

Addressing Poverty and Vulnerability in the Hindu Kush Himalayas

Forging regional partnerships to enable transformative change

ICIMOD
30

THREE DECADES
FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

Conference Vision

Poverty eradication remains one of the greatest challenges facing the world today and is a prerequisite for sustainable development. However, despite global poverty eradication efforts, one in five people on this planet – over 1 billion people – live in extreme poverty. One in seven is undernourished, of which a significant proportion are in Asia. In the mountainous regions of the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH), the poverty rate is on average 5% higher than the rate for the countries as a whole. The determinants of poverty also differ considerably. In particular, parameters such as lower access to basic amenities, poor physical access, and higher dependency rates are more prominent in the mountains.

Despite a high degree of self-reliance, increasing uncertainties, inadequate and insecure access to resources, technology, and finance, a rapidly degrading natural resource base, and insufficient integration into value chains and markets severely compromise the capacities of mountain communities to effectively deal with change and take advantage of emerging opportunities to pull themselves out of poverty.

There is an urgent need to support the adaptation abilities of vulnerable mountain households and communities and ensure the provision of ecosystem services to enhance their resilience focusing specifically on the challenges confronting mountain women and disadvantaged groups. Mountain-specific policies and development interventions to address the needs of the people in the HKH region are still inadequate, primarily because of insufficient knowledge.

The Conference aims to compile updated knowledge on the contours of poverty and enablers of a sustainable development approach for the HKH and thereby, provide inputs specific to the mountain context that can contribute to the formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Conference also proposes to set the tone for forging and strengthening regional partnerships for sustainable mountain development.

International Conference

Kathmandu, Nepal
1–4 December
2013



Conference Themes

- Day 1:** Defining the Contours of a Sustainable Mountain Development Agenda
- Day 2:** Identifying the Development Enablers for the Himalayas – Lessons from Across the Region
- Day 3:** Forging Regional Partnerships and Defining the Programme of Work

Conference Objectives

The Conference will bring together stakeholders from the HKH region and beyond to:

- Crystallize science-based evidence for policy planning and action: To draw together science-based evidence on the extent and contours of poverty and vulnerability in the HKH and deliberate issues, challenges, and opportunities to address poverty and vulnerability in the region and thereby provide scientific evidence for policy planning and action.
- Move beyond pilots to scaling up: To showcase good practices and lessons learnt and identify means for scaling up potential innovative solutions.
- Foster regional partnerships for transformative change: To forge regional cooperation and partnerships for addressing poverty and vulnerability in the HKH region.



Expected Outputs

- Conference recommendations and declaration
- Daily updates in the form of evening bulletins and videos
- Conference report
- Publication of a selection of papers in a special issue peer-reviewed journal

Expected Outcomes

- Outcome Document as a mountain specific input for the consultation process for formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda
- Formation of a Forum for Addressing Poverty and Vulnerability in the Hindu Kush Himalayas

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