

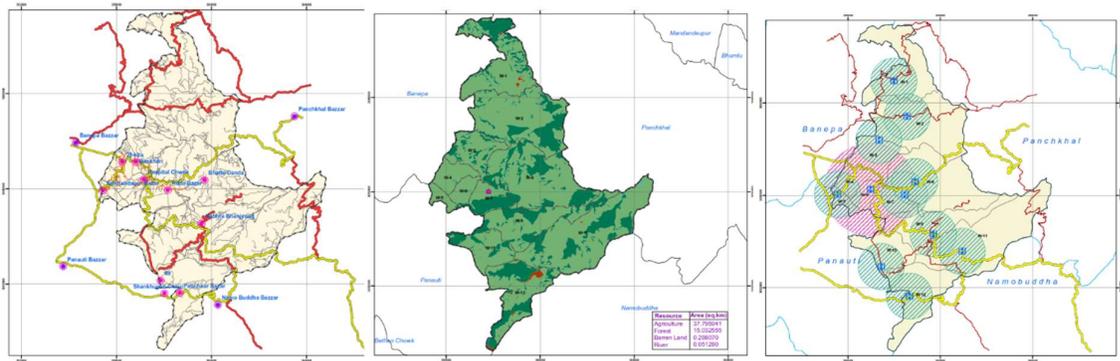


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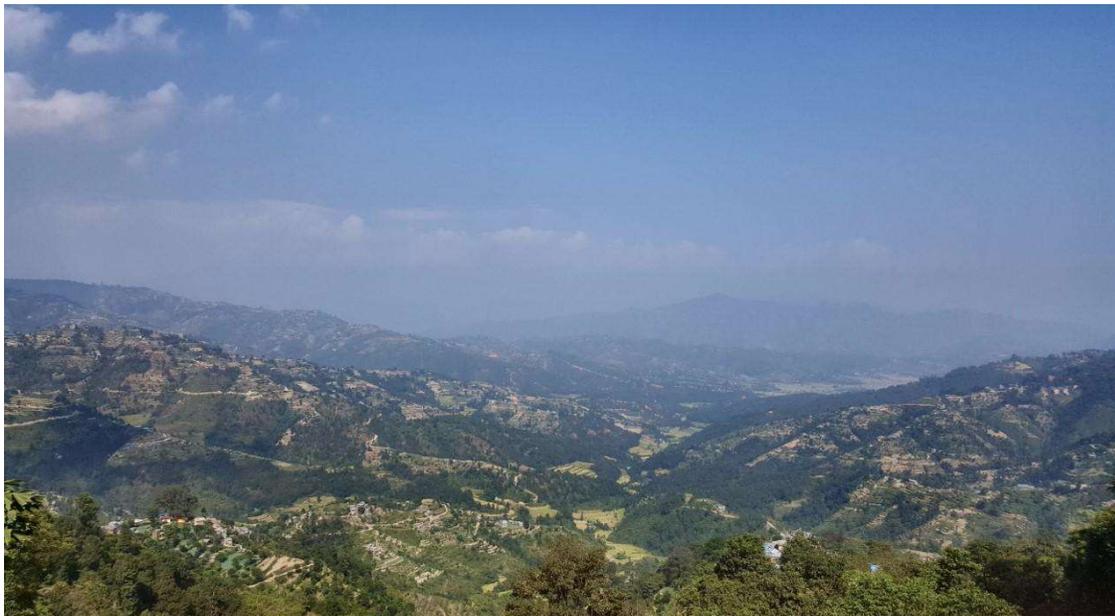
Dhulikhel Municipality

INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF DHULIKHEL MUNICIPALITY

Volume 7: Conservation, Culture and Tourism Development Plan



2019



Submitted By:

GOEC-GIDA-Next JV

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Executive Summary

The Integrated Urban Development Plan (IUDP) for Dhulikhel is a strategic response to the 20-year growth of Dhulikhel Municipality, which brings together infrastructure provision, environmental management, economic growth, disaster preparedness, municipal service delivery and mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion. This “whole of Council” strategic plan will deliver on the long-term vision of Municipality:

A prosperous, well governed and model town Dhulikhel

based on culture, heritage, tourism and environmentally friendly sustainable development.

The Conservation, Culture and Tourism Development Plan forms part of the IUDP.

Dhulikhel, with its outstanding heritage, natural beauty and strategic location in the Kathmandu Valley, is emerging as a tourist destination. There is a significant opportunity for the communities of Dhulikhel Municipality to harness the economic advantages that tourism provides.

In order to maximise the opportunities for economic benefit of tourism, the private sector and the Municipality must work together. Individual tourism operators have a role to provide of high-quality sites, accommodation and experiences. The Municipality, as a land manager, regulator and promotor of economic development, has an important role in delivering infrastructure that supports tourism, supporting the wellbeing of communities and to ensure that developments respect the character and environment of the Municipality.

Co-ordination between the private sector and local government is essential to maximise opportunities to improve tourism experiences and, as a result, the economic benefit across the Municipality.

The Conservation, Culture and Tourism Development Plan is a five-year plan which will, as it is implemented:

- Increase visitation rates
- Improve quality of visitor experience
- Provide livelihood opportunities for local communities
- Take action to sustainably manage and nurture tourism assets

The Conservation, Culture and Tourism Development Plan is grounded in the need to:

- Increase the length of stay of domestic and international tourists by expanding and diversifying tourism activities to enhance the quality of tourism services
- Develop and maintain physical infrastructure with a view to making tourism assets accessible
- Protect and conserve heritage and significant landscapes to sustain their ongoing use and appreciation
- Establish institutional mechanisms to co-ordinate and support business and organisations involved in tourist development and management.

Considering the opportunities and challenges in Dhulikhel Municipality, the Tourism Development Plan is grounded in six major objectives to enhance tourism:

- To **capitalize on Dhulikhel's historic social and architectural cultural heritage**
- To **capitalise on the natural and scenic appeal** of the municipality
- To leverage agriculture areas toward **agro-based tourism**
- To **maximise nature-based adventure tourism**
- To **expand and improve the tourist accommodation offer** across the Municipality
- To improve and maintain the **tourism infrastructure**
- To **coordinate efforts of Human resources** to work with tourism industry including marketing, and ensure delivery of actions

Importantly, the Conservation, Culture and Tourism Development Strategy (linked with the Dhulikhel Integrated Urban Development Plan) sets out an Action Plan which is to be implemented and supported by a Tourism Development and Marketing Officer and Tourism Development Committee and funding through the Financial Plan.

The IUDP consists of the following Volumes:

- Volume 1 Background Report
- Volume 2 Physical Development Plan
- Volume 3 Land Use and Zoning Plan
- Volume 4 Social Development Plan
- Volume 5 Economic Development Plan
- Volume 6 Environment Management Plan
- Volume 7 Conservation, Culture and Tourism Plan
- Volume 8 Municipal Transport Management Plan
- Volume 9 Distaster Risk Reduction Plan
- Volume 10 Consolidated Implementation Plan
- Volume 11 Financial and Organisation Plan
- Volume 12 By-Laws
- Volume 13 Municipal profile
- Volume 14 Feasibility Study – Waterfall Construction in Ward 1
- Volume 15 Pre-Feasibility Study – Artificial Lake in Wards 7 and 8
- Volume 16 Feasibility Study – Walking Trail in Wards 7 and 8

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Peaceful Dhulikhel – Prosperous Dhulikhel

1. Introduction

The Municipality possesses a wide range of marketable assets which offer attractions for tourists. A pleasant climate, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, stability, friendly and hospitable people and diversity of natural settings from forests, ponds, rivers to hills and parks to broader dramatic landscapes combine to provide for significant potential for the development of tourism in Dhulikhel. Critically, proximity to Kathmandu offers the opportunity for tourists to visit for the day through extended periods.

Tourism in Dhulikhel is one of the most important sectors of the economy but is under-realised. There are significant opportunities to grow tourism through specific actions that capitalise on the strengths of this culturally rich and beautiful destination.

However, there are actions that can be undertaken to grow tourism in Dhulikhel.

The Conservation, Culture and Tourism Development Plan is a five-year plan which will, is it is implemented:

- Increase visitation rates
- Improve quality of visitor experience
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The Conservation, Culture and Tourism Development Plan is grounded in the need to:

- Increase the length of stay of domestic and international tourists by expanding and diversifying tourism activities to enhance the quality of tourism services
- Develop and maintain physical infrastructure with a view to making tourism assets accessible
- Protect and conserve heritage and environmental landscapes to sustain their ongoing use and appreciation
- Establish institutional mechanisms to co-ordinate and support business and organisations involved in tourist development and management.

2. Destination Overview

Dhulikhel is located approximately 30 kilometres east of Kathmandu, on the way to Tibet. It is visited by both domestic tourists, as a day or weekend trip from Kathmandu, and international tourists, either as day trippers or on their way from Kathmandu to the Chinese border where they partake in adventure activities.

One of the most important medieval settlements, Dhulikhel is the administrative headquarters of Karvrepalanchow, the Kavre district of Nepal. Dhulikhel is at the junction of two major highways that provide access from Kathmandu to the northern border to China via the Araniko Highway, and the BP Highway, which connects to the eastern plains of Nepal.

At an altitude of 1,550 metres above sea level, Dhulikhel is regarded for its clean air, landscapes, spectacular views and village character.

Feedback from local stakeholders and operators about the future opportunities for tourism in Dhulikhel Municipality is positive. The tourism industry is increasing in Dhulikhel and, given the proximity to Kathmandu, the scope for expansion of the tourism industry is significant. Hotel owners report that Dhulikhel is also a popular destination for business and conventions. Highway improvements have meant that Dhulikhel is now a transit place, where any tourists will stay an average of one night. In addition, many prefer to travel a short route destination away from Kathmandu. However, industry believes that the duration of the average stay is too brief. Many consider that the promotion of Dhulikhel needs to be expanded to the national and international scale. To increase the duration of stay in Dhulikhel, tourists must get the chance to explore the various villages located around the main town area, which will also raise the livelihood standards of these areas.

3. Assessment of Dhulikhel’s Tourism Assets

A summary of Dhulikhel’s cultural and tourism assets provides a snapshot of major tourism attractions, the challenges around the development and/or sustainable management of those attractions and opportunities to further enhance assets or overcome barriers to growth.

Tourism assets include unique destinations in their own right which rely heavily on location, experiences or human capital and physical infrastructure that supports the movement of tourists and visitor experience.

3.1 Existing tourist attractions

A Culture and Tourism Map and List showing existing tourist destinations is presented below:

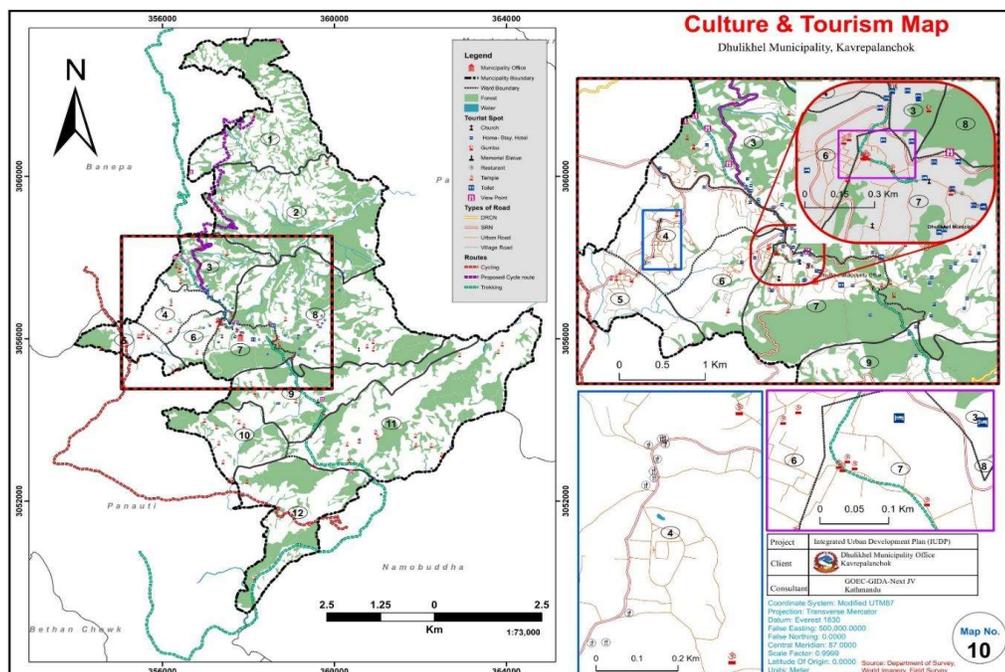


Figure 1: Existing Culture and Tourism Map – existing attractions

Ward No.	Major Religious places	Culture and customs	Potential tourist places			
1	Kalidevi Mandir	Devitar Thali (Mallakalin Mandir)	Kartik Purnima, Mansir Purnima	Devisthan Mandir	Devitar thali	Religious Tourism
	Gumba	Dandakhet, Devitar	Lohsar			
	Gumba	Karkale				
2	Setidevi Mandir	Koiralathumka	Yomari Purnima, Dhanya Purnima	Setidevi Mandir	Alchhe Chaur	Picnic Spot
	Champa Devi Mandir	Thingaun			Koiralathumka	View Tower (Himal Awalokan)
	Raktakali Mandir	Chapleti			Koiralathumka	Homestay
	Satra Rudreswor Mandir	Fendi ko pati				
	Krishna Mandir	Sakhichaur				
3	Bajrayogini Mandir	Banshari	Mangsr Purne Jatra	Kutal	Homestay Banune	Kutal

Table 1: List of existing attractions

3.2 Landscape

Set within the foothills of the Kathmandu Valley, Dhulikhel is one of the famous places in Nepal to observe breathtaking views of the Himalayas. Snow-capped peaks of the Himalayan ranges from Mount Langtang (7,234m) in the west to Mount Everest (8,848m) in the east can be seen in clear weather. Other striking mountains including Mount Annapurna (8,091m), Mount Ganesh (7,429m), Mount Phuribichyachu (6,637m), Mount Gaurishankar (7,134m), Mount Lhotse (8,516m) and 15 other mountains can be observed from different points of the city.

Long views of agricultural land including terraced paddy fields as well as forest areas provide for sight-seeing opportunities especially between October and March when the monsoon clouds lift to reveal panoramic views of spectacular mountain ranges.

Challenges and opportunities

As urbanization encroaches upon agricultural and natural areas within the Municipality, the quality of the landscape is compromised. To maintain the quality of the landscape, new development needs to be designed in a way that respects the landscape. This is achieved through compact urbanisation and careful building design.

A secondary issue: Many accommodation buildings are sited to take advantage of long-range views and the businesses rely on maintaining these important views as a “selling point” to attract customers. Under the existing building by-laws, there are no controls over future developments blocking views from existing buildings to the landscape. Fairly, no-one has the right to an unimpeded view. However, there is a principle of “view sharing”, in that when new development is undertaken that it should be sited in a location on the plot which then retains some of the landscape views from the preceding building.

To overcome this challenge there is the opportunity to introduce new by-laws to introduce the consideration of the impact of the new development on existing views.

IUDP Cross Reference: By-laws, Land Use Plan, Physical Development Plan

3.3 Adventure tourism

Due to the clean environment, landscape and links between cultural destinations, Dhulikhel is a popular destination for hiking and trekking and some mountain biking and cycling. There are opportunities to grow these attractions, in particular cycling and mountain biking.

In the region there is also many activities including canyoning, bungee jumping, high rope, rafting and bird watching.

Challenges and opportunities

There are many places to visit around Dhulikhel and immediately outside the municipality however better physical links to these places is required. Trekking routes need upgrading, way finding signage needs to be installed or improved and marketing of routes is essential. This will require working with neighbouring Municipalities where trekking routes extend beyond the Municipality.

In addition, there is potential for additional adventure features including Bungee Jumping in Ward 11, Rope way and a cycle track to waterfall at DaVita.

There is great opportunity for additional religious tours and trekking routes to be added.

3.4 Agriculture tourism

Dhulikhel’s predominant land use is agriculture. Dhulikhel has attracted value-adding industries associated with agriculture such as cheese production with farm-gate retail, and homestays.

Homestay Programs in Dhulikhel

Bhate Danda Homestay

Bhate Danda homestay is the first homestay program started in Dhulikhel. It was started with the inauguration of Nepal Tourism Year 2011 (On 14th January 2011). It was established by joining hands of the people living in this community. It is also known as the Mahila Samula Homestay (Women’s Community Homestay). The organic foods are provided to the tourists. The Tamang culture can be observed in this homestay and the tourists can learn the lifestyle and tradition of the Tamang community. The homestay also organizes hiking and trekking in and around Dhulikhel. They also manage for the river rafting in the Bhotekoshi River.

Phoolbari Homestay

Phoolbari Village is one of the villages located near Dhulikhel Municipality next to Patlekheta village. Phoolbari (Garden in Nepal) resembles the garden of different caste and culture of the people living in the village. The village lies at an altitude of 1800m above sea level. It is about 1-hour drive from Dhulikhel. The people are friendly and cooperative. The homestay program has been successful for providing services to the tourists. One can have both natural and cultural elements in this area. (U.Regimi, 2016).

Challenges and opportunities

There are great opportunities to take further advantage of tourist interest in agriculture (both processes but general environment) through promoting visitation to interesting farms, farm-gate retail and farm homestays.

Dhulikhel’s agricultural environment can harness growing interest in health and wellbeing, organic farming, food culture and alternative medicines. Ideas include showcasing plants for Aryurvedic medicine, “paddock to plate” or “field to food” cooking experiences and showcasing sustainable agricultural practices.

Quality of homestays, improved access to farms and providing business mentoring will create opportunities to capitalise on Dhulikhel’s competitive advantage as an agricultural area.

3.5 Tangible and Intangible Heritage

A thriving living heritage is demonstrated in Dhulikhel through its built fabric and ongoing traditions.

Living heritage in Dhulikhel is both ‘intangible’ (cultural practices) and ‘tangible’ (physical).

“Intangible” heritage revolves directly around living cultures, the built environment, faith, traditions, folklore, arts and handicrafts, music and the everyday life of people.

Dhulikhel is a melting pot of a variety of communities such as Newars, Brahmins, Chhetri, Tamangs and Dalits, whose traditions demonstrate strong living cultural heritage in Dhulikhel. There is a vibrant and active culture of festivals (jattras), largely based around religion including Dashain, Tihar, Gai Jatra, Bisket Jatra and Navadurga Jatra.

The plan of the city is based on Hindu planning principles with a deliberately designed position, shape, scale and dominance between buildings, temples and public squares all having their own meaning and harmony¹.

The historic Newari quarter of Dhulikhel looks relatively intact from the 17th century though its origin dates back to the 5th century. Dhulikhel Bazar area is truly a Newari town with temple-lined village square and daily lifestyle of Newar community is an attraction to tourists. Refer Appendix 1 – A brief history of Dhulikhel.

Dhulikhel is blessed with many tangible built heritage assets including:

- The central “Old Town” area in Ward 5, characterised by:
 - Two to four storey residences in the Newari style comprising terracotta brick (both plain and decorative varieties), mud plaster, terracotta gabled roofs, open windows and intricately carved wooden doors and window (lintel, sill and jamb), window shutters, lattice windows, variety of window styles, decorative door columns on the ground floor.
 - Pagoda style temples, stone carved statues, shrines and hitis are found around the temples and within the streets and large central courtyards (chowk)
 - Intimate scaled medieval stone paved streets.
- Other temples outside the old town include Shee Khandapur, Kali Temple, Gaukhureswor Mahadursthana and Hazaar Sindhi. Refer to Appendix 1 for a list of sites of heritage interest.



Figure 2: Typical heritage features in Dhulikhel

Challenges and opportunities

In addition to viewing landscapes, many visitors desire to experience a different culture. Research has found “Cultural tourists” have a keener interest in taking home a memento of what they have seen. Many heritage sites now offer on-site shopping. This brings extra revenue to help fund conservation and maintenance.

Heritage tourism can be one of the most effective opportunities to generate income to the local community and a source for improving their livelihood.

¹ U. Regmi, 2016

There are many challenges associated with heritage in Dhulikhel, as outlined in the Background report (Volume 1). Critical challenges include protecting important places and managing development around them, the dilapidated state of some heritage buildings, pressure to demolish especially after the damage caused by the 2015 earthquake, the use of heritage buildings and lack of marketing. In particular, significant stories about Dhulikhel's heritage are to be told, yet there is very little opportunity for visitors to deeply and authentically engage with or learn about this heritage and the Newari lifestyle. There is also a need to properly archive and display important artifacts.

There are many opportunities for the Municipality to work together with building owners to preserve heritage including the use of incentives and assisting with technical knowledge.

3.6 Tourist accommodation

Dhulikhel has a substantial range of accommodation options and new accommodation premises is the most growing category of business in the Municipality. Accommodation ranges from economical hotels, luxury hotels and rural homestays. The majority of accommodation is located within the urban Bazar areas and it is expected that they will continue to develop in these locations.

There are training colleges in Dhulikhel that provide training for people to operate their businesses or be employed in the hospitality sector. This is an important resource in providing good quality accommodation.

Major Hotels and Lodges in Dhulikhel include:

- Hotel Mount View Pty Ltd, Dhulikhel
- Hotel Gaurishanker Mountain View Pty Ltd, Dhulikhel
- Dhulikhel Mountain Resort Kwawa, Dhulikhel Municipality
- Himalayan Horizon Hotel Sun and Snow Pty Ltd, Dhulikhel
- Dhulikhel Lodge Resort, Dhulikhel
- Gaurishanker Tara Bhanca Ghar Khawa, Dhulikhel Municipality
- Hotel Araniko, Dhulikhel
- Dhulikhel Lodge and Resort, Dhulikhel
- The Dwarika's Himalayan Shangri-la Village Resort, Dhulikhel
- Hotel Paradise, Dhulikhel
- Mirabel Resort Hotel, Dhulikhel
- Himalayan Sunrise Guest House
- Tashideleck Guest Lodge and House
- Snow View Mountain Resort
- Balthali Village Resort
- Himalayan Height Lodge and Restaurant
- Dhulikhel Eco Resort

Challenges and opportunities

While accommodation is located mainly in the bazar areas, there are few options in the more rural parts of the municipality, close to the tourist attractions.

There is an opportunity to allocate zoning to specific parts of the town to more actively encourage tourist accommodation.

In addition, planning policy and by-laws can encourage the development of homestays in the more rural areas. That said, it must not compromise the agricultural operation of the rural area as this is also an important economic driver in the municipality. It is important that all tourist accommodation is accessible to people with disabilities.

Due to the presence of INGOs, NGOs, the University and Hospital there is a market for short to medium stay accommodation, that can supplement tourism accommodation.

As the Kathmandu University Hospital serves a large rural area, families must travel to attend the hospital or visit patients. Low cost hostels and boarding houses in close proximity to the hospital would alleviate some of the access issues especially for pregnant mothers and their families. There are opportunities for further development of accommodation to support this cohort.

3.7 Dhulikhel Environment and Tourism Promotion Committee (DETPC) and Municipality Resources

The Dhulikhel Environment and Tourism Promotion Committee (DETPC) is a non-profit NGO comprising volunteers including local business people and those interested in the development of tourism in Dhulikhel. The aim of the DETPC is to:

- Promote Dhulikhel – published “Glimpses of Dhulikhel – A pictorial guidebook” and Dhulikhel Nepal – Tourist Guidebook 2017.
- Intend to produce additional posters and post cards to help fund the office
- In the last four years the DETPC has planted approximately 500 trees to show Dhulikhel as a green city. They intend to plant more.

The Municipality does not have a dedicated Tourism Development Officer. However, the Council supports the operation of the Dhulikhel Environment and Tourism Promotion Committee (DETPC) through providing funding for some of its initiatives.

Challenges and Opportunities

Success associated with a vibrant and growing tourism sector relies on the work of both the private sector and the public sector and both need to work together. Individual tourism operators have a role to provide of high-quality sites, accommodation and experiences. Local Government, as a land manager, regulator and promotor of economic development, has an important role in delivering infrastructure that supports tourism, supporting the wellbeing of communities and to ensure that developments respect the character and environment of the Municipality.

Co-ordination between the private sector and local government is essential to maximise opportunities to improve tourism experiences and, as a result, the economic benefit across the Municipality. For true action, this must be supported by human resources.

A dedicated **Tourism Development and Marketing Officer** can provide human resource to work with the sector and ensure delivery of the Tourism Development Plan. Building on the work of the Dhulikhel Environment and Tourism Promotion Committee, a specialist and representative **Tourism Development Committee** can provide expertise and advice on tourism projects and be the link between the Municipality, the community and the tourism sector.

3.8 Tourist Information Centre

The Dhulikhel Tourist Information Centre was opened in December 2017 to provide information and promote tourism attractions of the district. It is located at the main road passing into the old town.

The Centre is open from October to March and aims to extend the stay of visitors.

Challenges and Opportunities

This facility has only been operating for one year however there are issues around it being open. More support is needed to operate the Tourism Information Centre and this is an under-utilised resource.

4. Economic Impact

Based on current trends, income from tourism is expected to make an increasing contribution to Dhulikhel's foreign exchange earnings. Fieldwork by the IUDP team also revealed many people are directly employed in hotels and restaurants and tourism directly generates many full-time jobs for local people. Tourism also contributes to the earnings of other ancillary services for tourists, such as the production of arts and crafts, primary producers, etc. Therefore, the tourism sector has major potential to lift the living standards of people in Dhulikhel municipality by creating sustainable employment opportunities. That said, the distribution of earnings into the rural areas of the Municipality are currently unrealised.

The Municipality supports business by reducing local taxes for businesses and industries that employ more than 25 people for five years.

5. Major issues

The following are the major issues in tourism development in Dhulikhel Municipality:

- Hotel accommodation and tourist resorts are only concentrated on the bazar areas and its periphery and insufficient tourist resorts and recreational facilities are located outside the urban centres to meet the needs of tourists and in proximity to key tourism attractions.
- Most of the rural wards and newly added wards have great potential but they remain underutilized for the purpose of tourism.

- Poor access to tourist destinations which are far from the urban centres.
- Protection and effective management of development of significant heritage and landscape assets within the Municipality is urgently required.
- Need for a more integrated approach to maximise opportunities for visitor experience of intangible and tangible cultural heritage
- Tourist attractions are becoming dilapidated, require sustained maintenance and improved access.
- Poor way-finding and lack of effective and quality signage is limiting exposure to places of interest and tourist experiences.
- Lack of branding and limited on-line promotion of Dhulikhel as a tourist destination including destinations, features, culture and festivals
- Quality of some venues can be improved, including accessibility, service and presentation, which will help improve the reputation of Dhulikhel as a sought-after tourist destination. Additional training is needed for operators.
- Access to drinking water and reliable electricity and road connections essential.

6. Intervention/Strategies

Considering the opportunities and challenges in Dhulikhel Municipality, the Conservation, Culture and Tourism Development Plan is grounded in six major objectives to enhance tourism:

- To **capitalize on Dhulikhel's historic social and architectural cultural heritage**
- To **capitalise on the natural and scenic appeal** of the municipality
- To leverage agriculture areas toward **agro-based tourism**
- To **maximise nature-based adventure tourism**
- To **expand and improve the tourist accommodation offer** across the Municipality
- To improve and maintain the **tourism infrastructure**.
- To **coordinate efforts of Human resources** to work with tourism industry including marketing, and ensure delivery of actions

These objectives are supported by specific actions.

6.1 Heritage

To **capitalize on Dhulikhel's historic, social and architectural cultural heritage**:

- **Develop a Heritage Strategy** to prioritise actions for Heritage.
- **Formally protect and conserve** the identified significant heritage assets in Wards 5, 6 and 7 through land use zoning, by-laws, using the Heritage Study prepared by Technical University of Berlin and Kathmandu University as a base.
- **Prepare heritage guidelines** to assist Municipality staff and land owners to make decisions on heritage buildings, based on best practice.
- **Establish a Heritage Advisory Committee** to assist decision making for heritage places.

- **Prioritise the restoration of key heritage places** that were affected by the major earthquakes in the year 2072, based on the findings of the Technical University of Berlin and Kathmandu University Heritage Study.
- **Support the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings** as affordable and safe accommodation for mid and low range tourists, within historic areas (Refer to Heritage Strategic Plan).
- **Establish a Heritage Walk** through the Old Town Area in Ward 5.
- **Establish and promote cultural heritage treks** including:
 - Ugrachandi Nala (Karunamaya) temple – Panauti Indreswor
 - Nala Karmapa Buddhist monastery – Namma Buddha tour/trek
- **Improve signage, interpretation and information** about Dhulikhel’s significant places.
- **Promote cultural festivals** of Dhulikhel to increase visitation.
- Work with local community to **develop a high quality and accessible museum** to properly archive, display and **promote heritage artifacts significant to Dhulikhel**.
- **Develop an incentives program** through either tax reductions or a heritage grants scheme to encourage the retention and regular maintenance of private heritage properties.



Figure 3: Examples of interpretive signage

6.2 Landscape

To **capitalize on** Dhulikhel’s scenic appeal and scenic view-oriented recreational attractions:

- Using planning by-laws and zoning, **encourage the development of resort hotels** with beautiful views of mountains. Such places as potential tourism attractions are listed in the tourism section of this report.
- Using planning by-laws and zoning, **regulate the detailed location of new development to maintain view-sharing** opportunities for existing accommodation providers.
- **Protect significant landscapes** through planning policy and by-laws that encourages sympathetic design and allows tourist accommodation to share views.
- **Establish viewing platforms and seating** in key scenic viewing locations.

6.3 Adventure tourism

To **maximise nature-based adventure tourism**

- Construct and/or link up **new and existing walking tracks** to establish a series of new treks
- Establish or/link up a **series of cycling tracks** including road and off-road.
- **Undertake feasibility study** for the establishment of adventure tourism features including a Bunji-Jumping, Rope Walk and a cycle track to waterfall at Devitar

6.4 Agro-based tourism

To leverage agriculture areas toward **agro-based tourism**

- **Encourage the development of homestays** and development of **agro-tourism areas** of organic farming in order to prolong the tourist stay in Dhulikhel and spread the economic benefit of tourism into the rural areas of the Municipality.
- Investigate unique and distinctive opportunities for homestays such as Aryurvedic farming
- Provide **tourism/business mentoring and training** with **rural villages** to identify experience-based tourism opportunities such as cooking, cultural activities etc.

6.5 Tourist accommodation

To **expand and improve** the **tourist accommodation offer** across the Municipality

- Through **positive planning policies and by-laws** and **land zoning** that supports the establishment of such operations, the Municipality will **encourage the development of tourist accommodation** in tourist destinations **outside the urban centres** and **accessible to people of all abilities**.
- **Support opportunities** for **short to medium accommodation** to service I/NGOs, Hospital and University.
- **Improve information and services** from accommodation providers for tourists regarding how to use local transport, providing of guiding services etc.
- **Establish local Tourism Excellence Awards** for providers to encourage improved tourism services.

6.6 Infrastructure

To improve and maintain the **tourism infrastructure**:

- **Develop additional trekking and cycling routes** and maintain existing routes to a high standard.
- Ensure access to drinking water and **reliable electricity** and **road connections** (Refer to IUDP Physical Development Plan)
- To **improve access roads to the tourist destinations** there is need of upgrading the roads which connects the major tourist attractions with the urban centres. (Refer to Municipal Transport Management Plan that identifies key roads that require upgrading.)
- To **ensure existing and new tourist facilities, accommodation, attractions and supporting infrastructure** is accessible for people of all abilities.
- **Upgrade and install quality and co-ordinated directional signage** for trekking routes and tourist attractions to improve access and promotion of tourist destinations.

6.7 Human Resources and Marketing

To improve Human Resources and governance structures to effectively work with the tourism industry and implement the Plan:

- Employ a **Tourist Development Officer** to continuously **work with industry**, on marketing and **ensure the implementation** of the Conservation, Culture and Tourism Development Plan.
- **Establish a new Dhulikhel Tourism Committee**, which comprises representatives of the Municipality, the local NGO Dhulikhel Environment and Tourism Promotion Committee, Sangrakshan Nepal, tourism operators. The Committee to be **co-ordinated by the Tourism Development Officer**.
- **Commission the design of tourism branding and marketing campaign** for Dhulikhel, including tourism attractions and tourist accommodation.
- **Connect with Hotels in Kathmandu** that offer day trips to Dhulikhel.
- Co-ordinate **Business mentoring** for tourist accommodation and hospitality.
- **Establish local Tourism Awards** to promote, showcase and reward best practice operations
- **Co-ordinate Business mentoring** for tourist related businesses including accommodation, hospitality, arts and crafts and tourist operators, training for potential guides. Accreditation of guides and tourism operators. Prioritise support for women, rural communities and disadvantaged groups.

The responsibilities of the Tourism and Marketing Development Officer are:

- To administer programs to promote tourism in the Municipality
- To work with engineering/infrastructure
- To work with town planning/building to advocate for the development of tourist establishments
- To co-ordinate the marketing of tourism
- To support the Dhulikhel Environmental and Tourism Promotion Committee

A member of the DTC should also sit on the Heritage Advisory Committee (proposed under the Heritage Strategy).

7. Recommendations and Action Plan

In Nepal's history, Dhulikhel has been an important natural and cultural centre. Rich in cultural, architectural and historical sites, and set within a world class landscape, Dhulikhel has suffered from a lack of promotion to attract tourists and opportunities to celebrate is underutilised. Local communities can be more meaningfully engaged in tourism, including disadvantaged groups. There is capacity to undertake simultaneous development of infrastructure, business mentoring, growth in accommodation and protection and management.

The Plan consists of a range of **Destinations** and **Actions**. It Comprises:

- Tourism Development Plan
- List of Future Tourism Places
- Potential Religious tours/trekking/cycling routes
- Implementation Action Plan

7.1 Tourism Development Map

The Tourism Development Map comprises potential tourism locations, trekking routes, places for proposed Hotels and restaurants and proposed homestays and Agro-tourism and Heritage Conservation Area in Wards 4 ,5 ,6 and 7.

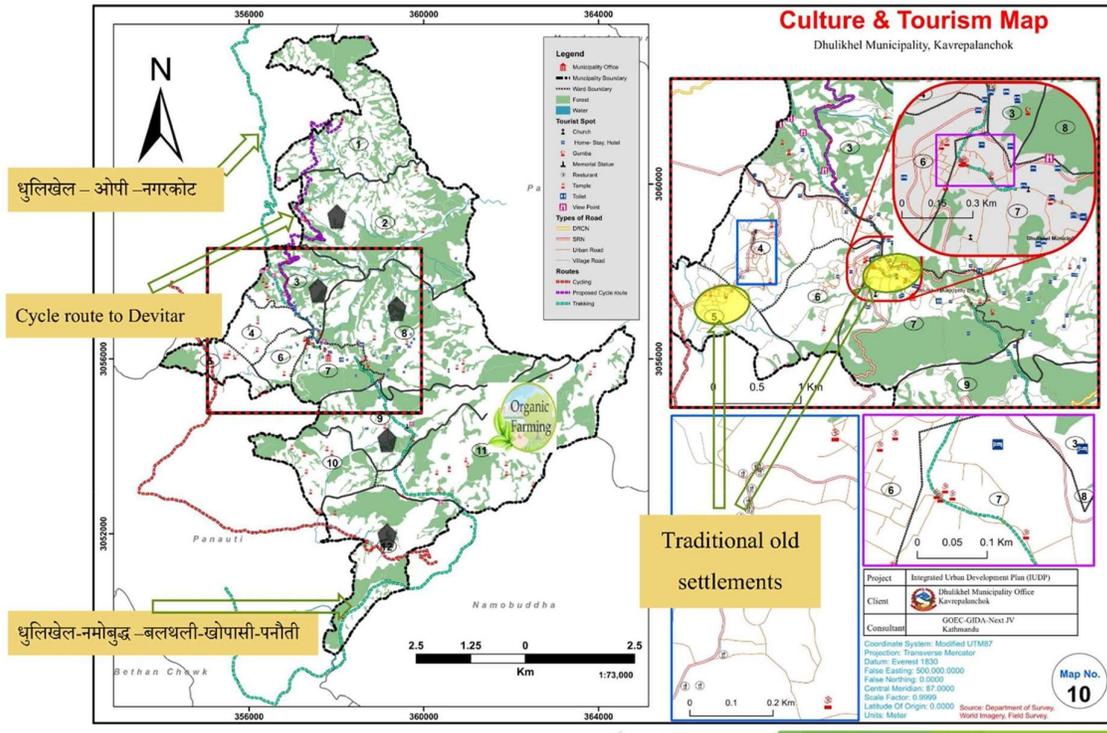


Figure 4: Tourism Development Map

7.2 Future tourism places

A list of potential tourism destinations is presented below.

Ward no.	Potential tourist places	
1	Devitar thali	Religious Tourism
2	Alchhe Chaur	Picnic Spot
	Koirala Thumka	View Tower (Himal Awalokan)
	Koirala Thumka	Homestay
3.	Homestay Banune	Kutal
	Kutal (Ban jhakri Mandir)	Thulo Dhunga
5.	Chaleswor Ban	Himal Abalokan, Puratato, Viewtower proposed
	PuranoBazar	Religious, Cultural, Puratato

	Waste Water treatment plant	Anusandhatmak
	Chaukot View chetra	Himal Abalokan
6	Safio Jungle	Botanical Research centre
	Homestay	
7	Purana Sanskritik Sampada haru	
	Himalharu ko Soundarya dekhine	
8	Kalidevasthan-Religious	
	Gokuleswor Mandir-Religious	
	Gokureswor CF-Anusandhantmak, abalokan	
	Bhatte Danda- View tower	
	Devasthan Danda- Selfie Khichne Danda Homestay, Tamang Culture	
9	Devithan, DeuraliDanda	Picnic spot, Drisyaablokan
	Kavre Danda (Karthari School Area)	Picnic spot, Drisyaablokan
	Devasthan	View tower
	Homestay	
10	Ping danda	View tower (Buddha ko Murti)
	Sarda Devasthan (Mela Lagne)	View Tower, Mandir
	Deurali Danda	Picnic Spot
11	Kavrebhanjyang-Faskot- Namobuddha	View tower, temple, Hiaml dekhine
	Chisapani, Kavrebhanjyang	Picnic spot
	Organic Krisi Farm	Chisapani/Pandit thok
	Krishi farm Research centre	Patlekheth
12	Devasthan Mandir	Anusandhanamatmak
	Homestay possibility	Sankhuma
	Bunji Jump	Eklekhet
	Baluddhyan	Eklekhet, Devisthandanda, Chisapani
	View tower	Devasthan Danda

Table 2: Potential Tourism attractions

In preparing the Strategy, three key tourist projects were identified and require feasibility testing:

- The establishment of a Bunji-Jumping
- The establishment of a Rope Walk
- The establishment of a cycle track to waterfall at Devitar

7.3 Potential Trekking Routes

The following trekking routes are recommended for further investigation, design and development:

Potential religious tours/trekking

Ugrachandi Nala (Karunamaya) temple – Panauti Indreswor Tour/Trekking

Nala Bhagavati temple, also known as **Ugrachandi Nala temple** is the temple dedicated for Hindu Goddess. Also equal emphasis for the Avalokitesvara cult of Buddhism, therefore the temple area is also referred as Nala Karunammaya in the local language. The tourists can find this place as the synchronization of two religious practices (Buddhism and Hinduism) practiced in the region. This area is located in the northwestern part of Dhulikhel. Likewise, Panauti is another important religious place for the followers of Hinduism. It is also one of the most important medieval Newar settlements located near Dhulikhel. Panauti is one of the historically, archaeologically and culturally important places located near Dhulikhel. There are many Hindu temples dating back to the 14th and 15th centuries, or earlier.

The tourists visiting Dhulikhel can be taken to Nala-Panauti trek or jeep ride with a full day sightseeing program, where they can be informed about the Hindu religious lifestyles, culture and traditional practices in the region.

Nala Karmapa Buddhist monastery – Namu Buddha Tour/Trekking: Nala Karmapa Buddhist Monastery

An important and beautiful monastery is located near Nala. The monastery is named **Dragpo Sheydrub Ling**. This monastery belongs to Karma Kagyu tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. There are more than 120 monks living and studying. The head of the monastery is Sherab Gyaltsen and this monastery was established before and later the monastery was extended after it was inaugurated by His Holiness Karmapa Thinley Thaye Dorje in 2015, the current head of the Karma Kagyu School of Tibetan Buddhism. The monastery offers meditation sessions and people can stay there during the training period by paying fees. The people also can go there for short or long term retreats, where the senior monks guide in the Buddhist precepts for the realization and meditations. The monastery is serene and offers the tranquillity of meditation.

Namo Buddha: Namu Buddha is a Buddhist cultural heritage place holding great importance for the communities of the Himalayan region. Tibet, Nepal, India, Bhutan, China and all the peace-loving people of the world. Namu Buddha is situated in the south east of the Kathmandu Valley. There is the lack of the historical reference for the stupa in this area but various legendary sources mention that it was constructed after the Mahasattva offered his body to a tigress to collect merit. It is one of the most beautiful and sacred sites of Nepal.

The place is also named Tagmo Luijin (“The place where the future Buddha sacrificed his body to a tigress”). It is the very sacred place where the historical legend states that the future Buddha offered his body without regret to a tigress suffering from great hunger. After offering his body to the tigress in this place, the Prince Mahasattva was reborn in the Tushita realm of gods. And the King and Queen constructed a stupa by putting the bones inside the stupa.

The foundation of this stupa is connected with the Mahasattava according to the Tibetan belief in the name of Tagmo Luijin and Mahasattava is one of the most revered in their religious tradition therefore, many Tibetans visit this place out of respect. The main priest of the stupa is a Tamang Lama. This stupa is one of the most important cultural heritage places and religious pilgrimage for the Buddhist communities of the Himalayan region.

Namo Buddha is one of the most important religious sites in Nepal for the Buddhist communities and is one of the most visited places for international tourists coming to Nepal. It is located near Dhulikhel and it takes almost one hour to reach there by jeep or make a trek from Nala-Namu Buddha or trek from Namu Buddha to Panauti. It takes around 3 to 4 hours to trek from Namu Buddha to Panauti and it takes approximately 5 to 6 hours to trek from Nala to Namu Buddha.

Natural Trekking Routes

The following natural trekking routes should be considered:

- Baluwa Pati – Depur – Nagarkot Mountain View
- Naya Gaun – Depur – Dwarpal – Thulochaur Mountain View
- Dhulikhel Municipality – Dhulikhel – Devasthan Hill – Old City of Dhulikhel
- Mahadevsthan – Jyamdi – Jaisithok – Chandanimandon Boundary Sulikot – Mane Danda Sunrise Area
- Bhumltar Beldada – Sunkoshi Indrawati Mountain View
- Nauka-Bihar – Chaubas Saraswati Danda – Sagarmatha/Gaurishanker Mountain View
- Sathighar Bhagwati – Palanchok Bhagwati – Bhagwati Temple – Balthali Thumki Danda
- Dhulikhel – Namu Buddha trekking

Rafting

Sunkoshi Rafting Sunkoshi (Dolaghat – Dovantar) Rafting

U.Regimi (2016)

7.4 Potential Cycling Routes

The following trekking routes are recommended for further investigation, design and development:

PANORAMIC TRAIL (Devitar-Patlekheta, north faced, east-west elongated, moderate type) – GREEN Route on Map

Route: *Horizon Chowk- Gosaithan- Rabibhanjyang- Tancho- Kashibhanjyang- Tinghare- Devitar- Chapleti(Rabi)- Kuttalbesi- Kuttal-Ramche- Nayabasti(Yoggram)- Nayagau(DLR)- 2 Suspension Bridge(Bungy)- Thakurigau- Pakucha- Thakle(Zip Flying)- Khawa- Badalgau- Simpokhari- Darimbot- Patlekheta*

Note: Route can be shortened by following connecting routes from south. Route from Rabi can be shortened to Chapleti- Kuttal and one can even join to Bhattidanda from Khawa to reach Kavrekot and beyond. After Patlekheta, one can join to Namobuddha via Everything Nursery- Mathurapati- Phulbari.

UNIFICATION TRAIL (Dhulikhel- Panauti, north-south elongated, moderate type) - RED

Route: Section I: *Bhattidanda- Kavrekot (Devithan)- Bhatgau- Jurelidanda- Batasedanda- Hanuman Batika- Saradathan- Dalinchok- Gorakhnath- Panauti*

Section II: Panauti- Police Training Center (following Punyamati Corridor)- Dhalmale- Tusal- Chaukot- Suwalgau- BPHW- Itol

Note: It will be more scenic to hike/paddle from Panauti and extend till Khawa after Bhattidanda. Unification Trail continues to Bhamarkot- Panchkhal- Palanchok- Timalbesi- Timal- Kusheshwor- Dumja- Sindhuligadhi linking Great Mahabharat Trail till Pashupatinagar.

ORANGE VALLEY TRAIL *DCCI- Jungle Trail- Bhatgau- Ranachhap-Hulakibato- Sudikhola bank- Ite/Batasedanda- Batase/ Kavrebhanjyang- Kiwi Farm (Faskot)- Ite- Sankhudanda- Kanodanda- Namobuddha* – ORANGE Route on Map

Note: Can be extended to Panauti via Balthali- Khopasi/ Eklekheta following Roshi.

ECO TRAIL/ MUHAN TRAIL (Hamalgau-Chaukot, Inside Thulo Ban stretching east to west, wilderness) – BLUE Route on Map (small trail)

Route: *Hamalgau- Daxinkali- Panitank- Muhan I- crossing Bhatgau trail- Muhan II- Muhan III- Muhan IV (Jole)- above BPHW- Muhan V (area)- Chaukot village*

Note: 3 or more than three visitors are only allowed to visit, safety-security on own, trekking stick must, development of Botanical & Zoological Park along Trail, entry fee.

KAVREKOT CIRCUIT (Pipal Chautari- Pipal Chautari, best MTB race route) – combined route

Route: *Pipal Chautari(Adda Bazar)- Gaukhureshwor- Chaklahiti- Homendanda- Khawa- Badalgau- Simpokhari/Kampani- Kavrebhanjyang- Kavrekot- Pipal Chautari*

Note: route can be shortened by linking Kavrebhanjyang via Bhattidanda or can be returning via Bhattidanda.

MTB RACE TRACK South faced barren land on the way to Bhatgau can be best track to be constructed on terrace topography where audience can have total overview from the topmost terrace. – Location TBC

Recommended by Nepal Cycling Association, Kavre District

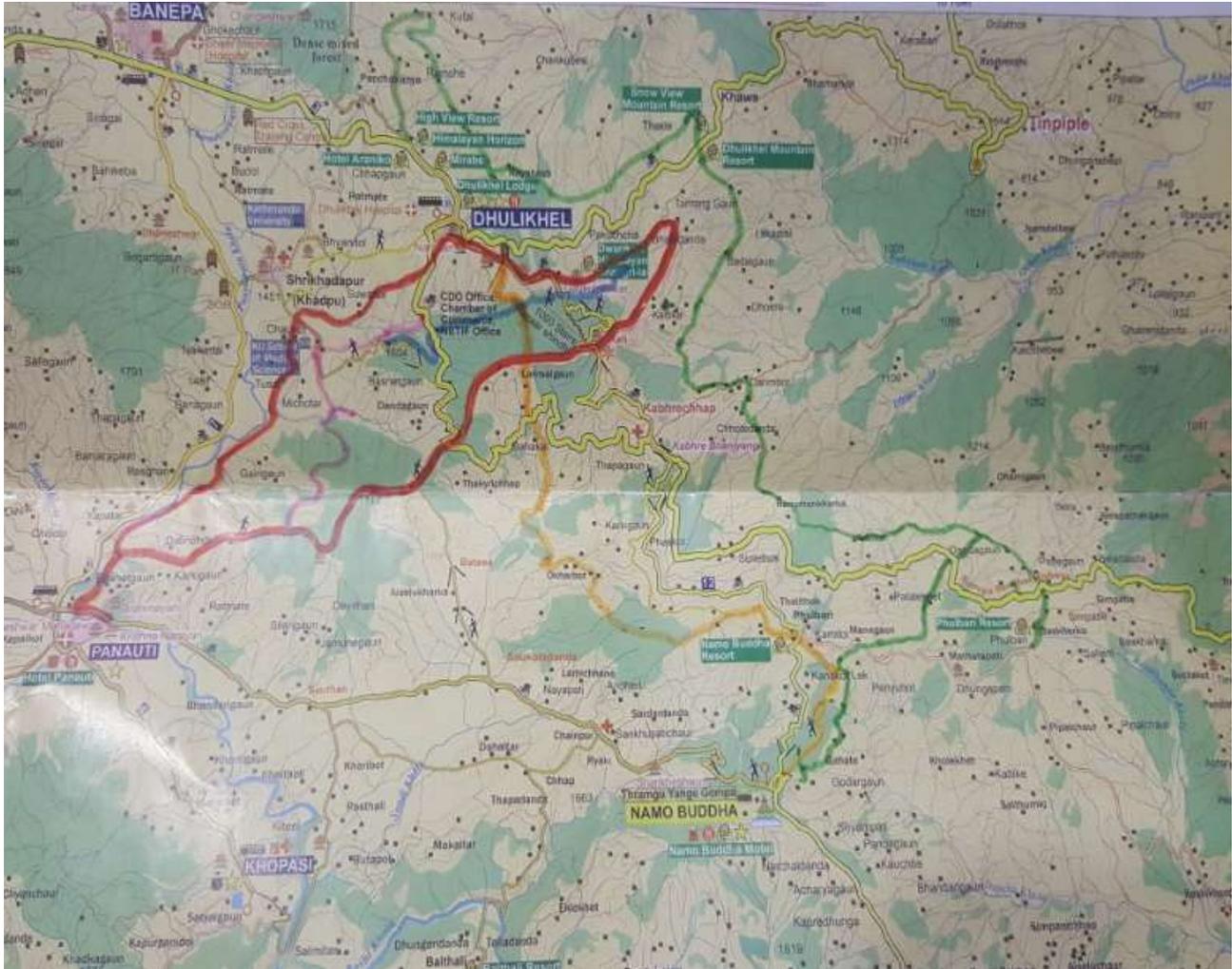


Figure 5: Recommended cycling trails by Nepal Cycling Association, Kavre district

7.5 Implementation Plan

MAIN PLANS AND PROGRAMS		DESCRIPTION
Governance and Human Resources		
To support tourism development with effective Human resources and governance structures to work with tourism industry.	Establishment of Tourist Development Council	Council/Executive <i>(IUDP Link: Organogram)</i>
	Appoint a specialist Tourism Development and Marketing officer	Council/Executive <i>(IUDP Link: Organogram)</i>
Heritage		
To capitalize on Dhulikhel's historic social and architectural cultural heritage	Establish a Heritage Advisory Committee to assist decision making for heritage places.	Council and Executive
	Develop a Heritage Strategy to prioritise actions for Heritage.	Planning Heritage Advisory Committee
	Formally protect and conserve the identified significant heritage assets in Wards 5, 6 and 7 through land use zoning, by-laws, using the Heritage Study prepared by Technical University of Berlin and Kathmandu University as a base.	Building and Planning <i>(IUDP Link: Land Use Plan, Heritage Strategy, By Laws)</i>
	Prepare heritage guidelines to assist Municipality staff and land owners to make decisions on heritage buildings, based on best practice.	Heritage Advisory Committee Planning Department of Archaeology <i>(IUDP Link: Heritage Strategy, By-Laws)</i>
	Prioritise the restoration of key heritage places that were affected by the major earthquakes in the year 2072, based on the findings of the Technical University of Berlin and Kathmandu University Heritage Study.	Heritage Advisory Committee Planning <i>(IUDP Link: Heritage Strategy)</i>
	Support the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings as affordable and safe accommodation for mid and low range tourists, within historic areas	Planning Heritage Advisory Committee <i>(IUDP Link: Land Zoning Plan, By-Laws, Heritage Strategy)</i>
	Establish a Heritage Walk (in partnership with the Dhulikhel Environment and Tourist Promotion Committee) <i>(IUDP Link: Heritage Strategy)</i>	Heritage Advisory Committee Dhulikhel Environment and Tourism Promotion Committee

		(IUDP Link: Heritage Strategy)
	Improve signage, interpretation and information about Dhulikhel's significant places.	Heritage Advisory Committee Tourism Development Committee Tourism Development and Marketing Officer (IUDP Link: Heritage Strategy)
	Work with local community to develop a high quality and accessible museum to properly archive, display and promote heritage artifacts significant to Dhulikhel.	Heritage Advisory Committee Tourism Development Committee Tourism Development and Marketing Officer (IUDP Link: Heritage Strategy)
	Promote cultural festivals of Dhulikhel to visitors	Dhulikhel Environment and Tourism Committee Tourism Development and Marketing Officer (IUDP Link: Heritage Strategy)
	Business mentoring for tourist accommodation and hospitality businesses in Heritage buildings	Tourism Development and Marketing Officer Tourism Development Committee (IUDP Link: Economic Development Strategy, Heritage Strategy)
	Establish and promote religious/cultural heritage treks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ugrachandi Nala (Karunamaya) temple – Panauti Indreswor - Nala Karmapa Buddhist monastery – Namo Buddha Tour/trekking 	Heritage Advisory Committee Tourism Development Committee (IUDP Link: Heritage Strategy, Physical Development Plan)
	Develop an incentives program through either tax reductions or a heritage grants scheme to encourage the retention and regular maintenance of private heritage properties.	Heritage Advisory Committee Finance (IUDP Link: Heritage Strategy)
Landscape		
To capitalize on Dhulikhel's scenic appeal and scenic view oriented recreational attractions	Protect significant landscapes through planning policy and by-laws that encourage sympathetic design and allows tourist accommodation to share views	Planning (IUDP Link: Land Use and Zoning Plans)
	Establish viewing platforms and seating in key scenic viewing locations.	Engineering Tourism Development Committee (IUDP Link: Physical Development Plan)

Adventure tourism		
	<p>Establishment and Promotion of hiking/trekking and cycling circuits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhulikhel-Namobuddha-Balthali-Khopasi-Panauti • Dhulikhel-Ravi-Nagarkot • Baluwa Pati-Deupur-Nagarkot Mountain View • Naya Gaun – Deupur – Dwarpal-Thulochaur Mountain View • Dhulikhel Municipality – Dhulikhel – Devasthan Hill – Old City of Dhulikhel • Mahadevsthan – Jyamdi – Jaisithok – Chandinimandan Boundary Sulikot – Mane Danda Sunrise Area • Bhumlutar Bedada – Sunkoshi Indrawati Mountain View • Nauka Bihar – Chaubas Saraswati Danda – Sagarmatha/Gaurishanker Mountain view • Sathighar Bhagwati – Palanchok Bhagwati Temple – Balthali Thumki Danda • Dhulikhel – Namo Buddha Trekking 	<p>Tourism Development Committee</p> <p>Engineering Department</p> <p><i>(IUDP Link: Physical Development Plan)</i></p>
	<p>Undertake a feasibility study for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of a Bunji-Jumping • The establishment of a Rope Walk • The establishment of a cycle track to waterfall at Devitar 	<p>Tourism Development Committee</p> <p>Engineering Department</p>
Agro-tourism		
To leverage agriculture areas toward agro-based tourism	Support the appropriate development of Agro-based resorts in Wards 11 and 12 to promote Ago-tourism	<p>Planning</p> <p><i>(IUDP Link: Land Use Plans, Zoning Plans, By-laws)</i></p>
	Look at unique and distinctive opportunities for homestays	<p>Tourism Development and Marketing Officer</p> <p>Tourism Development Committee</p>
	Support and encourage the development of homestays in Wards 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12	<p>Planning</p> <p>Tourism Development Committee</p>
Accommodation		
To expand and improve the tourist accommodation offer across the Municipality	Apply positive planning policies and by-laws and land zoning that encourage the development of tourist accommodation in tourist destinations outside the urban centres .	<p>Planning</p> <p><i>Refer to (IUDP Link: Land Use Plan, Zoning Plan, By-laws)</i></p>
	Support opportunities for short to medium accommodation to service INGOs, NGOs, the Hospital and University.	<p>Planning</p>

		<p>Tourism Development Committee</p> <p>Tourism Devt. And Marketing Officer</p> <p><i>(Refer to IUDP : Land Use Plan, Zoning Plan, By-laws)</i></p>
	<p>Improve information and services from accommodation providers for tourists regarding how to use local transport, providing of guiding services etc.</p>	<p>Tourism Development Committee</p> <p>Tourism Dev't and Marketing Officer</p>
	<p>Establish local Tourism Excellence Awards for providers to encourage improved tourism services.</p>	<p>Tourism Development Committee</p> <p>Tourism Dev't and Marketing Officer</p>
Infrastructure		
<p>To improve and maintain the tourism infrastructure</p>	<p>Design and develop additional trekking routes (refer to Adventure Tourism) and maintain existing routes to a high standard.</p>	<p>Tourism Development Committee</p> <p>Engineering</p> <p><i>(Refer to IUDP Physical Development Plan)</i></p>
	<p>Ensure access to drinking water and reliable electricity</p>	<p>Water Committee</p> <p><i>(Refer to IUDP Physical Development Plan)</i></p>
	<p>Upgrade roads that connect the major tourist attractions with the urban centres.</p>	<p>Engineering</p> <p><i>(Refer to IUDP Physical Development Plan, Municipal Transport Management Plan)</i></p>
	<p>Design and Construct a cycle route from Dhulikhel Bazar to waterfall at Ward 1</p>	<p>Engineering</p> <p><i>(Refer to IUDP Physical Development Plan)</i></p>
	<p>Ensure existing and new tourist facilities, accommodation, attractions and supporting infrastructure is accessible for people of all abilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertake accessibility audit of existing tourist attractions and recommend changes - All new infrastructure is designed to National Disability Access standards 	<p>Engineering, Planning and Building Approvals</p>

Marketing		
	Commission the design of tourism branding and marketing campaign for Dhulikhel	Tourism Dev't and Marketing Officer
	Co-ordinate Business mentoring for tourist related businesses including accommodation, hospitality, arts and crafts and tourist operators, training for potential guides. Accreditation of guides and tourism operators. Prioritise support for women, rural communities and disadvantaged groups.	Tourism Dev't and Marketing Officer
	Establish annual Tourism Awards	Tourism Dev't and Marketing Officer Tourism Development Committee
	Seek expressions of interest from locals to undertake paid tours and classes hosted by local people in the community (can be achieved on sites like Airbnb as “experiences” or Backstreet Academy)	Tourism Dev't and Marketing Officer Tourism Development Committee
	Arrange specialist training sessions for accommodation and local experience providers (hosts) in using online platforms to organise and promote business.	Tourism Dev't and Marketing Officer Tourism Development Committee

Table 3: Implementation Plan

7.6 Monitoring and Evaluation

This plan should be reviewed annually (prior to the preparation of the Municipal Budget). The annual review will set out 12 month priorities.

The progress of the Implementation Plan should be reported to the Mayor on a monthly basis, through the Tourism Development Committee.

A new Plan should be developed after 5 years (2080). This process should include an assessment of the progress of the Plan and the physical, economic and social impacts of the Plan.

Appendix 1

ANCIENT DHULIKHEL IN NUTSHELL

- Manish Yagol Sth.

Dhulikhel is one of the seven towns under Bhaktapur popular as 'Saatgau' which was redesigned & developed round the shrine Sheshnarayan by Thakuri King Ananda Dev during 12th century AD. Etymologically, ancient Newari term 'dhali' and 'khya' meaning curd & land respectively resemble Dhulikhel as the land of curd. Later, the term developed as Dhalikhyal to Dhulikhyal and Dhulikhel. Similarly, Shikhalapur is the Sanskrit term used for Dhulikhel that was developed from Shikharpur & Shikharapur meaning the city at hilltop.

City center of Dhulikhel known as Dutol is enriched by 3 storeyed, gold gilded Seshnarayan & Harasiddhi temple, largest metallic Garund, Swet Chaitya, Sorhakutte Pati, Bhimsen temple, Hanumanthan, Juddha Dhara & ancient settlement. This settlement is linked by 6 gateways where we find only 3 Ganesh temples at present that are enshrined in a belief of safeguarding town with prosperity. Notably, Itol at the south enshrine Lankhanabinayak with Ganhiti, Ranipukhu. Similarly, there are Okubinayak in Otol at the east and Suryabinayak in Chochhentol at the west where as, Mhaskadyo at the north accumulately, enshrine Indrayani, Chandrayani (Maheshwori) & Bramhayani, 3 deity among Astamatrikas. Notably, Balkumari in Itol is also among Astamatrikas which all are placed at 8 corners since the formation of ancient town. Moreover, multi-staged Shikhaleshwori Bhagawati at the top of ancient town comprise fine courtyard with Gita Mandir & magnificent view around. Remarkably, Umamaheshwor (12th century) and Surya (14th century) in Otol, Harihar & Laxminarayan inside Sheshnarayan and Parwati in Chochhen of medieval era recognizes the masterpiece artwork of Dhulikhel.

Today, Dhulikhel is known as the town of traders wandering round the country and Darjeeling, Sikkim. It has peculiar identity as the town of Shresthas. That's why this is only the Newari ancient settlement where none of Jyapu community is found to be settled.

Appendix 2

10 CULTURAL POINTS @ DHULIKHEL

- 1. SHIKHALESHWORI: THIS IS THE 3 STOREYED, MULTI-STAGED TEMPLE OF NATIVE GODDESS BHAGAWATI SITUATED AT THE TOP OF THE ANCIENT CITY. THAT'S WHY THE GODDESS IS TO BE NAMED AFTER THE SANSKRIT NAME OF THE CITY, SHIKHALAPUR. THOUGH THE SHRINE IS BELIEVED TO BE CONSECRATED DURING LICHAVI ERA EVIDENTIALLY, THE GODDESS HAS BEEN STATED IN THE MEDIEVAL INSCRIPTIONS OF 791 & 822 NS. NEARBY GITA MANDIR, GIGANTIC HOUSE OF YAGOL FAMILY, SURYA VINAYAK, PARWATI TEMPLE, NAVESHWOR, NAAG POKHARI ETC. ARE ALSO WORTHSEEING. ASTONISHING VIEW OF MOUNTAINS, VALLEY, ANCIENT CITY, SUNRISE-SUNSET ARE ALSO REMARKABLE.**
- 2. HARASIDDHI & SHESH NARAYAN: THESE THREE STOREYED TEMPLES LIE AT THE HEART OF THE CITY. METALLIC SCULPTURE OF GARUND & SHESH NARAYAN IS BELIEVED TO BE THE LARGEST ONE OF ITS TYPE. THOUGH THE LEGEND DATES BACK TO 12TH CENTURY AD ON THE CONSECRATION OF SHESH NARAYAN THE PRESENT STRUCTURE STAND SINCE 1926 BS & HARASIDDHI DURING 1923 BS. SWET CHAITYA (793NS), JUDDHA DHARA, SORHAKHUTTE PATI, BHIMSEN TEMPLE, LAGAN DABALI (NAWADURGA & HARASIDDHI DABALI) & OTHERS ARE ALSO REMARKABLE.**
- 3. LANKHANA BINAYAK: AMONG ONE OF THE GANESH AT THE ENTRY OF THE CITY, LANKHANA BINAYAK SAFEGUARDS THE CITY WITH PROSPERITY. AS PER NEWARI LANGUAGE, 'LA' MEANS WAY & 'KHANEMA' MEANS SEEN, INTERPRETS THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF THE TEMPLE WHICH IS SEEN DOWNWARD DIRECTLY FROM THE SOUTHERN GATEWAY. THIS SHRINE ALSO IS BELIEVED TO BE CONSECRATED ON 12TH CENTURY AD DURING THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE CITY BY KING ANANDADEV. NEARBY GAHITI (DOWNWARD STONE TAP) DATES BACK TO 799NS IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY.**
- 4. GAUKHURESHWOR: BY LEGEND & EVIDENCE FOUND, IT IS THE OLDEST SHRINE AROUND DHULIKHEL WHICH DATES BACK TO 790 NS & FAMOUS AS NILKANTHA MAHADEV (GOSAIKUNDA) ALSO WHERE THE TRANQUIL ENVIRONMENT WITH THE SOUND OF WATER DROPLETS PROVIDE PEACEFULL MIND EVEN FOR MEDITATION IN THE NEARBY REST HOUSES. PREMISES COMPRISED TEMPLES OF BAMSIGOPAL, RAM, GANESH, BHAIKAB, HANUMAN ETC. SUPPORTS TO BE THE MOST FAMOUS PILGRIMAGE SITE IN DHULIKHEL.**
- 5. HAZARSIDHI: AFTER VISIT TO GAUKHURESHWOR, ANOTHER STONE PAVED STAIRCASE LEADS TO SMALL BOTANICAL GARDEN, THEN TO DAXINKALI TEMPLES & SHIKHALAPUR MAHAVIHAR. FURTHER WIDE STAIRCASE IS HAZARSIDHI WHICH LEADS TO SHANTIBAN WHERE 36 FEET GOLDEN BUDDHA IS MEDITATING WITHIN THE LUSH OF FOREST. THE PREMISES BOAST WIDE VIEW OF VALLEY, THE**

- MOUNTAINS & CLOSER VIEW OF DHULIKHEL. IT ALSO HAS THE MEDITATION HALL IN THE BASEMENT. REST STAIRCASE ULTIMATELY LEADS TO KAVREKOT.*
- 6. KAVREKOT: THE DISTRICT KAVREPALANCHOK IS COMPRISED WITH THE TERMS KAVREKOT & PALANCHOK BAHGAWATI TEMPLE. KAVREKOT IS MEDIEVAL FORT CONSECRATED DURING THE UNIFICATION CAMPAIGN AROUND 1719 BS WHERE THE GODDESS DURGA WAS ENSHRINED FOR POWER GENERATION TO THE SOLDIERS. SINCE THEN KOTDEVI IS FAMOUS AS DEVITHAN/KALIDEVI AMONG NEPALESE & KALI TEMPLE AMONG FOREIGNERS. THE VIEW DECK & TOWER PROVIDES MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF PANORAMIC MOUNTAINS FROM ANNAPURNA TO EVEREST REGION, SUNRISE-SUNSET, VALLEY VIEW & SO ON.*
 - 7. BHATTIDANDA: SPECIALLY TAMANG SETTLEMENT, FARMING & ANIMAL HUSBANDARY, SUPER DELUXE RESORT (DWARIKA'S VILLAGE RESORT) TO HOMESTAY, HOMEN DANDA, MOUNTAIN PANORAMA, VALLEY VIEW & SUNRISE VIEW ARE THE MESMERISING PARTS OF BHATTIDANDA AREA. Over 20 HOTELS IN & AROUND BHATTIDANDA HAVE CREATED TOURISTIC ENVIRONMENT IN ABUNDANCE.*
 - 8. CHAUKOT: FORTIFIED HILL TOP NEWARI SETTLEMENT DEVELOPED DURING 12TH CENTURY AD AS ONE OF THE PARTS OF SAATGAU IN KAVRE IS CHAUKOT WHERE SWET GANESH & THE BEAUTIFUL IMAGES OF NARAYAN ARE THE PART OF ATTRACTION. WHOLE HILL HAS THE POTENTIALITY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, EXCAVATION IS IN NEED.*
 - 9. SHREEKHANDAPUR: THE VILLAGE NEARBY CHAUKOT IS ALSO TERMED AS KHADPU. IT IS ANOTHER VILLAGE AMONG SAATGAU WHICH ENSHRINE THE MEDIEVAL TEMPLE OF SWET BHAIRAB, NARAYAN TEMPLE SQUARE; VARIOUS SCULPTURE OF NARAYAN, UMAMAHESHWOR ETC. NEARBY KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY IS ALSO WORTHSEEING.*
 - 10. GOSAITHAN: ALSO TERMED AS SHAILESHWOR OR NAIMISHARANYA AREA WHICH CONSOL THE PILGRIMS WHO CANNOT TRAVEL GOSAIKUNDA, RASUWA & NAIMISHARANYA, INDIA. VIEW TOWER ON TOP OF PINE FOREST IS SPECTACULAR FOR THE RANGES, SUNRISE & VALLEY VIEW.*

NOTE: TEN POINTS OF DHULIKHEL CAN BE VISITED WITHIN A DAY ALSO. MOUNTAIN BIKE & MOTORBIKE CAN BE HIRED INCLUDING GUIDE. OTHER SITES ALSO CAN BE VISITED AS PER THE REQUEST.

RTN. MANISH YAGOL STH

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