

Effective Land Administration in the Asia-Pacific Region: Insights from Nepal on Navigating Governance, Legal, and Financial Pathways within the Climate Change – Land Nexus

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SUMMARY

Nepal has made substantial progress in land administration enhancing land tenure security and efforts towards sustainable land management. This progress is underscored by the adoption of the National Land Policy in 2019, amendments to the Land Act and Land Rules in 2020, and the introduction of the Land Use Act in 2019 and the Land Use Rules in 2022. These measures dwell on protecting land rights, providing security of tenure and undertake land use planning for sustainable land management thereby supporting to Nepal's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To build on these achievements, further exploring innovative approaches within the UN-GGIM Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) offers significant potential. This framework with its 9 pathways to enhance land administration, especially in the context of climate change. Climate change heavily impacts Nepal through floods, landslides, soil erosion, and recurring natural disasters, affecting the shelter and livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable, underscoring the need for effective land administration and land management.

In this context, a workshop titled "Effective Land Administration in Nepal" was held where experts and land stakeholder in Nepal discussed the nexus of climate change and land management, focusing on governance, legal, and financial pathways within the FELA framework. Key themes addressed included:

1. Policy, Governance, and Accountability: Enhancing policy frameworks and accountability mechanisms for equitable land administration.
2. Legal Frameworks: Exploring and assessing legal regulations to adapt to evolving land

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management challenges, particularly in the context of climate change.

3. Financial Strategies: Evaluating Nepal's land valuation system and sustainable financial models to support land administration and adapt to climate change impacts.

Future activities aim to further explore also other FELA Pathways such as innovation and partnership to deepen the impact include implementing projects on addressing to climate change-land nexus, capacity-building programs for government officials at all levels and the community leaders and enhance community engagement in land governance. Securing adequate funding for these activities remains a critical challenge, but there is a strong willingness among stakeholders to continue collaboration. Based on the volume and scope, the learnings from the catalytic support from the development partners in the application of Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration tools in the past and the ongoing UN-Habitat support programmer connecting land tenure and land use in the improvement of livelihoods of vulnerable communities with climate smart land management options are humble beginnings. Larger inputs are anticipated to expand and scale up these efforts.

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