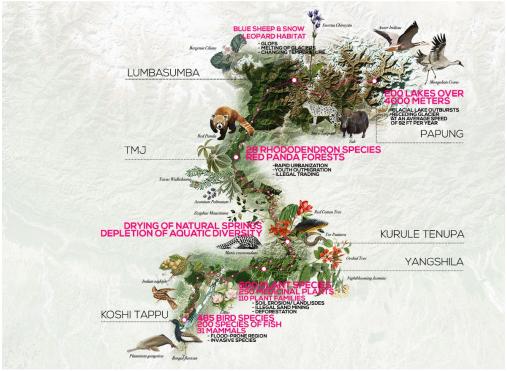
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Vertical University concept map

48-314D/ 48-614D: New Pedagogies: Co-designing Vertical University's living classroom in Kurule

Units: 6-9

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.

The seminar will be based in Kurule-Tenupa, the third node, where our imaginative ideas and aspirations come to life. Here, we have created a living, learning, sharing classroom space for the community to test organic food production, water catchment techniques, and also spaces for teaching and learning. Through this seminar, we aim to reinforce and add to the existing layers of intervention to bolster the space as a grassroots community-based biodiversity learning space that is an essential replicable spatial typology for a predominantly rural and agrarian country like Nepal.

