Eco-tourism in KNP-Impact and Challenges

Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee (KCC)
Tourism Promotion in KNP, West Sikkim

KNP was opened for trekking tourism in 1982.
Bio-diversity Hotspot.

4,500 Flowering Plants
Bio-diversity

550+ Species of Birds.
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE
ILP and RAP made easier in 1992
Challenges

• Unrestricted Group Size- (Carrying Capacity).
• (Regulate the high influx of visitors in heavily visited areas, thus reducing negative impact of Tourism)-Sikkim Eco-tourism Policy 2011)
• (Monitor the activities of Eco-tourism to ensure minimum negative impacts on the biodiversity and eco-system of Sikkim emphasis should be on Carrying capacity of Pas in Sikkim including KNP-Roles of Eco-tourism Council)
• Safety and Security. (QRT)
• Certification. (Under qualified Guides)
• Inadequate Infrastructure. (Toilet/Trekker's Huts)
• Lack of designated Camping site.
Challenges

- No alternative support for fuel for caretakers.
- Large group size of HMI.
- Stray dogs following tourist.
- Maintenance of Infrastructure including trekking trail. (Annapurna Circuit)
- Presence of Park staff in the Park during trekking season.
Use of Fuel-wood
Community Monitoring
Two Russian Bio-pirates were nabbed in 2003.
Home Stays promoted in 2002
Home-stays- experience
Challanges
Garbage Management.

Garbage Management Initiative.
A STEP TOWARDS ZERO WASTE TRAIL
PRESERVE NATURE
IF NOT NOW.....
WHEN
IF NOT HERE
..... WHERE
IF NOT U.....
WHO AM I!!

Community Monitoring