

Environment and Child Concern Organization-Nepal  
(ECO-Nepal)

## Strategy, 2010-2015

Kathmandu-5, Rajkulo Marg, Hadigaon  
GPO Box: 19720,  
Tel- 4445322,  
Tel/Fax:. 4435844  
E-mail: [econepal@econepal.org](mailto:econepal@econepal.org)  
[eco.chetana@gmail.com](mailto:eco.chetana@gmail.com)  
UR: [www.econepal.org](http://www.econepal.org)

## **Contents**

**Abbreviation**

**Foreword**

- 1. Background**
- 2. ECO-Nepal's Vision, Mission and Objectives**
- 3. Values**
- 4. Thematic Area**
- 5. Rights-based Approach**
- 6. Responsibility of ECO-Nepal**
- 7. Rationale of the strategy**
- 8. Central Strategy and focus area**
  - 8.1 Awareness**
  - 8.2 Advocacy**
  - 8.3 Educational program**
  - 8.4 Capacity building**
  - 8.5 Knowledge sharing**
- 9. Financial Strategy**
  - 9.1 Resource mobilization**
  - 9.2 Financial sustainability**
  - 9.3 Financial transparency**
- 10. Implementing mechanism**

## 1. Background

ECO-Nepal is a non profit making, non political national organization established in 2000 registered in Kathmandu under the non government organization act, 2034 from Chief District Office Kathmandu and affiliated with Social Welfare Council of Nepal. ECO-Nepal's headquarter is in Kathmandu valley, the capital city of Nepal.

It is working with national stakeholders for generating mass awareness, capacity building and advocacy for disaster risk reduction, environment protection, natural resources conservation with right based approach to the community people as well as policy makers, development workers and civil society.

Our earth has been confronted by unique environmental challenges. Nepal is a hot spot of disasters, ranking 11<sup>th</sup> for earthquake and 30<sup>th</sup> for water-induced disaster (WBCPR 2004). Nepal is also prone to impacts of climate change that rank 6<sup>th</sup> vulnerable country on it (German watch 2006). To mitigate the effects of disaster, to increase people's resilience to disaster risks, and to promote a risk-transfer strategy, it is necessary to promote disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Nepal, with its fragile natural condition and lying in the active seismic zone sandwiched between Tibetan and Indian tectonic plates, she is more prone to variety of recurring natural disasters, such as earthquake, floods, landslides, hailstorm, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), snow avalanches, hot and cold waves and disease epidemics. Moreover, due to insufficient confidence and desired skills among community organizations, designated staff members of local government and community organizations on disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation, compelled the situation more devastating.

Thus, in one hand we have to conserve the nature for our future generation; in other hand it needs to enhance the capacity for disaster preparedness, response and its resettlement.

In this endeavor, ECO-Nepal is committed to awareness, advocacy and capacity building on disaster risk reduction (DRR), livelihood promotion (LP) environment and natural conservation (ENC). It has been working since last 10 years with Environment and Disaster Education Programme (EDEP) publishing PARYAWARAN Monthly, where the main objectives are knowledge and information dissemination within the grass root level.

ECO-Nepal is a leading organization to develop informative, educative and communicative (IEC) materials as posters, flipcharts, audio and visual documentary. It has published 15 books as Disaster Knowledge Series, which has been proved very effective for development workers, teachers and students as well as community peoples. Similarly, ECO-Nepal also develops and broadcasts a radio programme 'Chetana' for disseminating the knowledge on DRR and ENC from 18 community FM radio stations of east to west of Nepal. It has successfully facilitated the communities campaigning at Chapagaun VDC of Lalitpur District where it empowered and supported Jhalungtar community forest user group (CFUG) to bring stone quarrying to stop.

## **2. ECO-Nepal's Vision, Mission and Objectives**

### **2.1 Vision**

Every people have well knowledge and capacity to cope environmental hazards and resilience to disaster with the best practice and participation living without poverty, environmental and disaster injustice around the Nation.

### **2.2 Mission**

To aware and empower the people to insure the secured future through wise use of resources, deduct poverty and disaster risk reduction.

### **2.3 Goal**

To insure people's capacity building to access over resources for sustainable livelihood, quality life, and resilience to disaster and environmental degradation for their secure future.

### **2.4 Objectives**

- To enhance knowledge of disaster management, environment protection, climate change adaptation and natural resources conservation
- To build capacity of stakeholders on environment, natural resources, Climate change adaptation and disaster management,
- To create risk free sustainable society

### **2.5 Strategic Objectives**

- To organize poor and excluded people to enable them to claim their rights (organizing rights holders)
- To enhance the capacity of poor and excluded people to take charge of their own development (capacity building)
- To address the immediate needs of poor and excluded people as a means to the fulfillment of their rights (addressing immediate needs)
- To influence the government and other key national and international agencies in the formulation of pro-poor policies and their effective implementation (improving governance)
- To contribute to conflict management and transformation processes (peace building)

## **3. Values**

**Mutual respect**, requiring us to recognize the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity

**Equity and justice**, requiring us to work to ensure equal opportunity for everyone, irrespective of caste, ethnicity, sex, age, religion, class, political beliefs, location, disability, HIV status and sexual orientation

**Honesty and transparency**, being accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and open in our assessments and communications with others

**Solidarity with the poor**, powerless and excluded will be the only bias in our

commitment to the fight against poverty

**Courage of conviction**, requiring us to be creative and radical, bold and innovative – without fear of failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty

**Independence** from any religious or party-political affiliation

**Partnership**- It is to advocate through mutual hands in a sustainable way qualitatively

**Humility** in our presentation and behaviour, recognizing that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty

**Quality and excellence** in our conduct and performance, striving for the highest possible standards

#### **4. Thematic Area**

- Disaster risk management
- Ecology and ecosystem management
- Natural resource conservation
- Climate change adaptation

#### **5. Rights-based Approach**

Rights-based Approach (RBA) is central to fight against poverty, and the empowerment of people to claim their rights.

It is considered poverty to be the social, economic and political conditions under which people are denied their rights to a life with dignity. RBA sees basic human needs as the fundamental rights for all people, and believes that attainment of these rights is key to overcoming injustice and thus poverty. RBA considers abject poverty as a gross violation of people's basic rights and provides international human rights standards for poverty eradication, making it an obligation of the State rather than only an intention.

It believes that any other actor working for the rights of the poor and excluded people should complement, but must not replace the role of the State. As human rights are derived from human needs, RBA inherently includes a need-based approach, adding the values of equity and non-discrimination and also addressing the political and social dimensions of poverty.

In order to operate RBA, ECO-Nepal strives to organize and mobilize the groups of its rights holders. It also engages in capacity building of these groups as part of their empowerment process. With its multitude of partners, ECO-Nepal supports and facilitates the struggle of rights holders in claiming their rights and engaging in activities to influence the government and other powerful actors to formulate and implement pro-poor policies.

ECO-Nepal primarily adopts the following core elements of RBA: inclusion, participation,

partnership, advocacy and campaigns, social activism, and knowledge for change. Separate policy documents and guidelines will be prepared on these key modalities.

**Inclusiveness-**ECO-Nepal will accentuate on future programs to be more targeted towards needy ones and the vulnerable community so that the effects of such programs are sustainable over the medium to long terms. In the meanwhile, poor, illiterate, women, ethnic community, PwDs and marginalized community will be targeted in each activity.

## **6. Responsibility of ECO-Nepal**

As a pioneer organization in Nepal for the media advocacy and awareness on Environment and Disaster management, ECO-Nepal has been struggling to provide the quality service in this sector. In this regard, it aims to show the excellence in the coming days also to achieve its goal.

The General Assembly (GA), composed of its executive board and members, governs the ECO-Nepal. While, right to put the views has also given to staffs of ECO-Nepal. The GA meets annually to review and agree on ECO-Nepal's plan, annual activities, budget, policy and also to elect Executive Committee (EC) members. The duration for EC will be for 2 years. The EC meets once every two months or as required to steer, monitor, advise, mobilize resources and for final decision. To successfully implement the day to day activities and decision of EC meeting, ECO-Nepal has office staffs. Moreover, ECO-Nepal can also mobilize volunteer with making the volunteer roster for specific activities if needed.

## **7. Rationale of the strategy**

Since its inception in 2000, ECO-Nepal has been making continuous effort on the same field of Environment and Disaster management. Environmental Protection (EP), Natural Resource Management (NRM), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Management (DM) as a function of awareness and advocacy has been agreed by the global, regional and national levels. In Nepal, thousands of people are affected due to natural disasters such as earthquake, floods, landslides, hailstorm, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), snow avalanches, hot and cold waves and disease epidemics; food insecurity, and impacts of climate change every year, which is primarily connoted with illiteracy, lack of awareness, superstitions, and poverty. To contribute for the risk resilient community, awareness and advocacy program from parliament to grass root level is utmost important. Thus, ECO-Nepal feels to extend such awareness and advocacy program to every front of society to make them responsible to cope with such challenges; nudging the government agencies for the effective implementation incorporating such issues on new constitution. In this regard, to make these things more result oriented, this strategy will help make fruitful.

## **8. Central Strategy and focus area**

### **8.1 Awareness**

Inadequacy of awareness and knowledge, and insufficient confidence and desired skills among community organizations and designated staff members of local government made the situation more devastating in environment degradation and disaster impacts.

So, to overcome this situation, it is prompt for the nation for awareness program, where ECO-Nepal is continuing such effort since one decade. The different aspects for the awareness programs are;

- Awareness will be at local to national level ranging grass root community to policy makers
- Use of print, audio and visual media will be there for the awareness program
- Linkage will be there with local organization, local government officials, youth and women club to extract the local issues.
- Coordination and collaboration with different Radio Listener Club made from Chetana Radio Program (Till to date 145 RLC)
- Coordination and collaboration with National Network of Community Based Disaster Management Committee Nepal.
- Conduction of rally, campaign and different competition like debate, elocution, quiz, game etc among the school and college level students
- Different leaflets, flip charts, posters will be developed as an IEC materials

### **8.2 Advocacy**

Frequent advocacy will be there with the concerned authorities, political parties, parliamentarians, and local level stakeholders and implementers to adopt and timely update regarding the following aspects;

- Rational use of natural resources, ecology and ecosystem management
- Linking climate change issues with disaster management
- Environment Impact Analysis and Disaster Impact Analysis while development
- Amendment of environmental and disaster management act and policy according to the time and circumstances
- Promotion of local resources for environment and disaster management

### **8.3 Educational program**

- Paryawaran Monthly will be published in a regular manner as a educational program
- Beside the already published 15 volumes of DKS, other volume of DKS including broader aspects will be published
- E-bulletin will be published for wide circulation of the recent issues
- Disaster and climate change adaptation related books will be published targeting school children
- Good practice will be published to encourage the community for positive change
- To develop training manuals, content of courses, mapping of existing training curricula and standardization

### **8.4 Capacity building**

ECO-Nepal will conduct different capacity building programs including the technical support to make different plans for disaster management; trainings and workshops.

1. Technical support to develop National, District or VDC level Disaster Management Plan, policies and strategies
2. Training will be conducted to different level throughout the nation.
  - Training on Community Based Early Warning System(CBEWS)
  - Training on Contingency Planning in Community (CPC)
  - Training on First Aid
  - Training on Search and Rescue

- Training on Inclusiveness in DM
  - Training on PVA
  - Training on disaster preparedness system
  - Training on climate change adaptation
  - Training on biodiversity and ecosystem management
3. Workshops and seminars will be conducted in the following areas;
- Several DM and climate change related workshops to CBOs, CA members and Media personnel
  - Different national and international day celebration like UN/ISDR day, Earthquake Safety day, Environment day, Wetland day etc

### **8.5 Knowledge sharing**

- Encourage its members to collate and publish best practices
- Make effort to members to jointly undertake developing integrated management plan for Kathmandu Valley considering environment and disaster issues.
- Organize knowledge sharing forums on climate change and its adaptation among policy makers, development workers, and political bodies at all level.
- Involve and disseminate experiences on human pandemic issues.
- Assist its members and related stakeholders to minimize the numbers of assessment teams in same location for data collection both on pre and post disaster situation by effectively coordinating the activities.
- Regularly publish DM/CCA related information and knowledge

## **9. Financial Strategy**

### **9.1 Resource mobilization**

ECO-Nepal will mobilize financial resources primarily from two sources, internal and external. Internal sources includes the membership fee, donation/contribution from its member and through sale of different products like flip charts, poster, documentaries etc. while external source are from donor agencies.

### **9.2 Financial sustainability**

Over the past 10 years, ECO-Nepal has worked with strenuous effort to maintain the financial sustainability through publications, audio and visual items and support from donors. Now, ECO-Nepal is committed to being a self reliant organization aiming at financial sustainability on medium to long term. With an aim to attain self sufficient,

- ECO-Nepal will actively underpin its relationships with on-going partners and also with a range of potential external donors and collaborators for its future activities.
- ECO-Nepal will enable to increase internal source of income through the circulations of different production, development and publication materials on environment and disaster management issues.

This strategy will be helpful to continue the plan for sustainability in all area of operations including both administration sectors to program sectors.

### **9.3 Financial transparency**

All the financial activities will be performed as per the rule of Government of Nepal with sharing to all partners and donor in clear documents.



## 10. Implementing mechanism

- **Holistic approach covering major disaster and environmental degradation-** For a sustainable environment and disaster management, the holistic approach will be there to consider different disaster and environmental degradation
- **Focus on disaster preparedness-** The focus for the disaster management will be for its preparedness than post disaster management mainstreaming the advocacy and awareness program. In the meanwhile it advocates implementing the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA).
- **Community based disaster management-** ECO-Nepal will promote community based disaster management as a tool to implement all disaster and development initiatives at the community level.
- **Result oriented programming-** ECO-Nepal will move to result oriented programming with extensive monitoring, knowledge sharing and evaluation.