

Feedback on KVCTT by Thomas Winkler
March 16th – March 24th, 2012

Sundarijal to Chisapani

The trail from Sundarijal to Chisapani is fairly clean except from the area around the army post at the National Park entrance. There is also a lot of rubbish in the trench along the stairs in Mulkharka. However, the trail from Mulkharka to Chisapani can be considered as clean. There are more than enough trash bins on the way but it seems that some of them are used as incinerators to burn the waste. This leads to damages of the bins – people should be told to use the ‘real’ incinerators for burning the waste.

The trail to Chisapani is easy to find as there are more than enough signs which show the way. The trek itself is in a very good condition all along the way of the first day-hike.

I also had the chance to visit the NETIF office in Mulkharka and the meeting room in the former King’s Palace. It seems that everyone, to whom I spoke in Mulkharka and also in Chisapani, highly appreciated the work NETIF has done so far.

In my opinion there is enough information for locals about NETIF in Mulkharka and Chisapani. However, tourists would like to know more about the area, villages and also about sustainable tourism. Many of them did not recognize that NETIF is promoting the trekking trail.

Chisapani to Nagarkot

The second day-hike from Chisapani to Nagarkot is very well signed and can easily be hiked without a guide. The trail in the Chisapani area is clean as well, except from the resting shelters. Unfortunately, many people do not know how to use the trash bins (see picture from the first tourist shelter after leaving Chisapani). However, there



is more garbage lying around in the area Nagarkot is responsible for, especially around Hotel Buddha and at the border of the Chisapani and Nagarkot area around the high school. I was told that the garbage collector of Nagarkot was not working at the moment due to some problems.

Nagarkot itself is quite dirty with a lot of garbage around even though there are many trash bins provided.

The trail itself is nice and in a good condition, I especially enjoyed the part through Jhule, however as a new road is built right after Hotel Buddha it might be necessary to find a substitution trail for this part in the future. The overall impression of this part of the trail was very good as it is a nice mixture of natural and cultural experience on the way.

Nagarkot to Dhulikhel

The last day-hike from Nagarkot to Dhulikhel got nice views of the valley around but, unfortunately a lot of garbage on the ground, especially in the area Dhulikhel is responsible for. The village coordinator of Dhulikhel himself threw plastic bags just on the ground which shows to me that he should be trained in waste management and how to use waste bins. There was also a lack of waste bins along the track and I did not see any incinerators.

However, the trail itself is in a good condition, even though most of it is on a dirty road. There are enough signs to find the way to Dhulikhel.

The only thing I can see about Dhulikhel itself is, that quite a few guesthouse owners did not know about NETIF and what it is doing but seems interested in NETIF's work.

Overall impression

The overall impression of the KVCTT was very good, especially on the way from Sundarjal to Nagarkot. The trail was, most of the time, fairly clean and the locals showed me their great hospitality. I got to see NETIF work such as organic farms, mushroom farming and cook training. Everyone seemed very eager to show me the work they have done (in cooperation with NETIF). From my point of view, NETIF is on the right way in promoting sustainable tourism principles on this track especially in cooperation with the Nagarkot Naldum Tourism Development Committee, however, of course more work needs to be done.

Suggestions

- information boards in the villages which explains some facts about the village itself and the surrounding flora and fauna
- some kind of souvenir shop in Chisapani (post cards, small handicrafts, herbs, tea, etc. → something that a trekker would carry)
- Nepali NETIF boards about the necessity of keeping the environment clean also in english (at least a few)