CASE STUDY AREAS

To achieve the above objectives the study has been carried out in two phases. In the first phase, micro case studies to understand in detail the carrying capacity issues and their implications for Mountain Community Development (MCD) and MTD in the context of Himalayan Environmental Resources (HER) or natural resources were discussed. In the second phase, the training manual was to be developed after the first phase study had been completed. The micro case studies were carried out in three areas; namely, Upper Mustang, Phewa Lake Side, and Syaphrubesi.

Although the specific issues to be addressed are presented in the respective case studies, the main focus of these studies is on general background, tourism assets, and an assessment of environmental, economic, and social imapcts and implications. An attempt is made to operationalise the carrying capacity concept at the local level and identify gaps in the action plans already developed for the areas (Lomanthang and Phewa Lake) and make recommendations.

Phewa Lakeside

Pokhara is a destination for a small number of tourists, as well as being the gateway to the entire Annapurna Area and the Upper Mustang area. The lakeside has great potential

for development into a resort destination. The lake is the major tourism asset of the area. At the same time, the lake also serves community needs in a variety of ways. However, with a growing population as well as the increase in restaurants and hotels, the lake is being mismanaged. IUCN has carried out extensive research and has recommended 23 different actions to be undertaken to promote sustainability. Despite these studies and recommendations, there appears to be no clear identification of the roles and responsibilities of the various local institutions – from user groups to the government. Until and unless the various institutions are identified and their roles and responsibilities understood, it will be almost impossible to introduce any sustainable management system for Phewa Lake.