

Submitted Abstract

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Abstract

Climate change affect the most marginalized, fragmented and fragile ecosystems like mountain the most. The changing climate has a double sword effect to the mountain communities where the vulnerability of geography had been topped up with the climate vulnerability. Yet, the voices of the mountain people and their traditional practices and knowledge is unheard of , thus the main aim of designing this paper is to look at participation based policy formulation and how the link is been developed between the people with policies and whether or not it strengthen the voices of vulnerable at multiple levels. Apart from participation another major thing to understand from the paper is how policies address the autonomous adaptation practices, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in the legal systems and documents. For this analysis 3 countries in the eastern Himalaya is selected namely eastern Nepal, north east India and Bhutan. The method for analysis is will qualitative and snowball sampling method will be used. The primary data will be obtained from KII, FGD and field observation through semi structured exploratory interview and most part of the research will be based on secondary resources like national, regional plans and policies in climate adaptation of these three countries.

The preliminary understanding of the status of the 3 countries was assessed through a content analysis of NDCs submitted to UNFCCC where we assessed the two parameters, one is the inclusion of adaptation component in NDCs and the other is about the participation of different non state actors (diverse group of people and knowledge) in planning and implementation process of NDCs. It comes that public participation and consultation with public was well established in Nepal compared to other 2 countries along with the diverse group of people participated including local, indigenous, women. Ethnic minorities are missing in all 3 countries. In context of Adaptation although Nepal and Bhutan are Himalaya countries they haven't explicitly mentioned about the mountain/Himalayan adaptation whereas India only have a small unit of Himalaya but had devoted a separate section on Himalayan ecosystem. India in other hand has also highlighted the importance and use of traditional/indigenous, local knowledge to deal with changing climate. The people's participation and engagement will help develop a sustainable and transformative adaptation action in longer run through embedding these principles in national and international plans and policies.