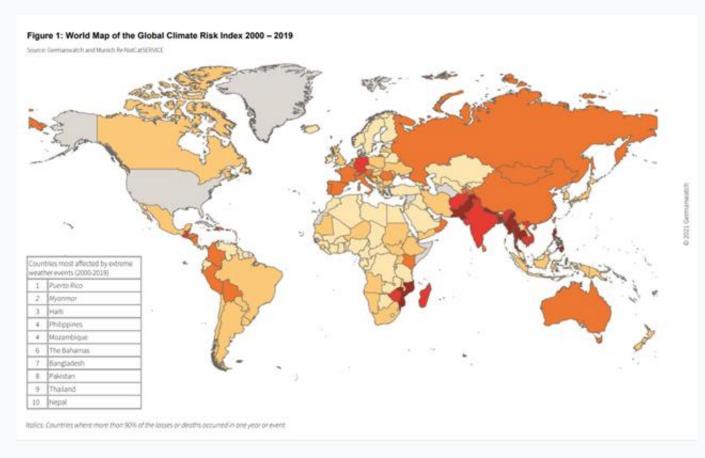Senior Researcher, Forest Action Nepal

Shaping the future of adaptation monitoring, evaluation and learning: New insights, tools and opportunities for overcoming challenges and constraints

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Introduction

Figure 1: World Map of the Global Climate Risk Index 2000 – 2019
Source: Germanwatch and Munich Re NatCatSERVICE

Countries most affected by extreme weather events (2000-2019)

1	Puerto Rico
2	Myanmar
3	Haiti
4	Philippines
4	Mozambique
6	The Bahamas
7	Bangladesh
8	Pakistan
9	Thailand
10	Nepal

Italics: Countries where more than 90% of the losses or deaths occurred in one year or event
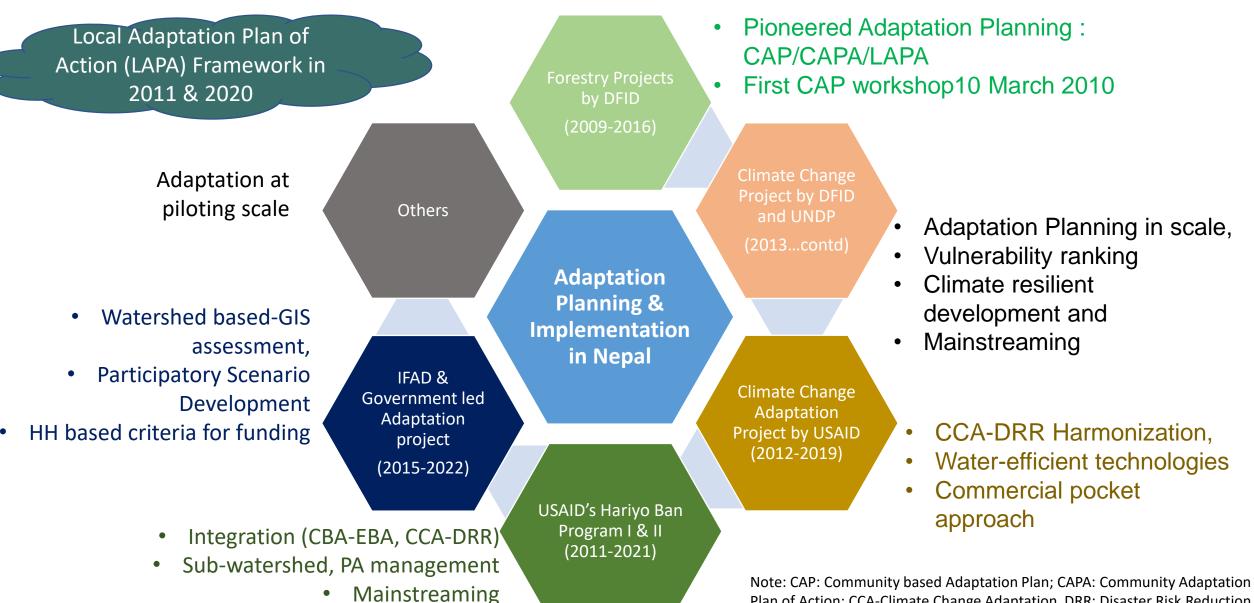
❖ **Nepal's vulnerability and multi-hazard risk context** prioritizes adaptation to climate change.

❖ Nepal witnessed **pioneering of local adaptation planning and aiming to scale it** covering all 753 local government units through NDC.

❖ This **study analyzed over a decade of the adaptation journey** of the country to draw lessons for effective adaptation planning, monitoring and evaluations

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Methodology

❖ The **content analysis of 6 adaptation plans** prepared in different times by various project or programs in the country,

❖ **Key informant interview (n=30)** of the major actors including practitioners, concerned community and policy makers at different level is done to assess the contents and implications.

❖ Moreover, this paper builds on the **first-hand experience of the authors** who were engaged in multiple adaptation projects in Nepal and lead sharing with climate change professionals, researchers, and academia in **climate adaptation dialogue** at the national level.
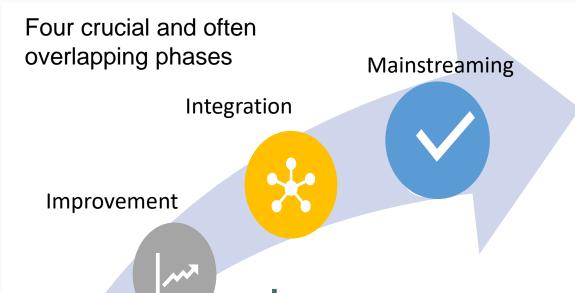
Decades of Adaptation Journey in Nepal

Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) Framework in 2011 & 2020

Forestry Projects by DFID (2009-2016)

- Pioneered Adaptation Planning : CAP/CAPA/LAPA
- First CAP workshop10 March 2010

Adaptation at piloting scale

Others

Climate Change Project by DFID and UNDP (2013...contd)

Adaptation Planning & Implementation in Nepal

- Adaptation Planning in scale,
- Vulnerability ranking
- Climate resilient development and
- Mainstreaming

- Watershed based-GIS assessment,
- Participatory Scenario Development
- HH based criteria for funding

IFAD & Government led Adaptation project (2015-2022)

Climate Change Adaptation Project by USAID (2012-2019)

- CCA-DRR Harmonization,
- Water-efficient technologies
- Commercial pocket approach

USAID's Hariyo Ban Program I & II (2011-2021)

- Integration (CBA-EBA, CCA-DRR)
- Sub-watershed, PA management
- Mainstreaming
- Differential impacts

Note: CAP: Community based Adaptation Plan; CAPA: Community Adaptation Plan of Action; CCA-Climate Change Adaptation, DRR: Disaster Risk Reduction ; CBA: Community Based Adaptation; EBA: Ecosystem Based Adaptation; PA: Protected Area; GIS: Geographic Information System; HH: Household

Findings: Four phases of Adaptation Planning in Nepal

Four crucial and often overlapping phases

Mainstreaming

Integration

Improvement

Inception

- ❖ **Enhanced awareness, capacity** and legal framework
- ❖ Improved means of **targeting**
- ❖ Initiatives are **donor driven**, often reinventing the wheel
- ❖ Limited climatic data and inadequate analysis of participatory information
- ❖ **Quality of adaptation plan compromised** due to quantitative target,

Lessons:

- ❑ Adaptation plans are more **effective at the community level**.
- ❑ Risk informed **adaptation planning is worth before mainstreaming**.
- ❑ **Integration and mainstreaming crucial** for sustainability and resilience to multiple hazards
- ❑ Requisite for **local leadership, inclusive participation and technical backstopping**

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Findings: Raising Expectation

- ❖ Encouraged **system of participatory planning**
- ❖ **Enhanced access to finance** and mobilization of local resources
- ❖ **Budget:** expectation vs reality, equity, plan as wish-list, inadequate private sector engagement
- ❖ Varied ownership at the local level
- ❖ Inadequate **inclusion,** meaningful participation and targeting

Lessons:

- ❑ **Co-creation** of equitable and realistic contribution plan- closing the finance gap
- ❑ **Optimistic but affordable plan** with participatory prioritization
- ❑ **Partnership** for social mobilization and technical backstopping
- ❑ **Go Local:** Need to prioritize local for the planning, institutionalization and the fund flow
- ❑ **Differential impact** assessment and response planning

Findings: MEL in Adaptation needs consolidation

- ❖ **Different MEL tools and practices** have been practiced for local adaptation plans in Nepal
  - ❖ Participatory Monitoring Evaluation, Reflection and Learning (PMERL),
  - ❖ Adaptation Plan Health Check Up
  - ❖ Vulnerability ranking
  - ❖ Data quality monitoring
  - ❖ MEL plan with specific team and budget
- ❖ **Noticed improvement** in activities, process and results are in relatively longer programmes.
- ❖ **Disaggregated information and analysis** important for effective targeting
- ❖ **Requires more efforts for overall consolidation**, evidence-based learning and improvements

Lessons:

- ❑ **Government leadership and institutionalization** along with multistakeholder engagement- at different stage
- ❑ **Reflective learning and action** important for effective adaptation activities, process, and results
- ❑ **Government led minimum standard**, disaggregated information, periodic monitoring, sharing and consolidation of learning required.
- ❑ Effective monitoring requires **community friendly tools and process**
- ❑ **Comprehensive and longer-term projects** better for results in adaptation and resilience
- ❑ **Planned MEL with dedicated resources**

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Thank you !

Disclaimer: The paper is primarily related to personal studies and experiences of authors. So, the paper is the responsibility of authors and do not necessarily represent the views of organization with which authors are associated.

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