



Report Zero Waste Himalaya Conference¹

5-8 August 2010

Deer Park Institute

Bir, Himachal Pradesh, India



¹ For comments on the report, please contact Ms. Pia Lindström: pia.mb.lindstrom@gmail.com.

Table of Content

Zero Waste Himalaya Initiative	3
Background.....	3
Issues discussed.....	4
Way forward.....	4
Day I: 5 August 2010.....	6
Day II: 6 August 2010.....	10
Day III: 7 August 2010.....	15
Day IV: 8 August 2010	19
Annex I: Zero Waste Himalaya Programme Schedule.....	22
Annex II: Dreams for Zero Waste Himalaya	24
Annex III: Challenges and Action Plans for achieving Zero Waste	25
Group: Nepal	25
Group: Himachal, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir.....	27
Group: Bhutan, Sikkim, Friends of Himalayas	28
Annex IV: Press Release.....	32
Annex V: Evaluation of Sessions.....	34
Annex VI: List of Participants and Organizations.....	38
Annex VII: Photos	44

Zero Waste Himalaya Initiative

On the 5-8 August 2010, approximately 60 participants from 20 different organizations (see **Annex VI**) gathered at Deer Park Institute in Bir to participate in the first Zero Waste Himalaya conference in history.

The Zero Waste Himalaya conference was a great success, as it managed to put the issue of waste and climate change in the Himalayan region on the agenda, and establish a network of organizations and individuals committed to learn and taking action towards a Zero Waste Himalaya.

The conference received considerable media attention, and a Zero Waste conference has already been planned for Bhutan in December 2010. A Zero Waste meeting will also be held in Sikkim for the Eastern Himalayas in November this year.

Background

From the time immemorial, the Himalayas have fascinated the imagination of people from all around the world. It is the abode of many rivers, wildlife sanctuaries, natural resources and spiritual seekers. But today it is facing the negative impact of global warming as many other parts of the world. The rapid melting of glaciers is a forewarning of the massive destruction the whole of humanity may face in coming decades. The effect of warming in the Himalayas will impact more than 500 million lives. It is the third pole of the world and the water source of the majority of the Asian population.

It has been identified that wrong models of development, resource use, lifestyles and wasting have contributed to much of the impending danger of global warming. Modern consumerism has resulted in intensive use of fossil fuels, exploitation of resources and pollution of the environment. Just as for any other part of the world, there is an urgent need to address the issue of global warming in the Himalayas. The continuous melting of glaciers will cause severe negative impacts on water sources, agriculture and people's livelihoods in the region. One way of addressing the challenge of global warming is by propagating and practicing efficient resources use models and promote handling systems based on Zero Waste principles which respect nature, natural cycles, eco systems and culture. This is, however, still a huge challenge, especially in mountainous areas.

Based on this reality, the idea of initiating a Zero Waste for Zero Warming conference for the Himalayan region came about during a meeting between Mr. Shibu K. Nair (Thanal) and Mr. Prashant Varma (Deer Park Institute) earlier this year. They decided to jointly host the conference together with Gaia.

The aim of the "Towards Zero Waste Himalaya" initiative is to put the issue of waste and global warming of the Himalayas on the global agenda, to make the issue visible by uniting groups and building a network which can facilitate sharing of observations of global warming evidence from different localities in the region. There is a need to learn from successes and failures, and identify possible solutions to this serious problem. "It is important that we develop expertise in this field, so

that we can provide adequate training to sensitize people on the effects of global warming in the Himalayas. We need to develop sustainable models at the local level, from which we can motivate Governments to learn and scale up,” Mr. Shibu addressed.

Issues discussed

Accordingly, during the conference experiences on global warming and waste (municipal waste, tourism waste, medical waste) were shared, and efforts were made trying to identify what is needed in order to achieve Zero Waste Himalayas. Focus throughout the conference was on the following issues:

- 1) *What are the participant’s concerns on waste/climate change?*
- 2) *How big is the waste problem that they are facing in their locality? Where is it? What are the problems caused?*
- 3) *What are the interventions the participant’s want to carry out to address these problems? What succeeded? What failed?*
- 4) *What challenges are they facing? Weaknesses?*

A large number of presentations were held by the participants, ranging from mere information sharing on the situation on waste and climate change in their respective localities, including success stories and failures, to more technical presentations on waste management systems and law, and tips on how to conduct Zero Waste campaigns. The participants also engaged in vivid discussions and presentations about their dreams for Zero Waste Himalayas, the challenges they are facing for achieving this dream, and what actions could be taken to bring these dreams forward.

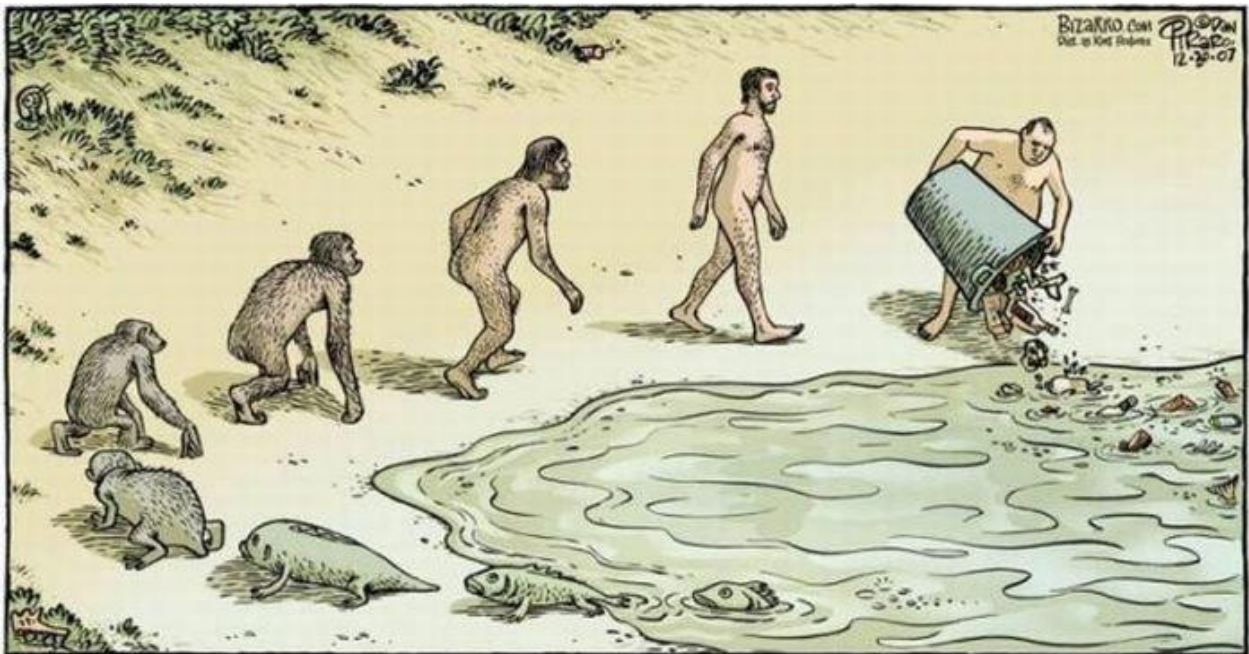
Way forward

By the end of the conference the participants formulated their strategies and action plans for working towards Zero Waste in their respective regions, both from a short term and long term perspective (appended in **Annex III**).

While continuing to work according to their action plans, it was also decided that the Himalayan group as a whole should work on the below issues until meeting again next year when the second Zero Waste Himalaya conference will be held, possibly in Nepal or Sikkim in January/February 2011:

- There is a need for establishing a communication network, either through e-mail listserver and/or Facebook. In the meantime, for the next one year, it was decided that Deer Park Institute in Bir will take the responsibility for coordinating between the Himalayan group and also for reaching out to other organizations and trying to identify possible resource persons to engage in capacity building of the group.
- There is also a need to find a way on how to encourage Uttarakhand and North East participation in the Zero Waste initiative. How can this be achieved?

- It was highlighted that it is important to identify and train Zero Waste resource persons. There is a need to build capacity of resource persons for the Himalayan region in order to develop local self-help training. A group of people who can train others is required. Suggested resource person: Pat Costner (Shell)? Who should be trained?
- It was also mentioned that the Himalayan group should engage in experience sharing with Thanal, Kerala. How can this be done?
- Five possible Zero Waste pilot projects in the region were identified, being in various stages of preparation or already ongoing: 1) The SJ initiative in Bhutan, 2) Dharamshala, 3) Phurping Area in Nepal, 4) Paligboche Monastery in Nepal, and 5) Sikkim. These Zero Waste pilots could serve as important learning experiences for taking the Zero Waste Himalaya initiative forward. During the next conference the progress and experiences encountered from these pilots will be shared.
- 8th of August has been declared as Zero Waste Himalaya Day.



Day I: 5 August 2010

History's first Himalayan Zero Waste for Zero Warming Conference opened in the afternoon on the 5th August 2010 with a welcome address and an inauguration ceremony, where participants introduced themselves and presented their expectations of the conference. Most participants came to learn about the waste problems facing the Himalayas, and hoped to gain knowledge on how to deal with this critical issue. The conference continued with two introductory presentations on the effects of waste and climate change held by **Ms. Sarojini Thakur (Additional Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Government)** and **Mr. Ang Rita Sherpa** from **The Mountain Institute (TMI)** in Nepal.

The aim of this first day was to try grasp the effects of climate change and waste facing the region, and to learn how various organizations are currently addressing these issues.

- ❖ **Ms. Thakur** initiated the first session on ***Impact of climate change and waste management in the Himalayan region***. She mentioned that the State of Himachal Pradesh operates within a national framework, and that there is a national action plan for Himalayan eco-systems, which has to be taken into consideration when pursuing activities. She mentioned that Himachal Pradesh is quite progressive in taking steps on environmental issues, but that the State also faces a lot of environmental challenges with respect to water resource management, lack of public transportation, lack of equipment for measuring black carbon (Himachal only has one single machine), lack of environmental research and problems with waste due to increased levels of urbanization and changed consumption patterns. The challenges, however, also come with opportunities. She mentioned that Himachal Pradesh needs to capitalize on solar power, and also on hydel power. "There are a lot of green jobs that can be created!" There is a need to build green skills, e.g. for constructing and maintaining solar panels. She also emphasized the need for building awareness at all levels of society in order to change consumption and lifestyle patterns. "The first step is to make people aware, to change how people do things. This will not happen through policy, laws etc...We need to change from below." Currently there is a community led scheme on water quality, where 173 of the Panchayats in Himachal are involved. "And the inspiration for our programme on plastic comes from Deer Park"... many households in Himachal are now segregating garbage." The Himachal Government has also banned plastic carry bags, and is using plastic in roads. Other initiatives for reducing plastic involves approaching oil providers to not give oil unless plastic is given back, water supply in public places instead of providing water bottles, and using plastic in houses for insulation.

During the Q&A session, it was mentioned that it would be better to target micro-hydro power projects which has less physical impact on the environment. It was also brought up that plastic in roads are not a good solution since hydrochloric acids are being released when roads are exposed to sun. It was also pointed out that plastic should only be put in houses if the houses are not close to human lives (e.g. can be used in storage buildings).

- ❖ The second part of the session was held by **Mr. Ang Rita**. He presented the evidence of climate change in Nepal, summarizing the problems aptly by saying there is “too much and too little water”. In Nepal the landscape is changing. Less snow is affecting agriculture negatively as crops are failing and changing, also glaciers are retreating, lakes are growing and new lakes are being formed, grasslands are contracting, causing the number of yaks to shrink, and forests have become very dry, leading to fire hazards. In order to address these issues, TMI is working on building local awareness on the effects of climate change, and to make the communities more socially and economically resilient to climate change and its hazards. “Community participation is important. They know what happens. It is very important to talk to people.” Also science based field studies rooted in local knowledge are being carried out.

During the Q&A session the problem of waste at the base stations was brought up. “The tour companies do not take their responsibility, they leave it to us”, Mr. Ang Rita mentioned. It was suggested that tourism should operate without tour guides, leaving more money at the table for the local communities, waste bins, like the “use me” bins placed out in the mountains in Bhutan, should be introduced, and refill water stations should replace the water bottles. Educating people is, however, the most important thing. “If people’s mindsets do not change – no one is going to make use of it.”

- ❖ The rest of the afternoon and evening were spent on ***Presentations from Participants and Discussion***. Presentations were made by **Nima Tashi Bhutia** from **KCC (Yuksam)**, **Ms. Phuntsho Wangmo** from **Bhutan Observer (Bhutan)**, by **Ms. Srijana Adhikari** from **Women Act (Nepal)**, **Mr. Ang Rita Sherpa** and **Mr. Bheem Raj Rai** from **TMI (Nepal)**, **Mr. Rohit Rattan** from **WWF (Jammu and Kashmir)**, by **Jennifer Yo** from **Deer Park Institute (Himachal Pradesh)**, **Ms. Lak Tsheden Theengh** from **WWF (Sikkim)**, and by **Mr. Nima Tashi Bhutia** and **Ms. Mingma Sherpa** from **TPSS (Sikkim)**.

The participants had been requested to focus on the following questions when preparing their presentations:

- 1) *What are the participant’s concerns on waste/climate change?*
- 2) *How big is the waste problem that they are facing in their locality? Where is it? What are the problems caused?*
- 3) *What are the interventions the participant’s want to carry out to address these problems? What succeeded? What failed?*
- 4) *What challenges are they facing? Weaknesses?*

Below, short summaries of the presentations are given:

KCC presented their concern about tourist waste on trekking routes. To address this issue clean-up campaigns were organized by students, and a pilot project where tourist groups engaged in collecting garbage from the trails was initiated. After collection, the garbage was

segregated, but challenges are faced with respect to disposal of non-biodegradable waste. The successful pilot will now be replicated in two more trekking destinations in West Sikkim.

Ms. Phuntsho highlighted the GNH challenge of tremendous increase of waste in Bhutan caused by rapid urbanization. Municipal services are overburdened and cannot meet the growing demand owing to insufficient planning, lack of financial resources, facilities and technical expertise. There is also a lack of institutional and legal arrangements, and of civic responsibility. As a response the “Clean Bhutan” project has been initiated, applying the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) approach, trying to make various stakeholders aware on how to manage waste.

WomenAct brought up the waste management issue in Katmandu including waste management at sacred sites where there is a lot of garbage. To address this problem, a Buddhist/Hindu pilot project was designed for a temple site. WomenAct recently also started an initiative on advocacy and community awareness building, as well as training on how to e.g. use paper/cloth bags instead of plastic bags. At a later stage the plan is to also involve the private sector. **Ms. Srijana** mentioned the importance of empowering women in waste management. “The women should move this development forward.”

TMI mentioned their seven principles of “Leave No Trace” (LNT) where the challenge is to leave as little imprint on the mountain environment as possible. The seven principles for preserving the delicate mountain environment are to: 1) Plan ahead and prepare, 2) travel and camp on durable surfaces, 3) properly disposing waste, 4) leave what you find, 5) minimize campfire impacts, 6) respect wildlife, 7) be considerate of other visitors. Again, the importance of community participation was emphasized.

WWF Jammu and Kashmir pointed out the problem of wetland waste, and the melting of glaciers and species extinction caused by climate change. Interventions requested by **Mr. Rohit** for addressing the issue of climate change in the Himalayan region is to identify all NGOs working on climate change, and start collaborations. “We need to share experiences on what has been done, and what can be done in the future.”

Ms. Jennifer made a presentation on what has been done at **Deer Park** to minimize waste at the campus. Groceries are bought in loose packages, organic farming practiced, home-made snacks are produced, handicraft is made out of waste, dry waste segregated for recycling, wet waste is used for compost or cows, toilet paper is buried, and plastic is stored. Deer Park also works with community outreach on waste management through awareness building, but it was mentioned that more innovative education materials for children on waste management are needed.

Ms. Lak Tsheden from **WWF Sikkim** brought up the issue of wetland preservation, and how a pilot in Tsomgo Lake was used for initiating a programme on community based conservation for cleaning and preserving the area. TPSS was established in 2007, and a conservation fee of

10 Rs per tourist was introduced. Information brochures and posters were printed for tourists and locals. Monitoring handbooks were published, and garbage successfully collected.

Mr. Nima and **Ms. Mingma** presented the activities carried out by **TPSS** further, bringing up e.g. their cleanliness drives in Tsomgo, drafting of an Annual Lake Conservation Plan, desiltation work in the lake, garbage bag distribution, plantation drives, dustbin distribution to shops and preparation and placement of signages. The challenges expressed were improper understanding of TPSS and the fund sharing mechanism among stakeholders, and delays faced in getting necessary approvals. The importance of community participation was again stressed.

Day II: 6 August 2010

- ❖ The second day started with a small exercise presented by **Mr. Shibu** from **Thanal**, where the participants were asked to distinguish various garbage between bio-degradable, non bio-degradable and “confusion”. Apparent problems arise on how to segregate waste when materials are mixed.

The focus of this day and part of the following day was to gain a deeper and more practical understanding of the waste issue, and during the coming sessions waste management systems and climate change from a technical and legal point of view were brought up. Presentations were also held on how to practically and successfully engage in Zero Waste campaigning.

- ❖ The exercise was followed by a presentation by **Mr. Dharmesh Shah** from **Gaia** on **Zero Waste for Zero Warming and CDM**, who gave an introduction to how waste contributes to climate change and global warming through emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular caused by plastic waste, when burnt in incinerators. It was mentioned that incinerators in India are not sufficiently monitored, and there is also no capacity in India for monitoring dioxins. Another issue discussed was that plastic is not a bi-product of fossil fuels. “It is a product...the plastic industry is huge,” and since there is no proper way of disposing plastic, we should ask ourselves how we could live without plastic. “We managed to live without plastic before.” The plastic industry is, however, highly subsidized (300 percent!) which increases supply. International climate change policy and CDMs (Clean Development Mechanism) were further discussed, addressing how carbon credits turned out to be “business as usual”, rather than addressing the real problem. It was instead suggested that focus should be on recycling: “Recyclers are the true heroes.”
- ❖ The next session was held by **Mr. Jayakumar C.** from **Gaia/Thanal** on **Current Waste Management Practices – Issues**. He told the story of Thanal and how they started their work on waste management. Waste is either dumped or burned. 80 percent of the waste is dumped into the sea, therefore we have a little cleaner land surface. Otherwise we burn everything, which is creating harmful dioxins. “The biggest problem we have is that somebody invented the bin. The moment you have a bin, you cannot solve the problems beyond the bin.” Mr. Jayakumar also mentioned that if there were no plastic bags, our waste problem would be much less. The plastic bag was introduced in 1978, but by then we were not aware of the harmful consequences. The 3Rs/5Rs “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair, Reject” have since the 1990s been complemented with the 3E model: “Ethics, Efficiency and Economics”. Ethics is referring to how developed countries are dumping waste in developing countries and the problem of transport. Efficiency and Economics implies that it is not possible to be economically sound without being ecologically sound, and it is not possible to be ecologically sound without being economically sound. Solutions to the waste problems lie in the Zero Waste approach, promoting extended producer responsibility (EPR) where

companies pay up front for the waste they produce, and in letting consumers pay less, the less waste they produce (practiced in e.g. Taiwan and several European countries where you buy your own garbage bags). We should strive for recovering materials, involving the communities, creating jobs and stimulate local economies, discourage over-consumption and encourage better industrial design. The session ended with a presentation of a successful Zero Waste initiative carried out by Thanal and Kerala Tourism in Kovalam, among other things promoting livelihoods through e.g. organic farming and crafts made from discards (bags, jewelries, brochures). Paper was used as substitution for plastic, and coconut shells as substitution for bottles. “Zero Waste has immense potential. The more creative we are, the more easily waste disappears.”

- ❖ **Mr. Jayakumar** also conducted the next session on *Environment Law – National and Global*, where he presented various conventions and initiatives taken for reducing waste and toxins. The aim is the 2020 goal on Zero Waste and zero toxicity, and a key step in this process is to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Among other things, he mentioned the Kyoto protocol from 1997 – a UN framework for fighting global warming, the Stockholm convention from 2001 which is promoting material substitution and embracing best available technology for removing toxins, the BASEL convention prohibiting waste transportation between borders, SAICM and ICCM that are frameworks for taking global action for chemical management, and the London convention which is preventing marine pollution and ocean dumping. He also brought up CDM, and the February 2006 civil society recommendation that the global environment ministers should go for a Zero Waste strategy within tourism.

- ❖ After we had our lunch, **Mr. Shibu** presented *Zero Waste – Principles, Components and Planning*. He described the current waste management system, which is based on the perception that waste consists of useless materials which end up being either dumped or burned. As a contrast, the Zero Waste approach considers “waste as resources”, which can be used for various meaningful purposes.

He mentioned that it is important to segregate waste at source, and to be able to distinguish between biodegradable, non-biodegradable and hazardous waste. Below examples are given:

- Biodegradable waste: Plant debris, grass, leaves, uncooked food, cooked food, raw meat, cooked fish etc. There are three different options for taking care of this waste:
 - Vermi composting: Plant debris, leaves etc.
 - Aerobic composting: Uncooked food etc.
 - Biogas: Raw meet etc.
- Non-biodegradable waste should be separated according to the following categories:
 - Reusable: Glass etc.
 - Recyclable: Plastics

- Hazardous: Batteries
- Inerts: Ceramics

The Zero Waste approach is building on the 3Es, and the components of Zero Waste are “clean production, extended producer responsibility, material substitution, resource recovery, participation, policy-law and building relations.” Mr. Shibu mentioned that Himalaya can look into material substitution for plastic and other non-biodegradable items, and that training and capacity building is crucial. It was again brought up that people’s participation and teamwork is the key to any change: “Involve me and I may understand.” At the same time it is important to work together with Governments to influence and institutionalize the Zero Waste approach also at policy level.

- ❖ The rest of the afternoon was spent on learning about how to become successful in Zero Waste campaigning. Two sessions were accomplished by **Ms. Swetha Narayan** from **Thanal** and **Ms. Gigie Cruz** from **Gaia**. **Ms. Swetha** started with the session **Campaigns – Waste to Energy**. She mentioned that the fundamental problem with the waste to energy approach is that it promotes the philosophy that waste is good because it can be turned into energy. But waste needs to be reduced and producing energy from waste all requires some form of incineration, which is releasing toxins. Garbage has also become big business for the waste to energy companies, as localities (urban) are being fined if not producing enough waste, and companies get paid for the amount of garbage they can “take care of”. “This does not reduce waste, but increases it!” She was bringing up the following concerns for the Himalayas in this context:

- Waste to energy plants can be a big threat for the Himalayas. It is highly possible that they will be proposed in the region.
- Setting up small incinerator plants can also be a big threat for the Himalayas.
- Frog hopping of dioxin molecules: Dioxins released move up in the smoke/hot air. It gets cooled down in the mountains very fast in the cold air and hence the molecules start settling down in the land, in the snow. This is very harmful because snow is a direct drinking source of water. Also, this water reaches across the country and into Bangladesh. In this process the dioxins can reach very fast to the poles, already within 8-10 days.
- Thus – there is a need to keep the Himalayas a smoke free place.

Instead focus should be on reducing the amount of waste, on material substitution, composting and segregation, ban on plastics – especially in packaging, changing people’s attitudes, and to address local solutions, also involving the waste picker community. Regarding the historical waste there is a need to compromise and down-cycle/make other products from it. An activist response could be to send all the wrappers back to the respective companies.

❖ **Ms. Swetha and Ms. Gigie** together presented the next session **Campaign – Tools, Tips and Techniques**, where Ms. Swetha gave an overview of techniques which can be used for addressing pollution at the local level, and Ms. Gigie presented the case on why and how the Philippines banned incinerators. **Ms. Swetha** suggested that pollution at community level can be dealt with in the following ways:

- **Monitoring:** Patterns of pollution are best observed by residents of the community. Low cost monitoring technology can be used through swiping a tissue in a certain dust area and send it to a lab, alternatively a low volume sampler can be run for a day and the filter be sent to lab. Bucket sampling is a low cost alternative for gathering a sample of air (measuring of dioxins, however, requires expensive high-end technology, and the sample has to be sent to the US (500 USD)).
- **Documenting:** There is a need to document the evidence of what is experienced (odours, health impacts, etc.). This becomes important when lobbying the Governments to recognize what is claimed.
- **Reporting:** It is important to share information with community members, Government and media.
- **Action:** Can be both direct (demonstrations/protests) and indirect (e.g. sending heart shaped letters from Bhopalis and school children (Bhopal gas tragedy). Visit www.sipcotcuddalore.com for more information and tips on campaign action.

Ms. Gigie continued with the case of the Philippines, where the Clean Air Act was adopted in 1999, banning all incinerators in the country. This achievement was made possible through:

- Coalition building, where over 80 organizations shared information and helped each other.
- Getting public support through citizens education and mobilization. Targeting communities where proposal for incinerator plants had been set-up and getting their fierce opposition on health and environmental grounds.
- Lobbying lawmakers and making them realize if they do not support what people want, they will not get people's support. Getting the wives of the politicians to push their husbands to understand the issue and push for a ban. Getting congressional support.
- Promoting the message in media and get support from friendly editorials.
- Getting international support and information from e.g. Greenpeace, Health Care Without Harm (www.noharm.org).

She suggested the following action plan for a Zero Waste approach:

- **Education:** Sensitization and awareness building (5Rs).
- **Engineering:** Low tech, front end solutions instead of end of pipe solutions, involving communities, work with hands, waste segregation at source, compost pits in

backyards, no burning/dumping/littering, uniform for eco-aides, establishment of materials/resources recovery facility.

- Enforcement: Invoke law, decentralize implementation, can look at local ordinances, lobby for legislation, training of enforcers like eco-aides and local leaders (India has environmental laws that people need to be made aware of. There is space for penalizing people making public nuisance, that is burning or dumping waste and many other provisions – people need to be made aware of this).
- Entrepreneurship: Green jobs (integrate waste pickers in the system), be creative, greener products, greener packaging.

The session ended with 15 suggestions for conducting a successful campaign:

“Large in scope, changing the rules, positive feasible goals, address environmental care social care and democracy, will to intend to win, involve unlikely people, billion ways people can pitch in to help, thank everyone all the time, provide the public with simple answers, spread out power, be funny, be accessible, have great art, without ego, have fun!”

- ❖ After dinner, films on waste and climate change were screened.

Day III: 7 August 2010

- ❖ The third day of the conference started with a presentation by **Mr. Shibu** on **Technology Options**, who gave an in depth introduction to the technologies behind various systems for waste management. He mentioned that waste is divided into liquid and solid. Solid waste can be either biodegradable or non-biodegradable. Liquid waste is in its turn divided into gray water and black water. Different technologies are applied for solid and liquid waste, but problems with waste management occurs when things are mixed with different materials.

Biodegradable: Vermi composting (aerobic, worms digesting) is used for plant debris and leaves. Vegetable food also needs aerobic composting. Raw and cooked meat/fish and dead animals are used in biogas composting (anaerobic, no oxygen, instead micro-organisms), generating biogas which is a renewable source of energy. The composts can be placed either on-site (household) or off-site.

Gray and black water: Can be on-site or off-site, and are using techniques like e.g. sedimentation, filtration, biological treatment, soak pit, transportation, artificial wetland systems, and septic tanks (black water).

- ❖ After having identified the waste and climate change concern in our localities during day one, and having learnt about laws and various techniques for waste management and Zero Waste campaigning during the second day, the remaining part of the conference focused on how to take Zero Waste Himalaya initiative forward. But before starting the Brain Storming on Way forward session, **Ms. Gigie** made a short presentation of **Gaia** and their activities:
- ❖ Gaia was established in 2000 and has 600 members in over 80 countries. The main issue for Gaia is how wasting can be stopped. “Discards are not waste, until they are wasted. They are wasted because we mix the discards instead of segregating them.” She mentioned that Zero Waste is about resource and material efficiency. Gaia is opposing landfills/dumps and incinerators, as landfills are producing methane and incinerators dioxins, and works through e.g. exchanging knowledge and sharing information, building skills through training activities/developing leaders, developing campaign resources, linking up with environmental and social movements, backing up and amplifying grassroots campaigns and struggles, advocating policy changes and global and local action for championing Zero Waste, and promoting global resistance against incineration. Ms. Gigie further recommended the following literature on the subject: “Waste incineration – a dying technology” and “When the EU wastes the climate”.

As an introduction to the brainstorming session, Gaia also expressed their expectations of the Himalayan Zero Waste project. It was mentioned that the Himalayas are affected by both the waste problem and global warming. A strategy for Zero Waste for Zero Warming is consequently necessary. Gaia is hoping to provide help with information sharing and

facilitating connections at grass root level, and by providing training and building entrepreneurship. The starting point is to gather information/concerns within the Himalayan region (as has now been initiated) and to bring in a Gaia resource person to sharpen the understanding of the Himalayan issue and to build focus on Himalayan groups to ask the right questions. “We have rich access to local knowledge that all can access.” It was also mentioned that overall focus should be on low-tech waste technologies.

- ❖ The actual ***Brain Storming and Way forward*** session started with the participants being divided into four groups for discussing the following issues:

- 1) *What is your dream for Zero Waste Himalayas?*
- 2) *What are the issues/challenges that stop/might stop you from achieving this dream?*
- 3) *What are the actions/activities/solutions that can be taken to achieve this dream and address challenges?*

The below groups were formed, however, “Friends of Himalaya” decided to split up and joined one of the other three groups, of which most ended up in the Sikkim and Bhutan group: Group 1) Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Tibet, Group 2) Nepal, Group 3) Sikkim and Bhutan, Group 4) Friends of Himalaya.

Before separating into groups the first issue was discussed in common. Beautiful dreams were expressed among the participants, such as “Zero Waste should be like one of the Buddhist noble truths”, “by 2020 the Himalayas should be a garbage free space”, “let people find spiritual treasures, not trash”, “the next Zero Waste conference should be held in Bhutan”, “we should create employment opportunities through waste”, “we need to drastically rethink our way of life and spread awareness”, “we can achieve a plastic free world”, “we must make communities take control of their environment” and “we need to understand interconnectedness, create compassion and love for nature and then we will be able to reduce our waste everywhere!” (A summary of statements can be found in **Annex II**).

In essence, the Himalayan group desired:

- Awareness and wisdom in the communities;
- lifestyle change particularly in consumption;
- redefinition of relationships in communities, with creatures, nature;
- having the inner ecology in tune with the outer, and;
- to see the importance of people rethinking and redefining themselves.

- ❖ With their dreams in mind, the participants divided into their respective groups in order to answer the remaining two questions on what the challenges for achieving these dreams are, and what action can be taken for turning them into reality. The findings from the group brain storming sessions were later presented group wise during the afternoon and can be found appended in their entirety in **Annex III** of this report.

❖ Based on the brain storming session, the next step was to prepare a strategy for future action. During the rest of the day efforts were put into **Formation of Strategy/Action Plan** and **Working on Bir Declaration**. Yet, at the time of writing, the Bir Declaration has not been finalized. Instead it has been decided that focus should be on the respective action plans as per **Annex III**, and the following overall points for future action that were brought up during the session:

- Next Zero Waste conference to be hosted by Nepal or Sikkim? Most likely it will be held in Nepal in January/February 2011.
- Recently it was decided that a Zero Waste conference will be held in Bhutan in December this year.
- In November 2010 there will also be a meeting in Sikkim for the Eastern Himalayas. Members from other groups are also welcome to attend this conference.
- How can Uttarakhand and North East participation in the Zero Waste initiative be encouraged?
- It was discussed that sub-committees based on participant's different skills should be created. During the session this proposal was, however, postponed until next year.
- Suggestions for keeping in contact through e-mail listserver and/or Facebook? For the next one year it was decided that Deer Park Institute in Bir will take the responsibility for coordinating between the Himalayan group and also for reaching out to other organizations and trying to identify possible resource persons to engage in capacity building of the group.
- Resource Persons – there is a need to build capacity of resource persons for the Himalayan region, for developing local self-help training. It is very important to create a group of people who can train others. Suggested resource person: Pat Costner (Shell)?
- Experience sharing with Kerala.
- There are five possible Zero Waste pilot projects in the region: 1) The SJ initiative in Bhutan, 2) Dharamshala, 3) Phurping Area in Nepal, 4) Paligboche Monastery in Nepal, and 5) Sikkim.

The local action plans and the above list include the points to be taken forward until the next Zero Waste conference for the Himalayan region is held in January/February 2011.

- ❖ After dinner a long and informative film session was held, screening several short movies on waste and the effects of climate change.

Day IV: 8 August 2010

- ❖ During the morning of the last day of the conference the *Presentation of Action Plan and Declaration* session was cancelled. Instead the **Press-release** for the Zero Waste conference was drafted and discussed among the participants. The final press-release is attached in **Annex IV** of the report.

On the way out for tea, the participants were asked to say a few words in front of a rolling camera. One after the other the participants introduced themselves and made a short statement of their thoughts on Zero Waste Himalaya, which will later on be compiled into the Zero Waste Himalaya conference documentary.

- ❖ The Zero Waste Himalaya conference ended with a **Closing Ceremony**, where all participants were asked to give their feedback on the conference. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Most participants brought up that they had a great learning experience, and many had been inspired to take on Zero Waste initiatives and bring them to their own localities. Some of the responses are given below:

“Inspiring to see the initiatives being taken up by Thanal, Deer Park and Gaia. I will take it back to the Czech Republic.” – Lucy, Czech Republic

“There is a lot to do when we get back home.” – Lak Tsheden, Sikkim

“I Hope I come back next year with some work to speak of.” – Rohit, Jammu and Kashmir

“In the near future, I will definitely multiply the number of people who know about Zero Waste.” – Nima, Sikkim

“I learnt new concepts from this conference. I have seen very different practices in the Himalayas such as dumping, burning; but here we have learnt no burning, no dumping and other ways of taking care of waste. I will try to follow this in my area as well.” – TMI, Nepal

“I heard about Zero Waste in Bhutan, understood about it in Bir and now I will implement it back at home in Nepal.” – Ang Rita, Nepal

“Now I have to think of how to put this back in my work. I have been thinking about how I can put all this in my magazine. I hope to reach out to all of Bhutan about Zero Waste through our magazine.” – Phuntsho, Bhutan

“I want to apply this into my work – how we can become environmentally friendly. I also want to see how we can apply the Zero Waste principle in our school curricula.” – Santosh, Bir

“I initially thought waste management is not my field, but now I realize this is the field for everyone. This is not a specialization.” – Srijana, Nepal

“I got a lot of knowledge about Zero Waste in this conference. I got a lot of inspiration and encouragement from the people here. I hope to take the first step for working in my region now.” – Chindanai, Burma

“This is a new concept we are taking back with us. We work with hotel industry, tea house operators, etc; so I am taking back a lot of opportunities to work with them on Zero Waste.” – Mingma, Sikkim

“Collective *karma* that we are all here together. But I am also still not clear about Zero Waste and how to implement it.” – Ajeer, Himachal

“This has really been an education. Sometimes you think you are done with education after school or college, but I have had the opportunity to learn something so relevant in such a short span of time.” – Sandhya, Delhi

“Thank you so much for introducing me to this world of garbage! This is a field that has been completely blank for me, so it has been a very enlightening experience.” – Pia, Sweden

“This workshop has been a humbling experience and so phenomenal. It’s not about just waste management. It’s a paradigm shift to think about lifestyles and living with nature. For me waste is a reflection of bad relationships with everything.” – Ankit, Delhi

“I got introduced to Zero Waste when I started working at Deer Park.” – Nyima, Bir

“To say it is an eye opener is an understatement. A lot of what we have seen here is the garbage inside our heads. So I hope we can sort out this mess inside and take care of the mess outside.” – Vasundhara, Bir

“Now I need to stand up and work for my community in Uttar Pradesh. Till now I have been sleeping.” – Pravin, Bir, Uttar Pradesh

“I hope along with being environmentally friendly we can be human friendly as well. As we embark on this journey I hope we see this process with a sense of relation with all and not a feeling of opposition.” – Mridu, Delhi

“It is a responsibility of all the people of the subcontinent to take care of the Himalayas. Hope the spirit of this conference will help clean up the heads of people to take care of the society.” – Asok, Kerala

“I take back from this workshop the ability to come together, work together. I felt a lot of hope for reclaiming the society in this conference.” – Jayakumar, Kerala

“For me this is a dream coming true! It is adding to the purpose of my life. A few years ago I saw the love and passion the Himalayan people have for nature – that is the time I felt the

need to work with Himalayan people. This conference reinforces the importance of team work to strengthen our strengths and overcome our weaknesses.” – Shibu, Kerala

“I have gained so much more confidence in the work we have been doing. Looking at everyone’s passion has given me hope. Please see Deer Park as your home and your place for contemplation, so do keep coming!” – Jennifer, Bir

“The last five years have been so empowering for us, through or connection with Thanal and Gaia. It is very valuable to be a part of this network of Gaia and Waste not Asia. There is so much to learn, share and there are also many challenges. We have to keep discovering more and more about what exactly is Zero Waste, since society is creating new and new wastes. So it is a constant process of evolution. Hope we can strengthen this network and Zero Waste family. Also let us mark 8th August as an auspicious day as Zero Waste Himalaya Day.” – Prashant, Bir

- ❖ The conference ended with a song for Zero Waste Himalayas, sharing of the press-release with media, and the 8th August was officially declared as Zero Waste Himalaya Day.
- ❖ In **Annex V** the learnings from the sessions during the conference can be found evaluated by the participants. The sessions, discussions, movies, material, the venue, organization and scope of the conference have also been rated by the participants. Overall, the first Zero Waste Himalaya conference scored 7.96 on a scale from 1-10.

Annex I: Zero Waste Himalaya Programme Schedule

5 August	12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
	14:15 – 14:30	Welcome address	Prashant Varma
	14:30- 15:30	Inauguration Ceremony / Introduction of Participants of the Conference	
	15:30 – 16:30	Tea & campus tour	
	16:30 – 17:00 17:00 – 17:30	Impact Climate change and waste management in the Himalayan region: - Himachal - Nepal	Sarojini Thakur (Additional Chief Secretary, H.P Gov.) Ang Rita Sherpa TMI
	17:30 – 18:30	Presentations from Participants and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the participant’s concerns on waste/climate change? • How big is the waste problem that they are facing in their locality? Where is it? What are the problems caused? • What are the interventions the participant’s want to carry out to address these problems? What has succeeded? What has failed? • What challenges are they facing? Weaknesses? 	Moderator Prashant Varma
	18:30 – 19:30	<i>Dinner</i>	
	19:30 – 20:30	Presentations from Participants and Discussion (Cont.)	
	20:30 – 21:30	Film Screening (Optional)	
6 August	09:00 – 10:00	Zero Waste for Zero Warming and CDM	Dharmesh Shah
	10:00 – 11:00	Current waste management practices – Issues	Jayakumar C.
	11:00 – 11:30	<i>Tea</i>	

	01:30 – 12:30	Environment Law – National and Global	Jayakumar C.
	<i>12:30 – 01:30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
	01:30 – 02:30	Zero Waste – Principles, components and planning	Shibu K. Nair
	02:30 – 03:30	Campaigns – Waste to Energy	Swetha Narayan
	<i>03:30 – 04:00</i>	<i>Tea</i>	
	04:00 – 05:00	Campaign – Tools, tips and techniques	Gigie Cruz and Swetha Narayan
	07:00 – 08:00	Film	
7 August	09:00 – 10:00	Technology Options	Shibu K. Nair
	10:00 – 11:00	Brain storming on Way forward	Moderator Gigie Cruz
	<i>11:00 – 11:30</i>	<i>Tea</i>	
	11:30 – 01:00	Group Discussions	
	<i>01:00 – 02:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
	02:00 – 03:00	Presentation	
	<i>03:00 – 03:30</i>	<i>Tea</i>	
	03:30 – 05:30	Formation of Strategy / Action Plan	
	05:30 – 06:30	Working on Bir Declaration	
8 August	09:00 – 10:00	Presentation of Action Plan & Declaration	Moderator Prashant Varma
	10:00 – 11:00	Closing Ceremony	
	<i>11:00 – 11:30</i>	<i>Tea and Group Photo</i>	
	11:30 – 12:30	Meet the Press	

Annex II: Dreams for Zero Waste Himalaya

Zero Waste = The simplest initiative of all, by practice no political recognition and make it a moral duty

- Free from the waste, clean and bright Himalayas
- Neat, clean and healthy
- Happiness and hygiene for all
- Zero Waste to bring community together
- Simple to practice
- Practice by all
- Moral duty
- All become aware of the waste
- No emission from waste
- Taking ownership of livelihood connection to nature, should be a model and serves as code of conduct for community
- Drastic change of rethink again - spreading awareness
- Himalaya be left as pristine and holy with spirit and not the trash
- Change in the lifestyle of the community - human beings have enough wisdom
- Enough wisdom not to hurt other sentient beings
- Plastic free Himalayas
- Reducing transport, encourage cottage industry
- Natural waste, human waste should be like the natural world
- Himalayas without boundaries, no political boundaries
- Work locally and think globally or Himalaya
- Realize three values, sharing, caring and believing in interdependence
- Movement to close the waste tap
- Producing locally and consuming locally
- Jaipur has banned plastic bags
- Waste properly reused
- Himalaya should be free of trash vibrating with the spirituality
- Shared responsibility, community to take lead and down to top approach, end to plastic in any form
- Control of community over land, water and resource
- Re-define what we mean by development
- Restriction in certain elevation for certain development
- Think before you do
- Common policy on Zero Waste for the Himalayas
- No import waste from other parts of the world
- Every individual should work hand in hand, love and compassion and concern towards the environment
- All should be aware of the impact of the waste and pollution, driven by the leaders of the communities
- Himalayas should be full of snow- white Himalayas and not black
- Zero Waste Himalaya should be the responsibility of the whole country
- See the closing tap to whatever extent possible
- Regulation of hydro power, cement industry and tourism
- Rivers flowing without garbage
- Outer waste stands in relation to inner waste (mental thinking)
- Himalaya full of purity, free of all plastic bags and plastic dumps
- Growing green economy projects
- Himalayas should be preaching on Zero Waste to the world
- You are so plastic - for bad people in the Philippines

Annex III: Challenges and Action Plans for achieving Zero Waste

Group: Nepal

Vision:

Zero Waste Himalaya

Challenges/Issues:

Macro-level/Government related

- Waste management is not a priority for Government as the country is in political turmoil.
- Government is not working in interest of the people but in personal and political interest.
- Government's top-down approach without consulting the communities is creating conflicting policies.
- No proper environmental laws/policies (no punishment) or funding for environmental initiatives.
- Lack of long-term planning because Government is in transition (keeps changing).
- Lack of information about environmental issues at Government level.
- Lack of infrastructure, proper sanitation, segregation, dumping areas, recycling units.
- Lack of communication and team work between Government, local bodies and other stakeholders.

Micro-level/Community and civil society level

- Lack on info and awareness at community level.
- Media does not pay enough attention to environmental issues.
- Awareness building through media also not very feasible because poor people do not have access to TV etc.
- Lack of integrated voice in civil society about environment, Zero Waste (civil society very strong but not integrated and lacks information).

Solutions/Action Plan (Group: Nepal):

Field of work	Activities	Target Participants	Resources needed	Time Frame	Person in charge
EDUCATION <i>(Short-term)</i>	Writing articles for magazines and newspapers	Every educated person, civil society, policy makers	All resource material and learnings from the Zero Waste workshop	1 week (as soon as returned)	Srijana, Ang Rita
	Sharing programme	Stakeholders, Women Act, 34 women's organizations, TMI, media, religious and political leaders, other NGOs	Venue, snacks	½ day, first week of September	Srijana, Ang Rita
	Pilot studies: 1) Paligboche Monastery (TMI) 2) Phurping area (Women Act Zero Waste Project)	Monks, visitors, KACC Community people	Already funded by TMI Already funding from Nicorpa	1 year (start in mid-August)	Ang Rita
	Facebook and website			1 year (start in mid-September)	Srijana
	Zero Waste – Great Himalayan Trail			Already happening – but need to strengthen it	TMI
	Become member of Gaia			Asap	Srijana
<i>(Long-term)</i>	Hosting Zero Waste Conference			2011	Srijana

Group: Himachal, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir

Vision:

Ecologically sound, just, peaceful and healthy Himalaya

Challenges/Issues:

- Destructive economic thinking and policies of the Government, World Bank and private sector (e.g. double lane highways, packaged food).
- To empower the people. Lack of decentralized Governance and planning.
- Lack of awareness (educational).
- Lack of enforcement of existing legal provisions.
- Inadequate research, analysis, documentation and dissemination.
- Lack of creative new models and alternatives that integrates all our needs and dreams.
- Restoration of forest coverage.

Solutions/Action Plan (Group: Himachal, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir):

- Lobby to prevent unsustainable and polluting industries/activities.
- Use of clean technology (solar power, biogas, organic farming).
- Mobilize local communities (cottage industries, mushrooms, dairy farming).
- Educate people at every level (schools, tourists, local communities).
- Awareness in the existing legal provision among stakeholders.
- Environmental impact assessment must be done on sound research basis.
- Documentation of the successful models.
- Restoration of forest coverage to prevent climatic change.
- Community based tourism (Spiti/Ladakh).

Group: Bhutan, Sikkim, Friends of Himalayas

Challenges/Issues:

- Lack of awareness and education.
- Corruption.
- Lack of ownership.
- Top to bottom planning in waste management.
- Import of technology without proper understanding and need.
- Transfer of nodal officers from the department.
- Lack of effective and proper policy on consumer products, take back policy by company (EPR).
- Trend in adapting Western lifestyle, reduce of use of local wine in social events in the village.
- “Looking West trend” have brought wrong concept of development within society.
- No simple and cheapest environmental monitoring and evaluation mechanism (sending to West becomes expensive and unaffordable).
- No effective policy for mining and other mega development projects.
- Lack of policy awareness and policy advocacy.
- Lack of translation of policy to action on ground, limited to court and paper.
- Vested interest of some influential person on some mega development projects.
- Translation of scientific finding/information into simplest form for common people to understand (may be in form of illustration etc.)
- Cleanup campaign encourages and motivates more trash and garbage.

Solutions/Action Plan (Group: Bhutan, Sikkim, Friends of Himalayas):

Field of work	Activities	Target Participants	Resources needed	Time Frame	Person in charge
EDUCATION	Information sharing/compilation	NGOs, schools, media & other agencies	Written info, booklets, electronics copies, education materials	Continue	Phuntsok (Bhutan)
	Inclusion of Zero Waste education in school curriculum and monastery and monastic institutes	All school, monastery and monastic institutes	Education materials on Zero Waste		Laktsheden (Sikkim)
	Develop campaign materials	All section of people	Innovative illustrations, slogans		
	Sensitizing policy makers	All policy makers	Authentic information, power point, case study		
	Capacity building	All related NGO partners, media, press and institutions, extension workers			
ENGINEERING	Develop e-network, and website for information sharing	All participating NGOs	Strong network and regular contacts	2010	
	Lobby with Ministry of education/head	Political leaders,	Education materials,	2010	

	of institutes for inclusions of Zero Waste curriculum	councils of cabinet members, officials	cases and documents on Zero Waste		
	Collect innovative illustrations, slogans for campaign, design and print	Individuals, organizations, schools and institutions	Resource person and facilitators	2010	
	Sensitization through workshop/audio visual/print media for policy makers at various levels	Political leaders, councils of cabinet members, officials	Information, documentation and resource person	2010	
	Training of trainers, facilitators, journalists	Himalayan journalists, local TV channel	Education materials	2010	
ENFORCEMENT	Distribute compiled information, e-network through various media and individuals	NGOs, schools, media and other agencies	Moderator, editor and regular updating (expert and volunteer)		
	Appraisal meeting, workshop, updated and regular sharing with Ministry and head of institutes	All school, monastery and monastic institutes	NGOs and other institutions involved		
	Distribute and disseminate	All section of people	Field level partners,		

	campaign materials to public places, medias, education institutes and NGOs		school network and media contribution		
	Facilitate with policy maker for amendment and necessary policy change	All policy makers	Inputs, feedback and expertise with appropriate change		
	Effective use of trainers in training the schools, journalists etc, resource persons				

Annex IV: Press Release

“Find Spiritual Treasures not Trash”

The groups from Himalaya urge for ‘Zero Waste for Zero Warming’

8th August 2010

Bir, Himachal Pradesh

50 participants representing 24 organizations across the Himalayas assembled at Deer Park Institute in Bir, Himachal Pradesh from 5th to 8th August 2010 to discuss their concerns on climate change and waste, and decided to work together beyond borders to stop trashing Himalayas and to restore it to a clean, ecologically sound, just, peaceful and healthy Himalayas.

“Towards Zero Waste Himalaya” workshop was organized by the Deer Park Institute, Thanal – Kerala and Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) to impart the concept and philosophy of Zero Waste, and to develop an action plan and programmes at grassroot level for preserving the Himalayan region from getting dumped with waste.

While inaugurating the workshop on 5th August 2010, Ms. Sarojini Thakur, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh stressed, “There is a need for realization of reducing consumption and change in life style patterns.”

The participants shared their concerns over the environmental destructive practices like unsustainable waste management causing an increase in the greenhouse gas emissions adding to climate change impacts in the Himalayas. The participants felt that a concerted effort involving communities and Governments with a long-term programme can be the only solution over end-of-pipe dirty technologies.

“Find spiritual treasures, not trash;” Mr. Tshewang Dendup a social activist and movie artist from Bhutan commented while talking about the dream he has for a Zero Waste Himalaya.

The participants urged for an immediate ban on use of disposable plastics including packaging materials in the Himalayan region, which are contributing to the contamination of the rivers and aggravating the waste issue.

“Himalayas are considered as the Third Pole in climate change dialogues. We have to recognize the importance of Himalayas in relation to climate change in the region. Disappearing glaciers and changed weather patterns show the intensity of the problem. It is time to work borderless, no matter where we are.” Mr. Prashant Varma, Director of Deer Park Institute, Bir, said.

“It is time to understand the importance of interdependence and to build relations among communities to face the challenges of waste and resource management,” Mrs. Kamala Bhasin from Jagori commented.

The workshop reiterated the need for awareness and education programmes to change the attitude and approach of people to reduce the use of plastics and wasting of resources.

The groups were concerned about big industrial and hydro power projects that are polluting and threatening the fragile Himalayan eco-systems, and urged for building local economies and appropriate solutions for sustainable societies.

“Himalayas were a pristine place which produced many teachers who travelled across the globe with messages for mankind. May this initiative send people around the world to preach Zero Waste. There is an energy in the gathering which will build relationships beyond borders and materials,” Mr. Jayakumar C., the founding member of Thanal said.

The workshop was concluded on 8th August 2010 with drafting of the '**Bir Declaration on Zero Waste Himalayas**', where the groups decided to work together for a Zero Waste Himalaya through concerted actions and setting up pilot projects in India, Nepal and Bhutan. It further decided to observe **8th August as 'Zero Waste Himalaya Day'** and to take stock of the progress of work in the meeting in 2011 in Nepal hosted by WomenAct.

Prashant Varma

Deer Park Institute

Bir, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

+01894 268508

Annex V: Evaluation of Sessions

<p>Evaluation of the session <i>Presentations from Participants and Discussion</i></p> <p><u>Things you learned from this session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plastic waste can be used in roads but not a sustainable solution - Himachal is moving forward slowly but surely - Tourists are being made responsible for their garbage - Eco tax in national park (trekking) - Importance of community involvement - Visited Deer Park Institute for the first time - Introduction to Deer Park Institute staff, delegates from different countries and States of India - Eco friendly system of Deer Park Institute - It was a valuable training and I learned many things in this workshop, all power-points were very interesting and help us in our work - Scenario in the Himalayan region - Hard work towards cleaning the environment - Concept of Zero Waste - Relevance of engaging with Government in Zero Waste and other related issues - Lack of information, monitoring systems and equipment - Plastics can be reused in road building - Green tax in Himachal Pradesh - Reality show on workings of Panchayats in Kerala - Government executive for the waste management - Advocacy campaign - Charging extra money to control reuse - School program in New Zealand - Awareness building for the schools, communities and clubs - The Zero Waste process by GAIA
<p>Evaluation of the session <i>Zero Waste for Zero Warming and CDM</i> Facilitator: Dharmesh Shah</p> <p><u>Three new things you learned from the session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper reuse in Government offices in Kerala produces an option for waste managers - PET can be fully recycled into PET - CDMs are generally tools for making money - Improper garbage dumping has created an emission of harmful methane - Uses of the waste - Incineration (high tech/system in developed country eg. Germany and Japan) - Issues about landfills and incinerators - Politics of Kyoto, carbon credits and RDFs - Reducing the carbon
<p><u>Three new things you think will be helpful in your work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Idea of boosting Government departments rather than bashing them - Make people aware about reuse of products - Use of the waste mechanism - Discourage the waste (garbage) dump - Brief other audience about CDM trade mechanism - Stop burning non bio-degradable and non-recyclable waste - Knowledge about the importance of educating the communities about their need to protect and manage the waste
<p>Evaluation of the session <i>Current Waste Management Practices – Issues</i> Facilitator: Jayakumar C</p> <p><u>Three new things you learned from the session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5Rs and 3Es - World-wide waste management practice scenario - The effects of the waste in living beings (animals and birds) - Incineration is no solution but the mother of many problems - What the skills are which are helpful while working for environmental conservation - Asking the right question to get the right answer - Incineration is not an eco-friendly way for disposal of solid waste

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Say no to disposable, non bio-degradable articles - Saprophytic microbes are natural scavengers - Waste is a human invention, nature makes no waste - Waste is a verb not a noun
<p><u>Three new things you think will be helpful in your work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5Rs principles are more useful - Segregation of waste resources most essential - Importance of carefully handling the waste - Reducing the demand of environmentally unsafe practices and products by educating the people so that no more such products are produced, so there is no problem of disposal - Reuse of envelopes - Judicious use of natural resources - Gifts of eco-friendly articles only - Motivation of the community through sharing of success story - <i>Current Waste Management Practices – Issues</i> is useful for us to implement in our project
<p>Evaluation of session <i>Environment Law – National and Global</i> Facilitator: Jayakumar C</p>
<p><u>Three new things you learned from the session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recycling is actually down cycling - Concept of Ethics, Efficiency and Economics (3Es) - Waste management in curriculum - Zero Waste is a process - Need to look beyond recycling - Concept of EPR - Extent of corruption (multinational) - Failure of incinerators in India - Extent of deception - It is a nice presentation, we learn about team work - Methane has 25% more capacity to absorb heat than CO₂ - Importance to follow the decentralization system
<p><u>Three new things you think will be helpful in your work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zero Waste approach - Better use of local human resources - Adopt both short term and long term measures to manage the problems - Not to support incinerator installation - Go to media for response - Don't be scared to take action - It has given more strength and unity to implement our project - Go to the police to complain about dumping - Become an activist and return waste to manufacturers
<p>Evaluation of session <i>Zero Waste – Principles, Components and Planning</i> Facilitator: Shibu K. Nair</p>
<p><u>Three new things you learned from the session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Relevance of segregation and being on the same page about what gets segregated/put in which bin</i> - <i>Techniques of segregation of waste</i> - <i>Value of use of recycling waste objective</i> - <i>Step of the planning for waste management</i> - <i>There are no dioxin testing labs in India</i> - <i>Plastic is not a bi-product of petroleum</i> - <i>Behaviors of incinerators and landfills</i>
<p><u>Three new things you think will be helpful in your work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Diagrams would be helpful for work on convincing people</i> - <i>The concept of 5Rs instead of 3Rs</i> - <i>The modern institution for waste management: Ethic, Efficiency and Economics</i> - <i>Ecologically sound is economically sound</i> - <i>Everyone join hands and cooperate skillfully for a universal purpose</i> - <i>Make people responsible</i> - <i>Get your hands dirty to clean (practice make perfect)</i>

<p><i>Evaluation of session Campaigns – Waste to Energy</i> <i>Facilitator: Swetha Narayan</i></p>
<p><u>Three new things you learned from the session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What waste to energy projects, toxics issues related to it and politics of waste to energy projects are - Waste to energy is not a solution - It actually dispense hazardous toxins into atmosphere - Small scale incinerators are harmful for the Himalayan region - Advocacy campaign to draw the attention of the policy makers - Advocacy, techniques and tools
<p><u>Three new things you think will be helpful in your work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid getting sucked into such initiatives - There is no overall scientific solution to the problem of waste - The garbage problem can be reduced by segregation systems - The incinerator is not a solution to the garbage problem - How to attract attention of policy makers through campaigning - The strategies used are effective tools
<p><i>Evaluation of session Campaign –Tools, Tips and Techniques</i> <i>Facilitator: Gigie Cruz and Swetha Narayan</i></p>
<p><u>Three new things you learned from the session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All slides of presentation were effective and impressive - Lobbying by the people/communities (media support) - Stop incineration all over the place - Campaigning (working together without ego and sharing good information) - Action taken in the Philippines against incinerator installation to pass clean air act - CFL lamps contain mercury - India has an ecological waste management law
<p><u>Three new things you think will be helpful in your work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce our consumption - Segregation of waste resources and preference of clean production - Entrepreneurship approach is much better - Learning practices from others - Relevance of exchanging and sharing information - Cash for teaching women and children - Quick fix solution is no good - To think of green products and crafts
<p><i>Evaluation of session Technology Options</i> <i>Facilitator: Shibu K. Nair</i></p>
<p><u>Three new things you learned from the session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We should not burn plastic because we produce 60 different types of toxins when we burn it - Biogas production and plants - Anaerobic and aerobic digestion and gray/black waste - Innovative method to cool compost and control smell
<p><u>Three new things you think will be helpful in your work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Segregation of waste material at source - Reuse, repair, recycling of waste material - Encouraging people to use clean options like biogas - Lobbying Government agencies for the promotion of clean technologies - Be mindful of every step of the way - Patience and persistence
<p><i>Evaluation of session Brain Storming on Way forward</i> <i>Facilitator: Gigie Cruz</i></p>
<p><u>Three new things you learned from the session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discard is not a waste - Our economy is really a greed based one, where greedy people manufacture goods and promote them for their own good and do nothing about the waste they generate in the process

- If there is garbage in our surroundings thrown by the other people, we have to complain to the Mayor. If they are not taking any action we must complain to the police

Three new things you think will be helpful in your work:

- Diversity is strength*
- Wrong question – wrong answer*
- The new contacts during the conference are going to be really helpful in the future work*
- Segregation of waste material at source*
- Household hazardous waste should be returned to sender*

Annex VI: List of Participants and Organizations

Participant	Organization	Main Activity of your Organization	Email Address	Phone Number	Postal Address
Mr. Kinzong Sherap Bhutia	Khangchend zonga Conservation Committee, Yuksam (KCC)	Conservation, education, capacity building, alternative livelihood, wetland	kcc_sikkim@hotmail.com / kinzong@gmail.com	0091-9733158268	P.O. Yuksam, Near Government Hospital, Yuksam, West Sikkim, India
Mr. Nima Tashi Bhutia	Khangchend zonga Conservation Committee, Yuksam (KCC)	Conservation, education, capacity building, alternative livelihood, wetland	ntbhutia@gmail.com	0091-9733091853	C/O The Mountain Institute - India, Development Area, Near Nepali Sahitya Bhawan, Gangtok, East Sikkim - 737101, India
Mr. Ang Rita Sherpa	The Mountain Institute, Nepal (TMI)	Culture Conservation and Livelihood	angrita@mountain.org / sherpa.angrita@gmail.com	00977-9851038386	P.O. Box 2785, BALUWATAR, Kathmandu, Nepal
Mr. Bheem Raj Rai	The Mountain Institute, Nepal (TMI)	Culture Conservation and Livelihood	bhrai@mountain.org / bheem_baying@yahoo.com	00977-9841352666	
Ms. Lak Tsheden Theengh	World Wildlife Fund, India, Sikkim (WWF)	Conservation in different fields while also securing the livelihood issues of the communities dependent on them	laktsheden@gmail.com	0091-9434241477	WWF-India, Sikkim Program Office, Deorali, Gangtok, Pin-737102 (o) 03592-281427, India

Mr. Rohit Rattan	World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF India)	Environmental conservation	envrohit@gmail.com	0091-9622303312	WWF-India Field Office, Near Pahari Hostel, Opposite Police Lines, Ward No. 1, Rajouri, J&K. 185132, India
Ms. Mingma Sherpa	TPSS/WWF				
Ms. Srijana Adhikari	Women Act	Empowering women	adhikarisrija2@yahoo.com	00977-9851083479	GPO 8975, EPC 5316 Bishalbasti
Ms. Sangita Subba	Women Act	Empowering women	info@womenact.org.np	00977-(0)1-4433482, 4417071	Marg Kha, Kathmandu, Nepal
Ms. Anju K.C.	Women Act	Empowering women	info@womenact.org.np		
Mr. Shibu Nair	Thanal	A Public Interest Research, Advocacy, Education and Action Trust with the mission "Gather for all Beings." Thanal works in the field of environmental justice and health. The major programmes of Thanal are 1. Sustaining Agriculture, 2. Toxics, 3. Zero Waste.	zerowaste@thanal.co.in / shibuknair@gmail.com	0091-4712727150 / 0091-4712727150	Thanal, H-3, Jawahar Nagar, Kawdiar P.O. Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695003, India
Mr. Asok Kumar			asok.thanal@gmail.com	0091-9895851873	
Mr. Jaykumar C.			jayakumar.c@gmail.com	0091-9447016587	

Ms. Shweta Narayan	Community Environmental Monitoring	Environmental monitoring, and building capacity among pollution impacted communities	nopvcever@gmail.com	0091-8056024315	
Mr. Dharmesh Shah	GAIA, India	Alliance/capacity building, promoting ecological waste management systems like ZW over end-of-pipe technologies like dumping, incineration and landfilling	dharmesh@no-burn.org	0091-9962516546	31/39, Ashtalakshmi Gardens, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600090, India
Ms. Gigie Cruz	GAIA Secretariat, Philippines	Alliance/capacity building, promoting ecological waste management systems like ZW over end-of-pipe technologies like dumping, incineration and landfilling	gigie@no-burn.org	0063-43647733	Unit 330 Eagle Court Condominium, 26 Matalino Street Diliman Quezon City, The Philippines
Ms. Phuntsho Wangmo	Bhutan Observer	1. PUBLICATION OF WEEKLY NEWSPAPER 2. QUARTERLY FOCUS MAGAZINE 3. MAGAZINE FACES OF BHUTAN 4. PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL MAGAZINE	hoa@bhutanobserver.bt	00975-17606745	

Lama Karma Dhargyal	Tesi Environmental Awareness Movement (TEAM)	The main objective of the organization is to start a Tibetan Environmental Awareness Movement	ecotibet@ecotibet.org	0091-1892226085/0091-9418791168	Tesi Environmental Awareness Movement, Ratoe Chuwar House, Kharadanda Road, Ghangkyi, Dharamsala - 176215, District Kangra, HP, India
Mr. Arvind Sharma	Himalayan Nature Society				
Mr. Vishan Das	Himalayan Nature Society				
Ms. Gayathri	Jagori	Women empowerment , youth development, organic farming & environment	jagorihimachal@yahoo.com	0091-9816579397	Jagori Rural VPO Rakkar Teh, Dharmshala District Kangra, H.P Pin 176057, India
Ms. Sonika	Jagori	Women empowerment , youth development, organic farming & environment			
Ms. Kamala Bhasin	Jagori	Women empowerment , youth development, organic farming & environment			
Mr. Sonam Tundup	Secmol, Ladakh				

Ms. Lucie	Deer Park Institute	1. Organise programs on Buddhism & Classical Indian philosophies 2. Community Project on ecology, preserving local culture and wisdom	info@deerpark.in	0091-1894 268 508	Deer Park Institute, Bir, Himachal Pradesh, India
Ms. Pia Lindström			pia.mb.lindstrom@gmail.com	0091-965484 5310	
Ms. Vasundhara			vasu.muku@gmail.com		
Ms. Sandhya Kumar					
Ms. Kajoli					
Mr. Ajeer					
Ms. Jennifer Yo			jennifer@deerpark.in		
Mr. Prashant Varma			deerparkindia@gmail.com	0091-981663 4424	
Ms. Nyima			nyima@deerpark.in		
Mr. Pravin			info@deerpark.in		
Mr. Santosh					
Mr. Chindanai					
Mr. Kyan Soe					
Ms. Vicheka					
Ms. Sarojini Thakur	State Government Himachal Pradesh				
Mr. Tsering Tashi	Rinchen Zangpo Society for Spiti Development , Spiti	School for Spiti children, www.rinchenzangpo.org	rinchenhp@hotmail.com	0091-094183 29681 0091-094185 69541	Rinchen Zangpo Society for Spiti Development , Spiti Complex,

					Rakkar Road, Sidhbari, Tehsil Dharamshala , District Kangra, PIN 176057, India
Mr. Thuktens h Yeshi					
Ms. Tsering Lhamo	Bir Tibetan Society				
Dr. Harish Kumar	Government College Joginder Nagar				
Mr. Rajesh Bhardwarj	Government College Joginder Nagar				
Mr. Raj					
Ms. Mridu Mahajan		Education	mridumahajan@gmail.com	0091- 981105 0116	D-59 Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024, India
Mr. Ankit		Filmmaker	ankitpogula@gmail.com	0091- 981014 6679	D-59 Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024, India
Ms. Manshi					
Mr. Sacha Jotikalikor n	Fredskorpset (F.K.)	Observer			
Ms. Catherine Wilczek	Fredskorpset (F.K.)	Observer			
Mr. Tshewang Dendup		Journalist	ragasandsagas@yahoo.com		

Annex VII: Photos





