

International Conference on

SUSTAINABLE
MOUNTAIN & TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT

NETWORKING INNOVATION AWARDS

Climbing the Future...

HIMALAYAS - HINDU KUSH - KARAKORAM - ALPS - ANDES

November 22nd - 23rd, 2018
Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu (Nepal)



<http://tourism4sdgs.org/events/international-conference-on-sustainable-mountain-development-tourism>

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www.greenearthalliance.in



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Global Compact
Network Nepal

www.globalcompactnepal.org



www.axeseficofoundation.org

BACKDROP

The United Nations has pointed out that almost one billion people live in mountain areas, and over half the human population depends on mountains for fresh water, food and clean energy. Yet mountains are under threat from climate change, over exploitation and natural disasters, with potentially far-reaching and devastating consequences, both for mountain communities and the rest of the world. Mountains are also early indicators of climate change and as global climate continues to warm, mountain people face even greater struggles to survive. The rising temperatures also mean that mountain glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates, affecting freshwater supplies, downstream for millions of people. The challenge for all of us is to identify and explore innovative, community centric and sustainable opportunities of livelihood, which can bring benefits and help local community to eradicate poverty without contributing to the degradation of fragile mountain ecosystems.

UNITED NATIONS AND SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

1992 was a truly transforming and milestone year in the history of mountain development, when the **UN General Assembly** declared year 2002 as the **"International Year of Mountains"** and designated **11th December**, as **"International Mountain Day"**, attracting attention of world community.

Delighted to share, that UN WTO (@UNWTO), has endorsed this Conference on "Sustainable Mountain Development & Tourism (SMDT)" through their website <http://tourism4sdgs.org/events/international-conference-on-sustainable-mountain-development-tourism/>



FACTS & FIGURES

- Mountains cover around 22 percent of the earth's land surface and are home to 13 percent of the world's population.
- They provide sustenance and well-being for 915 million people, but also indirectly benefit billions more living downstream.
- Ninety percent of the world's mountain dwellers live in developing countries, where a vast majority live below the poverty line and 1 out of 3 faces the threat of food insecurity.
- Mountains provide 60-80 percent of the world's freshwater - without which sustainable development that aims to eliminate poverty and hunger would not be possible.
- Mountains have a key role to play in providing renewable energy, especially through hydropower, solar power, wind power and biogas.



<http://www.un.org/en/events/mountainday/>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) AND TOURISM

Research by Geneva University in Switzerland found that the economic potential that tourism holds, for many Mountain Communities is quite clear: in most mountainous regions of the world, people have limited possibilities for generating income. Agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry form the backbone of local economies, but these contend with shallow soils, poor land holdings, brain drain (migration), harsh weather conditions, and low market access and competitiveness. Therefore, diversification of livelihoods in 21st Century is often not a choice, but a necessity for mountain households.

Sustainable Tourism is defined as

Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities

(UNWTO 2016)



Mountain ranges offer possibilities to all kinds of tourists: adventure, educational, agro, spiritual, research etc. Sport fans come for hiking, climbing or skiing. Others come simply to appreciate beautiful landscapes, flora and fauna. With its towering peaks, majestic landscape, and rich cultural heritage, the mountain all over has drawn fascinated visitors from around the world. For local community, tourism means valuable foreign currency, business and livelihood opportunities. It's an adaption strategy that can be harnessed to create additional and alternative livelihood options and has many potential benefits for poverty alleviation, social inclusion, environmental and biodiversity conservation.

On the other hand, tourism also carries risks of harming ecological goods and services, compromising cultural identities, and increasing social inequalities. Tourism is not a "one size fits all" solution, as there are various factors and conditions that need be considered if tourism development is to be a sustainable and lasting success.



ABOUT CONFERENCE

Objective of this conference is to address the key developmental issues, assist Govt. policies and explore emerging partnership opportunities of sustainable and holistic mountain tourism at the local, regional and global levels. The conference will strengthen further understanding of the potential, responsible and ethical mountain tourism holds as a way to enhance environmental protection and generate socio-economic benefits for local communities, including opportunities for productive employment, economic growth and promotion of local culture, products & services.

In order to achieve **UN-SDGs** in mountain regions, it is essential that all concerned stakeholders are engaged and awareness is raised about mountain ecosystems, their fragility and prevalent problems, and about ways of addressing them.

In seeking paths toward **SDGs** through mountain tourism, this conference will share important and successful case studies from all, which suggest both attractive examples and mistakes to avoid.

WHY KATHMANDU, NEPAL?

Republic of Nepal is located mainly in the **Himalayas** but also includes parts of the **Indo-Gangetic Plain**. **China** in the north and **India** in the south, east, and west while **Bangladesh** is on south-eastern tip and **Bhutan** is separated from it by the Indian state of **Sikkim**.

Nepal, the birth place of **Gautama Buddha**, has a **diverse geography**, with **fertile plains**, subalpine forested hills, and eight of the world's ten **tallest mountains**, including **Mount Everest**, the highest point on Earth.

Kathmandu is the capital city of Nepal & ideal location to witness mountain life, community, rich culture, heritage and its fragile biodiversity with Tourism as its major source of economic activities.

ABOUT ORGANISER

Green Earth Alliance (GEA-International) is an offshoot of the leading CSO "**Society For Inclusive Development**", member **UN Global Compact (UNGC)** based in the capital town "Dehradun" of the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand (North India), with more than two decades of experience on Sustainable Development at local, regional and global level.

GEA-International is conducting various educational and capacity building programs to create awareness, with special focus on seventeen verticals of UN-SDGs and facilitating networking & partnerships of multi-stakeholders.

WAY FORWARD

(the conference will...)

- Address & strengthen issues at policy level and establish innovative networking mechanisms with active participation of mountain communities, stakeholders and respective government authorities/agencies.
- Encourage investments and funding for sustainable development in mountain regions through CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), knowledge sharing, networking, promoting trans-boundary cooperation and collaborative integration of the private sector.
- Promote responsible and social travel entrepreneurs in Mountain regions; incubate and mentor them to reach the next level to act as champions of change.

ENJOY THE VARIETY OF SIX INTERACTIVE FORMATS & SESSIONS

- ① **Sustainable Mountain Development & Tourism (SMDT) - Factors Effecting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
- ② **Shaping & Re-Shaping Sustainable Mountain Tourism Policy - for People, Planet & Profit.**
- ③ **Technology Interventions for SMDT- Start-ups, VCs (Social) transforming landscape for Responsible Tourism.**
- ④ **Code of Ethics, Consciousness & Social Responsibility (CSR) for SMDT.**
- ⑤ **Preserving Living Heritage & Cultural Landscape through SMDT.**
- ⑥ **Gender Empowerment, Employment Generation & Poverty Eradication through SMDT.**

PAST EVENTS



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Strategy Specialists, Researchers, Policy makers and Academia
- Govt., Business/Corporate, Entrepreneurs, CSR & Developmental Professionals
- Business Chambers, Federations, Financial Institute(FIs), VCs, Banks
- INGOs, Multilateral Agencies, NGOs/CBOs/CSOs & Start-Ups
- Tour & Tourism Bodies, Professionals, Global Thought Leaders, Consultants.

YOUR BENEFITS

Networking: Attending this interactive conference, time away from routine schedule, rethink, be inspired and meet other like-minded and passionate professionals, increase your network by connecting with your peers in a collaborative and energising environment.

Return to your office with top tips, actionable ideas and inspiring tools to revitalise your internal & external energy, strategies, that can be shared with your colleagues for a better and bright future of Mountain Communities across the border.

APPEAL

If you are concerned and touched by mountain related issues, its sustainable development and interested to contribute, collaborate, sponsor or support with your knowledge, efforts, experience or resources, we are looking for you as a partner, resource person, speaker & mentors to help us to take this drive and mission forward.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Mr. Satpal Maharaj
Minister of Tourism,
Govt. of Uttarakhand,
India



Mr. R. P. Adhikari
Minister of Culture,
Tourism and Civil Aviation,
Nepal



Dr. David J. Molden
Director General,
ICIMOD Nepal



Mr. Karna Sakya
Founding Chairman- KGH
Group of Hotels, Nepal



Mr. Anil K. Shah
Chief Executive Officer -
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President - Nepal Bankers
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Mr. Ram R. Panta
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Yet to Confirm.

& the List is growing...

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For further participation & partnership, please get in touch with us at :

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