Assessing Gaps in Nepal's Land Governance Towards Climate Responsiveness

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SUMMARY

Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change–induced disasters, which have severe impacts on land tenure, particularly among vulnerable and marginalised communities. These impacts are so severe that various climate-induced disasters, including floods, landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods, have resulted in more than 80 percent of property loss among such communities. (MoFE 2018) and (GoN 2021). Therefore, it is important to address these impacts, most importantly, the issue of land tenure insecurity, as insecure land tenure can reduce incentives for sustainable land management, leading to environmental degradation (UNHABITAT 2019). This is because insecure land tenure affects the ability of people, communities, and organisations to make changes to land that can advance adaptation and mitigation (IPCC 2022). Responsible land governance advocates climate-resilient development. Climate-responsive or climate-resilient land governance can address these challenges. (McEvoy and Mitchell, 2019).

In this paper, we assess land governance in Nepal with regard to its climate responsiveness to address land tenure security. Research by Unger (2019) and Khezri (2018), based on case studies in Nepal, has recommended further study on how tenure security can be ensured in the face of climate vulnerability. This recommendation indicates gaps in the climate responsiveness of land governance. Hence, this paper seeks to identify these gaps, both in policy and in implementation.