

MOUNTAIN TOURISM IN NEPAL

A Case Study of Khaptad National Park

**A Project Report Submitted to
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of Rural Development in Partial Fulfilment of Requirements for the
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RECOMMENDATION

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Nirhari Upadhyaya
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GLOSSARY

Ashram	-	The hermitage of swami
Batua	-	Which passing through this way
Bhuwo	-	War dance
Chado	-	Bird
Chhenta	-	Hole between two stone
Daha	-	Lake
Dauda	-	Traditional dance of mid and far western region
Dhara	-	Water spout
Dhunga	-	Stone
Ghatta	-	The traditional water mill built by local technicians
Jethi Baurani	-	Un-due relation between elder brother and the wife of younger brother
Jhoti	-	Small circle of forest
Khola	-	River or stream
Madu	-	Temple
Paila	-	Foot Mark
Patan	-	Fallow flat land
Raya, Chaya	-	The sound
Rota	-	A kind of Bread
Sthan	-	Pilgrimage site

ABBREVIATIONS

ASIA	-	American Society of Travel Agents
DNPWC	-	Department of National Park and Wild life Conservation
FWDR	-	Far-Western Development Region
HMG	-	His Majesty's Government
ICIMOD	-	International Center for Integrated Mountain of Development
IUOTO	-	International Union of Official Travel Organization
KM	-	Kilometers
KNP	-	Khaptad National Park
MoCTCA	-	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organization
NP	-	National Park
NTB	-	Nepal Tourism Board
PATA	-	Pacific Asian Travel Association
PRA	-	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RNAC	-	Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation
RRA	-	Rural Rapid Appraisal
Rs	-	Rupees
TU	-	Tribhuvan University
UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
WTO	-	World Tourism Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Travel Tourism is an ancient phenomenon, and it has advanced with the development of civilization. In the beginning, travelers used to move for various purposes including social interaction, pilgrimage education and trade. The concept of modern tourism came into being in the second half of the nineteenth century. In spite of its long history, tourism is considered as of relatively modern origin. Travel (Tourism) is now the largest industry in the world, generating around US Dollar 3 trillion per year as total revenue. The number of international tourist arrivals world wide has grown nearly twenty five times in the last 50 years reaching 500 million tourists a year. In 1998, there were approximately 455 billion international tourists. They spent some 225 billion US dollar, which amounted about 5.5 percent of the total international trade. It is estimated that by the year 2010, tourist number will reach to a level of 937 million. Tourism therefore is an emerging industry all over the world. Nepal is a landlocked country. Though tourism industry covers 25% share of revenue collection is not old in Nepal, Tourist formally began in Nepal after 1950s. The development of tourism accelerated in Nepal after the establishment of Nepal tourism committee in 1970,¹ and Nepal tourism master plan was prepare in 1972. The Ministry of Tourism was established by HMG in 1973. Today, tourism has taken the shape of a smokeless industry in Nepal.

Tourism is the most important industry in the world. It covers 50 percent revenue collection. It is a serious industry and consists all those firins, organizations and facilities, which are intended to serve the specific needs and wants of the tourist.

Khaptad National Park is situated at the cross point of Bajhang, Bajura, Achham and Doti districts. It has a core area of 225 square kilometres. The boundary of the four districts meets at Chadipatan, which is located at the centre. Khaptad is rich for a wide range of flora and fauna. Scenic beauty, pleasant climate, vegetation, flora and fauna and socio cultural heritage including Khaptad Baba's hermitage are the basic attractions for tourism in KNP area. Alpine forests, 220 species of birds 40 species of wild life, 567 types of flowering plants and 400 herbal plants. KNP area is rich in socio cultural resources of tourism. The Ashram of Khaptad swami is a famous spiritual site. The hermitage of the late Khaptad swami (Baba) is preserved in "core zone" of KNP. All the visitors of KNP usually visit the hermitage and experience the spirit and the power of the place.

During 1993 only 24 tourists were recorded as visitors to the area, whereas in 2003 they were only 30 in record.

Hotel and lodge facilities have been slowly developing in KNP area. Only 20 Hotels were counted during the field survey. Bajhang district consists of 60 percent hotels followed 10 percent hotel run in Doti 85 percent of the hoteliers are males and 60 percent of them are literate.

According to the official record of Khaptad National Park, the grazing density of cattle was 12 cattle per square Kilometer. Revenue collected - from different activities and services of the park amounted Rs. 91733 during the fiscal year 2000/2001 Local people complained that the wild animals of the park damaged their crops and they have faced the problem of grass and-firewood.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Nepal is a land locked country in the lap of Himalayas and home place of natural beauty with traces of artifacts where the majority of its people are engaged in agricultural activities. It has the total area of 1,47, 181 Sq. Km. It is located in between the latitude 26' 22' N to 30' 27' North and longitude 80° 4' E to 88° 12' East and elevation ranges from 90m to 8848 meters, the average length being 885Km east to west and average breadth of about 193 Km north to south. It is surrounded by two big countries of the world, India in the east, south, west and China in the north. The northern range is covered with snow over the year, where the highest peak of the world the Mount Everest stands.

In the geographic diversity and varied climatic conditions people of more than 60 caste/ethnic groups are accommodated in the country. The country is also famous as a tourism center. People from different continent visit this Himalayan kingdom to enjoy its natural beauty as well as rich cultural heritage. Over the country is less than 50%, implying that the majority - of the people are ignorant of the causes of diseases and their preventive measures.

It is a developing country. Topographically, it is divided into three

regions, namely: high mountains in the north, hills in the middle and plain (Terai) in the south. The mountain comprise about 15% of the total area of the country, the hills about 68% and the Terai about 17%. The Terai region is the southern most belt having a width ranging from 30 km to 40 km and its altitude varies from 60 m to 310 m above the mean sea level.

Tourism had been defined in different ways by various authors and concerned organizations and, yet there is no universally accepted definition of tourism. Hermann V. Schullard, Australian economist gave one of the earliest definitions of tourism in 1910. According to Schullard, tourism is "the sum total of the operators, mainly of an economic nature, which directly relates to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside of certain country, city or region." (Satyal, 1988: 7) R. De Meyer has defined tourism as "A collective term for human movement and attendant activities caused by the exteriorization and fulfillment of the desire to escape that is more or less latent in everybody" (Chattopadhyay, 1995: 7). This definition received the first prize by Academic International de Tourism at Monte Carlo in 1952. However, this definition does not seem to be broad enough. Another definition of tourism given by the Swiss Professor Walter Henniker and Kurt Krapf, in 1942, is more technical. According to them "Tourism is the totality of the relationship and phenomenon arising from the travel and stay of strangers, provided the stay does not imply the establishment of a permanent residence and is not connected with a remunerated activity." (Bhatia, 1994:38). The Tourism society in Britain has, also attempted to clarify the concept and in 1976 defined tourism as: "Tourism is the temporary short-term movement of people to destinations outside the places where they normally live and work and their activities during the

stay at these destinations; it includes movement for all purposes, as well as day visits or excursions. (Bhatia, 1994:38). The most widely used and popular definition of tourism is one prepared by the United Nations Conference on international Travel and Tourism held in Rome in 1963. This definition was recommended by international Union of Official travel Organizations (IUOTO) in 1908. Again, in 1993, the United nation's Statistical Commission adopted Rome definition of tourism in revised form prepared by world Tourism Organization (WTO) as a follow up to the Ottawa international conference on Travel and Tourism statistics, jointly organized by WTO and the Government of Canada in June 1991. In this definition WTO had developed a schematic breakdown of all travelers. A traveler is defined as 'any person on a trip between two or more countries or two more localities within his/her country of usual residence' (WTO, Framework for the collection and publication of Tourism Statistics)

Man is always interested to travel and see new places, new cultures and new things. Travel characterises the interactions along and through various natural and cultural landscapes utilizing various modes of transportation. Therefore, travelling enriches the horizon of knowledge of man about places and the people. A traveler is a person who moves from one place to another, away from his place of residence. Classification of travelers made by WTO includes two types of the visitor. (i) Excursionist and (ii) tourist

- i) Excursionists are the temporary visitors not staying overnight or staying less than 24 hours in a country or place visited.
- ii) Tourists are those visitors who spend at least more than 24 hours or at least one overnight, in a country, the place visited, whose journey can be classified as a leisure recreation, holiday, health, study religion sport,

business; family mission; or meeting.

The word tourist is derived from the term 'tour' which according to Webster's international dictionary means "A journey at which one returns to the starting point, a circular trip usually for business, pleasure or education during which various places are visited and for which it itinerary is usually planned."

Tourism is a composite phenomenon, which incorporates the diversity of variables and relationships to be found in the travel process. It is a serious industry and consists all those firms, organizations and facilities, which are intended to serve the specific needs and wants of the tourists.

Out of tourism of different nature developed in Nepal, mountain tourism is more popular and praised by World Tourism Organization. Mountain tourism encompasses trekking and mountaineering and associated activities in the mountain environment. The physical resources and socio cultural heritage of the mountain area labor a paradise for the development of mountain tourism. Mountain tourism can promote sustainable where mountain environment is duly cared through the provision of national parks and conservation policy.

Hence, tourism is concerned essentially with the spatial relationship and the primarily journeys and temporary stay of people travelling primary for leisure or recreational purposes.

Mountain tourism in Nepal began in 1952 when the first over a, 8,000m peak was accomplished by Mauric Herzog climbed over 8000 peck on Mt Annapurna (8091 m). Another historic event involved the ascent of the highest peak on the planet. Mt. Sagarmatha, or Mt Everest (8,848 m) by Tenzing Norgy and Edmund Hillary in 1953. This event received on

wide publicity and increased the attraction for the Nepalese mountains throughout the world. However, for a period of 10 years, since then the number of tourists visiting Nepal remained limited. It was just over 6,000 in 1962 and the number grew almost nine fold in the ten year from 1962 to 1972 (India tourists not accounted for). Since then, with a few exceptions, there is a growing trend

Current estimates show that the growth rate was just over six percent between 1976 and 1982. While the number of tourists visiting Nepal continues to grow, there has not been an encouraging growth in tourism spending. The growth in spending in Us dollars has remained more or less constant or has even declined (Banskota 1994). Nepal is receiving more and more tourists but she has to bear a higher and higher environmental cost for each of her guests. The government plans to raise the number of tourists to one million by the year 2000 A.D. The volume itself is not large compared to European detonations. Salzburg, (area 8,000 sq km) for example hosts over 1.5 million tourist in a year (Uitz 1993) although the tourist volume in Nepal is still low and is growing steadily, the over crowding effects at mountaineering base camps and popular track camps are more pronounced and much published. Regular visitors like Sir Edmud Hillery recommended that Everest be closed for number of years in order to give it some rest. According to him, "Change can happen in a relatively short period. In fifty year since 1951, I have seen the transformation of the remote Khumbu area on the southern slopes of Mt. Everest, Now it has become largely a tourists area with 12,000 foreigners streaming in each year leaving their litter and tempting to break their traditional forestry customs and sell hundreds of loads of firewood for luxury fires" (Himmery in Kemf 1993).

Although Nepal is well known as mountain tourist destination, large areas

are not directly affected by tourism. Of the total land area of 147,181 sq km about two third is occupied by hills and mountains with a congregated panoply of over 1,300 peaks and Pinnacles including the world's highest mountain (Gurung, 1990) The potential for opening up new area is limited mainly because of transport and accommodation facilities. Signs of over crowding and visible scars in certain destinations are the outcomes of negligence on the part of trekking or mountaineering groups and of the ineffective management structure of the government against the poverty stricken conditions of local inhabitants.

Although the cynosure of mountain tourism in Nepal is Mt. Everest and other high peaks, the stepping-stone for all visitors still remains the capital city, Kathmandu. Its natural greenery "The wildest dreams of Kew" (Kipling, Gouted by DD Bhatt 1964) has decreased. It was linked with the outside world by an airport in 1954 and by a road to India 1956.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Khaptad National Park is a tourist paradise with infinite variety of interesting things to see and to do Khaptad National Park is located in the mid-mountainous regions of Far-western Nepal. The park (2041) covering an area of 225 sq. km. was gazetted in 1984. The park is the only mid-mountain national park in western Nepal, thus representing a unique and important ecosystem. The national park covers Baghang, Bajura, Achhama and Doti Districts. It's headquarter is located at Khaptad national park. The park offers a challenging yet rewarding experience unlike any other protected area in Nepal. Its remoteness is pristine and untouched by the outside world. Inside the park, there are three main religious areas. The Khaptad Ashram area is located near the park headquarter. The late Khaptad Swami moved to the area in 1940's to

meditate and worship. He spent some 50 years living there as a hermit and became a renowned spiritual saint. On the way to park headquarters are Tribeni, the confluence of three rivers, and a Shiva temple. There are also other historical temples surrounding the Shiva temple. Ganga Dashahara is celebrated there during Jestha Purnima. Many pilgrims visit the park. Another religious site is Sahashra Linga at 3,200 m above the sea level. There are several types of flora and fauna many types of old trees several Patan grassland. Khatad is famous for Khaptad Swami cave and many other natural and socio-cultural things. Therefore, Khaptad National park deserves high potentiality for the development of mountain tourism in the Western Development Region of Nepal. In spite of its great potentiality the arrival of tourist to this area is very low. Only 13 tourists visited KNP in 2001/2002, which indicates very low promotion. In this context the study aiming to appraise the natural and socio-culture tourist resources of KNP area, will be beneficial to researches and tourism promoters to study, analyze and promote hidden paradise of far western Nepal for tourism development on the part of both local people and concerned government agency.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to assess the physical, religious cultural and tourist resources of KNP area, and to suggest necessary steps that are needed to developed Khaptad as attractive tourists centre of the country.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- (a) To assess the physical and religion-cultural tourist resources of the study area.
- (b) To analyze tourism related activities and facilities in KNP area.

- (c) To suggest corrective measures to promote tourism in the study area.

1.4 The Study Area

Situated at an altitude of approximately 3000m, KNP represents a unique eco-system of mid mountains of Nepal. KNP is located in the mid mountains of Far-Western region of Nepal. It has a core area of 225 sq km. The head quarters of the park at Khaptad is at the walking distance of 50 km from Silgadi town (Doti) and 32 km from Chainpur (Bajhang), respectively. It is at an air distance of 446 Km. from Kathmandu. The main features of the park is its vast sprawling plateau with green grass land intermixed with oak and coniferous forest. Khaptad consists 22 major pastures (locally know as Patan, of these Chedipatan is at the centre, where all the four political district Achham, Bajhang, Bajura and Doti meet.)

1.5 Limitation of the Study

Data pertaining of KNP is not available. Therefore, the comparative analysis of the past scenario of tourist flow, their problem, and tourism oriented business and infrastructure facility is not possible in this study.

Limitation also lies in sparing sufficient time and budget for the collection of the data. Also the author cannot claim complete representation of all the seasons, since, the study is based on a single season and the survey was conducted in limited time.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Tourism is one of the most important identify in world tourism. Tourism in a large industrial sector developed in the world tourism is socio-

economic, religious, and cultural mediations Tourism has been instrumental for rapid growth in per capita income all over the globe.

The findings of case study may help the policy makers, NGOs, travel and tourism industrial sector and other institutions working in the field of tourism. This is an attempt to provide focus area knowledge. The study also aims to identify the sources of information about tourist. Thus the outcomes of this study may be representing other parts of the country having similar environment.

1.7 Methodology

This study is based on primary as well as secondary information. A pilot survey of the area was made before preparing sample frame to collect necessary primary information.

To collect necessary information from the tourism related activities, a detailed list of these activities was prepared on the basis of pilot survey made during (Aswin 29- Kartik 13). Pilot survey revealed a total of 20 tourism related businesses in operation in the study area. Pre-test questionnaire was administered to all tourism related business activities.

Besides, information from the local people was collected with the help of carefully designed interview schedule. Also, necessary information for the study area was supplied from observation. In some cases, PRA and Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) approach were also need. Secondary information is mainly based on library documentation, published and unpublished research reports, official documents and materials.

1.8 Method of Data Analysis

Data analysis is not an easy task. It depends upon the nature of data to be

collected. Collected information was tabulated manually and a master table was prepared. Necessary thematic table were from the master table was developed necessary. To fulfill the objective of the study data are analyzed descriptively, quantitatively and cartographically.

1.9 Literature Review

The chapter is based on available reports, manuals, workshop proceedings and stories on tourism and different types of research study on tourism development programmes by different institutions undertaken nationally and globally.

In recent years, tourism is regarded as the worlds' biggest and fastest growing industry. It has been playing a pivotal role in the socio-economic sectors of the most of the developed as well as developing countries of the global, So, most of the nations are attracted to his industry and trying their best to strengthen economic life by promoting tourism in the country. Tourism has been identified as an important source of foreign exchange earning, as an industry creating employment opportunities and generating economic growth of the country (Shrestha, 1978:74). The following tables how the arrivals of tourists according to the date wise and their expenditure pattern in Nepal.

The World Tourism Organization predicts that international tourism by the year 2000 and 2010 will involve 702 million and 1108 million visitors, respectively. This tourism will have significant economic and environmental implications worldwide.

Although tourism has the potential to become an agent of development and change, due to the way it uses resources, it should not be considered an environmentally harmless industry as such. Therefore, only with

careful planning it has the potential to operate and contribute in a sustainable manner (Butler 1993).

According to WTO "sustainable tourism development meets the needs of present generation tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future." It is expected to lead to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs are fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity, and life support systems (WTO, 2002).

More recently, community based tourism has been recognized as another form of tourism. "Community based tourism occurs when decisions about tourism activity and development are driven by the host community. It usually involves some form of cultural exchange where tourists meet with local communities and witness aspects of their lifestyle. Many such remote ethnic communities may be vulnerable to outside influences and decisions about the way tourists are hosted must be owned by the community for successful and sustainable tourism" (SNV, 2003).

Community based tourism can generate a sense of pride in the local population and make funds available for maintaining or upgrading cultural assets e.g. archaeological ruins, historic sites, traditional crafts production (World Bank, 2000 cited in UNEP, 2001).

Responsible tourism refers to the type of tourism where tourism organizations take care of tourist destinations while providing visitor satisfaction. As a result, the resources and attractions-both natural and cultural-are not spoiled for local people or future visitors. Further, it denotes care for the environment cultural resources, and opportunity for

locals in terms of employment or other kinds of involvement, sufficient information regarding local resources for visitors, and implementation of the policy of Corporate Social Responsibility.

Pro-poor tourism is another form of tourism where the benefits to the poor are greater than the costs that tourism entails to them. 'This approach emphasizes the need to extend tourism opportunities for people living on less than US\$ 1 per day. This category of people should be involved in tourism for realizing poverty reduction through tourism. By definition it is obvious that not all community-based tourism is pro-poor tourism. Pro-poor tourism strategies emphasize on unlocking opportunities for the poor within tourism, rather than expanding the overall size of the tourism business (Goodwint, H., 2000)

Village tourism denotes tourists "Visiting villages and staying in or near the villages, Successful cases have shown that the village should have special features to attract visitors. This is also associated with tourist behavior in that they stay in a village and explore the surroundings. The special feature of this kind of tourism is that the visitors become part of the village for the period of their stay. Such visitors normally do not expect the kind of accommodation and food that they are accustomed to. In other words, they rely on locally available accommodation and food.

Since village tourists depend on locally available accommodation, with minor modifications in some cases, accommodation does not require large investments. A house in the village serves as an accommodation for the visitor. Therefore, villages could serve visitors even with minimum entrepreneurial skills. Visitors are served local food and cultural programs are organized for entertainment. Such an opportunity allows visitors to immerse themselves in the local socio-cultural environment. It also allows them an opportunity to get to know local social, cultural and religious practices. Since it is these special features of any typical destination that attract tourists, hosts soon understand the need for

preservation of the local tourism resources, including their culture and religion.

The earliest accounts of cultural tourism can be traced back to ancient history. One such visitor was Huen Tsan from China who visited Nepal and India in the 5th century AD. One of the important things he did during his visit was to describe the cultural sites in Kathmandu valley. However, cultural tourism as we know it today was conceptualized by UNESCO during the 1970s. Cultural tourism is regarded as a "force for cultural preservation". It is also defined as "the absorption by tourists of features resembling the vanishing lifestyles of past societies observed through such phenomena as house styles, crafts, farming equipment, dress, utensils and other instruments and equipment that reflects the lifestyle of any particular community during a particular time" (Smith cited in Kunwar, 1997). Further, Zins (cited in Kunwar, 1997) identified handicrafts, language, traditions, art and music, paintings and sculpture, history, work and technology, architecture, religion, educational system-1, dress and leisure activities as elements of cultural tourism.

As cultural tourism also involves education for visitors and promotes sensitivity towards cultural environment, provides direct benefits to host communities and helps in preservation of culture, it is also closely linked with ecotourism.

Tourism is a phenomenon established in this ever since the dawn of human civilization. No records are available to explain how it went on during the course of past centuries except of few inscriptions that tell about the historic visits of some monks from the friendly countries of north and south. Nevertheless, when we talk about the modern tourism, we refer to the early fifties of the last century when Nepal was officially

made open of their foreign visitors. This was one of the achievements of the political changes that had taken place bringing an end to the autocratic regime of the Ranas.

Tourism in Nepal found a good soil to grow and it laid its strong foundations during the late twenty-five years. The process was so spontaneous and invisible. Everything went on in an unplanned manner and without any heed of the government yet the economy began to be generated evermore vigorously with the increasing number of foreign tourists coming into the country seeking either peace or some adventures pastime of their choice. They explored Shangrila here by being on the laps of the screen and Majestic Mountains, in the open air of the calm hills in the open fields of Terai and under the roofs of centuries old temples and monasteries. Though after the unification of Nepal at the end of the 18th century by Prithivi Narayan Shah few westerners dared to venture into this country as the route demanded then to walk through the malaria jungles of the southern Terai. However it was in 1816 that western world got to hear about the existence of Nepal although the information was limited to Kathmandu valley.

Although Nepal followed an open door policy after the advent of democracy in 1951. It was the conquest of Mt. Everest on the may 1951 by the late Mr. Tenzing and Mr. Edmund Hillary that focused the world's attraction in Nepal subsequently a tourism industry began to develop in Nepal. Nepal was further expanding the diplomatic relations with the other world organization such as UNESCO, WHO, FAO etc. After getting the membership of the UNO in 1955, Nepal gradually becomes known to the outside world.

In the second May 1956 the coronation of King Mahendra was regarded as the first great landmark in development of tourism and this incident attracted many tourists into Nepal. The first group tours consisted of 12 Americans and Two Brazillans organized under the pioneer body of sir Thomas Cook and sons arrived at Kathmandu in the autumn of 1956.

Modern-day tourism in Nepal started only from 1972 after the first ten-year tourism master plan was introduced which provided a clear direction on policy reforms and tourism development in Nepal. This master plan was amended fro a period of two year in 1984 underlying tourism promotion and organizational issues as prime subjects. Tourism Act in 1978 broadly guides the tourism sector. The act clearly lays down the various codes of conducts for operating the tourism business in Nepal. To streamline the development of tourism whilst keeping with the globally changing scenario of tourism under more liberalized economy Tourism policy-1985 was promulgated. This policy specially focuses on more aggressive role of the private sector and local stakeholders and recognizes the importance of' community based village tourism. The establishment of Nepal tourism Board and Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal in 1999 by His Majesty's Government of Nepal has been taken in commensurate with the policy measures envisioned for the overall development of tourism in Nepal.

The department of Tourism was established in 1966 under the Tourism development Act 1964. Even though tourism administration machinery had existed since 1956 and also established tourist development board in 1957 and a tourist information center was established in 1959. Nepal further succeeded to get the membership of different international tourism development institutions such as international Union of Official Travel Organization (IUOTO), Pacific Asian Travel Association (PATH) and the

American Society of Travel Agents (ASIA). At first the national flag carrier Royal Nepal Airline Corporation (RNAC) came into being 1958. A few good hotels were built in the late 1960s.

Systematic tourism in Nepal started from 1966 with the establishment of a few hotels. The industry was further strengthened and established after the formation of tourism master plan in 1972, which gave emphasis to tourism market development sighting, trekking, eco-tourism and recreational and adventure tourism.

Many studies have been conducted on tourism and related field by different people, government and non-government agency inside and outside of the country. However, there are very few research documents available give due concentration on mountain tourism and tourism in the Khaptad National Park Area.

Tiwari in 1999 made a study on tourism in Nepal. A case study of Sauraha Chitwan Nepal. He suggested Sauraha is an attractive place for tourism development in Nepal. During 1996 nearly 18 percent of the total visitors to in Nepal vested Sauraha. Tourism in Sauraha plays a crucial role for the socio economic development as well as the permanent source of foreign currency earning for the country. In order to promote further tourism development in Sauraha the study recommends as electricity supply should be improve, the flood of Rapti river is also should be control, there is no hotels with better facilities for tourists hotel should be open, the not valuable wild animals like on Rhinos and Royal Benegal Tigers are going to be disappeared from the world, but the animal are found in Royal Chitwan National Park, so they must be preserved at any cosy. Similarly, the main attraction for Sauraha is peaceful environment so-, the hotels inside the part should be shifted out side the park.

Kaystha made a study on South Asian Regional Tourism in 1985. In this study he has analyzed different aspect of tourism like tourist flow, expenditure, duration of tourist stay and impact of tourism. Mr. Kayastha ahs determine that natural as well as man a made beauty and wildlife are the major attraction for majority of tourist visit Nepal. Also, the study recognizes as an important sector for foreign exchange earning and employment generation the study concludes that natural landscape cultural heritage and transportation services have significantly contributed for the growth of interregional tourism development in South Asia. Number of South Asian tourists visiting Nepal has been increasing. Most of them come to Nepal for pleasure followed by official work and business.

Majpurias has made a study on the wildlife National Parks and Reserves of Nepal in 1998. In this study, Mahjuria attempted to highlight the wildlife in Nepal, containing recent and up to date information about mammals of Nepal. Specifically, the study has an analyzed the geographical condition, flora fauna of Khaptad National Park Area.

Gurung has made a study on environmental management of Mountain. Tourism in Nepal in 1990. In this study, he deals on the pattern of tourism activities, environment impact of tourism, carrying capacity of trekking routes etc. This study has identified that deforestation in mountain region is caused because of over grazing, forest conservation to arable land and excessive fuel wood extraction. He has also attempted to analyze pollution, carrying capacity of trekking routes. To solve the problems of over crowded route. There environmental protection measures are suggested in the study. The suggested measures are to increase the entry fee in over crowded routes, and to open new trekking routes.

Poudel has made a study on tourist resources and environmental appraisal in Pokhara region Nepal. A geographical analysis in 1966. This study has attempted to appraise, tourism magnetic landscape, assess tourism infrastructure and facilities and suggest measure to develop sustainable tourism in the study area. Based on extensive field this study covers the analysis of tourism in the urban context of Pokhara. Tourist in the Mountain Environment of Ghandruk and tourist in the Pilgrimage centre Muktinath. This study provides a sound background developing the theoretical concept and methodological approach for the present study.

Pollaco studied development of cultural tourism in Nepal in 1986. He states in his study that historical movements and cultures of Nepal are an important attraction to many tourists and better use of this sector help more for the promotion of tourism in Nepal. The study comes to the conclusion that intensive care should be taken for the protection of the cultural properties. If Nepal has to develop cultural tourism in the country.

Tiwari has made a study on prospect and problems of tourism in Nepal in 1981. This study deals with the prospects of tourism development, its economic value and development trend. Tiwari in his indicate that tourism is a fattest growing industry then any other industries in Nepal. The study concludes that tourist-staying days are less due to the problems associated with tourism.

Thapa has made a study on prospect of tourism industry in Pokhara valley in 1978. This study deals with the prospect and problems of tourism in Pokhara. It has attempted to analyze development trends and socio economic impacts of tourism in Pokhara valley.

J. Frave field and G. Ott have conducted a study tourism promotion in Bhaktapur in 1980. This study aims to investigate economic benefit of tourism and its role on the promotion of local arts and crafts. The study comes of the conclusion that longer stay of sight seeing tourist in Bhaktapur may be promoted by offering better restaurant facilities and better cultural heritage associated performance.

Bhaju has made a comparative study on tourism in Nagarkot and Dhulikel in 1979. In this study she has attempted to the situation of tourists flow and its socio-economic impact in the study area. Study that indicates that number of visitors visiting Nagarkot had increased by 1.37 times in 1985 over 1981. At the same times it had increased by 2.5 times in Dhulikhel. Study also found that most of the visitors in these places stay only for none night. The study concludes that hotel development in tourist places is directly related to tourism development and employment opportunity of the people.

Regmi has made a study on the prospect of tourism development in and around Tansen in 1991. He thinks pleasant climate and natural beauty of Tansen area attracts more tourism in Tansen. The study assessed that tourist arrival in Tansen has increased by 22% between 1985 to 1989. Among the total arrivals to Tansen 30.8% from Europe and followed by North America. Austria etc. He suggested that the tourist information is urgently needed to promote tourism in Tansen.

CHAPTER II

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING OF THE STUDY AREA

2.1 Introduction

Khaptad National Park is located in the mid-mountain area of the Far Western Development Region of Nepal. It is situated between 29°46' — 29°30' North latitude and 81°02'-81° 22' East longitude. The altitude of the national park areas ranges between 1000-3000m. Khaptad lies between 29° 17' 20° and 20° N latitude and 81 and 15' E longitude at an average altitude of 3000 meters above the sea level. The surrounding ridges of this area are generally well forested. The KNP lies between mesothermal and micro thermal climatic zones. The lower part of Khaptad lying up to 2700 m experiences mesothermal climate, whereas the area between 1700 to 3600 meters lies in microthermal zone. Summer temperature ranges from 0 to 18 degree Celsius. Minimum winter temperature falls below minus 18 degree Celsius. Minimum winter temperature falls below minus 18 degree Celsius.

Khaptad National Park is 446 km air distance from Kathmandu. The central part is situated at the point adjoining the border of Bajhang, Bajura, Achham and Doti district meets. The park covers unique mid mountain ecosystem of western Nepal. It covers an area of 225 square kilometres. The park headquarter is Khaptad which is about 50 km's. And 32 km walking distance from Silgadhi of Doti and Chainpur of Bajhang. (See figure 1)

2.2 Physical Features

The park is situated at an altitude ranging 1000 to 3000 meter above the sea level. The upland is a rolling plateau covered with grassland intermixed with oak (difficult) and coniferous forest.

2.3 Relief

Almost every part of the study area is situated in mid-mountain region. The study area is a hilly part. Therefore, it has different altitude from one place to another (see figure-2).

The following table shows the altitude and slope aspect of the study area.

Table-1: Altitude and Slope Aspect of the Study Area

S.N.	Location	Altitude in mm	Slope Aspects
1.	Jhakrina	Below 1500	South facing
2.	Lokhada	2000	North east facing
3.	Sapra	2500	South east facing
4.	Hermitage (Swami)	Above 3000	North facing

Source: Field survey 2061.

Jhakrina is the lowest (below 1500m) part of the study area in altitude and the hermitage (Swami) is the highest (above 3000m) part. The altitude of the study area increases towards the Northwest and northeast.

On the basis of by altitude, KNP can be divided into 4 categories: below 200m, 2000-2500m, 2500-3000m and above 3000m

Table-2: Area by Altitude

S.N.	District	Area in sq. km.	Percent
1.	Below 2000 m	31.973	14.23
2.	2000-500m	68.741	30.61
3.	2500-3000m	74.487	33.17
4.	Above 3000m	79.339	21.97
	Total	224.537 Sq. km	100.00

Source: Field survey 2061.

The area has been computed on the basis of the above table which shows that most of the area is located between 2500-3000 in above the sea level. Only 31.973 sq km area of the park lies below 2000m.

The KNP covers 225 sq km area on which Bajhang shares 39.47percent. Doti 17.63 percent, Achham 17.63 percent, and Bajura 4.85 percent of the area. The park head quarter is located in Bajura district.

Table-3: Area by District

S.N.	District	Area in sq. km.	Percent
1.	Bajhang	88.6392	39.47
2.	Bajura	10.8998	4.85
3.	Achham	39.5805	17.63
4.	Doti	85.431	38.05
	Total	224.55	100.000

2.4 Climate

The study area experiences cool temperate climate. Khaptad area in general and KNP in particular has a cool sunny weather during spring, summer and autumn seasons. Summer is cool and soaked, while winter is cold and dry. The monsoon starts in June and ends in September. The average rainfall is less than 1000 mm. In winter, there is occasional snowfall. The wind is icy. Climatically the best time to visit the park is during spring (March-May) and autumn (Oct-Nov). During this time, the temperature range from 10" 20° C.

2.5 Natural Vegetation

Great diversity of natural plants ranging from sub-temperate forest in the lower altitude (Jhingrana and Chikot of Doti) to temperate forests was

real in KNP area. The most common species of trees are Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Chir pine (*Pinus roxburghii*), *Alnus nitida*, *Alnus nepalensis*, Spruce (*Picea smithiana*) West Himalayan Silver Fir (*Abies pindrowii*), Maple (*Acer caesium*), Birch (*Betula utilis*) and Rhododendron (*Rhododendron campanulatum*). Besides there are bamboos (reeds) and a wide variety of medical herbs found in the park area.

2.6 River Network

The rivers of the study area flow from north to south and east to west, originating from the rolling plateau. The main river is Triveni and main Tributaries are Khaptad Khola (which flows from north to south). The small streams of the Khaptad area, which flow from east to west, are intermittent and gutter. (See figure-4)

2.7 Wild life

KNP area provides shelter for variety of fauna community. The most common fauna in the park area are leopards (*Panther pardus*), Himalaya yellow throated marten (*Uncia flaviventris*), Himalayan black bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus*), musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*), goral (*Neemorhedus goral*), Himalayan tahr (*Capra himalayensis*) and others.

Over 220 species of birds have been recorded in the park area. Most common bird species are imaying pheasant (*Lophopus laticauda*) Nepal's National bird, Chukor partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), Kalij pheasant (*C. Lophura levcomelane*) Monal (*Tragopan satyra*), Red and Yellow billed bluebird (*Cissa erythrorhynchos* and *C. flavirostris*).

CHAPTER III

TOURIST RESOURCES OF KNP AREA

3.1 Introduction

The basic attraction of Tourists is good weather, natural scenery, cultural features, amenities, accessibility and accommodation. KNP is endowed with all the physical and cultural features of tourist attraction. Good weather almost throughout the year, the greenery, the panoramic view of Api and Saipal Himalayan range, and Khaptad Daha etc are the most praised attractions of Khaptad National Park Area.

3.2 Natural Tourist Attractions in KNP Area

3.2.1 Scenic Attraction

Khaptad National Park a present's outstanding scenic beauty and graceful charm. The top of KNP commands exhilarating views in all directions. These places are remarkable for enduring loveliness and blend of scenery. The hills mountains, Himalayan ranges and rolling plateaus surround rivers. The view of the sunrise and the sunset, green forests with terraces lands, herbaceous plants and colourful wild flowers, and wild life exert a strong fascination for the tourists. The panoramic view of the Himalaya peak like Api and Sapial can be observed rarely closely from Khaptad area.

The natural scenic beauty of Khaptad national park varies from time to time and area to area. In the early morning, the scene of the sunrise from the eastern mountain is the main attraction. At this moment the sun spreads orange color rays over the sky and the northern Himalayan Peak appears lovely. Even in the winter morning, most parts of KNP remain

clear while the Kathmandu valley and the Terai is covered by dense fog. The time of sunset is another scenic attraction of KNP. Ghoda Davna patan, Chheda patan, Chhinte Dhunge Patan, Tribeni Patan, Buki Daha and Suki Daha Patan are other praise worthy scenic sites of KNP.

Table-4: The List of Patan (Bog-land and open grass fields) of KNP

Ghoda Dadaduna Patan	Ganesh Mandhir Patan
Chheda Patan	Balla Judi Patan
Chanline Bade Patan	Luska Patan
Tribem Patan	Khapar Daha Patan
Chhinte Dhuga Patan	Pulpula Patan
Buki Daha Patan	Sunthali Patan
Suki Daha Patan	Tirak Patan
Chaumala Patan	Balemela Patan
Dudhili Patan	Phurke Patan
Palta Khola Patan	Thulo Gahiro Patan
Sashra ling Patan	Hiu-sin Patan

3.2.2 Pleasant Climate

Climate is one of the basic elements for the development of tourism in any tourist destination. KNP has very pleasant and healthy climate throughout the day which is the ideal for holiday making there are four well defined seasons.

1. Spring (March to May)
2. Summer/ Monsoon (June to August)
3. Autumn (September to November)
4. Winter (December to February)

It is stated that KNP has got more favorable climate compared with the other tourists receiving centre. Most of the months of the year have bright sunshine and blue sky attracting the tourist. Tourists want fine weather and warm sunshine. A good weather is important because it plays an important role in making holiday pleasant.

3.2.3 Vegetation, Flora and Fauna

For the students of science, KNP can be taken as one of the best site in the world where one can find 16 forest types, 260 species of bird, 40 species of wildlife, 567 varieties of flowering plants and about 400 herbal plants within 225 sq. km., or within one day's walking distance. Therefore, KNP is called a living museum for national history, and a natural botanical and herbal garden. The park is a highly important heritage present for the lovers of wild animals like the wild dog, blue sheep (Nawaor), snow leopard and musk deer found at the northern region of KNP.

The population of such endangered species is considerably high in militancy. Wasteland, vastness and feeling of isolation are most exciting in the northern region of KNP, which can attract trekkers very much. It can also offer special sight of Shilajit origin. This semi-solid chemical (Shilajit) is used for the treatment of many diseases including cancer. Water falls, caves, the valley of flowers wildlife, alpine birds and butterflies are other important attractions at KNP area.

The place is famous for different animal at KNP are present in the following table.

Table-5: Places Famous for Different Animals

S.N.	Local name of the	English Name of animal	Name of place
1.	Badel	Wild Boar	Bichapani
2.	Ratuwa	Barking Deer	Jhegrana
3.	Malashopro	Yellow Throated Marten	Jhegrana
4.	Kasturi Mirga	Musk deer	Khaptad Daha
5.	Syal	Jackal	Bhirijujhegrana
6.	Kalo Bhalu	Black Bear	Bichapani
7.	Langur	Common Langur	Jhegrana
8.	Danfe	Pheasant	K.A.
9.	Munal	Crimson Horned Pheasant	K.A.
10	Fakrash	Pucrasia Marcrolopha	K.A.

Source: Field survey 2061: KNP Warden Office, Khaptad

Fauna

The most common fauna in the park are spotted leopard (*Panthera pardus*). Himalayan yellow throated marten (*Martes flavigula*), Himalayan Black deer (*Selenarctos thibetanus*), wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*), Goral (*Nemorhaedus goral*) Himalayan thar (*Hemitragus jemalhicus*) Grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and common Langur (*Presbytis entellus*). The common bird species are Impeyan Pheasant (*Lophophanes impeyanus*), Nepal's national bird, Chukar Partridge (*Allectorin gracea*), Kali, pheasant (*Lophura leucomelana*) Monal (*Tragapau satyra*), Red yellow billed blue magpie (*Cissaery throrhycapa* and *Cissus flouirosteris*), nut-cracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*), Flycatchers (*Muscicaps zoothera* sp), Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*) Luckoos (*Cussumus* sp), Finches (*Carpodacus* sp) Bulbuls (*Budytes tinnunculus* sp), fork Tails (*Enicurus* sp), Tits (*Parus* sp), wagtails

(Moticilla sp) and Eagles (aquilla spp). A wide variety of colourful butterflies, moths and insects are also found in this park.

3.2.4 Major Touristy Sites in KNP

(i) Patan and Panoramic View

Patans are located at the altitude ranging about 1500 to 2000 in above the sea level. Khaptad area reflects the transparency of Himalayas dense blue forest of coniferous trees, beautiful green hills and most notably the Patans to green flowering grass. This scenic beauty is capable of arousing ones personal boundless feelings of joys and emotions. This area has its own originality and most places are still untouched and are still virgin. A detailed list last of patan of KNP is presented in figure-4.

ii) Nagdhunga or Lokhada

On the way to Nag Dhunga, one can climb a small hill at the highland to reach Lokhada. This place is situated at an elevation of 3152 meters, from where once a see the panoramic view of holy Mt. Malika in the east and Mt. Api in the northwest and north. Nagha Dhunga is a very interesting place with fossilized serpentine formation. From the religious point of view, these serpents like forms are regarded as various Nag deties. Likewise, this place also holds the religious significance.

It is west from the headquarters and takes about 2 hours to reach there. It is also very interesting site for the students of geography, for geologist and archaeologist. Nagdhunga and its surrounding is an ideal site for hind water lings.

iii) Khaptad Daha and Khapar Mando

Khaptad Daha (lake) and Khapar Mando (Temple) seem to be of supreme importance from mythological point of view. On the way from hillock of Balla Jodi, one can observe a panoramic view of Himalayan peaks in the north and foothill plains in the south at the same time. The enchanting view really touches the trekkers' heart.

Khaptad Daha is east from the headquarters and takes about 1 hour to reach. Khaptad Daha is an important place of mystery. The depth of the lake is unknown. Local people are fearful about its mysterious beings. They believe on its mythological or religious importance. However, the dense forest canopy at the southwestern side of the lake is full of the chirping of varieties of colourful birds.

iv) Sahasra linga

Sahasralinga is located southeast from the headquarters and takes about 3 hours to reach. Sahasralinga is the dwelling place to God "Sahasresowre Mahadev" founded by colonel Bharat Keshri Singh and his wife, being inspired by the late Khaptad Baba in 2040 B.S. It is located in between two large rocks. There is a small hole in the rock. It is believed that if a person can throw a coin in the hole in a single effort her/his wishes are fulfilled.

There are 6 cameo left Trishul, Kumar, Parbati, Shiva, Basha and Ganesh Respectively.

v) Upper Triveni River

Triveni River lies south west of the KNP headquarters and takes about 15 minutes to reach. Three rivers Kalika, Parvati and Chedipaterm Khola

meet at Triveni. There is a big temple, surrounded by many small temples. Every year on the "Ganga Dashahara" local people organize a fair and celebrate traditional and cultural programmes retiring from the hardships of daily life and enjoying the fair and warm seasons.

The Triveni river area is triangular. The area is 10 m in breath and 9m in length. There are five temples from the right and they are temples Ganesh Annapurna Devi, Shiva, Kumar, and Sadya or (Basha) respectively.

3.3 Socio-Cultural Tourist Attractions of KNP Area

3.3.1 Religious Importance of the Study Area

The core area of Khaptad is the most religious and important place in far western Nepal. There are different temples and religious sites having mythological importance. It includes the Ashram of Khaptad Swami. a renowned spiritual saint.

As stated earlier, the Khaptad region of lower Manasa Khanda is found to be extremely rich in mythology, connected mainly with lord Shiva, Goddess Parvati and Lord Kubera, the god of wealth and the king of "YAKASHYA" people of pre-historical or mythological times. But it has no religious monuments with grandeur. The temples and statues are scattered weather beaten and desperately in needs of preservation. The core area of KNP (of about 55 sq km) is declared a religious zone, which is considered to be a place of peace and tranquillity. Therefore, smoking, noise and consume of alcohol, animals sacrifice and killing of wild animals are stickle prohibited. The hermitage of the late Khaptad Baba is preserved in the "core zone". when Foreigners can visit the hermitage as long as they do not hurt the religious feelings of the local people.

3.3.2 Social Resources

The surrounding area of KNP is culturally divided into various castes/ethnic group, each having specific characteristic in terms of traditions, ceremonies, belief and taboos. Brahmins, Thakuri and some Khas Chhetries still dominate other people in the area.. Although legally abolished. untouchability is still prevalent in the northern regions of this area. In northern parts of KNP polyandry is still practiced.

Special costumes, jewellery, special festivals and dances like Dauda (Dance with song with more than 2 men) and BHUWA (war dance) are unique cultural practices of this region. The Khaptad region thus is also very rich in socio cultural heritage that can be preserved and exploited for the development of tourism.

However, the feudal characteristics of the -Khas- people and the conservatism fatalism among the general people and lack of enterprising spirit greatly it limits the exploitation of development potential in a short to medium term. However, the scope for development in the long run is immense. Because of it literacy, fatalistic attitude, limited exposure to modern sciences and technology, there is no faith in planning and hard work. Virtually there is no entrepreneurship or management capability to run a modern trekking, agency or resort hotel. If not carefully planned, a few clever, rich and powerful people from Kathmandu. Thak Khola Pokhara or Khumbu or even some foreigners may exploit the opportunities leaving the locals for some manual work. only. This is not the aspiration of the people developing tourism in far western Nepal.

3.3.3 Khaptad Baba Hermitage

Khaptad Baba hermitage is about 45 minutes walking distance from KNP headquarters. Although Khaptad Baba is now no more we find an

inexplicable influence on people's emotions by the sight of the hermitage and its environment. While visiting the hermitage I had a deep feeling of respect in my heart towards the great sage who lived for about half a century in Khaptad in meditated and there. Considering the importance of Baba's hermitage, the government has sealed all the doors and windows of the house. Two armies are deputed by the side of the hermitage for its security (and guard the area). Khaptad Baba was a thinker and a writer of some very useful books such as (a) Vichar Vigyan (b) Swasthya Vigyan (c) Dharma Vigyan (d) Ma Ra Mero Kartabya (e) Naridharma ra Purush Dharma etc. Hermitage area is a major attraction for the tourists. So it must be developed as a meditation centre and a permanent abode of the followers Baba's philosophy would be most significant attempt to convey importance of the hermitage to the visitors and everyone would feel great mental peace and security of health. The vast knowledge of herbal medicines, which Baba prescribed to the local people, must be brought into light and a thorough study should be done for the welfare of mankind.

Table-6: Natural and Cultural Heritage Resource of Tourism at KNP area

Place/site	Attraction	Local at the KNP	Remarks
1. Budha Dhunga	Visible from all 4 districts and an important site	North East from KNP headquarters It takes one hour to reach there from the headquarters.	
2. Rota Chautha	It is like as systematically arranged heap of bread but it is a stone	West site KNP headquarters it takes to reach 20"	
3. Jethi	There are 2 stones located	Western part of	

Baurani	nearby. They look as if they are facing one another in a curve. it is believed that god, by standing in between, is keeping undue relation between elder rother and the wife of the younger brother. This type of relation is regard evil Hindu religion.	KNP. It takes 22 minutes from KNP headquarters to arrive jethi baurani	
4. Harinachado	A stone appears in a form created by the almighty himself	Western site of KNP. It takes 30 minutes the reach Harinachado from KNP headquarters.	
5. Raya Ghatta Chaya Pani	Invisible gurgling river and its changing sound can be heard like that of like Saraswati in Allabhadi and Mandakini in Muktinath, Nepal	It takes 40 minutes to arrive at Raya Ghatta Chayanpam from east site of KNP headquarters	
6. Chhenta Dhunga	The stone is related to the story of Mahabharat. According to the old people, there was no way to go through without making hole in the stone Pandav carried the hole in the stone and crossed the obstacle. Also local people argue that	Southwest from KNP headquarters. It takes 45 minutes on foot from headquarters.	
	the stone is not located in its original place.		
7. Bhim paila	Local people believe that this stone was the last footstep of Bhim when he	KNP headquarters	

	stepped on heaven. People regard it as the footmark of Bhim, which still exists on the stone		
8. Mai Ko Sthan	Famous Pilgrimage site at KNP temple, The temple has artistically carved wooden and stone doors and windows from the Pandava period.	North front headquarters. It takes to reach maiko sthan from KNP headquarters.	Festival at this site in Charts and Aswain Astain'l Tithi
9. Suki Daha and Buki Daha	Local people believe that Suki Daha was a large pond during the historical periods, but presently it) consists water only in the summer seasons	East from KNP headquarters it takes 1 hour to reach there from the headquarters	
10. Khapar Daha	The spout water consists of unique taste Local people believe that it was the Source of drinking water of the gods.	South east from KNP headquarters. It takes about 15m to reach there.	
11. Khapar Mandu	The door of the Mandu very interesting for its art and the status is made of stone. The only gate and the windows are ancient and artistic .	East from KNP headquarters. It takes to reach about 2 V2 hour to reach there.	

Source: Field survey and focus group discussion in 2004 presented in the tabular form.

3.4 Tourist arrivals in KNP

Khaptad National Park opened its doors to foreigners in 1993 on record. Only 24 tourists arrived to KNP during 1993. The following table 7 depicts the decreasing trend of tourist arrival in KNP area.

Table-7: Tourist Arrivals in KNP (1993-2002)

Year	T. Tourist	% Charge	Growth Index
1993	24		100.00
1994	20	-	83.33
1995	7	16.66	29.16
1996	12	65.00	50.00
1997	7	71.42	29.16
1998	5	20.57	20.83
1999	29	480.20	120.00

Source: Department of Tourism statistics- 1993-2001

In comparison to 1993, tourist arrivals decreased in all the succeeding years.

CHAPTER-IV HOTEL AND LODGES

4.1 Age Structure of Hoteliers

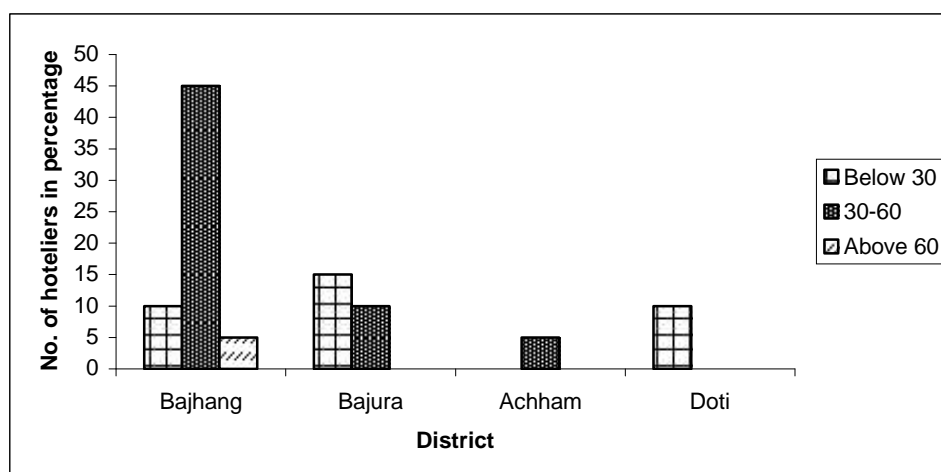
The age structure of hoteliers of the study area differs by district. Out of the total involvement 60 percent hotel runners are between 30 to 60 years of age, 35 percent were below 30 years and 5 percent above sixty years. By district, Bajhang consisted 60 percent followed by Bajura 25 percent and Doti 10 percent respectively. Among the route to KNP, Achham district accounted only one hotel, which was owned by a man of 45 years of Age.

Table -8: Age structure of Hoteliers

S.N.	District	Age Group			Total
		Below 30	30-60	Above 60	
1.	Bajhang	2(10)	9(45)	1(5)	12(60)
2.	Bajura	3(15)	2(10)	-	5(25)
3.	Achham	-	1 (5)		1(5)
4.	Doti	2(10)	-	-	2(10)
		7(35)	12(60)	1(5)	20(100)

Source: Field Visit 2061.

Figure 1: Age Structure of Hoteliers



4.2 Educational status of the Hoteliers

Sixty percent of the hotel owners are literate. Out of 12 literate hoteliers 30% are only literate followed by 20% with secondary education and 10% with primary level education respectively.

Table 9: Educational Status of the Hoteliers

S.N.	District	Level of Education		Primary	Secondary	Above	Total
		Uneducated	Literate				
1.	Bajhang	8(40)	4(20)		-	-	12(60)
2.	Bajura	-	2(10)		3(15)	-	5(25)
3.	Achham		-	-	1(5)	-	1(5)
4.	Doti	-	-	2(10)	-	-	2(10)
		8(49)	6(30)	2(10)	4(20)	-	20(100)

Source: Field visit 2061.

Of the total twenty hotels, the literate hoteliers were 40 percent in Baihang, district. The study area has no hotel owner who has acquired education up to the S.L.0 or above as shown in table (10) Ownership of Hotels by family structure and Native.

Table 10: Ownership of Hotels by family structure and Native place

S.N.	District	Family Structure		Total	Native Places	
		Single	Joint		Local	Out
1.	Bajhang	5(25)	7(35)	12	12(60)	-
2.	Bajura	-	5(25)	5	5(25)	-
3.	Achham		1(25)	1	1(5)	-
4.	Doti	-	2(5)	2	2(10)	-
	Total	5(25)	15(75)	20(100)	20(100)	-

Source: Field visit 2061.

While analysing ownership and family structure of the hoteliers, the majority 75 percent had joint family. All the hotelier of Bajhang district had single-family structure. Similarly, all the hotelkeepers of the KNP area are local people.

4.4 Hotelier attitude towards their own Hotels

A majority of hotel runners of the study area are not satisfied with the capacity and facility of their hotel. They want to increase both the facility and capacity of hotels. 85 percent hotel runners of the study area responded that the facility and capacity of their hotel is insufficient because it was not developed intending to serve the tourist. Also they opined that until accommodation facilities are provided, tourism cannot be promoted in the area.

Table-11: Hoteliers Attitude on Available Accommodation

S.N.	District	No	Sufficient	Insufficient	More than	Remarks
1.	Bajhang	12(60)	3(15)	9(45)	-	Increasing the facility and capacity
2.	Bajura	5(25)	-	5(25)	-	
3.	Achham	1(5)		1(5)	-	
4.	Doti	2(10)	-	2(10)	-	
Total		20(100)	3(15)	17(85)	-	

Source: Field visit 2061.

4.5 District-wise Rental status of Building Occupied by Hotels

The survey of rental status of the hotel building shows that 85 percent

hotels have their own house and 15 percent hoteliers are in a rented house (table 13). Bajura had more hotels in rented buildings.

Table-12: District wise Rental status of building occupied by hotel

S.N.	District	Rented	Own	Total
1.	Bajhang	-	12(60)	12(60)
2.	Bajura	2(10)	3(15)	5(25)
3.	Achham	1(5)	-	1(5)
4.	Doti	-	2(10)	2(10)
Total		3(15)	17(85)	20(100)

Source: Filed Survey, 2061.

4.6 Employment Structure in Hotels

The survey of the study area shows that male dominates employment in Hotel business. Out of total 40 permanent employers 82.5 percent are permanent and among them 55 percent are male and 27.5 percent females are temporary and only 7 percent of them are women. By districts Bajhang leads other districts both in number and nature of employees, Bajura, Achham and Doti have no permanently employed female members.

Table-13: Employment Structure in Hotels

S.N.	District	Permanent		Total	Temporary		Total	Grand total
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female		
1.	Bajhang	10(25)	11(27.5)	12(60)	21(52.5)	-1(2.5)	1(2-5)	23(57.5)
2.	Bajura	9(21.5)		5(25)	9(22.5)	-3(7.5)	1(2.5)	13(32.5)
3.	Achham	1(2.5)		1(5)	1(2.5)	-1(2.5)		2(5)
4.	Doti	2(5)		2(10)	2(5)			2(5)
	Total	22 (55)	11(27.5)			5(12.5)	2(5)	10(100)

Source: Field Survey 2061.

Attempts were made to trace the nature of employment of these employees. Our observation of those areas reveals that job classification does not exist in the hotels and lodges because most of them are in the initial/primary stage and do not demand specified manpower.

4.7 Hoteliers' opinion on the Best traveling Route to Khaptad

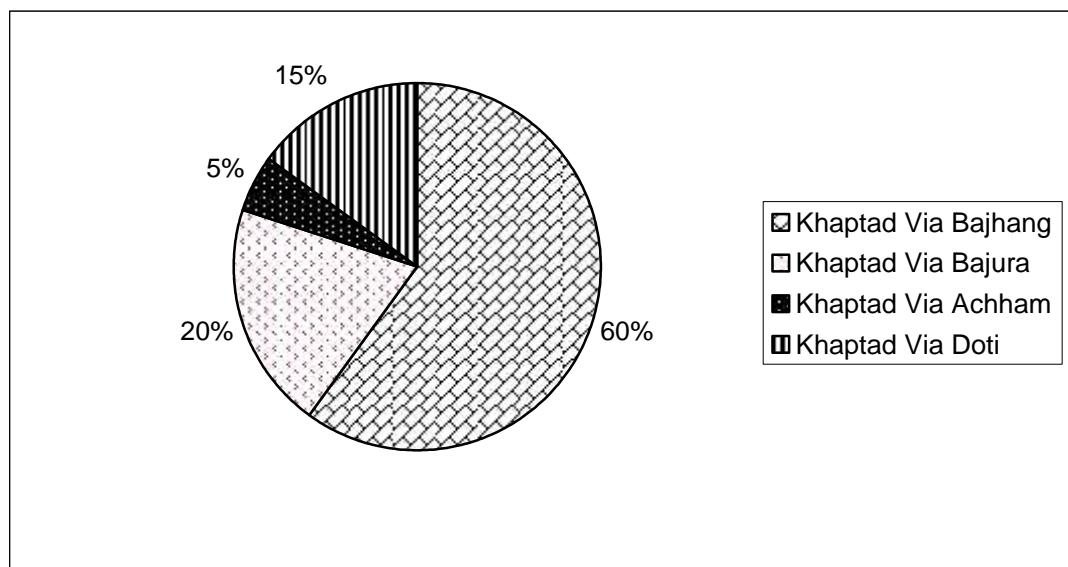
According to the preferences of Hotel runner in the study area, 60 percent opined that the best route to Khaptad is via Bajhang, 20 percent via Bajura and 15 percent from Doti. Their opinion is directly or indirectly supportive to the route of their native district. However the site and situation of the area indicates that the route to Khaptad needs to be developed via all the four districts to promote tourism in a sustainable way.

Table-14: Hoteliers opinion on the best travelling Route to Khaptad

S.N.	Route	Preference	percent
1.	Khaptad Via Bajhang	12	
2.	Khaptad Via Bajura	4	20
3.	Khaptad Via Achham	1	5
4.	Khaptad Via Doti	3	15
		20	100

Source: Field Visit 2061.

Figures 2: Hoteliers opinion on the best travelling Route to Khaptad



4.8 Suggested Route to KNP via Different District

There are many trails to go to KNP. Some of the best routes and means of transportation are suggested by the hoteliers of four districts routes from Baghang Bajura, Accham and Doti are out-lined on the following table.

Table-15: Suggested Route to KNP via Different District

Route No. 1	Khaptad Via Baghang
	Kathmandu – Nepalgunj (By air)
	Nepalgunj – Chainpur (By air)
	Chainpur – Jadarigad (on foot) 2 hrs
	Jadarigad – Daru gaun (on foot) 4 hrs
	Daru Gaun – Khaptad (on foot) 6 hrs
Root No. 2	Dhoti via Khaptad
	Kathmandu –Nepalgunj (By air)
	Nepalgunj- Doti (By air)
	Dipal-Bauleke (on foot) 2 hours
	Bauleke-Jhigrina (on foot) 2 hours
	Jhigrina-Bichakopani (on foot) 1 1/2 hours

	Bichakopani-Khaptad (on foot) 3 hours
Route No. 3	Accham via Khaptad
	Kathmandu –Nepalgung (By air)
	Nepalgung – Saphebagar (By air)
	Saphebagar – Budakot (on foot) 3 hrs
	Budakot – Ranisain (on foot) 1 hrs
	Ranisain – Ghodadhaune (on foot) 1 hrs
	.Ghodadhaune – Chirne Odhar (on foot) 1 hrs
	Chirpy Odhar – Kaloo (On Foot) 1 Hrs
	Pokhara
	Kalo Pokhara – Laurichadani (on foot) 3 hrs
Lauri Chadaune– Ashram (on foot) 3 hrs	
Route No. 4	Bajura Via Khaptad KTM-Nepal
	Nepalgung – Kolti (By air)
	.Koti – Pandusaini (on foot) 2 hrs
	Pandusaini – Martadi (on foot) 6 hrs
	Pinalekh– Artichaur (on foot) 3) hrs
	Artichaur – Dogadi (on foot) 3 hrs
	Dogadi – Gadraya (on foot) 2 hrs
	Gadraya – Pujarigaun (on foot) 1 hrs
	.Pujarigoun – Khaptad (on foot) 5 hrs

4.9 Future Plan of the Hoteliers

While analysing the future strategy of Hoteliers 50 percent are in favour of increasing the hotel facility. 20 percent expressed their opinion to increase the capacity and 20 percent are thinking of changing their business. Only 10 percent of the hoteliers expressed their confidence to continue the same business. Among the hoteliers of Bajhang district, 20 percent have planned to increase the capacity, 30 percent are intending to planning to increase the facility and 5 percent want to change the business

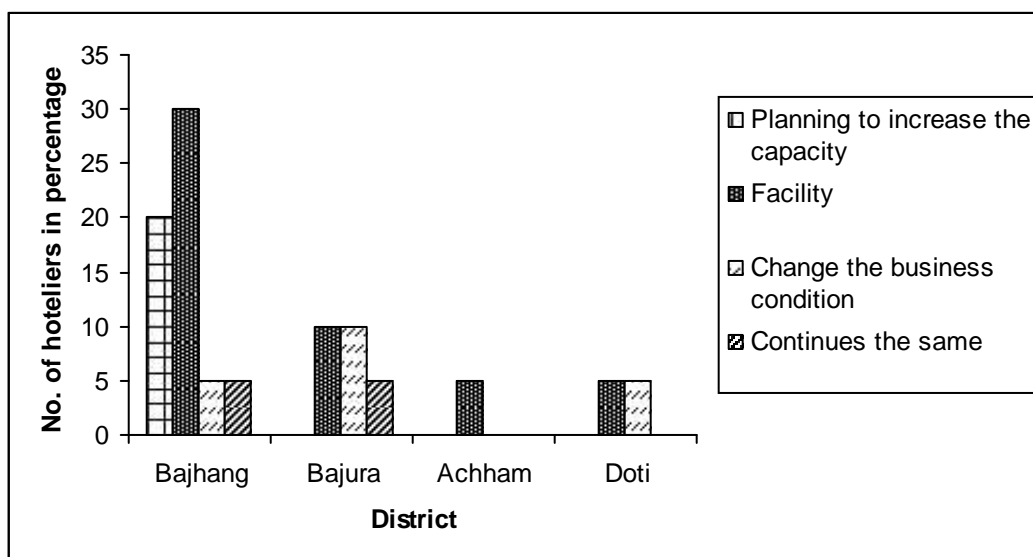
and 5 percent would like to continue the same business None of the hoteliers of other three districts Bajura, Accham, and Doti have plans to increase capacity.

Table 16: Future Plan of the Hoteliers of Different Districts

S.N.	District	Planning to increase the capacity	Facility	Change the business condition	Continues the same	Total
1.	Bajhang	4(20)	6(30)	1(5)	1(5)	12(60)
2.	Bajura	-	2(10)	2(10)	1(5)	5(25)
3.	Achham		1(5)	-	-	1(5)
4.	Doti	-	1(5)	1(5)	-	2(10)
Total		4(20)	10(50)	4(20)	2(10)	20(100)

Source: Field visit 2061.

Figure 3: Future Plan of the Hotels



4.10 Expenditure Pattern of the Visitor (in Rupee)

According to the hotel record of the study area, the majority of the visitors on an average spend 40-60 rupees in a day. The visitors who

spend more than 60 rupees accounted 36 percent. Hoteliers expressed that the low amount of the tourist expenditure reflects the low quality of facility provided by them.

Table 17: Expenditure Pattern of the Visitors

(In Rupees)

S.N.	District	10-30	40-60	Above 60	Total
1.	Bajhang	3(15)	5(25)	4(20)	12(60)
2.	Bajura	-	3(15)	2(10)	5(25)
3.	Achham	-	1(5)	-	
4.	Doti	1(5)	1(5)	-	2(10)
Total		4(20)	10(50)	6(30)	20(100)

Source: Field Survey 2061.

4.11 Periods of Hotels Establishment

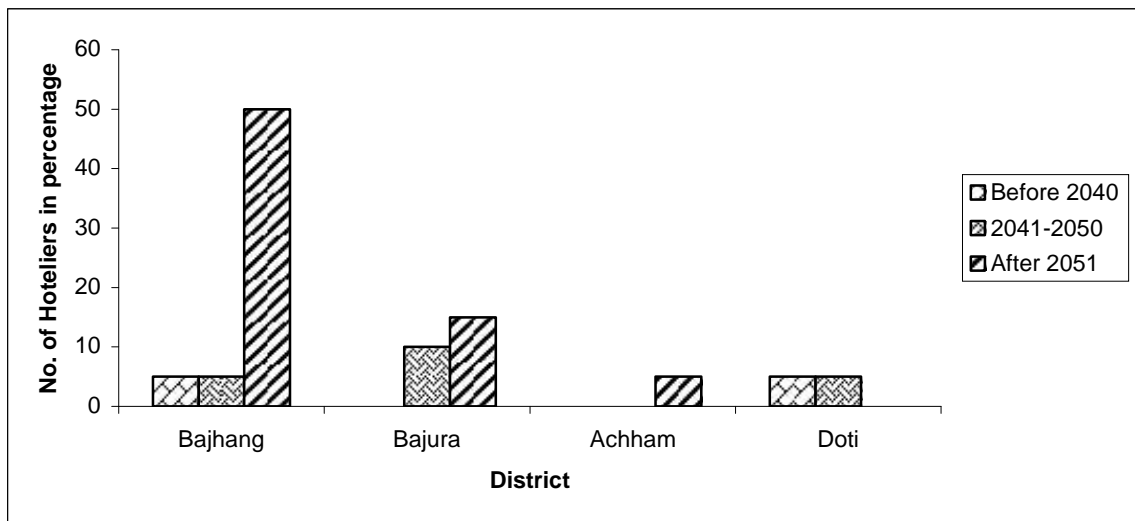
The periods of hotel establishment in the study area differs by district. The establishment of hotel facility has positive impact on the arrival of tourists in KNP area in all the four districts and along route of KNP, the number of Hotels before 2040 was only two. With in (Nine year) (2040-2050). It increased 20 percent after 2051 there was 70 percent growth. District Baihang, experienced the highest growth of hotels lodges.

Table 18: Periods of Hotels Establishment

S.N.	Establishment	N	District				Total
			Bajhang	Bajura	Achham	Doti	
1.	Before 2040	2(10)	1(5)	-		1(5)	2(10)
2.	2041-2050	4(20)	1(5)	2(10)	=	1(5)	
3.	After 2051						4(20)
Total		20(100)	12(60)	5(25)	1(5)		20(100)

Source: Field visit 2061.

Figure 4
Periods of Hotels Establishment



4.12 Hoteliers' opinion for the Development of tourism in KNP Area

Hoteliers of the study area different expressed of opinions for the development of tourism in KNP area. Out of twenty hoteliers 30 percent emphasised on increasing the hotel facility (4) 20 percent hoteliers emphasized the road facility to be developed. Similarly all the hotelier of four districts opined that equal employment opportunity of local people is the must for the development of the area. The next 6 hoteliers individually emphasized and demanded for advertisement of the tourist places of KNP area, training to the local people management of Pony Trekking from Jhikrana and Darugaun and governments' supportive policy.

Table 19: Hoteliers' Opinion for the Development of Tourism in KNP Area

S.N.	Opinion	District				Total
		Bajhang	Bajura	Achham	Doti	
1.	Local People	1(5)	-	-		1(5)
2.	Governments Supportive	-	1(5)	1(5)		2(10)
3.	Employment opportunity for the local people	3(5)	1(5)	-	-	4(20)
4.	Hotel facility	4(20)	1(5)		1(5)	6(30)
5.	Road facility	1(5)	2(10)		1(5)	4(20)
6.	Advertisement	1(5)	-		-	1(5)
7.	Training to the local people	1(5)				1(5)
8.	Trekking pony	1(5)	-	-	-	1(5)
		12(60)	5(25)	1(5)	2(10)	2(100)

Source: Field visit 2061.

4.13 Nature of the Business

The survey of the study area shows that there are mainly three types of businesses in KNP area. The observation revealed that there are 65 percent tea shops followed by 30 percent hotel and 5 percent cloth stores. Besides the hotels business common shops too like serve hotels facility accommodation and fooding. They run the teashop, cloth store and fooding side by side.

Table 20: Nature of the business

S.N.	District	Hotel	Business	Tea	Cloth	Total
1.	Bajhang	3(15)		8(40)	1(5)	12(60)
	Bajura	2(10)		3(15)	-	5(25)
3.	Achham	1(5)		-		1(5)
4.	Doti	-		2(10)		2(10)
Total				13(65)	1(5)	

Source: Field Survey 2061.

4.14 Daily Average sale of the Hoteliers

40 percent hoteliers of the study area hesitantly expressed that they're per day sale amounts 40-800, 20 percent told their sale to be 800-1200 and 5 percent have a daily sale of over rupees 1200.

Table 21: Daily Average sale of the Hoteliers

S.N.	District	0-400	400-	800-	Above	Total
1.	Bajhang	4(20)	4(20)	3(15)	1(5)	12(60)
2.	Bajura	2(10)	2(10)	1(5)	-3(15)	5(25)
3.	Achham	-	1(5)	-		1(5)
4.	Doti	1(5)	1(5)	-	-	2(10)
Total		7(35)	8(49)	4(20)	4(20)	20(100)

Source: Field Survey 2061.

Distribution of Hotels surrounding KNP area is shown in the following figure.

CHAPTER-V

KHAPTAD NATIONAL PARK AND DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES

5.1 Introduction

KNP office is only responsible for the conservation of the park. It is facing problems of inadequate budget, staff and infrastructure. Local people are dependent on park resources for fuel wood, timber and grazing and these activates these activates create conflict between the local people and park authorities. Its interest is to conserve biodiversity through people's participation, to conserve its natural beauty and landscape slope and to promote tourism to increase park revenue. The role of the park office has been identified in enhancing conservation awareness of buffer zone population providing alternative sources of income to local people and creating access to appropriate technology to buffer zone population.

5.2 Poachers

Poachers are identified as vested interest groups engaged in illegal hunting of musk deer. They are about 35 in number who are illegally hunting wild animals especially in Bhirku area of Achham, Boglelake area of Doti etc they usually hunt in a group of 3 to 5 because of their weak economic condition and lack of occupational skill and employment opportunities. They are involved in this illegal business. They are interested in the flesh of wild animals and high value of their body parts. Some villagers also kill wild animals to protect themselves and the crops. Poacher's strength can be used in controlling poaching activities and collecting information on wildlife movement and behaviour KNP has to create awareness in poachers and to provide them alternative income generating opportunities.

5.3 Opening Schedule of KNP for Various Uses of the Local People

The KNP provides different facilities for the people of the surrounding areas. Firewood, food, cane bamboo collection and grazing the domestic cattle are the main facilities utilized by the people of KNP area. KNP provides these facilities these based on the predetermined schedule.

Table 22: Schedule of KNP for Various Uses of the Local People

S.N.	Uses	B	J	A	S	B	A	K	M	P	M	F	C
1.	Raw paper collection		10										
2.	Fire wood collection											16 19	
3.	Hey collection								20 29				
4.	Grazing					Bha							
5.	Cane bamboo								10 14				
6.	Literate collection											15 30	

Source: Filed Visit 2061 and Official record of KNP

The schedule and facilities provided by the KNP differ from that of other national parks. This national park is also opened for grazing (Jestha-Bhadra) purpose where as other national parks of Nepal are completely closed for this purpose.

5.4 Grazing Animals in Fiscal year 060/061 in the KNP

A total of 270 animals were permitted to graze into the area of park as reported by the official record of KNP Warden's office. The highest number was that of bullocks and buffaloes accounting 58.82 percent followed by cows 20.21 percent sheep and goat 18.63 percent and 2.36 percent horses and donkeys respectively

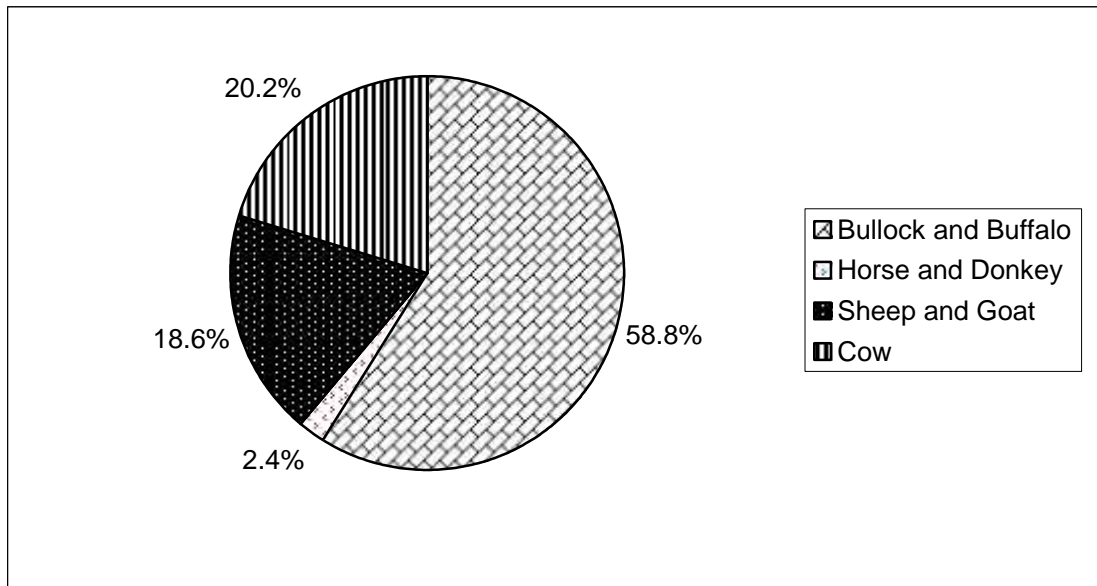
Table 23: Grazing Animals in Fiscal Year 060-061 in KNP

S.N	Name of animals	Number	%
1.	Bullock and Buffalo	1773	58.82
2.	Horse and Donkey	71	2.36
3.	Sheep and Goat	561	18.62
4.	Cow	609	20.21
	Total	3014	100.00

Source: Official Record 060/061

Grazing animals are animals like such as cows, bullocks, buffalos sheep,' horses and donkeys. There are about 270 herds having 10 cattle in each in average. KNP Warden's Office provides a permit for grazing the cattle for four months lasting between Jestha to Bhadra. They use Khaptad as pastureland for grazing to save local fodder for the within. Their fear is with KNP who may one day restrict or may reduce grazing period. Local people's potentials can be utilized by involving them in pasture development in private and by educating the local for better utilization of park facilities.

Figure 5
Grazing Animals in Fiscal year 060/061 in the KNP



5.5 Revenue collection from KNP

Khaptad National Park collects revenue from different sources. Most 26.33 percent of the revenue is collected from the entrance fee of the visitors followed by cane bamboo 23.42 percent punishment 15.81 percent grazing 8.99 percent and teashop royalty 5.81 percent respectively.

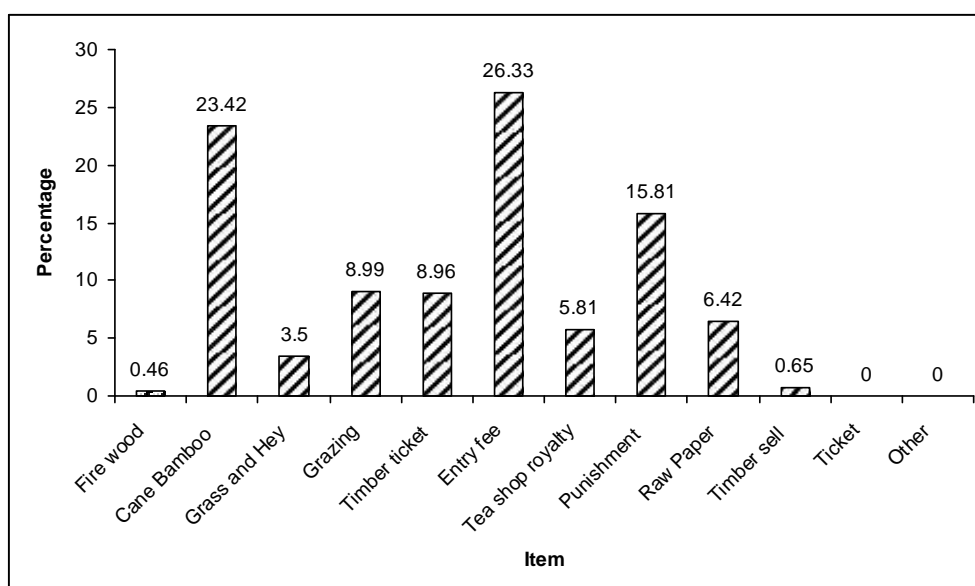
Table 24: Revenue collection from KNP

S.N	Items	Revenue in Rs.	%
1.	Fire wood	425.50	0.46
2.	Cane Bamboo	21480	23.42
3.	Grass and Hey	2890	3.5
4.	Grazing	8251	8.99
5.	Timber ticket	8218.60	8.96
6.	Entry fee	24150	26.33
7.	Tea shop royalty	5328	5.81
8.	Punishment	14500	15.81
9.	Raw Paper	5890	6.42
10.	Timber sell	600	0.65
11.	Ticket	-	-
12.	Other	-	-
Total		391733.10	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2061.

Official Report of KNP Fiscal Year 060/061

Figure 6
Revenue Collections from KNP



CHAPTER-VI

OPINION OF LOCAL PEOPLE

6.1 Educational Status of the Local People

Only 40 households are selected in the study area and their householders' educational status is shown below.

Table 25: Educational Status of Local People

S.N.	District	Households	Education status		Total
			Educated	Uneducated	
1.	Bajhang	24(60)	17(42.5)	7(17.5)	24(60)
2.	Bajura	8(20)	6(15)	2(5)	8(20)
3.	Achham	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	-	1(2.5).
4.	Doti	7(17.5)	5(12.5)	2(5)	7(17.5)
Total		40(100)	21(72.5)	11(27)	40(100)

Source: Field Survey 2061.

The above table shows the educational status. The educational status is divided into two categories literate (just able to read and write) and illiterate (unable to read and write). Out of the total 72.5 percent are literate and 27.5 percent are illiterate people. While analysing the district wise statistics data are 42.5 percent households in Bajhang. By 15 percent in Bajura, 2.5 percent in Achham. and 12.5 percent in Doti are literate. Similarly among the illiterate household 17.5 percent household by Bajhang are followed by 5 percent in Bajura and Doti.

6.2 Opinion of Local People on the Arrivals of Tourist

Local people (40) of the study area opened that tourists are guests. They should be welcomed and treated respectfully. Also they expressed that

tourists' good perception about the area and people may significantly help promote tourism in the area. That means local people may be employed and their economy may be improved.

Table 26: Opinion of Local people on Arrivals of Tourists

S.N.	District	Better	Good	No tourist meet	No get any opportunity	Over change of fishier	Total
1.	Bajhang	16(40)		5(12.5)	2(5)	1(2.5)	24(60)
2.	Bajura	4(10)	1(2.5)	3(7.5)	-		8(20)
3.	Achham	1(2.5)		-			1(2.5)
4.	Doti	4(10)	1(2.5)	2(5)	-		7(17.5)
Total		25(62.5)	2(5)		2(5)	1(2.5)	40(100)

Source: Field Survey 2061.

Out of total (40) local people, the majority 62.5 percent expressed positive feelings on the arrivals of the tourist, 25 percent of the sample have not met the tourists. So they express no feelings about tourist arrivals. Only 2.5 percent of the sample expressed negative feeling on the arrivals of the tourists to their village area. They feel that tourists contact with the local people. Especially the young agars may develop the feeling of individualism selfish consumerism and ultimately may disrespect their culture, traditional costume and society. Table (2)

6.3 Opinion of Local People on the Tourist of Different Nationality

People of KNP area express different opinion on the tourist arrival in their locality from different countries of the world.

Table 27: Opinion of Local People on the Tourists of Different Nationality

S.N.	District	Indian	Westerners	Nepali	All tourist	Total
1.	Bajhang	1(2.5)	7(17.5)	8(20)	8(20)	24(60)
2.	Bajura		4(10)	1(2.5)	3(7.5)	8(20)
3.	Achham	1(2.5)	-			1(2.5)
4.	Doti	2(2.5)	3(7.5)	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	7(17.5)
	Total	4(10)	14(35)	10(25)	12(30)	40(100)

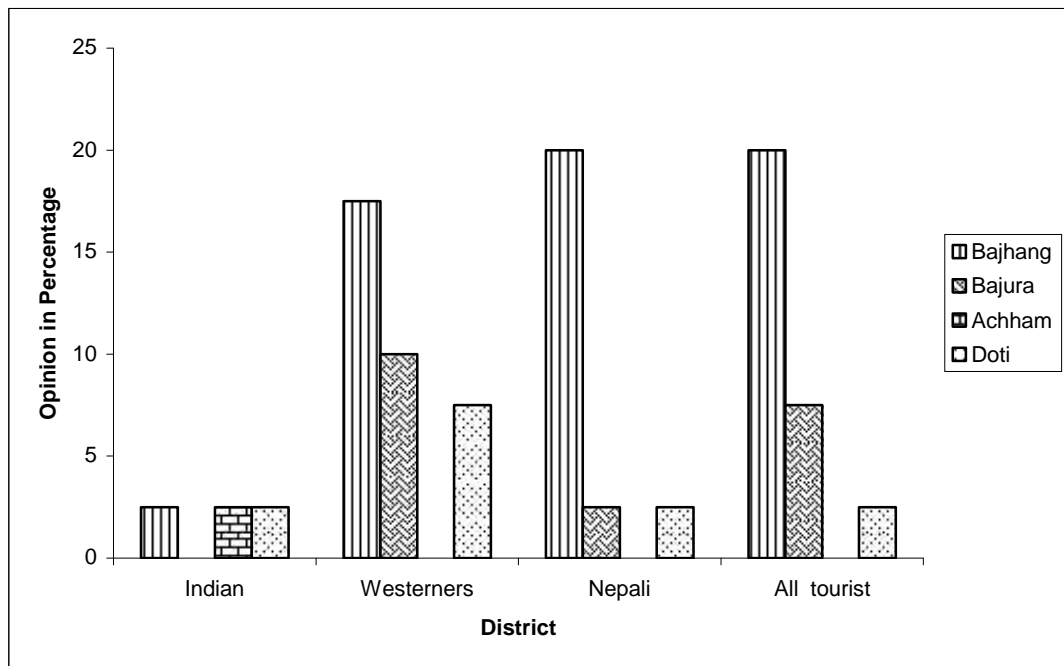
Source: Field Survey 2061.

Based on the experience of the local people, tourist arrivals in KNP area is divided in three categories i.e. Westerners, Indians and Nepalese. Among them 35 percent people are in favour of westerners. 30 percent local people are, liberal and support tourist from different nations equally. 25 percent is in favour of Nepali tourist. Regarding the visitors arrival to KNP area, local people expressed their feelings as:

1. Foreign tourists are practical and they respect the physical and cultural heritage in spite of difficulties and expenses.
2. Tourists visiting of KNP duly respect cultural aspects and their practices affect the local people. Also local involved in tourist business have learnt to maintain health and hygiene in their surroundings.
3. Local people opined that Nepali tourists are very easy to manage and introduce. They feel homely to deal with Nepali tourists rather than the foreigners.
4. Local people are more supportive to Indian tourists because they have a similar culture and their languages easy to understand.

Figure 7

Opinion of Local People on the Tourists of Different Nationality



6.4 Necessary Element for the Promotion of Tourism Industry in KNP Area

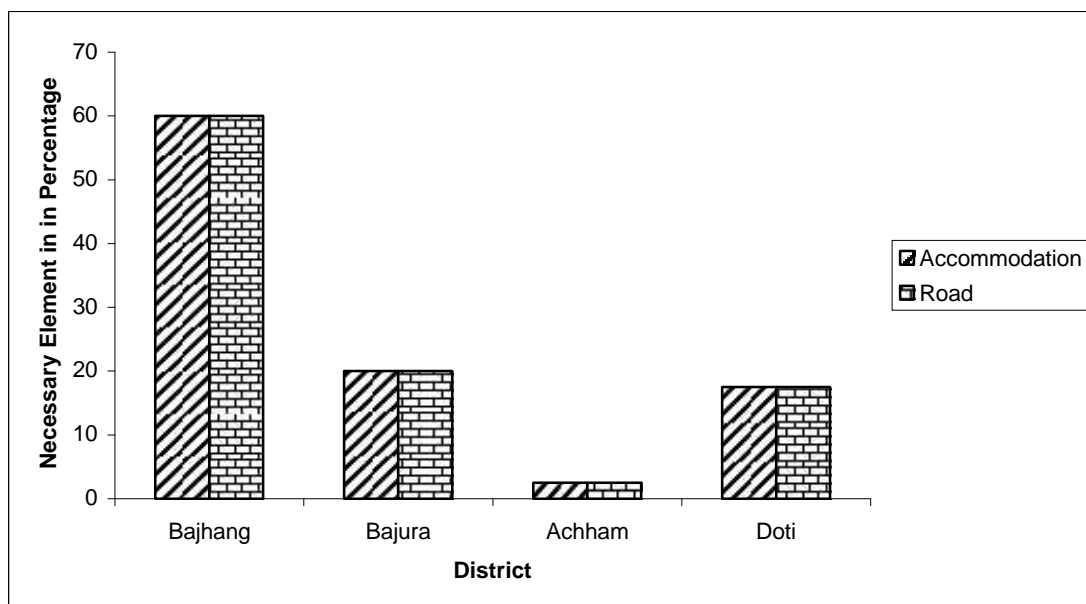
As responded by the local people, accessibility and accommodation facility are the prime requisites for the promotion of tourism industry in KNP area. Also they emphasize the products of daily use necessary for tourist and handicrafts needed as gift for tourists. They speak out that if they have such products, they significantly increase the income. The possibility of producing hemp goods, Bhojpatra, and bird stick is strong.

Table 28: Necessary Element for the Promotion of Tourism Industry in KNP Area

S.N.	District	Accommodation	Road
1.	Bajhang	24(60)	24(60)
2.	Bajura	8(20)	8(20)
3.	Achham	1(2.5)	1(2.5)
4.	Doti	7(17.5)	7(17.5)
Total		40(100)	40(100)

Source: Field visit 2061.

Figure 8
Necessary Element for the Promotion of Tourism Industry in KNP Area



6.5 Threat of Wild Animals

Wild animals have affected people residing around KNP. Bears and wild pigs are the animals affecting the people and their agriculture activities.

The local people go on that the wolf controls the growth of other animals. If the number of wolf decreases, the number of wild pigs increases. The wild pigs come out of the KNP boundary and destroy the crops of the people. People are in dilemma of killing or saving the wild animals. If the protect animals, they dangerously attack on them, and their crops. They need live hiding in their houses. Due to the fear of animals of the people kill the wild animals to remove their dangerous enemy. They are arrested for this illegal act.

6.6 The problem of Grass and Firewood

The people who are living near the KNP are facing the problems of grass and firewood. Before the establishment of KNP, people were free to do what they desired. Every one needs to acquire the permission ticket on the fixed date in any case people fall. If they are loose the chance for the whole year. Considering this condition, the authority of the KNP must give an opportunity to those, who have been unable to collect the permission ticket due to serious health condition. Despite some problems, people around the park have been benefited from the park. Besides the preservation of forest, herbs and environment, the people living near the KNP are getting products better prices for their chickens, goats, vegetables and fruits and other products.

CHAPTER-VII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Summary

The study has attempted to assess the physical, Religion and cultural tourist attractions of KNP area based on primary as well as secondary sources of information.

Khaptad National Park is situated at the cross point of the boundary of four districts Bajhang, Bajura, Accham and Doti. Almost all the parts of the study area are situated in mid mountains between 1000m to 3000 m above the sea level. Climatically the study area experiences cool temperate climate. It has a core area of 225 sq km. The headquarters of the park at Khaptad is about 50 Kilometres walking distance from Silgadi town (Doti) and 32 Kilometres from Chainpur, Bajhang. Vast upland with green grassland intermixed with oak and coniferous forest is the physical characteristics of the area. It has 22 major pastures (locally known as Patans). The boundary of 4 districts meet at Chadipatan, which is, locates at the centre. The Triveni and Sailegad and their tributaries are the main rivers streams of the study area.

There are several fauna community i.e. leopard Himalayan yellow Thorad Marten, Himalayan Black dear, Musk deer, Goral, Himalayan that, More than 220 species of birds have been recorded.

Scenic beauty, pleasant climate, vegetation, flora and fauna and socio cultural heritage including Khaptad Baba's hermitage are the major attractions of Khaptad.

The main sites for scenic attraction are Ghoda Daduan Patan, Choheda

Patan, Chine Badepatan, Triveni patan, Chhipte Dhunga Patan, Bukidaha patan, Suki, Daha patan, Chaumala Patan, Dudhili patan, Palta Khola Patan, Khapor daha Patan, Pulpala patan, Southali patan, Tirak patan, Bale Mela Patan, Phurke Patan, Thulo Ghairo Patan, and Hio-sui patan, Besides, sites for panoramic view of KNP are Nag Dhunga, Khaptad Daha Sahraslinga and the Triveni river.

One of the natural gifts of KNP is its pleasant and healthy climate, which is ideal for holiday. KNP area experienced bright sunshine and cloudless sky most of the months.

The vegetation and the flora and fauna are the basic attractions for tourism in KNP area. Alpine forests 220 species of birds' 40 species of wildlife, 567 types of flowering plants and 400 herbal plants have been recorded in this area.

KNP area is rich in Socio cultural resources of tourism. The Ashram of Khaptad swami is a famous spiritual site. The hermitage of the late Khaptad swami (Baba) is preserved in "core zone" of KNP. All the visitors of KNP usually visit the hermitage and experience the spirit and the power of the place.

The study area is culturally divided into various caste/ethnic groups each having specific characteristics in terms of traditional ceremonies, beliefs and taboos. Brahman, Chhetri, Thakuri and Khas Chhetri dominate the area. Untouchables still face caste domination. Most of the people believe on Hinduism and celebrate Hindu festivals and wear local. Besides Dauda dance and Bhuwa are unique cultural practices of this area.

During 1993 only 24 tourists were recorded as visitors to the area, whereas in 2003 they were only 30 in record.

Hotel and lodge facilities have been slowly developing in KNP area. Only 20 Hotels were counted during the field survey. Bajhang district consists of 60 percent hotels followed 10 percent hotel run in Doti 85 percent of the hoteliers are males and 60 percent of them are literate.

Eight percent hoteliers of the study area want to increase both the facility and capacity of their hotels. They opined that until accommodation facility is developed, tourism cannot be promoted in a healthy way in the area. Most (85 percent) of the hoteliers have their own house. 60 percent hotel runners of the study area opined that the best route to Khaptad is via Bajhang, 20 percent supported the route via Bajura and 15 percent via Doti.

Fifty percent of the hoteliers planned to increase the facility and to continue the same business in the future. tourist spends Rs. 40/- to rupees 60/- day in an average. Most of the hotels in the / study area were established after 2052

For the development of tourism in KNP area, 30 percent hoteliers emphasized the need of providing hotel facility whereas 20 percent emphasized the availability of road/ accessibility. Business runs in a combined way with the teashop, cloth shops and groceries put together. Daily average sale amounts Rs. 400-1200 at such shops. Only handful business firms of the study area have a higher sale than Rs. 1200 per day.

Local people depend on park resources for firewood, timber and grazing. Consequently, conflict takes place sometimes between local people and park authorities for these activities. As reported by the park authority, about 30 local people with poor economic condition are involved in poaching. The park needs to create awareness in poachers and provide

them alternative income generating opportunities. The park has established a schedule for local people to utilize the park resources, like firewood, hay, and cane bamboo and to provide land for grazing.

According to the official record of Khaptad National Park, the grazing area of cattle was 12 cattle per square Kilometre. Revenue collected from different activities and services of the park amounted Rs. 91733 during the fiscal year 2000/2001 Local people complained that the wild animals of the park damaged their crops and they have faced the problem of grass and firewood.

7.2 Conclusion

Tourism is one of the most significant contributors of the Nepalese economy there is a high potentiality of tourism development in all development regions and in each ecological region. Tourism in Nepal is centralized at the eastern central part of the country. Mount Everest, Kathmandu, Pokhara, Annapuama Royal Chitwan National park area are the main tourist receiving area of the country. Centralized and highly seasonal nature of tourism has caused serious environmental damage in some of the valuable and sensitive touristy resources and the cultural and natural landscape of Nepal. Therefore, both the natural and cultural diversity of these areas is at risk and their carrying capacity is threatened.

Specifically various forms of small scale and indigenous industries can play a key role in maintaining the carrying capacity by reducing the income leakage and increasing the linkages. Environmentally viable (sustainable) and socially responsible tourism can't be fostered without research-based appraisal of tourist resources along with the dialogue constructed and controlled in view of indigenous need, indigenous terms

and community based participation.

Midwestern and Far Western part of Nepal has gigantic potentiality to mitigate these issues and develop tourism in a sustainable way. KNP that covers four district (Bajhang, Bajura, Achham, Doti) of Far Western Nepal is in infancy of tourism development. Therefore, concerned authorities of both park administration and tourism need to immediately focus their attention to explore immense tourist resource of this area by solving the conflicts and decentralizing tourism development of the country.

7.3 Suggestions

This study covers KNP along with peripheral parts of the adjoining districts Bajhang, Bajura, Accham and Doti. The border to these four districts joins at Chidipatan of KNP.. Transportation development and road construction is not supportive for bio-diversity conservation and healthy environment. However, tourism being the industry associated with travel, tour activities always demand high accessibility and linkage KNP area lacks both of these facilities. Therefore, eco-friendly road construction to KNP headquarters is a necessity if tourism is to promote in this area.

Development of tourism always depends on the facility for the stay of nonresidents. Our study reveals that tourist oriented accommodation facility in the KNP area is almost out of the scene. Hence, eco-friendly, socially and culturally supportive, healthy and convenient accommodation and restaurant facility and associated infrastructure development may significantly boost tourism in KNP area. While developing these facilities, necessary care should be given for the use of

local resources architectural design and gender balanced employment of the local people.

KNP consists immense bio-diversity, which is not clearly identified yet. Therefore adequate research on bio-diversity of KNP may help raise the prestige of the nation and promote eco-tourism in the area.

The people who were previously dependent on the resources of KNP should be provided another side job opportunity So that conflict between the park and the people gradually reduces. Consequently, bio-diversity conservation and protection of wild animals in the park may be supportive from the public also.

Well managed planning of infrastructure (hotel and road) development and promotion policy is urgently needed if tourism is to be developed in KNP area in a sustainable way.

The Annapurna, Sagarmatha, and Royal Chitwan National park are facing increasing pressure of tourism and associated activities. Therefore, sufficient attempt is to be made to develop tourism in the areas like Khaptad National Park to divert tourist from the over crowded areas of the country.

Tourism cannot grow efficiently in absence of trained manpower like tourist guide, hotel administration, cleaners, cooks, shopkeepers and other staff needed for tourist activities. Trained manpower brought from outside have high mobility. Training of local people in different activities may more reliably supply manpower in tourism activities. Therefore, concerned authorities should pay their attention on this issue.

The hermitage of late Khaptad Swami Baba has not been properly

preserved and its environment is out of care. Establishments of Baba's statue by the side of the temple and a meditation centre near by the hermitage of Khaptad Baba may raise the importance of cultural heritage of the area.

KNP area is endowed with variety of herbal plants. They should be appraised with sufficient research and conservation activities. Several Patans (Pastures) of KNP present immense possibility for the plantation of herbal plants. Even the people of the developed modern society have increasingly given value to herbal treatment. Their faith on modern medicine is gradually decreasing. Therefore, timely due to consideration for the preservation of valuable herbal plants may significantly raise tourist and economic value of the area.

Analyzing the harm made by the growth of domestic animals strict zonation of the park for this purpose may help to control the adverse effect of the domesticated animals.

Firewood is the only source of heating for the people and the park authority. During the winter season, the rate of the fire wood consumption highly increases in KNP area. In the long run it may appear as a serious problem if alternative power use system is not introduced in the area.

Different sites and structures of religion's and cultural importance (Sashra Linga, Triveni) etc **in KNP** area are ruined in the absence of protection and renovation. Therefore, concerned authorities need to pay their attention on these issues immediately.

Jhikrana of Doti and Darugaun of Bajhang have very good site for the development of pony trekking. The development of pony trekking service

in such area may attract the old aged and quality tourists. Pony trekking service may provide off-farm jobs to the farmers of the local area. Therefore, necessary attempt is urgently needed to this field of tourism to promote tourism in KNP area.

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ANNEX –I
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOTEL BUSINESS

1. Introduction (detail)
 - a. Male /female b. Age c. Local/ outsider
 - d. Religion e. Single/joint family
 - g. Education: Uneducated/Literate/Primary/Secondary/Higher education
 - h. Name and types of the business j. on rented house/own house
 - k. Location: District VDC Ward
 - Tole
2. What is your main business?
3. Are you involved in any tourist business? If yes what type and when you establish it?
4. What is your average sell in day?
5. Please mention the number of employees in your hotel/as listed below:
 - a. Permanent: MaleFemale
 - b. Temporary: MaleFemale
 - c. Their address: District VDC
6. Please state the capacity/ facility charge of your hotel
 - a. Bed room: single.doublecommon
 - b. Facility: Attach bath Common bath
7. Please mention the number of employees by nature of job.
 - (a) Manager (b) cooking (c) Restaurant
 - (d) Account/store(e) security (f) others
8. What do you think about the capacity?
 - (a) Sufficient (b) Insufficient (c) more than sufficient
9. Your future plan regarding the business?
 - (a) Planning to increase the capacity (b) planning to increase the facility
 - (c) Change the business condition (d) continue in the same
10. What is the daily expenditure of a tourist in your hotel?
 - (a) (b) (c) (d)

11. In average how many night tourist stay in your hotel?
(a) 1-2 (b) 3-4 (c) 4-5 (d) A week (e) Week
12. What are your general opinion regarding the KNP management?
13. What are the main complaints and acknowledgements do the tourist/
generally make regarding hotels of this area.
(a) Complaints (b) Acknowledge
14. Would you please suggest measures to promote tourist in better way in
KNP area.

स्थानिय जनताका लागि प्रश्नावली

१. सामान्य जानकारी
लिङ्गः महिला/पुरुष नाम/ ठेगाना
जिल्ला/ गा.वि.स. वडा नं
शिक्षित | अशिक्षित | अविवाहित/ विवाहित
कुल परिवार संख्या | पुरुष | शैक्षिक योग्यता
२. तपाईंको पर्यटन व्यवसाय प्रति कस्तो धारणा छ ?
३. तपाईंले भेटाएका पर्यटक प्रति तपाईंको अनुभव कस्तो छ ?
४. भारतिय विदेशी नेपाली पर्यटक मध्ये कस्तो पर्यटक मन पराउनु हुन्छ किन ?
५. यसको लागि सरकार र निजी क्षेत्रबाट के कस्तो कार्यक्रम संचालन गरिएका छन् ?
६. यहाँ पर्यटकलाई बेचन लायक सामान के के छन् ?
७. यहाँ खप्तड आउने पर्यटकलाई सबभन्दा कुन बाटो राम्रो होला
(क) रुट : (ख) समय कति लाग्छ : (ग) दिन:
८. यहाँ पर्यटक भित्रिने र बाहिर जाने अलग अलग बाटो बनाउन सकिन्छ ?
९. सकिन्छ कुन बाटो बनाउने ?
१०. यो खप्तड रा. नि. को स्थापना गर्दा तपाईंलाई फाइदा छ कि घाटा फाइदा छ भने कस्तो फाइदा छ ? घाटा के घाटा छ ?
११. जंगली जनावर प्रकोि कस्तो छ ?
१२. यहाँको सुरक्षाकर्मी सैनिकबाट कतिको सुरक्षित हुनुहुन्छ र कस्तो अनुभव गर्नु भएको छ ।
१३. यो निकुञ्ज कहिले खुल्छ तपाइहरुको लागि ?
१४. घास, दाउरा काठको कतिको समस्या भएको छ ?
१५. खप्तड राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जले गर्दा भएका फाइदा बेफाइदा भनिदिनु होस् ?
१६. यहाँको विचारमा खप्तड निकुञ्जलाई पर्यटकिय क्षेत्रको रुपमा विकास गर्न के गर्नु पर्ला ?

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR TOURIST

Note: Dear guest you are kindly requested to help me for the research work filling the quarries below information collected would be help recreate and it would be used only for the research purpose only.

Subhash Ghimire

I.General Information

- (a) Nationality/city
- (b) Religion
- (c) Male/Female
- (d) Age and 15 yeas 16-30 years 31-45 years 46-60 years 60 and above.
- (e) Married/Unmarried
- (f) Single/Joint family
- (g) Education
Primary/Secondary/University/Technical/Uneducated/
- (h) Employment/profession

2.Nature of the Tour (Please Tick 4 Mark)

- (A) 1. Alone 2. With spouses 3. Whole family 4. With porters /guides 5. With friends 6. With others.
- (B) Whether the tour/visits
 - 1. Holiday 2. Sport 3. Trekking 4. Mountaineer
 - 5. Visiting to friends/ relatives. 6. Business 7. Health
 - 8. Pilgrimage 9. Site scene 10. Any other

3.Mode of travel you have used arrive to KNP

(A) By Air

- 1. Nepalgung - Dipayal
- 2. Nepalgung - Saphebagar

3. Nepalgung - Chainpur

4. Nepalgung - Kolti

5. If other specify

4. Your duration of your journey all together to KNP

5. How many days do you spend/planned to stay in

(a) Nepal (b) Khaptad N. P area

6. Places you visited in Nepal, please in order

1.2.3.4.

7. Your visit to this KNP

1. First 2. Second 3. Third 4. More than three

8. What are the main attraction for you in KNP please in order

1. Mountain survey 2. Flora 3. Fauna

4. Khaptad Baba's hermitage 5. Sahasralinga and Tribeni river

6. Khaptad Lake 7. Others please mention

9. Which of the following factors are important for a attracting KNP to you? Please rank post important to least important -5

A. Nature scenery

B. The flora and fauna

1.

1.

2.

2.

3.

3.

4.

4.

5.

5.

C. The colourful. butterflies and insects

D. The pilgrimage site

1.

1.

2.

2.

3.

3.

4.

4.

5.

5.

E. The peaceful and undisturbed healthily environment

1.2.3.4

F. Security

1.2.3.4

G. Friend people and the culture and archaeological monuments in and around Khaptad.

H. Others.

10. Your perceptions on KNP, Please rank most important to least important

A. Over crowd of tourist B. Well maintained and managed

1.2.3.4.5. 1.2.3.4.5.

C. Facilities to the visitorsB. Well maintained and managed

1.2.3.4.5. 1.2.3.4.5.

D. Uncontrolled grazing

1.2.3.4.5.

E. Created awareness among the people about the value of wild life

1.2.3.4.5.

F. Activities of poachers and hunters

1.2.3.4.5.

11. How much money on average do you spent per day during your stay at KNP (In NRS.)

12. Could you rate your expenditure in % by item below?

(a) Accommodation (b) Food (c) Drinks (d) guides/porters (e) Gift items (f) Transportation (g) others

13. Will you visit KNP again?

(a) Yes (b) No (c) Uncertain

14. Your opinion and suggestion regarding the problem you have faced band you feel about eco-tourism development in KNP.