



# National Conference on Climate Change and Environmental Threats:

Protecting Lives and Livelihoods of Mountain People

*Jointly organized by Ministry of Science Technology and Environment (**MOSTE**) and  
Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (**KIRDARC**)*

**30-31 October, 2014**  
**Rara, Mugu**

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZER

### Ministry of Science Technology and Environment (MOSTE)

**MOSTE** is Government of Nepal's (GoN) line agency to look after environmental issues, formulate plans, policies and laws, and coordinate national efforts on climate change, energy and other aspects of science and technology as well as liaise with the international community to promote mutual cooperation as well as to ensure presence of Nepal in international negotiations and meetings is significant. In achieving these objectives, the ministry works closely with other government agencies-sectorial ministries, apex bodies and think tanks, UN agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs), development partners and community organizations. Its vision, mission and objectives are principally guided with the priorities of the Government of Nepal and bilateral programs towards maintaining the safer environment not only to the urban as well as rural people but also to its important natural resources like mountains, Himal, glaciers, lakes, rivers, floras, faunas etc.

### Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC)

**KIRDARC**, since its establishment in 1999 has been recognized as a leading agency for positive change in Karnali, and an obvious choice as a development partner in the region. Through its active and constant engagement with communities and collaboration and coordination with other development partners, **KIRDARC** has set an example of right-based development model: human rights promotion, community empowerment, media and civil society mobilization, development initiatives facilitation, and policy advocacy.

**KIRDARC** primarily focuses its efforts in development of Karnali region, however, it adopts strategies that go beyond the regional focus covering other mountainous districts of Nepal, and link it up with other national and international issues and processes. It brings regional issues up to national and international forums in order to draw the attention of those communities.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the conference is to aware community/public on consequences of climate change and explores solutions to address mountain climate change issues through community engagement in coordination with other national processes and benefitting from global and local knowledge.

### Specific objectives

- To learn from and share with Nepalese mountain communities over view of climate change impacts, developed responses and threats to their livelihood from other environmental challenges;
- To identify areas of cooperation between mountain communities from other parts of the world in terms of knowledge transfer, twining initiatives and international advocacy;
- To improve a basis to protect the rights of mountain people and lobby it in the context of national and international processes including UNFCCC COP, Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and

other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); and

- To enhance civic engagement to improve socio-economic well-being of the communities and facilitate appropriate development actions for the mountain region and promote and explore the potentialities of mountain eco tourism with sound economic benefits to local communities sustainably.

### Each Conference day will consist of a number of plenary and parallel interactive sessions related but not limited to the following themes;

- (a) Climate change impacts, adaptation measures and DRR,
- (b) Eco-tourism, rural entrepreneurship and mountain livelihood in a changing climate,
- (c) Climate Justice –role of media, CBOs, Government and development agencies and
- (d) Government initiatives and international processes



### Special sessions will be organised to reflect–

- (a) How global knowledge can help mountain communities in Nepal to solve climate crisis and improve livelihoods,
- (b) How Nepalese mountain community can find a way to engage in international processes in organized ways, and
- (c) What kind of actions and mechanism Nepalese mountain communities can develop to ensure the **'mountain vibe at Rara'** continues to exist with periodic meetings in coming years and how such efforts can be linked with global communities for mutual benefits.

## PARTICIPANTS

The conference aims to attract some 80 participants comprising representatives from government line agencies, legislators, local political leaders, civil society actors, national and international scientific community and advocacy groups and local communities.

## EXPECTED OUT PUTS

The outputs of the program will directly influence the policy makers, donors and different stakeholders working in the sector of climate change. The outcomes of the conference will be brought to the attention of the government agencies. Furthermore, the key messages will be conveyed to global audience through international processes such as discussions on Post-2015 Development Agenda and SDG, UNFCCC COP 20 and other processes within Mountain Agenda community.

- Experience on Impacts of climate change and environmental threats in livelihood of high mountain region/indigenous communities will be shared.
- The conference will offer opportunity to interface national and international sustainable mountain development agenda and establish linkages for future action.
- Meaningful participation of mountain communities in policy making process will be promoted.
- Civic engagement to improve socio-economic

well-being of the communities will be enhanced and appropriate development actions for the mountain region will be facilitated and mountain eco tourism with sound economic benefits to local communities will be explored and promoted

- Attention of policy makers and different government and non-government organizations will be drawn on mountain agenda, climate change and will be engaged to promote and protect the rights of mountain people and lobby to ensure their rights in SDG, Post 2015 Development Agenda and other policy processes
- The conference will explore possibility of forming a 'mountain concerned group' for exclusively advocating mountain issues in Nepal and abroad with representation from all mountainous districts of Nepal and concrete activities proposed to engage both national and international mountain stakeholders.

## CONFERENCE LOCATION

The Conference will be hosted at Rara Lake in Mugu district, Karnali Zone, Western Nepal. One of largest of 75 districts of Nepal, it has an area of 3535 km<sup>2</sup> and population size of 55,286 (2012 estimate). Mugu is known for its remoteness and underdevelopment although it

has some of the most attractive touristic sites Nepal, including Rara Lake–largest (10.8 km<sup>2</sup>) and deepest (167m) lake in Nepal, Chhyanath, Chankheli mountain, proximity to Mount Kanjirowa (6883m), Mugu Karnali and much more. Mugu comprises Subtropical, Temperate,



Subalpine, Alpine, Nival and Trans-Himalayan climatic zone giving it most diverse landscapes, biological and cultural diversity, and connectivity. Part of the Rara National Park – smallest national park in Nepal, Rara Lake, aka Mahendra Tal, is one of the most sacred, pristine and undisturbed high altitude lake (2990m) with the recognition of Ramsar site as an highland wetland. The Rara Lake and the surrounding national park is a prime

tourist destination known for its idyllic environment, which is surrounded by hills and mountains. The “Chuchemara” hill (4.087m) is the best point to see the stunning view of oval shape turquoise blue lake with green fore stands now peak just above it.

## ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Participants will stay at a mountain resort located next to the lake. The organizers will make arrangement to put all the registered participants in special tents to experience remote wilderness next to the deep blue lake below the clear blue sky, perhaps the best part of the night time experience in Rara following to magnificent view of Rara Lake in the day time. All the meals and tea/coffee breaks will be made available by the organizers.

## CLIMATE

October is one of the best time to Visit Mugu in general and Rara Lake in particular. No rain or snowfall is expected during the conference period with the temperature ranging from 8 (min) to 30 (Max) degree centigrade,

## CONFERENCE MATERIALS

Conference bag containing all conference materials will be arranged for all registered participants.

however it will be windy after the mid day. All the conference participants are advised to prepare accordingly. For routine up dates, please keep checking <http://www.accuweather.com/en/np/mugu/243881/weather-forecast/243881>.

***We are looking for ward to welcoming you to a productive and symbolic Conference***

## REGISTRATION FORM AND PROGRAM AGENDA

Detail program agenda and registration form could be downloaded from our official website. Please visit [www.kirdarc.org](http://www.kirdarc.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES

***Submission of registration form: 10th October 2014***

***Date of Departure from Kathmandu: 29th October 2014***

***Conference Days: 30-31 October 2014***

***Arrival at Kathmandu: 1 November 2014***

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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