

# Future of Himalayan Mountaineering Expeditions



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# The Nepali Context of Mountaineering



- Nepal is a mountainous country and home to eight of the fourteen 8000m Peaks in the world.
- Nepal has identified 1913 eligible climbing peaks above 5500m and out of which only 326 peaks are opened for climbing
- Nepal depends heavily on tourism. Mountaineering plays a big role in the economy.
- Mountaineering provides jobs for local people as guides, assistant guides, cooks, kitchen helpers, porters, etc.
- Mountaineering also plays an important role in providing economic benefit to local and national economy. Eg. Hotels, lodges, farmer's product, markets, airlines, transports etc.
- Each year number of visitors have increased but number of mountaineers have not grown at the same rate.
- Nepal understands and recognizes the need to encourage more mountaineering as a tool for the country's development.

# Goals for Himalayan Mountaineering in Nepal



- **Nepal become the world's premier destination for mountaineering.**
  - Provide exciting new challenges to Mountaineers
  - Streamlined bureaucracy
  - Make climbing in Nepal more affordable
  - Protect the mountain environment
  - Make Himalayan mountaineering safer.
  - Develop a climbing culture
- **Build a strong mountaineering industry**
  - Create new and skilled jobs
  - Sustain local and national economy
  - Play an important role in National development

# Provide exciting new challenges to mountaineers



## Intervention

- Opening new Peaks

## Effect

- Opens up new climbing opportunities
- Provides more tourism options for Nepal to offer.
- Reduces crowds along popular trekking routes and climbing peaks.
- On average this will attract more tourists to Nepal
- Local economy can benefit by providing goods and services
- Creates new jobs for local people.

# Make climbing in Nepal more affordable



## Intervention

- Reduce permit royalty fees.

## Effect

- Affordability will attract more visitors
- Nepal will become more affordable for professional and enthusiast climbers.
- More disposable income saved from royalty to inject in local economy
- More expeditions will create more Jobs

# Make climbing in Nepal more affordable



## Intervention

- Peaks Lower than 6000m should be made free of permits.
- 5 years of gratis permit for peaks with low demand.

## Effect

- Affordability will attract more visitors
- Nepal will become more affordable for professional and enthusiast climbers.
- More expeditions will create more Jobs
- More disposable income to spend in local economy

# Make climbing in Nepal more affordable



## Intervention

- Implement the policy of *One area- One season- One liaison officers*

## Effect

- Reduce the per expedition cost of having to house, feed and clothe a Liaison Officer in the Expedition.
- Easier to provide the need infrastructure, logistics, clothing and communications equipment for one LO than for a many
- Fewer well trained Liaison Officers will be better able to fulfill their duties
- Reduce accidents, illness and death due to lack of training and experience of Liaison Officers.
- Easier for Ministry to get news and updates from one responsible and accountable L.O.

# Stream Lined Bureacracy



## Intervention

- One Door Policy for Permit application.

## Effect

- All mountaineering related permits to be obtained at Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation.
- Applying for climbing permit, communications permit, documentary filming permit, national park fees, etc. can be done at one informed center, reducing duplication of work, miscommunication and paperwork.
- Save time and resources of the expedition teams in Nepal



# Protect the Mountain environment



## Intervention

- Replace the *Garbage Deposit* with a non-refundable *garbage management fee*

## Effect

- Garbage management fee can be used to help monitor collect garbage disposal by expeditions.
- Can also be used for necessary clean ups.
- Will not tie up large sums of money of the expedition
- Reduce the bureaucratic process.

# Protect the Mountain Environment



## Intervention

- Compulsory use of “Toilet Bags”

## Effect

- Keeps the mountain slopes free of pollution
- It secures water sources
- Avoids potential health problems
- Keeps camp sites clean and reusable for other expeditions.
- It minimizes possibilities for accidents (while going to the toilet unequipped).
- Encourage the movement of “Leave no trash in the Himalayas”

# Make Himalayan mountaineering safer



## Intervention

- Make the Use of Communication Equipment Compulsory: Radios, Satellite phone , walki-talkies and GSM phone (where available).

## Effect

- Saves lives
- Better for coordination and communication in emergencies and rescue
- Timely information to related authorities and rescue helicopters.
- Two way information sharing leads to better overall management.

# Make Himalayan mountaineering safer



## Intervention

- Develop well funded and professional national training institute.

## Effects

- Make expeditions safer for clients and other mountaineers
- Fewer accidents on the mountains
- Manpower will be better able to handle emergency and rescue situations
- Possibility for international accreditations thus builds professional career options for Nepali climbers

# Develop a climbing culture



## Intervention

- Include climbing in school level curriculum

## Effects

- Encourage youth and children to partake from a young age.
- Develop mountaineering as a sports, not just a profession.
- Helps future generations to appreciate the mountain environment that they have been blessed with

# Develop a climbing culture



## Interventions

- Provide official ID cards for both Nepalese and Foreigners who have climbed 8000m peaks or technical peaks.
- Public recognition, appreciation and awards for outstanding Climbers
- Provide foreigner Mt. Everest Summiteers with Gratis Entry Visa fees for Nepal

## Effects

- Builds a sense of prestige around being a good mountaineer
- Mountaineers can be eligible for discounts on flights, lodges, restaurants, etc.
- Boosts Nepal's attractiveness to other tourist as these mountaineers are our goodwill ambassadors.
- Easier for mountaineers to secure sponsorships

# Other sectors that compliment Nepal's Mountaineering Industry



- Trekking
- Rock and Ice Climbing
- White Water Rafting and Kayaking
- Mountain Biking
- Paragliding
- Bungee Jumping
- Canyoning
- Jungle Safaries
- Paragliding
- Heli-Skiing

- Cross promotion of mountaineering activities
- Firmly establishes Nepal's reputation as an Adventure destination
- Same man power can do different activities during different season
- Encourage to promote all season tourism.

# The necessity for a strong role of the Government



- **Strengthen the National Flag Carrier (Nepal Airlines)**
  - Cheaper airfares
  - Less flying time
  - More convenient and direct flights
  - Increases the number of tourists
- **Build better road infrastructure**
  - Makes travel within Nepal more reliable and cheaper
  - Reduces the likely hood of trip cancellations due to bad flight weather
- **Improve and Build other Infrastructure Development**
  - Hospitals
  - Airports and helipads
  - Clean drinking water
  - Clean Camp sites and clean toilet facilities
  - Mobile phone network for remote areas



# The necessity for regional Cooperation



- Climbers can do multiple expeditions in one year
- The main Himalayan climbing season is the Spring and Fall, whereas in Karakoram it is the summer.
- Climbers can be referred to trustworthy ground operators for long term mutual benefit for all.
- Help each other's mountaineering industries with training, know-how and expertise.
- Joint promotions of Himalayan Host Countries can send a stronger message world wide.
- Joint expeditions to encourage youth to learn and cooperate with each other

# Summary



- These Practical interventions will make the Himalayas a very attractive places to come and climb.
- Government must play a big role in partnership with the private sector
- Himalayan mountaineering will become more affordable, convenient, accessible and safer.
- It will give Nepal great new “products” to offer visitors.
- It will provide new opportunities for skilled climbers
- It will also provide opportunities of sharing knowledge, skilled, safety and expertise among Himalayan Host Nations.
- At the same time, it will make climbing for less experienced climbers safer.
- It will help open areas up for tourism, thereby improving the lives and lively hoods of impoverished local communities
- It will play an important role in Nepal’s development, thereby bringing long lasting and sustainable peace, harmony, and prosperity to the People of Nepal.

# Thank You



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