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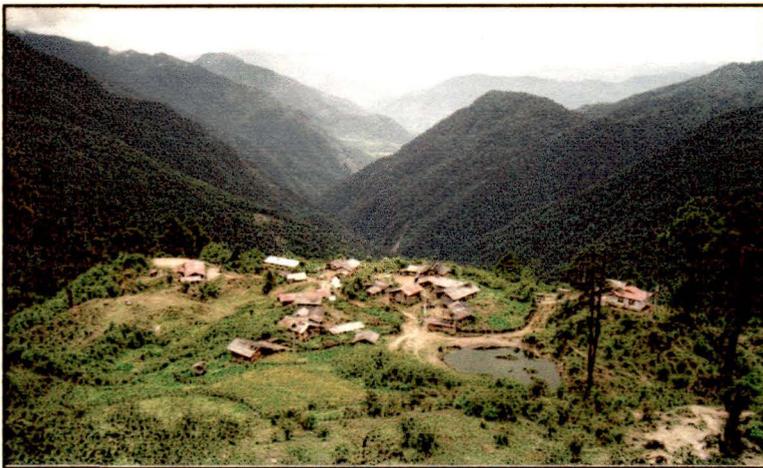
**PHOTO PLATES**

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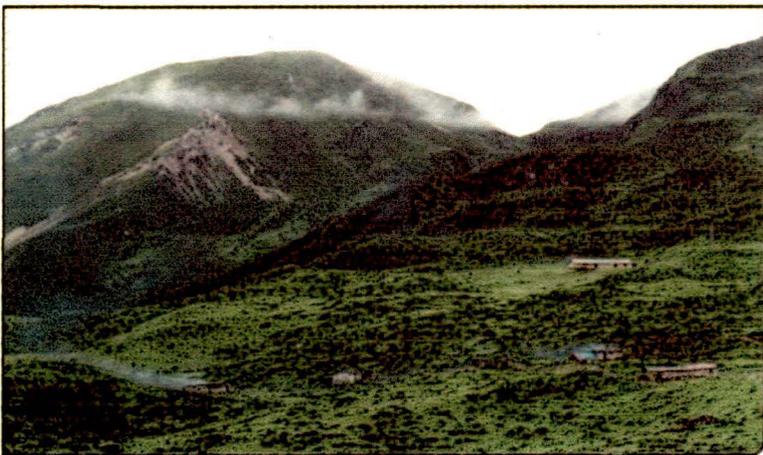
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Yuksam settlement, a trail head for Dzongri



Tshoka settlement with a monastery, trekker hut and the lake



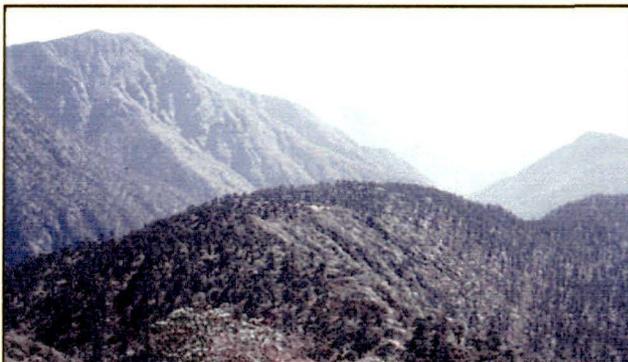
Alpine scrub land with Rhododendrons, Junipers and the permanent goth in the set at Dzongri

**Photoplate 1. Two major settlements and Dzongri meadow of Yuksam-Dzongri Trekking trail**



A pristine temperate broadleaved forest at some inaccessible areas of KBR

Sun set: a view through *Tsuga* forest from Tshoka (3000 m)



*Abies-Rhododendron* forest (3000 to 3800 m)

Cardamom field: additional habitat for some generalist bird and butterfly species to breed and feed upon



**Photoplate 2. Vegetation and forest types in temperate and sub-alpine areas of the study sites**



Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*): a endangered species of Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve



Black muntjak (*Muntiacus muntjak*) a temperate forest dwellers of the study area

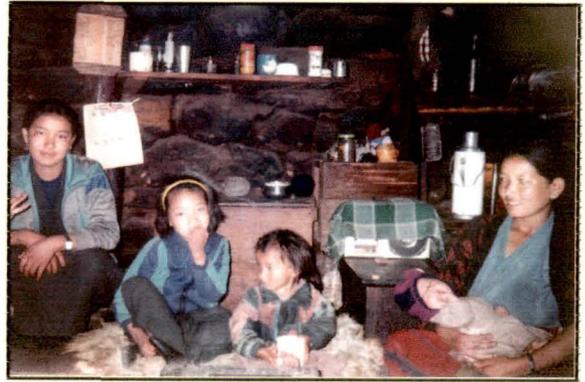


Himalayan black bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus*) the beast of the temperate forest

**Photoplate 3. Some of the important wildlife of the study area**



Lepchas: the arboriginal people of Sikkim



Transhuman Bhutia family at their summer halt



Fuelwood collection during the winter season at the trail head near Yuksam



Tree fodder collection: a daily schedule of the locals



Substantial amount of timber collection was observed from the trail side forest

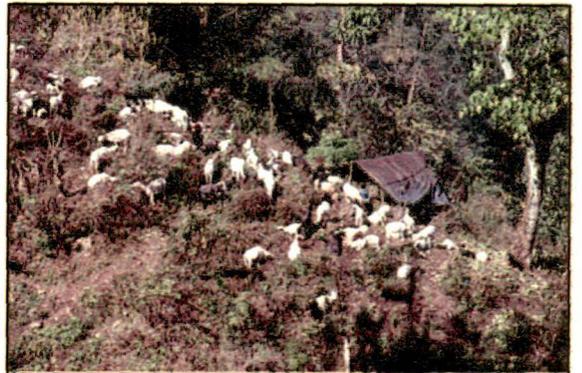


NTFP collection: Students use their time in such collection after their school or on holidays

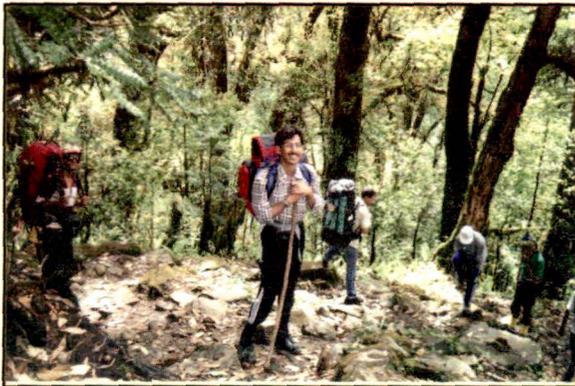
**Photoplate 4. Local communities and some of their livelihood options in the study area**



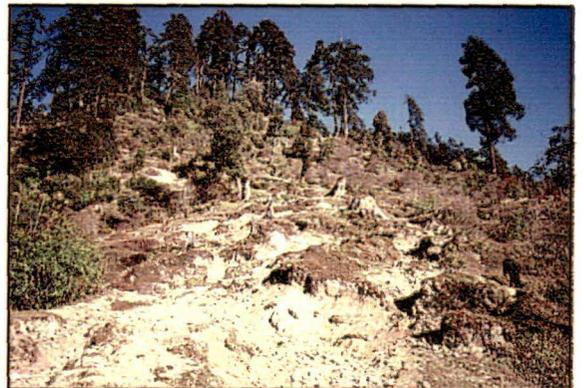
Dzoes used as pack animal bring substantial income to local community



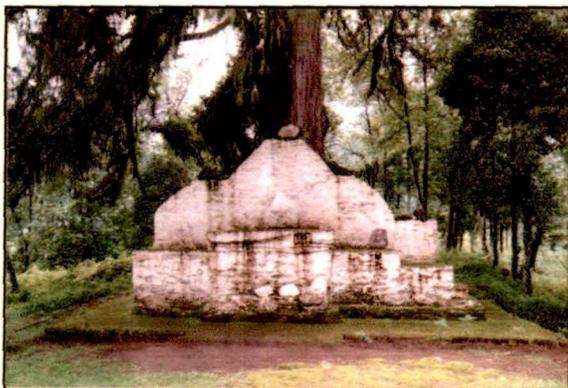
Sheep herd in the forest: A matter of concern



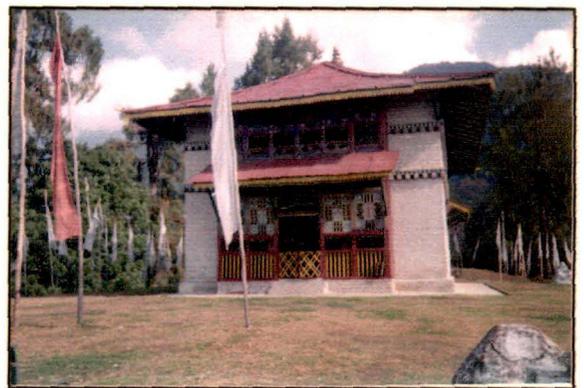
Tourism has become an integral livelihood option for Yuksam people



Continuous human pressure and trampling by the large number of animals along the trail are responsible for trail erosion

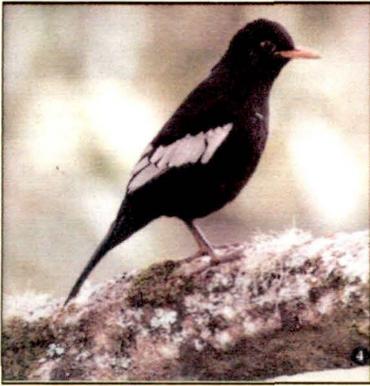


Norbugyang in Yuksam where the first Chogyal was enthroned by three religious leaders in 1642



Dubdi in Yuksam is one of the oldest monastery

**Photoplate 5. Yuksam-Dzongri trekking trail show visible impacts of degradation however attractive historical, cultural and wilderness destinations still amuse visitors**



Grey-winged blackbird  
(*Turdus bouboul*)



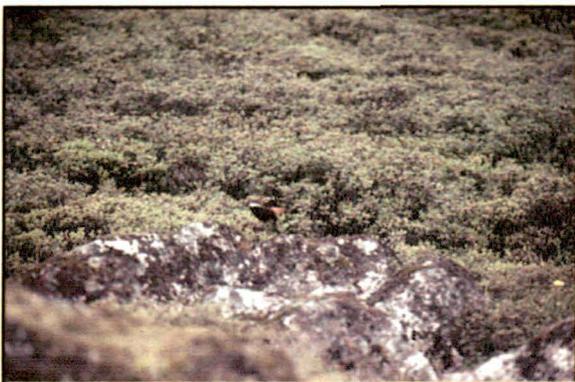
Golden sapphire (*Heliophorus brahma*) basking in  
the open area



Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)  
a common raptor



Paris peacock (*Priniceps paris paris*)  
feeding on flower



White capped Waterredstart  
(*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*)  
a common local migrants



Common sailor (*Neptis hylas varmona*)