

Partnership for Sustainable Development – Nepal

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PSD Connect

A Quarterly Newsletter

The PSD Connect is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal to inform all their partners, ex-volunteers and supporters about our activities and news. PSD Nepal is a 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.



MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR

Namaste Friends!

With great pleasure we present you our quarterly newsletter. Please read our newsletter Issue 4 from year 18, designed to keep you updated on PSD and the activities, successes and future plans! Any questions and/ or comments regarding the newsletter or about PSD-Nepal are more than welcome. Please forward this newsletter to all the friends who have worked with us and help to raise our profile. We are looking for some news from you all also; please send us any news or materials which we can publish in our next issue. We heartily welcome your views, comments, and queries regarding the work of PSD-Nepal and/or regarding the improvement of the newsletter! You can send us an email to info@psdnepal.org or call us at (9771)-4411648

Bishnu H. Bhatta

Latest PSD Nepal News

The last 3 months have been a hive of activity at PSD. From work in Sima Village of Baglung District with our new tree planting initiative, to ongoing work in plastics recycling and upcycling, we have also been preparing our COP28 Dubai UAE presentation and speech, as our Director Bishnu Bhatta prepares to travel to the international conference and present the work of PSD Nepal on a global stage. Read on to find out more ! Thank you for your ongoing interest and support in our work, to resource and upskill the most vulnerable communities of rural Nepal.

Langtang Plastics – recycling and upcycling plastic in a challenging terrain

In the picturesque Langtang National Park, nestled within the Rasuwa district of Nepal, our pioneering initiative in sustainable environmental practices is slowly gaining traction. At an elevation of 2000 meters plus, our mountain recycling project has taken root, gradually blossoming into a beacon of change within this difficult landscape.

Central to the success of this endeavour is the dedicated efforts of our intern at from Langtang (Sandevi) whose vision and drive have been instrumental in propelling the project forward. Her unwavering commitment and innovative strategies have infused fresh momentum, steering the initiative towards its objectives. To fortify the project's operational capacity, the team welcomed two new field members. These additions have significantly augmented the organization and execution of waste segregation methodologies. With planning and dedication, these members are ensuring that waste is effectively categorized for optimized recycling processes.

Expanding the project's footprint, two additional segregation sites have been established in Mundu and Kyanjin Gumpa. These strategic locations serve as pivotal hubs where waste segregation occurs efficiently, creating a sustainable framework for recycling initiatives within the region. Another significant milestone in the project's expansion is the inauguration of a new Community Recycling Centre (CRC) in Syabru Besi. This centre marks a crucial advancement, now operational and dedicated to the recycling of PET plastics, glass, and tin. The establishment of this CRC represents a pivotal step towards addressing the environmental impact of non-biodegradable materials within the community.



Syabru Bensi CRC (Rasuwa)
Community Recycling Centre



Embracing the principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship, our mountain recycling project is a testament to collaborative efforts, community engagement, and forward-thinking solutions. As it continues to evolve, the project stands as an example of how conscientious actions can foster positive change, not only in Langtang National Park but also as an inspiration for similar initiatives further afield. We are now (slowly) planning expansion steps into Manaslu and ACAP for 2025.

Through the concerted endeavours of our staff, interns, field members, and the community's active participation, this endeavour showcases a blueprint for effective waste management in mountainous terrains. In the heart of Langtang National Park, amid the tranquil beauty of the Himalayas, we hope that a transformative movement is underway—a movement that heralds a brighter, cleaner future for the region and underscores the profound impact of collective dedication towards a greener tomorrow.



Tree planting – Sima Village, Baglung District

Sima Village in Baglung District, in the serene foothills of West Nepal, has become a testament to environmental stewardship through our impactful tree planting initiative. Spearheaded by our dedicated team, this endeavour has successfully planted 500 trees to date, heralding a remarkable 90% + survival rate for the saplings—an achievement emblematic of our commitment to reforestation and sustainability.

The beauty of this project lies not only in the numbers but in the profound impact on the local ecosystem. These trees, nurtured with care, promise a greener future for Sima Village and beyond. They serve as guardians, combating deforestation, preserving biodiversity, and mitigating the effects of climate change—a vital contribution in today's world. Looking ahead, our vision extends further. In early 2024, we aim to replicate this first phase by planting another 500 trees. This ambitious yet crucial undertaking reflects our unwavering dedication to bolstering our environment and fostering a healthier planet for generations to come.

We invite individuals and organizations alike to join hands in supporting our cause. One impactful way to contribute is by offsetting carbon emissions—be it from flights or other sources—through our user-friendly online portal. Partnering with CRED Foundation in the UK, our Trees tab on the website provides comprehensive details on how each individual can make a tangible difference.

If you missed it, you can watch our short 1min project trailer on this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLCDy1g5mmY>

Your support is beyond just the act of planting trees; it signifies a collective commitment to combat climate change, safeguard our planet, and empower communities like Sima Village towards a sustainable future. With over 90% sapling survival and plans to plant 500 more trees in 2024, we implore everyone to join us in this noble project. Visit our website, explore the Trees tab, and make a meaningful impact by offsetting carbon emissions through our partnership with CRED. Together, let's sow the seeds of change for a greener, healthier planet.

PSD Nepal x CRED Tree Planting

Bhimpokhara, Baglung-12, Nepal



Favourable conditions; rain, humidity, aspect
 500 black pepper trees planted (57npr/- per tree)
 12 local workers employed for 5 weeks
 19kg CO₂ sequestered / per tree / per year
 Planting area at 2,400m altitude
 3-5 year growing period



COP28 – Bishnu Bhatta presenting on health & environment at UNFCCC (UAE)

Bishnu Bhatta, our PSD Nepal Executive Director and founding member, has been invited to take part in COP28 UNFCCC in Dubai, UAE, in December 2023. With a fervent dedication to addressing the intersection of health and climate change, Bhatta's presence promises an insightful discourse on vital issues shaping our world today. He is presenting both in the E+C Pavilion and also the country-dedicated Nepal pavilion. As a leading figure behind all the initiatives of PSD, Bishnu will present the latest ground-breaking projects spearheaded by PSD Nepal. His presentation will spotlight the impactful strides made in projects focused on environmental sustainability, particularly the work in plastics recycling and upcycling amidst the high-energy Himalayas. Through these efforts, PSD Nepal has made strides in mitigating environmental hazards while nurturing local economies.

Moreover, Bishnu will delve into the resilience plans for Early Childhood Development (ECD) in collaboration with our educational partners. These plans underscore the crucial link between education and climate resilience, aiming to fortify vulnerable communities against the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change.

A key highlight of Bishnu's presentation will be unveiling the ambitious regional hub for the climate-health nexus in South Asia, slated for January 2024 (read more below). This initiative is poised to be a pivotal catalyst in fostering cross-sector collaboration and driving impactful change across the region, underscoring the imperative connection between environmental health and human well-being. Bishnu Bhatta's anticipated address at COP28 UNFCCC stands as a beacon of innovation, showcasing transformative projects and visionary plans aimed at forging a sustainable future amidst the ever-evolving climate landscape. Read more on the talking points for Nepal at COP28 on this good summary article:
<https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2023/11/20/nepal-to-highlight-climate-effects-at-top-un-summit>

Climate-Health Nexus, Regional Hub (January 2024)

The climate crisis has reached a pivotal point in human history, intertwining with public health and equity concerns. Southeast Asia grapples with escalating challenges like extreme weather vulnerability, rising water and vector-borne diseases, air pollution, and other climate-related risks. In Nepal alone, the last 12 months have seen historic episodes of flooding, monsoon rain, out-of-season snow, extreme high temperatures, water shortages, landslides, and earthquakes.

To address this, PSD Nepal in partnership with The National Academy of Medicine, Nepal Health Research Council and The Inter Academy Partnership are organizing a crucial hybrid workshop. This gathering will unite global leaders, policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to identify immediate priorities for the region. Our focus lies in mitigating climate-related health issues and implementing community-driven health and equity solutions. Set to occur on 19th January 2024, the event's theme, "Connecting the Dots between Climate Change and Health," emphasizes the urgency of this intersection.

The workshops aim to spotlight successful regional programs, fostering knowledge exchange and enhancing capacity. Additionally, it seeks to nurture regional partnerships within Southeast Asia. To support this initiative, a collaborative basket fund has been created, inviting contributions from governments, EDPs, and stakeholders. These funds ensure transparency and shared responsibility among contributors, efficiently utilizing financial resources for the region's benefit. Partner organizations contributing to this fund will receive prominent acknowledgment, positioning themselves as pivotal contributors to addressing the critical juncture of climate and health challenges in Southeast Asia. If you would like to participate – or have any interest in being a partner organization for this important event – please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Email Bishnu directly on: info@psdnepal.org

PSD Nepal – what does the future hold?

What is the role of PSD in Nepal? What can be done to raise the profile of PSD? How can the strategic goals of PSD be achieved in a way which satisfies the mandate of the organisation - a 'partnership' for development, done in a sustainable way, marrying together the economy, the environment, and society. Pursuing the vision of a Nepali society where all citizens achieve their full potential. Forging partnerships and linking communities that have resources and opportunities to be invested - capital, human, and material resources. The clear goals of PSD are to improve access to quality education. To boost the level of healthcare and sanitation in Nepal. And to spread and share the knowledge and resources necessary to live in a sustainable fashion. This last part is the cornerstone for me - living and breathing sustainability, through entrepreneurship and social enterprise, by leveraging resources for local communities, and helping the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Nepal.

Volunteer Testimonials:

Some testimonials from PSD volunteers

Volunteering here has been an amazing experience and I would definitely recommend it to anyone. One of the best parts of the trip was staying with a Nepalese family. Lastly, PSD are a brilliant help to my volunteering here and I couldn't have seen so much of Nepal without them. – Kerri McEvoy

It is one thing to visit a country as a tourist but quite another to live as a visitor. You not only get to see all the usual sights and attractions, but gain an understanding of the people and culture. You will be amazed at how warm and hospital everyone is. It is a great chance to witness the differences between "western medicine" and the problems faced by developing countries. You will learn so much... – Victoria Brown

A fabulous country with some of the most beautiful landscapes and welcoming people in the world...I would unhesitating recommend PSD as a volunteering organization, they are exceptionally competent, helpful and welcoming; and you will come away from your project feeling that you have had a unique and truly productive experience. – Paddy Curry

I would really recommend PSD as an organization to volunteer with and Nepal as an amazing, welcoming, fascinating country to come to. A really rewarding time feeling part of the community. Even when there is a language barrier, it's really possible and great fun to communicate and work with local people and children.
 – Jennifer Andrews

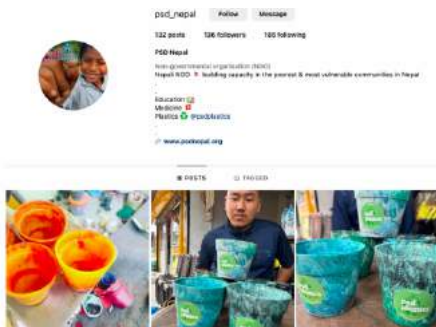
Website and Social Media:

PSD Nepal is proud of our website and social media platforms - please visit them on the links below;

www.psdnepal.org
www.twitter.com/psd_nepal/

www.facebook.com/psdnepalktm/
www.instagram.com/psd_nepal/

As friends of PSD, we welcome your comments and feedback on the website. Get in touch - info@psdnepal.org



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 relief programmes successful. So far we have successfully completed all 10 school buildings that we have planned, across Nepal. In the last 15 years PSD Nepal has accommodated 1,075 volunteers to Nepal and worked on more than 200 projects in Nepal. PSD Nepal is looking forward to work with all our well wishers and donors in the future as well.

New subscribers

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Langtang National Park
 Rasuwa, Nepal



Nepal to highlight climate effects at top UN summit

Aims to raise concerns including climate finance, loss and damage, adaptation, mountains' agenda and mitigation at COP28 in the UAE.

