



Society for Resource Conservation, Disaster Management and Community Development

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**Proposal of Cooperation between
Gaurishankar National Park, Nepal and
National Park of Gran Sasso, and Monti della Laga, Italy**

**Presented by
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Nepal's wonders lie on two major areas – Culture and Nature. The common feature of these two wonders is the diversity – biodiversity in terms of Nature and cultural diversity in terms of Culture. In order to develop Nepali culture and standard of life of the people Nepal needs to approach friendly nations and organizations to join hands to come up with various conservation and promotion projects for sustainable development of the country. Tourism development is one such area where cooperation is relative less complicated, more beneficial and highly sustainable.

This proposal concerns a Project proposed for bilateral and bi-national enterprise for the development of one of the most popular national parks of Nepal – Gaurishankar Park - situated in the Himalays about 250 km northeast of Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. This area is frequented by many tourists, trekkers and vacationers alike. Of them the remarkable flow is from Europe in general and Italy in particular. The available data shows that Italian mountaineers and trekkers love the Gaurishankar Park region situated on the Rolwaling Himal region.

There are many state protected national parks in Nepal. They are spread from east to west. They are –

- Barun National Park in Makalu Himal, east Nepal
- Sagarmatha National Park in Khumbu region
- Langtang National Park in Rasuwa District, northern Nepal
- Chitwan National Park in central south
- Koshi Tappu Wildlife Park in Koshi river basin, South
- Bardiya National Park in far west Tarai Nepal
- Rara National Park in northwest Nepal in Karnali region
- Annapurna Park and Reservation in central west region



Thus far, these parks have been source of tourism related income and less so in the field of study and research. Also, not all of them have good infrastructure for trekkers, travelers and researchers.

Features and Management

All parks in the hills and Himalayas have two major features in common – they have a very wide range of herbal products naturally grown, exploited and sold in Indian markets with less gain for the public or the government. Also, they are rich in biodiversity so researchers could spend short to long time for study, research and publication

Parks in the tarai such as Koshi, Bardiya, Chitwan are easily accessible being in the plains and have wildlife, natural beauty as common features. Koshi has birds and wild animals. Others have more interesting features of their own.

Government has small to medium size management to look after the parks of Nepal. In the Center there is National Parks Management Bureau under the Ministry.

But remote parks do not have enough trained manpower and there is not much publicity about their special features. So even in Nepal there is no enough knowledge about the park system and its role for the development of tourism and development of the nation. Schools and universities do not have syllabus for the study of these parks except a very sporadic information in science faculties.

Need

This proposal is prepared realizing the need to develop the infrastructure, promote tourism, study and research and publication benefitting the people of Nepal through bilateral support.

The major objective of the proposed are –

- Publicize the strength of Gaurishankar Park area for the promotion of tourism, research and livelihood of the local people
- Update the available resources, manpower, management skill and other potential through bilateral actions
- Exchange visits by Park personnel in order to assess the need and make plans for better management and consumption of tourism products
- Enhance the capacity of the Park through upgrading the facilities and adding new unites such as information, walking paths, rest houses, tea houses, water system, security and emergency rescue system, cleanliness system against environment degradation seen in other Himalayas and other depending on the need
- Institute mechanism to control overflow of human intervention
- Encourage locals to work in the field of herbal gardens and other sources of income through tourism
- Install local level museum houses, entertainment facilities to promote local cultures and education for the local children



This list may look like ambitious but the Project can and will take steps cautiously listing the urgent need first and step on to the next once the projects shows sign of local acceptance and international or bilateral interest for the promotion of nature, culture and environmental protection.

Ecotourism is the only way to develop tourism in the mountains of Nepal and it can be done in more sustainable way.

It is the interest of the applying agency – SRDC – that the Park authorities of Nepal and Italy must come together for more concrete plans so the future of the park and people is not at risk and people benefit from the Project.

First of all, the people of Rolwaling Gaurishankar Park area will have to be made aware of such a vast natural wealth they have in their neighborhood and they must play their role in not exploiting the forest and park but use it for the present and the future in collaboration with the external agencies who will come to promote tourism and other sustainable benefit for them and the country.

Once made the integral part of the proposed project, the people will spare no effort to work in collaborative manner and be able to protect and preserve the nature and their own culture.

Empowering the people through a sustainable and scientific system is one agenda to be discussed and work on once the project is in place.

Explora Nunaat with its headquarters in Montoria, al Vomano in Italy is making efforts to help the poor community of Nepal Himalaya have access to potable and clean water for the people of greater Rolwaling region. There is also a plan to establish a village museum and rest house in the village of Simigaon falling in same area and inhabited by the Sherpas.

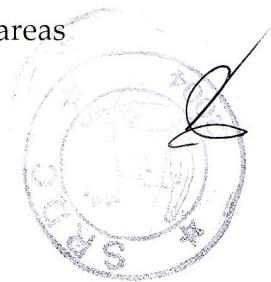
Explora Nuaat will play major coordinating role for the proposed Gaurishankar National Park as well. In Nepal the coordinating role on Nepal side will be played by SRDC, a development partner of Explora Nuaat. Both Explora and SRDC have signed an MOU for the completion of the development works whereas separate MOUs have also been signed with the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Nepal. The Social Service Council of the government is the government body to monitor the proposed activities and register the institutions duly. SRDC has been registered and there is no further hassles for the administration of Gaurishankar National Park related activities.

The proposed project will be carried out jointly by the Nepal Department of National Parks (a government department under the Ministry of Forest) and National Park of Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga.

Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected once the proposed project is launched between the two parks and two government:

- Exchange visits of government officials to respective areas
- Promotion of ecotourism in Nepal Himalaya
- Upgrading of available facilities and infrastructures





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- Training of Parks management officials of Nepal
- Promotion of research and study of Nepali parks
- Generation of income of local communities through tourism
- National/International awareness on biodiversity in the Himalaya

Date:

Proposed time for the start of work

Once approved by the funding agency the proposed project can start in the Spring of 2014.

A small delegation from Gran Sasso can make a short trip to Nepal and the park itself. In the delay of this process the inauguration date for the joint venture can be moved to Fall (late Sept or October) 2014.

Pran Lekhaty
Chit. Dec 19, 2013

