“Green is Inclusive.”

Outcome Report
Green Economy Development Dialogue - 1
25th Sept, 2012 - Kathmandu
# Table of Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1: The Context of the Dialogue</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2: The Dialogue</td>
<td>5-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3: The Essence of the Dialogue</td>
<td>17-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 1: The Context of the Dialogue

I.) Green Development- the only way to achieve Inclusive Development in agrarian Nepal.

Nepal Government through its policy interventions and requisite legislations has largely been supportive of GREEN development imperatives for a long time. Nepal began showing leadership on such issues much before GOING GREEN started to become fashionable in many other parts of the world. Forest and Bio-diversity conservation (Nepal has 40% of its land-mass covered by forests- some half of it declared as National Parks), Community stewardship of Forests (Community Forestry) and Community Managed Protected Areas (ACAP, KCAP), Sustainable Tourism Development (Annapurna, Sagarmatha, Chitwan), Renewable Energy Development (Hydro, Micro-hydro, Biomass, Improved Cooking Stoves) - the list goes on and on.

Though many a times such green agenda got introduced in Nepal by well-meaning environmental NGOs and International Development Agencies, it invariably found a supporter in the Government of Nepal that cemented those ideas in its overall governance, and eventually owned them. The civil society accepted them too as these policies made complete sense even when seen just in the context of developing the agrarian economy of Nepal.

Given the immense green assets Nepal has at its disposal; the mountains, the waters, the forests, and above all, the gigantic un-utilized green energy, no inclusive model of economic development in Nepal could ever afford to ignore the power of the GREEN. In foreseeable future Nepal’s largely agrarian population could only be served through interventions promoting smart agriculture, sustainable tourism and green energy development.

Green Development is the only way to accomplish inclusiveness in the economic development of Nepal.

II.) Nepal’s Green Credentials keeps it ahead of its competitors.
This attribute could be handy for attracting foreign aid and investments if used smartly.

The whole world has now realized, more so than in the past, that GREEN is the way to go. Turning the conventional industrialized economies into green economies and guiding the nascent economies the green way have become the top imperatives of the United Nations. The threat from Climate Change is making this call even more urgent and powerful. In this climate threatened world, and in this world where foreign aid, technological transfers and foreign direct private investments are increasingly getting channelled in the GREEN sectors, Nepal must take advantage of its head-start and greener credentials. With minimal additional investments, and with smart planning, actions and communication, Nepal could put itself ahead of its competitors among least developed nations- all of who are competing for the attention of the global investors and development agencies.
III.) Most agencies including Private Sector have started to appreciate the value of the GREEN.
Yet, we as a nation fail to take concerted action to accomplish its potential.

The Government and its development partners, most I/NGOS have long started to pursue the goal of sustainable (green) development. Nepal’s media has been fully supportive of these efforts. Nepal’s Private Sector see a great value in GREEN, not just strategically (in the longer run), but also tactically (in the shorter run) as going green reduces its energy cost, waste, and therefore adds to its profitability. Yet, as a country, Nepal is failing to consolidate and build on the good works it has done in the direction of greening its economy. Nepal has so far failed to come up with a singular Green vision that captures the aspirations of all strata, and becomes a hallmark of developing an inclusive development model encompassing all. Worse, it has failed even in communicating its past great efforts to the rest of the world to its advantage.

IV.) Need of Open and Extensive Dialogue involving all sectors
Need to develop a consensus on the “Green Development-Inclusive Development” Connect

In the above context, Nepal needs a series of dialogue the outcomes of which are captured by professionals and scholars so as to aim for an eventual GREEN DEVELOPMENT VISION for Nepal encompassing the concerns and aspirations of all strata of Nepali society as well as the experiences and the wisdom of the international community. HCI, the proponent of this proposition, wishes to conduct series of such discussions in near future. HCI proposed holding of 'Green Economy Development Dialogue' for supporting first such dialogue in the series that it is contemplating. The objective of future interactions on dialogue would remain same but with the passage of time the level and intensity of such interactions will increase bringing in more stakeholders and voices.

V.) This is a good time to kick-start such a dialogue.

Nepal is undergoing a difficult constitutional development phase- the social, economic and environmental issues would all face ramifications once this treatise is finalized. Fortunately on issue of promoting ‘inclusive development’ there is a complete political consensus- Nepal being a democracy. Establishing Green Development as the way to accomplish Inclusive Development at this formative stage of Nepal’s constitution development could do a world of good ensuring Sustainable Development of Nepal.

A Green Economy Development Dialogue was organized - first of its kind- involving broader stakeholder groups by Himalayan Climate Initiative (HCI) in association with Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), and with the support of the Government of Nepal (National Planning Commission), UNEP and UNDP on 25th September at Shangrila Hotel, Kathmandu. The details of the proceedings at the meet are captured in the following pages.
Section 2: The Dialogue

I. Objectives of the Dialogue

The main objective of the dialogue was to:

- **Make sense of ‘Green Economy’**: Accomplishing a common and clear understanding among the participants of the term ‘Green Economy’ in the context of Nepal.
- **Kick-start the Green Economy Development Dialogue**: Green Economy by most account is the most appropriate and inclusive economic development model for Nepal. Yet lack of information, wrong notions and prejudices are stopping evolving a consensus on it. The interaction will be a step in that direction.
- **Come up with a set of suggestions for NPC to augment current efforts of the Government of Nepal to promote its Green Economic Imperatives**: Suggestions to National Planning Commission capturing the essence of the discussion at the interaction.

3. Participants:

Around 40 participants were involved in the dialogue, who were fairly representative of cross-cutting sectors, including private sector entrepreneurs, bankers, representatives from development agencies, I/NGOs, various ministries of the Government of Nepal, media and civil
society members who brought their respective unique perspectives to the discussion. The Government of Nepal was represented by National Planning Commission (NPC), Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry, and Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC).

**Workshop Structure:**

The whole dialogue session was moderated by Mr. Anil Chitrakar, a renowned environmentalist and a social entrepreneur. The discussions were divided into three sessions for ensuring better participation and outcomes.

**Session 1: Making sense of Green Economy**

**Prashant Singh, Founder and CEO- HCI**

The first presentation on ‘GREEN ECONOMY’ was made by Mr. Prashant Singh, Founder and CEO of Himalayan Climate Initiative. In his presentation aiming at setting a scene for the rest of the dialogue, he presented the participants with the most accepted definition of the Green economy as one that is i.) low carbon, ii.) resource efficient and iii.) socially inclusive. He also highlighted that for Nepal, ‘green economic development’ is not an imported agenda. It is very much deep-seated in our culture. The belief in ‘green’, valuing all sentient things has been the cornerstone of both Hindu and Buddhist religions for millennia, whereas most of the industrialized world started picking the idea of ‘Green” over the last five decades only. He emphasized that GREEN is the comparative advantage for Nepal, and therefore building on it is its hope to prosperity. He cited the examples of the neighboring countries India and China to emphasize that every economy in the world is building on its comparative advantage. With the immense sources of green assets Nepal has- almost all of them in the rural areas of the country (forests, wind, solar energy, hydropower, etc) GREEN is the only way to bring about inclusive growth in Nepal. He further added that based on the decades of experience Nepal has, and observing the current trends in the world, it is clear that Nepal could garner a lot of support for itself, if we as a country show some leadership and decisive action on this issue. He however made it clear that with very low carbon and ecological footprint, Nepal could not be
forced by the International Community to take the GREEN path, they can and should only provide us advice. Yet, it is in Nepal’s own interest to make Green Economy the centrepiece of its economic planning.

**Anuj Agrawal, Vice-President - CNI**

Following Prashant Singh’s presentation, Anuj Agrawal, Vice-President of CNI presented his remarks. He emphasized that since climate change is a real threat in the Himalayas and a Himalayan nation like Nepal, and it has its ramifications on businesses too, going green is no longer an option but an urgent imperative for our economy, as that way we would be able to bring the all needed help for all of us to face Climate Change. He also stated that economic development cannot happen without private sector playing a key role towards accomplishing it. The Nepali business sector has been missing from the Green Economic development issues till now, and therefore the role of HCI to bring them board is commendable. We in the business sector have started to understand that the consumers- the world over- are increasingly opting for the greener products, and going green therefore actually makes economic sense as it would lead to increased profits. The Business sector, he said, is ready to play its role to work with the government to go the green way. He pointed out the need for such dialogues to go beyond mere 50 or 500 people in Kathmandu, and get a much wider audience involved so that we can create the much needed mandate to this end.

**Gopi Mainali, Joint Secretary of National Planning Commission**

Joint Secretary of National Planning Commission, Mr. Gopi Mainali highlighted that though government has to play the supportive role by creating appropriate policy frameworks, incentives and enabling environment, it is the Private Sector that has to be the actual doer. He cited the example of IT sector development in Nepal where the main role was played in its development by the private sector while government only supported with appropriate policies. He said GREEN is in our indigenous
knowledge, and it has been evolving as a part of our culture since millennia. He pointed out that we may not have claimed so but we have done some great things in the past on the lines of developing our economy the green way, and we continue to do even greater things. We remain committed to exploit our green and clean energy sources and to low carbon emissions. Nepal is slowly becoming a center of excellence in the sector of renewable energy. He went on to explain that development, especially inclusive development is the priority of the Government, the political parties of the country, the private sector and all others. And therefore debates like these that connect GREEN issues with the goal of inclusive development agenda are welcome, and need to be done more often. He urged the participants of the discussion to give their feedback on what is their take on the green economy in the context of Nepal, and what could government do to support it with policy initiatives.

Anil Chitrakar, Chairperson- HCI (Dialogue Moderator)

Anil Chitrakar captured the main points of the presentations and observations so far and encouraged participants to express opens provide their suggestions to the government and the private sector. He said that it is not the question of ‘whether’ but ‘how’ as GREEN is now not just important, it is increasingly seen as the ONLY WAY. Especially for an agrarian country like Nepal, GREEN is the only way to take the fruits of development to its largely agrarian population.

The discussion was opened for all participants by Mr. Chitrakar.

Saroj Dhakal, Wind Power Nepal

- If we look at the foundation of our economy, it is mainly based on remittance and tourism, the money gained from both of them are again drained out of our economy through trading businesses, foreign money exchange and our energy bills. If aid and remittance would stop, our economy would crash immediately so it is interesting as well as challenging how to make such an economy greener.
- Major step towards greening this economy would be to invest in renewable energy like hydropower. However, since the technology is changing by leaps and bounds, we should adopt the latest technologies in order to become self-sustainable in terms of energy sources.
• We cannot always focus on large hydropower projects that need foreign loans, instead smaller scale, actionable projects need to be identified in the renewable energy sector that our own economy can handle i.e. the private sector, especially banks can invest themselves
• Investment in the energy sector must be diversified
• Government should come up with policies so as to direct the investment of private sector from real state towards the energy sector
• Instead of focusing only on hydropower which takes longer time to develop and has slower rate of returns, investing in wind power can be a faster alternative (1 year vs 5 years)

Binod Gautam, Ministry of Environment

As a government representative, he sought the inputs from private sector on what kind of amendments are required in the existing policies or what kind of new policies and programs are required to move towards a green Economy.

Murali Ranjitkar, Ministry of Local Development, Road Maintenance Expert

He raised some pertinent issues and valid questions.
• In the local level, every year 45 Arab (Billion Rupees) is being spent, out of which more than 70% is spent in infrastructure, especially road. Out of that, more than 90% is spent in non-engineering type of road construction. The maintenance cost of such structures is again almost equal to that required for construction
• 50,000 Kms of local roads have been constructed, but not even 10,000 km of roads are in serviceable condition, around 40,000 km are washed away every year
• Nepal has more than 30,000 dozers that use huge amount of money only in terms of fuel use
• In terms of labour, resource efficiency, our reports look very good, but the actual work or its impacts are never as good in practice, especially in the rural sector
• The first instalment of money obtained from CDM mechanism under REDD pilot project is again being used for non-engineering road construction in Chitwan

Raj Gyawali- Socialtours

• Our focus should be on comparative national advantage. For e.g New Zealand created their branding ‘100% pure New Zealand’ utilizing their green advantage so Nepal can also make it as one of the agenda
• Tourism has been playing a major role for inclusive growth as it happens mostly in the rural areas and in the tourism developed areas, renewable energy is also being developed in those areas
• Nepal’s private sector cannot work efficiently in collaboration, but does understand profits. Hence, if innovators and champions are identified and promoted from every sector, then automatically the others will copy them, as we are good at copying, not innovating
• For champions, there has to be an incentive in terms of monetary benefit, it cannot be a only a pat on the back
• Government has to support green efforts through legislation formulation (for example lowering the custom duty on electric vehicles)

Shivani Basnet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

• Collaboration is needed between different ministries and different sectors to promote green economy
• Nepal is sandwiched between China and India so we have to make sure to balance our economy in respect to these giants as well
• Policy should enable the private sector to make profit as well as solve the environmental problems

Dr. Govinda Pokharel, AEPC

• Development sectors have completely missed out participating with private sectors, they only partner with NGOs in the local level. Development policy developed by the donor agencies and development partners is working in a wrong modality only involving NGOs. Such NGO driven development policy is not sustainable as NGO work is only good for demonstration activity and they tend to change their area of work depending upon fund availability very quickly.
• Government has to intervene to change this philosophy and involve private sector to make development sustainable.

Ganesh Shah, Former Environment Minister

• Green economy is the agenda of the youth
• Entrepreneurship should be developed in water as Nepal has plenty of it
• Institutions like Army Police camps can become energy efficient if they could produce energy even with the human waste generated from there
• For the economy to grow, every citizen should become the producers of energy, and instead of buying energy, must be able to sell energy
Session 2: Green Economic Opportunities and Challenges - Practical Examples

This session included three presentations by practitioners from different sectors - both private and public - on the opportunities and challenges on the green development path.

Dr. Govinda Pokharel - Executive Director, AEPC

The first presentation on this theme was done by Dr. Govinda Pokharel - Executive Director of AEPC. He emphasized on the fact that if the framework of green economy is made using and promoting the private sector, then only it will be sustainable because it is the private sector that develops products and delivers service. For example, in the case of renewable energy, the installation of solar energy, biogas plants etc in the rural sectors are all done by the private sector. He added that it is the private sector that supports the most underprivileged and uneducated people of the country by creating employment for them vis-à-vis the government who mostly employs only the educated and privileged people. The private sector has currently employed around 13,000 people in green jobs in energy sector all over Nepal.

He presented the facts that the renewable sector only has a business volume worth 10 Arab (Billion) rupees per year. He highlighted that if we look at AEPC’s budget structure, only 20-30 percent investment has been done by the government and 60-70% investment has been done by the local people of the rural areas. Regarding potential, the renewables (excluding hydropower) can support 1/3rd of the energy demand in the coming 20 years.

He pointed out the irony that while the government doesn’t want to provide subsidy for biogas, it has been providing subsidy for LPG gas. He stated that the current contribution from renewable sector power, that being generated by biogas is equivalent to 600 MW whereas that produced by hydropower is only around 650 MW, and the potential of biofuel, as ethanol can replace 5% of the current petrol consumption of 8,00,000 litres of petrol per day, i.e. 3,000 litres of petrol per
day can be replaced. Renewable energy sector can create large number of decentralized, green jobs.

**Dawa Steven Sherpa- Managing Director, Asian Trekking**

Following the presentation, Dawa Steven Sherpa, Managing Director of Asian Trekking shared his perspectives and also put some light on the challenges and green economy opportunities related to tourism. He highlighted the fact that since our tourism is demand driven it pays us to have a clean image among our customers (tourists). As an example, he said that using solar cooker instead of carrying kerosene, saves money as well as makes us look clean.

Highlighting the potential of tourism to create green jobs in Nepal, he presented the following facts based on the data of first six months of 2012:

- Per person cost of climbing Mt. Everest is US$ 35,000
- In Mount Everest alone, there were total 325 foreign climbers, who hired 358- Sherpas, 230 other staff and more than 15,000 porters in total
- Including the total monetary value of permits, buying of oxygen, etc., Everest alone brought 11.6 million dollars to the tourism industry
- Only 20 mountains were climbed this year
- Nepal has more than 1500 peaks which are higher than 5550 m, out of which only 20 mountains were climbed
- Total 453 climbers from foreign countries obtained permits, total around 14,700 Nepalese got jobs, bringing in 6.6 million dollars in revenue
- Out of 33 mountains whose permits are distributed by NMA, permits were taken for 23 mountains by a total of 2226 climbers
- Total revenue from these mountains was 7.91 million dollars, creating total 30,000 jobs
- So within 6 months, through around 3,000 climbers, more than 26 million dollars of revenue was generated
- 60,000 jobs have already been created by the mountaineering business

Presenting the facts, he went on to explain that in this year, only 44 mountains were climbed, out of total 330 licensed mountains but many of those permits are strictly controlled. If all the 1500 peaks can be permitted for climbing, more than 4 million jobs can be created in mountaineering sector alone, which is large enough to employ the number of people who have currently left for foreign employment. He also said that by promoting tourism, we can bring about inclusive growth as the jobs created by it do not require very high skills.

He pointed out the following challenges and bureaucratic hassles in the green tourism sector:
- Good policy change requests are never acted upon
- The cost of permit for one foreigner is 10,000 dollars. For every permit a tourist has to take one liaison officer of the government, which costs 2,000 dollars extra. If the tourists need to shoot documentaries, then he/she needs to take another liaison officer from ministry of information communication. If he/she needs to enter a national park, then one more liaison officer from DNPWC needs to be taken. A single tourist group has to support three liaison officers with the extra cost of 6,000 dollars, whereas this is free in Europe

He also pointed out some possibilities in the tourism sector:

- Government needs to collect royalties, but still the permit fees can be reduced
- Each climber uses minimum 5 Oxygen cylinders imported from Russia, each with a cost of 500 dollars (i.e. 2500 dollars per climber). So there is a need of such industries, which the tourism industry can support
- Better roads need to be built so that it is easier to rescue tourists from being stuck due to bad weather, and it will help protect Nepal’s image as a good tourist destination
- Tourism industry can support another carbon offsetting industry within the country to make the tourism sector green, supporting in the transition towards a greener economy

Ajay B. Pradhananga, Managing Director of Fleur Himalaya Nepal Pvt Ltd

Ajay B. Pradhananga, Managing Director of Fleur Himalaya Nepal Pvt Ltd talked about the possibilities in the herbal based products of Nepal. He presented the facts that Nepal's imports amount to approx $ 6.5 billion while exports amount only up to $ 1.5 billion (approx). He focused that we need to build on our competitive advantage to increase our export business, viz, tourism, hydropower and herbs or agro-based businesses. He highlighted that Nepal has one of the richest biodiversity resources, potential for highest value NTFP production and the required indigenous knowledge base too. There is a huge market for Herbs/Natural Products of Nepal, but the understanding to fulfill this gap is missing. He stated that the main drawback of Nepalese herb business is the lack of marker linkages and the knowledge of where our raw materials end up. He pointed out the difficulties in carrying out research related to medical values of herbs that businessmen have to pay tax even for the equipments required for research and for conducting research. He showcased the possibility of Nepali products as world class products by citing the example of the product range, Laavanya, from Fleur Nepal which competes with products from the Body Shop in the international market.
Session 3: Group Discussion

Moderated by Mr. Anil Chitrakar, the group discussion threw up the following issues and observations.

Annal Dhungana: PES, ACAP

- In a green GDP, Natural depreciation should be noted, total capital cost of nature depletion should be reduced from the GDP
- What is the value of a fallen tree? What is the monetary value of a tourist enjoying the view of Rara lake? Until we cannot find the monetary value of all these services, we can neither calculate the value nor the depreciation of the natural resources
- We should be competent enough to find out the value of the ecosystem services we offer
- Based on own research: the entry fee in ACAP was 25 dollars, whereas tourists were willing to pay up to 100 dollars with a condition that there should be better solid waste management, better provision of facilities. Such issues should be taken into consideration.

Deependra Bhattarai, WINROCK

- Based on research for reducing carbon, major energy consumption sector is still the house hold level
- Government should look if the energy use in that sector is green or not
- The second major sector, the transport sector's diesel consumption increased by around 50% from 2007-2008 to 2010-2011
- We should focus on how to reduce the fuel use in these sector

Sashin Joshi, CEO, NIC Bank

- Green economy and Green development issues have become the flavour of the recent talks. For Nepal it is very far-fetched idea, like a flavour without ice cream
- Human behaviours and the economy will ultimately be directed by incentives and disincentives
- No one is going to adopt greener things just because they are good, they need to be profitable
- Bio gas project was successful through awareness, transfer of technology, skills and provision of subsidy. Subsidy on it was the financial incentive (it wouldn’t be successful if biogas was more expensive than LPG)
- Government should take the lead role to create incentives or disincentives
Dr. Govinda Pokharel, AEPC

- 700 MW equivalent of diesel and petrol power generators are currently operating in the country
- Lack of knowledge and awareness among people on greener energy options
- Sometimes, we can promote the rich people to help the poor people. If rich people use renewable energy and don’t use the power of the national grid, then automatically the poor people will be supported, being able to use the electricity from national grid

Jagadish Parajuli, WWF

- A 2008 ILO, UNEP report has identified the sectors where green jobs can be created. For example, in Kailali alone, 85,000 green jobs opportunities can be created in 15 sectors, excluding tourism and hydropower
- Competitive advantage sectors are already identified and therefore the discussions on this issue should be more focused. We can create more green jobs in Nepal than the total population available in country, enough to bring back people from abroad

Madhukar Upadhyay, PEI, NPC

- If the income from the jobs created here cannot make them earn more than what people have been earning abroad, they will not remain in the country

Representative, Ministry of Finance

- Green Economy is one component of the Development aspect
- Government should support through tax exemption, subsidy and grants. However how the government should support should be clear
- Hurdles in tourism should be reduced, for example if only one liaison officer is required, one local officer can be taken, instead of so many from Kathmandu
- Even if we want to invest in the green economy as a priority sector, there is a resource constraint. If we cannot focus on infrastructure growth, our desired economic growth cannot be obtained but there is a resource constraint for these traditional development to be done according to the green standards
- Sectoral problems, status of infrastructures in each sector should be studied

Meena Khanal, Joint Secretary, MoEST

- Tourism is not a smokeless industry, so the emissions should be offset
- Skill development is needed in every sector to move on a greener path
- Private sectors are the drivers of development
- Green Economy is difficult to implement in highly industrialised countries and more suitable for a low carbon country like ours
Anuj Agrawal, CNI

- Infrastructures can support a lot of other services
- Government has only to make supportive and give direction, private sector will do the rest
- Efficient use of resources will be done if we can make a master-plan for development of whole Nepal
- Incentive should be created in the priority business sectors
- Rewarding and recognising people by green awards should be done

Barsha Shrestha, Clean Development energy bank

- Our investment focus should be on renewable energy
- If any party private party is interested for investing in any kind of renewable energy, Clean Energy Development Bank is ready to finance, from solar power to safa tempos to Reva cars and also in Clean Energy auditing and finance services. As she sees it there’s no dearth of resources

Vijaya P. Singh, Assistant Country Representative- UNDP

Mr. Vijaya P Singh captured the discussed points as representative of one of the supporting organizations UNDP and closed the session thanking everyone for participation.

- Such Dialogue ought to set up a framework for green economy
- Green Economy definition in the context of Nepal needs more rigor, so does the its scoping for the industries, development sector, for its beneficiaries
- We also need to set up the Minimum set of standards that would apply to the industries, and to the products being produced in green economy
- It is worrying that 70-80% of money at local level is made on roads every year which are washed away each year. We need to be mindful what kind of products are being generated with our investments
- Identification of green roads are needed. Green activities and non-green activities need to be separated out.
• Incentive for those doing work in the green sector is necessary. Champion identification is a very good idea.
• Green economy framework is only a new framework, most priority sectors are going to be a part of it nonetheless.
• We need to identify the sectors with highest potential and upscale targeted activities, and businesses.
• Transformation towards the green economy is a long way, but we must make a beginning.
• For measuring green GDP some qualitative indicators should be included that indicates the level of happiness too following Bhutan’s example.
• In future discussion we must involve agriculture ministry too.
• Some amount seed money from government in the green sector could attract more money (major investment) from private sector and create a profitable business for the society.
Section 3: The Essence of the Dialogue

(The outcomes and recommendations to the National Planning Commission)

“Green Development is needed. It is good for the Nepali Businesses. It is good for the Government of Nepal. It is good for our rural communities as it is inclusive.”

“There is no debate whether or not it is beneficial, because it most certainly is. “

“The question is how we can all work together to make it a reality.”

“How can we expand this debate to a larger audience?”

“How can we get to a singular vision to realize Green Economy Imperative?”

“How can we get to the ‘actionables’ that would make us walk this path effectively?”

“How can we capture the good work already done by some of the entrepreneurs and by our government on green front? How can we expand these good works in other areas?”
“How could we convince our politicians that their commitment to achieve inclusive economic development in Nepal hinges on whether or not they commit to Green Economic Development path?”

If one were to capture the essence of the articulations of the participants from many strata of Nepali society at the first ‘Green Economy Development Dialogue’ on Sept 25, 2012, the words would be something like the ones as above. There seemed an almost complete agreement that GREEN is the way to go for Nepal. As a matter of fact, many participants expressed their frustration as to why is it taking so long for the government in particular and Nepali polity in general to get this obvious reality and start working on this.

Most participants agreed that this is a good beginning but concluded we need more of such dialogues with even more diverse stakeholders participating in them.

Based on the observations of the participants and pre-meet and post-meet discussions with key stakeholders, Himalayan Climate Initiative is putting forward the following recommendations to National Planning Commission for their kind consideration in their efforts to make the Green Economy Development imperative a reality.

I.) Establishing GREEN being INCLUSIVE in popular parlance

Despite the link between ‘Inclusive Development’ and ‘Green Development’ in the context of Nepal being so obvious, it is not being discussed in the public domain, primarily in the political quarters. This can change very quickly if the National Planning Commission (NPC) comes out with a definitive paper establishing the links between GREEN and INCLUSIVE development taking help of scholars and practitioners.

II.) Capturing Nepal’s unsung Green Record and communicating

The National Planning Commission (NPC) should make efforts to capture the great work done in the past by different Ministries, Department and Agencies of the government of Nepal and that in the Private Sector too on the GREEN front as Nepal has already done many great works that it could build on. A letter to this effect should be issued by the NPC to all relevant agencies with set timeline to respond, and collation framework/work should be initiated. Once the collection and collation of such information is complete, it should be widely disseminated not just locally but globally to help Nepal’s global image (also linked with Recommendation VI)

III.) Developing a Singular ‘National Green Vision’ and Progressive ‘Green Actionables’

The National Planning Commission (NPC) should take a lead in developing Green Economy Development Vision and Framework for Nepal. It should also develop set of actionables (things that could be done rather quickly) and set milestones for accomplishing it and monitor it.
IV: Facilitating a constructive role to the Private Sector from the formative stage

As increasingly the Government the world over and also in Nepal is taking the role of Enablers leaving the role of job creation and enterprise development to the Private Sector, it is also imperative for the National Planning Commission (NPC) to allow Private Sector to lead the Green Economy Development Dialogue process as a parallel activity. NPC should make some institutional arrangement to capture the Private Sector’s contribution on it.

V.) Developing a paper on GREEN sector being a comparative advantage to Nepal vis-a-vis its competitors in the region

The country and all the actors in the economy need an Analytical Paper that could conclusively establish the advantages of GREEN for the nation. The paper must be developed involving International and National experts as it would need deeper analysis of global, regional and local factors equally. The paper must also dwell on and enlist the sub-sectors within the GREEN sector that Nepal should focus on.

VI. Branding Nepal GREEN

Despite the country being one of the most Climate Change vulnerable countries in the world, Nepal’s Green House Gas (Carbon) emission contribution stands 0.025% in the world- almost Zero. Nepal has 40% of its land under Forest Cover and 20% of land under protected area management- another huge credit under its belt. Nepal has remained committed to clean and renewable energy despite facing unprecedented power shortages. These and many other similar facts about Nepal gives it a good head-start over its competitors in establishing its green image.

The National Planning Commission should examine the possibility of GREEN Branding Nepal as a country to benefit the country’s exports in the short run and helping the overall economy in longer run. Nepal needs Foreign Direct Investments, Clean Technologies, Foreign Development Assistance in the foreseeable future but so do many developing and emerging economies across the globe. If Nepal were to bring the GLOBAL-SUPPORT-ON-PRIOROTY, the world must find a strong enough motivation to help Nepal. Choosing the GREEN Path and branding Nepal as a GREEN economy would be a way to accomplish the seemingly impossible aim of bringing widespread development in Nepal in a relatively short time frame.