

PARK – PEOPLE RELATIONSHIP IN SHIVAPURI NATIONAL PARK, CENTRAL NEPAL

(A Case Study of Sundarijal Village Development Committee)

A Dissertation Submitted to

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Submitted by

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This is to certify that **Miss Samira Shrestha** has prepared this thesis entitled **“Park - People Relationship in Shivapuri National Park, Central Nepal: A Case Study of Sundarijal Village Development Committee”** for the partial fulfillment of the completion of Master’s degree in Environmental Science (Wildlife Management as Special paper) under my supervision and guidance. To the best of my knowledge this is the original piece of work, which has not been submitted to this University and other institutions for the same degree.

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ABSTRACT

Shivapuri National Park is the only national park in proximity to the capital and falls entirely within the middle mountain range of Nepal. It is situated 12 km north of down town Kathmandu. It covers an area of 144 sq. km that touched 23 VDCs of Kathmandu, Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk districts. It is home for 177 species of birds, 102 species of butterflies and 21 species of mammals including sloth bear, langur monkey, leopard, barking deer. There are 2,122 species of flora and 16 of them are endemic flowering plants.

The study entitled “**Park - People Relationship in Shivapuri National Park, Central Nepal: A Case Study of Sundarijal Village Development Committee**” was conducted to (i) assess the quantity of crop loss due to wild animals (ii) identify the most destructive wild animal (iii) identify the reasons of conflict and (iv) study the impact of local people on the park.

Questionnaire survey was done in 100 households of six wards of Sundarijal VDC since these wards entirely lie within the walled boundary of Shivapuri National Park. Simple random sampling method was conducted to assess crop damage by wild animals for one year from April 2005 to April 2006.

The study showed that the total crop damage by wild animals was 1700.74 quintals. The loss percentage of wheat was found to be the highest with respect to the expected production. The study also showed wild boar as the most destructive wild animals followed by monkey. Crop damage was the most serious problem leading to conflict between the local people and the park authorities. Large number of households reported the crop damage as the leading cause of conflict. In the study, it was also found that the firewood and fodder collection by the local people from the national park were other major problems in the conservation activities leading to conflict.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page No. |
|---|-----------------|
| Letter of Recommendation | i |
| Letter of Approval | ii |
| Acknowledgements | iii |
| Abstract | iv |
| Table of Contents | v |
| List of tables | vii |
| List of figures | viii |
| Acronyms and Abbreviations | ix |
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 1.1 Background | 1 |
| 1.2 Protected Areas of Nepal | 2 |
| 1.3 Park-People Conflict | 6 |
| 1.4 Shivapuri National Park | 6 |
| 1.4.1 Location | 6 |
| 1.4.2 Access to the Area | 9 |
| 1.4.3 Geology, Topography and Elevation | 9 |
| 1.4.4 Climate | 10 |
| 1.4.5 Land Use Pattern | 11 |
| 1.4.6 Wildlife | 11 |
| 1.4.7 Vegetation | 12 |
| 1.5 Study Area | 13 |
| 1.6 Statement of Problem | 13 |
| 1.7 Objectives | 14 |
| 1.8 Justification | 14 |
| 2. LITERATURE REVIEW | 15 |
| 3. MATERIALS AND METHODS | 22 |
| 3.1 Sources of Data | 22 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 3.2 Survey Design and Sample Size | 23 |
| 3.3 Questionnaire Survey | 24 |
| 3.4 Data Analysis Technique | 24 |
| 4. RESULTS | 25 |
| 4.1 Total Cultivated Land and Land Holding per Households | 25 |
| 4.2 Crops Grown | 25 |
| 4.3 Land Coverage by Major Crops | 27 |
| 4.4 Types of Problem | 29 |
| 4.5 Loss of Major Crops | 30 |
| 4.6 Loss of Crops by Different Animals | 32 |
| 4.7 Wild Animals Damaging Crops | 33 |
| 4.8 Stages of Crop Damage by Wild animals | 34 |
| 4.9 Techniques of Crop Protection | 35 |
| 4.10 Livestock Reared | 36 |
| 4.11 Livestock Loss | 37 |
| 4.12 Wildlife Attack on Human | 37 |
| 4.13 Fuel Wood and Fodder Collection | 37 |
| 4.14 Livestock Grazing | 38 |
| 4.15 Hunting | 38 |
| 4.16 People's Perception | 38 |
| 5. DISCUSSION | 39 |
| 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS | 47 |
| 6.1 Conclusions | 47 |
| 6.2 Recommendations | 47 |
| REFERENCES | 49 |

LIST OF TABLES

| Tables | | Page No. |
|---------------|---|-----------------|
| Table 1 | Land Use Pattern of ShNP. | 11 |
| Table 2 | Faunal Diversity in ShNP. | 12 |
| Table 3 | Forest Habitats and Altitudinal Distribution of Flora. | 12 |
| Table 4 | Ward wise Distribution of Household and Population in Sundarijal VDC. | 22 |
| Table 5 | Number of Sampled and Surveyed Households in Sundarijal VDC. | 23 |
| Table 6 | Stages of Crop Damage | 35 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| Figures | | Page No. |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Figure 1 | Protected Areas of Nepal. | 4 |
| Figure 2 | Protected Areas Coverage within Country. | 5 |
| Figure 3 | Shivapuri National Park. | 7 |
| Figure 4 | Shivapuri National Park, VDC Coverage. | 8 |
| Figure 5 | Monthly variations in mean maximum and mean minimum temperature for the year 1995-2005 recorded at Budhanilkantha Station. | 10 |
| Figure 6 | Monthly variations in average monthly rainfall (mm) for the year 1995-2005 recorded at Budhanilkantha Station. | 10 |
| Figure 7 | Ward wise Distribution of Total Cultivated Land. | 25 |
| Figure 8 | Percentage of Households growing Maize in Different Wards. | 26 |
| Figure 9 | Percentage of Households growing Millet in Different Wards. | 26 |
| Figure 10 | Percentage of Households growing Wheat in Different Wards. | 26 |
| Figure 11 | Percentage of Households growing Paddy in Different Wards. | 27 |
| Figure 12 | Percentage of Households growing Other Crops in Different Wards. | 27 |
| Figure 13 | Percentage of Land Coverage of Maize in Different Wards. | 28 |
| Figure 14 | Percentage of Land Coverage of Millet in Different Wards | 28 |
| Figure 15 | Percentage of Land Coverage of Wheat in Different Wards | 29 |
| Figure 16 | Percentage of Land Coverage of Paddy in Different Wards. | 29 |
| Figure 17 | Types of Problem in Percentage. | 30 |
| Figure 18 | Percentage of Maize Loss in Different Wards. | 30 |
| Figure 19 | Percentage of Millet Loss in Different Wards. | 31 |
| Figure 20 | Percentage of Wheat Loss in Different Wards. | 31 |
| Figure 21 | Percentage of Paddy Loss in Different Wards. | 32 |
| Figure 22 | Percentage of Household affected by Wild animals. | 32 |
| Figure 23 | Percentage of Wild Animals Damaging Maize. | 33 |
| Figure 24 | Percentage of Wild Animals Damaging Millet. | 33 |
| Figure 25 | Percentage of Wild Animals Damaging Wheat. | 34 |
| Figure 26 | Percentage of Wild Animals Damaging Paddy. | 34 |
| Figure 27 | Percentage of Households Using Techniques. | 36 |
| Figure 28 | Percentage of Households Using Different Techniques. | 36 |
| Figure 29 | People's Perception. | 38 |

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------|--|
| asl | : Average sea level |
| API | : Animal Preventive Infrastructure |
| CBS | : Central Bureau of Statistics |
| CNPPA | : Commission on National Park and Protected Areas |
| DNPWC | : Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation |
| EPI | : Erosion Preventive Infrastructure |
| ha | : Hectare |
| ICS | : Improved Cooking Stoves |
| IUCN | : International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources |
| KTWR | : Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve |
| km | : kilometer |
| KCA | : Kanchenjunga Conservation Area |
| LU | : Livestock Unit |
| mm | : millimeter |
| NBS | : Nepal Biodiversity Strategy |
| NPWC | : National Park and Wildlife Conservation |
| NTFPs | : Non Timber Forest Products |
| PPP | : Park People Programme |
| PWR | : Parsa Wildlife Reserve |
| RBNP | : Royal Bardia National Park |
| RCNP | : Royal Chitwan National Park |
| RSWR | : Royal Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve |
| ShNP | : Shivapuri National Park |
| SWWR | : Shivapuri Watershed and Wildlife Reserve |
| VDC | : Village Development Committee |