

Patrick Matthiesen

From: The Glacier Trust <enquiries@theglaciertrust.org>
Sent: 02 November 2019 17:44
To: Patrick Matthiesen
Subject: Adaptation changes lives in Nepal, thanks to your generous support



Dear Patrick

I have just returned from a monitoring visit to Nepal. It was both uplifting - seeing the impact our work is having; and jolting - to be reminded of how precarious life still is in the communities our projects touch.

[I kept a diary as I visited the projects](#) your donations help to fund and shared pictures and videos via our social media channels. If that's your thing, do please catch up via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

The monsoon season was particularly fierce this year in Nepal, the extremely heavy rains saturated soils and caused thousands of small landslides. As I sat with the management committee of a new TGT project in Kavre, they told me about a local family who had lost a young child less than two months ago to a landslide, buried alive just metres from his family home. This tragedy is a reminder of how intense rainfall, made more frequent by climate change, can devastate lives. Enabling farmers to stabilise slopes - binding soils to prevent landslides - is a priority. With your continued support TGT can help to prevent unnecessary loss of life in the future.

It takes me a few days to decompress after a trip to Nepal and I have been doing that this week. I have also been reflecting on the impact we're having in all our areas of work; I want to share that with you here.



Your donations are helping even more people

Our achievements over the last 12 months make it our biggest year yet. For the first time in

TGT's history we have raised over £100,000 and are **now working in three locations across Nepal**, as well as delivering our Higher Education programme in partnership with Tribhuvan University (Nepal) and the University of Southampton (UK).

The Glacier Trust is almost entirely funded by donations from people like you, increased with the support of small private trusts. Because our overheads are funded separately, **100% of your donation goes directly to our projects and the people they help.**

[Donate online](#)

A brand new training centre opens in Kavre

- In partnership with Eco Himal Nepal

Having secured funding and support from the Marr Munning Trust, we have built and opened a brand new Agro Forestry Resource Centre (AFRC) in Mandan Deupur, Kavrepalanchok.

Agricultural land in Mandan Deupur is arid with poor soil quality, it is one of the reasons we chose this location; we want to show what's possible even when circumstances are difficult. Our work here is the beginning of a process to improve soils and build climate resilience, and without it many families here would be receiving no external support.

77 farmers and 43 secondary school students have already received training on climate change adaptation and organic bio-intensive methods of farming. Mandan Deupur AFRC is now home to a plant nursery that is nurturing 1,293 plant seedlings and demonstrating how the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) can be used to grow rice in locations with high water stress.

During my visit, I met the new staff team; Umisha, Bandana and Shyam, as well as the management committee made up of local farmers and members of the community forest user group. They have achieved so much in such a short time to build the new centre and plant trees across the terraced slopes that make up the plant nursery and demonstration plots.



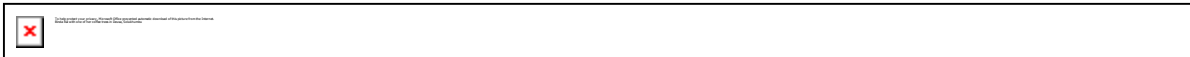
In Deusa the AFRC grows and coffee farming expands

- In partnership with Eco Himal Nepal

Over the last 12 months, a total of 447 farmers participated in training events organised and run by Deusa AFRC and Eco Himal staff. 118 farmers attended more than one event. 60% were male, 40% female. 29,329 plant seedlings were distributed. 44 farmers have received specialist training on organic coffee production. 20 farmers have gained organic certification for their coffee.

Inspired by the success of Deusa AFRC's satellite plant nurseries, the local Rural Municipality Government have established six additional nurseries across Thulung Dhudhkoshi. Due to popular demand, seven additional coffee workshops attended by 139 farmers were funded and organised in the neighbouring Khotang District. Coffee farmers in Deusa produced 1,139 KG of coffee parchment in 2018/19, up from 571KG in 2017/18. These activities have all **strengthened the climate resilience and livelihoods of families** living in the target area.

We are continuing our support in Solukhumbu. During my monitoring visit I met farmers who are adapting, but still crying out for more training and resources to enable them to deal with the climate crisis. They told me about the growing problem of insect pest infestations, landslides, water shortages and lack of access to local markets. Our work can support them through all of these issues. Without it, life becomes very precarious.



Binda Rai with one of her coffee trees in Deusa, Solukhumbu, October 2019

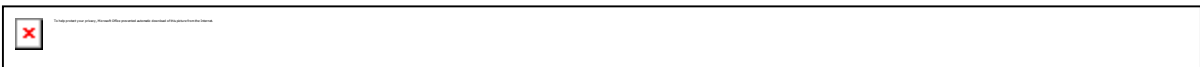
In Deurali, freshwater flows and farmers commercialise

- In partnership with HICODEF

The ECCLA (Enhancing Community Capacities for Learning and Adaptation to Climate Change) project has been successfully delivered in Deurali, Nawalparasi. A brand new (and subsequently extended) water supply system is delivering fresh water to 29 households and irrigating land for 38 households. It is now possible to grow crops all year round in the village of Durlunga Baseni.

Through the ECCLA project 93 farmers have developed their capacity to grow vegetables using climate resilient technologies. 106 farmers attended 36 plant clinics, led by a trained agricultural technician. Farmers grew broom grass to stabilise fragile hillsides, feed livestock and earned £2,275 from the sale of 8,439 KG at local markets. The amount of land now being cultivated to grow vegetables has increased by six hectares to 21.77 ha over the last 12 months. A total of 62,700 KGs of organic vegetables were grown, 10,233 KG of which was sent to market to generate an income for the farmers.

Thanks to HICODEF and your support of The Glacier Trust, **families here are more resilient to climate change** and many are now farming commercially for the first time.



New project - Layer Farming for Adaptation

Following the successes of ECCLA, our work with HICODEF continues with **a fresh project in three new villages.**

I visited two of the three new villages on my latest trip. I saw serious poverty here, some families had less than three months of food security and their precarious lives are being made worse by climate change driven water shortages, landslides and plant diseases. The need for us to enable adaptation was obvious, thankfully so were the potential and levels of motivation.

Our new project, 'Layer Farming for Adaptation', will enable farmers to grow and sell climate-resilient, high-value crops for the first time. We will also **work with primary schools** in each village to improve their knowledge of climate change and the adaptation strategies schools can implement over the coming decades. Layer Farming for Adaptation will be an active project for at least three years, possibly longer. Families in these villages will need TGT's support to make it as successful as ECCLA.



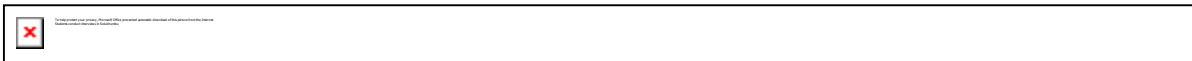
A new project begins. HICODEF and TGT visit Repaha village, October 2019

[Make a donation](#)

Developing the next generation of climate change adaptation professionals

- In partnership with Tribhuvan University and University of Southampton

The Glacier Trust's higher education programme enables students to conduct research into aspects of climate change adaptation and mitigation in Nepal. Four MSc students (two from Nepal, two from UK) spent three weeks at Deusa AFRC in Solukhumbu to research the ecological and socio-economic impacts of our agro-forestry project work.



TGT Higher Education students interview farmers at Deusa AFRC, June 2019

Looking ahead - Crowdfunding for change

Later this month we will be raising funds to install brand new smokeless cooking stoves in two villages in the eastern district of Sankhuwashabha. The stoves will reduce deforestation rates and, by drastically reducing indoor air pollution, transform the lives of hundreds of young women. Look out for the launch of our first ever crowdfunder and how you can support the young women of these villages.



Thank you for your ongoing support, none of this life-changing work would be possible without you.

Very best wishes,

Morgan

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UK Co-Director, The Glacier Trust

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