Context- Khaptad Area

- Economy
- Culture
- Landscape
Economy

- Farming
- Livestock husbandry
- Forest product collection
- NTFPs collection and sales
- Tourism
Culture

- Khaptad Baba Ashram - spiritual hermitage
- Tribeni Temple
- Sahashra Linga
- Meditation camps
- Special myth and meditation places
- Ganga Dashara Mela
Landscape

- 22 patches of grasslands
- 9 lakes- Khaptad *Daha* (Lake)
- 52 small and gentle hills
- 23 protected mammal species
- 287 bird species
- Saipal and Api-Himalayan Range
Tourists

- No. 3720 in the year 2019
  - 3653 Nepali, 18 SAARC people and 49 other foreigners

Fig: Number of foreign tourists visiting Khaptad region
- Tourism Policy 2065
- Nepal Tourism Year 2011
- Tourism Vision 2020

- tourism infrastructure
- tourism activities
- employment in the rural areas
- benefit sharing at the grassroots level
Tourism development in Khaptad

Mainly Infrastructure
- Foot trails
- Signage, Hoarding boards
- Rest places
- View tower
- Guest house (Bichpani)

Capacity building
- Trekking
- Cooking
Whom we missed a lot
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Local People

Why did we miss them
- Investment and economy
- Awareness and capacity building
- Culture and livelihood

Who are the responsible
- Government
  or
- Private sector
Efforts yet

- Tourism Policy (draft)-provincial level
- Khaptad Development Committee- NRs 190 million
- Khaptad tourism development strategic plan -10 years
- Provincial Tourism Development Program Implementation Unit
- Famous fair (Mahotshab) named Ganga Dashahara Mela
- Tourism Development Society and other private actors (NATTA, HAN)
- New committee of Khaptad Development committee with budget (NRs 3 cr)
- Infrastructure development works by Khaptad NP and other stakeholders
Stakeholders

- Ministry of Industry Tourism Forests and Environment, Sudoorpashchim province
- Tourism Development Society, Dhanagadhi and its associated Tourism Action Groups (TAGs) located in 9 districts of far west
- Hotel Professionals’ Association at Dhangadhi and Tikapur
- NATTA Far West, Dhangadhi
- Nepal Tourism Board, Kathmandu
- Tourism Journalists Associations, Sudurpashchim
Gaps

- Institutional arrangement
- Strategic program of action
- Coordination and cooperation
- Share of tourism activities to the livelihoods of mountain people is very few as compared to other means of livelihood

Tourism activities driven by the private sector seem to be able to promote the tourism potentials however, the real benefit of the tourism activities could not be penetrated to the rural households.
Being ambitious

- Cable car from Jhingrana post to the office of Khaptad National Park, the total length of which will be around 7 km
- Development of star hotels
- Infrastructure for various activities such as golf, yoga, meditation, horse-riding, climbing, herbal treatment, cycling, heli service, sky-diving, skiing
- Cultural/spiritual/pre-historic village and museum
- Development of trails and supporting infrastructure
We shouldn’t forget...

- Culture tourism
- Wellness tourism
- Wilderness tourism
- Farm tourism
Ways ahead - 4 pillars

- Infrastructure development
  - Foot trails, accommodation, testing places
- Institutional development
  - Capacity building, community organizations, networking
- Tourism product and services
  - Typical products, cuisine, gift
- Promotion and marketing
  - Digital mapping, guide apps, Promotional video
Thank you!