



Discussion Paper  
Series No. MEI 97/5

## **Case Studies from Ghandruk**

**Impact of Alternative Energy  
Technology in Reducing  
Pressure on Forest Resources**

**Contribution of Tourist  
Expenditure to the Local  
Economy in the Annapurna Area**

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# Case Studies from Ghandruk

## Impact of Alternative Energy Technology in Reducing Pressure on Forest Resources

## Contribution of Tourist Expenditure to the Local Economy in the Annapurna Area

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*MEI Series No. 97/5*

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

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# Acknowledgments Preface

These case studies are part of a series of studies resulting from 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 impart training to these audiences on a pilot basis. As part of the Project a number of thematic studies and manuals have been prepared. The present Discussion Paper includes two thematic studies that were undertaken following the case studies on Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development in the Annapurna area. Based on available secondary and primary information, the first paper attempts to infer the impact of alternative energy technologies such as kerosene, micro-hydroelectricity, solar heaters, improved cooking stoves, etc in reducing the pressure of demand on forest resources in Ghandruk, a major tourist destination and transit area in the Annapurna region. The second paper attempts to examine the contribution of tourist expenditure to local economy in the same general area.

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, and particularly Dr. Kamal Banskota and Bikash Sharma, for undertaking these studies.

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

# Acknowledgements

We would like to thank ICIMOD for entrusting CREST with the two studies reported in this volume. We express our thanks to Dr. Pitamber Sharma and Dr. Kamal Rijal for their comments and suggestions, which have helped bring more clarity to both studies.

The first study in the present volume deals with the energy transformation taking place among the lodges in Ghorepora and Ghorepur as a result of tourism and other factors. Ghorepur has electricity and over time there has been a gradual shift in the use of electricity. From simple lighting, electricity is being used by lodges for cooking and, to a lesser extent, space and water heating. Kerosene is also being increasingly used in many areas, but extensive consumption of imported energy is constrained in remote mountain areas, which are not served by roads, by high transport costs. The main aim of the first study in the present volume is to investigate the impact of the use of alternative energy and end-use technology, on fuelwood use and its consequent impact on forest conservation.

The second study makes an attempt to estimate the retention of tourism income in local areas (Ghorepora and Ghorepur). Although tourism is believed to contribute to the local areas visited by tourists, the extent of this contribution is not well known. It is,

# Abstract

The present volume deals with two separate studies related to mountain tourism and is a continuation of the Norad-funded project 'Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development' initiated by ICIMOD. Within the last two years, CREST has carried out two studies in this area which have already been published in the form of discussion papers by ICIMOD.

The first study in the present volume deals with the energy transformation taking place among the lodges in Ghorepani and Ghandruk as a result of tourism and other factors. Ghandruk has electricity and over time there has been a gradual shift in the use of electricity. From simple lighting, electricity is being used by lodges for cooking and, to a lesser extent, space and water heating. Kerosene is also being increasingly used in many areas, but extensive consumption of imported energy is constrained in remote mountain areas, which are not served by roads, by high transport costs. The main aim of the first study in the present volume is to investigate the impact of the use of alternative energy and end-use technology on fuelwood use and its consequent impact on forest conservation.

The second study makes an attempt to estimate the retention of tourism income in local areas (Ghorepani and Ghandruk). Although tourism is believed to contribute to the local areas visited by tourists, the extent of this contribution is not well known. It is, however, fairly well known that local areas are unable to retain all the income that accrues through tourism. Comparisons are also made between conservation expenditure and tourism income.

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