

**FIG** Kathmandu, Nepal 14-16 November  
**REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2024**  
*Climate Resilient Land Governance and Disaster Resilience: Safeguarding Land Rights*

**Closing Address**

**Dr Diane A Dumashie, RICS**  
**FIG President**

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**FIG** Kathmandu, Nepal 14-16 November  
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**Was the Regional Conference in Nepal a success?**

- About 300 participants from 30+ countries
- 50 from Nepal Survey Department (MLMCPA)
- 2 Plenaries with thought leaders and circa 70 papers
- UN Partners: the World Bank, UN Habitat/ GLTN
- High political and public awareness (Thanks to Minister support)
- Wonderful social evening

And what about the output.....

- You have become the imperative to implement in your Call to Action

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**What we wanted**

- People: Deliberate the need to safeguard land rights in the face of Climate challenges
- Profession:
  - A better understanding of how You and Your National Associations fit into the Climate conversation, and
  - Acknowledging the depth of the areas that you can make a difference
- Above all, A Call to Action

It is about:

- Connectivity, Collaboration, Capacity and Co ordination.....

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**Nepal Call to Action**

- A collaborative team approach, led by Clarissa Augustinas (FIG Honorary)
- To become involved in climate responsible land governance and disaster resilience.

Action oriented for You to.....

- Implement: Surveying professionals: National Association, government and private practice, undergraduates and post graduate students

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**What we do –from National, Regional to Local**  
**Our actions can inform Government**

Global agreed Country commitments:

- Our work, frameworks and practices support government reporting and implementation in the 3 Rio agendas...
- Relating to Climate & Carbon, Biodiversity and Land degradation
- Evidenced by hearing much about arising issues and our solutions to land degradation (land use changes), carbon (air quality), biodiversity (rural and forests)

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**What we do – Land governance safeguards land rights**

- Land governance frameworks: strong and increasingly climate responsive, such as Fit For Purpose Land Administration (Nepal), UN initiatives such as UN GGIM framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA)
- Increasing appreciation of indigenous communities sustainable and Stewardship practices of the Land and the evidence base that tenure security reduces deforestation
- WB Publication 2025: 'Strengthening land rights recognition in forests in East Asia and Pacific region'
- Recognise customary land rights in legal frameworks
- Widen the conversation because: Land tenure has been overlooked in climate conversation outside of our profession. We need to increase our professional value add

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**Catch-up: Land Use and Land Value**

The World Bank's Global Program on Land for Climate Goals

*A global program that recognizes the importance of land in achieving climate goals*

Global Land Use  
 Remote Sensing  
 Land Use Change  
 Land Use Policy



- Value of land, with discussions on
  - Transparency (in country contexts),
  - All forms of tenure so unregistered lands and resources associated with livelihoods to achieve fair settlements of compensation
- World Bank Climate goals and global program supported the conference throughout:
  - Valuation and Tax themed sessions
  - Land use changes: Pre- event complimented....
  - Conference sessions and papers. e.g Nepal context (landslides)



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**What we Do- Climate, Disaster and Resilience**

- Unprecedented, but with increased frequency this word will become redundant as disastrous events become the normal!
- Land administration is climate responsive: Evidence Lands records modernisation:
  - Pakistan supports Risk assessment, Climate adaptation and Disaster resilience.
  - India Joint Geospatial Base, Interlinked Records, Advanced Downstream Applications
- Collaboration across a range of other professional disciplines is needed



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**Communicate to Communities**



Connecting Space to village

- Geospatial Knowledge for better preparedness including geospatial data sets to produce better conclusions for decision makers:
- Earth Observation and GNSS
- Access for all: Low cost GNSS Receiver, the way forward for capacity i.e professionals and communities



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**Capacity and the link to improve decision making at all Governance levels**

We need to build the resilience of our expertise

- The technical know-how is there (further advancements will come);
- The issue is the need to build both at individual level (short courses) AND institutional level, this takes much longer.

Importantly, in climate conversation:

- What makes surveyors different from data scientists?
- It is our data knowledge, and
- HOW to move from scenario development into supporting for better decision making



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**Capacity- Our Young people**



- Engage with the fundamentals – be an enabler and part of the change process
- Future Workforce - Universities survey curriculum to be
  - kept fit for the new generation (require some redesign?) And
  - is an opportunity to attract young people onto our profession
- Truly there is a need for soft skill development if we wish our Young to be empowered to influence, lead, participate, and be game changers
- Thanks to FIG Foundation grants to enable young surveyor participation.....



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**Congratulations to the FIG Foundation**  
**Young Surveyors FIG Regional Conference 2024 Grant Recipients!**

Geethika Ranasingha    Hexela Franca    Mary Bongcoac    Nishamani Mahawaththage



Sri Lanka



Philippines



Philippines



Sri Lanka

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**Nepali Recipients of FIG Foundation Young Surveyor Grants**



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**Stronger together in the region**

And...I heard in the corridors this conference is proving the worth of collaboration

- The Call to action requires platforms:
  - South Asia Regional Multistakeholder partnership: academic, professionals and civic society work together. Consider
    - Operating on a hub system e.g SEVIR globally and ASEAN region
    - Reflecting geographical similarities across Asia?
  - Regional professional forum to outreach to government for the purpose of influence and aid decision making.
  - Young surveyors forum to embed into the above and stand alone.
- Co ordinate and collaborate is the key to successful platforms

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**My thanks to...**



- Ministry, LOC and Sponsors
- Plenary speakers for their thought leadership
- Session presenters
- .... FIG VPs and Commission chairs
- And

**You- Champions Count**

- We worked , we had fun
- And we have .....

**A worthy Call to Action!**



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**Next meeting- Brisbane April 2025**

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