

Contents

Particulars	Page
Acknowledgement	I
Acronyms	VII
List of tables	VIII
List of Figures	XI
Summary	XIV
Chapter I. Introduction	1
1.1. Background	2
1.2. Rationale for selecting the site	3
1.3. Sikkim Biodiversity and Ecotourism Project	5
1.4. Rationale for selecting birds and butterflies	8
1.5. Hypothesis	13
1.6. Aims and objectives	15
1.7. Limitations	15
1.8. Thesis organise	17
Chapter II. Review of literature	19
2.1. Introduction	19
2.2. Human disturbances on vegetation structure	21
2.3. Bird community and their association with habitat	25
2.4. Butterfly community and habitat association	34
Chapter III. Study area.	40
3.1. Sikkim	40
3.2. Khanchendzonga Biosphere Reserve	41
3.3. Yuksam and Yuksam-Dzongri trekking corridor	42
3.4. Physical features	44
3.4.1. Location and topography	44

3.4.2. Climate	45
3.4.3. Vegetation types	46
3.4.4. Wildlife	48
3.4.5. People and their livelihood options	49
3.4.5.1. Community composition	50
3.4.5.2. Livelihood	51
3.4.5.3. Land use and land holding	52
3.4.5.4. Livestock	53
3.5. History	54
Chapter IV. Human disturbance on forest resources	65
4.1. Introduction	65
4.2. Human disturbance and its consequences	68
4.3. Methods	70
4.4. Results	74
4.4.1. Forest resources utilisation pattern, preferences and consumption	74
4.4.2 Disturbance parameters	81
4.5. Discussion	81
4.6. Conclusion	86
Chapter V. Vegetation structure, regeneration, woody Biomass and productivity	100
5.1. Introduction	100
5.2. Methods	103
5.3. Results	107
5.3.1. Vegetation structure	107
5.3.1.1. Diversity	107
5.3.1.2. Regeneration	107
5.3.1.3. Woody tree species composition and distribution pattern	108

5.3.2.	Forest canopy structure and woody plant dominance profile	111
5.3.3.	Standing woody biomass, productivity and extraction	113
5.4.	Discussion	115
5.5.	Conclusion	122
Chapter VI. Bird community structure		144
6.1.	Introduction	144
6.2.	Methods	146
6.2.1.	Data analysis	148
6.3.	Results	150
6.3.1.	Vegetation	150
6.3.2.	Bird species abundance	150
6.3.3.	Habitat specificity	152
6.3.4.	Bird community	153
6.4.	Discussion	154
6.5.	Conclusion	158
Chapter VII. Bird habitat relationships and guild structure		173
7.1.	Introduction	173
7.2.	Methods	176
7.2.1.	Data analysis	177
7.3.	Results	178
7.3.1.	Bird community-habitat relationship	178
7.3.2.	Bird guild and migratory status	180
7.3.3.	Seasonal changes in guild and migratory species	181
7.3.4.	Guild-habitat relationship	182
7.3.5.	Selected species-habitat relationship	183
7.4.	Discussion	184

7.5. Conclusion	187
Chapter VIII. Butterfly community and habitat association	199
8.1. Introduction	200
8.2. Methods	201
8.2.1. Data analysis	202
8.3. Results	202
8.3.1. Butterfly species composition	202
8.3.2. Seasonal change in butterfly species	203
8.3.3. Butterfly habitat relationship	204
8.3.4. Indicator properties	204
8.4. Discussion	205
8.5. Conclusion	209
Chapter IX. Biodiversity management and conservation implication in KBR	217
References	233
Photoplates	A-F
Appendix A	i
Appendix B	ix
Appendix C	xii