

Partnership for Sustainable Development – Nepal

Thirbam Sadak-3, Dilibazaar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel. 9771 4411648/ P.O.Box19782 info@psdnepal.org

www.psdnepal.org

DAO-KTM, Reg.No.180/059/60GON-SWCAffiliationNo.13981



PSDConnect

Year 15, No. 4, December 2020

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 3 from our 15th 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

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good health amidst the global coronavirus pandemic. Even amidst the global pandemic, including those that have directly affected the work of PSD, we have tried to continue to serve Nepali communities and help those that need it most. We are grateful to get support in past months from Bristol Volunteer Development Abroad – UK, HeiSDA - Heidelberg Sustainable Development Abroad – Germany, and several individuals who provided support for our Covid-19 relief project. Beside this Global Fund for Children has provided support for online classes for orphan children and nutritional supplement food. We are very grateful to all those who have supported in our difficult situation and hope to get similar support in the future as well.

We are now fundraising for a big push to help move our plastics project forward in Rasuwa (Langtang National Park) by building 3x more PET plastic pavilions, made of upcycled PET plastic bottles (2,500 bottles per structure). Please support us if you are able, and help boost local employment as well as local education and environmental awareness! Thank you!

Let's Save the Himalaya from Plastic! A community-based project in Rasuwa.

Help us save the Himalaya! The mountains are drowning in plastic.

PSD Nepal is partnering with the global iNGO OSI (based in Geneva, Switzerland) and working in the Langtang valley in partnership with locals, to recycle and upcycle plastic waste, in conjunction with the 500 families of the valley. Covid19 has made this work particularly difficult in 2020. Covid19 has had a disproportionate impact in the Himalayas. 2020 was set to be the year of tourism for Nepal: VNY or Visit Nepal Year, welcoming over 2 million tourists to Nepal. Due to the Covid19 pandemic, however, almost none of these tourists were able to travel to the mountains. Please help us to build two or three houses made of harvested PET plastic, which will also help to boost employment and education in Langtang. Together we can clean up the Himalayas! Thanks to your generosity, we hope to build two more houses made of PET plastic this winter, at a total cost of \$10,000 USD or €7,000 euros. Every donation counts!

With support of €20, 1,000 PET bottles are collected!

With support of 300€, a truck brings a ton of bottles down to the valley!

With support of 3500€, an entire hut is built out of recycled bottles!

The urgency to act is now! On 25th April 2015, a 7.8 Richter scale earthquake destroyed the village of Langtang. This precipitated the tragic loss of nearly 400 lives, both locals and hikers alike. Langtang National Park, a place of major importance for biodiversity and a favourite destination for trekkers, has unfortunately been littered with rubbish for too long. This waste (especially plastic waste) causes enormous pollution for the whole environment (water, flora and fauna) and also for the inhabitants living in the valley...

Some villages are located in places that are difficult to access due to the very high altitude of the lodges (up to more than 4000m). At present, no structure or waste logistic enables the correct management of this waste. All of this makes the creation of a recycling network very difficult - and yet equally, very important. Moreover, the health situation at a global level has led to the total cessation of tourist activity in the park, depriving more than 500 families of their direct sources of income. Our multi-faceted project "from the high mountains to the recycling depots" can help salvage 2020 for many of the local families. By collecting and recycling PET bottles and building huts with them, we manage to kill three birds with one stone!

> Environmental impact: cleaning up natural areas and protecting biodiversity

> Economic impact: job creation for local families affected by crises (earthquake & covid19)

> Human impact: awareness-raising and education of locals and tourists.

The NGO Objectif Sciences International and the association PSD Nepal have joined forces in order to face a pollution problem that can no longer be sustained. *Objectif Sciences International (OSI)* has been working for almost 30 years in participatory science and sustainable development projects across the globe. Since 2019, the NGO has been engaged in Nepal in the study of the Snow Leopard and Biodiversity through participatory science missions, as well as in education and awareness raising on environmental issues. Sustainable development through waste management, the creation of responsible tourism with local benefits, as well as education and the participation of everyone are the driving forces behind every decision for the NGO in Nepal.

Together, let's save the Himalayas from plastic!



PSD Nepal is excited to remind you of our short documentary 'A Plastic Story'. PSD Plastics was launched in 2017 as the social enterprise arm of PSD Nepal. Working in Langtang National Park, Rasuwa, we have co-created a local partnership of PET plastic waste recycling and upcycling, in tandem with the communities of Langtang Valley. Together with HLP Himalayan Life Plastic in Pokhara, Nepal, around 40,000 PET plastic bottles are collected per month from the high mountain passes of the Langtang National Park - up to 4000m - and transported to Pokhara for recycling - by process of extrusion. Our 2025 vision is to expand this work to all the National Parks of Nepal - to include ACAP, Manaslu, Mustang, Bardiya, Chitwan, and Shivapuri.

The documentary which focuses on PET plastics but also on water, ice, and waste in the Himalaya, can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/kktRh1Ylbzsor> or simply search 'PSD Nepal: A Plastic Story'

We have also released an info-story on the details of the recycling logistic at altitude, that the PSD Nepal team orchestrates and manages – have a watch online here ! <https://youtu.be/Zdq9t9bdanQ>

VoteofThanks

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!

Newsubscribers

To subscribe to the PSD Connect, please send an email to psdnepal@gmail.com with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line. If you wish to unsubscribe, please reply with "unsubscribe" in the subject