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Micro Case Study and Action Plan for Fairy Meadows

Shaheen R. Khan

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Shaheen Rafi Khan

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Shaheen Rafi Khan, consultant to Hagler Bailly, Pakistan,
prepared this report.

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Kathmandu, Nepal

August 1997

Preface

The present report is part of a series of studies resulting from the second phase of the NORAD-funded project entitled, Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development. One of the major objectives of the project is 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 to impart training to these audiences on a pilot basis. As part of the project, a number of thematic studies and manuals has been prepared. The present report is a micro case study focussing on the concerns of mountain tourism for local development in the Fairy Meadows, a pristine alpine meadow at the base of Nanga Parbat in the Northern Areas, Pakistan. The report brings out the conflict between conservation for tourism and exploitation of primeval forest resources for revenue and also posits the scope for community action that would contribute to local development through the promotion of environmentally friendly tourism. The study was conducted as part of the development of training materials for different target audiences under the Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development Project.

The Sarhad Tourism Corporation and Hagler Bailly, Pakistan, have done a commendable job in undertaking the study. Dr. Shaheen Rafi Khan was principally responsible for preparing the Report. Mr. Waqar Zakaria also contributed to the development of the Action Plan.

On behalf of ICIMOD, Dr. Pitamber Sharma was the Project Coordinator as well as the technical editor of these papers.

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Tourism of itself is seen as a positive force; if it conforms to the dictates of carrying capacity it can be environmentally sustainable, economically beneficial, and culturally unobtrusive. Current environmental degradation stems from social conflict and economic exploitation by timber contractors, private developers, and the government. By addressing the environmental and socioeconomic manifestations stability can be restored, however. To do so, a tourism plan is needed as well as key interventions to undertake infrastructural rehabilitation, area and sector development, effective policy implementation, and sustained advocacy.

The case study is complemented with an interview with a local leader, photo plates, and maps.

Abstract

Contents

The case study relates the impact of a mountain road on a location of astounding beauty, Fairy Meadows in Raikot Valley, which leads up to the north face of Nanga Parbat in the northern areas of Pakistan. The study covers the interesting possibilities for tourism for community development. In analysis, the sociopolitical circumstances in this valley are complex. The road, built by an outside entrepreneur in exchange for access to the forests for logging purposes, is looked at from the negative and positive aspects in terms of tourism in the remote regions.

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