

## SAGARMATHA NATIONAL PARK

Sagarmatha National Park (1,148km<sup>2</sup>) was gazetted in July 1976, where 11 endemic plants, and several endangered mammals such as snow leopard, musk deer, Tibetan wolf, and some 36 breeding bird species with significant populations, are protected. Although several wildlife populations are on the rise, musk deer poaching remains a problem as poachers come primarily from neighboring districts. The park has attracted worldwide attention primarily because of Mt. Sagarmatha (8848 m), the world highest mountain and the sherpa communities. Over 75% of the local people are engaged in tourism business as potters, guides, climbers, and hotel, lodge and tea shop owners. As alternative energy is prerequisite for resource conservation in mountains with high population of humans, use of fuelwood by mountaineering expeditions and trekking groups have been prohibited. Besides protecting wildlife, the park management maintains trails, bridges and renovate gompas.

