



# **A SLIPPERY SLOPE: NEPAL'S TROUBLING TOURIST INDUSTRY**

MARCH 15th-17th, 2024



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# MSUMUN NOTICES

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## Committee Content Warning

While MSUMUN values the discussion and awareness of most topics and a delegate's obligation to accurately represent their assigned role, all participants who engage in any bigoted, racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist, fatphobic, xenophobic, or other such comments or sentiments will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action at the discretion of MSUMUN's Secretariat. Additionally, in all things, MSUMUN pledges its Secretariat and staff to maintain approachability and inclusivity; if any participant has any questions, comments, or concerns they are encouraged to contact MSUMUN's Secretariat or, in the case of delegates, its staff. If you have questions or concerns regarding this, please reach out to your committee's senior staff before conference weekend.

MSUMUN is committed to fostering a safe and secure environment for all delegates, staff, and advisors. In this, MSUMUN operates with a zero-tolerance policy concerning any and all instances of harassment and discrimination. Further, MSUMUN is committed to promoting the mental health of its participants and requires all participants to act with compassion, grace, and understanding. MSUMUN encourages participants to step out of their committee room and/or speak with a trusted individual if they are feeling overwhelmed or are otherwise uncomfortable.



All participants should be aware that MSUMUN's Secretariat and staff are designated mandatory reporters with MSU's Office of Institutional Equity while operating within their roles before and during the conference.

### **MSUMUN Statement on Mental Health**

*MSUMUN* is committed to fostering a safe and secure environment for all delegates, staff, and advisors. In this, MSUMUN operates with a zero tolerance policy with regard to any and all instances of harassment and discrimination. Further, MSUMUN is committed to promoting the mental health of its participants and requires all participants to act with compassion, grace, and understanding. MSUMUN encourages participants to step out of their committee room and/or speak with a trusted individual if they are feeling overwhelmed or are otherwise uncomfortable.

Moreover, MSUMUN recognizes that some of its committees may include references to or discussions of sensitive topics. While RCMU values the discussion and awareness of these topics and a delegate's obligation to accurately represent their assigned role, all participants who engage in any bigoted, racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist, or other such comments or sentiments will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action at the discretion of MSUMUN's Secretariat. Additionally, in all things, MSUMUN pledges its Secretariat and staff to maintain approachability and inclusivity; if any participant has any questions, comments, or concerns they are encouraged to contact MSUMUN's Secretariat or, in the case of delegates, its staff.

All participants should be aware that MSUMUN's Secretariat and staff are designated mandatory reporters with MSU's Office of Institutional Equity while operating within their roles before and during the conference.

### MSU Provisional Land Acknowledgement

“We collectively acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan’s twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their Homelands. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Michigan State University more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.”<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> “Land Acknowledgement,” American Indian and Indigenous Studies, accessed December 5, 2021, <https://aiis.msu.edu/land/>.

# RULES OF PROCEDURE

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## **Article I: General Rules**

1. Delegates are expected to adhere to all regular MSUMUN XIII rules and standards of decorum.
2. In the event of a dispute over the Rules of Procedure, either those of MSUMUN generally or A Slippery Slope Committee, the MSUMUN Secretariat will be the ultimate authority of appeal.

## **Article II: Meetings**

1. All of A Slippery Slope Committee meetings shall be attended by all specified members of the committee, unless otherwise authorized by the MSUMUN Secretariat.
2. Unless otherwise indicated by the MSUMUN Secretariat or A Slippery Slope Committee staff, all meetings of the committee will be held in the specified A Slippery Slope Committee room as designated by MSUMUN.

## **Article III: Agenda**

1. Items for debate may be pulled from the background guide, but are not limited to what is explicitly mentioned. Staff would like to see well-rounded and well-researched delegates bring new and relevant topics to the table.
2. Any Committee member may make a motion to restrict debate to one topic. If this motion passes, debate shall be limited to the topic specified until such time as another motion is made to either change the topic under consideration or return to general debate.

3. The Agenda is to be set at the beginning of committee, formal debate on committee topics may not begin until the Agenda has been set.
4. A Speaker's List may be opened at any time when motions are being entertained. Additionally, a delegate may request to be added to the Speaker's List at any time. If the Chair is not actively calling for speakers to be added, a delegate may send a note to the dias.

#### **Article IV: Conduct of Business**

1. A Slippery Slope Committee Aftermath proceedings shall be conducted in the form of a permanent Moderated Caucus until such a time that a committee member makes a motion to change this.

#### **Article V: Types of Proposals**

1. Working Papers: When initially proposing solutions, delegates must first draft and present working papers to the committee. These documents will not be subject to a vote by committee, but are merely a presentation of ideas. These will then be adapted into resolutions, as described below.
2. Resolutions: A resolution requires only one sponsor, though it may have more. The amount of required signatories is up to the discretion of the Chair. A committee member need only move to introduce a resolution in order for it to be considered by the entire committee.

### **Article VI: Voting**

1. Votes may be entered as For, Against, or Abstentions.
2. Any delegate who designates themselves as “Present and Voting” during roll call may not abstain on any matter.
3. Votes on non-substantive proposals or procedural matters will be passed by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of committee members. Abstentions are allowed on non-substantive proposals, but not procedural matters.
4. Votes on substantive matters will be passed by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of committee members.
5. In all cases, a simple majority constitutes more than half of the For and Against votes.

### **Remaining Points**

1. Any rules and regulations are subject to change at the discretion of the Chair.
2. If you have additional questions, please visit the [MSUMUN Website](#)



## LETTER FROM THE DIAS

Hello everyone! Welcome to A Slippery Slope: Nepal's Troubling Tourism Industry. My name is Nicholas Simonelli, and I will be your chair for MSUMUN XXIII. I am excited to discuss the impacts of tourism in Nepal, which I believe doesn't get the conversation it deserves. This committee will be dealing with ways to make mountain climbing in Nepal safer, more sustainable, and more equitable.

First, let me introduce myself and my fellow staffers. I am a second-year student from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan double-majoring in Comparative Cultures and Politics and Social Relations and Policy. Last year, I was a Junior Staffer on the 65th Congress of the United States committee. Outside of MSUMUN, I play trombone in the Spartan Marching Band, Spartan Brass, and the MSU Concert Orchestra. I also have interests in hiking and backpacking, which is what inspired me to create this committee. Now, let me introduce you to my Junior Staffers

Caroline Anderson is a freshman from Rochester, New York majoring in Political Science. This is her first time doing Model UN. She is also a part of MSU's International Relations Organization. In her free time, Caroline likes listening to music, boxing, and watching hockey. She also likes learning about history and other places in the world, so she's happy to be working on this committee!

Chloe Francis went to High School in D.C. and moved to Pleasant Ridge, Michigan this summer. She is a freshman majoring in International Relations at James Madison College. Chloe plays field hockey for Michigan State. She loves to travel and hang out with friends and family. Chloe was a part of MUN in High School and competed at both the college and high school level. Chloe hopes everyone has a great time during the debate!

Finally, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to us at [specialized3@msumun.org](mailto:specialized3@msumun.org). This is also where you can submit your position papers.

We can't wait to meet you all!

Nick, Caroline, and Chloe



## COMMITTEE LOGISTICS

While this committee is largely based in present-day Nepal and will largely be based on true events, aspects of this committee and some characters have been fictionalized. Delegates will take on roles from three different “blocs.” However, delegates will be encouraged to work outside of their blocs in order to maximize problem-solving and cooperation.



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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### History of Mountain Climbing in Nepal

For the past seven decades, Nepal has been a major hub in mountaineering, along with tourism. After the first summit of Mount Everest in 1953, many mountaineers have made it their goal to conquer some of the tallest mountains in existence, many of which are located in the Himalayas, much of which is in Nepal. Mountains such as Lhotse, Mount Makalu, Manaslu, Cho Oyu, and, most notably, Mount Everest have all helped Nepal maintain its reputation as a very desirable destination, mainly for mountaineers.

Up until 1949, Nepal was known as a rather unattainable and inaccessible country for visitation, as it was closed off for most visitors or outsiders in general. However in 1949, a few mountaineering groups were allowed in. After King Mahendra's coronation in 1955, Nepal was opened up to outsiders, and there was a rise in hotels, visas, and guests that year. This became a turning point for the nation. Quickly, mountaineer teams ventured to Nepal's many mountains and in the 1960s and 70s, there was a rise in trekking agencies and tour operators, followed by the boom of tourism in the 80s and 90s, where Nepal's tourism peaked.<sup>2</sup>

Before this major increase in tourism, however, there was a milestone in the Nepal-tourism timeline. In 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa became the first two (successful) ascenders of Mount Everest, after George Mallory and Andrew Irvine had tried

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<sup>2</sup> Expedition, Nepal Trek Adventure and n.d. "History of Trekking in Nepal/" Nepal Trek Adventures. Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://www.nepal trek adventures.com/blog/history-of-trekking-in-nepal#:~:text=The%20official%20history%20of%20trekking>.



previously, yet didn't succeed.<sup>3</sup> After that, climbing the world's tallest mountains became a goal for many ambitious mountaineers and now hundreds of thousands of people have visited the mountains since, and Nepal has become known globally as an excellent spot for tourism.<sup>4</sup>

Tourism to Nepal's mountains has had some changes in the past years, as recently there has been improved infrastructure, more access to remote areas, improvement of the equipment, and services that are used during climbing. Along with that, the rise of tourism caused a greater concern about environmental issues that come along with the traffic in the mountains and a greater care for the idea of responsible tourism. With this came the Annapurna Conservation Area Project, which was established in 1986 and aimed to protect the beauty of the nation as well as be respectful and harmless towards local communities with sustainable tourism.<sup>5</sup>

### Dangers of Nepal's Mountains

Summitting Mount Everest and other Nepali mountains is no easy feat, in fact, there are many dangers of doing so, both from natural causes as well as more human-controlled problems. These dangers include poor weather conditions, illness, altitude sickness, overcrowding, climbing inexperience, and various other problems. All of these problems have the potential to be fatal and have been, as over 300 people have died on their attempt to summit Mount Everest. This doesn't include deaths from other mountains in Nepal, such as Annapurna, which has over 70 deaths. Each year, the death toll for climbing mountains in the Himalayas rises, and there are even more that are unknown since finding the bodies is not easy and many do not appear for

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<sup>3</sup> Sindhupalchowk, Namaste. n.d. "Mountaineering in Nepal: Conquer Majestic Peaks in the Himalayas." Namaste Sindhupalchowk. Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://namastesindhupalchowk.com/blog/mountaineering-innepal>

<sup>4</sup> "Mountaineering in Nepal." n.d. [www.treks-in-Nepal.com](http://www.treks-in-Nepal.com). Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://www.treks-in-nepal.com/mountaineering-in-nepal>.

<sup>5</sup> Expedition, Nepal Trek Adventure and n.d. "History of Trekking in Nepal/" Nepal Trek Adventures. Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://www.nepal trek adventures.com/blog/history-of-trekking-in-nepal#:~:text=The%20official%20history%20of%20trekking>.

years. In addition, bodies are not taken off the mountain due to the difficulty and expense of doing so. Much of this death is above eight thousand meters on the mountain, which many consider “the death zone” and “Everest’s Graveyard.”<sup>6</sup>

The main cause of this danger in the Nepalese mountains is the weather, such as the temperature and weather events that occur. In the mountains, it is very cold, and many suffer from hypothermia and frostbite, especially after being on the trip for long periods of time, with it being a rather long journey. In addition, weather events like blizzards and avalanches have been known to kill many and cause lots of harm to others, especially as it creates difficulty with vision. In addition, there is lots of compact snow, and those who fall have the potential to be buried under it, potentially leading to asphyxiation. Overall, the weather proves to be an additional exhausting obstacle on top of the already treacherous summit.<sup>7</sup>

Waste is another problem that stems from the large amounts of climbers in the mountains. Food waste, human waste, and other kinds of pollution cover the mountains and this creates issues in terms of conservation and sustainability, but also for those who live near the mountains and the people who work in the mountains. Often, climbers will dispose of things by burying them in the snow which has been piling up for years. They also get rid of human waste directly in the mountain, as there is a lack of other places to do so, such as toilets, throughout the climb. All of this waste is a danger, as it creates a higher possibility of the spread of disease and it is harmful to the earth and the mountains themselves.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> “How Many Dead Bodies Are on Mount Everest? - Climber News” n.d. [www.climbernews.com](http://www.climbernews.com).  
<https://www.climbernews.com/how-many-dead-bodies-are-on-mount-everest/>.

<sup>7</sup> ibid

<sup>8</sup> “Human Waste Left By Climbers on Mount Everest is Causing Pollution and Could Spread Diseases.” 2015. The Independent. March 3, 2015.  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/human-waste-left-by-climbers-on-mount-everest-is-causing-pollution-and-could-spread-diseases-10081562.html>.

Other dangers in the mountains include a lack of adequate supplies or help services, such as a lack of oxygen, as many people get exhausted and “rest” for a while which ends up using up most of that already limited oxygen. Altitude sickness is an additional problem, where people get dizzy, and as people ascend it takes increasingly more time and effort to breathe with each step. Cardiac events such as heart attacks are also common, even among younger, healthier climbers. There is also the problem of having various opportunities to fall into crevasses, many of which eradicate any ability for that person to get out or be retrieved by helpers.<sup>9</sup>

### **History and Culture of the Sherpa People**

The Sherpa people first originated in Eastern Tibet thousands of years ago. Their name comes from the Tibetan words Shar Pa, meaning “people from the East”. The Sherpa were originally nomadic and migrated into what is now the Solu-Khumbu region of Nepal, near the southern face of Mount Everest.<sup>10</sup> Here, they traded resources like rice, wool, and salt, herded yaks and cows, and worked as farmers. They have stayed in the Khumbu region since the mid-16th century.<sup>11</sup> As a result of living in such high altitudes for hundreds of years, Sherpas have superior climbing skills and are well acclimated to high altitudes.<sup>12</sup>

Most Sherpas follow the Nyingmapa sect of Buddhism, which is the oldest Buddhist sect in Tibet. This form of Buddhism also incorporates local deities. These deities are thought to dwell in the highest peaks of the Himalayas. Mount Everest, for example, is believed to be the home of Miyolangsangma, the goddess of humans and prosperity. This also gives it the name

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<sup>9</sup> How Many Dead Bodies Are on Mount Everest? - Climber News” n.d. [www.climbernews.com](http://www.climbernews.com).  
<https://www.climbernews.com/how-many-dead-bodies-are-on-mount-everest/>.

<sup>10</sup>Lillie Elliott, “Who Are the Sherpa People of Nepal? | Sherpa Adventure Gear,” [www.sherpaadventuregear.com](http://www.sherpaadventuregear.com), February 23, 2021, <https://www.sherpaadventuregear.com/blog/who-are-the-sherpa-people-of-nepal> .

<sup>11</sup> ibid

<sup>12</sup> ibid

Chomolungma, meaning “Mother of the World.” Because of this belief, Sherpas see climbing Nepal’s highest peaks as disrespectful to the gods that live there.<sup>13</sup> With the onslaught of tourism to the Himalayas, many Sherpas feel that the spiritual significance of the mountains is being ignored in favor of financial gain.<sup>14</sup>

The Sherpas gained international recognition in 1953 when Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa, accompanied British mountaineer Edmund Hillary on the first successful summit of Mount Everest. Since then, Sherpas have become a significant part of mountaineering in the Himalayas. Today, many Sherpas work as porters and guides for those wishing to summit Nepal’s highest peaks. They serve an integral role in setting up camps in the mountains, fixing ropes and ladders, and helping climbers during their summits. However, while this work is very profitable, it is also highly dangerous. In fact, Sherpas have accounted for about 40 percent of all fatalities on Mount Everest within the last century.<sup>15</sup> Although many ethnic Sherpas work to assist climbers, not all porters and guides are Sherpas. Many people are known as sherpas while having no connection to the ethnic group. To differentiate, “Sherpa” refers to the ethnic group, while “sherpa” refers to the occupation.

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<sup>13</sup>Stuart Butler, “Living in Everest’s Shadow: The Sherpa People of Khumbu,” *Geographical*, June 27, 2022, <https://geographical.co.uk/culture/shadow-of-everest-the-sherpa-people-of-khumbu>.

<sup>14</sup> *ibid*

<sup>15</sup>Chip Brown, “Sherpas: The Invisible Men of Everest,” *National Geographic* (National Geographic Partners, LLC, April 26, 2014), <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/140426-sherpa-culture-everest-disaster>.



## TOPIC 1: ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF EXCESSIVE TOURISM ON NEPAL'S MOUNTAINS

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### Overview of Tourism in Nepal's Mountains

The tourism industry is Nepal's largest. It is also its largest source of foreign exchange and revenue.<sup>16</sup> In 2019, tourism contributed to about 6.7% of Nepal's GDP with a total impact of roughly 293.4 billion Nepalese Rupees (2.2 billion USD). Tourism also supports over one million jobs in Nepal, which makes up about 6.7% of Nepal's total employment.<sup>17</sup> This is in large part due to the plethora of natural beauty found in Nepal's snow-capped peaks, subtropical forests, etc. These natural landmarks are protected by Nepal's 15 national parks that cover roughly 20% of the country's land area.<sup>18</sup>

Nepal boasts 8 of the 14 mountains standing higher than 8,000 meters (~26,000ft) above sea level. In addition, Nepal also authorizes expeditions for 326 more mountains in the Himalayas, 103 of which, have never been summited. Many of these mountains are where people travel to Nepal to explore the natural beauty of the Himalayas. In addition, mountaineering, paragliding, and skydiving are popular activities for the more adventurous tourists in Nepal.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>16</sup>Consulate General of Nepal, "Tourism in Nepal," Consulate General of Nepal - New York, USA (Government of Nepal - Ministry of Foreign Affairs), accessed November 16, 2023, <https://nyc.nepalconsulate.gov.np/tourism-in-nepal/>.

<sup>17</sup> The World Bank, "Harnessing Tourism to Enhance the Value of Biodiversity and Promote Conservation in Nepal," World Bank, June 3, 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/06/03/harnessing-tourism-to-enhance-the-value-of-biodiversity-and-promote-conservation-in-nepal#:~:text=The%20tourism%20industry%20contributed%20about>.

<sup>18</sup> *ibid*

<sup>19</sup> Nepal Tourism Board, "Best Mountaineering Region in Nepal | Mountaineering in Nepal," ntb.gov.np, accessed November 13, 2023, <https://ntb.gov.np/things-to-do/mountaineering>.

In recent years, Nepal has seen a spike in tourism to the Himalayan region. This is in part mostly due to a recent push to promote tourism by the Nepali government following the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to increased international prominence, many more tourists saw the opportunity present in the Himalayas, causing Nepal to become a major tourism destination. Another possible explanation for the spike in tourism comes from a post-pandemic desire for isolation, which Nepal is an ideal location for.<sup>20</sup> Tourists have further flocked to Nepal as a tabloid known as *The Kathmandu Crier* published a story on recent Yeti sightings in Sagarmatha National Park. This has caught the attention of cryptozoologists who have flocked en masse to the region.

Mountaineering in particular has spiked in recent years. In fact, the Khumbu region, which is home to Mount Everest, has a per capita income five times higher than the national average.<sup>21</sup> Furthermore, the trekking and mountaineering sectors employ more than 18,000 guides and 50,000 porters.<sup>22</sup> In 2018, Nepal made more than 680 million Nepalese Rupees (5.1 million USD) off of climbing permits.<sup>23</sup>

### **Current Regulations on Climbing**

In Nepal, prospective climbers must obtain a permit if they wish to climb major summits like Mount Everest, Kanchenjunga, or Annapurna I. These permits come with fees ranging from \$1,800-\$5,500 per person depending on the peak. Permits for Mount Everest, which is Nepal's most popular mountain have much higher fees at \$11,000 per person.<sup>24</sup> Permits are issued for a

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<sup>20</sup> Shristi Karki, "Peak Tourism in 2023," nepalitimes.com, January 6, 2023, <https://nepalitimes.com/here-now/peak-tourism-in-2023-9ukoi8iz>.

<sup>21</sup> ibid

<sup>22</sup> ibid

<sup>23</sup> ibid

<sup>24</sup> Accessible Adventure, "Permits for Peak Climbing in Nepal," Accessible Adventure, accessed November 27, 2023,

limited time frame, which means that every climber must complete their summit within a specific window of time. If a climber fails to summit within their designated time frame, they must obtain a new permit.<sup>25</sup> In addition, climbers must be accompanied by a licensed climbing guide, which adds extra expenses separate from the permit. Guides are certified through the Department of Tourism.<sup>26</sup>

Nepal has also attempted to combat the influx of inexperienced climbers by adding additional requirements to obtaining a permit. For example, after the deadly 2019 climbing season, Nepal required prospective climbers to have reached the summit of at least one peak over 21,325ft (6,500m). In addition, guide companies were required to have at least three years of high-altitude climbing experience in order to operate on Nepal's major summits. These companies must also charge a minimum to clients in order to avoid low-budget operations getting to Nepal's mountains.<sup>27</sup> These measures have received mixed receptions from expert mountaineers and officials. This comes from a fundamental disagreement between many expert climbers. While there is consensus that there are too many inexperienced climbers in Nepal, there is disagreement on whether overcrowding is a major issue as well. Some claim that these three requirements are too easily obtainable and too hard to regulate.<sup>28</sup>

In recent years, overcrowding has become a prevalent issue in Nepal's mountains, particularly on Mount Everest. In 2021, Nepal's Department of Tourism attempted to combat overcrowding by implementing quotas on how many people can climb Mount Everest within

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<https://www.accessibleadventure.com/travel-guide/permits-for-peak-climbing-in-nepal#:~:text=To%20obtain%20a%20climbing%20permit>.

<sup>25</sup> *ibid*

<sup>26</sup> *ibid*

<sup>27</sup> Alexandra Svokos, "Nepal Proposes New Rules to Climb Mount Everest after Deadly Season," ABC News (ABC News, August 15, 2019),

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/nepal-proposes-mount-everest-permit-rules-efficacy-questioned/story?id=64992534>.

<sup>28</sup> *ibid*

specific time frames when the weather is ideal. These quotas were set based on the number of permits issued.<sup>29</sup> However, this has done minimal work to prevent overcrowding. The 2023 climbing season saw Nepal issue a record 478 climbing permits for Mount Everest. This created additional overcrowding and made 2023's climbing season one of the deadliest.<sup>30</sup>

### Liabilities Created From Overcrowding and Inexperience

While at first overcrowding may seem like more of an inconvenience than a danger, there are many risks that come from it, some of which can be fatal. One major issue comes from the thin air, especially above 8,000 meters, which is known as the death zone. The death zone does not contain enough oxygen to support life for more than 20 hours, which means overcrowding near the summit can lead to many potentially fatal complications. These include High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE) and High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE).<sup>31</sup>

HAPE is caused when fluid leaks into the lungs, which causes fatigue, difficulty breathing, and dry coughs. This condition has a 50% mortality rate for those affected by it.<sup>32</sup> HACE is similar to HAPE with the key distinction being that HACE primarily affects the brain. In addition to fatigue, HACE also leads to a lack of coordination and an altered mental status.<sup>33</sup> People afflicted with HACE lose much of their rationality, which makes it nearly impossible to leave the summit.

<sup>29</sup> Sangam Prasain, "Nepal Sets Climber Quotas to Prevent Crowds on Everest," *kathmandupost.com*, April 21, 2021, <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2021/04/21/nepal-sets-climber-quotas-to-prevent-crowds-on-everest>.

<sup>30</sup> Ariel Schwartz, "At Least 12 Climbers Died on Mount Everest This Year, and Altitude Sickness Is Partially to Blame," *Insider*, June 6, 2023, <https://www.insider.com/mount-everest-deaths-causes-altitude-sickness-crowding-2023#:~:text=In%20addition%20to%20being%20an>.

<sup>31</sup> Daniel Dawson, "Expedreview - What Happens to Your Body in the Death Zone," *www.expedreview.com*, July 14, 2022, <https://www.expedreview.com/blog/2022/07/death-zone-effects-body>.

<sup>32</sup> Jacob D. Jensen and Andrew L. Vincent, "High Altitude Pulmonary Edema," *PubMed (Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing*, July 17, 2023), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK430819/>.

<sup>33</sup> Jacob D. Jensen and Andrew L. Vincent, "High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE)," *PubMed (Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing*, 2020), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK430916/>.



Another major liability when climbing Nepal's mountains is inexperience. This not only endangers those that are unprepared to summit but also the climbers around them. Inexperience slows things down for everyone attempting to climb mountains. This can quickly get dangerous as weather conditions can rapidly change and often trap people in the mountains. As a result, climbers can get caught in avalanches, blizzards, or other forms of inclement weather, which can often be deadly. In addition, getting stuck at high altitudes can increase the risk of getting HACE or HAPE as supplemental oxygen supply is limited.<sup>34</sup>

Many of those climbing can often pose a danger out of selfishness, particularly on Nepal's more popular mountains like Mount Everest. One climber described a scene where about 15-20 climbers were "pushing and shoving for selfies on a flat part of the summit about the size of two ping pong tables."<sup>35</sup> Another problem is that many climbers, prepared or not, will try to climb these mountains regardless of the dangers. This means that if conditions get worse, instead of going back down, many climbers will continue to summit, further endangering themselves. In addition, as people reach the summit, they tend to become more disorderly and selfish. Many climbers have observed a complete lack of empathy near the summit where people completely ignore other climbers in need of assistance. Often, this lack of empathy can be fatal.<sup>36</sup>

This influx of inexperience is caused by the leniency of Nepal's government in issuing permits along with the increased presence of low-cost climbing companies in Nepal and higher-cost foreign companies that don't place enough emphasis on climbing safety.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Kate Kelland, "'Incompetent Climbers' Drive Everest Death Toll, Top Mountaineer Says," *Reuters*, June 6, 2019, sec. World, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-everest-casualties/incompetent-climbers-drive-everest-death-toll-top-mountaineer-says-idUSKCN1T713M/>.

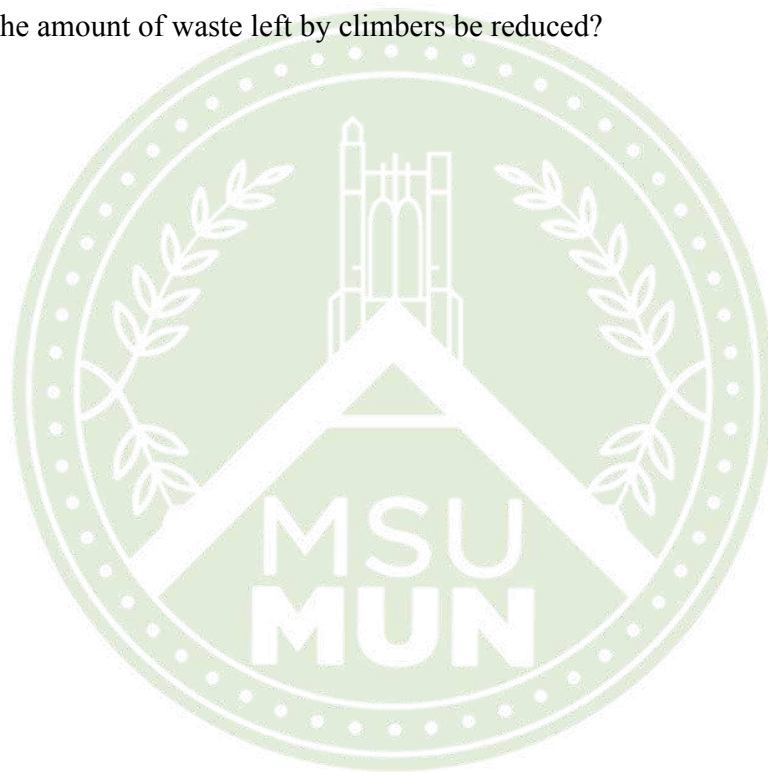
<sup>35</sup> Kai Schultz, "'It Was like a Zoo': Death on an Unruly, Overcrowded Everest," *The New York Times*, May 26, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/26/world/asia/mount-everest-deaths.html>.

<sup>36</sup> *ibid*

<sup>37</sup> *ibid*

### Questions to Consider

- How can the issue of overcrowding be combatted?
- How should permits be issued? What qualifications should prospective climbers have to obtain a permit?
- How can Nepal ensure every climber has enough resources to safely summit?
- How far should climbers be allowed to go?
- How can the amount of waste left by climbers be reduced?



## TOPIC 2: CREATING A MORE EQUITABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR SHERPAS

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### The Role of Sherpas in Mountain Climbing

The Sherpa people are vital for individuals who attempt to climb in Nepal. The Sherpa are an ethnic group from Nepal who have lived in the high altitudes of the Himalayas for centuries. They are highly skilled mountaineers as they are not affected by altitude sickness and other factors imposed by the high altitude.<sup>38</sup> For this reason, the Sherpas are local guides of the mountains and are necessary for climbers to be successful.<sup>39</sup> Additionally, safety is one of the most important factors when climbing and Sherpas are always there to ensure exactly that.

To begin, they are deeply familiar with the area, and understand the language and the customs so they can be a helping hand in accustoming foreigners to Nepali society. This role is important because when climbing at high altitudes the last thing climbers are thinking about is customs and language, which is important for climbers to understand. Practically, this is significant because they know what paths to take and when, so you won't be taking the longest route which could lead to possible severe and dangerous consequences.

Additionally, the local group of Sherpas help by caring for the climbers by cooking warm meals for them as well as helping when they get sick. For instance, if someone gets altitude

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<sup>38</sup> Meera Senthilingam, "The Biological Secrets That Make Sherpas Superhuman Mountaineers," CNN, October 7, 2016, <https://www.cnn.com/2015/11/11/health/sherpas-superhuman-mountaineers/index.html>.

<sup>39</sup> Peak Climbing Nepal, "Why Are Sherpas Helpful in Climbing Expeditions?," [peakclimbingnepal.com](https://peakclimbingnepal.com), May 26, 2023, <https://peakclimbingnepal.com/why-are-sherpas-helpful-in-climbing-expeditions/#:~:text=They%20act%20as%20your%20partner.>

sickness the sherpas provide oxygen and additional necessary medical supplies. This is from living in the Himalayas for their whole lives; they have a predisposed understanding of how to help. Similarly, they have a better understanding in comparison to foreigners who come to hike, what the weather looks like, and what weather conditions might be coming. To sum it up, sherpas are the most influential role of a climber's experience.<sup>40</sup> Without the help of a sherpa, an individual climber would be lost and sick. The sherpas' support is underappreciated and most important if you want to make it back safely from climbing.

With this all in mind, it is important to note that sherpa is a broad job and there are specific roles within. For instance, there are "personal sherpas" who accompany each climber and show them where to climb, specifically, on Mount Everest. In addition, Sherpa and sherpa are different and the diction between the two is important in understanding this topic. Sherpa with a capitalized S is the ethnic group that lives in the Himalayas. Whereas, sherpa with a lowercase s refers to just the job of helping individuals climb the top of the mountains.<sup>41</sup>

### **Risks Posed by Tourism**

There are risks posed by tourism to sherpa guides from the long-lasting consequences of global warming. This is because the steep mountains these individuals climb are predisposed to avalanches and weather that can harm pedestrians, including the Sherpa who are used to this environment. For example, in 2014, an avalanche killed 16 Sherpas, which remains the deadliest single incident to occur on Mount Everest.<sup>42</sup> This led to a boycott of the sherpa jobs as a whole because they didn't feel protected by these freak accidents. The purpose of these boycotts was to

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<sup>40</sup> ibid

<sup>41</sup> Project Himalaya, "Project Himalaya | Sherpa and Sherpa Are Different," project-himalaya.com, n.d., <https://project-himalaya.com/info-trek-climb-job-roles.html>.

<sup>42</sup> Charlotte Middlehurst and Ramesh Bhushal, "Sherpas Warn of Growing Risks of Climbing Everest," The Third Pole, February 8, 2016, <https://www.thethirdpole.net/en/climate/sherpas-climbing-everest/>.

demand proper security nets (e.g., life insurance and a relief fund in case something serious happened).

These risks are important because the sherpas don't want to risk their lives to show the mountains without some sort of backing to ensure their rights are protected. They have to care for, guide, and even cook for the foreigners coming into their environment.<sup>43</sup> The sherpas feel as though they too, should be respected and cared for. With this being said, years have gone by and many sherpas don't agree that anything has changed.

Additionally, the aspect of social media has highlighted how individuals treat sherpas, as machines or engines to get them to their end goal. In reality, the sherpa are risking their lives for tourism. The sherpa is putting everything on the line so the tourists could say they had a nice experience. This is a major risk because it harms the sherpas' mental health and self-esteem. They aren't backed up with life insurance and the visitors aren't supportive of them creating a power imbalance. The sherpa are eager to work consequently risking their lives yet aren't respected in return. When their achievement is posted and glorified all over social media the climbers never seem to "shout out" the sherpa who helped them get to the spot that they are.<sup>44</sup> This is harmful because this doesn't give recognition where it is deserved.

In addition, as a result of climate change, the sherpas are getting harmed at an increasing rate. This inevitably leaves the widows to care for the child. Making the family survive on one paycheck. This is sadly how many of the sherpa families have begun to live. The government is not stepping in and supporting the families through resources. As a result of this, women have limited social rights to live a mediocre life. They are unable to support their children and themselves. This highlights the risks the tourism industry poses to the Sherpa families because of

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<sup>43</sup>ibid

<sup>44</sup>ibid



the lack of social security or welfare support, beyond the mandatory life compensation, for guides who die during expeditions.<sup>45</sup>

### Current Working Conditions for Sherpas

Working as a sherpa is one of Nepal's most profitable jobs, raking in \$7,000 a year when the average is just over \$700.<sup>46</sup> But it is also one of its most dangerous. In fact, Sherpa guides account for over a third of the 315 recorded deaths on Mount Everest this last century.<sup>47</sup> Currently, Sherpas are leaving the job in large part due to the lack of protections their job has. For instance, there is no safety net for a Sherpa's family if they end up dead or incapacitated and insurance payouts are limited. Conditions for Sherpas are so bad that many quit mountaineering entirely, even moving out of the country into places like the United States, Austria, or Switzerland.<sup>48</sup>

A big push for creating a safer workplace for Sherpas came after a deadly avalanche on Mount Everest killed 16 Sherpas. They were working on fixing ropes and cracking snow and ice to prepare for the climbing season.<sup>49</sup> Following this, Sherpa guides issued a list of 13 demands while threatening to go on strike if they weren't met. A notable demand was to raise the value of medical and life insurance policies for sherpas working in the mountains. Another one was to pay for the education of the children of Sherpas that were killed. These are the only demands that

<sup>45</sup>Mukesh Pokhrel, "Widows of Nepal's Sherpa Guides Fear Rising Climate-Fuelled Risks," *Eco-Business*, February 8, 2023, <https://www.eco-business.com/news/widows-of-nepals-sherpa-guides-fear-rising-climate-fuelled-risks/>.

<sup>46</sup>Gopal Sharma and John Chalmers, "Nepal Moves to Ease Tension among Sherpas after Everest Disaster," *Reuters*, April 23, 2014, sec. Asia Pacific, <https://www.reuters.com/article/nepal-everest/nepal-moves-to-ease-tension-among-sherpas-after-everest-disaster-id1NKBN0D90AG20140423/>.

<sup>47</sup>Bhadra Sharma and Mujib Mashal, "'I See No Future': Sherpas Leave the Job They Made Famous," *The New York Times*, May 7, 2023, sec. World, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/07/world/asia/sherpas-everest.html>.

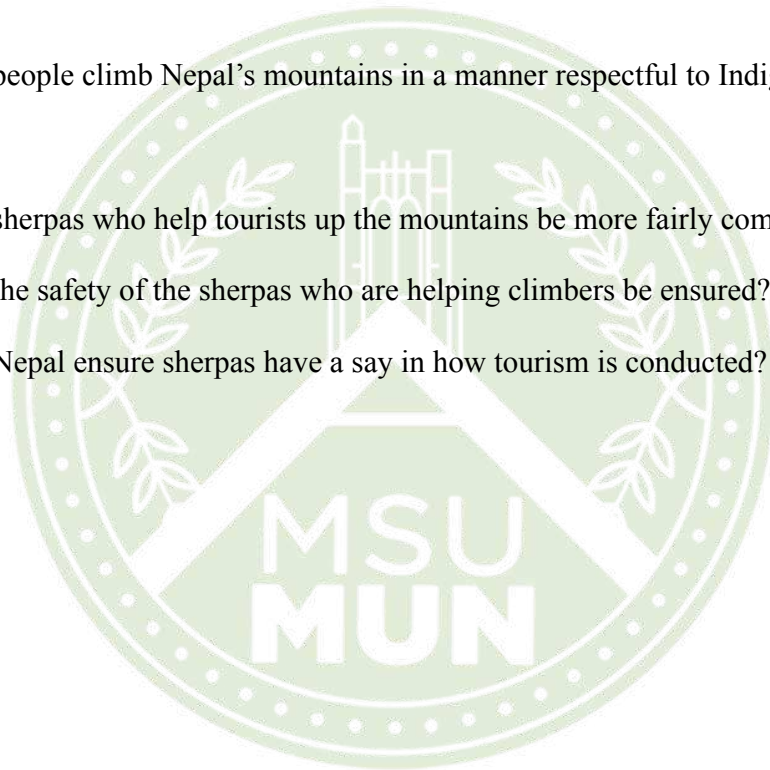
<sup>48</sup> *ibid*

<sup>49</sup>Mark Jenkins, "Everest's Sherpas Issue List of Demands," *Culture*, April 23, 2014, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/140422-everest-sherpa-manifesto-avalanche-nepal-himalaya-base-camp-khumbu-icefall>.

the Nepali government agreed to. However, the Nepali government refused to guarantee pay for Sherpas even if the climbing season was canceled.<sup>50</sup> Another complaint of many Sherpas is that clients spend far more to climb Everest than what Sherpas receive. This is because the money spent on climbing permits is held by the government rather than being allocated to Sherpas assisting climbers.<sup>51</sup>

### Questions to Consider

- How can people climb Nepal's mountains in a manner respectful to Indigenous Sherpas in Nepal?
- How can sherpas who help tourists up the mountains be more fairly compensated?
- How can the safety of the sherpas who are helping climbers be ensured?
- How can Nepal ensure sherpas have a say in how tourism is conducted?



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<sup>50</sup> ibid

<sup>51</sup> ibid

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## Characters

**\* = Fictional**

### Apa Sherpa

Apa Sherpa, also referred to as "Super Sherpa", is a Nepalese Sherpa mountaineer. He got his nickname from his vast experience and skill as a mountaineer. He is 63 years old and has climbed Mount Everest 21 times. Apa grew up in extreme poverty. His dad, who was a herdsman, died when Apa was 12. Consequently, Apa Sherpa had to take up many responsibilities, such as carrying trekking supplies to help support his family.

### Bryce S.R. Merryman\*

Bryce S.R. Merryman is an American mountaineer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He also works as a safety inspector for the Pittsburgh fire department. His interest in mountaineering started in the Appalachians of Pennsylvania. Over time, Merryman took his passion to the Himalayas where he climbed Shishapangma and Kanchenjunga. While Merryman wants to spread his passion for mountaineering, he believes that safety should be of utmost importance when climbing mountains.

### Chhurim

Chhurim is a Nepali Sherpa from Taplejung. She is the first woman to successfully summit Mount Everest twice within the same climbing season. Chhurim wants to inspire other Nepali women to get involved in mountaineering. Additionally, she wants a share of Nepal's profits from tourism to help fund public education, which she believes is of utmost importance.

### Dipak Bohar\*

Dipak Bohar is the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. He also serves as the spokesperson for the Ministry. Bohar wants to impose new regulations on climbing to mitigate the dangers stemming from inexperience and overcrowding. He believes that safety should not be sacrificed in the name of profit.

### Dhananjay Regmi

Dhananjay Regmi is the Nepal Tourism Board CEO. Regmi is an environmental activist with a doctorate in environmental earth science from Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan. Before this position, he was a geography teacher at Budhanilkantha Middle School. Regmi is also the chairperson of Himalayan Research Expedition Nepal, a tourism company that focuses on eco-friendly tours and treks for mountain researchers and scholars.

### Edward Lassen\*

Edward Lassen is a Canadian adventurer and mountaineer from Calgary, Alberta. Lassen has appeared on a Canadian TV show called *Man in Nature*, which documented his many adventures around the world. He has summited many of Nepal's mountains including Mount Everest, Cho Oyu, and Annapurna I. Lassen wants to spread his passion for adventure and make mountaineering in Nepal more accessible for everyone.

### Gelje Sherpa

Gelje Sherpa is a Nepali mountaineer and Sherpa who helps guide climbers up the mountain. He gained international attention this last climbing season after aborting a summit attempt to rescue

an endangered climber trapped in the death zone of Mount Everest. Since then, Gelje Sherpa has advocated for increased regulations on who can climb Nepal's mountains on the basis of experience.

### Jon Krakauer

Jon Krakauer is an American mountaineer and writer who has traveled to many places and writes nonfiction books about travel and mountaineering, most of which are tragic. Some of his novels have been turned into movies. One notable book is the award-winning *Into Thin Air*, where he details his own experience climbing Mount Everest in the 1996 disaster, where he lost four of his travel mates. However, some of the claims in this book have been debated. The 1996 disaster is known to be one of the worst disasters in Everest history. There was a violent storm that trapped climbers in high parts of the mountains and became (at that time) the deadliest year of Mt. Everest climbing. Additionally, Krakauer criticizes the commercialization of Mt. Everest as he believes that it ruins the enjoyable aspects of the adventure and destroys the Sherpa's homeland. He also makes it clear that he doesn't like the monetization of climbing in general.

### Joshua Shenan\*

Joshua Shenan is an American mountaineer from Denver, Colorado. He has a BA in Theology with a focus on Tibetan Buddhism from the University of Colorado Boulder. Shenan also holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology with a concentration on culture and civilization in the Khumbu region of Nepal from the University of California Los Angeles. An avid Yeti enthusiast, Shenan has climbed Mount Everest, Kanchenjunga, Lhotse, and Makalu in search of the Yeti. In addition, Shenan wrote a book called *The Spiritual Role of Yetis* about how Yetis fit into Tibetan



Buddhism. He wants to promote the culture of the Khumbu region and create a more safe and equitable climbing environment for the Sherpas living there.

### **Kami Rita Sherpa**

Kami Rita Sherpa is a Nepali Sherpa guide. He is 53 years old and was born in Solukhumbu, Nepal. He holds the record for most ascents to the summit of Mount Everest. In addition, he has published a book titled *How to Climb Mount Everest*. While he continues to work as a sherpa, he has encouraged his kids to take a different path, as he sees the sherpa occupation as a dead end with no future in sight.

### **Kristin Harila**

Kristin Harila is a Norwegian mountaineer who broke Nirmal Purja's record for the fastest ascent of all 14 8,000m peaks. Since then, she has stepped away from mountaineering, not indicating whether it is temporary or not. She has witnessed the dangers of the Himalayas firsthand. Earlier this year, she unsuccessfully attempted to save a climber's life on K2. As a result of this incident, Harila wants to increase safety measures in the Himalayas to prevent future tragedies.

### **Lhakpa Sherpa**

Lhakpa Sherpa is a Nepali Sherpa from Makalu, Nepal. Known as the "Queen of Everest," she has climbed Mount Everest 10 times, the most any woman in the world has. At the age of 15, Lhakpa started work as a porter. While working as a porter, she lost many of her colleagues due to the dangerous conditions in the Himalayas. Because of this, Lhakpa wants the Nepali government to implement more safeguards for sherpas in order to prevent future tragedies.

### **Lucia Navarro\***

Lucia Navarro is a Chilean mountaineer from Santiago. She has summited many prominent peaks in the Andes including Aconcagua, the tallest mountain in South America. Navarro has taken her experience to the Himalayas where she climbed Mount Everest, Lhotse, and Manaslu. While descending Mount Everest, Navarro got stuck in the death zone as a result of inexperienced climbers slowing the descent to a halt. As a result, Navarro started to develop High-Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE). Fortunately, she was able to successfully descend and get proper treatment. As a result of this, Navarro believes that climbing experience needs to be more strictly regulated to ensure every climber's safety.

### **Maheshwar Dhakal**

Maheshwar Dhakal is the Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation as well as a Joint Secretary at the Climate Change Management Division of Forests and Environment. He has two Masters in Environmental Science and Sociology as well as a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and a Ph.D. in Life and Environmental Sciences. From this, he is very knowledgeable about many environmental topics, such as conservation, wildlife ecology, natural resource management, and more. Throughout his work, he stresses the importance of government action and responsibility for problems regarding nature and he promotes the idea of the government helping to conserve species and help the environment as well as boosting local livelihoods, especially through institutionalizing research and raising community awareness.

### **Mingma Dorchi Sherpa**

Mingma Dorchi Sherpa is a Nepali Sherpa who has worked as a porter from 2001-2004 when he quit the job to start a tea shop at the base of Makalu. He rejoined the mountaineering field as a climbing guide in 2009. In 2019, Mingma broke Nirmal Purja's world record for the fastest ascent of Mount Everest and Lhotse. He is currently a director of Pioneer Adventure Pvt. Ltd, which organizes adventure-based activities in the Himalayas.

### **Mingma Gyabu Sherpa**

Mingma Gyabu Sherpa is a Nepali mountaineer and rescue climber. He holds the record for the fastest ascent of K2. In addition, he has summited all 14 8,000m peaks, being the youngest person to do so. Mingma Gyabu also accompanied Nirmal Purja on eight of these summits. He is a co-founder of Elite Exped alongside Nirmal Purja.

### **Narayan Sarki\***

Narayan Sarki is the Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. He is also referred to as the agency executive. Sarki wants to ensure that tourism remains one of Nepal's most profitable industries. He worries that too much regulation on mountaineering would harm the tourism industry. However, he is open to exploring ways to make climbing safer without damaging profits..

### **Ngawa Ngima Sherpa**

Ngawa Ngima Sherpa is a member of the NTB (Nepal Tourism Board) Executive Committee as well as the international liaison director for Nepal. He has worked with a lot of tourists and

mountaineers since 1995, and through his liaison work, he coordinates with Korean mountaineers who are visiting Nepal. The majority of his work involves authorizing those who want to climb and helping clients get connected with ways to do so, mainly through his company Happy Feet Travel. Here, he stresses excellent customer service and has extensive knowledge about travel management, operations, and customer services.

### Nima Rinji Sherpa

Nima Rinji Sherpa is the youngest person to reach the main summit of Mount Manaslu, the eighth-highest mountain in the world. He was 17 at the time and much of this success is due to his family having deep roots in the Himalayas and having a history of climbing. Additionally, he has become the youngest to climb many others. He is on a mission to become the youngest climber to complete all 14 peaks above 8 thousand meters and isn't too far from doing so.

### Nirmal Purja

Nirmal Purja is a Nepal-Born British mountaineer. Purja is a highly accomplished mountaineer, having previously set the record for the fastest ascent of all 14 8,000m peaks. He also accomplished the first Winter summit of K2. He continues to spread his expertise and passion for mountaineering to inspire people and prove that anything is possible with determination and a positive mindset. He is critical of overcrowding in Nepal's mountains. Purja also founded a climbing company known as Elite Exped alongside Mingma Gyabu Sherpa.

### **Phurba Tashi Sherpa**

Phurba Tashi Sherpa is a Nepali Sherpa who has successfully summited Mount Everest 21 times. He has also summited Cho Oyu five times, Manaslu two times, and once on both Shishapangma and Lhotse. Phurba Tashi Sherpa was featured prominently in the documentary *Sherpa*. He is also the head of an expedition company known as Himalayan Experience/Himex.

### **Prema Bhattarai\***

Prema Bhattarai is a member of the Nepal Tourism Board Executive Committee. She focuses primarily on sustainable tourism. Bhattarai believes that setting a limit on the amount of climbing permits issued each year is essential in combating the overabundance of human waste in the Himalayas.

### **Premlata Agrawal**

Premlata Agrawal is an Indian mountaineer from Darjeeling. She is the first Indian woman to scale the Seven Summits (highest mountains in each continent). In 2013, she was awarded the Padma Shri, an award from the Indian Government in recognition of her mountaineering achievements. Agrawal also helps to train prospective climbers so that they are prepared for difficult summits. She wants to implement a minimum training requirement for Nepal's most challenging peaks.

### **Rajesh Adhikari\***

Rajesh Adhikari is the chairman of the Nepal Tourism Board Executive Committee. Additionally, he also serves as a secretary in the Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation.



Adhikari doesn't want climbing regulations to get in the way of profits from tourism. However, he wants to see Nepal's climbing infrastructure improve to facilitate safe tourism.

### Reinhold Messner

Messner is most notable for being the first to ascend all 14 peaks that are over 8,000 meters above sea level. Along with another climber, he was also the first to ascend Mt. Everest without supplemental oxygen. He has accomplished many great feats in climbing, such as being the first to cross Antarctica and Greenland with neither snowmobiles nor dog sleds, crossing the Gobi Desert alone, and having many other ascents before the Himalayas. He has, however, stopped climbing, due to frostbite and trauma from losing his brother during a descent of Nanga Parbat. From the years 1999 to 2004, he served as a member of the European parliament and was a member of the Green Party in Italy. With his focus on the environment, he emphasizes the importance of people learning to work with nature respectfully and responsibly, especially when climbing. He has also written about his experiences.

### Ryan G. Trostle\*

Ryan G. Trostle is an American mountaineer from Rancho Cucamonga, California. His passion for mountaineering started in the Sierra Nevada. Trostle eventually took his passion to other mountain ranges around the world, including the Himalayas. He has climbed Mount Everest, Lhotse, and Makalu in a trip sponsored by Red Bull. While descending Mount Everest, Trostle nearly fell into a crevasse as a result of recklessly traversing the Khumbu Icefall. Since that incident, he has encouraged mountaineers to act responsibly when climbing.

### Sanu Sherpa

Sanu Sherpa is a Sherpa guide who, in 2022, became the first person to climb each of the 14 eight-thousanders (mountains over 8 thousand meters above sea level) twice. Prior to working as a porter in the mountains, Sanu Sherpa was a herder but wasn't making a good living and switched to working in the mountains. As a porter, he guides, rescues, recovers dead bodies, and mostly prepares climbers for the route either before or during their expeditions. This includes possibly going up the mountain before the climb to set up tents, food, water, and equipment, as well as carrying the climbers' equipment during their climb. This can be a very dangerous and scary job, and he says the only reason he still does the job is because he has no other choice.

### Shanta Ansari\*

Shanta Ansari is a member of the Nepal Tourism Board Executive Committee. In this role, she seeks to make the sherpa occupation safer and more equitable. Additionally, Ansari wants to invest portions of Nepal's tourism profits into the impoverished communities in the Khumbu region.

### Sudan Kirati

Sudan Kirati is the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. In this role, Kirati is responsible for promoting tourism, culture, and private sector involvement in Nepal. In addition, Kirati is a member of Nepal's parliament. Kirati wants to further promote tourism to Nepal in order to drive its economy. However, he also believes more needs to be done to make climbing safer.

**Sunita Parajuli\***

Sunita Parajuli is a member of the Nepal Tourism Board Executive Committee. She was born in Kathmandu. She formerly worked for the Nepali Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. Parajuli is currently working on the preservation of historical sights and monuments in the Himalayas in collaboration with the tourism ministries of India and Bhutan.



