

**Report on NETIF project – Kathmandu Valley Culture Trekking Trail**  
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The evaluation of the KVCTT is overall a positive one. The indicators in my thesis report will show that the project is rated 1.97 out of 4 points (for more information about the indicators please have a look at my thesis report).

One of the main achievements of NETIF is the creation of four local institutions which are supposed to take over the project after phasing out. In Nagarkot, for example, this institution has a close cooperation with hoteliers and other tourism stakeholders which shows the success in this area.

Furthermore, a second big issue of NETIF was cleaning the villages and the trek. Especially in areas without a proper street, where villages depend on trekking tourism, NETIF was successful. The trek in the Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park is clean and it seems that the garbage bins are being used. However, it is a little bit different in Nagarkot and Dhulikhel where garbage is still on the ground.

Most of the villagers to whom I have talked were very satisfied with NETIF's work and most of them are hoping for a long cooperation. A very important part of NETIF's work are the trainings which were organised in the villages. It gives people the opportunity to learn in order to get a job in the tourism business. Especially for young people this is a great chance to find a good job. This can be seen as the biggest social contribution to the area.

There are also parts of the project where NETIF has still some work to do. During my research I found out, that hardly anyone had a clear understanding of ecotourism or sustainable tourism. As NETIF wants to promote sustainable tourism principles in the area it is necessary to educate the locals and tell them more about it. Another issue is the information which is given to tourists. Many tourists did not know that NETIF is promoting this trekking trail or that there is a sustainable tourism project going on. Many tourists also requested more information about the flora and fauna in the area.

However, the overall impression of the KVCTT is very positive and it is definitely a step towards a sustainable tourism management in this area of the Kathmandu Valley. According to the three pillars of ecotourism the following achievements of NETIF can be stated:

- *Economic benefit* of community members through promotion of the trekking trail and also the creation of the four local institutions
- *Social benefit* of community members through trainings
- *Ecological benefit* through cleaning campaigns and promotion of organic farming

All these actions (will) lead to empowerment of local people and to more self-governance in the communities.

For more and detailed information please have a look at the 'Report on the survey at KVCTT.pdf' and 'Feedback on KVCTT.pdf'.