



Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)

Federal Executive Committee Secretariat
Bhaktapur, Nepal

Ref No.: 109-083-084



A LOCAL CALL FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE JUSTICE: CLIMATE DISASTER IN HIMALAYS of Nepal

9 September 2026

On August 26, 2026, the ground supporting a glacier in the Himalayan mountains gave way, causing a major avalanche of ice and rock to fall into the Bhote Koshi River. The debris caused a dam to form in the river, which suddenly and violently gave way, releasing a torrent of water and debris that flooded the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river valleys, severely affecting communities in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Gorkha and Dhading. The result was devastating. Within a few hours, it destroyed hundreds of human life, along with settlements, roads, bridges and hydropower. More than thirteen hundred casualties have been confirmed, about five thousand people remain missing, and close to sixty-five thousand people are affected marginalizing women, indigenous people, resource poor communities. Through the flash floods community forest areas are also affected by which people are dependent on their livelihoods. However, this is not an isolated event, the area witnessed a heavy flood last year. Though Nepal accounts for a negligible amount share of global emissions leading to climate change, Nepal is paying for the consequences. These events are re-occurring more frequently and with greater intensity. Climate experts and scientists agree that global warming is increasingly affecting the Himalayan region, making it less stable causing the climate disasters more frequent. More than 41 glaciers and connected river valleys and landscapes are vulnerable to similar incidences.

We acknowledge respect for the words of solidarity received globally, however demand global accountability to address the consequence of this incidence and future incidences. Acknowledgement and sympathy do not bring back lost life, community, culture and social capital and harmony. Neither it would restore land and livelihood that has been swept away. This disaster has immensely affected forest landscape and biodiversity that will require years for recovery and rehabilitation. It certainly will not bring back a missing child and lost future. Our communities are paying the heaviest price for a warming planet which they had almost no part in creating. This imbalance can no longer be treated as an unfortunate incident because of certain geography. It is an injustice, which demands both accountability and justifiable action from the nations whose industry and consumption historically have driven this crisis, also considering common but differentiated responsibilities with respective capacities

Understanding that more than 23,000 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) across Nepal are managing 2.5 million hectares of forest area, with involvement of 3.1 million Households and 16 million population, contributing to reduce the carbon emissions; Federation of Community Forestry Groups Nepal (FECOFUN)



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represents these community forest user groups formed on their own, in their own villages, and chose to unite under one federation to represent their shared interests and this model of community-based forest management has been recognized globally as an example of how local communities can govern shared natural resources effectively and sustainably; acknowledging that the forests under this model now hold a significant amount of carbon, carbon that would otherwise remain in the atmosphere and warm the planet further;

FECOFUN therefore appeals to the international community to act on four issues:

1. First, the industrial nations must take real and urgent steps to reduce and control the emissions driving this crisis, since every additional degree of warming increases the risk to our communities.
2. Second, we call investment for permanent solutions, not short-term relief, including technical assistance and research on advanced early warning systems, climate resilient infrastructure, and additional support for community forestry, so that our communities can withstand and recover from these disasters without depending on emergency appeals each year.
3. Third, the communities who have lost lives, homes and livelihoods in this disaster should receive fair compensation, not as an act of charity, but in recognition of harm caused by a crisis they did not create. We have voluntarily contributed for more than three decades to strengthen climate resilient forests, biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods.
4. Fourth, we also urge to establish and support the Himalayan Disaster Research Center and Compensation Funds.

We now appeal the world to stand with us for climate justice of Himalayan communities.


Thakur Bhandari
Chairperson

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On behalf of more than 23,000 Community Forest User Groups across Nepal

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