CHAPTER 6
PROSPECTS OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Evaluation of prospects of tourism development in the Lower Subansiri district is one of the thrusts of the present work. Background information on possible tourist sites is initially gathered from various stakeholders, viz. local people and NGOs active in the area. Subsequently, the field has been carried out to such sites and photographic documentation has been done. GPS survey was carried out to map the existing and potential trekking routes. On the basis of the recreational demand of the tourists, it can be stated that the Lower Subansiri district has the lots of potentiality for the promotion of different segments of tourism. Except for the rich traditional culture and natural beauty, organized activities like Ziro music festival and Panyor river festival are the main source of attraction for the tourists visiting the district. Apart from this, there are some other sites and attractive elements which possess the potential to catch the eye of tourists and fulfill their interest and inquisitiveness.

6.1 Present tourist sites and attractions

1. **Ziro Putu**: It is a hillock used by the army in the 1960s to set up their cantonment during Indo-China war. Also known as Army Putu, which is historically a very important place. This hillock also offers a fantastic view of the Ziro valley with its vast paddy fields (Plate 6.1).
2. **Tarin Fish Farm**: A high altitude fish farm which is located in the midst of beautiful surroundings of pine and bamboo grooves situated approximately 3.5 km from Hapoli town (Ziro). It covers an area of 7.4 hectares of land and the farm was established in the year 1985 under the scheme sponsored by North Eastern Council. The Fish Farm is a popular tourist’s attraction where high altitude fish breeding is done. Angling in catch and release basis is allowed in the firm for the tourists (Plate 6.2).
3. **Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary**: It is a biodiversity hot-spot located at a distance of 32 km from Ziro towards the northeastern direction of the valley. It comprises sub-tropical and Alpine forests. The place offers great trekking opportunities and rich with varieties of flora and fauna. Although the wildlife sanctuary is rich in natural resources, the flow of tourists to this destination is not yet encouraging. It is due to the lack of tourism infrastructure facilities available in the sanctuary, such as wildlife safari, accommodation for a large group of people, a proper guide with proper knowledge, safety and security and lack proper advertisement. Tent accommodation may be introduced in the area to increase in a number of tourists flow to the sanctuary (Plate 6.3).

![Plate 6.3: Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary](image)

Photograph: Mr. Koj Mama

4. **Paddy cum Fish Culture (Pisciculture) at Ziro**: It is a unique culture practiced by the Apatanis along with their rice cultivation. In this practice, fish is reared in the channels meant for irrigation inside the paddy field. Harvesting of fish is done after 2-3 months of paddy sowing, which also plays an important role to enhance the economy of the community. Integrating fish culture along with rice cultivation assures high productivity and year-round employment opportunities to the females of the community. Majority of the agricultural works are done by female members, by implementing highly technical traditional method where organic manures are used. The paddy cum fish culture of the Apatanis are even encouraged and studied by Dr. Haimendrof in the year 1940 when he
visited the valley for a study about the culture and society of tribal groups of the Himalayan region. One of the Japanese research group also has carried out research on it and found that the rice produced in the valley is one of the highly nutritious rice in the world.

However, due to the transformation of the society from primitive to the modernisation of the district from last few years, the traditional agricultural practices are gradually affected. Agricultural fields are converted to the other purposes to earn more money compare to the earning from the agriculture. Such conversion spoiling the beauty of the valley and gradually transforming the traditional agro-ecosystem. So, it is the high time to conserve their traditional agricultural practices, which will also help in promoting the traditional sustainable agricultural practice but also the unique tourist attraction in the district (Plate 6.4).

Plate 6.4: Paddy cum Pisciculture at Ziro  
Photograph: Mr. Koj Mama

5. **Traditional irrigation techniques of Apatanis at Ziro:** It is a unique irrigational system practiced by Apatani community from time immemorial and it proves that the intelligence and capability of the community to utilize their natural resources. With the help of this technique, natural water supplies from the streams are well organized and supplied to the paddy fields according to their needs. This irrigation
technique attracts the researchers and cultural tourists across the world (Plate 6.5).

Plate 6.5: Traditional irrigation techniques of Apatanis

Photograph: Mr. Koj Mama

6. **Shiva Lingam at Kardo Forest:** There is a Shiva Lingam with the height of 25ft and 22ft width at Kardo Forest, which is located at 4 km from Hapoli Township. A good number of devotees visiting the spot every day. It is observed that the tourists flow to the destination is increasing over the years. Accordingly, the road to the shrine is developed, and beautification of the place of worship and its surrounding also carried out (Plate 6.6).

Plate 6.6: Shiva Lingam at Kardo

Photograph: researcher
7. **Bamboo Grooves at Ziro**: A groove where one can witness a unique expertise of farm forestry. Here a one stem bamboo *monoidal* is grown with blue-clad pine. Hikers and picnickers used this place as a picnic spot and hiking (Plate 6.7).

![Plate 6.7: Bamboo Grooves at Ziro](image)

Photograph: researcher

8. **Pine Groove**: Located at a distance of 3 km from old Ziro, this groove is full of pine trees and its scenic grandeur attracts lots of tourists visiting the district. Dominant species is blue pine, which is found only in some particular patches of the district at the higher altitudinal areas (Plate 6.8).

![Plate 6.8: Pine Grooves at Ziro](image)

Photograph: researcher

9. **Dolo Mando**: It is a hillock located 2 km away from Hapoli on the west of the valley. This hillock stands as testimony to the legendary love affair of
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*Dolo* and *Mando* of the Apatanies. It is very popular amongst trekker. The potential trek route-*Pamu Yalang* passes through this hillock.

10. **Kile Pakho:** It is a ridge located at 7 km on the north side from the old Ziro, where one can witness spectacular views of the contrasting landscapes of the valley and hills. On one side, there is the Ziro Valley and on the other side lies the lofty snow-capped Himalaya.

11. **Midey:** It is a place known for its blue pine trees and beautiful sights, located only 2 km from old Ziro. Midey is a wonderful place from where one can see the biggest and tallest tree in the Apatani valley measuring about 70ft high. The place is ideal for hiking and trekking.

12. **Dilopoliyang and Maniipolyang:** These two are local names of grass-covered two hillocks known for their natural beauty. One has to cross the Siiru village (around 5 km from Hapoli) to reach the place (Plate 6.9).

![Plate 6.9: Dilopolyang and Manipolyang near Hapoli](image)

Photograph: Mr. Koj Mama

13. **Orchids and Flowers:** The climate of the district is very conducive for orchid and flower cultivation. Around 300 verities of orchids are found in the Lower Subansiri district. Though they are widely distributed across the forest of the district, the Tale Valley WLS is ideal for orchid observation, especially in the month of March to May (Plate 6.10).
6.2 Potential tourist sites and attractions

Though an attraction is a principal motivation for tourist to visit, no site or event is an attraction in itself unless a tourism system is created to designate and elevate it to the status of attraction. The Lower Subansiri district has many potential spots and events or activities practiced by the local community which could attract the tourists from different areas of interest. Considering this aspect and rating the recreational demand field visits are carried out to explore such sites and attractions with the active participation of local communities in the areas concerned. Following are some of the potentialities of the districts from natural, cultural, ecotourism, and adventure point of view (Fig. 6.10).
6.2.1 Natural and Cultural Tourism: following are some of the tourist resources identified from different parts of the district, which is still unexplored and need value addition.

1. Viewpoint at Potin: The Potin is a junction for the tourists traveling to the Lower Subansiri district either from Lakhimpur, Assam (via Kimin) or from Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. Here one can take a break from the journey and have some snacks and enjoy the freshness of nature and appreciate the view of Ranganadi Hydro Electrical Project on Panyor River. The legend of Rikam Pada and Rinyam Yame has its roots in this place. The *tawlin*- a chair shaped
stone once located in this place where Rinyam Yame sat and weaved her clothes, was submerged after the construction of the dam (Plate 6.11).

Plate 6.11: Viewpoint at Potin
Photograph: researcher

2. **Rantii Hirun Bo**: The sacred stone known as Hari Rantii, is located at Ziro. Here Apatani ritual called *Lakhin* is performed when dangerous wild animals like a tiger is killed. It is performed to thwart off the spirit from probable revenge in vengeance (Plate 6.12).

Plate 6.12: Rantii Hirun Bo at Hari
Photograph: researcher

3. **Nenchan Dulyan**: A sacred stone venerated in Donyi Poloism as rain goddess. It is located at Duta Papii where Apatani Nyibu chants hymn of
appeasement to shower rain to nourish crops for bumper harvest during Dree festival (Plate 6.13).

Plate 6.13: Nenchan Dulyan at Old Ziro
Photograph: researcher

4. Tiru Dipeh: *Tiru Dipeh* is a historic metal spade preserved at village MudangTage, Ziro valley. They believed that it is the oldest metal spade existing in the Apatani Valley (Plate 6.14).

Plate 6.14: Tiru Dipeh at Mudang Tage
Photograph: researcher
5. **Tahi Lampii**: A mysterious stone cave located at Paki Halyang, at Reru village. Once it was used as the lone refuge for leprosy afflicted persons by the Apatanis (Plate 6.15).

![Plate 6.15: Tahi Lampii at Reru](image)

Photograph: researcher

6. **Heritage Lapang at Hong village**: The lapang is used for the murung festival as well as for any community meetings. The lapang at Hong village is the only lapang where only natural construction materials are used. Thus this lapang is considered as heritage lapang in the area with appreciable traditional architecture (Plate 6.16).

![Plate 6.16: Heritage Lapang at Hong](image)

Photograph: researcher
In the same way, typical Mizo village has few huts still designed and preserved in the traditional way. These huts contained certain items that take an important part of daily Mizo life. Fireplace, mortars, bamboo basket for keeping chickens, corn grinding machine, a wooden tool for spinning yarn from cotton, etc are some of such unique items to be appreciated. On the right side of the entrance, there lies a bigger known as Zawlbuk or bachelor’s dormitory, where bachelors used to assemble every night after working in the paddy field. It is a place of learning and oral traditions were kept alive, passed down from one generation to another (Jim, 2014).

6.2.2 Eco-tourism: the following resources are identified, which have the high potentiality for eco-tourism development.

1. The Birdwatching expedition may prove to be one of the potential eco-tourism events if properly explored in future. The potential spot for this event is eastern and western ring road and trek route to Talle Wildlife Sanctuary (Plate 6.17).

![Plate 6.17: Birdwatching expedition at TWLS](image)

Photograph: Mr. Koj Mama

2. Butterfly watching meet Ziro Butterfly Meet organized by NgunuZiro, an NGO based at Ziro working for a sustainable future of the place as well as the society. Because of Ziro Butterfly Meet, the Ziro valley becomes popular among butterfly enthusiasts. Ziro Butterfly Meet has been started as a part of its initiative to create awareness among the local people about the rich biodiversity of the place and the need to conserve them. The event also serves to fulfill its objective of promoting the concept of responsible tourism in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Although the
butterfly meet and the bird watching meet, of the district is not yet popular around the country but such initiative possesses a high potentiality to encourage and attract the tourist to the area which will be helpful for the growth of responsible tourism and to the conservation of biotic resources (Plate 6.18).

Plate 6.18: Butterfly watching meet at Ring Road and TWLS

Photograph: Mr. Koj Mama

6.2.3 Adventure and Recreational Tourism: A river Rafting site and four potential trek routes are identified in Lower Subansiri district as possible adventure tourism initiative.

1. Rafting at Kamla River: The mighty Kamla River flowing through Tamen of Lower Subansiri district and later joins the Subansiri River and then the contribution to the Brahmaputra River in Assam. The Kamla River portion flowing through Tamen area is an untamed part which houses deep gorges. This can bring a lot of attention for rafters and those who come for trekking in the district. On either side of the river, one can experience and witness dense jungles, riverine views and landscapes, and tribal habitations. On the basis of the high-risk level, rafting can be graded as grade 4 and above. Although the Kamla River is having more potential for river rafting than Panyor River, but the river rafting activity took place only on Panyor River, particularly during Panyor River festival. This potentiality of river rafting on Kamla River needs to explore as a part of adventure tourism (Plate 6.19).
Plate 6.19: River rafting on Panyor River at Yazali
Photograph: Mr. Tater Mize

2. Trekking in Sibe to Pamu Yalang Trek: The trek route Pamu Yalang starts from a place called Sibe village. It is considered as a soft trek route, which is also known as heritage route as this route was once used by Apatani’s to collect forest resources. *Pamu Yalang* is a rock and is considered sacred by local people. It is located 1828m above the sea level at *Dolo Mando* hill from where one can have a birds-eye view of Ziro valley. *Pamu Yalang* (Hawk Stone) is believed to have named when the rock was frequented by a hawk in early days. It is also believed that if bamboo slit rings were thrown from *Pamu Yalang* and it lands on the branches of the trees standing beside it, one's wishes are fulfilled. Whenever passing *Pamu Yalang*, people do indulge in this practice even today. After ascending *Dolo Mando* hill for two and half hours through thick bushes and jungle one can see the beauty of the surrounding valley. Several feet higher up is the *Mando Katu*, which is the highest point (1864mt) offer a wider view of the valley can be seen and also a nice place for photo shoots. The place is also suitable for paragliding as it has large stretches of open and barren land. People initiating trekking can identify more hotspots to boost eco-tourism. On the way *Mando Katu* another spot is there on the Dip Putu hill. Here it passes through aged pine trees called *Dip Piisa*. This pine tree is also considered sacred by local people. Another attractive spot of the trek is *Tado Lambia*, a lake on the hilltop. Total length of the trek is 7 km. It starts from Sibe village and end at the Hija village and takes 4 to 5 hours to complete the trekking. As it is a heritage route,
during journey tourist can enjoy some rural culture with mythological imprints as well as the diversity of vegetation (Plate 6.20).

Plate 6.20: Participants of Pamu Yalang Trek, 2015

Photograph: Mr. Koj Mama

3. Hakhe Tari Trek: This trek starts from Siiro village, it is also considered as one of the soft routes. It takes 3 to 4 hours to reach Hakhe Tari, which is the highest spot with an altitude of 1860 m. At this point, a beautiful waterfall is flowing towards the river Pange. On the way, colorful orchids and other flowers, lush green landscape, butterflies and chanting birds make the journey beautiful that the tourist will never forget. People of every age-group can enjoy this trekking route as it is thoroughly enjoyable and easy going. Today, there is a group of people taking care of all these attractions through which the district can develop trekking activities and can help in the growth of the economy of the local community. Every year in the month of September, when the migratory birds are migrating to the valley and the butterflies can also seen available, the NgunuZiro (NGO) organize trekking programme to enjoy it and provide necessary facilities and services to tourist. As it is one-way trek route, it takes 7 to 8 hours to complete it (Plate 6.21).
Plate 6.21: A view of Hakhe Tari Trek

Photograph: Mr. Tater Mize
4. Dusu Kattu Trek: It is mostly referred to as moderate trek route. Its start from the Hari village and total length of the route is 9.4 km, and the journey takes 10 to 11 hours. It is an ideal trek, best suited for those who are interested to explore the beautiful nature of Himalaya. Spring experience brilliant blossoms both at lower and higher altitude, and the slopes covered with dense vegetation and colorful flowers. *Dusu Kattu* is the highest point with an
altitude of 2450m above the sea level, which is the last point of the trek and from where the wider view of the valley can be seen (Plate. 6.22).

Plate 6.22: Participants of Dusu Katu Trek, 2016
Photograph: Mr. Koj Mama

5. Talley Valley Trek: The Talley Valley wildlife sanctuary is the most attractive natural destination of the district. This place provides exciting trek route to the visitors. Some parts of the trek are passing through the Talley valley wildlife sanctuary, which is the main attraction for the tourists. This trekking route may be referred as moderate trek, starts from Manipolyang and end in the Hong village, which takes four days to complete the journey. The total length of the route is 32 km. After 3 hours of a steady climb from Manipolyang there lies the Taria Tabe Khoke pass, then the trail follows through downhill amidst open forest and pastures. After that, it follows through uphill to the Pange camp, where tourist can enjoy the Pange River and the breathtaking the beauty of nature. After halting one night in the camp next day the trail leads to the Talley Valley camp, which is inside the Talley Valley wildlife sanctuary. On the way, the trek allows the visitors to wander amidst the virgin forest, conifers, indigenous bamboo and grasslands, rare species of butterflies and birds, and some other wildlife forms. Talley valley is surrounded by snow clad mountain and hills which makes the valley more beautiful and attractive, which is the home of varieties of flora and
fauna. The third day of the journey is to the Pange camp again but through another way, which takes 3 to 4 hours. On the way to the pange camp after two hours of walking it reached Labya Penggo pass situated at the 2725 mt. The trail crossed through dense jungle reached Tragopan, one of the highest points of the place, from where can see the wider view of the Talley valley wildlife sanctuary. From the Tragopan point, it takes 2 hours to reach Pange camp to take rest for a night. Last day of the journey from Pange to Hong village takes 3 to 4 hours, on the way a tourist can enjoy the different species of wildflowers, birds, and butterflies (Plate 6.23).

Plate 6.23: Participants from Talley Valley Trek with their tents, 2015
Photograph: Mr. Tater Mize

6.2.4 Horticulture and Tourism: In the Lower Subansiri district, it can be seen that the tourism and horticulture are always gone side by side. Wherever the tourist goes for sight-seeing the horticulture activities are always prevailed in and around almost in every tourist sites. Some of the tourist spots with prominent horticultural activity may attract tourists for their unique firm products:

1. Ranganadi Hydroelectric Project site under NEEPCO is located in the heart of Yazali, Potin, and Pithapool. This hydro project site is frontline view for tourism where the main attraction is the artificial lakes, surrounded by horticulture gardens and natural beauties. The picturesque landscape of Yazali, Yachuli areas are kept open for development of
horticulture and tourism activities. In this area, the sub-tropical fruits, vegetables, spices medicinal and aromatic agro products are raised. The most recent commercially cultivated horticulture crops are sweet orange, pineapple, orange, banana, and vegetables. In the upper part areas at Yachuli, New Panya, Deed and Joram the commercial horticulture crops commonly are grown are cardamom, pineapple, banana, guava, orange, spices, and vegetables (Plate 6.24).

Plate 6.24: An ideal Horti-tourism location at Yazali

Photograph: researcher

2. **Ziro Valley** popularly known as Land of Fish cum Paddy culture and potential hubs of Kiwi production in the district. The people of this area eagerly waiting for the declaration of the proposed world heritage site to initiate the horticulture and tourism activities. This area includes the Talley Valley Reserved Forest and Talley Valley Wild Life Sanctuary for integrating horticulture and tourism activities in the district. The most common cultivated horticulture crops are fruits, vegetables, spices, medicinal and aromatic. The most recent commercially cultivated horticulture crops are kiwi, pears, plum, peach, apple, large cardamom, flower, and vegetables.

3. **The Kamala River site** which is largest and most popular river in the district passes through the heart of Raga and Dollungmukh area. The horti-tourism
activities are evolved in and around this area. In this area the sub-tropical fruits, vegetables, spice, medicinal and aromatic are practices. The most recent commercially cultivated horticulture crops are pineapple, orange, banana, and vegetables. The large horticultural gardens make the valley colorful to attract the tourists.

6.2.5 Medicinal Plants and Tourism: Topography, soil, and climate of the district are unique, which supports the growth of varieties of medicinal plants, which have been used by the local community for more than six centuries. Several Globally Significant Medicinal Plant (GSMP) species are also found in forest area which has been traditionally used and conserved. A part of forest area has been converted to Medicinal Plants Conservation Area (MPCA), owing to the vast variety of native medicinal plant species available in the district. It was established in the year 2012 at Ziro, which is known as Hakhetari MPCA. MPCA is a natural forest area representing the diversity of forest types which serves the need of in situ conservation of medicinal plants found in that area. In future, this area may attract the researchers and enthusiasts of medicinal plants (Plate 6.25).

Plate 6.25 Medicinal Plants at Hakhe Tari MPCA, Ziro
Photograph: Mr. Koj Mama
6.3 SWOT Analysis

The SWOT analysis of tourism in Lower Subansiri district has been carried out to examine the state of tourism critically.

Strengths

- The district possesses areas with rich natural beauty, exotic flora, and fauna which are the valuable resources for the development of eco-tourism. Apart from it, the district is known for it’s the rare species of birds and butterflies.
- The wildlife sanctuary of Talley Valley wildlife has a great diversity of animals and plants which may attract a large number of tourists. The study shows the preference pattern of 40 % of domestic and 89% of foreign tourist towards this end.
- The riverine resources of the district can be harness to provide a unique experience of adventure.
- The district can generate a variety of tourism activities like- eco-tourism, wildlife tourism, rural tourism, pilgrim tourism, cultural tourism, festival tourism to offer varied needs of tourists with a varied background.
- The cool climate of the district can attract tourists.

Weakness

- Inadequate tourism infrastructure facilities in the district.
- Inadequate transportation facilities- rail and air transportation is not introduced till now for the public as well as for tourists.
- Lack of quality manpower in the hospitality sector and also a dearth of the tour operator and guide facilities.
- Limited awareness of tourism products in major tourist destinations.
- Poor publicity execution
- Lack of coordination among the concern government departments and lake of tourism reporting.
• The absence of sufficient resort accommodation facilities in a major tourist destination, which is having more demand compares to any other accommodation facilities.
• No facilities for indoor recreational activities.
• Absence of entertainment facilities in tourist’s destinations.
• Lack of adequate institutional mechanism of Tourism Development Corporation and Directorate of Tourism for implementing the proper tourism plan, projects, and schemes at grass root level.
• The absence of interpretation centres at wildlife areas and other destinations.
• Inadequate safety and security measures of the tourists visiting spots in the district.
• Travel restrictions resulting from PAP and ILP

**Opportunities**

• The Government of India has accorded special attention of economic development of the northeastern region, so there is ample scope of speedy development of tourism in the state general and the district particular.
• The tourism resources endowed by the district if harnessed in a proper way can make it pioneer in the state.
• Development and diversification of tourism activities will be a new enchanting aspect for both domestic and foreign tourists.
• The birding expedition and butterfly meet have become ideal tourist’s events and both domestic and foreign tourists are gradually attracted towards such events.
• The Talley valley wildlife sanctuary may prove to be an ideal tourist’s destination in the state if properly campaigned.

**Threats**

• Image of the as a whole North-Eastern region as an unsecured state due to the problem of insurgency and socio-political movement.
- Frequent bandh (closure) and strike due to political instability in the neighboring state of Assam continues to be a major problem for tourism development in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Increasing deforestation, especially in the foothill region degrade the natural beauty and natural habitat of animals, which is one of the main potential tourism attractions of the district and the state.

References

