

**Kailash CAFE: Sharing knowledge of a sacred landscape**

## **TOURISM AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS**

### ***A REVIEW OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN KHAPTAD REGION***

**Kishor Aryal**  
**Bhoj Raj Pathak**

**20–23 April 2021**  
**Dhangadhi, Nepal**

# 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 foreigner

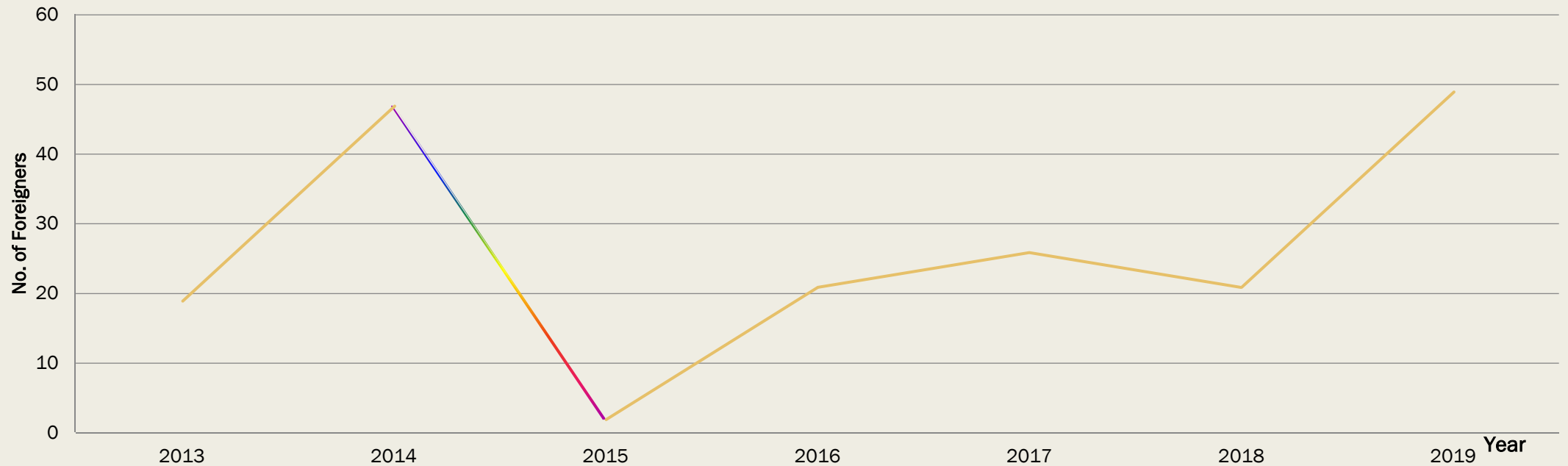
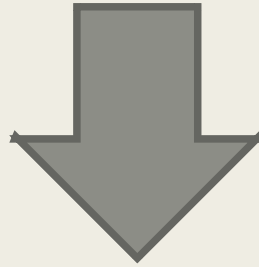
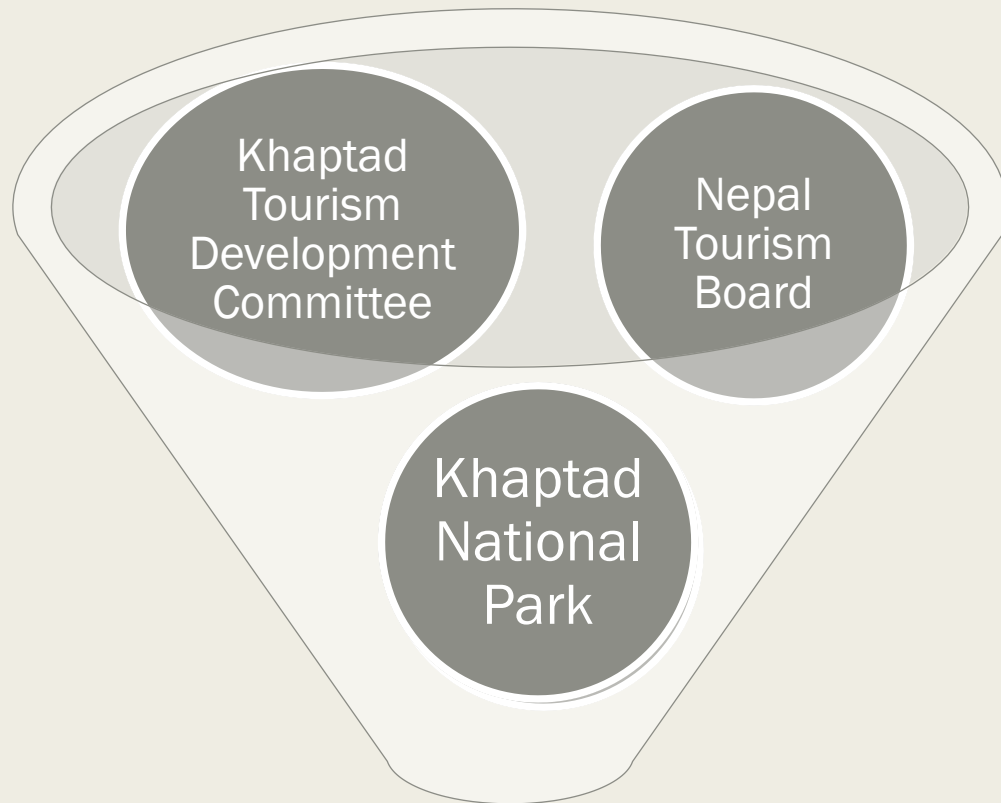


Fig: Number of foreign tourists visiting Khaptad region

- 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

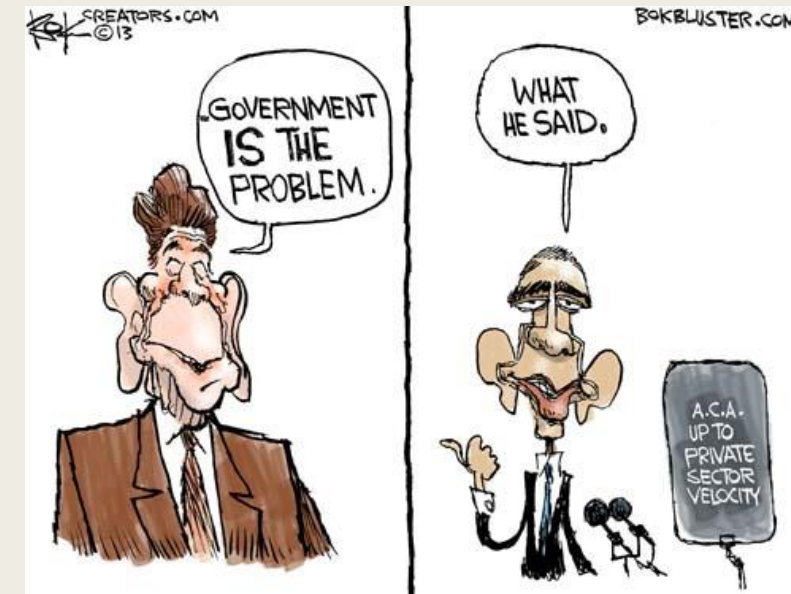
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Local People

## 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...



# 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!