

**A Report on  
One Day Dialogue Program with Media Personnels**

**Submitted by**

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**Date:** 2025/08/12 (2082/4/27), Tuesday

**Program Venue:** EMO Restaurant, Hetauda

## **Background**

A one-day dialogue program with media personnels on the subject of "Suggestions for the Bagmati Province National Forest Act Amendment" was carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 at Hetauda. Participants included journalists representing various media houses and news outlets. The program was chaired by Mr. Baal Krishna Adhikari, Chairperson of the Federation of Nepali Journalists, Makwanpur, and facilitation was done by Ms. Aarati Pathak, Chairperson of the Women Rights and Resources Network.

## **Program Description:**

Ms. Aarati Pathak officially started the program by welcoming all the participants and handing over the printouts listing all the suggestions collected from the various stakeholders that were presented to parliamentarians in previous dialogue programs. She then explained each suggestion, along with the context behind its inclusion. She also shared additional suggestions from the member of Provincial Assembly with the journalists present. The program was organized with the intention that journalists could amplify the voices of stakeholders and help foster broader discussions on the subject in relevant forums.

Ms. Aarati Pathak emphasized the key points that should be communicated to both the public and lawmakers in order to further stimulate discussion on this issue. She noted that this dialogue will hopefully contribute to the development of a Forest Act that truly benefits local communities. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, who live near forests both conserve and utilize these resources in a sustainable manner. However, in doing so, they must comply with numerous laws and regulations. While these laws are often supportive, at times they create challenges in the operation and management of Community Forests and forest-based enterprises. Stakeholders have therefore expressed concern that the Forest Act contains several unnecessary provisions, which should be carefully reviewed and filtered out during the amendment process.

After Ms. Aarati Pathak finished the explanations, program went in interactive course where journalists were freely sharing their opinions and asking related questions. Mr. Bibash Adhikari shared his experience from a conversation with a community forest member, where he learned that

many community forests are currently inactive, as they have not been renewing their Community Forest Operational Plans. He further noted that the relevant organizations appear indifferent to whether these forests remain functional or not. At present, neither the Community Forest User Groups nor the relevant organizations, have been actively addressing this issue, and there is little to no communication between the two. As a result, a significant number of community forests, out of roughly 200, are in an inactive state. He emphasized that the responsibility lies not only with the government but also with the user groups, both of whom have shown a lack of initiative and concern in this matter. During his conversation with a CFUG representative, he learned that timber sales were very low. He then questioned whether the current sales modality might be creating difficulties in this regard.

After, Mr. Bibash Adhikari shared his thoughts and experience, Ms. Aarati Pathak brought up a topic of discussion that had come up at the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The problem was that people from wards without community forests wanted to join CFUGs in other wards. The Ministry viewed this as a good practice, but CFUG members opposed it. This is now a conflicting topic that requires explicit treatment in the Forest Act.

Finally, Chairperson of Federation of Nepali Journalists, Makwanpur, Mr. Baal Krishna Adhikari, expressed his thoughts on the subject. He emphasized the importance of enacting laws that benefit targeted groups, particularly IPLCs, and praised WRRN's outstanding work in this area. Referring to the newly presented Bagmati Province Forest Bill, he emphasized that the Forest Act should be practical, ensuring both forest protection and sustainable use. He emphasized the importance of listening to all stakeholders, including disadvantaged groups, and ensuring their inclusion in leadership positions. Mr. Adhikari also advocated for women's leadership. However, based on his community experience, he discovered that women are frequently given positions but do not actively participate in discussions or decision-making. He advised against imposing such provisions firmly, instead arguing that leadership positions should be filled by people who are both capable and genuinely interested, regardless of gender or social class.

He, then, concluded his remarks by pledging to continue advocating and writing about these issues. All of the participants agreed that the suggestions were valid and that more action was required.

## प्रदेश राष्ट्रिय वन विधेयकको संशोधन बारे हेटौडामा छलफल

प्रदेश टोकि

हेटौडा/ बागमती प्रदेश सरकारले बनाउँदै गरेको प्रदेश राष्ट्रिय वन ऐनको संशोधनमा प्राकृतिक स्रोत महिला अधिकार संरक्षणले ऐनको संशोधनमा सुझाव संकलन गरेको छ ।

संगलवार प्राकृतिक स्रोत महिला अधिकार संरक्षणका केन्द्रीय अध्यक्ष आरती पाठकले मकवानपुर, सिन्धुली, काभ्रे, भरतपुर, रामेछाप, काठमाण्डौ र रसुवाबाट संकलन भएका सुझावका बारेमा पत्रकारहरूसँग छलफल गरिंकी हुन् । बागमती प्रदेशका उपोच, पर्यटन, वन तथा सातारण समिति सभापति आनन्दकुमार श्रेष्ठसहित सातहस्ताई भेटेर उक्त सुझाव समेत सुन्नुभएको छ । छलफलका सहभागीहरूले ऐनमा राम्रु नपने र थप गर्नुपर्ने विषयमा विस्तृत सुझाव प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए ।

वन सम्बन्धन पत्रासीको परिष्कार, सामुदायिक वनबाट विपत्ती हुने बन्नेपारका कर वा शुल्क लगाउने व्यवस्था, शरीर कानुनबाट हटाइसकेको पकडा वन सम्बन्धी प्राधान्य, रूपि इतिहासक बन्नुको सम्बन्धी व्यवस्था, समुदायका आधारित उपभोक्ता समूहको परिष्कार, सामुदायिक वनलाई एकीकृत गर्ने व्यवस्था र दल भएको वन क्षेत्र रक्षक राष्ट्रिय वन हुने प्राधान्य प्रदेश ऐनमा राख्नुपर्ने आग्रह राखेका थिए । यसै सामुदायिक



वन उपभोक्ता समितिमा कम्तीमा १० प्रतिशत महिला प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित गर्नुपर्ने, अतिरिक्त जनजाति तथा सीमान्तकृत समुदायको समाजवादीक समावेशी प्रतिनिधित्व हुने व्यवस्था गर्नुपर्ने, सामुदायिक वनको आधारीको कम्तीमा १० प्रतिशत रकम महिला सरासरीकरण, परीची विचारण र उच्च विकासमा धर्ने गर्नुपर्ने सुझाव दिइएको थियो ।

अतिरिक्त जनजातिका परम्परगत अभ्यासलाई कार्यविनयमा समावेश गर्नु, उपभोक्ता समुहका नाममा वनमा आधारित उपोच दता गर्न, सीमान्तकृत

घर परिवारलाई वन पैदावार निरुत्क उपोचका सरासरी, दलित, विपन्न तथा महिला शरसुली परिवारलाई विशेष वन क्षेत्र प्रयोगको सुविधा दिन र सामुदायिक वनको सकारणमा सार्वजनिक योजना तथा उच्च संचालनको व्यवस्था गर्नुपर्नेमा पनि जोड दिइएको छ । कार्यक्रमा मानव अधिकारकमीहरूले संघीय र प्रदेश कानुनी संरचना बीचको स्पष्ट समन्वय आवश्यक भएको र वन संशोधनमा महिला, दलित, अतिरिक्त जनजाति तथा सीमान्तकृत समुदायको अधिकारलाई प्राथिकतामा राख्नुपर्ने आवश्यकता औन्पार्एको थियो ।

## बागमती प्रदेश राष्ट्रिय वन विधेयक संशोधन विषयक छलफल हेटौडामा सम्पन्न

संगलवार

हेटौडा: बागमती प्रदेश सरकारले तयार पारेको राष्ट्रिय वन विधेयकको संशोधनमा प्राकृतिक स्रोत महिला अधिकार संरक्षणले सुझाव संकलन गरी छलफल गरेको छ । मकवानपुर, सिन्धुली, काभ्रे, भरतपुर, रामेछाप, काठमाण्डौ र रसुवाबाट संकलित सुझावहरू संगलवार पत्रकारहरूसँग साक्षा गरिएका थिए ।

संरक्षणको केन्द्रीय अध्यक्ष आरती पाठकले उपोच, पर्यटन, वन तथा सातारण समितिका सभापति आनन्द कुमार श्रेष्ठसहित संघहरूको भेटेर सुझाव बुझाएको जानकारी दिइन् । छलफलमा सहभागीहरूले विधेयकमा गरारनु पर्ने र थप गर्नु पर्ने विषयमा विस्तृत सुझाव दिएका थिए ।

वन संशोधन प्रणालीको स्पष्ट परिष्कार, सामुदायिक वनबाट विपत्ती हुने बन्नेपारका कर वा शुल्क लगाउने, संघीय कानुनबाट हटाइएको सुझाव प्रस्तुत गरिएको छ ।

त्यसैगरी, अतिरिक्त जनजातिका



वरुन, रूपि शारी गर्ने बन्नुको व्यवस्थाको समुचित समावेशीकरण, समुदायका आधारित उपभोक्ता समूहको परिष्कार स्पष्ट गर्ने लगायतका विषयमा जोड दिइएको थियो ।

सामुदायिक वन उपभोक्ता समितिमा कम्तीमा १० प्रतिशत महिला प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित गर्ने, अतिरिक्त जनजाति र सीमान्तकृत समुदायको समाजवादीक समावेशीकरण गर्ने, र सामुदायिक वनको आधारीको कम्तीमा १० प्रतिशत रकम महिला सरासरीकरण, परीची विचारण र उच्च विकासमा धर्ने गर्नुपर्ने सुझाव प्रस्तुत गरिएको छ ।

त्यसैगरी, अतिरिक्त जनजातिका

परम्परगत अभ्यास विधेयकमा समावेश गर्ने, उपभोक्ता समूहको नाममा वन उपोच दता गर्ने, दलित, विपन्न र महिला परिवारलाई वनपैदावार निःशुल्क उपभोग्य गराउने, तथा सामुदायिक वनहरूको सहकार्यमा सार्वजनिक योजना र उच्च संचालनको व्यवस्था गर्ने विषयमा पनि जोड दिइएको थियो ।

कार्यक्रममा मानवअधिकार कमीहरूले संघीय र प्रदेश कानुनी संरचनाबीच समन्वय आवश्यक भएको र संशोधन विधेयकमा महिला, दलित, अतिरिक्त जनजाति तथा सीमान्तकृत समुदायको अधिकारलाई प्राथिकतामा राख्नुपर्ने आवश्यकता औन्पार्एका छन् ।

महत्त्वपूर्ण फोन नम्बरहरू

## Photo Plates

