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**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON THE  
LIVELIHOOD OF THE THARUS**

**A Case Study of Chitwan National Park, Nepal**

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**ABSTRACT**

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<p>The Nepal government has used a bio-diversity conservation strategy and tourism development in an around the conservation area of the Chitwan National Park. This study was conducted in Sauraha, buffer zone area of Chitwan National Park where the Tharus, an indigenous and ethnic people of Terai, has been living for a long time as original dwellers and a malaria resistant people. The objective of the study was to explore social and economic impacts of tourism on the Tharus livelihood and situation of tourism in the Chitwan National Park (Sauraha).</p> <p>This study is based on both qualitative and quantitative secondary data and the analysis of secondary data taken from different kinds of sources. In addition, observation method was applied in the field work in Sauraha.</p> <p>The study revealed that the establishments of the national park and the tourism development have transformed the area into a touristic place. Further, the livelihood of the Tharus has been affected by the establishment of the national park since their livelihood traditionally depended on the resources of the park. The tourism development and establishment of the park forced them to diversify the Tharus livelihood in order to cope with the situation.</p>		
<b>Key words</b> Chitwan National Park, livelihood, Nepal, Sauraha, Tharu, tourism development		

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

BS	Bikram Shambad (Nepali Calander)
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CNP	Chitwan National Park
DNPWC	Department National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
IUNC	International union for the conservation of the Nature & Natural Resources
MP	Master Plan
NPWC	National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
NGO	Non -Governmental Organisation
RBNP	Royal Bardia National Park
RCNP	Royal Chitwan National Park
RSWR	Royal Suklaphata Wildlife Reserve
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
US	United States
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nation Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**ABSTRACT**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The livelihood of the Tharus has been changed drastically after the establishment of the Chitwan National Park in 1973. The Tharus have lost their tradition of shifting cultivation. The loss of a semi-nomadic life-style has forced them to stay in one place. The Tharus have no easy access to natural resources for their subsistence. Their life and existence was challenged and changed. After the declaration of the national park, the Tharus are not allowed to hunt wild animals for food nor can they collect grass from the national park during the time of festivals and religious activities. Because of the lack of pasture, the inhabitants of this area are unable to keep many animals. This has affected them immensely. Similarly, they have stopped collecting traditional medical plants, jungle fruits and vegetables which is affecting the nutritional value of their diets. Furthermore, it has become very difficult to catch fish in the river which is their staple food and necessary for their festivals. UNESCO declared the Chitwan National Park as a World Heritage Site in 1984 because of their pristine nature and unique bio-diversity. After the declaration of the World Heritage Site in 1984, the state has adopted the policy of tourism development around the area of Chitwan National Park. As Chitwan National Park became a World Heritage Site, this place has turned into a tourist gaze. The numbers of tourists visiting the national park is increasing day by day. Tourism development helps to increase business activities. The number of hotels and resorts is increasing rapidly.

The Tharus diversify their livelihood strategy in order to cope with the situation which has emerged by the tourism development and the establishment of the national park. Nowadays, the Tharus are not only dependent on agriculture, they also working in hotels and resorts, horse cart drivers, mahouts, nature and tourist guides, grocery shop assistants etc. In this study, the situation of tourism in the Chitwan National Park and how the livelihood of the Tharus has been affecting after establishing the park and the tourism development was explored.

### **1.1 Research site**

This study was conducted in Sauraha which is a part of the Bachhauli Village Development Committee (VDC) and located in the central part of the Terai region of Nepal. The distance from Kathmandu to Sauraha is 165 km. Bachhauli VDC is located in the Chitwan District of Nepal. The Chitwan District consists of 38 VDCs that include the Bachhuali VDC and it has 9 wards which is the smallest unit of administration division. Sauraha is in the buffer zone area of Chitwan National Park and it is declared buffer zone area in 1996. The total area of buffer zone area of the park is 750 sq.km. After the establishment of the Chitwan National Park in 1973, the Tharus those resided inside the park were taken out and stayed in the buffer zone area. (Nakarmi 2007.)

### **1.2 Data collection methods**

Both qualitative and quantitative secondary data was used. Secondary data collected from VDC records, District Development Committee, Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), different web sites etc. and relevant literature from library. In qualitative research, observation method is used. The field trip was conducted in Sauraha and inside Chitwan National Park. The information were received from the hotel owners, restaurant employees, nature guides, tourists, cart drivers and elephant riders etc regarding the tourism and the park.

### **1.3 Limitation of the study**

The study was based on secondary data which used both qualitative and quantitative of data. Research was conducted only in a specific area. The findings and recommendations of the study may not be generalized in other places where the scenario may be different. The study was also focused on the state policy for the development which impacts the livelihood of the

Tharus. However, this study did not cover the internal migration of the Tharus and their culture and tradition etc in details.

#### **1.4 Thesis organization**

The chapter one consists of introduction, research site, data collection methods, limitation of the study and thesis organization. Further, in chapter two, it highlights tourism development, its economic and social impacts in society. The chapter three explains about the history and characteristics of the Chitwan National Park. Moreover, this chapter also explains about the Tharus and their traditional occupation. The chapter four describes the tourism in Nepal and the tourism situation in the Chitwan National Park (Sauraha). This chapter also explains about the tourism business and how tourism generated employment in Sauraha. The chapter five elaborates research methodology and the observation of the field work. The chapter six highlights the findings and recommendation of the study.



## 2 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Tourism is the fastest growing industry in many countries. At the end of the 20th century, the revenue generated (internationally) from tourism was about US\$ 450 billion globally. Altogether in domestic and international, it has been estimated to US\$ 3.5 trillion. All countries have not promoted the tourism industry because they do not have such an infrastructure or they do not want to expose in the international arena due to political reasons. For example, Abu Dhabi is rich in oil resources but they are promoting tourism as this sector has also potential for economic development. To introduce the tourism policy, it is necessary to adjust economy and social policies. Some countries do not want the mass tourism as it affects the environment and ecology. However, tourism has capacity to produce such as employment and earning foreign currency etc. which are the backbone for the development of a country. Tourism has both negative and positive effects. Due to the effect of mass tourism on the host community, sustainable tourism development concept was introduced in 1990. Nowadays, there is a trend which involves taking the economic benefit from tourism and using the money in the host community. The tourism business should be planned in such a way that it minimises the social and environmental impacts and provides full economic benefit for the society. It makes the economy grow in society. (Sharpley & Telfer, 2002.)

In many countries, they give priority for the tourism development. It gives positive contribution locally and nationally. It is one of the main sources of foreign currency. It is also the source of income and employments. Many countries treat tourism as main industry. It plays vital role for the employment creation and increase gross domestic product. (Sharpley & Telfer, 2002.) Per capita income is especially high in developed countries that have revolutionized travelling in the world. Citizens from the developed countries are more interested to travel in other countries than developing country because of per capita income. They also like to travel to developing countries because of cheaper price and get more warm hospitality in those countries. (Bhatt 2006.)

The beginning of new millennium, every countries government wanted to develop the tourism industry. They have identify the new destination into a market. All countries are not successful to bring the tourists in destination. To become successful on tourism sector, it is necessary that tourism should be sustainable economically, socially acceptable and environmentally friendly. To success they should have proper plan and manage carefully. Many countries have damage the resources due to tourism because they do not have proper plan and manage for it. There are three steps to make plan and they are nationally, locally and individual ways. There should be proper cooperation between government and industry about the tourism development. They have to think the demand condition and fullfill its need. The development programme also to be done to meet the demand. Nowadays, the host community has relized that tourism affected the region not only a positive way but also in negative ways. The problem rise due to tourism are not the fault of tourist but the poor planning and management is also responsible factor. (Godfrey & Clarke 2000, 1-3.)

In previous, the destination is said to be successful if there should be numbers of tourists and how long they stayed. Nowadays, in modern tourism, it also consider the sustainability in the region. As per writer “ Destination communities are a basic element of modern tourism” (Godfrey & Clarke 2000, 3). In tourism the old resources can reuse it. For example the old building has been revenute for the purpose for hotel, resturant, coffee shops, café, seveniour shops etc. (Godfrey & Clarke 2000, 3.)

As per writer “ Tourism planning must recognize that there are limits of change acceptable to a community”. (Godfrey & Clarke 2000, 4.) There should be aware that tourism should change as per time. The community can change the resources to meet the changed market. It is wrong that the change in tourism can only benefit the the community. There are many examples unbenefical to community. For example, the land is very cheap before but due to tourism, the price of land is so expensive. The poor people could not buy the land and make the house for themselves. The people are engaged in tourism and difficult to find the manpower for farming. So, it should be consider that tourism planning should be done such a

way that it does not effects on local people and presereve the natural and cultures resources. (Godfrey & Clarke 2000, 4.)

## **2.1 Economic impacts of tourism development**

Tourism plays a vital role in the development of the economy of society. Economic impact actually means the spending by a tourist and its impacts on the economy. One of the main effects of tourism is its employment opportunities. It creates new kinds of jobs. Tourism industry is versatile and has a direct and indirect effect on society. The direct effects sectors are in hospitality, transport, local handicraft industry, building industry, food suppliers etc. and the indirect effects are others which are uncountable. Some tourism employments are seasonal basis. Tourism brings more employment than other sectors such as the export industries. It developed in the sector of public facilities, entertainment, culture, parks and recreation areas. (Kunwar 2002, 97.)

Tourism impacts various economic sectors such as revenue, sales, income or profit in the area. There are two tourism sector affected in the area; they are categorized primary and secondary. The primary effects include amusements, restaurants, transport, lodging and retail. The secondary effects are most of the sectors in the economy. The economic impacts of tourism can be categorized into three groups: there are direct impact, indirect impact and induced impact. The examples have shown about different kind of impacts. In direct impact, the first stage to spend on tourism such as to payment for restaurant invoice. The indirect impact, the expenditure by restaurant to buys goods and services from other companies. In induced impact, the restaurant employees expense their salaries for their daily life. (Bhatt 2003, 110-114.)

The main elements of economic change in the areas means associated with employment, income, economic activities and restoration in the destination. When talking about tourism, the development also has been seen the most notice. It is because the tourism helps to support the

economic activities in the area. The tourism developments certainly support the employment and generate the income in the destination. The impact of tourism has also positive and negative as well. The main job comes from tourism are tourist related and attraction field. The sectors are hotel, restaurant, attraction, travel firms and shops selling. The service sector and supply also generate the employment opportunity; they are agriculture, manufacturing, fisheries and transport services. Some tourism businesses are easier and require less finance to establish than other sectors. This is very good for young people to employment. These kinds of jobs are for low paid, seasonal, part time etc. The expenditure by visitor not only affects wages and employment opportunity but also generate income for government and private sectors. Such as parking and admission fees, local business taxes, hotel and services taxes etc. This money can be used for infrastructure development and advertisement of the destination. There should count that how much the money benefited the local economy, deducted by costs of import in the area. The import means food, souvenirs, secondary supplies etc. (Godfrey & Clarke 2000, 18 – 21.)

## **2.2 Social impacts of tourism development**

To know the culture of the area, it should know the cultural heritage which includes customs and values. It also includes local dances, ceremonies, dress, music historical places, arts and crafts, distinctive architectural styles and food. If the tourism business uses small houses in small area, it does not affect much but if there are large hotels and theme parks, there is obviously an impact on society. In tourism industry, people come from different cultures and meet at a destination. At the meeting in the destination, their languages, religion, culture, dress and behavior have an impact on them. The culture of the destination is a tourism attraction and tourism should always respect cultures. There are also other points in society about social impacts and on society, such as access to local people, crime, role of women, family life, demonstration effects, arts and crafts, culture traditions, culture communication and public and attitudes towards the tourist. Tourism should always preserve the culture. (Bhatt 2006, 107-108.)

The social culture means the relationship between the tourist and culture, religion, language, values and life styles of the destination. If the tourists live for a longer time at the destination, they realize their importance as well. Apart from the economic impacts on the host community, it affects the social culture as well. Tourism creates inequality in terms of employment. The persons who get jobs in the tourism sector is highly paid compared to other sectors. It creates inequality in society. If the women will not get the good jobs in any sector then she is involved in sex tourism. In some society, the women work in sex industry has not treat well. Often the hotels and restaurant are not using local products, they are using imported ones, so the community people are not satisfied with them. (Bhatt 2006, 107-108.)

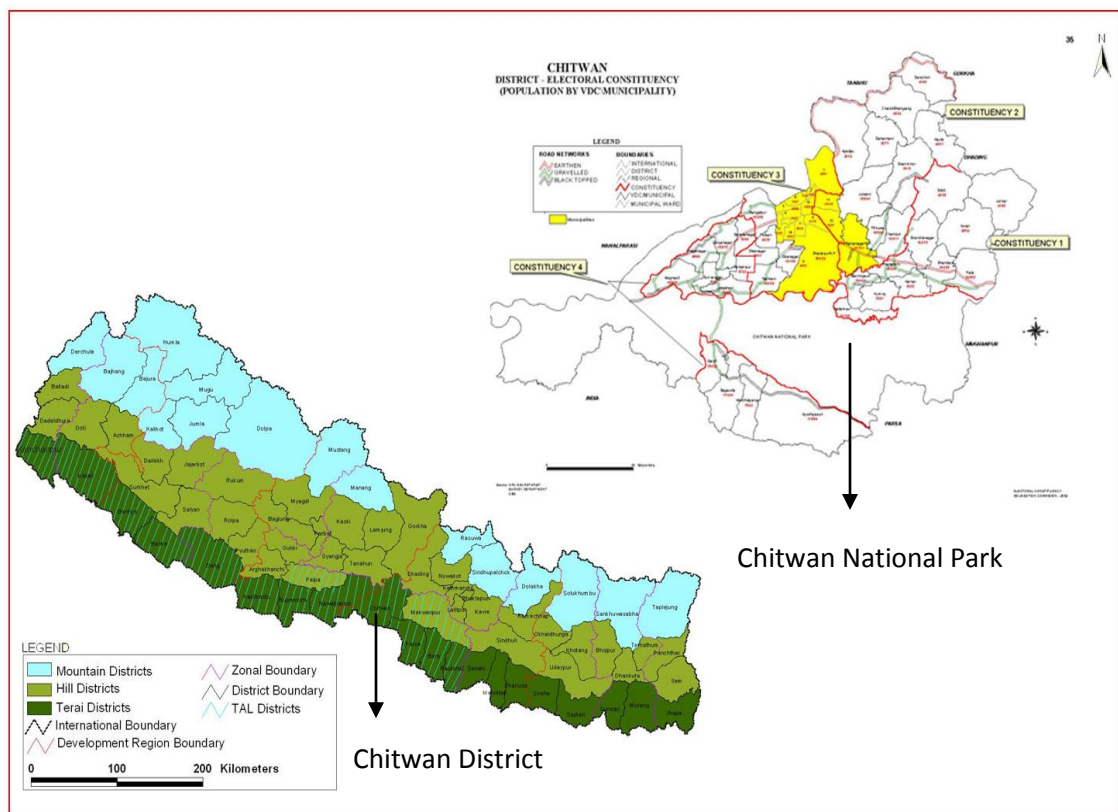
There are many positive social impact on the community. Due to interaction between different culture, it leads a positive attitudes to them. After the mixture of different cultures, they have opportunity to know each other cultures and customs. They are motivated to do any tourism work in the society. This makes development in the friendship with tourist. More interaction with tourist makes less negative impression on them. The more familiar with other cultures and religions, realize the important of it. After that respecting with other religions and cultures. The contact between the tourist and the community, is crucial and it is important to strive for a mutual understanding in awareness, learning, liking and appreciation between them. Tourism will provide the economic back bone and it has triggered social impacts in the society. The money earn from the tourism will use for making good school, library and other infrastructure. It benefits both the tourists and the community. The increase of tourists will make the community aware keeping culture, ancient local tradition. This will create an increase tourist arrivals in the future. (Mrababayev & Shagazator, 2011.)

The tourist stay in destination helps for the quality of local life. It supports local facilities and services. There are many opportunity to know the culture and language of the tourist. Due to tourism, there are other aspects such as preserve the local heritage, history, culture and tradition. Our celebration and festivals are also attraction for tourist so it helps to preserve. The local dance, music, folk songs, crafts are also preserve due to tourism. They have to see in future for them. Tourist is a kind of marketing way. They give positive message to their

country and their friends visit to this place. It helps to know the destination with rest of world. There are also negative impact due to tourism, such as traffic and parking problem in city area. The urbanization creates, noise and environment problem. The new style of building is being built, ignore the ancient architectural. The decrease in wildlife for the use of souvenir hunting. The people are practising the foreigners cloths and displaced local clothes. The tourist use different kind of drugs and practise by the local young people. (Godfrey & Clarke 2000, 23-29.)

### 3 THE THARUS AND THE CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK OF NEPAL

This chapter mention about the history and characteristics of Chitwan National Park. In addition, this chapter explains how the state implemented different plans in different years to preserve the rare animals and whole national park ecosystem. Finally, this chapter also highlights about the origin of the Tharus, their culture and occupation.



GRAPH 1. Map of Nepal & Chitwan National Park (adapted from National Planning Commission Secretariat, Nepal 2011)

The Chitwan National Park lies in Chitwan District. Chitwan National Park was established in 1973. It is the first National Park of Nepal. UNESCO declared the park as the World Heritage Site in 1984. Every year thousands of tourists come to see rare animals and natural vegetation.

The main aim of this national park is protect rare animal such as the Bengal tiger, one-horned rhinoceros, Garial Goie (type of Crocodile) and flower and fauna. Before the Malaria Eradication Programmed in 1950, the main ethnic person in this region was the Tharus. They are naturally immune to malaria. They have their own culture and lifestyle. They have adjusted to the environment. Their main occupation is farming, fishing, hunting and herd cattle. After the establishment of the Chitwan National Park, their livelihood has been changing. Now, they are also working in the tourism industry and many Tharus get direct benefits from the Chitwan National Park. (Destination Nepal Tours & Travel Pvt. Ltd 2009.)

### **3.1 History and characteristics of the Chitwan National Park**

Before 1940, Chitwan was a dense forest and no any intervene by human being. The forest was covered by thick tress, grasslands and swamps. People couldn't go along inside the forest. People were afraid of dangerous animals such as tiger, wild elephant, lion, leopard, bear and rhinoceros. Inside the forest there were lots of common wild animals and flora. (Nakarmi 2007, 13.) Chitwan National Park is the first national park in Nepal. It is located in the lower land of Nepal which is called Terai region. In the south part of Chitwan National Park, it touches with the border of India. In the period of 19<sup>th</sup> century, some part of Chitwan forest was deforested by human being. The Rana government at that time control for deforesting because it was hunting place for them and their family. They killed elephant, tiger, leopard, deer, wild boar etc. (Jana 2007, 3.)

In the period of the Rana regime, Chitwan valley was a good place for hunting. The Chitwan valley was suitable for Rana regime because there were easily available of hunting animals such as leopards, rhinoceros, tiger, wild boar, elephant etc. After the malaria eradication in the Terai region, the hills people came to there to search for cultivated land and settlement. There was mass destruction of forest by migrated people. At that time the government thought about the preservation of wild animals and forest. The wildlife conservation became as a national issue. The most endangered animal was one-horned rhinoceros which is the icon of the



Chitwan National Park. The Wild Life Protection Act 1957 (2015 BS) was came. This law made easy for the protection of wildlife in Nepal. In 1959 the area of Tikauli forest was announced for the deer sanctuary, its area was 175 sq.km. In 1963 the southern part of Rapti River was declared as a rhino sanctuary. (Jana 2007, 3.)

The country knew that there should preserve the wildlife. The government introduced the law and gave the name National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (NPWC) Act, 1973 (2029 BS). That made easy to protect National Parks and Wildlife conversation legally. The head of the government, king Mahendra announced to create the national park and gave the name Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP) in 1973. It was the first time to announce for the preservation of wildlife. The Royal Nepal Army (now the Nepal Army) established a barracks within the park and gave sole responsibility to protect the area after 1975. (Jana 2007, 4.)

UNESCO declared the Chitwan National Park as a World Heritage Site in 1984 due to conversation of rare species and preserves the forest vegetation. In 1995, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation started the Park and People Programme with the financial assistance from UNDP. In 1996, the buffer zone management regulation was started. The area of the Chitwan National Park was extended, the Riu River in the south, the Rapti River in the north, Narayani River in the west and Hata and Dharanga Rivers in the east. Now the total area of the Chitwan National is 932 sq.km. The Chitwan National Park coves 19 village development committees in the Chitwan, 15 village development committees in Nawalparasi , 2 village development in Parsa district and 1 village development committee in Makwanpur district. (Jana 2007, 4.)

The development of Chitwan National Park started from 1957. In this year, the Chitwan forest was announced for Rhino shelter. In 1962, the first trip for tourism was started inside the park. In 1964, the land which was captured by national park gave the resolution to relocate owner of the people. About 22,000 Rapti people were relocated in that phase then after the 7000 people from Padampur Panchayat were relocated in the eastern part of the park. The relocation plan was advice by the International Centre for Environmental Renewal. In 1970, the head of state

King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev announced the conservation plan to protect the Chitwan forest but it was failed due to lack of legislation and act. In 1973 the first time, National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 (Rastriya Nikunj Tatha Banyajantu Samraksahn Ain 2029 B.S) was introduced to protect the wildlife. After the legislation and act, the first national park of Nepal was given the name Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP). The first Management Plan (MP) for Chitwan National was started in 1975. In developing processed crocodile (Ghariyal) breeding centre was established in 1977 with the support from Frankfurt Zoological Society. The World Heritage site was declared by UNESCO in 1984. (Nakarmi 2007, 13-15.)

The Elephant Breeding Centre was established in 1984. With the increase numbers of rhinoceros in Chitwan National Park, the national park announced to shift some of the rhinoceros to Royal Bardiya National Park (RBNP) and Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (RSWR) in 1986. The main purpose of transferring rhinoceros was to protect the endanger rhinoceros in other national park and wildlife reserve as well. 87 rhinoceros was successfully shifted to Royal Bardia National Park and Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve during the period 1986 to 2003. With the support of WWF in 1993, the first anti poaching unit inside the Chitwan National Park. The anti poaching unit controls the endangers species inside the national park. In 1996, the national park addressed that 30- 50 % the revenue the buffer zone will used for the development for the local community. After the fall down of monarchy in Nepal in 2006, Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP) became Chitwan National Park (CNP). (Nakarmi 2007, 15-16.)

The Chitwan National Park lies in the sub- tropical lowlands and consists of Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests, tall grasslands, hills, oxbow lakes, and flood plains. There are over 50 species of mammals, 49 species of amphibians and reptiles, and 526 species of birds. The one-horned rhino, Bengal tiger, gaur, wild elephant, antelope, striped hyena pangolin, crocodile and the Gangetic dolphin are found in Chitwan National Park. Reptiles such as cobras, kraits and pythons are also found in the national park. (Nakarmi 2007, 20.)

The main occupations of surrounding people are agriculture, tourism and trade. (Nepal Culture Travel & Tourism, 2011.) The indigenous and ethnic people such as Bote, Darai, Kumal and Tharu have been found in this area. Among them the Tharus have the larger population in the area. (Pilgrims 2007). The Chitwan National Park is the collection of flora and fauna; there is lot of things to see. One time is not enough to see all the animals and plants. To see rare animals inside the national the visitors also to be luck. Different kinds of tourists come to see here. Some of them are animal expert, bird expert, forestry expert and some of them are natural lovers also. The main attractions of Chitwan National Parks are as follows:



GRAPH 2. One horned rhinoceros

Main habitat of one- horned rhinoceros is in South Asia and South East Asia. It is one of the rare animal in the world. In Asia, there are two main national parks which have more than 100 rhinoceros; they are Chitwan National Park, Nepal and Kaziranga National Park, India. In 1950, there were about 1000 rhinoceros in Chitwan National Park area. At that time they were protected by Rana rulers for hunting purpose. After the malaria eradication program came into 1950, the hill people came to plain area for agriculture and settlements. They deforested and also poaching for rhinoceros in the Chitwan area. The reason to kill the rhinoceros was for

valuable horn. The price of horn is very expensive in international market. In 1960, the numbers of rhinoceros was dropped into 100. In 1988, the number of rhinoceros were 358 and in 2000 were 612. As per DNPWC report, there were 504 rhinoceros in 2010 inside Chitwan National Park. All over the Nepal there were altogether 534 rhinoceros in 2010. The food for rhinoceros is grass species. Rhino lives in sub-tropical climate with alluvial flood-plain where green grass is available all over the year. (WWF 2011; DNPWC 2010.)



GRAPH 3. Crocodile (Gharyal) breeding center inside the Chitwan National Park

The Crocodile (Gharyal) breeding center was established in 1977 with the support from Frankfurt zoological society. In the IUCN Red Book, this animal is endangered animal in the world. Gharial is the only survivor of the Gavialidae family. In Nepal it is found on Koshi, Narayani, Babai, Kali Gandaki and Karnali River. There are two breeding center in Nepal, they are in Kasara of Chitwan National Park and Thakurdwara of Bardai National Park. This center is used for reproduction of babies crocodile and after center period it has to be left to river. The number of Gharial decline in the Nepal is due the human pressure, habitat destruction, decline in food source and water pollution. This crocodile breeding center is one



of the attractions in this national park. There is center amount for entrance fee to see this breeding center. (Ballouard & Cadi, 2005; DNPWC 2006.)



GRAPH 4. Chital (spotted deer) inside the Chitwan National Park

Deer species are commonly seen inside the Chitwan National Park. There are four types of deer species found in this national park; they are chital, hog deer, sambar and muntajac. Above figure is chital and it looks very beautiful and clever animal. It is also called spotted deer. It has many spotted on its body. Chital is specially found in South Asia. It is protected animal in Nepal. The best way to see Chital is go on trek or on elephant back inside the Chitwan National Park. The Bengal tiger is a beautiful animal. Bengal tiger is specially found in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan. This is one of the rare species in the world. The number of tiger is decreasing due to destruction of forest, poaching, decline of food supply. It hides inside the cave or forest so it is difficult to see during jeep safari and trekking inside the national park. (Chitwan National Park 2011.)

There is tortoise conservation breeding center in at Kasara near to crocodile breeding center. All over the world there are 250 kind of tortoise found. In Nepal, there are 12 kinds of tortoise found in different places. There are 9 kinds of tortoise found in Chitwan National Park. There

are two types of tortoise, one live on land and another in wetland. The number of tortoises is decreasing in Nepal due pressure of human and decline of habitat. So this breeding center was established to protect and reproduction of baby tortoise. After some time the baby tortoise is left in natural habitat. In this breeding center, there are 7 kinds of tortoise kept. (Chitwan National Park 2011.)

There is another attraction in Chitwan National Park. It is vulture breeding center in Kasara. The number of vultures is decreasing due to decline of big trees where it makes nests on it and food. Many tourists come here to see the rare species vulture and breeding center. There are three organizations in charge of running this project. They are the Department of National parks & Wildlife conservation, National Trust for Natural Conservation and Bird Conservation Nepal. (Vulture Rescue 2011.)

One of the attractions near Chitwan National Park is elephant breeding center. The elephant is a big animal and very kind to human beings. The elephant is specially found in the low land of Nepal. The elephant breeding center was established in 1985. In first there were 20 elephants in this breeding center. The elephants were brought from India, Thailand and Myanmar. It is only one of the elephant breeding centers in Nepal. There are altogether 33 baby elephant are born in this breeding center. The main food of the elephant is different kinds of grass. (Chitwan National Park 2011.)

To enter the park, there are nine entrance gates. They are: Sauraha via Tandi, Ghatgai via Patihani, viz Sunachur via Suna Churi, Khagendramali via Bhadara, Kasara via Jagatpur, Bhimle via Megghauli, Piprahar via Rajahar, Amaltari via Danda and Laukhan via Pragatingar (Narkarmi 2007, 20). There are three main rivers that flows through park, they are: Rapti, Reu, Narayani. The other small rivers are Lothar Khola, Harda Khola, Barlu Khola, Mohana Khola which are the tributaries of Rapti River and valuable source of water for living creatures. (Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences, 2008.)

The climate that is found in this place is tropical and subtropical. There are three main seasons in this park; they are hot dry, cool dry and monsoon. The hot dry occurs from mid February to mid June. The cool dry period starts from October to February. Springs start from March to mid of June, and the Monsoon starts from mid June to late September. Usually in summer days the maximum temperature is 30°C and the minimum is 16°C. In summer days, the maximum temperature goes to 38°C. The monsoon is the raining season with about 90% rainfall in the season. During this season, flood comes and increases the level of water in the river. From December to January there is a low temperature and frost seen at this time. The maximum area is covered by forest. (KGH Groups of Hotels & Resort 2006.)

There are 50 different kind of animals found in Chitwan National Park. The most endangered animals are one horned rhinoceros, bengal tiger, the gaur ( wild bison ) and other endanger animals are wild elephant, pangolin, ganetic dolphin python, four horned antelope striped hyena. The common animals are languor, rhesus monkey, gold jackel, sloth bear, wild dogs, wild boar, palm civets, mongoose etc. Chitwan National Park is a haven place for different kind of birds. Many tourist comes here for bird watching. (Gaida Wildlife Camp 2009; Nakarmi 2007.)

There are 526 different kind of birds found in Chitwan National Park. Such as owls, kites, eagle, vulture, kinfisher, hornbill. Sornbill, giant, stork, duck, heron, crane, mynah, flycatcher, parrot, egret and song birds. There are 49 reptiles and amphibians found here, the endangered amphibia is garial corcodile. There are different kinds of snakes such as kriats, vipers, cobra, python and water snakes. The other raptiles are turtle frog and lizard. There are 120 different kind of fish found in the national park. The Bengal tiger and one-horned rhinoceros are very rare species in the world and well- protected in this national park. (Nakarmi 2007, 20; Gaida Wildlife Camp 2009.)

The Chitwan valley has a tropical and sub tropical forest. The national park consists of 500 different kinds of flora. There are three types of Gymnosperm, 13 Peteridophytes, 415

Dicotyledons, 137 Moncotyledons and 16 Orchids. The endangered floras are cylas tree and screw pine. (Nakarmi 2007, 19.)



GRAPH 5. Sal Forest ( *Shorea robusta* )

There are a total of 100036 ha of forest in the park which can be distinguished into two major types that Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest and Riverine forest. Sal forest covers 70% of the national park. *Shorea robusta* forest is the main type of vegetation which covers 62.89 sq.km. Sal forest is also found in community forest and other parts in Chitwan forest. The local people use Sal for different kind of purposes such as grazing, collection of fodder, fuelwood, litter and many other products. *Shorea robusta* has a very strong wood and use of making house and furniture appliances. The Sal tree grows slowly. The maximum height goes to 30-35 meter. In Nepal Sal forest is found in low land and middle hill area. It grows up to 1500m from sea level. It belongs to dominant species of the Dipterocarpaceae. The Riverine forest consists of tree species such as *Bombax ceiba* (Simal), *Trewia nudiflora*, *Eretia laevis*, *Litsea monopetala* and *Premna* species as early succession stands. (Nakarmi 2007, 19.)





GRAPH 6. Grassland inside the Chitwan National Park

A total of 5520 ha of grassland is distributed in patch form in the Chitwan National Park. The greater parts are distributed in the central (3149.7 ha) and eastern (1309 ha) part of the park. In 1970 grassland covers 20% of the total national park area. Grass land is important food source for rhinoceros, elephants and different types of deer's. The grassland is home place for different kind of birds. To preserve the grassland area the national park has cut and uprooting the unnecessary other species from it. Every year in February and March the grassland has cut and burning. This makes good for new coming new grassland in the area. (Nakarmi 2007, 20; Chitwan National Park, 2011.)

Chitwan National Park meets three criteria for the World Heritage Site. Firstly, it has pristine nature which is rich in natural beauty and secondly, it has unique bio-diversity which occupied various kinds of flora and fauna. Thirdly, it has one-horned rhinoceros and Gharial crocodile which are the endangered species and icon of the Chitwan National Park. (Nakarmi 2007, 15.)

### **3.2 The Tharus of Chitwan National Park**

The Tharus are the people believed to have first inhabited the Terai region. Their houses were in malarial areas and in an open space inside the forest where dangerous wild animals, such as elephants, rhinoceros, bears, tigers and poisonous snakes lived. The traditional territory of the Tharus is called Tharuwan or Tharwot; it lies in southern-forested region of the Siwalik Hills and the southern parts of Terai bordering India. There is no exact information about where the Tharus comes from. Some sources said that they migrated from the Thar Desert of Rajasthan, India. There is a saying that they are the descendants of the Rajput women who fled with their domestic servants from the Muslim offensive rather than fall victim to their enemies. When they lived without their spouses for a long time, they started to live with their servants and born irregularities babies. They irregularities children are the Tharus. (Pilgrims 2007, 10.)

There is another theory about the Tharus origin in Nepal. There was the Vrijji republic, which is in southern Tharu, an inhabited region that is eight hundred miles from south-east to west Muzafarpur of Bihar, India. Later they moved to Chusuna or Janakpur in Nepal. The Shakyas' kingdom then expanded through the Terai and inner Terai region, defeating the Vrijji Kingdom. After the Vrijji society reached its high point level, it went downward in terms of morals, art and literature. Then after the society divided into different groups, one of the groups became known as the Tharus which is the today's Tharu ancestors. They are still living in the Terai and inner Terai region. (Pilgrims 2007, 10.)

The Tharus are closely related to nature and the world of spirits. Their habitat was uncontaminated and developed into a unique culture. Their traditional form of livelihood and economic activity was oriented towards exploitation of forests and grasslands. Until the 1950s the agricultural economy was based on shifting cultivation. The forest and grasslands, together with rivers and streams, were also pasturage for their large herds of cattle as well as being hunting, fishing and gathering materials necessary for house construction and household items. It is the Tharus who have been affected by the loss of these forests and grassland areas so important to their way of life. Earlier the forest was a part of their livelihood and economy.

It was a way of life and the part of their cultural identity. The Tharus highly revere the forest as the place where the Gods and spirits live. (Kunwar 2002, 92.)

According to Nepal census of 2001, the total number of population of the Tharus is 1,533,879 in which the percentage is 6.75% of total population of Nepal and 5.86% people speak the Tharus language of total population of Nepal. They are living at the edge of the forest, farming and raising livestock on the plains. They depend on river and forest products such as hunting animals in the forest for meat, collecting fruits, roots, herbs and fish. Their main food is rice with fish. Other foods are chicken, pork, rabbit, pigeon, tortoise as well as Dahl and vegetables. Women make homemade alcohol from wheat and barley. (CBS 2001.)



GRAPH 7. Typical the Tharus house in Sauraha, Chitwan

Usually they have one store houses but some families have big houses according to their family size. Their houses are very neat and clean. The house walls are decorated with colorful painting with elephants, horses, flowers and parrots. The women have tattooed in their legs, hands and even in their breasts. They are living in joint families and respect the elder persons. The elder person (Male) is the head of the family. The decision has to be followed by the other family members. In the village they select the one oldest person who is very wise. The old

man should be the representative or chief of the village. He should give the authority to make the committee in the village. This committee should discuss about the development, law and order of the village. This committee has the legal right to give orders and the orders have to be followed by the village inhabitants. (The Chitwan Tharu of Nepal, 1997.)

In the Tharus, they have an early marriage system. They have two kinds of marriage system: one is magi bawaha and another is chori bawaha. In magi bawaha, they ask one another to for marriage, if they agree they marry according to religious customs. Another is chori bawaha where the boys seize the girls from their house to marry them. The woman works in the household and the men are working outside. Most of them are Hindu in the Tharus committee. They also worship animals such as monkeys, snakes, and cows. Every house has a household god. They worship the house hold god by sacrificing chicken and pigeon and use their blood. They also use silk and milk for worship. They think different kinds of diseases can be avoided by worshipping the god. Misfortune, disease or bad dreams are avoided if they promise to give something to the god (Bhakal). (The Chitwan Tharu of Nepal, 1997.)

The Tharus are also called the people of the forest. They have been living in Chitwan since hundreds of years. They have made a strong cultural, economic and spiritual link here. They have been more depending on forest products for their daily life. They collect the forest product such as medicinal, wild fruits, vegetables, firewood's and animal inside forests such as, deer, wild boar, rabbit etc. They also harvest the crops inside the forest such as mustards, corn, lentils, rice and other varieties of wild fruits and vegetables. (The Chitwan Tharu of Nepal, 1997.)





GRAPH 8. Mustard field in Sauraha, Chitwan

The main crop of the Sauraha region is mustard cultivation. Mustard seed is used for cooking oil and other purposes. The Sauraha region is very good for mustard. They export the mustard oil to other districts as well. Tharu and forest are interrelated to each other. After the malaria eradication, the hill people shifted to Chitwan district, so the Tharus are a minority in this region. (McLean, 1999.)

The Tharus are traditional farmers and they are hardworking people. Their main occupation is in agriculture and livestock rearing. They apply primitive methods of cultivation and rear cows, buffaloes, goats, chickens and pigs. These animals are needed for their different parties in different festivals. In some festivals they have to sacrifice the animals for God. After the sacrifices, the sacrificed animals are ready to eat. They also raise animals to produce organic fertilizer. The Tharus are engaged in different kinds of cultivation. They cut the forest and cultivate the land. The Tharus also make ploughs, ropes, nets for trapping and fishing, cages in which to keep domestic animals, leaf umbrellas and musical instruments etc. At home, women brew alcohol from wheat, barley and paddy, as well as gathering medicinal roots and fruit. It is

mostly the women who catch fish, using nets in small rivers, streams and pools. (Pilgrims 2007.)

The Tharus people lived in the border of the forest and rivers in the past time. That is why their major source of income was from fishing besides agriculture. The Tharus communities have adopted fishing as a major occupation and are considered as one of the most skillful people in the profession. Fish is also one of the major dishes in the Tharus culinary. Nowadays the Tharus are not limited to their traditional professions and can also be found working for the government and other agencies. Generally, the Tharus practice their own tribal religion, which is spirit worshipping. They also worship some Hindu deities' god and this is included into their tribal religion. Those who practice their traditional religion employ the priest of the Tharus. (Pilgrims 2007.)

## **4 TOURISM AND ITS IMPACTS ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE THARUS**

Tourism is the main source of foreign currency in Nepal. That is why, Nepal has emphasized tourism as a leading sector that boom the economy. Nepal is a unique destination with lot of unscaled peaks, unexposed culture and unexplored venues. The country has clean and fresh air, safe environment, forest, rivers and national park. Therefore, there are lots of opportunities to develop the tourism in the country. (Chand 2003, 1.) Chitwan National Park is also one of the main touristic areas where thousands of tourists come to see the national park. The Tharus is one of the local ethnic and indigenous people of Chitwan, Sauraha. After the development of tourism, it has affected livelihood of the Tharus community. They change their occupation to fit into the tourism sector as they think income is better in tourism sector than a traditional occupation.

### **4.1 Tourism in Nepal**

Nepal is a beautiful country in context of nature. It has flora, fauna and snow capped mountains which attract lot of tourists all over the world. Nepal is also rich in ancient history, culture, art and heritage. Nepal is a birthplace of Gautam Buddha who is the founder of Buddhism. Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal is old city with ancient art, culture and heritage. The world class rafting and trekking routes lies here. Mount Everest is situated in Nepal which is the highest peak in the world and it has 8,848 meters. The boundaries on the north side with China are beautiful Himalayans. There are different kinds of adventure activities in mountain area such as mountaineering, trekking, hiking etc. Tourists from different countries come to visit the Nepal. Most of the tourist wants to revisit the country because of pristine nature and unique bio-diversity. Mountain biking is also popular game in Nepal. Out of fourteen, total eight highest mountains are available in Nepal. ( Adhikari 2005, 1.)

TABLE 1 List of the world eight highest mountains of Nepal (adapted from SAARC Tourism Nepal 2009)

S.No.	Mountain	Height	Date of Ascent	Ranking in the World
1.	Everest	8,848 m	29 <sup>th</sup> May, 1953	Highest Mountain in the World
2.	Kanchenjunga	8,586 m	25 <sup>th</sup> May, 1955	# 3
3.	Lhotse	8,501 m	18 <sup>th</sup> May, 1956	# 4
4.	Makalu	8,463 m	15 <sup>th</sup> May, 1915	# 5
5.	Cho Oyu	8,201 m	-	# 6
6.	Dhaulagiri	8,167 m	13 <sup>th</sup> May, 1960	# 7
7.	Manaslu	8,156 m	9 <sup>th</sup> May, 1960	# 8
8.	Annapurna	8,091 m	3 <sup>rd</sup> June, 1950	# 10

Mountain Everest is the highest mountain in the world. It was declared as the highest mountain on May, 1953. Kanchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world after K2. It was declared on May, 1955. From the above table, it is assumed that Nepal has good potential for mountaineering. Every year thousand of tourist comes for mountaineering purpose. Nepal is one of the best destinations in the world for adventure tourism which offers an excess of outdoor activities from paragliding near the mountains to waiting for the Bengal tiger in the dense forest of Chitwan. The history of adventure tourism in Nepal starts from the early attempts to ascend the world's highest peak Mt. Everest some five decades ago. Trekking is still the most popular sport among visitors. The geographical and natural diversity and a range of exotic culture make Nepal an ideal place for trekking. A trekking trip to the Himalayas of Nepal provides an opportunity to observe the culture and enjoy the beauty of nature. Nepal is famous for trekking. (SAARC Tourism Nepal 2009.) The best five trekking routes are as follows:

The Lantang region trekking is for 14 days. The trek starts from Sundarajil, Kathmandu and passes through different places and return back to Kathmandu. The highest point is 4,700 meter from sea level on the way. In the trekking period the tourist can view the beautiful scenery of Annapurna region on the west and Makalu region on the east. There are many beautiful Buddhist monasteries on the way. (Matator Network 2011.)



The Mt. Everest Circuit trekking gives wonderful experience in life. The reason is to visit to view Everest scenery from nearest point, Khumbu region, the flora and fauna of the Sagarmatha National Park and Tibetan Buddhist culture. The duration is about 17 to 25 days depending on the sub way route which you are going. (Matator Network 2011.)

The Annapurna Circuit trekking duration is 16 – 20 days. It heights goes to 5,300 meters on the way. It is one of the main trekking routes in west part of Nepal. The trekking passes through diverse terrain, jungle and high alpine. On the way, it can be seen the heavily restricted Mustang region, it extends to Tibet also. The main aim of this trekking to view the mountains and glaciers of Annapurna convention area. (Matator Network 2011.)

Mt. Kangchenjunga Circuit trekking duration is 20 days and begins from Taplejung district. It passes through pristine forest to Kangchenjunga area. This area is not so much human presence and visitors can mange themselves during the trekking. It height goes to 8586 meters. (Matator Network 2011.)

Manaslu Trekking is one of the most visited trekking routes. The duration of the trekking is 18 days. It height goes to 5213 meters. On the way find the Mountain View, rich culture and unique adventure trekking experiences. (Manang 2005.)

Nepal has many rivers for rafting: Trishuli River (rafting for 1 up to 3 days), Seti River (rafting trip 2 days), Bhote Koshi River (rafting 2 days), Kali Gandaki River (rafting 3 days), Marsyandi River (rafting/kayaking 4 days), Sun Koshi River (rafting 7 to 9 days), Arun River (rafting adventure 9 days), Karnali River (whitewater rafting 10 days), Tamur River (rafting adventure 11 days). On these rivers tourists will find the world's most thrilling whitewater with a wide range of difficulties, warm water and bug - free beaches for camping. (White Water Nepal 2011.)

Nepal has potential for tourism industry as it has ten World Heritage Sites which was declared by UNESCO in different period of time which is indicated below in the table 2. It has both the

cultural and natural World Heritage Sites including eight cultural sites and three natural sites. Among them seven are in Kathmandu valley and three are outside Kathmandu Valley. (SAARC Tourism Nepal 2009.)

Table 2. World Heritage Sites of Nepal (adapted from SAARC Tourism Nepal 2009)

S.No.	World Heritage Site	Date of Declaration from UNESCO
1.	Kathmandu Durbar Square	1979
2.	Patan Durbar Square	1979
3.	Bhaktapur Durbar Square	1979
4.	Swayambhunath Stupa	1979
5.	Pashupatinath Temple	1979
6.	Bouddhnanath Stupa	1979
7.	Lumbini	1997
8.	Changu Narayan Temple	1979
9.	Chitwan National Park	1984
10.	Sagarmatha National Park	1979

Kathmandu Durbar Square is a historical place and register as a UNESCO site. It is situated in the heart of Kathmandu valley. In this Durbar Square found palaces, ancient temples, courtyards and streets (Chock). The Kathmandu Durbar is also known as Human Dhoka. This palace was used by Malla and Shah Kings as residence and administrator building before. There are many hindu temples in this Durbar Square. The palace and temples have beautiful wooden arts. There are many famous temples and statues such as Teleju temple, Jagannath temple, Kal Bhairav, statue of King Pratap Mall, Kumar Ghat and Kasthamandap. Nowadays there is museum inside the palace. (Kathmandu Metropolitan City 2008.)

Patan Durbar Square is situated in Lalipur district. It is about 5 kilometer south of Kathmandu. The Durbar square is famous for palace, Hindu temple and Buddhist monuments. The Patan Durbar square is full of beautiful Newari wooden architecture. There are three beautiful chowks, they are Central Mul Chowk, Sundari Chowk, Main Keshab Narayan Chowk. There is Krishna temple which is made by King Siddhi Narshing Malla in seventeenth century. All

the part of this temple is made from stone. The other famous temple are Bhimsen temple and the Golden Temple of Hiranya Varna. (SAARC Tourism Nepal 2009.)

Bhaktapur Durbar Square is also known as Bhatgaon. It is 14 km east of Kathmandu. The Durbar Square is collection of Pagoda and Shikhara style temples. There is also 55 window palace. In Bhaktapur Durbar Square can find the medieval art and architecture. This Durbar square is well preserved and neat and clean than other palaces. The main attraction of this Durbar Square is Nyatapola temple, bell of the barking dogs, and palace of 55 windows, the golden gate and palace. (Nepal Beyond 2011.)

Swayambhunath is situated on the top of the hills, in west part of Kathmandu. It is one the oldest religious place for Buddhism as well as Hinduism. Swayambhunath is famous for stupa, varieties of shrines and temples. The stupa has Buddha eyes and eye brow painted. It is also called monkey temple because many monkeys are roaming all the days in the Swayambhunath. (SAARC Tourism Nepal 2009.)

Pashupatinath is holy place for all the Hindu from all over the world. Every year thousand of Hindu tourist came to worship in the temple. This temple belongs to the Lord Shiva. It is believed that the temple is being here since 400 AD. The temple has magnificent architectural with beautiful golden Gajur and silver door. The temple is built in pagoda style. It is situated in bank of Bagmati River, in eastern part of Kathmandu. (SAARC Tourism Nepal 2009.)

Lumbini is the birthplace for Lord Buddha. Lumbini is the situated in the south -western part of Nepal. Every year thousands of tourists come to visit this place. The main attractions of Lumbini are Maya Devi temple, Ashok Stupa, Lumbini garden, external peace flame, Bodhi tree and pond. It is one of the historical importance places in Nepal. (SAARC Tourism Nepal 2009.)

Royal Chitwan National Park stands today as a successful testimony of nature conservation in South Asia. This is the first national park of Nepal established in 1973 to preserve a unique

ecosystem significantly valuable to the whole world. The park covering a pristine area of 932 sq. km is situated in the subtropical inner Terai lowlands of southern central part of Nepal. This national park is famous for one-horned rhinoceros and gharial crocodile and other flora and fauna. The park has 50 species of mammals, more than 500 species of birds, 49 species of reptiles and amphibians and 120 species of fish. One horned rhinoceros, wild boar, gharial crocodile are commonly sighted wild animals in the park. The park is declared World Heritage Site in 1984 by UNESCO and become famous among tourists. (SAARC Tourism Nepal 2009.)

The Sagarmatha National Park is the highest national park in the world. In this national park Mount Everest itself situated. Its height is 8848 meter. This national park is also the holly place. There are many monasteries inside the park. The beautiful Thyangboche village is located inside the national park. It is the gateway place for Mountain Everest. The population of the area is about 2500. There are other famous peaks in this national park as well; they are Cho Oyo, Lhotse, Pumori, Gyachyung Kang, Kangtaiga, Kwangde, Ama Dablam and Thamerku. (SAARC Tourism Nepal 2009.)

TABLE 3. Tourists Arrivals by purpose of visit in percentage, 2000-2010 (adapted from Ministry of Tourism and civil Aviation Nepal 2011)

Year	Holiday Pleasure	Trekking Mountaineering	Business	Pilgrimage	Official	Conv./ Conf.	Rafting	Others	Not Specified
2000	55.2	25.6	6.4	3.4	4.5	1.2	-	3.7	-
2001	51.8	27.9	5.1	3.8	5.2	0.0	-	6.2	-
2002	40.0	21.5	6.2	4.5	6.5	0.0	-	21.4	-
2003	29.0	19.4	5.7	6.3	6.5	0.0	-	31.1	-
2004	43.4	18.0	3.6	11.9	4.0	0.0	-	18.7	-
2005	42.7	16.4	5.9	12.7	4.5	0.0	-	17.9	-
2006	27.7	12.7	4.0	11.3	3.4	0.0	-	13.8	-
2007	41.4	19.2	4.6	10.0	4.1	1.5	65 (0.0)	14.9	4.2
2008	29.6	21.0	4.6	9.0	8.6	1.4	243 (0.0)	19.9	5.9
2009	8.0	26.1	4.5	10.1	4.8	2.0	0.1	36.6	7.9
2010	12.4	13.8	4.2	19.9	5.2	1.9	0.1	49.5	11.3

If compare data in (Table 3) between 2007 and 2008, it is found that the purpose of the visit is shifting. In 2007, the percentage of holiday and pleasure is 41.4%. But, in 2008 it is only 29.6. Also, some tourists came for rafting which is negligible. From the data, it is showed that tourists come to Nepal for different purposes not only for pleasure and holiday. In 2009, the most tourists came on trekking and mountaineering. In 2010, the most tourists came for pilgrimage purpose. The most pilgrimage comes from India.

Nepal was first opened to foreigners in 1951 after the autocratic Rana rule ended. In 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa climbed the Mountain Everest. It gave positive impression to Nepal to rest of the world. Before 1953, other countries did not know Nepal very well. They did not know Nepal had lot of natural scenery and mountains. Nepal government expected to increase the tourists in following years but did not came as per expected. The tourist should come through India. The reason was also that there was not good road connect between India and Nepal. The organized tour started after the international airport built in Nepal. The first organized tour came to Nepal on 1955. (Weaver 1998, 140.)

With the increase of tourist, Nepal developed the necessary infrastructure to support tourism development in form of an international airport in Kathmandu, a fully fledged hotel sector, constructions of domestic air strips, establishment of public and private tourism related institutions, and travel and trekking agencies which all became instrumental to the growth of the tourism industry in the country. As a result, the number of tourists started to soar, from merely 4,017 in 1969s to over 162,870 by 1980 and 254,885 in 1990. However, arrivals registered a sharp drop during 2001-2002 numbers had reached about half a million. (MOCTCA 2002.)

TABLE 4. Tourists arrivals in Nepal 1989-2010 (adapted from Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation Nepal 2011)

Year	Arrival	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Year	Arrival	Annual Growth Rate (%)
1989	239,945	0.0	2000	463,646	-5.7
1990	254,885	6.2	2001	361,237	-22.1
1991	292,995	15.0	2002	275,468	-23.7
1992	334,353	14.1	2003	338,132	22.7
1993	293,567	-12.2	2004	385,297	13.9
1994	326,531	11.2	2005	375,398	-2.6
1995	363,395	11.3	2006	383,926	2.3
1996	393,613	8.3	2007	526,705	37.2
1997	421,857	7.2	2008	500,277	-5.0
1998	463,684	9.9	2009	509,956	1.9
1999	491,504	6.0	2010	602,867	18.2

In table 4 above, it has shown the arrivals of tourist from 1989 to 2010. The grow rate is not parallel and some years the rate of tourists arrival is high while some years the tourist arrival was low. The main reason behind was political situation. During the period the least annual growth rate was on 2002 i.e. the rate was -23%. The most annual growth rate was 2010 that was 18.2 % and it was the good sign for the tourism sector in Nepal.

#### 4.2 Tourism in the Chitwan National Park (Sauraha)

In 1959, a 175 sq.km area of Tikauli forest was declared a Marga Kunja (deer sanctuary) and the area south of the Rapti River was established as a Gairda Kunja (rhino sanctuary) in 1963 which is now located on the edge of Chitwan National park. In 1962, Safari tourism was introduced in Chitwan National Park from the state. After the establishing of Chitwan National Park in 1973, this area became a tourist attraction. Meanwhile, Chitwan National Park declared as a World Heritage Site in 1984 by UNESCO encouraged tourists to visit to the national park to observe its bio-diversity. (Jana 2007, 3.)

Tourism started in Chitwan in 1964 with a few hundred tourists per year. The number of tourists was 836 in 1974 in Chitwan National Park. Meanwhile, the number of tourists reached to 85,753 in the park in 2007. The numbers of tourists are more from third country rather than internal tourists and SAARC countries. The main purpose of tourists of the third countries is to observe nature and wildlife in the national park. (Kunwar 2002, 82.)

The total area of buffer zone area of the park is 750 sq.km. After the establishment of the Chitwan National Park in 1973, the Tharus those resided inside the park were taken out and stayed in the buffer zone area. Sauraha is the main tourist hub as it is the main entrance point to the park. Basically, tourists come to the Chitwan National Park for wildlife tourism. The park has 50 species of mammals, more than 500 species of birds, 49 species of reptiles and amphibians and 120 species of fish. One horned rhinoceros, wild boar, Gharial crocodile are commonly sighted wild animals in the park. The park was declared a World Heritage Site in 1984 by UNESCO and became famous among tourists. (Nakarmi 2007.)

TABLE 5. Tourists arrivals in Chitwan National Park 2002-2007 (adapted from Chitwan National Park 2009)

Tourists Type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Nepali	12586	10826	9546	14977	24890	24906
Foreigner	29349	40096	30204	35838	51164	56888
SAARC	6986	6954	2904	3580	5121	3959
Total	48921	57876	42654	54395	81175	85753

In table 5 above, it has shown that the tourist came from foreign countries was the highest (not SAARC nationalist) in all years. SARRC means South Asian Association for regional Cooperation and it consists of eight members in SAARC. They are Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan and Afghanistan. The SARRC nationalist are not counted as foreigner in table 5 above. The domestic tourists also travelled much in Chitwan National Park. Chitwan National park is the third tourist destination area in Nepal after Kathmandu and Pokahara.

### 4.3 Tourism business and employment generation in Sauraha

Tourism gives an opportunity to open different hotels and resorts in touristic places. After the tourism development in Sauraha, there have been an increasing number of hotels and resorts day by day. In addition, other business activities have been increasing in touristic place.

TABLE 6. Number of hotel/resorts owned by Hill migrants and the Tharus in Sauraha (adapted from Regional Hotel Association of Sauraha 2009)

Hotel/Resorts Owner	Number. of Hotel/Resorts	Percentage (%)
Hill Migrants	63	90%
Tharu	7	10%

In the table 6 above, it has shown that 90% of hotels and resorts are owned by the Hill migrants. However, only 10% are owned by the Tharus. The famous hotels and resort of Sauraha and Chitwan National Park are as follows:

TABLE 7. Some of the Top Hotels and Resorts in Sauraha and inside the National Park, Chitwan (adapted from Wapanepal, 2010)

Tiger Top Lodge	Deluxe	Inside National Park
Gaida wild Life Camp	Deluxe	Inside National Park
Machan Wild Life Camp	Deluxe	Inside National Park
Tempel Tiger	Deluxe	Inside National Park
Safari Lodge Advanture	Deluxe	Sauraha, Chitwan
Chitwan Jungle Lodge Resort	Standard	Sauraha, Chitwan
Island Jungle Resort	Standard	Sauraha, Chitwan
Safari Narayani Lodge Resort	Standard	Sauraha, Chitwan
Rhino Residency resort	Standard	Sauraha, Chitwan
Rhino Lodge	Standard	Sauraha, Chitwan
Jungle Safari Lodge	Budget / Tourist Class	Sauraha, Chitwan
Jungle Lagoon Lodge	Budget/ Tourist Class	Sauraha, Chitwan
Unique Wild Life Lodge	Budget / Tourist Class	Sauraha, Chitwan
Gorkha Hamlet Lodge	Budget/ Tourist Class	Sauraha, Chitwan
Hotel Hermitge	Budget / Tourist Class	Sauraha, Chitwan
Rainbow Sagari Lodge	Budget / Tourist Class	Sauraha, Chitwan
Tiger Camp	Budget/ Tourist Class	Sauraha, Chitwan
Royal Park Hotel	Budget/ Tourist Class	Sauraha, Chitwan



Tiger Top Lodge, Gaida Life Camp, Machan Wild life Camp, Temple Tiger are inside the national park. They are high class hotels and resorts and others are in Sauraha, buffer zone area of the national park. The price of hotels and resorts are varying according to the stander of hotels and resorts. The Tharus has made some hotels and resorts in traditional way. As tourists want exotic and unique things, they like to sleep in the traditional type of hotels and resorts. Some Tharus have also share room for tourist as a lodge. They will also cook traditional food for them. They get friendly environment in this type house. In above table, some famous hotels and resorts are only shown. Tourism business has been generating employment in Sauraha which directly and indirectly benefited the local people. (Wapanepal 2010.) The tourism attractions in Sauraha are as follows:



GRAPH 9. Culture programme shown by Tharus

In this cultural programme, different kinds of the Tharus folk dances have been shown. The stick dance and peacock dance offer much entertainment in this programme. Mostly young the Tharus people are engaged in this programme and they performed different kinds of Tharu traditional dances. This Tharu cultural programme centered are owned by the hill migrants.



GRAPH 10. Elephant bath in Rapti River near Sauraha

In warm days the tourists get much entertainment from elephant baths. The elephant sucks the water from the river and sprays the water at visitor. The elephant rider shows different kinds of water spot activities from the back of the elephant.



GRAPH 11. Sunset view from Sauraha

Sauraha is famous for its sun set view. In the evening, lots of visitors gather on the bank of the Rapti River to see the wonderful sun setting view which is one of the attractions of this place. Nowadays, not only foreigners are enjoyed with sun set view but also internal tourists are increasing day by day to view sun set in Sauraha.

In Sauraha, there are different kinds of employment generated from tourism industry. Some of them are tourists and nature guides. During field visit, the author received the information that there are 25 travel and tour offices in Sauraha. These travel and tour offices had 400 tourists and nature guides. Among them 40% are only Tharu tourists and nature guides and the rest of them are Hill migrants. The author also found out that most of the hotels and resorts also have one tourist and nature guide which help to visiting tourists especially from third world countries tourists.



GRAPH 12. Jeep safari with tourist guide inside the Chitwan National Park.

During the jeep safari, it should be compulsory to have tourist guide. The tourist guide should have received training from an authorized agency. The tourists and nature guide gives the description about the Chitwan National Park for the period of jeep safari to the visitor. The



visitor can ask the guide any question about the park during the visit. While doing jungle walk inside the park, there should be minimum two tourist guides.

Oxcart is an interesting vehicle to use when visiting the village of Sauraha. Generally, third world countries tourists like to visit the village of Sauraha by oxcart. Most of the oxcart drivers are the Tharus.



GRAPH 13. Canoeing on Rapti River

Canoeing ride is operated by the Regional Hotel Association of Sauraha. It has contracted system with Chitwan National Park. Generally, the good period to see the birds is October to November and February. In these months, migratory birds are resting in the park. Tourists see the birds in these seasons in the park. Around 50-60 canoes are operation in the rivers for tourists. The capacity of a canoe is 2-10 tourists. Basically the Bote and Kumal tribes are engaged in canoeing. However, some Tharus are also engaged in canoeing.



GRAPH 14. Jungle safari with elephant riding in the buffer zone community forest

The elephant riding is also one of the major activities in the Sauraha. Tourists are interested for jungle safari and they visited in the buffer zone community forestry with elephant riding. In the Sauraha, there are 65 elephants which are the owned by the private sector. These elephant riding services are provided with the elephant cooperative center on syndicate system. The elephant riders are Indian people, some are Bote, Kumal and some are Tharu and others are from eastern part of Terai region of Nepal.

In Sauraha, horse cart is one of the means for transportation. It is used from Sauraha to Tandi and Tandi to Sauraha. There are altogether 35 horse carts. The horse carts driver are mostly the Tharus, hill migrants and some people are from India and other are from eastern parts of Terai region of Nepal. Tourists used horse carts to reach bus stations from the hotel and resorts and vice-versa.

As has been discussed above, about 90% of hotels and resorts are operated by Hill migrants. However, only 10% are owned by the Tharus. Hotels and resorts have been generating around 1300-1500 jobs directly. In addition, hotels and resorts have been generating other more jobs indirectly. During field work in Sauraha, the Tharus are working in lower position. The author

found that the Tharus are working as waiters, room boys, cooks, utensils washers etc. As the Tharus are not more educated and skillful than the hill migrants, the Tharus have been working in lower position with lower salaries.



GRAPH 15. Restaurant in Sauraha near by bank of Rapti River

Generally, the Tharus women have been working as handling the laundry in most hotels and resorts as part time jobs. In some hotels and resorts, they had full time jobs. As the Tharus women are not well educated and skill, they received low salary. Their jobs are also a seasonal basis. Basically, September to October and January to March are the tourist seasons in Sauraha. The Tharus women get jobs during these tourist seasons.

The Chitwan National Park has many development programmes for local people time to time. The development programme such as help to built bio gas plant and school building, drinking water supply, computer training, tailor training, cook training, bamboo handy craft training, house wiring training, painting training. They also provide ambulance service for the local people. In some training less Tharus people are selected that other peoples. Such as Chitwan National Park gives nature guide training to people. The local people, the Tharus have to get

much sits for nature guide training but did not get much sits. The other people got the training. Most of the people who got training also did not work there; they went for other jobs or went to aboard. In pick season, there is scarcity of nature guide. This makes dissatisfactory in the Tharus people.

## **5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In simple language, research is a process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting information to give answers to questions. In other words, it means to set a framework for approaches and the use of techniques, procedures and methods that should be unbiased and objective and test the reliability and validity of the information. Moreover, scientific research should also include formality, rigorousness, verifiability and general validity of the information. (Kumar 2005.) In this chapter, there will be a discussion about different kinds of research methods and their descriptions. For the purpose of this thesis, it is good to take a qualitative research method through observation. Observation is the easiest method to find the result. It consists of looking, sighting and listening in field. There are two points to be observed in this thesis; they are social and economic impacts of tourism on the Tharus livelihood and the situation of tourism in the Chitwan National Park (Sauraha).

### **5.1 Method of research**

To find results, research must be done in a systematic way. The researcher chooses a method which is appropriate for their research with them. (Jennings 2001, 15.) In this chapter, a qualitative research method is described. There are three types of research methods: they are qualitative, quantitative and mixed research methods. Qualitative and quantitative are each other's opposites. The former involves numeric data and latter a word view. A qualitative research method contains critical theory, social sciences, feminism and post modernism. The combination of these is known as holistic-inductive paradigm. They are holistic because they study the issue and not simply its component parts. It does not divide or break the issue into component parts. (Jennings 2001, 126.)

A quantitative research method contains numerical data which include positivism and chaos theory. Quantitative is also known as a hypothetic-deductive method. The combination of both hypothetic deductive and holistic-inductive is called a mixed research method. Before



choosing the research method, it should be considered what purpose of it will serve. It also depends on the nature of setting being studied, time, resource and limitations of the study. There are different kinds of resources to use such as human sources or research tools from the computer. In the computer there are different kinds of tools. There should be a match between methodology and the study topic. For example to find out the size of a community the quantitative research method is more than opposite the qualitative method. If the researcher wants to know the nature of the community, there should choose the qualitative research method. If the researcher wants to know both the nature and size of the community, there should choose the mixed research method. (Jennings 2001, 126.) Qualitative research always asks questions like why, how and in what way where as quantitative research asks how much, how often and to what extent. (Hancock 1998.)

## **5.2 Qualitative research method**

The result of this research method is strong textual description and people experience in research. It gives the result of human characteristics such as emotion, behavior, opinions, relationship, belief etc. It is also appropriate to identify intangible factors such as religion, gender roles social norms, ethnicity, and socio economic status. (Family Health International 2011.) In tourism, qualitative research methods have two main forms: one is to find the human behavior theory through data, data means forms of world, objective or picture which should be organizing and reporting result the other is to analysis of numerical data. The purpose of the quantitative method is to gain a deeper understanding of local people. (Zulu Kingdom 2008.)

In qualitative research there are different kinds of methods to gather data. They are: interview, observation, text analysis and case study. According to Jennings, there are three types of interview; they are structured interviews, semi-structured interviews, and unstructured interviews. The structure interview is used in quantitative research. Semi-structure interview is used in both methodologies, qualitative and quantitative research method. In this process both verbal and non-verbal cues can be recorded and included in the analysis. This method is more

relaxing interview setting. The duration of the interview is about 1 hour to more time. Unstructured method is only used in qualitative research method. In this method there is like conversation between two parties, interviewer and the interviewee. The duration of the interview is more than two or more hours. There is no formal interview schedule in this method.

There are two types of observation direct observation and participant observation. In direct observation the researcher is not visible while observing. He is an outside of the group. In participant observation the researcher is taking part and is visible while the studies are going on. (Jennings 2001, 126.) According to Veal, text analysis is the researcher's analysis texts, pictures, posters, record music, film posters or other products from culture. In a case study certain subject should be studied. Observation is one of the most used qualitative research study methods. (Veal 2006, 203.)

### **5.3 Observation**

This method is used in qualitative research. This is the easier method to do any kind of research. In observation there are three processes to be done: looking, sighting and listening. The observer has not in direct contact with observed and still carry out the observation successfully. (Veal 2006, 173.) To find out the actual situation, participant observation is used. In this thesis, the purpose is to observe the social and economic impacts of tourism on the Tharus livelihood and the situation of tourism in the Chitwan National park (Sauraha). The field trip was conducted to observe the research area. There two issues have been observed and is accounted for in the sub- chapters.

### **5.3.1 Social and economic impacts of tourism on the Tharus livelihood**

Due to the tourism development, there are mushrooming hotels and resorts, restaurants, travel and tourists offices, small grocery shops and different tourism activities in Sauraha. Before the establishment of the Chitwan National Park, the Tharus practiced shifting cultivation, hunting and gathering. However, the Tharus have been engaging in different tourism activities after the tourism development in Sauraha. Mainly, they are working in hotels and resorts, restaurants in lower position. Furthermore, they are working as mahout, tourists and nature guide and horse cart drivers. In addition, the Tharus are also running some of the small hotels and resorts, restaurants, and small grocery shops. They also have an opportunity to sell handicrafts, vegetables, milk, chicken and other meat items to the hotels, resorts and restaurants. Some of the Tharus have been also involving in the Tharus culture center as dance performer.

Tourism development has affected their livelihood. Economically, tourism development has been given them opportunity to support their livelihood. However, the Tharus are not able to grab the opportunity because they are poor, uneducated and unskillful. Generally, the Tharus have been working in lower positions as a result they have received low salary. Nowadays, young Tharu are working in India and Gulf countries because salary is high in compared to Sauraha. Most of the hotels and resorts are owned by the Hill migrants. Hill migrants are working in managerial positions and they receive good salaries.

Many business people are buying the land in the Sauraha to make hotels and resorts in future. Due to development of tourism, the price of land is increasing there. The poor Tharu people cannot afford to buy the land for making house. There is also problem off season unemployment in tourism sector. In off season, they are ideal in their house. Tourism development has also affected the culture and traditions of the Tharus. The young generation has imitated the culture and tradition of the tourists. Their life style, dress and language have been changed.

The structure of their house has also changed. Their house is cemented now and their dress has also changed. Nowadays, young Tharus speak other languages and they are not speaking their own language. Due to tourism, some young Tharus people have made the habit of using drugs. It makes violation of the rule in the society. It's difficult to find labor people in agriculture field. In agriculture sector, they received lower salary and attracted to work in tourism sector. Some girls are involved in prostitution due to lot of construction workers and tourists came to Sauraha. The Tharus have started to drink foreign alcohol and smoke cigarettes. Due to the tourism development, the Tharus culture and tradition have diminished.

### **5.3.2 The situation of tourism in the Chitwan National Park (Sauraha)**

Due to tourism development, the infrastructure has been developed. Roads, electricity housing, clean water supply have been developed. The road connection is good compared to other major cities. There are many public and private schools open in Sauraha. Many private organizations are opened for services for people there. There are many good hotels, restaurants, resorts, lodges, grocery shops, and handicrafts shops are operated. Furthermore, there are activities operated such as elephant safari, jeep safari, horse cart, ox cart, and elephant bath. There is a Tharu culture and museum center which provides information on the Tharus. Sauraha is a good place to see sunset in the evening. In evening time, lot of tourists goes to bank of Rapti River to see the sunset view. The Chitwan National Park is rich in biodiversity. There are different kind of flora and fauna. Every year the number of tourists is increasing. The Chitwan National Park is the third biggest tourist destination of Nepal. One horned rhinoceros and Gharial Crocodile are the icons of the Chitwan National Park. It was declared as a world heritage site in 1984.

## 6 CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes the findings of the study. This chapter is divided into two parts. Firstly, the study shapes out the major findings of the study. Secondly, some recommendations are mentioned for the Nepali state to make policies and regulations.

### 6.1 Findings of the study

Nepal is a touristic country in the world. There are many attractive places to visit. Every year thousands of tourists come to Nepal. The numbers of tourist is increasing every year. The main attractions of Nepal are mountaineering, trekking, world heritage and many more. Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world which is in Nepal. This place is heaven for the climbers. The people are friendly and safe place for visiting. Nepal is good destination to visit in comparison with other country in economy view also. The Government of Nepal has made many infrastructures for the development of tourism in Nepal. The government and private sectors are making different programs for the promotion of tourism in domestic and internationally.

Government of Nepal introduced a conservation act in 1973 which lead to the establishment of the Chitwan National Park (first national park in Nepal). There are many rare animals such as one-horned rhinoceros, Bengal tiger, crocodile (Gharial). The Chitwan National Park has made lot of thing to preserve the rare animals and our future generation will can see that rare animals. In Chitwan National Park, there are breeding center for crocodile, elephant, turtle, long-billed vulture. Different international organization also helped to preserve the rare animals.

The field trip conducted in November 2011 in order to observe and talked with different persons such as hotels owners, restaurant employees, nature guides, tourists, cart drivers,

elephant riders and local people. It has been observed that due to the tourism development in Sauraha, the Tharus diversified their livelihood in order to cope with the situation which has emerged by the tourism development. The Tharus have been engaging in different tourism activities beyond non-farm activities. It was discovered that not only tourism encouraged the Tharus to diversify their livelihood. Due to the establishment of the Chitwan National Park, they were forced to diversify their livelihood as they are now restricted to use the resources of the park.

To enter the national park, the tourist has to pay entrance fee. It is main income source for the national Park. The Chitwan National Park has used certain amount of money for the development of the surrounding community such as community development programme, school, drinking water facilities, bamboo handicraft programme, house wiring training etc. It helps for the development of the Tharus community. There are many international organizations as well as NGOs involved for the development of local people. They are very happy with this kind of development programme in the community. Many infrastructures built in Sauraha due to tourism development. Many Tharus have been getting the job and not necessary to go outside for searching job. They got lot of benefits from tourism directly and indirectly.

Due to the establishment of the national park, the Tharus livelihood has been affected as they are restricted to use the resources of the river and forest. Traditionally, the Tharus have practiced shifting cultivation but the Tharus livelihood has been adversely affected since their livelihood was based on the resources of the park. The tourism development has marginalized the Tharus since 90% of the hotels and resorts are operated by the Hill migrants and only 10% of the hotels and resorts by the Tharus. Tourism has also affected the Tharus social and cultural life. Finally, through the establishment of the Chitwan National Park and the tourism development, Sauraha became a tourist attraction which has transformed the place.

## **6.2 Recommendations**

Nepal has not made infrastructure development in many tourism places so it is difficult to promote the destinations. Nepal government has to think on that side. There are unknown tourism places in Nepal and they have to explore. If new places will be explored, the arrival of tourists in Nepal will definitely increase. Tourism will help to advertisement in international media so the international tourist will increase in Nepal.

The National Park and Wild Life Conservation Act should to be balanced. Due to this act, the livelihoods of the Tharus have been affected. Traditionally, they are dependent on the resources of the forest and rivers. The Tharus should have some privileges to gain access to the resources of the National Park as they are original dwellers of this area. The state should be implement an empowerment program to the Tharus and launch a special package to them to improve their social and economic life.

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