



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation



Date: December 18, 2014

To
Kishore Rao
Director
The World Heritage Centre
7, Palace de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP,
France

**Subject: State of Conservation of Chitwan National Park, Nepal (N 284) and
Sagarmatha National Park**

Dear Mr. Rao,

It is my pleasure to forward the State of Conservation (SoC) of Chitwan National Park, Nepal and Sagarmatha National Park to you. I would like to request you to include this State of Conservation of Chitwan National Park and Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal in World Heritage Center SoC on-line. Please find attached statements.

Thank you very much for your concerns.

at best

Tikaram Adhikari
Director General
Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
Nepal

Director General

CC : UNESCO Office Kathmandu

Name of the World Heritage Property: Sagarmatha National Park , Nepal (120)

1. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's Decision, paragraph by paragraph

The followings are the comments of Government of Nepal, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation as State Party of World Heritage Convention regarding Sagarmatha National Park Nepal (N120), Decision 38 COM 7B.68

Regarding S.N. 4

- To this date the issue of Kongde View Resort has not been decided by the Supreme Court of Nepal. As the state party of World Heritage Convention the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) will inform the World Heritage Centre immediately after verdict of the Supreme Court Nepal on the issue of Kongde View Resort.

Regarding S.N. 5

Regarding the recommendation of WHC the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation has requested writing a letter on dated September 14, 2014 as follows:

Date: 14th September, 2014

To
Christian Manhart
Head
UNESCO Office, Kathmandu

Ref.: Invitation to the IUCN advisory mission to study impact of Kongde View Resort and tourism in Sagarmatha National Park.

Dear Mr. Manhart,

Nepal has been getting success for maintaining two National Parks- Sagarmatha and Chitwan as UNESCO's World Natural Heritage Sites and conserving its biodiversity and integrity of the ecosystem. However, there are various issues faced continuously for the better off of local community as well as threats to biodiversity, we are effectively launching various kind of approaches such as community participation and sustainable tourism to address the livelihood problems, coordination and cooperation among stakeholders to curb poaching of wildlife at different level, and habitat management.

Sagarmatha National Park has a burning issue of Kongde View Resort construction inside the park and heavy pressure of tourists in the park. I am thankful to you if UNESCO Office could

provide a support to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation in addressing the issues raised at local level in Sagarmatha National Park, one of the World Natural Heritage Sites in Nepal.

Therefore, I would like to request for international assistance inviting IUCN advisory mission to the Sagarmatha National Park to consult the Mountain Biome Specialist Group of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and the IUCN Theme on Indigenous and Local Community, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA) for technical advice on the overall state of conservation of the property, particularly to the impact of the Kongde View Resort and tourism. I would be happy if a joint team could be arranged with participation of the experts from the department and the international advisory mission to conduct this study.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

With best regards,

Tika Ram Adhikari
Director General

Regarding S.N. 6

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Nepal is eager to invite an IUCN advisory mission to provide advice on these matters and seeks financial and technical assistance.

Regarding S.N. 7

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Nepal will submit an electronic and three printed copies of the Sagarmatha National Park Tourism and Management Plan (2014/2018) as soon as in finalizing the Initial Examination Report (IEE).

Regarding S.N. 8

Sagarmatha National Park authorities made informal consultations with local Sherpas regarding Inclusion of Buffer zone in the WHC property but formal consultations is remained. Once it will happen, SNP will prepare a proposal to the DNPWC for further action.

2. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party :

- Sagarmatha National Park is unique owing natural and cultural assets owing the highest peak in the world. The Mount Everest has attracted enormous number of Tourist from the world. Natural biodiversity and landscape of this region become lure for foreign tourists. Tourism not only poses positive impacts in the area but also creates adverse impacts. Air, visual, water, soil and noise Pollution threat to national and internationally important landscape.
- Mostly pine forests are found in the SNP and its buffer Zone. Pines are fire prone species so that forest fire occasionally occurs and creates severe impacts in the forests. The trend shows that fire incidents have been increased mostly in the hot summer seasons. The impact of global warming has been sown by melting snow in the peaks, raising water level in glacier lakes.
- The local people are allowed to collect dry fuel wood; collecting fuel wood from the forest is prohibited without permission of the authorities, growing number of potters, time to time collects fuel wood illegally for cooking and heating it has direct impact on existing forests. Although there is possibilities of hydropower in major tourist routes, very little have been captured so far.
- With the global warming, the park has got experiences of snow melting, low frequency of snow falls and so on. Climate change has severe impact in World highest altitude, the Mount Everest.

3. Major restorations, alterations, and/or new constructions envisaged within the protected area and its buffer zone and/or corridors.

- There are no such cases in SNP were occurred during the reporting period.