

NEWSLETTER ECOHIMAL FEBRUARY 2023

. GENERAL

. MIRA RAI

. OVENS IN KALIKOT



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A lot has happened since the last newsletter! Apart from the projects, we had and have a greater presence in Nepal, which is noticeably good for the work of the association. Since mid-August 2023, Clemens lives permanently in Kathmandu, where he works for a German NGO. Through this, the contact to EcoHimal Nepal has become much more intensive, as he regularly meets with Narayan Dhakal, the director, and the other employees. In autumn, Carmen, Sabine and Tilman, several members, visited Nepal and of course got to know our local EcoHimal friends. Coincidentally, three members of the Lufthansa help alliance were in Nepal at the same time, with whom we have already worked successfully. The

Gardena donated gardening tools worth more than 800 € to an agricultural project of the help Alliance and we financed the transport costs through the BMZ. In November, the gardening tools arrived in Nepal and were distributed to farmers who grow Szechuan pepper and Kardamom in the farming for health project. The cultivation of high-quality spices as so-called "cash crops" provides the farmers with income opportunities that exceed the subsistence level. The spices are used on Lufthansa flights, among others, and are to be imported to Europe under fair trade conditions in the future. We are curious to see what else will be possible in the future.

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In November and December, two more members of the EcoHimal team, Caro and Nicole, were in Nepal. Caro - in addition to her professional obligations - took care of the project completion with the Mira Rai Initiative. We already finished our joint project in October and Caro was able to get better impressions on site. Under the motto "ek paila agadi" (Nepali for "one step forward") our scholarship holder Anita completed her nine-month training and education program. Some of our members have been actively involved during this time by helping Anita learn English through Zoom. Anita herself considers her scholarship period a great success. When asked about her time in Kathmandu, she says: "I learned a lot! The program was varied and I particularly enjoyed the first aid training in the high mountains.

and liked the personal coaching from Mira". Anita has also participated in four races, one of which she even won. Now, in the next few weeks, she will take her exam to become a licensed trail guide. Despite Anita's very positive development, we have nevertheless decided not to support another scholarship holder next year for the time being. Supporting individuals can be very meaningful, but we would like to concentrate our efforts now in order to achieve as much as possible in our new project region in Kalikot. However, since we find Mira Rai's ideas and projects fundamentally very sensible and good, we want to continue to support the initiative in its further development as an organization and will also continue to accompany Anita. We are very grateful for the cooperation with Mira and her team and very proud of Anita's successes!

M I R A R A I



The stove project is now really taking off! Our project application for the small project fund of the BMZ for 10.000€ was successful and thanks to your donations we can contribute another 5.900€. Once again to the overview: The focus of our project is to equip 38 households with the improved kitchen stoves. All households are located in the village of Ramni in the district of Kalikot. We want to work closely with women's groups and the community forest user committee that already exist in Ramni village. Such women's groups exist in many villages in Nepal. The women meet regularly to exchange ideas and we are convinced that it will be important to work closely with them in the future. There are two main reasons for this. First, the women suffer the most from the health effects of open fires and the workload of collecting fuel.

wood. Secondly, women in the rural areas of Kalikot are severely disadvantaged in all areas of life. Often they are alone in Ramni for the whole year or at least for longer periods of time, because the men are working in India or in foreign countries (e.g. in Qatar). We are therefore convinced that sustainable change processes can be particularly successful through the involvement of women. We have therefore already involved women to a great extent. We have discussed with them what requirements they have for the stoves, they are to help us select households, and later they will be trained on sustainable forest use and various health issues. In addition, we want to bring two young people from the village to Kathmandu so that they can be present during the production of the stoves. They will then be trained as stove installers and, in the long term, will be in charge of the stoves in Kalikot.

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Maintain furnaces and get paid for it. Since Kalikot differs in many areas from our previous project regions in eastern Nepal - and also from the project regions of EcoHimal Nepal - we have commissioned a comprehensive local study. The purpose of this study is to determine exactly how the special living, working and cultural conditions of the region can be adequately taken into account in our project approach. The study is now available and we are currently evaluating the results together with our colleagues in Nepal. We hope to gain a profound understanding of the conditions in the village and a solid basis for our work.

This is the basis for the data that we can use later to understand the impact of our projects. Even Kathmandu is a long way from Kalikot and it is not easy to imagine what life is like in "our" project village Ramni. Before Christmas, Clemens was in Kalikot together with Narayan Dhakal and the team conducting the study. He will try to describe his impressions so that people in far away Germany can get an impression of what our new project region looks like and for whom you have donated your money!

Ü F E N I N K A L I K O T



Of course, we hope that you will remain sympathetic to us! We have noticed in our meetings with the village community and the local government that there is an enormous need for stoves in Ramni, so the 38 can only be a pilot phase. In order for us to work with more people, we need your continued support! Feel free to give us feedback on the newsletter and let us know what you are most interested in! (info@eco-himal.de). Of course, you are welcome to forward and share the newsletter. We are happy about any support!

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