

Partnership for Sustainable Development–Nepal

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Year 17, No. 4, March, 2022

PSD Connect

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 17th 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)-9841285379

Bishnu H. Bhatta

Latest PSD-Nepal News

Two members of PSD Nepal (Mr. Bishnu Bhatta – Executive Director and Dr. Suresh Tiwari – Vice Chairman) participated in Grand Challenge Annual Meeting (23-26 October 2022) at Brussels Belgium. They have presented papers on “Waste Management and Climate Change in Nepal” and facilitated session during the conference. The event was hosted by Global Grand Challenges and European Commission and sponsored by: Grand Challenges Canada, USAID, Wellcome Trust, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. We both are thankful to Bill and Melinda Gate foundation and National Academy of Medicine for their support to make our participation possible. We are also very thankful to Kimber Bogard who has given mentorship to us throughout process and during the conference period. We also had opportunity to give interview by Gateventure exemplars and publish it. Link of the article:

<https://www.exemplars.health/stories/how-people-based-waste-management-strategies>

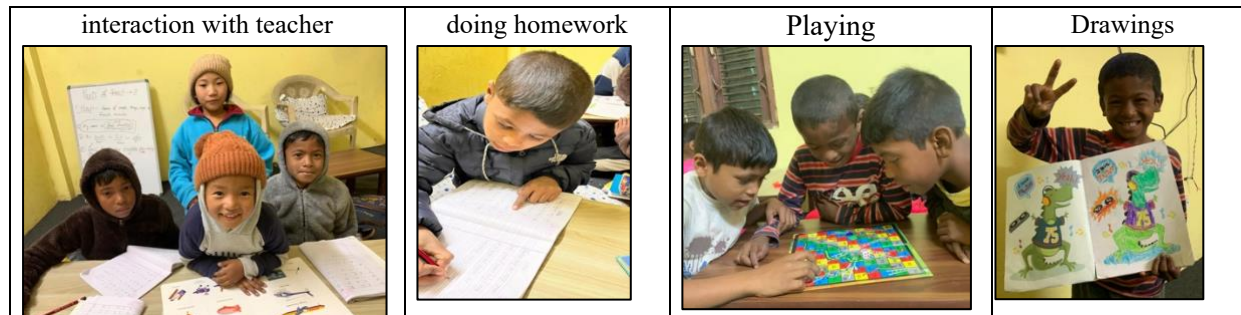
The Learning center for waste pickers children

The early childhood group environment has a very crucial role in children’s learning and development. Young children are in the process of rapid brain development. We as an adult should acknowledge our minds rapidly develop with every new experience. Their external and internal places must allow children to be playful and imaginative. Children are developing their identities, learning social patterns, and building a foundation of learning and socialization that will shape the rest of their lives. We have started an initiative named 'the learning center' to focus on such factors. The learning center is focused solely on the 10 children. The learning center was started to create a safe place, a space where the children can be comfortable learning about their surroundings. When considering the nature of this “safe place,” a non-threatening, comfortable environment in which a child is free to learn, it is useful to apply the principles of place-based education.

We started the learning center to prevent the children from going to the dumping sites with their parents. The learning center can be viewed as tuition classes, but the focus isn't just on academics, it is about entertainment for the children as well. The learning center is 2 hours class throughout the week, Sunday – Friday (5 PM – 7 PM), and Saturdays usually depend. We have children who go to Nursery class and up to 8th grade. We try to find the strengths and weaknesses of each child and work on them accordingly. For instance, Dilson is a good and enthusiastic child, he goes to 1st grade. He is good at reading and remembering but in comparison, his writing wasn't good, and we focused on his writing. We see how every child is different, they have different characters and personalities. We are currently trying to teach them English and some basic Computer lessons. The interns working in the learning center communicate in the English language so that the children hear, observe, and learn.

To sum up, we also wanted the children to get enthusiastic about the study when they can learn and play, through the initiative of the learning center. The learning center is also one of the ways where we can monitor and evaluate the progress of the children on a daily basis.

This project has been implementing in partnership with UNFORGOTTEN – USA and would like to thank to all donors for their generous contribution to this project.



Partnership with CRED Foundation (Tree Plantation) project

Trees beautify our surroundings, produce oxygen, absorb pollutants, and gases, regulate temperature, and prevent soil erosion, besides acting as wind barriers. With the increase in population, the rapid expansion of area under food and commercial crops, deforestation, an extension of the urban area, establishment of industries in rural areas, and other factors, there is considerable depletion of genetic wealth, many of them being on the verge of extinction. Climate change has become a



challenging prospect for any country. Climate change is the increase in the atmospheric temperature due to enhanced levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs) i.e., CO₂, methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) in the atmosphere. The inclusion of trees having pollution mitigating abilities in addition to the aesthetic value in the landscape plan, green lung spaces, and green belts will be beneficial in the urban environment.



The climate is changing and atmospheric CO₂ levels are increasing to dangerous levels. We are all being told that we need to cut our carbon emissions, and CRED Foundation and PSD Nepal endorses that challenge and would encourage everyone to do their part through a lifestyle review and alterations. PSD and the CRED foundation are working on a reforestation program in the Langtang National Park which in turn is part of the global '[One Trillion Trees](#)' project. PSD also work with local schools to encourage tree planting in their school compounds. PSD Nepal is partnering with the CRED foundation in the UK to launch a tree planting program.



Tree planting, in the majority, will take place in Langtang National Park. Langtang National Park is located 100km North of Kathmandu in Nepal. Langtang National Park is a unique ecosystem and site with roaming snow leopards, red pandas, musk deer, and many endemic bird species, the National Park is a site of concerted wildlife and conservation interest. Road building and intensive construction and expansion are destabilizing soils and threatening these ecosystems, however. Tree planting can help to stabilize soils, as well as build community cohesion, and work towards harmony in the National Park of

Langtang. Tree planting will also include the villages of Syabru Besi, Kyanjim, Surkha, and Sherpagoan, to stabilize soils, limit erosion from road building, replenish endemic forests, build tree cover, and improve climate resilience. With a vision of tree planting in 2025, we hope - with your support - to plant many trees in the Langtang Valley of Nepal.

Donate here: <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/psdcarbonoffsetting/donate>

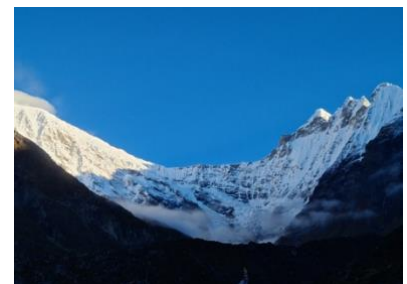
Choose how many trees you wish to 'plant' based on the activity that you are offsetting. Some examples are given below. One tree costs £4, and is the equivalent of 20kg sequestered carbon per year.

Thank you very much for your support of this programme, and more widely for the part you are playing in helping to fight climate change. Please watch video: <https://youtu.be/XLCDy1g5mmY>

Plastic Project in Langtang Region: 4Cs that Protects the Mountains

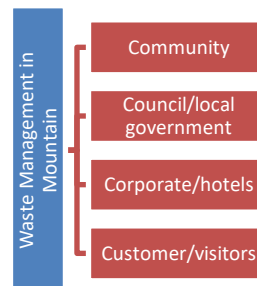
Current Situation and Proposed Module

Human encroachment to nature has caused the air pollution, water pollution, soil erosion, melting mountains and reduced agriculture productivity. More importantly, it has now dramatically changed the inhabitation of the animals and microorganism. The changing climate has started not only impacting to the nature and animals but to the human health. In the year 2022, Nepal has experienced the spread of Dengue fever in the mountain region. The health care system, training and supply chain are not designed to prevent and cure the Dengue fever. We go the clear message that Climate change are now more visibly impacting to nature, animals, and human. Thus, the air, water, soil, trees





need to be protected from so called ‘human behavior’. The Plastic project is a powerful initiation that aims to contribute to reducing the effect of climate change to the nature, animals, and human beings. We have identified ‘4Cs’ that can help reduce the climate change effect in the mountain region.



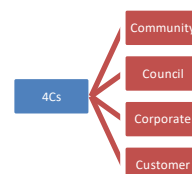
We need to understand that the functional coordination between community, councils/local government, corporate sectors, and customer/visitors would be helpful in managing the waste in the mountain region.

Places Visited

Group of three experts have visited various project sites and reached to Kenjing which is a basecamp for Langtang Mountain. The team has visited Dhunche district health office and shared about the project activities. Health professionals including public health, paramedics and nurses have participated in the discussion. We have highlighted the importance of hospital waste management. Simply burning the hospital related waste is not a solution but ultimately contributes to polluting the air. There we have need able to create an awareness and secured the commitment to segregate the waste, provide municipal waste to concerned authority and follow the waste disposal procedures for the medical waste.

Main Results (4Cs that Protects the Mountains)

The group of experts has organized a mass meeting among community leaders, social workers, workers, and business representatives. A total of 15 people were gathered in the meeting. We have also invited visitors to share their views on the importance of waste management in protecting nature, animals, and human beings. The team has taken special session on the effect of poor waste management in mountains. The role of 4Cs in



The participants have agreed to form an informal group of abovementioned clusters to work on the ‘mountain waste management.

1. The 4cs have unanimously agreed that collective actions need to be made to gain the sustainable benefit through the proper management of mountain waste.
2. Local government has shown its commitment to generate local revenue to support the initiative led by NGO/international support organization and the community.
3. Group has discussed on the importance of ‘smart landfill site’ to manage the waste.
4. Group also agreed on the need of place waste collection bins in major villages and resting places.
5. Group has demanded the awareness and training for the experts to the community, business sectors, schools, and health centers.

Conclusion

Local communities, hotel owners, social workers, teachers, and health workers are now fully committed in mountain waste management. Plastic is considered as a center of waste management. Community mobilization, training, awareness, support from international communities and ownership of local government are the crucial factors to make the initiative a successful module. A three-monthly progress review would help in refining the ‘Langtang Waste Management module’. The 4Cs that protects the mountain.



We have been doing this project in partnership with Atmosfair – Germany and would like to thank to all Atmosfair for generous supporting us.

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 1,675+ volunteers in 20 years!

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