

**Socio-economic Impact of Chitwan National Park Buffer Zone
Management Program
A Case Study of Kerunga User Committee, Jagatpur, Chitwan**

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Recommendation Letter

The thesis entitled **Socio-economic Impact of Chitwan National Park Buffer Zone Management Program, A case of study of Kerunga User Committee, Jagatpur, Chitwan** has been prepared by **Prakash Chandra Paudel** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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Declaration

I hereby Declare that **Socio-economic Impact of Chitwan National Park Buffer Zone Management Program, A Case of Study of Kerunga User Committee, Jagatpur, Chitwan** submitted to Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. i have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. the result of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has has been published in any from before.

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Abstract

Buffer zone management program was introduced for the first time around Chitwan National Park to minimize park people conflict. Of the total 30 to 50% of the revenue generated from the park is released back to concern park to conduct community development, livelihood upliftment and conservation activities in its buffer zone area. But the impact of this investment in socio-economic aspect of buffer zone communities has not yet well assessed. The Kerunga User Committee was selected to examine the socio-economic impact and to assess the level of people participation in bufferzone management program.

Household survey, group discussions, interviews, field visits and the existing records were reviewed to collect the data. Among the total users, 100 respondents were asked to prioritize the most preferred 5 different activities by giving 5 points for most favored one and 1 to the least liked one to conduct the detail study. Similarly 6 user groups out of the 84 were purposively selected to conduct group discussions and to get other detail information. The irrigation/boring program was highly preferred program followed by bio-gas, river training, electric fencing and road gravelling respectively among other several activities. During the period between 2060/061 to 2065/066, the program had invested Rs.4573650/- to construct 82 irrigation wells, 165 bio-gas plants, 10.5 Km of electric fence, about 1593 cubic metres river dam making and 4.9 Km local road gravelling and maintenance including other several community development and conservation activities. Community development program got Rs.1450795/- the 32 percentage of total fund followed by conservation program, income generation program, conservation education and administrative expenditure with 29%, 20%, 10% and 9% of the total fund respectively. Among the 84 user groups only 70% (59 user groups) were performing saving collection and 30% (25 user groups) had stopped doing so. The program development and fund investment were conducted through consensus process. The inclusiveness has been considered according to the caste composition of the society to form the user committees and other mechanisms. The poor, dalits and janajati people had been given priority to take part in different vocational trainings.

The buffer zone management program has contributed a lot to uplift the socio-economic status of the buffer zone communities, but further detail study covering the whole buffer

zone area needs to organize so the overall contribution can be assessed and a valid decision regarding to its improvements and continuation can be made.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

BZ	Buffer Zone
BZCF	Buffer Zone Community Forest
BZCFUG	Buffer Zone Community Forest User Group
BZMR	Buffer Zone Management Regulation
CBC	Community Based Conservation
CF	Community Forest
CNP	Chitwan National Park
CS	Cut Stumps
DBH	Diameter at Brest Height
DDC	District Development Committee
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
FSSD	Forest Survey and Statistical Division
GIS	Geographical Information System
GN	Government of Nepal
GPS	Global Position System
ha	Hectare
ICDP	Integrated Conservation and Development Project
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
IVI	Importance Value Index
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LU	Livestock Unit
MFSC	Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation
MPFSN	Master Plan for the Forestry Sector of Nepal
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
PA	Protected areas
PCP	Participatory Conservation Program
PPP	Park People Programs
TDN	Total Digestible Nutrients
TMH	Terai Mixed Hardwood
UNDP	United Nation for Development Programs
VDC	Village Development Committee
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas