



ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Nepal is rich in natural resources. Its lands stretch from the flatlands of Terai, through the hillsides to the mountains of the Himalayas. Its climate is supportive of a variety of crops. There are great forestlands and there is a huge potential for hydropower. Yet, due to lack of leadership, waste management, careless industrialization, only a few environment initiatives, lack of capital and a lack of skilled workers, Nepal is heading towards environmental crisis. The air and water are polluted. The soil faces erosion and the forestry is being cripplingly depleted.

Water Research

Water is one of the most essential elements for all known forms of life. Join VIN and our partners to conduct water research in Nepal and contribute solutions to Nepal's urgent challenge.

Nepal's water resources continue to be depleted. While water sources dry up, flash floods destroy homes and lives. And as existing water sources continue to be polluted with human, animal and chemical waste, remaining resources are inadequately managed. Industry, agriculture and an increasing population are all in competition for Nepal's precious water resources.

More than 4.4 million people in Nepal do not have access to safe drinking water, either through pipes, wells, rainwater or bottles. Over two thirds do not have access to improved sanitation facilities. Consequently, nearly 2000 Nepali children die from diarrhea-related diseases every year. No satisfactory preventive measurement like water research, public awareness, and sanitation programs are conducted by the government or the non-governmental sector.

Climate Change Research

The dramatic climate changes pose significant threats to the environment, economy and society and is thus one of the most urgent issues for research towards solutions (Earthwatch Institute). VIN seeks experienced research volunteers to help make an impact on serious environmental issues facing Nepal today.

With an economy and population largely dependent on rainwater-fed agriculture and a dramatic geography rendering land prone to flooding Nepal is particularly vulnerable to climate change. Flash floods and glacial outburst remain the most significant events. Politically, Nepal is fragile. Nepal emerged from 10 years civil war in 2006 and abolished the monarchy in 2008. Its subsequent coalition governments failed to write a constitution until 2015. While poverty reigns and funds are desperately needed to rebuild the economy and infrastructure, costly adaptations for climate change are not priority.

Preserve Traditional Farming Techniques While Empowering Local Farmers

VIN seek enthusiastic volunteers or interns to work side by side with Nepali farmers. Our agro-Farm Program aims to teach farmers in marginalized, rural communities new farming techniques while preserving the cultural heritage embodied in farming practices passed down by their ancestors.

Agriculture provides subsistence and employment for 75 percent of the population of Nepal, accounting for approximately 39 percent of the total GDP. The development of the sector is crucial for the empowerment of those who rely upon it and for the national economy. Nepali agro-farm is performed on a subsistence basis; livestock, crops and other enterprises exist side by side. However, as well as threats from soil erosion and water pollution, a more commercial approach is needed to maximize farm yields.

Promote Sustainable and Integrated Farming Practices Through Agroforestry

Across its varied geography Nepal has limited land suitable for agriculture; approximately 20 percent. Still, nearly 80 percent of the population depend upon farming for a living. The traditional style of farming in Nepal is 'terrace farming'; where receding flat surfaces are cut into a sloped plain. While labor intensive, this practice also threatens to cause soil erosion, water pollution, and a depletion of the plant and animal species, seriously jeopardizing the ecological balance of hilly landscapes.

Work with our partner, Kaule-Ev, in Okharpauwa Village Development Community (VDC) to introduce Agroforestry, a sustainable farming alternative. Agroforestry adopts an integrated approach to farming, using the interactive benefits of combining trees and shrubs with crops and/or livestock, the result being a more productive, profitable and healthy use of the land.



Volunteer Testimonial: Ignacio Oliva, Chile
15/12/2014 to 14/01/2015

Joining VIN has been one of the best experiences in my life. Here I had the chance to meet new people, a completely different culture and, of course, new friends.

The agro-farm project let my work hand by hand with a Nepali family. Living with them, waking up early in the morning, working on the same duties and having lunch and dinner all together, I was able not only to help, but also to learn about them, their challenges and way they see the life. Helping a family with their daily work is one of the best ways to give a hand to normal people to improve their life qualities. For being honest, I didn't know anything about farms from before, but it was no problem because everyone was able to teach me.

I came alone, but it doesn't matter. VIN provides information and take care about you, volunteers will become your friends and, please never forget it, you will have a new family which will make you feel even better than home!

Here in Nepal I found excellent people, a great experience and a very good work. But I really think that, more than helping other people, I had the unique chance to share my life with others.