

Journey report



*Construction committee of the shutters and canteen
of Shree Mahankhal Secondary School, Pachkhal*

Journey date: April 2 - 10, 2024

Report by: Niels Visser & Sprokkel Wouters

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

We all have a positive feeling after the final meeting and the whole visit.

The SB team is convinced and reassured about SN's view of its own future.

SN seems to be well on the way to becoming a mature and professional organisation, so SB's mission is on track, as is the goal of creating self-sustainability.

We expressed our concern about the experience and attitude of the board members.

Ramesh is quite positive about the growth of the board.

A substantive framework is being created for Ramesh to focus on his mission/job description.

The 6-point strategy and the internal policy plan (to be created) will be a good basis to grow stronger.

New projects are on the list, some of which need further quality checks. Quick and flexible operational thinking and adaptation of projects according to our suggestions (e.g. extension of water bottles to WASH project, US doctors coming to do cleft lip surgeries).

DETAILED REPORT

1. Meeting April 3, 2024

1.1. SN in 2034

Samundra Nepal has worked hard on its 10-year plan and has come up with an impressive proposal. Their vision of Samundra Nepal's position and achievements in 2034, ten years from today, was presented by CEO Ramesh Dahal.

Samundra Nepal will be part of the change where people will be self-sufficient in the creation of happiness in their lives.

1.2. Internal operations

SN knows that it is **on its way** to becoming a known value in the field of social and human development.

- the board is committed to becoming robust and professional
- internal governance and policies will be in place

1.3. Lessons learned

- we will support groups, not individuals
- we will create synergy through complementarity of partners (e.g. local authority, cooperation, community)
- we will support projects in phases (not all at once)

1.4. Financial stability

In line with other NGOs in Nepal, SN will implement a known way of financing projects and overheads.

- An additional **20% of project costs** may be taken into account to cover administrative and project-related costs. The Board will decide whether this rate should be fixed, flexible or a **combination** of the two.
- **Other sources of income** are generated to cover the running costs: levy by board members, sale of local products, organisation of charity programmes.
- Samundra Belgium is asked to **continue supporting the programme coordinator** for the next 3 years. After two more years, SN will claim to be completely self-sufficient and will cover up to 100% of the running costs.

1.5. Projects

Library is updated with more projects:

- More different sponsors (Norway, The Netherlands, Switzerland, USA, Belgium) are attracted
- Spread in areas (health, education, income generating) is balanced

1.6. Staff

We discussed **expanding** Samundra Nepal's staff and skills. This will allow Ramesh to focus on managing the overall programme.

Additional **field workers** as well as a **communications specialist** (website, socials, newsletter, ...) are on the list.

SN will need to make a **priority** list of these and calculate the costs involved.

2. In between

2.1. Shree Mahankal School (Panchkal)

- o Confirmation of SWC: construction can proceed

- Construction comitée received us
- SN will follow up
- SROI: Marieke offers help with indicators/measurements on researching this matter

2.2. Bike tour and preparation of Samundra Tour 2025

We visited Pokhara, Manakama and Bandipur to investigate the tour of Samundra travellers in April 2025.

We tried some hikes and experience some vacuum in the program. We did all the visits by motorbike - a challenge considering the road conditions, but an enjoyably thriving sense of freedom ;-)

Back in the office after a week, we discussed the programme ideas with Neesha and Jagat. Some walks were too boring/exhausting and we kept them to a minimum. Same with some village visits: they were left out of the programme to keep the pace of the tour comfortable.

3. Homework

3.1. Projects

- One pager on water project in school - SN
- Seek for one bigger project that makes SN visible - SN

3.2. Board-to-board meetings

- Two board members from each board (SB+SN) will discuss progress and improvements in the NGO.
- SN will provide the agenda at the latest one week in advance.
- 1st Sunday of the month in 2024, exceptions: 10 November, no meetings in July and August

3.3. General

- Partnership agreement between Nepal and Belgium - SB
- Internal governance/policies - SN
- Annual (impact) reports - SN
- Project library: keep up to date - SN

Antwerp, May 2024 - Niels Visser for Samundra vzw (Belgium)