

In Nepal, **climate-dependent agriculture** is the predominant source of income for over

60%

of the population.



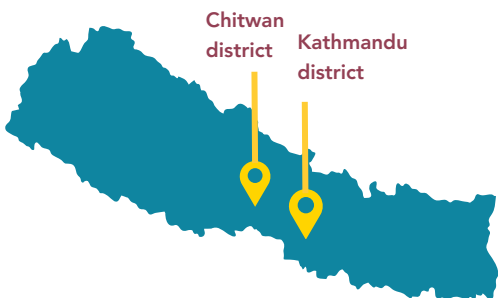
Despite its minimal contribution to global greenhouse emissions, Nepal ranks **fourth on the Global Climate Index 2020** for countries most affected by extreme weather events in the last 20 years.



This vulnerability is exacerbated by social inequalities. Marginalized groups, including **women, Dalits, and Janajatis**, are most affected because of their socioeconomic standing and reliance on natural resources.

The Research

Our research focuses on understanding the role and sustainability of the CLACs.



After conducting a detailed review of Hariyo Ban's documentation and published reports, we carried out 10 days of field work in May 2023 in Kathmandu and Chitwan District, where we conducted interviews with **stakeholders, project facilitators, local resource experts, and community members.**

To address these disparities, the Hariyo Ban "Green Forest" Program was established, emphasizing the interconnectedness of people, forests, and climate.

The project stressed the following to further biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation:

- **Gender equality and social inclusion**
- **Governance**
- **Livelihoods**



Hariyo Ban introduced community action and learning centres (CLACs) to empower marginalized groups, promote active community roles, and address climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

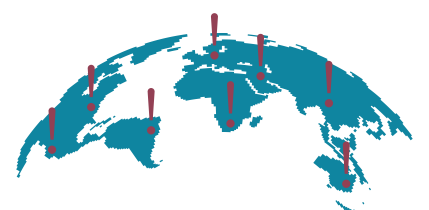
The Results

We found that **CLACs played a critical role in areas like awareness and sensitization, capacity building and empowerment, and representation and participation.**



CLACs were pivotal in raising awareness about women's and marginalized groups' rights and increased **women's participation in forest user groups from 30 to 50 per cent.**

CLACs also assisted communities in creating local adaptation plans of action and disaster-risk-reduction plans.



Recommendations

Future initiatives need consistent monitoring, robust exit strategies, and an emphasis on knowledge-sharing between stakeholders. Prioritizing marginalized groups, localizing climate education, and offering viable alternatives when proposing resource shifts are crucial to achieve community support and mitigate resistance.