

**ROLE AND IMPACT OF BUFFER ZONE IN
DEVELOPMENT:
A Case Study of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Kanchanpur**

**A Thesis Submitted to
The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Tribhuvan University,
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in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for the
Degree of the Master of Arts (M.A.)
in
Rural Development**

**By
RANJANA LUITEL
Mahendra Ratna Multiple Campus Ilam
Department of Rural Development
T U Regd. No. 7-2-1-1014-2006
Exam Roll No. 10047
Feb, 2021**

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

The thesis entitled **Role And Impact Of Buffer Zone In Development: A Case Study of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Kanchanpur** has been prepared by **Ranjana Luitel** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

.....

Bed Nath Giri
Teaching Assistant
(Supervisor)

Date:- 14-02- 2021 (A.D)

02-11- 2077 (B.S)

APPROVAL LETTER

The thesis work entitled **Role And Impact Of Buffer Zone In Development: A Case Study of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Kanchanpur** Submitted by **Ranjana Luitel** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Degree of Master of Art's (M.A) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

Evaluation Committee

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.....

Head

.....

External Examiner

.....

Bed Nath Giri

Supervisor

Date:- 14-02- 2021 (A.D)

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Role And Impact Of Buffer Zone In Development: A Case Study of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Kanchanpur** submitted to the Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, Mahendra Ratna Multiple Campus, Ilam is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgement to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing the thesis. The results of this course of preparing this thesis. The results 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 been published in any form before.

.....

Ranjana Luitel

T U Regd. No. 7-2-1-1014-2006

Date:- 04-02- 2021 (A.D)

02-11- 2077 (B.S)

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.....

Ranjana Luitel

Feb. 2021

ABSTRACT

The SWR harbors the largest grassland inside the reserve which is known as “Sukilaphanta” “white grassland”. When the grass blooms in winter the seed head appear as glorious white. In winter (January to April) the largest herd of swamp deer in the world can be seen from different machans (view tower) located at different sites. To the north side on a clear day, the Nanda Devi Mountain can be seen. This is a very good place to take an elephant safari, as there are several small ponds that draw wildlife to them. It phanta is managed by controlled burning to help produce suitable habitat especially for the forage to the Swamp Deer. This area is good for sighting wild elephant and other wildlife. Within the reserve, there are number of artificial waterholes. These were made to attract animals away from poaching prone Mahakali River area and improve the habitat. Most of Suklaphanta’s wildlife can visited these areas, so these areas surrounding the waterholes are better space to observe animals’ The specific objectives are: to examine the physical development status of the local people living around buffer zone area of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, to analyze problems and prospects of buffer zone approach of community development, to assess community development programs during buffer zone management. Primary data and information were cpllected through sample house hold survey in five sample study locations- Chathari, Sunderpur, Bagphanta, Nayagaun, Lalpur followed by observation by the surveyor which includes total 50 household surveys and observations (10 sample households per sample study locations) using structured questionnaire and observation sheet.

There is positive impact of the SWR in terms of income and employment generation in the buffer zone area. Average 90% respondent says that buffer zone is fruitful to conserve the water resource. Average 6% argue is they are suffering by wild animals. The survey suggests further in-depth study on promoting sustainable rural tourism business in the buffer zone, developing community forests with integration of livestock farming and related industrial activities, beekeeping and sericulture. Minimization of Park-People conflict and increasing participatory interaction/cooperation seems compulsory, developing and implementing appropriate policies and programs.

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

A D	Anna Domini
B S	Bikram Sambat
BCC	Biodiversity Conservation Center
BZ	Buffer Zone
CBD	Conservation Of Biological Diversity
EIA	Environmental Impact assessment
ERBC	Eco-region-based Conservation
GATT	General Agreements On Trade And Tariffs
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
NBS	Nepal Biodiversity Strategy
NCRTC	Nepal Conservation Research And Training Center
NPC	National Planning Commission
PA	Protected Areas
SWR	Shuklaphand Wild Life Reserve
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
WRI	World Resource Institute
WTO	World Trade Organization