

# Dances of Dissociation

Reviewed by Raymond Apthorpe, Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath, UK; and Visiting Professor, School of Social Science and Policy, University of New South Wales, Australia. February 1992.

debate, and with related and larger issues about lack of public accountability.

But it complains as well about abuses of the scientific method in research and consultancy. That this publication has appeared at all — and presumably it is freely available in Dhaka — is itself a sign of elements of new times. One has

help of donors and multinational firms where, as described in this study, subsequent disasters led to mass social unrest. Thus, even more material on this case would have been welcome.

This may be forthcoming in future reports from Research and Advisory Services which would take the journey beyond

and demographic consequences common to flooding, water-logging and bank erosion in different parts of the country; a separate chapter on the sorts of environmental issues given short — or no-shrift in the Action Plan; and a balance — but brief — account of structural, technical and institutional causes underlying the

position is clearly stated but, understandably, this particular publication has not been seen as the appropriate place for the necessary discussion.

On the third, again a preferred position is clearly stated and, in fact, developed a bit. But it could be held that so much importance is made of this matter that Professor Adnan and his colleagues and friends and others would be well advised now to turn their best efforts towards identifying and arguing the case much further.

It could be allowed to contribute some remarks towards such a task, for a start it would be good to see detailed effort of identifying some different categories or, if you will, subcategories, of researcher and adviser and their relations with rulers and donors and banks and others who, after all, are the immediate beneficiaries of applied inquiry. Different orientations on the part of different agencies and their managers to research and advice as commissioned or otherwise could be identified and analysed.

Of course, not all consultancy is bad and all research good, and where these are different sorts of undertaking anyway it must be searchingly asked whether or not there is but a single mode and standard of accountability for either to follow. If there is, then, given the obvious difficulty with the idea of 'independent' positions which must also be 'accountable', what is it?

National institutes of (usually economic) development studies may be professionally staffed but have they nevertheless become so identified with 'official' positions of certain ministries and offices — with which at the same time they engage in dances of dissociation — that they have become somewhat diverted from courses of research and publication which they would also wish to pursue? If so, what are the feasible alternatives to this reliance on such national organisations for research and consultancy that would be less orientated and tied to official discourse? How exactly ought independence in policy research and policy advice be institutionalised for it to be productive and continuingly faithful to the motivation with which it started?

A perennial dilemma that has become only the more pressing given the continual growth of development policy and planning studies over the past four decades particularly must also be addressed.

# Saving King Solomon's Forests

by Chng Soh Koon and Dawood Ghaznavi

**B**EFORE a man in the Sulaiman Range in north Pakistan can marry, he must cut 125 Chilghoza pine trees (Pinus gerardiana). That is the minimum number of Chilghoza trees he has to sell to raise Rupees 150,000 (US \$ 6,000) to pay for his bride.

This year, 43 men want to get married, which means 5,375 Chilghoza trees will be cut. But they will find it extremely difficult. Fifteen tribal leaders, who own about 70 per cent of the Chilghoza forests in the Sulaiman Range, agreed late last year to stop cutting the trees.

This is the first time that the feuding tribal leaders put aside their differences and talked about conservation. "They laid down their Kalashnikovs and picked up the olive branch of conservation," said Ashiq Ahmad, Head of Conservation of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Pakistan.

WWF-Pakistan knew that to protect the 13,000 hectares of forests left in the Sulaiman Range, it had to get the support of the 19,000 inhabitants in this rugged terrain, near Afghanistan. After all, the forests are privately owned and since there is virtually no government control, the gun

rules. "Even as we sat down to talk, the tribals, hawk-eyed and tough, had their rifles slung across their shoulders," recalled Dawood Ghaznavi, WWF-Pakistan's Chief Executive.

He and his team spent more than Rs. 800,000 (US\$32,000) for five months studying how best to conserve this area named after King Solomon.

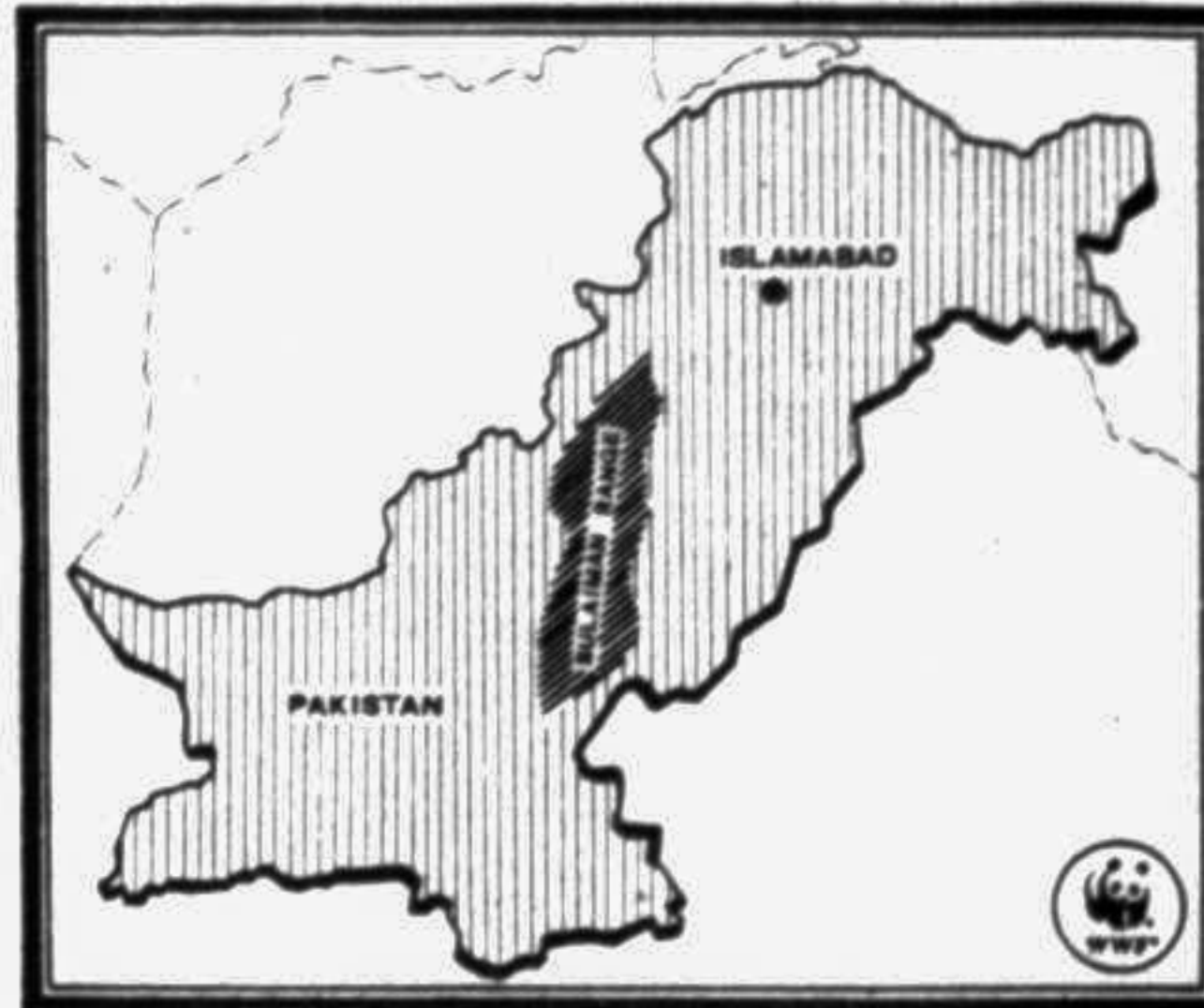
WWF-Pakistan's study revealed that in the western part of the range alone, there were 110 forest owners, many of whom were unconcerned about saving their forests. Between January and September 1991, 30,000 Chilghoza trees were cut. At this present rate of destruction, WWF estimates that all the forests there would be gone in ten years.

Besides the need for cash, tribal rivalries also has ten

deforestation. Tribals cut the trees to spite the owners and prevent them from planting new trees.

Despite these problems, WWF-Pakistan is keen to save King Solomon's forests. The Chilghoza tree has limited distribution in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the Sulaiman Range harbours the biggest chunk of Chilghoza forests in Pakistan. Only 3.5 per cent of

100 (US\$4) each. "In view of the tribal status, lack of employment opportunities and inadequate agricultural land, the Chilghoza trees are no less than a blessing in this area," said Mr Ashiq. WWF has now developed a conservation strategy based on the sustainable management of the forests to benefit the local communities. At present, outsiders come



Sulaiman Range, Pakistan

the country is forested. The Sulaiman Range forests are home to a diverse range of wildlife, many of which are endangered. In particular, it is home to the endangered Sulaiman markhor (Capra falconeri jerdoni), a large mountain goat with distinctive corkscrew horns.

More importantly, says Mr Ghaznavi, the destruction of the forests will seriously affect the local economy. Many of the inhabitants are engaged in the collection and selling of the Chilghoza nuts, which are popular throughout Pakistan. An average family can earn between Rs. 7500 (US\$ 300) and Rs. 13,000 (US\$ 530) in one season.

Mature Chilghoza trees also produce an oil which is used as a medicine to treat the skin diseases of sheep and goats. Dark brown, with a strong but pleasant smell, the oil is sold locally in 16-kilo cans at Rs.

to the Sulaiman Range to cut the trees. Two trucks a day, each carrying about 50 trees, leave the area. Very little money, if any, goes to the local communities.

"We must show the local people that the forests can be their permanent source of income," Mr Ashiq said. WWF's plans for the Sulaiman Range will help the local people in reforestation, orchard development, better management of rangelands and, through the introduction of fuel-efficient stoves, better use of fuelwood, health facilities will also be provided.

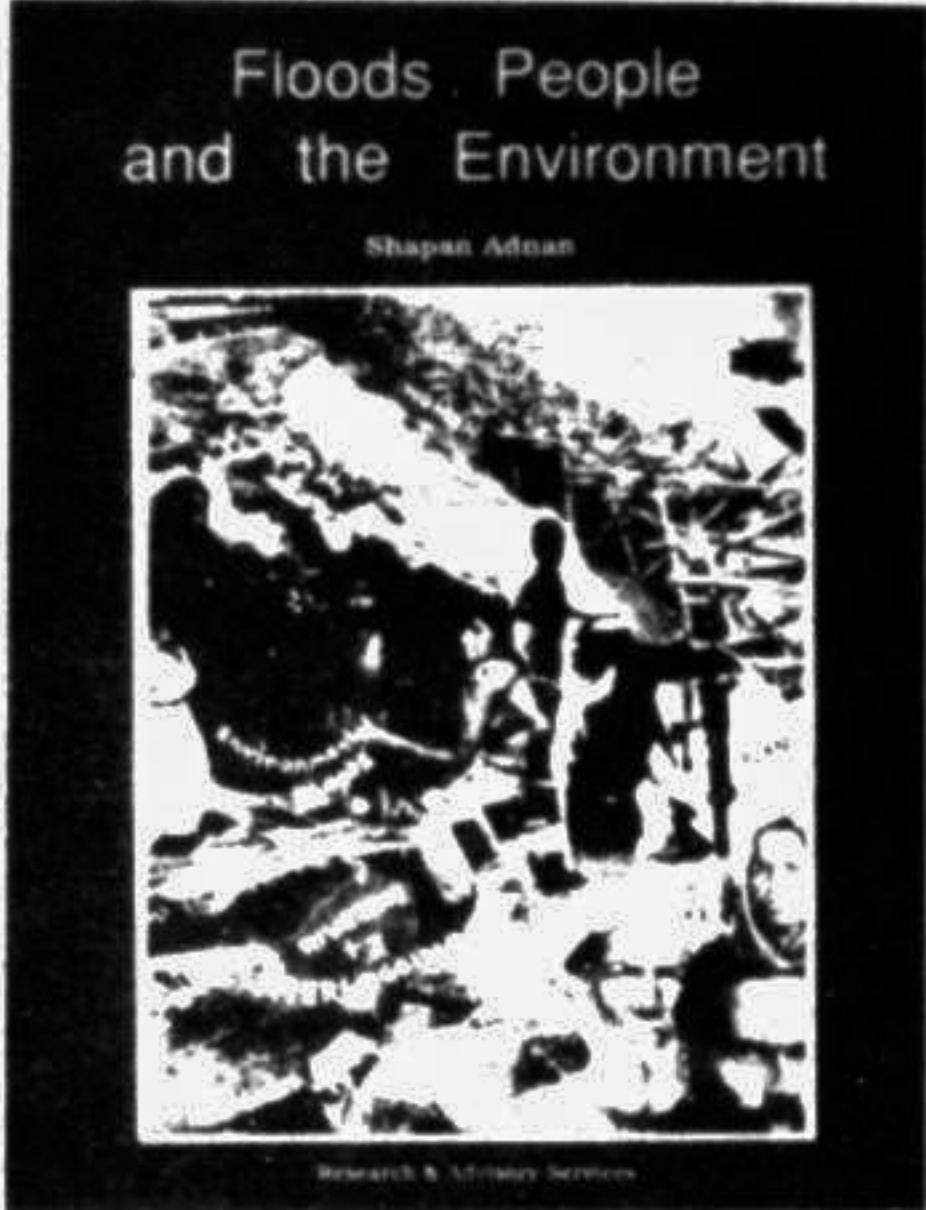
Hunting is a favourite sport of the tribals in the Sulaiman Range.

For the single men of the Sulaiman Range, it would also mean that they will have more Chilghoza trees and more chances to buy a bride. (WWF Features).

# Book Review

## Floods, People and the Environment

By Shapan Adnan, with support from M A Ghani, S M Rafique Uddin, Saleh Akbar Khandaker, Ashfaq Dewan, S M Abu Zaker, A M Sufiyan, Shah Alam Manik, Anwar Hossain, Shabnam Akhter. Published by Research and Advisory Services, Dhaka, July 1991.



only, as regards critical comment on flood management policy, to recall the fate of the 1989 BARC floodplain agricultural study and its principal movers. However, the extent to which public situations generally or, indeed, specifically, under the new regime are systematically different from those under the old are unknown to me at present (although, like others, I have read of the impact of democracy and the like). "Floods, People and the Environment" draws on many sources of information and analysis.

Nevertheless, perhaps its most general line of approach to its own recommendations and flood management policy owes very much to the case of Beel Dakatia: polders constructed in the 1960s with the

November 1990, with emphases that are likely to continue to be orientated towards institutional aspects of flood management and protection programmes.

Flood, People and the Environment comprises, in addition to a comprehensive Introduction, Conclusions and policy implications and an excellent Summary of the entire contents, a short presentation of the Flood Action Plan — its components donors, time-schedule and progress of work up to December 1990: an overview of the institutional matrix of the various control programmes; a statement on national trends in flooding during 1990 with maps showing affected upazilas.

A review of the special problems of urban-industrial centres: an identification of patterns of social, economic

events and processes reviewed in the other chapters, considered critically and re-stated where it is felt that the original sources merit this.

On balance, this is such an ambitiously comprehensive monograph and report that it can sustain, and certainly deserves, extended critical discussion on a number of fronts. Just three are: Physical construction as cure, cause and curse of floods; donors' strategies; 'independent' and 'scientific' mode and method in applied research.

On the first of these, there is sufficient argument in this report to inform a much fuller discussion than is usual in development planning circles and to take such a revised approach a good way into the issues and controversies that are, or ought to be, central.

On the second, the author's

# Nepal's Tourism Spoils Himalayan Magic

**N**EPAL has opened to foreigners hidden valleys deep in the Himalayas on its borders with Tibet, but conservationists fear tourism will upset the delicately balanced mountain environment.

Trekking will be allowed into remote Mustang and 12 other northern districts along the long frontier between Nepal and Tibet with special permission, the government has announced.

But Chandra Prasad Gurung who heads the Annapurna area conservation project warns: "Allowing tourists in can lead to the same problems we are facing."

Some of the magic of this Himalayan kingdom has been lost particularly in the Kathmandu Valley, amidst modern additions of dust, hooting vehicles and indiscriminate building.

Even the 20-day walk around the spectacular Annapurna massif in Western Nepal, recommended by every guide book as the classic trekking route, is now a trail that Nepalis rarely wander along.

Breathtakingly beautiful rhododendron and oak forests are littered with toilet paper, plastic and tins. Lodges and tea

houses dot the way supplying trekkers with muesli and pancakes.

"About 20 years back there was only one buffalo-shed in Ghodepani. Today there are 40 tourist lodges on the ridge which was once covered with dense rhododendron forests," says Gurung.

## The Nepal government's plan to open the last forbidden frontier of the Himalayan kingdom to tourism alarms conservationists, reports Binod Bhattarai of IPS.

Roughly 3000,000 mainly Western tourists descend on Nepal every year. Tourism is a money spinner here. Last year, Nepal earned some US \$65 million from tourism, second only to what is received as developmental assistance.

Officials hope the figure will swell this year with the Lo region-some 2000 sq kms of snow-capped mountains towering over windswept ridges, deep canyons and moraine valleys in upper Mustang — to foreign visitors.

Described as the last forbidden frontier in Nepal, Lo is still ruled by its own raja (king). Its capital, Lo-Manthong, is described as the only fortress settlement in the

Himalayas. "Lo is not only distinct in terms of the natural endowments, but is also a unique cultural entity," Nepali anthropologist Navin Kumar Rai told IPS.

The Lobas, people native to Lo, trace their lineage to nomads from Western Tibet. Sociologists say they have a

culture that is quite unlike the Nepalis, and "more Tibetan than Tibet itself".

The Lobas remain herds-men who carry on a centuries-old trade with Tibet. Little has changed as the winds of change that swept Nepal's other regions were not allowed to penetrate Lo.

According to Rai, Lo's many Buddhist monasteries and carefully preserved palaces from the 15th century are a treasure trove of artifacts and documents.

But Rai who has catalogued the cultural treasures of Mustang warns: "The quick cash which tourism could bring, could also take all these away."

Nepali conservationists are convinced the frontier is being opened up too quickly. "Mustang has no infrastructure to support outsiders," says Gurung.

They also dispute claims that tourism will help improve the life of the Lobas. "First travel agents in Kathmandu will benefit, then other communities, but not the Lobas," says Hemanta Mishra of the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation.

Moreover, tourism will be an unnecessary burden on the local economy, they say. According to Bikas Pandey, an engineer who has been associated with a string of small power-generating schemes in Mustang, the Lobas do not have unlimited supplies of fuel.

According to experts, lunch for a single tourist group can consume as much fuel as a peasant family uses in a week.

Although the government will take at least two more months to open the floodgates fully, applications are pouring in to "do" Mustang. Gleeful travel agents say Lo, in the rain shadow, can be developed as Nepal's tourist destination during the monsoons when foreign visitors generally stay away because of the weather

IPS.

# Water Becomes a Mounting Problem

by Tjitske Lingsma

**L**AST year, the Peruvian capital of Lima was ravaged by cholera, a disease that with modern freshwater and sanitation facilities should be non-existent.

But Lima, like many cities, of the developing world, sorely lacks such facilities. Over 250,000 fell ill as the epidemic spread throughout Peru and neighbouring Latin American countries. More than 2,000 people died.

Water experts at a recent United Nations-sponsored conference in Dublin said the case of Lima is not an isolated tragedy, but illustrates the growing water crisis that threatens cities all over the world, particularly in developing nations.

Despite massive efforts by Third World Governments to expand their water and sanitation services, large numbers of people, particularly in crowded urban areas, still have no access to such basic facilities.

In the 1980's, under the United Nations' International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (ISWSSD), more than 360 million people worldwide were provided with adequate water supply.

But over one billion people still have no safe drinking water and 1.5 billion are without

sanitation facilities. The poor health conditions spawned by this situation result in the deaths of more than 10 million children in developing countries every year.

In Lima, about 60 per cent of the population do not have water and sanitation services, said Miguel Ventura Napa, director for water and soils of Peru's agriculture ministry.

Napa joined some 500 participants at the International Conference on Water and Environment (ICWE) in Dublin in January, one of several meetings preceding the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June.

People get water from wandering trucks, filling big cans which last them two to three days. Ventura explained. Others draw water directly from the polluted Rimac river which flows through Lima.

Water from both sources poses health hazards. As is the case with many Third World capitals, the situation is aggravated by waste and misuse.

"While many poor families have to carry water on their backs, residents of Lima's rich suburb of La Molina routinely water their gardens and fill up their swimming pools," the Peruvian official said, adding that 30 per cent of Lima's water supply is lost due to leaking pipes.

A recent World Bank paper says the level of "unaccounted-for water" (UFW) in Lima is sometimes as high as 50 to 60 per cent. There are similar reports from places like Cairo, Mexico City and Jakarta.

The water problems of such cities are worsened by large population concentrations that in many cases are growing at rapid rates.

By some estimates, Lima will be one of 22 'mega-cities' by the year 2000 with a population of over 10 million. Eighteen of these mega-cities will be in the developing world and at least two of them will have populations of over 30 million.

Runaway population growth has a double-barrelled impact. It raises the demand for freshwater resources and, without adequate environmental protection measures, pollutes these resources at the same time. Like Lima, Indonesia's capi-

tal city, Jakarta, draws water from a river. To treat the increasingly polluted raw water, authorities have had to raise the chlorine dosage, thus increasing processing costs. Yet the water still often fails to meet drinking water standards.

Napa is trying to make a case for the introduction of a new international emergency water fund to aid developing countries faced with emergency situations like Peru's cholera epidemic, which cost the country at least US\$400 million in economic losses. Long-term solutions will cost far more.

As Third World cities grow larger and become more industrialised, demand for water will be even greater. In some Indian cities, water now has to be brought in from distant areas. This has pitted urban in-

terests against that of farmers, who depend heavily on irrigation. This will also create paralyzing shortages.

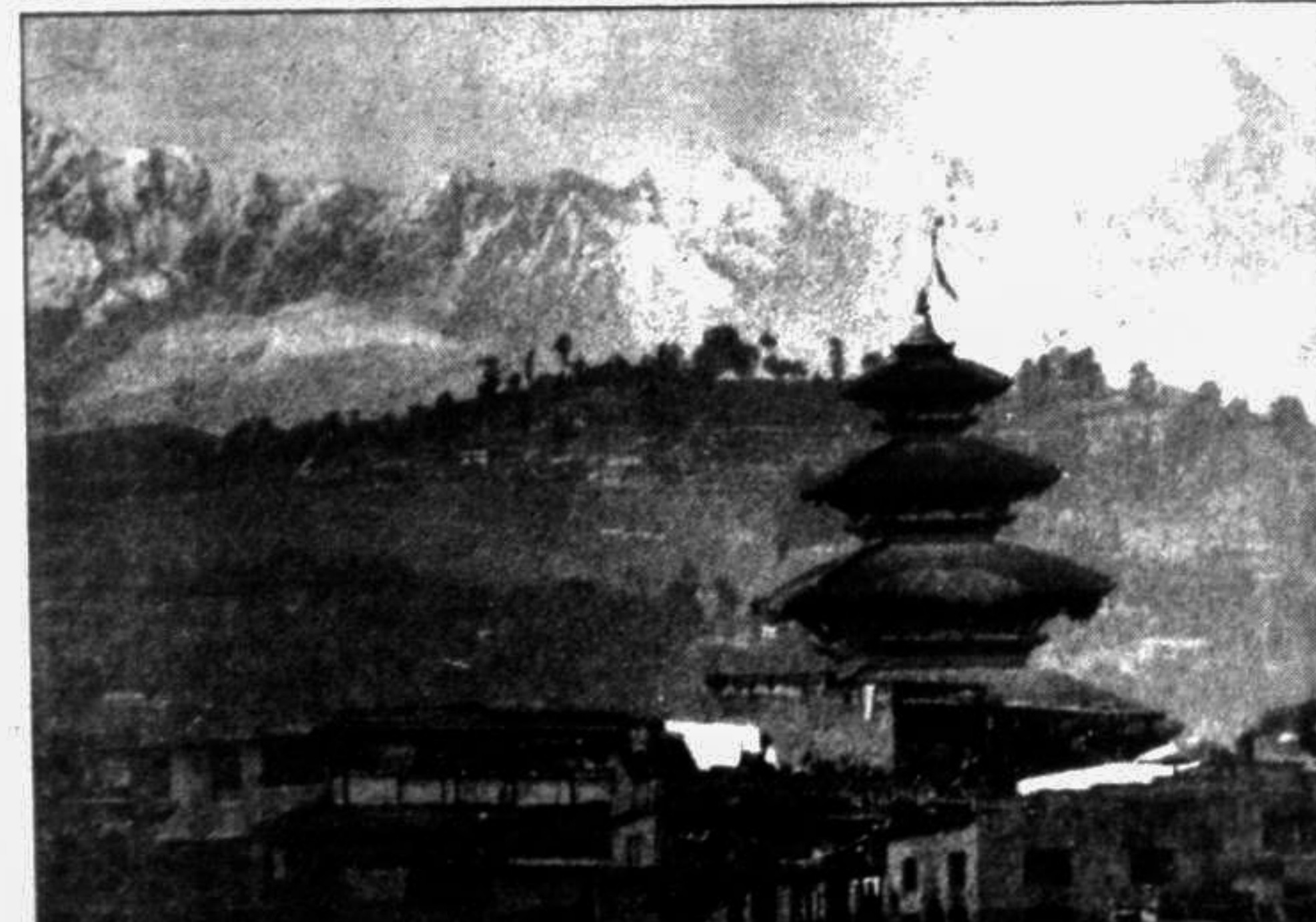
A World Bank study says that in the cities of Beijing and Tianjin in China, demand for water for domestic and industrial uses is expected to rise by 90 per cent and 150 per cent respectively, between 1984 and 2000.

That will lead to projected shortfalls of about 20 per cent with expected demand put at 45 per cent.

The amount of money needed to avert such crises is enormous. To meet the demand for water in urban areas of the developing world, between US\$11 and US\$14 billion would be required annually for the next 30 years. That is twice the amount of funds available for urban water supply during the ISWSSD.



Let's use safe water



How much harm can tourism do to the invincible Himalayas?

# Security Forces Threaten the Wildlife

by Davis Musuka

**W**ILDLIFE protection in Zambia's game parks is threatened because security forces are supplying sophisticated weaponry to poachers.

At a recent seminar held by the Species Protection Unit of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Dr. Patrick Chipungu, director of the Zambia National Parks and Wildlife Department, disclosed that poachers were caught with firearms and ammunition that could come from no other source.

Added Chipungu: "It is frustrating to find some senior officers protecting poachers. Often police officers at road-blocks fail to search vehicles thoroughly, especially those coming from game management areas." Although the Department

receives voluntary help from organisations such as the Wildlife Conservation Society of Zambia, Save the Rhino Trust, and several international organisations, the recent disclosure highlights its losing battle to protect wildlife in Zambia's 19 national parks and 31 game management areas. Dr Richard Bell, co-director of the Laungwa Integrated Resources Development Project, says Zambia has lost more than US\$20 million through elephant poaching in the last decade alone. Only between 15,000 and 20,000 elephants are left in the country.

Poaching accounts for over 70% of black rhino deaths in Zambia, and their total number is estimated at fewer than 200. PANOS