



Media Consultancy Nepal

Disaster Watch - Nepal

A newsletter on disaster updates

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Issue-84, Dec 30, 2007

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 Bio-gas projects as CDM

Strong negotiations from Nepali delegates at the United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) held in Bali, Indonesia, has approved suspended bio-gas projects of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). According to Dr Govinda Raj Pokharel, executive director of Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) and a delegate to the recent Bali Conference, the methodology for registration of bio-gas projects as CDM had raised strong objections from some delegates at the UNFCCC meeting held in Montreal, Canada two years ago.

"Due to lack of strong lobbying from our delegates at UNFCCC's meeting held at Nairobi, Kenya, this project was suspended and we were deprived of benefits from carbon trading," he added. CDM allows developed countries to meet part of their emission-reduction requirements by investing in emission reduction in developing countries, where the economic costs of doing so are lower.

However, Nepalese delegates have convinced other members of the Convention of Parties (COP) at Bali Conference and approved the bio-gas projects as CDM. Similarly, Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) have also been approved for the CDM, he added. There are 300,000 ICS used in Nepal. Earlier, Brazilian delegates had strongly objected to the methodology, considering that bio-gas, when used as alternative for firewood was not contributing to reduction of carbon emission.

Among, 190,000 bio gas plants established inside the country only 19,636 bio gas plants of the country have been approved by the executive board of CDM. For the registered bio-gas projects, World Bank has already provided Rs 40.34 million (\$568,000) as the first carbon-trading deal under Kyoto Protocol.

(Posted on 30th December, 2007)

Cold waves claim lives in Terai

Cold wave claimed three lives in Siraha district on Friday. Shivanarayan Thakur, 55, of Siraha-8, Nirasidevi Yadav, 37, of Kachnari-2 and Ram Prasad Raya, 20, of Jhokraha-5 died due to cold wave on Friday morning, said the victims' families.

Life in the district has been hugely affected due to adverse weather condition since the past few days. Meanwhile, Dr Nagendra Yadav of Siraha district hospital said the number of patients suffering from pneumonia, cold, diarrhea and viral influenza is significantly increasing in the hospital now. Last year, 24 persons died of cold wave in Siraha district alone.

According to the Kawasoti police post of Nawalparasi district, an old man sheltering in a temple at Dandabazar died of cold on Friday morning.

Similarly, liberated bonded labours of Kalika-4, Juktinagar in Bardia district have been severely affected by the increasing cold. Report says that about 50 children and old aged individuals are suffering from pneumonia. They have sought for humanitarian assistance as they are unable to afford for medicines and warm clothes.

Three patient in single bed

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



Rafters on search operation to retrieve the bodies after the collapse of Bheri Bridge .

Normal life in Saptari district has also paralysed as temperature declined for the last two weeks. The cold has mostly affected elderly people and children. Suffering from cold, diarrhoea and pneumonia, they have been admitted at Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital for treatment. Three dozen of children have been under going treatment at the same hospital, according to Emergency Ward.

In-Chare of the Ward, Lal Kishor Singh said three patients are kept in a single bed due to the lack of adequate beds. 'It is very difficult to carry out treatment due to the lack of beds', said paediatrician, Dr. Tirtha Naryan Lalkarna. Dozens of cold and diarrhoea patients visit daily even at the Primary Health Posts, District Public Health Office said.

(Posted on 30th December,2007)

ICIMOD prioritized climate change issues

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has formulated new programmes to be launched for 2008. A statement released by the ICIMOD said it had prepared programmes on climate change, sustainable livelihood and poverty alleviation, effects of climate change in human life, measures to tackle it and water management among others.

Rs. 10.7 million dollars has increased in the expense for 2008, the release stated. Moreover, the board meeting of the Centre has also set new programmes and strategies for coming five years.

(Posted on 30th December,2007)

Bheri Bridge Collapse

Victims demand probe commission, Death toll reaches 20, seven still missing

Locals of Dahachaur VDC of Surkhet district strongly urged the government to form a probe committee to investigate the Bheri bridge collapse. They have also demanded punishment for the guilty and compensation for victims' families.

Twenty people were killed, seven are missing and dozens injured when a suspension bridge collapsed at Dahachaur in Surkhet on December 25. The 'loosely nutbolted' bridge had fallen when overcrowded people were heading towards the religious fair.

The villagers demanded formation of a technical probe committee for investigation of the the bridge. They also criticized the police administration for poor security management at the religious fair. The Dahachaur Mela Committee said they had demanded additional deployment of police at the suspension bridge to control the crowd.

"The government should be serious about the incident," said Indra Bahadur Salami, the former VDC chairman of Dahachaur, adding," The government should provide alternative to the collapsed bridge since people have no access to the other side of the river in the absence of the bridge."

According to the Home Ministry, three rafts with 21 rafters are being used in the search since Wednesday. They will be at the incident site for three weeks to help in the search. Additional boats have been also sent to Mehelkuna to ease the problem of the local people in crossing the river.

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](#)

[Flood Response Study 2007](#)

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

The Ministry, through the District Administration Office, has provided Rs. 25,000 each to the families of the dead. Besides, the injured are provided free treatment. "We have also alerted the security forces to remain watchful of the weak points in other places as well," Pratap Kumar Pathak, chief of the disastrous management section at the Ministry said.

(Posted on 30th December, 2007)

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.

production in poor countries 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,

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 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

Thailand, Uzbekistan and Viet 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

panel says is caused by human activities led by burning fossil fuels that produce carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas.

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. HUMBLLED"

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

responsible for promoting 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.

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.
(Posted on 16th December,2007)

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