

**PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF ECOTOURISM IN NEPAL**

**A Case Study of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park**

**A THESIS**

**Submitted to:**

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## **RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

This thesis entitled “**Prospects and Problems of Ecotourism in Nepal (A Case Study of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park)**” has been prepared by Miss Sujani Rana under my supervision in partial fulfillment of requirements for Master Degree of Arts in Rural Development. I hereby recommend this thesis to the evaluation committee for approval.

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## **APPROVAL SHEET**

We certify that this thesis entitled “**Prospects and Problems of Ecotourism in Nepal (A Case Study of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park)**” submitted by Miss Sujani Rana to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Arts in Rural Development has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

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## **Acknowledgement**

The present study entitled "Prospects and Problems of Ecotourism development in Nepal (A Case Study of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park)" is an attempt to give an overall picture of tourism in Shivapuri Park area. This study is dedicated to all the people in and around Shivapuri Park, without their help this study could not have been completed.

It is a matter of great pleasure and privilege for me to express my profound regarding and gratitude to Associate Prof. Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha, Central Depoartment of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, for his valuable guidance with exceptional promptness. His wise counsel and guidance provided me the inspiration to go ahead with work.

I am also indebted with the officials of DNPWC, Headquarter of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, NTB, and CBS. I wish to record my sincere thanks to local respondents, tourists and all officers for the valuable cooperation in filling the questionnaire without any hesitation.

I acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude towards my parents,my sister Miss Sushma Rana, my friends Miss Shova Khatiwada, Mr. Rabindra Singh, Mr. Pramod Bhattarai, and Mr. Manoj Bhandari for encouraging and providing me the congenial environment and support to complete this research work and their continuous support in my efforts. I gratefully acknowledge the active co-operation received from Mrs. Bina Bhandari for computer printing of this thesis correctly and neatly in time.

I do not claim this research work to be very exhaustive in nature because of various constraints during the study. I hope this small effort of mine will be great value to those who are interested in problems and prospects of ecotourism in Shivapuri Nagarjn National Park and all other future researcher of this area.

Date

2066/

Sujani Rana

## **Abstract**

*Nepal is recognized as one of the important tourist destinations of the whole world. Tourism in protected areas has been a major component of national tourism sector in Nepal.*

*Shivapuri Nagarjun National park due to its scenic attraction and good biodiversity is envisaged as a potential site for eco-tourism development.*

*The present study was carried out in four study areas which are four major entry points of Shivapuri Nagarjun National park. The first area was Budhanilkantha, where the park's headquarter is also situated. The second study area Sundarijal is the most popular entry points of the park and lies in the trekking route to Chisapani. The third and fourth study areas are Kakani and Lapsiphedhi, which lies in the trekking route to Shivapuri peak and Chisapani and are famous for watching Himalayan ranges and biodiversity. The collected data were both primary and secondary.*

*Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is a potential area for ecotourism development. Although being potential it is not so famous but it is slowly gaining popularity as a tourist destination. Number of tourist visiting Shivapuri has crossed one lakh in the F.Y. 2065/66 where as it was only 22 thousand one decade ago. In the F.Y. 2064/65 the park authority was able to generate about 30 lakhs revenue from tourism.*

A number of potentialities for eco- tourism development were identified in all the four study areas, the major ones being natural, cultural and religious aspects. Major problems regarding eco-tourism development were also identified among which information and publicity of the area and initiation of recreational facilities are of urgent necessity. The negative ecological impacts resulting from tourism were found and necessary preventive measures have been recommended. Positive and negative socio-cultural impacts have started to appear but are not in a condition of severity. Economic impacts of tourism are not providing significant economic benefits to the people, but certainly have contributed to generate additional income. It was found that tourism had directly or indirectly helped to support economic condition of about 40% of local respondents. The proposed tourism regulations if followed properly can help to reduce the negative impacts to the environment, society, culture and economy. A set of recommendations have been made at the end of study.

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## **ABBREVIATION**

ACA	:Annapurna Conservation Area
ACAP	:Annapurna Conservation Area Project
BZ	:Buffer Zone
CA	:Conservation Area
CBS	:Central Bureau of Statistics
CDRD	:Central Department of rural Development
CNPPA	:The Commission on National Parks and Protected areas
DNPWC	:Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
FY	:Fiscal Year
GDP	:Gross Domestic Product
HMG	:His Majesty's Government
ICIMOD	:International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IUCN	:World Conservation Union
MoTCA	:Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
NP	:National Parks
NPC	:National Planning Commission
NTB	:Nepal Tourism Board
PA	:Protected Areas
RCNP	:Royal Chitwan National Park
RD	:Rural Development
RNAC	:Royal Nepal Airlines Cooperation
TU	:Tribhuvan University
UNESCO	:United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USA	:United States of America
VDC	:Village Development Committee
WR	:Wildlife Reserve