

STATE OF CLIMATE POLICIES, PLANS/STRATEGIES AND FACTORS AFFECTING THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN NEPAL

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Abstract

Climate change is a complex and cross-cutting issue in Nepal that needs joint initiatives and efforts from all sectors at all levels to minimize its impacts. The government has developed climate policies, plans and frameworks – NAPA, National Climate Change Policy, LAPA and now in the process of developing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). This paper has explored the views and experiences of climate experts in Nepal on the state of climate policies, its inter-linkages, roles and responsibilities of ministries and departments, important factors to be considered and subjective indicators for effective implementation of policies. Altogether 30 experts responded the questionnaire sent via the email, LinkedIn and Skype Interview. The experiences of the experts' ranges from 2 to 30 years in the field representing governmental and non-governmental sectors including media and independent experts. The policies in Nepal are progressing in a more strategic direction with national and local priorities. LAPA is the framework to address the local climatic issues originated in Nepal. However, lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities and coordination among the ministries, departments and clear mechanisms for implementation of these policies, lack of sensitization and decentralization and delegation of finance and technologies and the capacity of the stakeholders are the major challenges.

Keywords: *Climate policy; Nepal; NAPA; LAPA; Climate experts*

Introduction

Nepal is the least developed country in South Asia, vulnerable to climate change impacts since large parts of its population and their livelihoods are principally dependent on climate sensitive sectors such as rain-fed agriculture, forestry and related economies [1- 3]. Climate change is seen as a reality with its impacts mostly faced by the poor and marginalized communities living in the rural areas of Nepal [4]. Moreover, the fragile ecology, rugged topography, weak political and institutional aptitude and the low adaptive capacity of the people make the country severely prone to climate induced disasters like flood, drought, glacier lake outbursts, cold waves and others. Due to these factors, Nepal is highly affected by the negative consequences of climate change though its contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is negligible [5, 6]. Nepal is ranked as the fourth most vulnerable country in the world, next to Bangladesh, India and Madagascar as per the risk analysis done in 2011 by the Maplecroft. The analysis was done based on the vulnerability index with extreme risk of climate change impacts

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for next 30 years period considering poverty, adaptive capacity and high dependence on natural resources [7, 8].

Climate experts and even communities have observed the changes in climate over the years [5]. *G. Malla* [1] revealed the increase of temperature by 1.8°C over the last 32 years with an annual increase of 0.06°C. The impacts of climate change cannot be completely controlled however effective adaptation and mitigation policies, plans and strategies can lower the climate change impacts and climate induced disasters. Climate change has long term negative impacts on agriculture and farmers' livelihood. Thus, urgent adaptation actions are needed at individual and community levels for securing their livelihood. Despite long climate change negotiation and policy debates, few concrete actions are taking place on the ground [4]. Furthermore, *H.R. Ojha et al.* [9] emphasized on integrating the voices of vulnerable peoples into the policy debates and framing climate policies.

Many researchers are highly motivated to conduct research on climate change impacts, mainly vulnerability assessments and adaptation practices in Nepalese context in recent decades. However, only a handful of research has focused on climate policies. Climate change policy is the newest addition to Nepal's legislative framework [10]. The government and non-governmental organizations have started adaptation initiatives in Nepal [2]. Correspondingly, the communities are coping with the impacts through their own efforts and initiatives. The Government of Nepal (GoN) has formulated climate policies such as National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA), National Climate Change Policy to address the climate risks and hazards [11]. Most of the policies and strategies development processes were led by the Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) (*previously Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment - MoSTE*). The GoN is currently in the process of formulating the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to identify and prioritize mid to long term adaptation actions to address the climate change concerns in the national planning and decision making process [3]. These policies have highlighted the adaptation practices and frameworks from the national to local levels [2]. The climate experts, governmental and non-governmental organizations, communities have contributed in the process of formulation and implementation of adaptation plans and policies [11].

This paper explores and analyzes the views, observations and experiences of climate experts mainly on climate change policies, plans/strategies, frameworks and their inter-linkages. It further analyzes the roles and responsibilities of ministries and departments including the factors affecting the implementation of policies, plans/strategies and frameworks. Additionally, the paper analyses the subjective indicators for effective implementation of the policies, plans and frameworks.

Methodology

The study has adopted the online expert opinion questionnaire survey with the climate experts in Nepal. Prior to develop the questionnaire, an extensive review of the papers and policies related to climate change was done in the Nepalese context. The review eased the development of a subjective questionnaire on the state of climate change policies and plans/strategies in Nepal, the inter-connections between the policies and plans/strategies including the roles and responsibilities of agencies involved, factors affecting and subjective indicators for effective implementation in Nepal.

The list of climate experts was generated from the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) group on Climate Change (NGOCC), which is a loose network of climate experts in Nepal that aims to build and strengthen a strong network and alliance and engaging in climate change research and development work in the country. The members of this group are representatives of civil society organizations including representatives of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), donors and government organizations as advisors. This

network serves as the learning and information sharing platform among climate experts, practitioners and also for NGOs working at grass root level [12].

Altogether 53 climate experts were identified purposively for the online survey based on their continuous contributions and engagements in climate change debates and negotiations at the national and international levels. The experts were approached by email, Skype and LinkedIn and Research Gate messenger. But only 30 experts responded the questionnaire via the email communication and Skype Interview, despite their busy time schedule. Only 10% of the respondents are female, which indicates that Climate Change Policy discourse is highly male dominant phenomenon in Nepal. Interestingly, most of the climate change experts in Nepal have completed at least the Masters Level of education, but in different fields ranging from forestry, agriculture, environment management, science in general, arts, anthropology, health and others. The experience of the experts’ ranges from 2 to 30 years of work in the climate change sector both representing governmental and non-governmental sectors including media, private and independent experts. Very few experts (only 5%) have less than 5 years of experiences, whereas maximum experts (62%) have between 6-10 years experience. In terms of their affiliations, Governments, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) represented 19% in the survey. In addition, they are representatives of Media (4%), Donors (4%), Indigenous People’s Organizations (IPOs) (8%), researchers (12%) and independent experts (15%). All the subjective responses of the experts were analyzed thoroughly to generate the results of the survey (Table 1).

Table 1. Composition of climate experts (respondents) in the expert opinion survey

Respondents based on Gender (N#30)	Respondents based on qualification (N#26)	Respondents based on experiences (N#26)	Respondents by affiliations (N#26)
Male - 23	PhD - 7	1-5 years - 2	Government - 5
Female - 3	Post Doc - 1	6-10 years - 16	CSOs - 5
Male who referred to others - 4	Masters - 17	11-15 years - 5	IPOs - 2
	M Phil - 1	16 and more years - 3	Research and Academics - 3
			Independent experts - 4
			INGOs - 5
			Donors - 1
			Media - 1

Results and discussions

Inter-relationship between climate policies, plans, frameworks and strategies

Most of the experts believed that the policies, strategies, frameworks and plans are in the hierarchical order presented in Table 1. Policies are general objectives and set of rules on climate change adaptation and mitigation at national level. The plans and strategies are long term roadmap to achieve the goals and objectives based on the set of rules defined by the policies. Likewise, the frameworks are step by step processes followed in order to implement the plans and strategies as guided by the policies. Based on policies, plans/strategies and frameworks, the short and medium term projects are developed and implemented. Most of the experts agreed on these relationships of policies, plans/strategies, frameworks and projects. For instance, Climate Change Policy is the overarching set of rules in climate change discourse in Nepalese context that guides NAP, NAPA and LAPA for long, medium and short term plans/strategies and framework to fulfill the immediate and urgent needs and priorities. Policies are the instrument that formally facilitate and guide research and development, whereas plans/strategies are supportive instruments to implement policy provisions. On the other hand, it is important to assess and understand local climate change vulnerabilities, risks and impacts to develop and implement the local adaptation policies [10].

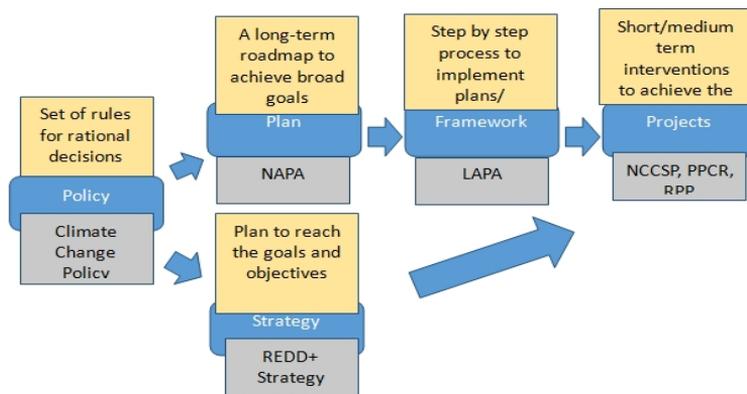


Fig. 1. Relationships between climate policy, plans, strategies, frameworks and projects in Nepalese context

M. Edvardsen [13] agreed on the hierarchical order of planning process in the form of policy-program-project, which is defined as the Chinese box model of planning. He also emphasized on the national level plan which establishes the basis for the regional and local level plans in the form of macro level plans to meso-level and ultimately to micro level plans (Fig. 2). In theory, every plan should guide the next level plan; however in practice it is not always possible. For instance, NAPA was formulated in 2010 prior to the national climate change policy in Nepal. In that sense, it didn't follow the hierarchical order. One of the reasons is the time pressure that the GoN undergoes to submit the NAPA to the UNFCCC within given timeframe, which was also criticized by many experts and literatures also supported particularly on climate policies and plans/strategies driven by international climate agreements and negotiations. However, climate policy has been centrally important for the rural vulnerable communities to ensure the optimum benefits [10].

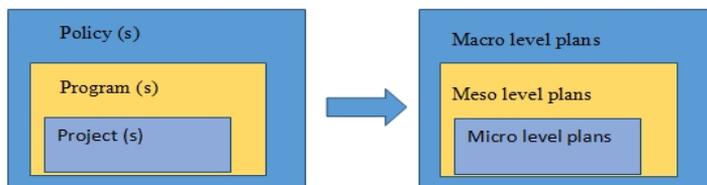


Fig. 2. The relationship between polic(ies), program(s) and project(s) at different levels as defined by Edvardsen (1995)

Nevertheless, most of the experts agreed that there are positive linkages between national climate change policy, NAPA and LAPA framework. B. Peniston [14] and S.K. Maharjan & K.L. Maharjan [11] also agreed on the advanced linkages as LAPA framework was developed to mainstream the local adaptation needs into development planning as guided by NAPA and climate change policy. The central issue is to integrate the climate change adaptation and adaptive capacity within the development processes, policies and practices. The policy has to link and integrate and interlink across the scales and levels such as local, regional, national and international levels. Thus, it is crucial to understand all the issues that have to be resolved in order to integrate the programs and implementation [10]. Furthermore, B. Peniston [14] believed that LAPA is an effective instrument to implement NAPA priority programs through effective and immediate delivery of adaptation services. Both plans have given emphasis on 80% of the available budget for the local level implementation of identified adaptation actions.

However, two experts argued for the lack of systematic connection between policies, plans/strategies and framework in Nepal. They argued the connection lack of these plans/strategies and frameworks to the overall development, disaster risk reduction and practical integration. Helvetas [8] reinforced their views in its paper by highlighting the lack of technical aspects of climate variability, vulnerability and projections, especially on climate change policy, as integral parts of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. Furthermore, *B.R. Regmi & D. Bhandari* [4] also pointed out that Nepalese climate policy at current state lacks technicality on vulnerable assessment and effective implementation including the community awareness, orientation and financial security.

State of climate change policies, plans, strategies and frameworks in Nepal

The GoN has formulated a number of Climate Change Policies, plans/strategies and frameworks such as NAPA, LAPA, National Climate Change Policy, Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy, Clean Development Mechanism, National REDD Strategy, Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) (in process) at national and local levels. All of these policies, plans, frameworks and strategies are in different states of implementation and successes. But, national Climate Change Policy, NAPA, LAPA and NAP (though in the process of development) are familiar to more than 95% of the experts. The reason was most of the experts were engaged in the consultation process and contributed in the formulation process. Additionally, GoN has given more emphasized on the adaptation policies in Nepal. *K.R. Tiwari et al.* [2] also emphasized that adaptation policies are important for Nepal, especially for the rural communities to address the local climatic issues at the grass root levels.

On the contrary, only few experts (5%) have mentioned Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy (LCEDS), National REDD Strategy and other sectorial policies and strategies that have specific focuses. These sectorial policies, plans/strategies were led by the sectorial ministries. These policies have specific and sectorial focus either on energy and forestry, whereas the UNFCCC compliance policy report documents such and Initial National Communication (INC), Second National Communication (SNC) has provided some good basis for the progresses on the policies. Many experts expressed the necessity of the GoN to focus on specific and sectorial policies and mainstream climate change into the sectorial policies and plans, as some have already started such as REDD+ strategy and LCEDS.

The experts also stated the number of climate change related programs/projects implemented by the government such as Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), 2010; Poverty-Environment Initiatives (PEI), 2010; Climate Adaptation Design Project-Nepal (CADP-N), 2010; REDD Readiness Project (2010-2013), Nepal Climate Change Support Program (NCCSP), 2015 with the funding supports of different donors in line with the policies, plans/strategies and frameworks [15] (Table 2). The experts also revealed that most of these programs/projects have specific focuses to be implemented in collaboration with different ministries and departments, which they believe crucial for the success; however it is very difficult in reality. GoN has acclaimed the effective collaboration and cooperation among the stakeholders in the process of formulating the climate policies, strategies/plans [16], which is also supported by *K.R. Tiwari et al.* [2] by revealing the participatory, inclusive, flexible and responsive process. However, *B.R. Regmi & D. Bhandari* [4] and *P.D. Sherpa et al.* [17] strongly criticized the effective collaboration and participation in the process. They further raised the issue of effective collaboration in the implementation process.

Almost all experts agreed on the progressive and positive development of the climate change policies in Nepal particularly focusing on climate change adaptation and promoting climate smart development, as a number of policies have been formulated in recent years. However, few experts recognized the infancy or stagnant state of policies, which still need to be backed up with scientific data and information in order for the effective implementation to be sustainable. They also highlighted the lack of resources and capacities to implement the policies

and the priority programs/projects at the local level. MoE [15], itself, estimated a total cost of \$ 350 million to implement the NAPA priorities, whereas Oxfam [18] argued for the requirement of over \$ 1 billion to implement NAPA priorities effectively. Likewise, *N. Bird* [19] argued that the financial planning, particularly on costing public sector investments, is not well developed in climate policies and planning in Nepal.

Table 2. Policies, Plans and Strategies in Nepal

S. N.	Policies, plans and strategies in Nepal
Governance and Institutional Policies	
1.	Local Self-Governance Act (LSGA), 1999
2.	Nepal Interim Constitutions, 2007
3.	Three-Year Interim Plan, 2007
4.	Local Governance and Community Development Programed (LGCDP), 2008
5.	Three-Year Plan Approach Paper, 2010
6.	Environment Friendly Local Governance Framework
Climate Change Policies/Plans/Projects	
1.	Nepal's Initial National Communication (INC) of the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2004
2.	National Adaptation Programed of Action (NAPA), 2010
3.	Poverty-Environment Initiatives (PEI), 2010
4.	Pilot Programed for Climate Resilience (PPCR), 2010
5.	Climate Adaptation Design Project-Nepal (CADP-N), 2010
6.	Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA), 2011
7.	National Planning Commission (NPC) Climate Resilient Planning (CRP), 2011
8.	Climate Change Policy (CCP), 2011
9.	Second National Communication to the UNFCCC, 2011
10.	Intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs), 2015
11.	National Adaptation Plan (NAP), 2015 (on the process)
12.	Nepal Climate Change Support Programme, 2015
13.	National REDD+ Strategy 2015
14.	Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy (LCEDS), 2015

Source: *C.A. Sova and A.S. Chaudhary* [15] modified by the authors

An expert in the survey revealed the initiation of the GoN to develop separate budget code for climate change in national budget to track the expenditure related to climate change actions and activities. *P. Baral and R.P. Chhetri* [20] also disclosed the separate budget code in their paper, which was introduced by the Ministry of Finance based on the pilot project conducted by National Planning Commission and the United Nations Development Programed (UNDP) in 2012. NPC [21] revealed the effective cooperation among 11 ministries in Nepal in the process of developing the methodology for tracking climate expenditure. The budget code and tracking is concentrating on public finance only, not for tracking climate investments of community based organizations, international/non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs). However, NPC [22] believes that this code ensures the transparency and accountability through systematic tracking of public finance in all sectors and strengthens the link between policy objectives and resource allocation.

One of the main issues raised by the experts on climate policies is the formulation process which was highly driven by the guidance of international bodies and mechanisms rather than country driven process and national needs and priorities. Most of climate policies and plans/strategies developed in Nepal are in response to the international negotiations, agreements and treaties, except the LAPA framework. *K.R. Tiwari et al.* [2] agreed that GoN developed and proclaimed adaptation and mitigation policies in response to international climate regime. *Helvetas* [8] also reinforced that some policies are formulated to fulfill the domestic needs whereas others guided by the international agreements and treaties. *H.R. Ojha et al.* [9] also emphasized on the adaptation policies which are largely driven by the international actors and their generic world views. Most of the environmental related policies in Nepal are guided by the

international treaties that Nepal signed such as Kyoto Protocol. However, climate change policy should be an outcome of domestic necessities as Nepal is highly vulnerable to the adverse climate change impacts. UNFCCC defined several steps to develop NAPA in inclusive, participatory, action oriented, country driven and responsive to climate change adaptation [23].

Another major issues raised, was the government seriousness in the implementation of these policies. Climate change is not a main national priority despite being highly vulnerable to the climate change impacts. One of the core reasons is the unstable government and government priorities. For instance, the Ministry is repeatedly changed and merged with different other ministries when the political leadership is changed. It used to be Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE) last year, but now it has become the Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE). Additionally, the experts revealed the lack of implementing bodies at district level and lower administrative units under this ministry, which was supported by Helvetas Nepal [8] and *K.R. Tiwari et al.* [2]. There is lack of elected government bodies at the local level for more than 15 years, thus, no mechanisms for coordination among the stakeholders due to lack of responsibilities and ownerships. Additional issues identified by the experts are the ministries capacity, available resources and collaboration between and among the ministries and departments for effective implementation of policies, plans and strategies. Most of the experts realized the necessity of sensitization, awareness and education on climate policies to all the sectors including farmers, urban dwellers, academia, so that there will be demand for good policy formulation, implementation and reform. *B.R. Regmi & D. Bhandari* [4] also found the lack of sensitization and awareness among the local communities as a cause.

One additional issue identified by the experts is the lack of clarity on fund disbursement mechanisms, despite the agreement of 80% budget allocation at the local level and the budget code was developed. Helvetas Nepal [8] also identified the issue of no differentiation in fund disbursement (up to 80%) for the mitigation and adaptation programs. *K.R. Tiwari et al.* [2] underlined the lack of using 80% of funds at the local level, since there is no any elected body at the local level. Additionally, NPC [22] has identified the problem in climate financing because of the fact that the ministries within the government have their own development agenda, priorities and responsibilities that dissuade them to be concerned about climate change issues.

Roles, responsibilities and collaboration among ministries, departments and other stakeholders

Climate change is a cross cutting issue, impacting multiple sectors and actors. Thus, the collaboration among sectorial ministries, including sectorial/thematic and cross-cutting sectors is crucial for effective implementation of the climate change policies, plans and frameworks. Most of the experts also agreed on specific roles of sectorial ministries to develop and implement sectorial policies. Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) (*previously Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment - MoSTE*) is the focal ministry, which is responsible for policy formulation, coordination and international negotiation. Especially, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) is responsible for the implementation of adaptation plans and integration to the local development planning. The roles, responsibilities and collaboration among the ministries and departments as stipulated by the climate experts in Nepal are presented in Table 3. Furthermore, most of the experts emphasized on mainstreaming climate changes in the sectorial policies and plans. However, most the ministries haven't successfully integrated the climate change issues in their policies, plans/strategies and frameworks.

Experts claimed the strong vertical linkage and coordination in most of the ministries, except MoPE, however the horizontal linkages among competent ministries are comparatively weak. Some experts raised the issues of capacity and confidence of MoPE in collaboration,

coordination and managing the climate funds. *B.R. Regmi and D. Bhandari* [4] also argued that the ministry has not yet confidently played its role in coordinating the ministries and manage the climate funds. They further argued on the lack of trust, clarity on the roles and responsibilities and coordination among ministries, donors, governments and civil societies in terms of capacities, transparency and accountability as the constraints in their paper. In that regards, *B.K. Sovacool et al.* [24] emphasized on the endurance of an effective institutions and set of institutions especially government ministries and departments to take lead in planning and policies formulation, revision and building capacities of other institutions in the country. Climate change adaptation policies and politics have both obstacles and opportunities, especially for resolving the issues, concerns and inequalities faced by the vulnerable communities [25]. In that regards, *D. Schlosberg et al.* [26] emphasized on public engagement for development and implementation of fair and effective climate change adaptation discourse and policy making processes and outcomes.

Table 3. Summary of the roles and responsibilities as defined by the climate experts

S.N.	Ministries/Departments	Roles and Responsibilities
1.	Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE)	Focal Ministry, Policy formulation for climate change, overall coordination among the agencies at central level
2.	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD)	Coordination with local government for effective execution of climate change activities at local level
3.	Ministry of Finance (MoF)	Focal Ministry for climate finance and responsible for integrating climate finance into development plans and budgets
4.	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC)	Policy Formulation, integration and implementation of climate change issues into forestry policies, strategies and plans
5.	Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD)	Policy Formulation, integration and implementation of climate change issues into agricultural policies, strategies and plans
6.	National Planning Commission (NPC)	Policy direction and Integration of climate change issues into national level development policies, plans and budgeting process
7.	Department of Forests, Soil, Agriculture and others	Implementation of climate responsive sectorial policies plans in coordination with local and national stakeholders including INGOs for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities through sectorial committees.
8.	Climate change council (CCC)	Coordination for effective policy implementation

Factors for effective implementation of policies, plans, programs and strategies

Based on the response of the experts on factors affecting the effective implementation of the climate policies, plans/strategies and frameworks, it can be comprehended that political and institutional factors are highly influential (Figure 3). Because of political instability, the MoPE, which is the focal ministry of climate change policies and plans/strategies, cannot take a stand and initiate to address the emerged issues. Furthermore, the ministry lacks the human resources and institutional set up for effective implementation of the policies, plans/strategies and frameworks. There is a huge gap in institutional arrangement, capacity to implement and mechanisms for adaptation policies and programs at local level [10]. One of the experts revealed that the national politics have given minimum priority to the mandates of MoPE. Considering the situation, *K.R. Tiwari et al.* [2] proposed to revisit the structure of MoPE, being a responsible ministry for the result oriented implementation of climate change policies, plans/strategies and frameworks. Furthermore, there is a lack of elected local bodies and capacities to absorb and implement the policies at the local level. *H.R. Ojha et al.* [27] have emphasized on the importance of addressing the concerns of affected people in the climate change policies based on the Nepalese history of environmental policy making processes. Otherwise, the policies would be failed despite the immediate resistance to the policies at the time of formulation.

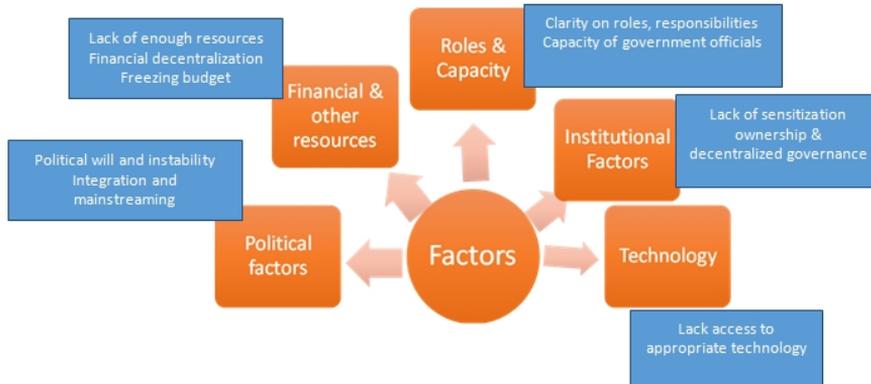


Fig. 3. Factors affecting effective implementation of climate policies, plans/strategies and frameworks in Nepal

Indicators for effectiveness of climate change adaptation policies, plans and strategies

It is revealed that there is no national level agreed framework or indicators to measure the progress on climate change policies, plans/strategies and frameworks based on the responses of the climate experts. National climate change policy has not even reflected the priorities and targets to be achieved. However, based on the response of the experts, the process and outcome indicators can be summarized in Figure 4. The experts have emphasized on flexible, participatory and inclusiveness in the policy formulation and plans/strategies development. The outcome indicators appear as broad goals such as increased adaptive capacities of the vulnerable communities, reduced vulnerabilities of the people, farmers develop their own strategies etc. In that regards, *S Nagoya* [28] specified that the climate change adaptation policies in Nepal ignore the drivers of local vulnerability. In most of the cases, public and private sectors emphasize on quantitative indicators to measure and manage the success of policies and plans/strategies implementation. However, the climate policies, plans/strategies and frameworks lack such indicators. Depending on the responses of the experts, the indicators are categorized into process indicators and outcome indicators as presented in the Figure 4.

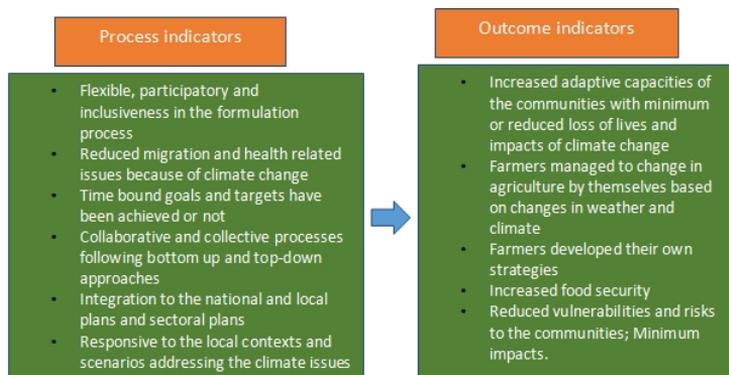


Fig. 4. Process and outcome indicators of effective implementation of climate change policies, plans/strategies and frameworks

According to *J. Cust* [29], the policy indicators are necessary for the outputs and outcomes as presented in this paper. However, he has not mentioned about the process indicators in his paper. The summary of input and output indicators is presented below in Figure 5 based on his paper. *S. Nagoya* [28] added that climate change adaptation policies in Nepal consistently address the outcome vulnerability, neglecting the role of power relations as drivers

of vulnerability, which somehow indicated that the climate change adaptation policies in Nepal have targeted the long-term effects, however she neglected the power relations which has strong influence on vulnerability.

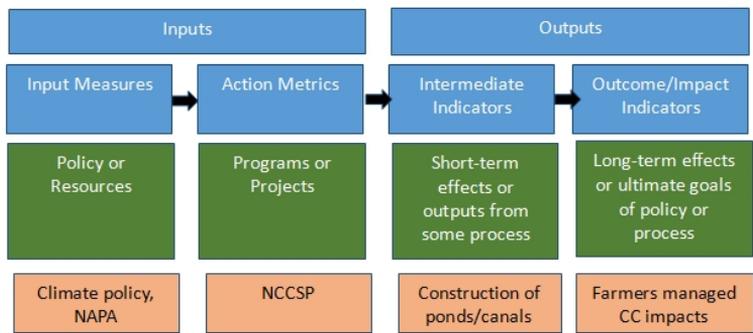


Fig. 5. Climate policy indicators, inputs vs. outcome indicators as defined by J. Cust (2009)

Conclusions

Most of the climate experts believe that climate change policies, plans/strategies, frameworks are progressive and advancing in Nepal. There are also some experts that think the programs are still at an infant and stagnant stage. Some experts have even emphasized that the policies, plans/strategies should be dynamic in nature with periodic review and revision. These policies, plans/strategies and frameworks are inter-related in hierarchical order; though not always follow the same order. Even in Nepalese context, NAPA was formulated and endorsed before the national climate change policy. Many actors and stakeholders are engaged/involved in the formulation and implementation of these policies and plans/strategies, however the collaboration and cooperation is not always effective. One of the main issues raised by the experts was the policy formulation process highly driven by the international negotiations and agreements more than the national requirements. Local people and communities at the grass root levels are not aware of the policies and plans/strategies, though the government and some experts also claimed that the policies and plans/strategies formulation processes were participatory, inclusive, flexible and responsive.

It is important to formulate these policies, plans/strategies, frameworks and projects. It is far more important to effectively implement them to minimize the climate issues at the local and national levels. However, the experts are still concerned about the resources required and capacities of MoPE even for effective collaboration and implementation of these policies, plans/strategies and frameworks. The ministry itself is not stable in Nepalese context because of frequent changes in the governments which also impacts on the leadership and number of technical staffs in the ministry. It is realized that the political and institutional factors are dominating in climate policies and plans/strategies in Nepal. Based on the responses, the process and outcome indicators are identified, which are very broad indicators such as reducing the vulnerabilities of the vulnerable population as an important outcome indicator.

This survey has generated the general picture of state of climate policies, plans/strategies and frameworks including the roles and responsibilities of ministries, departments and other stakeholders, factors and subjective indicators based on the views and observations of climate experts in Nepal. Based on the findings, the second phase of the survey can be designed which will be more specific to climate change adaptation especially, NAP, NAPA, LAPA including the funding arrangement (80% of the total fund) at the local level. This survey has been planned as a 2-3 phases' survey with the climate experts in Nepal. It is realized that all the experts are super busy with their respective duties and responsibilities.

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