

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
(16TH JULY 2016 – 15TH JULY 2017)



LEADERSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENT
& DEVELOPMENT NEPAL



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1. About Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Nepal

In 2004 a small group of people with diverse background and work experience got together, united by the belief that we can develop a sustainable economy strengthening the ecosystem services delivery that works for the people and the earth that we live in. With this belief and drive Leadership for Environment and Development Nepal (LEAD Nepal) a non-profit organization was registered with the government of Nepal in 2004 (Registration#: 334/061/62; PAN #: 302893166; Affiliated in the Social Welfare Council Affiliation #: 26846)

1.1. Vision:

A just world with sustainable economic growth harmonizing the capacity of the earth's ecosystem services and contributing to organic products for food security, nutrition, health and enhance livelihood by 25%.

1.2. Mission:

- Dedicate to improve the quality of life in a way that protects and restore earth's environment and its services so as to provide the needs and aspiration of current and future generations
- Our Objectives
- Protect, promote and reinforce the ecosystems for incessant delivery of its services in terms of organic agriculture, agro-forestry, watershed management, animal husbandry, renewable energy, deforestation, and biodiversity;
- Reduce carbon footprints by addressing rural and urban consumption pattern focusing in resource efficiency and reducing holistic waste;
- Mainstream women, children, elderly and indigenous groups during the planning, designing and implementing phase of the projects through all levels;
- Obtain social justice and green economic growth.

1.3. Our Values

LEAD Nepal to support its mission depends on the ability of its staff to uphold and promote the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct. We are personally and collectively responsible for maintaining the standards listed below:

- **Inclusive** and **nonpartisan** approach in all stages of the programme including staffing;
- Work in **partnership** with government, NGO's, business houses, farmers, forest users groups, rural & urban community based organizations, academicians and the international communities with **respect and dignity**;
- Strive to apply donor's funds to the highest standards of **accountability**;
- Create **environmental solutions** that make a lasting difference;

- **Innovative approach** when designing and using a wide range of problem-solving tools;
- Embrace **ambitious environmental goals** while taking into account real world dynamics;
- Devote to **Impact Investment** by reflecting the ecosystem services provided are equitably spread to all social growth

1.4. Areas of work:

1.4.1. Green Economy

The Green economy aims at sustainable development without degrading the environment. The 2011 UNEP Green Economy Report argues, “that to be green, an economy must not only be efficient, but also fair. Fairness implies recognizing global and country level equity dimensions, particularly in assuring a just transition to an economy that is low- carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive”.

One of Lead Nepal’s core mandates is to uplift the living standard of marginalized group by increasing their income by 25%. This is achieved by introducing innovative healthy approach towards self-sustainability at the same time creating income-generating activity and linking producers and business entity to build a safe and healthy environment for today and the future. LEAD Nepal, tries best to promote pro-equity interventions in its entire program so as to achieve fairness during the process of a green economy. Few of the examples are stated below:

a) Organic Farming

By 2014, Lead Nepal has build the capacity of 3800 farmers family and directly linked them to business centers who sell their products to many outlets within and outside Nepal. Organic Mountain Flavor Pvt. Ltd. alone exported 297 tons of ginger in 2014. LEAD Nepal’s five year plan (2020) is to enhance the capacity of 36000 more farmers covering an area of 9000-hector farmland between the elevation of 300 to 3700 meter, increase their yield by 25%, acquire organic certificates and directly link them to business houses. Currently, LEAD Nepal is exploring export market opportunities.

b) Agro-Eco Village

Lead Nepal has converted Sankhu Palubari village into an agro-eco village and income made from their products run the community school and cultural function.

c) Waste Management

Waste diversion is another green economy that Lead Nepal is involved in. The first step towards it was converting urban waste to organic compost, which became a lucrative business. Currently,

LEAD Nepal is working towards waste to energy and is assisting the SWMTSC, Ministry of Local Development, in preparing zero waste strategy for Solid Waste Management, for Kathmandu.

d) Wetland Project

Products such as bamboo baskets, mats and natural fiber products are another green economy introduced and about 100 women in Tapuksohi, were empowered on macramé knot craft.

1.4.2. Wastes Management

Waste has significant impact on ecosystem and pose threats to human health and wellbeing. Waste also threatens the integrity of habitats that are essential to biological diversity. The challenge is to develop responses to waste issues that can improve the quality of human life and biodiversity.

LEAD Nepal aims to reduce reuse and recycle (3R) waste, with minimum waste going to landfill. LEAD Nepal jointly with other NGO's and PPAP conducted research and organized workshops on waste management in and outside Kathmandu valley.

In 2009, LEAD Nepal with partnership with Solid Waste Management Recovery Center, Ministry of Local Development Nepal, conducted a research on Zero Waste Management Project for Kathmandu and Lalitpur District in Nepal. LEAD Nepal based on its research extended its service to prepare the technical proposal for Integrated Solid Waste Management of Kathmandu Valley with BOT model on zero waste concepts.

1.4.3. Disaster Waste Management

In 2008, LEAD Nepal with support from Nepal Eco-tech Pvt. Ltd. did a research on Earthquake Hazard Management. Further, in response of the earth quack on 25 April 2015, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) jointly with Lead Nepal support by UNEP conducted a research on Disaster Waste and have prepared the Disaster Waste Management Policy, Strategy an Action Plan for Nepal. LEAD Nepal has conducted several workshops locally and have travelled internatinally representing Nepal on issues related to Disaster Waste Management

Nepal jointly with Karuna Shechen, has assessed the situation on 12 earth quack affected districts and is working on disaster waste management in the field level

1.4.4. Soil Protection

Protecting forests and trees are essential for warding off environmental degradation and rural poverty. In spite of the significance of forests and tree-based resources, present trends are not encouraging. Forest resources continue to be poorly managed and not used rationally.

Deforestation mainly occur due to clearing for agriculture in areas not suitable for this purpose, fire wood collection, and urban and infrastructure development.

LEAD-Nepal, participated in planting tree, shrubs, bamboos in areas prone to land slide. In some areas terrace farming was promoted in order manipulates the water flow preventing from gathering speed and washing soil from farmlands. Contour farming was also implemented since crops planted parallel to the land slow the flow of water that prevents soil erosion, in open land trees and shrubs were planted as windbreakers which prevent soil erosion by slowing the force of the wind over open ground. Wetlands were also restored which is one of the most effective ways to prevent soil erosion. Wetlands act as natural sponges, absorbing rainwater and preventing it from carrying the soil away. They also provide a habitat for birds and other wildlife and help prevent water pollution. We also planted mixture of grasses, shrubs and trees as buffer strips along stream banks which helped hold stream banks intact during times of flooding.

1.4.5. Agro-forestry and Watershed Management

Agroforestry systems protect crops and forage, increase their production, protect soil and water resources, conserve energy, improve ecosystem “richness”, create additional wildlife habitat, and increase landscape diversity. They also provide additional farm or ranch products: timber, pulpwood, firewood, posts, fruit, nuts, and fodder to name a few. Agroforestry represents a collection of multipurpose practices that are enduring and help achieve sustainable agriculture.

Increase damage of agriculture is competing with forest-based livelihood. While it can offer hope for short-term poverty eradication, agriculture expansion can damage the natural services that woodlands provide to local community.

Encouraging farmers to grow indigenous varieties of trees and shrubs in combination with crops or forage. Also include tree and shrub plantings on the farm that improve habitat value or access by humans and wildlife, or that provide woody plant products in addition to agricultural crops or forage. Currently, LEAD Nepal is working on 12 earthquake-affected districts in capacity building of the locals on efficient use of agro-forestry while protection and restoring ecosystems services for incessant delivery of its services.

1.4.6. World Mountain Product Branding

The world mountain people’s voice and hard work needs to be heard. Their experience, challenges and lessons learned have to be shared within the mountain people for a result-oriented solution. As a result, The World Mountain Product Association (WMPA) and World Mountain Product Branding as a wing was formed out of the World Mountain Forum held at UNESCO (Paris) and in Chambéry (Savoie – Alps) in June 2000 on the initiative of the National Association of Elected Officials of the Mountains (ANEM).

The international brand for mountain produce will give a platform to acknowledge and recognize the different products produced by the world mountain people and will improve the economy of these regions promoting their ideas and culture. Their experience sharing will lead to the creation of a network of mountain people, which can then be coordinated at an international level by WMPA. This global branding will act as an umbrella brand for specific mountain region or particular mountain product.

LEAD Nepal is working with farmers in Upper Mustang for the organic certification and has secured approval from WMPA for branding it as World Mountain Product. WMPA will market the products internationally on behalf of the farmers in Mustang.

1.4.7. Facilitation of Organic Certification Process

As a consumer, how can you tell whether a product is truly organic? Today, as consumers become more aware and responsible about what they eat and drink, there is an increasing interest in, and consequently a rising demand for, organic products. Therefore, Organic certifications have been put in place to provide the consumer with confidence in the product they buy.

Lead Nepal on behalf of the farmers have facilitated the process of organic certification with leading organic certification institutes and currently is in the stage of an internal inspection process.

Lead Nepal has imparted workshops and on the job training on the stages of conversion to organic farming. Workshops on monitoring and evaluation on the conversion to organic farming were provided, as it is a core requirement for the successful output. Currently Lead Nepal is in the process of acquiring organic certification for Upper Mustang region and the region around Surkhet.

1.4.8. Improve Irrigation Efficiency and Water Management

In the face of increase water security, demand for water is outstripping supply therefore we need to address the challenges that we face ensuring productive and efficient use of land and water resources to meet present and future demand while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the land and water quality and quantity.

We have facilitated new approaches to water use that include farming practices that use less water without affecting productivity. Specifics are integrated water resources management, water harvesting, groundwater, use of non-conventional water, reuse of treated wastewater, modernization of irrigation systems, on-farm water management, and water quality management. We also need to developing policies, programmes, best practices and tools in the fields of irrigation and drainage, soil conservation, drought mitigation, water rights, access to natural resources, and improvement of land markets. Research still needs to be done in securing these sectors.

1.4.9. Improving Efficiency of Fertilizers

Soil condition is a key measure of the long-term productive capacity of an agro-ecosystem. Both natural weathering and human management affect soil quality, and maintaining soil quality requires that soil degrading and soil-conserving processes be balanced. Fertilizer is the engine of agriculture, but its inefficient use creates greenhouse gases, algae blooms and contaminated drinking water. Nitrous oxide pollution from agriculture mainly comes from using inorganic nitrogen fertilizers and from improper storing of manures.[1]

Lead Nepal promotes the need to reduce nitrous oxide emissions by ensure fertilizer use is efficient and nitrogen losses are minimized.

LEAD Nepal actively promoted and gave trainings and seminars on different methods of producing organic fertilizer, organic growth motivators and organic method of combating pests. Training on crop nutrient management, planning and soil analysis was given which is also part of the long-term productive capacity of agro-ecosystem.

1.4.10. Organic Farming

It is a proven fact that organically managed soils can convert carbon from a greenhouse gas into a food-producing asset. It's nothing new, and it's already happening, but it's not enough. Organic food is healthier, better for farmers' livelihoods and does not destroy the ecological balance.

Rising temperatures, decreasing water availability and un-organic methods of agriculture in the long run reduce the yields particularly in developing countries where agriculture is vital for food security. Therefore, agriculture must also adapt to changes in climate in order to provide food security.

Organic agriculture has considerate potential for reducing emission of greenhouse gas and generally requires less fossil fuel per hectare and kg of produce due to avoidance of synthetic fertilizers. Since 2004, Lead Nepal has relentlessly worked on promoting organic agriculture that aims at improving soil fertility and nitrogen supply by using crop rotation system. The enhanced soil fertility leads to stabilization of soil organic matter and in cases to a sequestration of carbon dioxide into the soil. This in turn increases the soil's water retention capacity, thus contributing to better adaption of organic agriculture under unpredictable climatic conditions with higher temperatures and uncertain precipitation levels. Thus small and large organic farming is essential to restore our food, livelihood and health security while mitigating ecological balance.

1.5. Approach of Work

1.5.1. Private-Public-Academic Partnership

To make a larger impact for a safe and healthy ecosystem plus economic viability, multi functional partnership including government and international communities are cornerstone of LEAD Nepal's working strategy.

We try our best to work with socially responsible business sectors that respect and understand ecosystem services not only of its broad impact, but also because of its power to spur innovation, influence supply chains, inform consumer choice, and shape public policy.

At the grass root level, Lead Nepal works with the community mobilizers, community based organizations (CBOs), mothers and youth groups, village school forest users group, media house and VDC who were instrumental in creating awareness and inspiring the community in understanding the ecosystem services consequently motivating them to protect, prevent and mitigate the ecosystem and its services. Further, these groups jointly with the university students, professors and business house and LEAD Nepal conducted base line surveys, researches and progress status on different wings of the ecosystem services.

Lead Nepal help build the capacity of 3800 farmers, 10 mothers group, 10 Cooperatives, 9 youth groups, 6 Community schools, 8-forest users groups and selected students from 3 universities. Seventy percent of the target groups are females from diverse ethnic groups and many holding leading positions. By 2020, Lead Nepal plans to directly reach 36000 farmer HH's covering an area of 9000-hector farmland between the elevations of 300 to 3700 meter.

The start of private sector partnership was in 2006, whereby LEAD Nepal with its mandate linked The Organic Village presently known as The Organic Valley (TOV) with the farmers. With the support of LEAD Nepal the organic products were examined and an MOU signed, followed by establishing a processing unit in Kathmandu for packaging and processing of organic products. By end 2007 the organic spices and grains were showcased in leading departmental stores in Kathmandu.

LEAD Nepal with its growing farmers families and the successful surplus yield of ginger and turmeric expanded the business horizon of the farmers, which encouraged LEAD Nepal to participate in numerous agricultural exhibitions abroad and within Nepal. Finally in 2013, with the intervention of LEAD Nepal a joint venture company was registered, "Organic Mountain Flavor Pvt. Ltd" (OMF). A ginger-processing unit with the capacity to process 600 tons each day was established in Surket District, Nepal.

By 2014, LEAD Nepal had linked 3800 farmers' family directly to business centers in Nepal who sell their products to many outlets including OMF. By end 2014 OMF alone exported 297 tons of ginger annually, which was produced by 1700 farmers in Surket District. LEAD Nepal's five year plan (2020) is to enhance the capacity of 36000 more farmers covering an area of 9000-hector

farmland between the elevation of 300 to 3700 meter, increase their yield by 25%, acquire organic certificates and directly link them to business houses. Currently, LEAD Nepal is exploring export market opportunities.

1.5.2. Reinforcing the Ecosystem

Sustainable Agriculture: LEAD Nepal with the support of WWF Nepal assisted in a baseline survey of illegal wildlife trade in Mustang Valley and is currently involved in another project in Upper Mustang. The work scope involves promoting farmers to grow organic seeds and grains; empower them holistically in organic way of life; acquire organic certificates; establish an industry and market their product in the attempt to secure a healthy and comfortable life as well as mitigate climate change in a sustainable manner. The entire project is gender sensitive and inclusive in nature. LEAD Nepal is in partnership with TOV and the project is funded by WWF, Nepal.

LEAD Nepal to promote the right of education particularly for girl children successfully developed Suntol VDC, Sankhu Palubari, Bishambhara village into an Agro-Eco Village (going organic from school to home). LEAD Nepal trained the villagers on organic farming, water shed management and organic way of living and the surplus income generated from their products were used to run their village school and community programmes. This programmed became a success with the full support of District Agriculture Development Organization (DADO) and the community of Sankhu village.

Lead Nepal with its specialization on organic farming has worked as consultant all over Nepal and with its techniques of organic growth promoters, organic composting and organic pest management have build the capacity of numerous farmers.

Organic Coffee: Lead Nepal, build the capacity of about 220 farmers on organic coffee plantation in six districts namely Illam, Kaski, Sankhuwasabha, Parbat, Lamjung and Nuwakot. The production capacity in these districts is about 100 tons of green beans per annum but currently only 15 tons are being produced. LEAD Nepal is exploring recourses to expand the training to 300 more farmers and acquire organic certification for the full utilization of the land available and uplift the living standards of the farmers.

Wetland Project: LEAD-Nepal jointly with TOV empowered 100 women in Tapuksohi, Nepal on macramé knot craft. Products such as bamboo baskets, mats and natural fiber products were designed and marketed in Nepal. The aim was to ensure maintenance and enhancement of wetland biodiversity and environmental goods and services for improved local livelihood in Nepal. The project objective was to strengthen national and local capacity in ecosystem management and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity in the Koshi Tappu wild life reserve area.

Mitigating Soil Erosion: LEAD-Nepal, with the local community and forest users group participated in planting tree, shrubs, bamboos in areas prone to land slide in the urban and rural areas of Nepal. In some areas Terrace farming was promoted in order manipulates the water flow preventing from gathering speed and washing soil from farmlands. Contour farming was also implemented since crops planted parallel to the land slow the flow of water that prevents soil erosion, in open land trees and shrubs were planted as windbreakers which prevent soil erosion by slowing the force of the wind over open ground. Wetlands were also restored which is one of the most effective ways to prevent soil erosion. Wetlands act as natural sponges, absorbing rainwater and preventing it from carrying the soil away. They also provide a habitat for birds and other wildlife and help prevent water pollution. We also planted mixture of grasses, shrubs and trees as buffer strips along stream banks which helped hold stream banks intact during times of flooding. They also prevent runoff from entering waterways. The re-establishment of forest cover provides an extensive, tree-root network that offers a long-term solution to soil erosion. It can function both as a windbreak and a means to anchor soils in place.

1.5.3. Rural and Urban Environment Management

Waste Management is another arena where we have made a difference. We started with serious of research and awareness programmes in and outside Kathmandu valley on reducing waste from source and waste diversion programmes. During 2004, the concept of waste to sustainable economy was un-thought of by the government and the civil societies but with continues awareness programmes, today its become a viable business. Lead-Nepal went to the extend of reaching out not only to the government and civil societies but aimed at school children who then would transfer their knowledge to friend and families. LEAD Nepal was the first to convert urban waste to organic compost. Supported by Jordan Foundation and Government of Nepal Solid Waste Management and Resource Center created training manuals conducted training on waste management at source.

In 2009, LEAD Nepal with partnership with Solid Waste Management Resource Center, Ministry of Local Development Nepal, conducted a research on Zero Waste Management Project for Kathmandu and Lalitpur District in Nepal. LEAD Nepal based on its research extended its service to prepare the technical proposal “Integrated Solid Waste Management of Kathmandu Valley (Package 1; Public-Private Partnership in BOT Model)”. Lead Nepal also conducted a feasibility study on waste to energy for Kathmandu Valley with the support of Compunication OY & Bioste Company, Finland. Currently, Lead Nepal is part of the research and advisory team for preparing the detailed project report on zero waste management for Kathmandu Valley.

In 2008, LEAD Nepal with support from Nepal Eco-tech Pvt. Ltd. did a research and report on Earthquake Hazard Management. Soon after the 25 April 2015 earthquake, MoFALD and LEAD Nepal with the technical and financial support from UNEP jointly prepared disaster waste management policy, strategy action plan for Nepal. There were several meetings and consultations organized during the preparation process. These includes: (i) round table discussion on “Disaster Waste Management in Nepal”; (ii) workshop on “Disaster Waste Management in Nepal with International Development Partners and Funding Agencies”;(iii) Sharing mission

findings on “Field Observation and Findings on Disaster Waste Management; (iv) consultation with international experts at UNEP IETC;; (v) roundtable consultation on the draft Disaster Waste Management policy, strategy and action plan. Currently the team is finalizing the draft for its implementation.

Further, On 12 July 2015 LEAD Nepal signed MOU with Karuna Shechen to work as a response team for the relief, rehabilitation and restoration program in 12 earthquake-affected districts. [1] A base line study jointly conducted by Karuna Shechen and LEAD Nepal identified the potential risk for girl child trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Hence the core reason for the intervention is to mitigate girl child trafficking and SGBV. LEAD Nepal believes that restoring social justice and introducing green economy, simultaneously creating awareness on the right of the child, CEDAW and gender sensitive actions with its protection and response mechanism will help mitigate SGBV. LEAD Nepal is also working with INHURED for the rights based approach. Currently LEAD Nepal work scope involved a) watershed replenishment, maintenance and management; b) bio forestry c) sustainable farming, d) kitchen gardening e) organic composting and pest management; f) animal husbandry; g) crop storage technology; h) cash crop cultivation & i) awareness on SGBV j) reconstruction of schools.

With the support from JHPIEGO, USA, Dr. Neol MCintosh and Linda Tietjen USA LEAD Nepal conducted a baseline study on the water and sanitation challenges along the Bagmati river banks. In order get the best result LEAD Nepal with its experts gave orientation on the impact of poor sanitation and water pollution to 50 students from ASY Higher Secondary School, 51 students from Gate College and 100 squatters from Bagmati riverbanks. This group formed a team lead by Lead Nepal and jointly designed a project to protect, prevent and mitigate the environmental challenges posed by untreated sewage flowing through Bagmati river including the practice of dumping waste in the river. We can proudly claim that individuals who took part in this research are today taking a leading role in cleaning the Bagmati Riverbanks and so is Lead Nepal.

2. Major Activities

2.1. Integrated Strategic Environment Assessment Project (ISEA):

2.1.1. Background

In February 2016, UNEP met with Ms. Laxmi Kumari Basnet, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE) and discussed on the implementation for Integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment (ISEA) to support Nepal’s post-2015 earthquake reconstruction efforts.

The ISEA is based on the successful experience of implementing the approach in Sri Lanka’s Northern Province, shortly after the end of its 30-year civil war in 2010. The ISEA approach proved a very effective way of enabling Government Ministries to make decisions more efficiently and strategically on proposed development projects, while ensuring environmental safeguards and

disaster risk considerations were factored in decision-making. Through this new project, UNE is aiming to develop more practical experiences on ISEA in post-crisis contexts, by building national capacities in two other countries and promoting learning exchanges on ISEA best practices. Nepal and Cote d'Ivoire are the two countries selected for ISEA implementation.

2.1.2. Activities:

- a) **1st Mission (21-26 June 2016):** On 22 June 2016, a meeting was organized between MOPE and UNEP to outline the joint collaboration on ISEA project. Following this a number of meetings were conducted in small groups with the National Planning Commission (NPC), National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Integrated Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), International Union for Nature (IUNC) and Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) to build consensus on the implementation of the ISEA project.

On 24 June 2016, a round table discussion was convened at the MOPE premises with participants from other National Ministries including MOPE. Sixty participants attended the roundtable discussion. To relate to the actual ground reality a field visits to Nuwakot was organized accompanied by MOPE, NRA, UNEP and LEAD Nepal on 25 June 2016.



Figure 1: Stakeholder engaged in group work.

- b) **2th Mission (14-20 Sept. 2016):** A mission was organized from 14-20 September 2016 to convene senior government representatives from key Ministries who can form part of an ISEA core group and who will work together to undertake the environmental screening and assessment of the Post-Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF), with guidance from UNEP ISEA expert.
- c) **Introductory Training on ISEA, (15-16 September 2016):**

An interactive two-day training was organized by UN Environment, facilitated by an international expert on ISEA. Total of 15 participants at Under-secretary level participated

from the line ministries and relevant agencies (MOPE, NRA, MOF, NPC, one from each clusters).

The training program was composed of presentations, including: overview of Impact Assessments, need for ISEA, tools and technique of ISEA, methods and application of ISEA, Sri Lanka ISEA case study, environmental challenges of recovery in Nepal, experience of EIA's in Nepal. A group work session covered an assessment of recovery activities in thematic area and discussion about differences between EIA, SEA and ISEA tools.

UNEP conducted the trainings in two different groups each for two days; one for the policy level government officials (18-19 September 2016) and the other for the working committee groups. (15-16 September 2016). The trainings were organized at Orchard and Shankar Hotel respectively with 60 participants on 15-16 September and 60 participants for 18-19 September 2016. Certificates were distributed to all participants.

d) Sharing and Sensitization of ISEA in the context of PDRF, (18 - 19 September 2016)

An interactive one & half day Sharing and Sensitization on ISEA session was organized with the technical support with ISEA expert by UN Environment for 30 Under-secretary level officers from different line ministries, MOPE and NRA. The participants were introduced to the ISEA process and its application as a tool to implement reconstruction projects which comply with environmental mainstreaming in during post disaster and conflict situations. Three groups were created based on the need to implement the ISEA process, which included: Baseline; Development; and Assessment.

e) High-Level Policymakers Roundtable Meeting Agenda on ISEA, (19 September 2016)

A round table meeting was organized inviting the high-level policy makers on agenda of ISEA. The high-level policy makers who participated were Chief Executive Officer of NRA, Secretary & Joint-Secretaries of MOPE, Joint-Secretary of National Planning Commission & Ministry of Finance. The output of the ISEA training was shared with the high-level policy maker and the need of the ISEA process to fast track the reconstruction process by implementation of PDRF. Presentations were made by NRA under-secretary on status of the Post -2015 Earthquake National Reconstruction and UN

Environment facilitated consultant presented the need for ISEA. The ISEA presentation covered: Impact assessments in post-disaster situations, Environmental protection, avoiding delays and controversies, Building back better, Environmental resilience, Issues

and Challenges in the application of ISEA. The program was concluded with distribution of the certificate to the training participants.

f) Study Tour on Lessons learnt on ISEA for the Northern Province, Sri Lanka (19 -24 March 2017):

Four government officials from MOPE and NRA participated in the study tour on lessons learnt on ISEA for the Northern Province of Sri Lanka along with the government officials from Ivory Coast during 19-24 March 2017. The main objective of the Sri Lanka study tour is to provide an interactive opportunity for participants from the three ISEA countries to learn about the use of ISEA as a development planning tool for post-crisis reconstruction and recovery.

Visit programs allowed the government officials to observe the post conflict recover areas on way to Jaffna from Sri Lanka and interacted with the ISEA experts and government officials in Sri Lanka to learn the issues and challenges in implementing ISEA. The officials had also interacted with the Minister of Environment of Northern Province of Sri Lanka while presenting the ISEA for the post conflict recovery development activities.



Figure 2: Group photo after the consultation

g) Core Group Meeting and Action planning (11 April 2017):

A core group with around 20 participants from the key line agencies directly involved in the ISEA process attended the meeting for discussion on the action plan and next steps on taking ISEA activities forward and addressing the data and information gaps. The issues discussed: Technical mapping issues (the prioritization process); Data gaps and how to fill these; Identify areas of sensitivity; Ground verification; District and local consultations. The meeting recommended having a technical committee to address the data and methodology validation related issues.

h) Technical Committee Meetings for validation of the information used in the ISEA process

First meeting (20th June 2017):

Based on the recommendation in the core group meeting, a technical committee representing the institutions and experts and invited guests was formed to validate data collected to date. The meeting raised the question about the scale of the spatial information used and provided inputs on strengthening the spatial information. Recommendations included incorporating rainfall information in strengthening the landslide susceptibility maps which is used as base information for overlaying the PDRF listed road. The objective was to determine the status of road alignments as compared to landslide susceptibility.

i) 3th Mission (8-12 April 2017):

Number of meetings were organized with different stakeholders and on 11 April a workshop was organized to review the outcomes of the last national workshop discuss on the mapping results with focus to 14 districts, prioritize areas for the road development and an orientation on eco-safe road and landslide risk reduction. The workshop was organized at Annapurna hotel with 85 participants in total amongst which 20 participants were from the core group.

j) Consultation Workshop on Post-Earthquake Integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment with focus on road reconstruction (11 April 2017):

MOPE and NRA organized a half-day consultation workshop on Post-Earthquake Integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment (ISEA) with focus on road reconstruction on 11 April 2017 at Annapurna Hotel in Kathmandu. Around 35 Officials from the key line agencies and international organizations were invited to participate in the workshop. A presentation and interactive question and answer session was organized to present about the progress of the ISEA project activities and make aware about the ISEA tools. The presentations included: Objectives of Consultative workshop and issues to be consider on towards Eco-Safe Roads; review of the progress of the ISEA projects to date and outcomes; lessons learned from ISEA Sri Lanka Study

tour; mapping activities; build back better principle and Integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment; Road to ISEA

k) Core Group Meeting and Action planning (11 April 2017):

A core group with around 20 participants from the key line agencies directly involved in the ISEA process attended the meeting for discussion on the action plan and next steps on taking ISEA activities forward and addressing the data and information gaps. The issues discussed: Technical mapping issues (the prioritization process); Data gaps and how to fill these; Identify areas of sensitivity; Ground verification; District and local consultations. The meeting recommended having a technical committed to address the data and methodology validation related issues.