

Battling Climate Change in the Himalayas

1,700 km/120 days

long trek by two of Nepal's favorite sons
in search of solutions for the Himalayan communities



**CLIMATE SMART
CELEBRITY TREK**
15 JAN- 13 MAY, 2012



Drawing attraction of
Global Celebrities and Media
to Climate Change in
the Himalayas

and

Launching
the Great Himalaya Trail
as the best trail in the world

Apa Sherpa, 21 times Everest summiteer
Dawa Steven Sherpa, 2 times Everest summiteer

The Great Himalaya Trail aptly described as
'One trail to rule them all' traverses Nepal's entire mid-hills
and the lower mountains. Hiking on this trail lets us enjoy the
nature in its most pristine state. It makes one observe the
fascinating cultures and beautiful peoples of the Himalayas
who have been respecting laws of nature- co-existing with it
for millenniums. Yet it also helps one witness first-hand how
humankind's irresponsible behavior is threatening to take
away this global heritage.

Endorsed by
The Government of Nepal
Climate Change Council

Organizers





The Great Himalaya Trail: Carrying the fruits of development to remotest areas of Nepal

Nepal is very wealthy in natural resources, and an immensely beautiful country. It is no wonder that Tourism has been one of the mainstays of its economy. Yet, so far, the country has been able to utilize only a miniscule portion of its tourism potential. For example, mountain tourism in Nepal has generally been limited to Annapurna, Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) and Langtang (north of Kathmandu) regions.

Given Nepal's difficult geographical terrain, tourism is one of the very few industries that can take the fruits of developments to a vast majority of the country's population in the short-run. It is important to spread the reach of tourism in Nepal.

The Great Himalaya trail attempts to do just that. The Climate Smart Celebrity Trek intends to attract the attention of the world towards GHT.

GHT-CSCT at a glance

The Great Himalaya Trail-Climate Smart Celebrity Trek will pass through 20 districts of Nepal

Passing by eight of the ten highest mountains in the world, traversing dozens of world renowned landscapes.

*Taplejung, Sankhuwasabha,
Solukhumbu, Dolkha,
Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Dhading,
Gorkha, Lamjung, Kaski, Mustang,
Myagdi, Baglung, Dolpa, Jumla,
Mugu, Bajura, Doti, Bajhang,*



Tourism led development in Nepal

A Climate Adaptation Measure

Climate Change's impacts on Himalayas are visible everywhere you travel in Nepal. Erratic monsoons and change in rain and snowfall patterns are leading to unpredictable and intense flash floods and landslides. Increasing intensity and frequency of forest fires are threatening biodiversity and people. Alarming increase in the number of glacial lake formation in a seismically active zone are making people spend sleepless nights in nearby areas- the outburst of these lakes would impact millions. These are but a few of the manifestations of Climate Change in the Himalayas. Obviously, they have negative ramifications for tourism too. Most communities (districts) on GHT are vulnerable to Climate Change as per Nepal's National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA).

The only way forward for Nepalis is to learn to adapt- and adapt quick. Responsible tourism led economic development is considered a good climate adaptation strategy by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). Such development will help bring sustainable development opportunities to rural communities, improve livelihoods, reduce poverty and thus build capacity and resilience of local population to better cope with the negative impacts of Climate Change.

GHT- Climate Smart Celebrity Trek

15 Jan- 13 May, 2012

The GHT Climate Smart Celebrity Trek (GHT-

CSCT) has been planned in the above backdrop. The trek will promote GHT as the greatest tourism offering from Nepal that also offers the trekker the vistas of the impacts of Climate Change, and the ways people in the Himalayas are battling with them.

The trek is backed by Government of Nepal, its nodal tourism agency named Nepal Tourism Board, and many of Nepal's development partners, notably, DFID, SNV, and British Council. Invitations are sent to many well-known global celebrities seeking their help in taking out the message from the Himalayas to the world. Besides giving the celebrities an experience of a lifetime, the trek would offer a celebrity an opportunity to make a difference, and help improve the dire situations of the Himalayan communities on the trail.

The accompanying research and media team will bring out the issues around the development needs of the mountains as well as climate vulnerabilities of its residents to the forefront. The climate-smart nature of this trek and Apa's and Dawa's first hand experience in successfully promoting responsible tourism in Nepal's famed Khumbu region will help them spread the notion of "sustainability" in tourism practices across a good stretch of Nepal's Himalayas.

Himalayan Climate Initiative, the developers and organizers of this event, envision developing GHT as world's first Climate Smart long distance trekking trail.

History is in the making You can be a part of it too!

The historic trek led by Nepal's most famous mountaineer known the world over as the SUPER SHERPA, and fellow mountaineer Dawa Steven Sherpa will make them the first-ever Nepalis to officially trek across the 1,700 kilometers long Great Himalaya Trail. Flagged off by Rt. Hon. President of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, in the presence of high-ranking government officials and diplomats, this momentous trek garners the support of all strata of Nepali society. The mountaineer duo are accompanied by two other young Nepalis; Saurav Dhakal- a British Council International Climate Champion and Samir Jung Thapa- the official photographer of the trek.

The trek will attract celebrities from all over the world including Nepal's own celebrities to magnify its communication reach.



One trail to rule them all

Kanchenjunga (15 Jan-28 Jan)

An area truly untouched by modernity and shrouded in mystery, Kanchenjunga is home to the looming mountain Kanchenjunga (8,586 m)- the world's third highest, the mighty Kanchenjunga glacier, offering some of the finest views in the world.

Makalu Barun (29 Jan- 5 Feb)

This unique landscape shelters some of the last pristine mountain ecosystems on earth and harbours over 3,000 species of flowering plants, 440 species of birds, and 75 species of mammals, including many endangered species.

Everest and Rolwaling (6 Feb – 23 Feb)

It offers a palpitating adventure over dizzy suspension bridges, soaring peaks, plunging waterfalls, picturesque traditional Sherpa villages and amazing views of Mount Everest. The wild and sacred Rolwaling valley casts a spell over visitors.



Langtang and Helambu (24 Feb-1 Mar)

Beautiful and secluded, Langtang valley is filled with an abundance of forests of pine, bamboo and rhododendron. Helambu offers a less challenging, fine cultural trek with a number of Buddhist monasteries and grand views.

Lower Ganesh Himal (2 Mar- 9 Mar)

Known as Nepal's trekking gem, Ganesh Himal is a highly diverse region that provides a true view of rural life, cultural heritage and unsurpassed beauty, with breathtaking views.

**Annapurna- Mustang (10 Mar- 24 Mar)**

With magnificent views of the Annapurna range, the trek leads through the spectacular Modhi Khola gorge and into the vast mountain ringed amphitheatre of the Sanctuary Mustang that offers an extraordinary landscape.

Dhaulagiri- Dhorpatan (25 Mar- 1 Apr)

An ideal trek to discover a pristine and untouched wilderness, the fantastic views and encounters with various ethnic groups of this region, including the Tibetan nomads, make this trek a special experience.

Lower Dolpo (2 Apr- 8 Apr)

Majority of Dolpa is situated in a truly remote and high altitude desert, lying behind the rain shadow of the Dhaulagiri mountain range. It is strongly reminiscent of Tibet. Dolpa is known for the stunning, turquoise Phoksundo lake.

Rara, Jumla and Mugu (9 Apr- 16 Apr)

Lying in the rain-shadow of the Dhaulagiri and Annapurna Mountains, the highlight of this trek is Rara Lake, Nepal's largest lake. A beautiful, calm lake, which is home to 236 species of nesting birds and surrounded by rugged forested hills stunningly reflected in its waters.

**The Far-west (17 Apr- 3 May)**

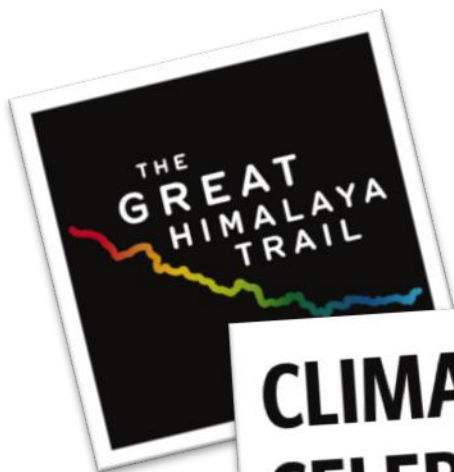
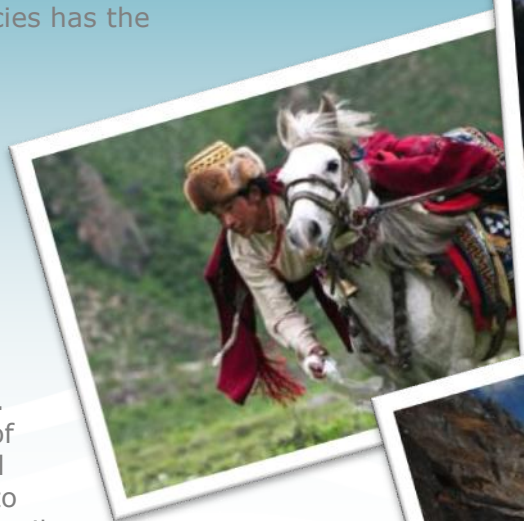
Culturally rich yet relatively untouched, the far west is home to Khaptad National Park, Nampa, Api and Saipal peaks. Trekking here is a tougher experience, but it rewards with an unforgettable adventure experience.

(Note: There is a 10 days' contingency in the trek plan.)

GHT Development Programme

The GHT Development Programme (DFID, SNV, NTB, TAAN) which is helping the Climate Smart Celebrity Trek along with some other agencies has the following objectives:

- Supporting the Nepal Tourism Board to market less developed areas of the country as trekking destinations.
- Promoting the GHT to trekkers as a challenging and adventurous alternative to the long established trekking areas.
- Facilitating the formation of national, regional and local GHT management bodies to oversee all aspects of the trail.
- Facilitating local people in developing products and services for visitors through providing training and technical support.



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Get in touch to be a part of it.