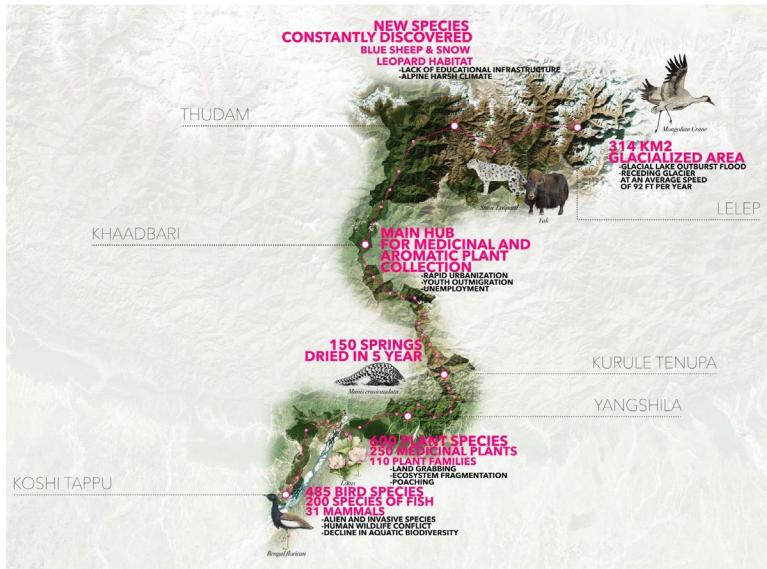




Carnegie Mellon University

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Vertical University project, KTK-BELT studio

48314/48614: Co-designing and co-envisioning an Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Library for the Vertical University Project in Nepal

12 Units

Instructor: Priyanka Bista

The seminar emerges from the instructor's work while co-founding the "Vertical University" project in Nepal. As a subversion to the traditional way we understand knowledge, the "Vertical University" builds on the learning potential inherent in the place-based, deep-seated indigenous knowledge of farmers living in biodiversity-rich landscapes. The project spans across a vertical gradient starting at a 67-meter elevation in Koshi Tappu to Mount Kanchenjunga (the third tallest peak in the world) at 8,586 meters.

For us, farmers are the professors; the villages are the classrooms, and the 8-000 meter vertical gradient is the "Vertical University."

Across this belt, the project is anchored in six regions. However, the seminar will be focused on Kurule-Tenupa, a community where these imaginative ideas and aspirations come to life. A local community-based learning ground on 16 acres of land has been established under the leadership of local indigenous leaders.

Through this elective and collectively with the community (online), we'll design this library as a new repository of knowledge that reinforces the local indigenous communities' relationship with their ecology. This production seminar aims to generate a design for the Indigenous Knowledge Library, which will be built in Kurule-Tenupa. If successful, this important typology, we hope, will be replicated in other parts of the project and, hopefully, throughout Nepal.