



Discussion Paper  
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## Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development in Nepal

A Case Study of Syaphrubesi, Langtang National Park

Kamal Banskota  
Bikash Sharma



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*MEI Series No. 98/3*

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# 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 third 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. Syaphrubesi, in Langtang 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. The Upper Mustang case (the first study of MEI 98/1) 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. 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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# Abstract

This case study examines the role of the Quality Tourism Project of UNDP, Nepal, in the improvement of tourism services of Syaprubesi, a well-known entry point to Langtang National Park. It covers the steps taken by the project to create an acceptable entry point so that the villagers would be open to change. From this point on the progress made by the villagers is discussed and finally assessed. The roles played by all actors involved are examined with thoroughness. Finally, the case study assesses the overall impacts and makes valuable recommendations for tourism for local community development.

## Case Study Areas

Syaprubesi

## Methodology

Sustainable Development

Carrying Capacity

## Internalising the Perceptions of Stakeholders in Mountain Tourism

Government

Entrepreneurs

NGOs/NGOs

Local People

Visitors

## Training Needs

Cultural Orientations

Institutional Process

Actions

## PART TWO

## CASE STUDY OF SYAPHRUBESI/LANGTANG NATIONAL PARK

## Overview of Tourism in Langtang National Park

Introduction

Objectives and Methodology

Background to UNP

Major Issues and Constraints

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