

News from CDKN: Nepal takes on Global Leadership Role

Nepal has for many years been pioneering locally owned solutions to climate change, such as the Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPAs) and community forestry initiatives. With CDKN support the Government is now advocating for these best practices internationally.

Since 2011 CDKN has been supporting the Government of Nepal to participate more strategically, and pro-actively, with UNFCCC negotiations. CDKN's partner IDS-Nepal has been providing technical assistance to the Government, including facilitating coordination and planning meetings and training the Core Negotiating Team (CNT). The impact of this support, and the hard work put in by the Nepal delegation, was clear at the Doha COP18.

"Comparing to the situation of past COPs, where delegates were not assigned any specific tasks, COP18 delegates were comparatively better coordinated, and their expertises were also wisely utilised providing them with specific responsibilities. This situation enabled Nepalese delegates to contribute with confidence in the issues of their interest," Dr. Madan Koirala, Member, Climate Change Council and CNT member

The support of the project has come at a crucial time, and the Government are now in a good position to be an effective chair of the LDC Group within the UNFCCC.

Highlights of Recent Impact

- At COP18 in Doha, Nepal organised a side-event on **'Mainstreaming Mountains in the Climate Agenda: The Context of Mountain Initiative and Rio +20'**. With CDKN support the event confirmed Nepal's leading role in pursuing the mountain climate agenda in the global arena. The Government have now prepared a work programme for the initiative which they hope to take forward in 2013.
- CDKN's regional programme to **strengthen capacity of journalists to report on climate change** had a local impact in Nepal. Ramesh Bhushal was able to research and write an article on 'Climate Change? Most Nepalese unaware of it!' which got the attention of the Government. He was asked to present his report to a meeting of key officials, including the Secretary of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment and the Vice Chair of National Planning Commission (NPC) which resulted in a debate on how the Government can better communicate the science to citizens.

How we provide support in Nepal

Providing targeted demand-led technical assistance and research to support a **coordinated and participatory** climate change and development policy-making process which is **led by local and national priorities**.

Total budget committed to date: approximately GBP 900,000.

CDKN Partners in Nepal:



Nepal calculates the economic cost of climate change



"A large proportion of Nepal's GDP is associated with climate sensitive activities (notably agriculture) and ... the country is affected by periodic climate extremes (particularly floods) which lead to high economic costs and impact on millions of livelihoods. These translate into a high current adaptation deficit in the country."

CDKN Economic Impact Assessment of Climate Change in Key Sectors in Nepal: Inception Report

Story of Change:

Building capacity and expertise on the economics of climate change in Nepal

The economics of climate change is an important emerging field. Knowing the breakdown of the economic impact of climate change allows governments to target scarce resources and direct policies where they will have most effect. CDKN is supporting a project in Nepal to help the Government get a clear idea of the expected economic cost of climate change on development, focusing on the water and agriculture sectors.

Capacity building is an important component of CDKN's climate change economic impact assessment project in Nepal. Capacity building is in-built in the design of the project. The partnership between international experts at GCAP and a local team from Practical Action Consulting and IDS-Nepal who are delivering the project, ensures that it is a locally-driven initiative, and that the local team can replicate and adapt the project to other sectors in Nepal. The entire modelling team and sector experts are drawn from local research institutes who are being supported by GCAP to collect, analyse and understand the complex data.

In January a 3-day intense training programme was conducted, with 25 participants from all relevant ministries and departments and local academic institutions and some NGOs. The programme focused on the methodology that the project is utilising, and explored crucial issues such as how to deal with uncertainty, data gaps and the importance of different time frames. This is also promoting transparency over the process, so that the findings are accepted and owned locally. The training went beyond the technical aspects to root the assessment in national and international policies and processes, for example, how it relates to the loss and damage agenda, to ensure the assessment is put to use.

The importance of this programme was shown by the inaugural session for which the Minister of Science, Technology and Environment (MSTE) gave the keynote address and commended the timely initiative, and explained the importance of Nepal having this strengthened knowledge base. The Secretaries of the National Planning Commission, and the MSTE, also thanked CDKN for our support, and committed to using the results in the policy-making process, including the national 3-year development plan currently being drafted.

Update on CDKN Projects in Nepal



Integrating climate indicators within the Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) – Nov 2011 – March 2013

Under this project, CDKN partner ISET-Nepal and the World Food Programme (WFP) developed a new set of indicators that will allow the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) to collect vital climate change data.

The final set of indicators has gone through an extensive process of review and revision. This has been crucial to get Government buy-in and ownership. For example, Government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture Development have accompanied the project team on field visits to areas like Parbat, Udaypur and Rautahat districts to pre-test the household questionnaires and district indicators.

“When I saw the preliminary draft of indicators in December, I was not very convinced. But after seeing the final set (Household questions and district indicators) that was used for data collection and being part of the discussion with the WFP Field Monitors after collection, I am happily impressed with the results so far.” Mr. Hemraj Regmi, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD)

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Koshi River Basin, Nepal – Aug 2012 – Jan 2014

The technical aspects of this research project are being implemented by NDRI, which aims to assess the impacts of climate change on current and future development in the Koshi River Basin, and put forward policy innovations and recommended adaptation actions. The historical trend of temperature, precipitation and stream flows has been studied. Attention over the next months will be on the socioeconomic vulnerability assessment.

The team have also made progress in making sure the project makes an impact beyond the immediate research outputs. Five masters students from local graduate programmes have been selected to work with and learn from their team. In addition, the project manager Dr. Devkota shared experiences at the ‘Investment Opportunities’ event organised by the Nepal Embassy in Korea.

Economic Impact Assessments of Cost of Climate Change in Nepal April 2012- Nov 2013

Following endorsement and publication of the project Inception Report (synthesising existing information and data on climate change in Nepal) and Implementation Plan (setting the detailed scope, design and methodology of the assessment) by the Government of Nepal, a capacity building workshop, managed by the project team of IDS-Nepal, Practical Action and GCAP, for all relevant Government ministries and departments and stakeholders was conducted on the methodology of the assessment.

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Nepal should highlight local efforts to tackle Climate Change

by Pragati Shahi, PANOS South Asia Journalist Fellow

It was a warm summer evening, and Fulmati Tharu, 34, wearing a home-made life vest made of discarded plastic bottles, was rescuing a child from the flooded Kulariya River at Pathraiya VDC in Kailali district. A member of the search and rescue team formed under the community managed disaster preparedness network, Tharu and her companions were helping villagers caught in the flooded river that surrounds their village.

In Dhansinghpur VDC, using locally available materials and knowledge, as well as technical help from the respective partners, the local villagers have successfully built gabion wires and bamboo spur check dams to protect the embankment from soil erosion and flooding. Some villagers are members of the farmer managed irrigation system, an indigenous community-managed water system to enhance irrigation facilities and manage flooding.

In the cases above both are victims of water-induced disasters like flooding that occurs annually during the rainy season, and they have developed different approaches and response mechanisms to deal with these disasters on their own. With the government not paying attention to their plight, the communities here have been operating disaster management schemes using traditional knowledge, skills and information. Unfortunately, these local efforts have neither been documented nor strengthened to help vulnerable communities deal with disasters. Communities are the first responders to any disaster and require skills and resources to help them mitigate, prepare and respond to it.

During each climate change negotiation, our delegates have been consistently talking about the impacts of global warming and climate change on the mountains and the people who live there. The stand is quite familiar: raise the issue of vulnerability and access to funds to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts and the plight of the mountains to global leaders. Unfortunately, the plight of the Himalaya has not garnered as much attention as it should have at the climate negotiations.

So, instead of echoing familiar rhetoric during the negotiations and constantly failing to come into focus, it is time for Nepal to capitalise on the strengths that the country and the people possess to deal with the negative impacts of climate change and help in building climate resilient communities. In this context, a number of interventions have been undertaken by the government, non-government organisations and donors in recent times to emphasise the voices of vulnerable communities that are being affected by climate change and climate-induced hazards.

Nepal was selected at COP18 in Doha to lead the group of least developed countries (LDCs) for the next two years (2012-14). This is a big opportunity for the country to highlight the country's plight as well as the innovations that have been undertaken at the local level to deal with the impacts of climate change.

For the full version of this article, visit www.cdkn.org/regions/asia/

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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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