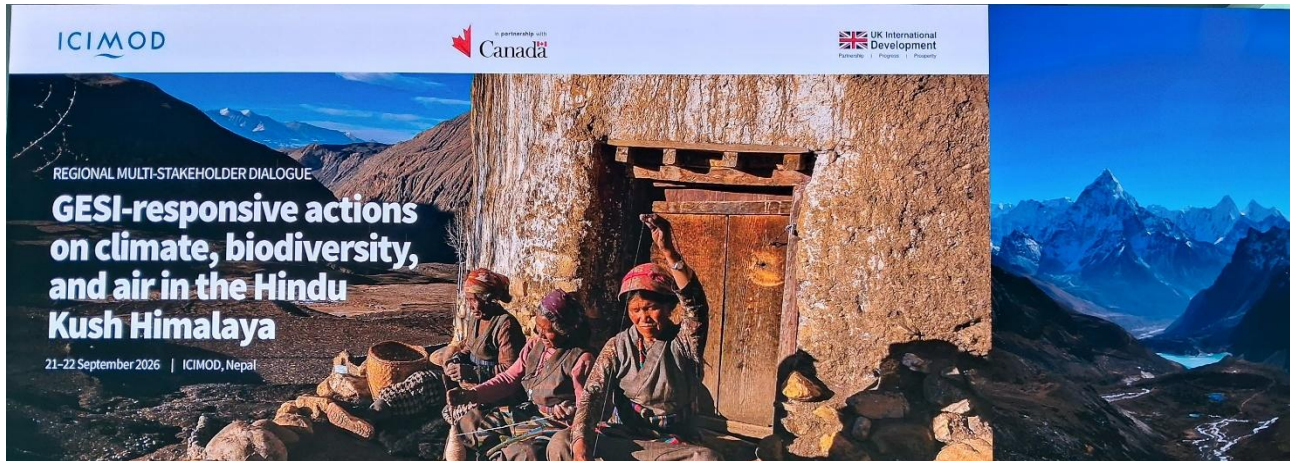


Brief: Regional Dialogue on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Climate Action, Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions; Kathmandu, Nepal | 21-22 September 2026



Regional Dialogue

The regional dialogue convened government representatives, development partners, research institutions, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), youth networks, financial institutions, and local actors from across the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

The forum focused on advancing **gender-responsive and socially inclusive climate action, biodiversity conservation and Nature-based Solutions (NbS)** while strengthening regional collaboration, evidence generation and collective influence.

Helvetas Bangladesh Contribution

Tajmary Akter, Lead - Gender Justice and Social Inclusion (GJSI), represented HELVETAS Bangladesh as both a speaker and facilitator.

During the session on **GESI-responsive Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions**, she presented the **NBSiCHT Project** and analyzed GESI perspectives from Bangladesh, highlighting:

- Women's leadership is critically important in spring shed management
- Emerging changes in inclusive governance and community stewardship
- Indigenous and local knowledge in ecosystem management
- Pathways from participation to influence and shared responsibility

She also facilitated the recommendations session, supporting participants in identifying priorities for regional collaboration and future action.



Helvetas BGD Case presentation and follow up discussion on 21 September 2026, Nepal. PC - ICIMOD

Key Takeaways

1. Strengthen Evidence for Better Decisions

Participants emphasized that climate, biodiversity and NbS initiatives continue to face gaps in **Sex-, Age- and Disability-Disaggregated Data (SADD)** and broader social inclusion evidence. Key highlights are

- Move beyond participation numbers to understand lived experiences, actions and barriers.
- Strengthen evidence systems that capture both environmental and social outcomes.
- Improve national and regional capacities for data collection, analysis and reporting.
- Promote cross-country learning and accountability through shared evidence.

Key Insight: *Better evidence enables more inclusive decisions, stronger accountability and more sustainable outcomes.*

2. Invest in Inclusive Climate and Biodiversity Solutions

There was a strong call to increase investment in climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and Nature-based Solutions that deliver both environmental and social outcomes. Key highlights were

- Prioritize evidence-informed and locally relevant investments.
- Expand support for action research and learning.
- Generate evidence on emerging climate risks, vulnerabilities and adaptation needs.
- Strengthen pathways for mobilizing resources toward inclusive solutions.

Key Insight: *Evidence, innovation and demonstrated impact are critical for attracting and sustaining investment.*

3. Build Regional Collaboration and Collective Influence

Participants highlighted that many countries face similar challenges but often work in isolation. Key highlights were

- Establish a functional regional GESI learning and collaboration platform.
- Facilitate regular exchange of experiences, tools and promising practices.
- Promote more systematic reporting on GESI-responsive climate action and NbS.
- Strengthen collective advocacy and regional resource mobilization efforts.

Key Insight: *Regional challenges require regional learning, partnerships and collective action.*

Closing Message

A clear message emerged throughout the dialogue: **GESI is not an optional component of climate action; it is fundamental to achieving effective, equitable and sustainable biodiversity, climate resilience and Nature-based Solutions outcomes.**

Participants also emphasized the importance of investing in **locally grounded action research**, developed with communities, Indigenous Peoples, researchers and other stakeholders. Such efforts can significantly strengthen the regional evidence base, enable knowledge exchange, and contribute to stronger policy influence at national, regional and global levels.