

Linking biodiversity conservation and climate change perspectives in bio-culturally rich transboundary areas of China, India, and Nepal

The Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative seeks to facilitate transboundary and ecosystem management approaches for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development through regional cooperation. It is a transboundary collaboration initiative between China, India and Nepal.

The Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) comprises the cultural and geographical area surrounding Mt Kailash and covers the remote southwestern portion of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China and adjacent parts of northwestern Nepal and northern India. It contains an array of highly diverse ecosystems rich in biodiversity, and encompasses a cultural geography and sacred landscape significant to hundreds of millions of people around the world.

Globally and locally important biodiversity

This is an essential, but environmentally fragile, habitat for numerous endemic and endangered species, including a wide range of flora and fauna that are important in maintaining both global biodiversity and local livelihoods. The biodiversity is under pressure from rapid climatic and other environmental change and human activities.



Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF)

The approach focuses on integrated ecosystem management and community-based approaches supported by a knowledge-based process, providing environmentally and culturally sustainable development and adaptation strategies through a regional cooperation framework, conservation strategy, and environmental monitoring plan, thus creating a policy-enabled environment for implementation of the CBD and the Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity.



Elements of RCF

- Transboundary conservation strategy
- Long-term environmental monitoring plan
- Traditional knowledge and cultural diversity
- Enhancing ecological and societal resilience

Participatory conservation and community-based approaches as a basis for improved environmental governance and local resource conservation seek to strengthen the role of communities in conservation, adaptation, and sustainable development.



Regional, national and local partners

The Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative is a transboundary collaboration between China, India and Nepal, together with ICIMOD, UNEP, and a range of regional, national, and local partners, and other stakeholders.

