

PROSPECT OF ECO-TOURISM

IN UPPER HUMLA

A Thesis

Submitted to

**Central Department of Rural Development Faculty of
Humanities and Social Science in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in
Rural Development**

By

BASANTA ROKAYA

Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal
August, 2006

RECOMMENDATION - LETTER

This is to certify that Mr. Basanta Rokaya has Prepared the thesis entitled *Prospect of Eco-tourism in Upper Humla* under my Supervision and guidance for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master's Degree of Arts in Rural Development .

To the best of my Knowledge, the study is original and reveals useful information on the potentiality of ecotourism in Upper Humla. I therefore, recommend this thesis for final evaluation and acceptance.

Date : 21 August, 2005

Dr. Prem Sharma
(Supervisor)

APPROVAL - LETTER

This thesis prepared and Submitted by Mr. Basata Rokaya entitled *Prospect of Eco-tourism in Upper Humla* has been accepted for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree of arts in Rural Development.

Approval Committee

Prof. Dr. Pradeep K. Khadka
(Head of the Department)

Dr. Rudra Prasad Upadhyay
(External Examiner)

Dr. Prem Sharma
(Supervisor)

Date : 31st August, 2005

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nepal is rich in cultural and natural beauty . In Nepal, there are Many important and attractive places from the tourism point of view. One of them is Humla . For the nature lovers and pleasure seekers, Humla can provide many attractions. Especially, Upper Humla is high potential area for eco-tourism. So, I have chosen this issue for my study and this work have appeared in this form . I wish to acknowledge and extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to many individuals for their invaluable support, co-operation and various forms of help in the course of my research work .

First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude and sincere respect to my research supervisor Dr. Prem Sharma, Morning program in-charge of Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur for proper and constructive guidance. This study would not have come in this form without his constant supervision and support . I respectfully acknowledge and express sincere gratitude to prof. Dr. Pradeep K. Khadka, Head of the Central Department of Rural Development and to all my respected teachers for their kind cooperation and suggestions.

My Special thanks go to all my respondents for providing with their valuable suggestions and support during my field work. I am also grateful to all my friends who provided me the information and materials to accomplish the work. At last, but not least, I would like to hearty thanks to all Humli people who directly or indirectly provided good environment and encouraged me during the time of research.

August, 2006

- Basanta Rokaya

ABSTRACT

Tourism Industry is growing rapidly in the world today . It is estimated that about 80 % of Nepal's tourism market is linked with nature tourism or eco-tourism . In Nepal, ecotourism has been a great source of income and Community Development in some destinations. Humla is hidden and treasure Himalayan which is an open and living ethnic museum. It is also home of caravan, i.e. yak, sheep, goat and mule caravan. Therefore, This study has attempted to analyze the prospect of eco-tourism in Upper Humla .

The study entitled *Prospect of Eco-tourism in Upper Humla* is related to Upper Humla, which cover 13 VDCs. Especially, Upper Humla is called Marghor Himal to Hilsa (Tibet border) . To complete this study, 75 Local people and 15 tourists were selected and interviewed. Primary data and necessary information were collected through field survey and using various research techniques and instrument i.e. structured questionnaire, FGD, checklist, filed observation etc. With the help of various literature, secondary data and information were also collected. The overall objective of this study is to explore the prospect of eco-tourism in Upper Humla . The total population of Upper Humla was 19019. Among them 9933 were males and 9086 were females . Total households of the area was 3107. Most of the people of the area speak Nepali (Humli Khasa) and lama (Bhote Kham) Language . Main religion in the study area was Hinduism and Bauddhism. The climate of this area was cold and tropical. April to September is the best season for tourist visiting Humla.

The study revealed that the history of tourism in Humla is not very long. After the opening of the Simikot airport in 1978, and the route to kailash, later in 1993, flow of tourists to Humla gradually increased. Since F.Y. 2056/57 up to 2062/63 Baishakha total 3176 tourists visited in Humla but presently it has drastically decreased due to growing political instability in Nepal. Majority of tourists (60%) visited Humla for trekking to Mt. Kailash and Mansarobar lake. Among the total 75 local respondents, most of the respondents (40%) said that the behavior of tourists towards local people was normal type. Similarly, majority of the tourists (53.3%) said local people are helpful and co-operative towards them.

The study showed that Upper Humla was rich in eco-tourism resources. Limi valley, Halji Gompa, Selima lake, Chyachhara waterfall, Kermi hot spring, Yalbang gompa, Tumkot gompa, Simikot valley, Shiva temple, Nyinba Villages, Raling gompa, Kharpunath temple, Humla Karnali, Saipal, Panchamukhi & Chanla Himal, Dude and Lade Daha were major tourism spots in this area. Majority of the

respondent said that natural beauty, cultural heritage and eco-tour & trekking were the main eco-tourism attractions of Upper Humla. Upper Humla is well known in medicinal and floristic plants and fauna. So, it has a good scope for medical tourism. Majority of the local (20%) and tourist (20%) respondents expressed that lack of transportation and communication facilities were the main problems of ecotourism development in Upper Humla. In fact, the process of tourism development in Humla is taking place gradually, and the flow of tourists to Humla at present is quite low because of safety and security factors in one hand and easy access on the other. If these bottlenecks are not overcome, then Humla will fail to attract a large number of potential tourists in the near future. Most of the local respondent (25.6%) suggested that infrastructural and superstructural facilities should be developed for eco-tourism development in Upper Humla.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

Recommendation Letter	i
Approval Letter	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
Acronyms	vi
CHAPTER- I : INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Potential Eco-tourism sites	2
1.3 Statement of the Problem	3
1.4 Objectives of the Study	4
1.5 Significance of the Study	4
1.6 Selection of the Study Area	5
1.7 Limitation of the Study	6
1.8 Organization of the Study	6
CHAPTER- II : LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Theoretical Review	8
2.1.1 Concept of Eco-tourism	8
2.1.2 History of Eco-tourism	10
2.1.3 Principles of Eco-tourism	11
2.1.4 Characteristics of Eco-tourism	12
2.1.5 Importance of Eco-tourism	12
2.1.6 Eco-tourism and Other Forms of Tourism	13
2.2 Imperial Review	16
2.2.1 Eco-tourism in Global Scenario	16
2.2.2 Eco-tourism in National Scenario	17
2.2.3 Eco-tourism in District Scenario	19
CHAPTER- III : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Research Design	21
3.2 Universe and Sampling	21
3.3 Nature and Sources of Data	21
3.4 Techniques and Tools of Data Collection	22
3.4.1 Questionnaire	22
3.4.2 Interview	22
3.4.3 Observation	22
3.4.4 Focus Group Discussion	23
3.5 Data Analysis and Presentation	23
CHAPTER- IV : THE SETTING	
4.1 Humla District and Study Area	24

4.1.1	Geographical Location	25
4.1.2	Climate	25
4.1.3	Land/ Soil	26
4.1.4	Rivers and Lake	26
4.1.5	Flora and Fauna	27
4.1.6	Population	28
4.1.7	Nature, Culture and Adventure of the Study Area	29
4.2.	Pattern of Tourism Development in Humla	35
4.2.1	Tourism Products of Humla	35
4.2.2	Trend of Tourist Arrival in Humla	37
4.2.3	Tourist Purpose of Visit	38
4.2.4	Behavior of Local People and Tourist	40
4.2.5	Tourism Activities	42

CHAPTER- V : ECO-TOURISM RESOURCES

5.1	Eco-tourism Resources in Upper Humla	44
5.1.1	Mountain, (Eco-Himal)	44
5.1.2	Lake and Rivers	45
5.1.3	Flora and Fauna	46
5.1.4	Cultural Heritage	46
5.2	Major Tourism Spots in Upper Humla	47

CHAPTER - VI : PROSPECT OF ECO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

6.1	Prospect of Eco-Tourism Development in Upper Humla	56
6.1.1	Cultural Heritage	57
6.1.2	Natural Beauty	58
6.1.3	Eco-tour and Trekking	58
6.2	Major Problem of Eco-tourism Development	59
6.3	Impact of Eco-tourism	60
6.4	Suggestions for Eco-tourism Development in Upper Humla	62

CHAPTER - VII : SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND

RECOMMENDATION

7.1	Summary	64
7.1.1	Pattern of Tourism Development	64
7.1.2	Eco-tourism Resources	66
7.1.3	Prospect of Eco-tourism Development	67
7.2	Conclusion	67
7.3	Recommendations	68
7.3.1	Recommendations for Policy Implication	68
7.3.2	Recommendations for Further Research	69

REFERENCES

APPENDIX

Photo Plates of Humla

LIST OF TABLES

Table No - 1 : Situation of Land Coverage in Humla	26
Table No - 2 : Population Distribution of Humla by Caste	28
Table No - 3 : Households and Population Distribution of Upper Humla	29
Table No - 4 : Major Nature, Culture and Adventure of Upper Humla	30
Table No - 5 : Major Tourism Products of Humla	36
Table No - 6 : Tourists Arrival in Humla F.Y. 2056/57 up to 2062/63 Baishakha	37
Table No - 7 : Tourist Purpose of Visit	39
Table No - 8 : Behaviour of Local People and Tourists Towards Each Other	40
Table No - 9 : Hilsa and Holy Mt. Kailash route and walking days.	43
Table No - 10 : Mountains of Upper Humla	45
Table No - 11 : Importance of Cultural Heritage	47
Table No - 12 : Main Eco-tourism Attractions in Upper Humla	56
Table No - 13 : Major Problems of Eco-tourism Development in Upper Humla	59
Table No - 14 : Impact of Eco-tourism in Upper Humla	61
Table No - 15 : Suggestions for Eco-tourism Development in Upper Humla	62

LIST OF CHARTS

Chart No - 1 : Major Tourism Products of Humla	37
Chart No - 2 : Tourist arrival in Humla Since F.Y. 2056/57 up to 2062/63 Baiskakha 38	
Chart No - 3 : Tourist Purpose of Visit	40
Chart No - 4 : Behavior of Local People and Tourists Towards Each Other	41
Chart No - 5 : Main Eco-tourism Attractions in Upper Humla	57
Chart No - 6 : Major Problems of Eco-tourism Development in Upper Humla	60
Chart No - 7 : Suggestions for Eco-tourism Development in Upper Humla	63

LIST OF MAPS

Map No - 1 : Study Area.	
Map No - 2 : Trekking Route and Tourist Place in Upper Humla	
Map No - 3 : Trekking Route in Upper Humla	
Map No - 4 : Existing Trekking Route in Upper Humla	
Map No - 5 : Location of Karnali Region in Nepal	
Map No - 6 : Location of Humla in Karnali Region	
Map No - 7 : Location of Simikot in Nepal	
Map No. 8 : Socio Economic Status and Infrastructure Development of Humla in Nepal	
Map No. 9 : Bio-Diversity Conservation Sites in Nepal	
Map No. 10 : Some Wild Animals of Humla	
Map No. 11 : Some Birds of Humla	
Map No. 12 : Some Trees and Shrubs of Humla	

ACRONYMS

ACAP	-	Annapurna Conservation Area Project
ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
BS	-	Bikram Sambat
CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
DDC	-	District Development Committee
HCDA	-	Himalaya Conservation and Development Association
HMG	-	His Majesty's Government
IUCN	-	The World Conservation Union
MoCTCA	-	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
MoPE	-	Ministry of Population and Environment
NGO	-	Non-Government Organization
NTB	-	Nepal Tourism Board
PAs	-	Protected Areas
RDSC	-	Rural Development and Study Center
RNAC		Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation
SIDC	-	Snowland Integrated Development Center
SNV	-	Netherland Development Organization
STN	-	Sustainable Tourism Network
TIES	-	The International Ecotourism Society
TRPAP	-	Tourism for Rural poverty Alleviation Program
UNEP	-	United National Environment Programme
VDC	-	Village Development committee
WTO	-	World Tourism Organization