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Forestry and Key Asian Watersheds. A. K. Myint and T. Hofer, 70pp, 1998, ISBN 92 9115 7600, Price: US\$ 20

Six major rivers of Asia are studied for the forestry situations in their watersheds: the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Mekong are international rivers, whereas the two other rivers studied are the Yangtze and Yellow rivers of the People's Republic of China. Basic information on the geography, climate, hydrological conditions, sediment and water quality, land cover, and socioeconomic conditions of these river watersheds are described. The importance of hydropower potential in the areas is mentioned, while the amounts of erosion and sediment loads are pointed out. Forest resources in each individual watershed are discussed. The main forces affecting the forest cover, which include national policies, population growth and poverty, economic development and industrialization, infrastructure and hydropower production, climate change, and highland lowland interactions are classified and deliberated upon. Prospects for forestry towards the year 2010 assuming the various scenarios are predicted. The implications for future action are assessed concerning the elevation zones between 300 to 3,000 m; forestry management for and by local communities; integrated approaches in planning; economies based on forestry and environmental conservation; development of other sectors; international conventions; measures for mangrove forest improvement; the reimbursement of highland societies for benefits received in the lowlands; and the assistance of the global community in conserving biodiversity are emphasized. Recommendations for assessment of forest cover and analysis of the role of forestry in selected meso-watersheds are made.

Rangeland and Pastoral Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. Daniel J. Miller and Sienna R. Craig, 268pp, 1998, ISBN 92 9115 1580, Price: US\$ 20

The papers in these proceedings seek to address three principal areas of concern: biodiversity, range resource management and pastoral development, and forage development. The workshop itself focused on identifying crucial issues and determining priorities in order to address rangeland concerns, especially in the light of managing such remote areas at high elevation, sparsely populated, and subject to such harsh climates. Many of the papers demonstrate that there is a need to identify issues and set priorities for action to address rangeland concerns. The task of managing rangelands is challenging due to their altitude, harsh climates, and sparsely populated characteristics. However, over the centuries, pastoralists have developed animal husbandry skills and grazing practices adapted to these harsh environmental conditions and perturbations in the ecosystem; albeit that the efficacy of their systems is unacknowledged by development planners, hence leaving pastoralists out of the development process. This unique collection of papers touches on the value of the unique flora and fauna of the rangelands and the need to preserve them in order to conserve biodiversity. Policies are also discussed in the context of their appropriateness to the rangeland systems and in the context of how poor perceptions have led to limited support for livestock husbandry. Strategies for range management are suggested to maintain productivity, rehabilitate degraded areas, improve biodiversity, promote sustainable livestock production, stimulate economic growth, and improve standards of living.

NTFPs, Institutions, and Income Generation in Nepal: Lessons for Community Forestry (MNR 98/1). D Chandrasekharan, 52pp, 1998, ISSN 1024-7556, Price: US\$ 15

As commercial markets penetrate rural areas, communities are making the transition from subsistence to cash economies. This process, as seen in many developing countries, when uncontrolled, can widen the economic disparity between the resource poor and resource wealthy, and result in environmental degradation which, in turn, increases the work load of rural communities, especially women. In the mountains of Nepal, where cultivable land is limited,

the invasion of market forces is occurring at a rapid pace. This is increasing the demand on resources used for food, medicines, fuelwood, fodder, construction materials, and income for many landless and poor. The need to strengthen existing institutions to effectively protect natural resources from exploitation and promote sustainable and equitable economic development for mountain communities, is imperative. There is increasing interest in generating income from forest resources in community forestry programmes. To do this effectively, the development approach must integrate the comparative advantages and constraints of mountain systems.

Non-timber forest products found in Nepal present a potential means of promoting social, economic, and environmental welfare for rural communities. The increasing commercial demand for non-timber forest products promises profitable returns from collection and value-adding if the necessary institutional support is available. Similarly, the need for a healthy ecosystem to provide a sustainable harvest of non-timber forest products motivates resource conservation. This paper documents four institutional settings using non-timber forest products to generate income. The objective is to examine the economic, environmental, and social benefits resulting from these four different approaches from the collectors' perspective. The analysis of these different approaches presents important guidelines for community forestry. The information in this paper is based on research of the literature, discussions with project coordinators, and field work.

Manual of Rural Technology with Implications for Mountain Tourism. ICIMOD and Centre for Rural Technology, 152pp, 1997, ISBN 92 9115 7740, Price: US\$ 20

This manual is a useful guidebook to rural technologies suitable not only for mountain areas involved in tourism but for other areas of the mountains also. It commences by examining tourism and its impacts and the relevance of alternative technologies in this context. The second chapter deals with energy-related technologies and the implications of their use in mountain areas. The third chapter deals with the disposal of human and other waste and institutional arrangements for application of disposal technologies. The final chapter deals with the management of tourist facilities such as campsites, hotels, and lodges. The appendices list some of the current regulations for mountain tourism in Nepal. This volume has 58 useful, practical figures illustrating the rural technologies given.

Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development in Nepal: A Case Study of Upper Mustang (MEI 98/1). Kamal Banskota and

Bikash Sharma, 84pp, 1998, ISSN 1024-7564, Price: US\$ 15

This case study examines the experience of a major NGO in its efforts to improve the possibilities of income generation and local community development through tourism in one of the 'ghostly' areas of Nepal, Upper Mustang. It examines the issues involved in the light of socio-cultural, infrastructure assets, and possible impacts, both negative and positive on the people and the environment. The study also provides a number of valuable assessments on the work already carried out and recommendations for the future.

Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development in Nepal: A Case Study of Phewa Lakeside, Pokhara (MEI 98/2). Kamal Banskota and Bikash Sharma, 58pp, 1998, ISSN 1024-7564, Price: US\$ 15

This case study examines, the 'tragedy of the commons' as it is played out in the case of Phewa Lakeside, which is rapidly deteriorating through an excess of exploitation, and because there are too many actors planning its future at cross purposes. This interesting and enlightening narrative assesses the current deteriorating structure and lack of focus and provides valuable insights and recommendations for the future of tourism in this picturesque spot. It examines all the unfortunate happenings to this lake both naturally and human-induced, as well as services provided to tourists in the context of quality. Several conflicts are apparent which, if not tackled with alacrity, could culminate in another environmental disaster and the end of a very valuable natural assets.

Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development in Nepal: A Case Study of Syaphrubesi, Langtang (MEI 98/3). Kamal Banskota and Bikash Sharma, 52pp, 1998, ISSN 1024-7564, Price: US\$ 15

This case study examines the role of the Quality Tourism Project of UNDP, Nepal, in the improvement of tourism services of Syaphrubesi, a well-known entry point to Langtang National Park. It covers the steps taken by the project to create an acceptable entry point so that the villagers would be open to change. From this point on the progress made by the villagers is discussed and finally assessed. The roles played by all actors involved are examined with thoroughness. Finally, the case study assesses the overall impacts and makes valuable recommendations for tourism for local community development.