

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROJECT LOKTAK LAKE ECO-TOURISM PROJECT**

Loktak Lake is the largest fresh water lake in North East India, which is situated about 45 km south of Imphal city in Bishnupur District. The lake is a wetland and is a protected site listed in Ramsar Convention. The Southern zone of the lake encompasses the Keibul Lamjao National Park.

Loktak lake is the destination in Manipur, which could be developed into a Mega Tourist Destination, that can change the socio – economic status of the State, if its potential is harnessed to the maximum. The justification of the project are as follows

1. The project will ensure planned and all round development of the region and the state at large, by finding the critical balance between possibly damaging consequences of eco-tourism and the potential benefits to the local communities and ecosystems.
2. Eco-tourism is more environmentally friendly than other uses of natural resources. Eco-tourism can provide great incentives for nature conservation.
3. The project will mitigate any negative impacts of eco-tourism for ecological reasons but also to enhance social and economic sustainability.
4. Greater awareness of such practices will enable tourism officials and managers to make informed decisions for the benefit of both eco-systems and local communities that share these natural resources.
5. It will enhance travel activities and promote eco-tourism in the State.
6. Providing livelihood alternatives and upliftment of the local communities.
7. Direct employment opportunities to local youths as service providers to the Tourism industry.
8. Providing of indirect employment for local labour and support to ancillary industries.
9. Capacity Building of local communities.
10. Revenue generation for the State through in-flow of tourists both domestic and international.
11. Women Self Help Groups shall be set up for providing services on the basis of tourist activities proposed. They will also be encouraged to make handicrafts, handloom products, bamboo products and local artefacts as souvenirs.
12. Efforts to create about 50% jobs for women.
13. Over the period of years, number of pollutants has been draining into the lake without any check, thereby, bringing a serious imbalance in the ecology of the Lake. The Project is envisaged to take up cleaning, filtration and conservation of ecology of the lake.

**Place :**

W. Ibohal Singh

**Date:**

**Director (Tourism), Manipur**