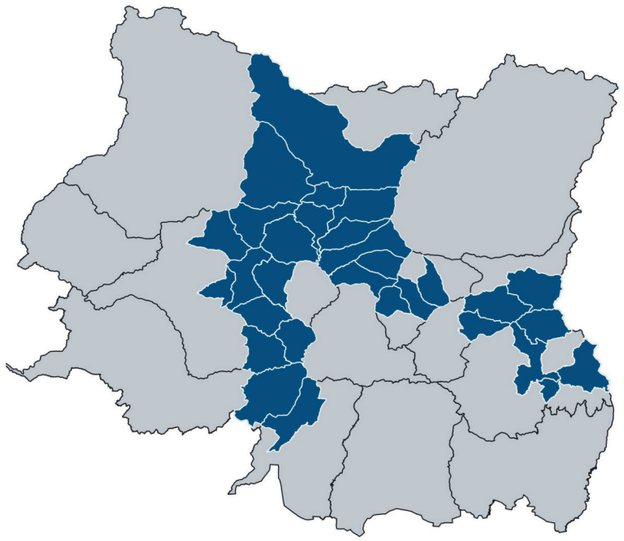
Geographic focus

Four main trail routes in 29 Municipalities of Mid Hills in Koshi Province:



Tea Garden Trails (Chiyabari Padmarga):
(Ilam- Fikkal-Shree Antu)

Falgunanda Trails:
Phidim-Chhintappu-Sandakpur-Maipokhari-Ilam
(Phidim-Lubrekuri-Silauti-Pauwabhanjyang-Lohakil-Bikhe-Chhintappu-Guruwale-Sandakpur-Maipokhari-Illam)

Rhodendendrum Trail (Laligurnas Padmarga):
Tumlingtar-Khadbari-Num-Guphapokhari-Basantapur-Jaljale-Tinjure Milke

Mundum Trails:
(Tawabhanjyang-Temkedanda-Chakhewa-Dalsinge-Dhotre-Jaljale-Hanspokhari-Maiyungdanda-Hyakule-Rawadhap-Salpapokhari-Silichung Peak)

Target groups

A total of 242,000 people, 211,000 of them from discriminated groups (including women) and around 38,600 poor live in the wards of the trail corridor. Out of these around 40% (~100,000 people) are estimated to be within a band of 3 hours of walk from the project trail. The project aims to directly benefit these 100,000 people of which 85,000 are from discriminated groups and 18,000 are poor.

Implementing agency

The programme is a bilateral initiative of the Government of Nepal and the Government of Switzerland implemented by the Federal Government, Koshi Province Government and 29 LGs in Koshi province with technical assistance from Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Nepal on behalf of SDC.

Budget : CHF 16.375 million

SDC: 9.010 million;
Government of Nepal: 1.328 million;
Koshi Province Government: 3.058 million;
29 Local Governments: 2.98 million

Time Frame : May 2024 to July 2028

CONTACT US

Trail-Based Tourism Development Project
Project Support Unit, Biratnagar, Nepal
Email : ttdp.np@helvetas.org
Phone : +977 21 591 016

Ministry of Tourism Forest and Environment
Project Management & Coordination Unit
Biratnagar, Nepal

solimar INTERNATIONAL

HELVETAS NEPAL

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
स्वीस सरकार विकास सहयोग एसडीसी



TRAIL-BASED TOURISM
Development Project

People increase their income and contribute to conservation of culture with innovative and sustainable tourism offers.

Government of Koshi Province

29 Local Governments in Koshi

Background

Tourism is Nepal's largest source of foreign exchange and revenue. Despite the huge potential of tourism, it contributes only 1.93% to the GDP of Koshi Province, compared to 7.9% of the national GDP.

Koshi Province is recognised internationally for its spectacular landscapes, cultural diversity and biodiversity. It includes five of the world's highest mountains. The oldest and most famous tea gardens are in Ilam area. Many of Nepal's ethnic and linguistic groups live in Koshi Province. They have their own rich culture and traditions, which are important assets for tourism. Koshi Province is also known for its important pilgrimage sites for Hindus and Buddhists. These assets offer grounds for developing a tourism product which is in much demand from the domestic and Indian tourists. Considering that domestic tourism has shown the biggest growth in recent years (on average an annual increase of more than 32% in domestic tourist arrivals in 10 selected tourist destinations since 2015.), it would be advisable to promote tourism development programmes that addresses the interest and demand from these tourist segments.

In Nepal, tourism falls under the exclusive and concurrent powers of all three spheres of government, giving rise to overlapping mandates in tourism-related areas. This underlines the need for close coordination across the three spheres to streamline tourism-related policies, programmes and plans, avoiding duplication, and potential complications in tourism planning, infrastructure and product development.





Programme Overview

The project will foster community-based tourism in Koshi Province, enabling residents along trails to participate inclusively in trail rehabilitation and enhance their capacity to offer tourism services. Local Governments (LGs) and the Koshi Province Government will create a supportive environment and co-finance trail upgrades. Through this initiative, communities and entrepreneurs will generate income by offering sustainable services that showcase local habitats, flora, fauna, and cultural traditions. Additionally, the project will raise awareness among communities and LGs on the commercial and social value of natural and cultural resources, promoting community-based conservation. The project consists of **four main components:**

- Construction and rehabilitation of trails according to a sustainable and national standards;
- Branding, packaging, and promotion of tourist destinations;
- Capacity building to achieve standardization and certification in hospitality and hygiene;
- Policy reforms and incentives for innovative tourism development by promoting local culture, history, gastronomy; private sector investments in adventure sports and tourism products.



What the Programme Will Achieve

A total of 400 km

of trails are built/rehabilitated in Koshi Province.

400,000 person days

of wage employment generated in construction work on trail rehabilitation (30% of earnings goes to women and 50 % to DAGs);

A total of 78,000

tourists visiting project trails in the last year of the project phase; (out of which International 5%; Indian 15%; and 80% Domestic).

A total of 2000

people employed in tourism activities .

At least 20

number of new or renovated lodges, homestays and accommodations along each trail .

At least 1000

local participants (women 25%) trained in various aspects of tourism operations.

How It Will Achieve the Objectives

- The Province Government collaborates with the Local Levels and the Federal Government (GoN) to develop culturally rich and environment friendly trail-based tourism destinations in Koshi Province.
- Community members, micro-entrepreneurs and small enterprises engage in culturally rich and environment friendly trail-based tourism services (with distinct cultural identity).



