

**ECO-TOURISM IN NEPAL:
A CASE STUDY OF PHEWA LAKE AREA, POKHARA**

A Thesis

Submitted to:

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The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts
in Geography**

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Recommendation Letter

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by **Mr. Subash Kadariya** entitled "**Eco-tourism in Nepal : A case Study of Phewa Area, Pokhara**" has been prepared under my supervision in the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Geography. I recommend this thesis to the evaluation committee for examination.

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- Subash Kadariya

Abstract

Development problems of Nepal are unique and challenging because of its mountainous topography, geo-political situation as a buffer state and rural life style but Nepal is often described as Shangri-La for its scenic beauty. Nepal has an unequalled ecological and natural environmental variation ranging from the Terai plains to Mountains and High Himalayas representing richness in biological and cultural diversity.

Tourism can play a major role in Nepal's overall development. In fact, eco-tourism might turn out to be a blessing for Nepal. Past to now cultural impressions and reconciliatory heritages have remained note worthy and a great treasure. Opportunities for development and social transformation centered on participatory biological diversity conservation are endless. Individuals, community, society and the government can focus on attracting foreign tourists and promoting tourism business for the development of Nepal.

In view of the promotion of eco-tourism, this study examines the potentiality and essentiality of eco-tourism in Phewa area. In this context, this study focused on environmental Natural and cultural socio-economy condition on Phewa area in Kaski District. In short, Phewa Lake appears as if a celestial body fallen on earth from heaven but its loosing beauty is standing as a serious problem for Nepal and Nepalese. This study integrates environmental dimension in tourism development together and addresses development issues, management concerns and conservation needs in order to develop a framework for eco-tourism.

Results of the study suggest that there is great potentiality of eco-tourism and essentiality of environmental conservation in the area. The values and principles of eco-tourism are very essential to apply in the area not only for the foreigners but also equally to the locals especially who live in adjacent to the Phewa Lake.

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ACA	-	Annapurna Conservation Area
ACAP	-	Annapurna Conservation Area Project
CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
DNC	-	Destination Nepal Campaign
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GoN	-	Government of Nepal
IEC	-	International Eco-tourism Society
INGOs	-	International Non-governmental Organizations
IUCN	-	The World Conservation Union
NGOs	-	Non-governmental Organizations
NAC	-	Nepal Airlines Corporation
NTB	-	Nepal Tourism Board
SNV	-	Netherlands Development Organization
WTO	-	World Trade Organizations