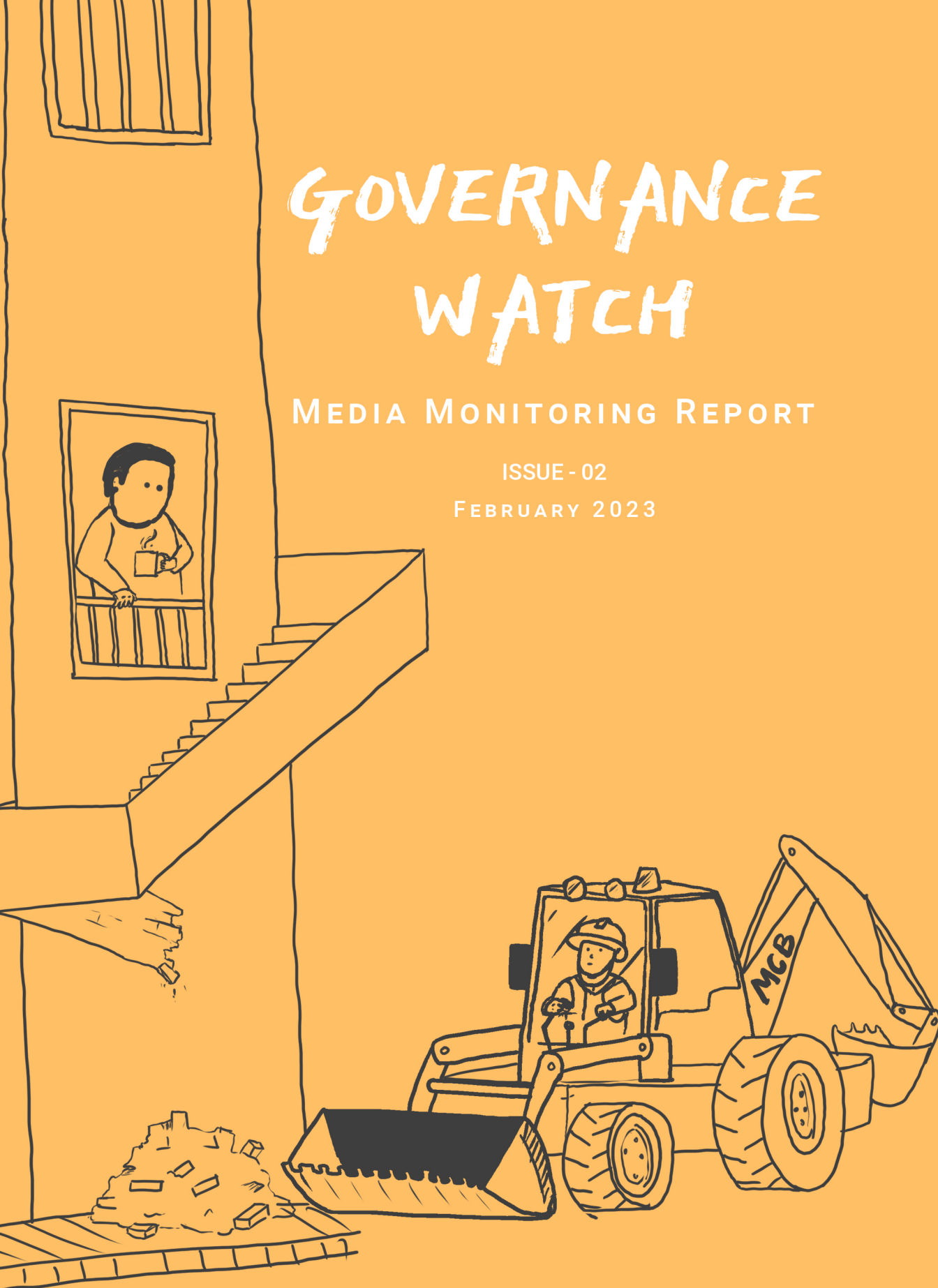


# GOVERNANCE WATCH

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

ISSUE - 02

FEBRUARY 2023



# Governance Monitoring Centre Nepal

## Media Monitoring Report

**Governance Monitoring Centre Nepal (GMC Nepal)** is a research initiative led by Kathmandu-based NGO Centre for Social Change (CSC). Using a variety of investigative methods and the latest in qualitative & quantitative research tools, GMC Nepal is dedicated to strengthening the newly established federal democracy and empower its citizens through up-to-date information relating to the status of governance related conflicts and peace in Nepal.

While the first phase of this initiative successfully looked into the governance aspects of the Health, Education, and Migration sectors in Nepal, GMC Nepal Phase-II takes a closer look at the four major mutually non-exclusive arenas of governance conflicts in the Nepali federal context:

- a. Natural Resource Conflicts
- b. Development Conflicts
- c. Ethnocultural Conflicts
- d. Political Conflicts

The '**Governance Watch**', a bi-monthly periodic report represents GMC Nepal's attempt to understand the major conflicts occurring within and beyond the federal structures and systems. Through vigilant media monitoring mechanisms, this report analyzes the changing dynamics of governance related conflicts and elements associated with these conflicts, emphasizing the crucial role of media in reflecting where latest developments and interests are focused. Here is how the methods have defined the major governance areas selected by this report and major indicators it is looking into:

Governance areas	Definition
Natural resource governance	Norms, institutions and processes that determine how power and responsibilities over natural resources and climate are exercised, how decisions are taken, and how citizens (including women, men, youth, Indigenous peoples and local communities) participate in and benefit from the management of natural resources.
Development governance	Governance of social and infrastructure development through appropriate procedures comprising policy formulation, program design, budgetary allocation, and administrative reforms parallel to annual targets and/or short-term, mid-term and long-term goals and objectives set for social and economic development.
Ethnocultural governance	Accountability of authorities and government institutions to ensure rights, opportunities and security of all citizens, especially of historically marginalized and minority groups without imposing violence or discrimination on anyone based on their identity, culture, gender, region, language and ethnicity.
Political governance	Practices of federalism among different tiers/organs of governments and between the government and people.

## Major Indicators

The media monitoring methods adopted have assessed the following major indicators to understand the four areas of governance and governance related conflicts:

Indicators	Definition
Legal and policy frameworks	Enforcement of laws and regulations, policies and procedures enacted by the legislative bodies in accordance with broader governance and societal reform.
Government bodies and mechanisms	Institutional arrangements of government bodies and autonomous bodies under federal structure and their interaction.
Roles and responsibilities	Power relations and functions of government bodies (both executing and implementing agencies) along with civil society, international bodies, media for fully functional of federal structure, better governance and rule of law.
Conflict resolution/ transformation	Existing mechanisms and provisions dedicated to resolving conflicts, providing access to justice and ensuring participation and representation of marginalized communities and indigenous people.

The media monitoring methods analyze the above indicators to understand the gaps and challenges existent within the federal governance system. Understanding effectiveness in formation as well as implementation of the indicators is the major focus of this report to derive governance related conflicts and also, relevant opportunities.

### Media Outlets Monitored:

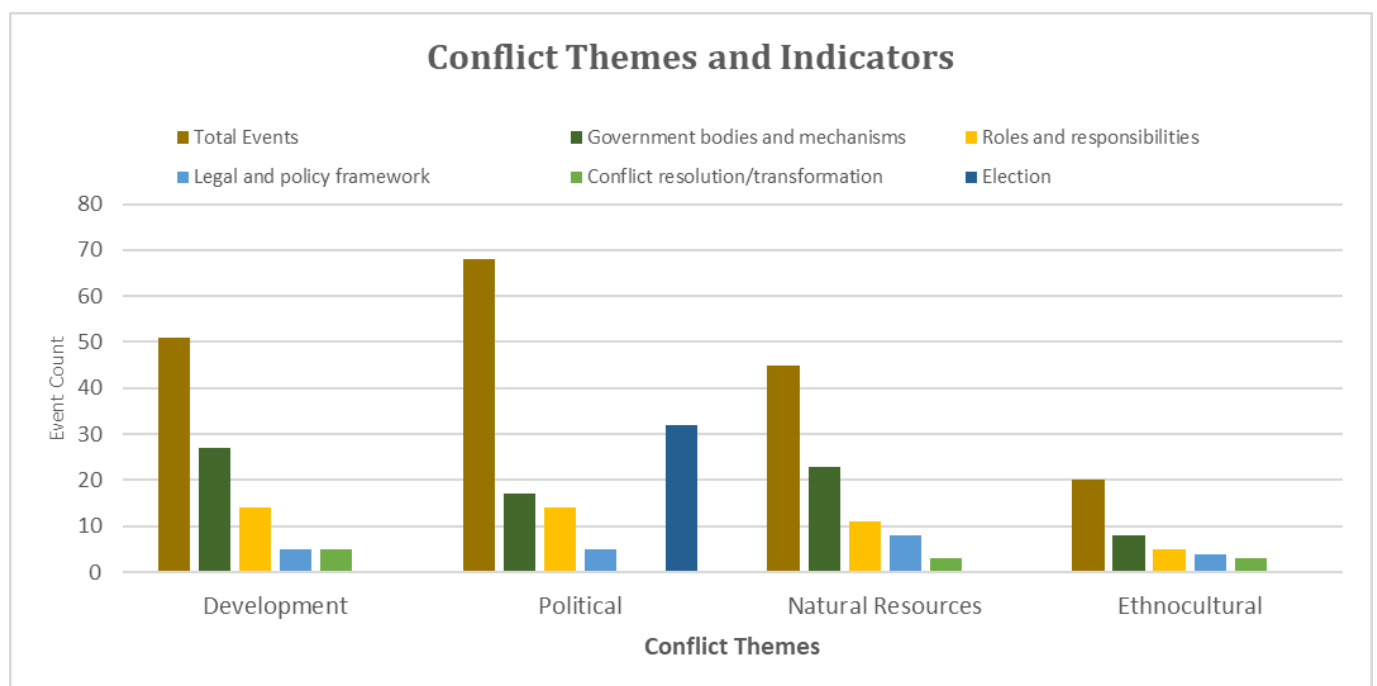
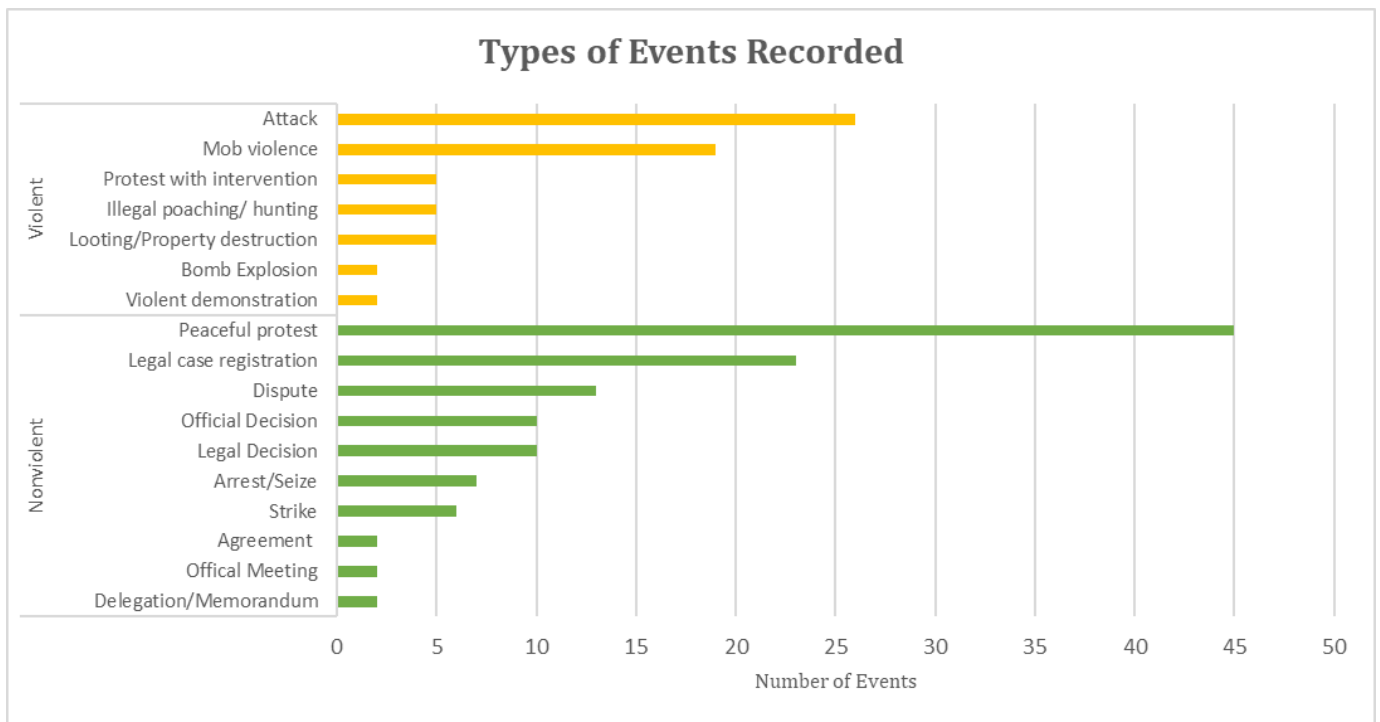
The Kathmandu Post/ Kantipur Daily/ Annapurna Post/ Online Khabar/ SetoPati.

# A Cumulative Snapshot of Recorded News and Events

Media Coverage: October 2022 - January 2023

Starting from month of October 2022 to January 2023, in the past four months, a total of 184 events have been recorded under this media monitoring initiative under GMC Nepal. Below is a numeric snapshot of the observations so far.

Event Type	Events Recorded
Nonviolent	120
Violent	64
<b>Total Recorded Events</b>	<b>184</b>



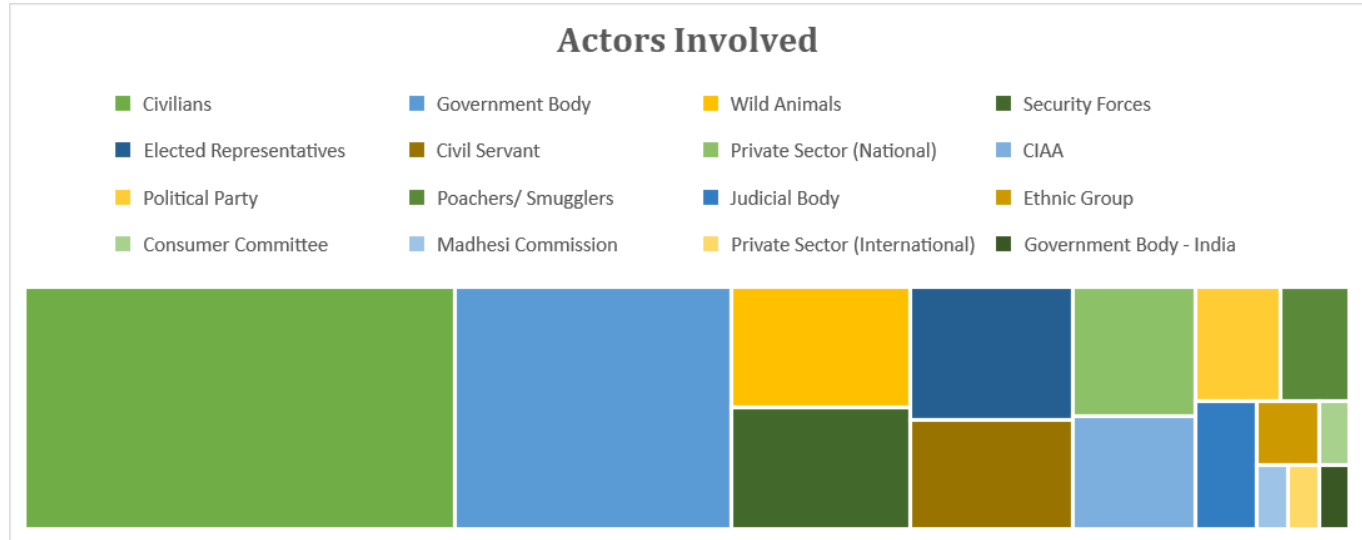
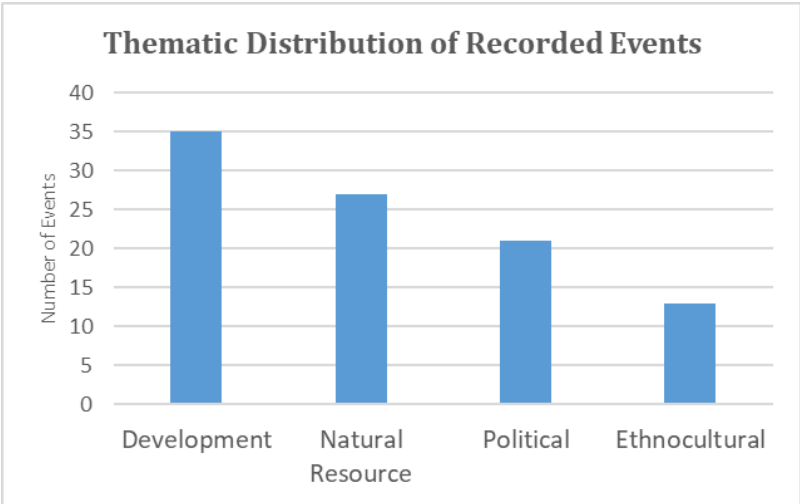
Access detailed analysis of the report here: [Governance Watch Series Archives - GMC Nepal](#)

# Overview of Recorded Events

## Media Coverage: December 2022 - January 2023

This second issue of GMC Nepal’s media monitoring report observed 96 events in the months of December 2022 and January 2023, as covered by the five major news portals of Nepal. An overall observation of the news and events focused in the four governance areas (natural resource, development, political, ethnocultural governance) in the two months showed occurrences of conflicts around infrastructure development projects were relatively higher. On the other end, the least reported issues were concerning ethno-cultural governance issues in Nepal. Although comparatively fewer in coverage, the issues relevant to gender, caste-ethnicity and minority groups exert an urgent need to be carefully addressed as they are potential grounds for increased structural inequalities and bigger conflicts in the future. According to the observations, major actors involved in these overall conflicts were government bodies and civilians and majority of these conflicts occurred due to ineffective government bodies and mechanisms prevalent in the federal governance structure. Also, of the recorded events, majority were nonviolent ranging from peaceful protests, complaints, to legal case registrations etc. while the violent events included mob protests, wildlife attacks and illegal hunting/poaching among others. A graphical representation of this summary is presented as below:

Type of Events	No. of Events
Nonviolent	71
Violent	25
Total Recorded Events	96



Based on observations of these recorded events, some key recommendations are drawn to help resolve or transform these occurring conflicts, which are as follows:

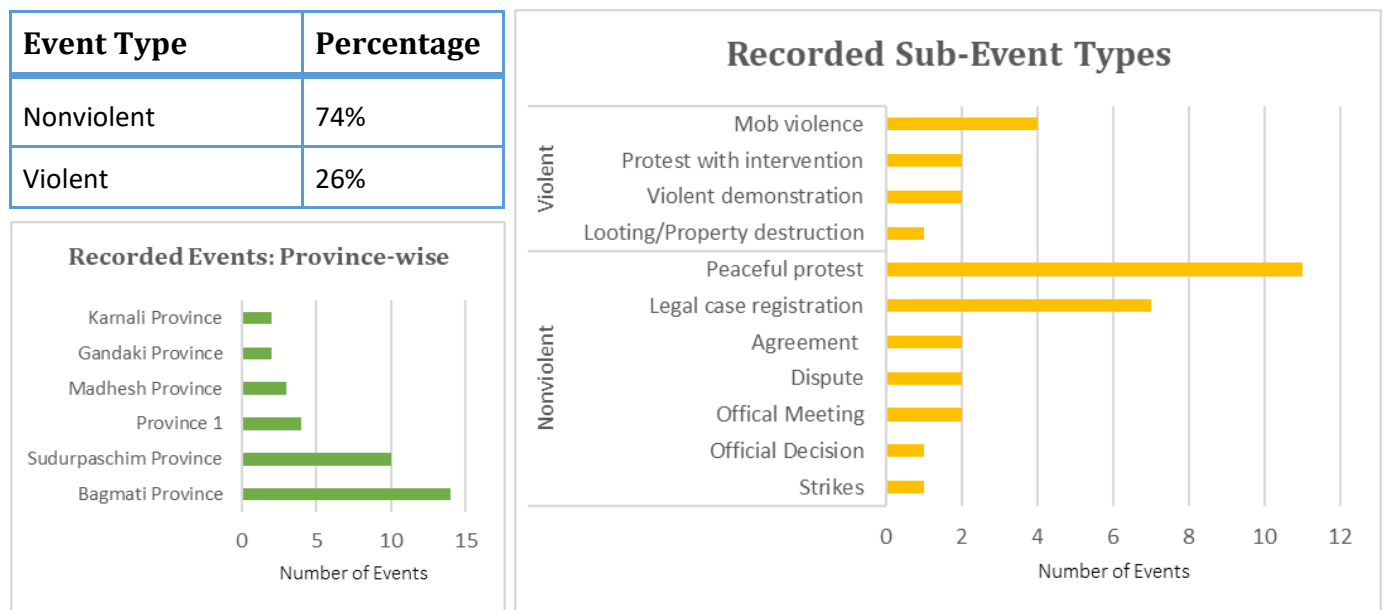
- a. A strong coordination and precise definition and demarcation of the roles of elected representatives and bureaucrats holding different positions in each layer of the government is required for efficient fulfillment of designated responsibilities.
- b. Capacities of each actor needs to be enhanced to be able to proficiently execute their designated functions and achieve productive coordination.
- c. Strict monitoring mechanisms need to be implemented to enhance transparency and accountability in performance of duties in all 3 tiers of government.
- d. Strategic and meaningful dialogues on occurring governance related conflicts are necessary to identify not only the existing problems in the federal governance systems but also their relevant solutions.

# Development Conflicts

Media Coverage: December 2022 - January 2023

In this second issue of 'Governance Watch', development governance is reportedly the core area of governance conflicts. From December 2022 to January 2023, out of total 96 news coverage, GMC Nepal has monitored and recorded 35 news related to development conflicts. An in-depth analysis of these events show absence of well-planned development interventions that foster community aspirations and fulfil genuine demands of the people. This gap has seemingly increased the occurrence and escalation of development conflicts in the last two months.

Here is a snapshot of development conflicts that took place within the country as highlighted by five major news portals during the monitoring period.

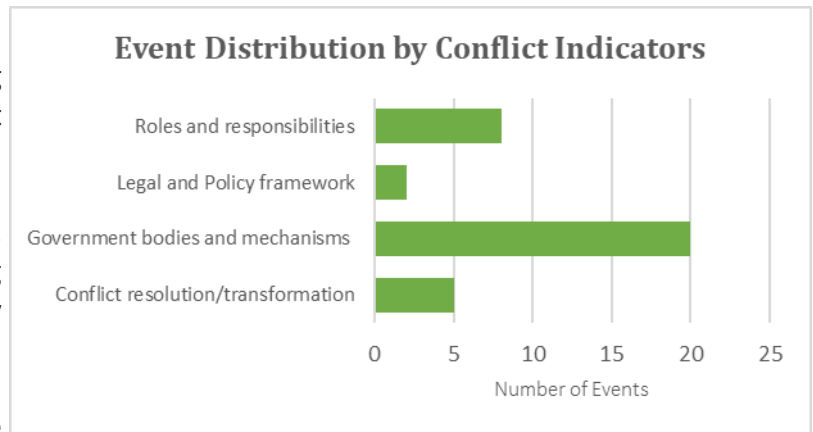


An overview of development conflicts in the past two months shows Bagmati province as a major hotspot of conflict incidents as direct result of local grievances associated with continued actions taken by the newly elected Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan city over the illegal structures<sup>1</sup>, and land degradation impeded by development projects<sup>2</sup>. Likewise, conflicts concerned with loss of life caused by the grading machine of road construction companies<sup>3</sup> and unilateral construction of the embankment along the Mahakali River<sup>4</sup> recorded a greater number of media coverage in Sudurpaschim province. A closer look shows that majority of the recorded news coverage on peaceful protests pinpointed on land development conflicts ranging from demolition of private property, squatters' resettlement, shifting of hydropower projects to conservation of public spaces. On such issues, records of legal case registrations highlights the rising trend of seeking legal assistance against corruption cases including misuse of state resources by elected local representatives<sup>5</sup>.

1. Online Khabar (January 29, 2023). मण्डलाबाट मूलवासीकाे बालेनविरुद्ध खबरदारी. Retrieved from [मण्डलाबाट मूलवासीकाे बालेनविरुद्ध खबरदारी – Online Khabar](https://ekantipur.com/news/2022/11/25/166938778372765249.html) Ekantipur (November 25, 2022). (<https://ekantipur.com/news/2022/11/25/166938778372765249.html>)
2. Ekantipur (January 10, 2023). शंखरापुर सबस्टेसन निर्माण स्थान्तरणको माग गर्दै स्थानीय आन्दोलित. Retrieved from [शंखरापुर सबस्टेसन निर्माण स्थान्तरणको माग गर्दै स्थानीय आन्दोलित- समाचार - कान्तिपुर समाचार \(ekantipur.com\)](https://ekantipur.com/news/2023/01/10/166938778372765249.html)
3. The Kathmandu Post (December 2, 2022). Dhangadhi tense as students continue protests defying prohibitory order. Retrieved from [Dhangadhi tense as students continue protests defying prohibitory order \(kathmandupost.com\)](https://kathmandupost.com/news/2022/12/02/dhangadhi-tense-as-students-continue-protests-defying-prohibitory-order)
4. The Kathmandu Post (December 7, 2022). Nepal calls for joint inspection of disputed Mahakali site. Retrieved from [Nepal calls for joint inspection of disputed Mahakali site \(kathmandupost.com\)](https://kathmandupost.com/news/2022/12/07/nepal-calls-for-joint-inspection-of-disputed-mahakali-site)
5. Ekantipur (December 2, 2022). दायर मुद्दा जनविरुद्ध ११ गर्ने काम गुणस्तरहीन Retrieved from [गुणस्तरहीन काम गर्ने ११ जनविरुद्ध मुद्दा दायर- समाचार - कान्तिपुर समाचार \(ekantipur.com\)](https://ekantipur.com/news/2022/12/02/daayar-mudda-janaviruddh-11-ganne-kam-gunastarहीन)

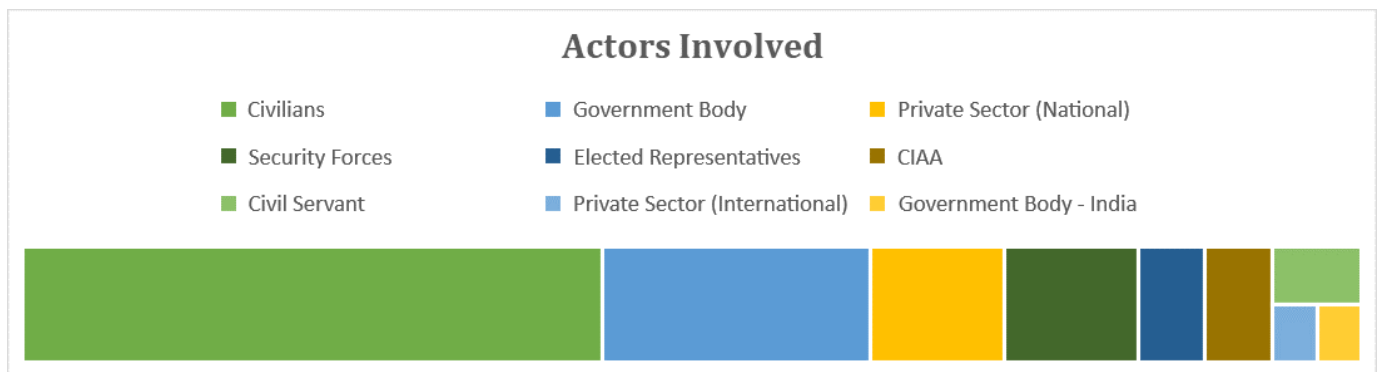
## Media Coverage by Indicators

According to the observations, poor vision on equity and inclusiveness during implementation of the development projects is one of the major existing issues. Especially in cases of local hydropower, urban development and road expansions, projects are often executed without having prior consultation or providing timely compensation or livelihood alternatives. Also, news coverage largely focused on transparency on budget and state



resources due to rampant corruption practices, related to which, Commission for Abuse of Authority Investigation (CIAA) has filed a number of complaint cases. Frequent coverage on events like the accidental death of a student by grader machine, construction of sub-station of Upper Tamakoshi and embankment at Mahakali River poses questions on how responsible government bodies and mechanisms are in ensuring protection of citizens and fulfilling their genuine needs.

## Major Conflict Actors



It was observed that civilians, especially local community people are more engaged in the various development conflicts because they lie at forefront of development interventions led by either state or relevant development stakeholders. Due to limited access legal policies, exclusion of basic rights or threats to their livelihoods were observed. Security forces like Nepal police were generally engaged to control the escalation of violent conflicts whereas actors like CIAA and Government bodies (particularly elected representatives of local) showed more engagement in cases related to corruption.

## Challenges in Development Governance

- Strong monitoring and regulations of budget distribution and utilization is crucial for sustainability of the development programs and control of rampant corruption.
- Purpose of project, budget, people and compensation should be achievable and timely.
- Proper land management policies and sustainable urban development plans should be adopted for sustainable livelihood of citizen.
- Conflict resolution mechanisms needs to be effectively executed by the relevant institution and stakeholders to control risk of escalation of conflict.



# Natural Resource Conflicts

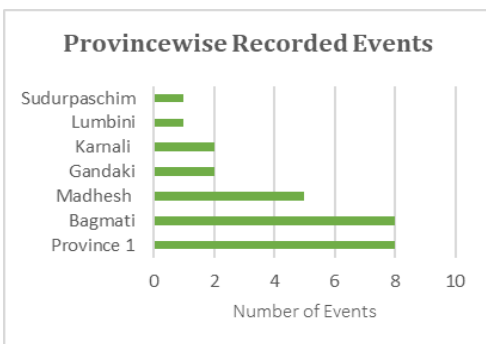
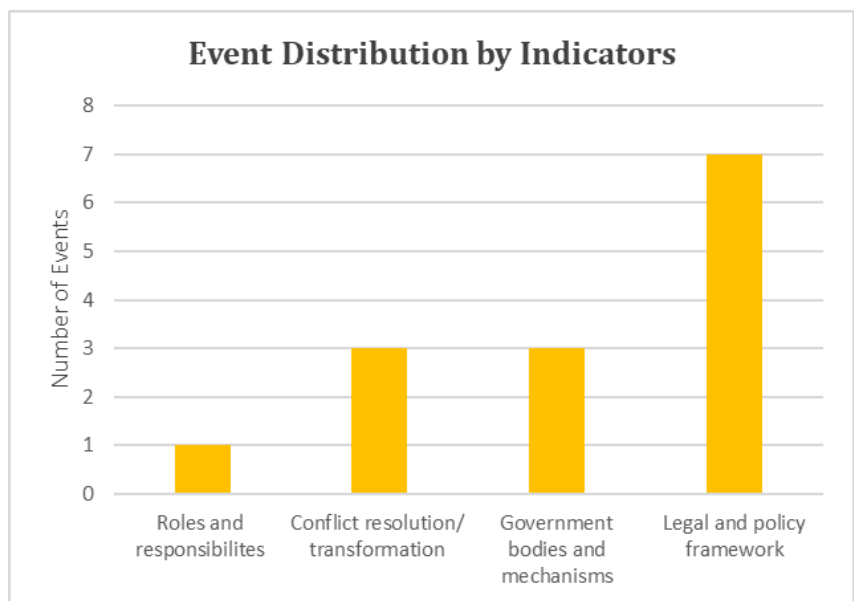
## Media Coverage: December 2022 - January 2023

In the past two months of media and news monitoring, 27 news were recorded covering stories and events relevant to natural resource governance and conflicts in Nepal. This section has specifically focused on use, decision-makings, rights, power and responsibilities over natural resources in Nepal. Moreover, this section especially focuses on governance of water, land, wildlife and forest. Extraction of rocks, sand, minerals and stones are also observed by this report to understand the influence/ impact of government led development activities.

Here is a snapshot of the conflicts within and outside governance of natural resources as highlighted by five major news portals of Nepal.

### Natural Resource Governance and Conflicts

Type of Events	No. of Events
Nonviolent	14
Violent	13
Total Recorded Events	27



Of the 27 news observed under media monitoring of natural resource governance, majority of conflicts were triggered by severe lack of precise legal and policy frameworks that prohibit exploitation of natural resources, clarify demarcation issues, ensure compensations in cases of wild animal attacks and enable legal and fair trade of natural resources. It is derived from the observations that lack of such legal frameworks have largely made way for illegal extraction of riverbanks<sup>6</sup>, illegal trade of forest woods<sup>7</sup> and illegal poaching and hunting of wild animals<sup>8</sup>. On the other hand, 3 of the news reported constructive role of government that enabled conflict resolution/ transformation in cases of land rights, tax regulation and community forest protection<sup>9</sup>.

As the data shows, only slight variance was observed among the violent and nonviolent events related to natural resource governance and conflicts. The recorded violent events include assault imposed by forest security guards on civilians<sup>10</sup>, wild animal attacks and illegal poaching and hunting of animals and

6. Ekantipur (December 7, 2022) [व्यापार घाटा घटाउने नाममा ढुंगा-गिट्टी निर्यात गर्न मिल्दैन : सर्वोच्च- समाचार - कान्तिपुर समाचार \(ekantipur.com\)](#)

7. Ekantipur (January 17, 2023) [सामुदायिक वनका रूख काटिए- प्रदेश १ - कान्तिपुर समाचार \(ekantipur.com\)](#)

8. Ekantipur (December 18, 2022) [दुर्लभ रेडपान्डाको बासस्थान संकटमा- कर्णाली - कान्तिपुर समाचार \(ekantipur.com\)](#)

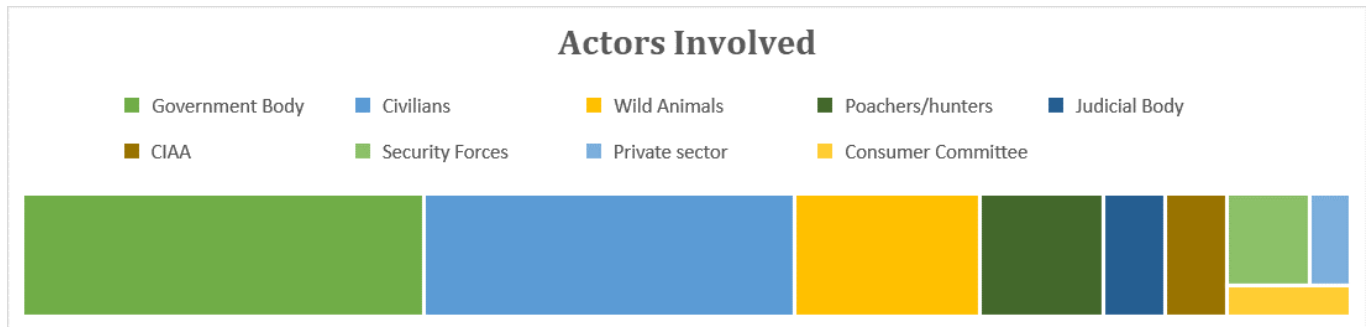
9. Setopati (December 22, 2022) [वनमा साबुन उद्योग खोल्ने हर्क साम्पाङको योजना अघि नबढाउन अदालतको आदेश :: राजु अधिकारी :: Setopati](#)

10. The Kathmandu Post (January 3, 2022) [Forest guards beat up three women for entering forest to collect grass \(kathmandupost.com\)](#)

nonviolent incidents included legal case registrations against corruption, illegal timber trade and mining and peaceful protests against violence ensued by forest guards on civilians.

Also, a province level observation shows that majority of events covered were from Province 1 and Bagmati Province. Events occurring in Bagmati Province mainly include legal case registrations against corruption cases related to taxation and exploitation of riverbanks for sand, stones and mineral mining, demands for policy changes by private businessmen stating the policy implemented by government forbidding purchase of wood sold by Department of Forestry was discriminatory<sup>11</sup>, landfill management issues and wild animal attacks and events in Province 1 majorly included events of wild animal attacks.

## Major Conflict Actors



A close look at the 27 cases recorded showed that government body (local, provincial and central) and civilians as major actors involved in conflicts related to natural resource governance in Nepal. Civilians were often observed to be on the receiving ends of the impacts ensued by poor natural resource governance; hence, unquestionable role of government bodies, policies and mechanisms was highlighted by these cases both as potential instigators of conflict and also as possible solution bearers.

## Challenges in Natural Resource Governance

Some of the major challenges highlighted in the news coverage are as follows:

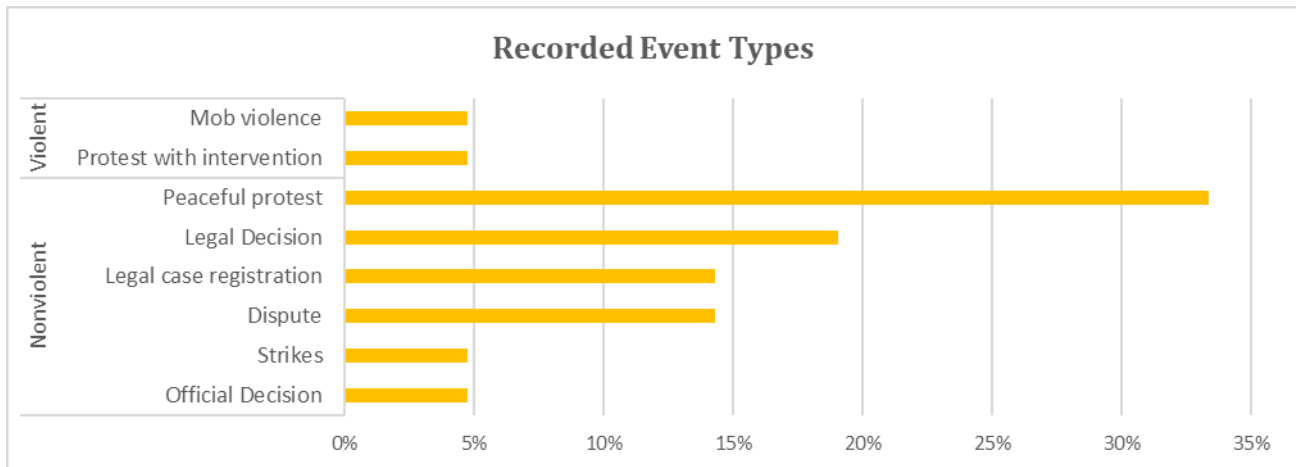
- Distinct guidelines need to be properly implemented by responsible authorities in cases of damage, injuries and casualties caused by wild animal attacks.
- Roles and responsibilities regarding monitoring of extraction of minerals and rocks from major rivers is a serious concern that needs to be urgently addressed among federal, provincial and local governments.
- Rigid monitoring, transparency and accountability is required among security personnels during execution of security duties to prohibit mistreatment or abuse of civilians.
- In cases of conflicts between locals and forest officials, a distinct conflict resolution mechanism is required to deescalate the effects of the conflict.
- Stricter laws and regulations need to be implemented to criminalize illegal poaching, hunting and trapping of wild animals and illegal trading of timber.

11. Annapurna Post (December 31 2022) काठ किन्न नपाउने व्यवस्थाप्रति आपत्ति | अन्नपूर्ण पोस्ट (annapurnapost.com)

# Political Conflicts

Media Coverage: December 2022 - January 2023

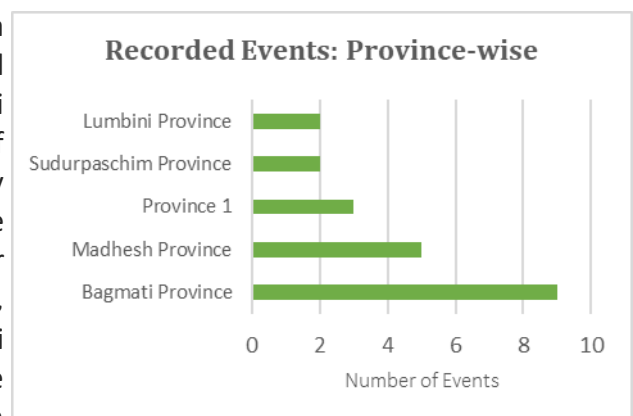
After the successful completion of general elections in November 2022, in the months that followed, Nepali politics was occupied with government formations at federal and provincial levels. Since no political party gained majority seats, government formations depended on alliances and cooperation. Here is a snapshot of political conflicts that occurred in this sensitive time period along with conflicts at local levels as reported by five major news portals of Nepal.



As presented in the chart above, majority of the events recorded in December 2022 and January 2023 were nonviolent (90% of total events). Peaceful demonstrations and legal proceedings (mainly legal case registrations and decisions by the courts) alone incorporate two-third of the total events. The 2 violent events observed were clashes between local groups in Simroungadh Municipality of Bara district over the matter of distributing fertilizer to the farmers<sup>12</sup>, and arrest of demonstrators in Kathmandu city<sup>13</sup>.

## Recorded Events: Province-wise

Majority of the political events covered by the media outlets were concentrated Bagmati province, and conversely, there were no news coverage from Karnali Province. Impeachment and suspension of Chief Justice<sup>14</sup>, citizenship issues during election candidacy processes<sup>15</sup> and the Civil Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Ordinance<sup>16</sup> related events were major highlights of the Bagmati Province. In Lumbini Province, objection of representatives elected from Rupandehi district and the government employees after the province government moved the ministries to Dang from Butwal city without proper planning and preparations, was the major highlight<sup>17</sup>. Events recorded in other provinces mostly included conflicts at local units, such as, disputes between/among elected representatives, government officials and local people.



12. Annapurna Post (7 December 2022) <https://annapurnapost.com/news/clashes-in-simraungadh-over-fertilizer-dispute-219564/>

13. Setopati (27 December 2022) <https://www.setopati.com/politics/293203>

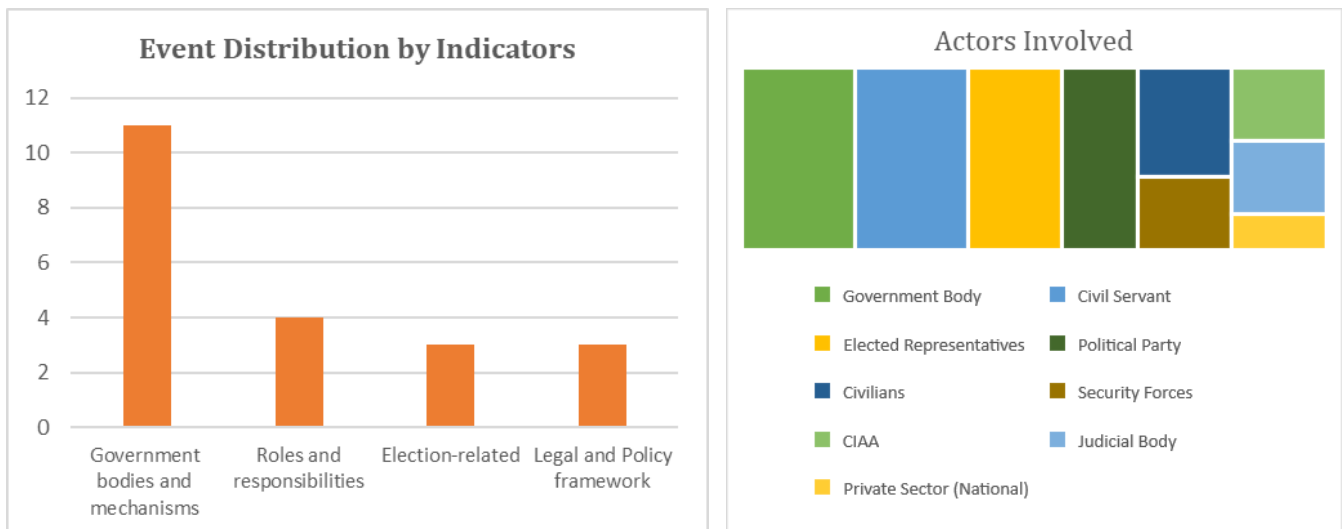
14. Ekantipur (9 December 2022) <https://ekantipur.com/news/2022/12/09/167058331934486754.html>. Annapurna Post (<https://annapurnapost.com/news/supreme-curt-14-219835/>)

15. Setopati (27 December 2022) <https://www.setopati.com/politics/293203>

16. Annapurna Post (11 December 2022) <https://annapurnapost.com/news/ordinance-nepal-220020/>. Setopati (<https://www.setopati.com/politics/289411>).

17. Ekantipur (4 December 2022) <https://ekantipur.com/pradesh-5/2022/12/04/16701453712179777.html>

## Event Distribution by Indicators and Major Actors Involved



More than half of the recorded events were related to the government bodies and their mechanisms. At the federal and provincial levels, conflicts included encroachment of sovereign rights of the House of Representative by government employee, approval for election candidacy and designation of Home Minister to a citizen without valid legal citizenship documents, shift of provincial government ministries despite objection from civil servants and the elected officials. At the local units, conflicts emerged mainly due to lack of cooperation between/among the elected representatives on budget allocation and management, which resulted in failure to conduct village/municipal assemblies. Conflict between the chief administrative officers and the elected officials were frequently observed and the federal government is not able to properly settle these disputes.

### Challenges in Political Governance

- Recorded events have highlighted that encroachment of jurisdiction is not limited to the three tiers of the governments in the federal state but is also expanded to institutional rights by government employees. Rather than lack of understanding of laws and provisions, corrupt and fraudulent acts of power holders exert an urgent need for stricter, more transparent and accountable systems.
- Demand for release of Resham Chaudhary has been a longstanding demand of Tharu community and related political actors. Events that ensued this case activated by political leaders are bound to have negative impacts and distrust among the public. Hence, careful carriage of justice system is necessary in such conflicts that are affected by both political and ethnocultural movements.
- Election commissions need stricter committees and procedures to assess eligibility of citizens for election candidacy to avoid exhaustion of valuable time and resources of the nation.
- Conflicts between elected officials is prevalent at local units, mostly due to differences in political affiliations. Institutional mechanisms need to be present to resolve and manage such issues. In such cases, alternative dispute settlement mechanisms like dialogues for dispute prevention/negotiation/mediation/arbitration could be an effective approach.
- Without proper coordination mechanisms between the federal and the local units, contradictions in intergovernmental transfers, promotions, and deputations of civil servants is leading to conflicts between government and elected officials at local units. Hence precise coordination among these tiers is necessary.

18. See note 3.

19. See note 4.

20. See note 6.

21. Ekantipur (12 December 2022) <https://ekantipur.com/pradesh-5/2022/12/12/167085658670063642.html>

22. Setopati (24 December 2022) <https://www.setopati.com/social/290329>

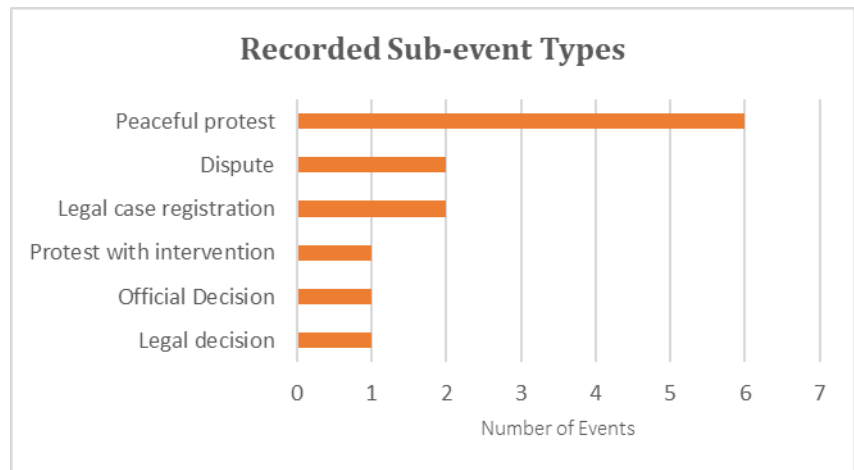
23. 10 January 2023. Annapurna Post (<https://www.annapurnapost.com/news/controversy-in-mechinagar-municipality-chief-administrative-officer-chamlagai-was-not-allowed-to-appear-by-public-representatives-222628/>)

## Ethnocultural Conflicts

Media Coverage: December 2022 - November 2023

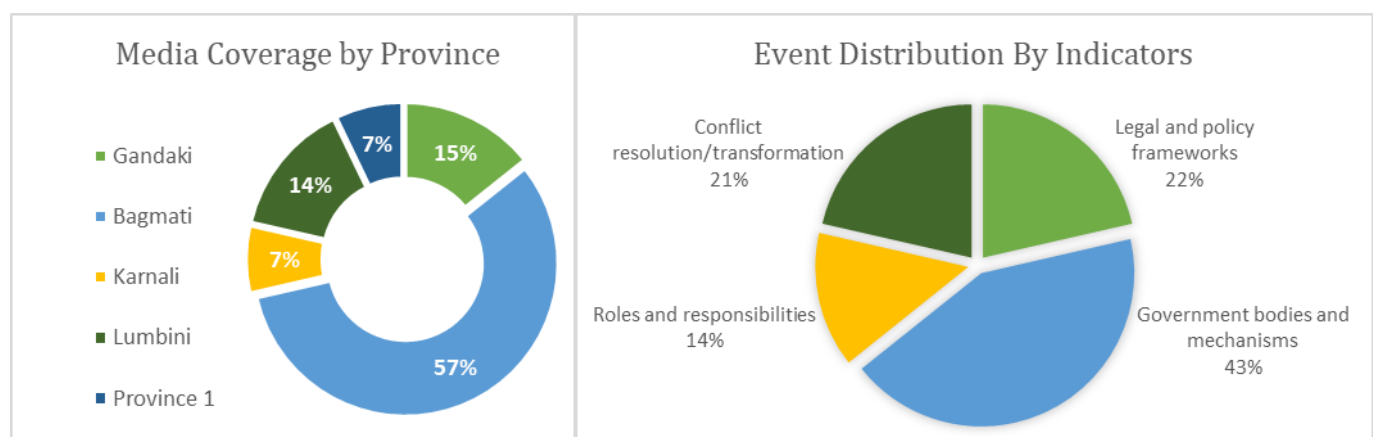
Experts say that, with a longstanding history of marginalization of ethnic groups, the concept of federalism was inevitable in Nepal as it ensured decentralization of power dynamics, protection and accommodation of ethnic and cultural identities and promotion of cohesion within multicultural societies<sup>23</sup>. However, federalism is a relatively new governance model in Nepal and its full potential is yet to be achieved. Regrettably, rights and wellbeing of the historically marginalized groups continue to be the most affected by this transition. Thus, this section of the report takes a deeper look at the current ethnocultural governance context of Nepal and its impact on the marginalized ethnic and cultural groups.

Event Type	Percentage
Nonviolent	86%
Violent	14%



Observing the overall scenario of the 14 ethnocultural issues covered by the media portals in the month of December 2022 and January 2023, the major conflicts recorded in the area were non-violent. The ethnic and cultural groups opted for peaceful protests (50%) most of the time while experiencing the governance related conflicts inducing injustice<sup>24</sup>, denial of rights<sup>25</sup>, and discrimination based on caste<sup>26</sup> and gender<sup>27</sup>.

### Event Distribution by Province and Indicators



23. Bhattachan, K. B. (2012). Ethnopolitics and Ethnodevelopment: An emerging paradigm in Nepal—with a postscript. In Nationalism and ethnic conflict in nepal (pp. 35-57). Routledge.

Bhattachan, K. B. (2000). Possible Ethnic Revolution or Insurgency in a Predatory Unitary Hindu State. Domestic Conflict and Crisis of Governability in Nepal. Kathmandu: Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, 159.

24. Setopati निर्मला कुर्मीको न्यायका लागि माइतीघरमा लालटिन बालेर सरकार खोज्दै अभियन्ता (तस्बिरहरु) :: नवीनबाबु गुरुड :: Setopati

25. Setopati समलिंगी विवाहको कानुन बनाउन परमादेश माग्दै सर्वोच्चमा रिट :: शोभा शर्मा :: Setopati

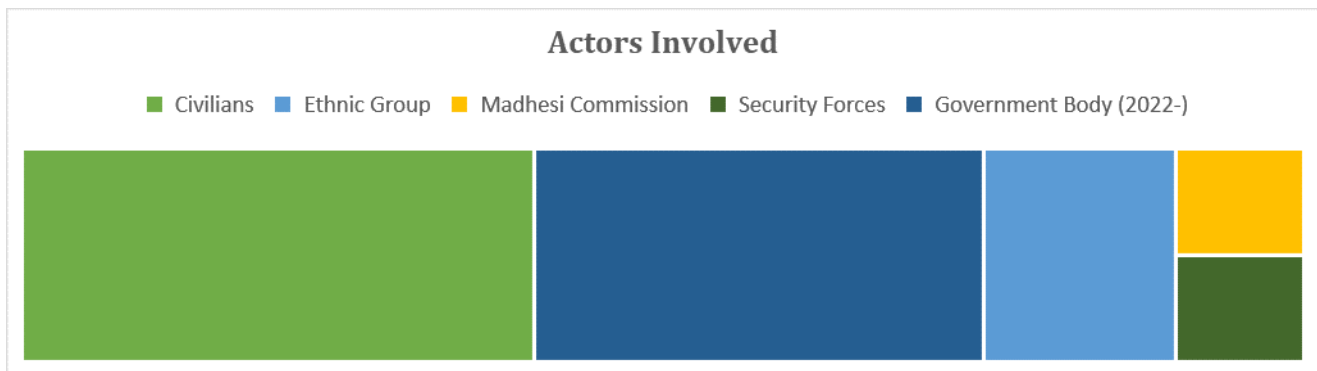
26. Ekantipur किरियापुत्रीमाथि जातीय विभेद गर्नेलाई एक वर्ष कैद, ५० हजार जरिवाना- समाचार - कान्तिपुर समाचार (ekantipur.com)

27. Setopati <https://www.setopati.com/politics/291939>

As shown by the figure, majority of the media coverage on ethnocultural governance and conflicts was observed in Bagmati Province. Also, during the monitoring period, governance conflict were reported in all provinces except Madhesh Province. In contrast to previous media monitoring report, where Madhesh province accounted for more than half of the ethnocultural conflict, this period, there were none registered.

Also, according to observations, the recorded ethno-culture related cases were mostly due to negligence of government bodies and their mechanisms in all three tiers. Conversely, considerable number of conflict resolution and transformation mechanism were also observed, accounting 21% of cases, where legal decision were made, or legal solution were sought for governance conflicts.

## Major Conflict Actors and Relevant Issues



Majority of the ethnocultural governance conflicts shows that civilians, particularly those who do not have access to government mechanisms and who are unaware of their rights, were affected the most. Also, denial of justice as well as delay in justice, particularly in the case of Nirmala Kurmi, reportedly fueled resentment among the general public which resulted in multiple protests in the country. Moreover, ethnic groups, particularly historically marginalized and excluded groups experienced conflicts induced by various government bodies at the three-tiers.

## Major challenges in Ethnocultural Governance

Some of the major challenges highlighted in the news coverage are as follows:

- a. Government bodies and institutions inducing and endorsing discriminatory practices have largely increased marginalized group's (particularly the Dalit community) vulnerabilities to caste-based discrimination. Therefore, strict monitoring, transparency and accountability in these circumstances is essential.
- b. Exclusion of sexual minority groups from basic rights need to be addressed by the legal and policy frameworks and other government mechanisms.
- c. Lack of government response and unclear roles and responsibilities government authorities has hindered access of endangered indigenous groups like Rautes to basic citizenship rights and government services.
- d. Delay of justice in cases of heinous crimes have fueled multiple protests and demonstrations among general public against the government. The judicial system therefore needs to identify, prioritize and expedite cases for timely deliverance of justice.

28. The Annapurna Post <https://annapurnapost.com/news/raute-for-citizenship-220191>

29. Setopati <https://www.setopati.com/politics/291939>

30. Ekantipur मेयर हर्क साम्पाङको अभिव्यक्तिविरुद्ध दलित समुदाय आन्दोलित- समाचार - कान्तिपुर समाचार (ekantipur.com)

## Key Recommendations Derived

Observing the 96 recorded news and events, following recommendations are drawn that illuminates the way forward:

- a. Government bodies and institutions need to prioritize the wellbeing and upliftment of marginalized communities and indigenous groups. The multiple reporting of abuse of power by authorities to discriminate and threaten wellbeing of citizens based on their caste and gender is a serious offense. Hence, strict monitoring, transparency and accountability in these circumstances is essential.
- b. While some cases showed absence of relevant authoritative bodies, others highlighted a strong need for coordination among the already existing government bodies. These prominent issues have hindered effective governance in Nepal. Hence, a crucial need for connecting tools like interparty/ intraparty dialogue and cohesion among the federal bodies is realized to enhance their aptitudes in fulfilling their duties efficiently and effectively.
- c. As greater number of development projects related conflicts are observed as leading triggers of governance conflicts in Nepal, urgent attention of government is necessary in addressing such situations to prohibit it from escalating to bigger conflicts.
- d. Another major issue observed amid the existing legal and policy frameworks were its lack in addressing specific parameters and guidelines on federal, provincial and local level governance related conflict management/ resolution/ transformation measures. This lack often resulted in persistence of disputes for a longer period of time and involved interests of multiple actors without specific resolution. Hence, development of efficient legal and policy provisions targeting conflict management/ resolution is necessary for promotion of peaceful governance in Nepal.

## About CSC

Centre for Social Change (CSC) is a non-profit making social think-tank based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Since its establishment in 2015, CSC has been actively working to bring positive transformation in the socio-political dynamics of Nepali society through involvements in the fields of research, development practice, education, advocacy, and community mobilization. CSC's current works are focused on issues surround conflict transformation, peacebuilding, democracy and governance, migration, labor and employment, civic space, civil society development, public policy, climate change, and social development.

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