

# **Carbon Management: Climate Change and Tourism Industry A path to Green Economy**



## **WORKSHOP REPORT-2011**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

**13 January 2011**

**Supported by:**

**WWF Nepal**

**Organized By:**

**Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP)**

**Carbon Management: Climate Change and Tourism Industry**  
**A path to Green Economy**

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## **Carbon Management: Climate Change and Tourism Industry A path to Green Economy**

### **Acknowledgements**

Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP) would like to appreciate the support of WWF-Nepal in the organization of the workshop entitled on “Carbon Management: Climate change and Tourism Industry, A path to Green Economy”.

Special thanks to the Mr. Juddha Bahadur Gurung, Member Secretary of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) for the provision of a presentation from Mr. Ngamindra dahal, Energy and Climate change coordinator. KEEP also would like to extend sincere thanks to Mr. Kushal Gurung, Carbon analyst, ENDS CARBON, UK for his presentation for the workshop. Also, KEEP extends to Mr. Ugan Manandhar, Manager, Climate Change, Energy and Fresh Water, for workshop support and contribution on presentation as well.

KEEP would also like to express sincere gratitude to all individuals and institutions that have contributed their time, effort with your invaluable suggestions, discussions and making this a successful workshop.

A full list of participating organizations is included in Annex.

### **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

CF	Carbon Footprint
KEEP	Kathmandu Environmental Education Project
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NTB	Nepal Tourism Board
NTNC	National Trust for Nature Conservation
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
MoEST	Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
TAL	Tarai Arc Landscape
WEF	World Economic Forum
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## **Carbon Management Workshop – Overview**

**Workshop Theme** : Carbon Management: Climate Change and Tourism Industry,  
A path to Green Economy

**Organized by** : Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP)

**Date** : January 13, 2011

**Venue** : Shankar Hotel, Lazimpath, Kathmandu, Nepal

**Methodology** : Presentations and discussions

### **Participating Organizations:**

Participants attend this workshop from leaders of Govt., academic institutions, INGOs, NGOs, independent researchers, leading companies of Nepal, working in the field of carbon management, climate change, tourism industry.

**Number of Participants:** 67

### **Resource Persons/ Facilitators:**

Dr. Ajit Kumar Gurung, Chairman, Kathmandu Environmental Education Project  
Mr. Arjun Kumar Limbu, Program Officer, Kathmandu Environmental Education Project  
Ms. Kabita Karki, Asst. Program Officer, Kathmandu Environmental Education Project  
Ms. Sharmila Giri, Asst. Program Officer, Kathmandu Environmental Education Project  
Mr. Ugan Manandhar, Manager, Climate Change, Energy and Fresh Water, WWF Nepal  
Mr. Ngamindra Dahal, Energy and Climate change coordinator, NTNC  
Mr. Kushal Gurung, ENDS CARBON, UK.

### **Resource papers presented:**

Carbon Management: A path to Green Economy, Kushal Gurung, ENDS CARBON, UK

Nepal's climate changes challenges and tourism sector, Ngamindra Dahal, NTNC, Nepal

WWF Nepal Gold Standard Biogas VER PROJECT: Lessons learned from the Field, Ugan Manandhar, WWF Nepal

## **I. Background**

World faces many challenges, and today, it is the released 'Carbon' from our house, offices, industries, that is creating 'global warming', and brought a climate change and its impacts issues today in front of us. Also, there is now a wide recognition of the urgent need for the tourism industry, national governments and international organizations to develop and implement strategies to face the changing climate conditions, where UNWTO, UNEP is moving towards a Low Carbon Travel and Tourism Sector. The leaders of the Tourism and travel sector of Nepal will be invited to deliver the carbon management: a path to low carbon economy in the Tourism Industry of Nepal.

Climate is an essential resource to all normal human activities and especially for biodiversity, agriculture and tourism segments equally. Changing climate and weather patterns at tourist destinations and tourist generating countries can significantly affect the tourists' comfort and their travel decisions.

Nepal signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and ratified the Convention on 02 May 1994. Furthermore, Nepal ratified the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC on 16 September 2005 and Nepal is listed as the non-annex 1 party to the Protocol. The Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST) is the focal point for the UNFCCC in Nepal. MoEST prepared the first national communication report of UNFCCC in 2004, outlining the GHG emission sources, possible impact areas and some adaptation measures.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has announced that it will try to make all travel, accommodation and activities related to a climate change conference it is staging in early October "carbon neutral" to set an example about the benefits of offsetting greenhouse gas emissions. In June 5 2009, the UNWTO has released "Towards a Low Carbon Travel and Tourism Sector," a study developed as a result of collaboration between the UNWTO, the World Economic Forum, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and tourism and travel business leaders.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has highlighted its efforts to promote a low carbon, resource efficient Green Economy in the 21st century. According to UNEP, its strategy has focused on three priority areas: ecosystems-based adaptation; reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD); and clean technology readiness.

There is now a wide recognition of the urgent need for the tourism industry, national governments and international organizations to develop and implement strategies to face the changing climate conditions and to take preventive actions for future effects, as well as to mitigate tourism's environmental impacts contributing to climate change. Furthermore, such strategies should take also into account the needs of developing countries in terms of poverty alleviation and other Millennium Development Goals.

June 5 2009 – In anticipation of the UN climate conference COP 15, to be held in 6 months time, global business leaders came together at the World Business Summit on Climate Change in Copenhagen (May 24-26). At the event, the report 'Towards a Low Carbon Travel and Tourism Sector' was presented by the World Economic Forum (WEF). This study represents the fruit of a collaboration between UNWTO and several key organisations and is part of a longstanding action by the tourism and travel sector to respond to climate change.

More so, climate change phenomenon is slowly beginning to impact the tourism industry with increased risks on health and safety of mountaineers. Natural disasters as avalanches, landslides, storms, and rapid snow melt etc as well as reduction of aesthetic value of the region with lack of snow or faster snow melts and increased vulnerability of the mountain communities are some of the possible impacts of climate change in Nepal.

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In the run up to the Copenhagen Agreement, UNWTO, European Commission and Visit Sweden co-organized the Tourism and Travel in the Green Economy Symposium held from 14 to 15 September in Gothenburg, Sweden. It was convened as part of the Davos Process on climate change and tourism to address the issue of how climate change is shaping sustainable consumption and production and what it means for the tourism sector.

KEEP's this program conduction of a half-day awareness workshop on "Climate Change" for tourism and travel organizations to recognize that tourism sector contribution to lowering carbon release can play significantly in Nepal Tourism Year 2011.

## **2. Workshop Objectives**

This workshop aims to look forward further more than 'just climate change in Nepal', and associated tourism industry about

1. The threats on tourism industry by climate change and looking forward to mitigation measures through the carbon management in NTY2011.
2. Moving our tourism industry one step further into 'A path to low carbon economy'/ Green Economy.

## **3. Workshop Proceedings**

The workshop was preceded with a welcome session, then, followed by presentations, and finally discussed from the floor. The methodology was first: Presentation, secondly, Discussion session.

### ***Welcome Remarks***

This welcome session was chaired by Mr. Arjun Kumar Limbu, Program Officer, KEEP. All participants are welcomed to the workshop on behalf of the organizers. He also highlighted the advancement of carbon management with green economy, green jobs, green productivity issues with the initiatives approached by UNWTO, UNEP, ILO closely with the tourism aspects.

### ***Summary of Presentations and Discussions***

Three presentations were made highlighting work of different organizations. A summary of key points made in the presentations are presented below and copies of the actual presentations are presented in Annex 3.

#### **Presentation 1: Carbon Management by Mr. Kushal Gurung, Analyst, ENDS CARBON, UK**

Mr. Kushal presented a carbon management: A path to low economy. He highlighted carbon management definition as it is still new in context to Nepal. He also explained about the measurement of carbon footprint, carbon reduction strategy, carbon management policies, and carbon management in Nepal. With an example of TESCO, can of cola and its proportional carbon footprint. He explained carbon reduction strategy with green energy, energy efficiency, and carbon offsetting approaches. He referred to an example of Intercontinental New York Barclay luxury Hotel which offsets approx. 86 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is equal to not driving 865 passenger cars for a year; 499 households' annual electricity use; 3,241 acres of pine or fir forests storing carbon for one year; or 1,523 tons of waste recycled instead of landfilled

He noted that Nepal's contribution to GHG was very small but the likely impacts of climate change on it were significant – hence the need to focus on adaptation measures. Globally, it has been noticed that there is an increasing trend in people being affected by climate change, therefore there is an increased interest and involvement in this issue. He also highlighted the World Bank's investment framework on clean energy and sustainable development, which was stimulated by the G8 meeting in Gleneagles UK in 2005. He described the Three Pillars of the Investment Framework: Energy for growth and access to energy; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; adaptation to climate change.

**Presentation 2: Nepal's Climate change challenges and tourism sector by Mr. Ngamindra Dahal, Energy and Climate change coordinator, NTNC**

Mr Ngamindra highlighted Nepal's tourism challenges for the tourism industries, equally touching the worldwide climate change and global warming issues in relating to the booming and expansion of GLOF (Glacier Lake Outburst Flood) in some parts of Nepal. He also emphasized on our roles and responsibility to the decreasing ice, glaciers in Himalaya and major tourism destinations of Nepal. He also addressed the mountain lakes are one of the most vulnerable to climate change and associated tourism activities on economy, culture, social and environment. He also stressed on the learning issues and adaptation to the changing climate. He recommended the tourism should be climate friendly low carbon tourism by reducing climate footprint on business, promote ecotourism, campaign for green tourism, and conservation of forest and others.

**Presentation 3: Gold Standard Biogas VER Project: Lessons learned from field by Mr. Ugan Manandhar, WWF**

Mr. Ugan highlighted on the role of WWF's Gold standard Biogas VER Project, and lessons learned from it. Also, additional carbon management and trade through afforestation in Tarai Arc Landscape (TAL) of Nepal, providing scientific and technical services for observing, detecting, monitoring to the local people in the forest of Tarai landscape. He stated about 61% of TAL households rely on forests fuel wood for cooking. He explained the benefits of biogas that benefits local people with forest conservation and restoration with carbon trade policy. It is the first Gold standard Biogas VER Project in Nepal. One of the lessons learned is that this proven biogas technology has multifold benefits, partnerships and local consultant experience and outreach. Despite its benefits, he mentioned still it is many beyond the reach of poor people. However, a solution was microfinance schemes. He also explained about the carbon pools in the national parks forest and benefits by 2050 with forest restoration which can be achieved by alternative livelihood options.

#### **4. KEY POINTS MADE FROM THE FLOOR**

An open floor discussion followed presentations noted above. Some Key points and issues from the floor are noted below.

1. In context of Nepal, emissions per person is 20 times lower than western world. Our personal transportation system should be a public transport (use of mass transport) system. However, the challenge is the lack of infrastructure in Nepal. Even in Europe, it's difficult to imply.
2. Carbon Emissions issues have been so far focused on Industry based only. Now, it's time to focus on individual act, life styles. It is responsibility of every individual.
3. In Hongkong research, Monks are believed to use less carbon footprint, but in fact, they (0.70/person) spend 5 times carbon footprint than average Nepalese (0.15 per person)
4. There is a tendency in people of UK to alter their behavior because of climate change issues and awareness of personal responsibility for managing their carbon footprint. Backpackers tourists and home-stays have a low carbon emissions rate. Individual has responsibility and duty to reduce emission.
5. Tourism activity should practice eco-friendly method-energy saving. If we manage properly, results will be better in carbon management. Tourism is essential today, aircraft and motor emissions as well. How much emission from tourism in Nepal Tourism Year 2011? How to balance it? KEEP (Kathmandu Environmental Education Project) should look at it closely with the government level and other stakeholders. Tourism revenue generation should be use on study of carbon management as a whole by KEEP.
6. It's a good opportunity to take it as a mass campaign.
7. Ready to adapt to new technology, agency's role and new technology cannot be adapted immediately. No single approach, holistic approach is best. What can poor people do with investment in new technology? So, it should have affordable technologies that poor people can adapt with, and there are

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many small enterprises. We must not leave mass people with a technology that they can't use effectively after support partially.

8. The best solution is tourism sector should acknowledge carbon footprint issues to tourists, and letting them know how much carbon footprint (CF) they spend in their each trip.

9. We need to market ourselves as Green or ecotourism. Tourism is good, but we need to address how we manage it.

10. How much carbon footprint per tourist in Nepal, its difficult to answer, due to lack of data and research and it is a complex question. KEEP should look forward to this answer.

## **5. Closing**

Dr. Ajit Kumar Gurung, Chairman, KEEP said that the KEEP has taken this carbon management seriously and looking forward to act on with much higher level of engagement of KEEP regarding it. He also highlighted that KEEP is looking forward to more collaboration with govt., INGOs, NTB, MoCAT, and academicians, universities.

He also thanked WWF Nepal for workshop support, also to all for their participation and invaluable contribution in this workshop. As a chair of the program, he also offered a vote of thanks and closed this workshop.

## **Annexes**

### **Annex 1. Program Schedule**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>By</b>
2.00 - 2:05 pm	Arrival & registration	KEEP
2.05 - 2.10 pm	Welcome & Introduction	KEEP
2.10 - 2:30 pm	Carbon Management: A path to Green Economy	Kushal Gurung, Analyst, ENDS CARBON, UK
2:30 - 2:50 pm	Gold Standard Biogas VER Project: Lessons From the Field	Ugan Manandhar, Program Manager, Climate freshwater & energy program, WWF
2:50 – 3.15 pm	Nepal's climate change challenges and tourism sector	Ngamindra Dahal, Energy and climate change, Coordinator, NTNC
3.15- 4.00 pm	Discussions & Closing Ceremony	KEEP
4.00 pm	Refreshments	

### **Annex 2. Presentations slides**

It is available at [www.keepnepal.org](http://www.keepnepal.org).

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Annex 3. List of Participants