



Chisapani wetlands area, a water recharge zone for Kathmandu drinking water supply

Payment for Environmental Services (PES) Action Research Project

Payment for Environmental Services (PES) is a mechanism that has been tried and tested in many countries around the world, but for Nepal it is a totally new concept. As a general definition it is a form of sustainable financing for conservation, or in other words, a voluntary or mandatory-by-law practice for farmers or landowners to be paid or offered incentives to help protect the natural resources of their land or other ecological services. The PES scheme basically involves charging the beneficiary groups 'downstream' for the services received, and paying to the community groups 'upstream' to finance the conservation management of the area.

PES mechanisms can be effective in protected area management, only when they also contribute to the livelihoods and wellbeing of the local communities. The initial feasibility study in the the Sundarrijal catchment area of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park indicated that the people living in the villages inside the protected area are suffering economically, with little trust and intense conflict with the park authorities. With few livelihood options local people have resorted to making alcohol, using fuel wood collected from the protective area.

NETIF along with Forest Action Nepal are collaborating with ICIMOD to carry out action research, awareness campaigns, and environmental conservation training initiatives within the watershed catchment area of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, which supplies 66% of the drinking water to the inhabitants of Kathmandu. The project includes coordinating, supporting, and empowering the local stakeholders such as the local government committees, schools, clubs, and institutions on the importance of implementing such a scheme and the level of benefit they could potentially receive. NETIF is working on this pilot scheme in conjunction with their own action research programmes such as the organic farming training, waste management, and sanitation as prime examples of environmental conservation techniques.

Responsible Tourism in Nepal

Nepal is often regarded as the jewel set in the majestic Himalayan mountain range, rich with its biodiversity, flora, fauna and multiethnic groups, attracting thousands of tourists each year. As an industry, tourism has the potential of alleviating the poorer population out of poverty by offering opportunities to business entrepreneurs to work with rural communities, while also actively contributing to conserving the country's natural and cultural heritage.

However for this to be successfully achieved the current tourism paradigm, which impacts on the increasing pressure of the country's natural resources, as well as its waste management problem, must change to a more responsible and sustainable form of tourism which focuses on the triple bottom line; **economic growth** – for the industry businesses impacting on the country's GDP; **environmental protection** – to conserve the natural beauty and wildlife, while mitigating problems such as pollution, energy conservation, waste, and natural resource degradation; and **social responsibility** – the inclusion of the poorer communities within the economic benefits scenario through sustainable livelihood development.

Tourism entrepreneurs cover a wide range of businesses such as hotels, travel and trekking agents, restaurants, transport and so on, where each one can actively make a positive impact on both the social development and natural environment. For example, travel companies or hotels can purchase locally grown and/or prepared food in the villages, encourage the set up of lodges and homestays, which can save on the costs of carrying food in from the city, as well as reducing the waste element and the need for excessive fuel wood.

NETIF strongly believes that responsible tourism is a key factor for Nepal's development and its future sustainability, ensuring equitable livelihoods for the society as a whole.

Show your solidarity for environment conservation

Nepal Tourism, Outdoor & Environment Development Project 2009 – 2013

Better Environment for Better Tourism



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Nepal Environment and Tourism Initiative Foundation (NETIF)

The desire to reinvigorate Nepal's economy through tourism and sustain its lifeline gave rise to Nepal Environment and Tourism Initiative Foundation (NETIF). NETIF is a non-profit, non-political, and non-religious, national level organisation committed to environmentally friendly, socially responsible, and economically viable tourism development in Nepal. One of NETIF's objectives is to facilitate the transition of rural tourism sectors towards dynamic environmental considerations. The other objectives are promoting sustainable tourism and environmental practices, providing a platform for the stakeholders of tourism industries and the local community. Our members consist of tourism entrepreneurs, environmentalists, and social workers.

Suomen Latu Finnish Central Association for Recreational Sports and Outdoor Activities

The Finnish Central Association for Recreational Sports and Outdoor Activities is a promoter of outdoor recreation, an expert in hiking, and an organization open to all, with a membership of more than 80,000 worldwide. Although Suomen Latu mainly works in Finland, since 1997 steps towards becoming an INGO have been taken. From 1997 to 2000 Suomen Latu carried out a development cooperation project in Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania, and has been working in Nepal since 2006.

Suomen Latu is NETIF's international co-partner, a Finnish non-governmental organization which provides technical and financial support, and whose members regularly visit Nepal, and in particular, participate on the Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail (KVCTT). The funding for NETIF comes via Suomen Latu, as official development aid from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.



Nepal Tourism, Outdoor & Environment Development Project (NTOEDP) Phase I (2009 - 2010)



NETIF primarily acts as a bridge between the local hospitality entrepreneurs and communities, using the environment as a catalyst for both groups to collaborate together to provide services for the visiting tourists and livelihoods for the local communities with the objective to create a 'Better Environment for Better Tourism'.

Nepal Tourism, Outdoor and Environment Development Project (NTOEDP) is the working arm of NETIF, with the view to enable stakeholders to create a destination without pollution and waste, where nature and wildlife areas are protected, where friendships prevail among tourists, local communities and entrepreneurs, and a destination where tourists will have a memorable holiday, entrepreneurs will have enough business and security, and local people will have enough food, shelter and dignity. The project is developing the Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail (KVCTT), which starts from Sundarimal via Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, passing through Mulkharka, Chisapani, Nagarkot, Dhulikhel, Namobuddha, Balthali, and ending in Panauti.

During the first phase, NETIF focussed on implementing three major elements of the NTOEDP plan:

Education - to all stakeholders involved about the importance of our natural environment and how to sustain it; how caring for the surrounding environment will attract interested tourists, improve the quality of life for the local communities as well as creating a sustainable income for all.

Plan of action - using participatory community and private public partnership (PPP) methodologies, bringing together both the private and public sectors to understand, support, and finance the plan of action, ensuring a cohesive involvement for successful implementation.

Advocacy - supporting and facilitating the different initiatives and schemes of the project.

NTOEDP Project Activities:

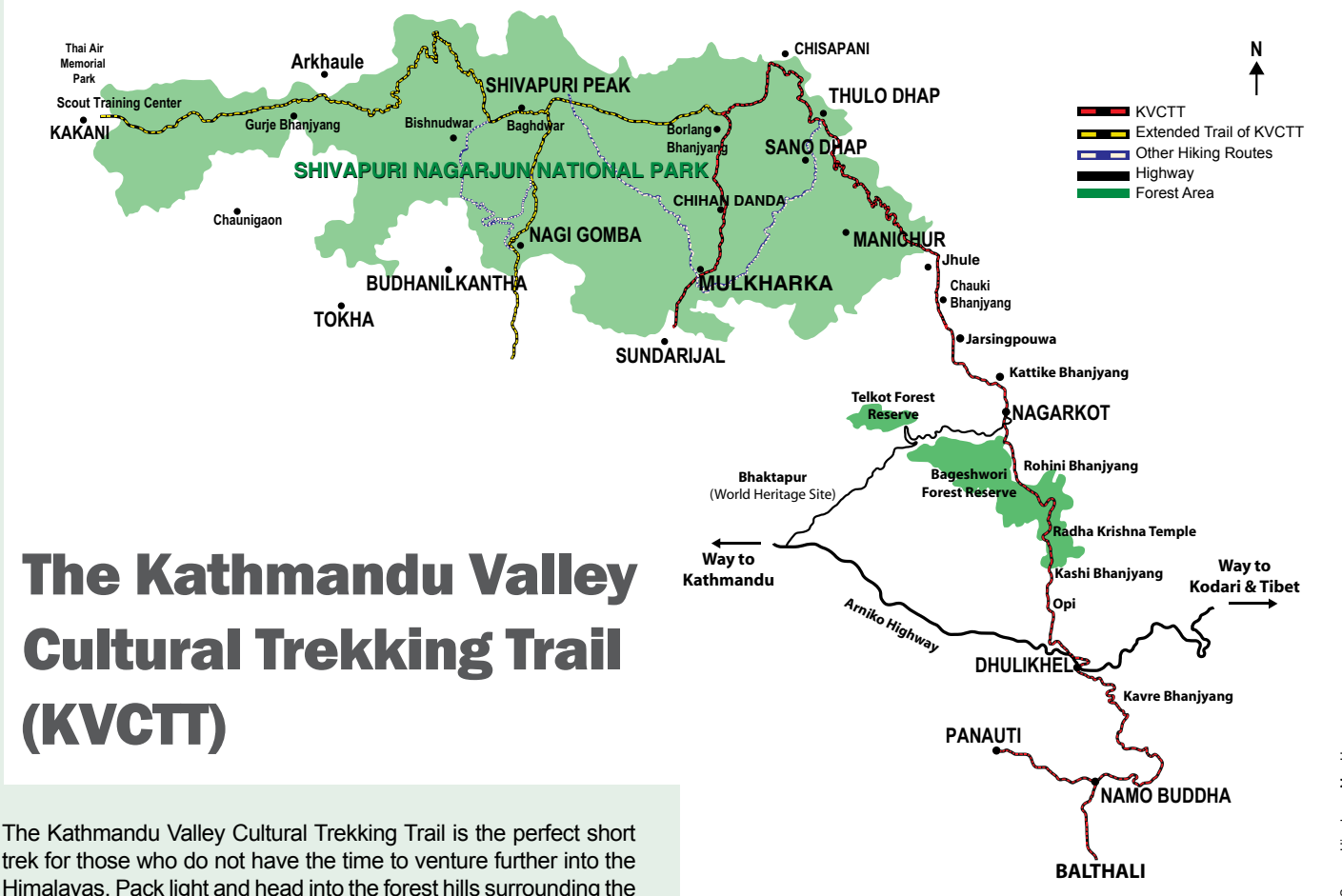
Trekking trail infrastructure:

Construction of tourist shelters, view decks, public toilets, waste bins, trail upgrade and maintenance, trail route indicators, and environmental awareness & information signs.



Local capacity building:

Tourism related local business initiatives such as organic farming, a cultural dance performance group, and hotel & guide training programmes.



The Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail (KVCTT)

The Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail is the perfect short trek for those who do not have the time to venture further into the Himalayas. Pack light and head into the forest hills surrounding the valley rim for this culturally rich trek.

The trail displays the best of Nepal's rural culture, biodiversity and stunning Himalayan views that can be enjoyed with simple preparation and minimal equipment. The trail begins from Sundarimal, the entrance to Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, a watershed only 30 minutes drive from the centre of Kathmandu. Along the way you will be treated to pristine wilderness and diverse ethnic groups living in the unspoiled rural areas, encompassing Nepal's most popular hill stations: Chisapani, Nagarkot, and Dhulikhel, where various categories of lodges and hotels are available.

The trail is a moderate no fuss trek, with distances lasting six to seven hours each day on mainly undulating terrain with a few long climbs. This is a low altitude trek which does not elevate to more than 2,500m and therefore should not create any problems with altitude related illnesses. You will need a good level of fitness and stamina to complete the full distance. The daily treks can be easily done in individual parts, a day or two at a time with the section(s) of your choice, or as a five day trek. The KVCTT trek can be attempted with or without a guide, as all you need is the itinerary and a good map. However, if you do not want to trek alone you can arrange for a guide or a trekking package from one of Kathmandu's many registered trekking agencies. For more information on the routes and accommodation please check our website on: www.netif-nepal.org.

Day 1 Sundarimal to Chisapani	
	uphill via Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park entrance gate, Kolthupa, Mulkharka, Daurail, & Borlang Bhanjyang (2,500 m)
Trekking Time	6 hours
Distance	16 km

Day 2 Chisapani to Nagarkot	
	via Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, Dhap (wetlands area), Jhulay, Chauki Bhanjyang, Jarsingpouwa, & Naldum
Trekking Time	7 hours
Distance	18 km

Day 3 Nagarkot to Dhulikhel	
	via Rohini Bhanjyang, Jal Jalay, Sashi Pani, Kashi Bhanjyang, Opi
Trekking Time	7 hours
Distance	18 km

Day 4 Dhulikhel to Balthali	
	via Devasthan, Kavre Bhanjyang, Namobuddha, Balthali
Trekking Time	7 hours
Distance	18 km

Day 5 Balthali to Panauti	
	via Khopasi, and drive back to Kathmandu from Panauti
Trekking Time	3 hours
Distance	6 km

We are enhancing our project area by extending the trekking trail all the way from Budhanilkanta (Pani Mohan), Nagi Gompa, and Shivapuri peak, merging into the KVCTT from Chisapani, which is an adventurous seven hour trek, rich in biodiversity and a must for avid bird watchers.

Nepal Tourism, Outdoor & Environment Development Project (NTOEDP) Phase II (2011 - 2013)

Following a full evaluation review, it was decided that Phase II of the project would extend the Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail route covering the western side of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, starting through Budhanilkanta (Pani Mohan), Nagi Gompa, Shivapuri peak, to Chisapani, adopting the same principles and methodologies as Phase I. While still continuing to supervise and monitor the existing KVCTT communities, as well as mediating with different national and international boards and institutions.

Emphasis will also be focussing on the continued work with tourism entrepreneurs (lodge & hoteliers, travel and trekking agencies, and restaurants) and communities to actively integrate responsible tourism best practice guidelines with plans to further develop the following:

- ✘ Community and social Involvement,
- ✘ responsible tourism certification initiatives,
- ✘ capacity building training programmes,
- ✘ procurement policies, local business promotion,
- ✘ pollution, waste management, and recycling schemes,
- ✘ energy management,
- ✘ water conservation and tree planting initiatives,
- ✘ and assist in the start up of community lodges and home stay enterprises to empower sustainable community income generation.

NTOEDP Project Activities:

Promotional activities:

Organised and promotion of hiking events along different routes of the trail, KVCTT guide book, documentary, and brochures.



Networking and alliance building:

Coordinated village and trekking trail clean up campaigns with the local community, Government, schools, and businesses.