

NEWS FROM THE MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE HIMALAYAN PROGRAM

MESSAGE FROM TMI DIRECTOR NEPAL

Namaste and greetings from Kathmandu...Since summer, it has been a very busy time for TMI Himalaya programs. Starting in August, work on the proposed REDD project has intensified and



Director Himalaya searching for peace

TMI and our partners, Wildlife Works Carbon (WWC) have held a series of highlevel meetings with Government of Nepal and Civil Society, including briefing US Ambassador Scott DeLisi and Nepal's CA Chairperson Mr. Subash Nembang. In November, TMI will continue briefing the Government and Civil Society and try to reach consensus on `REDD project by December 2011. TMI Himal also hosted TMI Board members Ruth and Joe Bell, visiting TMI's MAPs project sites in Ilam and Panchthar. TMI Himal, in partnership with TMI Research and Education, also hosted a team of 35 international scientists working on mitigating GLOFs in Imja valley. TMI Himal was pleased to welcome TMI Directors from Andes, Appalachia and Research and Education Programs for

the first time that the program Directors ever got together in the field here in the Himalayas. Finally, the TMI medicinal plant work sponsored by Ford and MacArthur Foundations comes to a close after more than a decade of support. We continue to search for more support for the MAPs projects in the coming years.

Namaste and Tashidelek..

Brian J. Peniston

TMI's HOT NEWS

1. Andean-Himalayan Glacial Lake Expedition to Imja
2. TMI's Trustee Visit to Ilam
3. WWC/TMI meeting on REDD program with MOFSC and FECOFUN
4. WFP/TMI signed an agreement from October to June 2012
5. TMI and HCDA signed contract from October 2011- June 2012
6. Second year program implementation in Dhadinga and Rasuwa
7. The Mountain Institute will close the AFCP project in Pangboche in mid-November 2011
8. Community MAPs in Upper Arun Valley
9. Celebrating International Red Panda Day
- 10.
- 11.

1. ANDEAN-HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION

The Mountain Institute (TMI) hosted the first Andean-Asian Glacial Lake Expedition in the Mount Everest (Khumbu) Region in Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone, Solukhumbu, Nepal from September 4th-22nd, 2011. More than thirty international technical and social scientists participated in the expedition to observe the potentially dangerous glacial lake at the top of the world and the great peaks of



Andean-Himalayan Expedition members at Gorakshep



Andean-Himalayan Expedition Members at Imja Base Camp

Himalayas. This is the home of Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone, a World Heritage Site. The expedition hosted physical and social scientists from different regions of the world, including the Andes, Hindu-Kush-Himalaya, Central Asia, Japan, North America and Europe. During the 18 days in the field, both the physical and social scientists conducted formal and informal discussions about climate change, glacial lakes and climate adaptation.

2. TMI'S TRUSTEE VISIT TO ILAM AND PANCHTHAR



TMI's Trustee making observation at MAPs project

future. This Trustee's field visit took place from 18-23 September 2011 and they were accompanied by TMI's NGO partners.

In September 2011, TMI's trustee Mr./Mrs Joe and Ruth Bell, Brian J. Peniston, TMI's Director for Himal Program and Mr. Karma Bhotia, NTFP Officer visited TMI's Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in Ilam and Panchthar. The purpose of the this trustee's visit was to understand the MAPs project sites and learn the project activities through local NGO partners and the local people who have been directly or indirectly benefiting from this program and also show the possible REDD project in the

3. WWC/TMI meeting on REDD program with MOFSC and FECOFUN

Wildlife Works Carbon (WWC) and The Mountain Institute (TMI) has conducted series of meeting with the member of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and the FECOFUN. WWC's Asia Director, Brian William and TMI's Director, Brian J. Peniston have met with the secretary and the chief of environmental section from Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation. Likewise, Brian William of WWC also gave a presentation to FECOFUN. The outcome of the meeting with MOFSC was rather positive from the secretary as well as the chief of the environmental section. The member of Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) also appreciated the presentation given by Brian William and they have commented or suggested to WWC and TMI that they would like to see as a partner role in during the implementation role in the coming days..



Meeting with FECOFUN about REDD project in the east



Brian William from Wildlife Work Carbon giving presentation

4. WFP/TMI signed an agreement from October to June 2012

The World Food Program (WFP) and The Mountain Institute (TMI) signed agreement for the period of nine months starting from October 1st, 2011 to June 30th 2012 with the goal to continue implementing "Food for Enterprise" in the Humla district in the Mid-West Nepal. This program will provide food assistance to food deficit and conflict affected population in Nepal as part of WFP's Protected Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO).

During this nine month period, WFP will provide an assistance for PRRO program. The ongoing PRRO benefitshouseholds in 19 VDCs of Humla district. In this nine month 105 community projects have been identified by theVDCs and this will benefit an approximately households of Humla district.

5. TMI and HCDA signed an agreement

The Mountain Institute (TMI) and Humla Conservation and Development Association (HCDA), signed contract for the period of nine months starting from October 2011 to June 30th 2012 with the goal to continue implementing “Food for Enterprise” in the Humla district in the Mid-West Nepal. This program will provide food assistance to food deficit and conflict affected population in Nepal as part of WFP’s Protected Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO).



TMI and HCDA signed contract for Food for Work

The ongoing PRRO benefits 3893 households in 19 VDCs in Humla district. Fifty-six community asset creation projects are being constructed, including irrigation canal construction, land improvement, and orchard farms. Starting from 1st April 2011, the Rural Community Infrastructure Development Work (RCIW) program has also begun in four VDCs. RCIW will focus its activities mainly on income generation and food security. Program VDCs includes Simikot, Bargaun, Syada and Sarkedeu VDCs.

6. The Mountain Institute will complete AFCP project in Pangboche in mid-November 2011

In November 2011, The Mountain Institute will officially close the Abassador Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) project implementation. Although this project was officially end in end of July, The Mountain Institute was able to extend this project until end of December 2011.

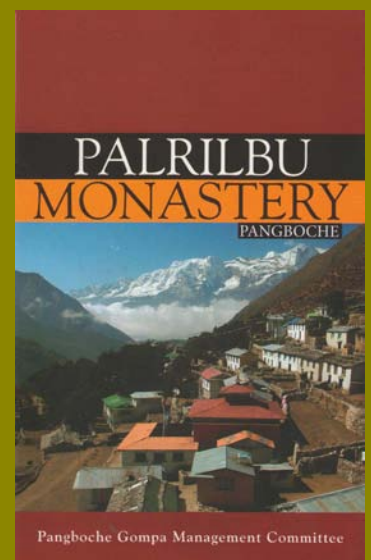


Completion of slade pavement
in the courtyard



Visitors inside the Pangboche Gomba

At present, an approximately 90% of the total program has been completed. The reason for the request for an extension was due to heavy monsoon in throughout the mountains, there was no flights for two weeks and the trails and bridges have been washed out in some of the sections below Lukla and this has delayed in shipping some of the materials for the gomba restorations. Trails and bridges are necessary where the walking tracks are the only means of travel for both trekking and also shipping for goods including materials.



Brochure for Pangboche Gomba

7. Community-Based MAPs Cultivation in Rasuwa and Dhading

The Mountain Institute's livelihood support program on MAPs is going very well in marginalized and remotest mountain areas of Dhading and Rasuwa of Central Nepal. The program aims to strengthen livelihoods and conserve natural resources through domestication of wild medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs). The result of its first year's program has started showing impacts with direct benefits to the local communities. Local people from Tetangche and Gatlang VDC of Rasuwa already have started making income from selling



MAPs cultivation training



Chiraito cultivation in Lapa, Dhading

seedlings of chiraito, estimated at approximately 500,000 rupees in equivalent to US\$ 7,000). Two nurseries of Tipling and Richet of Lapa VDCs are one of the best nurseries among the MAPs nursery program in Nepal, based on the observed maintenance and sapling growth rates. Till now altogether 404 participants have received MAPs cultivation and conservation. 111 participants received MAPs refreshment training to strengthen their skills in MAPs cultivation, marketing and conservation. The 364 trainees have cultivated the MAPs on approximately 41.46 hectare of their private lands so far. The second phase of the MAPs

program has already been planned which will come into effective implementation from November 2011.

8. A COMMUNITY BASED MAPS PROGRAM IN UPPER ARUN VALLEY-SANKUWASABA DISTRICT

Meidicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) cultivation training: Three MAPs cultivation and conservation training were conducted in Hongong village in Upper Arun Valley. The participants were from different groups including Community Forest Users Group (CFUGs), Women Group (WG), Makalu-Barun National Park and Buffer Zone Users Group (MBNP/BZUG) and local Youth Groups.



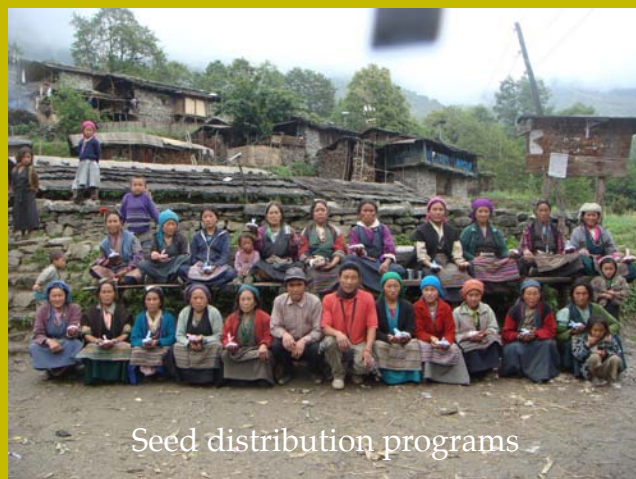
MAPs cultivation field practical

There were 110 participants including 90 female and 20 males. The training included sharing knowledge on cultivation and harvesting and marketing of MAPs products. The training also included a field component of practical session. At

the end of the training, each participant received about 200 gram of Chiraito (*Swertia chiaraito*), 10 grams of Atish (*Delphinium himalayai*) seeds and developed an action plan for MAPs promotion. The participants also formed a group to follow up and monitor the activities.

SEED DISTRIBUTION IN UPPER ARUN VALLEY

SEED (*SWERTIA CHIRAITA*) DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM: With the rate of 150 grams of Swertia Chiraito seed 22.05 kg was freely distributed to 137 households of Kimathanka and ChepuwaVDCs. The objective behind to distribute the seed was to encourage the MAPs farmers in mass production and to obtain better market values. This task is also been targeted as to mitigate illegal MAPs trade. To implement progressive work at Bhotkhola region priority has been given to each individual households, groups, teachers. This year chiraito was distributed to 17 Households of Kimathanka VDC, 43 H/Hs of Chepuwa 1,2,3,6 1H/H of Chyamtang (Chepuwa 4,5,6) and 16 H/Hs of Chumsur (Chepuwa-7). The distribution of seed commitments were made by individual farmers to cultivate it at their private lands. For the effectiveness and management of this program local monitoring group was also formed.



Seed distribution programs

9. CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL RED PANDA DAY

Red Panda Network (RPN) commemorated the second international Red Panda Day (IPPD) with the slogan :Save the red panda: promote ecotourism in the Eastern Himalaya” fro the first time in Nepal on September 17, 2011. The day was celebrated in Taplejung and Kathmandu Districts with various activities. A programme was organized by RPN in association with Himali Conservation Forum (HCF) in Taplejung District. The representatives from different organizations including Government Offices (GOs) Non-Governmental Offices (NGOs), Community Based Organization (CBOs) and major political parties of the district took part in the day. Chief District Officer (CDO) Mr. Dev Raj Dhakal inaugurated the programme. concise presentation on the “Red Panda: an introduction on “Importance of Red Panda: an introduction” was delivere



Participating School Children in Kathmandu

by Community Conservation Coordinator Mr. Dambar Bista. A district level essay competition on “Importance of Red Panda in the promotion of ecotourism” was held among the students of secondary level and best four essays were rewarded. Almost all participants including Chief District Office (CDO), Local Development Officer (LDO), President of Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)- Taplejung and representatives of different political parties expressed their commitment to support Red Panda conservation. Another small program was also organized in Kathmandu by RNP where students from Kanchenjunga integrated Model School and Jaljala Sishnu Sadan Secondary School participated in Red Panda art event. Participating students were awarded with ‘Red Panda Ranger’ certificates.

The Mountain 's Instiute's Approach

All TMI programs are designed on the premise that full involvement of local people is essential for the long-term success of conservation programs. We have developed several innovative techniques, which have been field-tested using a technique called "Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action" (APPA). TMI helps local people and other stakeholders understand their assets, define threats and issues, use their assets to address threats, prioritize activities for follow up and monitor on-going progress.



Ang Rita Sherpa (TMI)



TMI staff discussing on proposal concept

A n o t h e r approach TMI uses is to work extensively through local partner organizations. TMI has helped form and strengthen a number of local non-governmental organizations in the Himalayan Region. The approach of using local partner organizations yields many lasting positive benefits including reducing costs, expanding impacts, enhancing program sustainability and creating local capacity to conduct conservation programs after projects are completed.

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