

Better Governance for Climate Compatible Development

The country's diverse climatic conditions and rich geography mean managing, or even understanding, the effects of climate change is a challenge in Nepal. Tackling this challenge are institutions still recovering from civil war and a turbulent recent history. The Government is occupied by finalizing the peace process, drafting a new constitution and raising the incomes of the 31% surviving below the poverty line (ADB, 2008).

However, the Government has recognised that securing peace and fighting poverty are also dependent on adapting to the impacts of climate change. The 2011 National Climate Change Policy sets the Governments' priorities and plans for ensuring development in Nepal is climate resilient.

CDKN is supporting the Government to turn policy into action. This includes working with the key ministries, such as Agriculture & Cooperates and Energy, to integrate the national policy into sectoral policies and programmes. CDKN is also strengthening the Ministry of Environment's capacity to coordinate the implementation of the national policy and act as the focal point and source of information on climate change.

Climate Change in Nepal

- Nepal contains 8 of the 10 highest mountain peaks in the world, yet some of its low lying areas are only 80m above sea level and its climate spans from tropical to arctic in around 200 km. (OECD, 2003).
- The frequency of GLOFs, 'Glacier Lake Outburst Floods', is increasing in the Himalayan region. In 1985 the Dig Tsho GLOF destroyed bridges, agriculture land, homes and the Namche small hydro plant worth around \$1.5m (ICIMOD/UNEP 2002)
- Over 39% of Nepal's land is classified as forest, and it has been estimated that a quarter of this is heavily degraded leading to increased landslides and soil erosion (NCVST, 2009)
- Despite huge hydropower resources, Nepal is facing a severe energy crisis, with at least 8 hours of power cuts a day and only 40% of the population having access to electricity (IPPAN)

CDKN in Nepal

Budget Committed up to 2012 –
approx £335,000

Key Partners: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives, National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Centre (NCKMC), WFP, ISET-N.

CDKN Projects Committed in Nepal

Strengthening the Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Centre (NCKMC) – Building the capacity of the Government's NCKMC to coordinate and manage climate change information in Nepal. Supplier – NAST, Budget - £89,000, Duration – 12 months, Start Date – August 2011

Integrating climate change into the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) – Widening the scope of the Ministry of Agriculture/ WFP system to include valuable climate change indicators. Supplier – ISET-N, Budget – £125,000, Duration – 10 months, Start Date – 1 November 2011

Nepal Strategic Engagement with the UNFCCC – Supporting the Government of Nepal to participate more effectively in the UNFCCC negotiations. Supplier – tbc, Budget - £125,000, Duration – 15 months, Start Date – November 2011



A local community forest group show CDKN a dried up water source, evidence of how climate change is already affecting their lives. May 2011.

Difference We Make

- Strengthening the Ministry of Environment's capacity to collect and coordinate knowledge on climate change through the NCCCKMC. This is fundamental to future CCD policies and programmes.
- Providing policy-makers with accurate and relevant data on climate change realities in communities in Nepal.
- Providing targeted and relevant information and advice to the Government in the run up to UNFCCC meetings. This will increase the delegation's influence over the outcome of the negotiations and ensure the needs of Nepal and other LDCs are taken into account.
- Building a new and meaningful platform for dialogue between Ministries, and stakeholders, on climate compatible development. Through shared knowledge and experience, we are improving the understanding of issues, coordination and participation in the policy process.
- Facilitating links between young academics and the Government through NCCCKMC managed research calls to ensure that policy is linked to the latest research and evidence
- Working in partnership with all interested stakeholders to collaboratively design climate change indicators which will provide all parties with useful data and information for decision-making

References

- OECD (2003) "Development and Climate Change in Nepal"
- ICIMOD/UNEP (2002) "Impacts of Climate Change on Himalayan Glaciers and Glacial Lakes."
- NCVST (2009) "Vulnerability through the eyes of the vulnerable: Climate change induced uncertainties and Nepal's development predicaments."
- IPPAN (2011) "Hydropower in Nepal"

What is the Climate Development Knowledge Network?

CDKN is an alliance of six private and non-governmental organisations operating across four continents. The network provides support to decision makers in developing countries to design and deliver climate compatible development. We do this by combining research, advisory services and knowledge management, in support of locally owned and managed policy processes. We work in partnership with decision-makers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors.

For further information please visit our website www.cdkn.org or e-mail us at asia@cdkn.org

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"There are so many Ministries working on climate change in Nepal. CDKN is supporting NAST to engage with and support them in their efforts. In fact they are already making a difference in this regard. I think this is the first time I have launched an initiative jointly with another Ministry"



Secretary of Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr. Ram Hari Aryal, Inaugural Session of CDKN/NCC KMC Workshop, Aug 2011

Story of Change

CDKN responded to a request from the Ministry of Environment to empower the NCCCKMC to serve as a platform for coordinating and facilitating the regular generation, management, exchange, and dissemination of climate-related knowledge and capacity building services to the climate change community of practice in Nepal.

The project is already showing results in terms of facilitating coordination among key stakeholders. The first activity of the project took place in August with a workshop on 'Effective Management of Climate Knowledge'. It was well attended with representatives from NAST, Ministry of Environment, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, local Universities and NGOs.

The spirit of partnership was such that the group decided to form an Action Learning Group, containing a select group of stakeholders, to track the centre's progress and identify opportunities for it to increase its visibility and impact.