

Project Update: January 2015

International tourists were surveyed, to explore the visitors' (especially international tourists') willingness to pay for conserving ecosystem services and park entrance fee in Langtang National Park (LNP). A total of 270 tourists were surveyed in the autumn season that lasted from September to November 2014. Autumn season is the best season to visit Himalaya National Park of Langtang, Nepal thus giving chance to encounter more visitors for the research study purpose.

Besides willingness to pay, recreational value of the park will be derived from this part of survey. Tourist's attitudes towards environment and conservation along with their overall experience with touristic profile will be compiled.

After the tourist season was over in mid-November 2014, the other part of ecosystem service assessment was conducted. Household questionnaire survey and stakeholder discussion at the local level and park level was done. Key informant survey was used to support the arguments. In household survey, 215 questionnaires were completed. My sampling intensity is 20% and all the village development committee that lies within the park territory of Rasuwa district part of Langtang National Park is to be surveyed. Due to the mid-winter season, household in two village development committee that lies in the high Himalayan region cannot be surveyed this time. Therefore, these remaining survey work will be accomplished in the spring season. All together, the total number of questionnaire surveys will be 305.

Three major ecosystem services is being assessed through household survey, viz. cultivated goods, harvested wild goods and water resources. Recreational ecosystem services is being assessed through international visitor's survey while global climate regulation part will be analysed through extensive literature review and will be primarily based through secondary information.

Until the next phase of survey commences in spring season, data entry and preliminary analysis work will be done.