

# Sustainable Summits 2021 Nepal



Kathmandu Valley 2021

**31 May - 04 June 2021, Kathmandu Valley**

**5th international conference** sharing solutions for protecting and preserving the world's mountain regions

Hosted By





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## Summary

The Sustainable Summits Conferences are inspired by the growing pressures on our mountain environments, the need to find solutions to the impacts of such pressures – overcrowding, waste, noise and more – and a drive to uphold values in sustaining these environments. Details can be found on <http://sustainablesummits.org>.

The 2014 Sustainable Summits Conference was held in Golden, Colorado, hosted by the American Alpine Club co-led by board member Ellen Lapham, and inspired by Roger Robinson of Denali National Park. In August 2016 the New Zealand Alpine Club hosted the event at Aoraki/Mount Cook, and in June 2018 the Petzl Foundation hosted the event in the shadow of Mont Blanc in Chamonix, France [www.sustainable-summits2018.org](http://www.sustainable-summits2018.org).

Nepal has had strong representation at all the Sustainable Summit conferences with Dawa Steven Sherpa a keynote speaker in Golden, Aoraki/Mount Cook and Chamonix. Dr Nima Sherpa and Lisa Choegyol made presentations at the New Zealand event, and Lisa Choegyol at Chamonix to successfully secure the Kathmandu Valley nomination for 2020 ([www.sustainablesummits2020.org](http://www.sustainablesummits2020.org)). In view of COVID-19, the original dates

of 1-5 June 2020 have been postponed to 31 May – 4 June 2021 and the event will be hybrid with both physical and virtual online participation, depending on conditions.

## **The proposition**

The Sustainable Summits conference is being held in Nepal 31 May to 4 June 2021 to showcase the country's mountain environment, highlight climate change issues and bring international attention to Nepal's mountain tourism. Sustainable Summits Conference is supported by the Nepal Tourism Board and hosted by Climate Alliance of Himalayan Communities. Rt Hon Helen Clark has agreed to give the keynote address, and veteran mountaineer Reinhold Messner has agreed to attend in person. Other speakers are listed below.

The purpose of hosting Sustainable Summits 2021 is:

- To honour mountain voices and to promote increased understanding of the Himalaya as an “abode of the gods”
- To provide a platform for issues from the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region to be discussed, debated and consolidated in order to influence policy and to have a unified voice in other global arenas
- To strengthen tourism to the Hindu Kush Himalaya region
- To learn and share global best practices in the four themes of the conference
- To explore opportunities for national and regional cooperation
- To synergize national, regional and global networks for strengthening mountain solutions in the region

The event is hosted by the Climate Alliance of Himalayan Communities, Himalayan Climate Initiative in association with ICIMOD, and supported by the British Foreign Commonwealth & Development (FCDO) UKAid, Nepal Tourism Board, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WWF Nepal and Petzl Foundation France and Bally Foundation.



Other Supporters include Adventure Consultants New Zealand, American Alpine Club, Asian Trekking Nepal, Expedition Operators Association of Nepal, Himalayan Rescue Association, Mountain Research Institute Bern, New Zealand Alpine Club, Sagarmatha Next, Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPPC), TRC Tourism Australia & New Zealand, UIAA Mountain Protection Commission and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Others might include GoN Department of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Himalayan Trust, IUCN Nepal (World Conservation Union), Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN), The North Face, Black Diamond, Top Out Nepal and the Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA), Indian Mountaineering Federation (IMF) and other NGOs and private sector organisations with coinciding agendas.

The organising committee consists of Ang Tshering Sherpa, Dr Ganesh Gurung, Dawa Steven Sherpa and Lisa Choegyal. Binit Shrestha is the event coordinator ([www.sustainablesummits2020.org](http://www.sustainablesummits2020.org)). Sujata Basnet represents the host CAHC, Prashant Singh represents Himalayan Climate Initiative (HCI), and Anu Kumari Lama Laurie Vasily, Denis Samyn, Udayan Mishra and Nanki Kaur represent ICIMOD on the committee.

## Conference themes

The conference themes are directly relevant to the HKH region and are:

- Mountains nurturing communities
- Sustainable mountaineering – the Everest factor
- Development pressures – balancing local priorities, conservation and tourism
- Tourism, trade and regional cooperation – promoting economic, ecological, and geographical connectivity

A range of relevant speakers have been invited to attend either physically or virtually on-line, particularly focusing on international presenters, and Hindu Kush Himalayan speakers with experience from Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and stakeholders from the Great Himalaya Trail.

## The benefits

- Share lessons learnt globally in the management of mountain areas regarding natural hazards, environmental impacts, climate change, social impacts and cultural awareness
- Raise awareness and achieve policy change about the ecologically sensitive mountain environment, potential effects on water resources for downstream uses (e.g. waste), significant natural hazards (e.g. severe weather, avalanches, volcanic eruptions), and the cultural significance of mountain environments
- Share solutions for managing visitors in a changing mountain environment – environmentally, culturally and socially
- Create national and international profile on mountain sustainability issues and solutions
- Strengthen regional cooperation in tackling relevant cross-border problems.

- Develop closer relationships amongst mountain resource managers, tourism entrepreneurs and local communities in Nepal
- As a lead up to COP 26 (2020 United Nations Climate Change Conference) in Glasgow November 2021, assess climate change impacts in the HKH
- Showcase the Nepal Himalaya and lessons learned during over 70 years of trekking and mountaineering
- Continue the event as a bi-annual international meeting led by the American Alpine Club, New Zealand Alpine Club, Petzl Foundation and Nepal Tourism Board



## **The logistics**

ICIMOD is the venue with excellent physical and virtual online conference facilities for 150 physical guests, and convenient for Godavari field visits and access to Lakuri Bhanjang. The ICIMOD green campus is accessible for Nepali and Patan-based participants.

The dates 31 May to 4 June 2021 coincide with the lead up to COP 26 being held in Glasgow November 2021, and capitalise on the Everest spring mountaineering season.

## **Guest Speakers / Participants**

The Sustainable Summits Conferences 202a ([sustainablesummits2020.org](http://sustainablesummits2020.org)) organizing committee along with sustainable summits initiative (<http://sustainablesummits.org/>) have formalized a detailed programme of guest speakers for June 2020, who it is hoped will remain with us for the new dates May June 2021. The programme details and relevant presenters will be selected and invited in partnership with advice from the sponsors and Sustainable Summits committee, particularly those relevant to the conference themes.



## Current Speakers:

These are some of the speakers involved with the June 2020 conference. The programme is well developed, and this list does not include Nepal-based speakers. Every effort will be made to keep the high profile international speakers with us for June 2021, although it is anticipated most speakers will appear online virtually. Reinhold Messner has already confirmed his physical participation.

S.No	Speaker	Status
1.	Rt Hon Helen Clark, New Zealand	Confirmed
2.	Dr Alton C. Byers, USA	Confirmed
3.	Ben Fogle, UK	Confirmed
4.	Sir Chris Bonington, UK	Confirmed
5.	Ken Noguchi, Japan	Confirmed
6.	Dr Mark Watson, UK	Confirmed
7.	Peter Debrine, UNESCO	Confirmed
8.	Reinhold Messner, Italy	Confirmed
9.	Tommy Gustafsson, Sagarmatha Next	Confirmed
10.	Mr Wang Shi, China	TBC
11.	Ms Wang Jing, China Mr Wang Shi	TBC
12.	Sonam Wangchuk, India	Confirmed



## **Partners & Sponsors**

In addition to the main sponsors and hosts, the organizing committee had secured support and assistance from Turkish Airlines and Nepali Times. Press releases from media partners will be circulated to all major online / print media.

## **Website & Publication**

The conference website ([www.sustainablesummits2020.org](http://www.sustainablesummits2020.org)) is the key source of information for all interested parties. It will also serve as the online registration platform for guests / participants from all around world. The site will be equipped with online payment system.

## Brand Identity

The conference title is 'Sustainable Summits Conference 2021' and is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Summits Conference which is organized every two years. Since the event is hosted in Kathmandu Valley, the brand identity is represented in the logo below, with guidelines developed for all forms of media to maintain a consistent image.



### Contact Information

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### **Pictures Courtesy**

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