

HEALING THE HIMALAYAS

Interdisciplinary project of scientific and technical support for post-disaster management and sustainable reconstruction in Nepal

Saturday 25th April - Tuesday 12 May 2015, Nepal was hit by two very strong earthquakes, many aftershocks and hundreds of tremors that caused nearly 10.000 death, more than 200.000 injured, more than 80 million people negatively affected, damage to public buildings and infrastructures, and widespread distress. Nepal needs support to reconstruct human habitats, to strengthen social resilience and develop a sustainable economy..

INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIT FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY (Università Carlo Cattaneo – LIUC, Italy) has a long experience of surveying and planning in the remote areas around the planet through a permanent program for field-survey, research, planning and experiments in the marginal human habitats: **Extreme Lands Program**.

INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIT FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY (LIUC, Italy) is committed to contribute in Nepal for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the communities affected by the earthquake. For Nepal, the **UNIT** is setting up a team of experts from various disciplines, professions and organizations. The interdisciplinary team will collaborate with the Government of Nepal and support Nepal's efforts for proper reconstruction.

OBJECTIVES

1. Scientific and technical support in post-disaster management, rehabilitation and reconstruction - surveys, analysis, strategic planning inputs, technical expertise development and management training (local capacity building).
2. Strategic and operational support in a selected rural area hit by earthquake - planning and implementation in reconstruction, and creation of a territorial role-model - a replicable example of efficiency, sustainability and aesthetic appeal.

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

Preparations (May-August 2015):

- Information collection and study of the post-earthquake situation in Nepal.
- Comparative study of post-disaster management and reconstruction in other parts of the world (lessons learned from post-disaster management and reconstruction in other countries).
- Approach to the Government of Nepal; establishment of contacts with Nepali experts and scholars.

Survey and analysis (September-December 2015):

- Formal contacts and agreement with the Government of Nepal and with the scientific organizations in Nepal (government-appointed scientific bodies, university departments, research centres).
- Field-survey by a team of experts and scholars (both international and Nepal-based) in a selected area hard-hit by the earthquake.
- Cross-disciplinary assessment of the rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of the selected site - specification and quantification of material, logistic, technical and financial needs.
- Assessment of the training needs for local officials, community organizers and entrepreneurs.

Planning, training and technical support (January 2016 – onwards):

- Strategic planning for six key sectors in a selected rural area:
 1. food security and rehabilitation of the local livelihoods related to agriculture, animal husbandry and forest products;
 2. improvement in the local supply systems of safe and clean water, renewable energy, food, medicines and other essentials;
 3. new, sustainable and locally practicable waste management system;
 4. restoration of the damaged cultural heritage and landscapes, protection of natural ecosystems and biodiversity conservation;
 5. support and stimulation to entrepreneurship through business incubator for aspirant entrepreneurs and through appropriate training and upgrading programs for existing business operators - rehabilitation and improvement of the local livelihoods related to crafts, processing and manufacturing, transportation, trade and tourism;
 6. development of cost-effective and reliable wireless communication systems and related structures, services and skills in the rural highlands;
- Technical and managerial training to local operators from government, business and community organizations (local human capital development).
- Supply of specific instruments, techniques and expertise as per local needs and requests; development of locally manageable operative systems.
- Advisory support, strategic reporting and regular briefing to the Government of Nepal as per the government's demands and needs.

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