

News from CDKN: Government takes first confident steps as LDC Chair

There has been a smooth transition from the Gambia to Nepal as Chair of the LDC Group within the UNFCCC, with Joint-Secretary Prakash Mathema representing the group as chairperson in a range of forums, and issuing official statements and press releases. This was kicked-off with a meeting in Kathmandu at the end of March of some of the key negotiators of the LDC Group to reflect on the outcome of the latest negotiations that took place last year in Doha, and to define priorities, goals and a strategy to achieve them during Nepal’s Chairmanship.

Since 2011 CDKN has supported Nepal’s strategic engagement with the UNFCCC, which is now focused on their new challenging role within the LDC group. Our partner IIED is providing on demand legal and technical assistance to Mr Mathema and colleagues in the LDC core group, as well as logistical support for convening LDC group meetings and workshops. There are positive signs that Nepal will be able to show leadership and ensure the LDC group is proactive and continues to be an influential voice in the negotiations.

Recent Highlights

- Nepal was the host in April for a week-long [CDKN/Panos training session for 24 journalist](#) fellows from South Asia, including 5 from Nepal from both English and Nepali print and radio media (Republica, Annapurna Post, Radio Sagarmatha, Radio Nepal). Kunda Dixit facilitated the programme and Ganesh Shah, former Minister for Environment and other experts from the region participated in sessions on different critical issues for the region. As S. Gopikrishna Warrier, Panos, explained the benefit this had for the fellows: *“This interaction not only gave them the latest information on climate change and ideas for new stories, but also allowed them to question and even challenge the experts on how to turn their work into an attractive media piece.”*
- The Government got the opportunity to highlight its leadership on low-carbon energy promotion during the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) in February. As a follow-up the Asia Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) Partnership wrote up as a best practice the story of [Nepal’s District Climate and Energy Plans](#).

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:



Building the knowledge architecture

Story of Change:

The Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Centre (NCKKMC) is showing signs of a bright future ahead of it. When CDKN first started talking to the then Ministry of Environment about supporting the centre it had been newly created out of the NAPA process and lacked the funding and capacity to become operational. CDKN provided support for a year to make it a visible and effective centre for knowledge management activities.

While many challenges remain, the NCKKMC's involvement with CDKN has brought them into the national and regional climate change arena, as well as strengthened their links with communities. For example, the centre has partnered with UNDP in Nepal, and now has a content sharing agreement with the international ELDIS platform.

CDKN helped the staff at NAST, where the centre is housed, to think 'outside the box' when it came to knowledge management. An international facilitator encouraged the junior members of staff to form 'action learning groups' to assess progress of the centre, and form links with local NGOs and researchers. Through a research grant, 25 Masters students were supported to do field work on climate change which will support the local policy-making process, and they were mentored by leading academics in the UK and elsewhere.

The purpose of CDKN's support was to build the centre's capacity and reputation to help facilitate more sustainable funding. There are positive signals that they are on course for this. Firstly, NAST itself is now providing some of its own resources, showing the level commitment the senior management now have. Larger in size is the funding awarded from the PPCR under the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) which will cover knowledge management activities for the next two years.

The NCKKMC will remain a key partner for CDKN in Nepal and valuable avenue for getting our research out to a wider audience.

"In Nepal, like many countries, there is a big gap between those producing the evidence on climate change – the academics – and those who need that information – the policy-makers, practitioners and communities. The NCKKMC now has the capacity to help bridge this gap"

Ram Chandra Khanal, CDKN Country Coordinator



"The knowledge management training enhanced practitioners' knowledge on climate change and its management." Dr Janardan Dhungana, Chief of Tribhuvan University Central Library, Kirtipur.



"The workshop (policy dialogue) helped me understand issues of climate change, which I can share with the rural poor at community level in our region." Mr Arjun Kumar Baral, Reader of Economics, Post Graduate Campus, Biratnagar.

Update on CDKN Projects in Nepal

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

The project team (IDS-N, Practical Action, GCAP) are in the middle of analysing a range of data and models which will give them headline and sector (water and agriculture) economic costs of current and future climate impacts. The data sources have been endorsed by the Government project steering committee, the impact modelling completed and data is currently being collected for investment and financial flow analysis. Case studies will also be conducted to give a qualitative analysis as a complement to the economic assessment. These will look at the effects of floods on crops and agriculture assets in Dang and Banke districts; effects of extreme weather events on crop production in Kaski district; effects of climate change on high altitude crop (buckwheat) in Mustang district; and the differentiated impact of Climate Change on women



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

The team at NDRI continues with its data collection and analysis to assess the impacts of climate change on current and future development in the Koshi River Basin, due to increased variation of extreme climate and hydrological events, and to propose adaptation measures and policy innovations for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptations. In June the team also got the opportunity to share their learning so far during a CDKN Asia learning hub on disaster risk reduction.

Nepal's strategic engagement with UNFCCC – Nov 2011 – Jan 2013

CDKN's support to increase the impact of the Government's participation in the UNFCCC negotiations has come to an end, and is now being evaluated to learn lessons for future CDKN support in this area. The external evaluation and the views of stakeholders have concluded that all the objectives of the project were met.

Keshab Bhattarai, Secretary, MoSTE commented that "*the project provided international exposure to our negotiators and strengthened their negotiating capacity. The high quality resource materials published are extremely useful for bridging the knowledge gap and increasing our awareness and enthusiasm to be involved in climate negotiation continually*". Prakash Mathema, Joint-Secretary, MoSTE commented that the single largest change as a result of this project is that "*the Conference of Parties COPs and the negotiations are being taken more seriously in Nepal.*"

The project helped institutionalise better procedures for preparing for and reporting from the negotiations, such as coordination meetings and newsletters. The establishment of the professional Core Negotiating Team is also evidence of the commitment the Government now has for the negotiations. However, the success will ultimately depend on whether these good practices continue without the external support of the partner and CDKN.

The learning curve of assessing the economics of climate change in Nepal *by Dr. Govinda Nepal, IDS-Nepal*

Looking back over the last year, we have as a team learnt a great deal. There have been many challenges that we have found ways to overcome and we have learnt about some of the essential ingredients to making such a challenging project a success.

As the study was requested by the Government (the idea originated in the 2011 National Climate Change Policy) and responds to national interests, it is critical that the Government has ownership and trust in the findings. The project has to therefore be closely aligned to Government priorities, which are not static given Nepal's changing political situation and the regular turnover of senior Government officials. We have therefore dedicated time to engaging with the Government, making sure we are responsive to changes in their needs, and building ownership following Government staffing changes. The governance structure of the project also highlights that the Government is in the driving seat. A Project Steering Committee made up of all concerned Government ministries with some invited independent experts provides the overall steer to the project team. All publications and project outputs must have a government logo, and prior to publication all materials must be reviewed and approved by the Project Steering Committee and/or its Chairperson.

We also learnt that investing time in an inception period is vital. During this period we set up the internal project coordination mechanisms, which are crucial when working in an international-local consortium and in effect have two 'clients', the Government and CDKN. From a technical side, we used this time to review all available literature and data and ensure we are building on what has already been done. The team also took intense interest and time to select best possible methodology, identified possible synergies with on-going projects and we carried out several group discussions with national expert groups to get feedback on our proposed methodology, available data and information, and to explore whether there was learning from national or regional projects which we could avail. We had originally planned for a 3-month inception period but we realised we actually needed significantly more.

Importantly, from the outset, our approach has been participatory, inclusive, interactive and process oriented. We have put efforts into raising awareness among stakeholders, who are mostly non-technical professionals, about the methodology and models that we will be using. We have convened expert working groups so that we build a community of interested persons in the study. This has been an extremely valuable resource, for example, it was partly due to the advice of this group that we revised our approach for modelling the impacts on the hydropower sector. Scientific models, as well as the sources of data, are often sensitive and so we made sure the whole process was transparent making it clear why we were and were not using certain approaches. We are now confident that our results will be trusted.

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

What is the Climate and 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.

Photo credits: Pg 2 – NAST

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

This publication has been prepared for general guidance on matters of interest only, and does not constitute professional advice. You should not act upon the information contained in this publication without obtaining specific professional advice. No representation or warranty (express or implied) is given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this publication, and, to the extent permitted by law, the Climate and Development Knowledge Network's members, the UK Department for International Development ('DFID'), their advisors and the authors and distributors of this publication do not accept or assume any liability, responsibility or duty of care for any consequences of you or anyone else acting, or refraining to act, in reliance on the information contained in this publication or for any decision based on it. Copyright © 2013 Climate and Development Knowledge Network. All rights reserved.