







COLOR CODING BASED ON
LOCATION OF INDIGENOUS
KNOWLEDGE

	Koshi Tappu +47m
	Pangolin +500m - 1200m
	Kawal Reserve +300m - 1800m
	Tribes Jhijhara Mela +2000m
	Lumla Surda +2800m
	Pajung +3800m onwards



Library of Indigenous Knowledge, Ganga Limbu, KTK-BELT studio

48314A/48614A: Indigenous Knowledge, and Biodiversity Conservation

Units: 9

Instructor: Priyanka Bista

The seminar emerges from the instructor's work co-founding the "Vertical University" project in Nepal. The project is a subversion of the traditional way we think about education so that the farmers are the professors, the villages are the classrooms, and the curriculum of the Vertical University is indigenous knowledge.

Although many indigenous communities living in biodiversity-rich landscapes possess tools, knowledge, and experiences to protect their landscapes, they are not engaged in conservation.

In the 70s, the government of Nepal adopted a western model of strict protection of nature heavily controlled by the military, where local people were seen as "illegal" extractors and destroyers of the biodiversity-rich landscape. As a result, the first protected area in Chitwan, established in 1973, resulted in the removal of 22,000 locals, followed by the creation of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, and then Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve resulting in again the dislocation of 12,000 people.

This process involved physical and economic displacement and discarded the indigenous communities' intergenerational relationships with their landscapes. Through the course readings, we will begin to unpack these colonial narratives and start to understand indigenous knowledge systems and perhaps new forms of conservation practices.