Sustainable Tourism Development and Management in the Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal

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Abstract

Annapurna Conservation Area is exceptionally rich in both natural and cultural resources. Tourism in Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) is perceived as the most important activity in linking the conservation and developmental work with the socio-economic needs of the people thereby managing the resources important from the natural, cultural and socioeconomic point of view. For sustainable management of the tourism, two types of tourism development modalities are practiced in the ACA, such as the community based sustainable tourism in Manang, Mustang, Myagdi, Kaski and Lamjung and low volume high value tourism in Upper Mustang and Upper Manang (Nar-Phoo). This has been possible through the implementation of various tourism development activities carried out under the Tourism Management Programme (TMP). The Programmes include the formation of local institutions - Tourism Management sub Committees (TMsCs), information dissemination, publication and production (sign posts for tourists, brochures printing etc), waste management, capacity building at local level, stakeholder awareness, promotion of alternative energy and fuel-efficient technologies in lodges, encouraging local people to grow vegetables and cereals to meet the demand of visitors, managing Visitor Information Centers and check posts, upgrading tourism related services & infrastructure, accreditation of tourism business, surveys of new trekking destinations and visitor perception and monitoring.