

Everest and the Sagarmatha National Park

An active glaciated landscape

Tourism

- UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979 – Huge environmental value.

Threats

- Water pollution, footpath erosion, problems with waste disposal, and the construction of illegal trails.

Climbing Everest – Why has the number of climbers increased?

- Chances of a successful summit increased.
- Weather forecasting.

Solutions

- Limiting the number of permits given to climbers.
- Restricting group sizes.
- Insisting all guides are properly qualified.

Problems

- Two main routes have become dangerously crowded and polluted.

Threats climate change poses

- Glaciers are retreating – Shrunk by 13% in the last 50 years.
 - When a glacier melts, the formation and growth of glacier lakes is encouraged. The moraine wall containing the glacial lake may collapse, causing a glacial outburst flood.
 - There may be a consequence for hydropower generation downstream.

Other threats

Avalanches - Causes

- Farming – Clearance of natural vegetation.
- Clearance of forested areas for building.

2015: 7.8 magnitude earthquake caused an avalanche to hit the South Base Camp. 22 people died.

Deforestation – Threats

- Loss of habitats.
- Erosion of exposed soil, causing nutrients to be washed away and lowering fertility.
- Increased risk of landslides.

Managing Sagarmatha

Players:

- National park and wildlife conservation office.
- Sherpa people.
- The Park Advisory Committee incl. local leaders.
- NGOs

Aims:

- Using kerosene for cooking and heating rather than wood.
- Banning goats – They destroy vegetation.
- Limiting development projects.

