

**EVEREST ECOSYSTEMS  
RESTORATION**  
SAGARMATHA NATIONAL  
PARK AND BUFFER ZONE,  
SOLUKHUMBU, NEPAL

REPORT SUBMITTED TO

**PEAK AID JAPAN**

OCTOBER 2024



## BLESSING FROM LATE TENGBOCHE ABBOT

I extend my deepest gratitude to The Partners Nepal for their unwavering dedication to safeguarding our environment, mitigating the threats to alpine ecosystems, and fostering harmony between people and nature.



The organization's focus on conserving and restoring alpine ecosystems above 4000 meters has become more crucial than ever in the face of global warming and climate change. Equally commendable is their work in preserving our cultural heritage after the 2015 earthquake and providing much-needed care for elderly individuals who have no one else to rely on.

On behalf of the entire Khumbu region, I sincerely thank all our friends and generous donors (PEAK AID JAPAN) who have supported The Partners Nepal's invaluable projects, such as One Day One Tree, the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and assistance to the elderly in remote mountain communities. Your contributions have made a lasting impact, and we deeply appreciate your ongoing support.

*Nawang Tenzing Jangbu  
(Abbot Tengboche Monastery 2022)*

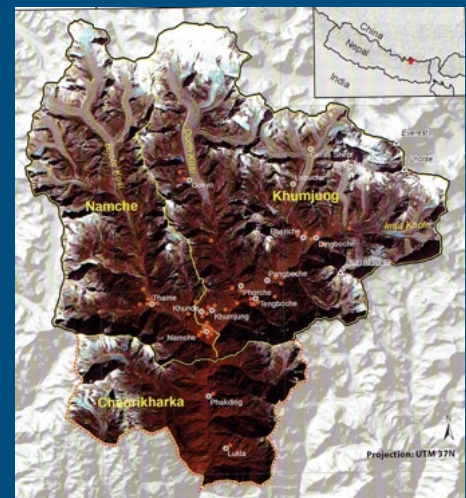
## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Partners Nepal presents this final update report to PEAK AID JAPAN as of December 2024. This report is the compilation from year 2022-2024 with funding support from Peak Aid Japan over three years period. Peak Aid Japan has generously considered our request to conserve and restore the fragile alpine ecosystems of Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone of Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality 4 of Solukhumbu District. For this, we had proposed and implemented four major settlements within Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone: Khunde, Khumjung, Phortse, and Pangboche.

The project implementation began in early 2022 and ended in December 2024. This final update provides the compilations of all the project activities carried out during those three years period including the project impacts, expense details and future recommendations.

## 2. PROJECT LOCATION

The Partners Nepal's ongoing conservation and reforestation project are located in Pangboche, Phortse, Khumjung, and Khunde of Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality-4, Solukhumbu district. The Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone, which includes the plantation area, was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1979 to protect the area's natural and cultural resources, including the fragile alpine ecosystems.



This region's elevation ranges from 3870 to 3900 meters, making it the most popular trekking location in the Everest Region. At a height of 3,900 metres, Sagarmatha National Park, the Khumbu region's most pristine and picturesque valley, contains all of the villages in the Sherpa community. In 2020-2021, Sherpa village will have approximately 2000 households and 4-5 thousand inhabitants.

All the villages are located within the Sherpa community at an altitude of 3,900m within Sagarmatha National Park in the most pristine and situated in a beautiful valley at the lap of the Khumbu region. Approximately 2000 households in Sherpa village will have approximately 4-5 thousand population in 2020-2021.

It is the home of much traditional Sherpa culture living in this village for almost four decades and has developed a harmonious relationship with the harsh but seasonally fertile environment. These Sherpas who lived in the village continued to use traditional planting methods and indigenous natural resource management techniques. Since the 1960s, the late Sir Edmund Hillary has built schools and hospitals to provide basic education for the Sherpa children and improve the health issues of the Sherpa people.

### 3. CHALLENGES

The alpine environments in the Khumbu and elsewhere in the mountain world have been comparatively neglected by the international conservation community even though they have long been recognized for their fragility and lack of resiliency. The environment, especially in the mountain region, has faced various challenges due to human-created factors, unregulated tourism, overgrazing, over-harvesting alpine shrubs for fuelwood, poor conservation practice, global warming, and climate change. Likewise, climate change exacerbates these threats rapidly, melting glaciers and leaving degraded hillsides prone to erosion and landslide.

Deforestation has taken place rapidly over the past few years despite the fact they have long been recognized for its fragility and lack of resiliency. The highly fragile mountain environment is highly vulnerable to climate change, threatening the lives and livelihoods of the mountains' poor, disadvantaged, and marginalized communities.

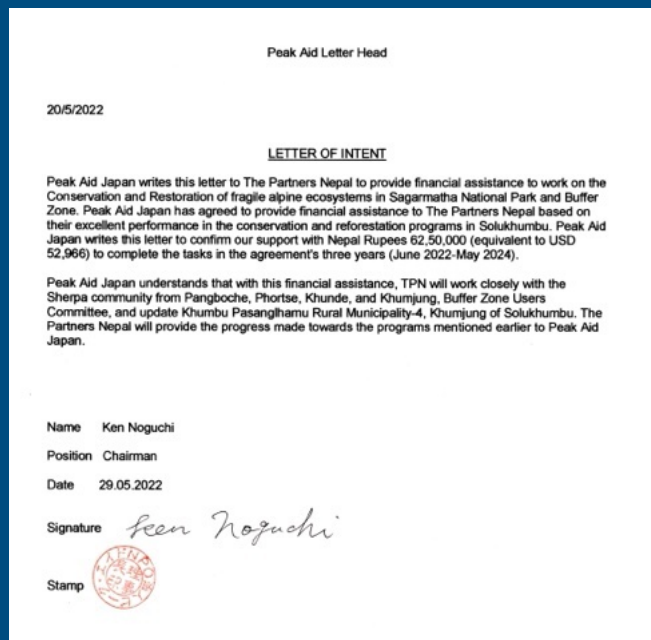




#### 4. PEAK AID JAPAN'S SUPPORT

Through the generous financial support of PEAK AID JAPAN, The Partners Nepal collaborated with residents from Khunde, Khumjung, Phortse, and Pangboche to safeguard and restore delicate alpine ecosystems in four key communities within Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality-4 from June 2022 to July 2024.

Peak Aid Japan, founded by renowned Japanese environmental activist and mountaineer Mr. Ken Noguchi, is recognized for its environmental preservation programs and disaster relief efforts, particularly in the Himalayas and other challenging mountainous areas. In the wake of the 2015 Nepal earthquake, Peak Aid Japan established the Himalaya Earthquake Relief Fund to assist with rebuilding homes and providing emergency housing in severely affected communities like Khunde and Khumjung.

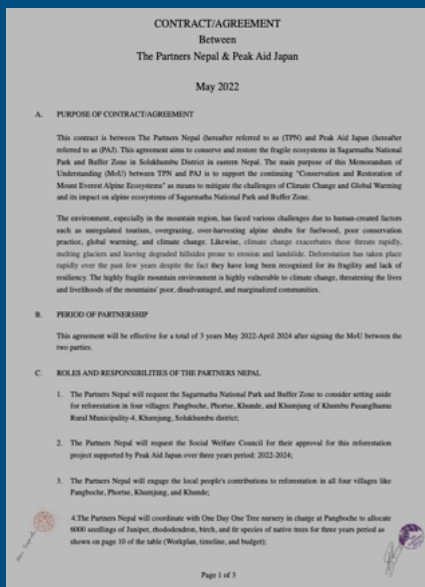


In addition to disaster relief, Peak Aid Japan plays a crucial role in environmental conservation. One of its flagship initiatives, the One Day One Tree project, aims to rehabilitate endangered alpine ecosystems in Sagarmatha National Park and surrounding areas, addressing the threats posed by climate change, deforestation, and overgrazing. Key advancements were made from June 2022 to August 2022 through The Partners Nepal, working closely with local communities to restore and protect these fragile ecosystems.

## 5. YEAR 2022

### 5.1. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNED BETWEEN TWO PARTIES

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between The Partners Nepal and Peak Aid Japan on 22/05/2022. This agreement aims to conserve and restore the fragile ecosystems in the Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone in Solukhumbu District.



### 5.2 MEETING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Coordination meetings with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and in Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone were crucial for advancing efforts to conserve and restore fragile alpine ecosystems. The Partners Nepal presented the "ONE DAY ONE TREE" project, funded by Peak Aid Japan, to the Director General, Deputy Director General, and Chief Ecologist of the DNPWC. Director General Dr. Ram Chandra Kandel, Deputy DG Bhet Kumar Dhakal, and Ecologist Dr. Ganesh Pant expressed strong support and assured their commitment once the project is underway.

AN APPEAL TO PEAK AID JAPAN

REFORESTATION PROJECT IN

SAGARMATHA NATIONAL PARK AND BUFFER ZONE



Project Proposal

Prepared by: THE PARTNERS NEPAL  
Prepared for: PEAK AID JAPAN  
Date: 15/12/2021  
Proposal number: 1



नेपाल सरकार  
वन तथा भू-संरक्षण मन्त्रालय  
राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभाग  
(.....व्यवस्थापन..... शाखा)



संकेत नं. :-  
पत्र संख्या :- ०७२/७३ व्य. ६२९  
बसन्ती नं. :- २६६

पो. ब. नं. - ६६०  
बबरपहाल, काठमाडौं  
Email: info@dnppwc.gov.np  
http://www.dnppwc.gov.np  
मिति :- २०७२/१२/१०

विषय :- कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन सम्बन्धमा ।

श्री सगरमाथा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज कार्यालय  
नाम्चे, सगरमाथा

प्रस्तुत विषयमा त्यस कार्यालय अर्न्तगतको सगरमाथा मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्र उपभोक्ता समितिले The Partner Nepal को सहयोगमा पाइबोथेमा एल्याइन इकोसिस्टमको संरक्षण गर्ने कार्यको लागि उक्त समितिको मिति २०७२/१२/१९ को पत्रसाथ प्राप्त सक्कलै प्रस्ताव यसै साथ संलग्न छ । नियमानुसार आवश्यक कारवाहीको लागि आदेशानुसार अनुरोध छ ।

०७२/१२/१०  
(विष्णु प्रसाद बhandari)  
सहायक व्यवस्थापन अधिकृत

बोधार्थ :  
श्री सगरमाथा मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्र उपभोक्ता समिति  
सोल्खुम्बु :- उपरोक्त व्यहोरा अनुरोध छ ।



The Partners Nepal's members with Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation

### 5.3 COORDINATION MEETING WITH BUFFER ZONE USERS COMMITTEE IN KHUMJUNG

The Partners Nepal organized a one-day coordination meeting with the Buffer Zone Users Committee in Khumjung village, Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality-4, Solukhumbu District. The primary purpose was to disseminate project details to local stakeholders, including the Buffer Zone Users Committee, and discuss the Peak Aid Japan-funded tree planting initiative and site designation as per the Buffer Zone’s 2023 recommendations.



#### Key Discussions:

- Nursery Project in Tashingna: The nursery, managed by the Buffer Zone Council, produces 5,000 seedlings annually, including native species such as fir, abies, rhododendron, laurel, birch, and juniper.
- Mortality Rate: The low-altitude location of the nursery affects the growth and survival of seedlings, which are better suited for higher altitudes like Khunde, Khumjung, Phortse, and Pangboche.
- Need for Higher-Altitude Nursery: It was noted that a new nursery is needed in a higher-altitude area to improve seedling survival.

#### Points Agreed Upon:

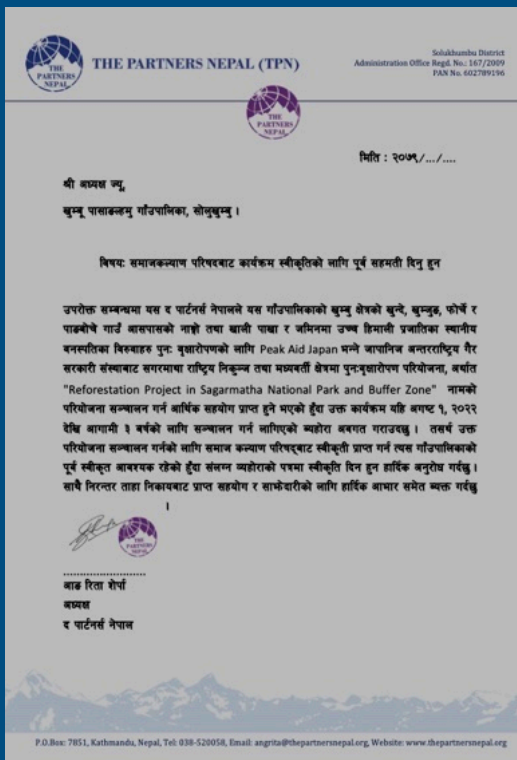
- New Nursery: A nursery will be established between Khunde and Khumjung in partnership with The Partners Nepal and the BZ UC.
- Seedling Import: 2,000 native seedlings will be imported from Thame and Phurte in 2023.
- Planting Site: The BZ UC will provide space for planting near Hillary Memorial Park in Khumjung village. This coordination meeting highlights the collaboration between local stakeholders and The Partners Nepal to address ecological restoration challenges in the region.

## Key attendees included:

1. Mr. Chhimi Chhiring Sherpa (Chairman, Khumbila Buffer Zone Council)
2. Mr. Phura Gyalzen Sherpa (Chairman, Tashidelek BZ Users Committee)
3. Mr. Ang Nima Sherpa (Chairman, Gongri BZ Users Committee)
4. Mr. Pasang Nuru Sherpa (Chairman, ChoOyu BZ Users Committee)
5. Mr. Pasang Chhiri Sherpa (Secretary, Danfe BZ Users Committee)
6. Mr. Ang Rita Sherpa (Chairman, The Partners Nepal)
7. Mr. Bhala Kaji Rai (Treasurer, The Partners Nepal)

## 5.4 CONSENSUS LETTER FOR APPROVAL FROM KHUMBU PASANGLHAMU RURAL MUNICIPALITY

Since the Peak Aid Japan-funded program is within Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality of Solukhumbu District, obtaining local government approval was required. The Partners Nepal submitted a Local Government Consensus Letter, a formal document indicating approval from the local authority, to Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality in late June 2022.

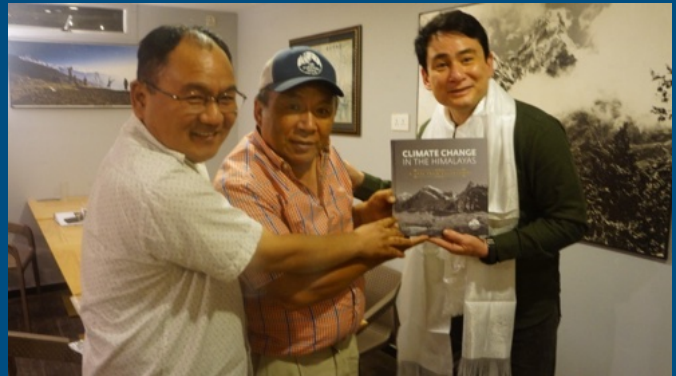


Importance of the Local Government Consensus Letter:

1. Legal and Regulatory Compliance: It ensures the project adheres to national and local laws, land-use regulations, and environmental guidelines.
2. Community Representation: It confirms the project has the support of the local community, reflecting their concerns and needs.
3. Facilitating Cooperation: The letter fosters collaboration between the local government and project implementers, reducing the potential for conflicts.
4. Required for Funding and Partnership: It is often necessary for external funding and partnerships, demonstrating local approval and support.

## 5.5 MEETING WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF PEAK AID JAPAN MR. KEN NOGUCHI IN KATHMANDU

In April 2022, members of The Partners Nepal had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Ken Noguchi, founder and chairman of Peak Aid Japan, in Kathmandu. During the gathering, Bheem Raj Rai and Ang Rita Sherpa presented Mr. Noguchi with the Climate Change in the Himalayas book at the Asian Trekking premises. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa, founder of Asian Trekking, General Manager Mr. Pasang Dawa Sherpa, Ms. Nikil Upreti, and other team members. This occasion offered an excellent opportunity to discuss tentative plans for collaboration with Peak Aid Japan on the conservation and restoration of Mount Everest's alpine ecosystems in Solukhumbu.



## 6. REFORESTATION PROGRAM IN 2022

### 6.1 REFORESTATION PROGRAM IN KHUNDE

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Peak Aid Japan and The Partners Nepal on June 22, 2022, a plantation was carried out in Khunde village as per the design specifications. Khunde, which experienced deforestation due to cattle grazing in Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone, was repopulated with 2000 indigenous saplings, including fir, birch, and rhododendron species sourced from a Buffer Zone nursery in Phurte village. The reforestation process involved seed gathering, fertilizer collection, excavation, and planting of the saplings.



Glimpses of tree plantations in year 2022

## 6.2 SUPPORT THE ONE DAY ONE TREE NURSERY IN PANGBOCHE

As part of efforts to conserve and restore fragile alpine ecosystems in Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone, The Partners Nepal and Khumbila Buffer Zone Users Group established a nursery in Pangboche in 2016, with land approved by Sagarmatha National Park and active community involvement. Under the guidance of TPN's forestry expert, Nike's nursery has been responsible for producing, transplanting, and managing seedlings. The Partners Nepal, with funding from Peak Aid Japan, provided continued management and technical support throughout the three-year project agreement.



Seedling production in Pangboche

### 6.3 VISIT PHURTE NURSERY AND MEETING WITH ANG THARKEY SHERPA

As part of the reforestation project in Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone, funded by Peak Aid Japan, members of The Partners Nepal visited the Phurte nursery in Thame valley. This nursery, established in 1984 by the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation (SEHF) Canada, aimed to address deforestation and environmental degradation in Khumbu, especially around Namche and Thame. Over three decades, SEHF's support has led to the planting of three million seedlings, raising awareness about forest conservation and its critical role in stabilizing soil, conserving nutrients, and moderating water supplies amidst climate change.



*Meeting with Ang Tharkey and his wife Dawa Choki Sherpa (Aug 2022).*

While visiting the Phurte Nursery, the team approached Mr. Ang Tharkey Sherpa, a longtime caretaker at Phurte and the Peak Aid Japan-funded forestry project in Samagaon, Manaslu region. The meeting aimed to seek his assistance for the One Day One Tree nursery in Pangboche, managed by Min Bahadur Rai since 2016. Although retired, Ang Tharkey Sherpa agreed to assist with seed sowing and planting seasons and will visit the Pangboche nursery to assess the planting sites in Pangboche, Phortse, and Khunde.

#### 6.4 FUNDRAISE PURPOSE

A cotton t-shirt featuring the slogans "ONE DAY ONE TREE" and "SUPPORTERS OF MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENT" has been printed with the ONE DAY ONE TREE logo, alongside the logos of Peak Aid Japan and The Partners Nepal (TPN). Similarly, ONE DAY ONE TREE caps, also displaying the project's logo, Peak Aid Japan, and TPN, have been created. These t-shirts and caps were designed to raise funds in support of the ONE DAY ONE TREE project, contributing to the restoration and conservation of fragile mountain ecosystems. Likewise, the t-shirts and caps were distributed during the tree plantations carried out in three major settlements such as Khunde, Khumjung and Pangboche.



## 7. REFORESTATION PROGRAM IN 2023

### 7.1 REFORESTATION PROGRAM IN KHUMJUNG (HILLARY MEMORIAL PARK)

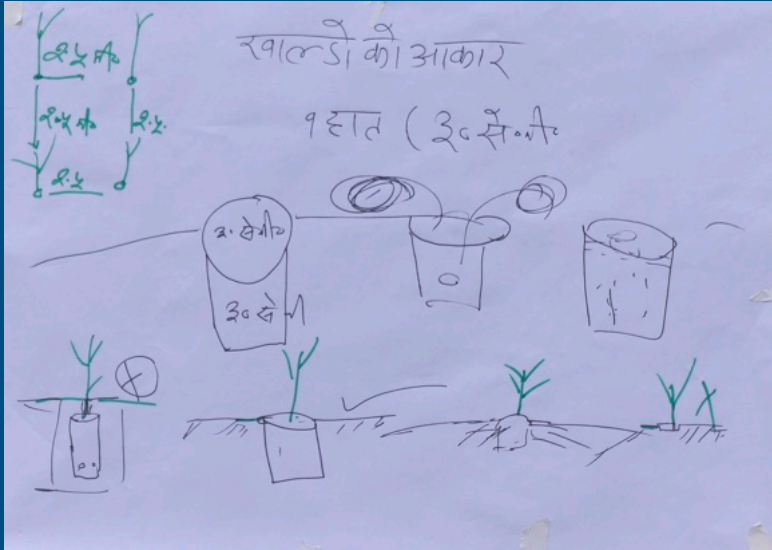
In 2023, The Partners Nepal and the local community from Khumjung planted 2000 of four native species—juniper, fir, rhododendron, and birch—from Thame and Phurte Nurseries at Hillary Memorial Chorten Park in Khumjung, a location recommended by Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone. After gathering seedlings, excavating holes, and collecting fertilizer, 24 participants from Khunde and Khumjung planted the trees in mid-July. They were trained in proper planting methods, and polypot waste was carefully disposed of at an SPCC-designated site.



Seedling collections during the plantation period in Khumjung, July 2023



Seedling collections during the plantation period in Khumjung, July 2023



Pit digging one foot height and one foot length

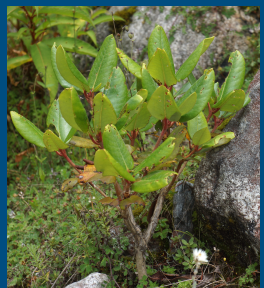




Glimpses of tree plantations in Khumjung, July 2023

## 7.2 SEED TYPES AND DESCRIPTIONS

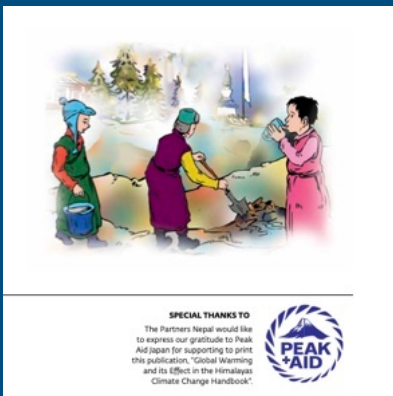
1. Silver Fir (*Abies spectabilis*), also known as Himalayan Fir, is a majestic evergreen conifer found at altitudes up to 4,200 meters. It thrives on damper slopes, often growing alongside birch and rhododendron. Indigenous to the region, it plays a vital role in the biodiversity of Himalayan forests and is used for firewood and construction.
2. Silver Birch (*Betula utilis*) is a slow-growing tree, reaching heights of 7.9 meters over 50 years. It thrives at altitudes starting at 3,000 meters, making it the highest-altitude birch species in the region, including the Himalayas. Preferring damp, low-light areas, its hard, dense wood is favored by locals for firewood and crafting pots, bowls, and other utensils.
3. Rhododendron (*Rhododendron campanulatum*), known as the bell-shaped rhododendron, is a flowering plant in the Ericaceae family. Native to the Himalayas, it thrives in high-altitude environments, typically found between 2,500 and 4,000 meters in coniferous forests, alpine meadows, and rocky slopes.
4. Juniper (*Juniperus recurva*) is a slow-growing tree, reaching 7.9 meters in 50 years in Khunde and Khumjung villages. Native to the region, it thrives in high-altitude environments up to 4,000 meters, preferring drier, sunny sites. Juniper is used in religious ceremonies and traditional practices, with its leaves commonly burned as incense by the Sherpas.



## 7.3 DEVELOPED AND DISTRIBUTED CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING HANDBOOKS



The Partners Nepal published a handbook titled "A GLOBAL WARMING and Its' Effects in the Himalayas," and distributed it to medium and secondary schools in Solukhumbu, Langtang, Pokhara, Syanja, and the Kathmandu Valley as part of the One Day One Tree project. Initially, 500 copies were printed, with an additional 500 produced due to high demand, totaling 1000 copies. The handbook educates students on climate change impacts, focusing on Solukhumbu, using drawings to engage children. Compiled through local discussions and seminars, the guidebook aims to help families adapt to global warming. The Partners Nepal thanked Peak Aid Japan for supporting the publication.



Glimpses of handbook distributions to the schools in different sectors

## 7.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH ALTITUDE NURSERY IN KHUMJUNG

As part of Peak Aid Japan's support for conservation and restoration in Sagarmatha National Park and its Buffer Zone, a nursery was established in Khumjung at 3,750 meters, following recommendations from coordination meetings with the Buffer Zone Users Committee. Establishing this nursery is crucial for reforestation in the park's fragile ecosystems.



1. Sustainable Supply of Native Species: Nurseries provide a controlled environment to grow native trees, vital for restoring ecosystems and supporting local wildlife.
2. Improved Survival Rates: Seedlings grown in controlled conditions are healthier and stronger, increasing their chances of survival when transplanted.
3. Adaptation to Fragile Ecosystems: Nurseries allow seedlings to grow in a protected environment before facing harsh conditions like altitude and climate in the park.
4. Species Customization: Nurseries can cultivate species suited to different zones, ensuring better adaptation to varying micro-climates.
5. Reduced Pressure on Wild Collection: Growing seedlings in nurseries reduces the need to collect from wild populations, aiding conservation efforts.
6. Community Engagement: Nurseries involve local communities in reforestation, creating jobs, educating, and fostering long-term support for conservation.
7. Climate Change Adaptation: Nurseries can experiment with resilient species to adapt to changing climate conditions, ensuring sustainable forest regeneration.

## 7.5 TRAINING PROVIDED FROM MIN BAHADUR RAI

Planting trees in deforested or partially deforested regions of Khumbu is a valuable way to positively impact the environment. However, local residents involved in tree planting require detailed guidance on the systematic process. These principles ensure proper tree planting for successful reforestation.

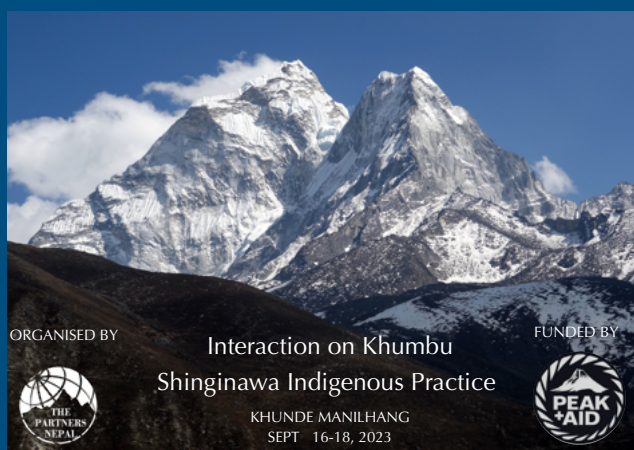
The following steps serve as instructional guidelines during training sessions:

1. Select the appropriate indigenous tree species.
2. Identify a suitable planting site and obtain necessary permissions.
3. Gather essential tools and materials.
4. Prepare the root ball.
5. Position the tree in the excavation.
6. Backfill the hole.
7. Apply mulch around the base.
8. Irrigate and provide ongoing care.



## 7.6 SHINGINAWA INTERACTION WORKSHOP

In September 2023, The Partners Nepal organized an Indigenous Shingi Nawa Interaction program in the Khumbu Region as part of the Peak Aid Japan-funded reforestation effort in Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone. The program facilitated dialogue between older and younger Shingi Nawa groups, focusing on traditional and modern forest management practices and exploring ways to improve them. The event featured three successful sessions, moderated by Mr. Bhala Kaji Kulung, with participation from Min Bahadur Rai and Pasang Tamang of the Langtang One Day One Tree project.



## SHINGI NAWA SYSTEMS IN KHUMBU: A TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Shingi Nawa system, rooted in the Khumbu region of Nepal, is a traditional forest management practice developed by the Sherpa communities. It emphasizes community stewardship, with designated Shingi Nawas managing and protecting forests for sustainable use. Historically, they enforced restrictions on firewood, timber, and grazing, often tied to cultural and religious values, to preserve the environment. Though the creation of Sagarmatha National Park in 1976 introduced regulations that sometimes conflicted with these practices, local communities continued to rely on the system due to its effectiveness in environmental preservation. Today, the Shingi Nawa system remains relevant, particularly in initiatives like the Indigenous Shingi Nawa Interaction program by The Partners Nepal, funded by Peak Aid Japan. This program fosters dialogue between older and younger Shingi Nawas, adapting traditional methods to modern conservation needs. The system highlights the enduring value of indigenous knowledge in sustainable resource management and offers a model for future conservation efforts in Khumbu.



## 8. REFORESTATION PROGRAM IN 2024

### 8.1 REFORESTATION IN PANGBOCHE IN JUNE 2024

With the blessings of the chief lama of Pangboche, we successfully cultivated four native tree species within 50x50 meter enclosures in September 2023, following the advice of the Head Lama of Tewangma. The trees were planted by the local community and the Buffer Zone Users Committee, under the guidance of the



secretary of Nepal and a forestry expert. A key challenge in earlier alpine reforestation efforts was the lack of sufficient information and knowledge. In June 2024, 1100 Indigenous saplings were planted in a 50x50 meter area as a tribute to Lama Geshe, who passed away in 2016.

A TPN member and nursery management specialist from Pangboche oversaw the acquisition and transport of materials, including Gabion wires, rods, and angle poles, from Kathmandu to Pangboche. Transportation was arranged via vehicle to Puiyan and then on foot with local workers to Pangboche. Previously, materials were

transported by helicopter from Takshindu to Pangboche.

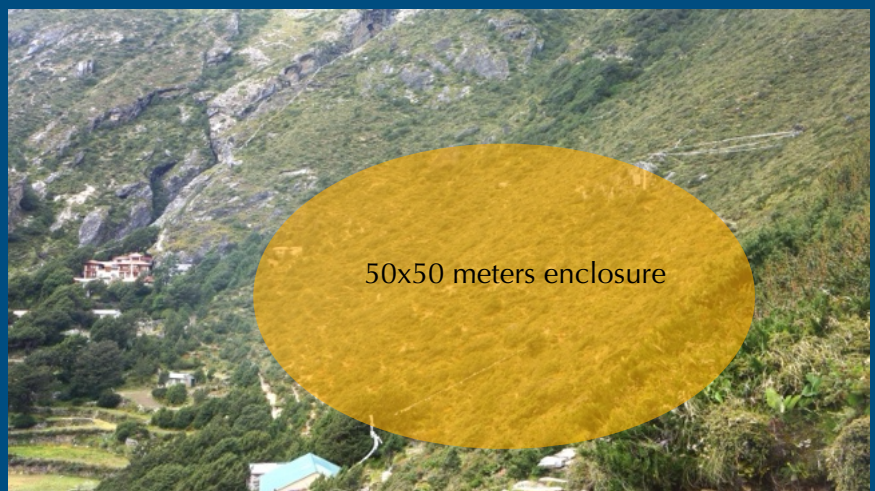




Glimpses of tree plantations in Pangboche June 2024

## 8.2 50 X 50 METERS ENCLOSURE IN PANGBOCHE

To prevent livestock from entering reforestation sites, 50x50 meter enclosures were built at three locations in Khumbu—Pangboche, Phortse, and Khunde—in Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality-4, Solukhumbu, funded by Peak Aid Japan. At an altitude of 3,900 meters, these cattle-proof enclosures are aiding environmental restoration. Gabion wires and angle poles, reinforced with cement and gravel, ensure that livestock are kept out. The design was inspired by the successful reforestation enclosure located above Namche Bazaar.



These enclosures are necessary for several reasons:

1. Protection from Grazing: Yaks and goats in Pangboche freely graze, potentially damaging or killing young saplings. Enclosures prevent this.
2. Microclimate Creation: In the harsh alpine environment, enclosures provide shelter from strong winds and help retain moisture, aiding sapling survival.
3. Erosion Control: Enclosures reduce wind and water erosion, which is critical in the unstable soils of mountainous regions, preserving soil fertility.
4. Community Engagement: Enclosures foster community involvement in conservation, encouraging sustainable habits and resource protection.



5. **Biodiversity Support:** By safeguarding young trees, enclosures contribute to the long-term health of the local ecosystem, promoting a more diverse and resilient forest. This approach ensures that tree plantings in Pangboche are protected from both environmental and human-related challenges.



Glimpses of enclosure carried out in Pangboche

## **9. PROJECT IMPACTS FROM 2022-2024**

### **PROJECT IMPACTS OF REFORESTATION BY THE PARTNERS NEPAL IN SAGARMATHA NATIONAL PARK AND BUFFER ZONE**

The Partners Nepal has spearheaded several reforestation initiatives in Sagarmatha National Park and its Buffer Zone, significantly contributing to the conservation and restoration of fragile alpine ecosystems. Funded by Peak Aid Japan, these projects focus on reversing environmental degradation, particularly the loss of native tree species, which is critical for maintaining biodiversity and local livelihoods.

#### **1. Restoration of Indigenous Species**

One of the key impacts of the reforestation project is the successful reintroduction of indigenous tree species, such as juniper, fir, birch, and rhododendron, in key areas like Pangboche, Phortse, and Khunde. By establishing nurseries at higher altitudes, The Partners Nepal ensures that the seedlings, grown in controlled environments, can better withstand the harsh conditions of the region. This is particularly important in areas where deforestation has had a long-term impact due to grazing pressures from livestock.

## 2. Erosion Control and Habitat Restoration

The 50x50-meter enclosures built in these regions protect saplings from livestock grazing and create microclimates that reduce wind and water erosion. These efforts not only safeguard young trees but also help in stabilizing the soil and preventing landslides, which are increasingly common due to climate change-induced weather events. By fostering natural forest regeneration, the project restores critical habitats for local wildlife, enhancing biodiversity.

## 3. Community Involvement and Sustainable Livelihoods

The project has significantly engaged local communities, including members of the Buffer Zone Users Committees and traditional Shingi Nawa forest management groups. This involvement fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, ensuring the sustainability of the project in the long term. By employing local labor for nursery management, seedling collection, and planting efforts, the project also contributes to local livelihoods.



#### 4. Climate Change Mitigation and Environmental Awareness

Beyond the physical impacts, the project has raised awareness about climate change and its effects on the Himalayan ecosystem. Through educational initiatives, such as distributing a climate change handbook to schools in Solukhumbu and surrounding regions, The Partners Nepal encourages adaptation and sustainable environmental practices. The reforestation efforts directly contribute to carbon sequestration, helping mitigate the effects of global warming in the region. The Partners Nepal's ongoing reforestation initiatives continue to be vital in conserving the natural beauty and ecological balance of Sagarmatha National Park and its Buffer Zone.





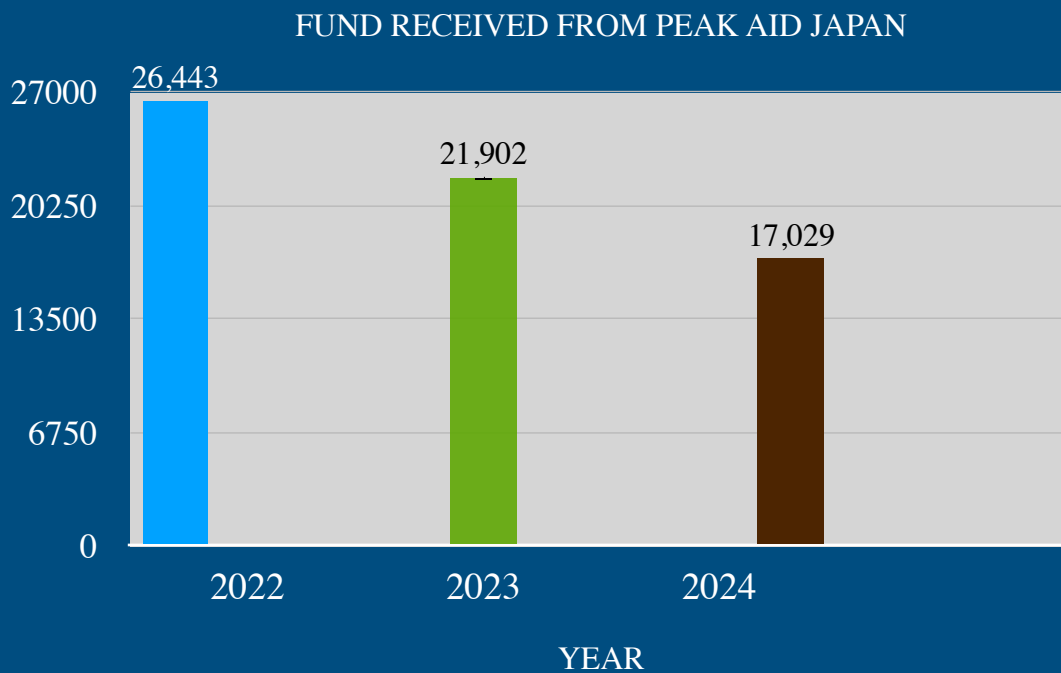
GLIMPES OF NATIVE PLANTS GROWTH SINCE 2022-2024

## 10. EXPENSE DETAILS 2022-2024

The project proposal submitted by The Partners Nepal to Peak Aid Japan for the period of June 2022 to July 2024 initially received approval for NPR 6,250,000, equivalent to USD 52,966. In 2024, the project cost was revised to accommodate additional needs, including the reprinting of 500 copies of the "GLOBAL WARMING and Effects in the Himalayas" handbooks, constructing 50x50 meter enclosures in Pangboche, and further support for the Nike nursery in Pangboche. An additional USD 14,443 was approved, bringing the total funding received to USD 61,334 over the three-year period. The Partners Nepal carefully managed and spent the funds as planned, submitting invoices to Peak Aid Japan for each fund release and ensuring effective use of resources.

The expenses for those three years were for:

- Project coordination and interaction with local and buffer zone users committee
- Acquisition of Gabion wires, angle poles, and wires for enclosures
- Transportation of Gabion wires and angle poles to Pangboche
- Purchase of seeds from Thame, the shipping of seeds from Thame to Khunde and Khumjung
- Shipping of seeds from Thame to Khunde and Khumjung
- Purchase of fertilizer
- Digging of pits or holes, the planting of trees
- Purchase of a banner for tree plantations
- Establishment of a nursery in Khumjung
- Purchase and shipping of T-shirts and caps to Khumbu
- Publishing and shipping Climate Change Handbooks to Khumbu and Solukhumbu
- Construction expenses for 50x50 meter enclosures
- Social Welfare Council (SWC) cost
- TPN monitoring to the fields
- TPN Administrations
- Publications and reports



## 11. PROJECT CALENDER 2022-2024

A project calendar is a critical tool for successful project implementation for several reasons:

### 1. Time Management and Deadlines

A project calendar provides a clear timeline for each task and milestone, ensuring that project activities are completed on time. It helps avoid delays by assigning specific deadlines to different phases, keeping the project on track.

### 2. Resource Allocation

With a project calendar, teams can schedule resources—both human and material—effectively. This ensures that resources are available when needed, avoiding conflicts or shortages during critical stages of the project.

### 3. Coordination and Communication

A project calendar allows for better coordination among team members, stakeholders, and partners. It helps everyone stay on the same page regarding what tasks are being worked on, when meetings are scheduled, and when key deliverables are due.

### 4. Tracking Progress

The calendar serves as a tool for monitoring the progress of the project. It allows project managers to identify any deviations from the schedule early on, which helps in taking corrective action to meet the project objectives.

### 5. Risk Management

By laying out the timeline and critical milestones, a project calendar highlights potential bottlenecks or high-risk periods. This enables the team to plan for contingencies and adjust timelines if unexpected issues arise.

### 6. Stakeholder Reporting

A project calendar is helpful for communicating project progress to stakeholders. It provides a visual representation of the project's timeline, helping stakeholders understand how the project is unfolding and what the key milestones are.

### 7. Improves Efficiency

When everyone knows what needs to be done and when it needs to be completed, it improves overall efficiency. Team members can prioritize their tasks based on the calendar, leading to a more focused and productive work environment. In short, a project calendar serves as a blueprint for successful project implementation, helping ensure that tasks are completed on time, resources are used effectively, and all team members and stakeholders are aligned with the project goals.

## Calender 2022

March 2022	April 2022	May 2023	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022
1. Proposal developed for Peak Aid Japan	1. Community consultations in Khumbu with project briefing from Peak Aid Japan 2. Meeting with Ken Nogochi and discussed about the reforestation project proposal	1. Briefing the project at Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation 2. Designed and printed One Day One Tree Caps and T-shirts with Peak Aid Japan Logo	1. MoU signed between Peak Aid Japan and The Partners Nepal 2. 2000 plant planted in Khunde	1. Project approval from Social Welfare Council 2.	1. First field viist carried out in Khumbu region from 11th August to 22nd August 2. Report write up and submission to Peak Aid Japan	Worked on enclosure materials for Khumjung

## Calender 2023

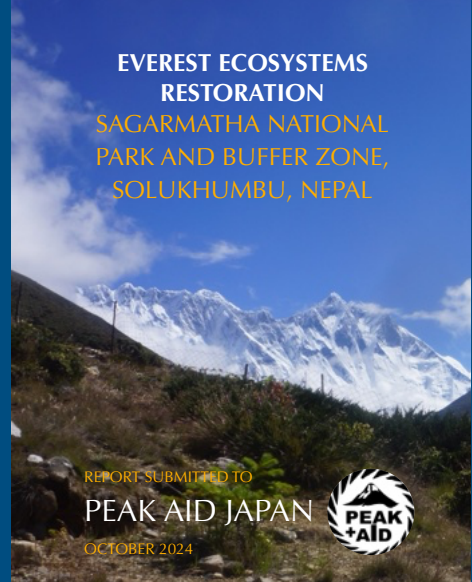
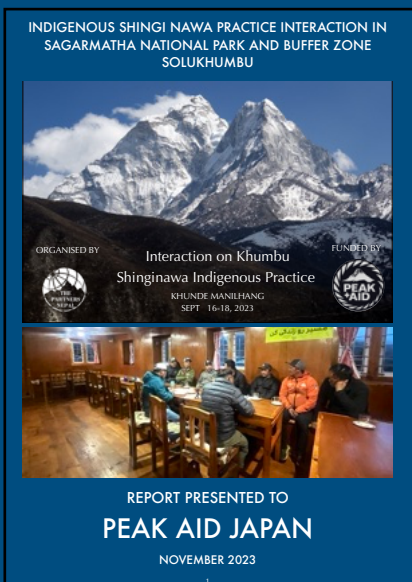
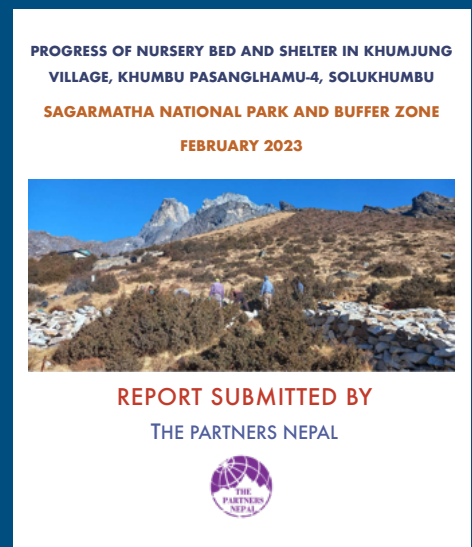
March 2023	April 2022	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023
1. Proposal developed for Peak Aid Japan to establish Nursery in Khumjung	1. Handbook on Global Warming and its effects in Himalayas: A climate change handbook was published 2. Established Nursery in Khumjung	1. Published 500 copies of the handbooks and distributed in Solukhumbu, Pokhara, Shyanja and Langtang Valley	1. Planted 2000 native trees in Khumung at Hillary Memorial Park	1. Report write up for Peak Aid Japan 2.	1. Second field for preparation of Shinginawa Interaction program in Khumbu 2. Report write up and submission to Peak Aid Japan	Conducted Shinginawa interactions in Khunde, Khumjung and Pangboche

## Calender 2024

March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024
1. Proposal developed for Peak Aid Japan to establish Nursery in Khumjung	1. Handbook on Global Warming and its effects in Himalayas: A climate change handbook was published 2. Established Nursery in Khumjung	1. Published 500 copies of the handbooks and distributed in Solukhumbu, Pokhara, Shyanja and Langtang Valley	1. Planted 2000 native trees in Khumung at Hillary Memorial Park	1. Report write up for Peak Aid Japan 2.	1. Second field for preparation of Shinginawa Interaction program in Khumbu 2. Report write up and submission to Peak Aid Japan

## 12. REPORTING TO PEAK AID JAPAN

As per the agreement signed with Peak Aid Japan in May 2022, The Partners Nepal committed to submitting two reports annually. We have submitted several progress reports to Peak Aid Japan, as they are crucial for ensuring accountability, transparency, and maintaining compliance. These reports detail activities, resources, and results, track whether the project is on schedule and within budget, and highlight any delays or risks. They also support informed decision-making, enable communication between the project team and stakeholders, and serve as a historical record for future initiatives, documenting lessons learned and best practices. Regular reporting helps ensure smooth project implementation and justifies resource needs.



## 13. CONCLUSION

The success of The Partners Nepal's (TPN) program implementation is attributed to strong collaboration and expertise from partner organizations that have been involved in preserving and restoring the delicate alpine ecosystems of Sagarmatha National Park for nearly two decades. TPN members, with their extensive experience in Nepal's forestry programs and reforestation efforts, played a critical role in these initiatives.

Support from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Sagarmatha National Park, Buffer Zone Users Committees, women's groups, senior monks, and indigenous community groups was crucial to the success of these programs. Their involvement ensured that the local community was actively engaged in conservation efforts.

Conservation projects, such as TPN's, rely heavily on donor support, with Peak Aid Japan being a key contributor. TPN facilitated funding acquisition, managed documentation, and acted as an intermediary between donors and local implementers. This approach, combined with the engagement of local Community-Based Organizations, enhanced the efficiency of the programs, reduced costs, and fostered local capacity for long-term conservation efforts.

Through these efforts, TPN has successfully planted 6,000 native species, including juniper, fir, rhododendron, and birch, across three major settlements within Sagarmatha National Park and its Buffer Zone.

## 14. NEXT PLAN

The Partners Nepal will continue evaluating the tree planting project in the three major settlements within Khumbu, ensuring ongoing assessments of the Khumjung Nursery and providing inputs for quality seed production. In parallel, climate change and global warming awareness will be continuously raised in Solukhumbu and other mountain districts using the handbook supported by Peak Aid Japan.

Educational manuals for children on climate change will keep being distributed, and climate awareness initiatives will be implemented across all educational institutions in Khumbu, with the Climate Change Handbook serving as a toolkit. TPN will maintain collaboration with Sagarmatha National Park, the Buffer Zone Users Committee, and local representatives, assessing the project's long-term impacts in 2024 and beyond.

Additionally, ongoing cooperation with the Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone Users Committee will be prioritized. TPN will also examine any supplementary criteria required for constructing plantations in Khumbu beyond 2024.

## 15. APPRECIATION

The people of Khunde and Khumjung, along with The Partners Nepal, express their heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Ken Noguchi, the chairman of Peak Aid Japan for funding the reforestation project in the Mt. Everest region within Sagarmatha National Park and its Buffer Zone. This crucial support has enabled the restoration of areas damaged by deforestation, overgrazing, and the use of fuelwood for cooking and heating, challenges exacerbated by climate change and global warming.

Special thanks go to Mr. Phura Gyalzen Sherpa, and Bheem Raj Rai the project coordinator for TPN and Peak Aid Japan's project for his ongoing guidance and supervision. The Partners Nepal also extends sincere thanks to the local men and women of Khunde and Khumjung who volunteered their time to collect seeds, gather fertilizer, dig pits, and plant native trees at the Hillary Memorial Chorten in Khumjung.

These conservation efforts would not have been possible without the generous support of Mr. Ken Noguchi's Peak Aid Japan. TPN facilitated the funding and coordination, acting as a mediator between donors and local implementers. This collaboration has not only helped conserve the fragile alpine ecosystems but has also raised vital awareness about climate change among the region's children.

Thank you

## 16. THE PARTNERS NEPAL

The Partners Nepal (TPN) was founded in 2012 by individuals with extensive experience in serving mountain communities, focusing on protected area and community forest management, conservation of natural and cultural heritage, restoration of fragile alpine ecosystems, community-based ecotourism, and livelihood enhancement. TPN is committed to maintaining transparency in all its programs, ensuring environmentally sound and sustainable management practices.

TPN primarily focuses on supporting remote regions, particularly rural, impoverished, and disadvantaged groups, including women, who have not had opportunities to advance in social, economic, or environmental spheres. TPN is affiliated with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) of Nepal and registered with the Government of Nepal (Regd. No. 167/2009 Solukhumbu, PAN No. 602789196). Its headquarters is in Salleri, Solukhumbu, Province No. 1, Nepal. Furthermore, TPN has been recognized as an Honorary Member of Divers Earth, a prominent NGO based in Switzerland.







F D 7 7 E 8 A D F : 7  
B > 7 3 E 7 : 7 > B ( ?  
? A D 7 F D 7 7 E ~



MANAGED BY



**PANGBOCHE VILLAGE 3900**

c s h X D I

FUNDED BY



REPORT SUBMITTED BY:  
**THE PARTNERS NEPAL**  
DECEMBER 2024





Photo: Tengboche Monastery by Ang Jangbu Sherpa (Beyul Adventure)

The Partners Nepal  
P.O. Box 7851  
Kathmandu, Nepal



[www.thepartnersnepal.org](http://www.thepartnersnepal.org)  
Facebook: [thepartnersnepal.org](https://www.facebook.com/thepartnersnepal.org)  
Pan No: 602789196  
Regt No: 167/2009