

RESEARCH WORKSHOP

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING IN NEPAL

APRIL 20, 2023 (THURSDAY) 10:00 AM–3:30 PM

Department of Conflict, Peace and Development Studies,
Tribhuvan University, Central Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Environmental peacebuilding is a set of conflict-sensitive approaches to managing environmental issues. It encompasses the technical reduction of environmental scarcity and degradation, the restorative potential of biophysical environments, and equitable resource distribution for sustainable peace and development. While it provides the conceptual lens for understanding peace-promoting practices amidst environmental issues, environmental peacebuilding approaches are generally focused on macro-level and top-down efforts. More research is needed to better understand the local dynamics and bottom-up approaches to environmental peacebuilding. This workshop aims to highlight everyday practices of environmental peacebuilding in local communities affected by water-related conflicts and security issues, such as in Nepal. Workshop participants from academic, government, and development sectors are encouraged to answer the question: how do ordinary people disrupt environmental conflicts to maintain peace in their everyday lives?

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CO-ORGANIZERS

**Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability
(NERPS), Hiroshima University**

Hiroshima University Scholars' Alumni Nepal (HiUSAN)
Department of Conflict, Peace and Development Studies,
Tribhuvan University



**SCAN TO
REGISTER**



A G E N D A

09:30–10:30

Arrival and registration

10:30–11:00

Welcome session

Emcee: Chiranjibi Bhandari, Tribhuvan University

Welcome: Kushum Shakya, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University

Agenda: Dahlia Simangan, Hiroshima University

Keynote: Ganesh Shah, former Minister for Environment, Science and Technology

11:00–12:30

First session: Governance and Environmental Peacebuilding in Nepal

Moderator: Ranjan Prakash Shrestha, EU Delegation to Nepal / HiUSAN

Governance Conflicts in Federal Nepal: Prospect for Peacebuilding
Prakash Bhattarai, Centre for Social Change

Factors Affecting Peace & Sustainability in Post-conflict Federal Practice in Nepal
Pitambar Bhandari, Tribhuvan University

Urgency Warranted: Widening Understanding and Expanding Concerted Action
in Environmental Peace building
Bishnu Raj Upreti, Nepal Centre for Contemporary Research (NCCR)

From Water Conflict to Water Cooperation: Opportunities for Nepal
Vishnu Prasad Pandey, Tribhuvan University

12:30–13:30

Lunch Break

13:30–15:00

Second session: Environmental Peacebuilding Approaches in Nepal

Moderator: Rajib Timalisina, Tribhuvan University

Climate Change: Occurrence of Disaster Events and their Impact on Nepalese Society
Pitambar Aryal, Institute of Crisis Management Studies

Change in Water Consumption Pattern in Urban Area and its Effects on Socio-Cultural Values of Hiti
Aarogya Dahal, Kathmandu University

Local Manifestations of Positive Peace and Environmental Sustainability: Evidence from Nepal
Riyaz Karki, Peace Perspectives

Silent and ecological cries in Nepal's cultural pain
Naresh Rimal, Armed Police Forces Nepal Command and Staff College

15:00–15:30

Closing remarks

Dahlia Simangan, Hiroshima University

Gita Ghimire, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of the Ministers / HiUSAN

Pitambar Bhandari, Tribhuvan University



P R E S E N T A T I O N A B S T R A C T S

First session: Governance and Environmental Peacebuilding in Nepal

Governance Conflicts in Federal Nepal: Prospect for Peacebuilding **Prakash Bhattarai, Centre for Social Change**

My presentation mainly focuses on the factors of governance conflicts in Federal Nepal. Governance conflicts may be explained from multiple perspectives, however, my paper highlights four major types of governance conflicts observed in current Nepal and these includes political conflicts, ethno-cultural conflicts, development conflicts, and natural resource conflicts. Using data gathered from Governance Monitoring Centre (GMC) of Centre for Social Change (CSC), my paper argues that with adoption of the new constitution in 2015, and two successions of local, provincial and federal elections in 2017 and 2022, Nepal is moving forward with implementation of federal governance system. However, its strength and effectiveness to make the federal processes administratively and economically viable for the country, has received numerous criticisms. Nonetheless, the newly adopted federal governance framework is an opportunity for the country to enhance development and administrative service delivery processes and develop an inclusive and justifiable power sharing arrangement that accommodates the longstanding socio-economic and political differences. However, not paying adequate attention to its lack can turn out as a source of conflict and violence not only among the three tiers of government, but also among the different socio-cultural and political groups existent in the country. In this regard, Nepal must gain a better understanding of the existing as well as potential governance conflicts and find constructive ways to timely transform those conflicts.

Factors Affecting Peace & Sustainability in Post-conflict Federal Practice in Nepal **Pitambar Bhandari, Tribhuvan University**

Disputes among different tiers of government in Nepal based on the environmental issues has triggered the need for further research to address the question- How the resource and waste management are connected with federal system of governance in Nepal?

Urgency Warranted: Widening Understanding and Expanding Concerted Action in Environmental Peace building

Bishnu Raj Upreti, Nepal Centre for Contemporary Research (NCCR)

Nepal in specific and the planet in general is suffering from environmental crisis compounded by the over-exploitation of ecological resources. Anthropogenic causes like industry, agriculture and fossil fuel use has increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere caused global warming leading to glaciers melt, sea levels rise, extinction of species and extreme weather events like erratic floods and droughts. All these events are inducing insecurity, uncertainties, and psychological stresses and manifested in the form of tension and even conflict. However, the concerned stakeholders have not realized the degree and intensity of problem. Hence, it is high time to develop better understanding of the problem and creatively exploring ways for concerted action in the field of environmental peace building. In doing so, Nepal need to develop a holistic policy framework, responsive institutional arrangements, allocation of required resources and societal awareness. It is utmost important to change our consumption behavior.

From Water Conflict to Water Cooperation: Opportunities for Nepal **Vishnu Prasad Pandey, Tribhuvan University**

Nepal is the headwater of the Ganges river that flows through India. Four large, five medium and several other southern river systems of Nepal contributes about 224 billion-cubic-meters (BCM) of water to India. This water contributes as a source of various productive uses as well as flood disaster to India. Therefore, water has been and continue to be an agenda of Nepal-India talk most of the times. To translate the water-related conflicts to water-cooperation, several treaties/agreements are signed by both the countries. However, several issues related to the treaties are surfaced time and again. Furthermore, with new three tier governance structure of Nepal, same watershed within the countries are also shared by several Provinces and local governments. Therefore, potential conflicts on intra-country water sharing have emerged in the changed scenario. Within these contexts, this presentation aims to highlight key issues of transboundary water sharing between Nepal and India, potential water sharing issues within Nepal, and potential areas for cooperation.

P R E S E N T A T I O N A B S T R A C T S

Second session: Environmental Peacebuilding Approaches in Nepal

Climate Change: Occurrence of Disaster Events and their Impact on Nepalese Society

Pitambar Aryal, Institute of Crisis Management Studies

Climate change has severe impacts on Nepalese Society, extreme weather events have been observed resulting in increased frequency and intensity of climate-induced disasters. Nepal witnessed climate-induced disasters every year mainly floods, landslides, fires, thunderstorms, glacial lake outburst floods, drought, avalanches, and hurricanes. Loss of lives, damage to properties, livelihood assets, infrastructures, and vegetation, and destruction of biodiversity and ecosystem are major impacts caused by disaster events. Extreme weather events impact negatively agricultural practices as well as food production. The outbreak of epidemics and pandemics as well as the transmission of microorganisms have suddenly changed their usual pattern. Global warming is a key factor in changing the climate, the atmospheric temperature has changed significantly. Deforestation, unplanned settlement, development of infrastructure without having proper environmental impact assessment and emission of greenhouse gases are key contributing factors to global warming. The government of Nepal has made a commitment to Sendai Framework for Action, Sustainable Development Goals and Climate, and related conventions. Thus, the government has a greater role in reducing the climate change impact.

Change in Water Consumption Pattern in Urban Area and its Effects on Socio-Cultural Values of Hiti

Aarogya Dahal, Kathmandu University

Hiti is one of the treasured historical relic in the history of Kathmandu Valley. It carries thousands of years of history and culture of Kathmandu Valley. However, due to modernization and urbanization, the significance of Hiti is decreasing. Just few decades ago it was the major water supplier for people of Kathmandu valley but now the situation is different. Along with the decrease in usage of Hiti, its cultural significance is also dwindling. Therefore, this research paper aims to explore the socio-cultural significance of Hiti in Patan by taking Mangal Hiti as a case.

Local Manifestations of Positive Peace and Environmental Sustainability: Evidence from Nepal

Riyaz Karki, Peace Perspectives

Drawing on fieldwork data from Nepal, this presentation seeks to explore the intersecting issues and priorities surrounding positive peace and sustainability at the local level. The discussion with the residents of Kushaha village in southern Nepal provides crucial perspectives into how the link between peace and sustainability plays out at the local or community level. Their everyday experiences and perspectives illuminate how environmental sustainability initiatives, particularly with regard to wildlife conservation, intersect with institutional and economic dimensions of sustainability, specifically on the streamlined and equitable provision of government support and safe and uninterrupted livelihood sources, respectively. Despite challenges, the residents make concerted local-level efforts toward a peaceful coexistence within communities and with nature.

Silent and ecological cries in Nepal's cultural pain

Naresh Rimal, Armed Police Forces Nepal Command and Staff College

"Silent cry" is an outcome of "silent suffering" or a "cultural pain" of communities's lived experience. Can you help us? This is an example of these folks having no one to turn to. Alternatively, "silent cry" could also refer to a literal cry that is made without any sound, protest, commotion, campaigns, awareness programs, or activism at the public level. This narrative is a hidden pain of the ecological crisis. The "ecological cry" is a term I use to describe the need for an urgent call for action to address the devastating impact of human activities on the environment.