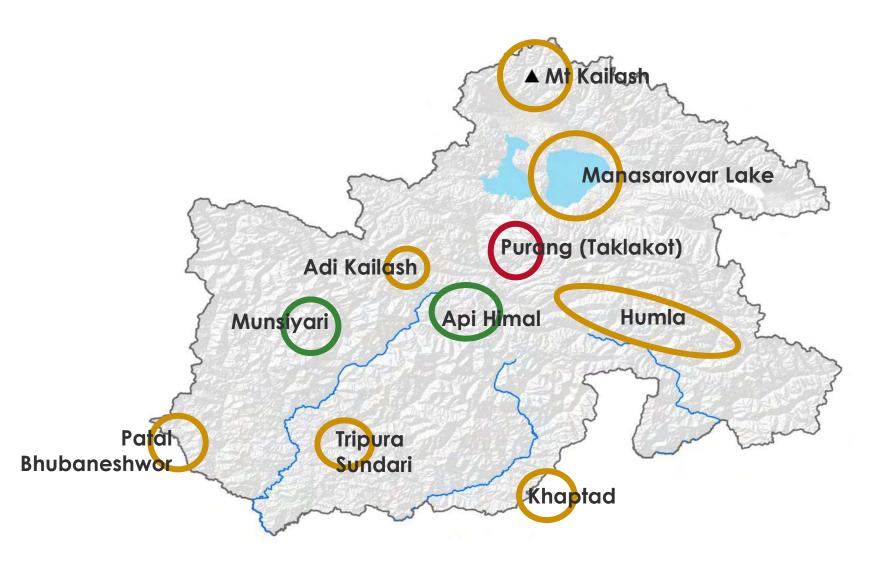


Tourism in the KSL



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

Country	1 st Lockdown	2 nd Lockdown
China	January 2020 (int'l borders not yet opened)	
India	25 Mar – 31 May 2020	April 5 – 15 June 2021
Nepal	24 Mar – 21 July 2020	29 Apr – 11 Aug 2021

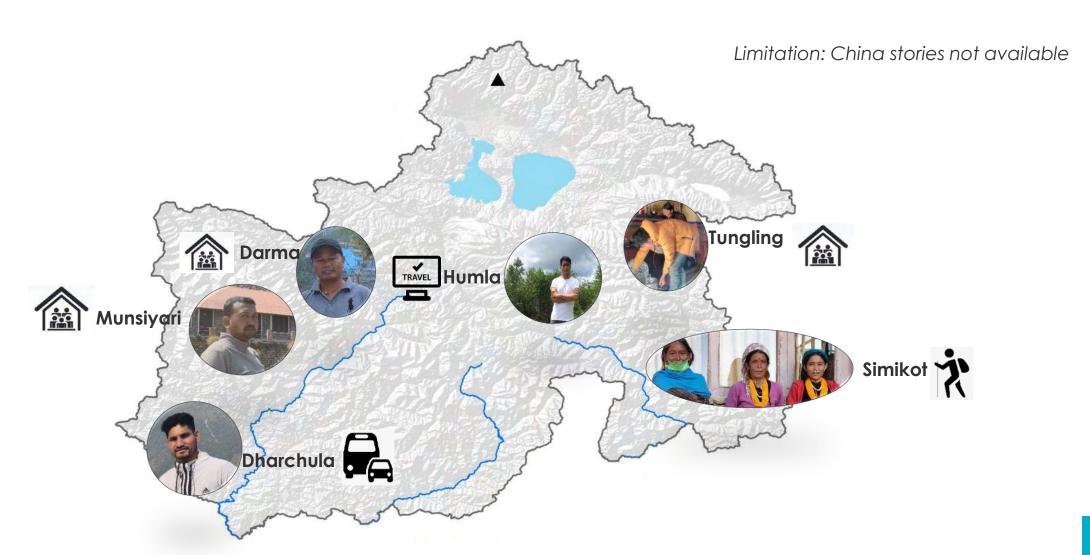


Methodology

- Case study approach
- pre-COVID and post-COVID indicators



Stories from the field





Impacts on tourism

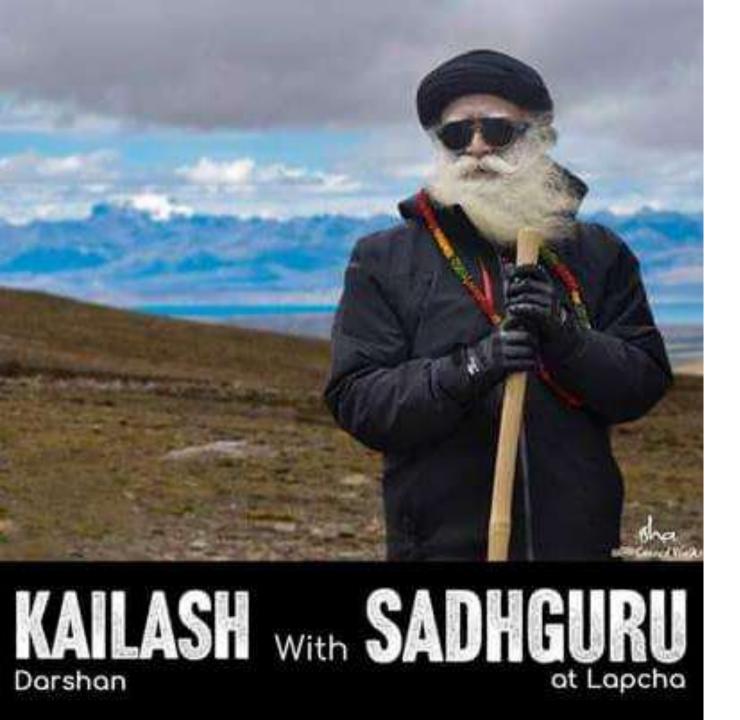
- Hospitality sector:
 - Bookings cancelled
 - Staff redundancy
 - Operations shut
- Transportation sector:
 - Borders closed
 - No movement of people
 - Business shut down
- Porter services:
 - Simikot Airport closed
 - No work
- Tour operators:
 - Tour packages cancelled
 - Seasonal workers let go



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 Ia, Humla.

Humla tourism highlighted





Positive outlook

Less environmental pressure

Flights availability to Humla

Focus on other development work



Conclusion

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



