

Forests

One of the widely discussed topics in environmentally-sound mountain development is the nature and extent of forest degradation and deforestation. Firewood demands by tourism and tourism associated activities in the mountain areas are believed to have considerable impact on forests, vegetation, and wildlife. Three factors that increase pressure on firewood demand are: in some areas visitors outnumber the local people; firewood demand is seasonal, lasting three to five months each year; and the growing seasons in the mountains are extremely short and harsh. An estimate of firewood consumption by tourists is given in Table 6. Although kerosene use by tourists is mandatory in some areas, firewood use by support staff and local tourism caterers continues (Bjonness 1980; Byers 1986; ERL 1989; Gurung 1990; Banskota and Sharma 1994)

Table 6: Estimate of Firewood Consumed by Tourism in Selected Protected Areas (mt)

Year		1976	1977	1980	1981	1982	1987	1988
SNP:	Group	619	692	858	747	917	1323	1671
	FITS	165	184	229	199	245	353	446
LNP:	Group	217	293	466	577	514	693	955
	FITS	27	36	58	71	63	85	118
ACA:	Group	229	294	456	543	628	985	1204
	FITS	131	168	261	310	359	563	688
Others:	Group	102	110	748	507	436	295	863
	FITS	9	9	62	42	36	25	72
Total:	Group	1168	1390	2528	2374	2495	3295	4693
	FITS	331	398	610	623	703	1025	1324
	Total	1499	1788	3138	2997	3198	4321	6017

Source: ERL 1989; Gurung 1990; Banskota and Sharma 1994