

HALF-YEARLY UPDATE  
ONE DAY ONE TREE IN LANGTANG  
NATIONAL PARK AND BUFFER ZONE  
FEBRUARY 2024-JUNE 2024



REPORT SUBMISSION TO  
ALICE C. TYLER PERPETUAL TRUST  
JULY 2024

T H E P A R T N E R S N E P A L



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. PROJECT LOCATION	3
3. CHALLENGES	3
4. THE PROJECT	4
5. DETAIL PLAN	5
5.1. SUPPORTING THE YAK HERDERS IN CONSERVATION	5
5.2. ONE DAY ONE TREE NURSERY ESTABLISHED IN MUNDU	7
5.3. EXTENSION OF 50X50 METER ENCLOSURE IN KYANJIN	8
5.4. PLANTING NATIVE WILLOW TREES	9
5.5. PLANTING NATIVE TREES	11
5.6. STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS	13
6. PROJECT	15
7. CONCLUSION	15
8. NEXT PLAN	16
9. APPRECIATION	16
10. THE PARTNERS NEPAL	17

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Partners Nepal (TPN) is pleased to present this half-yearly report for the period of February 2024 to June 2024 to the Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust. This progress report summarizes the achievements of the first half of the year in our ongoing program. Significant progress has been made towards the conservation and restoration of alpine ecosystems in Langtang National Park and its buffer zone, with the support of a possible grant from the Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust. This project is a continuation of the "One Day One Tree" project funded by the Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust in 2019, just before the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that expense details are not included in this report as the project is still ongoing. A comprehensive expense report will be provided in the final report, due at the end of December 2024.

## 2. PROJECT LOCATION

The Langtang Valley is located 35 km north of Kathmandu, Nepal's capital city, in the Rasuwa District. It was established as Nepal's second National Park in 1976, and the first in the Himalayan region, covering 1710 square kilometers of mountainous land ranging in height from 2500 to 7200 meters. The Langtang Valley was designated a National Park due to its unique natural and cultural resources, and has been under the care of His Majesty's Government of Nepal since 1976, owing to its natural beauty, high level of biodiversity, and rich cultural history. It was the second National Park established in Nepal, but the first in the mountains. The proposed project area is located in the Langtang Valley of the Gosainkunda Rural Municipality in the Rasuwa district, north of the Kathmandu valley. The Gosainkunda Rural Municipality covers an area of 978.77 square kilometers and is home to 7,143 people.



## 3. CHALLENGES

One of the primary challenges faced by the Langtang region in Nepal is the open grazing of livestock and increased use of fuelwood by lodges and hotels, leading to the rapid conversion of alpine pastures and forests into scrublands. This issue has been exacerbated by the influx of tourists in recent years, with local farmers expanding into alpine regions like Kyanjin Valley to operate lodges and hotels for economic gain.

As part of efforts to address this challenge, proprietors of lodges and teashops in the Langtang Valley have been questioned about their activities in the region, including the type of fuelwood they use for cooking and heating. Prior to the rise of tourism in Nepal, forest resources, particularly fuelwood, were primarily used for basic needs such as heating, cooking, and building simple homes that could withstand the country's harsh climate. The lives and livelihoods of the Tamang ethnic people, who are predominantly impoverished, disadvantaged, and marginalized, are under threat from climate change, which poses a significant risk to the alpine mountain ecology. Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, affecting everyone, but particularly impacting the poor and vulnerable populations.



#### 4. THE PROJECT

Efforts to address challenges in the Langtang region require a comprehensive approach that promotes sustainable tourism, improves livelihoods, and conserves natural resources. Initiatives like TPN's "ONE DAY ONE TREE" project promote community-based tourism, support reforestation, and raise awareness about sustainable practices.

Collaboration between local communities, stakeholders, and organizations like TPN can mitigate tourism's impact on Nepal's fragile alpine ecosystems and protect local livelihoods. The project aims to replicate successful conservation efforts from Sagarmatha National Park in Langtang National Park, which was severely damaged by the 2015 earthquake and avalanche. By involving tourism businesses, the project seeks to restore forests and promote ecotourism, improving local livelihoods and conserving Langtang's ecosystem. With continued efforts and collaboration between local communities, stakeholders, and organizations like TPN, it is possible to mitigate the impact of tourism on the fragile alpine ecosystems of Nepal and protect the livelihoods of those who depend on them.

## 5. THE DETAIL PLAN

The proposed project involves two components. First, villagers in Langtang, particularly women, have established a tree nursery in Mundu to cultivate native tree species like juniper, birch, rhododendron, and fir. The nursery, now in its third year, produces high-quality seedlings to reduce mortality rates. In June 2024, approximately 3000 seedlings were planted in a 50x50 meter enclosure in Kyanjin village at an altitude of 3800m.

This initiative aims to encourage locals and visitors to purchase seedlings and raise awareness about conservation, reforest the region, and educate trekkers on climate change. Funding from the Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust will help expand the program. Second, the project encourages locals to plant native willows that don't require nursery germination. The team provides irrigation and materials to assist in growing willows locally. In June 2023, locals planted 1500 native willows in degraded areas on steep slopes prone to erosion. Project staff and local volunteers, including yak herders, participated in planting these willows. This initiative promotes community participation and ownership while stabilizing degraded slopes.

### 5.1 SUPPORTING THE YAK HERDERS IN CONSERVATION

Livestock is vital to Langtang National Park's economy and culture but can destroy fragile alpine environments. Overgrazing by yaks, sheep, goats, and cattle degrades pastureland, soil, and plant biodiversity, destabilizes slopes, and causes landslides. Pests, diseases, and climate change rise as plant ecosystems and wildlife are disrupted.





Grazing depletes vegetation, damages native flora, and threatens Himalayan tahrs and musk deer. Methane emissions from livestock melt glaciers and change vegetation. We must safeguard cattle and ecosystems to reduce risks.

The Partners Nepal and Langtang Valley communities established sustainable grazing practices to lessen grazing impacts. We created sustainable grazing techniques to reduce overgrazing and maintain pasture yield: Move livestock between pastures to replenish and match plant growth. Find out how many cattle a grassland can support without degrading. Moving livestock with seasonal plants improves recuperation and variety. Restrict grazing and access to sensitive areas to reduce overgrazing and focus demand on defined locations. Native grasses and plants improve soil stability, water infiltration, and biodiversity. Monitoring grasslands, animals, and plants helps predict problems, inform decisions, and adapt management

strategies, while local management conversations promote sustainability and ownership.

Encourage sustainable grazing and alternative livelihoods to reduce livestock dependence and diversify local income. Educating herders on sustainable grazing preserves vegetation and achieves ecological grazing. We provide weatherproof jackets, robust boots, high-quality tarps, and protective gear to improve herders' work in bad weather. Proper clothing helps herders work longer and manage cattle and grazing patterns effectively, reducing overgrazing.

Supporting herders with practical clothing, education, and economic programs enhances community engagement, productivity, and health, thus maintaining pasture management and ecosystem. Practical and sympathetic clothing helps increase herders' quality of life and sustainable management. Health, productivity, and community engagement minimize overgrazing and sustain pasture management. Support for clothing, education, and economic programs can improve herding communities and ecosystems.



*The yak herders brought yak dung to the One Day One Tree enclosure in Kyanjin Valley. In exchange for our support, they provided yak dung for use in tree plantations. The herders pledged to supply dung before leaving for pastures at the end of June and upon their return around September each year.*

## 5.2 ONE DAY ONE TREE NURSERY ESTABLISHED IN MUNDU

After an MOU, the nursery was created at 3600m in Mundu, Langtang village. Gabion wires, angle poles, cables, ground labeling, a gate, nursery beds, and a greenhouse were installed in 2021. The Partners Nepal recruited Min Bahadur Rai, the nursery in charge from Pangboche, trains the local people and nursery caretakers in Mundu. Mr. Rai showed them how to sow seeds, collect fertilizer, build beds, and install watering systems for a week at Mundu. Nike is another Mundu nurserykeeper. Despite COVID-19 and nationwide lockdowns, Mundu Nursery has achieved excellent progress. In preparation for polythene bags, plants sprouted.





### **5.3 EXTENSION OF 50X50 METER ENCLOSURE IN KYANJIN**

In 2024, The Partners Nepal and Tenjing Eco-Treks expanded enclosure dimensions in landslide-prone areas to 50x50 meters, generously funded by Alice C. Tyler. This builds upon the successful construction of a 50x50-meter enclosure in Kyanjin Valley in 2022, funded by Hauser Exkursionen and Nepal Hilfe-Tirol. Reforestation is crucial in combating deforestation and biodiversity loss. Enclosures are vital for efficient ecosystem restoration and sustainable development. They limit human intervention, preventing damage from logging, farming, and recreation, and provide a protected environment for trees to grow.

Enclosures facilitate healthy tree development and mitigate invasive plant competition, essential for restoring disrupted ecosystems. They foster young tree growth and rehabilitate areas damaged by overgrazing and deforestation. The construction of enclosures enhances soil stability by planting native tree species such as juniper, fir, birch, and rhododendron.



## 5.4 PLANTING NATIVE WILLOW TREES



We decided to plant willow trees, which are a species that is native to the area, grow rapidly and can be easily obtained locally. These trees will be planted in the enclosures while the seedlings are being grown at the Mundu nursery. The growth rate of this willow tree is influenced by its surroundings and elevation, reaching a height of around 2 feet within three to four months.

Around 80% of the willows planted in the enclosure have thrived, contributing to soil stabilization and the prevention of future soil erosion. Willow trees have a substantial environmental influence, supporting natural ecosystems and human societies in diverse ways.



WILLOWS GROWN WITHIN THE ENCLOSURE IN 2024



## 5.5 PLANTING NATIVE TREES

After three years of seed germinated within the nursery and the green house established in Mundu, we have planted those seeds approximately 3000 native trees within two enclosures. One 50x50 meter enclosure was constructed in 2022 and the new 50x50 meters were constructed in March 2024. We have planted native trees such as juniper, fir, birch, rhododendron, In the first enclosure, we have planted approximately 1100 native willow trees. The first plantation took place on 5th June 2024 on the occasion of World Environment Day. The local Lama, women's groups and the people of Kyanjin and the members of Tenjin Eco-Trek successfully participated in this tree planting program in Kyanjin 4000 meters.





## 5.6 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

As part of our "One Day One Tree" project in Langtang, it is crucial to conduct meetings with stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, NGOs, businesses, researchers, and donors. These groups have vested interests in conservation due to economic, environmental, social, or cultural reasons.

Local communities offer valuable knowledge about the ecosystem and traditional practices, enhancing project outcomes and ensuring cultural appropriateness. Their active participation is critical for sustainability, creating a sense of shared responsibility and better maintenance of conserved areas. Engaging stakeholders helps identify and resolve conflicts early, facilitates smoother project implementation, and promotes broader public support through awareness and education. Regular communication among stakeholders ensures transparency and the sharing of best practices. Stakeholders are essential for providing resources, knowledge, and support, ensuring conservation initiatives are effective and widely accepted. Their involvement fosters a collaborative effort addressing diverse needs and interests.



Materials provided include brochures, posters, and a manual on climate change. A forthcoming handbook will feature Langtang Valley case studies. According to The Partners Nepal and Tenjin Eco-Treks, incorporating local communities into governance and restoration can enhance the recovery of high-altitude grasslands and reduce fuelwood demand.



*A series of meetings were conducted along the trails from Syabrubesi to Kyanjin Valley. Brochures and posters were distributed, and project briefings and discussions were held with local stakeholders in Langtang National Park and the Buffer Zone.*

## 6. PROJECT IMPACTS

The One Day One Tree project exemplifies the collaboration between science and spirituality to promote environmental conservation and preserve cultural values. It engages various stakeholders, including local Tamang communities, tourists, government agencies, individual donors, and institutions, to restore fragile alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems in Langtang National Park, Rasuwa district, north of Kathmandu, Nepal. Community members are actively involved in planting and growing trees, providing employment opportunities, reducing soil erosion, and creating wildlife habitats.

The project mitigates climate change impacts through carbon sequestration, raises public awareness of forest conservation, and empowers locals to protect their forests for future generations. It also conserves sacred sites like monasteries, hermitages, caves, and groves by covering them with trees, preserving water resources, and maintaining their sacredness. Local participation in alpine management improves enforcement of resource management, reduces fuelwood use, and allows regeneration of high-altitude grasslands, shrublands, and pastures. This initiative highlights Nepal's leadership in community-based natural resource management.

## 7. CONCLUSION

The success of TPN's program may be attributed to the partner organizations' enthusiasm, teamwork, and skill in maintaining and rebuilding fragile alpine ecosystems over two decades. TPN members are experienced in Nepal's forestry programs and have a significant history in reforestation efforts.

In Rasuwa, trekkers seeking adventure and Nepal's Tamang culture visit the Langtang Valley. Since the 2015 earthquake, tourism has boomed, offering many economic opportunities and benefiting locals. However, this increase in tourism has worsened environmental degradation in vulnerable mountain areas. Unregulated tourism, excessive grazing, unsustainable fuelwood harvesting, and inadequate conservation practices, along with global warming and climate change, threaten the mountains. The Partners Nepal (TPN) addresses these issues through a forest conservation and restoration initiative in Langtang National Park. This initiative educates and assists yak herders in reducing the negative effects of grazing on alpine ecosystems and raises awareness about climate change among locals, seasonal visitors, and schoolchildren.

Collaboration with local communities and partnerships is essential for conserving and restoring alpine ecosystems in Langtang National Park and its Buffer Zone. TPN plans to work closely with a local partner experienced in similar projects to cut costs, increase productivity, and ensure long-term viability, leading to better program sustainability and indigenous capacity to preserve and restore the area's fragile alpine ecosystems.

## 8. NEXT PLAN

- Compile information on the natural and cultural resources of Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone for the upcoming 2024 handbook.
- Continue working on publishing the handbook of Langtang National Park as part of the One Day One Tree project.
- Develop ongoing partnerships with local communities, Buffer Zone Users Committees, and user groups to discuss and implement tree plantations.
- Continue monitoring the One Day One Tree project in Langtang, including the nursery.
- Raise awareness on climate change and global warming using the book funded by Alice C. Tyler in 2020.
- Ensure continuous cooperation with the Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone Users Committee.
- Conduct a thorough examination of the supplementary criteria needed for constructing plantations in Langtang National Park beyond 2024.
- Present final report March 2024-December 2024 to Alice C. Tyler

## 9. APPRECIATION

The Partners Nepal thanks Hauser Exkursionen of Germany, Sir Edmund Hillary Stiftung Deutschland, and Nepal Hilfe-Tirol for assisting in establishing the One Day One Tree initiative in Langtang National Park in 2021. We are very grateful to Alice C. Tyler for their support of the Langtang Valley reforestation initiative in Langtang National Park and Buffer Zone from 2022-2024. Without Alice C. Tyler's support, it would not have been possible for us to reach this much success.

We express our gratitude to our partner Tenjin Eco-Treks and the Langtang Buffer Zone Users Committee for their crucial role in conserving and restoring the fragile alpine ecosystems of Langtang Valley. The success of the Langtang One Day One Tree project hinged on the efforts of Tenjin Eco-Treks, forestry expert Mr. Bheem Raj Rai, and Mr. Min Bahadur, the in-charge of the One Day One Tree nursery in Pangboche, with funding from Alice C. Tyler. Special thanks to Ms. Mingmar Doma Gurung, owner of Buddha Inn in Kyanjin, for her guidance and supervision.

We also appreciate Mr. Kesang Tamang, mayor of Gosainkunda Municipality, for supporting this project through the pre-consensus letter for Social Welfare Council's approval, and Langtang Rural Municipality ward chairman Dindu Tamang for his invaluable assistance in this reforestation initiative.

## 10. THE PARTNERS NEPAL

The Partners Nepal (TPN) is a non-profit organization established in 2012 with the mission of improving people's lives and safeguarding the natural and cultural resources of mountainous areas in the eastern Himalayas. TPN members have years of experience in projects that promote conservation, culture, and sustainable livelihoods, having previously worked at The Mountain Institute for 15 to 25 years.

TPN uses partnership-based approaches to work with local communities, governments, NGOs, and the private sector to design and implement programs that improve livelihoods while protecting high priority mountain environments. They aim to give local communities a voice in policy making and civil cooperation. TPN has successfully implemented three projects in the Khumbu region of Nepal. Firstly, they initiated the Conservation and Restoration of fragile alpine ecosystems above 13,000 feet elevation, including the One Day One Tree program. Secondly, TPN has worked on the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Monuments and Resources in the Khumbu region. Lastly, TPN provides support for elderly people in the Bung Clinic.



# COMMUNITY SPIRIT ACT

## REFORESTATION

PLEASE HELP US PLANT MORE TREES

MANAGED BY



IMPLEMENTED BY



KYANJIN VILLAGE (3,870M)

JUNE 2024

FUNDED BY





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