

Sustainable tourism: NGOs' tool for community development



How NGOs' action in tourism industry lead to community development in Nepal ?

HUDRY Cecile

Sous la direction de Madame FROCHOT Isabelle

Master Degree in Tourism Destination Management

Savoy University

2012

Abstract

Nepal has ever been a popular destination among trekkers and mountaineers. The number of tourists has grown exponentially in recent decades, and the government has encouraged mass tourism, impacting positively the economic growth but also bringing negative effect on environment, resources and culture of local communities. Sustainable tourism appears as the best way to carry on economic development while preserving natural environment and community culture and heritage. Because of the failure of government to settle up sustainable measures in tourism industry, Nongovernmental Organization seems to be the best alternative to implement and manage a sustainable tourism development in Nepal.

The purpose of this report is to understand how NGOs actions in tourism industry lead to community development. The researches mainly took place in the Kathmandu Valley where the Nongovernmental Organization named NETIF (Nepal Environmental and Tourism Initiative Foundation) has developed the sustainable tourism project of the Katmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail in collaboration with local communities.

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, I take immense pleasure in thanking Mr Arun Shrestha President of NETIF and project manager and Mr Prabin Paudel, project coordinator, for having permitted me to achieve my internship in NETIF. They kindly received and guided me during my research.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to all members of NETIF staff and a special note of thanks is extended to Mr Dhana Lama, Mr Nayaran Shrestha and Mr Jayog Shrestha for all their valuable assistance and advice during all my stay in Nepal.

I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Isabelle Frochot for her support, advice and encouragement during this research. I would like to extend my thanks to the Savoy University members who gave me the possibility to achieve this experience.

This report could not have been completed without the help and cooperation of all travel and trekking agencies manager and all collaborator who kindly agreed to share with me their professional expertise. My deepest thankfulness are conveyed to Mr. Lila Bahadur Baniya, Manager of Tourism Product and research Development Unit in Nepal Tourism Board, Mr Granger Pant CEO of TAAN and Mr Gopal Bhattarai, chief conservation officer of SNNP for their commitment and valuable collaboration.

Additional thanks to Hari Bhuvan Bhuju, Managing Director and Adventure Consultant of Himalayan Eco Treks and Travel who has imparted his knowledge and experience and hardly contributed to this research.

I thank the Rhone-Alpes Region for the financial assistance granted by Explora' organization for provided me a golden opportunity to experience this amazing adventure in Nepal.

Last but not least, I want to thanks all friends and family members for their support and backing during all my stay in Nepal. A special thanks to Lamotte Vivien and Bondier Jérôme for their assistance, belief and encouragement during my trip.

Contents

Acknowledgement	3
Contents	4
Acronyms	6
Introduction	7
I. Successful tourism strategy factors	8
1. Preconditions for tourism development.....	9
1. The tourist endowments enhancement	9
2. The role of tourist demand	11
3. Trade policies	12
4. The social and cultural policies	12
5. The Environmental Policy.....	13
2. Stakeholders' role in sustainable tourism development	14
1. Political framework	14
2. The Private sector	16
3. The tourist standpoint.....	17
4. The civil sector : Local communities and NGO	18
3. Sustainable tourism an ambiguous expression?.....	20
1. Definition and concept.....	20
2. Sustainable tourism in Kathmandu Valley	21
3. NETIF vision	23
II. NGO leading role in sustainable tourism implementation	26
1. NGO: Leader actor of governance.....	26
1. Stakeholders coordination and teamwork System	27
2. Information system	28
2. The power of enforcement	30
1. Link between private and public sector	30
2. Partnership building and influence	31
3. Lobbying.....	33

3.	Tourism infrastructure development.....	35
1.	Improvement of tourism experience and destination promotion.....	35
2.	Development planning.....	37
III.	Local communities development.....	39
1.	Local community building and respect of socio cultural identity	40
1.	Needs and resources assessment	40
2.	Active involvement of local communities.....	41
3.	Tourism environmental awareness.....	43
2.	A viable economic activity.....	45
1.	Natural ressources management.....	45
2.	Quality employment	47
3.	Community awareness and education.....	49
3.	Funding and infrastructure development.....	52
1.	Revenue and types of funding	52
2.	Implementation of infrastructure	55
	Conclusion.....	57
	Bibliography	58
	Table of Appendix	60

Acronyms

ACAP	Annapurna Conservation Project
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
INTRAC	International NGO Training and Research Centre
KVCTT	Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail
MOTCA	Ministry of Tourism, culture and Civil Aviation
NATTA	Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agencies
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NTOEDP	Nepal Tourism, Outdoor and Environment Development Project
NTB	Nepal Tourism Board
NETIF	Nepal Environment and Tourism Initiative Foundation
PATA	Pacific Asia Travel Association
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Service
PPT	Pro-Poor Tourism
TAAN	Trekking Agents Association of Nepal
TIES	The International Ecotourism Society
SETDS	Sundarjal Environment and Tourism Development Society
UN	United Nation
UNWTO	The United Nations World Tourism Organization
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization

Introduction

Nepal is a third world country considered as a paradise for trekkers and recognized as heaven for Buddhism and Hinduism adept. Tourism sector in Nepal has become one of the largest and the most dynamic industry, but even in the holy ground there is devil! Despite the economic growth mainly drive by tourism sector; the country is still affected with low literacy, poor infrastructures, under-equipped health and education system and contamination and political instability as the result that Nepal ranks in the 10 poorest countries in the world. Furthermore, environmental degradation is becoming one of the biggest issues in Nepal; thousands of trekkers come each year to climb the roof of the world and turn it into a big dump.

At the same time, the processes of globalization have radically transformed the traditional role of Non Governmental actors and most especially in third world countries as Nepal. Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have become increasingly important agents of the development process which constitute a viable alternative to government in developing countries.

Because of a declining faith in the capacity of Nepal government to solve the interrelated problems of social welfare, development, and the environmental protection, Non Governmental Organizations seems to be the best alternative to whether took on the responsibility for developing tourism and improve community development.

The objective of this thesis is to clear up the following question:

How NGOs actions in tourism sector lead to community development?

To answer this question, we will first define indicators for successful tourism development in Nepal by identifying essentials preconditions for tourism development in Nepal, key stakeholders and the importance of sustainable development. Then we will determine the role and challenges of Nongovernmental Organization in the tourism industry in Nepal. To finish, we will explain the link between their action in sustainable tourism development and local community development.

I. Successful tourism strategy factors



In order to well determine how NGOs are influential in the Tourism sector, it is important to understand how this sector is organized in Nepal, who the main stakeholders are and how far sustainability is important for this industry.

To analyze the tourism industry in Nepal I decided to start from the 5 essentials preconditions defined by the theorist Francois Vellas - Director Research Institute for Economy and Tourism Service (CEREST) to develop a tourism strategy:

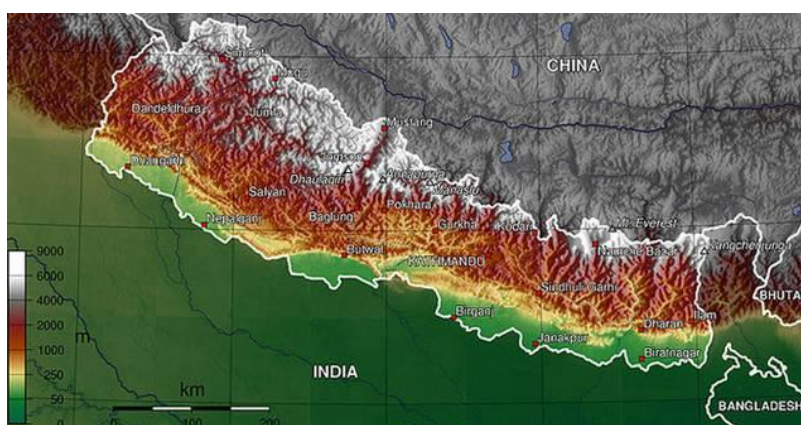
1. Preconditions for tourism development

1. *The tourist endowments enhancement*

The allocations are determined by the significance and the value of available resources in Nepal for tourism development. We can split it in 3 different types:

-Natural resources:

The natural environment is an important resource for tourism and it's even truer in Nepal which possesses eight of the ten highest mountains in the world. This unique feature is a significant asset for tourism attraction in Nepal. There is several different features in Nepal including green paddy terraces, wind-swept deserts, marshy grasslands and dense forests. As for example we can notice that the forest occupies about 37% of the total land of Nepal.



Source: <http://ethichimalaya.com/nepal.php>

Other important natural resource is water as Nepal is the second richest country concerning water resources in the world after Brazil. The variety in Nepal's topography provides home to wildlife like tigers, rhinos, monkeys, bears, yaks, leopards and different species of insects and birds.

Nepal has a remarkable natural potential however, infrastructures to well operate and manage those resources are poor and insufficient.

-Artistic resources, cultural and historical heritage :

Nepal holds a considerably high number of places recognized by UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization) as "World Heritage Sites". Focus on the

Kathmandu Valley, there is three main historic districts namely Kathmandu Durbar Square, Patan and Bhaktapur. There are a cluster of ancient temples and streets those date back to the 12th and 18th centuries. However, corrosive chemicals in the polluted air attack the surface materials in buildings, consequently disfiguring and sometimes even destroying the facades of historic landmarks. Uncollected debris and untreated liquid waste taint the visual and olfactory charm of grand public spaces and palace squares, for which the three towns of the Valley have long been famous.

Despite the degradation, Nepal remains a landmark destination for cultural tourism especially because culture in Nepal is the way of life of the entire society as every aspect of life, clothing, food, events or works are culturally classified.

Artistic resources, cultural and historical heritage constitute a big potential for tourism development but there is a need of heritage rehabilitation and conservation.

-Tourist infrastructures:

There are no available detailed data about accommodations in Nepal, we can note that the hotels quoted are from non-star category to the five star hotels. According to the Ministry of Tourism, culture and Civil Aviation (MOTCA) there were a total of 607 hotels in Nepal in 2006.

Hotel, rooms and beds (2006)

Number of Hotel	Number of Room	Number of Beds
607	12253	24260

Source: Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, 2006

Hotels are mainly centralized in Kathmandu Valley but some area as West region of Nepal are very bad equipped for tourist accommodation.

Regarding transportation, there are few direct flights to Nepal, which means most travelers from Europe, North America and Australia have to transit in India. Nepal's only international airport is Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport.

In the country, buses are usually the quickest and easiest form of transport even if Nepal is equipped with 40 national airports. Due to a large number of air accident, tourists feels unsafe in using national flight for transportation.

Nepal has a multitude of activities and attractions to offers to tourists: rural & cultural tourism, temples, trekking, rock climbing, rafting... and nine National Parks and four Wildlife Reserves which most of them are equipped with hotel, and restaurants and offer activities as jungle safari or bird watching.

The relative abundance of those natural, cultural, historical resources and tourists infrastructures has a decisive influence in explaining the country's place in international tourism. We can notice that Nepal has a big potential for tourism industry regarding to tourist endowments but there is lack in resources conservation and some tourism infrastructure are unreliable; those perspective could be a curb for tourism development.

2. The role of tourist demand

The tourist demand in Nepal encompasses domestic, regional and international demand. After it was opened for foreign visitors in early 1950s the number of tourists visiting Nepal has increased from 6,000 in 1960 to 600 000 in 2010.

Since 1980, the average annual tourists' arrivals rate growth of 10%. As shown in the graph below, the main source of visitor is Asia with more than 53% of tourist arrivals which include the domestic demand.

Tourist Arrival By Continent – 2007 (By air only)

Year	North America	Central & South America	Western Europe	Eastern Europe	Africa	Asia	Australia & Pacific	Others
2007	31,294	12,952	135,064	25,69	2,01	282,297	16,186	20,22
%	5,90%	2,50%	25,70%	4,90%	0,40%	53,80%	3,10%	3,80%

Source: Nepal Tourism Board, 2008

The touristic demand is significant and increasing since last 10 years. This is all the more important that more than 40% of tourist are international tourists who bring foreign currency and have an average expenditure generally higher than domestic.

3. Trade policies

Trade policies relate to the liberalization of the exchange of tourist services. In Nepal we can mention the visa policy as the major brake of tourism attraction. For European and American tourists, a one month visa cost 40 €. Moreover, the length of stay for a European or American tourist is limited to 5 month in a year, compare to Indians tourists who doesn't need any visa and which the length of stay isn't limited. Visa limitation could be a government initiative to regulate tourists flow with the aim of avoiding mass tourism. But in the case of Nepal, it is more a way to increase government income than a sustainable initiative.

Therefore Nepal government has settle up a visa policy for trekking activity in order to limit the negative effects of mass tourism in mountains area and to invest in environmental conservation programs. Results are encouraging but much work remains since mountain degradation is one of the biggest issue related to tourism industry in Nepal.

4. The social and cultural policies

The arrival of foreign tourists from developed countries in a least developed country is often a clash between two types of culture and lifestyle. This was the case in Nepal with the development of mass tourism especially for the trekking activity in the Everest and Annapurna area. Tourism activity has been settled in places which were organized around agro-pastoral activity. Mountains which were considered as goddess by Nepalese have become the playing field for Western tourists. The aim of government regarding to social and cultural policy is to avoid that kind of negative effect to protect the local culture and local communities. But the only goal of the Nepalese government at this time was to attract more and more tourists for economic growth, without weigh mass tourism impacts on cultural and social lifestyle. Cultural changes require time to operate smoothly since they affect attitudes as well as traditional lifestyles. Too sudden, they can destabilize social structures of communities. We can illustrate this contrast with the story of an expedition

leading by John Hunt in 1953 in Everest; the mountaineer notes with dismay that porters were clustered at 60 in a tent designed for 12, and tourists from the expedition just came in the tent to take pictures of this amazing mess. This kind of situation really shows how local people were considered by tourists.

Recent years, local authorities put efforts in social legislation but the cultural and social deterioration caused by tourism is not the first concerns of government.

5. The Environmental Policy

The history of planned tourism development efforts by the Nepalese government started with the publication of first National Plan in 1956. Those plans explain major policy changes and strategies drive by government. (e.g. Appendix 1)

The government in its plan briefly mentioned about promotion of ecotourism but has failed to understand the importance of sustainability in tourism. The tourism policies in Nepal have focused basically upon increasing the number of tourists visiting every year regardless of tourism carrying capacity. The effort is to increase the demand side and very less effort has been given to improve the supply side of tourism.

Certainly, tourism promotes an important contribution of hard currency earnings for the country and some form of development by providing employment to local people (mountain guides, porters, innkeepers). But at the same time it causes its own problems: over-exploitation of resources, trail systems degradation, contamination of rivers, pollution of the most frequented area in the absence of adequate means and policies to manage and dispose thousands of tons of waste each year left by tourists.

To conclude this first part, we can notice that Nepal has a great potential for tourism development regarding to his unique natural beauty and the cultural richness of the country. Tourists demand increase every year but there is a big lack in social and environmental policies to ensure the heritage conservation and natural protection. Moreover local communities need to be taking into consideration for tourism development in order to ensure the respect of their own culture and traditions.

Without any concrete policies to check and balance supply and demand side of tourism, natural environment and cultural resources of popular tourism areas has been severely damaged.

Sustainable tourism appears to be the most appropriate tool to promote a natural environment in Nepal while preserving its integrity and encouraging local community development while respecting their culture. It is indeed the only type of tourism to take in consideration not only the economic facet but also social and ecological development which are the shortcomings of tourism in Nepal.

The main difficulty in a sustainable tourism approach is to organize and manage the network which is constituted by several stakeholders involving in tourism development. Through this second part we will try to determine who the main actors in tourism industry in Nepal are and how far they are implicated in sustainable development.

2. Stakeholders' role in sustainable tourism development

1. Political framework

The political sphere in Nepal is represented by The Ministry of Tourism of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation (MOTCA) and the Nepal Tourism Board.

The Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation (MOTCA) is the main tourism organization created by the government in 1978 for promoting tourism in Nepal and encouraged the private sector for their involvement in this industry. MOTCA is responsible for policy, planning, licensing, regulations and overall monitoring of tourism industry in Nepal.

The ministry work in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) which is an autonomous body modeled as a partnership between the Government and the private sector in tourism industry. NTB undertake planning and product development, international and domestic promotions, tourism research and advisory functions for MOTCA.

During an interview I did with Mr. Lila Bahadur Baniya, Manager of Tourism Product and research Development Unit in NTB, he explained that the main objective of NTB today is to

increase the number of tourism in Nepal. They are focusing in 3 main factors which play a key role in Tourism industry development in Nepal:

- The good connectivity with middle East due to the 32 airlines which serves Kathmandu
- The variety of tourism attraction (activity, culture, trekking, landscape...)
- The economic growth of India and China

Another important objective for the NTB is to act for a better tourist distribution around the year by attracting more Indian tourists and encourage domestic tourism who both travel during the low season (from June to September).

Furthermore, the NTB feels concern about the necessity of sustainable tourism in Nepal and the board tries to encourage sustainable initiative.

NTB advises tourists about responsible tourism through his website: www.welcomenepal.com with a code of conduct about what to do to be a responsible tourist.

Since 2008, the Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal (TAAN) and Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) started recording trekkers' details and began issuing TIMS Card to trekkers. The Trekkers' Information Management System (TIMS) is used to maintain a record system that includes personal details of trekkers, trekking area, trekking routes, handling agencies, duration, etc. The data generated from the system will be useful to all concerned stakeholders such as tourism organizations, Government agencies, diplomatic missions, tour operators, research institute, etc. Plus, TIMS will upgrade the service standard and will contribute to better management of sustainable mountain tourism development in Nepal.

However, NTB is not an initiator for tourism project; managers in NTB are glad to promote and encourage sustainable project but this is the private sector who should initiate sustainable tourism strategy.

The government through MOTCA develops a national tourism strategy but there is a necessity of local organization to settle strategic plan in a local level, to deal with issues concerning tourism development peculiar to a specific area.

Since the government didn't take the initiative to create local organizations for tourism development and management, this action has to be lead by other stakeholders involved in tourism industry such as the private or civil sector.

2. The Private sector

It consists of professionals who contribute directly or indirectly to the tourism destination. The particularity of the tourism industry in Nepal is that she has formed herself into about 20 different industry associations which bring together companies from the same business activity. As for example the Trekking Agents Association of Nepal (TAAN) bring together all trekking agencies or NATTA which is the Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agencies which group all the tours and travel agencies. The role of those associations is to coordinate the development of the activity and to create an umbrella organization under which companies can work together to meet their common goals.

Associations collect data and assist the government by providing suggestion regarding regulation or infrastructure development. (e.g Appendix 2)

Federations of several tourism activities are important for tourism development since they take in consideration issues peculiar to a specific field and they are usually composed by professionals who can easily and rapidly answer to a problematic situation.

Some of associations feel concerned by sustainable development, it obviously depend on which field they are acting.

I focused my research on TAAN because they are acting in the trekking field which is one of the most important segments in the tourism industry in Nepal.

The main objective for TAAN today is to ensure the security of trekkers and fight against illegal trekking. However sustainable tourism is one of the side objective of the association because it contribute to preserve the mountain environment.

Considering that point, TAAN lead several environmental activities:

- To organize training and workshop on environment awareness courses.
- To participate in and support government's World Environment Day program.
- To organize various environment conservation programs such as Afforestation and Clean-up Program.

- To organize various student level competitions to raise environment awareness among them.
- To organize Talk Programs with the view to educate the concerned general public about the importance of tourism and maintenance of ecological balance.

Support the Freemalaya initiative which aims to make the Nepali Himalayan trekking routes plastic bag and mineral bottle free.

The association is really involved in ecotourism even though it is not her main purpose. Through all those initiatives, TAAN encourage all the trekking agencies members for sustainable tourism and aware tourist regarding to environmental issues in the mountain. However TAAN or other association in the private sector can't take the leadership role in sustainable strategy development because they are specialist in a specific field and they don't take in consideration issues relative to other part of the tourism sector.

3. The tourist standpoint

The implementation of a sustainable tourism strategy results from common effort from both companies and tourist. Clients could have a very strong influence on companies since they are at the root of their business.

According to several travels agencies based in Nepal, the segment of tourists requesting for sustainable or ecotourism is not significant. There is a little segment of people who wants an "experiential tourism trip" which means avoiding mass tourism site and living an experience in the depth of society, directly with the community and experienced their lifestyle. But the demand for eco tourism in Nepal is not significant enough to influence companies to get more involved in sustainable development.

Trekking and travel agencies are indirectly influence by tourist through European and American Tour operators who are working with them and settle up terms and conditions concerning sustainable approach. As for example, a Dutch tours operator who is working with the trekking agency Himalayan ecotreks & travel requested them to never use and buy plastic bottle in trekking road, they have to provide their clients with reusable water bottle.

Tourists have an indirect role in the implementation of sustainable strategy in tourism sector but Nepal is benefit from a sustainable image, before visiting the country, more than 63% of future tourists think that Nepal is a Sustainable destination. That why tourists doesn't feel

the need to give the priority to sustainability in their trip. They become aware of environmental issues when they are visiting the country and note the degradation of the environment but they don't have a pro active role for planning their trip in a sustainable way.

4. The civil sector : Local communities and NGO

We can define the civil sector as the society and all kind of groups which form a community. The term community refers to a heterogeneous group of people living in the same geographical area and sharing access to a set of local natural resources. The degree of cohesion and social differentiation, strength of beliefs and common institutions, diversity and other factors vary widely within and between communities. (Schmink, 1999)¹

The involvement of community is increasingly important especially in the sustainable development; communities feel more and more concerned about urban planning and land use in Nepal.

In a sustainable tourism approach, strategies and program developed should be a societal choice. This means that the whole society should participate in the planning and decision making process. Local communities in Nepal really wants to be involved in sustainable tourism development because they are conscious of the potential economic development that tourism can bring into the community but in the same time, local communities are aware about the use of natural resources since it affect directly their everyday life.

We can note that there is a lack of education and awareness among local communities regarding sustainable development. They usually know that they need to participate in natural resources conservation because they can see the degradation of their own environment but they don't know how to act to manage a sustainable development.

That's why NGO (Non Governmental Organization) appears as the best organization to plan and manage a great sustainable tourism development in Nepal.

NGOs have played an important role in organizing poor people, building capabilities, mobilizing local resources, conservation and in poverty alleviation. The term NGO, was originally use by the United Nation Organization (UN) to distinguish structures from civil

¹ Community-based biodiversity Conservation Management – Master Thesis
Reaching the Goal of Biodiversity Conservation and Community
Yufanyi Movuh Mbolo

society as opposed to the governmental structures. In recent years, it is used to describe NGOs are non-profit voluntarily dedicated to global problems, such as development, poverty, peace, humanitarian, environmental...

The most visible aspect of the nature of an NGO is that, unlike most organizations in the business sector, it does not exist for making profit out of the investment made. Hence, it is a not-for-profit organization. As a nonprofit, the primary purpose of an NGO is not to make money but to serve the public. They have a social mission of serving the public.

The interest of NGOs was identified as maximization of tourism benefits at local level. Non Governmental Organization constitutes a viable alternative to government as channels of development assistance, particularly in developing countries. NGOs are the only kind of organizations which is able to:

- Settle up sustainable tourism plan taking in consideration specific needs for each area,
- Make tourist aware about the emergency of sustainability
- Have a global view to manage all stakeholders involving in the network of sustainable tourism
- Get the knowledge to develop and manage a sustainable tourism strategy for local communities' development

Tourism is a multi-disciplinary industry which involves several stakeholders who are affected by sustainable tourism development. We have identify 4 main sphere of stakeholders: The political field, the private sector, the clientele and local communities and NGOs.

Before identifying what tools are used by NGOs for sustainable development for communities' empowerment, we are going to define what a sustainable tourism approach is.

3. Sustainable tourism an ambiguous expression?

1. Definition and concept

Nowadays, the concept of sustainable development serves as a yardstick used by all international institutions without being well defined. There are a myriad of definitions for Sustainable Tourism, including eco-tourism, green travel, environmentally and culturally responsible tourism, fair trade and ethical travel. The most widely accepted definition is that of the World Tourism Organization. They define sustainable tourism as “tourism which leads to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems.” In addition they describe the development of sustainable tourism as a process which meets the needs of present tourists and host communities while protecting and enhancing needs in the future. (World Tourism Organization 1996).²

Sustainability principles refer to the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of tourism development, and a suitable balance must be established between these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability.



Source: ORAVEO, <http://www.oraveo.com>

² Towards earthsummit 2002- Economic Briefing No.4
Sustainable Tourism – Turning the Tide – United Nation

Thus, sustainable tourism should:

- 1) Make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and helping to conserve natural heritage and biodiversity.
- 2) Respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance.
- 3) Ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation.

According to the work leading by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in 2005, a sustainable tourism approach should be declined by goals, which all contributes to environmental conservation, promote social progress and encourage equitable economic development by maximizing the beneficial impact on the territory.

It exist several other concepts of 'environmental friendly and socially compatible' tourism such as ecotourism, green tourism, pro poor tourism, geotourism...

Since the purpose of this thesis is not to define and analyze what is sustainable tourism, we can consider that other terms used (green tourism, ecotourism...) are more a type of product offered to clients interested in the quality of the natural environment and the principles of sustainable development than sustainable tourism is a concept, an approach which define how to settle up this kind o strategy.

2. Sustainable tourism in Kathmandu Valley

As part of this study, my research mainly focused on the work of environmental NGOs and more especially on actions of Nepal Environment and Tourism Initiative Foundation (NETIF) which is an NGO founded in 2008 and established bases in Kathmandu and Dhulikhel.

The organization is dedicated to develop sustainable tourism with the aim of promote and initiate responsible practices in the Kathmandu Valley to spur environmental conservation and encourage community development.

Kathmandu Valley is the gateway to Nepal for tourists and their main destination as the valley has the only international airport in the country through which 90 percent of tourists enter. The valley's rich cultural heritage and the seven designated world heritage sites have contributed to tourism promotion.

Kathmandu Valley is constituted by 3 districts: Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur. The Kathmandu Valley is surrounded by mountains and protected area as for instance the Shivapuri national park which is a beautiful place to explore. Moreover, several typical villages are located in the mountain and make a whole of Nepali culture and traditions which constitute a significant center of interest for tourists.



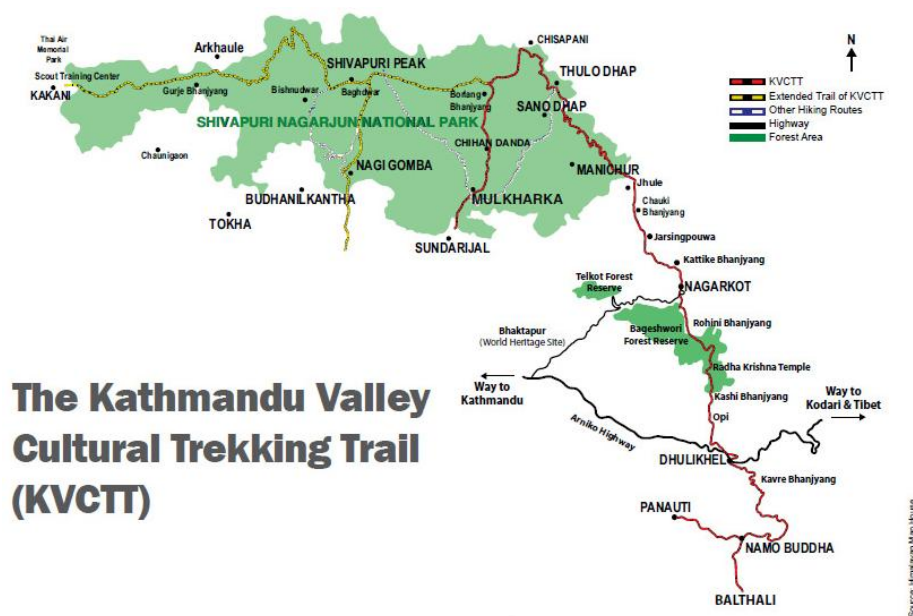
Until few years ago, villages on the heights of Kathmandu were not promoting by travel agency and ignored by tourists. Because of the lack of land settlement and tourism infrastructure, little villages as Chisopani and Nagarkot received very few tourist.

Moreover work for local communities was based on traditional agriculture and the community development was poor without access for the main equipment and installations. Furthermore, some part of trekking trails were non-existent because useless for local people

and unknown by tourist. There was a real growth potential for touristic development but a big lack of tourism infrastructure. In addition, local communities needed help to enhance community development.

NETIF has leads actions in the Kathmandu Valley through a plan called Nepal Tourism, Outdoor and Environment Development Project (NTOEDP) which is the working arm of the organization. The main objective is to create a sustainable destination with clean and protected areas, eco-friendly tourists' structures and community based business.

The project aim to develop the Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail (KVCTT) which starts from Sundarijal passing through main villages as Mulkharka, Chisapani, Nagarkot and Dhulikhel.



Source: www.netif-nepal.org

3. NETIF vision

NETIF's aim is to integrate environmental conservation and community development into a model program for tourism development that can be used as an example of environmentally sustainable rural tourism throughout Nepal. NETIF strive to stand as an example and to

achieve success in projects that can be followed and adapted by other Government and Non-Governmental Organizations in Nepal.

The core vision of the NGO is to encourage sustainable tourism development and to provide a better livelihood for rural villagers in Nepal. We combine this with our heartfelt concern for the surrounding wildlife and environment.



Source : <http://www.netif-nepal.org/>

As I mention above, NETIF wants to reach their goals through developing the Kathmandu Valley cultural trekking trail (KVCTT) which is a tool used 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'.

The NTOEDP has been divided into two phases:

- Phase I, from 2009 to 2010 defined by 4 main objectives:
 1. To promote community focused sustainable tourism to enhance the environment for better tourism
 2. To harmonize the local communities and tourism entrepreneurs and build
 3. To develop and promote locally made products, such as organic produce and handicrafts.
 4. To enhance the local capacity to manage tourism
- Phase II, from 2010 to 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 Gumpa,

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.

Several actions and activities lead by NETIF during phase I and II will be presented in the second part of this thesis to exemplify and helps to identify the way in which sustainable tourism could be lead by NGO.

Nepal is a country with a big potential in tourism due to his unique feature but as most famous destination, it suffered of mass tourism with negative impacts on environment and population.

Moreover, Nepal is a third world country which needs to develop his economy to support community development. Sustainable tourism appears as the best way to develop tourism industry since it takes in consideration not only economic development but also social and environmental issues. However, as detailed in the chapter “environmental policy” in part 1, the sustainable development is not the priority of Nepal government and the few measures that have been taken until now were not really effective. Because of government’ disinterestedness, NGOs appear as the best actor to initiate and implement this approach. Tourism cannot survive on isolation and is a multi-disciplinary service that involves several stakeholders who need to be managed in order to define common goals and establish an effective communication.

In the Part 2, we are going to analyze how NGO are acting to implement and develop a sustainable tourism strategy and what kind of tools they are use to reach their goal.

II. NGO leading role in sustainable tourism implementation



1. NGO: Leader actor of governance

Governance could be defined as "a process of coordination of actors, social groups and institutions to achieve goals collectively discussed and defined in different environments" (Bagnasco, Le Gales, 1997)³. From a functional point of view, the aim of network governance is to create a synergy between different competences and sources of knowledge in order to deal with complex and interlinked problems.

Concerning sustainable development, governance is essential for the reflection and answer of sustainable development issues. This is a new form of participatory democracy which requires collaboration, cooperation and partnership between all stakeholders in sustainable development.

Governance is a process of consultation and decision-making, which involves responsible actors or people affected by the sustainable development policies and action plans.

The purpose of governance is to reach decisions acceptable to the majority, and respectful of each well.

³ Olivier Borraz et Patrick Le Galès, « Urban Governance in Europe : the Government of What ? », *Métropoles* le 18 novembre 2010

1. Stakeholders coordination and teamwork System

The first NGO's strength concerning project management and stakeholders' coordination is their ability to gather different actors from different field on a common project. Stakeholders rely upon NGOs because Non Governmental Organizations are focusing on reaching their goal and objective that they have fix previously in cooperation with the network. Moreover, NGOs benefits from their non-profitable status which ensures partners about their good intentions. NGO manager represent the interests of stakeholders and carefully monitor the actions of all stakeholders to promote those interests.

The second strength identifying for NGOs governance is that they do fieldwork and directly act with several actors. Usually, NGO leaders have solid skills derived from grassroots experience and they can quickly identify issues and problems and they have a strong flexibility for adaptability and changes.

The third trump of NGO is their staff members who usually come from very varied background. This special feature makes NGO able to work on a project involving many stakeholders and taking in consideration every considerable case. Management for a sustainable tourism project will be more efficient with a team of diverse members with several skills and knowledge.

According to NETIF, networking among stakeholders of the trekking areas is very important. The project leading by the NGO has been networking and coordinating with the stakeholders for tourism at local, national and international level from the beginning of the project to implement project activities successfully. One of the key factors to the success of the projects is involving and working with the villagers that inhabit the areas for ownership and sustainability. As for example, we can mention the alliance building between local community, Government, schools and businesses for coordinate village and trekking trail clean up campaigns. NETIF Adopt a participatory approach in which local communities, partners and local authorities have to actively promote the common vision.

NGOs are Close to local people and aware of global issues: They are in direct contact with problems generated between several stakeholders taking part of the project. It therefore provides a relative reactivity in terms of project management and their expertise in several fields has allowed NGOs to become a privileged interlocutor.

Managing a network and taking in consideration every need of all stakeholders is one of the key factor for success of sustainable tourism development; that's why NGOs can be consider as a great organization for sustainable tourism implementation and management.

2. Information system

The continuing evolution of territories and tourism trend implies to be reactive. Data collection is important for any organization to answer stated research questions, test hypotheses, assessment and to settle up actions. As I mentioned below, good governance implies cooperation between several stakeholders and to well manage a sustainable development, partners need to share information.

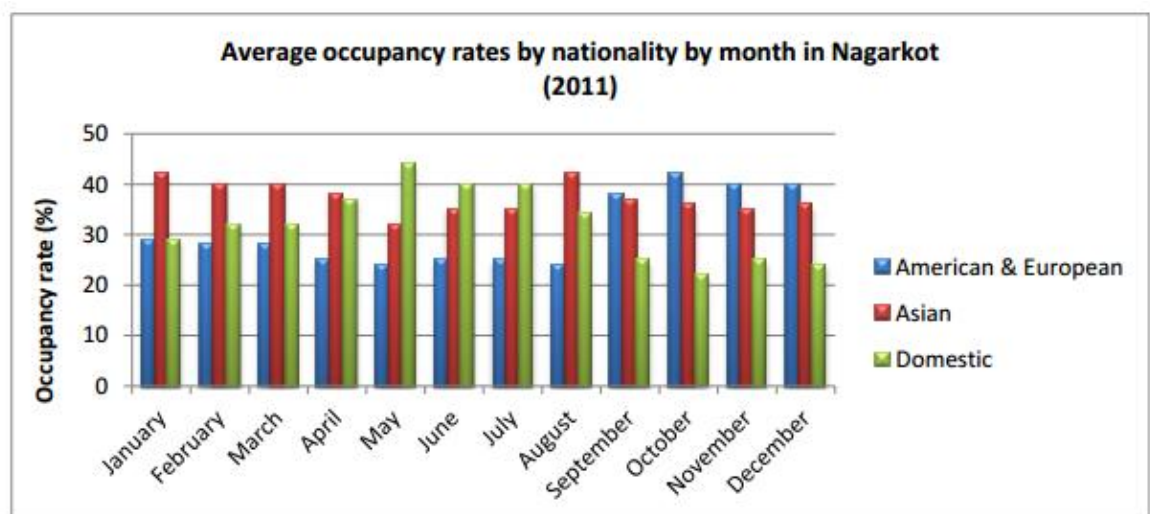
By the role of project leader, NGOs can use several methods for collecting data:

- Questionnaire, survey and checklist
- Interview
- Observation
- Documentation review...

The main strength of NGO for collecting data for sustainable tourism development is their ability to take in consideration all the stakeholders concerning by their project and sharing information with all of them.

As for example, we can mention the survey I conducted for NETIF concerning occupancy rate and facilities in hotels of Kathmandu Valley. (e.g Appendix 3)

The survey enables us to create the following graph:



We can easily note that who come during the monsoon season (from June to August) are Domestic and Asian tourists. We can explain it with the fact that motivations for domestic and Asian tourists to visit Kathmandu Valley is the proximity from city centre and the relaxing atmosphere of the place while

American and European Tourists seek the natural beauty and want to practice trekking activity, so they need good weather.

By sharing this information with stakeholders, NETIF can settle up a well targeted promotional strategy and help hostellers to better understand customers' needs and expectations and better spread the demand year-round.

Another example of a good data collection is the "Eco-Club meeting" was held on 3rd august, 2012 in Sundarijal which is a village situated in the Kathmandu Valley. The meeting was attended by the NETIF, Sundarijal Environment Conservation Committee, Sundarijal Environment and Tourism Development Society (SETDS) and members of Eco Clubs from different schools. The objectives of the meeting were to exchange information on children's environmental activities and discuss issues and areas for future cooperation for the promotion of children's environmental activities. During the meeting, the participants highlighted the important role of schools in environmental conservation in Sundarijal area. It also emphasized that cleanliness is important factor for tourism and if not taken proper care tourism cannot enter the area. By taking these findings in consideration, the committee decided to try and spread the method of vermi-composting for implement a sustainable waste management system.

NGOs are efficient in collecting data because they are acting with a broad network and they act in collaboration with several different actors to face issues. The ability of NGOs to collect information, analyze it and sharing it with all stakeholders make them a great coordinator for sustainable tourism development because they can easily identifying issues, fixing goals and measuring their performance.

The role of NGOs concerning implementation and management of sustainable tourism is clearly facilitated by their ability to coordinate stakeholders and their rapid adaptability because of an efficient system of data collection. NGOs are able to able to track changes, analyze trends, and identify ways to respond to changing circumstances.

Manage and mobilize stakeholders around common goals is essential for sustainable tourism development but NGOs also have to act as initiator for regulation and policies.

2. The power of enforcement

Advocacy is a political process by an individual or a large group for example social workers which normally aims to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions; it may be motivated from moral, ethical or faith principles or simply to protect an asset of interest. (Wikipedia).

1. Link between private and public sector

When we are talking about sustainable tourism in Nepal, there is an evidence to believe that governments and NGOs should work together as partners and complement each other's efforts. Partnership between private and public sector is important in sustainable development to avoid wastage of scarce resources and meet the needs of effective service delivery to the most vulnerable in society.

Usually NGOs are the link between private and public sector because they are leading project that includes both private and public stakeholders and they can influence government policy to improve community development.

Non Governmental Organizations has arrived on the world stage during the 70's, when a general consciousness raised related to economic and social divide between North and South countries. In the same time the flaw in growth system (unemployment, contamination...) makes people aware about the pressing need of a new world order.

Right from the beginning of sustainable development, at the first international ecological conference in Stockholm in 1972, NGOs play a key role in the built-up of sustainable strategy development. Non Governmental Organization will therefore be considered as pioneer in the sustainable development on the world stage because, since the beginning, the heart of their programs have been to inform the public and to disseminate the idea that environmental issues require urgent decisions. They were involved in all the biggest conference and meeting relative to sustainable development such as the UN conference "Rio + 20" in 2012. Moreover, the necessity of fast-acting concerning the ecological urgency has further strengthened the essential role of NGOs.

NGOs really played a pioneer role in sustainable development which allows them to be recognizing as key actors in this field and to gain a broad approval from public opinion. This popularity helps them to lead actions that impact local, national and even international policies and spread the visions of the organization.

To illustrate the link induce by NGO between public and private sector, we can mention several action lead by NETIF such as their participation in 'Sustainable Community Course: bridging the gap between research & action' in Kenya, organized by Helsinki University of Technology, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Nairobi University, UNEP, UN Habitat and program supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

2. Partnership building and influence

NGOs acting in sustainable tourism see all kind of partnership as a key pillar for spread sustainable approach and establishment of new regulation and policies. The development of international NGO networks enable them to capture and organize information, take positions, to establish observatories on the practical implementation of international decisions or monitoring commitments to support the construction of global governance.

The action field, knowledge of the files, the collection and analysis of information are then the source of the credibility of NGOs that can pull up information about the situations they face and develop expertise in the field.

Settle up partnerships for advocacy allows NGOs to increase their influence and representation among institutions and mobilize a wider audience to strengthen their actions.

According to International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC), effective partnership is usually based on:

- The effectiveness of the work on both sides
- The quality of the relationship
- The clarity about the purpose of the relationship

We can note that a partnership will be influential and powerful if it is settling up with actors from different field, to have a wide influence but who must act for the same goal and share the same vision.

However, influence “tactics” through broad partnership involves compromises in setting goals; the bigger the network is, the less he can be perceived as a specific and clear organization and the request will be more consensual.

Last but not least, transparency is one of the key variables to establish partnership between NGO and companies. NGOs benefit from their strong influence among population to raise funds easily. If people feel really concerned by the championed cause, they will be able to make donations to participate in the project. Moreover in several countries, donations provide fiscal advantage which is another source of motivation for contributors.

Other sources of financial resources are partners as companies, associations... and funds from those organizations intend to increase because of the general awareness among global warming. Some companies really care about it because it directly influences their business and others just want to increase profit through spreading a good image in involving themselves in a “green” project. Last but not least, NGOs benefit from grants-in-aid from the government.

Non Governmental Organization usually has a good reputation among public opinion but for companies and other potential partners (institutions, associations, civil groups, other NGOs...) they have to gain their trust and confidence by proving and demonstrating their good practices and to put funds to good use. In Western Europe there are several institutions and organizations in charge of controlling NGOs' transparency (i.e. EuropAid a European cooperation agency which selects and controls NGOs that they fundraise). But it is more difficult to control international NGOs acting in several countries and accumulating several sources of funding. Transparency principle not only applies to financial sphere but also for governance, partners need to know how the organization is running and managing.

NGOs try to gain influence by creating partnerships, to spread their vision and involve more people to rally their cause. Concerning sustainable tourism approach it is important to have cross sector collaboration to take in consideration every issues and perspective conceivable.

As I said previously, NGOs are good leaders for governance and their primary purpose is to serve public service. The collaboration induced by partnerships requires a good relationship-building and strong trust and confidence from partners, that's why Non Governmental Organization easily create efficient partnerships. However, NGOs should well target their

partner to control side effect and consequences of partnership and they have to settle up a total transparency for the quality of the relationship and the effectiveness of the partnership.



NETIF NGO is financed by Suomen Latu, a Finnish Central Association for Recreational Sports and Outdoor Activities – which promotes outdoor activities. The main objective of Suomen Latu has always been to increase Finnish people's interest in exercise as well as developing possibilities for outdoor, conditioning and recreational exercise. The Finnish organization mainly works in Finland, since 1997 steps towards becoming an INGO have been taken. During 1997-2001 Suomen Latu carried out a development cooperation project in Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania. Since 2006 Suomen Latu has worked with Nepalese NGO, NETIF, to start an outdoor activities related development cooperation program in the Kathmandu Valley.

We can note that the core action of Suomen Latu is human well-being through sport practice but by creating this partnership, NETIF establishes a cross-sector collaboration and makes the link between outdoor activities, tourism and environmental conservation. The Nepalese NGO facilitates the transition of rural tourism with people who share the same values: respect for the environment and well-being of local communities through tourism activities.

3. Lobbying

Lobbying is the process of trying to influence policymakers in favor of a specific cause or point of view; it is a type of advocacy process.

It's mediation with representatives of the public interest, for the benefit of private interests, to prevent, to influence or encourage decision making by public authorities.

International NGOs and particularly the NGOs involved in sustainable development action present themselves as new world order building organizations. NGOs aim to establish a new type of worldwide governance because of a general political crisis that reveals the incapacity of government to face global issues.

Because of increasing access to information higher level of education, the civil society is now aware about environmental issues and wants to have a concrete action by participate in local, national and international initiatives.

We can identify 2 main types of lobbying strategy:

-Political targeted strategy

This strategy directly aimed decision maker to have a rapid influence on regulation and policies at local, national or international level. It consists in consultation and participation, negotiation, expertise or even covert action characterized by relationships between some members of interest groups and some leaders.

- Public opinion targeted strategy

This strategy aim to spread NGO opinion through communication techniques such as media campaigns, public opinion survey, boycotts, prevention campaign, street demonstration... Action on public opinion it also a way to reach decision maker through citizen, we call it citizen lobbying, citizens act as relays to reach decision makers.

It is important to note the main difference between communication and lobbying: while the goal of communication is to inform the lobbying goes further by convince and influence people to join NGOs cause.

Lobbying is important for NGOs acting in sustainable tourism in Nepal because there is a lack of regulation and policies. Lobbying practices can encourage companies from the tourism sector to get involved in a sustainable approach.

However lobbying is a risky method for NGOs; first because lobbying techniques usually imply to act in the political sphere and take sides to any politic party which is normally not the action field of NGO. Moreover, for NGOs acting for sustainable development, lobbying could be seen as unethical methods to reach their goal. Some people are talking about politic by means of terror in relation to menacing methods induce by lobbying.

Lobbying is a good way for NGOs to influence legislation especially concerning sustainability because there is a lack of regulation concerning this field. Despite the considerable advantage that represents the lobbying, it's also an ambiguous and dangerous tool that can jeopardize NGOs credibility.

In order to preserve their neutrality, NGOs should focus more on local initiative, instead of international level, and share their experience with other NGOs in others countries to spread their opinion.

To illustrate the power of NGO, we can mention the action of Greenpeace. The last environmental conference organized by Greenpeace France, held on September 2011, aimed to open a debate on the end of nuclear power in favor of clean and renewable energy. The opening speech made by François Hollande himself, showed a real ambition and undeniable political involvement. However, Greenpeace note that it's generally greenwashing method use by politics; they make fine promise to gain public opinion but it rarely lead to positive achievement.

We can mention that there is a general trend of proliferation and multiplication of NGOs in Nepal especially in the sustainable development field. This fragmentation could be a barrier for NGO influence in the decision process.

NGOs have several methods to influence regulation concerning social and environmental issues but they are also acting in the economic field which is the 3rd pillar of the sustainable development.

3. Tourism infrastructure development

1. Improvement of tourism experience and destination promotion

Sustainable tourism takes in consideration sustainability but it also ensures a certain level of quality. That's why NGOs acting for sustainable tourism must participate in infrastructure development and not be only focus on the environmental side. They have the role to ensure interests of all stakeholders taking part of the project and to improve the tourism experience in order to secure an economic growth for the area.

-Professionalization: NGO acting in sustainable tourism aim to develop infrastructure and procedure to better satisfied tourist. The most popular tool used by NGOs to improve the quality of reception services is to train local communities. To illustrate that kind of approach, I can mention trainings providing by NETIF in several little villages in the Kathmandu Valley for improving their capacity to manage and improve their tourism infrastructure and skills.

-Improvement of standards: As I mention before, NGOs has the power to influence rules and regulations. This is an important point in the tourism industry, especially for hotel and catering because clients are more and more demanding concerning the sake of hygiene and level of service. As for example, by conducting several survey and studies and sharing the result with all stakeholders, NETIF try to encourage actors in the tourism sector to upgrade the level of accommodation in order to better meet tourists' expectations.

Moreover, questionnaires and survey also help to better understand customer's needs and expectation and settle up action which will improve tourist experience.

-Activities diversification and maintenance of preexistent infrastructure: To promote new tourism activities is also a part of action for NGO which aim to diversify the economic activity of an area in order to ensure a viable and lasting economic growth. Moreover, several NGOs dedicated their fund for maintaining cultural and historical heritage or any other pre-existing tourist infrastructure.

Along the Kathmandu trekking trail, NETIF has leaded the action to upgrading and maintaining the old paths and route. The project reconstructed of the degraded parts of the track along the trail by mobilizing local communities.

-Marketing and promotion: NGOs role in sustainable tourism development is also to ensure marketing and management of the image of the destination. (e.g Appendix 4) To promote a tourism destination, NGOs use same communication techniques as private companies (website, brochure, events..) but goals of the communication are different; of course NGOs also seek to reach a large public but their main purpose of communication are awareness of public opinion, attracting fundraise and volunteer and demonstrate their capability to manage and run project.

A good example of promotional action which is lead by NETIF is several promotional hiking day that the NGO organize around the Kathmandu Valley. Hiking is a sustainable activity and using it for promotional purpose is a great initiative since it attracts people who share same values as NETIF, respect of the nature and rural tourism. Throughout the hike, hikers can enjoy spectacular view, learning about local communities and understand project lead by the NGO.

-Security of the destination: As a third world country, Nepal suffered from unstable political climate which can fear tourists. It is important to provide them with accurate information. As mention previously, tourists have a deep trust and confidence in NGOs, that's why communication from Non Governmental Organization needs to be accurate and relevant to attract people because without tourist, tourism activities will not exist.

Despite their non profitable status, NGOs have an important role in economic growth in the area where their actions take place but nowadays, because of the multiplication of NGOs, there is more and more competition which sometimes cause the disappearance of some of them.

2. Development planning

NGOs are good project manager because of their reaction capacity and their efficient organization with several partnerships. Strategic planning seeks an optimal fit between the system and the environment. When an NGO wants to start a sustainable tourism approach, she first has to specify goals in order to demonstrate the interest of the project. For this first part of the project, the NGO need to constant monitoring, environmental scanning, evaluate and adjust her plan. This is an easy task for NGO which have a good information system and show an important adaptability of any situation. This flexibility is due to the low bureaucracy that characterizes NGOs. Unlike administration and other organization, NGOs capacity to adapt their strategy and actions because they are quite free to do whatever they want.

Moreover, tourism planning can operate at many levels; individual site, regional, national or international level. NGOs have a broad vision and they can have an influence on each level which enables them to develop an integrated plan development to achieve cooperation, efficiency and sustainability within and across each level.

However, NGOs who develop plan in sustainable tourism project are considering as a very short term temporal scale. Usually, a master plan (which is the principal instrument of planning for tourism) is focus on a short-term temporal scale (around 5 years). The short term temporal scale for NGOs planning is due to their uncertain source of funding and with

the fact that an NGO should be a temporary structure, settle up to solve a peculiar issue but then the local community takes over the organization.

The success factor of NGOs leading role for sustainable tourism implementation and management is due to their ability of governance and advocacy. Network management, transparency, cross sector partnership and efficient planning development are the main strength of NGOs. They have both role of leader and manager: “Leader” because NGOs are able to provide strategic direction and inspiration, initiate change, encourage new learning, and develop a distinct organizational culture, while ‘managers’ because they plan, implement and monitor on a more operational and administrative level.

Sustainable tourism is an increasing trend which need efficient organization and regulation; NGOs have a strong influence on political sphere and an important legitimacy among public opinion that strengthen their action at local, national and international level and broad spread their idea.

III. Local communities development



Community refers to a heterogeneous group of people who share residence in the same geographic area and access a set of local natural resources. The degree of social cohesion and differentiation, strength of common beliefs and institutions, cultural diversity and other factors vary widely within and among communities. (Schmink, 1999)

In Nepal, local communities have been marginalized from tourism development during many years. One of the challenges induced by sustainable tourism is to completely integrate local communities in the development of the area by empowering them and giving them a key role in tourism development.

NGOs seek to generate community development which is a process that brings people together and help them to identify the problems and needs which they share and respond.

In this part we are going to analyze how NGOs try to implement and manage community development and what kind of tools they are using to lead to community empowerment.

1. Local community building and respect of socio cultural identity

The process of culture change affecting Kathmandu has been one of the most profound. The city remained in relative isolation and was insulated from modernistic changes in its policy, economy, and with regard to its other broader cultural values until 1951. After this date, Kathmandu Valley and mountain area in Nepal have been hardly modernized and urbanized and has paid a heavy cultural price. Changes caused people to abandon their earlier farm-based occupations to adopt all sort of servicing, catering, commercial activities and other new occupations created by tourism industry.

Others changes brought by tourists were changes in value. Introduction of a new polity based on popular rule, democracy, human rights and individual freedom and propagation of western liberal ideology of a growth-oriented economy encouraging a lifestyle of consumerism. Many of these changes have been abrupt in Nepal and some of them were beyond anybody's control.

A culture-conducive change should never be sudden nor abrupt, especially when it can be planned and regulated, such as change relating to tourism.

1. Needs and resources assessment

Assessing community needs and resources consist in understanding communities concerns, define what issues they are facing and what resources are available to bring changes. To achieve assessment of communities needs, NGOs can interview community members, conducting listening sessions and spending time in the place. The proximity with local communities and the knowledge and expertise of NGOs concerning the field in which they are working make them able to identify critical issues and plan future intervention.

The assessment of community needs should at least take in consideration:

- The description and history of the community to well understand the context (key leaders, past concerns, geographic asset...)
- The description of what matter to people in the community: issues that local people care about (safety, health, education, environment...)
- Analysis of barriers and resources available for facing issues

After identifying community concerns and issues, NGOs have to prioritize it by settle up indicators to evaluate how far the problem is important. To measure the importance of a problem, NGOs could analyze how frequently the problem occurs or how many people are affected by the problem in the community. Some local communities in Nepal are affected by a lack of drinking water, the indicator settle up by NGOs could be: How many days in a year do you don't have access to drinking water?

Assessing communities' needs and resources is the first step taking by NGOs when they launch a project. It is essential for understanding the organization of the community and to settle up actions that will issue communities concerned. Thanks to the community development focused plan of NGOs and to their fieldwork, the Nongovernmental organization can better understand communities problems and develop a sustainable tourism activity while improving community welfare and respecting their values.

2. Active involvement of local communities

In order to place tourism as a key factor for community development, local people have to take part in each step of the tourism development of the area. That's why NGOs act in concert with local community before any action taken, to respect their values and culture. Sustainable tourism plan by NGOs is "development based" which means that local people are at the center of economic and social development. It aims to develop a new decision system within local communities interest goes before other stakeholders' interests. By adopting that kind of governance, NGOs ensure the respect of local culture and values. Nongovernmental organizations act as a bridge between local community, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders using the environment as a catalyst to collaborate together.

Sustainable tourism development imposes a certain organization in local community and encourages them to coordinate people by creating decision-making process. Creation of decisional group into the community will bring cohesion and responsibility for local people. This is both the action of NGO and the willingness to the community that will ensure an active involvement of local communities in the making-decision process. It will ensure the

compatibility between overall economic development goals of regional and community interest and tourism goals.

Nepal is a caste divided society heavily influenced and dominated by a Patriarchal worldview, women are seen as a lower to men and are treated as their dependants regardless of their education or economic attainments. Discrimination against women was significantly reduced during the last decade, especially due to NGOs acting for women well being and gender equality. Sustainable tourism development is another way to impulse and encourages gender equality. While tourists visiting local communities, they can realize about woman's condition and to witness about this social inequality. The proximity between woman and tourist induce by a sustainable tourism activity will arouse public awareness and mobilize people about social issues.

Tourism Development Committees led by NETIF in several villages of Kathmandu Valley is a good example of community empowerment and involvement in decision making process. The NGO mobilized people from local communities in order to formed decision making groups to create a link between each other and develop a common tourism strategy; we can mention as for example the SSTEDC (Shivapuri-Sundarijal Tourism Environment development committee).

Another good example for encouraging community involvement is the concept of community houses implement by NETIF. NETIF has established two community houses along the trekking trail. The community house concept was implemented by NETIF as a way to bring together the communities along the trekking trail and give them a place for development meetings, women's groups, youth groups and training programs. The initial construction was completed and then the community houses where gifted to two communities, Mulkharka and Nagarkot.

The community house in Mulkharka is a central place for villages to hold meetings and gatherings and is also home to the local women's group where they participate in skills training and women's empowerment activities. Nagarkot has a much larger facility which consists of two levels. The first being a vital tourist information centre to help promote local activities and tourism in the area, the top floor is shared by the Nagarkot Naldum Tourist Development Committee, The Local guide Office and the Forestry Office.

Both of the Community houses where constructed using local materials and labor.

To finish, we can mention the woman's empowering project led by NETIF in the trekking trails starting from Mulkharga. (e.g Appendix 6) NETIF were the first to promote the Kathmandu Valley to bring tourism in little villages with the aim to improve local community livelihood. According to the project coordinator of NETIF, Mr Prabin Paudel, "Before the heritage trail was developed, the area saw about 20,000 tourists a year, now, it has reached around 80,000" and according to says Ashok Maharjan, secretary at NETIF "there are 200 houses in Mulkharka, and most of the tea houses and trekkers lodge are running by women. Tourism development brought new job opportunities for women and empowering them.

3. Tourism environmental awareness

It is widely accepted that the tourism industry of any destination is highly dependent on the quality of its natural environment. Indeed, according to one commentary, the long-term viability of any tourism industry is dependent on the natural attractiveness of the destination being maintained.

In Nepal, a general advice to trekkers is to leave only footprints and take only photographs. However, the recent developments along trekking trails have been of concern to environmentalists and local alike. The sprouting of teahouses along trekking trails demand wood for construction and fuel, which has led to deforestation. In addition, the amount of waste has increased without proper mechanism for disposal, making some of the popular trails both unsightly and unhealthy. Tend could be change with increasing awareness of tourist regarding environmental problems. As I mention earlier, tourists seeking sustainable tourism travel in Nepal represent a little segment among the whole tourism industry, which means that visitors need education about environmental protection and resources use. Tourists need to be conscious of their impact on the area and they have to know how to minimize this impact. Through a survey that I conducted among several travel and trekking agencies in Kathmandu I jumped to conclusion that almost all agencies inform their clients about responsible behavior in trekking trail. Usually, trekking agencies provides trainings to their porters and guides whose then advice tourists when they are trekking together. Several trekking agencies have their own code of conduct about what to do and don't while trekking in the mountain. However, there is some travel agent who find unnecessary to advice tourists about respectful environmental behavior. That's why NGOs have to make tourist

aware about these issues through several means of communication and influence process that I mention in part II. NGOs have to also warn tourist about environmental problems by actions leading directly on site. A good initiative has been taken by NETIF is information signs placing on the trekking trail to advice trekkers and visitors about how to be a responsible tourist.

Finally, the best practice to make people aware about sustainable necessity in Nepal is to involve them in the everyday life of local community. This is the aim of the Home-stay program launched by NETIF in the protected area of Shivapuri Nation Park. To encourage the micro-economic component and to provide employment and economic value by exposing the rural culture and nature to the outside world with the focus in environmental conservation; NETIF along with the community have initiated home-stay service in villages such as Okhreni and Kune that lies in the upstream part of the National Park. These villages are mostly populated by Tamang communities. There are no hotels in these villages so introducing such service can be beneficial to both the community as well as for the tourists visiting the Kathmandu valley Cultural Trekking trail (KVCTT). Further to promote and develop the homestay program; NETIF has allocated a budget of Rs 1,50,000 and a revolving fund has also been created for the program . A member from the community willing to start homestay program can use the fund and return back within one year which latter will be used by another member so the money can be used as a revolving fund .

According to a feasibility study carried out by NETIF; a group of the locals who are willing to start homestay service in their houses have been formed. In order to make the group acquainted and develop homestay service system; NETIF is planning to send the group for a familiarization trip to one of the village in Pokhara where homestay is being practiced so that it can help them get experience of the service and plan for their community as well.

By increasing tourist awareness about environmental issues, NGO ensure the respect of environment, resources use and cultural values of local communities.

Tourist awareness should be implement and develop during all their travel, first when they take steps to create their travel with professional (travel agency, tour operator...) who should advice them about the necessity of sustainability, secondly during their trip by all stakeholders of tourism activities such as porters, guide, local community and NGO. One of

the best practice to make tourist aware about local community problems, is to directly involved them in their everyday life, to make them realize the impact that they have when they are visiting an area. This is also an opportunity for community to exchange idea and opinion with foreigners, to facilitate the cultural exchange.

2. A viable economic activity

In a long-term view, one of the most important goals of sustainable tourism development is to warranty a viable economic activity for local community, by fairly distributing income generated and ensuring the durability of natural resources.

1. Natural ressources management

Natural resource management refers to the management of natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals, with a particular focus on how management affects the quality of life for both present and future generations (stewardship). The natural environment is an essential resource for tourism in remote villages in the Kathmandu Valley. Efforts to preserve and enhance the natural environment are a high priority for local communities because they depend critically on those resources that are fragile and being rapidly degraded by tourism activity. The main natural resources issues are freshwater, forest and pollution and waste generation.

-Freshwater availability for competing agricultural, household and other uses is rapidly becoming one of the most critical natural resource issues in Nepal. Rapid expansion of tourism industry, which tends to be extremely water-intensive, can exacerbate this problem by placing considerable pressure on water supply in several destinations. Over-consumption by many tourist facilities can limit current supplies available to farmers and local population. Moreover, pollution of available freshwater sources, some of which may be associated with tourism-related activities, can exacerbate locale storage.

- Forest: The traditional mixed farming system in this area involves a delicate and crucial balance in the use of arable and forest land. The fertile valley bottoms and the steep hill

slopes are intensively cultivated by constructing terraces, often with complex irrigation systems. Above the arable land the natural forest has always provided a wealth of products and benefits. As well as fuelwood and construction timber, villagers collect leaf fodder for dry season animal feed, litter for animal bedding and subsequently (mixed with manure) for compost, and many other important products including fruit, mushrooms and medicinal herbs. The forest also provides grazing land for livestock.

-Pollution and waste generation: Besides the consumption of large amounts of natural and other local resources, the tourism industry also generates considerable waste and pollution. Improper disposal of liquid and solid waste generated by the tourism industry has become a particular problem for many countries that lack the capacity to treat these waste materials properly. Disposal of such untreated waste has, in turn, contributed to reducing availability of the above-mentioned resources at the local level.

A community based natural resource management approach combines conservation objectives with the generation of economic benefits for rural communities. The three key assumptions being that:

- locals are better placed to conserve natural resources,
- people will conserve a resource only if benefits exceed the costs of conservation
- people will conserve a resource that is linked directly to their quality of life. When a local people's quality of life is enhanced, their efforts and commitment to ensure the future well-being of the resource are also enhanced. Regional and community based natural resource management is also based on the principle of subsidiarity.

Community based natural resources management is based particularly on advocacy by nongovernmental organizations working with local groups and communities, on the one hand, and national and transnational organizations, on the other, to build and extend new versions of environmental and social advocacy that link social justice and environmental management agendas with both direct and indirect benefits observed including a share of revenues, employment, diversification of livelihoods and increased pride and identity.

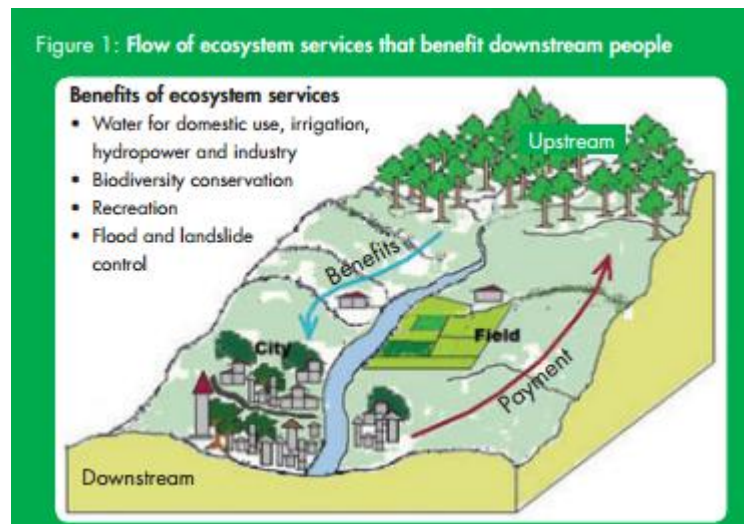
Natural resource uses have to be plan in consideration with tourist activity in order to ensure the viability of the development. Once again, there is a need of assessment,

measurement and analyze about impact of tourism in local community livelihood and then a well management of advocacy and governance between each stakeholders will be the key for environmental and natural resources conservation.

2. Quality employment

Sustainable tourism development must provide quality employment. The provision of fulfilling jobs has to be seen as an integral part of any sustainable approach. Part of the process of achieving quality employment is to ensure that, as much as possible, the tourism infrastructure (hotels, restaurants, shops, etc.) is developed and managed by local people and income generate by tourism industry must goes to local community. To illustrate a good practice of sustainable employment, I want to present the project of Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES) led by NETIF.

Protected areas as natural ecosystems provide many essential benefits for human survival and welfare. Forest and water ecosystem services from protected areas in the mountains benefit not only local communities, but also people living in the downstream areas, farmers and urban populations, tourists and the tourism sector, factories and business communities... . Protected areas are global goods in the sense that a number of their benefits reach the global community, for example carbon storage for mitigating climate change through reduced carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, and ecotourism. Mountain protected areas benefit downstream communities through water storage and regulation services and hydropower generation; these hydrological services are significant as the beneficiaries include large populations and industries downstream, including urban areas (Figure 1).



Yet protected area management is mainly centered on biodiversity protection; it rarely considers other ecosystem services, including the goods and services that local communities rely on. While protected area management is complicated and usually underfunded, most benefits from ecosystem services are not accounted for.

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 Sundarikal 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 program such as the organic farming training, waste management, and sanitation as prime examples of environmental conservation techniques.

3. Community awareness and education

Community education and awareness is about developing the power, skills, knowledge and experience of people as individuals and in groups, thus enabling them to undertake initiatives of their own to combat social, economic, political and environmental problems, and enabling them to fully participate in a truly democratic process.

Capacity building is essential if local people are to become agents of forms of sustainable development that they themselves initiate. Central to this is the establishment and support of an institutional framework to support social learning which, at the heart of this process, provide people with the competences to determine their own futures.

The relationship between education and sustainable development is complex.

Generally, research shows that basic education is key to a nation's ability to develop and achieve sustainability targets. Research has shown that education can improve agricultural productivity, enhance the status of women, reduce population growth rates, enhance environmental protection, and generally raise the standard of living. But the relationship is not linear. For example, four to six years of education is the minimum threshold for increasing agricultural productivity. Literacy and numeracy allow farmers to adapt to new agricultural methods, cope with risk, and respond to market signals. Literacy also helps farmers mix and apply chemicals (e.g., fertilizers and pesticides) according to manufacturers' directions, thereby reducing the risks to the environment and human health.

A basic education also helps farmers gain title to their land and apply for credit at banks and other lending institutions. Effects of education on agriculture are greatest when the proportion of females educated to threshold level equals that of males.

Another educational threshold is primary education for women. At least a primary education is required before birthrate drops and infant health and children's education improve. Nine to 12 years of education are required for increased industrial productivity.

This level of education also increases the probability of employment in a changing economy. Few studies have been carried out on how education affects environmental stewardship, but one study suggests that a lower-secondary education (or approximately nine years) is necessary to intensify use of existing land and to provide alternative off-farm employment and migration from rural areas. Finally, a subtle combination of higher education, research, and life-long learning is necessary for a nation to shift to an information or knowledge-based economy, which is fueled less by imported technology and more by local innovation and creativity. (UNESCO - ACEID, 1997)⁴.

According to the UNESCO, Education directly affects sustainability plans in the following three areas:

-Implementation. An educated citizenry is vital to implementing informed and sustainable development. In fact, a national sustainability plan can be enhanced or limited by the level of education attained by the nation's citizens. Nations with high illiteracy rates and unskilled workforces have fewer development options. For the most part, these nations are forced to buy energy and manufactured goods on the international market with hard currency. To acquire hard currency, these countries need international trade; usually this leads to exploitation of natural resources or conversion of lands from self-sufficient family based farming to cash-crop agriculture. An educated workforce is key to moving beyond an extractive and agricultural economy.

-Decision making. Good community-based decisions—which will affect social, economic, and environmental well-being—also depend on educated citizens. Development options,

⁴ Rosalyn McKeown, « The Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit », May 2002

especially "greener" development options, expand as education increases. For example, a community with an abundance of skilled labor and technically trained people can persuade a corporation to locate a new information-technology and software-development facility nearby. Local people can also act to protect their communities by analyzing reports and data that address community issues and helping shape a community response. For example, citizens who were concerned about water pollution reported in a nearby watershed started monitoring the water quality of local streams. Based on their data and information found on the World Wide Web, they fought against the development of a new golf-course, which would have used large amounts of fertilizer and herbicide in maintenance of the grounds.

-Quality of life. Education is also central to improving quality of life. Education raises the economic status of families; it improves life conditions, lowers infant mortality, and improves the educational attainment of the next generation, thereby raising the next generation's chances for economic and social well-being. Improved education holds both individual and national implications.

NGOs provide trainings and education to local communities in order to educate them about environmental conservation, tourism activity management, waste management...

NETIF has developed lots of training program which aim to educate villagers about the importance of sustainability.

Community development inferred a viable economic activity which induces an efficient natural resources management, fair and equitable employment and education and awareness among local people. Sustainable tourism development also inferred infrastructure implementation which will improve community development.

3. Funding and infrastructure development

Improving the tourism appeal of regional areas and the subsequent increased tourist visitations will have a number of direct benefits including improvement of infrastructure such as roads, power and water supply, waste management...

1. Revenue and types of funding

The impact of tourism on economic activity could be direct and indirect. The first part consists of the most obvious benefits of the settlement of interest such as: Accommodation, transport, visit... Tourists also spend their travel budget with local businesses (meals, performances ...). This indirect impact of tourism is very difficult to measure. However this impact is especially important because it brings income for a large population. It is for this reason that the indirect benefits are interesting is that they directly concerns the places visited, without going through intermediaries.

Tourism activity also contributes to government revenues. Government revenues from the tourism sector can be categorized as direct and indirect contributions. Direct contributions are generated by taxes on incomes from tourism employment, tourism businesses and by direct charges on tourists such as eco-tax or departure taxes. Indirect contributions derive from taxes and duties on goods and services supplied to tourists. As an example we can take the taxes on souvenirs, alcohol, restaurants, etc.

In any sustainable tourism project, the economic benefits may be particularly important for local people. However, experience show that these benefits are consistency after many years. Case studies also demonstrate that short-term revenue from sustainable tourism are small and not sufficient to fund the protection of the environment required to provide a high quality ecotourism products. They also show that it is very difficult to ensure the distribution of financial benefits between private stakeholders and the public sector (UNWTO and UNEP, 2002)⁵. In addition, although sustainable has great potential to generate economic benefits, a large proportion of this money is spent more often than the place of origin of tourists (for

⁵ Lawrence Pratt, Director of the Latin American Center for Competitiveness and Sustainable Development (CLACDS) United Nations Environment Programme, 2011

example tickets) (Wall, 1994). Thus, the economic impacts of ecotourism are not always substantial and may not even be positive at all even with the intervention of NGOs.

There is different type of income for NGO and it is useful to analyze those different sources of income into two broad classifications:

- Restricted or unrestricted, an indicator of flexibility
- Short or longer-term, an indicator of continuity

Figure 1 Funding Types Matrix

	Unrestricted		
Short term	General fundraising	Core financing	Long term
	Project funding	Programme funding	
	Restricted		

Source: Mango 2010

Figure 1 combines the two classifications and illustrates how NGO income sources fall into different categories according to the level of restriction applied to the funds and their level of continuity.

Unrestricted funds are funds that come to the NGO without restriction on how they are used, providing of course, they are used to fulfill the NGO's objectives. In general, grants from donor agencies are restricted funds since they usually come with terms and conditions about what the funds may or may not be used for.

So it is the income that an NGO generates through its own efforts that tends to be in the unrestricted category – such as membership fees, fundraising events, general donations and bank interest. This 'free money' brings greater autonomy, flexibility and security for an

NGO. In general, it is good to have a mix of funding types, but very important to have some in the top right quadrant. (MANGO)⁶

-General fundraising

Short-term and relatively unrestricted income, such as one-off fundraising events and public donations. Useful for building up reserves or for gap funding (i.e. where a project funding agreement fails to cover 100% of costs) but not for long-term commitments.

-Project funding

Short-term and relatively restricted income, generally from institutional donor agencies. Being project-specific, these funds generally last for 1-3 years and are difficult to extend further leading to a loss of project continuity. This is the most common form of NGO financing.

-Program funding

Longer term with some restrictions, these are funds provided by funding partners where a strong working relationship has been established and where grants are based on programme themes.

-Core financing

This is income which can be relied upon as regular and flexible, so is most likely to be used for the NGO's core operations. This type of financing helps to meet Norton's definition of financial sustainability: "The organization and its core work will not collapse if external funding is withdrawn". (Norton)

The search for alternative sources of finance can be likened to an entrepreneur looking for investment opportunities. NGOs wishing to become financially self-sufficient or wishing to diversify their sources of funding need to adopt a more business-like approach.

By increasing the levels of self-financing, an NGO may make its legal status ambiguous.

As a non-profit making organization the NGO usually benefits from a series of legal exemptions related to, for example, taxation regulations. If, through changes in sources of funding, the organization starts to make a financial surplus (i.e. 'profit'), the legal status of the NGO as a not-for profit body may be challenged. Depending on the legal environment in

⁶ MANGO : Management and accountability of Nongovernmental Organization
<http://www.mango.org.uk>

which the NGO operates, this lack of legal clarity may be a deterrent to alternative financing strategies.

NGOs, as values-based organizations, generally have a strong social ethos and identity, shared by members and staff. The changes that have been discussed above are often seen to threaten the sense of shared purpose or vision of the organization, especially in sustainable tourism which is a sector with high important values.

2. Implementation of infrastructure

Tourism is a set of sectors such as transport, accommodation, catering, recreation, entertainment, sports and travel companies and a sustainable tourism approach will have an impact on each part of each sector. It is demonstrate that tourism could reduce social inequality, increase access to basic needs for communities and increase infrastructure such as roads, transportation, communication...which will improve community development.

To illustrate this process, I took 2 examples:

-Public Toilets in Okhereni (Kathmandu Valley)

It was found that in the KVCTT there was a need of public toilet for trekkers and hikers. NETIF has constructed two public toilets in vital places along the KVCTT. The toilets are there for trekkers and help to consolidate raw waste and keep it out of the water ways and help to prevent pollution of such kind along the trail. Toilets are also useful for villagers living upstream in the mountain since 90 % of the villagers do not possess a proper sanitation facilities and toilets as the result they practice in the open areas. This tourism improvement has facilitated and improves everyday life of local communities.

-Plastic waste management

A strategy to reduce the amount of plastic waste created by visitors was devised by TAAN together with the NGOs and several travel agencies. Visitors drink a lot of water, which is typically consumed from disposable plastic bottles that are used once and thrown away. With this in mind, TAAN decided to use plastic water bottles that can be reused and taken home. The bottles are sold to the visitors and can be filled with purified water from the well

at no cost. The proceeds from the bottle purchases are used to provide local students with fellowships to go to school. This initiative, impulse by sustainable concern relative to tourism development has improved community development and empowerment by providing fund to local people to finance their schooling and education.

It is generally accepted that tourism industry generate revenue that benefit to local communities but sustainable tourism developing by NGO is even more effective for community development and empowerment since it is a type of tourism that respect values such as fair employment, gender equality or environmental protection that ensure a durable development for local communities.

There are internal and external factors on community development. On one hand there is action done by outsiders who have to make possible that the principles of community development are transferred and manage by the community and, on the other hand, there are the community members who need to take action and realize that they can make the difference.

Sustainable tourism development driven by NGO is a cooperation and collaboration approach which aim for a high involvement of local communities and a viable and long term development. Respect for values induce by sustainability such as consideration for socio-cultural identity or natural resources conservation ensure a reasonable and responsible development while community empowerment.

Conclusion

The purpose of this report was to understand how NGOs actions in tourism sector lead to community development in Nepal. Findings show that the country possesses all preconditions to develop a competitive tourism industry but there is an urgent need in sustainability in the tourism sector. Because of government lack in tourism sector organization and management, professionals of tourism industry rapidly structured themselves in several associations gathering stakeholders from similar activities and dedicated to pool their skills and competence for a more efficiency. However, tourism is a multi-sector industry and need a transversal leader to be well managed. That's why NGOs appear as the best actor for sustainable tourism implementation and development. Their skills in advocacy and governance make them able to manage a large network involving both private and public sector which are both essential for tourism industry. Nongovernmental organizations know how to develop efficient partnership and can have an important influence in public opinion that is crucial for creating awareness among tourist and to have a bearing on government regulation and policy in order to rapidly establish change for a sustainable tourism.

Social is one of the three pillars of sustainable development and imply community development and empowerment. NGOs, through sustainable tourism, hardly participate in this improvement by developing strategy in collaboration and cooperation with local communities whose take part in the decision- making process of each step of the project. Actions leads by NGOs for sustainable tourism development rely on community needs and concerns and all infrastructure intended to tourism development have to enhance community welfare and livelihood.

Because Nepal need environmental protection and economic development for local community, NGOs are essential in tourism industry, they are bringing big changes in a positive way.

However, NGOs should be a temporary structure dedicated to solve problems and then, by an efficient knowledge transfer, educated communities to enable them to face it alone. It could be interesting to investigate NGOs actions in a long-term period and analyze if their actions are beneficial for local communities or if they create dependence among them.

Bibliography

- ASIA INVEST (2008) "Nepal Tourism Sector" Asian Tour. Pdf File
- BARNETT T, (2008) "Influencing Tourism at the Grassroots Level: the role of NGO Tourism Concern." Third World Quarterly . Available from: Business Source Premier.
- **BORRAZ O and GALES P.**, (2010)« Urban Governance in Europe : the Government of What ? », *Métropoles* URL:www.metropoles.revues.org
- BRAMWELL B and LANE B, (May 2011) "Critical research on the governance of tourism and sustainability." Journal of Sustainable Tourism.
- BREHM,V.M, (2001) "NGO Policy" Briefing Paper No.4, April Oxford: INTRAC (International NGO Training and Research Center) Pdf File
- BUTCHER and JIM, (2006) "Natural Capital and the Advocacy of Ecotourism as Sustainable Development." Journal of Sustainable Tourism
- FEARS (2011) "Environmental effects of tourism on Mount Everest" URL:www.brighhub.com/environment/green-living/articles.aspx
- FERENCY Z.A (2005)"Les ONG humanitaires, leur financement et les medias" Intitut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales. Pdf File
- HAILEY J. (2006) "NGO Leadership Development" Praxis Paper 10 INTRAC (International NGO Training and Research Center) Pdf File
- JAMES R. (2001) "Power and Partnership? Experiences of NGO Capacity-Building." Oxford: INTRAC (International NGO Training and Research Center) Pdf File
- LOW W and DAVENPORT E, (2002) "NGO capacity building and sustainability in the Pacific." Asia Pacific Viewpoint. Pdf File
- MCKEOWN R.,(May 2002) « The Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit" URL: www.esdtoolkit.org
- MEK BAHADUR THAPA (2012) "Tourism and sustainable community development in Nepal" Master Degree in Central Ostrobothna University of Applied Sciences.
- MOWFORTH and MUNT (1998) "Tourism and sustainability – New tourism in third world" edition Routledge

- RUGGLES –BRISE and AIMABLE (2012) “Travel and Tourism economic impact 2012” World travel and tourism council Pdf file
- SACAREAU I. (2009) “Changes in environmental policy and mountain tourism in Nepal” Revue de géographie alpine –Le tourisme montagnard au crible de la durabilité.
- Prof. SUBAS KC, Mr. ASHISH SHRESTHA (2005) “Organization governance and leadership” Series of Training Modules on Organizational Development SANDEEP Pdf File
- TURNER (1976), “Tourism and third world” The royal institute of international affairs London, England. Pdf File
- UNCSD NGO Steering Committee (1999) “Sustainable tourism: A Nongovernmental organization perspective” Background Paper no.4, Commission on Sustainable development. Pdf File
- UNITED NATIONS (2001) « Managing sustainable tourism development » ESCAP tourism review No.22. Pdf File
- VERGER O. and WHITE G. (2004) “Les partenariats entreprises/ONG dans le cadre des démarches societales” Premier elements d’analyse IMS entrepreneurs Pdf File

WEBSITE

- ESCAP VIRTUAL CONFERENCE “The Annapurna Conservation Project”
URL: <http://www.unescap.org>
- GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL “Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation”
URL: <http://www.tourism.gov.np/>
- ICIMOD “International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development”
URL: <http://www.icimod.org/>
- NEPAL TOURISM BOARD “Naturally Nepal” URL: <http://welcomenepal.com>
- NETIF “Nepal environmental and Tourism Initiative Foundation”
URL: <http://www.netif-nepal.org/>
- SUOMEN LATU “Central Association for Recreational Sports and Outdoor Activities in Finland” URL: www.suomenlatu.fi
- TAAN “Trekking Agencies Associations of Nepal”
URL: <http://www.taان.org.np/>
- THE MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE “Culture and community”
URL: <http://www.mountain.org/what-we-do>

Table of Appendix

Appendix 1: Major strategies and policy changes from 1956 to 2007 in Nepal

Appendix 2: List of Professionals association in tourism sector in Nepal

Appendix 3: Questionnaire about rate occupancy and hotels facilities in The Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail

Appendix 3': Questionnaire dedicated to Travel and Trekking Agencies

Appendix 4: Kathmandu Valley Cultural trekking Trail promotion in Lonely Planet tourism guide book

Appendix 5: Women empowerment project lead by NETIF

Appendix 1 : Major strategies and policy changes from 1956 to 2007 in Nepal

Plan	Year	Major Strategies and policy changes
1 st	1956-61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of Tourism Development Board (1957) • Formation of Department of Tourism (1959)
2 nd	1962-65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of National Travel Agency to conduct tours for tourists • Enactment of “ Tourism Act 1964”
3 rd	1965-70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on conservation of temples and historical places in particular Lumbini, birth place of Buddha
4 th	1970-75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of “Tourism Master Plan”
5 th	1975-80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Tourism Ministry (1977) • Plan for growth of tourism beyond Kathmandu Valley
6 th	1980-85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of Tourism Master Plan-Second Phase
7 th	1985-90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on protection of and conservation of environmental, historical, religious and cultural resources • Plan for increasing the length of stay
8 th	1992-97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for of public-private partnership • Developing Nepal as a final destination
9 th	1997-2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linkage of Tourism with the national economy • Establishing Nepal as a premium destination • Diversification of Tourism Destination • Up gradation of quality tourism products
10 th	2002-2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Sustainable development and qualitative promotion of tourism sector. • Promotion of tourism in neighbouring country • Promotion of eco-tourism • Involvement of private sector for tourism development through Build Operate and Transfer Concept • Implementation of priority programmes such as environmental protection, promotion of alternative energy and awareness generation

Table 1: Summary of National Plans

(Source: Banskota and Sharma, 1998; Chand, 2000; Pradhan, 1997; NPC, 1997; NPC, 2002)

Appendix 2 : List of professionals association in tourism sector in Nepal

AOAN	Airlines Operators Association of Nepal
ATTON	Association of Trans-Himalayan Tour Operators
ASTS	Adventure Sports Tourism Society
BARN	Board of Airlines Representative Nepal
BTDC	Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee
ESA	Everest Submitter Association
HAN	Handicraft Association of Nepal
HAN	Hotel Association Nepal
HRA	Himalayan Rescue Association
NARA	Nepal Association of Rafting Agents
NATO	Nepal Association of Tour Operators
NATTA	Nepal Association of Tours & Travel Agents
NCA	Nepal Canyoning Association
NARA	Nepal Association of Rafting Agents
NATO	Nepal Association of Tour Operators
NICA	Nepal Incentives and Convention Association
NMA	Nepal Mountaineering Association
NMF	Nepal Mountaineering Federation
PATA	Pacific Asia Travel Association
PTDO	Patan Tourism Development Organization
REBAN	Restaurant & Bar Association of Nepal
SATO	Society of Adventure Tour Operator
SOTTO	Society of Travel & Tour Operators Nepal
TTDC	Trekking Agencies Association Nepal
TURGAN	Tourist Guide Association of Nepal
TAAN	Thamel Tourism Development Committee

Appendix 3 : Questionnaire about rate occupancy and hotels facilities on the Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail

Questionnaire for hotel's in Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail (KVCTT)

Name of the hotel:

Address:

 Phone number:

 Email:

Website:

1. TARIFFS AND RATES OCCUPANCY

Published room tariffs Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you have different tariffs for low and high season?

Yes ☐ No ☐

What is your average occupancy rate?

Average occupancy rate by month	American and European foreigners	Domestic	Others Indians and Chinese	<i>Total</i>
January				
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
<i>Total</i>				

2.HOTEL EQUIPEMENT AND SERVICES

Please kindly tick-mark the available service below at your hotel :

TV	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Internet or wifi access	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Room telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Room services	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Laundry service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Power backup system	<input type="checkbox"/>		
If yes,	Solar system <input type="checkbox"/>	Wind system <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Battery <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
Souvenir shop	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Health or SPA services	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Library room	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Seminar hall	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Credit card Payment available	<input type="checkbox"/>		

2.ROOM EQUIPEMENT

Numbers of room:

Number of bed:

Attached bathroom	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non attached bathroom	<input type="checkbox"/>
Room heater	<input type="checkbox"/>		
If yes,	Electrical heater <input type="checkbox"/>	Gas heater	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Briquettes <input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hot water	<input type="checkbox"/>		
If yes, type of hot water system		Solar panels	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Electrical system	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Gas heater	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix 3' : Questionnaire dedicated to Travel and trekking agencies

Trekking I Agency Questionnaire

I am Hudry Cecile, a French Student from Savoie University, France. As part of my Masters Degree in Tourism Management and in collaboration with Nepal Environment and Tourism Initiative Foundation (NETIF), I'm conducting a research study to investigate the implementation and development of sustainable tourism in Kathmandu Valley. The following survey aimed to evaluate travel/trekking agencies involvement in sustainable approach concerning tourism development around Kathmandu Valley.

Name of the Agency:

Telephone Number:

Email address:

Website:

1. Where does your client mainly come from?

European	<input type="checkbox"/>	American	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. What kind of promotion channel do you use?

a. Brochure	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Social network	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Website	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Participate in Travel trade fares (Domestic/international)	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other.....	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. In which regions do you organize trekking trips for your clients in Nepal?

(Quote the following options from 1 to 6 in ascending order of demand)

Langtang area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Everest area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rims of Kathmandu Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mustang area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dolpo area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annapurna area	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Are you familiar with different trekking trails available around Kathmandu?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------

5. Are you familiar with day hiking trails available within Shivapuri- Nagarjun National Park?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------

6. Do you promote prevailing tourism product the "Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail "(KVCTT)?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------

7. If yes, which trekking route do you promote?

Sundarijal to Chisopani	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nagarkot to Dhulikhel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chisopani to Nagarkot	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dhulikhel to Panauti/Namo Buddha	<input type="checkbox"/>
The whole stretch KVCTT	<input type="checkbox"/>		

9. What type of problems does your clients face during the visit to KVCTT?

- a. Pollution problem & lack of waste management ☐
- b. service quality and facilities ☐
- c. Lack of direction signs / information ☐
- d. Other..... ☐

10. Are your clients satisfied with the accommodation and hospitality services in the areas of KVCTT?

Yes ☐ No ☐

11. Do you feel concerned about environmental issues in KVCTT route?

Yes ☐ No ☐

12. Do you agree that global demand for eco-tourism trip has increased in recent years?

Yes ☐ No ☐

13. Are you aware of responsible tourism practices and its possible benefits?

Yes ☐ No ☐

14. Do you inform your staff and clients to follow the code of conducts (Dos and Don'ts) related to the environmental conservation and cultural preservation?

Yes ☐ No ☐

15. What an ecotourism approach could bring to your business?

Quote the following options from 1 to 5 in ascending order of benefits

- ☐ Increase in Quality tourist and business volume
- ☐ Improve tourist's satisfaction
- ☐ Improve the quality of the destination
- ☐ Contribution to environmental conservation and local economy
- ☐ Business Sustainability

16. Are you familiar with the Tourism development project conducted by NETIF in KVCTT?

Yes ☐ No ☐

17. Would you like to contribute in some ways developing sustainable tourism activates together with NETIF?

Yes ☐ No ☐

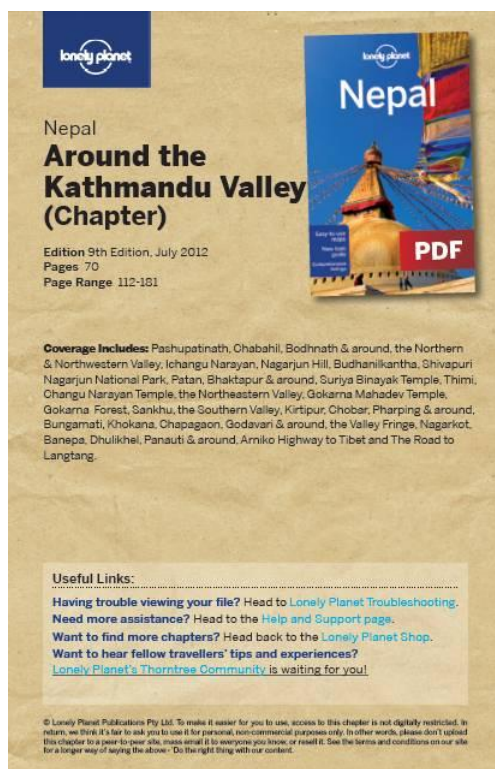
18. In what way do you think you can contribute KVCTT?

- a. Participate in waste management ☐
- b. Tree plantation ☐
- c. Participate in a livelihood training programs and small infrastructure development ☐
- d. trail maintenance ☐
- e. Other

Do you have any suggestions?

Thank you for your co-operation.

Appendix 4 : Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trekking Trail promotion in Lonely Planet Tourism Guide



©Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd



Around the Kathmandu Valley

Includes »

Pashupatinath	115
Bodhnath (Boudha)	118
Budhanilkantha	124
Patan	126
Bhaktapur	140
Thimi	155
Sankhu	159
Kirtipur	160
Pharping	162
Bungamati	164
Godavari	166
Nagarkot	167
Dhulikhel	172
Panauti	175

Why Go?

In many ways the Kathmandu Valley is Nepal. Created by the eponym of the Buddhist deity Manjushri, the natural basin is a patchwork of terraced fields and sacred temple towns that showcase the glory of the architects and artisans of Nepal. The valley is literally full of medieval villages, centuries-old temples and sacred sites, while just beyond the valley rims lie Himalayan viewpoints and two adventurous roads to Tibet.

Aside from the great Unesco World Heritage Sites of Patan, Bodhnath and Bhaktapur, try to visit one or two of the smaller Newari villages off the mainstream tourist circuit. All of the attractions in this chapter can be explored by frequent minibuses, taxi, mountain bike, motorcycle, or even on foot, following a web of ancient trails. You'll likely see fewer tourists just 10km outside Kathmandu than you will if you trek for days through the Himalayas.

Best Hikes

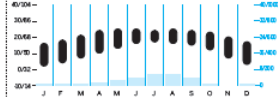
- Nagarkot to Dhulikhel (see boxed text, p170)
- Dhulikhel to Panauti via Namobuddha (p173)
- Gokarna Mahadev Temple to Bodhnath, via Kopan Monastery (see boxed text, p160)

Best Places to Stay

- Shivapuri Heights (p125)
- Famous Farm (p180)
- Traditional Homes Patan Durbar Square (p135)
- Last Resort (p178)

When to Go

Nagarkot



Mar-Apr

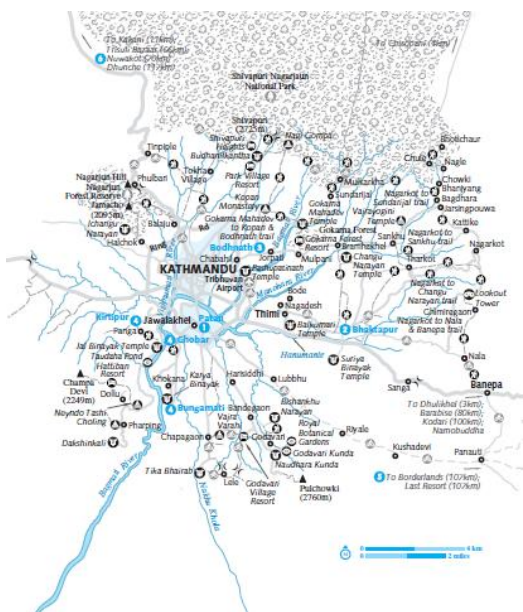
Warm weather, green farmland and some spectacular chautari festivals.

Oct-Jan

Clear views and sunny days but chilly nights at Nagarkot and Dhulikhel.

May-Sep

Hot and humid, with regular rainfall and temperatures over 30°C, but the valley is green.



Around the Kathmandu Valley Highlights

- 1 Lose yourself in Patan's (p126) courtyards on a walking tour, soak in the glorious Newari architecture of its Durbar Sq and visit Patan Museum, the best in the country
- 2 Explore the fascinating backstreets of Bhaktapur (p140), Nepal's best-preserved medieval town
- 3 Join the Tibetan exiles on the kora (clockwise circuit) around the enormous Bodhnath Stupa (p120)
- 4 Have a hiking or biking mini-adventure in the little-visited towns of the Southern Valley - Kirtipur (p160), Bungamati (p164) and Chobar (p161)
- 5 Get the pulse racing on a bungee, canyoning or rafting trip at the adventure resorts of Borderlands (p178) or the Last Resort (p178), just a stone's throw from the Tibet border
- 6 Escape the crowds and relax at little-visited Nuwakot (p190), a historically important village with fine architecture

To Sankhu (2½ Hours from Nagarkot)

The quickest route from Nagarkot is via a dirt road that leads all the way to Sankhu. Take the northwest road down to the Nagarkot Farmhouse Resort and follow switchbacks down to the village of **Kattike**, which has a teahouse for refreshments. Go left at the junction at the edge of town. You can continue all the way down this track, or take a minor road that turns off sharply to the right after 15 minutes. Follow this track for 20 minutes as it shrinks to a trail and then take a sharp left downhill past several houses to rejoin the main track. From here it's an hour's slog to Sankhu village.

A more scenic route along village trails starts from just past the Nagarkot bus park, where you take a right downhill and continue on to the village of Bakhriagaon. From here you keep following trails that take you through to the main track joining at Bismahar.

To Sundarjal (One to Two Days from Nagarkot)

It takes two easy days – or one very long day – to skirt around the valley rim to Sundarjal, from where you can travel by road to Gokarna, Bodhnath and Kathmandu, trek for another day along the valley rim to Budhanilkantha, or start the treks to Helambu or Gosainkund. Accommodation is available at Bhotichaur and Sundarjal in local guesthouses, but the trails can be confusing so ask for directions frequently.

Start by following the Sankhu trail as far as Kattike (about one hour), then turn right (north) to Jorsim Pawa. Walk further down through Baghihara to Chowki Bhanjyang (about one hour) and on for one more hour through Nagle to **Bhotichaur**, a good place to stop overnight in a village inn.

On day two, walk back up the trail towards Chowki Bhanjyang and take the fork leading uphill by a chautara (porters' resting place). This path climbs uphill to cross a ridge line before dropping down on the middle of three trails to Chule (or Jhule). Here the path enters the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park and contours around the edge of the valley for several hours, before dropping down to Mularkha, on the first stage of the Helambu trek. From Mularkha, it's an easy descent beside the water pipeline to Sundarjal.

An alternative route runs northwest from Bhotichaur to **Chisopani**, the first overnight stop on the Helambu trek, which has several trekking lodges. The next day, you can hike southwest over the ridge through Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park to Sundarjal.

garkot at 10.15am from outside Nagarkot.com. From Kathmandu, buses depart at 1.30pm out front of Hotel Malla in Lalchaur. To get here by public bus you'll need to transfer at Bhaktapur (Rs 35, one hour) and jump on another bus to Nagarkot, which leave every 30 minutes. There are also buses from here to Sankhu and Bodhnath.

A one-way taxi to Nagarkot costs around Rs 1500 from Kathmandu, or Rs 2500 for a return trip with an hour or so to view the peaks. Walking to, or preferably from, Nagarkot is an interesting alternative.

Banepa

POP 16,000

The first major town you reach heading east out of the valley, Banepa is a lot more attractive once you get off its hellish highway and into the brick-paved backstreets snaking north from the highway. Its worth spend-

ing an hour or so exploring, with a number of Hindu and Buddhist temples. Most were built in the 14th and 16th centuries, when Banepa was an important stop on the trade route to Tibet, boasting trade links as far afield as the Ming dynasty on the east coast of China.

Legend has it that the people of this valley were once terrorised by a demon known as Chand, who was defeated by one of the fearsome incarnations of Parvati, earning the goddess a new title – Chandeshwari, 'Slayer of Chand'. The Chandeshwari Temple has an enormous mural of Bhairab on its wall, and is a popular pilgrimage spot where animals are sacrificed here on feast days.

Located in front of the temple is a row of columns supporting statues of a menagerie of animals, and the statue supporting

171

AROUND THE KATHMANDU VALLEY BANEPA

Appendix 5 : Women empowerment project lead by NETIF

Trekking Trails Lead Nepal Women to Empowerment

By Sudeshna Sarkar

Mulkharka's women cleaning up the trekking trail that is an economic lifeline for the village.

KATHMANDU, Jul 22, 2011 (IPS) - Dawa Gyalmo Sherpa's three sons went to look for blue-collar jobs in Malaysia, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, saying Mulkharka, their tiny village in Kathmandu valley, had no livelihood prospects.

However, when all three came back empty-handed, with complaints of being poorly paid, their mother, who runs a small tea house, became the breadwinner of the family.

Unlike her sons, 46-year-old Sherpa is illiterate but capably runs the 'Riverside Khajaghar' tea house. Once an unassuming eatery it began to get better custom after an old trekking trail running through the village was revived by a local non-government organisation (NGO).

"There are 200 houses in Mulkharka," says Ashok Maharjan, secretary at Nepal Environment and Tourism Initiative Foundation (NETIF), an NGO founded in 2006 to develop and sustain the environment and rural tourism. "Around 60 percent of the population consists of women and it is mostly they who run the tea houses and trekkers' lodges."



Thousands of women like Dawa have been shouldering the double burden of looking after the family and earning for them as husbands and sons went abroad in search of jobs as a 10-year civil war exacerbated poverty and unemployment in Nepal.

With tourism the mainstay, the government launched in 2001 the Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme aimed at developing sustainable rural tourism, focusing on the poor, women, environment and community.

Funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nepal, the British government's Department for International Development, and the Netherlands Development Organisation, the programme operates in six districts outside the Kathmandu valley, building infrastructure and providing training to run micro enterprises.

Now NGOs are also coming forward to promote tourism. Funded by the Finnish government and Suomen Latu, a Finnish NGO focused on recreational sports and outdoor activities, NETIF is promoting the Kathmandu Valley Cultural Trek, on a 72 km trail winding through six towns - Sundarjal, Chisapani, Nagarkot, Dhulikhel, Namobuddha and Panauti - as well as the Shivapuri National Park.

"An old trekking trail existed here, but it became disused for lack of maintenance," says Prabin Paudel, coordinator of the heritage trail project. "We helped the community repair and green it by planting trees. Last month, in Chisapani alone 3,200 rhododendron saplings were planted."

In Mulkharka, where cooking gas is yet to make its appearance, villagers use firewood for cooking. It caused widespread felling of trees, forced the women to spend several hours of their day scrounging the forest for wood, and also led to eye and respiratory diseases caused by the smoky, primitive clay stoves they used.

NETIF began by offering new improved cooking stoves that reduced wood consumption by almost 50 percent. These are manufactured by the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre run by the environment ministry under its energy sector assistance programme supported by the Danish International Development Agency.

"We then provided them training in briquette-making," says NETIF president Arun Shrestha. "These are processed from either dung or banmara (mikania micrantha), a pernicious weed that overruns and destroys forests."

This was rounded off with training in organic farming, so that the women can grow vegetables and crops like maize, basic hotel training and skills in making handicraft items.

"Before the heritage trail was developed, the area saw about 20,000 tourists a year," says Paudel. "Now, it has reached around 80,000."

More tourists means better business for the tea shops and lodges. Dawa Gyalmo is planning to upgrade Riverside Khajaghar to a lodge for trekkers to stay overnight.

Other women are following suit. The new demand for financing has given rise to six major women's groups in Mulkharka with the members starting their own micro-finance cooperatives.

"Each woman contributes about Nepali Rs 100-200 (1-2.5 US dollars) and the accumulated fund is loaned out," says Dawa Sherpa, secretary of the Sundarjal Environment and Tourism Development Society. "They decided to form their own cooperatives after they realised that loans taken from the outside carried far higher interest."

Tourists bring business, but litter the trail with plastic bags, mineral water bottles and wrappers. Women's groups now voluntarily scour the entire trail twice a year segregating biodegradable waste and burning it in incinerators gifted by NETIF. The rest is taken down to the municipality's garbage collectors.

Other organisations have begun promoting similar trails. In hilly western Nepal, the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP), a multi-lateral, donor-funded poverty reduction initiative, the ministry of industry and UNDP are supporting two trails and spent 138,120 dollars on infrastructure since last year.

MEDEP's 7-9 day ecotourism trek through the districts of Parbat, Myagdi and Baglung includes a stay in a 20-bed lodge that is expected to bring in dollars.

The indigenous Magar community, which provides the bulk of the 'Gurkhas' serving in the British and Indian armies, dominate the region. With Magar men mostly out of the country, their women take all the key decisions at home.

"While we put up 60 percent of the money for the lodge, the community contributed 40 percent," says MEDEP's Laxmi Pun. "The revenue earned by the lodge will go back to the community," she said.

Source: http://www.netif-nepal.org/women_empowerment.htm