

Partnership for Sustainable Development–Nepal

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PSD Connect

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Quarterly Newsletter

The PSD Connect is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal to inform all their partners, previous volunteers, and long-term supporters about our activities and news. PSD Nepal is non-profit social development organization, dedicated to the alleviation of poverty of children and youth of rural Nepal. For more information please visit www.psdnepal.org [photo credit: Jeremy Cohen ©]



MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR

Namaste friends!

Once again, with great pleasure, we present you our updated quarterly newsletter. Please read this, Issue 4 from our 14th year of writing, designed to keep you updated with PSD Nepal and our activities, projects and future plans!

Any questions and/or comments regarding the newsletter or about PSD- Nepal are more than welcome. Please also forward this newsletter to any friends who may be interested. We heartily welcome your views, comments, and queries regarding the work of PSD- Nepal! You can send us an email to psdnepal@gmail.com or call us at (+977)-1-4411648

Bishnu H.Bhatta

Latest PSD-Nepal News

In the last 3 months, we have been working in preparation of project proposal for upcoming volunteers groups. Coming years as well, we are planning to host students from different country. Recently we are planning to organize few General and dental camp in Kathmandu as well as outside of Kathmandu valley. Beside this there will be students from Institute of Collaborative Education USA travelling to Nepal in this February for project with school in Nepal.

Story from Langtang Valley: PSD Nepal, PET Plastic Work

Whilst 52MM people live in the Himalaya, 320MM drink, use, and bathe in the waters of the Himalaya downstream. Pollution and ecological impacts grow disproportionately downstream. As such, waste mitigation (PET bans) & adaptation (recycling & upcycling) are of utmost importance & urgency.

Creative re-use of plastic falls mostly in two categories - recycling and upcycling. Whilst recycling is well-known, it is still part of the 'downcycling' loop whereby value is leached and quality slowly worsens over time. Nonetheless, recycling is critical - alongside reduction, recovery and re-education - in tackling the challenges of plastic pollution. Upcycling - a lesser known term - is the creative reuse of waste products into higher quality or newly desired materials or products. These injects value into the supply chain through cultural and/or environmental value.

The resource revolution leverages the gains of such creative re-use - on both the recycling and upcycling fronts - and educates consumers and producers alike of the lifespan, longevity, and product malleability of different materials. Resource optimisation, substitution, and virtualisation are critical to the efficiency gains of the resource revolution. In the next 10 years, 3 billion consumers will be added to the global middle class. \$10 trillion USD investment is needed to match this and meet future resource demands, by the year 2030.

PSD Nepal work in Langtang includes exploring the potential for closed-loop circular resource management of PET plastic waste across 3 platforms.

Recycling: using a 1 bottle = 1 NPR incentive scheme for collection to drive local recycling practise and collection of waste. The waste PET plastic collected is sent to Pokhara (central Nepal) for recycling, to generate a long-term business model that can support recycling in the region and also drive education in LNP.

Upcycling: local upcycling with PET & glass waste can be used for architectural construction and education. In future this can also be scaled up for upcycling in partnership with long-term work with NAST (Nepal Academy of Science & Technology) for conversion of plastic waste to RDF (reduced diesel fuel), 1kg = 80ml at 80% efficiency rates. This is a long-term option for resource management of plastic waste in the Himalaya



Tiwari Gaun: PET Plastic Pavilion, Upcycled Site

A big thank to everybody who continued support to PSD Nepal - working to resource rural communities in the Himalaya - and a brief update from the field, this Autumn 2019. We have been hard at work in the village of Tiwari Gaun, Langtang National Park (LNP), with a team of 12 from PSD Nepal - including 2 skilled stone masons - designing, collating, and constructing a PET Plastic Pavilion made of 2,440 PET plastic bottles, all collected in Langtang! Why? This work is inspiring us to grow PET plastic collection and recycling - as well as awareness and education - in the national parks of Nepal, with a new 'upcycling' edge to our vision. Recycling has predominantly been focused around collecting, sorting and recycling 40,000 PET bottles per month from the Langtang National Park. However, upcycling (the act of adding value to waste) is a new opportunity we are exploring - to engage local schools, work with youth groups in the area, and collaborate with women's co-operatives. The plastic pavilion we have built has a shelf life of 7 years and aims to;

- Facilitate educational visits from local school staff and students - starting this week, with schools.
- Engage tourists & trekkers in the National Park - with 18,000 visitors to the park per year, the PET Plastic Pavilion will have many visitors - it is located on the trekking trail to Langtang
- Encourage porters, mule herders & plastic collectors in Langtang - with 40,000 PET bottles being collected per month in LNP (1 bottle = 1 NPR), the PET house will inspire workers to keep at it!



Ten Days in Langtang – building the PET Plastic Pavilion:

The alarm sounds 6am. Barely a minute is up before bang, crash, wallop. Life! Enthusiasm! Excitement! Youth! The children of Tiwari Gaun are bright awake, chasing each other about. Just as one game gets going, a new game is launched, mixed with tears, laughter, screams, erratic bursts of energy, and everything in between.

Kushi, Kristina, Lucky. Our hosts in Langtang. Well, truth be told – Sajina and Tashi are our hosts – cooking, cleaning (sort of) and feeding the team of 12 from PSD Nepal. Though the real kings and queens of 'Tranquil Valley Guest House' are the children – the girls Kushi and Kristina, and their inimitable younger brother (and his attitude), Lucky. Outside, the calls for more 'chiyaa' and pitstop breaks for the workmen, including pizza, chapati, and Snickers.

Stonework is covered by our 'mistri' masons – experts in carrying 70kg slabs of fresh Himalayan 'dungaa' (stone) as well as mixing cement, preparing aggregate, and shaping dry and wet stone walls. In the backdrop, our faithful labourers Parangwa & Rupa hammer away at large rocks, ensuring we have ample small aggregate for both our cement/sand mix & for lining our stone flooring. Likewise, Kopila – our new unsung heroin of PSD – is patiently scrubbing, sorting, slicing PET bottles for the 140 PET rods forming the walls of the house.

The ever-daring Timindra is halfway up the bamboo structure, clinging on with a mixture of leather footwear and prosthetic hip. His power drill in hand, an elaborate roof structure of large Fanta and Sprite bottles is being assembled – the finishing piece to our PET plastic pavilion. Hoping for an early start, he snuck out at 6.15am in the morning dew, planning to check (and double check) his wiring on the bamboo crosspieces – only to find that the 'mistri'

Anindra is back on site from a viola 'session', entertaining the cook and the cat in the smoky kitchen of our guesthouse. Scottish reels seem to have hit the mark! With iPad, iPhone, iMac, and iPod all flat on battery, and the Guardian taking a plunge on reader comments in the past days, the comfort of these two faithful listeners seems to be all that remains for Anindra, with Brexit headlines looming large in this WiFi-free zone! Back on site, work tempo resumes, with 72 sheaths of clear PET plastic bottles ready for installation, and only 113 (of 140) bamboo canes remaining to be cut. The faithful kukri hangs in Anindra's hand, sharpened and ready for action. Work continues apace!

Our day labourers in this final week – including chef Kaji and two cement carriers from Syabru Besi – are hauling baluwa (sand) and stones for the final assembly of the PET plastic pavilion. 50kg bags hang from forehead straps, as they climb with agility onto the worksite, flip flops in place, helmets, safety gear, and glasses somewhat lacking. Kegarne. This is Nepal – this is Nepali style! These are our Rasuwa workers – strong to the core, committed to the cause.

With a very big dhanyabhaad from PSD Nepal to our Belayti Swoyemsewak (volunteers) all the way from London – many thanks! *Pheri dhanyabhaad*

Visit from Solerico, Hong Kong

Founding member of Solerico Foundation Ms Caitlin Spence and her colleague accompanied by Bishnu and Binod from PSD Nepal visited our Lantang Plastic pavilion and some of our plastic collection center last month. During their visit in Nepal, we had opportunity to talk how we can work in collaboration and expand our plastic removal project in Langtang. As we discussed there are some possibilities of getting support toward seed funding for PSD Nepal for this project by Solerico foundation. Which we can utilize this fund in following activities in priority basis:

1. To host awareness sessions with children (in schools) and with women (through local women's cooperatives).
2. Buy balers. These balers will further reduce the size of the bottles which will mean more bottles can fit into the truck per trip. This will increase the amount of money Himalayan Life Plastic pays PSD per load and will therefore reduce the financial burden of paying USD 400/truck trip.
3. Build Segregation (Collection) Centres. These centres will be proper buildings and replace the current collection centre which is just a pile of plastic at the side of the road. Inside these buildings there will be designated areas to recycle: bottles, tin, and other plastics.

Solerico's Involvement thus far:

1. Sent 6 initial crushers in February 2019. 4 crushers went to Langtang, 2 went to Chitwan.
2. Brought 25 crushers in November 2019. On our site visit we brought all 25 and distributed 19 of the crushers to various people/establishments in the Langtang Valley. 6 were brought back to KTM.
3. Next Steps, Solerico to send the 12 larger (1.5L) crushers to PSD as soon as they have been delivered to HK.
4. Solerico to discuss how many of the 3 future vision points to support. Awareness sessions should not be an issue. The others will be cost and sourcing dependant.



We are planning expand this project in different location as well so that would like to request anybody who are interested to help to expand this project more then well come.

Vote of Thanks

PSD Nepal would like to express its thanks to all those who have contributed in one way or the other to make our projects & programmes successful. We have accommodated 1,175+ volunteers in 15 years!

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