
Editorial

We are pleased to present this special issue of *Journal of Forest and Livelihood* (JFL) on Climate Change Adaptation. The agenda of adaptation to climate change has gained considerable mileage in recent years, yet there is little consensus on how and through which institutions effective adaptation can be realized. This issue of JFL seeks to address this gap, drawing primarily on the insights and lessons from some countries in South and South-east Asia. The articles in this issue capture local people's perspectives and experiences on climate change impact, their strategies to cope with it, and the institutional basis which are being used in adaptation planning and implementation. The analysis and insights brought together in this JFL issue will be useful to those interested in understanding and practicing adaptation in Nepal and other developing country contexts.

It has already become evident that even though climate change operates at the global scale, its impacts manifest at local scales in unique ways. These impacts largely correspond to the local environmental, socio-economic and environmental contexts. Accordingly adaptation to climate change is, to a large extent, a local response even though actors and institutions at higher scales are involved in one way or the other. The national level efforts on adaptation largely focus on policy-making and frequently ignore the capacities and potential roles of local government and community institutions. The papers in this issue help us better understand the local perspectives, both from community as well as institutional aspect, on climate change adaptation and how the capacity of local institutions could be harnessed in adaptation effort.

This issue of JFL has a collection of seven papers on climate change adaptation. Five articles focus on institutional dynamics of climate change adaptation in Nepal. The first two papers by Paudel *et al.* and Khatri *et al.* explore the role of local level institutions on local adaptation planning. The former analyses the current approaches to local-level adaptation planning and identifies the challenges to and opportunities for integrating climate change adaptation and local development in Nepal. The second paper analyses whether and how the activities and institutional base of community organizations can inform the local adaptation practices. Similarly, Dhungana and Wagle's paper discusses how the discourses are generated and negotiated in two parallel sub-national-level planning processes. Article by Regmi and Bhandari examines the institutional, technological and infrastructural barriers to designing and implementing adaptation in Nepal. The fifth article by Jha and Shrestha, investigates the capacity of local municipal government to adapt to the impacts of climate change on drinking water supply.

The remaining two articles contributed by Thang *et al.* and Giash *et al.* bring forth the unique local perceptions and experiences from Vietnam and Bangladesh respectively, on climate change impacts and strategies to cope with it. These papers also compare and juxtapose the findings on local perception on climate change with meteorological data of the localities. These suggest that there is interesting correspondence between meteorological data and social perceptions about climate change.

We hope that this special issue of JFL provides important insights for academics, policy makers and practitioners on some of the pertinent issues around climate change adaptation in South and South-east Asia. The articles highlight the need for properly understanding the capacity and roles of community-based institutions and local governments. The articles also propose ways for how local capacity could be harnessed for effective adaptation to climate change.