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## Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development in Nepal

*A Case Study of Upper Mustang*

Kamal Banskota  
Bikash Sharma

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Kamal Banskota is a resource economist and Director of CREST and Bikash Sharma is an agricultural economist, also at CREST

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Kathmandu, Nepal

February 1998

# Preface

The present report is the result of a series of studies conducted as part of the second phase of the NORAD-funded project entitled Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development. One of the major objectives of the Project was to develop training modules and materials on mountain tourism for local community development for policy-makers, programme managers, private sector agencies, and local community-based entrepreneurs and impart training to these audiences on a pilot basis. As part of the Project several of thematic studies and manuals have been prepared.

This Discussion Paper is the first of three case studies from Nepal that focus on the concerns of mountain tourism and its promotion for local community development in Upper Mustang, Phewa Lakeside in Pokhara, and Syaphrubesi, Langtang. These three studies throw light on the problems as well as the prospects of mountain tourism for local development in three different ecozones of Nepal. The **Upper Mustang** case highlights the problems of environmental, economic, social, and infrastructural linkages of tourism in an area where high-yielding tourism is being promoted under the aegis of a non-government organization and where tourism could play a leading role in the integrated development of the area. The Phewa Lake study brings out the need and importance of a participatory institutional framework to deal with common property resource problems, namely those of pollution of the lake and the problems of encroachment and incompatible land use, all related to the development of tourism in the area. Phewa Lake (the second study in MEI 98/2) is a prime tourist asset for Pokhara, but it is rapidly deteriorating due to the lack of a focal institution responsible for the management of the environmental resources of the area. Syaphrubesi, in Langtang (the third study in MEI 98/3) is an area in which the initial impacts of tourism are becoming evident. The Syaphrubesi study primarily assesses the programmes introduced under the Quality Tourism Project that help improve the environmental, economic, and human resource development linkages with tourism, and it provides a number of lessons of relevance to other areas. In all cases, the attempt is to highlight the scope for community action that would contribute to local development through the promotion of environmentally friendly tourism. The studies were carried out as part of the development of training material for different target audiences under the Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development Project.

We would like to thank the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CREST), our collaborating institution in the Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development Project in Nepal, particularly Dr Kamal Banskota and Bikash Sharma, for undertaking this study.

On behalf of ICIMOD, Dr. Pitamber Sharma is the Project Coordinator as well as the technical editor of this paper.

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# Table of Contents

Preface	
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	

## **PART ONE INTRODUCTION AND STUDY METHODOLOGY**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Case Study Areas</b>	<b>4</b>
Upper Mustang	4
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>5</b>
Sustainable Development	5
Carrying Capacity	8
<b>Internalising the Perceptions of Stakeholders in Mountain Tourism</b>	<b>10</b>
Government	10
Entrepreneurs	11
NGOs/INGOs	11
Local People	12
Visitors	12
<b>Training Needs</b>	<b>12</b>
Conceptual Orientation	13
Institutional Process	13
Actions	13

## **PART TWO CASE STUDY OF UPPER MUSTANG**

<b>Background to Case Study Area</b>	<b>17</b>
Physical Setting	17
Climate	19
Demographic Characteristics	19

Settlements	20
Social Structure	21
Institutions	22
Economy	24
Energy	27
<b>Tourism Assets, Practices, Impacts and Implications</b>	<b>27</b>
Rationale for Tourism in Upper Mustang	27
Tourism Assets of Upper Mustang	29
Tourism in Upper Mustang	34
Impacts and Implications	37
Carrying Capacity Assessment	42
<b>Development Efforts through ACAP/UMCDP in Upper Mustang</b>	<b>45</b>
Upper Mustang Conservation and Development Project (ACAP/UMCDP)	45
Activities Undertaken by ACAP/UMCDP	48
Major Gaps and Issues in ACAP/UMCDP Activities	56
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>58</b>
Introduction	58
Imperatives of the Management Plan	59
A Management Plan for Upper Mustang	60
Action Plan for Lomanthang	71
Conclusions	74
Bibliography	77
Annex	81