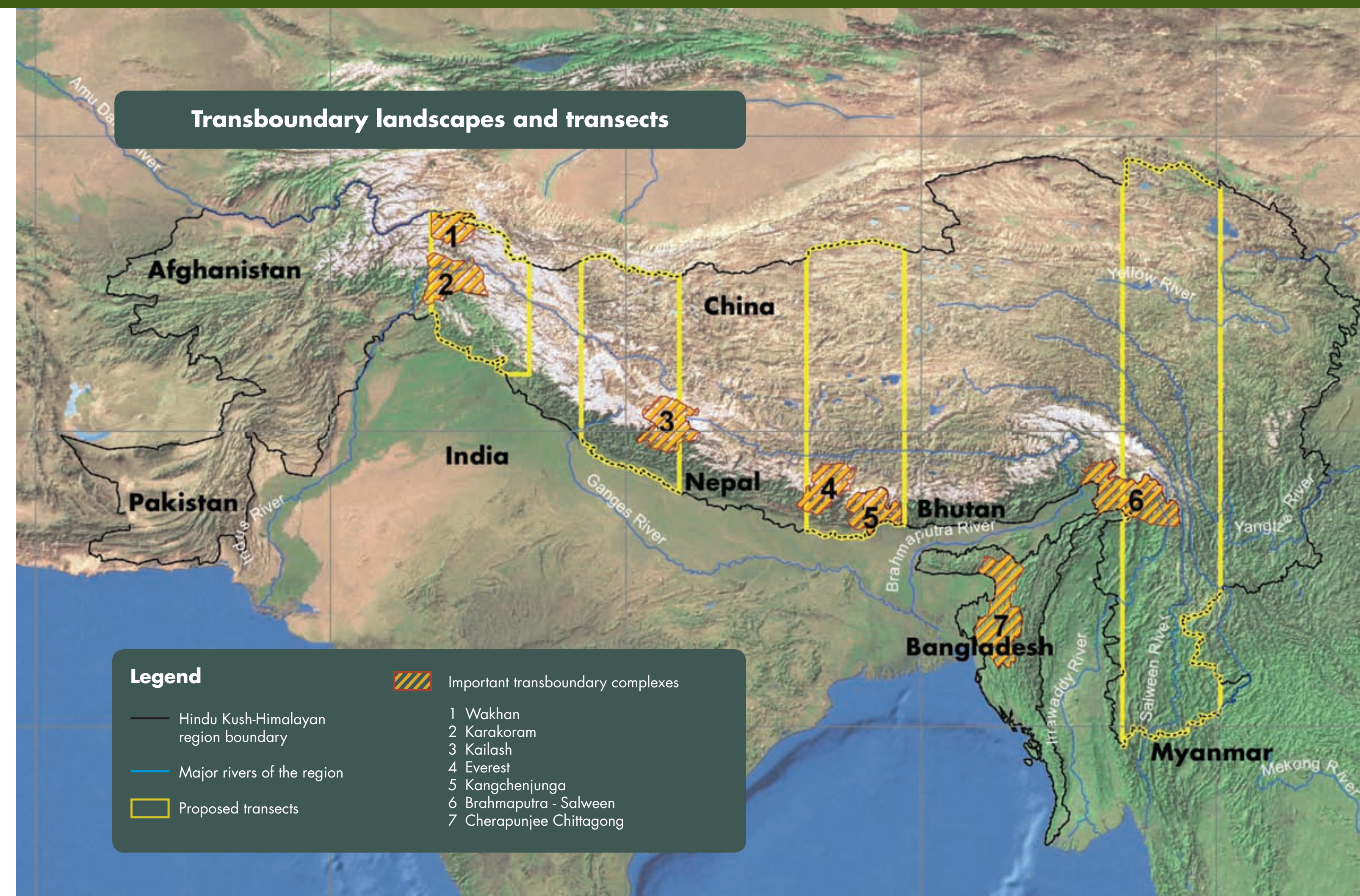


## An approach for long-term ecological research and environmental monitoring to enhance climate change adaptation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region

**The Trans-Himalayan Transect Initiative** engages regional, national, and local partners and the global research community and encourages regional cooperation and national ownership to build and enhance capacity for long-term environmental and ecological research and monitoring across the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region.

### Rationale

The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) revealed the HKH region as a data deficit area needed to assess climate change and its impacts on biodiversity. It is therefore essential to have an improved understanding of regional change processes across the HKH to inform decision-making for conservation, adaptation, and sustainable development in the context of a rapidly changing climate. ICIMOD has delineated four transects from east to west and representing wet and dry areas and low and high-altitude regimes. Better information will provide the scientific basis for effective biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity. Better socioeconomic data will help us to understand the impact of climate change on communities and livelihoods, and to identify adaptation options and long-term strategies.



### Multi-level integrated approach

Development of a regional knowledge base promoting informed decision-making

### A regional approach to long-term monitoring in the HKH

The transboundary approach will develop a regional knowledge base, baselines, and policy frameworks for knowledge and information sharing and capacity building; and encourage national ownership of monitoring and research.

### Policy enabled framework

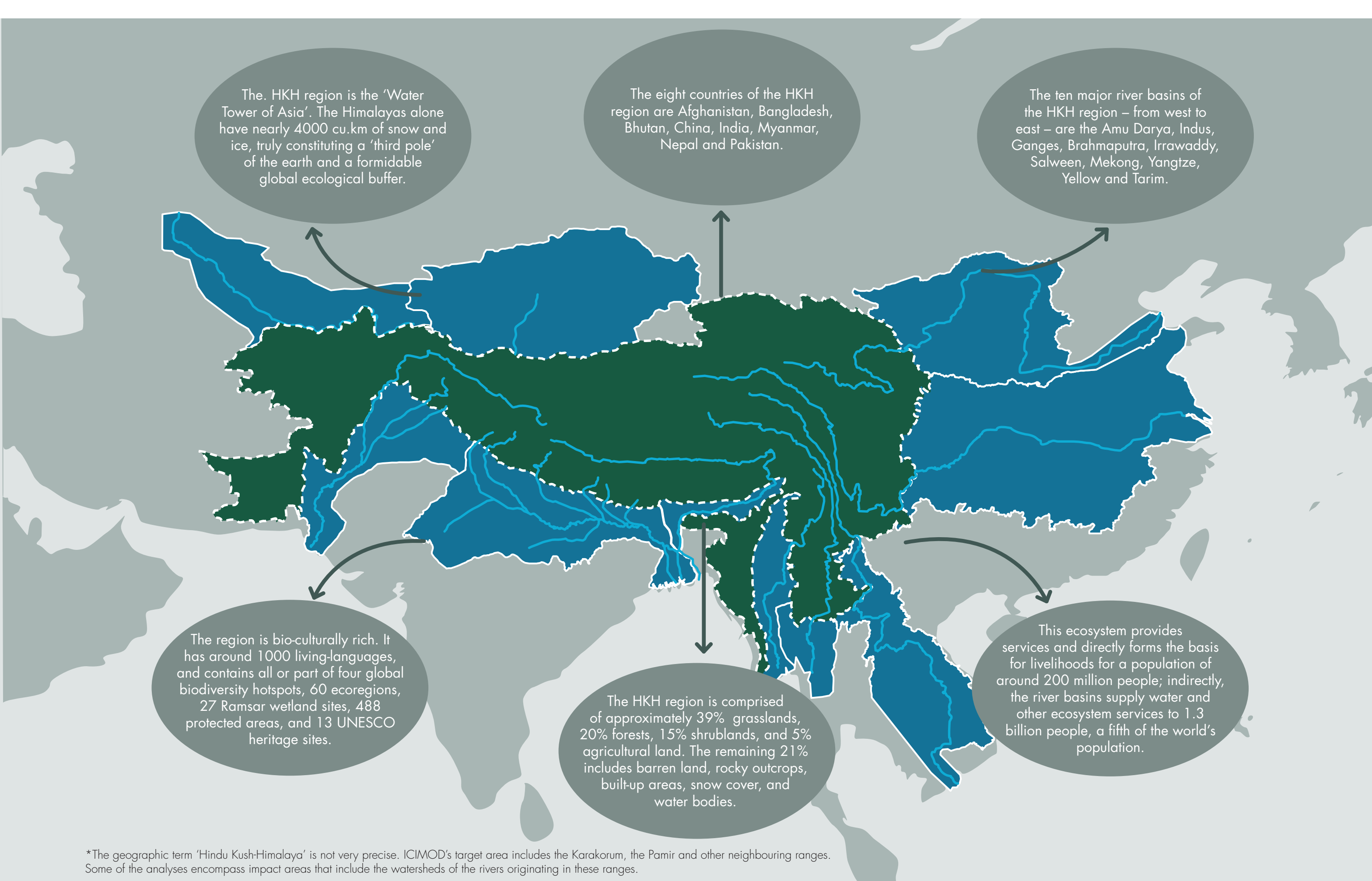
This initiative provides both a geographical sampling frame delineating four large transects (above) and a supportive and over-arching policy framework which builds on national and regional efforts. A regional cooperation approach built around the transects creates a policy-enabling environment based on common standardised protocols and principles of open data exchange.

### Transboundary management platforms

The Transect Initiative is accompanied by activities and programmes specifically targeted toward applied research efforts with a variety of elements of implementation and science. At this level, data is gathered within a specific development, conservation, or management perspective. The transboundary landscape complexes identified by ICIMOD provide the initial opportunity for this applied research; the Kailash Sacred Landscape is the first pilot implementation.

### Practical action / implementation

At this level, the Transect Initiative seeks to directly address poverty reduction and sustainable development, in line with Millennium Development Goals, with a set of concrete activities on the ground that include multiple stakeholders and local communities.



\*The geographic term 'Hindu Kush-Himalaya' is not very precise. ICIMOD's target area includes the Karakoram, the Pamir and other neighbouring ranges. Some of the analyses encompass impact areas that include the watersheds of the rivers originating in these ranges.