

Prof. Dr. Martina Maria Keitsch,
Department of Design, NTNU, Norway



Content

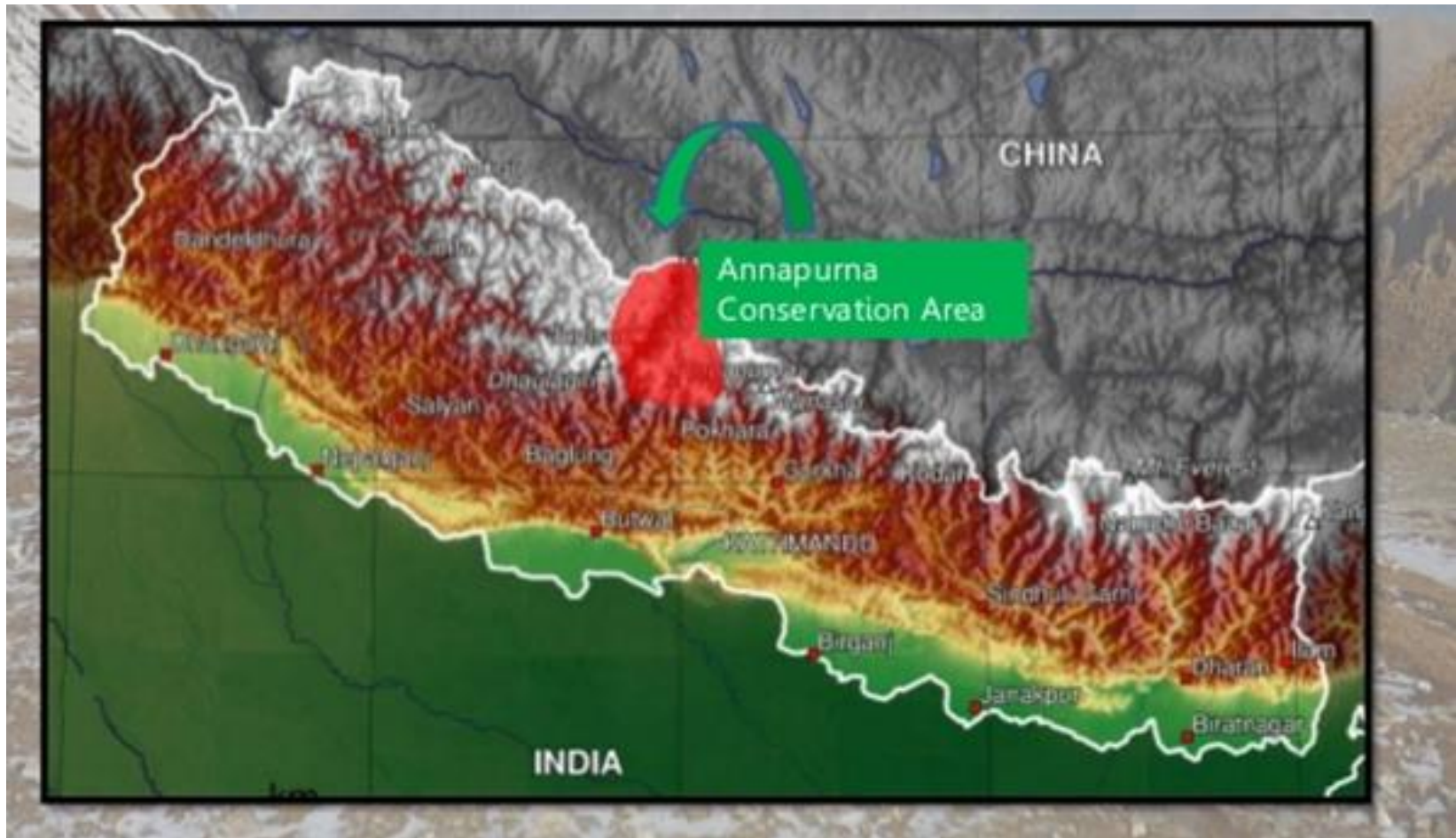
1. Introduction and challenges of ACAP
2. ACAP objectives
3. Environmental challenges in Mustang
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5. Human rights from an ACAP perspective
6. Example for MSESSD –ACAP collaboration in Mustang

1. ACAP - Annapurna Conservation Area Project

- Launched in 1986, the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) is part of NTNC (National Trust for Nature Conservation), founded by King Mahendra. **Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) is the first and largest protected Conservation Area in Nepal.**
- ACA covers an area of 7,629 sq. km and is rich in biodiversity and home for 1,226 species of flowering plants, 102 mammals, 474 birds, 39 reptiles and 22 amphibians.

- ACA is also the first protected area that has **allowed local residents to live within the boundaries as well as own their private property and maintain their traditional rights and access to the use of natural resources**. The area is home to over 100.000 residents of different cultural and linguistic groups, mainly Magar, Thakali and Gurung.
- ACA is the most popular trekking destination in Nepal. Tourism has been firmly established as one of the most important sectors of the local economy. There are over 1,000 lodges, teashops and hundreds of other subsidiary services to cater to the thousands of trekkers, pilgrims and their support staff.

Annapurna Conservation Area Map



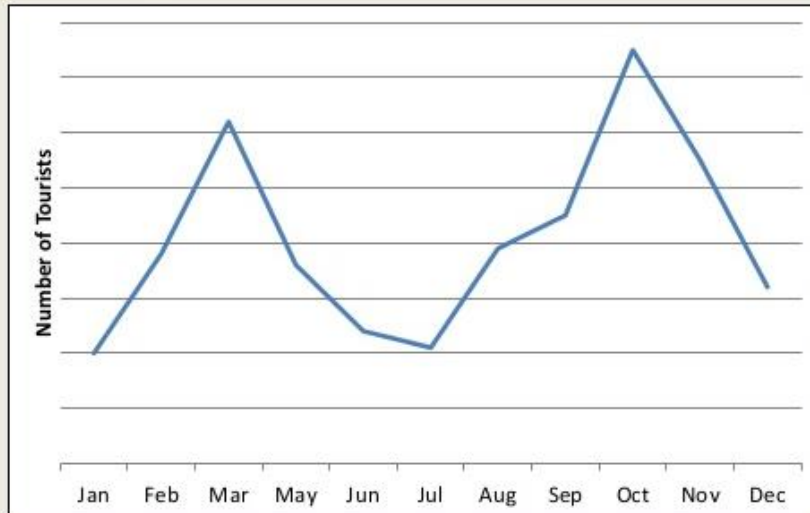
<https://www.slideshare.net/cwrobel/stakeholder-knowledge-and-understanding-of-sustainable-tourism-management-in-the-annapurna-conservation-area-nepal>

Mustang district and Baragaun

- Mustang District is one of the seventy-five districts of Nepal. The district covers an area of 3,573 km² and has a population (2011) of 13,452. The district connects the Himalayas and extends northward to the Tibetan plateau. In addition to trekking routes through the Lo Kingdom (**Upper Mustang**) and along the Annapurna Circuit in **Lower Mustang**, the district is famous for the springs and village of Muktinath.
- The **Baragaun** (“Twelve Villages”) is a northerly sub-region lying between Jomsom and Lo, in and around the Muktinath Valley.

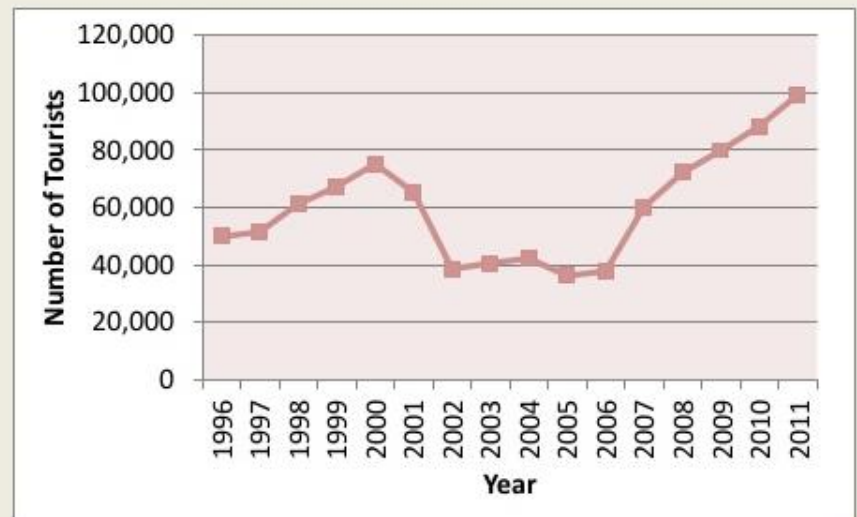


Regional Tourism Trends



Seasonality of international tourist arrivals in the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACAP, 2012, personal communication).

Regional Tourism Trends



International tourist arrivals in the Annapurna Conservation Area, 1996 to 2011 (ACAP, 2012, personal communication).

2. Environmental Challenges in Mustang

- The increasing number of visitors, whose fuel wood consumption is twice more than that of the local people, has exerted immense pressure on **forest resources** already stressed from the growing local population. Similarly, **litter, particularly the wastes produced by trekkers and hoteliers**, is another major concern. It is estimated that an average trekking group of 15 people generates about 15 kg of non-biodegradable and non-burnable garbage in 10 days trek, producing tons of garbage in mountain regions annually.
- ACAP wants to address these challenges through an integrated, **community based conservation and development approach**, an experimental model which has been in the vanguard of promoting the concepts of “Conservation Area” through an “Integrated Conservation and Development Programme” approach in the country and abroad.
- ACAP was first tested as a pilot project in the Ghandruk Village Development Committee (VDC) in 1986. After being notified in the Gazette as a “Conservation Area” in 1992, ACAP’s program covered the entire area.



Muktinath temple and Monastery,
Tourist Lodge Ranipauwa, Muktinath



2. ACAP objectives

1. To achieve sustained balance between nature conservation and socio-economic improvement in the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) thereby assist National Trust for Nature Conservation in achieving its goal.
2. Conserve the natural resources of ACA for the benefit of present and future generations.
3. Bring sustainable social and economic development to the local people.
4. Develop tourism in such a way that it will have minimum negative impact on the natural, socio-cultural and economic environments.

4. Challenges for ACAP

- ACAP adopted the **Integrated Conservation and Development Programme (ICDP)** approach to address the problem of conserving the fragile environment while improving the socio-economic conditions of local people. This means however also that ACAP limits implementation approaches to laws, rules and policies.
- De facto local people experience an unequal relation between conservation and development. As one interviewee (male 28) stated to Singh, '*...for them (ACAP) nature protection means conservation for us its part of our daily livelihood.*'
- Also, objectives that include socio-cultural practices, community development, promotion of indigenous knowledge, and development of ownership feeling and responsibility at individual and community and government levels often **miss out the local values**.
- Thus, a main challenge for ACAP is encourage participation in line with local values. The MESSED project is based on a **bottom-up approach and could hence contribute with valuable insights** for ACAP which were the basis of the common approach.

5. Human Rights from an ACAP perspective

Human rights are met by ACAP through among others the Gender Equity and Empowerment Program (GEEP). GEEP focuses on bringing **women, marginalized and socially outcast people** in the conservation and development mainstream through the gender empowerment activities to enhance their participation in decision making and program implementation.

Activities include enhancing skills in **income generations**, providing opportunity for better education, capacity building and exposure tours and operation of daycare centers.

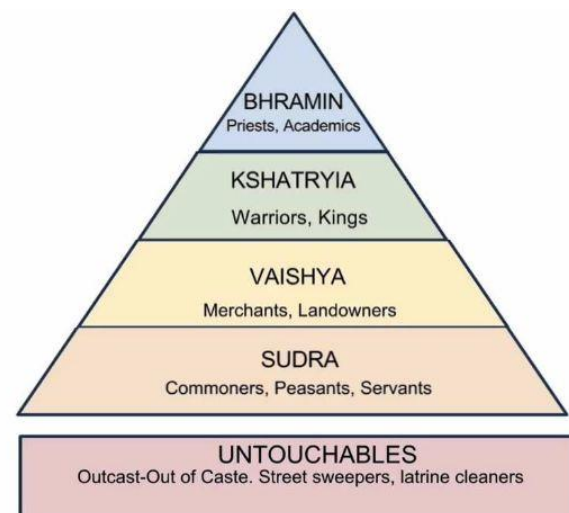
Structurally, ACAP corresponds with the Nepalese Government activities. Each VDC (Village Development Committee) in ACA has e.g. a **Conservation Area Management Committee** consisting of 15 elected members, including three members from marginalized groups - women and Dalit. The CAMC observes and promotes activities related to the above and ensures a voice to marginalized groups.

The **Citizen Awareness Centre** (CAC) is another inclusion instrument. In CAC economically and socially marginalized local people, such as Dalits, are empowered through the community system. CAC was initiated by the Nepalese Government via the Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) and its goals are aligned with ACAP activities, mainly aiming at **sustainable livelihoods**.

Excursion: Marginalized Groups in Mustang

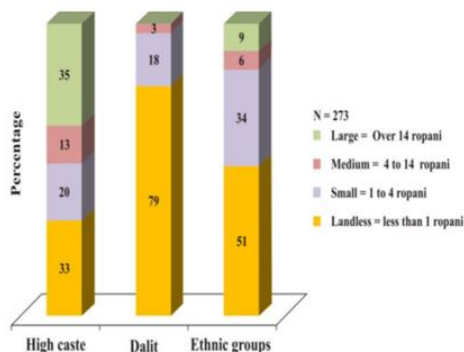
DALITS

- Dalits are a group in the Nepali cast system which are also commonly called '**Untouchables**'. In 1962, a law was passed making it illegal to discriminate against other castes led all caste to be equally treated by the law.
- However, discrimination by caste is deeply rooted in the Nepalese society and Dalits as the **bottom caste** still face widespread discrimination. They are not allowed to enter temples. They are not allowed to touch food at common gatherings. They are not allowed to use the public taps and drink water.
- In Mustang, Dalits comprise 8.2 % of the population. Studies on **lifestyle and rights of Dalits in Mustang** are **not accessible** at present date. An interviewee from Baragaun, and stakeholder in MSESSD gave however the following account.



Narrative Evidence on Dalits in Mustang Baragaun

PROPERTY GENERAL



Source: Field survey 2007 to 2009

Note: 1 hectare = 30 ropani

Land is given from the Baragaun village heads from community grounds for individual farming

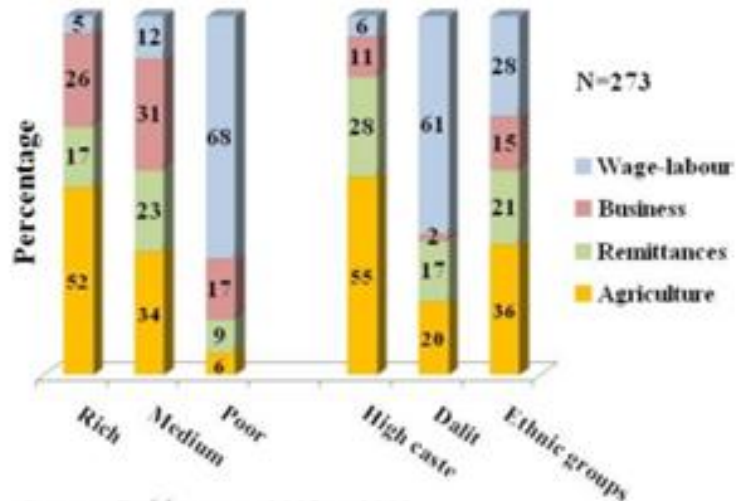
1 ropani = 508.72 square meter

EDUCATION GENERAL

“Only 15% of the total Dalit population in Nepal has educational attainment, which is almost half of the national average. Dropout rates, especially in the first grade, are high. The completion rate is equally low in primary schools, especially for Dalit girls (IIDS, 2009).”

No information from Baragaun: Out of the total population, 68.63 percent are literate in Mustang district. The rest (31.37 percent) are illiterate

WORK



In Baragaun, Dalits did all iron related work before as well as helped in agriculture, but were eg not allowed to touch food. Today this has changed.

CULTURE

Dalits still experience denial of entry into the temples for performing worship and to receive prasads (offering). One of the key demands of the Dalit movement in the last five decades has been the right to entry into the temples.”

In Baragaun, Dalits do not belong to the group of Tibetan Buddhists and are not included in rituals.

However this goes fro everybody, who is not born in the villages. Dolphis an others who live in the village and have the same religion are also not included in religious rituals.

Dalits are either Hindus or Christians.

WOMEN'S SITUATION IN BARAGAUN, FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS, STUDY 2017)

PROPERTY

- Land ownership patriarchally inherited, oldest son inherits land and cattle but has to take care of siblings. Usually woman moves to men's home in case of marriage.
- No explicit dowry system, yet partly practiced. Women bring house equipment etc.
- Interviewee, Male 55: "I think the dowry system is not good, I rather give my daughters a good education that they can take care of themselves"



Knowledge



Interviewee, Female 56
“Parents here see that their children get as best education as possible, often the children go to Tibetan boarding school to get closer to their own culture.”

Interviewee, Female 23:
“School is often only repetition of knowledge and do not promote own thinking.”



Employment



Interviewee, Female 32: "Men and women have seasonal common work for example in the field, but usually men work outside the house and women do the household, sometimes women have too little time to do all tasks."

6. Example for MSESDD –ACAP collaboration

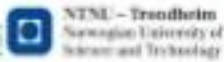
Sustainable Entrepreneurship Meeting Kagbeni 2017



MEETING SUMMARY DOING BUSINESS IN MUSTANG, KAGBENI – YAK DONALDS 15 & 16 OCTOBER 2017

बैठकको सार

मुस्ताङ्गमा व्यापार संचालन,
कागबेनी - याक दोनाल्ड्स
२९ र ३० आश्विन २०७४



Programme Schedule

DAY 1 15/10/2017

09:15 – 10:00 Registration
10:00 – 10:15 Opening Ceremony
10:15 – 11:00 Orientation – “Doing Business”
11:00 – 11:30 Break
11:30 – 13:00 Participants sharing experiences
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
14:00 – 15:00 Participants talk about their experiences
15:00 – 15:45 Kushal Gurung (WPN): Entrepreneurship Practice
15:45 – 16:30 Bahadur Thakali (NMB): Business Practice in Nepal
16:30 – 17:00 Break
17:00 – 17:45 Martina, Bijay: Regional collaboration
17:45 – 18:30 Ravi Bhandari & David Sharma (NITEC): Business Canvas
18:30 – 19:00 Discussion
19:30 – 21:00 Dinner

DAY 2 (16/10/2017)

09:15– 10:00 Purna Kunwar (WWF): Cases in Mustang
10:00 – 10:45 Tulsi Dhahal (ACAP): Community Business
10:45 – 11:15 Break
11:15 – 13:00 Practical work
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
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Participants' canvas
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कार्यक्रम तालिका

पहिलो दिन २९/०६/२०७४

०९:१५ - १०:०० दर्ता संकलन
१०:०० - १०:१५ उद्घाटन समारोह
१०:१५ - ११:०० परिचयात्मक कार्यक्रम
११:०० - ११:३० विश्राम
११:३० - १३:०० अनुभव प्रस्तुति
१३:०० - १४:०० खाना विश्राम
१४:०० - १५:०० छलफल
१५:०० - १५:४५ कुशल गुरुङ (WPN) - उद्यमशीलता अभ्यास
१५:४५-१६:३० नेर बहादुर थकाली (NMB): लघु बित्तिय लगानी
१६:३० - १७:०० विश्राम
१७:०० - १७:४५ मार्टिना काइज र विजय सिंह - रिजनल कोलाबरेसन
१७:४५ - १८:३० रवि भण्डारी र डेविड शर्मा (NITEC) - Business canvas
१८:३० - १९:०० छलफल
१९:३० - २१:०० दिनर

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