Himalayan Policy Lab
Writing Policy Briefs to Maximise Impact: Sharing Insights from Practice

Organized by

In collaboration with
Reimagining policy content writing for maximizing impact

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Why need to talk about policy content now?

- Heightened Constant policy challenge: framing, adapting, transforming
- Growing appreciation of evidence in global policy making
  - IPCC
  - IPBES
- Growing influence of science, technology and society studies
- Rich but unmonitored experience of policy content writing and dissemination
- Varieties of practices but limited sharing of how these are performing in various contexts
- South Asian context of policy text creation and circulation:
  - A confluence of international development, growing influence of locally led research, highly contested policy environment.
  - Limited demand for research
Policy content: based on whose knowledge?

Knowledge: Type A
Knowledge: Type B
A) People, land and climate in a warming world; B) Adaptation and mitigation response options; C) Enabling response options; and D) Action in the near-term.
Policy content in practice: What is Policy Brief defined?

• “A short document that presents the **findings and recommendations** of a research project to a nonspecialized audience” – IDRC, Canada

• “A policy brief is a concise summary of a **particular issue**, **the policy options** to deal with it, and some **recommendations** on the best option. It is aimed at government policymakers and others who are interested in formulating or influencing policy.” – FAO

• “Brookings Policy Briefs are short and informative analyses on some of the nation's most pressing domestic and foreign policy challenges that **bring background and recommendations to policy-makers, journalists and the general public.**” – Brookings

• “A policy brief is a **short, to the point, jargon free document** written for non-specialists. It presents research or project findings to policy actors, highlighting the relevance of the specific research to policy and offering recommendations for change.” – Research to Action

• “Policy briefs are short texts that summarize recent research in order to **present easily accessible advice and solutions** stemming from our research.” – World Bank
Reimagining policy content for impact

Monitoring and learning from practice

Mobilizing authorship power and identities

Envisioning concrete actions and change pathways

Articulating scenarios

Texts as part of larger policy politics

A blend of fact and art: varieties of artistic expressions of facts with high persuasive power

Normative positioning

Explain, Predict, Recommend
Online resources

- ODI
- PEP
- IDRC
- Research to Action
- World Bank
- Scientific paper: Mayne et al