

THE AUTHOR

Jack D. Ives is professor of mountain geocology, Department of Geography, at the University of Colorado. Since 1979 he has served the United Nations University as coordinator of its highland-lowland interactive systems project, responsible for initiation of the UNU/Nepal MAB Hazards Mapping study. In the formative years of the Unesco Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme he was chairman of the international working group for MAB Project 6.

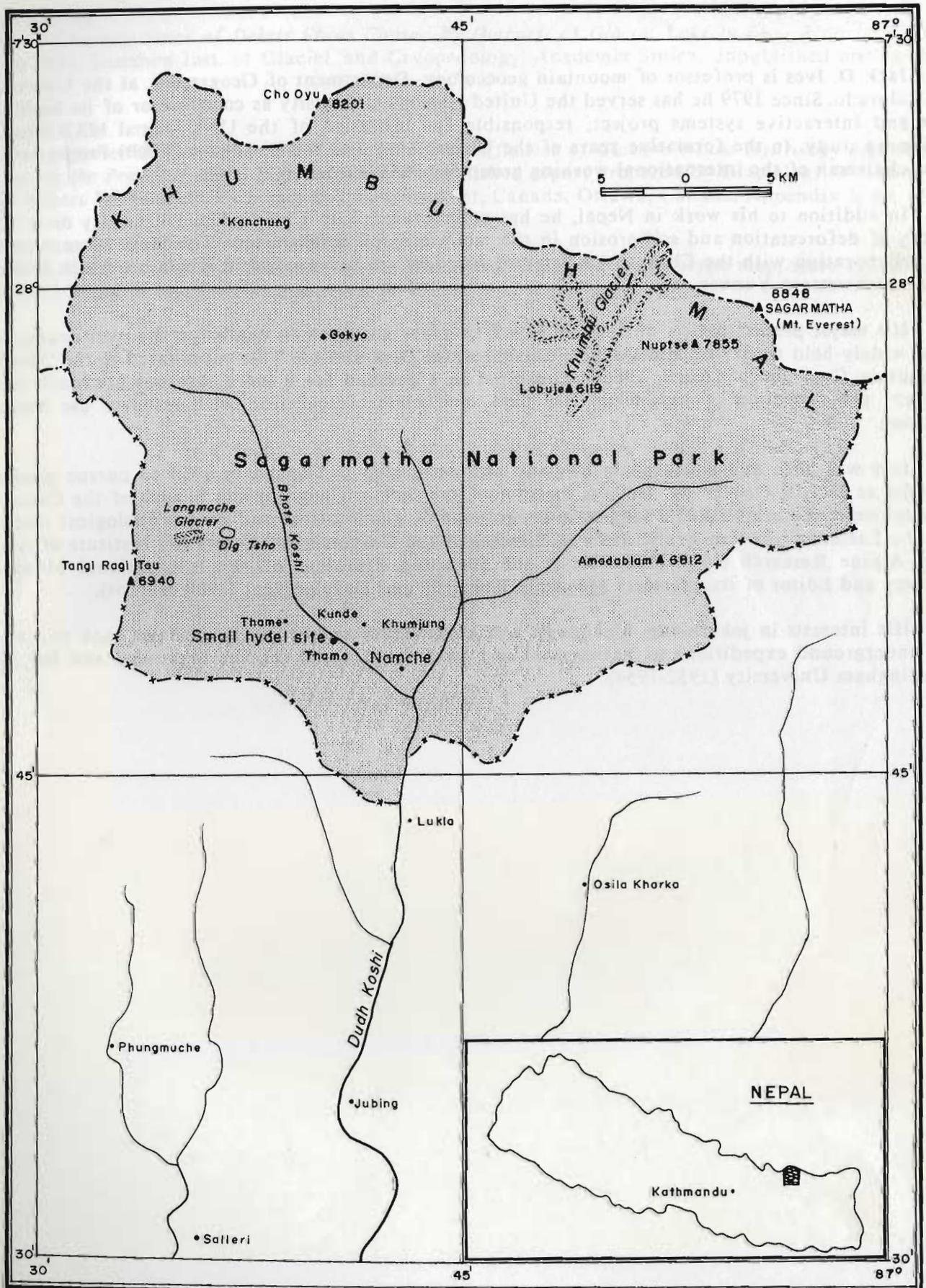
In addition to his work in Nepal, he has collaborated with Chiang Mai University on a UNU study of deforestation and soil erosion in the mountains of northwestern Thailand. More recently, in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, he has worked in Xizang, western Sichuan, and northwestern Yunnan.

His major preoccupation during the last five years has been to challenge the over-dramatized and widely-held theory of Himalayan Environmental Degradation. This culminated in the "Mohonk Mountain Conference" (April, 1986); it resulted in a demand for a more rigorous approach to research, the collection of long-term base data, and closer integration with resource use decision making.

Ives was born and educated in England and emigrated to Canada in 1954 to pursue graduate studies at McGill University. He was director of the former Geographical Branch of the Canadian Government and established a long-term programme of glaciological and geomorphological research on the Eastern Canadian Arctic. He was Director of the University of Colorado's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (1967-1979). He is the founding President of the International Mountain Society and Editor of its quarterly Mountain Research and Development (1980-present).

His interests in jokulhlaup, glaciology, and catastrophic mountain floods dates back to a series of underground expeditions to Vatnajokull and southeast Iceland that he organized and led from Nottingham University (1952-1954).

Map of Khumbu Himal and Sagarmatha National Park.



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