Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on tourism in the Kailash Sacred Landscape

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Tourism in the KSL

Types of tourism
- Religious
- Pilgrimage
- Heritage
- Eco-Tourism
- Cultural
- Spiritual
- Recreational
- Educational
- Community-based
Tourism provides economic opportunities

- employment
- alternative livelihood options

Multi-layered tourism ecosystem:
• Hospitality
• Transportation (vehicles, helicopter/planes, animals)
• Tour operators
• Local guides
• Porters
• Souvenir shops
• Local farmers
COVID-19 in the KSL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Lockdown</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Lockdown</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>January 2020 (int’l borders not yet opened)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>25 Mar – 31 May 2020</td>
<td>April 5 – 15 June 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>24 Mar – 21 July 2020</td>
<td>29 Apr – 11 Aug 2021</td>
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Methodology

- Case study approach
- pre-COVID and post-COVID indicators
Stories from the field

Limitation: China stories not available
Impacts on tourism

- Hospitality sector:
  - Bookings cancelled
  - Staff redundancy
  - Operations shut

- Transportation sector:
  - Borders closed
  - No movement of people
  - Business shut down

- Porter services:
  - Simikot Airport closed
  - No work

- Tour operators:
  - Tour packages cancelled
  - Seasonal workers let go
Coping strategies

- Using up savings
- Agriculture
- Labor work
- Harvesting yartsagunbu
A silver lining

‘new’ tourism destination in Humla
Sadguru offered prayers to Mt. Kailash from Lapcha la, Humla.
Humla tourism highlighted
Lapcha La, Humla, Nepal
Positive outlook

Less environmental pressure
Flights availability to Humla
Focus on other development work
The tourism industry is highly vulnerable to external shocks, but it continues to be an important vehicle for socio-economic development in the landscape.

Tourism picking up after borders opened in India and Nepal

Increase seen in domestic and regional tourism.

Tourism continues as a lucrative economic option for stakeholders

Youth are interested to be part of tourism industry
Thank you

Let’s protect the pulse.