



The Glacier Trust

From the Co-Director

Dr Morgan Phillips (Co-Director)

Six months have passed since I took over from Jamie as the UK Co-Director of TGT. I have been learning the ropes, meetings partners and supporters and exploring the history of our work. It has been fascinating and invigorating. I have also been planning. We have developed a business plan, a budget and a fundraising strategy to take us through to 2020. We know what we need to do, how we are going to do it and what is required to achieve our goals. Exciting times ahead. When I visited Nepal in February, I followed in the giant footsteps of our founder Robin. My overriding impression was that what TGT does, works. The successes are a huge tribute to Robin's vision and hard work. So, when it comes to Climate Change adaptation, our future plans are quite simple, let's do more, lots more, of what works. We can reach more people, in more villages and offer tailored solutions to the challenges they face. We have excellent partners in Nepal, they work tirelessly and diligently, it has been a pleasure getting to know them in person and via our regular early morning Skype calls. With their expertise and your continued amazing support,

we can enable thousands of families and dozens of villages to flourish. In this newsletter we look back on what has been achieved over the last twelve months. On page 2 you'll meet Padam Thada, a young farmer from Durlunga Baseni. We update on the progress at Deusa Agro Forestry Resource centre on page 3. Finally, there is an update on our improved cooking stoves project and October's HiPER field trip to the wondrous Nuptse glacier!

TGT in numbers:

2,801 - farmers trained since 2013

17 - Nepali students and academics attending TGT field courses

14,022 - people helped

287 - Hazelnut seedlings planted in Deusa

8 - Nepal based partner NGOs

10,080 - volunteer hours donated to build the Deusa AFRC

1 - short film shortlisted for the Charity Film Awards



Morgan visiting our projects in the Solukhumbu district.



Profile - Padam Thada - our work in Newalparasi

This is Padam Thada, he is a young farmer living in Durlunga, a small village perched on a ridge, high up in the Siwalik mountains of southern Nepal. Padam was born in Durlunga and grew up with his siblings and friends. He rarely left the village and spent his days helping with the farming, attending as much school as possible and, just before sunset, playing volleyball on the village square. When he grew into an adult he decided that he needed to move away, not just from Durlunga, but from Nepal entirely. He emigrated to Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, and spent six years working in a huge commercial bakery. Like many Nepalese who feel compelled to migrate, he lived a life of long hours, low wages and frugal living. After six years in Malaysia, Padam felt able to return to Durlunga. He was attracted home by the projects TGT are funding; word had spread. Over the last six years, we have supported 353 families across ten villages in this region. We have trained farmers, constructed irrigation systems and rebuilt houses that were destroyed during the 2015 earthquakes. This all adds up to improved livelihood chances and has enabled young adults like Padam to see a future here. Padam is now a 'lead farmer' in Durlunga, an important role in



is teaching, inspiring and motivating others. When we met him in February this year, he had already sold 200kg of tomatoes, 125kg of cauliflower and 130kg of cabbage at the local market. The income is helping his family to invest in new seeds and equipment for their farm. For other farmers we met, their new income streams help pay school fees for their children and grandchildren. Over the next two years, we plan to continue our support in Durlunga as part of a broad programme covering the villages of Satakun, Tandi, Baseni, Shyamgha and Dhababa. We will continue working with HICODEF, a local NGO who will run monthly farmer field schools and workshops to train 100 farmers a year. In addition, we will provide equipment for farmers to enable them to grow new cash crops on their land and maintain their new irrigation system. We need to keep supporting Padam and other young farmers in Nepal

so that they can adapt their farming practices to the impacts of climate change and the demands of their local markets. With your support, we can literally keep villages like Durlunga alive.

Our work in Solukhumbu

The extent of our impact in eastern Nepal continues to grow. One of TGTs greatest achievements has been the establishment of the Deusa Agro Forestry Resource Centre (AFRC). The AFRC is a collaboration between our partner NGO Eco Himal, the Deusa community and The Glacier Trust. It is now wholly owned by the community, is nearing financial self-sufficiency and is an exemplary model of what can be done to enable mountain communities to adapt to climate change. The AFRC provides numerous functions; it is a training school, a plant nursery, a centre for livestock breeding, an agriculture demonstration plot, an innovation centre and a community meeting space. It is quickly becoming a focal point for the community and we will continue to fund its development and

expansion for the next two years. Since starting work in 2013, we know that 2,296 people have directly engaged with the AFRC's services, that is around 47% of the population of Deusa. The aim is to increase this to 70% by 2020. In 2017/18, there are plans to establish satellite plant nurseries in neighbouring locations to improve access to seedlings and equipment. We will also support more training, further improvements to the AFRC building and greater innovation in agricultural methods. In tandem with the AFRC, we fund a brand-new outreach programme covering Deusa and its neighbouring district Waku. Through our partners, Eco Himal, we employ Hari Kumar Kharki, an expert agricultural technician and educator. Hari travels, on foot, to farms right across the Deusa and Waku. His role, as an educator, is to introduce farmers to improved agricultural methods. He enables farmers to change the way they farm livestock and crops, so that their efforts are more profitable and more resilient to the impacts of climate change. This work is in its early stages, so far we have reached just over 1% of the farmers in Waku. By combining Hari's work with the expansion of the AFRC we plan to reach 25% of the Waku population by 2020, some 1,480 people. On our most recent visit we observed



Improving health & halting deforestation in Sankhuwasabha

Sankhuwasabha is the most remote community we support, it is close to the Nepal/Tibet border at an altitude of approximately 4,000 metres. The two village districts we support, Chepuwa and Hatiya, are at least four days walk from the nearest road. Due to its remoteness and the severity of the winter weather, we can only reach this district in the summer months. Households here require year round fuel to heat homes, warm water and cook food. Traditionally, families gather around an open hearth in their main living space. This causes two problems, firstly the smoke from the fire stays in the room escaping only through small cracks around doors and in the roof. The negative health effects are obvious, many people suffer from debilitating respiratory illnesses. The environmental impacts are also profound. Chepuwa and Hatiya are located in the Makalu Barun National Park, home to the Red Panda and many other rare animal and plant species. Traditional open hearth fires are incredibly inefficient, it takes a lot of wood to keep the fire burning. This means that a lot of wood needs to be collected, leading to excessive deforestation. If nothing is done here deforestation will lead to the complete destruction of unique habitats and ecological systems. We have worked with our partners,

how interactive and two-way this educational process is. Hari learns and teaches simultaneously as he travels from farm to farm. His learnings from one farmer are transferred to others as he takes the lessons one farmer has learned from the introduction of a new crop or technique and passes it onto others; he is a pollinator. In addition, Hari is fed new ideas by senior staff at Eco Himal and experts like Richard Allen, our Nepal based co-director who visit Solukhumbu regularly. Working with Richard, colleagues at the AFRC and the Eco Himal team, Hari is currently helping farmers to experiment with hazelnuts and coffee in Deusa and Waku. We are confident that conditions are right in this region to grow both; if successful they could become highly profitable new income streams for the community.



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Eco Himal, to find a solution that will work in this unique environment. In Spring 2017 thirty brand new cooking stoves were transported to Sankhuwasabha. They are being tested during the summer months in thirty homes across Chepuwa and Hatiya. The stoves, if they work, will bring three key benefits: (1) Healthier homes, free from smoke thanks to the introduction of a chimney; (2) Improved ecology, the stoves burn wood a lot more efficiently the amount of wood needed will therefore fall significantly – this will help preserve habitats and endangered animal and plant life; (3) More time, it takes families a long time to collect wood for the hearth, with less wood needed family members (usually women and children) will have more time for other activities, including education. Eco Himal will revisit Sankhuwasabha in the autumn to assess how the stoves are working and report back to us. We are keen to learn if the families are comfortable using their new improved stoves, if homes are indeed healthier and if there has been a decrease in deforesting activities. We hope to extend the pilot and help fund the installation of more stoves in the future.



Higher Education and the Periglacial Environment

In October 2016, a team of three students and four teaching staff from Kathmandu and Tribhuvan Universities visited the high mountains of Nepal. They were accompanied by TGT volunteers and experts in the Periglacial environment, Dr. Dhananjay Regmi and Prof. Jeff Kargel. Also accompanying the party was photographer Christopher Parsons who documented the field trip as part of his work with campaign group Project Pressure. Setting off from Lukla, the team trekked through spectacular geography to the Nuptse Glacier, Imja Lake and Mount Chukkung Ri. The trek took a total of 18 days. Each evening our expert tutors lectured on periglacial and permafrost science, while also helping students with their MSc dissertation projects. TGT is committed to the continued promotion of research and awareness raising in the field of periglacial and permafrost science. If you are interested in helping us to take this forward, please get in touch.

How you can help:

Make a donation: Visit glaciertrust.org/donate or return the form enclosed. Thank-you!

Join our team at the Velo Birmingham: We have secured five charity places at this year's Velo Birmingham cycle ride, if you would like to join our team, please register via our website or email morgan.phillips@theglaciertrust.org

Spread the word: We are on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, search for 'Glacier Trust'. Please 'follow' us and PLEASE 'like', 'share' and 'retweet' our posts, it helps us to reach more people! If you get our e-newsletter, please forward it on to anyone you think would like to hear from us.

Volunteer: If you have any time to spare, we would love your help. Please get in touch with us by email to let us know about your skills and interests. We need help with graphic design, social media, fundraising and events organising to help in raising awareness of The Glacier Trust and spreading the word of what we do!

