

**ROLE OF PROTECTED AREAS IN SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOOD OF LOCAL PEOPLE: A CASE STUDY OF
SHIVAPURI NATIONAL PARK, KATHMANDU**

by

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**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY,
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

It gives me pleasure to recommend for the evaluation and approval of the thesis work entitled "*Role of Protected Areas in Sustainable Livelihood of Local People: a Case Study of Shivapuri National Park*" prepared by Ramesh Kumar Lama. To the best of my knowledge, the study carries useful information in the field of sustainable livelihood studies.

Dr. Ek Raj Ojha
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ACCEPTANCE LETTER

This thesis entitled "*Role of Protected Areas in Sustainable Livelihood of Local People: A Case Study of Shivapuri National Park*" submitted by Ramesh Kumar Lama has been accepted for the fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's Degree of Arts in Rural Development.

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Acknowledgement

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Abstract

Protected areas are those areas that are established for conservation of nature, environment and biodiversity. In recent years, due to depletion of biodiversity with the degradation of environment there is an imbalance in nature. The livelihood of people, adjacent to such areas is vulnerable. The conflict between such areas and people is arising day by day for the use of natural resources. Protected areas can be known in various forms, i.e., National Parks Buffer zones, Strict Nature Reserves, Wildlife Reserves, Conservation Areas, and Hunting Reserves. Depletion of biodiversity affects the existence of human life, so establishment of protected areas plays significant role in the conservation of nature and existence of mankind in this planet.

Shivapuri National Park is a new park and was established in 2002. It was the main source of fuel wood, fodder and timber for the local people before the declaration of Wildlife Reserves. The Government of Nepal tried to check the problems of deterioration of natural ecosystem in 1976 and established development project in guidance and supervision of Shivapuri Development Board. Later, the area was gazetted as Shivapuri Watershed and Wildlife Reserve in 1984. This is only one of Nepal's Protected Area that lies entirely within the Middle Hills physiographic zone.

This study relates to the Mulkharka area of Sundarijal VDC in Kathmandu district. It analyzes the policies and programs relating to the Shivapuri National Park: The survey was conducted in 36 households by using simple random sampling method. Group discussion, observation and interview were applied for data collection.

The literacy rate of surveyed households is 58.07 percent. The primary occupation of the respondents is agriculture which comprises 58.33 percent and other respondents are engaged in livestock rearing, small business and labour. Maize,

millet and wheat are the major crops in the study area. The people in the study area heavily depend upon the traditional farming and livestock rearing so there is no significant positive change on their livelihood. Crops are also damaged by wildlife. People do not get any compensation from park authority.

Total respondents are dependent on firewood for fuel. Only one household has constructed bio-gas plant. Most of the respondents prepare alcohol, so consumption of firewood is very high. Over 33 percent of the households consume firewood upto 300 kg per month and 30.56 percent consume between 600-900 kg per month. The knowledge about alternative source of fuel is very poor in the local people.

This study shows that the livelihood of local people of Mulkharka is becoming more vulnerable due to loss of access to the resources. In the present situation, there is no program of Shivapuri National Park for participatory conservation and mutual co-existence. Conservation is not possible with the exclusion of the local people. Hence, the policy and program should be launched in favour of local people, which meet demand of the local people as well as conservation objective of the park and government as well. The alternative sources of fuel should be found and promoted for sustainable livelihood of local people. The buffer zone should be declared as soon as possible for participatory conservation and sustainable utilization of resources which will minimize the conflicts between park and people and assist in the sustainable development of the whole nation.

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List of Acronyms

B.A.	Bachelor of Art
BZ	Buffer Zone
CA	Conservation Areas
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Department For International Development
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
DOF	Department of Forest
HHS	Households
HR	Hunting Reserve
ICS	Improved Cooking Stoves
INGO	International Non Government Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LPG	Liquified Petroleum Gas
M.A.	Master of Arts
N P	National Park
NTFPS	Non-Timber Forest Products
PAs	Protected Areas
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
SNR	Strict Nature Reserve
T.U.	Tribhuvan University
VDC	Village Development Committee

Measurement Equivalentents

US \$ 1= Rupees 74

1 Ropani of Land= 0.521 Hactare or 5476 sq.foot.