

# Virtual Global Exchange

Municipal Response to **COVID-19**

**NOV - DEC**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>**



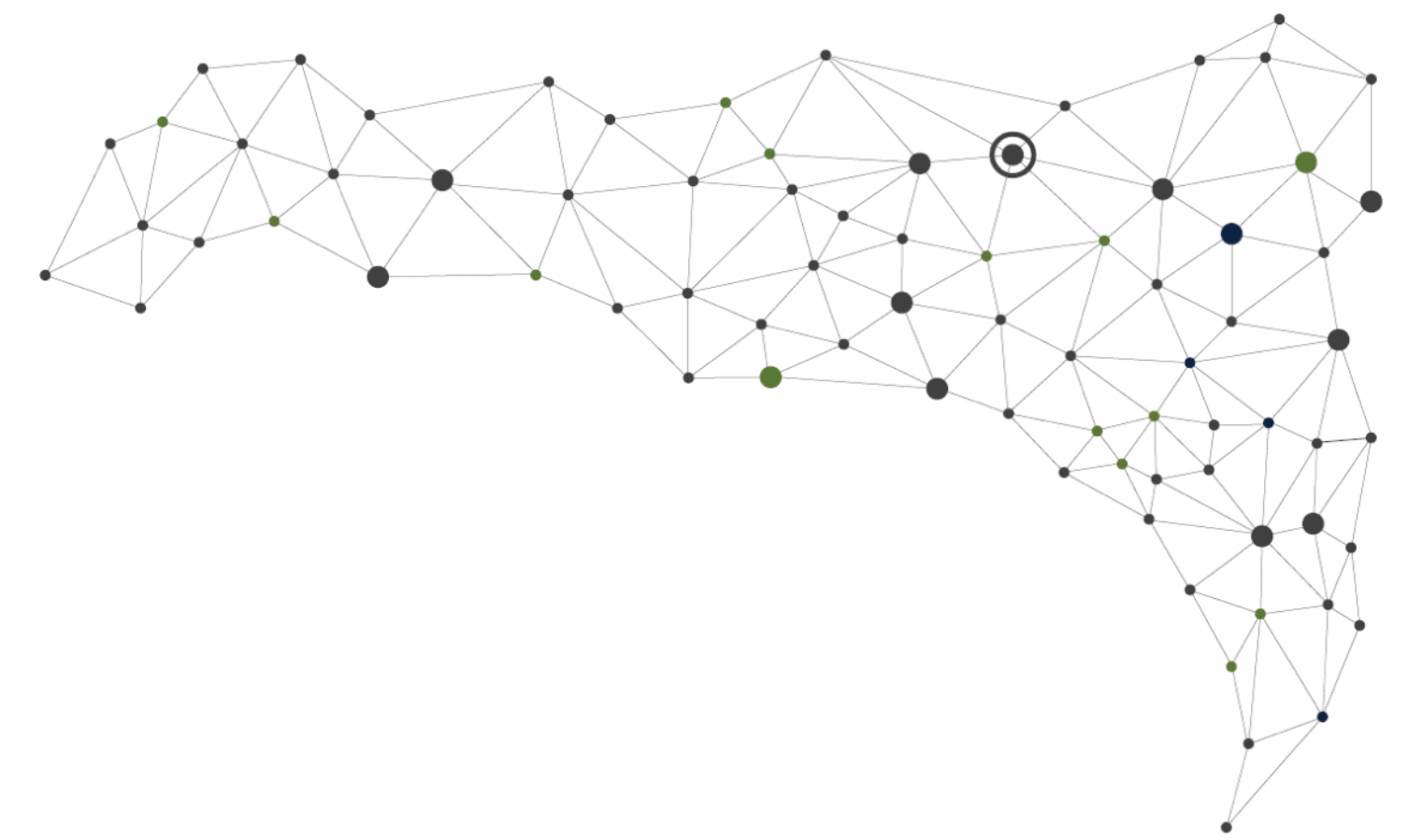
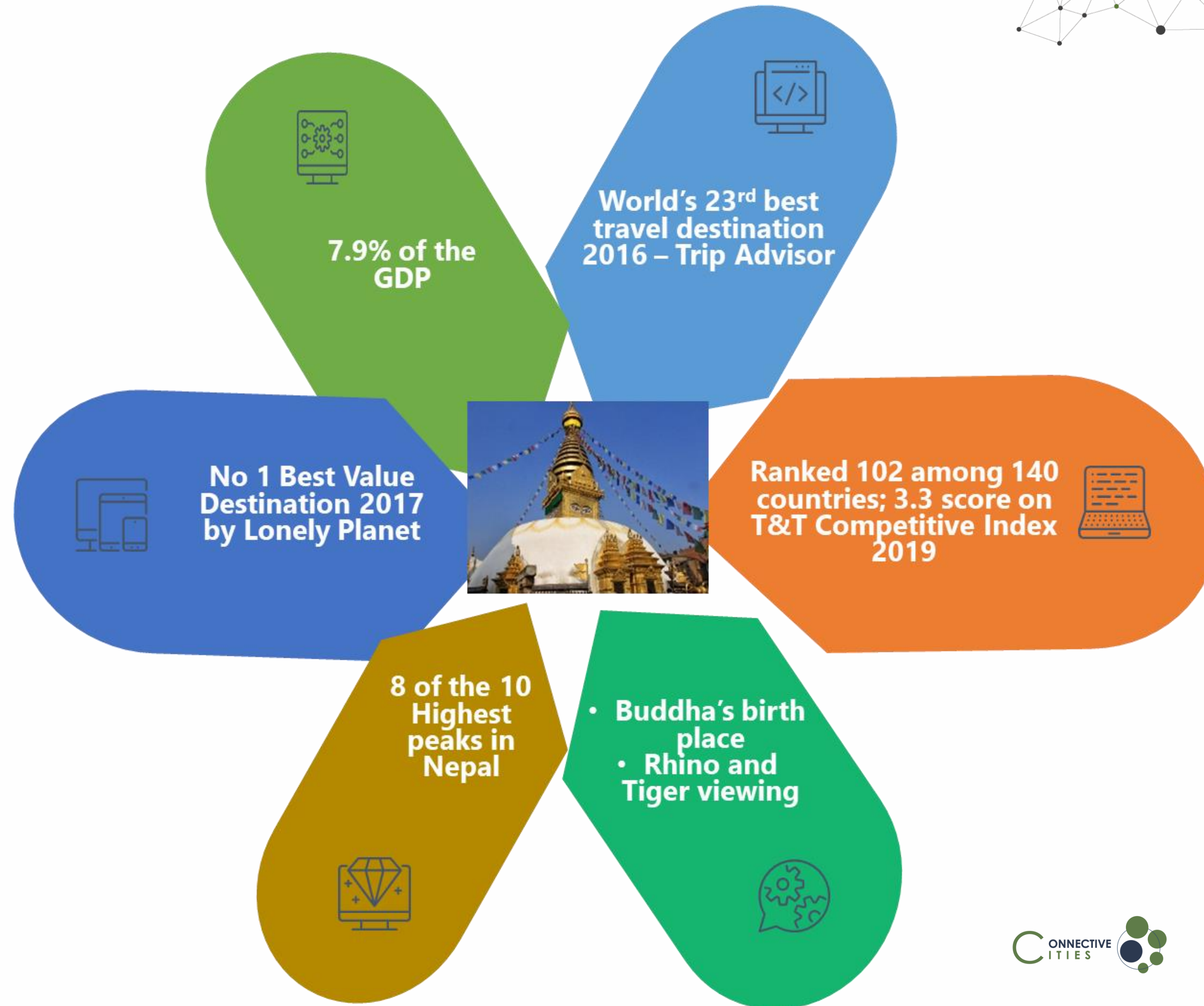
# Responding to COVID -19 Challenges- How Nepal's Tourism Sector, in collaboration with the local cities, in finding its way out

- Deepak Adhikary
- CEO, Frontline Development Solutions, LLC, USA

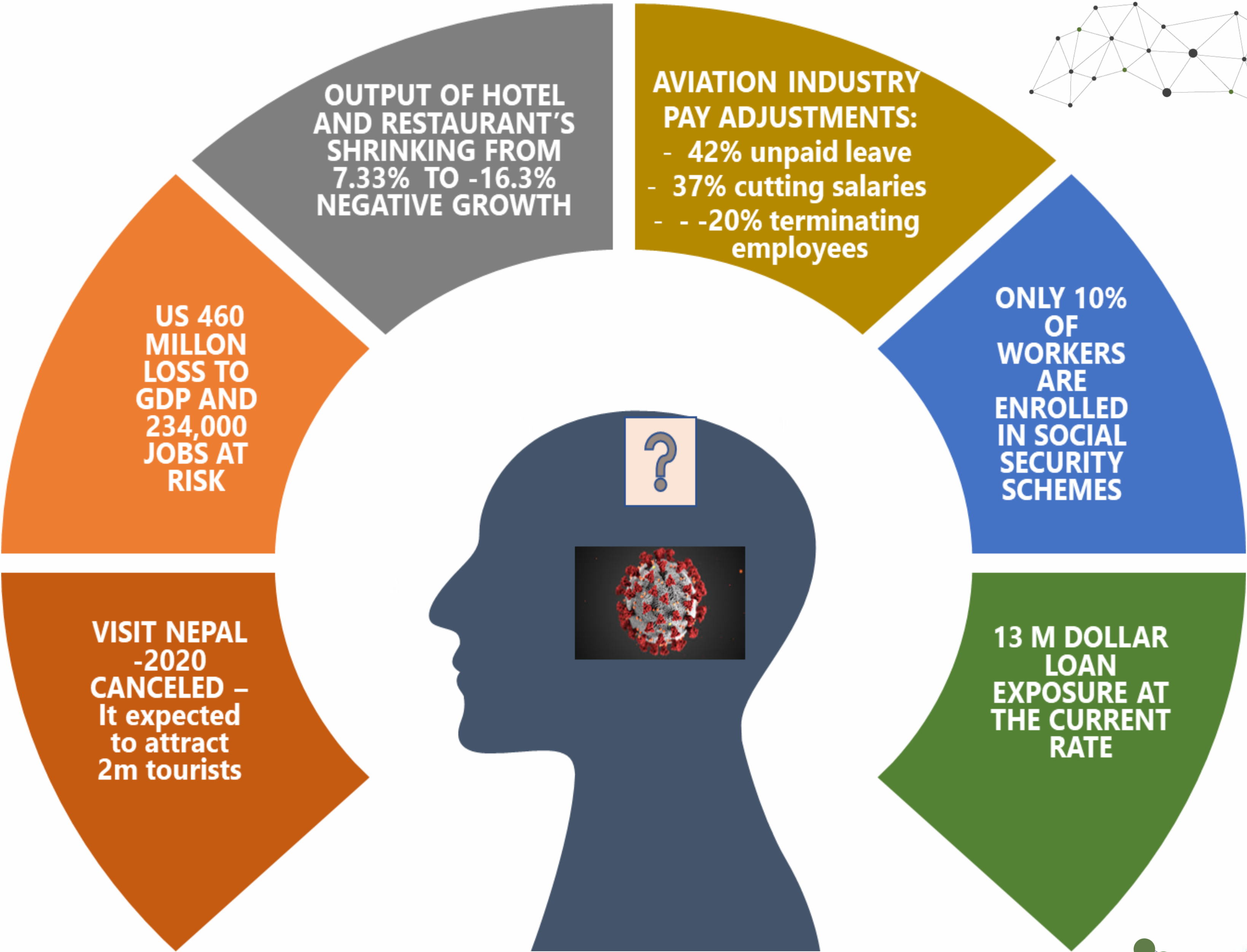
Nov, 25, 2020



# TOURISM SNAPSHOT OF NEPAL



# COVID -19 EFFECT ON NEPAL'S TOURISM





# MAIN CHALLENGES IMPEDING EFFECTIVE MEASURES



**More Reports, Rhetoric than Actions**

**Access to Resources, Aid Dumping, No  
Clear Outline of Expected Outcomes**



**Health Issues/Medical Response more  
Important than Business Survival – Lockdown  
Vs Opening – no clear Strategy**

**Relationship between the Private Sector  
vs Municipalities/Local Government**



**Voice of the SMEs lost as Larger  
Establishment have better Access to Resources**

# SILVER LINING



**Domestic Tourism**



**Regional and Spiritual Tourism (avg 14% growth)**



**Focus on Indian-Chinese – South Asian Tourists**

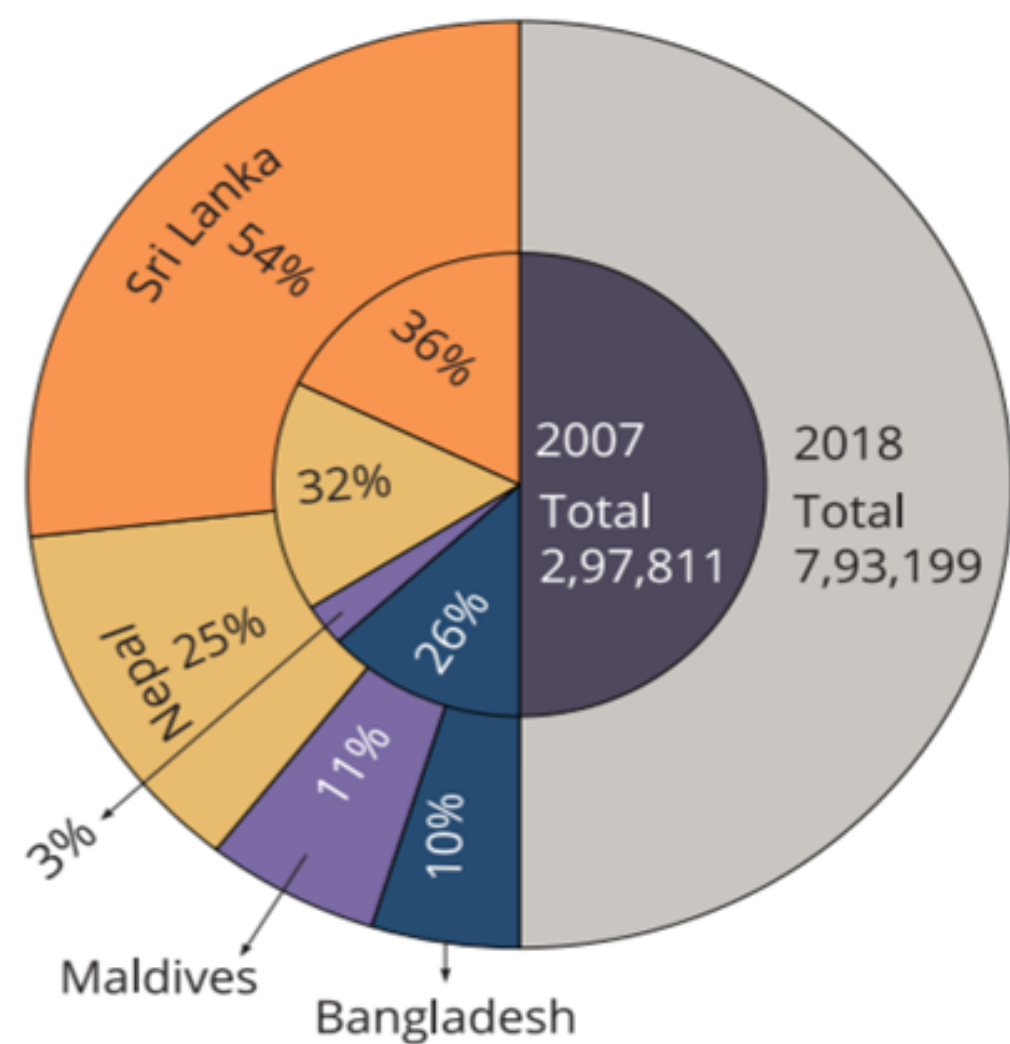


**Re-Tooling and Skilling**

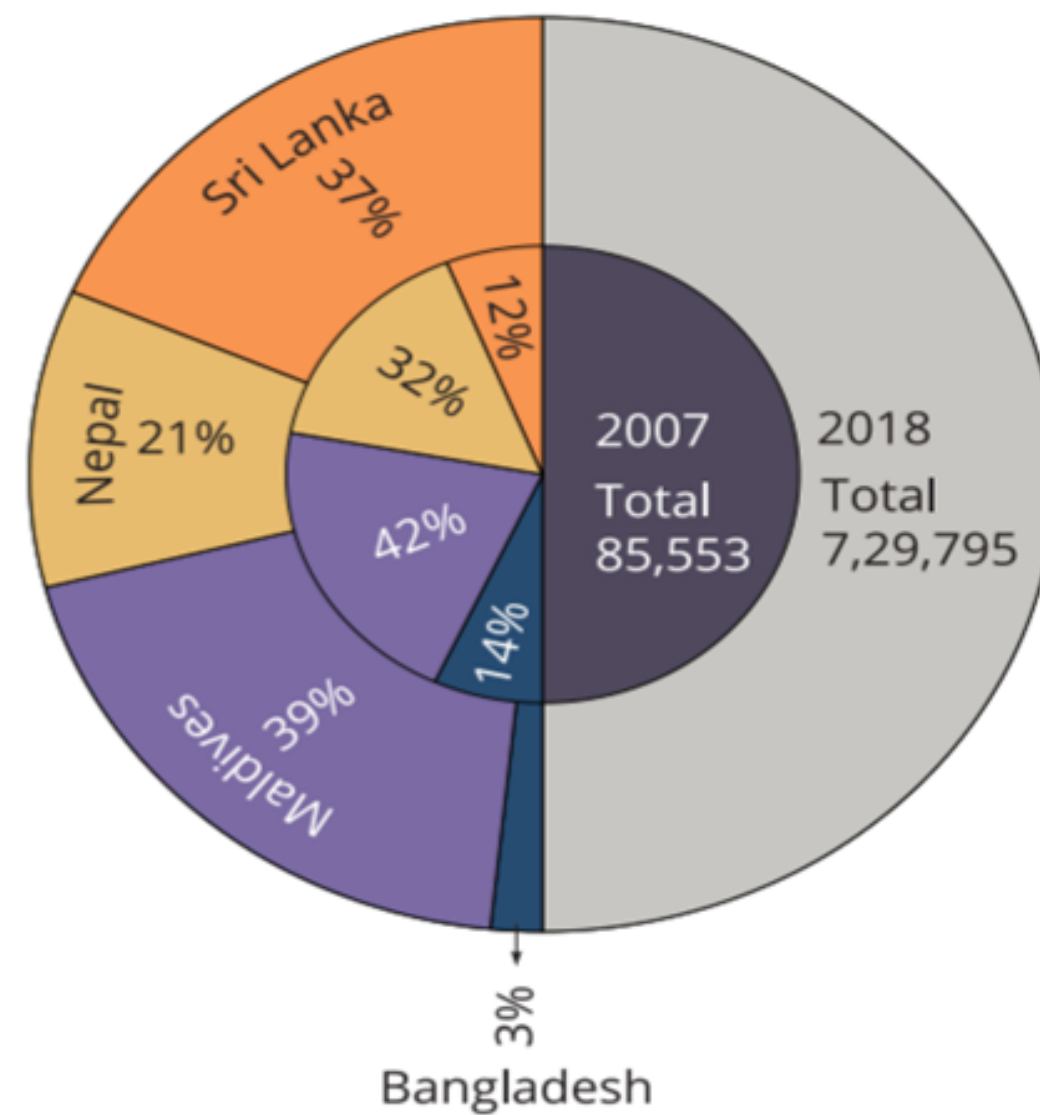


Estimated 5 million Nepali sightseers take domestic trips annually.

Indian Tourists in South Asia (N4)



Chinese Tourists in South Asia (N4)



**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

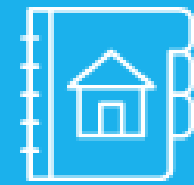
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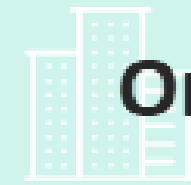
**Trekking opened up from Oct 15**



**Visa must be obtained through the Trekking Company/Tour Operators**



**Must submit Negative Results from a PCR Test (72 hours), hotel booking for 7 day quarantine .**



**On the 5<sup>th</sup> day, another test needed to proceed to the destination**



**Limited commercial flights already resumed, domestic flights fully resumed with strict COVID 19 mitigation protocol**



**Masks are required all the time**



**20 Million \$ Job Retention Funds for Tourism Workforce**



**Possibility of Introducing Tourism Leave Travel , Interest rate reduction by 1% for Tourism Industry .**



# MUNICIPALITIES AND THE GAME PARKS –COVID -19 Challenge

## NEW CHALLENGES

1. Hundredfold increase of illegal extraction of forest resources
2. Poaching of animals
3. Threats and challenges to biodiversity to 1.3 million hectares of critical forest – threat to Tiger population
4. Illegal encroachment – small huts with no building codes



## CAUSES

1. Growing financial uncertainty among people living in close proximity to protected areas
2. Many migrant workers returned after losing jobs from India through Tarai where most of the game parks are located,
3. Restrictions by the Municipalities on movement – so literally no options to look for a job



## CHALLENGES

1. Municipalities lack of budget and resources
2. They can not enforce wildlife friendly building codes due to encroachment
3. No ability to monitor the game-park and buffer zone



## OPPORTUNITIES

1. The Crisis has brought the game parks and the community – more close due to survival issue
2. The Rangers of the Parks are offering training and voluntary work opportunities (payment according to quality/safety) to the local youths, especially the migrant workers



