



THE WEIGHT OF WATER

THE HUMAN COST
OF CLIMATE CRISIS

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY NEELIMA VALLANGI & DEEJ PHILLIPS



THE HUMAN COST OF CLIMATE CRISIS



A BEAUTIFULLY FILMED & COMPELLINGLY TOLD DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN **NEPAL** WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON HUMAN INTEREST STORIES, TIED TOGETHER WITH A COMMON THEME OF **WATER**.



WHAT'S THE NEED FOR THIS FILM?

As the fight against climate change intensifies, the challenge of effectively communicating the urgency of the crisis and the relevance of the consequences to everyone on the planet also heightens. There is a vast chasm between the ground reality and the prevalent public perception on the looming threat of climate change. And this documentary hopes to close that gap through **an effective and creative integration of science & storytelling.**

OBJECTIVES OF THE DOCUMENTARY:



MAKE AN IMPACT

Humans respond to stories, not plain information. The film will tell emotional stories that resonate on a deeper level with audiences everywhere.



FOCUS ON JUSTICE

Climate Financing & Climate Justice, two key components of the global negotiations will be highlighted so countries like Nepal aren't shortchanged



CONNECT THE DOTS

Using simplified science & clear attribution, the seemingly localised issues will be connected with the global roots of the climate change problem.



BRING CREDIBILITY

Credible experts will lucidly explain how the issues portrayed in the film are linked to climate change, and what can be done about that.

VIEW DOCUMENTARY TRAILER HERE ►

What has been filmed:

- Three stories filmed in three different locations of Nepal to show how changes in the water cycle are affecting communities in different ways
- Expert interviews, to provide essential scientific, political and social context on how climate change is compounding with existing crises and making things worse



IMPORTANT FILM DETAILS

- **Documentary run time** : 68 minutes
- **Film structure** : 3 unique character-focused stories highlighting 3 different issues, from elevations ranging from plains to the high mountains. Experts to explain the problem, what's the link to climate change and possible solutions.
- **Location of filming** : Nepal only
- **Current status** : Completed and ready for release
- **Completion date** : October 2021
- **Funding Sources** : Over 70 % via Crowdfunding + partial funding from UNDP

PROMINENT THEMES FEATURING IN THE FILM:

CLIMATE JUSTICE · CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS · DISASTER RISK AND REDUCTION
CLIMATE RESILIENCE · CLIMATE POLICY · LOSS & DAMAGE
GENDER INEQUALITY · WOMEN'S HEALTH · RISK TO CHILDREN
DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING
WATER STRESS · FLOOD MANAGEMENT

STORIES FILMED



THE WEIGHT OF WATER

Here we follow Kamala's story who suffered from Uterine Prolapse for 20 years, which is greatly prevalent in rural Nepal where upto 600,000 women are affected by this horrific condition. Carrying heavy loads of water increases the risk of uterine prolapse along with other stressors. In this particular story, we portray the link between women's health, their future opportunities & climate change-induced water stress.

THE FUTURE, WASHED AWAY

In this segment, we follow the story of Sanchana, a 13-year old girl who got washed away in 2019 floods, and the grief of her family coping with the sudden loss of their bright young child while returning from school. Extreme flooding & flash floods killed at least 117 people last monsoon in Nepal. Sanchana was washed away on a road that should've been a bridge. This story will portray how extreme weather and lack of climate resilient planning is putting the life of children at risk.

A FIELD OF FLOODED DREAMS

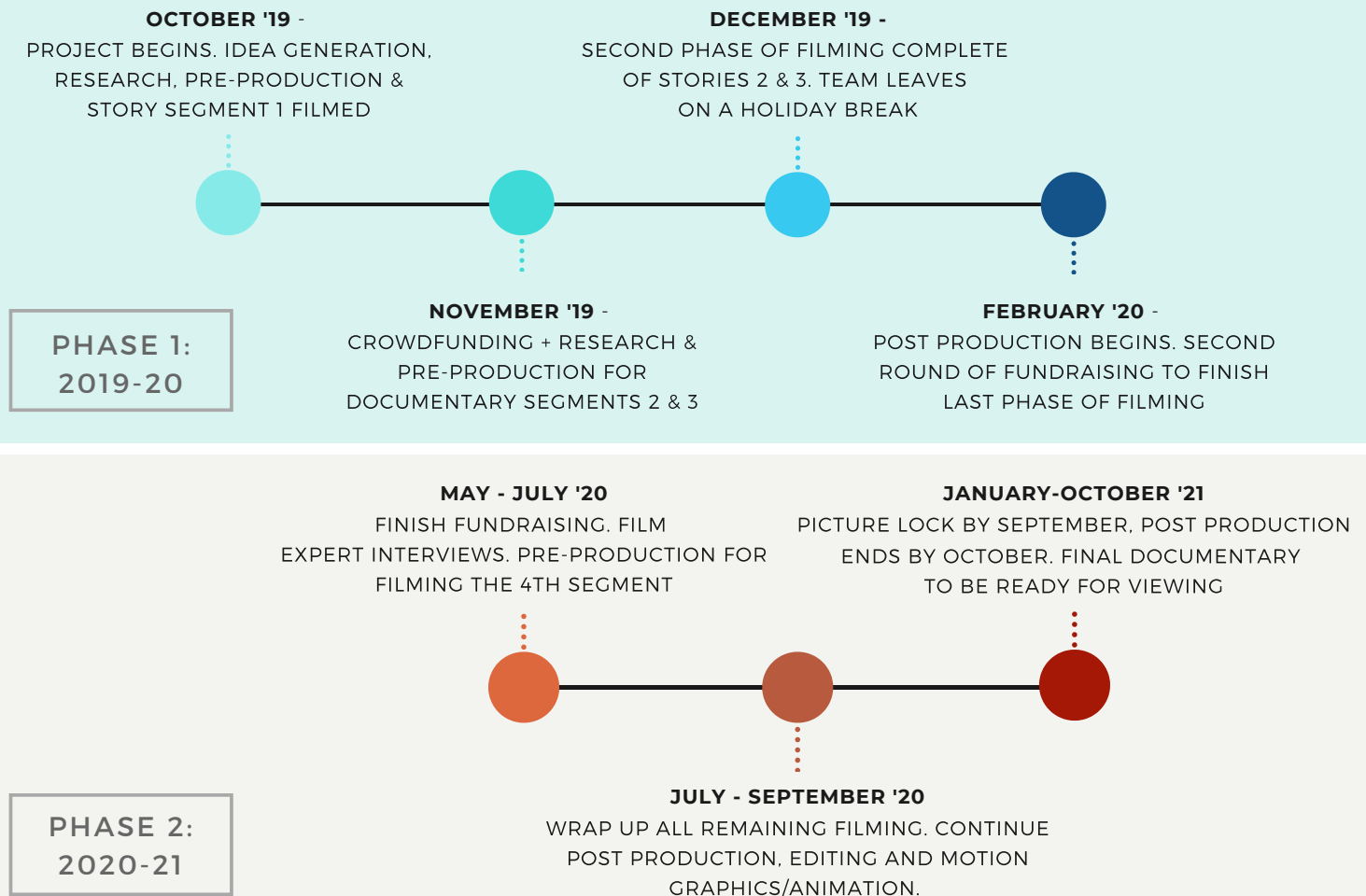
In this segment we follow the role of a public field by the side of a river that played an important part in producing champion players. But the field was flooded severely in the last two years. While the ground gets renovated, the young players are training in a sad little school ground surrounded by rubble, which is affecting their stamina and game. This story highlights the immediate need for mitigation and adaptation to secure the future of the youth and communities.

EXPERTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The film also features a fourth track where we interviewed several experts on the science of how Nepal is being impacted by climate change, possible solutions to adapt to these changes, why climate justice must be accounted for in global negotiations, the issues with current climate financing arrangements to enable deeper understanding of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

There were significant delays due to the pandemic, because of the which the filming was done in two sessions spread over a year, extending the production schedule to October 2021.



BUDGET & FUNDING

Neelima Vallangi & DeeJ Phillips were able to raise 70% of the estimated film budget from individuals through Crowdfunding, by leveraging their personal network and social media following. The second round of funding was raised from UNDP Nepal who agreed to come onboard as title sponsor of the film.



MEET THE TEAM



NEELIMA VALLANGI, DIRECTOR & JOURNALIST

Neelima Vallangi is a freelance writer & photographer from India, whose stories and images have appeared in reputed publications such as The Guardian, BBC, Smithsonian.com, Al Jazeera English etc. Deeply inspired by the time she spent in the lofty peaks of Himalayas over a decade and witnessing the impacts of climate change in the mountains first hand, she's now dedicatedly covering climate crisis. Her work can be seen [here](#).



DEEJ PHILLIPS, CINEMATOGRAPHER & FILMMAKER

Deej Phillips is a British documentary filmmaker with over eight years of experience, specialising in capturing cinematic footage to tell compelling personal stories and has gained vast experience in efficiently working as a one man crew even in constraining environments. His commercial clients include Bentley, TEDx, Lamborghini, BBC, Molson Coors and more. His work can be seen [here](#).



DURGA UPADHYAY

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISOR

Durga Prasad Upadhyay is a climate change adaptation expert based out of Kathmandu, with over 12 years of experience working closely with civil society organizations and Government of Nepal. He has a master's degree in Climate Change Impacts and Sustainability from Brunel University London.



BRANDON KAHN

EDITOR & FILMMAKER

Brandon Kahn is an American editor and filmmaker closing in on two decades worth of experience. He has made movies in just about every genre and on just about every topic imaginable. His clients include NatGeo, Al Jazeera, Current TV, the NHS, The UK Bar Council and Canon.



EDWARD COOK

MUSIC COMPOSER

Edward Cook is a composer and music producer from the UK. After working as an audio engineer and consultant alongside George Fenton (Blue Planet / Planet Earth), Edward has since been writing music for media and film, collaborating with forward-thinking and ethical initiatives.



SURAJ SHAKYA

SECOND CAMERAMAN

Suraj Ratna Shakya's love for storytelling has taken him around Nepal and beyond. As a freelance photographer and videographer, he has been working with various humanitarian organizations. His work has been featured widely, both in national and international level.



SAOIRSE CHRISTOPHERSON

SOUND EDITOR

Saoirse Christopherson is an Emmy nominated sound editor based at Boom Post in London.



BIJAYABAR PRADHAN

ASST. CAMERAMAN

Bijayabar Pradhan is an upcoming photographer and filmmaker based out of Kathmandu.

FEATURED CLIMATE EXPERTS

ARUN B SHRESTHA

Senior Climate Change Specialist at ICIMOD, River Basins and Cryosphere Programme

KC SHREYA

Youth Climate Activist, Environmental Science undergraduate & Network Coordinator at Nepalese Youth for Climate Action

DIPAK GYAWALI

Hydroelectric power engineer, political economist & Nepal's Minister of Water Resources in 2002/03

RAJU PANDIT CHETTRI

Director of Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC) & Climate Financing expert from Nepal

MEDIA COVERAGE

Two storytellers unmask the human face of climate change

Concerned about the increasing climate crisis, an Indian writer/photographer and British filmmaker are on a journey to capture people's attention through human stories from the frontlines of climate change in Nepal.

- [Mongabay India](#) | [Link to story](#)

Highlighting the climate crisis with Nepali stories

First-time filmmaker and long-time journalist Neelima Vallangi is using her various platforms to raise awareness of the many impacts of climate change.

- [The Kathmandu Post](#) | [Link to story](#)



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Two storytellers unmask the human face of climate change

by Kartik Chandramouli on 24 January 2020

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09 | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

THE KATHMANDU POST
CULTURE & ARTS

Highlighting the climate crisis with Nepali stories

First-time filmmaker and long-time journalist Neelima Vallangi is using her various platforms to raise awareness of the personal effects of climate change.

THE JOURNALS

Apprehension about the ever-increasing climate crisis, environmental and scientific media, National Geographic, and other climate change activists made the frontlines of climate change the focus of their work. In the past few years, people's voices through the stories they are telling.

"I find the public is not well-informed or well-versed about the environmental issues because of a huge gap in climate change communication. That is why I started this project," says Vallangi, who decided to go on a journey to capture the human face of climate change through the stories of people's lives.

She has been travelling to various parts of Nepal and across the world, capturing the human face of climate change through the stories of people's lives. She has been travelling to various parts of Nepal and across the world, capturing the human face of climate change through the stories of people's lives.



Neelima Vallangi (right) is helping to raise global awareness of climate change at an individual level by telling stories from Nepal.



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Vallangi tries to simplify climate science to make it understandable.

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT?

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.

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