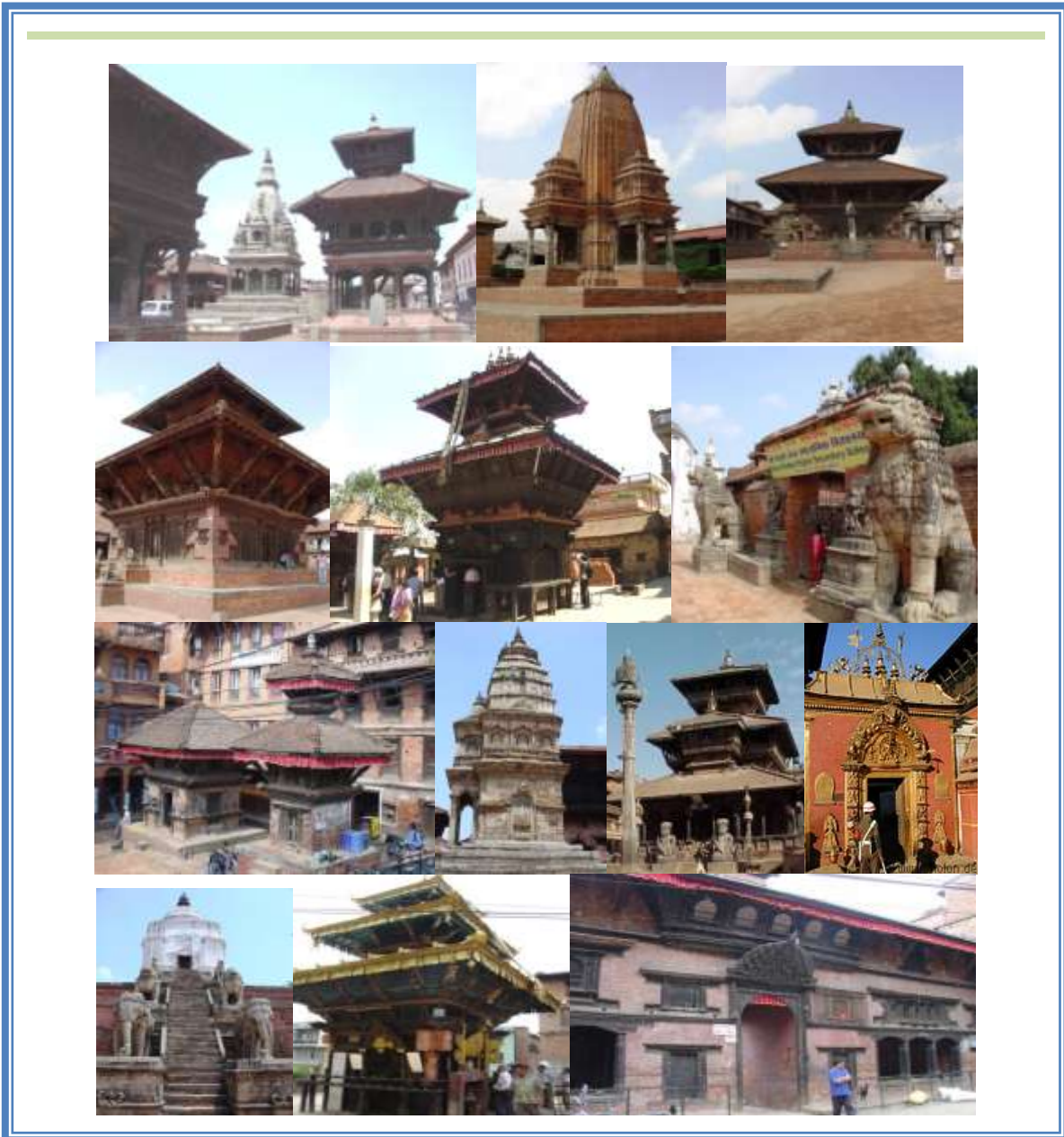


TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN OF BHAKTAPUR DISTRICT 2010 – 2014



Main Volume I

Submitted to
District Development Committee, Bhaktapur / Nepal Tourism Board

October 2010

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October 2010

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Executive Summary

This tourism development and management plan has developed with a view that the District Development Committee (DDC) Bhaktapur is the key Executing Agency for major activities. The study is being undertaken on behalf of the DDC Bhaktapur and in close cooperation with the Nepal Tourism Board. A Consulting team composed of seven consultants with guidance from DDC Bhaktapur, Nepal Tourism Board, Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee (BTDC), Bhaktapur and Madhyapur Thimi Municipalities and all sixteen VDCs within the district carried out the work including field visits and interactions.

The team has assessed the feasibility of tourism development activities in Bhaktapur district and surroundings and had also studied in process to design a comprehensive project for possible package of priority investments in tourism-related infrastructure and facilities that will hasten implementation of the tourism development process. Taking into account the urgency to be done at field level, and the prime apprehension of the DDC for the overall tourism development in the areas, the strategies and activities designed have tried to address the consequence for tourism development and the socio-economic development of the local people, and has also tried to focus on for immediate tourism development agendas of the district counting Bhaktapur Durbar area, Bode, Nagdesh and Thimi of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, Changu Narayan, Nagarkot and other potential areas as prime core tourism attractions.

This **volume I** of this report has designed in **six** chapters. The **first** chapter is about the rationale and purpose of the overall tourism development and management plan, objective of the planning exercise, planning process, general background information about the Bhaktapur district, and about the major tourism issues and constraints observed by the planning team. Similarly, **second** chapter has focused on the existing tourism and tourism resource potentials at Bhaktapur district and its surroundings. Some discussions about the potentials and challenges for tourism development in Bhaktapur district and its surroundings are also mentioned in this chapter (detail see **Annex 5 to 8**). It also tells about the potential tourism resources such as *culture and pilgrimage; nature based eco-tourism and adventurous tourism; rural tourism; MICE tourism; education and research tourism; pleasure, recreation and entertainment; and health, spa and meditation tourism* available in the district. Also in this chapter, little effort has made to indicate about the tourism market structure and the promotional efforts made so far about the promotion of tourism in this district.

Likewise, chapter **three** present's development efforts so far made by various organizations for achieving tourism development and conservation practices, potential opportunities that exists for development in each sector.

Based on the ongoing activities that being followed by Bhaktapur district at present, in chapter **four**, **integrated tourism development, partnership and participation, livelihoods, and sustainability** as major **four** guiding principles, comprehensive intended working areas have extended as prime course of actions for designing **vision, goal, and objectives**. Similarly, **five** major tourism development **strategies** have undertaken such as - **adjusting development interventions under its value and importance; area specific priority interventions; sustainable use of the local resources; making tourism more responsible and pro-poor; and local economic retention**. Derived from these strategies, **119 activities** have designed for five years period within **12 major thematic areas**. They include - *conservation of Cultural and Historical heritages; tourism and environment awareness programme; quality accommodation construction; basic infrastructure development; human resources development; institutional development - establishing tourism development section in the DDC, Municipalities and Chamber of Commerce and Industry; publicity, promotion, marketing and research; communication facilities and tourist information; tourism enterprise development and income generating activities; new*

tourism product development and diversification of tourism activities; conservation & management of natural landscape and biodiversity; and monitoring and evaluation. The framework indicates activities in which the DDC will play a lead role in terms of coordination and facilitation. Among 119 activities, 92 activities are in the first priority. The total budget for all activities is expected to be over Rupees 36 Corers. Majority of the activities are recommended to work under coordination and cooperation within many organizations. District Development Committee is expected to take the lead and allocate over Rs.11.63 Corers on its own and Rs. 4.49 Corers to work jointly with various organizations including Bhaktapur and Madhyapur Thimi Municipality (MTM) and other VDCs. Similarly, MTM is expected to allocate Rs 80 Lakhs on its own for tourism development.

In chapter **five** for execution of the planned activities, special institutional arrangements have suggested for sustainable tourism development in the district. Though, the period of the present development and management plan has developed for five years, looking at the responsibility, DDC looks having its mandate to work for indefinite period under the guidance of District Tourism Coordination Committee (DTCC). Therefore, with a view to address development and management part effectively, strong monitoring and evaluation system together with national and international networking and linkages have also suggested with due possible financial resources for development.

The plan has tried to focus on bringing out overall changes in general perception of the people- of Bhaktapur district regarding tourism and conservation. Similarly, efforts have made to develop tourism in Bhaktapur district in concerted and coordinated approach and in partnership with various stakeholders for achieving a balanced development both in Municipalities including all sixteen VDCs in the district. Thrust has given to combine all tourism attractions and services available in the district, with different packages, making Bhaktapur district as centre of attractions (hub) for the region.

All annexes with detail information including GIS based district maps and photographs have documented separately as **volume II**.

Acronyms

| | |
|--------|---|
| A.D. | : Anno Domini |
| V.S. | : Vikram Sambat |
| BCCI | : Bhaktapur Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| BCN | : Bird Conservation Nepal |
| BDS | : Bhaktapur Durbar Square |
| BM | : Bhaktapur Municipality |
| BTDC | : Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee |
| CBOs | : Community Based Organizations |
| CFUG | : Community Forest User Group |
| CSIDB | : Cottage and Small Industry Development Board |
| CTEVT | : Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training |
| DANIDA | : Danish International Development Agency |
| DDC | : District Development Committee |
| DEO | : District Education Office |
| DFO | : District Forest Office |
| DoA | : Department of Archaeology |
| DoR | : Department of Roads |
| DOT | : Department of Tourism |
| DTCC | : District Tourism Coordination Committee |
| FNJ | : Federation of Nepalese Journalist |
| GIS | : Geographic Information System |
| GON | : Government of Nepal |
| HDI | : Human Development Index |
| HMG | : His Majesty's Government of Nepal |
| IUCN | : International Union for Conservation of Nature and Wildlife |
| KUKL | : Kathmandu Uppatyaka Khanepani Limited |
| MICE | : Marketing, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions |
| MoCTCA | : Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation |
| MoE | : Ministry of Environment |
| MoPP | : Ministry of Physical Planning |
| MoTCA | : Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation |
| MTM | : Madhyapur Thimi Municipality |
| NAC | : Nepal Airlines Corporation |
| NATHM | : Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hospitality Management |
| NATTA | : Nepal Associations of Travel and Tour Agencies |
| NBA | : Nepal Biking Association |
| NCA | : Nepal Cannoning Association |
| NGO | : Non Governmental Organization |
| NNTDC | : Nagarkot Naldum Tourism Development Committee |
| NPC | : National Planning Commission |
| NRB | : Nepal Rastra Bank |
| NRs | : Nepalese Rupees |
| NTB | : Nepal Tourism Board |
| SAARC | : South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation |
| SDC | : Swiss Development Co-operation |
| SDWDO | : Sanitation and Drinking Water Development Office |
| TAAN | : Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal |
| TDC | : Tourism Development Committee |

| | |
|--------|--|
| TEAP | : Tourism and Environment Awareness Program |
| TGDB | : Tara Gaon Development Board |
| TIA | : Tribhuvan International Airport |
| TITI | : Training Institute for Technical Instructors |
| TOR | : Terms of Reference |
| TRP | : Tourism Resources Potentials |
| TRPAP | : Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme |
| UDB | : Urban Development Board |
| UNESCO | : United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization |
| VDC | : Village Development Committee |
| VFR | : Visiting Friends and Relatives |
| VNY | : Visit Nepal Year |
| WHS | : World Heritage Site |
| WTTC | : World Travel & Tourism Council |
| WWF | : World Wildlife Fund |

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Chapter One

1. Introduction

1.1 Rationale and Purpose

Nepal is commonly divided into three broad physiographic areas: the Mountains, Hills, and the Tarai Region. All three parallel each other, from east to west, as continuous ecological belts, occasionally bisected by the country's river systems. These ecological regions have divided into five development sectors within the framework of regional development planning. The geographical set up of Nepal provides two immediate possibilities for driving economic growth and social development: hydro-electricity and a natural resource-based tourism. Nepal's unique natural resources, coupled with a vibrant living cultural heritage and a friendly and hospitable people, provide significant potential to use nature-based tourism as a low-cost, eco-friendly activity to spur socio-economic growth and development.

Realizing the potential of the tourism, the first National Tourism Master Plan was formulated in 1972, which happened eleven years after the set up of the Department of Tourism (DOT). Since then, the tourism industry has been recognized as one of the main sectors for foreign exchange earnings and has been tried to develop tourism in Nepal with planned efforts.

Though, there has been no definitive study to provide a clear and detailed *national* economic impact analysis that is disaggregated into sectoral or regional levels, the end result implies only limited benefits reach rural areas including Bhaktapur District.

The Bhaktapur District of the Central Development Region of Nepal is unique. It is endowed with great natural beauty, diverse ecology, flora & fauna, cultural, historical and architectural enigma. It also represents a unique civilization of mid-mountain of Nepal. Therefore, Bhaktapur district has acknowledged tourism as a significant source of income. Recognizing this potential, the Tourism Development and Management Plan for Bhaktapur District has also been instigated. In order to promote tourism development in the district, an independent Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee (BTDC) is formed with an objective to make this body responsible for coordinating with various individuals, professionals and organizations.

District Development Plans made so far by District Development Committees (DDC) have paid less attention and has barely realized that tourism could also be the source of income to DDC and to the local people of this district. Therefore, despite having immense potential for tourism development, tourism attractions in this district have not been sufficiently taken attention and the DDC has not allocated significant budget for tourism development. Likewise, neither the district has paid adequate attention nor has it allocated any plentiful amount for maintenance and development of such natural, historical, archaeological and cultural attraction sites with a view to develop tourism.

In the district, there are potential sites which possess higher cultural, historical, archaeological and religious value, that are considered as essential assets for tourism development. In the district, there are still more natural and man-made attractions and sites with touristic value, which are yet to be fully explored for tourism development.

In the absence of a comprehensive integrated tourism management plan for Bhaktapur District, the potential tourism products are in valueless state and their importance are barely explored and services are hardly developed. Most of the touristic sites are in

isolation and services are in fragmented state. Therefore, the need of formulating an integrated tourism development and management plan has been realized and subsequently efforts have been initiated to collect additional resources for tourism development and repackaging tourism products and services.

In line with the new Tourism Policy (2065) and Tourism Vision 2020, attempts have been made to pay due attention for giving importance to tourism in the district along with a beginning of new thinking that tourism could also be the means to generate additional income to the district and also could be the agent to balance inter VDCs development.

The Bhaktapur Municipality (BM) has played crucial role in the development and management of local tourism concentrating within its boundaries. It has, for over a decade, managing local tourism activities including- conservation of historical, archaeological assets; encouraging local-level participation in the protection of traditional architectures, ponds, temples and other intangible cultural values of local (Newar) society etc. Furthermore, it has been directly involved in managing the domestic, SAARC as well as overseas tourists coming to Bhaktapur city.

In the past, it is witnessed that there were some local initiatives and efforts to promote tourism. However, due to the poor results and less income from tourism activities, the whole tourism development process was excluded from the district development plans. At this crucial moment, Bhaktapur District Development Committee, through Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee (BTDC), with financial and technical support from Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) decided to take the lead on developing a comprehensive tourism development and management plan for Bhaktapur district.

1.2 Objectives of the Planning Exercise

The broader objective of this assignment is to develop **five** years sustainable Tourism Development and Management Plan with a view to conserve tourism resources and provide livelihood opportunity to local communities including deprived groups and women through wider tourism entrepreneurship. It has also expected that the plan will contribute to develop tourism activities based under the principles and guidelines of World Heritage Sites conservation and development practices. In this regard, the potential tourism sites will be developed through planned approach.

The objectives of the present planning exercise based on the Terms of Reference (TOR) are the following:

1. To increase the length of stay of both domestic as well as international tourists and to expand and diversify tourism activities all the way through enhancing the quality of tourism services in a sustained manner
2. To develop physical infrastructure development plan with a view to conserve, maintain and develop the tourism development activities
3. To expand and promote the existing tourism activities in all potential sites of the district propagating different activities such as Agri-tourism, Eco-tourism etc.
4. To develop institutional mechanism for better coordination and cooperation among all tourism related institutions and organizations involved in tourism development and management practices
5. To involve Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for better conservation, maintenance and management of all historical, cultural, and religious heritage sites

6. To enhance the capacity of the institutions and individuals involved in tourism sector for providing quality products and services
7. To expand the employment opportunities in rural areas and to provide economic incentives to the poor, disadvantaged as well as discriminated groups, and women through tourism development.
8. To develop tourism in a sustainable way and to expand the tourism activities in all parts of the district making the development process more inclusive, rendering tourism activities more attractive for both domestic as well as international tourists
9. To encourage local entrepreneurs to invest on developing tourism facilities and services and also persuade them to expand and upgrade the quality of their services
10. To establish backward and forward linkages among all stakeholders for effective tourism development, marketing and promotional activities

In doing so, the planning team has been laden with the following additional responsibilities:

1. Review the existing government policies, rules, regulations, plans and programs regarding the promotion of tourism and to analyze policy strength and gaps
2. Explore the tourism potential in terms of attractions, facilities, services and accessibility both in terms of tourism products and destination
3. Recommend an integrated framework plan for the district stating the economic, environmental, socio-cultural, managerial goals/objectives of the plan, zoning plan, sustainable rural tourism-related activities and the marketing strategy of the tourism products and services.
4. Suggest or/and recommend clear institutional mechanism to implement this management plan.

1.3 Planning Process

Based on the broader objectives set in the planning exercise, the process for the preparation of the Tourism Development and Management Plan for Bhaktapur District consisted of:

- literature review including the Periodic District Development Plans (2059/60 – 2063/4 BS), and visitor perception survey and stakeholders survey done by BTDC in 2008
- meeting with major stakeholders (DDC,NTB, Bhaktapur Municipality, Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, Bhaktapur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, BTDC, NNTDC, VDCs, local communities)
- field visits of all VDCs and Municipalities within Bhaktapur District
- tracking all historical, cultural, natural and archaeological sites and existing tourism resources through GIS based technology
- intensive interaction with district and local level stakeholders in a workshop (**Annex 1, 2, 3**) focusing on the SWOT on the current status and prospects of tourism in Bhaktapur District
- setting objectives of the Tourism Development and Management Plan (TD&MP), and priority areas and activities for tourism development in Bhaktapur District
- consolidation of the strategic thrusts of the proposed plan
- validation workshop at the district level before the proposed plan is finalized and steps to integrate the plan in the district development process

The field visit concentrated mainly on the Bhaktapur district covering all 16 VDCs, Bhaktapur and Madhyapur Thimi Municipalities, Changu Narayan, Nagarkot, and other potential natural and cultural heritage sites. The proposed plan has also hoped to complement earlier initiatives including those indicated in the Periodic District Development Plan and Tourism Plans prepared at local levels. Furthermore, it has attempted to integrate them at the district level. Similarly, the directives imparted by Governing Council, Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Group have also adhered to.

1.4 Background /Overview of Bhaktapur District

The district is known as 'Bhaktapur' in general. The Newars call it 'Khwopa' which is derived from root *Khoprīng*. This non-Sanskrit, initial name for the entire district had prevailed even before the advent of the Lichchhavis i.e. in the Kirat Period. *Khoprīng*, the ancient place name of the present Bhaktapur district was first mentioned in an inscription set up in 477 A.D. as 'Khoprīnggrampradesha' during the reign of Manadeva the historical Lichchhai king.¹ This epigraphic evidence furthermore reveals Bhaktapur district as one of the oldest peripheral settlements in the Nepal valley. It is also important to note that without any major change, the Tamang inhabitants still call the Bhaktapur as *Khobang* in their own language which is so much close to the word *Khoprīng*. According to Vajracharya, the Kirat word 'kho' perhaps denotes 'Bhaat' (cooked rice) which in the later times translated into Sanskrit word as *Bhakta*, so as the word 'Pring' denotes a village. In Sanskrit, a village is called 'Gram'.

From the aforementioned fact, it is to be known that Khoprīnggrampradesha was an extensive rural area, particularly famous for Bhaat. In course of time due to this feature 'Khoprīng' transformed into the Sanskrit name ' Bhaktagram'. 'Bhadgaon' is originated form of *Bhaktagram*. The name *Bhadgaon* seems to have been used frequently but only after the end of the Malla period. A well developed town is called 'Pur' in Sanskrit. Bhaktapur is also known as 'Bhaktagram' or 'Bhaktapur' in the medieval period. The name 'Bhaktapur' is first referred in a Manuscript titled 'Kiran Tantra' written in 924 A.D. Since then not only the city but the entire region have been calling it as 'Bhaktapur'. It is interesting to note that the name of a certain territory was used in two different languages in the past. Thus we have *Khoprīng* in the Kirat language, *Khwopa* is originated form of *Khoprīng* in the Newar dialect and *Bhaktapur* in the Sanskrit language. It can be concluded that the root *Bhakta* not only denotes *Devotee* but also for the food stuff i.e. *Bhaat* (cooked rice). For instance, a vessel containing cooked rice is uttered in Sanskrit as *Bhaktapurita bhandam* (**See Annex 4, 5 and 6 for details**).

The historic district Bhaktapur having latitude 27°36' to 27°44' North and longitude 85°21' to 85°32' East is situated in the Kathmandu Valley at a distance of 13 km east from the capital city of Kathmandu is renowned for its elegant art, historical monuments, fabulous culture and Newari lifestyle. The district is equally rich in natural landscape and biodiversity comprising ranges from the southern border with the Lalitpur district, Kavrepalanchowk district lying to the east, and Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts lying to the west. Likewise, Kathmandu and Kavrepalanchowk districts are lying to the north. The unique combination of cultural, historical and natural heritage has positioned Bhaktapur district as a very potential district for tourism development. The district comprises the best preserved two World Heritage Sites (WHSs) such as Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Changu Narayan Temple (**See Map 1**).

Bhaktapur district is also rich in typical colorful festivals and traditional dances. Bisket Jatra, Gatha Muga Chare, Sapatu (Gai Jatra), Indra Jatra, Yomari Punhi, Ghaya Chaku Salun are some of the special festivals and fairs celebrated in Bhaktapur district. Among

the unique local products and iconic images, Bhaktapur district represents the Wooden carvings, Paubha/Thankas painting, Terracotta, Traditional Masks, Handloom, Jujudhau (King curd)/Yogurt, Metal crafts, Peacock window and Bhadgaule cap.

From tourism prospective, religious and historical monuments festivals and events constitute major tourism attractions in Bhaktapur district. Bhaktapur Durbar Square provides a resemblance of an open museum and is the repertoire of different historical temples, monasteries palace, and images of god and goddesses. Nyatapola, the five storey temple and the Bhimsen temple are the major attractions of the Taumadhi Square. Similarly, Dattatraya Square lively displays the historical evidence till now through its art and architecture. The traditional lifestyles, year round festivals in Bhaktapur and Thimi areas also lure more tourists during the festive season. Bisket Jatra and Gai Jatra (Cow Festival)s are some of the most attractive festivals in Bhaktapur.

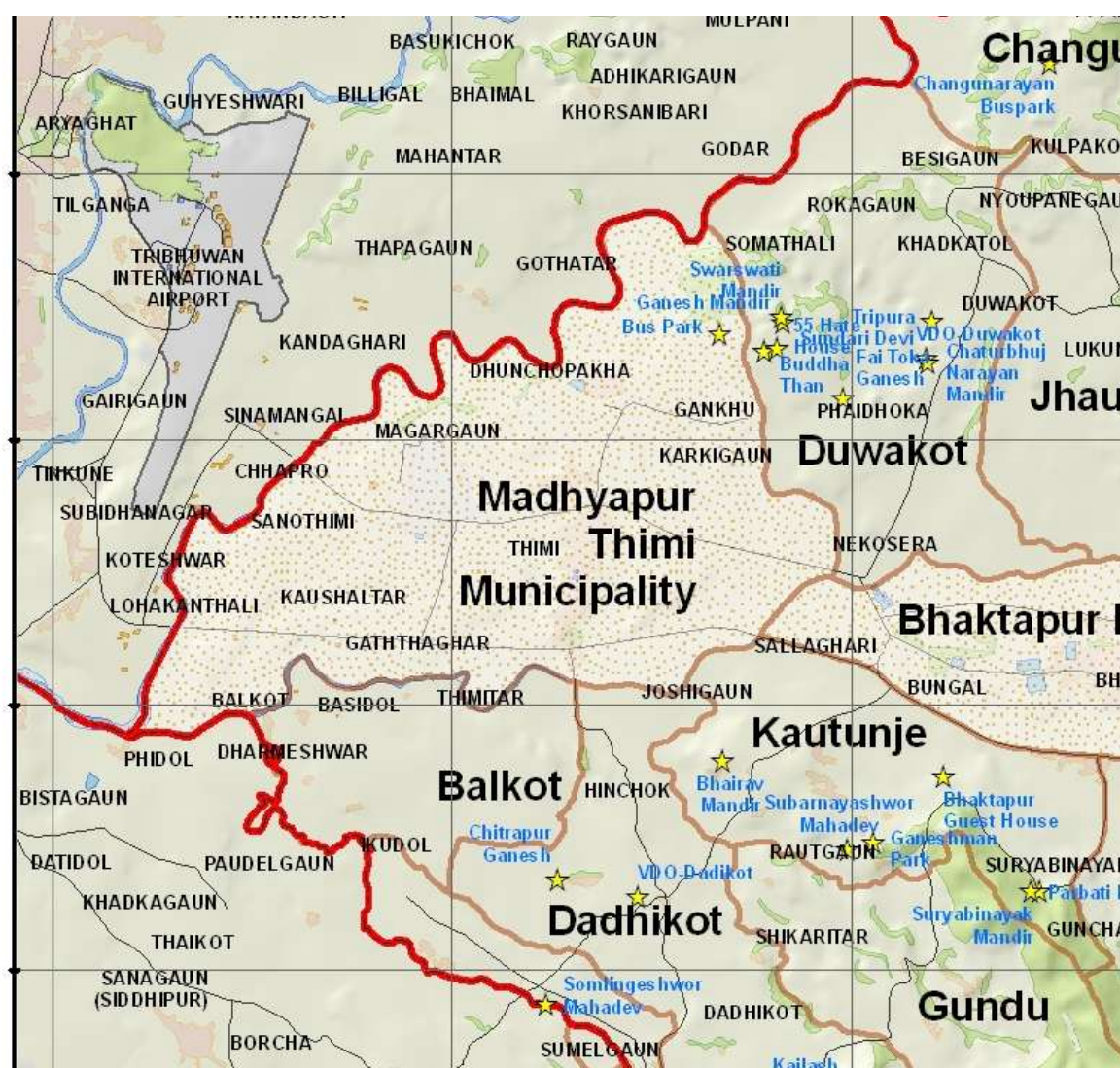
Map 1: Bhaktapur District Overview



Similarly, Madhyapur Thimi a medieval city is also a traditional Newar settlement. It is equally well known for its handicrafts, green vegetables, diverse art, culture, festivals, dance, traditional music and life style. The 32 chariot festival (Bisket Jatra), the Tongue Penetrating Festival (Jivro Chhedne Jatra), traditional Nil Barahi Dance of Bode, Devyashowri Temple of Lokanthali, classical dances, the living music, old palaces and

crafts are the real identification of Madhyapur Thimi and they have made this town a living museum and one of the important cultural places within the Kathmandu Valley (See Map 2, Annex 4, 5 and 6 for details).

Map 2 Madhyapur Thimi areas



Apart from these visible tourist spots, festivals, temples and monasteries, there are other diversified products which attract visitors in Bhaktapur district. A famous touristic hill resort Nagarkot exists to the north of Bhaktapur which neighbors the Kavrepalanchwok district. Banepa, Dhulikhel, Panauti, Lakuribhanjyang, are other neighboring tourist spots of Bhaktapur which have also been contributing to the tourism development in Bhaktapur.

The district has a total area of 138.46 sq km comprising the smallest district of the country expanding 1.6 km east to west and 11.2 km from north to south. The district holds an average height of 1331 meters from the mean sea level with the highest point of 2191 meters at Nagarkot. From political and administrative point of view, the district has divided into 2 electoral constituencies, 11 Ilakas, 2 Metropolitans and 16 VDCs.

The altitudinal variation ranges from mid hills to valley. Over 80 per cent of the total area of district is covered by agricultural land (102.40 sq km) with total of 17.91 percent (22.8. sq km) Forests and shrubs. Thirty percent of the total cultivated land (3322 hectares) has

irrigation facilities round the year. Because of very fertile nature of the soil, Bhaktapur is also known as grain and vegetables storage. Paddy, Wheat, and Millet are the major agricultural products of the district. Even with one third of the total cultivated land under irrigation system, traditional agriculture system continues to exist making it not so cost effective. The district is drained by Manohara, Hunumante, Tabyakhusi, Mahadev Khola and Ghatte Khola rivers.

Because of the low altitudinal variation, the climatic conditions of the district range from cold to sub-tropical with total 78.32 mm rainfall annually. The temperature within March to September remains very hot and humid reaching up to 35 degree Celsius, whereas, during winter months the temperature drops down to minus 2 degree Celsius (LRMP/GIS, 1999 cited in DDC Profile).

Population & Ethnicity:

Bhaktapur had a population of 225,461 in 2001 with an average population growth at 2.71%. There were 41,253 households with an average household size of 5.47. Unlike the average situation in Nepal, Bhaktapur has an excess of males to females with a sex ratio of 109 to every 100 females. The population density according to the census is 1895 persons per square km.

Bhaktapur is home to diverse ethnic groups, but Newars comprise about 56.05 percent of the district population. Chhetri (18.39%), Brahmin (10.13%), Tamang (6.54%), Magar (1.61%) are other major ethnic groups. Others make up about 7.29 percent of the district population. According to the census 2001, Hinduism is the religion of 89.97 percent of the population, followed by Buddhism (9.40%), and Christian(0.35%).

Having its proximity to the capital, Bhaktapur is one of the literate districts of Nepal. However, only 70.6 percent of the populations are literate. This is quite high compared to the national average of 54.1 percent. Among females, literacy rate is much lower (59.64%) compared to males (81.14%). Newari is the mother tongue of 54.31 percent of the population followed by Nepali (36.95%).

Agriculture is the predominant occupation as nearly 64.45 percent of the economically active populations are dependent on it. Less than 3.20 percent rely on services industry. Tourism within the Bhaktapur district has emerged as an important economic activity. Earnings from tourism is considerable in the district but it appears to have made little dent on the livelihoods of the majority ethnic groups.

The situation with regard to provision of services and infrastructure is better in Bhaktapur, partly because, Bhaktapur has been the beneficiary of a number of development projects. Distribution of service institutions in terms of schools and health posts is better in Bhaktapur compared to its neighboring districts, but the problem really is that of the provision of services. There are 428 schools of various levels, and 19 Institutions for higher studies. The district has 6 Hospitals, 2 primary health posts, 7 health posts, 12 sub-health posts, 3 Ayurvedic Center and 1 Cancer Care Center. All VDCs in the district have telephone facilities with 8,853 land lines and over 5000 mobile telephones distributed.

Over half of the district population (23912 house hold) has access to electricity. Seventy percent of the district population has access to safe drinking water. The Nepal Human Development Report 2004 has ranked Bhaktapur 2nd among the 75 districts of Nepal. Similarly, the Human Development Index for Bhaktapur has been 0.595 compared to 0.652 for Kathmandu and 0.471 for Nepal. Clearly, it indicates that Bhaktapur's development performance has been much better than the national average.

1.5 Major Tourism Issues and Constraints

Issues

During the **SWOT** exercise on tourism in the stakeholder's workshop in Bhaktapur, Madhyapur Thimi, and Kharipati, and in interaction with the local communities during the massive field visit programs, a number of key issues related to tourism development and management in Bhaktapur district were raised (**Annex .31, 32 and 33**).

The major issues relating to **tourism development** in Bhaktapur district include:

- Extension of the present tourism activities centered only in limited areas of the district
- Conservation of the natural, cultural, historical and archaeological resources and protection of the environment
- Extension of the present length of stay of visitors within the district
- Economic development and attenuation of inequalities in general, and more particularly among the ethnic disadvantaged groups in particular
- Creation of alternative livelihood opportunities through tourism resource base which is in minimal state at present
- Provision of development of physical infrastructure
- Strong coordination among the tourism stakeholders both inter and intra district
- Linkages with other neighboring district's tourism products including Kavre, Lalitpur, Kathmandu and Sindhupalchowk

Economic development and attenuation of inequalities can be possible only through better education and health service delivery, and promotion of better alternative livelihood opportunities. The other issues will address as the vehicles through which economic benefits and inequalities discrimination can be made possible in Bhaktapur districts. This also underscores the role that tourism has to play in opening up the prospects for development in Bhaktapur districts. This means that

- Cultural and heritage conservation, and environmental protection, have to go hand in hand for tourism development
- Local socio-economic development has to be complimented by social and physical infrastructure intended for tourism
- Tourism activities needs to create and enhance sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities
- Tourism benefits have to be shared to a greater extent, so that social and economic inequalities remain minimized.

Similarly, during the interactions, other related potential concerns raised as important elements, which are equally instigating depressing role to promote tourism in Bhaktapur district. They included:

- deforestation and land encroachment due to uncontrolled settlement development
- waste management problem

- shortage of packaged product development, promotion and market management,
- lack of product diversification,
- problem of coordination among stakeholders,
- less interest on protection and conservation of cultural heritage,
- less efforts on institutionalization of tourism development efforts,
- problems on professionalization and skill development practices,
- tenuous linkages of tourism with local production base,
- weak practices followed for improvement of the roads,
- not as much of participation of the women, poor and disadvantaged in tourism development and benefit sharing,
- scarce of standard hotels (at the city core area) and accommodations in the southern part of the district,
- chaotic openings of resorts/lodges/ restaurants,
- not many overnight stay (especially in Bhaktapur and Changu Narayan) due to the absence of 'night' (recreational) activities,
- short duration of the tourists visits in the durbar square areas,
- be short of easy access to many rural/ unexplored sites,
- fewer community-based or community-led tourism development in Bhaktapur,
- be deficient in sanitation and hygiene practices,
- absence of the local government units/ system,
- inadequate toilets in public places/ tourist routes,
- unavailability of the Internet facilities in the rural areas,
- shortage of direct international contacts/ promotions/ marketing, at present. Bhaktapur tourism is totally dependent on Kathmandu entrepreneurs (travel/tour agents);
- low media/ electronic media coverage of Bhaktapur tourism,
- Inadequate information coverage about Bhaktapur's beauty and potentiality in the brochures developed by Bhaktapur municipality,
- inadequate infrastructures development and minimum efforts in identifying new areas/ potentials,
- lacking of TIC (tourist information centre) and signboards/ arrows at strategic places,
- hawkers' problem in main places,
- fake products sold to the tourists (unfair trade practices),
- cut-throat competitions among tourism entrepreneurs,
- futile and poor Government's monitoring system,
- NTB's less contribution in developing and promoting Bhaktapur,
- less efforts made by local leaders/ bodies in bringing new donors/ projects
- fewer efforts in enhancing youth involvement in tourism-related activities,
- shortage of human resources with tourism management knowledge and skills,
- impunity culture (no punishment to the destructive force),
- deficiency in professionalism in exhibiting local culture/traditions to the tourists,
- be short of expertise in managing traditional musical institution and cultural activities,
- not having enough skilled/ trained, as well as licensed, Local Tour Guides,

- absence of quality tourism education and training institute(s) in Bhaktapur district,
- Inter-city traffic problem (in Bhaktapur city),
- lack of banking facilities , especially in rural areas including Nagarkot,
- increasing environmental problems: river pollution, brick-factories/ chimneys, unplanned urbanization, sewage, transportation problems/ parking, roadside encroachment, destruction of forest resources, etc.,
- visual pollutions: un-systematic sign-boards/ hoarding-boards, posters, electricity and cable wires etc.,
- locals misconceived thinking of ‘tourism and conservation’ is the ‘entrepreneurs’ responsibility only,
- pilferage & smuggling of historical/ archaeological property,
- less security to the tourists, particularly in the Durbar square area and some rural areas (Bhaktapur has no ‘Tourist Police’ yet),
- poor coordination among travel agencies/ hotels and other stakeholders,
- the new Labor Act has been less congenial discouraging entrepreneurs to recruit new employees,
- lack of experts/ expertise in local songs, dances and *Daafaa*,
- lack of modern/ scientific research on traditional culture/festivals, songs and dances,
- no regular cultural programmers in major touristic sites,
- absence of ‘Calendar of Events’ in Bhaktapur,
- less attention/ poor efforts of the concerned (responsible) to develop tourism even in the highly potential sites/areas/ settlements;
- acute shortage of water supply to fulfill the growing needs,
- absence of proper place (dumping site) to manage wastes,
- low local benefits (particularly in the marginalized and disadvantaged families) and community participation,
- less investment and concerted efforts of the government for Bhaktapur tourism development,
- conflicts during special festivals (e.g. *jibro chhedne* jatra),
- limited access to some temples round the year for tourists (therefore by losing potential incomes),

Constraints

During field visits and interactions at local levels, the major constraints for tourism development and management in Bhaktapur district were perceived as follows:

a. Lack of tourism awareness

There is lack of tourism awareness among many stakeholders not only at local levels, but also equally at the district and in many Government organizations. Due to the political unrest and volatile security situation, tourism developments have never received the priority within the district development planning and policymaking. Hence, the Bhaktapur district did not accord much importance to develop tourism as a

backbone of the local economy and to maintain coordination and harmony among various agencies related to tourism, solving problems faced by the tourism sector, and issuing policy guidelines to the executing agencies under DDC, Municipalities, VDCs and reviewing pertinent plans and programs.

b. Suppressed prospects of domestic tourism

Popular destinations such as Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Changu Narayan, Nagarkot and other trekking routes within Bhaktapur district are rated as the beneficiary from tourism. In fact, the real estate prices have gone higher in these areas as compared to other urban centers in Bhaktapur. Living cost for average locals has thus been exorbitantly high, which has also forbidden the growth of domestic tourism in these areas. Likewise, these areas are considered as expensive for domestic travelers. Rates for food and hotels are not different for foreigners and Nepalese, and they are not uniform. Moreover, many tourist standard accommodation facilities do not prefer to provide their services to domestic tourists. Such practices could inherit danger making the destination vulnerable to collapse in the event of excessive downturn in international tourist arrivals.

c. Lack of entrepreneurship and overlooked aspects of value for money

There is low level of technical knowledge and management skills among local entrepreneurs. Very few tourism entrepreneurs know about modern marketing system and about market linkages for their products. In almost all hotels, room tariffs, regardless of their quality/standards, vary significantly which provides visitors a bargaining edge to buy the services in cheaper rates when the lodges are not full. People are aware of the fact that this practice is directly hampering their businesses; however, still they are promoting such practices because of low tourist's turnover due to the tourism seasonality.

d. Inadequate Product development and diversification with additional tourism related infrastructure development

The availability of tourism resource base is crucial for development of tourism. It has been experienced globally that the most unique and the varied the resource base the better would be the prospect of tourism industry. Likewise, there is a greater scopes in Bhaktapur for converting existing resource potentials into tourism products. However, due to the lack of proper strategic planning to transfer resource potential into tourism product in a sustainable manner, Bhaktapur has not been able to mobilize tourism attributes satisfactorily. There is need to transform resources as tourism products to the extent what it should be to derive benefits from the existing resources.

e. Trekking trails in frail conditions with lack of information and interpretation facilities

Construction of motor roads in all VDCs of Bhaktapur district has made trekking trails shabby and has caused complexity to the trekking tourism industry. Some trekking trails are relatively not wide enough, which also needs immediate improvement at several locations. In addition, the signposts do not exist in many areas causing confusion to the individual travelers. Lack of trained local interpreters and local guide

to explain and interpret about the tourist attractions in many places have lost their values and significance and has made the place far behind from competition with other similar products in neighboring VDCs and districts.

f. Lack of tourist standard accommodation facilities

Out of total 60 tourist standard hotels all over the district, almost 59% are located in Nagarkot and 30% are in Bhaktapur Municipal areas, occupying almost 64% of total available rooms and beds (Table 1.1). Among the remaining, Madhyapur Thimi area and other VDCs holds the lowest number of good accommodation facilities compared to Bhaktapur Municipal area and Nagarkot (see details **Annex 27 to 30**).

| Table 1.1 Accommodation Facilities Available in Bhaktapur District | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Accommodation Facility available at | Hotel Numbers | Room Numbers | Bed Numbers |
| Nagarkot | 35 | 543 | 955 |
| Bhaktapur Municipal Area | 21 | 278 | 511 |
| Changu Narayan | 4 | 16 | 32 |
| Total | 60 | 837 | 1498 |

Source: Accommodation Inventory Report, CEST Nepal/NTB, 2010

Moreover, most of the Hotels and Lodges available in Bhaktapur and Changu Narayan lack standard facilities and services to cater the needs of visitors.

g. Ignorance on hotel/lodge chain concepts (franchising/ joint venture)

There is no international hotel chain operating in Bhaktapur district. This has limited the potential market in tourism industry for quality tourists. Besides, local concerns about the new hotels/lodges in some areas include: a) little or no local contents (food, furniture and fixtures) b) unsuitability of architecture to local environment c) negligible employment to locals d) minimum usage and consumption of locally available food items and other materials and finally, e) there is heightening tensions and conflict with the local community.

h. Lack of strong monitoring from the Government regarding product standardization and law enforcement

Many tourism products have been categorized as per their level of investment and have made responsible to provide facilities and services in set standards as per international rule. However, monitoring such facilities and services from the Government side is not that strong and effective. Likewise, the acts and regulations are also not followed strictly. On delivering services to the tourists in many tourism sites including Bhaktapur district, Government have not been effective and efficient to deliver their services as compared to the other services provided by the private sectors.

The other constraints are **not directly related to Bhaktapur tourism**, however, they have major impacts on the overall tourism development of the nation comprise the following features:

1. Poor air access and weak structure and management of the NAC

The only national flag carrier which was holding more than 50% of the total share in the overall tourists' arrivals market in the tourism sector is losing its image by holding less than 25% share due to the inefficient and ineffective management and services. It is also losing its image in the overseas destinations, where once it had earned good reputation. Its poor capacity and precarious financial status has remained major impediments to growth of the institution (GON 2004a). Poor management of the Nepal Airlines has led to limited air seat capacity and lack of direct link with major markets (See Box 1.1). The share of tourist's arrival by air decreased from 83% in 2001 to 74.4% in 2009 (Annex 15).

| Box 1.1 - Nepal Airlines market share | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Year | Total Tourist Carried by | | | Tourist Arrivals By Air only | Total Tourist Arrivals |
| | Nepal Airlines | Indian Airlines | Thai Airways | | |
| 1990 | 95921 (42.4) | 67552 (29.8) | 24719 (10.9) | 226421 | 254885 |
| 1995 | 140966 (43.4) | 93229 (28.7) | 33369 (10.3) | 325035 | 363395 |
| 2000 | 149749 (39.7) | 64062 (17.0) | 60965 (16.2) | 376914 | 463646 |
| 2003 | 70779 ((25.7) | 78461 (28.5) | 55102 (20.0) | 275438 | 338132 |
| 2004 | 57678 (19.4) | 78959(26.6) | 58197 (19.6) | 297339 | 385297 |
| 2005 | 42069 (15.2) | 36982 (13.3) | 44956 (16.2) | 277346 | 375398 |
| 2006 | 38612 (10.7) | 36311 (10.1) | 48203 (13.4) | 283819 | 383926 |
| 2007 | 29943 (8.3) | 65571 (18.2) | 54667 (15.2) | 360713 | 526705 |
| 2008 | 21000 (5.6) | 60954 (16.3) | 44699 (11.9) | 374661 | 500277 |

Figure in parenthesis indicate percentage
Source: (MoCTCA, 2008; Gorkhapatra, February 2009)

2. Poor facilities at the International Airport

Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) the only international Airport of the country lacks international facilities (standard). The existing geographical set up with high hills nearby does not permit easy landing and takeoffs for bigger aircrafts. The same airport serving both for International and domestic flights keeps the runway busy during peak hours. TIA during winter months are more disturbing due to the weather conditions. Late night flights are not popular as transit point due to the lack of strategic location. The terminal building is not enough to cater for more flights and bigger aircrafts.

Chapter Two

2. Current Status of Tourism and Tourism Resource Potentials of the District

2.1 Current Status of Tourism

Over one hundred thousand foreign tourists visit Bhaktapur district annually. However, the exact figures of such tourists including domestic visitors are unknown. The statistics maintained by Bhaktapur Municipality includes only the number of visitors from third and SAARC countries visiting Bhaktapur Durbar Square. From the study it reveals that visiting cultural and heritage sites; leisure, hiking and biking; recreation and pleasure and MICE activities are the major tourism activities taking place in Bhaktapur district. A survey conducted by BTDC among the 209 sampled visitors from January to May in 2008, show that the primary motives of the visitors coming to Bhaktapur is to visit World Heritage Site (32%) followed by experience of local culture and tradition (30%), enjoying people and lifestyle (29%), conducting research (2%) and for other mixed motives (7%).

Likewise, from the survey it signifies that larger segments of visitors come to Bhaktapur city for day trip followed by other pleasure activities (Table 2.1) with very few visitors staying in Bhaktapur city.

Cultural and natural tourism, especially visiting core Bhaktapur city, Changu Narayan, Nagarkot and Suryabinayak have been the prime tourism products of Bhaktapur attracting both domestic as well as international visitors. Major cultural tourism activities in Bhaktapur has included heritage tour at Bhaktapur Darbar Square, Changu Narayan and Thimi areas exploring various historical and cultural monuments and enjoying various cultural and traditional festivals, fairs, rituals and events. Similarly, major nature based and adventurous tourism activities have included, recreational visit to Nagarkot enjoying sunrise/sunset view, panoramic mountain views, day hiking and jungle walking. From the study, it is perceived that very small segment of visitors are enjoying mountain biking and other forms of tourism activities. However, though few visitors at the moment but emerging as potential cultural sites include pilgrimage to Mahamanjushree, Ashapureshwor and Doleshwor Mahadev. In like manner, other special interest visitors include excursion tours by college and school students to Bhaktapur Durbar Square area and Changu Narayan.

Table:2.1 A brief summary of existing tourist activities and places in Bhaktapur

| Purpose of visit | Major Areas | Major Activities Undertaken |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Leisure and Holiday making | BDS, Changu Narayan, Nagarkot, Suryabinayak, | Heritage tour, sightseeing, day hiking, biking, trekking, sunrise/sun set view, mountain view, picnic |
| Business and MICE activities | Nagarkot, Chundevi, Madhyapur Thimi Municipality | Training, workshop, conference, meetings, |
| Research, Education and Excursion | BDS, Thimi, Suryabinayak, Changu Narayan | Culture research, education and excursion visits |
| Religious and pilgrimage | BDS, Changu Narayan, Mahamanjushree, Suryabinayak, Boudha Bihars | Pilgrimage visit, observing festivals, fairs and rituals, meditation, yoga |

At present, there is no any village as such in Bhaktapur district, which has been developed and promoted focusing mainly for rural tourism. However some interested visitors are making side trip to some beautiful villages like Jhoukhel, Bageshwori, Thakalmath and Ghampedanda villages while visiting Suryabinayak, Changu Narayan and Nagarkot. Some tour operators have extended their packages up to Chisapani, Sankhu, Nalachhap, Dhulikhel, Panauti, Godavari, and Phoolchowki from Bhaktapur.

A brief summary of existing tourism status in Bhaktapur district

2.1.1 Historical and Cultural Tourism

Bhaktapur Durbar Square and **Changu Narayana** being enlisted as the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in 1979 AD have been the prominent sites for both domestic as well as foreign tourists. Further, within Bhaktapur Municipality, *Durbar Square*, *Taumadhi Square* and the *Dattatreya Square* appear's as prime sites. The survey conducted in 2008 (BTDC 2008) also reveals that the major places liked by visitors in Bhaktapur Municipality area are Taumadi square (24.30%) followed by pottery square (19.60%), Dattatraya (17.10%), Hanumanghat (5.60%) and Museums (4.80%). It is noted that the historical and cultural factors are the major elements of Tourism in the existing tourism patterns in Bhaktapur district. Potential historical and cultural heritage sites within Bhaktapur district including Madhyapur Thimi and all 16 VDCs are as indicated in Table 2.2 below:

| Table 2.2: Historical and cultural sites of Bhaktapur district | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| Location | Heritage | Value Type | Potential from Tourism point of view | | | | |
| | | | International | Regional | National | District | Local |
| A. Municipalities | | | | | | | |
| Bhaktapur | Taleju | Religious/ Historical | √ | | | | |
| | Dattatreya | Religious/ Historical | √ | | | | |
| | Nyatapola | Religious/ Historical | √ | | | | |
| | Bhairavnath Temple | Religious | √ | | | | |
| | Tilmadhavnarayana temple | Religious | √ | | | | |
| | Bhugol-mandir | Religious | √ | | | | |
| | Bhimsen Temple | Religious | √ | | | | |
| | Wakupati Changu Narayana Temple | Religious | √ | | | | |
| | Buddhist Bihars | Religious | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| | Jame Masjid | Religious | | | | | √ |
| Madhyapur Thimi | Thimi | Dolkha Bhimsen | | | | | √ |
| | | Panchayan Sivalaya Mandir | | | | | √ |
| | | Tagha Hiti | | | | | √ |
| | | Pati-Vihar | | | | | √ |
| | | Paco Ganesha | | | | √ | |
| | | Gunga Chaitya | | | | | √ |
| | | Digu Dhyo | | | | √ | |
| | | Jiswan Vaha | | | | | √ |
| | | Jetvan Mahavihar | | | | | √ |
| | | Chapacho Ganesha temple | | | | | √ |
| | | The Nanis | | | | √ | |
| | | Hernilvarna Mahavihar | | | | | √ |
| Herasuvarna Mahavihar | | | | | √ | | |

Table 2.2: Historical and cultural sites of Bhaktapur district

| Location | Heritage | Value Type | Potential from Tourism point of view | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------|---|
| | | | International | Regional | National | District | Local | |
| | Siddhikali-Ganesh Temple | Religious | | | | √ | | |
| | Sima-Dhwaka | Historical | | | | | √ | |
| | Mandap-Pati | Historical | | | | | √ | |
| | Pun-hiti | Historical | | | | | √ | |
| | Balkumari Temple | Religious | | | √ | | | |
| | Bode | Mahalaxmi-temple, | Religious | | | | √ | |
| | | Ganesha-temple, | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | | Nrityanath-temple, | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | | the shrine of Nilvarahi, | Religious | | | √ | | |
| | | images of Uma-Maheswor and Garuda, | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | | Mahadeva-temple, | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | | images of Ganesha, Narayana, Mahankal, | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | | Dhyobu-Narayana-temple, | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | | Shiva-lingums, | | | | | | |
| | | images of Dhartimata (mother earth), Saraswoti and Manjusri, | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | | Kalika temple of Visnughat (the wooden struts of this temple are carved by erotic postures), | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | | Gorakhnath-Dhungedhara, | Historical | | | | | √ |
| | | Pancho-Ganesha temple, | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | | image of kalkinarayana, | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | | Narayana temple, | Religious | | | | | √ |
| | Krishna temple, | Religious | | | | | √ | |
| | Nasa-dhyo temple, | Religious | | | | | √ | |
| | Narayana temple (Shikhara-style), | Religious | | | | | √ | |
| | Bhimsen shrine etc | Religious | | | | | √ | |
| | Nagdes | Siddhiganesha-temple | Religious | | | | √ | |
| | | Panchimukhi Hanuman | Religious | | | | | √ |
| Images of Ganesha, Krishna, Amoghasiddhi, Lokeswor, Mahishamardini Bhagavati, Amitav, Ratnasambhav, Akshobhaya in the premises of Siddhiganesha temple. | | Religious | | | | | √ | |
| Divyaswori temple | | Religious | | | | √ | | |
| B. VDCs | | | | | | | | |
| Duwakot | Swarsati Mandir, | Religious | | | | | √ | |
| | Phai Dhoka Ganesh, | Religious/Recreation | | | | √ | | |
| | Tripurasundari | Religious | | | | | √ | |
| | Chatur-vyuha Vishnu | Religious/Historical | | | | | √ | |
| Changu Narayan | Changu Narayana temple | Religious/ Historical | √ | | | | | |
| | Kileswor Mahadeva | Religious/ Historical | √ | | | | | |
| | Chinnamasta. | Religious/ Historical | √ | | | | | |
| | 'Devi than' | Religious/Natural | | | | | √ | |
| Nagarkot | Jalpadevi | Religious | | | | √ | | |
| | Kalidevi and Mahakali | Religious/Natural | | | | | √ | |
| | Panchakanya temple | | | | | | √ | |
| | Mahankal | Religious | | | | √ | | |

Table 2.2: Historical and cultural sites of Bhaktapur district

| Location | Heritage | Value Type | Potential from Tourism point of view | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| | | | International | Regional | National | District | Local |
| | Mahadeva Pokhari | Religious/Natural | | | | √ | |
| Chha ling | Trishul Danda (Mahankal Temple) | Religious/Recreation | | | | √ | |
| | Telkot | Historical | | | | √ | |
| Bageswori | Baghhiti | Religious/Natural | | | | √ | |
| | Valmikeswor or Vageswor temple | Religious/Natural | | | | √ | |
| Sudal | Lhasapaka saraswotithan (Mahamanjushree) | Religious | | | | √ | |
| | Goukhureswor-Mahadeva | Religious | | | | | √ |
| Tathali | 'Thulo-dhunga' and 'Vasuki-dhunga | Historical | | | | √ | |
| | Gadhi (Thulo and Sano) in 'Aietabare/Thulopakha-samudaik-ban' | Historical | | | | | √ |
| Jhau khel | Jyotirlingeswor Mahadeva | Religious/ Historical | | | | √ | |
| Chittapol | Lord Shiva (143ft. tall) | Religious/Natural | | | √ | | |
| | 'Natarambheswor/Lataramveswor' | Religious/Natural | | | | √ | |
| | Pine Forest (Lingo Ban) | Historical | | | √ | | |
| Sipadol | Doleswor Mahadev | Religious | | √ | | | |
| | Ranikot-gadhi | Historical/Natural | | | | √ | |
| | Baghbhairav | Religious | | | | √ | |
| | Ashapuri Mahadeva | Religious | | | √ | | |
| Nang khel | Nandikeswor Mahadeva | Religious | | | | √ | |
| Gundu | Bhaktamukteswor, Kalbhairabsthan, Duble-Ganesh, Gokuleswor, Bhuvaneswori, Tarakeswor, Kailesh, Kasi-viseswor | Religious | | | | | √ |
| Katunje | Suryavinayak, | Religious/Recreation | | √ | | | |
| | Suverneswor Mahadevathan, | Religious/Recreation | | | | √ | |
| | Susilbhairav temple, | Religious | | | | √ | |
| Dhadhikot | Anantalingeswor | Religious | | | | √ | |
| | Charakhendeswor shrine | Religious | | | | √ | |
| | Bindhyabashini | Religious | | | | √ | |
| | Radhakrishna temple | Religious | | | | | √ |
| Sirutar | Somalingeswor | Religious | | | | √ | |
| Balkot | Dharmeswor Mahadev | Religious | | | | | √ |

2.1.2 Pilgrimage Tourism

The history of Pilgrimage Tourism in Nepal goes back to the mythological period. It is believed that according to Hindu and Buddhist legends Lord Krishna, the Hindu deity and Mahamanjusri the Buddhist deity came into the Kathmandu Valley to establish human settlement. So from tourism point of view, both of them are considered as the foremost tourists. Furthermore, it is speculated that Bhaktapur region was a pilgrimage site for the followers of two great religions since the evolution of Kathmandu Valley. Historical evidences together with existing religious shrines clearly point out that Bhaktapur District was a pilgrimage destination since the ancient and medieval times. Moreover, the Jame-Masjid and the vanished Church which were established during the Malla period are considered to be the best known examples to prove Bhaktapur as a secular place for the major religions of the world.

Every year, during the sacred days of the holy months, both domestic and outside pilgrims visit many pilgrimage sites in Bhaktapur district including: *Changu Narayana, Dattatreya, Taleju complex, Suryavinayak, Yosinkhel, Thimi and Nilvarahi-Bode, Kalikathan, Mahadeva Pokhari-Nagarkot the Navadurga god-house, Bageswori, Doleswor shrine-Sipadol, Ashapureswor, Anantalingeswor-Gundu, Suverneswor and SusilaBhairava shrines-Katunje, Charakhendeswor-Dadhikot, Rajganesha-Chitrapur, Joutirlingeswor-Jhoukhel* etc. Besides, there are other popular shrines which could be equally potential sites for pilgrims of all religion coming from different areas (**Annex 4, 5, and 6**).

2.1.3 Leisure, Hiking and Biking

Despite the huge tourism potentials, very few places like Nagarkot, Changu Narayan and Suryabinayak have been promoted as leisure, hiking and biking tourism destination. A survey conducted by BTDC in 2008 show that only one third (35%) visitors coming to Bhaktapur Durbar area show interest to extend their visit further in Nagarkot, followed by 17.30% to Changu Narayan, and 6.4% to Suryabinayak, 5.90% to Thimi areas. Likewise, about one third will pay interest (35.4%) to visit in other areas including Dhulikhel, Panauti, Nala and Sankhu areas after their visits to Bhaktapur Darbar Square. From the study, it reveals that at present visitors are using following hiking and biking routes in the district:

1. BDS-Kamalbinayak-Byasi- (7km)-Pikhel-Changu Narayan
2. Changu Narayan-Telkot-Gadgade-Nagarkot (..km)
3. BDS-Chyamashing-Nala (7km)
4. BDS-Suryabinayak-Ghampedanda (2.5km)

Situated 32km east of Kathmandu at an altitude of 2175 meters, Nagarkot is by far the most favored hill station approached from Sankhu, Bhaktapur, Changu Narayan, Telkot and Nala areas. Besides hiking and biking through Changu Narayan and Nalachhap, Nagarkot has been the popular leisure destination due to its best climate and strategic location for sunrise and sunset views and Himalayan panorama stretching from Annapurna range in the west to Kanchenjunga in the Far East. Currently, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation through its tourism infrastructure development project is preparing 2.5 km long eco-trail in Kushum Community Forest, Nagarkot. Also known as, resort tourism destination, Nagarkot area presently comprises more than 35 tourist hotels, lodges and resorts offering 543 tourist room and 991 tourist beds for the visitors. Throughout the district, there are 60 hotel/lodges, 837 tourist room, and 1538 tourist beds available for heritage tour, leisure, and hiking/biking visitors in Bhaktapur (Table 2.3).

| Table 2.3: Accommodation facilities and services available in Bhaktapur | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| S.N | Name of the Hotel/Lodge/Resort | Number of Hotel/Lodge | Number of Room | Bed capacity | Conference capacity |
| 1 | Bhaktapur and surroundings | 21 | 278 | 515 | |
| 2 | Changu Narayan | 4 | 16 | 32 | |
| 3 | Nagarkot and Naldhum | 35 | 593 | 991 | |
| Total | | 60 | 837 | 1538 | |

Source: Accommodation Inventory Report, CEST Nepal/NTB, 2010

Likewise located 7km north of Bhaktapur, standing at an altitude of 1541meters Changu Narayan is a popular leisure, and hiking destination. Changu Narayan provides best opportunity to observe the oldest Hindu shrine dating back to 325 AD,

best sunset view over Manohara River and still virgin rural lifestyle and culture of Newari and Tamang community alongside the lush green forest.

2.1.4 Recreation and Pleasure Activities

Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Changu Narayan, Suryabinayak and Nagarkot have been the suitable places for pleasure and recreation for both international and domestic visitors. However, for domestic visitors Neelbarahi in Madhyapur Thimi is also considered as recreation site. From the entertainment and recreation point of view, Changu Narayan, Suryabinayak and Ganeshman Park are other areas which comprise 8, 5 and 3 picnic spots respectively within them. Efforts have been undertaken to build Children Park in Dachhin Barahi (Dadhikot) and picnic facilities in Nilbarahi and Latarameshwor forest. Siddhipokhari and Na Phukhu (pond) in Bhaktapur city are also offering best sites for pleasure and recreation to the local visitors at Bhaktapur. The table 2.4 below indicates the existing status of different places in Bhaktapur suitable for recreation and pleasure activities.

| Table 2.4: Status of existing places for recreation and pleasure activities | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| SN | Places | Recreation and pleasure activities | Major features |
| 1 | Nilbarahi, Changu Narayan, Suryabinayak, Ganeshman Uddhyan | Picnic and excursion | Picnic and entertainment activities particularly by students and some corporate houses. Availability of Picnic shelter at Changu Narayan (8), Suryabinayak (5), Ganeshman Uddhyan (3) |
| 2 | Nagarkot Danda | Film and video shooting | Various places from Telkot to Nagarkot Tower used for film shooting |
| 3 | Nagarkot | Changa Chet | Annually offered by Club Himalayan as promotional effort |
| 4 | BDS | Bhaktapur Night | Newari Food carnival, music, dance and craft |
| 5 | Ashapuri Mahadesthan | Picnic and Hiking | Picnic and entertainment activities particularly by students. |

2.1.5 Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) Tourism

The close proximity, tranquil environment, best view of mountain panorama and availability of facilities and services for conference have established Bhaktapur, Nagarkot and Dhulikhel areas as prime destination for MICE activities after Kathmandu. The successful happenings of UNESCO World Cultural Conference, WWF conference, and SAARC Retreat have been the major events in the past that highlights the importance of Bhaktapur and Nagarkot as prime destination for MICE tourism, which has also been combining with its rich cultural and natural heritage along with the best panoramic view of the high mountains. More than 18 Hotels and resorts are offering conference facilities and services holding daily capacity to accommodate for 1720 numbers of participants in Bhaktapur district (Considering 30 person capacity as minimum number) (Table 2.5). The conference capacity alone in Bhaktapur city area comprises 550 and that of Nagarkot alone stands for 1220 (**See Annex 27 to 30 for details**).

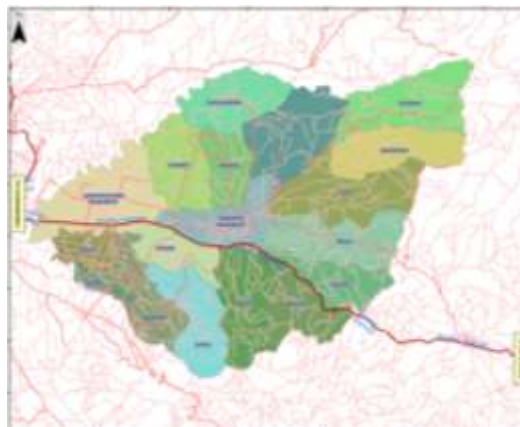
| Table 2.5: Hotels, Lodges and Resorts offering accommodation and conference facilities | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------------|
| S.N | Name of the Hotel/Lodge/Resort | Location | Bed capacity | Conference capacity |
| 1 | Bhaktapur Guest House | Chundevi | 60 | 115 |
| 2 | Green Land Guest House | Bhaktapur | 13 | 40 |
| 3 | Planet Bhaktapur | Bhaktapur | 24 | 35 |
| 4 | Khowpa Guest House | Bhaktapur | 20 | 30 |
| 5 | Hotel Sweet Home | Bhaktapur | 14 | 130 |
| 6 | Arniko Village Resort | Nalinchowk | 30 | 150 |
| 7 | Club Himalayan | Nagarkot | 84 | 230 |
| 8 | Hotel Space Mountain | Nagarkot | 44 | 210 |
| 9 | Hotel Chautari | Nagarkot | 68 | 150 |
| 10 | Hotel Country Villa | Nagarkot | 68 | 130 |
| 11 | The Fort resort | Nagarkot | 72 | 120 |
| 12 | Nagarkot Hillside Village Resort | Nagarkot | 48 | 100 |
| 13 | Niva Niwa | Nagarkot | 39 | 40 |
| 14 | Hotel View Point | Nagarkot | 77 | 50 |
| 15 | Galaxy View Point | Nagarkot | 34 | 60 |
| 16 | Hotel Sun Shine | Nagarkot | 32 | 40 |
| 17 | Hotel New Dragan | Nagarkot | 20 | 40 |
| 18 | Hotel Nagarkot Besso | Nagarkot | 34 | 50 |
| Total | | | 781 | 1720 |

Source: Accommodation Inventory Report, CEST Nepal/NTB, 2010

2.2 Tourism Infrastructure

Access

Bhaktapur is one of the most accessible districts in Nepal. In terms of road density, it is the number 2 district among the 75 districts of the country. The total road length is 97.47 km. of which, 71.17 km. is black topped, 18 Km is gravelled, and 8.3 km is earthen. Correspondingly, all the tourist sites in Bhaktapur are accessible. However, the roads are rather narrow (generally of 3m width) and do not accommodate two-way traffic. Moreover, the roadsides are susceptible to landslides, as the alignment of the road has not been fixed from engineering perspective. There is thus a



need to widen them more systematically in gradual phases. This is more necessary for places like Doleswor Mahadev (**Annex 37 for Maps**), which is visited by considerable number of people including from India due to its high religious importance.

Accommodation

The accommodation facilities are available in Bhaktapur, Changu Narayan, and Nagarkot. Such facilities are also available in Ghyampe Danda and Kailash Danda in the form of tourist resorts and Camping (Tenting) facilities. Accommodation facilities

are being created in Mali Gaon also. Home stay facilities can be created in Bode, Thimi, Nangkhel, Mali Gaon, Jeetpur, and Bhaktapur through the conversion of vacant buildings in the community. The particulars of accommodation facilities are as indicated in Table 1.4 above.

Other Infrastructures

The other infrastructures are also available in differing degrees in Bhaktapur. In terms of Health Infrastructure, it has 1 Government Hospital, 2 PHCC/HC, 7 HP, 12 SHP, 52 PHC Outreach Clinic, 89 EPI Clinic, 189 FCHV and 18 NGO/INGO Private Sector establishments. Despite this the incidence of ARI per 1000 children below 5 years of age is 67 per cent. The incidence of diarrhea per 1000 children below 5 years is 67. Proportion of malnourished children under 3 year per 1000 children and the reported death per 1000 population is 3.99. Similarly, there is a considerable information and communication infrastructure as well. The state of Information and Communication in Bhaktapur Municipality is fairly good. Sixth Rank of this district in the country in terms of 73.4 per cent of the households having the radio facility, third rank in terms of 38.46 per 1000 persons owning telephone reflects this reality. Bhaktapur also has 45 newspapers with 1 daily, 21 weekly, 11 monthly, 1 yearly and 11 others of different durations. 86 per cent of literacy prevailing in the district also indicates higher rate of information and communication. In rural areas, information and communication facilities especially for the visiting tourists need to be created which however will not be difficult due to the basic infrastructures such as roads and electricity available round the district (DDPN, 2004).

Information and Communication

Providing adequate information on tourism attractions and facilities is the key task in attracting more visitors, increasing the length of stay alongside the tourist expenses, and thereby enhancing the satisfaction of visitors in any tourist destination. Visitor interpretation is the best way to inform visitors about the tourist attractions and facilities. Both electronic and physical form of visitor interpretation can be used for providing necessary information to the visitors. In Bhaktapur, very little efforts have been undertaken for the visitor interpretation. No separate website, blog, and homepage have been developed and uploaded for Bhaktapur describing the tourism attractions, facilities and services and major tourist packages. Regarding the physical form of interpretation, very few efforts have been undertaken by Bhaktapur Municipality, BTDC, Changunarayan VDC, and Nagarkot Naldhum Tourism Development Committee (NNDTC). Bhaktapur Municipality is disseminating some limited information on tourism in BDS through the word of mouth of its staff and some leaflets about BDS managed in its Visitor Checkpoints in Bhaktapur Municipality. No interpretative signage, tourist attraction boards, information board have been developed and placed by Bhaktapur Municipality in Bhaktapur. Moreover, BTDC has been disseminating some tourist information on BDS and Changu areas through its Information centre and the Bhaktapur Guide Book. Similarly, Changunarayan VDC has developed a heritage-based brochure on Changunarayan and has been offering to the visitors through its checkpoint at Changunarayan. Likewise, NNTDC in close cooperation with NETIF has recently established a tourist information centre at Nagarkot and has tried to disseminate information of tourism attractions, hotel/lodge facilities and additional tourism packages through its several brochures, maps, hoarding board and local trained guides. There is an urgent need to develop and place artistic and informative arrows, signage, informative board, and attraction and facilities board in BDS, Changu Narayan, and Nagarkot and throughout the tourist potential

areas in the district. There is a dearth of interpretative signage and board even for intra-district hiking, biking, and trekking like in Sankhu, Nagarkot tower, Nalachhap, Sanga, Ashapureshwor, Ranikot, and Suryabinayak areas.

Regarding the communication facilities and services for the visitors, there are almost adequate telephone and mobile facilities of national and international call. Limited internet facilities are available in Bhaktapur, Thimi, and Nagarkot areas though these facilities are not available in other potential rural areas.

Environment management

The Environment in the country side of Bhaktapur is quite good but the same can not be said in the case of the Bhaktapur city and the brick kiln areas. The brick kilns, the solid waste, the ponds and the electric transmission lines create adverse environment in the district.

Pollution due to the Brick Kilns

One of the most degrading aspects of environment in Bhaktapur is the presence of the brick kilns. It has been reported that there are 64 brick kilns in Bhaktapur and these kilns employ some 10000 persons from all around the country. According to **Dr. Sunil Kumar Joshi**, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, KMC. Dr Joshi has concluded that though results of other monitoring studies done in the area of the location of brick kilns show high level of the air pollutants like TSP, PM10, CO₂, Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) in those places; air quality monitoring conducted at Duwakot VDC did not follow similar trend. Levels of the TSP and PM10 during both brick kiln operating and off season periods were within permitted exposure limits. Nevertheless, though insignificant, the level of TSP and PM10 was relatively higher during brick kiln operating time. The presence of CO, SO₂ and NO_x was not detected by the Drager Pump and Tube during the brick kiln operation as well as non operating time.


He further says that though the level of different air pollutants were not significantly high in the ambient air due to some unidentified technical reasons, a health survey done during this study clearly showed that people living near brick kilns are more likely to suffer from illnesses related to the pollution caused by the kilns, compared to people living in areas without the kilns. Health examination of children studying in a school located next to brick kilns and comparing that with those from an area without kilns, showed that the health of the children exposed to emission from brick kilns was worse than the health of the children in the control area.

Recently, local people have started to raise their voices against the pollution from brick kilns, and in response to what are a genuine concern and the Government has taken a few positive steps towards controlling the pollution. Furthermore, international agencies such as DANIDA and SDC have initiated programmes to introduce cleaner technologies (Box 2.1). This study recommends that these efforts should be fully supported by the government as well as the industrialists and the government should take strong measures to shut down illegal kilns and make sure that all industrialists shift to cleaner technology kilns within a year

Box 2.1

HIGH SHAFT BRICK KILN

- This kiln is 40 per cent efficient and reduces pollution significantly



and half. The government should also take measures to introduce emission standards and enforce them.

Visual Pollution

Visual Pollution is a manmade pollution when the landscapes are cluttered by advertising billboards, wall paintings, overhead powerlines, telephone and electric poles etc. The disordered laying of electric wires is a source of visual pollution in this district. Moreover, the signage also has been creating visual pollution in the district skyline. The construction of buildings in modern style in the backdrop of traditional buildings also has created visual pollution. As Bhaktapur is one of the tourist destinations, the visual pollution which is one of the factors responsible for the degradation of beauty of city should be minimized. Unfortunately, this disturbing phenomenon is rising every day due to primarily the indifference on the part of the local Government.

Pollution of the Water Body

Bhaktapur has several ponds particularly within the municipality area. Some have dried up such as Mahadev Pokhari in Nagarkot and others have become dirty such as Siddhipokhari in Bhaktapur. Many of the ponds have been fed by Raj Kulo, traditional water feeder but these have been defunct and hence the drying of the ponds.

Industrial Pollution

The numbers of registered industries in Bhaktapur are 112 out of which 34 are believed to be approved by the government. In Bhaktapur, the most prominent Industrial area is the Industrial Estate. It was established in 1979 and it has 37 industries ranging from textiles, ceramic to dairy products. Some 6000 kg of waste is estimated to have been generated per month from this estate of which the organic waste is believed to be around 1000 Kg. The medical waste is generated from 4 hospitals in Bhaktapur with 500 beds at 1.7 Kg per head/per bed per day and amounts to 850 Kg per day.

Pollution due to the Solid Wastes

The other pollution is due to the solid wastes particularly in Bhaktapur Municipality. The composition of solid waste in Bhaktapur and Thimi Municipality is presented as in Table 2.6.

| Content | Bhaktapur | Thimi |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| | 2003 | 2003 |
| Organic | 70.16 | 70.1 |
| Paper | 2.37 | 4.9 |
| Rubber | 0.05 | 0.55 |
| Leather | - | - |
| Wood | - | - |
| Plastic | 3.23 | 8.25 |
| Textile | 1.69 | 2.31 |
| Ferrous Metal | 0.07 | 0.25 |
| Inert | 21.05 | 12 |
| Glass | 1.33 | 1.29 |
| Other | 0.05 | 0.19 |
| Medical Waste | - | 0.2 |
| Total | 100 | 100 |

Source: HMG/IUCN, 1992, Kathmandu Valley Environment Outlook, 2007

The solid waste generated in Bhaktapur municipality is 22 Tonnes per day. The estimated per capacity comes to be about 0.303 Kg per day. More than 80 per cent of this waste is organic. Paper increased from 1.6 per cent in 1997 to 6 per cent to 6 per

cent in 2004 and plastic increased from 1.6 per cent to 7.5 per cent during the same period. The study for the whole of the district has not been made but it gives an indication of the solid waste situation in the district as show below in Table 2.7.

| S.N. | Items | Tuladhar B | | Suwal | JICA Study | |
|------|----------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| | | Weight | Per cent | Per cent Weight | Dry Season | Wet Season |
| 1 | Kitchen Waste | 540 | 87.9 | 75 | 83.6 | 87.4 |
| 2 | Paper | < 1 kg | Negligible | 3.25 | 6.0 | 3.2 |
| 3 | Textile | 2.5 | 0.4 | 3 | 1.5 | 0.7 |
| 4 | Wood/Leaves | - | - | - | 1.5 | 1.1 |
| 5 | Plastic | 10 | 1.6 | 3.4 | 7.5 | 3.2 |
| 6 | Rubber/Leather | 1 | 0.16 | - | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Metal | <1 Kg | Negligible | 0.3 | 0 | 0.1 |
| 8 | Glass | 3.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 0 | 1.6 |
| 9 | Ceramics | 55 | 9 | - | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Others | | | 11.4 | 0 | 2.6 |

2.3 Tourism Resource Potentials

Endowed with the beautiful natural landscape, still vibrant and rich Newari culture and best preserved historical and religious sites, Bhaktapur district is regarded as the most charming and best preserved of the valleys' 3 cities. Bhaktapur district is widely popular for its rich culture, world-class heritage sites and serenely beautiful landscape and biodiversity among the visitors. The unique combination of these rich natural, cultural, and historical tourism resources has long been able to luring the visitors of diverse segments in the district (**Refer Table 2.10 and Annex 7**). The major tourism resources and tourism potentials of Bhaktapur are presented below.

2.3.1 Culture and Pilgrimage

Bhaktapur district is enriched by intangible cultural heritages too. It is to be considered that the still living ancient festivals, which are mysterious, colorful and fun, were evolved in course of time due to the highest popularity of the paramount deities belonging to the two great religions i.e. Hinduism and the Buddhism. Their rites and rituals possess the background of interesting myths, delightful legends and folktales. The common belief is that celebrating the festival will ward off evil spirits and dangers, growth in agriculture production and economy; maintain peace and prosperity, protection of the country from the outsiders etc. Some significant festivals of Bhaktapur district are as follows:

BISKA/BISKET Jatra: the solar New Year festival:

The festival marks the beginning of New Year, according to the official Nepalese calendar, which always falls in the middle of April. This festival lasts for nine days with great joy and fun. The very festival at Thimi and Bode are quite unique and different. Katunje also celebrates this festival. Overall, it can be perceived from the schedule of the main festive days, which runs as follows:

1. **Ratha Jatra:** Four days before the New Year, Bhairab and Bhadrakali are enshrined in their respective temple shaped *Ratha*: chariots, which inaugurate the Bisket celebration. The Ratha Jatra starts from the Taumadhi tole of the city of Bhaktapur. The swarming crowds of celebrators try their level best to pull and move the chariot in their own direction.
 2. On the day before New Year the *lingam* pole (some eighty feet long wooden pole flanked by a pair of flags. the *lingam* is worshipped as Lord Bhairabnath) is erected at the festive place called 'Yosinkhel'. This celebration is called **viswodhojathanam**. But before performing this celebration, a lingam belonging to Lord Ganesha is first erected at Bolachhen/Kumale tole, early in the morning.
 3. In the afternoon of New Year's Day the lingam pole is laid down to the ground. This ceremony is called '**Yosin-ko-thueigu jatra**' in Newari. Hence the New Year actually commence as it is believed.
 4. **Balkumari Jatra of Thimi:** Goddess Balkumari of Thimi is very famous. The three storied roofed temple is in the heart of Thimi. The temple is thronged with musicians and worshippers throughout the New Year's Day. The Goddess along with the subordinate deities is worshipped during the festival. The next day brings the annul festival. The honored goddess Balkumari including the rest deities are enshrined in the temple-like khats, total in a number of 32 start the ceremonial procession. In the ceremonial moments the worshippers/common people throw clouds of orange-red powder viz. 'Sindur'/Bhui Sinha' which is popularly known as 'Sindur Jatra.'
- At Bode, the awesome '**Jivro-Chedne**' (*tongue-piercing*) Jatra/ceremony is observed.
5. The ninth day of the Bisket festival at Bhaktapur town concludes with the Charrot Pulling and moving -ceremony of Lord Bhairabnath.

Overall during festive days such short typed celebrations are also observed in the Bhaktapur town. Some of them run as follows:

Mahakali and Mahalaxmi Jatra: April 15

Bramhyani Jatra April 16

Chhuma-Ganesha Ratha Jatra April 17

Bhairab Bhadrakali Jatra April 18

AMAKO MUKH HERNE (Mother's day)

This festival falls in the last day of the dark fortnight of April/May.

CHANGU NARAYANA, CHHINNAMASTA, KILESWOR RATHAJATRA

This ceremony held at the premises of Changu Narayana. The celebration observes in the last day of the dark fortnight of April/May. Chhinnamasta is an awesome, esoteric tantric goddess. She is also worshipped in the form of Navadurga. The

nearby temple in the Changu Narayana complex is dedicated to her where the images of nine Mother goddesses 'Navadurga' comes to our view. She is regarded as the counterpart of Lord Visnu. The principal gods of this ceremony are Lord Visnu as Changu Narayana, Chhinnamasta and Lord Shiva as Kileswor. There is a two storied roof tired small temple in front of the Changu Narayana temple which is called 'Kileswor Mandir'.

BUDDHA JAYANTI PURNIMA

The full moon day of late April or early May viz. 'Vaisakh Purnima' is the birth day of Lord Buddha. Stupas and Chaityas are the focal poin for Buddhist activities on the great master's birthday. As he is the light of Asia and actually the glory of the whole world, the non Buddhists also celebrate the very sacred day.

SITHINAKHA /KMARSASTHI

In the bright lunar fortnight of May is celebrated as the birthday of warier-god Kumar. He is worshipped and offered six types of cakes, breads. The day also marks the end of the one-month Dewali period. The tradition of cleaning wells, tanks and ponds are still in existence on the festive day.

GHANTAKARNA CHATURDASI

This celebration falls on the fourteenth day of the dark lunar fortnight in July or early August. The day traditionally marks the end of the rice transplanting season and commences the beginning of the Fares and Festivals.

The people called him Ghantakarna, often known as 'Gathamoga' a horrifying giant Devil. Legends tell us that as Ghantakarna was killed on this day, the fellow countrymen celebrate his death and beg their gods for protection against the evil spirits. It is believed that celebrating this festival will ward off the evil spirits, get rid of the witches and evil eyes and ghosts.

To some extent, Ghantakarna can be considered as a manifestation of Lord Shiva because he is also regarded as the Lord of the Ghosts and Witches. In the case of the Navadurga Gana of Bhaktapur, on this sacred day, the mask-wearing performers (Gatha) receive the first clay from the potters of Talako and prepare a small face of Siva.

GUNLA-DHARMA

It is regard as the sacred month of Lord Buddha. It falls in the sacred lunar month of August or early September. The Stupas and Chaityas and the Vihars are the focal point for the Buddhist worshippers during the sacred days of GUNLA. They celebrate hurrying through the city streets in groups, playing musical instruments in the early mornings.

NAGA-PANCHAMI

This is the day of the Serpent Gods. It falls during the monsoon rains on the fifth of the brightening lunar fortnight late in July or early August actually within the Buddhist holy month of Gunla.

JANAI-PURNI/RAKSHA-BANDHAN

It is a sacred thread festival which falls on the full moon day of August. The high caste-Hindus annually change the sacred thread on the very day. It is interesting that the farmers customarily feed the frogs in their fields early in the morning on this day.

GAI-JATRA / SAPARU

Gai-Jatra means the procession of sacred cows. The Newars called it 'Saparu'. It is celebrated on the day after the Janai Purnima. Actually this is the festival of honoring the soul of a dead. In Bhaktapur, *Ghintanghisi* dance attracts the viewers. The Saparu last for week displaying street-dramas that comprise laughter and satires.

KRISNNA-JANMASTAMI

Lord Krishna is one of the most adored of all deities among the Hindu population. Krishna is their ideal of manhood. During the seventh day of dark lunar fortnight in August or early September, at midnight hour is glorified by Krishna's birth. He is the Visnu incarnate and was born on earth to save the good, destroy evil and to re-establish Dharma (righteousness).

TIJ-VRATA

It is a three-day fasting festival for women only. They wish a happy and productive marriage, good fortune and long life for their husbands. The festival falls in August or early September, which ends on the full moon.

GANESH-CHATURTHI (CHATHA)

Lord Ganesha is regard as the god of knowledge and wisdom. He is first worshipped to remove obstacles. It falls in the month of September. On this festive day Ganesh's shrines are the focal points for his devotees and amongst them Suryavinayak of Bhaktapur is must remarkable.

INDRAJATRA

Indra is the god of rain, a great warier, ruler of heaven and the king of the gods. This is an eight-day long festival dedicated to Lord Indra, which starts on the twelfth day of waxing moon in September. As the Bisket festival of Bhaktapur is famous so as the Indrajatra of Kathmandu is the most popular festival. The festival also observed in Bhaktapur. The woodes poles are erected in the different parts of the town of Bhaktapur. Indrayani khatjatra is celebrated and as well as the Pulukishi jatra fascinate the viewers and celebrators.

DASAIN / MOHANI

One of the most longest, auspicious and joyous festival celebrated countrywide, is generally called 'Dasain' and particularly among the Newars as 'Mohani'. Goddess Durga is the main deity of this festival. She as the collective force assumed the power of nine mother goddesses and defeated the Demons and protected her followers. The cultural lives regard the great festival as the ultimate victory of good over evil.

The Dasain festival in Bhaktapur seems significant and so fascinates everyone. As for instance, by such tantric rituals, Durga Bhavani manifests in the form of the corporal Navadurga Gana: the protector of the country and the fellow countrymen. On the ninth day of Mohani, a buffalo representing the mythic demon slayed by Durga, known as 'Khome' is chased from the Navadurga god house towards the shrine of Brahmayani east of the town. This buffalo-chasing jatra is popularly known among the local inhabitants as 'Khome Bwakegu-jatra'

TIHAR / SUNTI

The five day long festival celebrated in October or early November is another glorious festival which brings the worship of ill-omened crow, lowly dog, a sacred cow, Laxmi : the goddess of wealth and Yamaraj : the god of death respectively. The Newars celebrate the New Year day in the 4th day of Tihar. On the same day, they have the glorious culture of self-worshipping which is called 'Mha puja'.

Besides, some worthwhile festivals celebrated without cast creed in Bhaktapur district are **Haribodhani Ekadashi, Changu Narayan – Akhanda Dipa, Bala-Chaturdashi, Sita-Vivaha-Panchami, Yomarhi Punhi / Dhanya Purnima, Changu Narayan – Milapunhi, Lhosar** (New Year festival celebrate by the Gurungs and Tamangs as Tol-Lhosar and Tamu-Lhosar respectively), Similarly, the holy month of Magh, Bhimsen Puja, Gaggannath-Yatra, Mahashiva-Ratri, Holi and so on . Summary of major festivals of Bhaktapur and Thimi are presented in Table 2.8 below.

| Table : 2.8 Festivals of Bhaktapur and Thimi | | |
|--|---|----------------------|
| | Festivals | Period |
| 1 | Gathan Mugah (<i>Ghantakarna</i>) | (August) |
| 2 | Gunla Dharma | (August-September) |
| 3 | Gunhu Punhi (<i>Gai Jatra</i>) | (August- September) |
| 4 | Pancha Dan | (August-September) |
| 5 | Yanya Punhi (<i>Indra Jatra</i>) | (September) |
| 6 | Mohani(<i>Dashain</i>) | (October) |
| 7 | Sunti (<i>Tihar</i>) | (October-November) |
| 8 | Sakimila Punhi | (November- December) |
| 9 | Bala Chahre (<i>Bala Chaturdashi</i>) | (December) |
| 10 | Yomari Punhi | (December-January) |
| 11 | Ghayh Chaku Sanhu (<i>Maghe Sangrati</i>) | (January) |
| 12 | Swasthani Bakhan Kanegu | (January-February) |
| 13 | Shree Panchami | (February) |
| 14 | Sila Chahre (<i>Shivaratri</i>) | (March) |
| 15 | Holi Punhi (<i>Phagu Purnima</i>) | (March-April) |
| 16 | Biskah Jatra (<i>Bisket Jatra</i>) | (April) |
| 17 | Swanya Punhi (<i>Buddha Purnima</i>) | (May-June) |
| 18 | Sithi Nakhah | (June) |
| 19 | Jivro Chhedene Jatra (Tongue piercing festival) | |

Likewise, Bhaktapur District is also rich in numerous historical monuments, religious shrines, traditional music and dances (Table 2.9), archaeologically important sites and Museums etc.

| Table 2.9 Traditional Dances of Bhaktapur and Thimi (Bode and Nagadesha) | | |
|---|--|---|
| Bhaktapur | Thimi | Bode |
| 1.1 Mahakali Dance 1.2 Lakhe dance 1.3 Monkey dance 1.4 Khyak Dance 1.5 Kawan (Skeleton) Dance 1.6 Devi Daitya Sangram (The battle of Goddess and Demon) 1.7 Navadurga Dance 1.8 Bhairab Dance 1.9 Ghintanghisi 1.10 The mass street - dance | 1.1 Mahakali Dance 1.2 Lakhe dance 1.3 Monkey dance 1.4 Khyak Dance 1.5 Kawan (Skeleton) Dance 1.6 Devi Daitya Sangram (<i>The battle of Goddess and Demon</i>) Folk Dances 1 Jyapu- Jyapuni (<i>Dhimey</i>) Dance 2 Indra Apsara (<i>Nymph</i>) Dance 2 Lusi (<i>Pestle</i>) Dance Charya Dances 1 Manjushree Dance 2 Bajrayogini Dance 3 Pancha Buddha Dance 4 Rakta Ganesh Dance 5 Arya Tara Dance | 1.1 Mahakali Dance (Nagadesha) 1.2 Nil-Varahi Dance (Bode) |

These are indeed major elements of Cultural Tourism. In this regard, there are sufficient recourse potentials to promote various types of Cultural Tourism as having these culturally resourceful potentials which have already been mentioned above. As for example, there are three National Museums in Bhaktapur town comprising **The National Art Gallery** (revered for its admirable collection of paintings), the **Woodcarving Museum** (wonderful collection of age-old masterpieces of wood art) and the **Bronze & Brass Museum** (superb collection of ceremonial and household metal ware). These attract both the Foreign and the domestic tourists.

It is notable that Museum is also a part of promoting city tourism, research or educational Tourism or so. Dadhikot comprised of Anantalingeswor shrine, Charakhendeswor, Dakshin Varahi where pilgrimage tourism could be promoted. The numerous Vihars throughout Madhyapur and Bhaktapur town are like the hidden treasures and if propagated and managed them properly from tourism point of view, their will be continuous flow of foreign Buddhist tourists in these shrines. Further Jame-Masjid of Bhaktapur town may be the pilgrimage destination for the Muslims pilgrimages from home and abroad In-short, it will be apparent from the Table 2.10.

Table 2.10: Cultural and Pilgrimage Tourism Potentials of Bhaktapur district

| Location | Attractions/ Heritages | | Types of Attractions | Preferred type of Tourism Market | Tourism Resource Potentials | | |
|------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|---|
| | | | | | Highly Feasible | Feasible | Moderately feasible (for domestic only) |
| Municipalities | | | | | | | |
| Bhaktapur | Durbar Square, Taumadhi Square, Dattatreya Square, Golmadhi Square, Potary Square and so | | Historical monuments, Religious shrines, Fairs and Festivals, Music and dance, Art and Architecture etc. | All types | √ | | |
| Madhyapur Thimi | Thimi | Archaeologically important site, Tripurasundari Shrine, Phaidhoka Ganesh, Saraswoti Shrine | Historical monuments, shrines, Fairs and Festivals, Music and Dance etc. | All types | | √ | |
| | Bode | Nilvarahi and her Jatra and Naach, Mahalaxmi Jatra, Jivro Chedne Jatra (Tongue boring ceremony) | Historical monuments, Shrines, Fairs and Festivals, Music and Dance etc. | All types | | √ | |
| | Nagdes h | Siddhiganesh shrine and <i>Siddhiganesh Jatra</i> | Historical monuments, Shrines, Fairs and Festivals, Music and Dance etc. | All types | | √ | |

VDCs

| Location | Attractions/ Heritages | | Types of Attractions | Preferred type of Tourism Market | Tourism Resource Potentials | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | High | Medium | Moderate |
| Duwakot | Archaeologically important site, Tripurasundari Shrine, Phaidhoka Ganesh, Saraswoti Shrine | | Historical monuments, Fairs and Festivals, Shrines etc. | Cultural and Pilgrimage Tourism | | √ | |
| Changu Narayan | Changu Narayana temple, Chinnamasta temple and Kileswor temple. Archaeologically and historically important. | | Historical monuments, Shrines, Festivals etc | Pilgrimage and Cultural | √ | | |
| Nagarkot | Mahadeva Pokhari, Jalpa Devi, Kalikasthan, Mahankal, Chamero Gufa, Archaeologically important site | | Historical monuments, Religious shrines etc | Cultural and Pilgrimage | √ | | |
| Chhaling | Telkot Gadhi, Panchakanya shrine, Brahmayani shrine, Siddhiganesha, Mahankaldevi and so on | | Religious shrines, Historical monuments etc. | Cultural and Pilgrimage | | | √ |
| Bageswori | Archaeologically important site, Baghthiti, Valmikeswor | | Religious shrines, Historical monuments etc. | Pilgrimage | | √ | |
| Sudal | Lhasapaka Saraswoti shrine, Brahmayani, Monastery and the cave, Gaukhureswor | | Religious shrines, | Pilgrimage | √ | | |
| Tathali | Three massive rocks having dated rock edicts and rock line drawings, Caves and Fortresses, Archaeologically important site | | Historical monuments | Archaeological Tourism | √ | | |

| Location | Attractions/ Heritages | Types of Attractions | Preferred type of Tourism Market | Tourism Resource Potentials | | |
|------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | High | Medium | Moderate |
| Jhaukhel | Jyotirlingeswor shrine, the seven natural pools, Recently discovered Lichchhavi Chaityas accompanied by a Lichchhavi stone inscription, Archaeologically important site | Religious shrines, Historical monuments, | Pilgrimage | √ | | |
| Chittapol | Fortress, Sallaghari, Dirghamukteswor, Natarambheswor, Gufa- Danda, newly built huge image of Lord Shiva | Religious shrines, Historical monuments | Pilgrimage (Regional) | | √ | |
| Sipadol | Doleswor, Ranikot Gadhi, Baghbhairav, Ashapureswor, Mali Gaon Cultural Village (Tamang) | Historical monuments, Religious Shrines | Pilgrimage (Regional) & Cultural | √ | | |
| Nangkhel | Nandikeswor Shrine, Archaeologically important site, Typical Ethnic Newar Settlement | Religious and Cultural | Cultural | | √ | |
| Gundu | Anantalingeswor | Historical monuments, Shrines | Pilgrimage | √ | | |
| Katunje | Suryavinayak, Suverneswor, Sushil-bhairav | Historical monuments, Shrines | Pilgrimage | √ | | |
| Dhadhikot | Charakhendeswor, Rajganesh, Dakshanvarahi | Historical monuments, Shrines | Pilgrimage | | √ | |
| Sirutar | Somalingeswor | Religious | Pilgrimage (Domestic) | | | √ |
| Balkot | Dharmeswor | Religious | Pilgrimage (Domestic) | | | √ |

2.3.2 Nature based eco-tourism and adventurous tourism

Lush green forest, wetland areas including river network and lakes, serenely beautiful landscape and unique geographical setting combined with mild climatic condition are the primary attributes of nature based tourism in Bhaktapur district. Lush green forest, which occupies 1994.07 Hectare (16.75% of the total area) in the northern, eastern, and southern hills of the district alongside some small patches of forest in valley area are major features of natural environment contributing to the rich biodiversity, water source generation, and enhancing the scenic beauty, and thus creating foundations for tourism development in the district. Despite its small geographical coverage, the variation in microclimate and presence of varied topographical setting along with the varying elevation has resulted a variety of forest types and species in Bhaktapur. Major forest types in Bhaktapur include Pine forest, lower broadleaved and upper broadleaved forests. Besides two species of pine, *Pinus roxburghii* and *Pinus wallichiana*, major broadleaved forest species in Bhaktapur include Chilaune (*Schima wallichii*), Katus (*Castanopsis indica* and *Castanopsis hystrix*), Utis (*Alnus nepalensis*), Angeri (*Lyonia ovalifolia*), Painyu (*Prunus cerasoides*), Setikath (*Myrica capitellata*), Kafal (*Myrica esculenta*), Guras (*Rhododendron species*), Lakuri (*Fraxinus floribunda*), Chuletro (*Brassaiopsis hainla*), Lapsi (*Choerospondias axillaris*), Dalchini (*Cinnamomum tamala*),



Sugandha kokila (*Cinnamomum glaucescens*), Mauha, Jhigane, Churi and so on. Likewise some major Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) species found in the forest include Kafal, Laligurans, Sugandwal, Gurjo, Timur, Titepati, Kurilo, Nagbeli, Nigalo, pine Khoto etc. Various species of mud, stone and tree Orchids are also found in in Nagarkot, Bageshwori, Sudal and Suryabinayak forest areas.

These lush forests have not only provided greenery and water to the human beings but also has provided the suitable habitat for various wild mammals like Chituwa (*Clouded leopard*), Fox, Jackal, Red Deer, Wolf, Hare, Pangolin (Salak); various species of butterfly, lizards, snakes, amphibians and various bird species like Kalij, Dhukur, Titra, Luinche etc.

Among the VDCs, Sipadole, Nangkhel, Gundu, Chhaling, Nagarkot, Bageshwori and Sudal VDCs hold relatively larger forest coverage. Out of total 1946.1 hectares forest coverage in the district, a total of 1808.6 hectares forest area has been handed over to 58 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) in 13 VDCs and Madhyapur Thimi Municipality (MTM); 24 hectares area has been handed over as Leasehold Forest in Gundu VDC and 1 hectare area has been handed over to Religious Group in Katunje VDC. All together, 110 hectares of forests area are preserved and managed as National Forest in Nagarokt (75 hectares) and Katunje VDCs (25 hectares) by the District Forest Office (Table 2.11). The handing over of forest to the CFUG as community forest can be considered as a more flexible management system for fostering the community based eco-tourism in the district.

| Table-2.11...: Status of forest by management regime in Bhaktapur district (Area in hectares) | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | VDC Name | No. of CFUG | CFUG area | Lease Hold Forest | Religious forest | Gov. Managed forest | Total forest area |
| 1 | Katunje | 1 | 15.41 | 0 | 1 | 35 | 51.41 |
| 2 | Gundu | 7 | 215.08 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 239.08 |
| 3 | Sipadole | 9 | 359.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 359.4 |
| 4 | Nangkhel | 5 | 291.26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 291.26 |
| 5 | Chhaling | 5 | 238.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 238.1 |
| 6 | Jhaukhel | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Changu | 3 | 51.51 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 51.51 |
| 8 | Duwakot | 2 | 3.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.4 |
| 9 | Bhaktapur | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Mdhyapur Thimi | 2 | 27.77 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27.77 |
| 11 | Bageshwori | 3 | 115.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 115.6 |
| 12 | Chittapol | 6 | 89.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 89.04 |
| 13 | Nagarkot | 3 | 148.84 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 226.34 |
| 14 | Tathali | 3 | 49.81 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 49.81 |
| 15 | Sudal | 3 | 140.25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 140.25 |
| 16 | Dadhikot | 6 | 63.13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63.13 |
| 17 | Balkot | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Sirutar | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 58 | 1808.6 | 24 | 1 | 110 | 1946.1 |

Source: VDC level forest resource statistics report, District Forest Office, Bhaktapur, 2066

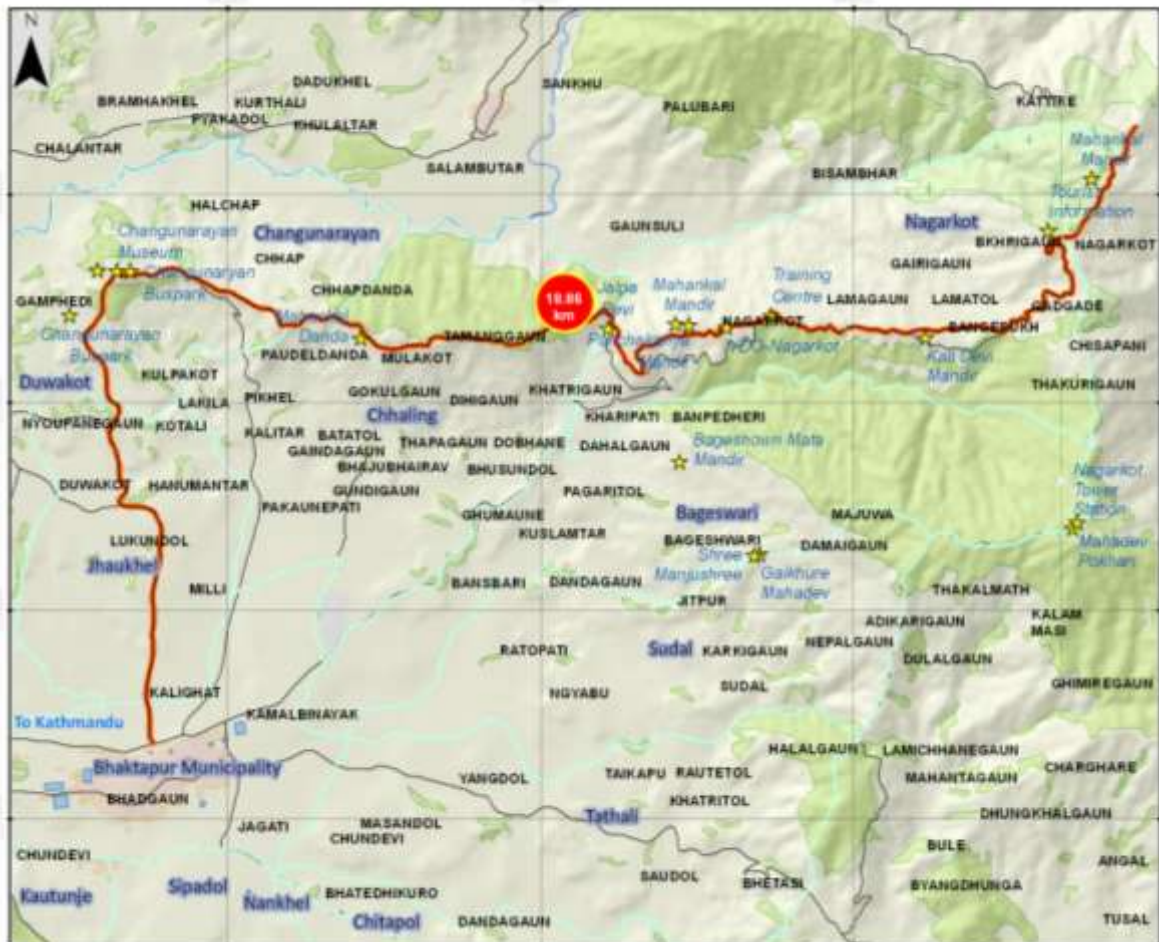
The core Bhaktapur valley is almost encircled with the major three beautiful landscapes comprised of lush green forest, outstanding natural landscape and terraced agriculture fields ranging from 1372 meters to 2191 meters in northern, eastern and southern hills.

The major natural landscapes of outstanding tourism features found in the district are mentioned below:

(i) Northern Hill Landscape (Changu Narayan, Chhaling, Nagarkot)

Northern Hill Landscape comprises lush green forest and associated outstanding natural landscape stretched in 9.6 km areas from Manohara to Nagarkot ridge in Changu Narayan, Chhaling and Nagarkot VDCs (See Map 3). Major forests areas lying in this landscape include Changu Narayan, Manedanda and Nyachopouwa forest in Changu Narayan VDC, Jalpadevi, Gangarani, Shree Ban, Setidevi and Italidevi forest in Chhaling VDC and Nagarkot Aindanda, Kushum and Lakhane forest in Nagarkot VDC **(See Annex 37 for Maps)**.

Major forest types in this landscape include lower broadleaved forest, pine forest and upper broadleaved forest comprising the most rich forest biodiversity. This area is primarily dominated by Schima-Castanopsis forest followed by some tiny patches of pine forest in Changu Narayan and Nagarkot. Nagarkot, Bageshwori and Chhaling forest provide special habitat for some wild animals like Clouded leopard, Pangolin, Barking deer, Jackal, Fox and other animal species. This belt of land also provides special ground



for various residential and migratory bird species.

Map 3: Changu Narayan - Nagarkot

This is the most potential landscape for nature based ecotourism, soft and hard adventurous tourism with opportunity for various pleasure and recreation activities. Changu Narayan-Chhaling-Telkot-Nagarkot forest provides most pleasure hiking opportunity for the visitors. Major strategic locations for the best view of mountain panorama include Changu Narayan, Trishuldanda, Nagarkot and Thakalmath. The highest point, 2191 meters at Nagarkot forest offers magnificent view of Kathmandu valley, rolling hills in the Mahabharat range and panoramic views of Himalayas stretching from Annapurna range in the west to Kanchenjunga in the Far East. Major mountain range seen from Nagarkot includes Kanchenjunga range, Makalu range, Everest range, Numbur range, Gaurishankar range, Dorje Lhakpa range, Langtang range, Ganesh Himal range, Manaslu range and Annapurna range. The best seen mountain range from Nagarkot is Langtang range and Dorje Lhakpa range.



Nagarkot, Changu Narayan and Telkot are also potential site for best sun set views over the Himalayas, Manohara River and the Kathmandu valley. However, Nagarkot itself is renowned for the best sunrise and sunset view. Chhaling, Nagarkot and Bageshwori forest also provide best sites for bird watching and jungle walk. Muhan Pokhari forest at Bageshwori provides best site for rock climbing and canyoning.

Other associated beautiful areas within this landscape include Thali-Danchi, Indrayeni, Bajrayogini, Sankhu-Suntol, Naldhum, Deupur, Narsingpouwa and Lapsipedi.

(ii) Eastern Hill Landscape (Bageshwori, Sudal, Tathali, Chittapol, Nangkhel)

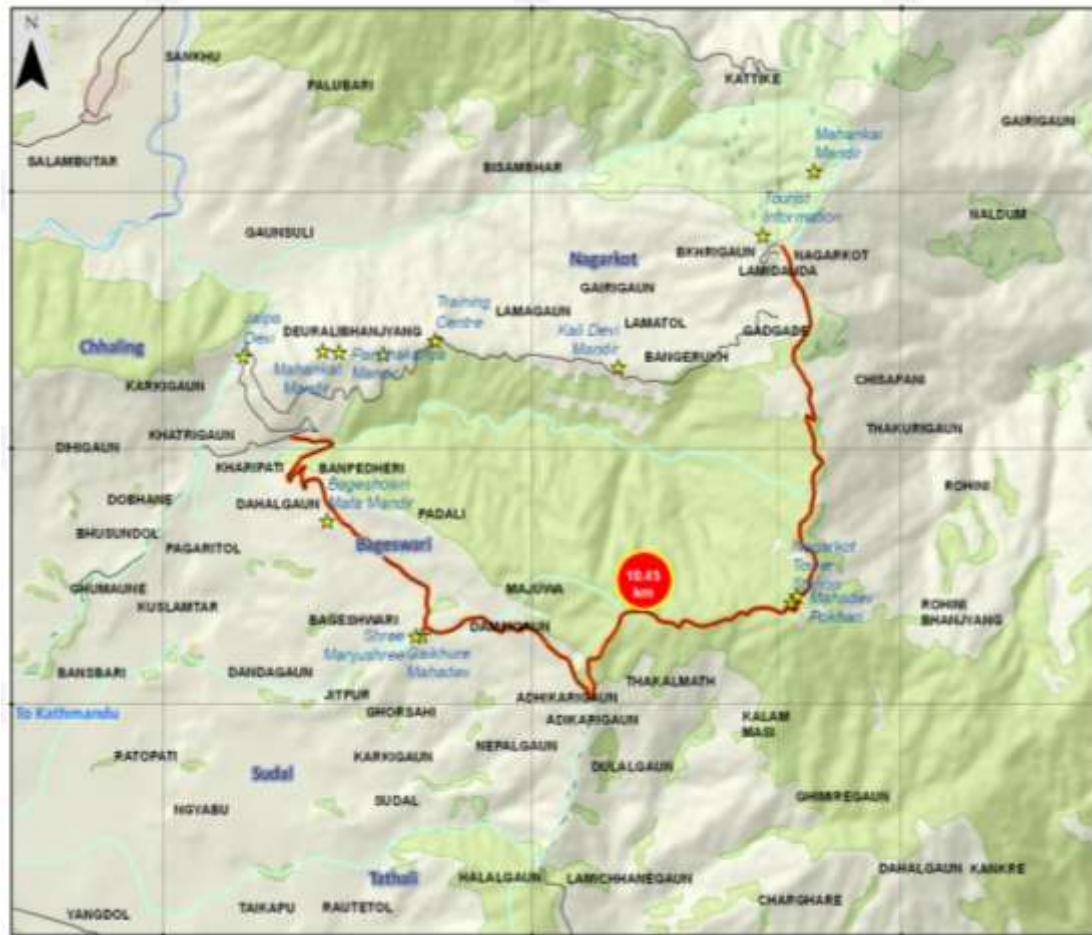
Eastern Hill Landscape comprises lush green forest and associated outstanding natural landscape stretching 12.8 km areas from Mahadev Pokhari to Lakuribhanjyang (Kakrabariin) in Bageshwori, Sudal, Tathali, Chittapol and Nangkhel VDCs. Major forests areas lie in this landscape include Subidhabasti and Bahal forest in Bageshwori VDC; Manjushree, Patle and Bahal forest in Sudal VDC; Wollothulopakha, Aitabare and Kadkelako Pakha forest in Tathali VDC; Lingaguthi, Vingali, Thulo Gairopakha, Mahakaleshwor Jurethumko, Deurali and Pipalchour forest in Chittapol and Dokedando, Kakrabari, Perunge, Bandeshwori and Nawadurga forest in Nangkhel VDC(**See Annex 37 for Maps**).

Major forest types in this landscape include lower broadleaved forest, pine forest and upper broadleaved forest comprising very rich forest biodiversity. This area is primarily dominated by Schima-castanopsis forest. Forest in Sudal, Tathali and Kakrabari provide special habitat for some wild animals like Clouded leopard, Pangolin, Barking deer, Jackal, Fox and other animal species. This forest belt also provides special ground for various residential and migratory bird species.

Tathali forest is widely popular for its huge cylindrical pine forest from where pine pole (more than 70 ft. long lingo) are brought annually to Yashinkhel, Bhaktapur city to erect as Yoshin (Lingo) during the Bisket Jatra.

This area is also highly potential and suitable site for nature based ecotourism, various soft and hard adventurous tourism and various pleasure and recreation activities. Mahadev Pokhari- Thulopakha (Sudal)-Nalachhap forest provides most pleasure hiking opportunity for the visitors after Telkot-Nagarkot section.

Map 4: Nagarkot, Bageswori



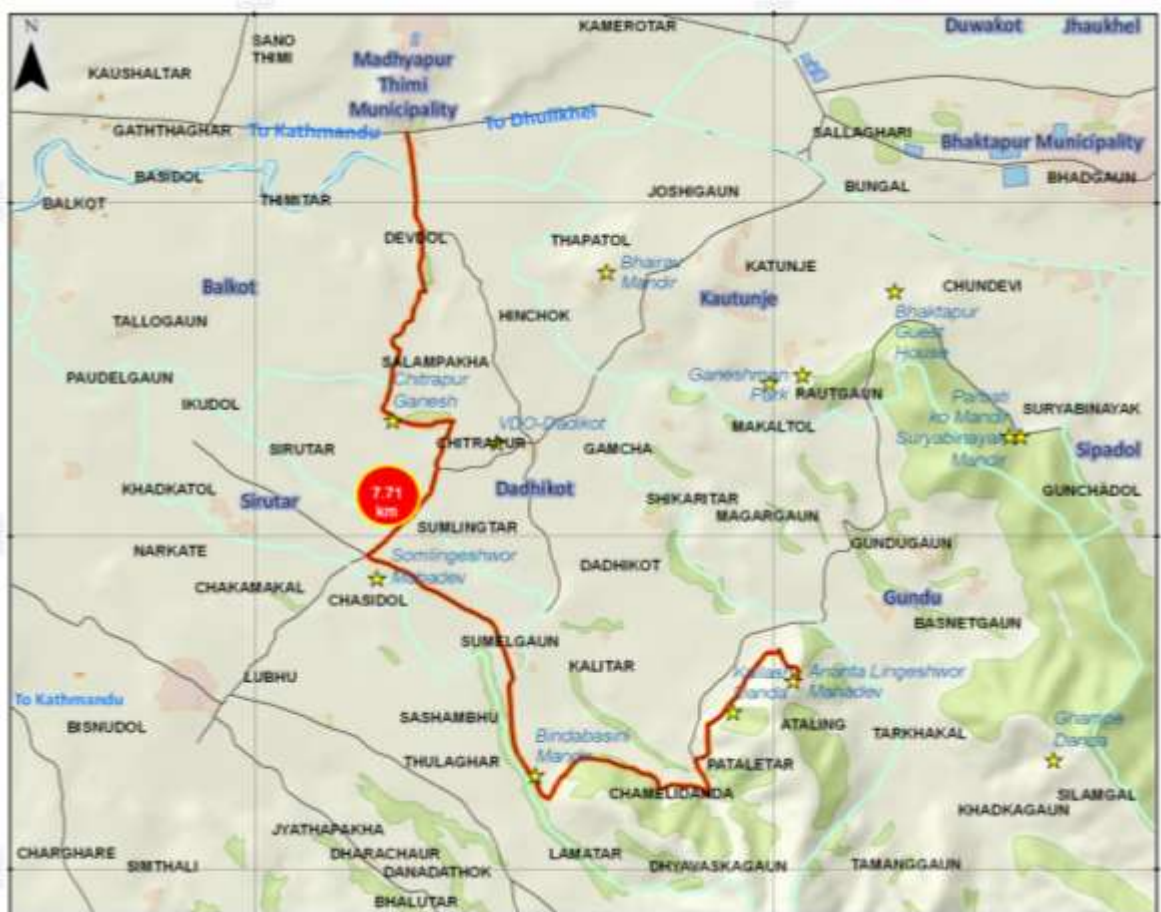
Major strategic locations for the best view of mountain panorama include Sudalbhanjyang, Latameshwor, Chittapol Mahadev, Lakuribhanjyang/Kakrabari and Ranikot. Sudal Bhanjyang in Sudal VDC near Thulopakha forest provides best sunset view. The earthen road from Nagarkot to Nalachhap via Simaldanda is considered as one of the best sites for mountain biking and day hiking. The historical Forts situated at the top of Thulopakha Danda forest and Latameshwor provide strategic location for the majestic view of Kathmandu valley. Lying at the top of Kakrabari forest, the Lakuribhanjyang offers strategic location for savoring the splendors of Himalayan panorama in the north and mesmerizing view of Kathmandu valley down in the west. Sudal Thulopakha forest provide best site for bird watching and jungle walk. Lying at the laps of Thulopakha forest, the Halalgaon and Basuki River consists best rock formation site where the historic Rock Inscription has already been explored and publicized recently. It is believed that the unparallel and cylindrical rocks found in this site were widely used to make the sculpture of various God, Goddess as well as various artistic and sacred structures during the ancient period in Kathmandu valley.

Other associated beautiful landscapes linked with this landscape include Nalachhap, Banepa and Panauti.

(iii) Southern Hill Landscape (Sipadol, Katunje, Gundu, Dadhikot)

Southern Hill Landscape comprises lush green forest and associated outstanding natural landscape stretching in 4.8 km areas from Kakrabari/Ranikot to Bindhabasini temple in Sipadol, Katunje, Gundu, Dadhikot VDCs. Major forests lies in this landscape include Ranikot, Bimaleshwor, Hariyali, Toudol, Suryabinayak, Satidevi, Taleju Devasthan, Sepilo Pakha and Golko Pakha forest in Sipadol VDC, Suryabinayak forest in katunje VDC, Ranikot, Manthali, Sanothumko, Gouradevi, Balkumari and Likhanarayan forest in Gundu VDC and Anantalingshwor, Ashyarya Uddhan, Patletar, Chameli, Birsinghe and Nangopakha forest in Dadhikot VDC (Map 5). A large area comprising 24 hectares of forest in Gundu VDC-2, Gundu Bhaktapur has been handed over as lease forest to Hotel Mount Monastery Private Limited, Kathmandu in 2053/10/23 for the period of 40 years.

Map 5: Sipadol, Katunje, Dhadhikot, Sirutar, Gundu



Major forest types in this area are dominated by lower broadleaved forest followed by Pine forest in the higher elevation. Major forest species includes Schima-Castanopsis, Patle and other broadleaved forest species. Ranikot and Suryabinayak forest turns reddish as the Rhododendron blooms fully during March and April.

Major strategic locations for the best view of mountain panorama include Ranikot, Ghampeedanda and Kailashdanda. Ranikot as a highest point (2025 meters) in the

southern hills offers best place to savor the splendors of kaleidoscopic view of Kathmandu valley and Himalayan panorama in the north. Ranikot along with the Lakuribhanjyang and Kailash Danda provide best environment for paragliding and other sports activities.

Other associated beautiful landscapes linked with this landscape include Lubhu, Lakuribhanjyang (Lalitpur) Godabari, and Phoolchowki, the highest point around the Kathmandu valley (2760 meters) **(See Annex 37 for Maps).**



Suryabinayak forest is another best preferred hiking areas for the visitors after Nagarkot. Very few visitors visit Ranikot areas through hiking and biking. Lying very close to the Bhaktapur city, Suryabinayak forest is also regarded as one of the best site for bird watching and jungle walk. Suryabinayak forest is the second place where White-Bellied Yuhina can be seen in the valley. It provides suitable breeding grounds for different kinds of resident and migratory birds. Lots of Wablers and Finches can be seen during winter. Suryabinayak forest is one of the best wintering grounds for Wablers and Finches and best refuge and breeding ground for many summer migratory birds like fly-catchers, cuckoos, bee-eaters. Many resident birds like Doves, Magpie, Treepie, Woodpeckers, Flower Peckers, Nuthatches, Laughing-Thrushes, Minivet, Barbets, and Bulbuls can be seen everywhere in the forest.

(iv) Core Bhaktapur Valley Landscape

The core Bhaktapur valley landscape comprises Bhaktapur city, Madhyapur Thimi Municipality and other VDCs. Among the valley landscape, Manohara agriculture field, Tathali, Nangkhel, Sipadol and Dadhikot farmlands could be considered as the most beautiful and decorated agricultural landscapes in Bhaktapur. The undulating and rolling landscape at Jhaukhel, Jitpur, Chittapol, Nalinchowk, Sipadole, Gundu, Dadhikot, Charkhandeshwor area are other scenic landscape of tourist iattractions. The valley becomes more colorful during the planting and harvesting seasons of wheat and paddy. Nilbarahi forest and Balkumari forest has enhanced the greenery and scenic beauty in Thimi areas. These beautiful landscape not only provide pleasure and leisure environment to the visitors but also augment other rural, cultural and heritage tourism attractions in the district.



Bhaktapur district is also rich in small rivers and ponds. Manahara and Hanumante Khola are the major river tributaries in Bhaktapur creating and augmenting tourism attractions in Bhaktapur. The Salinadi Khola originating from Lapsipedi areas of Kathmandu and Gatte khola originating from Nagarkot areas meets nearby Sankhu making Manahara River. Likewise Khasyan Khusun Khola and Hanumante Khola together makes Hanumante River when meets at Nekosera. Tabyakhusi Khola originating from Bageshwori forest, Chaku Khola originating from Nalachhap area and Sipadol Khola contributes to Hanumante Khola. Besides providing sufficient water for agriculture farming and drinking purpose, these rivers also provides

best view for visitors during sunset. The Pani Muhan area in Bageshwori forest provides best site for canyoning. Bhaktapur city is also regarded as city of ponds comprising Siddha Pokhari, Na Phukhu, Bhut Pokhari, Kamalbinayak pond, and other many ponds covering 6.43 hectares of land covering about 0.05 percent land mass of the district. These ponds could provide better opportunity for fishing, boating and recreation particularly for the domestic visitors.

The northern, eastern and southern natural landscape of Bhaktapur could offer various nature based eco-tourism and adventurous tourism activities to the visitors in Bhaktapur. Forest walk, rhododendron walk, orchid walk and bird watching activities could be developed as Eco-tourism product. Likewise day hiking, mountain biking, jeep safari, pony trekking, soft trekking, paragliding, rock climbing and canyoning activities could be developed as adventurous tourism product in Bhaktapur(See Annex 37 for Maps). A brief summary of potential nature based eco-tourism and adventurous tourism activities are presented in Table 2.12 below:

| Table 2.12: Summary of potential Eco-tourism and Adventurous tourism products in Bhaktapur | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|
| Tourism Products | Tourism activities | Potential areas and routes | |
| Eco-Tourism Products | Wilderness/ forest walk | Kushum Community Forest Eco Trail (2.5km), Nagarkot Suryabinayak- Ghyampedanda -Gundu Frest Eco-Trail Changu Narayan-Telkot-Chhayabasti Eco Trail | |
| | Rhododendron walk | Suryabinayak-Ranikot- Lakuribhanjyang-Kailash Danda- Anantalingshwor Rhododendron Trail | |
| | Orchid Trek | Nagarkot, Bageshwori, Suryabinayak | |
| | Bird watching | Nilbarahi, Suryabinayak forest, Chhaling forest, Sudal Bhanjyang, Bageshwori, Nagarkot, Kakrabari forest, Ranikot. | |
| Adventure Tourism Products | Day Hiking and Biking | Thimi-Nagadesh-Saraswotikhel-Duwakot-Besigoan-Sangdanda-Changu Narayan Nagarkot – Telkot – Changu Narayan – Neel Barahi – Bode – Thimi Reviving Mandev trail (Brick slaved):Changu-Sangdaha-Gelalgoan-Kulpakot-Jhaukhel-Byasi-Khasyangkhusung-Bhaktapur Nagarkot-Mahadev Pokhari-Thakalmath-Bageshwori-Muhan Pokhari- BDS Nagarkot-Mahadev Pokhari-Thakalmath-Saraswotikhel-Jitpur- BDS Nagarkot-Mahadev Pokhari-Sudanbhanjyang-Halalgaon-Nalachhap-Tukuchanala-Latarameshwor-Chittapole Mahadev (143ft.) BDS-Suryabinayak-Doleshwor-Maligaon- Kakrabari-Ashapureshwor- Sanga BDS-Suryabinayak-Ghyampedanda-Ranikot-Patibhanjyang-Ashapureshwor-Kakrabari-Sanga BDS-Suryabinayak-Ghyampedanda-Ranikot-Lakuribhanjyang-Kailashdanda-Anantalingshwor-Gundu BDS-Suryabinayak-Katunje-Gundu-Anantalingshewor-Kailash danda-Bindhyabasini-Chitrapur-Thimi road Sanga – Ashapuri Mahadevsthan – Kankrabari – Sipadole (Hanging Valley) Nagarkot – Telkot – Changu Narayan – Byasi (through Jhaukhel) or Bode/Thimi (through Neel Barahi) Nagarkot – Lapsiphedi – Sali Nadi – Sankhu Nagarkot – Sankhu (shortest route from Nagarkot to Sankhu) Nagarkot – Lapsiphedi – Chisapani – Sundarijal Nagarkot – Naya Gaon – Sipaghat – Mandan Danda – Dolalghat (overnight at Sipaghat) Nagarkot – Anekot – Chandeswori Temple – Banepa Nagarkot – Panchkhal – Hokse – Palanchok Bhagvatisthan | |
| | | Rock climbing | Muhan Pokhari, Bageshwori |
| | | Canyoning | Muhan Pokhari, Bageshwori |
| | | Paragliding | Telkot, Nagarkot, Sudalbhanjyang, Latarameshwor, Lakuribhanjyang, Ranikot |
| | | Jeep safari | Bhaktapur Ringroad, Bhaktapur-Changu-Telkot-Nagarkot, BDS-Ghampedanda-Ranikot, BDS-Bageshwori-Sudalbhanjyang-Nalachhap |
| | | Pony trek (Horse riding) | Changu Narayan/Sankhu-Nagarkot, Nagarkot-Nalachhap, Suryabinayak-Ranikot |
| | | Soft trekking | BDS-Ghyampedanda-Ranikot-.....Phoolchowki |
| | | | BDS-Ghyampedanda-Ranikot-.....Godabari |
| | | | BDS-Ghyampedanda-Ranikot-Ashapureshwor-Panauti |

2.3.3 Rural tourism

Bhaktapur has number of rural villages with a unique lifestyle and beautiful natural surroundings all around its outskirts. The living style of people in the typical rural areas of Bhaktapur could be the matter of interest for the visitors who are in the quest for experiencing typical rural lifestyle of Nepalese people at the closest distance from capital city Kathmandu. Dominated by 55.8% Newari community, the district is still known for its best preserved Newari culture, traditions and unique lifestyle. Balkumari, Nagadesh, Chapacho, Bodey, Saraswotikhel, Nangkhel, Chitrapur, Chittapol are some typical rural settlements of Newari culture. Likewise Korean village (Changu), Gadgade village (Nagarkot), Kakrabari and Maligoan are other typical Tamang villages offering rural tourism opportunities. Other typical rural village of mixed ethnicity offering rural tourism includes Saraswotikhel, Changu village, Jhaukhel, Bageshwori, Thakalmath, Jitpur and Gundu (Table 2.13).



| Table 2.13: Major selected rural settlements of tourism potentials | | |
|--|---|--|
| Ethnicity | Name of villages | Major features |
| Newari village | Balkumari, Thimi, Nagadesh, Chapacho, Bodey, Chittapol, Nangkhel, Chitrapur | Best preserved Newari culture and lifestyle, traditional houses, Temple and Bihar, various Newari festival and fairs, Jyapu agriculture practices, best Newari foods |
| Tamang village | Gadgade, Korean village, Kakrabari, Maligoan | Tamang culture and lifestyle, terraced farming, beautiful landscape and best views of Himalayas and Kathmandu valley |
| Village of mixed ethnic group | Saraswotikhel, Changu, Bageshwori, Thakalmath, Jitpur, Gundu | Tiled roofed homes, typical Chhetri and Brahmin culture, best practices of organic farming, Ramayan Bhajan and other performance |

These villages also offer unique architecture including tiled roofed homes and decorated windows coupled agro-economy based rural traditional lifestyle and various traditional rituals and practices. Visitors can enjoy some of the most elaborative Newari festivals and fairs like Bisket Jatra, Sindhur Jatra; various traditional music like Dhime Baja, costumes like **Haku Patasi**, unique agricultural practices by Jyapu community, pottery and ceramic making by Prajapati community, metal craftsmanship by Tamrakar community during the visits of rural areas in Bhaktapur (Table 2.14).

| Table 2.14: Major rural and traditional features of touristic importance in Bhaktapur | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Tourism potentials | Major cultural features | Potential areas |
| Cultural package | Dhime Baja | Saraswotikhel, |
| | Haku Patasi , Sangi, Dapha | BDS, Thimi, Saraswotikhel, Bode, Nagadesh |
| | Tamang Selo | Nagarkot areas, Kakrabari, Maligoan |
| | Ramayan Bhajan | Jalpadevi, Saraswotikhel, |
| | Newari Dance | Thimi, BDS |
| | Bisket Jatra | Bode, Balkumari |
| Craft and craftsmanship | Fest and fairs | Thimi, BDS |
| | Thanka painting | Changu Narayan and Suryabinayak |
| | Wooden craft/mask | Changu Narayan, Bhaktapur |
| | Metal craft | Bhaktapur, Thimi |
| Experiencing Bhaktapur unique crafts, foods and souvenir | Ceramic/pottery/terracotta | Thimi, Balkumari, Nagadesh, Chapacho |
| | Tikani Baji and Taichun Baji | Tikani, Chitrapur |
| | Juju Dhou Yogurt /curd | Bhaktapur city, Thimi |
| | Khuwa | Jitpur, Sudal |
| | Bhadgaule cap, | |
| | Makhamali flower | Banmali community, Tathali |
| | Nepali Lokta paper | Jadibuti areas |
| | Solar dried Lapsi | Tathali, Chittapole |
| | Milk product | Doleshwor |
| | Strawberry | Nagarkot, Maligoan, Thakalmath areas, Sudal, Tathali |
| | Jam | Maligoan, Thakalmath |

A survey conducted by BTDC in May 2008 has shown that about 30 per cent of total visitor come to Bhaktapur simply to experience local culture and tradition. Similarly, 29 per cent visitors come to enjoy people and lifestyle.



With more than 75 percent of the population engaged in agriculture as main occupation and about 81.67% area is still covered by agriculture land, Bhaktapur district is also highly potential for agri-tourism. Jhukhel, Bageshwori, Sudal, Tathali, Nangkhel, Gundu are some of the highly potential sites for agri-tourism activities. Some informal report has mentioned that Manohara Agriculture Field is regarded as one of the top 10 best farmlands in the world possessing unique farming pattern with better productivity and greater diversity in crops species changing with the seasons. Likewise the hill terraced farming system in the surrounding hills of the district could be another attraction for the visitors.

Social capitals endowed in Bhaktapur like several Ramayan Bhajan Mandals, art galleries, religious Guthis also provide best platform for offering colourful culture, traditions, rituals and costumes to the visitors. Bhaktapur district, especially Madyapur Thimi is famous for pottery works. There are about 16 ceramic industries in Bhaktapur out of which 11 are in Madyapur Thimi alone. Pottery making process itself could be a unique tourism experiences for the visitors at Bhaktapur. Moreover, the product of ceramic can be used as a souvenir item for tourists. Rural and community tourism could also be a true platform for visitors to observe and buy unique craftsmanship like pottery, metal craft making, wooden craft making, bamboo craft making, etc. A survey conducted by BTDC in 2008, has justified the potentiality for handicraft and souvenir production showing 67% visitors reluctant to buy local authentic handicrafts. Besides engaging visitors into the rural tourism activities, the rural communities in Bhaktapur also deserve high potential to develop and supply other feeder value chain products like strawberry, organic food products and craft items and thereby establishing rural-urban linkages.



Various efforts have already been made to develop rural tourism package in the district. Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation/Taragoan Development Committee has already completed a feasibility study of Nangkhel village with its potential as Home-stay tourism village. Likewise Nagarkor and Naldhum Tourism Development Committee in close cooperation with NETIF are trying to develop home-stay tourism packages in the surrounding villages of Nagarkot and Naldhum VDCs. Children of Universe, a Bhaktapur based NGO has tried to develop home-stay tourism package at Maligoan in Sipadole VDC.

Bhaktapur district presents opportunities for the improvement, expansion and continual development and expansion of new tourism development products within and outside the

core city. By developing basic accommodation and stop-over facilities and services in and en-route to potential villages, rural tourism could provide unique opportunities for spontaneous interaction between locals and visitors while offering exposure to the rich culture, tradition, rituals and lifestyle of Bhaktapur. Home-stay experiences, village tour and agri-tourism activities could be the prime tourism activities under rural tourism product in Bhaktapur (Table 2.15).

| Table 2.15: Major potential tourism products and activities for rural tourism in Bhaktapur | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tourism products | Tourism activities | Potential village and route |
| Home-stay experiences | Accommodation at the typical Newari, Tamang and Chhetri/Brahmin houses; observing village lifestyle, village walk, Temple visits, participating daily life activities, fair and festivals, cultural performance, visiting culture centre and museums, observing live craftsmanship, pottery making, Observing the production process and buying local products like Tikani Baji, Juju Dhou etc. | Bodey (Balkumari-Thimi-Nagadesh-Gakhu-Nekosera-Sallaghari-Bhaktapur) |
| | | Saraswotikhel |
| | | Changu Narayan (Changu and Korean village) |
| | | Nagarkot (Gadgade and other villages) |
| | | Thakalmath (Bhaktapur-Kharipati-Basnbari-Muhan Pokhari-Bageshwori-Thakalmath-Saraswotikhel-Jitpur-Bhaktapur) |
| | | Nangkhel (Bhaktapur-Nalinchowk-Nangkhel- Bhatedhikuro-Suryabinayak) |
| Agri-tourism activities | Studying, observing and participating traditional farming practices like rice, wheat and vegetable cultivation and harvesting, Using pure organic products at home-stay | Maligoan (Bhaktapur-Suryabinayak-Doleshwor-Maligoan-Sipadol-Jagati) |
| | | Periphery of Bhaktapur city, Thimi/Monohara, Bode, Jhaukhel, Bageshwori, Tathali, Sudal, Nangkhel, Gundu, Dadhikot |
| Village tour package as part of hiking | Visit of model village and settlement, visit temple, Bihas and water Spouts as part of short hiking and biking | Balkumari, Nagadesh, Chapacho, Bode, Saraswotikhel, Jhaukhel, Changu Narayan, Mahamanjushree, Jitpur, Bageshwori, Thakalmath, Tathali, Kakrabari, Maligoan, Gundu Chitrapur |

2.3.4 Meeting, Incentive, Conference and Exhibitions (MICE) Tourism

The close proximity from capital city Kathmandu, relatively easy access by road, mild climate, tranquil environment with greenery at the surroundings, the ample opportunity for the scenic view of mountain panorama combined with the rich cultural and natural heritage in offer, the northern, eastern and southern hills alongside with some plain areas of the district northern and southern hills of Bhaktapur could offer best site for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) in Bhaktapur. Nagarkot and some peripheral areas of Bhaktapur city have already developed some facilities and services for conference and workshops in the district.

Various built structure and environment have also augmented creating new avenues for MICE activities alongside the Education, recreation, health and Spa tourism activities in

the district. Major built environment that have contributed to various tourism activities in Bhaktapur is presented in Table 2.16 below.

| Table 2.16: List of major built environment and structure in Bhaktapur district | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| SN | Places | Built Environment | Tourism Potential |
| 1 | Chittapole, Sanga | Chittapole Mahadev (143 ft.) | Pilgrimage and leisure |
| 2 | Chittapole, Sanga | Health and Spa centre | Health and Spa tourism |
| 3 | Thimi | SAARC Tuberculosis research centre, Bha | Health Tourism |
| 4 | Bhaktapur | Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital | Health Tourism |
| 5 | Nagarkot, Chundevi, Nalinchowk, | Resort and Conference facilities | MICE tourism |
| 6 | Thimi, Kharipati and Nagarkot | Various Training centre (Nepal Electricity Authority Training Centre, Kharipati, Sanitation and Drinking Water, Training centre, Nagarkot, Agriculture Development Bank, Training Centre, Thimi, TITI/CTEVT (Training Institute for Technical Instructors) | MICE and Education tourism |
| 7 | Nagarkot, Changu | Nagarkot view tower, various picnic spots | Pleasure, recreation and entertainment |
| 8 | Telkot, Chhayabasti, Thimi, Bhaktapur | Trishul danda, Jalapa temple, Panchamahalaxmi temple, Shyama Shyam Dham, Brahma Kumari Yog Center at Bhaktapur | Yoga and meditation |

The undergoing 6 lane road to Suryabinayak from Koteswor will further enhance the potential of MICE activities at Bhaktapur. The availability of public open land and private agricultural land also provide avenues for further expansion of infrastructure and associated amenities for MICE tourism in the district. The strategic presence of two World Heritage Sites, Bhaktapur Darbar Square and Changu Narayan Temple, have also enhanced the value of the district to lure more quality MICE visitors in Bhaktapur.

With the set up of various training centres such as Nepal Electricity Authority Training Centre at Kharipati; Sanitation and Drinking Water Training centre at Nagarkot; Agriculture Development Bank Training Centre at Thimi; TITI (Training Institute for Technical Instructors) CTEVT at Sano Thimi, and SAARC Research Centre for Tuberculosis at Thimi, there has been new avenues to attract more domestic and regional MICE visitors at Bhaktapur district. Besides expanding and upgrading the conference facilities in Nagarkot and Bhaktapur, more areas like Changu Narayan, Thakalmath, Lakuribhanjyang, Maligoan, Ranikot, Ghampedanda and Kailash Danda could be developed as MICE destination in Bhaktapur. Likewise, by developing some community centres with training and workshop facilities, some potential home-stay villages like Thakalmath, Nangkhel and Maligoan also could be developed as MICE spots catering the small number of visitors especially for meeting, training and workshop for NGOs and small corporate houses.

2.3.5 Education and Research Tourism

Bhaktapur district deserve high potential to attract more educational and research institutions and thereby linking them with the tourism package in the district. The fostering of education and research tourism will not only expand the potential market for the tourism products in Bhaktapur but also help to explore, invent and publicize new tourism assets in the district. The close proximity from capital city Kathmandu, mild climate, beautiful and spacious location and presence of world renowned heritage sites provide strong foundation for making Bhaktapur an Educational city. Bhaktapur city and Changu Narayan area has been attracting many School and College students for excursion and educational tour. Recently, Nagarkot has been another destination for the students

studying travel and tourism. The study show that about 2 per cent of the total visitors to Bhaktapur come for research purpose.

A well-developed and reasonable package on heritage tour, natural and adventurous activities and rural tourism package focusing the students and researcher can bring various direct and indirect tourism benefits to the people in Bhaktapur. Based on the already built education and research infrastructure like CTEVT, Janak Shikchha Samagri Kendra, Higher Secondary Education Board (HSEB), SOS Bal Gram, Khopwa Group of Colleges run by Bhaktapur Municipality (Table 2.17), Nepal Engineering College at Duwakot, Bhaktapur district could be a focus for other educational institutions comprising Engineering, Medical, Tourism, Culture and Art colleges.

| S.N. | Name of the Campus/College | Affiliation | Faculties |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | Khwopa Engineering College | Purbanchal University | M.E. in Earthquake Engineering, MSc. in Urban Design & Conservatration, B.E. Civil, B.E, Computer, B.E. Electronics & Communication & B Architecture. |
| 2 | Khwopa College of Engineering | Tribhuvan University | B.E. in Civil and B.E. in Electrical. |
| 3 | Khwopa Poly-Technic Institute | | Certificate in Nursing and Diploma in Civil Engineering |
| 4 | Khwopa College | Tribhuvan University | MSc. in Environmental Science, MBS (Master in Business Studies), MA (Master in Arts) in English & Economics, and other Bachelor courses in environmental science, Business Studies, Arts, Physics/Chemistry/Math. |

Intricately carved historical, cultural, archaeological sites and monument preserved in 2 World Heritage Sites, artistically build various religious Temples and Bihars, various historic forts, important public assets, various festivals, fairs and traditions, biodiversity spots, geological formations, farming system, unique livelihood pattern, craftsmanship, etc provides incomparable themes for research and study in the district (Table 2.18). Many researchers are doing their research on historical arts, monuments, and Newari culture focusing on Bhaktapur city, Thimi and Changu Narayan. The recently explored rock inscription site at Sudal, Halalgoan area has added additional avenue for research in stone art and history in the district.

| SN | Research areas | Places |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | Historical art, craft and architecture | Bhaktapur Darbar Square, Changu Narayan, Thimi |
| 2 | Newari culture, lifestyle, rituals, fair and festivals | Bhaktapur city, Thimi, Nagadesh, Tathali, Chittapol, Nangkhel, Chitrapur |
| 3 | Tamang culture, lifestyle | Maligaon, Kakrabari, Nagarkot, Changu |
| 4 | Forest ecosystem, Biodiversity | Suryabinayak, Chhaling, Bageshwori, Muhan Pokhari, Sudalbhanjyang, Sipadole |
| 5 | Agro-ecosystem, Agro-biodiversity | Manohara field, Sudal, Bageshwori, Nangkhel |
| 6 | Rural lifestyle | Saraswotikhel, Changu, Bageshwori, Thakalmath, Chittapol, Banmali community, Nangkhel, Kakrabari |
| 7 | Rock inscription and art | Sudal, Halalgoan, Nalachhap |
| 8 | Pottery and ceramic | Bhaktapur pottery square, Thimi nagadesh, Chapacho and Balkumari |

Following areas could be promoted as potential areas for education and research tourism activities in Bhaktapur:

- Bhaktapur and Changu Narayan areas can be developed as centre of excellence for Research in history, art, and architecture.
- Thimi area could be developed as open cultural museum for Typical Newari culture studies.
- Suryabinayak area could be developed and promoted as natural/open Zoo and botanical garden.
- Suryabinayak, Chhaling and Nagarkot/Bageshwori forest could be developed as Bio-diversity research centres.
- Manohara, Bageshwori, Sudal, and Nangkhel could be developed as Agriculture/Agro-biodiversity research centres.
- Pancha MahaLaxmi, Chhayabasti, Chhaling could be best developed as Centre of excellence for Sanscrit Education.
- Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital could be developed as Regional Cancer Research Centre

2.3.6 Pleasure, Recreation and Entertainment

The close proximity with capital city Kathmandu, tranquil environment, best mountain scenery and scenic and spacious landscape has enhanced the potential of pleasure and recreation based tourism activities in Bhaktapur. Nagarkot has long been promoting as a prime leisure destination for many international as well as domestic visitors. By considering the national figure, about 40-45% visitors come to Nepal for holiday and pleasure and this is truly applied for the case of Bhaktapur as well as the visitors here in Bhaktapur come for very short duration, mostly one to two days, particularly meant for day tour and pleasure at Bhaktapur city and recreation visit to Nagarkot. The number could be higher as the Kathmandu based Expatriate community and domestic visitors also come to Bhaktapur for pleasure and recreation.

Many areas in northern, eastern, and southern landscape including Nagarkot provide strategic location for the panoramic view of Himalayan range in the north, kaleidoscopic view of Kathmandu and best sunset and sunrise view. Nagarkot has become by far the most favoured hill station in the Kathmandu valley offering pleasure and recreation environment at stimulating climate with great mountain views. A hiking through the typical rural village like Saraswotikhel, Jhaukhel and through lush green forest like Suryabinayak offer various pleasure movement for the visitors in Bhaktapur. The historical monument sites in Bhaktapur and Changu Narayan area provide best platform for leisure and holidaymakers in Bhaktapur. With the provision of some eateries, nightlife activities and better interpretation of art, culture, and heritage, visitors can enjoy very much in these areas.

Furthermore, various recreational activities like picnic, and sports activities could be promoted both for international as well as domestic visitors at various forest and public park areas as indicated in table 2.19 below.

| Table 2.19: Summary of areas potential for pleasure and recreational activities in Bhaktapur | | |
|---|---|--|
| S.N | Pleasure and recreational activities | Places |
| 1 | Sightseeing with Heritage walk | Bhaktapur City (World Heritage site and surroundings), Thimi, Changu Narayan |
| 2 | Sightseeing with hiking | Saraswotikhel, Jhaukhel, Changu, Nagarkot, Thakalmath, Suryabinayak, Ashapuri Mahadevsthan |
| 3 | Sightseeing with pilgrimage visit | Chittapol Mahadev, Latarameshwor Mahadev, Trishuldanda, Anantalingshwor, Suryabinayak, Mahamanjushree, Ashapuri Mahadevsthan |
| 4 | Best mountain view | Nagarkot, Sudalbhanjyang, Latarameshwor, Kakrabari, Ranikot, Ghampedanda, Kailashdanda |
| 5 | Best sunrise view | Nagarkot, Ranikot |
| 6 | Best sunset view | Nagarkot, Sudalbhanjyang, Trishuldanda, Changu Narayan |
| 7 | Cultural tour and cultural performances | Madyapur Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nagarkot village, Nangkhel |
| 8 | Picnic and entertainment | Changu Narayan forest, Suryabinayak forest, Ganeshman Uddhyan, Dakchhin Barahi children park (Dadhikot), Balkumari forest, Nilbarahi forest, Latarameshwor, Girija Prasad memorial park (Duwakot), Ashapuri Mahadevsthan |
| 9 | Boating, fishing, roaming | Siddha Pokhari, Na Pukhu, Kamalbinayak pokhari, Manohara river |
| 10 | Sports activities | Sallaghari public land |
| 11 | Changa Chet and winter snow | Nagarkot |
| 12 | Film/video shooting | Nagarkot, Ranikot, Sanga |
| 13 | Summer clouds/fug view | Nagarkot, Ranikot, Chittapol Mahadev |
| 14 | Swimming and physical fitness | Club Bagmati |
| 15 | Sports tourism activities (Cricket etc.) | Any suitable place within Bhaktapur core Bhaktapur Valley |

2.3.7 Health, Spa, and Meditation Tourism

The interest for meditation, spa, and natural healing is widespreading even in urban areas as better options for specialized treatment of some diseases like cancer, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis. The favourable climate, tranquil environment and relatively lower cost in comparison to capital city Kathmandu could provide strong base for meditation, health and spa related tourism development opportunities in Bhaktapur district (table 2.20).

| Table-2.20.: Summary of activities and places potential for Health, Spa and Meditation in Bhaktapur | | |
|--|--|--|
| Major Thematic Areas | Pleasure and recreational activities | Places |
| Physical Health | Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital | Sallaghari, |
| | SAARC regional Tuberculosis centre | Thimi |
| | Club Bagmati | Swimming and physical fitness |
| Spa and Therapy | Health and Spa Resort (16 room and 32 bed) | Sanga/Chittapol Mahadev. |
| Meditation and spiritual healing | Sadhana Bhavan and Meditation centre (Shyama Shyam Dham) | Madhyapur Thimi, |
| | Meditation centre | Jalpa Devi Mandir at Telkot |
| | Yoga and meditation | Brahma Kumari Yog Center, Bhaktapur |
| | Meditation and spiritual centre (TAPOBHUMI) | Anantalingseshwor, Pancha MahaLaxmi Chhayabasti, Trishul Danda, Suryabinayak |

2.4 Market Structure (Promotion and Marketing)

Market structure of Bhaktapur

National figure shows that tourist arrivals in early 1960s were mostly for holidays (87%), followed by official (7.2%) and business purposes (2.6%). Trekking and mountaineering accounted for a tiny 0.1% share (**Annex 8 to 15**). Tables 2.21 show that in 2009, 8% of visitors came for holiday followed by trekking and mountaineering (26.1%), business (4.5%), pilgrimage (10.1%) and official (4.8%). However, there are no separate figures for Bhaktapur except those coming to visit Bhaktapur Durbar Square. The national trend which illustrates the substantial growth of trekking and mountaineering tourism is largely restricted to October-May period and almost entirely reliant on long haul markets (Canada, UK, Denmark, and Australia).

Table 2.21: Reason for visiting Nepal in 2009 (top countries)

| Countries | Holiday or pleasure | Trekking or mountaineering | Business | Pilgrimage |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------|------------|
| India | 23552 | 1985 | 8869 | 6210 |
| Japan | 10977 | 4091 | 1128 | 670 |
| UK | 11879 | 7071 | 1034 | 1187 |
| USA | 11083 | 4035 | 1356 | 1160 |
| France | 7503 | 7348 | 317 | 771 |
| Germany | 4873 | 6352 | 577 | 651 |
| Sri Lanka | 5107 | 18894 | 567 | 9300 |

Bhaktapur Durbar Square is visited by almost one third of the total visitors coming to Nepal comprising majority of the visitors from SAARC Countries alone (**Annex 34**). Among the SAARC countries, Indian visitors alone constitute larger share comprising about 25 per cent of the total arrivals. The existing market trend follows that majority of the visitors simply visit the Bhaktapur city only. Remainings are followed to visit Nagarkot, Changu Narayan and other natural and cultural sites. Very few tourists visit other culturally and historically important city Madhyapur Thimi. For many years, major tourism products associated with key tourism activities in Bhaktapur district includes visit at Bhaktapur Durbar Square, observing different traditional festivals and events, enjoying sunrise ,sun set view and mountain view from Nagarkot, day hiking to Changu Narayan, Suryabinayak and other areas and some soft adventurous activities like mountain biking.

Other forms of tourism such as educational, and special interest activities are also popular in Bhaktapur district. Bhaktapur district in like manner to the country has experienced fluctuations in Visitor arrivals time and again (Table 2.22).

As illustrated in the national tourism statistics, and following the trends of tourism statistics maintained by Bhaktapur Municipality, tourist arrivals in this district particularly in visiting Bhaktapur Durbar Square is closely following the national pattern indicating that the largest motivator coming to Bhaktapur district is for holiday or pleasure purposes (Table 2.21). There are also important numbers for official travel, education and training, business, and pilgrimage. However, there is no separate mechanism for keeping such

records for the overall district arrivals. Bhaktapur Municipality is the only institution in the district which keeps records of all visitors coming to visit Bhaktapur or particularly the Durbar Square only.

| Table: 2.22 Tourists Arrivals in Bhaktapur Durbar Square | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| F/Year | Non SAARC Tourists | SAARC Tourist | Total Tourist Arrivals |
| 054/55 | 121350 | 31880 | 153230 |
| 055/56 | 140077 | 57728 | 197805 |
| 056/57 | 148117 | 49764 | 197881 |
| 057/58 | 141312 | 38741 | 180053 |
| 058/59 | 69700 | 22100 | 91800 |
| 059/60 | 54561 | 30592 | 85153 |
| 060/61 | 84914 | 34125 | 119039 |
| 061/62 | 68467 | 19138 | 87605 |
| 062/63 | 69411 | 22919 | 92330 |
| 063/64 | 89237 | 32194 | 121431 |
| 064/65 | 110965 | 36380 | 147345 |
| 065/66 | 104315 | 38923 | 143243 |

Source: Bhaktapur Municipality (2010)

Domestic visitors, Kathmandu based Expatriate communities, SAARC regional and international visitors are the major tourism segment of tourism visiting to Bhaktapur district. Bhaktapur Municipality's record of visitors for fiscal year 2065/66 shows that annually 143,243 international visitors, with 38,923 SAARC and 104,315 Non SAARC visitors are entering to the Bhaktapur city primarily to visit Bhaktapur Darbar Square areas. Of the total visitors, about 27% are from SAARC Countries constituting about 25% Indian visitors (Bhaktapur Municipality, 2010).

Leisure and holiday makers, Business and MICE participants, research, education and excursionists and religious and pilgrimage are the major tourist segment by purpose of visit in Bhaktapur.

A survey conducted by BTDC has shown that the primary motives of the visitors coming to Bhaktapur is to visit World Heritage Site (32%) followed by experience of local culture and tradition (30%), enjoying people and lifestyle (29%), conducting research (2%) and rest 7% for other motives. The same survey reflected that the major places liked by visitors to visit in Bhaktapur is Taumadi square (24.30%) followed by pottery square liked by 19.60%, Dattatraya liked by 17.10%, Hanumanghat by 5.60% and Museum by 4.80%. The survey has also shown that about 35% visitors are interested to visit further in Nagarkot, 17.30% in Changu Narayan, 6.4% in Suryabinayak, 5.90% in Thimi areas, and rest 35.4% in other areas including Dhulikhel, Panauti, Nala and Sankhu.

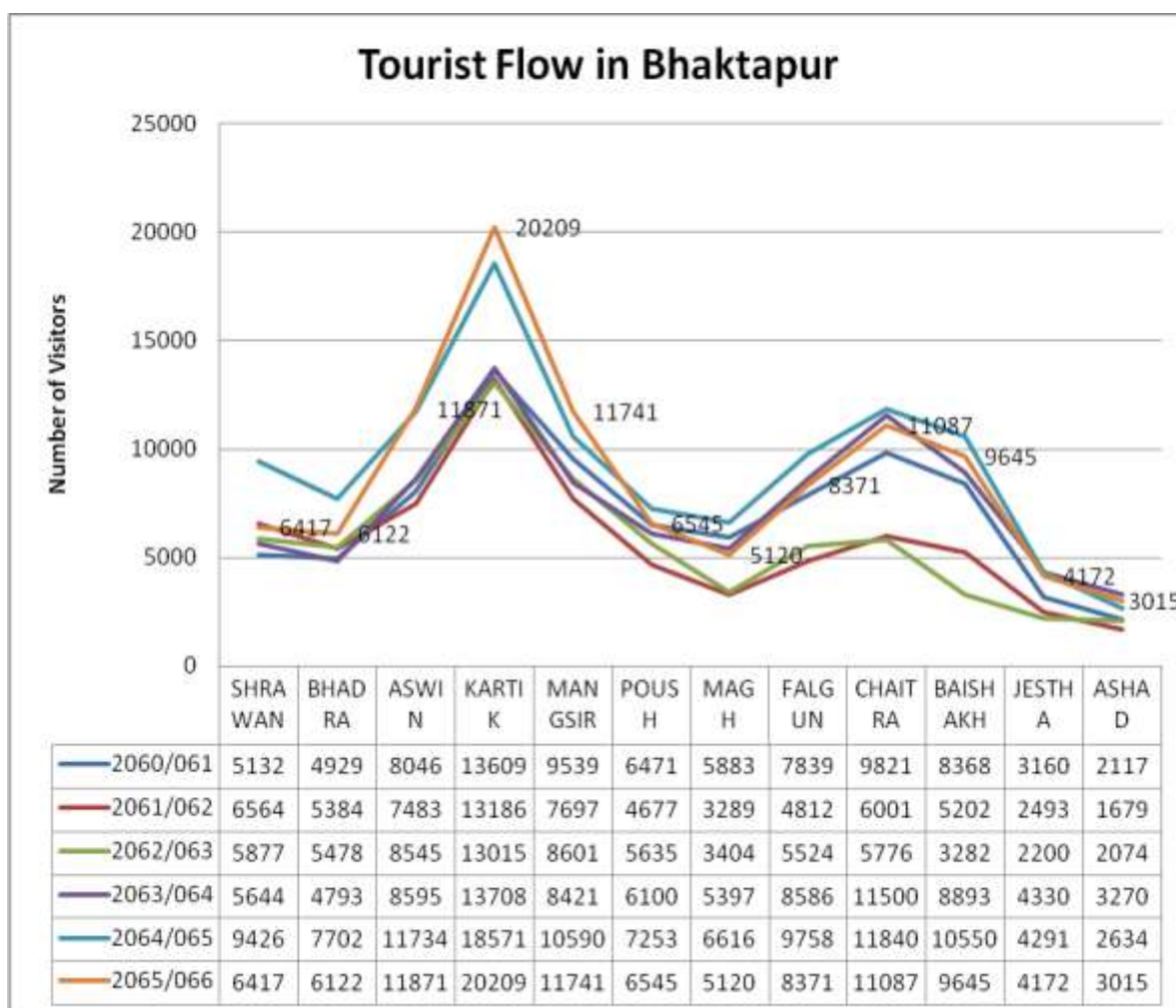
It can also be concluded from the survey that larger segments of visitors come to Bhaktapur city are meant for day tour and recreation.

The survey has also revealed that the repeat visitors for Bhaktapur is very low as 84.2% sampled visitors were making their first visit to Bhaktapur city followed by 7.7% visitors visiting second time. Likewise, 4.3% visitors visiting third time and 3.8% visitors visiting more than 3 times. It can be summarized that the repeat visitors for Bhaktapur accounted for only 15.8% of the sampled visitors.

By analyzing the mode of transportation used by the visitors, it can also be concluded from the survey that about 64% visitors are Free Individual Tourists (FITs) as 45% visitors

reached Bhaktapur by taxi followed by 36% visitors who reached by organized transport (probably the Organized Group Tourists-OGT) and rest 19% visitors who used public transport.

The visitors flow in 2065/66 shows that the market segment for Bhaktapur also follows the national trend for Seasonality as the highest number of non SAARC international visitors was recorded in Kartik (20209 visitors) followed by decreasing numbers in Aswin (11871), Mangsir (11741), Chaitra (11087) and Baishakh (9645). The minimum flow was recorded in Ashad (3015) and Jestha (4172). But the flow of SAARC visitors was recorded highest in Jestha (5404), Aswin (5195), Kartik 4556) and Poush (3925) with lowest numbers in Bhadra (1593), Shrawan (1834) and Falgun (1970). The contrasting flow was observed in the month of Jestha.



Cultural and natural tourism, especially visiting core Bhaktapur city, Changu Narayan, Nagarkot and Suryabinayak has been the prime tourism product of Bhaktapur attracting both domestic as well as international visitors. Major cultural tourism activities in Bhaktapur include heritage tour at Bhaktapur Darbar Square, Changu Narayan and Thimi areas exploring various historical and cultural monuments and enjoying various cultural and traditional festivals, fairs, rituals and events. Major nature based and adventurous tourism activities include, recreational visit to Nagarkot enjoying sunrise/sunset view,

panoramic mountain views, day hiking and jungle walking. Very few tourists are also enjoying mountain biking.

A brief summary of existing market segment, tourist activities and places is presented in table 2.23 below.

| Market Segments | Market Segment by Purpose | Major Areas | Major Tourist Activities |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Non SAARC International (UK, French, Germany, North America, Australia/New Zealand, Other European countries, Thailand etc. and Kathmandu based International Expatriates) | Leisure and Holiday makers | BDS, Changu Narayan, Nagarkot, Suryabinayak, | Heritage tour, sightseeing, day hiking, biking, trekking, sunrise/sun set view, mountain view |
| | Business and MICE activities | Chundevi, Nalinchowk, Nagarkot | Workshop, conference, meetings |
| | Research, Education and Excursions | BDS, Thimi | Culture research, education and excursion visits |
| | Religious and pilgrimage | Dattatraya, Mahamanjushree | Pilgrimage walk, observing festivals, fairs and rituals |
| SAARC/Regional (India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan etc. and Kathmandu based regional Expatriates) | Leisure and Holiday makers | BDS, Changu Narayan, Nagarkot, Suryabinayak | Heritage tour, day hiking |
| | Business and MICE activities | Nagarkot, BDS | Workshop, conference, meetings, business visits |
| | Research, Education and Excursions | BDS | Education and excursion visits |
| | Religious and pilgrimage | Dattatraya, Mahamanjushree, Changu Narayan | Pilgrimage visit, meditation, yoga |
| Domestic (Kathmandu based youth/couples, soft adventurous seekers, service holders, adult pilgrims, College and School students) | Leisure and Holiday makers | Nilbarahi, BDS, Suryabinayak, Changu Narayan, Nagarkot | Heritage tour, hiking, picnic |
| | Business and MICE activities | Chundevi, Nagarkot | Training, workshop, conference, meetings |
| | Research, Education and Excursions | BDS, Suryabinayak, Changu Narayan, Thimi | Culture research, education and excursion visits |
| | Religious and pilgrimage | Dattatraya, Mahamanjushree, Boudha Bihars | Kulpuja, Pilgrimage visit, meditation, yoga |

Existing Marketing Efforts / Approaches

The current marketing approach in Bhaktapur is very weak and lack a strategic marketing approach with no marketing collaterals and heavily depending on Kathmandu based tour operators/agencies. The survey conducted by BTDC has revealed that the largest segments of visitors (34.7% of the sampled visitors) have been informed about Bhaktapur by travel guides followed by Bhaktapur Guide book (15.30%), Travel agents (14.20%), Internet (10.40%), through friends (10.40%), travel news/advertisement (1.10%) and other means (5.60%). The already visited (Repeat) tourist number was only 8.20% of the sampled number. The statistics indicated above reflects very poor state of promotional and marketing efforts made by tour operators/hotel lodge owners in Bhaktapur and Kathmandu as well.

Bhaktapur requires various niche marketing approaches for promoting diverse tourism products and activities in Kathmandu and directly to the international tour operators and regional tour agents. The lower number of repeat visitors also indicated the inadequacy of tourist activities and entertainment facilities and probably followed by poor services and facilities.

Marketing Potentials

Bhaktapur has the best combination of natural, cultural, historical and archaeological enigma. The diverse cultures and landscapes, and biodiversities have attracted the tourist in terms of both their diversity and distinctiveness. The district comprises the best preserved two World Heritage Sites (WHSs) Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Changu Narayan Temple. The district holds rich and colorful festivals and traditional dances such as Bisket Jatra, Gatha Muga Chare, Saparu (Gai Jatra), Indra Jatra, Yomari Punhi, Ghaya Chaku Salun etc. Wood carvings, Paubha/Thankas painting, Terracotta, Traditional Masks, handloom, Jujudhau (King curd)/Yogurt, Metal crafts, Peacock window and Bhadgaule Topi (Cap) are some of the unique local products and iconic portrayals of Bhaktapur district.

Bhaktapur Durbar Square a resemblance of an open museum and is the repertoire of different historical temples, monasteries palace, and images of gods and goddess are world famous attractions. The traditional lifestyles, year round festivals in Bhaktapur and Thimi areas also lure more tourists during the festive season. Apart from these visible natural attractions, festivals, temples and monasteries, there are other diversified products which could equally attract visitors in Bhaktapur. Major tourist sites and products are presented in **Annex 4 to 6 (See Annex 37 for Maps)**.

Soft trekking and sports together with bird watching is among special interest ecotourism that is popular in Bhaktapur. It is not only that Bhaktapur's potential for attracting tourists has dependent on a wider range of interacting factors such as access to the scenery as well as the political stability, the tourism in this district has become more susceptible to the actions of outside policy makers, whether they are airline companies, tour organizers, or neighboring districts.

Chapter Three

3. Tourism Development Initiatives Undertaken

3.1 Product development initiatives

Bhaktapur district has been experiencing tourism activities for a long time. The three main tourism destinations namely- Bhaktapur city, Nagarkot and Changunarayan have remained in the national and international tourism maps for almost 3 decades. All these places are famous for the domestic as well as international tourists. There are many tourists coming to these places from SAARC countries as well. The tourist records show that the number of tourist arrivals in Bhaktapur has been gradually increasing over the last few years, though some fluctuations is experiencing due to political conflicts in the country. Many entrepreneurs, particularly in Bhaktapur city and Nagarkot area, are encouraged to expand their businesses anticipating more tourists in the days to come.

Despite several positive factors in Bhaktapur district's tourism development, a number of critical issues have also been observed. Such issues were further expressed by the participants of local level workshops and interactions held in the months of April and May 2010.

Key issues associated with tourism development and management in Bhaktapur could be highlighted as follows:

- I. Diversification of tourism products accommodating other 'attractions' and resources existing in the district
- II. Expanding tourism boundaries beyond Bhaktapur city, Nagarkot and Changunarayan areas
- III. Conservation and effective management of historical, archaeological and cultural values/ heritages/monuments
- IV. Increasing the stay of the tourists coming to Bhaktapur
- V. Sharing of tourism benefits and local employment creation
- VI. Capacity (HRD) development of local in tourism sector
- VII. Participation of rural stakeholders
- VIII. Women's involvement in tourism development and management activities
- IX. Consumption of local products and sustainable production system
- X. Consideration of environmental and natural elements in the local tourism development
- XI. Institutional arrangements and developments
- XII. Environmental pollution (smoke and visual pollution from brick factories)

3.1.1 Initiatives of the DDC

The DDC Bhaktapur has so far played very little direct role in the areas of tourism development as it has been mainly led by the municipalities and the entrepreneurs of the concerned areas. DDC's contributions have not been significant though it has provided some 'tokens' of supports for local-level festivals and events organisation mainly in Thimi/Bode, Bhaktapur city (Bhaktapur Night, Bisket) area and Nagarkot.

In recent years, however, the efforts have been geared towards supporting the tourism endeavours and aspirations of the locals through the supports in: roads construction,

provisioning drinking water facilities, conservation and renovations of physical structures, and so on. The formulation of 'District Tourism Development and Management Plan' has been an instrumental and strategic initiative in order to develop tourism in Bhaktapur.

It has also expanded its working relations with the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation and Nepal Tourism Board. Furthermore, in the recent times the DDC has appreciatively been showing a pro-active role in bringing all the stakeholders in a common forum so as to craft concerted efforts in developing a common agenda understanding regarding the 'Bhaktapur Tourism'. A focal person (Planning Officer) has been looking after the tourism issues and programmes in the district. It has started playing a catalyst/ facilitator's role in the forefront of tourism in Bhaktapur.

| Table: 3.1. Major initiatives taken by DDC for tourism and cultural promotion in Bhaktapur | |
|--|---|
| Year | Major initiatives/ works accomplished |
| 2048-2051 (DDC's establishment to Pre-conflict period) | DDC allocated total amount of Rs 2,00,000. every year from 2048 to 2051 on tourism which includes conservation of historical monuments, support for cultural groups , organising Bhaktapur Night etc |
| 2052-2062 (Conflict period) | Rs. 3,00,000. every year. This includes support for organizations like BTDC in organizing cultural program and other tourism promotional activities, and repairment and maintenance of rural cultural and religious monuments. |
| 2063-2067 (Post-conflict period) | Annually Rs. 5,00,000. This budget also includes the Formulation of BTDM Plan. |

3.1.2 Initiative of the Municipalities and VDCs

Initiatives of Bhaktapur Municipality:

The Bhaktapur Municipality (BM) has played crucial role in the development and management of local tourism concentrating within the boundaries of the BM. Since 1993, with the implementation of tourist entry fee Bhaktapur Municipality is managing local tourism activities including- conservation of historical, archaeological assets; encouraging local-level participation in the protection of traditional architectures, ponds, temples and other intangible cultural values of local (Newar) society etc.

Furthermore, it has been directly involved in managing the records of SAARC as well as overseas tourists coming to Bhaktapur city. The BM has been collecting entrance fees from the tourists with different rates applied for SAARC and other international tourists (Table 3.2 below).

| Table. 3.2 Entrance fees to tourists levied by Bhaktapur municipality | | | |
|---|--------------|---|---|
| SN | Tourist type | Entrance Fees (per entrance/ per tourist) | Remarks |
| 1. | Domestic | Free | These fees have been time to time reviewed/ revised almost in every 4 to 5 years. For instance, in the beginning, in 1993 (2050), the rates were Rs. 30 for SAARC tourists and Rs. 50 for the non-SAARC tourists. |
| 2. | SAARC | Rs. 50. | |
| 3. | Others | Rs. 750. | |

Total tourism revenue collected (for the last 5 years) by Bhaktapur municipality can be found at Table 3.3 below. The revenue is then managed by the BM itself for the overall conservation of local heritages, tourism/culture promotion and education (at present BM is running 5 higher secondary schools and colleges including: Khwopa Engineering College, Khwopa College, Khwopa HS School, Khwopa Polytechnique Academy, Khwopa College of Engineering).

| Table 3.3: Total income, tourism revenue collected by Bhaktapur Municipality and utilisation (over the last 5 years) | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|----------------|
| Year (Nepali FY) | Total Income of the Municipality (External & Internal) | Annual amount of the revenue generated from Bhaktapur tourism (Rs.) | Amount spent in Waste Mgt. (Rs.) | Remarks |
| 2004/05 (2061/62) | 15,12,41,615. | 5,13,94,752. | 1,64,0,7762. | |
| 2005/06 (2062/63) | NA | 5,18,28,682. | 1,79,91'482. | |
| 2006/07 (2063/64) | 12,26,61,063. | 6,61,40,260. | 2,08,76,055. | |
| 2007/08 (2064/65) | 14,07,84,840. | 7,92,09,238. | 2,43,34,839. | |
| 2008/09 (2065/66) | 19,25,75,803. | 8,03,02,531. | 3,04,12,824. | |
| 2009/10 (2066/67) | 39,40,00,000. | 9,00,00,000. (projected) | 5,53,50,000. (estimated) | |

Source: Bhaktapur Municipality (2010)

Major heritage sites renovated/ repaired by Bhaktapur Municipality:

Bhaktapur Municipality has been spending a major chunk of the revenue for the renovation and repairment of the major religious, cultural, and natural heritages and traditional wells (*inar*) in the Bhaktapur city area for the last few years.

Major heritage sites and monuments under renovation and repairment are listed below (source: Bhaktapur municipality, 2010):

- 1) Jhaurabahi Dipankar Bihar
- 2) Navadurga Dyochhen
- 3) Pachapanna Jhyale Durbar
- 4) Ikhachhi math
- 5) Suwalghar
- 6) Balakhu Ganesh temple
- 7) Tripurasundari Dyochhen
- 8) Siddhapokhari peti reconstruction
- 9) Dokacha patee
- 10) Nagacha patee
- 11) Sridhar Narayan (Ward 13)
- 12) Lamo patee, Inacho
- 13) Kamalvinayak patee
- 14) Kamalvinayak temple
- 15) Chasukhel patee
- 16) Choga Ganesh temple

- 17) Mulakhu ganesh Bhajan patee
- 18) Twacha patee
- 19) Mupujwa patee
- 20) Khanchaa pokhari conservation
- 21) Taleju Bhawani Aagamachhen renovation
- 22) Tekhapokhari wall construction
- 23) Yata patee reconstruction
- 24) Narayan temple (Ward 17)
- 25) Traditional well (*inar*) conservation

Initiatives of Madhyapur-Thimi Municipality:

In case of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, however, there have been fewer efforts in tourism development as compared to BM. The municipality has just started taking some initiatives to introduce tourism development in the municipality areas. Its efforts have been concentrated mainly on the renovation of temples/ gumba/ bihar/ patee/ chautaree (traditional rest places) and hity (stone-taps). It is nice to note that Madhyapur is trying to adopt the good practices of BM in the tourism sector.

Nonetheless, despite being very near from Kathmandu and Bhaktapur as well as having high potential, MTM has so far not been able to harness 'tourism economy' in the municipal area. There are many traditional settlements with rich cultural heritage in MTM, however, they are not yet utilised in tourism development purposes. Local level interactions also revealed that the efforts of MTM were lagging behind to bring the MTM tourism in the markets. Some stakeholders even blame that the BN put the MTM in 'shade' with respect to tourism development for a long time.

After the start of the facilitation from BTDC and DDC in the later years, the MTM efforts are more concerted and proactive in order to develop tourism in Madhyapur-Thimi municipal areas.

Initiatives of VDCs:

The VDCs efforts have not been commendable in Bhaktapur in terms of tourism development in the local villages. Tourism could not hold a place in their annual VDC development plan for a long time. Despite the fact, the Changunarayan and Nagarkot VDCs have made some efforts in managing and developing local tourism. Some tourism-related activities have been initiated in these 2 VDCs for almost 15-20 years. The Changunarayan VDC has been levying the tourists (Rs. 100 for foreign visitors). Tourist charges are managed through a local contractor on annual basis. These fees are applicable mainly to enter the Changunarayan temple. According to the VDC Secretary, these fees have been utilised in the conservation and development of local area. Similarly, Nagarkot VDC is making some efforts to bring all the entrepreneurs of Nagarkot in one place through the 'Nagarkot-Naldum Tourism Development Committee'. The VDC efforts have primarily been in the sectors of local road construction, greening, environmental conservation/ waste management, drinking water management, community development and developing a common 'code of conduct' for sustainable tourism. However, the stakeholders are not satisfied with the roles presently played by these VDCs. Such roles must be enhanced to boost local tourism developments.

3.1.3 Initiative of I/NGOs and CBOs

A number of NGOs and INGOs working in Bhaktapur district are involved directly or indirectly supporting the tourism initiatives. The list provided in table 3.4 below describe a brief detail of the availability of INGOs/ Bilateral Projects, NGOs and CBOs in Bhaktapur district and their efforts towards local conservation and tourism-related developments:

| Table 3.4: INGOs/ Bilateral Projects, NGOs and CBOs in Bhaktapur district working for conservation and tourism-related developments | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|--|--|
| SN | Organisation | Type | Location and area coverage in the district | Major focus of work related to tourism development |
| 1. | German Development Project (GTZ) | INGO/ Project | Bhaktapur Municipality Madhyapur Thimi Municipality | Cultural heritage sites preservation, community development etc. (<i>This Project completely renovated 182 matha (Priest House), Pati & Sattals (public shelters and inns) 17 hities (sunken tap) and ponds, 2 museums, 6 private buildings of archeological values and other dilapidated monuments destroyed by century's of time and 1934 earthquake. The project paved 140586 m² of streets, installed 4520 private and 38 public toilets, two sewerage plants and carried out various activities to uplift the socio-economic and health related status of the people.</i>) <i>The Project outcomes in Thimi will be provided later.</i> |
| 2. | German Development Programme (DED) | INGO | Bhaktapur Municipality | This organization has been working in Bhaktapur since 2004. It has been focusing on the capacity building of the organizations who are playing pivotal roles in the socio-economic development of local communities. The projects supported by this organization are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACSI-Bhaktapur Association of Cottage and Small Industries • BTDC |
| 3. | UNESCO | INGO | Bhaktapur City and Changu Narayan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO declared WHS in 1979, and • Bhaktapur Municipality was awarded by the UNESCO PEACE PRIZE in 1998/1999 for its endeavors towards conservation and preservation of cultural heritage of the city. |
| 4. | Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee (BTDC) | NGO | Whole district | Tourism awareness, information centre, networking, initiative in Plan formulation etc. (it has played a significant role in Bhaktapur to bring all stakeholders in one place) |
| 5. | Bhaktapur Udyog | NGO | Mainly in the town areas | Active role in local festival organisation, promotion, and other joint efforts |

| | | | | |
|-----|---|---------|---|---|
| | Banijya Sangh (CCI Bhaktapur) | | | |
| 6. | NETIF | Project | Along the Sankhu-Banepa trail (via Nagarkot) | Trail improvement, environment and sanitation, orientation/awareness, information & interpretation, training etc. |
| 7. | Nagarkot-Naldum Tourism Development Committee (NNTDC) | NGO | Nagarkot area | Information Centre management, guides' networking, awareness creation, information and interpretation, waste management, developing local codes of conduct, what else?? |
| 8. | CEST-Nepal (Centre for Environment and Sustainable Tourism) | NGO | Changunarayan area | Awareness creation, waste management, local capacity strengthening trainings |
| 9. | Local Temple/ Bihar Conservation and Management Committees | CBOs | Jalpadevi, Mahamanjushree, Bagehity, Balmikeshwor, Charkhandeshwor, Subaneshwor, Ananta-Lingeshwor, Bindhyabasisni, Suryabinayak, Doleshwor, Aashapureshwor, Latarammeshwor Mahadev, Jyotirlingeshwor, Panchakanya Mahalaxmi, Patee Baudha Bihar- Thimi, Siddhikali, Balkumari, | Conservation of the temple/ Bihar and premises, regular pooja/ Bhajan, renovation, etc. (publicity for tourism purpose is lacking) |
| 10. | Community Forestry User Groups/Committees | CBOs | All VDCs | Conservation of natural resources, plan for developing picnic spots, etc. |
| 11. | Children of Universe | NGO | Nagarkot and Maligaon | Initiated to develop Home-stay tourism package in Maligoan |

In addition, Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoTCA), Department of Archaeology (DoA), Department of Building Construction are continuously helping Bhaktapur to conserve, develop and promote Bhaktapur Tourism in one way or another. For example, NTB has been supporting for organising the Bhaktapur Night for a long time in partnership with BTDC and Bhaktapur Municipality.

The MOTCA supported to build the view tower and has been supporting in temple and Bihar conservation/ renovation, eco-trail development (Kusum forest, Nagarkot) etc. Similarly, Nepal Academy of Tourism & Hospitality (NATHM) has taken some initiations with some training activities for the past two years.

Likewise, Tara-Gaun Development Board (TGDB) has long been involved in Bhaktapur district. Its effort to run a resort in Nagarkot some 25 years back was a praiseworthy work since that work facilitated and inspired other private entrepreneurs to operate more hotels in Nagarkot area. Further, TGDB has started promoting Home-stay tourism in Nangkhel VDC through research (which completed in 2009) and training. The DoA and the Urban Development Project are actively involved in heritage preservation in Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Thimi, Changunarayan, Bageshwori etc.

3.2 Tourism Management Issues

3.2.1 Institutions

Absence of Tourism Development Section at the DDC and Tourism Development (Sub) Committees in the Municipalities and VDCs is hindering the overall tourism development in the district. The absence of tourism management committee is immensely lacking in Changunarayan, where tourism activities are already started. This was the major concern of local stakeholders as well as of the priest (Mr. Rajopadhyay) at Changunarayan. Currently, except Nagarkot VDC, no VDC has formed any committee to develop and promote tourism. The Nagarkot-Naldum Tourism Development Committee's lessons could be learned while forming new committees in other VDCs.

Experiences from other districts, where Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme (TRPAP) was working, show that the DDCs and VDCs with Tourism Section and Tourism Committees are more active and able to produce better focused outputs on tourism through the provision of regular facilitation, social mobilisation, resource sharing, networking, coordination and so on. Similarly, the representative from the VDCs and Municipalities could form a District Tourism Coordination Committee (DTCC) to better coordinate the tourism development activities in the district (TRPAP, 2007). The VDC's Tourism Development Committee (TDC) could enhance the links with the DDC and DTCC thereby triggering the tourism development initiatives.

Similarly, institutionalisation of local hotels, restaurants, tourist guides, and other suppliers (vegetables, milk, etc.) is also vital. So far, the hotel entrepreneurs in Nagarkot are institutionalised through the Nagarkot-Naldum TDC, however, such institutionalisation is lacking for other areas/sectors.

3.2.2 Human Resources Development

Comprehensive data on the available human resources is lacking in Bhaktapur. Likewise, projection of such human resources has also not been made due to the unavailability of data of tourist arrival for each destination of the district. At present, only the Bhaktapur Municipality is maintaining the records of foreign tourists. But Nagarkot and Changunarayan are not maintaining such data. It obviously jeopardises the tourism projection and planning activities. Therefore, in the case of Bhaktapur district, we have to

make rough estimations based on our knowledge and experience to tackle the tourist growths till the next five years or more.

The team has felt that Bhaktapur should give highest priority to develop its own human resources required for the tourism development and management so as to create new employment opportunities for the rural populace, improve the tourism businesses, retain the incomes within the district as well as sustainably manage the businesses with less or no conflict with the locals. The priority should be given to develop human resources in the key themes as indicated below Table 3.5.

| Table 3.5: The priority given to develop human resources in the key themes | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SN | Types of Human Resources | Available HR at present | Requirement for (by) the next 5 years (a projection) | Remarks |
| 1. | Awareness on tourism development/TEAP (Tourism and Environment Awareness Programme) (mass scale awareness required) | Some people are aware in Nagarkot, Changunarayan and Bhaktapur municipality areas | At least 100 households in each VDC should be aware on TEAP/ Sustainable tourism development issues | A special package of TEAP is available with NTB through the TRPAP project. |
| 2. | Cook | Data lacking | At least 10 new trained cook in each potential site | For fulfilling the demands of Nagarkot, the surrounding VDCs could produce such trained cooks for creating local employment opportunities |
| 3. | House-keeping | 60 | 120 | Nearby villages from Bhaktapur city, Nagarkot and Changunarayan be given priority |
| 4. | Waiters/ Waitress | 150 | 300 | |
| 5. | Small Hotel/ Home-stay Management Training | 30 | 120 | |
| 6. | Local Guides (City-tour at Bhaktapur and Madhyapur-Thimi, Heritage tour at Changunarayan, Hiking and Rural Guides for other areas) | 30 (Bhaktapur city) | 90 | |
| 7. | Visitor Information Centre Management | 3 | 8 | BN-2, MTN-2, Changu-2, Nagarkot-2 |
| 8. | Cultural performance anchoring (choreography) | data not available | 15 | BN-2, MTN-2, Changu-2, Nagarkot-2, Villages- 7 |
| 9. | Tourist-friendly handicrafts production and quality improvements | data not available | 200 (Pottering, Ceramics, Mask production, etc.) | at least 10 persons from each of 16 VDCs and 20 persons from 2 municipalities |

The DDC should make working relations/ partnerships with the NATHM, CTEVT, Tara Gaun Development Board and other private tourism colleges/ institutions for assessing real needs, designing appropriate tailor-made training courses and curricula, and conducting the skills-focused trainings.

Chapter Four

4. Tourism Development Plan for District

4.1 Vision, Goal and Objectives

Vision

In view of the major strategies taken for development in the district, the following vision statement is proposed for tourism development in Bhaktapur district.

In the next 5 years, Bhaktapur district will be established as a prime tourism destination for natural, cultural, archaeological and historical experiences.

Goal

Likewise, the following goal and objectives are devised for the Tourism Development and Management Plan of Bhaktapur district:

The overall goal of the TD&MP is to sustainably manage and develop tourism in Bhaktapur District and to disseminate wider and increased benefits to local communities, with special focus on conservation and promotion of natural, cultural, archaeological and historical resources of the district including Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Madhyapur Thimi, Changu Narayan Temple and other natural and cultural sites.

Objectives

In line with the above goal the following objectives are delineated for tourism development with their intended results:

Objective 1.

To promote conditions for tourism while preserving the natural, cultural, archaeological and historical heritage

Intended results:

- Natural, cultural, historical and archaeological heritage promoted and *conserved*
- Access to international as well as domestic tourist markets *improved*
- New tourism products *identified and promoted*
- Tourism infrastructure (physical and social) and services that enhance touristic experience *developed*

Objective 2.

To improve the quality of life of local communities and contribute to inclusive economic growth

Intended results:

- **livelihood benefits**, such as physical, social or cultural improvements, with a focus on providing capacity-building and training, mitigating environmental impacts, addressing competing uses of natural resources *increased*,
- Local negative impacts on social and cultural aspects minimized and access to infrastructure and services *increased*
- Local employment and income opportunities *enhanced*
- Mechanisms that allow local employment and wages, improving local enterprise opportunities and creating collective income sources, such as fees and revenue shares for a wider sharing and distribution of tourism benefits *developed*.

Objective 3.

To strengthen local institutions and organizations to plan, implement, monitor, manage and coordinate tourism development activities

Intended results:

- Participation and involvement in partnerships is *enhanced* at the local level by creating a more supportive policy/planning framework
- Participation of the poor, women and disadvantaged groups in decision-making process *increased*
- Local community awareness of tourism and its impacts *increased* with increasing flows of information and communication among local stakeholders
- Capacity of local institutions to manage tourism in coordination with Nepal Tourism Board, District Development Committee, Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI and other private sectors *enhanced*
- Capacity of local communities in dealing with conservation, and protection of natural and cultural heritage *improved and strengthened*

The attainment of these objectives would require an integration of tourism development to the process of local economic, socio-cultural, and environmental development and hence to sustainable management practices.

4.2 Guiding Principles

In order to sustainably manage and develop tourism in Bhaktapur and its neighboring districts and to disseminate wider and increased benefits to local communities with special focus on conservation and promotion of natural, cultural, archaeological, historical and environmental resources, the overall tourism development process in the district will be guided by the following broader principles (**Chart 4.1**).

(a) Integrated tourism development and promotion.

Bhaktapur will continue with its Strategic Tourism Plan (STP) approach to seek tourism development and promotion in the district. The underlying philosophy of the STP approach to tourism development and promotion is that effective conservation of natural, cultural, historical, archaeological and environmental resources and improvement in the overall tourism development together with wider promotion cannot be achieved without active participation of the local community in all stages of the **tourism development and promotion process**, right from planning through to implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Hence, it is essential that the links between tourism *development, conservation* and *participation* are made clear to those whose livelihoods are affected.

(b) Partnership and participation.

The local residents will be involved in planning, decision making and **implementing processes**. They will be made responsible and accountable to manage the tourism activities with quality services. Active participation of local institutions in all stages of project planning will be ensured and its members will be encouraged to start developing tourism products and services. Similarly, with strong coordination among the stakeholders, including all line agencies related to tourism development, concentrated development approach will be followed to promote Bhaktapur district as the prime tourism destination along with parallel linkages together with other major tourism attractions of the districts such as Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Changu Narayan, Madhyapur Thimi, other potential cultural and pilgrimage sites etc. so as to make the whole district as single tourism destination.

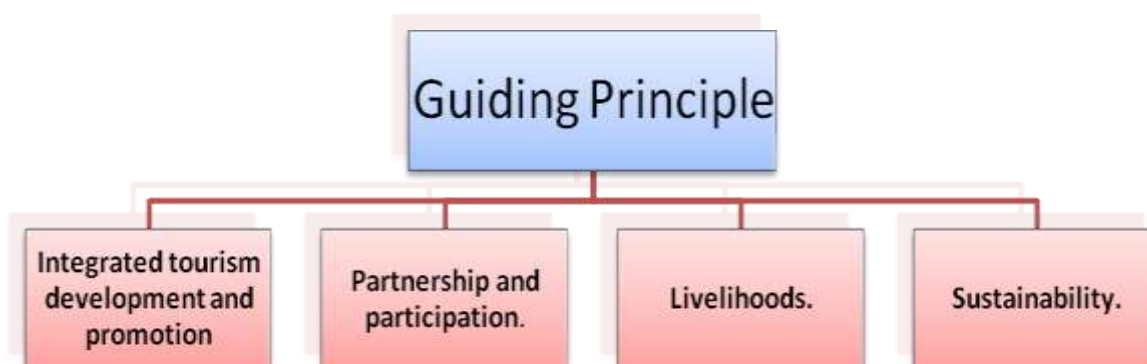
(c) Livelihoods.

Integrating the norms, standards and principles of human basic needs into the plans, policies and processes of tourism development are to be carried out. Livelihoods focus on people to enhance their capacity to achieve the minimum conditions for living with dignity. This approach recognizes poor and marginalized people to securing their livelihoods better. Key to this is its emphasis on underlying causes of poverty and social injustice that include discrimination, social exclusion and denial of rights to minority groups. While adopting this principle, the plan is aimed at putting the poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups at the core of tourism development and enhancing their capacity for better lifestyle, and equitable distribution of benefits arising from the tourism. In short, the livelihood framework encompasses the development framework and views tourism development with the local communities' participation as the key to sustainability.

(d) Sustainability.

The plan provides a high priority to sustainability. Primarily, it will support only those activities and programmes which local people can manage them without further external support in future. Local people will be encouraged to participate and invest in cash or kind in tourism development for ensuring sustainability for their livelihoods. Central to this effort is to ensure local people's ownership and optimal management of the tourism activities and services.

Chart 4.1 Strategic tourism plan principle



4.3 Tourism Development Strategies

The tourism development efforts in Bhaktapur were started after listing of Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Changu Narayan Temple as the World Heritage Site (WHS) in 1979. Visitors then started attracted in the Bhaktapur Durbar Square to observe and experience the golden art and traditional events. Later, Nagarkot area became a hill resort destination for the nature lover and holiday makers. The evolving of day hiking, other soft adventurous activities like mountain biking further enhanced the tourism activities in the district. The efforts made by the Bhaktapur Municipality, UNESCO and GTZ for the preservation of cultural heritage in Bhaktapur further contributed to preserve, conserve and renovate the historical and religious monuments which also contributed to attract the high value visitors in the Bhaktapur City. The establishment of Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee (BTDC), in 1997, has been another milestone as it is making sincere efforts in preserving and promoting the heritage; creating awareness among the stakeholders and promoting tourism through the events and undertaking tourism research activities.

Despite having a strong strength on attracting tourists, the major strategic elements for the development of tourism in Bhaktapur district have not been strongly indicated in the first time ever prepared Periodic District Development Plans of this district (2059/60 – 2063/64). The validity of the district's periodic plans has now completed. Due to the absence of local level election and its representative and new political changes, possibility for developing such plans in near future looks feeble.

However, it has felt that tourism is increasingly becoming an unavoidable part of Bhaktapur to boost the economic up as well as to preserve the rich cultural heritage in the district. It has been realised that the full potentials of tourism in Bhaktapur district has not yet been explored and experienced.

Focusing on the imperative issues raised during interactions, the planning team has been succeeded to achieve the following strategic components which were strongly suggested during the stakeholder's workshops at Bhaktapur, Madhyapur Thimi and close interactions at VDCs during the field visits. They include:

- Coordinated development of tourism infrastructure through the participation of all VDCs

- Targeting of awareness programmes particularly towards rural people including women and poor
- Development of income opportunities from tourism through the conservation of natural and cultural resources with special focus on poor and disadvantaged groups
- Prioritized focus on the promotion of the tourism products of Bhaktapur district and its surrounding districts and the management of market linkages for all tourism products
- Establishing and strengthening of tourism related institutions and networks
- Facilitate coordination between the local level institutions and the DDC
- Diversification of tourism products and opportunities based on a harmonious balance between nature, culture and environment
- Benefits to the larger community and local management capability as a criteria for infrastructure and tourism development
- Coordination and networking among all line agencies for Infrastructure development to be undertaken on the basis of area priorities set forth in the TDMP with a view to reduce duplicity and enhance synergy among all
- Involvement of the private sector and the disadvantaged in the development of local enterprises
- Utilization of existing local level organizations or institution for tourism development
- Establishing a culture for having regular interactions and good practices sharing

This specific strategic approach will focus on **developing tourism** activities and services in Bhaktapur district as per its (i) *value and importance*, (ii) *specific area need priority*, (iii) *sustainable use of the local resources*, (iv) *making the tourism development activities more pro-poor and responsible*, and (v) *economic retention at local level* .

(i) Adjusting development interventions under its value and importance:

The plan has adapted Bhaktapur district by characterizing the development practices into broad **three** types, based on natural and cultural resources available and with focus for tourism development. This will also help to understand the ground reality and help to intervene accordingly for better adjustments.

The **three** values and importance in Bhaktapur district include:

a) Cultural and historical importance

Bhaktapur district holds high value and importance from cultural and historical point of view. All cultural and historical sites are equally used by locals and visitors round the year. In these areas, the resources have been highly impacted due to human activities such as densely populated, many festivals, and urbanisation.

b) Natural importance

Bhaktapur has many explored and non-explored natural sites for eco-tourism development. These areas are in a way to suffer from serious environmental problems directly or indirectly due to supplementary human activities including tourism.

c) Pilgrimage importance

Similarly, the district holds many religious shrines where the pilgrims gather largely and during the festivals. The importance of pilgrimage sites could be focused and highlighted for regional and domestic tourism. The development and management implication needs restriction on the use of the resources in a sustainable way.

(ii) Area specific priority interventions:

Despite that major issues related to tourism development appears to be similar throughout the district, specific opportunities and problems differ from area to area and VDC to VDC. Therefore, the plan suggests formulating VDC/area specific programmes based on Area Tourism Plan and consolidating at district level. Tentative priority programmes as given below (Table 4.1, **Annex 36 and 37**):

| Table 4.1 : Priority Programmes | |
|--|---|
| Area | Priority programmes |
| Bhaktapur Durbar Square | Heritage conservation, tourist standard accommodation, vehicular management, proper signage, public toilets |
| Thimi Municipality including Bode, Thimi, Nagdesh | Heritage conservation, tourist standard accommodation, foot paths, beautification, sanitation and cleanliness, signage and directional arrow boards, information center, public toilets, vehicular management, |
| Changu Narayan | Heritage conservation (Radhika Naach, Bhujya Jatra, Khi Musical Ornament, Dhime Baza), tourist standard accommodation, foot paths, beautification, sanitation and cleanliness, erosion and siltation controlling, Local area management committee, Drinking water, Home stay in Tamang village, Develop linkages with Bajrayogini of Sankhu, TEAP, Entrepreneurship training, local guide and other tourism trainings, |
| Chaling | Trekking trail upgrading, tourist standard accommodation, picnic sheds, beautification, sanitation and cleanliness, signage |
| Nagarkot | Heritage conservation (Mahankal Mandir), Banking facilities, local guides, organic food promotion (farming), village walks, home stay development. trail upgrading, Directional signage, Resting places, Medicinal plants farming (herbal farming), Meditation center at Jalpadevi, Develop local tourism development committee at Jalpadevi, Women Entrepreneurship training, local guide and other tourism trainings, Good direct bus service from Kathmandu to Nagarkot, Road upgrading, Forest conservation, sanitation and cleanliness, Controlling of the public land encroachment, |
| Bageswori | Heritage conservation, beautification, sanitation and cleanliness, signage and directional arrow boards, |
| Sudal | trail development, signage and information in trails, resting places, teahouse, |
| Tathali | Trail development, signage and information in trails and in all archaeological sites including Rock Edicts and Basuki Dhunga, resting places, teahouse, |
| Chitapol | Conservation of archaeological and historical sites, trail development, signage and information in trails, resting places, teahouse, parking facility near mighty Lord Shiva statue, All weather road to Nala from Lataremswor mahadev, TEAP, Local guide training, conserve and promote horticulture farming specially Makhamali and Sayapatri flower farming, |
| Nankhel | Accommodation facilities including home stay, signage and information in trails |
| Sipadol | Heritage conservation (Doleswor Mahadev, Ashapureswor Mahadev), Parking Facility, Widening and black topping of the Motor road, Teahouse facilities, signage and information in trails, home stay at Nangkhel and Maligaon, Drinking water, forest conservation, sanitation and cleanliness, TEAP, horticulture farming, Marketing and publicity, |
| Gundu | Heritage conservation, signage and information, tea house, sanitation and cleanliness, picnic sheds, Resting places, trail development at Ghyampe Danda, Good road network (make gravell road), link with Lakure Bhanghyang, Conserve Ranokot Ghadi, |
| Dadhikot | Heritage conservation (Anantalingswor Mahadev, Bindhabashini Mandir), signage and information, tea house, sanitation and cleanliness, Home stay at Chitrapur, adventure sports at Kailash danda, picnic sheds, Resting places, |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Sirutar | Heritage conservation (Samalingswer Mahadev, signage and information, tea house, sanitation and cleanliness, |
| Katunje | Heritage conservation (Suryabinayak, Subarneshwor Mahadev, Sushila Bhairav Mandir, Baghbhairav Mandir), signage and information, tea house, sanitation and cleanliness, |
| Balkot | Heritage conservation (Dharmeshwor Mahadev), Signage and information, sanitation and cleanliness |
| Jhaukhel | Heritage conservation (Jyotilingeswor Mahadev), signage and information, tea house, sanitation and cleanliness, |
| Duwakot | Heritage conservation, tourist standard accommodation, proper signage, |

(iii) Sustainable use of the local resources:

Ample opportunities exist for tourism growth in the Bhaktapur district, building on current and new markets. The current market and consumer trends indicate that the experienced traveler prefers authentic, off-the-beaten-track vacations in remote, unrenowned places to luxurious vacations. Global trends also indicate the growing demand for nature and culture-based holidays, and spiritual tourism which are forecasted to double and perhaps even triple in the next 20 years. The growing interest in cultural and spiritual tourism and ecotourism presents enormous opportunities, provided that the Bhaktapur district can avail of the opportunities presented to it. At this juncture of potential demand in tourism, there is a critical demand from the locals regarding new motor roads. There is need to combine all VDCs assets into attractive and marketable tourism products to foster synergies among locals' demand on road and Bus Terminals (**See Annex 36**). It has been urgent to plan and develop infrastructure and services in these VDCs and attractions in an integrated manner. Investments are also urgently needed for enhanced access; attractions infrastructure and facilities; and sustainable responsive and pro-poor tourism management and service delivery. Equally it will be necessary to do tourism development works in partnership with local communities, tourism related stakeholders, local bodies and government agencies not only to minimize and mitigate such negative impacts but also to diversify tourism products and services as well as to make the tourism development process sustainable. Likewise, Bhaktapur DDC will partner with these organizations to develop new trekking trails in order that Bhaktapur district will continue to remain as one of the popular tourism destinations in the country.

(iv) Making tourism more responsible and pro-poor:

The plan will focus to make the tourism activities more sustainable and responsive within the framework of pro-poor and responsible tourism with a view that such activities will help to meet the needs of the present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing the opportunity for future growth. Effective and efficient management of all resources will help to fulfill the economic, social and aesthetic needs, as well as, make easy to maintain cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems. Hence, people and local ownership of tourism are always at the core of sustainable, responsive and pro-poor tourism.

Tourism is a critical component in the overall development of the Bhaktapur district. It directly contributes to cultural and natural heritage conservation and development activities in the district. Not only that visiting in Bhaktapur has been reckoned as lifetime activity for many tourists, it could draw great attention to many potential pilgrims as well. Tourism has been a priority sector in Bhaktapur district since its two cultural sites Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Changu Narayan

are listed in World Heritage Sites. The district is endowed with diverse cultural and natural resources. The area has rich distinctive lifestyles. Its unique natural and cultural endowments potentially position it as best destination for cultural, historical and ecotourism. Ancient temples, historical monuments, beautiful landscapes, valleys could attract both domestic as well as international visitors. Despite an impressive range of attractions, the area has not realized the full potential benefits from tourism. Recently there is a realization for the need to work to promote the Bhaktapur district as a unique tourism destination. Stakeholders of neighboring district including Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Kavrepalanchowk, and Sindhupalchok have acknowledged that complementary natural endowments and cultural heritage provide an opportunity for regional cooperation in tourism, which can lead to joint product development, cost-effective marketing strategies, and joint investments in tourism infrastructure development with resulting greater efficiencies. Now there is realization that tourism should be environmentally and culturally sustainable and contribute to poverty reduction.

The tourism industry is, primarily, a private sector market driven activity. As there can be both multiple benefits (including jobs, enterprise opportunities, improved access to infrastructure and services) as well as multiple costs (including reduced access to natural resources and increased exposure to risk) to the poor from tourism. Costs and benefits from tourism will need to be carefully assessed in terms of how they affect the livelihoods of the poor and generate net benefits for the poor. In short, management plan's approach will be to minimize costs and maximize benefits in favour of the poor.

The plan recognizes that one of the critical issues for small producers is often access to the market - access to the established industry and to tourists. Pro-poor initiatives will increase the market access to the poor. Experience has shown that initiatives that do not address how to market products of the poor and how to integrate them into the value chain, ultimately fail.

(v) Economic retention at local level:

In line with making tourism activities more sustainable and responsive the plan will also focus to make all tourism activities enhancing the opportunity for economic retention at local level. Possible maximum use of local resources will help to fulfill the economic, social and aesthetic needs, as well as, help to maintain economic activities, and life support systems at local level.

Tourism is a significant component in the overall economic development of the Bhaktapur district. It directly contributes to the local community with economic retention if maximum numbers of local people is involved and make use of local resources. Despite an impressive range of attractions, the area has not realized the full potential benefits from tourism. Recently there is a realization for the need to work to promote Bhaktapur district making tourism activities as one of the major economic activities. There is realization that tourism should be environmentally and culturally sustainable and contribute to poverty reduction with maximum capital retention at local level.

Since, it is known that there can be both multiple benefits including jobs creation, enterprise developments, demands of more services as well as multiple costs including reduced access to natural resources and increased exposure to risk to the local poor people from tourism, costs and benefits from tourism need to be carefully analysed and assessed in terms of how they affect the livelihoods and

generate net benefits to the local community. In short, management plan's approach will be to minimize costs and maximize tourism income retention at local level benefiting more local communities.

4.4 Tourism Product Mix and Priorities

Natural and cultural tourism, especially visiting Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Changu Narayan and Nagarkot has been the core product attracting Non SAARC and SAARC tourists as well as domestic tourists to Bhaktapur district. Almost one third of the total visitors coming to Nepal visit Bhaktapur Durbar Square. Pilgrimage to Changu Narayan, Suryabinayak, Dugdeswor Mahadev, and many other cultural sites including Hindu and Buddhist shrines are the potential sites for domestic visitors as well. Other forms of tourism such as Educational, and special interest activities are also in increasing trend in Bhaktapur.

However, beautiful natural areas within Dhadikot, Gundu, Sipadol, Nankhel, Chitapol, Tathali, Sudal and Bageswori VDCs holds equal potentiality for developing nature based tourism activities which needs further exploration. Ethnic culture of Newar and Tamang holds equal prospects for tourism development; however, there is not sufficient efforts visible made by Tamangs regarding product development and on creation of the necessary infrastructure for the tourism development.

A side product could be the development as human made attractions in Bhaktapur. For the historical and archaeological enthusiast, many places including remains of the forts (Gadhi) and places available within the district could be equally attractive for the students as well as to the researchers.

In the stakeholders' workshop, the participants identified many pilgrimage and historical, cultural and natural sites and potential trekking trails within and outside the district as priority areas for tourism development. Likewise, possibilities for enhancing joint product development and marketing linking tourism attractions with other neighboring districts were also highlighted. It should be noted that many are popular and established destinations, the few are needed to be explored and infrastructure put in place for tourism product development.

4.5 Market Segment and Marketing

Existing tourist market segments in the district, as discussed in Chapter 2, mainly consists of:

- Holiday and pleasure groups from SAARC and Non SAARC countries visiting cultural and historical sites
- Indian/Non-Indian foreign groups, nature lovers and adventurers
- Pilgrims to all cultural sites, domestic (mainly from other districts) and to some extent Indians
- Business and non-business (education, training, seminar, workshops and health) people including domestic visitors

Potential market segment that can be attracted to Bhaktapur district with appropriate product development would be:

- Special interest groups (nature watching, Ayurveda, yoga, meditation, acupressure and research)
- Adventure sports (jungle walk, camping inside the jungle, rock climbing, canyoning, mountain biking, village walking, rock climbing)
- Trekking tourists,
- MICE
- Domestic tourists and cultural visitors

Nepal Tourism Board is the apex national agency mandated to promote and market Nepal as an attractive tourist destination in the international arena and also to promote domestic tourism within the country. In view of the potential tourism market segment in this district, there are **three** main areas where NTB could play imperative role. These are **product development, human resource development and specialized promotional activities** to enhance overall marketing of the country. The promotional and marketing strategies of these districts have therefore to be developed in consultation with, and guidance of, the NTB. The tour operators need to play the lead role in packaging and presenting Bhaktapur and surroundings as superior tourism products.

4.6 Expectations by 2015

It is expected that by the year 2015, the basis for establishing Bhaktapur district as a quality tourist destination would have been instituted. Visitor surveys would have been conducted and Bhaktapur district would have established direct and strong market linkages with Kathmandu and overseas tour operators the rough the implementation of targeted marketing strategy and plan. To create more tourism opportunities in this district, new tourism products will have been introduced particularly in the new areas. The basis for cultural, pilgrimage and eco-tourism will have been created with proper maintenance and upgrading of the cultural historical and natural sites. The popular cultural sites management plan will have been prepared and implemented for managing pilgrimage events in the area.

Hotel/Lodge management association/committees will have been institutionalized to deal with the problem of unhealthy competition and standardization. A code of conduct will be in place for the tourists/pilgrims, tourism entrepreneurs and the host population. Waste management and monitoring systems will be in place together with adequate trained guides and other staff. Alternative energy programme would have contributed to lessen the dependence on fuel wood. The road access would have improved thus allowing more tourists/ pilgrims to visit the areas even during the monsoon season as well.

The tourism management process would have been institutionalized in the district with active TDCs in the VDCs that fall under the priority tourism development areas. TDS and the BTDC at the district level would be institutionalized and strengthened to the extent that it would be able to plan, coordinate and manage tourism related programs of the district. The BTDC would play active and efficient coordinated role for the overall development of the tourism in the district. The linkages of tourism to the district economy would have been strengthened in all VDCs.

An institutional mechanism would have been worked out between the DDC, Municipalities, BTDC and VDCs which would strengthen coordination and cooperation in developing and implementing programs of nature and heritage conservation as well as income generation in the district.

4.7 Activities, Budget, and Responsibilities

The major activities and responsibilities proposed for the first **five** years of the TDMP are given in **Chart 4.2**. Activities have been grouped around results determined for the attainment of the objectives identified. The framework indicates activities in which the DDC will play a lead role in terms of coordination and facilitation. Much of the activities have been built around the proposed programmes of DDC, Bhaktapur and Madhyapur Thimi Municipalities and VDCs.

Alltogether 119 activities are recommended for five years period. Among them 92 activities are in the first priority. The total budget for all activities is expected to be over Rupees 36 Corers. Majority of the activities are recommended to work under coordination and cooperation within many organizations. District Development Committee is expected to take the lead and allocate over Rs.16 Corers to work with various organizations including Bhaktapur and Madhyapur Thimi Municipality and other VDCs. Similarly, MTM is expected to allocate Rs 80 Lakhs on its own for tourism development.

The activities proposed are grouped under **twelve** major thematic programme areas as indicated below.

1. Conservation of Cultural and Historical Heritages

The historical, cultural and archaeological heritages of Bhaktapur district are subsisted in both rural and urban landscape settings. Management and conservation of such heritage sites have been considered as a challenging regular activity. Special emphasis should be given for the conservation of such cultural heritage and archaeological importance of this district. A code of conduct for tourists, tourism entrepreneurs, tour operators and the local communities also needs to be strongly administered and monitored.

The cultural heritage of this district is also reflected in the way of life of the ethnic tribes. They have their own distinctive tradition, religion, festivals, dances and languages. Development and implementation of activity plans for cultural tours, home stays are proposed. DDC, Local Tourism Management Committees, BTDC can coordinate for their activities with the NTB and local organizations and NGOs to explore further possibilities.

2. Tourism and Environment Awareness Programme

Tourist impacts on natural resources and cultural heritage have to be controlled, especially in fragile and protected areas. To balance the positive benefits of tourism to local people, the major threats that need to be managed include waste disposal, deforestation, and pressure on the preserved historical and cultural monuments due to mass urbanization and increase in population size. Tourism and environmental planning is the key to balancing the needs of the local community with the protection of the resources.

To help to understand local people to value their vital resources, it is necessary to organized TEAPs extensively throughout the district. These awareness programs have already developed and have proven successful in explaining basic benefits and impacts of tourism to local communities.

Settlements will remain cleaner as villagers are mobilized through counseling on health, hygiene and sanitation, and students will plant tree saplings once they are made aware. Booklets and posters need to be produced and distributed. TEAPs are considered to be one of the most successful outcomes, and its training manuals are readily available at NTB. Other environmental improvements include improved cooking stoves that can save fuel wood and improve the household conditions. Likewise, construction of local dumping sites, incinerators, rubbish bins, and public toilets needs greater attention to make the local environment cleaner and hygienic. To make the local environment cleaner, private houses also need some encouragement to have toilets and good sanitation systems in place.

3. Quality Accommodation Construction

As it is necessary to upgrade and maintain roads, trails, bridges and other essential infrastructure to access all tourism products within the Bhaktapur district, like in the same manner, quality accommodation facilities are also equally important for tourism development in this district, especially inside the Municipal areas. The close proximity of this district with the only International Airport and the ongoing expansion of the six lane road linking with the capital city Kathmandu, and the availabilities of the open areas within the district hold ample possibilities for future quality accommodation expansion. Improvements in accommodation facilities not only help tourists to stay in Bhaktapur district, but also generate more economic activities at the local level providing more employment to local people. Such accommodation facilities at Bhaktapur and Madhyapur Thimi areas can be developed individually.

4. Basic Infrastructure development

Infrastructure development will be an important component for tourism development. Improving access to external markets not only helps to link existing tourism areas with outside markets but also helps in enhancing the quality of tourist experience in the areas. This includes the improvement of major road links in the Bhaktapur district as included: *Bhaktapur – Nagarkot, Bhaktapur Ring Road, Bhaktapur – Changu Narayan, Bhaktapur – Doleswor Mahadevsthan, Bhaktapur – Thathali, Bhaktapur – Sudal Maha Manjushree, Nagarkot – Sanga, Muhan Pokhari – Balmikeshwor- Mahamanjushree (swarawatsthan), Duwakot – Changu Narayan, Telkot – Sankhu.*

Activities under this category included will help to establish Bhaktapur as the primary tourist destination on one hand, and will help to diversify the tourism product of the whole district by developing and promoting natural, cultural and MICE tourism products, on the other.

The priority accorded by the Department of Roads will be critical for the improvement of access conditions. Development and maintenance of trails, bridges, drinking water schemes, health posts, signage, Bus Terminals etc in the priority tourism development areas including will be an important element of infrastructure development (See Annex 36). An inventory of infrastructure by area has to be developed and monitored. As a local resident, every member of the local community can enjoy the good infrastructure development /improvement made for the good cause of tourism development. The DDC can coordinate with the department of Roads or Office of the concerned road department existing at the district for types of road mentioned above.

5. Human Resources Development

The rationale for tourism development in Bhaktapur is based on the premise that tourism will contribute to the twin processes of the generation of employment and income in the districts, and the conservation of natural and cultural environment. Skill training to existing and potential local entrepreneurs, and on other trades with direct linkages to tourism such as hotel, lodge and home stay management, local guides, cooks, production of vegetables and livestock for the tourist market, souvenir production may be the key to deriving maximum employment and income advantages from tourism. Gender mainstreaming is proposed as a common component of all the training programmes. The need here is to coordinate among these training activities and specifically focus these activities to priority tourism development areas. Special efforts are needed to train women, poor and disadvantaged groups so that they can be beneficiaries in the development process in general and tourism development in particular. For this purpose special programme has been proposed.

6. Institutional Development - Establishing Tourism Development Section in the DDC, Municipalities and Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sustainable local institutions alone can create the basis for sustainable development of tourism and for ensuring that tourism contributes to local economic, environmental, social and cultural development. In the case of Bhaktapur district these institutions are Bhaktapur and Madhyapur Thimi Municipality and Bhaktapur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, BTDC, and local TDCs, local community based organizations, functional groups and NGOs. Coordination and perhaps parallel programme development with Bhaktapur Municipality and Madhyapur Thimi Municipality and Nagarkot Naldum Tourism development Committee is imperative in Bhaktapur as the Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Nagarkot is the prime tourist destinations. The extent to which DDC, BTDC, Municipalities, Chamber of Commerce and Industries and local TDCs are institutionalised in the districts will determine the extent to which tourism policy and programme development, coordination, implementation and monitoring capacity of the DDC becomes effective. The DDC needs to work on these initiatives in building and strengthening local institutions.

At the same time the institutional capability of the Municipalities and BCCI to manage tourism in harmony with the aim of conservation needs to be strengthened and a mechanism developed for better coordination and joint programme development with the DDC.

Programmes proposed in this area include the establishment of the, TDS and local TDC so that the institutional basis for planning and implementing tourism activities is created at the district and VDC levels. A major role of the DDC will be to strengthen the TDS and local TDC by adequate staffing and assigning of responsibilities, by training on aspects of tourism programme development and management, and rural development. This can enhance the local and district capabilities to coordinate tourism related activities. District level networking and regional and national networking will foster the backward and forward institutional linkages also. The establishment of the tourism section in the Municipalities and at BCCI will go a long way in enhancing the capability of private business institutions in managing tourism development and impacts, and in coordinating efforts with the DDC.

The DDC will have to undertake regular monitoring of tourism programmes it initiates or coordinates in the district, and the impact that tourism has on host communities and environments. Reviews of this nature will contribute to better programme implementation

and coordination, better programme formulation and better integration of mitigation measures in overall programme development.

7. Publicity, Promotion, Marketing and Research

The promotion of the new tourism products at local, national and international levels in close cooperation with NTB is very important. This needs series of marketing activities that includes the production of a range of booklets, brochures, posters, audio-visuals, a website and other publicity material, agent and media familiarisation trips, and travel exhibitions and trade fairs.

Developing new tourism products in areas with no established flows is extremely difficult and presents formidable marketing and promotional challenges. Linking new tourism businesses with Kathmandu and Lalitpur tour operators have been an essential part of any new product development process in such areas.

There will be an urgent need to publicize and market the tourism products of Bhaktapur district. A calendar of events and festivals need to produced in association with NTB. Promotional posters, brochures, with combined packages need to develop jointly by NTB and the private entrepreneurs. The DDC, jointly in association with Municipalities, BCCI and other private sectors have to organise festivals and exhibition regularly to promote the area and its handicrafts.

8. Communication Facilities and Tourist Information

Communication is the power engine for the promotion of tourism all over the world. All relevant information relating to tourism activities and services needs to communicate and display through various means of channels. Visitors' information centre with all basic communication facilities could be the best option to provide basic information and travel plan aid at local levels. Providing services through such information centres are the common practices in all touristic destinations of the world.

Visitor information centres play an important role in tourism industry. Centres make a significant economic contribution to tourism, particularly in local areas, by providing information to visitors that encourages them to stay longer, spend more money, experience more attractions, and revisit an area. Visitor information centres also create significant social benefits, as many rely heavily on a volunteer workforce and operate as an important community facility.

In recent years there has been increased recognition of the role of visitor information centres and their importance in providing high quality tourist information.

9. Tourism Enterprise Development and Income Generating Activities

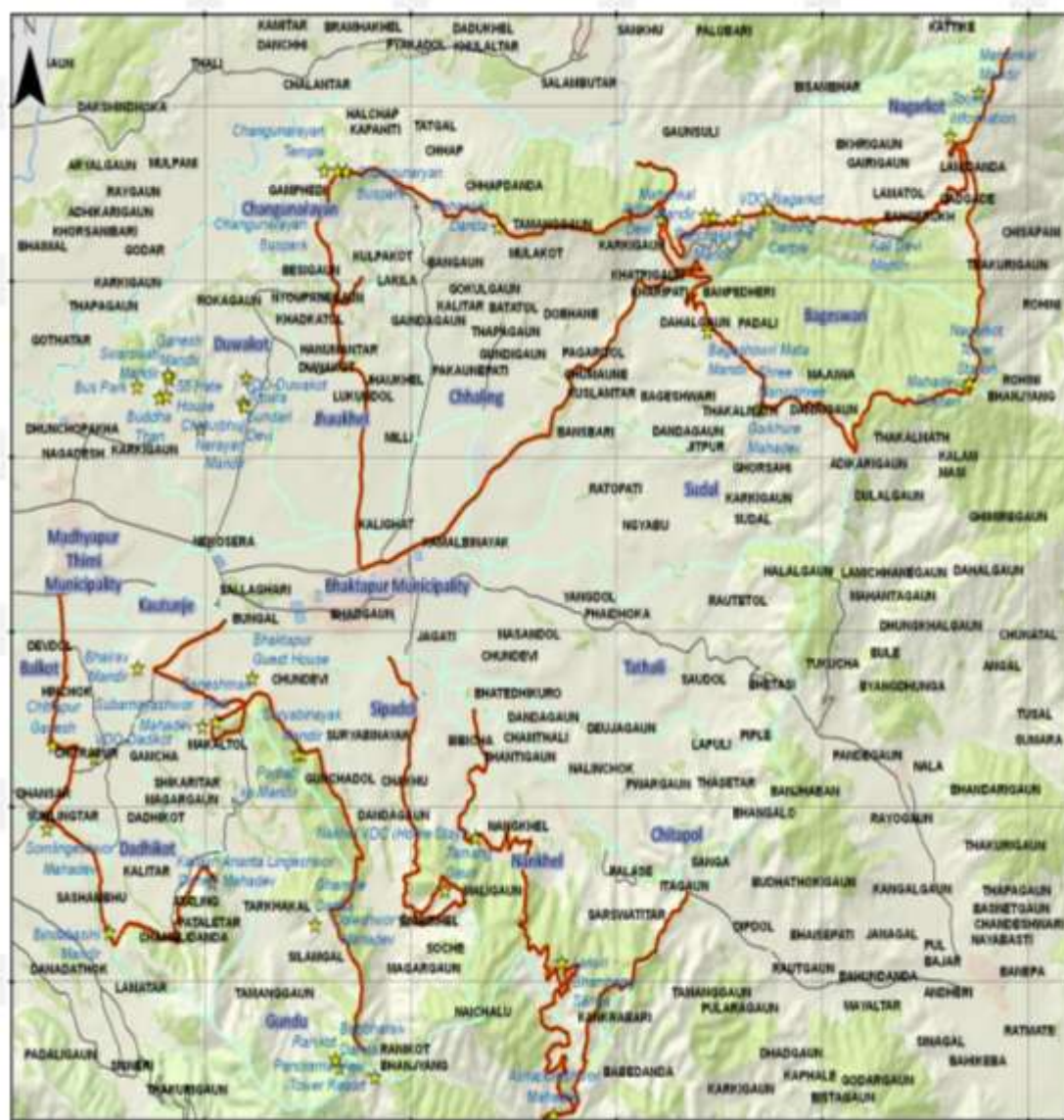
The rationale for tourism development in Bhaktapur district is based on the premise that tourism will contribute to the twin processes in generating employment and income to the local communities as well as to the districts. Skill training to existing and potential local entrepreneurs, and on other trades with direct linkages to tourism such as hotel and lodge management, guides, cooks, production of vegetables and livestock for the tourist market, handicraft production may be the key to deriving maximum employment and income advantages from tourism. The need here is to coordinate for training activities and specifically focus these activities to priority tourism development areas. Special efforts are

needed to train women and poor so that they can be beneficiaries in the development process in general and tourism development in particular.

10. New Tourism Product Development and Diversification of Tourism Activities

Very short period of stay and confinement of tourist activities into some limited areas like BDS and Nagarkot are the key strategic issues to be considered for benefiting the wider communities through tourism in Bhaktapur. For this purpose Bhaktapur district needs new tourism products and diversification of tourism activities from the existing traditional practices. Strong coordinated approach for new products development and strengthening of the existing tourism products through standardization needs in place. Similarly, the district needs to pursue fair prices and fair trade practices to compete with the neighbouring tourism products. Diversification of tourism products and activities will help enhancing benefit sharing practices further contributing to local development.

Map 6: Probable Tourism Routes



11. Conservation and Management of Natural landscape and Biodiversity

Natural environment, rich biodiversity and beautiful landscape provide strong bases for nature based tourism in Bhaktapur while augmenting the heritage and culture based tourism activities. Negligence in preserving and maintaining these natural resource bases would not only diminish possibility of expansion and diversification of tourism products in the district but also decrease the quality and standard of existing tourism products in Bhaktapur.

Tourism and environment awareness programme (TEAP) as a powerful sensitizing tool should be run by taking into consideration the role of forest, wetland, natural landscape and water sources for the sustainable growth and development of tourism in Bhaktapur. The capacity and skill of Community Forest User Groups (CFUG) should be strengthening to develop, promote and manage eco-tourism activities in forest and natural landscape. Mechanism should also be developed to ensure use of alternative energy system and devices with proper training and incentive packages particularly in the rural areas. Efforts will be undertaken to develop adequate drainage, sanitation and waste management in the major tourism sites.

An environmental code of conduct for tourists, entrepreneurs, tour operators and the local communities needs to be strongly administered and monitored.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

The tourism activities will be subjected to a multipartite reviewd, at least annually. The DDC will be responsible to prepare and submit, before each multipartite review meeting, an Annual Progress. DDC, in consultation with the all concerned stakeholders, may call for additional, meetings, whenever the situation justifies it. In addition, technical review meetings at the working level will be held regularly (every three to six months) to help ensure well co-ordinated and proactive Programme implementation, monitoring and problem solving.

DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, DTCC, Private sectors and NGOs will coordinate in the preparation and delivery of Programme evaluations.

The tourism development activities will be subject to annual reviews by a joint evaluation mission consisting of DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, DTCC, NTB, Private sectors and NGOs. The suggestions and recommendations of all evaluation missions will be incorporated in the plans and programmes. If necessary, the strategy will be adjusted and new activities and inputs will be included to improve the development programme.

Local level Self Assessment

In addition to the formal assessments and evaluation carried out by the DDC, it is considered essential that participants at the village level should also engage in similar activities. In this context, it will be incumbent upon the DDC to assist the TDSCs to carry out annual self-assessments. The Evaluation tools such as Development Wheel (a self monitoring tool used by TRPAP) may be used for this purpose. This is integral to the empowerment process.

Phased implementations of the programmes are proposed. Major programme activities by priority tourism development areas are shown in **Chart 4.2 below**.

Chart 4.2 - Bhaktapur District Tourism Development Plan: Implementation and Phasing of Major Programme Activities

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| Proposed Programme area: 1. Conservation of cultural and historical heritages | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Conservation of local monuments. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Municipalities and Local VDCs, | District Administration, DoA, BTDC, Local communities, Private entrepreneurs | 100,00 | Municipalities, VDCs, DoA, Donor Agencies, and Private entrepreneur, Philanthropist societies | 1 |
| 2. Environmental/Landslide protection at Nilvarahi and Changynarayana sites. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | MTM, and Local VDCs, | District Administration, MoPE, DFO, Local communities | 20,00 | MTM, VDCs, MoPE | 1 |
| 3. Pedestrianization (Vehicular control) of important monumental sites | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Bhaktapur Municipality, District Administration | | | | 1 |
| 4. Ban and remove posters, telecommunication towers, electrical transmission lines, hording boards, and flexes from heritage sites to stop visual pollution. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Municipalities, District Administration, | Local communities, Entrepreneurs | | | 1 |
| 5. Drafting of conservation bylaws and enforcement followed by suitable incentives. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | BM, MTM, VDCs | DDC, BCCI, BTDC, DOA, | 2000 | DOA, BM, MTM, DDC, VDCs | 1 |
| Proposed Programme area: 2. Tourism and Environment Awareness Programme | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Explore and document local traditional knowledge, information and practices that can be useful for developing unique tourism products and preservation of local | ✓ | | | | | DDC | Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI, BTDC, NTB | 100 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, NTB | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| environment and culture | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Organize tourism, culture and environment awareness programme for community members and tourism entrepreneurs | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | DDC, Municipalities | BTDC, VDCs, BCCI, NTB, Training Institutions | 500 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, NTB, Donor Agencies | 1 |
| 3. Organize tourism, culture and environment awareness programme for school and college students using various manuals, tools and methods | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | DDC, Municipalities | BTDC, VDCs, BCCI, NTB, Training Institutions, DEO | 1500 | DDC, VDCs Municipalities, Donor Agencies | 1 |
| 4. Conduct tourism development, management and monitoring orientation training with special focus on BTDMIP implementation for DDC, Municipality, relevant VDCs, BCCI, BTDC, other line agencies, NGOs and Associations | ✓ | | | | | DDC, NTB | BTDC, Municipalities, BCCI | 70 | DDC, NTB | 1 |
| 5. Conduct Tourism planning, development and management capacity enhancement Training for CBOs and tourism entrepreneurs | | ✓ | ✓ | | | DDC, VDCs | NTB BTDC, | 500 | DDC, VDCs | 1 |
| 6. Develop and erect information boards highlighting the resources and need for conservation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, | BTDC, Local committees | 500 | DDC, VDCs, Municipalities, NETIF | 1 |
| 7. Produce and circulate various occasional and periodical leaflets, newsletters, documentary among the local community members, tourism entrepreneurs and stakeholders | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | DDC, Municipalities | BTDC, VDCs, Local committee, NTB | 1000 | DDC, NTB, BCCI, Municipalities | 1 |
| 8. Orient and capacitate women and ethnic community on developing and promoting traditional culture and ritual based tourism products | | | ✓ | ✓ | | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs | BTDC | 2000 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, NETIF | 2 |
| 9. Establish tourism , environmental and cultural (TEC) club in schools and college as per requirement and interest | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | DDC, | DEO, BTDC, Education Institutions | 320 | DDC, VDCs, Municipalities, NETIF | 2 |
| 10. Aware local communities to promote traditional systems and practices to | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | DDC, VDCs | | 500 | DDC | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| maintain and safeguard all cultural practices and heritage sites for tourism development. If possible, encourage locals to form separate local level management committee for each site. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Train and mobilize selected teachers on tourism environmental and culture (TEC) | | ✓ | | | | DDC, | DEO, BTDC, Education Institutions | 320 | DDC, VDCs, Municipalities, NETIF | 2 |
| 12. Develop and enforce social, cultural and environmental code of conducts | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | DDC, BTDC | VDCs, BCCI, BTDC, Local committees | 200 | DDC, Municipalities, NETIF | 1 |
| Proposed Programme area: 3. Quality Accommodation Construction | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Locate separate area for tourist standard accommodation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Private entrepreneur | | | Private Entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 2. Upgrading and expanding Resort accommodation with convention facilities in Nagarkot areas | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | DDC, DFO, VDCs, CFUGs | | Private entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 3. Upgrading and expanding standard accommodation with convention facilities in Bhaktapur, Thimi and Nalinchowk areas with special focus on domestic and Indian visitors | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Private entrepreneur | DDC, DFO, VDCs, CFUGs | | Private entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 4. Developing and upgrading standard accommodation facilities and services in Changu Narayan areas | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Private entrepreneur | DDC, DFO, VDCs, CFUGs | | Private entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 5. Develop resort accommodation and convention facilities in eastern and southern hills (Thakalmath, Kailashdanda, Ghyampedanda, Ranikot, Maligoan areas) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Private entrepreneur | DDC, DFO, VDCs, CFUGs | | Private entrepreneurs | 2 |
| 6. Develop home-stay based accommodation in selected rural villages | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Private entrepreneur | DDC, DFO, VDCs, CFUGs | | Private entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 7. Develop Eco-lodge/cottage and | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Private | DDC, DFO, VDCs, | | Private entrepreneurs | 2 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| camping facilities in southern hills | | | | | | entrepreneur | CFUGs | | | |
| Proposed Programme area: 4. Basic Infrastructure development | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Resting points (in all tourism potential sites) | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | DDC, VDCs | Local communities, Local Clubs, | 1000 | DDC, VDCs, MoTCA, Private entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 2. View tower (in Changu Narayan, Ranikot,) | | √ | √ | | | DDC, VDCs | Local communities, Local Clubs, DoA | 2000 | DDC, VDCs, MoTCA | 2 |
| 3. Access (Ranikot) | | √ | √ | | | DDC | DoR, VDCs | 1000 | DoR, DDC, VDCs | 2 |
| 4. Signage | √ | √ | | | | DDC | Municipalities, VDCs, NTB, BTDC | 1670 | DDC, Municipalities, NTB, VDCs | 1 |
| 5. Bus stop | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | DDC | Municipalities, VDCs | 25000 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, MoPP, Donor agencies | 1 |
| 6. Water supply | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | DDC | Municipalities, VDCs | 8550 | DDC, Municipalities, KUKL VDCs | 1 |
| 7. Convenience | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | DDC | Municipalities, VDCs | 24800 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs | 1 |
| 8. Ticket Booth | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | DDC | Municipalities, VDCs | 16000 | DDC, Municipalities, | 2 |
| 9. Terminal | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | DDC | Municipalities, VDCs | 12000 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, DoR | 1 |
| 10. Shop | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs | BCCI | 13000 | Private Entrepreneurs | 2 |
| 11. Eatery | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs | BCCI | 20000 | Private Entrepreneurs | 2 |
| 12. ATM (Nagarkot, MTM, BM) | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Financial Institutions | Tourism Committees | 11500 | Financial Institutions | 1 |
| 13. Tour | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs | Tourism Committees | 2700 | Private Entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 14. Lodge | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs | Tourism Committees | 105500 | Private Entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 15. Cultural Troup | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private | Tourism | 7800 | Private Entrepreneurs | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Entrepreneurs | Committees | | | |
| 16. Travel Agent | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs | Tourism Committees | 5800 | Private Entrepreneurs | 1 |
| Proposed Programme area: 5. Human Resources Development | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Awareness on tourism development/ TEAP in a mass scale (100 HHs in each VDC/ Muni.) | √ | √ | √ | | | DDC | BTDC, Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI, NTB, Training Institutions | 1000 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, NTB, NETIF | 1 |
| 2. Provide cook training (50 to 75 persons) | √ | √ | √ | | | DDC | BTDC, Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI, NTB, Training Institutions | 300 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, NTB, Local Hotel Group | 1 |
| 3. Provide House-keeping training (100 persons) | √ | √ | √ | | | DDC | BTDC, Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI, NTB, Training Institutions | 200 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, NTB, Hotel Group | 1 |
| 4. Provide Waiters/ Waitress with special focus to women (300 persons) | √ | √ | √ | | | DDC | BTDC, Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI, NTB, Training Institutions | 250 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, NTB, Local Hotels | 1 |
| 5. Provide Small Hotel/ Home-stay Management Training (200 persons) | √ | √ | | | | DDC | BTDC, Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI, NTB, Taragaon, Training Institutions | 400 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, NTB, MoTCA, Taragaon Dev Board, NETIF | 1 |
| 6. Train Local Guides (100 persons) with English language | √ | √ | √ | | | DDC | BTDC, Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI, NTB, Training Institutions | 800 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, NTB, NATHM | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| 7. Train/produce Information Centre Managers (8 persons) | ✓ | ✓ | | | | DDC, BTDC | Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI, NTB, Training Institutions | 200 | DDC, Municipalities, NTB, MoTCA | 1 |
| 8. Cultural Performance Choreography/ Acnhoring training (15 persons) | ✓ | ✓ | | | | DDC | BTDC, Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI, NTB, Training Institutions | 75 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs | 2 |
| 9. Handicrafts production and quality improvements training (200 persons) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | DDC, BCCI | BTDC, Municipalities, VDCs, Cottage Industry Office, NTB, Training Institutions | 150 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI, Cottage Industry Office, | 2 |
| 10. Capacity enhancement programme for tourism information/Checking Counters of Bhaktapur Municipality | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | Municipalities | 100 | DDC, Municipalities | 1 |
| 11. Train and mobilize local Heritage/Nature Tour Guides in the district | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | BTDC | DDC, NTB, Training Institutions | 300 | DDC, NTB | 1 |
| 12. Provide language training (English, German, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese) | ✓ | ✓ | | | | Private Entrepreneurs, BTDC | DDC, NTB, NATHM | 500 | DDC, NATHM | 1 |
| 13. Provide "Management Capacity Enhancement Training" to potential tourism entrepreneurs | ✓ | ✓ | | | | Local bodies, Private sectors | | 1000 | GoN, Ministry of Industry. | 1 |
| Proposed Programme area: 6. Institutional Development - establishing Tourism Development Section in the DDC, Municipalities and Chamber of Commerce and Industry | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Form Inter-District Tourism Coordination Committee consisting Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Kavre districts. | ✓ | | | | | DDC, BTDC | NTB other DDCs, municipalities | 50 | NTB, DDCs | 2 |
| 2. Form/ (reform BTDC) District Tourism Coordination Committee at district level | ✓ | | | | | DDC, BTDC | Municipalities, VDCs, Local committees, | 25 | DDC | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| 3. Establish Tourism Development Sections at the DDC, Municipalities and BCCI | ✓ | | | | | DDC, Municipalities, BCCI | DDC, Municipalities, BCCI | 25 | DDC, Municipalities, BCCI | 1 |
| 4. Organise Tourism Networking Workshops/ meetings (3 times a year) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | DDC, BTDC | Municipalities, VDCs, Local Committees, BCCI | 150 | DDC, VDCs | 1 |
| 5. Enhance capacity of Nagarkot-Naldhum Tourism Development Committee (NNTDC) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | BTDC, NNTDC | DDC, Nagarkot VDC, Naldum VDC, Entrepreneurs of Nagarkot | 250 | DDC, Nagarkot VDC, Naldum VDC, Entrepreneurs, NETIF | 1 |
| 6. Form Home-stay tourism development committees and other committees as per necessity | ✓ | ✓ | | | | DDC, BTDC | VDCs, Municipalities, Taragaon Dev. Board | 50 | DDC, NTB, Taragaon Dev. Board | 1 |
| 7. Capacitate Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) for eco-tourism development and promotion | ✓ | ✓ | | | | DDC, BTDC, | DFO, FECOFUN, CGUGs | 100 | DDC, NTB, | 2 |
| Proposed Programme area: 7. Publicity, Promotion, Marketing and Research | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Establish the separate tourism brand for Bhaktapur district (Natural, Cultural, Historical) with its distinctiveness for tourism promotion. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NTB, Private Entrepreneurs, Municipalities, BCCI, BTDC | | | NTB | 1 |
| 2. Identify and document heritage sites by conducting detailed inventory survey and develop database of these heritage sites. | ✓ | ✓ | | | | DDC, Municipalities, BTDC | | 300 | DDC | 1 |
| 3. Identify and document cultural (intangible) heritage such as festivals, life styles, language, music, dance, arts etc. and prepare a separate calendar of events and festivals for tourism promotion. | ✓ | ✓ | | | | NTB, DDC, Municipalities, BTDC | | 300 | DDC | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| Share this information to NTB for wider dissemination and commoditization. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Explore the feasibility for tourism branding strategies like one village one product to promote specialty such as festivals, dance, music, handicrafts, souvenir items, organic farming etc., | | √ | | | | DDC, VDCs | | 200 | DDC | 1 |
| 5. Design different packages for domestic, third country tourists and Indian pilgrims with adequate information including tourism products, transport and accommodation facilities, seasonality, hardship, including possible hazards and preventive measures. | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs | | | Private Entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 6. Coordinate for undertaking publicity and promotional activities at local, national and at international level. In this regard, organize joint meeting with NTB, NATTA, NATO, TURGAN... to orient them about the new tourism products and to initiate partnership and collaboration towards implementation of BTDMMP | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs, DDC, Municipalities, BTDC, NTB | | 1000 | BTDC and NTB | 1 |
| 7. Organise several familiarization trips for travel and trek agents, media personnel, government officials and international funding agencies. | | √ | √ | √ | | Private Entrepreneurs, DDC, Municipalities, BTDC | | 600 | BTDC | 1 |
| 8. Organise tourism festivals, fairs, carnivals jointly to promote tourism in the area. | | √ | | | | Private Entrepreneurs, DDC, Municipalities, BTDC | | 1000 | DDC | 1 |
| 9. Develop different promotional | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private | | 25000 | BTDC and NTB | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| materials with GIS maps such as brochure, posters, documentaries, leaflets, tourism news letter, and make use of different electric and electronic media for promotion. | | | | | | Entrepreneurs, DDC, Municipalities, BTDC, NTB | | | | |
| 10. Develop mechanism to enhance market opportunity for local products and services at local levels. This can be done through improving the quality of local products and services with reasonable pricing mechanisms. | | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs, Local communities | | | Private Entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 11. Expand the value and volume of tourism by repackaging and promoting presently available tourism products and strengths. | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs | | | Private Entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 12. Reduce the seasonal nature of tourism, which is often found on incorrect assumptions about weather patterns, and improve the seasonal and spatial distribution of visitors. | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs | | | Private Entrepreneurs | 2 |
| 13. Record and visualize all kinds of festivals, songs, and events for future use. Music and visuals made on traditional dances and festivals can be sold as souvenir items to the visitors and also can be used as promotional tool. | | √ | √ | √ | | DDC, private sectors, Municipalities, BCCI, BTDC and NTB. | | 1000 | BTDC | 2 |
| 14. Conduct market research. Identify potential target market and market segments (International as well as domestic) | √ | √ | | | | NTB | DDC, BCCI, BTDC, | | NTB, DDC, Municipalities | 1 |
| 15. Encourage private sectors to establish marketing linkage for conference and exhibitions with Multinational companies, Donor agencies, Development workers and Government agencies for promoting MICE activities | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Tourism committees, Private entrepreneurs | BTDC, BCCI | | Tourism committees, Private entrepreneurs | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| 16. Develop mechanism to offer special souvenir (Bhadgaule cap for male and Haku Patasi for female as Token of Love to the visitors entering to the BDS/Thimi | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Municipalities, Craft producers | BTDC, BCCI | | Municipalities, Craft producers | 1 |
| Proposed Programme area: 8. Communication Facilities and Tourist Information | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Prepare district tourism resource book/Guide book for Bhaktapur comprising all potential tourism attractions, sites and facilities | | √ | √ | | | BTDC | BCCI, Municipalities, VDCs, NTB | 500 | DDC, NTB | 1 |
| 2. Strengthen the capacity of BTDC making it a technical focal point for the effective tourism communication and interpretation in Bhaktapur | | √ | √ | √ | | BTDC, DDC | NTB, Municipalities, VDCs, BCCI | 500 | DDC, Municipalities, NTB | 1 |
| 3. Develop multiple use visitor centre at Shankadhar Shakwa Chowk, Balkumari making it as a Gateway for tourism Bhaktapur. | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | MTM, DDC | MoTCA, NTB, DoA | 4000 | MTM, MoTCA, NTB, DDC | 1 |
| 4. Establish and upgrade Tourist Checking Point/Information Centres at Bhaktapur and Madhyapur Thimi Municipality | √ | √ | | | | MTM, BM | NTB, DDC, BTDC | 1000 | BM, MTM, DDC, NTB | 1 |
| 5. Establish ethnic, art and handicraft museums at Thimi | | √ | √ | √ | | MTM | DoA, MoC, DDC | 1000 | DoA, MoC, BM, MTM | 1 |
| 6. Upgrading Tourist Information Centre (TIC) at Nagarkot | √ | √ | | | | NNTDC | DDC, BTDC, NTB, NETIF | 500 | NNTDC, DDC, NTB, NETIF | 1 |
| 7. Establish Cultural centre at Bhaktapur and Thimi offering the glimpse of Newari culture, traditions, rituals, art, folk and dances | | √ | √ | | | Private Entrepreneurs | DDC, BTDC, MoC, BCCI | | DDC, BTDC, DoA | 1 |
| 8. Develop, distribute and circulate GIS map based various promotional materials such as district tourist map, brochure, posters, documentaries, leaflets, tourism news letter, and | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private Entrepreneurs, BTDC | DDC, NTB, BM, MTM, VDCs | 1500 | DDC, BM, MTM, VDCs, BTDC and NTB | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| make use of different electric and electronic media for huge publicity and promotion. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. Place standard and artistic tourist interpretative boards/signage, tourism attraction and facility maps at appropriate locations highlighting the attractions/ special features available into the area. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | DDC, Municipalities, | NTB, BTDC, private sectors | 1500 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, NTB, private sectors | 1 |
| 10. Disseminate information on tourism attractions, facilities, events, fairs, festivals through different medias | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Private Entrepreneurs, BTDC | DDC, FNJ Bhaktapur Municipalities, NTB | 300 | DDC, BTDC, Municipalities | 1 |
| 11. Establish relationship and circulate information to colleges, universities, research institutes and Expatriate network at Kathmandu | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | BTDC | DDC, BM, MTM | 100 | DDC, BTDC | 1 |
| Proposed Programme area: 9. Tourism Enterprise development and Income generating activities | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Conduct feasibility study to identify possible tourism enterprises; both direct tourism products/services and other feeder value chain products/services | ✓ | ✓ | | | | DDC/BCCI/CSIDB | Municipalities, VDCs, DADO, DLSD | 600 | DDC, Donor agencies | 1 |
| 2. Conduct tourism entrepreneurship and skill development training to maximize local production and encourage entrepreneurs to use local products and services. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | DDC, CSIDB, BCCI, | DADO, DLSD VDCs, NATHM, CTEVT | 2000 | DDC, VDCs, CSIDB, BCCI, DADO, DVSD, DDC, NTB, Donor agencies | 1 |
| 3. Provide grant support to the poor and women for creating tourism enterprises (for homestay based small infrastructure such as Toilet, kitchen, teahouse etc) | | ✓ | ✓ | | | DDC, VDCs | NGOs, | 2000 | DDC, VDCs, | 1 |
| 4. Conduct training for tourism product development, packaging, pricing and | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | BCCI, BTDC, Private | DDC, NTB | 300 | DDC, NTB, BCCI, Donor agencies | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| product marketing | | | | | | entrepreneurs | | | | |
| 5. Strengthen the capacity of handicraft producers to develop traditional handicraft and modern products suitable for gift items to cater the need of a tourist through training, networking and marketing linkages. | √ | √ | √ | | | BCCI, Private sectors | DDC, HAN, CSIDB, | 600 | DDC, BCCI, NTB, | 1 |
| 6. Train locals to run craft learning (for fun) and exhibition centers at Bhaktapur and Thimi (pottery, ceramics, wooden and metal carving) | | √ | √ | | | BTDC, DDC | Private entrepreneurs, Municipalities | 100 | Private entrepreneurs, Municipalities, DDC | 1 |
| 7. Facilitate to link poor and marginalized communities for accessing to micro finance | | √ | √ | √ | √ | DDC, BCCI, BTDC | Financing institutions | | Ministry of Finance, MoTCA | 2 |
| 8. Carryout activities to develop and establish mechanism to work in collaboration with established hotels, travel agency and trekking agencies and their network. | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private entrepreneurs, BCCI | DDC, Municipality, VDCs, BTDC, NTB | 250 | DDC, BCCI, NTB | 2 |
| 9. Capacitate local people to diversify their agriculture into high value crops, particularly fruits, vegetables, domestication of medicinal plants focusing on tourist need and market (to materialize OVOP) | √ | √ | | | | DDC, BCCI | DADO, DLSD, CSIDB, BCCI | 300 | DDC, BCCI, DADO, DLSD, CSIDB, Donor agencies | 2 |
| 10. Brand, package and promote traditional handicraft such as Lokta Paper (Rice paper), Bhadgaule Topi (Black Cap), Haku Patashi, Clay Mask, and food products like Tikani Baji and Taichun Baji in Tikani and Chitrapur | | √ | √ | √ | √ | BCCI, Local committees, private entrepreneurs | CSIDB, DDC, VDCs | 200 | Local committees, private entrepreneurs | 2 |
| 11. Facilitate to establish maintenance and rental service for mountain bike, motor cycle and cars. | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Private entrepreneurs, | Banks, | | Commercial Banks/financial institutions | 2 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| Proposed Programme area: 10. New tourism product development and diversification of tourism activities | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Prepare detail feasibility study report for expanding and diversifying tourism products and activities in BDS, Thimi and Nagarkot areas | ✓ | ✓ | | | | DDC, BTDC, | BM, MTM, BCCI, NNTDC, VDCs, CFUGs, NTB, NATTA | 600 | DDC, BTDC, NTB | 1 |
| 2. Conduct detail feasibility study for Home-stay tourism package in potential villages such as Bode, Saraswotikhel, Nagarkot, Thakalmath, Nangkhel, Maligoan etc. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | DDC, VDCs, MTM | Local Committees, BTDC, NTB, NATTA, NATO | 600 | DDC, MTM, VDCs, NTB, Donor agencies | 1 |
| 3. Conduct detail feasibility study to develop eco-tourism packages in southern, eastern and northern hills. <u>Bird watching:</u> Nilbarahi, Chhaling, Nagarkot, Bageshwori, Sudal Gadi, Suryabinayak, Sipadole <u>Jungle walk:</u> Nilbarahi, Chhaling, Nagarkot, Bageshwori, Sudal Gadi, Suryabinayak, Sipadole | ✓ | ✓ | | | | DDC, VDCs, MTM | BTDC, NTB, NNTDC, Local Committees, TAAN, BCN, DFO, CFUG | 600 | DDC, VDCs, NTB, Donor agencies | 1 |
| 4. Conduct detail feasibility study to develop leisure, recreation and adventurous tourism packages in southern, eastern and northern hills. <u>Amusement Park:</u> Nagarkot <u>Biking:</u> Bhaktapur ring roa, linkroad and major trekking trails <u>Paragliding:</u> Thakalmath, Latarameshwor, Lakuribhanjyang, Ranikot <u>Rock climbing:</u> Muhan Pokhari <u>Canyoning:</u> Muhan Pokhari <u>Jeep safari:</u> Bhaktapur Ringroad, Changu and Nagarkot | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | DDC, VDCs | BTDC, NTB, NNTDC, Entrepreneurs, Local Committees, NMIA, NCA, NBA, CFUG | 600 | DDC, VDCs, NTB, Donor agencies | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|---|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| Pony trekking: Changu Narayan, Nagarkot, Ranikot/Lakuribhanjyang | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Conduct detail feasibility study to develop Shiva Mahadev Pilgrimage Circuit Trail | | ✓ | | | | DDC, VDCs | Guthis/Temple Management Committees, Local Committees | 200 | DDC, VDCs, NTB | 1 |
| 6. Develop conference, workshop, seminar facilities in eastern and southern hills | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | Private entrepreneurs, | BTDC, DFO, CFUGs, VDCs, HAN2 | | Private entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 7. Develop yoga, faith healing, alternative medicine and meditation tourism in the district | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Private entrepreneurs, Yoga Clubs | BTDC, Ktm. based Meditation houses CFUGs, | | Private entrepreneurs, Yoga Clubs | 1 |
| 8. Develop shamanism in Tamang settlement (Kakrabari and Nagarkot areas) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Private entrepreneurs, Local Committees | BTDC | | Private entrepreneurs, | 2 |
| 9. Explore possibility with reference to study done by NTB in 2001 (to increase night stay) for Light and Sound presentation at Bhaktapur Durbar Square | | ✓ | | | | BTDC | NTB, BM, DDC, Local residents | 200 | BM, NTB | 1 |
| 10. Explore possibility for Exhibition ground and Cricket ground | | ✓ | | | | BTDC | DDC, VDCs, Local sports club | 100 | DDC, VDCs | 2 |
| Proposed Programme area: 11. Conservation and management of natural landscape, biodiversity | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Demarcate and protect national, religious and community forest | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | DFO, CFUG | Nepal Army, VDCs | 500 | DFO, CFUG | 2 |
| 2. Demarcate and preserve public open land, lake and rivers | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | DDC, BM, MTM, VDCs | DFO, | 500 | DFO, CFUG | 2 |
| 3. Improve sanitation, sewage and waste management condition in Nagarkot, Changu Narayan, Bhaktapur and Thimi. Establish rubbish bin, adequate dumping sites, drainage and sewage treatment plants. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | DDC, SDWDO, VDCs, BM, MTM | MoPID | 20000 | DDC, SDWDO, MoPID | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| 4. Undertake water source conservation activities including conservation plantation, catchment protection and lake rehabilitation activities | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | DFO, CFUG, KUKL | DDC, VDCs, KUKL | 500 | DFO, DDC, VDCs | 1 |
| 5. Undertake capacity enhancement activities for CFUGs in developing, promoting and managing eco-tourism activities while preserving the forest and natural landscape | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | CFUG, DFO | DDC, BTDC, Local committees | | DFO, DDC CFUG | 1 |
| 6. Provide training and grant support to use alternative energy and energy saving devices like solar and wind energy, improve cooking stove, fire briquette etc. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | DDC, VDCs | CFUG, DFO, MoE | 1000 | DDC, VDCs, MoE, Private entrepreneurs | 2 |
| 7. Provide technical input and financial incentive for use of improved chimney for Brick factories. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | CSIDB, BCCI, Entrepreneurs | BM, MTM, VDCs | | CSIDB, BCCI, Entrepreneurs | 1 |
| 8. Prepare and implement scientific landuse plan discouraging land fragmentation and unplanned urbanization | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | UDB | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, | | TDC, DDC | 1 |
| Proposed Programme area: 12. Monitoring and Evaluation | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Conduct Base line survey to identify tourist visiting Bhaktapur district, infrastructures, services, facilities, and manpowers available, and fix tagets for five years. | ✓ | | | | | BTDC | DDC, Municipalities, NTB, Local committees | 200 | DDC, NTB, Local committees | 1 |
| 2. Conduct visitor perception survey on a periodical basis and to develop/diversity tourism products/activities accordingly in year two and four respectively. | | ✓ | | ✓ | | BTDC | DDC, Municipalities, NTB, Local committees | 600 | DDC, NTB, Local committees | 2 |
| 3. Monitor tourism development and management activities regularly bu | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | DTCC | DDC, VDCs, Municipalities, | 500 | DDC, Municipalities, VDCs | 1 |

| Activities to be performed | Timeline (Year) | | | | | Responsible Organisation | Supporting Organizations | Tentative Budget (Rs.000) | Potential funding sources | Priority No. |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| preparing participatory monitoring and evaluation plan | | | | | | | TDSCs, Private stakeholders, NGOs | | | |
| Total | 119 Activities (P1=92, P2=27) | | | | | | | 369105 | | |

Note:

| Activities to be done by | Budget required (Rs. In thousand) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DDC | 116365 |
| DDC, MTM, BM, VDCs | 44940 |
| MTM | 8000 |
| Other institutions | 199800 |
| Total | 369105 |

Chapter Five

5. Tourism Management, Programme Implementation and Monitoring

Management of tourism in principle seen to be structured around basic **four** themes: **(i) Managing the tourism system; (ii) Managing tourism business; (iii) Managing tourism in its environment; and (iv) Contemporary issues in tourism management.** So, managing tourism in Bhaktapur district needs to follow all these basic four themes.

Global tourism patterns and the distribution systems followed by all leading market destinations especially the Indian market should be followed as prime sphere to promote tourism in this district. While on managing tourism activities as a business, careful assessment has to be done and need to take into account both the **demand** and the **supply** sides of this industry.

On the demand side are the pressures exerted by tourism on the environmental, natural and cultural resources of an area. On the supply side are the infrastructure and facilities that need to be put in place to attract tourists and also to make tourism socially, economically and environmentally viable.

There will be many other issues, which in parallel come ahead and needs immediate attention to solve the unforeseen problems. If managed properly, then every tourism attractions in this district can lay hands on maximum benefits with little negative impacts from tourism.

5.1 Management

5.1.1 Management of Cultural, Historical and Archaeological sites

It is well known that Bhaktapur District is wealthy in cultural, historical and archaeological heritages. Remarkably the long field studies of the entire region of this District shows that there are even more and a number of hidden heritages in this District which have not yet been brought into light lime. One way, such unique heritages lying scattered all over makes us proud as they were handed down to us by our ancestors, but on the other hand, it feels sad and despair viewing poor faith of our superb heritages. Overall, in the case of tangible cultural heritages, many of them are either lost or stolen and due to the carelessness, ignorance and the lack of awareness among the public, among them are either in dilapidated or poor shaped condition, or fragmented or carrying the archaeological remains as constructional raw materials by the natives or remaining in a very unsafe condition.

Hence, it has been urgent to preserve these precious heritages not only for our future generation but also for the greater glory of humanity. In the case of intangible cultural heritages, it is notable that the spirit of the intangible culture of course lies in the Guthi-land-income (trust) as well. It was the permanent source to conduct the fairs and festivals, rites and rituals, music and dance renovation and repair etc. Presently, such lands are lost by (encroachment) buying and selling. Particularly Newar culture of Bhaktapur is to be considered as the agricultural-land-based culture. So, one has to pursue that if there is no trust land, there is no culture. Unfortunately it is in a position to lose all the trust land.

Therefore, for better management of the cultural, historical and archaeological sites, preservation and conservation is inevitable. It is the moral responsibility of the local people as well as the formal duty of the concerned authorities to manage the sites properly. It is true that Heritage is like a golden egg-laying hen. So, it has to be well preserved for future generation.

5.1.2 Environment and Landscape Management

Natural landscape and rich biodiversity have not only provided strong bases for nature based tourism but have also provided means to augment and sustain heritage and culture based tourism in Bhaktapur. Considering the impending threats on natural environment and landscape due to encroachment and illegal felling of forest resources, depletion of water resources, land fragmentation due to unplanned land plotting and road construction and unplanned urbanization combined with the increasing air, water and sound pollution, Bhaktapur district should adopt a greenery maintenance and landscape preservation policy to preserve these rich natural resource base while boosting the tourism in the district.

Strong and coordinated efforts need to be in place to protect national, community forest and religious forest from being encroached in Nagarkot, Bageshwor, Changu, Suryabinayak and Ranikot areas. District Forest Office should play a lead role in capacitating CFUG in safeguarding forest resources while promoting ecotourism activities by capitalizing forest and natural landscapes. Efforts should also be undertaken to stop fragmentation of forest areas due to unplanned and unnecessary road construction in Suryabinayak and Gundu forest areas.

Special efforts should also be initiated to protect and revive water sources and wetlands areas, in particular the built lakes in Changu Narayan, Bhaktapur and Thimi areas by adopting awareness raising programme and bioengineering methods.

Special efforts should also be in place to halt unplanned land plotting, sand excavation and unplanned road network to maintain the beautiful landscape in valley and foothills areas. Municipalities, VDCs and Town development Committees should adopt standard green city concept by introducing compulsory green belt, green parks, kitchen gardening and organic farming practices. DDC can best utilize the tourism zoning concept based on the availability, capability and priority of available land resources.

5.1.3 Sanitation and Waste Management

Solid wastes generally originate from the households, industries and the hospitals in any place. In a tourism site, the waste is mostly of a household type. The estimated per capita waste generation of the Bhaktapur city is about 0.303 kg per head. The waste generation in the tourism site will be equal to this quantity or marginally less. The waste is generally organic in nature. It has been found that the waste is 80 per cent organic in Bhaktapur city and the rest is inorganic. The Disposal System that are being used in Bhaktapur are

- Waste Storage
- Waste Collection and Transfer
- Street Sweeping
- Door to Door Collection
- Tipan Tapan

The Solid Waste Management of Bhaktapur is regarded as one of the bests in the country. The Tipan Tapan System is the hall mark of Bhaktapur as it is practiced in this city only. Hence, this system can be used in the tourism sites as well.

Formation of a Sanitary and Solid Waste Management Committee

A committee should be formed to administer the waste management systems as described above. Much of the problem will be solved if the source separated collection can be implemented. Home composting should be promoted so as to nip the solid waste problem in its bud.

5.1.4 Hotel, Lodge, Home stay, and Campsite Management

Accommodation management is seen as a particular problem in Bhaktapur district in all areas except in Nagarkot and Bhaktapur Municipal areas which has good quality hotels and lodges. With a view to create a stronger institutional base for overseeing that the lodges, hotels, home stays and campsites are managed and operated within the bounds of *fair trade* practices, hotel, lodge, home stay and campsite management trainings are of utmost importance. Local associations and communities need to be strengthened as an institution to standardize prices and services, to oversee the quality of services, and to ensure that the code of fair trade conduct is enforced so that unhealthy competition is systematically discouraged. Past experience suggests that training alone is not enough, and has to be backed by an institutionalized system that reinforces continual vigilance with respect to service quality and practices of accommodation management.

While expanding hotel, lodge, home-stay and campsite in existing as well as new areas, particularly in the southern belt, focus should be given to ensure use of alternative energy instead of firewood and maintain safety standard for sanitation and sewage management.

5.1.5 Recreation and Entertainment Management

Recreation and entertainment being the major elements of tourism has been the subject within the overall management of tourism over the area. The acts of providing recreation and entertainment for tourists as well as locals have developed as a separate specialized sector in much tourism developed destinations. Local people's participation in performing cultural programs and dance has been very popular globally. Making such events more vibrant and rewarding comes under purview of the proper management of such groups and acts.

Metropolis like Bhaktapur and Madhyapur Thimi need to provide more recreation and entertainment facilities to retain more visitors in their cities (Table 5.1, 5.2). During the whole process in providing recreation and entertainment, it will be equally necessary to be vigilant to control and impede the untoward incidents. These two cities being potential sites for cultural, historical and MICE tourism, management of amenities including recreation and entertainment comes under priority activities.

5.1.6 Package Development and Tour Operations

Package development and operating tours are always done in parallel by private entrepreneurs. This management practice will help to boost the promotional activities of the tourism industry in Bhaktapur. Combining all attractions within the district, and breaking them into small packages looking at the total time to be devoted by the tourists, and designing the total cost for each package including transportation facilities are the major actions to be cautiously revealed by the tour operators. In Bhaktapur district, major cultural, archaeological and historical sites are scattered, which needs careful combination of sites into packages (Table 5.1). Whereas, activities within the WHSs and the medieval city Madhyapur Thimi can be designed as per the nature of attractions the visitors like to enjoy. By nature itself, the packages designed for historical and cultural sites will be little time consuming, which will really help tourists to stay longer in these sites. Management practices with fair trade dealing and providing better services including local guiding should be the overall objectives of all tour operators.

| Table : 5.1 Touristic sites to be included in packages in Bhaktapur and Madhyapur Thimi | |
|--|---|
| Bhaktapur | Thimi |
| <p>A. touristic sites:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Erotic Elephants temple 2. Ugrachandi and Ugrabhairab 3. Char Dham 4. Rameshwor Temple 5. Badrinath temple 6. Gopinath Temple 7. Kedarnath temple 8. Hanuman statue 9. Narshingha statue 10. National art Gallery (Malati Chowk) 11. King Bhupatindra malla's Column 12. Vatsala Devi Temple 13. Tagogan (Big Bell) | <p>A. Prospective Tourist spots of Thimi</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Balkumari Square 2. Hembarna Mahabihar (Lokeshwor Mandir) 3. Layekoo Durbar (Old Palace) 4. Bakachhen Mahadev (Oldest temple of Thimi) 5. Inaya Square 6. Digu Square 7. Gunakriti Mahabihar 8. Siddhi Kali Square 9. Gunga Chibaha (Square of several Stupas) 10. Pati Bihar (where the tallest copper statue of Buddha of Nepal is established) |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>14. Khicha Kho Gan 15. Lu Dhwaka (Golden gate) 16. Nyaynyapa Jhya (55 Window Palace) 17. Chayslin Dega 18. Yaksheswor Mahadev 19. Siddhi Laxmi Temple 20. Vatsala Temple 21. Fasi Dega (Tahacho Dega) 22. Balakhu Ganesh 23. Tadhunchen Bahal</p> <p>B. Tourism sites around Ta mari (Taumadi Square)</p> <p>1. Nyatapola temple 2. Char Ganesh in the four corners of Nyatapola temple 3. Bhila-Deo (Bhairab nath Temple) Lu: Hiti 4. Til Mahadev narayan Temple 5. Narshinga dega 6. Kumari Deo Chhen</p> <p>C. Tourism sites around Tachupal Twa (Dattatraya Square)</p> <p>1. Dattatraya Temple 2. Bhisin Dega (BHimsen Temple) 3. Pujari Math 4. The wood carving Museum 5. The Bronze and Brass Museum 6. Salan Ganesh 7. Nava Durga Temple 8. Wakupati Aryan Temple</p> <p>D. Major Buddhist Monuments in Bhaktapur</p> <p>1. Dev Nani (Mul Dipanker Bihar) 2. Pasu Mahabihar (Prasanasil Mahabihar) 3. Wang Baha (Manjubarna Mahabihar) 4. Vishwa Baha 5. Tung baha (Aadipadma Mahabihar) 6. Indrawart Maha Baha (Indra Barna Mahabihar) 7. Ina baha (Dharma Uttar Mahabihar) 8. Khusi Baha (Shakarawart Bihar) 9. Bahal Chhen (Tadhi Chhen/Chatrubramha Mahabihar) 10. Akha Baha (Akhandshil Mahabihar) 11. Jetbarna Baha (Lokeshwor Mahabihar) 12. Niwa baha (Jetbarna Mahabihar) 13. Yang Baha (Dharmakirti Bihar) 14. Jesthbarna Mahabihar 15. Sukudhoka Baha (Lubarna Mahabihar) 16. Jahur Baha (Mangal Dharmadip Bihar) 17. Thathu Bahi (Jaya Kirti Bihar) 18. Khuthu Bahi (Baudhasamakrit Bihar)</p> <p>E. Major Ghats</p> <p>1. Hanuman Ghat 2. Chuping Ghat 3. Ram Ghat 4. Mangal Ghat</p> | <p>11 Pottery Squares 12 Green Vegetable Farms of Thimi (Prospect of Agro Tourism) 13 Akha Chhen - Cultural Museum 14 Shankhadhar Chowk</p> <p>B. Places around Thimi All these places are located inside Madhyapur Thimi Municipality.</p> <p>1 Nagadesh</p> <p>1.1 Dyo Chhen 1.2 Siddhi Ganesh Square</p> <p>2. Bodey</p> <p>1. Mahalaxmi Temple 2. Narayan Temple (Bishnu Ghat) 3. Narayan Temple (Lachhitole) 4. Neel Barahi 5. Tigani 6. Divyashwori Temple (Lokanthali)</p> <p>C. Important Monuments of Thimi</p> <p>1. Dyo Chhe (House of Gods) 2. Krishna Mandir (Stone Temple) 3. Nityanath Mandir (Temple of God of Music and Dance) 4. Gaurishankar Mandir (Shikhar Style Temple) 5. Bisweswar and Bhawani Mandir (Temple surrounded by Pati) 6. Monumental Chaityas 7. Manjushree Shrine 8. Sumeru Chaityas</p> |
|--|--|

While on designing packages, careful assessment of all attractions needs to be done. This also needs due attention to other major attractions in the neighboring districts Kavrepalanchowk, Kathmandu and Lalitpur. Further packages should include attractions of all these districts as well (Table 5.2).

| Table 5.2: Potential tourism packages in Bhaktapur and neighbouring districts | | |
|--|--|--|
| Tourism Products | Tourism activities | Potential areas and routes |
| Cultural and Pilgrimage products | Shiva pilgrimage circuit trail | Susil Bhairahav-Anantalingeshwor-Subarneshwor-Suryabinayak-Doleshwor-Ashapureshwor-Chittapole Mahadev-Latarameshwor-Bageshwori-Balmikeshwor-Jyotirlingeshwor |
| | Buddhist Circuit- | Thimi and Bhaktapur (19+ Bihars(monasteries)) |
| | Traditional Water Spout Circuit | Bhaktapur, Thimi and Changu Narayan |
| | Sacred pilgrimage sites visit | Dattatraya, Suryabinayak, Anantalingshwor, Mahamanjushree, Doleshwor, Chittapole Mahadev (108 ft.) |
| Eco-Tourism Products | Wilderness/forest walk | Kushum Community Forest Eco Trail (2.5km), Nagarkot |
| | | Suryabinayak- Ghyampedanda -Gundu Frest Eco-Trail |
| | | Changu Narayan-Telkot-Chhayabasti Eco Trail |
| | Rhododendron walk | Suryabinayak-Ranikot- Lakuribhanjyang-Kailash Danda-Anantalingshwor Rhododendron Trail |
| | Orchid Trek | Nagarkot, Bageshwori, Suryabinayak |
| Bird watching | Nilbarahi, Suryabinayak forest, Chhaling forest, Sudal Bhanjyang, Bageshwori, Nagarkot, Kakrabari forest, Ranikot. | |
| Adventure Tourism Products | Day Hiking and Biking | Thimi-Nagadesh-Saraswotikhel-Duwakot-Besigoan-Sangdanda-Changu Narayan |
| | | Nagarkot – Telkot – Changu Narayan – Neel Barahi – Bode – Thimi |
| | | Reviving Mandev trail (Brick slaved):Changu-Sangdaha-Gelalgoan-Kulpakot-Jhaukhel-Byasi-Khasyangkhusung-Bhaktapur |
| | | Nagarkot-Mahadev Pokhari-Thakalmath-Bageshwori-Muhan Pokhari-BDS |
| | | Nagarkot-Mahadev Pokhari-Thakalmath-Saraswotikhel-Jitpur- BDS |
| | | Nagarkot-Mahadev Pokhari-Sudanbhanjyang-Halalgaon-Nalachhap-Tukuchanala-Latarameshwor-Chittapole Mahadev (143ft.) |
| | | Bhaktapur-Mahamanjushree-Nala-Nagarkot |
| | | BDS-Suryabinayak-Doleshwor-Maligaon- Kakrabari-Ashapureshwor-Sanga |
| | | BDS-Suryabinayak-Ghyampedanda-Ranikot-Patibhanjyang-Ashapureshwor-Kakrabari-Sanga |
| | | BDS-Suryabinayak-Ghyampedanda-Ranikot-Lakuribhanjyang-Kailashdanda-Anantalingshwor-Gundu |
| | | BDS-Suryabinayak-Katunje-Gundu-Anantalingshewor-Kailash danda-Bindhyabasini-Chitrapur-Thimi road |
| | | a) Nagarkot – Telkot – Changu Narayan – Byasi (through Jhaukhel) or Bode/Thimi (through Neel Barahi) |
| | | b) Nagarkot – Lapsipedi – Sali Nadi – Sankhu |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Nagarkot – Sankhu (shortest route from Nagarkot to Sankhu) d) Nagarkot – Lapsipedi – Chisapani – Sundarijal (I did other way round – over night required) e) Nagarkot – Naya Gaon – Sipaghat – Mandan Danda – Dolalghat (overnight at Sipaghat) f) Nagarkot – Anekot – Chandeswori Temple – Banepa g) Nagarkot – Panchkhal – Hokse – Palanchok Bhagvatisthan |
| | Rock climbing | Muhan Pokhari, Bageshwori |
| | Canyoning | Muhan Pokhari, Bageshwori |
| | Paragliding | Telkot, Nagarkot, Sudalbhanjyang, Latarameshwor, Lakuribhangyang, Ranikot |
| | Jeep safari | Bhaktapur Ringroad, Bhaktapur-Changu-Telkot-Nagarkot, BDS-Ghampedanda-Ranikot, BDS-Bageshwori-Sudalbhanjyang-Nalachhap |
| | Pony trek (Horse riding) | Changu Narayan/Sankhu-Nagarkot, Nagarkot-Nalachhap, Suryabinayak-Ranikot |
| | Soft trekking | BDS-Ghyampedanda-Ranikot-.....Phoolchowki |
| | | BDS-Ghyampedanda-Ranikot-.....Godabari |
| | | BDS-Ghyampedanda-Ranikot-Ashapureshwor-Panauti |
| | | Sankhu Bajrayogini-Maha Manjushree- Ugrachandi Nala–Banepa-Namo Buddha- Panauti-Lakuribhanjyang –Godavari |
| Rural Tourism Products | Home-stay experiences | Accommodation at the typical Newari, Tamang and Chhetri/Brahmin houses; observing village lifestyle, village walk, Temple visits, participating daily life activities, fair and festivals, cultural performance, visiting culture centre and museums, observing live craftsmanship, pottery making, Observing the production process and buying local products like Tikani Baji, Juju Dhou etc. |
| | Agri-tourism activities | Studying, observing and participating traditional farming practices like rice, wheat and vegetable cultivation and harvesting, Using pure organic products at home-stay |
| | Village tour package as part of hiking | Visit of model village and settlement, visit temple, Bihars and water Spouts as part of short hiking and biking |

By considering the present short stay of visitors in Bhaktapur and construction of 6 lane road to Suryabinayak areas, focus should also be given to encourage local tourism entrepreneurs and tour operators/agencies thereby establishing direct linkage to Kathmandu and overseas based tour operators.

5.1.7. Integrating tourism with the local economy

Bhaktapur is always considered as one of the unique tourism destination of Nepal. Bhaktapur Durbar Squire, Changu Narayan and Nagarkot have national importance. It is considered that without visiting Bhaktapur the travel of Kathmandu will be incomplete. The heritage site of the city has a great importance on social and economic life of the people. Introduction of the entrance fee for the tourist has made the city more prosperous. The monuments have been repaired and rehabilitated and the Bhaktapur has established itself as a cleanest town in the country. Income from tourism has changed people's behavior and attitude. At present, hardly one can see the pigs in the

street and people washing cloths in ponds with dirty water. Majority of the houses include toilets and piped water supply system.

Bhaktapur district has a domination of urban population on rural population having only 45.3 % of the total population residing in rural areas. There are several VDCs which are already oriented to urbanisation. Thus actual figure of rural population is far less than the above. Population growth in Bhaktapur municipality is 1.67 % which is very low compared to national urban average of 3.44% but Thimi municipality has a different situation which has a growth of 4.1 % which is very high in national average (CBS, 2001).

Till date, the benefit of tourism has been enjoyed by some small segment of urban population. It is necessary to bring the tourism product to the rural area to improve the economic condition of the rural population. To boost the local economy in Bhaktapur district, tourism activities can be developed and managed in an integrated approach with local initiation and participation. The following modular approaches are suggested to follow:

1. Develop village tour and sightseeing package in the surrounding villages/Toles of Bhaktapur Durbar Square (BDS) and core Thimi areas to diversify and expand present tourism product. This has to be focused on:
 - a. Urban home-stay opportunities for experiencing Newari culture
 - b. Local agricultural practice and on- farm activities
 - c. Dafa (Devotional) Bhajan and other folk songs
 - d. Observing live rituals and traditional activities
 - e. Observing traditional domestic art and architecture
 - f. Observing live craftsmanship including pottery making, mask making, metal craft making etc.
 - g. Visiting various Temples and Vihars of religious importance.
 - h. Participating on cultural programmes
2. Developing community based rural tourism packages including:
 - a. Home-stay tourism package in potential villages like Nangkhel, Bode, Maligoan etc.
 - b. Village tour/walk activities as a part of hiking, trekking activities.
 - c. Stop over facilities and services such as tea house, resting places etc.
 - d. Cultural programme/package
 - e. Cooperative model as and when applicable
3. Create opportunities for tourism related jobs and services for locals. This is done by:
 - a. Encouraging locals to establish travel, tour and trekking agencies at Bhaktapur.
 - b. Training locals as local tour and trekking Guides.
 - c. Engaging locals in hospitality related jobs like Cooking/safe, waiters/waitress, Housekeeping, front office management etc. This issue is more pertinent in Nagarkot areas.

4. Develop other feeder value chain products and services such as:
 - a. Develop and sell local handicrafts like wooden craft, metal craft, pottery, ceramic and other terracotta products, woolen crafts, Sukul, Gundri (carpet), bamboo products etc.
 - b. Produce organic products and replace import of outside vegetables, fruits and food grains including off season vegetables.
 - c. Upgrade, brand, package and sell unique Bhaktapur products such as Bhadgaule cap, Tikani Baji, Chitrapur Baji, Juju Dhou, Bhaktapur Khuwa and Thimi Gudpak etc.
 - d. Introduce other potential products such as Strawberry plantation and Plum plantation in Maligoan, Kakrabari, Thakalmath, Tathali and Chittapole areas.
 - e. Improve harvesting methods and packaging with unique brand for Lapsi and Plum Jam.

For further detail modular approach please refer Annex 35.

5.2 Programme Implementation

For effective implementation of the activities designed in the TD and MP, it is expected that the various institutions at district and local levels will be responsible to undertake the activities suggested within and after the planned period.

5.2.1 Tourism Section at the DDC and Local Tourism Development Committees

The TDMP will be implemented by establishing various types of tourism institutions at DDC, municipality and VDC levels. While forming various institutions and enhancing their capacities, lessons learned and best practices from TRPAP project will be followed (TRPAP, 2007; MoCTCA, 2060 BS). The institutions to be established and functionalised at meso (district) and micro (local) levels will be as follows:

| Table 5.3: A Framework for developing and institutionalising the Tourism Institutions at different levels (meso and micro) | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|--|---|--|
| S No. | Level | What type of organisation/ Section? | Who will be representing? | What will be the main functions | Remarks |
| A. Meso level | | | | | |
| 1. | District-level | District Tourism Coordination Committee (DTCC) Note: at present the BTDC could play this role provided that it is | DDC Chair, TDC secretaries from the DDC and 2 municipalities, municipalities, some representatives (reps) from VDC TDCs, other | Coordination, avoiding resource duplications, monitoring, policy formulation, forward linkages etc. | As per the STDF Guideline, MoTCA/TRPAP 2060 BS |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | reorganised as a district-level inclusive organisation. | government officials, FNCCI/ NGO reps, reps of different entrepreneurs' groups | | |
| 2. | At the DDC Office | Tourism Development Section (TDS) | The Tourism officer (designated by the DDC) will lead the Section with at least 2 to other staff with extensive orientation on tourism and resource mobilisation | Plan implementation, co-ordination, resource generation and sharing, networking, policy execution, technical guidance to municipalities/ VDC in close coordination with NTB/MoTCA, and monitoring | |
| B. Micro Level | | | | | |
| 3. | At the Municipality | Tourism Development Sub-Committee (TDSC) | To be led by a member of the municipality, other members to be brought from other sectors: FNCCI/ NGOs, tourism entrepreneurs, religious committees, etc. | Preservation of heritage, planning, executing the Plans, monitoring, resource generation, encouraging local participation, addressing the issues of benefit sharing, etc. | |
| 4. | At the VDC (in all 16 VDCs) | Tourism Development Sub-Committee (TDSC) | To be led by a member of the VDC, other members to be brought from other sectors: NGOs/ active CBOs, FUGs, tourism entrepreneurs, local religious committees, etc. | | |
| 5. | At the tourism site (specific product-site) e.g. Trishul Danda At major potential destinations: , Jalpadevi, Mahamanjushree, Anantalingeshwor, Doleshor etc. | Conservation and Management Committee (CMC) (e.g. 'Trishul Danda Conservation and Management Committee', Anantalingeshwor CMC etc.) | Making the traditional committees more systematic, inclusive, transparent and active with outside linkages too. | Other key roles would be: preservation, conservation, planning, developing, developing codes of conduct, management of local resources, linkages, representing in the VDC/ municipality level tourism committees, etc. | |

5.3 Programme Monitoring

The DTCC, TDSs at DDC and municipalities and TDSC will be responsible for implementing and monitoring of the TDMP at different levels as indicated in Table-5.3. The DTCC will watch over the matters related to DDC/TDS' works and its coordination mechanisms and facilitate the DDC to perform the TDMP execution tasks by formulating relevant policies/ guidelines and taking appropriate decisions. Also, the DTCC will hold its meetings at least half-yearly to review the achievements of TDMP.

Field-based monitoring visits

Similarly, a mechanism will also be developed to organise field-based monitoring visits of the DTCC members on *Chaumasik* (4-monthly) basis. Bhaktapur DTCC will have more privilege to visit all the VDCs in one or two days as every VDC has road-access and, they are closed to the district-headquarters too.

Annual Review:

Annual review and reporting system will be implemented at all levels, which will ensure timely reflection and revisions on the annual plan, and programmes following the development indicators set.

Development indicators:

While monitoring the programmes, basic targeted indicators and achieved indicators of tourism development and its associated impacts will be emphasised. The results and impacts should cover the main themes, such as- tourist arrival, expenditure, employment creation, income generation by the poor and disadvantaged, participation of marginalised people in the local tourism etc.

Monitoring by TDS/DDC:

The DDC's TDS will make regular visits (at least 2 times a year) to the tourism sites/VDCs to observe the developments, provide feedback and back-stopping etc. While making such visits, participation of the VDC secretary will be a must. Similarly, the TDS will make efforts to hold regular networking meetings (on quarterly basis?) of the TDSC's chairpersons and secretaries of the concerned areas (e.g. cluster of 4 VDCs?). The TDS will produce quarterly report and share in the DTCC meetings.

Monitoring by TDC:

The TDCs at the municipalities will regularly report to the Mayor/ Executive Officer and produce 3-monthly progress report to the Board. The reporting system will also follow the provisions made in the Local Self-Governance Act/ Regulation.

Similarly, the VDC-level TDSCs will meet bi-monthly and review the progress. Also, problems and opportunities should be discussed in each 'Networking Meetings' of the cluster VDCs (4 clusters, e.g.: Central landscape, Northern landscape, Eastern landscape and Southern landscape).

Chapter Six

6. Perspective and Priority Programmes for 2015-2020

For Bhaktapur district the capacity to finance tourism development in the district is contingent on increased revenues from tourism and other sources, or development grant from the centre. The contingencies involved in the preparation of the TD and MP are many, and providing an additional five year perspective for tourism development is fraught with uncertainties. Under the present circumstances the TD and MP largely is anchored on:

- a coordinated operational working mechanism between DDC, Municipalities, VDCs, local entrepreneurs, local tourism management committees and the Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee
- enhanced capability of the local entrepreneurs to operationalize the district Tourism Development and Management Plan
- improvement of the linking roads in all VDCs within the district linking with the district headquarters of Bhaktapur

The **disturbances** on the road traffic movement from Kathmandu to Bhaktapur Durbar Square may be the most influential determinant of the flow of tourists at present due to construction, and narrow and graveled roads linking all cultural and pilgrimage sites to this districts. At a time when retaining the existing market segment itself is turning out to be a daunting task, attracting new market segment for diversified tourism products is going to be indeed difficult if the road conditions and other infrastructures are not improved. What is proposed is therefore a perspective built on expectations that the proposed programs for the 2015-2020 periods will be largely implemented.

The broad directions for tourism development in Bhaktapur in the 2015-20 periods can be envisaged as follows:

6.1 Diversification of Tourism Products/Trekking Routes

By 2015 a more targeted marketing strategy need to be put into effect in order to further build on earlier initiatives and present a picture of Bhaktapur district “with a difference”. By adding new products should attract new market segment, including natural as well as cultural domestic visitors to Bhaktapur district. Focus should also be in standardizing tourism products by adding more value to the existing products. This can be done further:

- Developing cultural, MICE and Resort activities

- Developing additional facilities in the north and south hills
- Developing theme parks to meet the demands from the growing urban (Kathmandu Valley) population

6.2 Consolidation and elaboration of Tourism activities

By 2015 the basic infrastructure and human resources to establish Bhaktapur as a primary tourist destination would have been in place. Intensive promotion of nature trails, exploration of new trails, interpretation about nature and culture, village tours, focus on cultural festivities, experiencing the changing livelihoods of local communities etc will be the areas which could contribute to the elaboration of primary tourism experience. The emphasis should also be in linking the development of tourism with the development of basic facilities for the host communities.

6.3 Inter-district tourism

The prospects of inter-district tourism will depend pretty much on the status of the completion of the ongoing six lane widened road link to the Tribhuvan International Airport at Kathmandu and completion of the highway connecting the eastern part of Nepal (Banepa Bardibas High Way), and Terai Fast Track road connecting Neejgadh of Bara district. This could provide equal prospects for all other neighboring districts as convenient transit route for tourists to enter other districts and vice-versa. Short tours and cultural experiences could enhance the experience of western tourists coming from abroad and packages could be developed to take advantage of these inter-district tourists.

6.4 Cultural and Pilgrimage Tourism

Pilgrimage to religious and cultural sites within the district are restricted to barely a few days. Better event management and promotion would be attracting larger number of pilgrims, but still the activity period will be fairly short. Promoting different cultural sites as prime attractions for different time and period would help other destinations to receive further attention developing packages. Guided and adequately informed (interpreted) “cultural journeys”, would be one way of making these sites further attractive and will need to be highly promoted and marketed.

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