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Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	29
Banke	28
Gulmi	19
Rautahat	12
Bajura	11
Bardia	10
Sindhuli	10
Darchula	9
Ramechhap	9
Sindhuli	10
Baitadi	8
Dang	8
Pyuthan	7
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Siraha	7
Kailali	6
Kaski	6
Makwanpur	6
Achham	6
Udayapur	5
Jajarkot	5
Kalikot	5
Arghakhachi	5
Saptari	5
Jumla	4
Surkhet	4
Jhapa	4
Chitwan	4
Morang	4
Sunsari	4
Nawalparasi	3
Rukum	3
Dhanusha	3
Khotang	2
Bhojpur	2
Panchthar	2
Sarlahi	2
Parsa	2
Palpa	2
Bara	2
Dhading	2
Rupendehi	2

More hot waves, fewer rainy days predicted in Nepal

Climate change will have adverse impact on human health and environment, which could cause fatal diseases, loss of lives, natural calamities like flood, landslides, reduction of water level and low production of crops. Environmentalist and researchers said that climate change had direct impact on human health through pathways such as extreme weather events that causes injuries, deaths and epidemics, particularly water borne and vector borne diseases.

The experts added that local weather phenomena would be changed reversing the natural weather cycle that could cause warmer weathers in winter in hills than in Terai, shorten fog prevalence in Kathmandu valley, increase cold wave and hot waves in Terai, decrease the number of rainy days.

Addressing a three-day National Workshop on "Climate Change and Human Health: Potential, Impact, Vulnerability and Adaptation in Nepal," Minister of State for Health and Population Shashi Shrestha said that the impact of climate change should be advocated at the grassroots level by identifying the highly vulnerable areas of climate change.

Presenting a paper, Senior Divisional Meteorologist Saraju Kumar Baidya said that the global climate change has multiple implications on almost all spheres of life. The quality and quantity of public health could be at high risk due to the adverse effect of climate change. He said the World Health Organisation (WHO) had recognised climate change as one of the major challenges for health policy makers, planners, and managers as well as for scientists.

Professor of Institute of Medicine Bandana Pradhan presented a paper that deals with change in climate such as temperature with precipitation and its impact on water bodies and health of people.

She said that following the global warming across the world, Nepal had also experienced rise in temperature. The past record has shown that the temperature has been rising by 0.5 degrees centigrade per decade. Pradhan said that the results of climatic phenomena had clearly been seen on instigating more landslides and soil erosion on the mountains, hills, floods and siltation in the lowlands. She added that rapid growth of population and migration increased number of vehicular traffic and development activities, expansion of cultivated land of declining forests, increasing forest fires, expansion of urban built areas has led to change in local and regional climates in the country.

"Water related diseases like diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid, hepatitis, skin diseases including vector-borne diseases has often occurred across different parts of the country due to poor water quality and sanitation," she said.

Dr. Fang Jing of International Center of Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) said that human health is determined by numerous determinants that cause the attribution of the impact of climate change to health outcomes challenges. It has also indirectly affect human health through producing impact on ecosystem services include food, water, air and regulation of disease vectors.

He said poverty was the biggest factors that cause vulnerability to climate change, thus climate change should be taken as an opportunity to reinforce the

Bajhang	1
Tanahun	1
Sindhupalchowk	1
Lalitpur	1
Dadeldhura	1
Kavre	1
Mustang	1
Myagdi	1

(As of 30th October, 2007)

Major Displacements

Saptari	10000 family
Siraha	6000 family
Mahottari	3700 family
Bardiya	2500 family
Dhanusha	2050 family
Parsa	2000 family
Rupendehi	2000 family
Sunsari	1000 family
Banke	750 family

Total displacement: 48000 family

Total affected population:

Around 4 lakh 72 thousand (as of 30th October, 2007)

Sources : NRCS, Media reports/MCN

Disaster Related Reports

[Situation Repot NRCS, 10th Sep](#)

[NRCS Bulletin 21st Aug, 2007](#)

[WHO SITREP \(5-19th Aug,2007\)](#)

[OCHA Situation Report,13th Aug](#)

[WHO SITREP \(4-12 Aug,2007\)](#)

[Sink or Swim \(Oxfam Int\)](#)

[DM Report \(MCN\) 2006](#)

[NRCS Bulletin 29th July, 2007](#)

[Baglung Landslides Report, 2007](#)

[Flood scenario of Saptari,2007](#)

[Report on relief, Mahottari,2007](#)

[Delhi Declaration,Nov, 2007](#)

[We Know What We Need : Nov.](#)

Snapshots



Workshop on climate change organised by Co-Action Nepal in Lamjung on 8th December.

poverty alleviation agenda and improvement in health infrastructure.

(Posted on 22nd December,2007)

Transhumance begins in northern Taplejung

Villagers from Olanchungola, Ghunsa and Tompe in the northern part of Taplejung have started to migrate towards the lower and warmer places along with herds of yak to avoid freezing cold there.

"The residents of the mountainous areas have started migrating towards warmer places. They have brought with them herds of yaks loaded with their belongings, food, clothes and utensils," said Pemba Sherpa, who came to the district headquarters Taplejung, from Phale of Lelep VDC. He said that the villagers avoid the freezing cold winter by moving to the lowlands at Gyalal, Phale and the surrounding areas.

Residents of Olangchungola move down to Chene, residents of Topkegola move down to Papung, those of Ghunsa move to Phale and Gyanla while the women and the children go farther to the lowlands from there, he said.

The males members of the families live in tents and engage in preparing milk products from the yak milk and sell their products at Taplejung bazaar. During summers, the villagers live in their own villages and go to Tibet to sell their goods, he informed.

(Posted on 22nd December,2007)

Bali conference concludes, agreement on a Bali roadmap

The Bali conference has ended on a high note, with agreement on a Bali roadmap after lengthy and at times difficult negotiations. Nearly 200 nations agreed at U. N.-led talks in Bali on Saturday to launch negotiations on a new pact to fight global warming after a reversal by the United States allowed a breakthrough. Washington said the agreement marked a new chapter in climate diplomacy after six years of disputes with major allies since President George W. Bush pulled out of the Kyoto Protocol, the main existing plan for combating warming.

"This is the defining moment for me and my mandate as secretary-general," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said after making a return trip to Bali to implore delegates to overcome deadlock after the talks ran a day into overtime.

The Bali meeting approved a "roadmap" for two years of talks to adopt a new treaty to succeed Kyoto beyond 2012, widening it to the United States and developing nations such as China and India. Under the deal, a successor pact will be agreed at a meeting in Copenhagen in late 2009.

The deal after two weeks of talks came when the United States dramatically dropped opposition to a proposal by the main developing-nation bloc, the G77, for rich nations to do more to help the developing world fight rising greenhouse emissions. Indonesian Environment Minister Rachmat Witoelar, the host of the talks, banged down the gavel on the deal to rapturous applause from weary delegates. "All three things I wanted have come out of these talks -- launch, agenda, end date," Yvo de Boer, head of the U.N. Climate Change Secretariat, told reporters.

The accord marks a step towards slowing global warming that the U.N. climate panel says is caused by human activities led by burning fossil fuels that produce carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas.

Our Words

Disaster Watch Newsletter is now going to change its pattern. Along with the end of monsoon, daily updates will not be available but new updates will be posted regularly. Disaster Watch Newsletter would be made more interactive henceforth.

We will start regular columns and invite guest, viewers to have their say on different disaster issues. Suggestions and feedbacks would be heartedly appreciated .

Climate Change Corner

[Climate Change, Bali conference and Nepal](#)

[Climate Change and Disaster risk](#)

[Climate Change & Conservation](#)

[Effects of Climate Change on the Ocean](#)

[Linking Climate Change, Forestry and Biodiversity](#)

[Climate Change Presentation from Co-Action Nepal](#)

[Information Paper on Climate Change](#)

[Global Warming and GLOF Danger to Nepal](#)

Asia Watch

WMO and Asian members tackle impacts of climate change on agriculture

Hanoi/Geneva, 19 December 2007 (WMO) – With climate change and drought threatening agriculture in Asia, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) met with regional members in Hanoi, Viet Nam, to promote sustainable farming practices to feed growing populations. The three-day meeting of WMO's Regional Association Asia Working Group on Agricultural Meteorology ended today.

The meeting started 17 December, the same day the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reported that global hunger may worsen in 2008 amid increasing food prices and reduced crop production in poor countries

Scientists say rising temperatures could cause seas to rise sharply, glaciers to melt, storms and droughts to become more intense and mass migration of climate refugees.

Closing the meeting, COP President Rachmat Witoelar said the decisions in Bali have launched a new process for reaching agreement by 2009. He labeled the meeting as a "breakthrough" where delegates demonstrated leadership to create a sustainable future, and identified the Bali roadmap as a tribute to delegates' solidarity to tackling climate change, the "defining challenge of the century."

The Bali Roadmap

The "Bali roadmap" refers to a decision by COP 13 and a series of COP/MOP 3 decisions that are designed to give direction and shape to a two-year negotiating process to finalize a post-2012 regime by COP 15 and COP/MOP 5 in December 2009. In the words of COP President Witoelar, the roadmap has "several tracks and numerous milestones."

Under the Convention, the COP launched "a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to adopt a decision at COP 15." To achieve this, the COP decided to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action that will complete its work in 2009, and will hold its first session no later than April 2008.

Under the Protocol, the Ad Hoc Working Group (AWG) on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, established by COP/MOP 1 in 2005, will continue its work with the aim of making recommendations to COP/MOP 5 on Annex I further commitments. As well, a decision was taken on a preparatory process for the second review of the Protocol under Article 9, scheduled to take place at COP/MOP 4.

"U.S. HUMBLED"

Reversing previous opposition, the US joined the consensus after all other parties expressed support for the draft text on long-term cooperative action under the Convention. "The U.S. has been humbled by the overwhelming message by developing countries that they are ready to be engaged with the problem, and it's been humiliated by the world community. I've never seen such a flip-flop in an environmental treaty context ever," said Bill Hare of Greenpeace.

The European Union, which dropped earlier objections to the draft text, was pleased with the deal. "It was exactly what we wanted. We are indeed very pleased," said Humberto Rosa, head of the European Union delegation.

German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel was cautiously optimistic. "Bali has laid the foundations ...it was hard work and exhausting. But the real work starts now," he said in Bali. But a leading Indian environmentalist was disappointed. "At the end of the day, we got an extremely weak agreement," said Sunita Narain, head of the Centre for Science and the Environment in New Delhi. "It's obvious the U.S. is not learning to be alive to world opinion."

Agreement by 2009 would give governments time to ratify the pact and give certainty to markets and investors wanting to switch to cleaner energy technologies, such as wind turbines and solar panels.

Kyoto binds all industrial countries except the United States to cut emissions of greenhouse gases between 2008 and 2012. Developing nations are exempt and the new negotiations will seek to bind all countries to emission curbs from 2013.

caused, partly, by drought and flood associated with climate change.

Of the 10 countries most affected by extreme weather events in 2006, seven were Asian (Philippines, Democratic Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Viet Nam, India, China and Afghanistan). Climate change is causing more frequent and serious droughts, floods and storms across the Asian region, something that is expected to intensify in the future.

In recent years, Afghanistan and other Central and Southwest Asia countries have suffered major droughts. Some 60 million people across the region have been affected by a severe lack of rainfall that started in the late 1990s, causing water shortages, crop failures, and, ultimately, widespread hunger.

This year, floods in China forced more than 788,000 people from their homes, caused damage estimated at more than 2.9 billion yuan (US\$371 million) and affected over 300,000 hectares of crops. In Bangladesh, more than 3,000 people were killed and millions more left homeless when Cyclone Sidr hit on 15 November 2007.

WMO is the United Nations' authoritative voice on climate, weather and water. WMO has an Agricultural Meteorology Programme assisting Members with meteorological and related services for developing sustainable and economically viable agricultural systems; improving production and quality; decreasing losses, risks and costs; increasing efficiency in water use, labour and energy; conserving natural resources and decreasing pollution by agricultural chemicals or other agents.

Attending the Hanoi meeting were representatives from China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Viet

(Posted on 16th December,2007)

Snowfall claimed two lives in Bajura

Two person, including a minor, died in Bajura district due to the snowfall induced circumstances. Continuing snowfall of three days had taken a heavy toll in Martadi, district headquarter of Bajura and it's neighboring areas.

The deceased were identified as Utsav Karki, seven months child of Sappata VDC-3 and 50 years old Sarpalal Karki from Larlare lake of Martadi. Karki died on 12th December while he was heading towards his home carrying salt.

Snowfall has crippled normal life of Bichhya, Sappata, Rugin, Jugot VDCs of district. School has been closed indefinitely.

(Posted on 16th December,2007)

Climate Change issue soars on international mountain day

This year's International Mountain Day was celebrated here on December 10 with the aim of making people aware about the impact of glaciers melting due to global warming and about preventive measures to minimize the threat.

Issuing a press statement the Gorkha Tourism travel agency stated that the day is an opportunity to spread awareness about the importance of mountain life and highlight the opportunities along with constraints in mountain development. Climate change has directly affected the mountains of our country, the statement said.

Speaking at a function organized to mark the day, Ang Chiring Sherpa, president of Nepal Mountaineering Association, said increased concentration of green house gases in the atmosphere due to both industrialization and other human activity is among the major causes of the threat of mountain glaciers melting. However, the government has neglected such a pertinent issue, Sherpa said.

Similarly, Sushil Bista, president of Himalayan Expeditions, urged the government to take initiative to help prevent climate change. "If the current rate of glacial melting goes on, there will probably be no fresh water storage left in the country after some years," he said.

Various stakeholders including the World Wildlife Fund, the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development and Nepal Travel Media Association are celebrating this year's International Mountain Day with the theme "Facing Change: Climate Change in Mountain Areas".

(Posted on 12th December,2007)

Snowfall hampers life in Manang and Langtang

Unexpected heavy snowfall since early Tuesday has begun to hamper normal life at district headquarters Chame of Manang district. The district headquarters situated in the lower reaches received snowfall a day after it snowed in upper Manang. According to locals, the area is blanketed with nearly 1.5 feet of snow following four hours of snowfall Tuesday morning.

Normal life in Chame has been affected by the unexpectedly early snowfall. Transport along the under-construction Chame-Besisahar road has been brought to a complete halt by the snow. Normally, people in Manang descend to lower areas early in October every year to escape the freezing cold. This year's early

Nam. This Asia Working Group discussed issues critical to promoting sustainable agriculture in the region, including drought response, impacts of climate change, water resources, pest and diseases.

WMO recommends countries invest more in urban and indoor agriculture that can assist greatly in providing food for the hundreds of millions of people living in the growing cities of Asia.

"In view of the growing populations in Asia and the need for secure access to food for these populations, indoor and urban agriculture is also receiving special attention to make most efficient use of space using controlled environments," said WMO Secretary-General Mr Michel Jarraud in Geneva.

WMO also urges its Members to use agro-meteorological products more extensively to help farmers adopt sustainable farming practices, which can further enable them to adapt to changing climate conditions.

Stronger efforts to provide seasonal prediction and early warning systems are necessary, as well as monitoring systems for regional droughts, for guiding the agricultural community to make operational decisions on when, where and what crop is best to grow. Forecasts can also help in better managing the spread of pests and diseases.

Similarly, countries must make available the latest information on the impact of climate change on their agricultural and water resources sectors. Countries are encouraged to assess whether modern or traditional methods of rainwater harvesting, or a combination of both, are more suitable for their own agricultural sector.

Improving the level of awareness and understanding within government authorities responsible for promoting

snowfall in and around Chame has compelled most locals to remain confined within their homes. Only a few families shifted to lower terrain in late October.

Meanwhile, the district has already been suffering from a shortage of foodstuff since the last two weeks. Karsang Gurung, a local resident, said it normally took two weeks for the snowdrifts to dry out. With local routes snowed under, locals are expected to suffer shortages, the more so since transport mules are also snowbound.

According to the Food Corporation office in Manang, over 2,200 quintals of rice is imported into the district every year. The district can only cultivate buckwheat, potato and a few varieties of bean. Meanwhile, locals have vented their anger at local authorities and contractors for not completing the road. "All the problems are due to the incomplete road that is now obstructed by snow," said a local, Chiring Dorje, "It's clearly short-sightedness on the part of those responsible."

Locals said that the problems have resulted since the taskforce involved in building the road did not find an alternative route to headquarters.

Similarly, the Langtang area in Rasuwa district has also started to receive snowfall since Monday night. Every means of transport has been snowed in and daily activity hugely affected. The area has received nearly half a foot of snow and it was still snowing till Tuesday evening.

(Posted on 12th December, 2007)

Nepal asks for Japan's help to prevent glacial melt, floods

Windsor Genova

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has proposed the creation by Japan of a glacial research institute in the country. The institute will conduct research on how to prevent glaciers in the Himalayas from melting and causing disastrous floods and water shortage in the world's highest region.

The Asahi Shimbun on December 6, quoted the Nepalese prime minister as saying in a Nov. 22 interview with the Japanese newspaper that Japan should set up the proposed institute because it has abundant experts, equipment and data to conduct the anti-global warming study.

The newspaper also quoted him as saying that Japanese organizations have long been researching the glaciers in Himalayas, where the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, is located. Koirala wanted scientists from both Japan and Nepal to work together in coming up with precautions against floods and other disasters caused by the melting of the glaciers.

A study by the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development and the United Nations and Environment Program released in Katmandu and Bangkok, Thailand during the World Environment Day on June 5 warned that global warming is melting glaciers and causing glacial lakes in the Himalayas. The study called for mitigation measures to avert disaster.

(Posted on 10th December, 2007)

sustainable agriculture is also vitally important.

Modern tools are needed, such as automatic weather stations, to collect and transfer data on weather and drought and to help policy makers and rural communities increase sustainable agricultural production. Developing farm-level adaptation strategies are also essential to cope with climate change, which is of major concern to the region.

WMO is the United Nations' authoritative voice on weather, climate and water.

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The logo for act:onaid, featuring the word "act:onaid" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The colon in "act:onaid" is stylized as a red exclamation point.

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