

**PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF ECO-TOURISM**  
**(A Case Study of Shey-Phoksundo National Park Area in**  
**Dolpa District, Karnali Zone)**

2066

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Prospects and Challenges of Eco-Tourism

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to Central Department of Rural Development**  
**in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for**  
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## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The thesis work entitled have been "**Prospects and Challenges of Eco-tourism (A Case Study of Shey-Phoksundo National Park Area in Dolpa District, Karnali Zone)**" by **Mr. Hari Khatri** under my supervision as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master Arts in Rural Development.

To the best of my knowledge the study is original and carries useful information. I recommend it for evaluation to the report evaluation committee.

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Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka

(Supervisor)

Head of Department of Rural Department

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Date: 2066-12-

## LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

The thesis work entitled "**Prospects and Challenges of Eco-tourism (A Case Study of Shey-Phoksundo National Park Area in Dolpa District, Karnali Zone)**" by **Mr. Hari Khatri** is prepared for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master Arts in Rural Development.

**Approved**

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(Supervisor)  
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Every personal to global sector, there may not completely eradicate the confuse about eco-tourism, and its component's role with in the entire development sectors. So for getting nearer to the solution, with the help and support from locals, tourist and elites, National Park Office- Dolpa, in the real field S. Phoksundo National Park area. This practical knowledge guide from Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka, Head of the Department, his valuable supervision, suggestion, support in conduct and completion of this thesis. The Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation Office's permit for my exercise was real cooperative task for in the field. The sites of natural items, culture and related members of SPNP in the Phoksundo VDC–Bhim Gurung, Lama, Project member, Parliament member: Satya Pahadi and her group member's helped in journey to the field which gave me much support. So I would like to give special thanks to all those members, institutions, university, community, organizations and everyone involved with my practical and theoretical knowledge, experience and visit to the SPNP area. Also give heartily thanks to god that I was saved from dangerous accidents while in the field.

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Lastly "Have a nice Tourism Year-11!" to all the tours hearted individuals, organizations and so on, and this research may help to fulfill all the eco-tourism's aim in the future.

March, 2010

**Hari Khatri**

## **ABSTRACT**

*The thesis entitled "Prospects and Challenges of Eco-tourism: A Case Study of SPNP area of Dolpa" has been prepared for the fulfillment of master degree in Rural Development from the Central Department of RD, TU, Kirtipur. Its entirely based on the field survey in which researcher has exercised to highlighted the eco-tourism is one of the greatest industries in Dolpa; as its natural environment and cultural richness.*

*Eco-tourism is a new concept in the tourism sector and operations have been established all over the world particularly in developing countries on the assumption of poverty alleviation and environment conservation as well as minimum impact in environment sector.*

*The general objective of the study was to identity the prospects and challenges of eco-tourism in SPNP in Dolpa District and used the purposive sampling method in selected areas of SPNP. The primary data were collected through questionnaires and secondary data from various sources.*

*Among oil, automobile and tourism industries, the tourism or eco-tourism is suit-feasible in present situation due to the geography and lack of awareness in Nepal. Nepal has heavenly coloured nature and culture for human or any creature's feeling, knowledge and service for tourism scope to generate different sectoral developments. Its no doubt, originated in the event (activities) of human civilization and change of human desire.*

*The study identified that there were tremendous prospects of eco-tourism and challenges as well. The Phoksundo National Park, Jagdula and Phoksundo Lakes, Suligad (Phoksundo) Water fall, Fauna-flora, Medicinal Plants, Scenic View, Historically reputed Monasteries, Local Cultures and hospitality. Similarly, the challenges were found mainly about the geography accessibility, accommodation, trained manpower, communication, pure water drinking, medicinal facilities for altitude sickness, hospitals and schools. There were absence of wel, electricity, sanitation, marketing, medical facilities,*

*recreational centre, visitor information centre and entry fee which the were vital challenging problems.*

*The eco-tourism in Dolpa generated economic opportunities and opened the Iron Gate of various developmental sectors, for the sustainable nation development. Eco-tourism is regarded as an efficient and trustful approach in Dolpa-SPNP area. But it was not in a desirable extent and economic benefit also was not distributed equally. It concluded that SPNP area offers a high value of eco-tourism attraction in terms of the natural and scenic attributes combined with the socio-cultural and lifestyle of its indigenous people.*

*The research has been conducted on the basis of field survey applying exploratory cum descriptive in which 50 locals, 10 hotels and 40 tourists were taken as sample and also applied interview, timeline and table as tools.*

*The study had found animal husbandry almost cover 20-30% and besides, agriculture, seasonal migration and trade are ultimate economy sector. The major issues were poverty, livestock grazing, crop and livestock depredation, high dependency on natural resource and poaching. The species diversity in SPNP area were plants (1200), mammals (32), birds (200) and reptiles (40). There were two major Trekking Routes: ( 1) PNET (from Juphal airport to Rigmo) for 5 days long trek and (2) Juphal-Dunai-Dho-Rigmo-Suligad-Juphal: 10 days long trek, which is DEC. The best time to visit the area was September to October months.*

*Hence, the future of ecotourism in SPNP area is found to be very optimistic and relies heavily on who is responsible for marketing, eco-tourism planning, modifying entry fee, establishing infrastructure, making aware to locals and tourists regarding to eco-tourism in the study area (SPNP area). Apart this, eco-tourism provides a high level of education on ecology and environment, which has positive impact upon the protection of environment and culture and brings about economic benefits for the host communities and contributes to conservation activities efforts.*

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## ABBREVIATION

BZMC	–	Buffer Zone Management Committee
CBS	–	Central Bureau of Statistic
DDC	–	District Development Committee
DEC	–	Dolpa Experience Circuit
DHQ	–	District Head Quater
DNWC	–	Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation
HHs	–	Households
I/NGO	–	International and National Non-Governmental Organization
ICIMOD	–	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICT	–	Information Communication Technology
IYE	–	International Year at Eco-tourism
MDGs	–	Millennium Development Goals
MOCTCA	–	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
NATTA	–	Nepal Association of tour and Travel Agents
NTB	–	Nepal Tourism Board
NTS	–	Nepal Tourism Statistic
PNET	–	Phoksundo Nature Experience Trail
RD	–	Rural Development
SNV	–	Netherlands Development Organization
SPNP	–	SheyPhoksundo National Park
TAAN	–	Trekking Agents Association of Nepal
TRPAP	–	Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme
TU	–	Tribhuvan University
UN	–	United Nation
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	–	United Nation Environment Programme
WTO	–	World Tourism Organization
WWF	–	World Wildlife Fund