



Environment Friendly Local Governance

EFLG

Key Learnings, Recommendations and Way Forward

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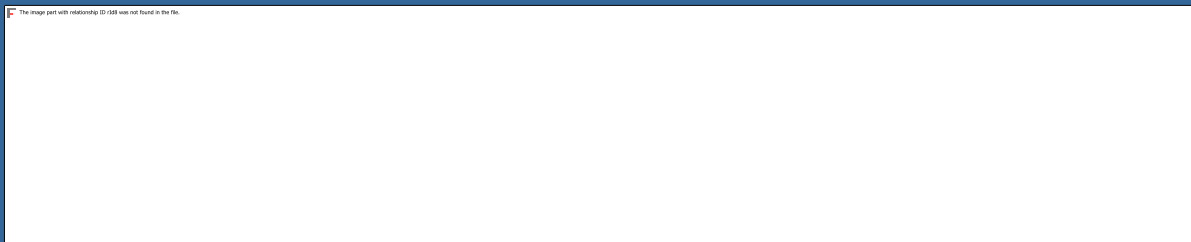


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EFLG Training Curriculum and E-Modules

I. Background

The Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) Framework is a strategic initiative of the Government of Nepal (GoN) aimed at promoting sustainable development and environmental conservation at the local level (household, ward, rural/municipality, and district). It integrates environmental considerations into local policy, plan and budgets, addressing the issues of climate change, forest, environment, resilient agriculture, water, sanitation, hygiene, waste management, disaster risk reduction, resilient infrastructure and the governance.

Institute of Local Governance Studies (INLOGOS) has developed the EFLG curriculum and E-Modules through different level of consultation and validation procedures. The pilot testing of the EFLG training curriculum and e-modules was held on May 7-11, 2026 in Birendranagar Surkhet, Karnali Province. Similarly, a five days Training of Trainers (ToT) was organized on May 28 to June 1, 2026 in Dhulikhel in Bagmati Province. The programme was organized by the Institute of Local Governance Studies (INLOGOS) in cooperation with the Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (RERAS) supported by UNDP. Altogether, there were 19 LGs (12 from Karnali, 1 from Sudurpaschim and 6 from Bagmati Province), four PRTA (Koshi, Madhesh, Gandaki and Lumbini), and one LDTA participated the programme.

Based on the lessons learns and observation from the pilot test in Birendranagar, Surkhet in Karnali Province and the Training of Trainers (ToT) organized in Dhulikhel in Bagmati Province; the Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) curriculum and e-modules is found most appropriate to implement and replicate EFLG over the different locations. However, there are some most common issues and corrective recommendations for the effective implementation of EFLG. The issues/observations and recommendations are most likely aligned with the EFLG Framework 2021 approved by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) of the Government of Nepal (GoN). The followings are the key observation and recommendations.

2. Observation and Recommendations

2.1 Institutional Ownership

(I) Learning

- Environment is one of the low priority areas of the LGs elected representatives and executives.
- No uniformity in organizational structure to respond EFLG (absence of environment section in most of the LGs).
- EFLG is often taken as the responsibility by the environment and disaster management section or the focal person designated to look after the environmental issues.

(2) Recommendations

- Form EFLG Coordination Committee in every LGs and orient the elected representatives and staff on the concept, practice and the importance of the EFLG.
- Integrate EFLG concerns in to the local government policies, plans, budgets and develop capacity.
- Establish a good coordination mechanism among the setoral units (agriculture, forest, health, water and sanitation, infrastructure, planning, disaster management) and other relevant stakeholders.
- Ensure all infrastructure projects comply the environmental safeguards and climate resilience standards.

2.2 Capacity Building

(1) Learning

- EFLG training is found most effective activity facilitated through a participatory approach (short presentations, issue based discussions, field-based practical experiences, sharing success stories, use of audio-visuals and games, simulations and the group exercises).
- The animated videos can play as the catalytic tool to understand the fundamentals of the environment friendly local governance.

(2) Recommendations

- Conduct refresher training in certain interval.
- Develop a pool of EFLG master trainers at federal, provincial, and local, level.
- Include comprehensive visuals, success stories, simulation games including role play and field demonstrations in the training package.
- Establish mentoring and regular coaching systems (a concept of mobile team).
- Establish mentoring and regular coaching systems, may be a concept of mobile team can work.

2.3 Citizen Participation

(1) Learning

- EFLG since 2013 has been initiated as a government led programme through the technical support the development partners.

- Later it was realized that the advocacy and citizen participation was an important intervention in promoting and replicating the EFLG.

(2) Recommendations

- The government institutions and the stakeholders in each level need to conduct public awareness campaigns on environmental issues including climate resilient agriculture, water & sanitation, waste management, water conservation, and resilient infrastructure through community engagement.
- Focus of the awareness programme should be community organizations specifically household, settlement and tole level indicators and encourage the communities to join proactively to the campaigns.

2.4 Inter-Governmental Coordination

(1) Learning

- Weak coordination among the three tiers of government.

(2) Recommendations

- Clarify roles and responsibilities of all tiers of government (specifically the sectoral ministries including the ministries related to physical infrastructure, urban development, road and transport at federal and provincial level).
- Strengthen support (technical, financial and coordination) from the PGs.
- To encourage Provincial Research and Training Academies (PRTA/PCGG) and other stakeholders.
- To timely update the EFLG curriculum and E-module and internalize EFLG related training programmes.
- Organize regular coordination and experience sharing events among LGs and PGs.

2.5 Knowledge Management

(1) Learning

- Learning is sustained and can be materialized when there is follow-up activities and the culture of peer learning.

(2) Recommendations

- Make necessary mechanism on EFLG reporting system (link the local level achievement, knowledge and practices to the provincial and federal level).
- Establish EFLG knowledge portal.
- Create Web based Environment Management Information System (W-EMIS).
- Promote observation visits and learning forums horizontally and vertically.

3. Strategic Recommendations

- 1) Revise the EFLG Framework, 2021 and adjust properly the role and responsibilities of the Provincial Government (PG) in EFLG.
- 2) Have a quick assessment of the EFLG structure, stakeholders and indicators and make necessary adjustments deemed needed (some of the indicators are irrelevant and some others missing in the existing EFLG Framework, 2021).
- 3) Design/develop a practical guidelines (user friendly hand book) specifically targeting to the local level institutions and community organizations on how to measure the EFLG indicators and follow the adoption and declaration process.
- 4) Apply the EFLG Framework to a system-based governance approach (EFLG indicators become a part of the local governance system including policy, planning, budgeting, service delivery, performance audits and resilient development).
- 5) Make EFLG as a tool for sustainable environment management and institutional mechanism.
- 6) External support from the development partners including INGOs and other related agencies is most crucial to internalize and expand EFLG concept.

4. Way Forward

- 1) Handover the developed curriculum and e-module initially to the RERAS/UNDP and it finally hands over it to the MoLMCFGA.(Ministry of Land Management, Co-operatives, Federal Affairs & General Administration).
- 2) Initiate the process of revising the EFLG Framework, 2021 as soon as possible. The Ministry of Land Management, Co-operatives, Federal Affairs & General Administration (MoLMCFGA) is agreed as an appropriate ministry to lead the process. The ministry can assess and find external support from the development partners.
- 3) Organize EFLG training/orientation for the provincial government institutions including PRTA in each of the seven provinces so that the PGs can understand the concept, process and expected results that may help to internalize and replicate EFLG at the local level.
- 4) Organize training and orientation at the local government level.
- 5) Advocate EFLG as a campaign especially at the ward and community level. Support to promote ward level governance.
- 6) Find ways how the governmental and non-government training institutions can incorporate EFLG in their training curriculum. Considering the importance of EFLG all over Nepal, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC) and sectoral training institutions of GoN including LDTA can encourage federal government officials to support the EFLG process.
- 7) Make necessary mechanism on EFLG reporting system (link the local level achievement, knowledge and practices to the provincial and federal level information system).