

Participatory Geographic Information System for Sustainable Ecotourism in Mountainous Area

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Ecotourism is a sub-component of the field of sustainable tourism. Ecotourism's perceived potential as an effective tool for sustainable development is the main reason why developing countries are now embracing it and including it in their economic development and conservation strategies. Ecotourism, as an alternative tourism, involves visiting natural areas in order to learn, to study, or to carry out activities environmentally friendly, that is, a tourism based on the nature experience, which enables the economic and social development of local communities through the PGIS technology. It focuses primarily on experiencing and learning about nature, its landscape, flora, fauna and their habitats, as well as cultural artifacts from the locality by using topographic and GIS map introducing in community. Local knowledge and issues in the community which can't visualize by the space technology into the map can be introduce and apply in modeling and generation of the heat map of the area. Local knowledge and PGIS shows the potential area of agricultural, educational and sports tourism possibilities in the study area. Land use land cover mapping and map generation by PGIS combined to generated the heat map of the potential areas of different spots of tourism. The study conclude that the Dhampus can be zoning in heat area of agritourism, educational tourism tea garden and tourism area and sports tourism for sustainable tourism.

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