

62	Feasibility Study for involvement of the local community in the Kaziranga National Park	Dept. of Business Administration, Tezpur Univ., Assam	2010
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Executive Summary

Title of the Project:	Feasibility Study of Involving Local Community in Tourism Related Activities in Kaziranga National Park
Funding Agency:	North East Development Financial Corporation, Guwahati
Principal Investigator:	Dr. Chandan Goswami
Institute:	Department of Business Administration, Tezpur University
Study Area:	Kaziranga National Park and the villages in the fringe area of the Park
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To find out the existing tourism related infrastructure around Kaziranga National Park. 2. To forecast the tourist inflow over a particular time period in the future and assess the needs and wants of the tourists coming to this destination. 3. To assess the socio-economic and cultural dimensions of the local people and their willingness and ability to participate in tourism related activities. 4. To find out avenues for involving local people in tourism related activities. 5. To find out how different schemes for rural, social and economic upliftment in helping the local people in getting involved in tourism related activities.
Study Method:	<p>Study was carried out in various phases</p> <p>Phase 1 – Census survey of the existing amenities for tourists</p> <p>Phase 2 - Sample survey using stratified judgment sampling of 550 respondents to determine socio-economic profile in the study area.</p> <p>Phase 3 – Sample survey of 50 tourists selected using judgment to find out the satisfaction level and additional requirement.</p>

Phase 4 – Expert opinion survey to develop new tourism product and forecasting tourist inflow.

Major Findings:

- 1.** Total number of accommodation facilities available is 65 (including all categories).
- 2.** Total accommodation capacity is 1244 persons per day.
- 3.** Total Jeeps available for safari is 70.
- 4.** Total elephants available for safari are 29.
- 5.** Total number of eating joints is 37.
- 6.** The average household size in the study area is found to be five members per family.
- 7.** The average family income per month is approximately Rs. 4191.50.
- 8.** Average family income increases with level of education.
- 9.** Around 20% of the sample are involved in tourism related activities.
- 10.** Around 50% of the respondents possess special skills.
- 11.** The projected figure of tourist inflow for the year 2015 is 119761.
- 12.** Jeep and Elephant Safaris are most widely used by tourists.
- 13.** Around 50% of the tourists are satisfied with the existing infrastructure.
- 14.** Around 45% of the tourist found experience above their expectation.
- 15.** Major areas identified for involvement of local people are 'Homestay' programme, guiding tourists, cultural activities, traditional games and food, and souvenir.
- 16.** The Government Organizations like CAPART, NABARD, NEDFi, KVIC, DRDA, RGVN, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs, Government of India and Schemes like NREGA, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Rural Infrastructure and Rural Electrification Yojana, PMGSY can be used for purposes of infrastructure and skill development ultimately leading to community involvement in tourism activities.