



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute

NDRI is an independent, non-partisan, and non-profit institution dedicated to addressing contemporary and emerging policy challenges and to influencing public policy through research.

HEADLINES FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

- Understanding Flood Impacts and the Value of Ecosystem-based Adaptation.
- NDRI Participates at the EU Trade and Investment Consultation.
- Strengthening Partnerships at Australian Embassy Networking Event.
- NDRI Represents at a National Consultation on Climate Commitments

WEEKLY ECHOES OF



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Understanding Flood Impacts and the Value of Ecosystem-based Adaptation

As part of the project *Making an economic case of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for flood risk management*, supported by ICIMOD-SANDEE, a field survey was conducted in the first week of January 2026. The survey aimed to assess the economic and social impacts of flooding and to support the economic assessment of EbA for flood risk management.



Field Enumerator during the household survey



Field Supervisor leading the FGD at Utlabari-2, Sunjhora

A total of 13 field enumerators were mobilized to carry out 200 household surveys, capturing household-level impacts of floods.

In addition, two field coordinators facilitated focused group discussions with forest user groups to understand community and collaborative forest economics. The collected data will inform the analysis of EbA interventions and their role in strengthening flood risk management strategies.



Glimpse from another Household survey conducted during the field visit

NDRI's Participation at EU Trade and Investment Consultation

Dr. Rudra Suwal, Sr. Research Specialist, NDRI, participated in a consultation on Trade and Investment Diagnostics with Special Reference to the European Union on 8th January 2026 at Hotel Everest, Kathmandu. The event was hosted by Samriddhi Foundation. The discussion focused on Nepal's trade performance, investment challenges, and opportunities for deeper integration with the EU market. The consultation also highlighted the implications of Nepal's upcoming graduation from LDC status, including potential changes in EU trade preferences and the need for strategic reforms to sustain trade competitiveness and investment growth.



Participants gathered for a roundtable discussion

Strengthening Partnerships at Australian Embassy Networking Event



Dr. Shikha with Mr. Greg Klemm, Charge d'Affaires, and Mr. Krishna Karki, Sr. Research and Policy Officer.

On 9 January 2026, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director of NDRI, attended an informal networking event at

the Australian Embassy. The gathering was designed as a catch-up for partner organizations.

Dr. Shikha represented NDRI in her capacity as lead for two key projects: an ongoing initiative funded by the Embassy's Direct Aid Program, and the HIGRID project, implemented in partnership with ICIMOD. During the event, she engaged with several dignitaries from the Embassy, including Mr. Greg Klemm, Chargé d'Affaires, and Mr. Dylan Jones-Virma, Head of Development. The informal setting provided a valuable opportunity to connect with these officials as well as with other stakeholders collaborating with the Australian Embassy.

NDRI Represents at a National Consultation on Climate Commitments

NDRI was invited to the Consultation Event on Aligning Nepal's Climate Commitments with the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion (ICJAO) on 8 January 2026, organized in Lalitpur, Nepal, by the Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC) in collaboration with World's Youth for Climate Justice (WYCJ). The ICJAO, which was released on 23 July 2025, presents an opportunity to develop a common view of states' climate commitments that cut across all areas of international law and go beyond particular treaties and regional agreements. Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Sr. Research Specialist, represented NDRI in the event. Other dignitaries included representatives from universities, I/NGOs, and advocates working in the field of water, climate, environment and GEDSI, among others.



Glimpse from the national consultation

The research aimed to connect Nepal's present climate governance framework with its heightened obligations set forth by the ICJAO; and focused on three core areas: a) Analyze the implementation of recently submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) in light of the ICJAO; b) Examine the scope and need for a Loss and Damage Facility for Nepal and

address how national climate policies can align with it; and c) Examine the avenues for climate litigation based on ICJAO. Dr. Shankar Shrestha, during the feedback session, congratulated the research team for sharing their draft preliminary findings and suggested further analyzing the “obligations of the ICJAO to the states,” in the context of developing and developed economies, and producing actionable solutions for Nepal (with relevant stakeholders to undertake the actions identified), in the final report. Dr. Shrestha highlighted that the overall idea should be that the AO should be an enabler for achieving Nepal's climate commitments, in a context where most of the proposed climate adaptation and mitigation funds are conditional on global commitments.

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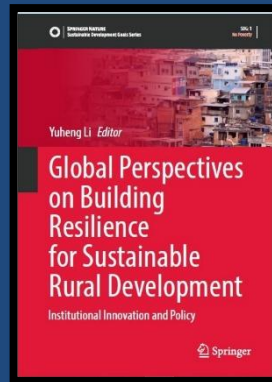
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Thought of the Week

*Keep your face always toward the sunshine and shadows will
fall behind you. Life is too short to dwell in darkness when
hope, love, and possibility are waiting in front of us.*

-Walt Whitman

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