

**Ethnobotanical Use of Wetland Resources and their Role in  
Local Livelihood**

*(A Case Study from Beeshazar Lake of Chitwan District)*

A Dissertation

Submitted to Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of  
Sociology/Anthropology, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Master Degree in Sociology

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## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “*Ethnobotanical Use of Wetland Resources and their Role in Local Livelihood (A Case Study from Beeshazar Lake of Chitwan District)*” has been completed by *Pramod Bhattarai* under my supervision for partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Arts in Sociology. I recommend this thesis for the final approval and acceptance by dissertation committee.

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This thesis entitled “*Ethnobotanical Use of Wetland Resources and their Role in Local Livelihood (A Case Study from Beeshazar Lake of Chitwan District)*” submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Tribhuvan University, Prithwi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by ***Pramod Bhattarai*** has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology by the undersigned members of the dissertation committee.

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## Abstract

*Ethnobotany is the study of how people of a particular culture and region make use of indigenous plants. Field ethnobotany is the observation of the human-plant relationship in places where it is visible and may be either experienced and/or documented, in stories and images. Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world. They are very important in terms of their ecological, economic, cultural and recreational domains of livelihood. Wetlands also support people's livelihood, or a means of earning for living. Often poor and some ethnic communities in rural areas, are directly dependent on wetlands for their socio-economic or cultural association.*

*The study entitled “**Ethnobotanical Use of Wetland Resources and their Role in Local Livelihood**” was conducted in wetland sites Beeshazar Lake and its surrounding community; the study was focused to access the ethnobotanical use and community's dependency on the wetland resources. The questionnaire survey was conducted on 30% of total households in surrounding community, which mainly comprised ethnic groups in the area who had close association with the use of wetland resources. 30 female and 35 male were interviewed followed by focus group discussions, key informant surveys and direct observations.*

*In this study area, total 133 species of 52 families were identified; out of which habit/plant type of 58 species were trees, 19 species were shrubs, 36 species were herbs, 3 species were grass and 17 species were climbers. Based on site condition, 10 species were dependent on wet regions of the wetland, 96 species on moist land and 27 on dry site condition. Among the communities, Tharu and indigenous group adjacent to the Beeshazar lake has close association with the use of the resources. Ten major types of species, having socio-cultural importance were Pipal, Bar, Bel, Sal, Aanp, Dhaturu, Aank, Tulsi, Dubo and Bayar. Among the highly collected edible resources; mushrooms (4 Species), *Dryopteris cochleata* (locally called as neuro), Spinach and Bamboo shoots make a good seasonal income to the local people. Local people make as much as NRs 20,000 per season by selling these mushrooms and fern. Amala, Harro and Barro, Asparagus and Sashra Buti were identified as a major contributor to household medicines. Local community forest user group is generating more than Rs. 19,42,468/year by selling wetland resources and using this cash for local development, skill development of community people, women empowerment, community forest office management, wetland resource conservation and management.*

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## ACRONYMS

BCN	Bird Conservation Nepal
BZCF	Bufferzone Community Forest
BZCFUG	Bufferzone Community Forest User Group
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
DFID	Department for International Development
DNPWC	Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FUGs	Forest User Groups
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GON	Government of Nepal
Ha	Hectare
HH	Household
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
MOFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
NTFPs	Non Timber Forest Products
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
VDC	Village Development Committee
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature