



PROCEEDINGS OF THE

Consultation meeting for GESI-responsive planning process

23 December 2021 | Kathmandu, Nepal

SECTION 1

Key messages

- Under the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI), the Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI) Nepal drafted a training resource book for integrating gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) into natural resource management (NRM) plans at the local level.
- The training resource book was used to conduct training for local government officials and community for preparing GESI-responsive five-year action plans on NRM for two rural municipalities (Saipal in Bajhang District and Byas in Darchula). The resource book was revised based on lessons from the two trainings.
- Planning process and use of the resource book will be scaled out with support from the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) and the National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN).
- A steering or advisory committee comprising MoFAGA, NARMIN, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), HIMAWANTI, and other relevant stakeholders will be established to integrate GESI into thematic sectors.
- ICIMOD will develop and share the terms of reference of the steering or advisory committee in February 2022.

SECTION 2

Background

Natural resources are integral to rural livelihoods in Nepal. Both men and women belonging to different socioeconomic groups use natural resources; however, decision making regarding those resources is dominated by men. Given that the Local Government Act 2017 of Nepal delegates to local government bodies the responsibility to formulate and implement plans in different conservation and development sectors (such as natural resources, health, education, and infrastructure), the democratization of natural resource use and management requires gender and social dimensions to be embedded in local government plans and projects.

In 2019, under KSLCDI, HIMAWANTI Nepal drafted a training resource book to prepare a GESI-responsive five-year NRM action plans at local level. Later in the same year, HIMAWANTI used the resource book for conducting a [training](#) to prepare GESI-responsive five-year NRM action plans in two rural municipalities

of Nepal – [Saipal in Bajhang District](#) and [Byas in Darchula District](#). The respective rural municipality chairpersons, ward representatives, and other stakeholders representing both community as well as government agencies actively participated in the preparation of the plans. Women and members of the Dalit community also prominently participated in the planning process. The five-year plans were then presented to relevant stakeholders in their respective district headquarters. A [one-day consultation meeting](#) conducted in Dhangadi, Sudurpashchim Province, on 18 December 2019 further deliberated on scaling up the GESI-responsive NRM planning process.

With this in view, KSLCDI organized a half-day consultation meeting on 23 December 2021 to scale out and disseminate the training resource book in other provinces and sectors. Presentations and discussions focused on the learning and experiences from the planning process at Saipal and Byas rural municipalities.

SECTION 3

Objectives

The main objectives of the consultation meeting were as follows:

- Share the process for formulating GESI-integrated NRM plan in the Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL)
- Share lessons on GESI integration in the NRM planning process of rural municipalities in the KSL
- Discuss the process for scaling out GESI-integrated planning for the KSL to local governments across Nepal

SECTION 4

Opening session

The meeting began with opening remarks from Basant Adhikari, Joint Secretary, MoFAGA. He welcomed the efforts of ICIMOD and HIMAWANTI in developing the training resource book for integrating GESI into five-year NRM plans at the local level.

Kamala Gurung, Gender and Natural Resource Management Specialist, ICIMOD, welcomed all

the participants and provided a brief overview of the activities conducted on GESI-responsive NRM planning. She emphasized the importance of GESI-responsive five-year action plans formulated for Saipal and Byas rural municipalities of Nepal and reiterated that the meeting would allow a way forward to scale out the planning process with support from MoFAGA and NARMIN.

Technical session

GESI-integrated NRM planning process for local governments

Binaya Pasakhala, Governance and Institutions Analyst, ICIMOD, briefly presented a draft training resource book for local government officials and communities to prepare a GESI-integrated five-year NRM plan at the local level. He described each section of the book and the methods, which included lecture, group discussion, training game, and teamwork. He explained that the draft was revised on the basis of experiences from trainings in Saipal and Byas rural municipalities and experts' review. Lastly, he sought suggestions to further improve and finalize the document.

Experience sharing on gender integration in NRM plans of Saipal and Byas rural municipalities

Sarita Lama, Program Coordinator, HIMAWANTI, shared the experiences and lessons from GESI integration into natural resources planning processes in Saipal and Byas rural municipalities. She described the process for ensuring the participation of marginalized groups and women in the planning and allocating budget for targeted groups. Furthermore, she shared that the participants and stakeholders at the district and provincial levels appreciated the usefulness of the training and five-year plans.

Discussion

The representatives from MoFAGA, Ministry of Forests and Environment, and NARMIN provided their inputs on the resource book and highlighted the need for the need for other sectors to develop similar GESI-responsive five-year plans. Basant Adhikari, Joint Secretary, MoFAGA, suggested the formation of an advisory/steering committee. The participants also discussed the members' roles and responsibilities. Babu Ram Bhusal, Under Secretary, MoFAGA, stated that the five-year action plans can be used as a tool/

model for drafting plans for other municipalities. He then suggested that NRM activities should be tailored for low-income communities. Further discussions focused on clarification for focusing on NRM and creating a template of the five-year action plan to share with other municipalities. Tara Giri, WASH Program Manager, NARMIN, suggested providing orientation sessions for NARMIN staff on drafting GESI-responsive plans.

Way forward

- Form a steering or advisory committee comprising MoFAGA, NARMIN, ICIMOD, HIMAWANTI, and other relevant stakeholders to integrate GESI into thematic sectors. The secretariat of the committee will be situated at MoFAGA.
- ICIMOD to develop and share the terms of reference of the steering or advisory committee in February 2022.
- Prepare a template of a GESI-responsive five-year action plan targeting rural municipalities.
- Provide an orientation on preparing GESI-responsive plans to NARMIN.

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