

Settlements and Land-Use Patterns in the Lepcha Reserve-Dzongu Zone in the Sikkim Himalaya, India

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KEYWORDS Complex Ecosystem. Cultural Heritage. Scheduled Tribe. Reserved Area. Farming Systems

ABSTRACT With only 540,000 inhabitants, Sikkim is the least populated state in India. Sikkim is a multi-linguistic, multi-religious and multi-ethnic state. Historic events have played their part in creating such a mosaic. This paper was written in 1990 as a part of the study carried out under the Research project entitled "Impact of Human Activities on the ecosystem and vice-versa with reference to the Sikkim Himalayas" under MAB (Man and the Biosphere) Programme, UNESCO. The cultural heritage of Lepchas of Sikkim has been in the past and now a centre of attraction for several anthropological and ethno-medical studies