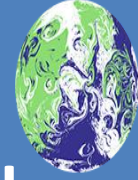


# ADVOCATING THE MOUNTAIN AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN FUTURE

GEETA PANDEY  
KIRDARC Nepal



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

# Building Resilience of Communities from Highlands to Oceans in the Face of Climate Crisis

Thursday, 04 Nov 2021



Association of Sustainable Ecological  
Engineering Development (ASEED)



The University of Vermont

01-12 NOV 2021  
GLASGOW

# COP26

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY





# Why Mountain matters?



Home to 15% of  
the World's  
Population

Host about half of  
the World's  
Biodiversity

Provide Freshwater  
for everyday life to  
more than Half of  
Humanity

6 of the 20 most  
important food  
crops originate in  
mountains





## Contd.....

- However, mountain region are at the forefront of climate change impacts with imminent water crisis and huge losses due to climate induced disaster
- Mountain and its unique characteristics, vulnerability and threats, and its role for building resilience are not adequately represented in UNFCCC and climate negotiations .
- Mountain people frequently face political, social and economic marginalization and lack access to such basic services.



# Climate Crisis is Hitting the Mountains

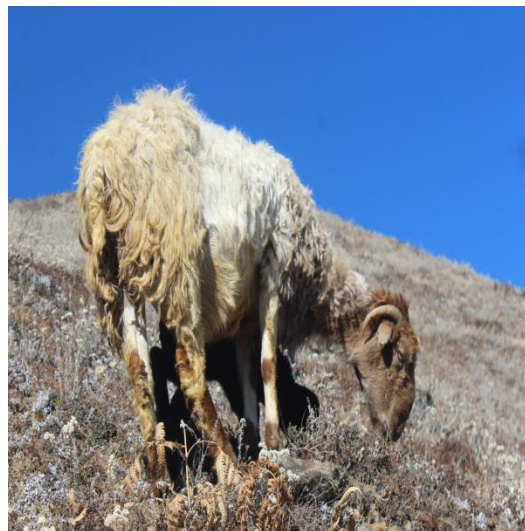
**Glaciers  
Melting twice  
the rate in  
2000**

**Warming at  
three times  
the global  
average**

**1/3 Himalayan  
Glaciers vanish  
by 2100 even if  
global warming  
halted to 1.5C**

**Scores of  
Villages  
forced to  
relocate**

**53% of rural  
mountain  
population  
vulnerable to  
food  
insecurity**



# Red code for humanity: AR6 of the IPCC



- Unequivocal that humans have caused the global climate change
- Global warming is expected to breach the threshold of 1.5°C degree next 20 years.
- 2021 to be the hottest year
- Earth will be warmer by 1.4 – 4.4°C by 2100 depending on the emission cuts.
- Increase in 1°C leads to increase in 7% in extreme rain events
- Ice melt will continue for the next 1000 years even if we stop CO<sub>2</sub> emission

## South Asia

- Extreme precipitation, river floods to increase across Asia. South Asian monsoon will intensify.
- Floods and landslides most frequently occurring natural hazards in eastern Himalaya.
- Third pole – will experience increasing snow melt patterns
- Dangerous heat stress thresholds to cross in Asia – esp. South Asia
- Increase in monsoon precipitation



# Impact in the Mountains of Nepal

## Extreme weather events

- Melamchi Flood, 2021
- Manang Flood, 2021
- Jure Landslide, 2014
- Snow Storm in Annapurna region 2014
- Seti River flood, 2012
- 2021 unseasonal flood during the end of October
- 47 dangerous lakes on the Koshi, Gandak and Karnali basins - 31 found at very high risk, 12 are at moderate risk and 4 lakes in the lower risk category. (25 – China, 1- India, 21 Nepal) – ICIMOD, UNDP, 2020



## Mountain Economy

- Livestock based livelihoods vanishing due to degradation of pastoral land
- Tourism one of the key economic activity in the mountains suffering
- 1.5 to 2% GDP Loss annually and 13% GDP Loss by 2100
- Food insecurity due to production losses

## Down Stream Impacts

- Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)
- More frequent floods in already fragile region in the short term with increasing river discharge
- Drought in the long run with glacier-less mountains and waterless rivers
- Changes in the hydrological cycle altering upstream – downstream nexus

## Society and Culture

### Poverty and injustice

### Traditions, customary practices being lost

### Migration and forced displacement

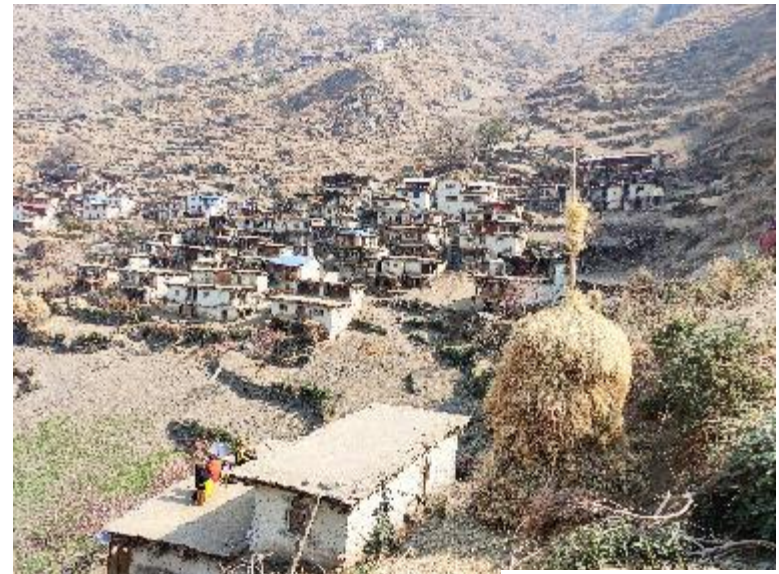
Poor, Indigenous, marginalized, women, girls, children, disabled, elderly groups are mostly impacted by climate change



## Our demands !!!

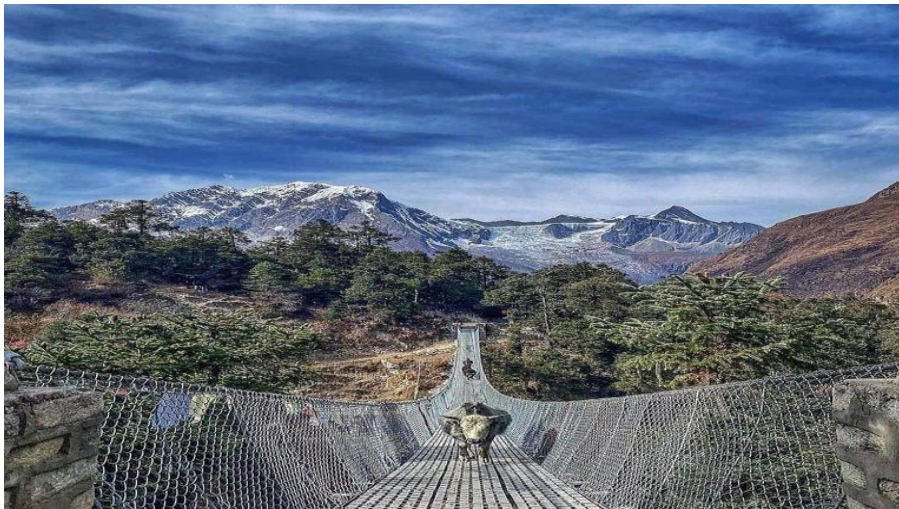


- ❖ Urges all parties to address the issue of the effect of climate change on food security and livelihood affecting women and marginalized groups and develop and execute climate resilient policies, ensuring financing and implementation mechanisms with assured voices of mountain people leaving no one behind.
- ❖ Urges the parties to agree on making Loss and Damage a permanent agenda item of the UNFCCC and that Nepal government to strongly link and advocate on this issue based on recent extreme events on Nepal's high mountains and seek dedicated finance for loss and damage.



# Contd...

- ❖ We demand the need for collaboration between mountainous and island countries in the international climate change discourse.
- ❖ We urge the United Nations Member State to establish a separate UN mechanism to deal with the mountain crisis.
- ❖ Urges the government of Nepal to raise and lead the issues and agendas of mountain countries during the COP26 and including other international forums





# Contd...

- ❖ We encourage all governments to develop effective and efficient collaborative partnership initiative, and cooperation Initiatives to tackle the global mountain issues and agendas.
- ❖ Urges the global communities to recognize mountain as the pulse of the planet and harness the strength of the mountain region to enhance regional and international cooperation and scale-up investment in mountain-specific climate priorities.
- ❖ Urges the government to encourage study, research, and monitor to identify knowledge gaps, needs, opportunities, and constraints in mountain ecosystem, ecology, and sustainable development.





# Highlights of PM: COP 26



- I urge world leaders to recognize the specific climate vulnerability of the high Mountains and accord high priority to the mountain agenda in all climate-related negotiations.
- We call upon the Parties to agree on making Loss and Damage a stand-alone agenda for negotiations and support the framework of additional financing for it.
- To raise awareness on the climate crisis in the Himalaya, my government will host Sagarmatha Sambad – a dialogue named after Mt. Everest.
- "Keeping the global temperature below 1.5° C is vital for mountain people. It is an issue of our survival."



Government of Nepal  
National Planning Commission

Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Forests and Environment

FOCUS INTERNATIONAL

ICIMOD

THE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

KIRDARC

UNDP

## Mountain Voices for Sustainable Human Future: Constraints and Opportunities

September 15, 2021, Kathmandu Nepal

### Preamble

We, concerning the sustainable human development and secure future of mountainous regions and communities; Embracing the issue of ensuring evidence based policy response and representation; Being sensitive to the multifaceted effects of climate change on the mountainous region; by recognizing the fragility of the mountains to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; Appealing to international and national multilateral agencies to recognize, the mountainous region's contribution to maintaining the balance of the earth and human race; Urging to give priority to the sustainable development of the region by adopting the mountain friendly policy, financial allocation and management, climate change adaptation, infrastructure development, and drawing attention to preserved culture, heritage and livelihood of the mountainous region; We, organizers and participants are agreed to endorse the following declaration;

### Protecting

Mountains, which are home to approximately one-tenth of the world's population covering 22 percent of the earth's surface, provide ecosystem services (e.g., freshwater, food and fiber, flora and fauna, genetic resources, timber, energy, and protection against natural hazards) to one third, of the global population, and play a decisive role in shaping a sustainable future.

### Promoting

Programs, policies, institutional mechanism and approaches towards (realistic) sustainable mountain development and contributing to the conservation of biological and cultural resources by focusing on sustainable livelihoods opportunities for people in mountain regions, regional and greater collaboration, partnership, and cooperation between all stakeholders for sustainable mountain development including gender specificities, local communities, IKTs, livestock and tourism related concerns

### Participating

All the actors- public and private, research institutions and academia at the international, national, and local levels for shared responsibility and solidarity for the benefit of mountain



# THANK YOU

