

Eco-Tourism Industry In Arunachal Pradesh: An Empirical Study

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ABSTRACT

Eco-tourism is one of the fastest growing industries. Eco-tourism is often perceived as a tool for promoting sustainable development in developing countries. Arunachal Pradesh “the land of dawn-lit mountains” has unparalleled natural beauty with extensive geographical diversity and climatic conditions varying from the tropical to the temperate having a variety of wildlife, flora and fauna. The tourist destination of whole Arunachal Pradesh has been divided into twelve divisions of circuit. **Objective:** The paper aims to find out the potentiality of eco-tourism in Arunachal Pradesh. **Methodology:** This study is descriptive type in nature based basically on data of secondary sources collected especially from published books, journals, official reports, and websites.

Conclusion: Tourism industry can play a vital role in the State. As this sector is a labor-intensive industry, it can open an employment opportunity. A large number of unemployed persons can be employed by this industry. The Government should take necessary steps for development of the industry.

Keywords: Industry, Geographical diversity, Climatic conditions, Labor-intensive, Employment opportunity

I. INTRODUCTION

Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh is based on wildlife, natural beauty, unique flora & fauna, holy shrines, turbulent rivers, vibrant and colorful cultural festivals. The State has immense tourism potentials, which are to be explored as commercial resources. Eco-tourism refers to the idea of travelling to places of natural beauty, moving around and staying with the places of nature for a couple of days. It aims at conserving environment and improving the welfare of the

local people. With her scenic beauty and climatic condition the State has immense scope for eco-tourism. Eco-tourism is rooted in the concept of sustainable development. Eco-tourism is often perceived as a tool for promoting sustainable development in developing countries. Ecotourism is one kind of sustainable tourism, both environmentally and culturally, which has the capability to ensure economic and social benefits to the whole society. Ecotourism presents a small segment of nature-tourism, which is understood as travelling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas (Gossling, 1999). The term ecotourism can be well described with the following five criteria: nature conservation, low impact, sustainability, meaningful community involvement and environmental education (Mojca and Marko).

Definition of Eco-tourism

While a universally accepted definition of ecotourism remains elusive, it is important to appreciate that Ecotourism attempts to address concerns and interests around environmental, economic and social impacts of conventional, mass tourism. The International Ecotourism Society (2001) uses the following definition:

"Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people."

Elaborating the concept, David Western (1993) says, "Ecotourism is about creating and satisfying a hunger for nature, about exploiting tourism's potential for conservation and development, and about averting its negative impact on ecology, culture and aesthetics." Therefore, ecotourism is a viable for communities and individuals to earn their livelihoods

Seven Principles of Ecotourism

- Avoids negative impacts that can damage or destroy the integrity or character of the natural environment.
- Educates the traveler on the importance of conservation (natural resources, biodiversity).
- Directs revenues to the conservation of natural areas and the management of protected areas.
- Brings economic benefits to local communities and directs revenues to local people living adjacent to protected areas.
- Emphasizes the need for planning and sustainable growth of the tourism industry, and seeks to ensure that tourism development does not exceed the social and environmental 'carrying capacity.'
- Retains a high percentage of revenue in the host country by stressing the use of locally-owned facilities and services.
- Increasingly relies on infrastructure that has been developed sensitively in harmony with the environment - minimizing use of fossil fuels, conserving flora and fauna.

With these distinct types of tourism what become the need of the hour is 'sustainable tourism' Tourism becomes sustainable if it becomes on a part of a balanced economy, taking care of the long term needs of environment, people and their economic activities in a sensible manner. Experts on economies of tourism feel that tourism flourishes best when it fits into the context of general economic policies and programmes designed to lead to the optimum growth of the economy of a country as a whole. Hence the need to discuss and research upon the various facets

of tourism and the emerging trends and challenges. Apart from the foreign exchange earning potential of this sector it is necessary to carefully examine and plan for its development according to its scope, human adaptations and aspirations, accessibility and regional ramifications (**Hans and Biradar, 2006**).

Objective: The paper aims to find out the potentialities of eco-tourism in Arunachal Pradesh.

II. METHOD AND MATERIALS

This study is descriptive type in nature based basically on data of secondary sources. The data of secondary sources are collected from books, journals, websites and especially from Arunachal Tourism Office, Itanagar.

Analysis: The different materials collected from the various sources especially websites have been scrutinized, processed, organized and presented logically and systematically under appropriate headings in such a way to get the results and conclusion.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Short Description of the State: Arunachal Pradesh, a veritable treasure house of nature, in the north eastern tip of India, is encircled on three sides by Bhutan, China and Myanmar. Snowy mist, famous monasteries, unexplored passes and tranquil lakes come together to form some of the beautiful mountain places in Arunachal Pradesh. The State, “the land of dawn-lit mountains” has unparalleled natural beauty and extensive geographical diversity and climatic conditions varying from the tropical to the temperate and alpine with a variety of wildlife, flora and fauna. She has now started gaining acclaim the world over as one of the richest biodiversity and heritage spots. The variation in altitude and climatic conditions accounts for four different types of forests consisting varieties of flora and fauna, some of which are found only in Arunachal Pradesh.

Potentialities of Eco-Tourism

The Potentialities of Eco-Tourism of Arunachal Pradesh is discussed below.

1. Flora and Fauna: It is the only state that can claim to have four major varieties of the big cats in its jungles- tiger, leopard, clouded leopard and snow leopard. The state is also home to lesser feline species like the golden cat and marbled cat. More than 500 species of birds have been recorded, many of which are highly endangered and restricted to this state, such as the white-winged duck, scatter, monal bangal florien etc. Besides, there are seven species of primates that include the takin which is found in Arunachal Pradesh only. A large mammal called “Mithun” is a majestic animal, which is indigenous to the state. Each district of Arunachal Pradesh has its own exclusive and rare variety of orchids. One of Asia’s largest Orchidarium is in Arunachal Pradesh located at Tipi. In an effort to preserve the natural habitat, a number of Wild Life Sanctuaries and Natural Parks have been identified namely, Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary, Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Kane Wildlife Sanctuary, Mouling National Park, Dr. Daying Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary, Dihang-Debang Biosphere Reserve and Namdapha Wildlife Sanctuary.

2. Socio-Cultural Life: Since Arunachal Pradesh is endowed with thick evergreen forests covering more than 80 percent of its total area and has five major rivers-Kameng, Subansiri,

Lohit, Siang and Tirap winding their way through the sylvan hills, it is an ideal place for trekking, angling, boating and rafting. The upper reaches offer landscape for adventure tourism. Arunachal Pradesh is home to at least 26 major and over 100 sub-tribes, each with its distinct tradition and customs. The majority of the population, comprising of tribes like Adi, Galo, Aka, Apatani, Nyishi, Tagins, Bori, Bokar, etc are rooted to their ancient beliefs and indigenous practices of worshipping '**the sun and the moon**'. This religion is known as Donyi-Polo (which literally means Sun and Moon). Being a distinctly tribal state, festival is an essential and integral part of the socio-cultural life of the people in the State. Most of these festivals are connected with agriculture and celebrated with ritualistic gaiety either to thank God for his providence or to pray for a bumper harvest. The festivities mirror the culture, the artistry and skill of the people in music and dance.

3. Archeological and Religious Sites: Arunachal Pradesh is home to many monuments and archeological sites, which for long, have been acting as sources of inspiration for many historians. These places of worship and pilgrimages such as Parasuram Kund, 400 years old Tawang Monastery, Gorsham Chorten are drawing large number of pilgrimages every year. The archaeological excavation in Malinithan, Itafort, Bhismaknagar, Vijayanagar and Nakshaprabhat etc., are a historian's delight. Therefore, Arunachal Pradesh is a home to many monuments and archeological sites, which for long, have been acting as sources of inspiration for many historians. Therefore, Arunachal Pradesh is full of tourist destination.

4. Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh, Travel circuits and Places of Interest

Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh is reflected by following divisions of circuits which shows the potentiality of eco-tourism in Arunachal Pradesh. The tourist destination of whole Arunachal Pradesh has been divided into twelve divisions of circuit. Now we shall discuss one by one with places of interest.

i. Tezpur-Bhalukpong-Bomdila-Tawang Tourist Circuit

The circuit covers a distance of 350 km starting from Tezpur, the Headquarter of Sonitpur district in Assam to the 17th century Monastery built on a jutting spur overlooking the wide Tawang valley at an altitude of 10,000 ft.

Bhalukpong (56 km from Tezpur, 213 m above msl): It is the entry point to Arunachal. It is famous for Archaeological ruins of King Bhaluka, an ancient ruler of the region. The stone remains of the historical fort of 10th-12th Century A.D. is situated in the foothills of the region, speaks about the capital of King Bhaluka and his grandson Bana of Mahabharata fame. The river Kameng after completing all turbulent courses enters Bhalukpong in a serene flow which provides rare opportunity of adventure tourism and a beautiful picnic spot.

Tipi (5 km from Bhalukpong): It is a botanical paradise of the state. It is home to about 450 species of orchids. Some of them are rare and endangered species. There is an orchids museum too. Waterfalls and its natural beauty are other attractions.

Sessa (24 km from Tipi): A natural orchid sanctuary amidst chirping birds spread over 10 sq km. Over 2600 Orchids representing 80 species have been cultivated in natural surroundings. It is an exemplary effort of natural resources conservation.

Bomdila (109 km from Bhalukpong, 2700m above msl): It is Headquarter of West Kameng district and home of the Aka (Hrusso), Miji (Sjalong), Monpa, Sherdukpen, and Bogun (Khawas) tribes. Craft center, Monasteries, Ethnographic Museum, Emporium etc. are worth visiting. One can view various snow clad mountain peaks from Bomdila including a bird's eye view of Kangto and Gorichen peaks, the highest peaks of the state.

Dirang (42 km from Bomdila, 1497 m above msl): There are hot water springs where people take bath for curing skin ailments, Apple and Kiwi orchards, National Yak Research and Breeding Centre at Nyukmadung, Sheep Breeding Farm and Sangti Valley where Siberian black necked stork are seen.

Sela Pass (45 km from Dirang, 4114 m above msl): Sela Pass is the world's second highest motorable pass at 14000 ft with a high altitude serene crystal blue water natural lake. The natural beauty of the surrounding landscape is dream come true feeling.

Nurang (12 km from Sela Pass): There is Trout Fish Hatchery of cold water snow, is a place for worth visiting.

Jaswant Garh (4 km from Nurang): There is a memorial for Veer Jaswant Singh of the 4th Garhwal Rifles, the recipient of the Mahavir Chakra (Posthumous) who alone stopped the Chinese army for 72 hours during the 1962 aggression, is a place where patriotic emotions of all Indians find a natural expression.

Tawang (183 km from bomdila, 3500 m above msl): This is a tantalizing hill resort of Arunachal Pradesh at a height of above 10,00 feet has a fairy tale quality about it and is just the place for a dream holiday destination, Towering snow capped peaks feeding the horizon, long invigorating walks and quaint mysticism and solitude of Gudpi and Chong-Chugmi ranges and Tawang Chu River and Valley. Tawang is an important seat of Mahayan Buddhism famous for Tawang Monastery of the Gelukpa founded by Mera Lama Lodre Gyamtso during the 17th century, and a contemporary of the 5th Dalai Lama. This is the second Largest Monastery in Asia and the largest one of its kind in the country which manages the religion affairs of 17 Gompas in the region. The most imposing part of the Monastery is the three storied assembly hall which houses the temple and the 28 ft high Golden Statue of Buddha. The monastery has a big library having an impressive collection of ancient books and manuscripts where the famous Buddhist scriptures Kangyur and Tangyur inscribed in gold are preserved. Ugyelling is the birth place of Tsangyang Gyatso, the sixth Dalai Lama and another sacred place. Bramadung Chung, Sengsarbu Ani Gompa, Gyanggong Ani Gompa are nunneries among the oldest in the country. Tawang is also famous for beautiful natural lakes, like the Sangetsar Lake with splendid natural beauty of the surroundings, PTso lake surrounded by a picturesque landscape and so on. Other important places to see in and around Tawang are the War Memorial, Craft Centre and local markets.

ii. Tezpur-Seijosa (Pakhui)- Bhalukpong-Tipi-Tezpur Tourist Circuit

This circuit takes one to the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary one of the largest sanctuaries of Arunachal Pradesh located in the East Kameng district with Forest Divisional headquarter at Seijosa. Seijosa is a small but beautiful Sub-Divisional Administrative headquarter located on the banks of Pakhui (Pakke) river. The wildlife sanctuary spreads over an area of 861.95 sq km

and has been declared as a Project Tiger Reserve (Pakke Tiger Reserve). Some of the major wildlife species found in the sanctuaries are tiger, elephant, gaur, sambar, barking deer, leopard, hornbill, etc.

iii. Itanagar-Ziro-Daporrijo-Bassar-Aalo-Pasighat Tourist Circuit

Itanagar (Capital of Arunachal Pradesh): It has a rich mixture of archaeological sites of great historical value and built up resources and institutions of great socio-cultural significance.

Itafort, the fort of bricks' from which the State Capital derives its name, is situated in the capital complex. The fort has an irregular shape, built mainly with bricks dating back to the 14th-15th Century of Mayapur of Ramchandra, a king of the Jitari Dynasty.

Gyekar Sinyik (Ganga Lake) is a beautiful natural lake locally known as Gyekar Sinyik (confined water) surrounded by landmass.

Jawaharlal Nehru Museum has a rich collection of textiles, weaponry, household articles and handicrafts items reflecting the tribal culture and heritage of Arunachal Pradesh.

Craft Centre & Emporium at Itanagar is worth visiting where one can see and buy local artifacts like wall painting, traditional costumes made of natural vegetable and herbal dye yarns, and attractive utility items made of cane and bamboo.

Zoological Park (Zoo) at Chimpu houses a variety of fauna including avid-faunal species.

Ziro (167 km from Itanagar): It is a beautiful plateau and headquarter of Lower Subansiri District bounded on all sides by picturesque hills situated at an altitude of 5000 ft. the place has an imposing landscape of beautiful lush green forest, rivulets and elevated patches. It is famous for paddy-cum-pisciculture cultivation. The area is renowned for the terrace paddy fields where the unique system of poly-culture and water management is practiced by local people.

Talley Valley (30 kms from Hapoli old Ziro): It is a rich habitat of many unique and endangered plants and wildlife. The Pange, Sipu, Karing and Subansiri rivers are flowing through the Talley Reserved Forest and Talley Wildlife Sanctuary. It is home to highly endangered species like clouded leopard. *Pleioblastus simone* is a bamboo variety found only in Talley Valley.

Shivalinga at Kardo Hills: The serene hills of Kardo is home to one of the largest Shivalinga measuring 25 ft. height and 22 ft. in circumference unearthed in the recent past.

Daporrijo (327 km from Itanagar, 160 km from Ziro): It is headquarter of Upper Subansiri district situated by the side of the Subansiri river. Suspension bridges over Subansiri River, Museum and Craft Centre, Sigem-Daporrijo Reserve Forest, Kamala Reserve Forest are worth visiting. Subansiri river is ideal for river rafting, angling and picnic.

Menga Cave is a natural cave dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is a famous place of worship which draws large number of visitors and pilgrims especially during Makar Sankranti and Shivratri.

Aalo (297 km from Itanagar, 300 m above msl): it is Headquarter of West Siang District situated in a picturesque valley at the confluence of Sipu and Siyom rivers against the backdrop of verdant hills. Aalo is one of the oldest towns with a strong educational set up. Ramakrishna Mission School, District Museum and Donyi-Polo Dere are the places of tourist attraction. It is an ideal place for trekking, hiking and angling.

Likabali (160 km from Itanagar): It is the entry point to Arunachal from Silphatar in Dhemaji district of Assam. Inner Line Permit (ILP) can be obtained from SDO Office, Likabali.

Malinithan: It is a place of relics on stones with ruins of temples and valuable sculptures is associated with the mythological legend of the Lord Krishna. The site has a temple ruin dating back to 10th & 14th century AD of rich sculptural and architectural value. Beautifully designed and decorated basement of temple, divine images, icon, and deities, animal motifs and floral designs, carved columns and panel, have been unearthed. It is believed that on the way to Dwarka from Bhismaknagar, Krishna & Rukmini rested here and they were offered choicest flower by Goddess. Parvati Malinithan was a cultural centre of north east India in the remote past.

iv. Doimukh-Sagalee-Pake Kessang Seppa Tourist Circuit

Doimukh (25 km from Itanagar) is situated on the left bank of river Pare. Rajiv Gandhi University is situated on a hill top called Rono Hill.

Sagalee (112 km from Itanagar) is an ADC HQ and is situated in a beautiful valley with eye catching nature landscape. The age old tradition and culture of Nyishi Tribe can be a wonderful experience for the tourists.

Pake Kessang & Pappu Valleys are worth visiting beautiful valley. Papum Reserve Forest has a wide flora and fauna diversity.

Seppa (412 km from Itanagar) is headquarter of East Kameng district, a beautiful town located in a valley on the bank of the Kameng river. District Museum, District Craft Centre and Library are the Places of attractions.

v. Ziro-Palin-Nyapin-Sangram-Koloriang Tourist Circuit

Palin & Nyapin: are beautiful hill stations worth visiting for enjoying high mountains and colorful tradition and culture of the Nyishi community of Kurung Kumey District.

Sangram is beautiful hill station. River Paging, tributary of Kurung river meanders through this natural scenic landscape. The place is ideally located in a rural landscape for nature lovers and adventure seekers.

Koloriang is headquarter of Kurung Kumey district, a picturesque hill station. One can enjoy colorful culture of the Nyishi community of Kurung Kumey district.

vi. Daporijo-Taliha-Siyum-Nacho Tourist Circuit

Taliha, Siyum & Nacho: all the three destinations are located on the hill slopes by the side of the Subansiri river. It gives immense pleasure for adventure seekers while driving from Daporijo, the district HQ of Upper Subansiri to Nacho all along the Subansiri river. The nature settings are the best for white water sports and other adventure activities.

vii. Aalo-Mechuka Tourist Circuit

Aalo (297 km from Itanagar, 300 m above msl): It is Headquarter of West Siang District situated in a picturesque valley at the confluence of Sipu and Siyom rivers against the backdrop of verdant hills. Aalo is one of the oldest towns with a strong educational set up. Ramakrishna Mission School, District Museum and Donyi-Polo dere are the places of tourist attraction. It is an ideal place for trekking, hiking and angling.

Mechuka is an ADC headquarters, is a quaint town with a picturesque valley near the Indo-Tibet border. One can get a great view of snow covered mountain peaks and snow fall during the winter. Mechuka Lake is a high altitude natural lake with pristine natural beauty. Buddhist Monastery (Samtem Yangcha of Mahayana sect) one of the oldest Buddhist monasteries in Arunachal is situated on a hill top overlooking the valley.

viii. Pasighat-Jengging –Yingkiong-Tuting Tourist Circuit

Pashighat (270 km from Itanagar): It is Headquarter of East Siang district and the oldest administrative center of erstwhile NEFA, is situated on the banks of the mighty river, Siang, the main tributary of Brahmaputra and bounded by snowclad peaks, rocky mountains and a variety of flora & fauna. This circuit offers a unique opportunity for anyone who loves nature.

Dying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary (13 km from Pasighat) is spread over a cluster of river islands. A cruise through the Siang River is the only way to reach the sanctuary. The forest islands are home to hog deer, wild buffalo, sambas, elephants and others rainforest macro and micro fauna.

Siang River which originates from Tibet and forms the main flow of the mighty Brahmaputra is a socio-cultural poetry with a unique personification of its own. Rapids on the Siang River have been a prime attraction for River rafting and water sports. The self-contained 180 km from Tuting to Pasighat includes a 10-mile stretch of massive rapids with names such as Moing Madness, Zebra Rock and Pulsating Palisi. But there are calmer moments on the river where one can just float along with the current. The adrenaline rush is high and you'll be able to dine out for mouths on the tales you take back home. Abundance of rich aquatic life has attracted anglers and again.

Mouling National Park (Jengging 195 km from Pasighat) Lush green vegetation and home to some rare wildlife such as Takins, Serow, Goral, Clouded Leopard, Black Bear, Leopard, Red Panda etc. During winter, large number of migratory birds are seen in this park.

Yingkiong (180 from Pasighat) is the Headquarter of Upper Siang district situated amidst beautiful landscape and natural beauty.

Dehang-Dibang Biosphere Reserve covers a part of Jengging, Tuting, Gelling and Siang in Upper Siang district and Mippi and Anini in Dibang Valley district. The Biosphere covers 5111.5 sq km with great altitudinal variation from 500 to 16000 ft height leading to snow clad peaks and glacial lakes. It accommodates 8 forest types viz. sub-tropical broad leaved, sun-

tropical pine, temperate broad leaved, temperate conifer, sub-alpine scrubs, alpine pastures, bamboo groves and grasslands. It is one of the identified bio-diversity hot spots in the country.

The triangle, Gelling-Tuting-Singa constitutes the 'Pemako Zone' of the Tibetan form of the Buddhism with small hamlets of the lamas amidst serene natural environment. The Gompas and Buddhist shrines have golden Buddha statues, old scrolls and other traditional artifacts of the Tibetan form of Buddhism.

ix. Tinsukia-Tezu-Hayuliang Tourist Circuit

This circuit starts from Tinsukia in Assam to Namsai and Tezu in Lohit district and Hayuliang in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh. The entry point in Arunachal is at Dirak.

Namsai is the ADC headquarter famous for several Buddhist Vihars in the Khampti settlement area locally called 'Chong'. The Chong of Namsai and Manmao, Golden peace pagoda at Tengapani are major centres of Theravada sect in the state. The natural beauty and biodiversity of Piyong Reserve forest is worth visiting.

Wakro is in the hub of Kamlang Reserve Forest and Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary with dense forest and floral and faunal diversity. The Sanctuary is home to hillock gibbon, tiger, takin etc. Glow Lake is a unique example of high altitude lake with breathtaking scenic beauty, offering immense scope for adventure tourism.

Parasuram Kund is situated within the Kamlang Reserve Forest area. This place on the Lohit River carries a strong mythological link with the legend of Parasuram, a Hindu sage. According to the legend, sage Parasuram washed away his sin matricide in the waters of the Lohit River at Brahmakund. Each year thousands of pilgrims from all over the country congregate on Makar Sankranti day, to wash away their sins. A fair (mela) is held during this period.

Tezu is the headquarter of Lohit District located amidst beautiful landscape by the side of the flowing Lohit river.

Hayuliang has a breathtaking landscape and natural beauty at the confluence of the Lohit and Delai rivers.

Walong: There are hot water spring and the War Memorial in memory of the officers and soldiers of the Indian Army who laid lives fighting against the Chinese Army. This is special place of attraction.

Dong Valley is the place where the first Sunrise of the country can be witnessed. It is located on the tri-junction of India, China and Myanmar.

x. Dibrugarh-Roing-Mayudia-Anini Tourist Circuit

Roing the district headquarter of Lower Dibang Valley situated on the river side of the mighty Dibang River. Nehru Van Udyan, an orchidum. Orange gardens, Tribal villages of the Idu Mishmi community are the places of interest.

Mayudia (56 km from Roing) is a unique hill resort situated at an altitude of about 2655 Mtr amidst lofty hills, lush green forest and breathtaking landscape which provide a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains and the landscape. The place wears a tranquility of its own and the view of snow-capped mountains adds serenity to its environment. The ascending drive from Roing to Mayudia along the winding twelve-necked point (Baro Golai) of the road provides a sense of adventure as well as close encounter with nature.

Bhismaknagar (30 km from Roing) is the oldest archaeological and mythological site in Arunachal Pradesh, dates back to 8th century A.D. The fort was excavated during 1965-70 which yielded terracotta plaques, decorative tiles, potteries, terracotta figurines etc. Popular legends and traditions identify the ruins of the fort as the site of the capital of Raja Bhismaka, father of Rukmini (wife of Lord Krishna).

Hunli (90 km from Roing on the way to Anini) is a quaint town situated in the picturesque scenic valley. Cave temple at Kupuli near Hunli is a sacred place of worship for the tribes of the region. The drive from Roing to Hunli through the well maintained black topped road provides thrill and eye catching scenic beauty.

Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary and Lake (17 km from Roing) is spread over an area of 281.5 sq km with varying altitude from 400m to 3568m above msl. It is home to some rare species like wild Duck, Takin, Hillock Gibbon, Tiger, Leopard, Red Panda, Elephant etc. Mehao covering an area of about 4 sq. km forms part of the sanctuary. Water of the lake is a divine pleasure. Sally Lake is 3 km from Roing and forms a part of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary. It is a natural lake surrounded by thick vegetation.

xi. Margherita-Miao-Namdapha-Vijoyanagar Tourist Circuit

This circuit begins from Margherita in Assam and entry point in Arunachal is at Namchik.

Miao is a ADC headquarter with splendid natural beauty of Nao-Dihing river and green surroundings. Mini Zoo, Forest Museum, Wildlife Library and Tibetan Refugee Camp are the places of interest.

Namdapha National Park is the 15th Tiger Reserve in the country spread over 1985 sq km. It is the only National Park in the country where four of the felines i.e. tiger, leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard are found. Bison, Sambar and the barking deer and a variety of snakes inhabit the park. Another unique feature of this park has a snow during the major part of the year. The Nao-Dihing River meanders through the forest fed by numerous tributaries and has a rich variety of the aquatic life. The National park is also home to large variety of butterflies and has more than 150 timber species and some of the rare species of medicinal plants like Mishmi Teeta.

xii. Margherita-Jairampur-Namong-Manmao-Pangsu Pass Tourist Circuit

Jairampur is an ADC HQ of Changlang district situated in the southeastern part of Arunachal Pradesh. A small hilly town along the Indo-Myanmar border and Namchik basin.

Namong is located close to Pangsu Pass, being the last town of Changlang district on the Indian side at an elevation of 308 mtrs. There was famous Ledo Road, known as “Stilwell Road” constructed during World War-II by Allied forces linking to Kunming in China.

IV. REMARKS ON STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Eco-tourism is one of the fastest growing tourism sectors and therefore, the State Government needs to give tremendous thrust to this sector as because:

1. The development of tourism industry generates not only revenues to the government but also develop the area in all respects.
2. This sector links up the hill areas with the rest of the country and removes the social and economic isolation of the tribal people.
3. Development of the tourism sector can flourish the local tribal economy in a number of ways.
4. Its most important impact is the creation of employment opportunity for the tribes. Employment will be generated in the hotels, restaurants, transportation, and other kinds of lodgings as well as in the tour operating sector. There are a few small scale industries in the State absorbing a little number of youths. There is high unemployment problem. The Government sector is already saturated. The private and tourism sectors can solve this problem.

Many people now have jobs in hotels, game parks, touring agencies, etc. Community based ecotourism will improve local people's standard of living leading to increased appreciation of the parks (Sumardja 1995, Ediwijoto 1996). Many studies have suggested that local participation in projects from the earliest stages is crucial to success. Pretty (1995) has analyzed the different interpretations of participation, ranging from merely imparting information that development is going to occur, to the full involvement of the affected community at all stages. The benefits of Ecotourism are clearly seen by governments in both developing and developed nations for a variety of reasons. For example, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Kenya are usually mentioned as models of successful Ecotourism (Eagles, et al, 1999). Environmental education is one of the five criteria that must be fulfilled in order to perform ecotourism and is the key step towards the process of understanding the natural ecosystems and our role in them. The aim of environmental education is to teach and educate the public about the function of natural environments and, particularly, how human beings can manage their behaviour and ecosystems in order to live sustainable (Mojca Arsenijevic and Marko Bohanec).

V. CONCLUSION

Tourism industry can play a vital role in the State. It is a labour-intensive industry. A large number of unemployed persons can be employed by this industry. The Central as well as the State Governments should take necessary steps for development of the industry and allocate huge budgetary allocations for this sector. Sathyanarayana and M.V. Raghavalu (2005) explain the development of tourism industry means adequate hotel accommodation, better transport facilities; medical and communication facilities at multi languages allocate the huge budgetary allocations. Ecotourism enhances the sustainable development of environment and economy. It also brings positive changes in social and cultural aspect of human life.

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