

Towards Developing the Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative

Report on the third Regional Consultation on Developing
Transboundary Cooperation for Brahmaputra-Salween
Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (BSLCDI)



Austrian
Development Agency



About ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, ICIMOD, is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Globalisation and climate change have an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues. We support regional transboundary programmes through partnership with regional partner institutions, facilitate the exchange of experience, and serve as a regional knowledge hub. We strengthen networking among regional and global centres of excellence. Overall, we are working to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services for the billions of people living downstream – now, and for the future.



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Internal Report

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Report on the third Regional Consultation on Developing Transboundary
Cooperation for Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape Conservation and
Development Initiative (BSLCDI)

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Report Preparation

Bandana Shakya; Gopal S Rawat; with inputs from the participants

Production Team

Shradha Ghale (Editor); Amy Sellmyer (Editor); Dharma R Maharjan (Layout and design);
Asha Kaji Thaku (Editorial assistant)

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Contents

Foreword

Background	1
The Brahmaputra Salween Landscape	2
Draft Programme Framework proposed during the Nay Pyi Taw consultation	2
Objectives of the consultation	3
Organization of the consultation	3
Opening remarks	4
Highlights of the Technical Sessions	6
Technical Session I: Sharing of country feasibility assessment and draft regional synthesis draft	6
Regional Synthesis: Feasibility Assessment of the BSL	10
Technical Session II: Linking FA to the preparation of Conservation and Development Strategy, Comprehensive Environmental and Socioeconomic Monitoring Strategy, and Regional Cooperation Framework	13
Technical Session III: Country-wise group work	16
Concluding Remarks	20
Way Forward	21
Annexes	
Annex 1: List of participants	23
Annex 2: Detailed programme	24

Foreword

Transboundary natural resource management is receiving increasing attention among academics, policy-makers, practitioners and development cooperation agencies. Concerns about globalization and climate change are bringing together people who live in confined but interlinked geographical regions across national borders. This is further encouraged by knowledge produced by innovative transboundary initiatives that seek to transcend national boundaries for conserving a host of ecosystem goods and services for the benefit of people and the environment. Studies show that as long as we adhere to some basic principles, we can strike a balance between conservation and development while meeting land use demands of the local people upstream-downstream, such as by securing sustainable ecosystem management and numerous services benefiting their lives and livelihoods. These principles of land use emphasize sustainable management of natural resources, stakeholder involvement, and multiple objectives of conserving rare species and habitats. But there are several constraints to implementing these principles, chief among them being finding a “Common Value Addition” that is built on existing national institutional and resource governance mechanisms and clearly demonstrates long-term benefits on a transboundary scale.

Around 1.3 billion people in the upstream and downstream of the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH) depend on the ecosystem goods and services of this unique mountain system for their livelihoods. However, the HKH faces a shortage of comparable data on climate change as well as on various aspects of conservation and development. Similarly, there is limited to no knowledge about the complexities and opportunities provided by ecosystem functions and processes within a landscape. However, it is often realized that the challenges of climate change, poverty, out-migration and conservation of threatened species and use of contiguous habitats across borders can be met by forging transboundary country partnerships. Several countries in the HKH region are thus tackling the above challenges at the landscape level. They are shifting their focus from climate change or biodiversity conservation to capturing the synergies and managing the trade-offs involved in sustainable land use.

In this context, the ‘transboundary landscape approach’ in the HKH seeks to provide tools and concepts, and innovations for productive and protective land use to address common social, economic, and environmental objectives of mountain communities. ICIMOD, along with its country partners China, India and Nepal, has already facilitated a major transboundary initiative, namely Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL). Now we are poised to design another remarkable initiative ‘Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape’ (BSL) through a rigorous consultative and iterative process. For the BSL initiative, we are working with our country partners China, India and Myanmar. The transboundary initiative is grounded in a consultative process that is based on: *EQUITY*, because it leads to *RESPECT* for the added value each country brings; *TRANSPARENCY* because it leads to *TRUST* among countries willing to innovate more and take risks; and *MUTUAL BENEFIT* because it leads to *ENGAGEMENT* which is necessary for building a long-term relationship between different countries for addressing non-climatic and climatic issues.

Rajan Kotru

Programme Manager

Transboundary Landscape Regional Programme
ICIMOD

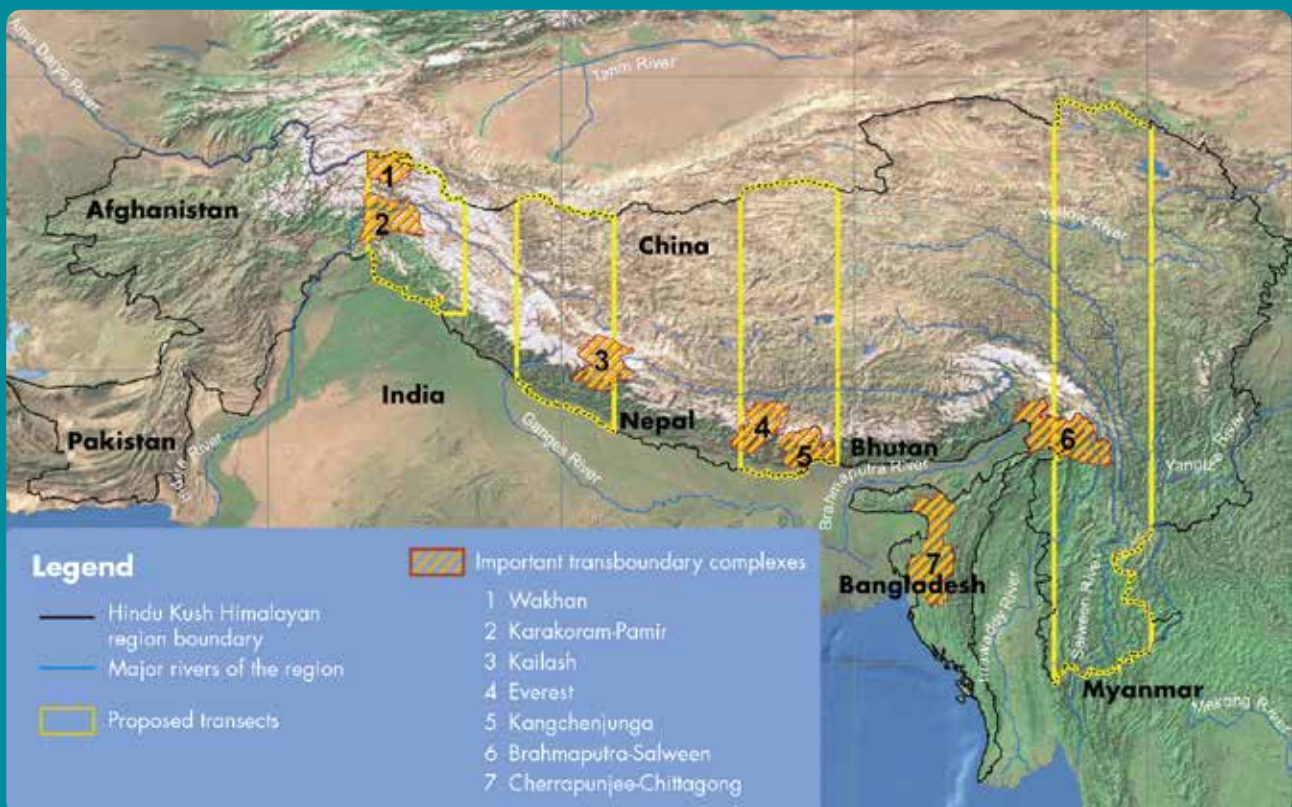
Background

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has a 'Regional Programme' platform for enhancing cooperation among eight member countries in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. The Regional Programme seeks to advance an integrated approach to science; promote innovative management actions for landscapes and river basins; address issues of livelihoods development and climate change adaptation, as well as capacity needs for sustainable growth; and translate innovations into effective policy measures for long-term impact.

Transboundary Landscapes is one of the regional programmes that aim to promote conservation and sustainable use of natural resources (biodiversity, rangelands, farming systems, forests, wetlands and watersheds) in landscapes defined by ecosystems rather than administrative boundaries. The programme also seeks to promote sustainable management of natural and cultural heritage. These efforts are in keeping with ICIMOD's focus on "inter-linkages between ecosystems, upstream-downstream linkages related to ecosystem services, interface between human lives and livelihoods, and linkages to global conservation and development goals" (ICIMOD Strategy and Results Framework 2012).

ICIMOD and its partners have identified seven transboundary landscapes for programmatic cooperation. From west to east across the HKH region, these are: Wakhan, Karakoram-Pamir, Kailash, Everest, Kangchenjunga, Brahmaputra-Salween, and Cherrapunjee-Chittagong (Figure 1). These landscapes are subsets of larger trans-Himalayan transects, where ICIMOD and its partner institutions plan to gather scientific information and strengthen interventions to promote conservation and management of landscapes with ecological and socio-cultural significance in order to improve livelihoods and enhance ecological integrity, economic development, and socio-cultural resilience to environmental changes.

Figure 1: Transboundary landscapes and transects of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region



The Brahmaputra Salween Landscape

The Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape (BSL) (No.6 in the map above) represents one of the most biodiversity rich transboundary landscapes shared by three countries: China, India and Myanmar. The Landscape is the meeting ground of three global biodiversity hotspots, namely the Himalayas, the Indo-Burma, and the Mountains of Southwest China, and is considered as a 'Centre of Plant Diversity', and 'Eastern Asiatic Regional Centre for Endemism', as well as an 'Area of Diversification for Small Mammals'. This landscape has a cluster of eight important protected areas that cover most of the wilderness areas within the landscape, many of them lie along the international border. The Hkakaborazi National Park of Myanmar is contiguous with the Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve in India, as well as with Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary and other protected areas of the Northern Forest Complex of Myanmar that connects with Gaoligangshan National Nature Reserve in Yunnan Province through the Hkakaborazi National Park.

The landscape faces several conservation and development challenges. From agricultural expansion to shifting cultivation to illegal trade of wildlife, these challenges are often associated with the need for economic development. Within the three BSL member countries, the resource management is influenced by asymmetric conservation and development investments, capacity and skills for integrated landscape resource management, and infrastructure for research and scientific monitoring. The need for regional approach and a collaborative effort to support biodiversity conservation and to address poverty have long been felt by partners in the three countries. The proposed Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (BSLCDI) is therefore designed to explore opportunities for action at the regional landscape level. The BSLCDI is based on the 'Transboundary Landscape' framework and is built on experiences gained over the last two years in the Kailash Sacred Landscape.

The BSLCDI was conceptualized in 2008 during the International Mountain Biodiversity Conference, followed by two regional consultations in Yunnan, China (2009) and Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar (2011). The country updates and the 'pre-feasibility' studies in the three countries had indicated ample opportunities in the BSL: to implement the decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially the Mountain Biodiversity Programme of Work; to enhance conservation by promoting collaborative efforts for addressing the poverty; and to strengthen policy and institutions through the development of 'Regional Cooperation Framework'.

There is a realization among stakeholders in the three BSL member countries that achieving the long-term goal of transboundary biodiversity, socioeconomic development, ecosystem management and climate change adaptation within the Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape will require strong commitment from national partners. They also recognize the need for wider partnerships among stakeholders, which are gradually being built through an iterative consultative process.

Draft Programme Framework proposed during the Nay Pyi Taw Consultation

The 'Programme Framework' developed by the three participating countries and ICIMOD seeks to ensure that the ecological integrity of the ecosystems in BSL are safeguarded and sustained; and that there is improved flow of environmental services, socioeconomic development and preservation of cultural heritage, benefitting the livelihoods of people in the landscape.

Goal:

To better conserve and manage transboundary landscapes for sustaining ecosystem goods and services leading to improved livelihoods, enhanced ecological integrity, economic development and socio-cultural resilience to environmental changes by mainstreaming regional cooperation among the countries sharing the transboundary landscape

Objectives:

- To enhance intra and trans disciplinary research (including traditional ecological knowledge) to better understand the socioeconomic conditions, ecosystems and cultural diversity of the landscape, as well as drivers of change
- To maintain and improve the state of biodiversity, ecosystem health and resilience, ecosystem goods and services, as well as cultural heritage in the BSL through an integrated 'ecosystem approach' whereby communities become an integral part of the biodiversity conservation and management process
- To strengthen existing livelihood options or promoting livelihood options linked to conservation, capacity development, and natural resources management and technology transfer between local communities across borders
- To strengthen regional voice and policy environment through transboundary cooperation among the three BSL member countries

Objectives of the consultation

The third regional consultation was organized to share the highlights of the three countries' feasibility assessment reports, which were prepared through a country-led participatory process. The purpose was to provide a regional platform for sharing each country's perspective on the BSL, and discuss opportunities for collaboration at the regional level. The specific objectives of the third regional consultation were:

- To share feasibility assessments made by each country and discuss regional synthesis of the Feasibility Assessment for the Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape
- To link issues, challenges and opportunities described in the feasibility assessment with elements of BSL's Conservation and Development Strategy, Comprehensive Environmental and Socioeconomic Monitoring Strategy, and Regional Cooperation Framework
- To identify regional and national level actions by countries and prepare the work plan for 2014 including discussion on LOA mechanisms and approval processes, and timelines for 2014 activities

Organization of the consultation

About 30 participants representing academic and research institutes, government organizations, international organizations, and interdisciplinary teams from ICIMOD attended the third regional BSL consultation at Kaziranga, Assam, India (see Annex 1: List of participants).

The regional consultation was divided into an opening session, technical sessions and a concluding session (see Annex 2: Detailed programme structure). Ms Bandana Shakya, Associate Programme Coordinator for BSLCDI, explained the structure of the consultation and provided an overview of the event's purpose and expected outputs. Ms Shakya also highlighted the shared responsibilities of the countries represented at the event and of the interdisciplinary teams of ICIMOD.

The opening session commenced with a brief introduction and welcome remarks from Dr Gopal S. Rawat, Chief Scientist – Ecosystem Services, and Programme Coordinator for BSLCDI, ICIMOD. The chair of the session, Mr B. M. S. Rathore, Joint Secretary at the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), welcomed all participants from China, Myanmar, ICIMOD, and colleagues from different institutes, on behalf of MoEF. He said that the meeting was an opportunity to promote transboundary collaboration for the landscape that lies at the confluence of three global biodiversity hotspots. His brief opening address was followed by self-introduction of the participants.

The other two days of the consultation covered three technical sessions and a closing session:

Technical Session I During this session, representatives from China, India and Myanmar presented the country feasibility reports, and ICIMOD highlighted regional issues of common interest. The objective was to ensure that the country representatives from China, India and Myanmar, and ICIMOD gained the same level of understanding about the geographic extent of the BSL; issues and challenges, as well as prospects and opportunities for

regional cooperation; institutional coordination mechanisms for implementation of BSLCDI; gender integration; communication and knowledge management.

Technical Session II set the stage for the next level of activities for developing regional cooperation for the BSL. The session focused on how Feasibility Assessment Report should be linked to the preparation of two other country-level technical documents – the Conservation and Development Strategy (CDS) and the Comprehensive Environmental and Socioeconomic Monitoring Strategy (CESMS) – and to the strategic policy document, namely the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF). Representatives from the three countries shared their experiences in long-term monitoring, policy enabling mechanisms and conservation and development initiatives, while ICIMOD staff shared their knowledge and interventions on thematic areas and regional programmes and inter-linkages among them.

Technical Session III provided a platform for in-depth country wise discussion on different elements of the Conservation and Development Strategy (CDS) and the Comprehensive Environmental and Socioeconomic Monitoring Strategy (CESMS) for the BSL. The reference and guidelines from Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI) were used to aid the discussion process, and to understand the scope and purpose of each document.

The concluding session was facilitated by Dr Rajan Kotru of ICIMOD. Dr Kotru summarized the achievements of the three-day regional meet, highlighting the actions required to move the initiative forward, the deliverables, and the timeline for 2014 activities. Dr Kotru stated that ICIMOD remains committed to facilitating the regional process of cooperation among the three BSL member countries. He said that while we seek to strengthen our foundation through good science, we also see the importance of translating or transmitting knowledge to improve the status of biodiversity in the region and have real impact on people's lives and livelihoods. He indicated that the resources ICIMOD provides the countries for advancing BSLCDI will not be adequate for implementing BSLCDI effectively, and therefore, the regional process will only gain momentum if member countries scale up their support for activities on the ground and include a wide range of stakeholders in the implementation process, thus gathering resources and knowledge from all relevant partners and existing schemes. The session also included closing remarks by the three countries, including a remark from the host country. Dr Prassanna K Samal of GBPIHED, co-organizer of the consultation, delivered the vote of thanks. The third regional consultation concluded with a short field trip to Kaziranga National Park in Assam, India.

Opening remarks

The opening session set the stage for the next two days of deliberations. It included background presentations on ICIMOD's transboundary landscape regional programme, and on the lessons learned from the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI), which is one of the well-established regional transboundary landscape initiatives in the HKH region. Dr Rajan Kotru, Programme Manager for the Regional Programme on Transboundary Landscapes, and Programme Coordinator for the KSLCDI, gave a brief overview of ICIMOD, shed light on the scope of regional transboundary landscape programme and on the lessons learned from the Kailash Sacred Landscape Initiative. After outlining ICIMOD's mission and vision, he talked about ICIMOD's efforts to link science, policy and practice by balancing knowledge production and sharing of knowledge. He reiterated the broad goal of regional transboundary programme: *'to better conserve and manage transboundary landscape for sustaining ecosystem goods and services leading to improved livelihoods and enhanced ecological integrity, economic development, and socioeconomic resilience to environmental changes'*.

Dr Kotru then elaborated on the KSLCDI programme objectives: to bridge the nations through regional cooperation, balance conservation and development, strengthen the capacity of key institutions and improve regional exchange of information for implementing the transboundary programme. He highlighted the five components of the KSLCDI programme, including cross-cutting areas such as governance, gender integration, economic valuation, and private sector engagement. Further, he stated that executing the Regional Transboundary Programme involves a complex process. Although ICIMOD has laid a concrete foundation for the start-up phase, there are several uncertainties and challenges, and achieving the objectives of the programme will require a long-

term partnerships and collaborative efforts by the countries. ICIMOD, he said, will continue to make efforts towards creating a conducive environment and platform for regional exchange and learning in order to facilitate this regional transboundary conservation and development in the BSL.

Building on the rationale for the regional initiative, Dr Dhrupad Choudhury, Programme Manager for the Regional Programme on Adaptation to Change, highlighted the linkages between the transboundary landscape initiatives and other programmes and initiatives of ICIMOD, and how a trans-disciplinary approach is essential for integrating different programmes and initiatives. Dr Choudhury reiterated that the BSL is important not just from a historical perspective but also from an evolutionary perspective, as it brings together elements of different realms and global biodiversity hotspots. The knowledge developed in BSL will help us understand what elements the landscape has retained amid natural and anthropogenic pressures, and how biodiversity has evolved over time in response to the changes. He also stressed that the area has a rich culture and tradition, with diverse ethnic communities and institutions that are involved in managing the resources. He explained that the changes witnessed over the years will direct conservation efforts in the landscape and the ways in which people will respond to change. This is where the other regional programmes come into play. The contours of change, the changes that communities are going through, and the mechanisms they are using to respond to change -- all of these have a great relevance to the BSLCDI, more so as the initiative seeks to promote both conservation and development. It is equally important to look at how socioeconomic change is managed. Shifting cultivation is a dominant system of agriculture in many pocket areas of the landscape, and this definitely has implications for conservation and development. He also said gender and governance perspectives are important with regard to access and decision making, and understanding linkages with migration, interaction between institutions, as well as the whole interplay of customary norms, access and benefit sharing, and comparison with regulatory mechanisms. This has important ramifications for the sustainable management of the BSL. In conclusion, Dr Choudhury said that the BSLCDI programme will be complemented and strengthened by these interdisciplinary actions and initiatives from other programmes at ICIMOD.

Dr Naing Zaw Htun from the Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECF, Myanmar, expressed his pleasure at being part of the consultation and thanked the host country for its warm hospitality. He mentioned that northern Myanmar, with its unique geomorphic and biodiversity features, forms an important part of the BSL. The area within the BSL's geographic boundary is very rich in biodiversity, with several endemic species, and provides unique connectivity to elements of different biogeographic zones. In Myanmar, the protected area in this landscape makes up more than 15% of the total land area. Dr Htun mentioned that maintaining the integrity of the natural landscape in northern Myanmar is a top priority of the government as most sources of fresh water are located there. He also mentioned the lack of adequate human resources for protected area management, the lack of trained human resources, and financial constraints in dealing with several conservation and development issues. He expressed his hope that these challenges would be tackled through collaboration with other neighbouring countries. A regional programme such as this is significant in this regard, he said, because it will enable us to collaborate with other international organizations such as the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Wildlife Conservation Society, Flora Fauna International, and some Chinese institutes. He reiterated that the Government of Myanmar is doing its best to maintain biodiversity, not just in northern Myanmar but throughout the country.

Dr Prassanna K. Samal from GBPIHED, welcomed all the participants and talked about the ecological and cultural diversity of the BSL. He stated that the regional programme can provide an opportunity for multidisciplinary action research that addresses both conservation and development issues. He also discussed the significance of the Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, elaborating on the reserve's rich biodiversity, especially the mega fauna, and then stressed the importance of the regional initiative for the conservation of the landscape. Dr Samal also highlighted the mandate of GBPIHED, and expressed that GBPIHED's interdisciplinary work could add value to the BSLCDI.

The representatives from China could not make it to the opening session due to their delayed flight. They made their presentations the next day.

Mr Manfred W. Seebauer, Chief Technical Advisor at GIZ, congratulated ICIMOD and its partner countries for taking up yet another transboundary landscape initiative, and appreciated ICIMOD's efforts to facilitate the collaborative process in the BSL. He stressed the significance of adopting a regional approach for the conservation and development of the BSL, and the importance of identifying crucial regional elements that will add value to the three countries' efforts to manage the landscape. He mentioned that the BSL team should build upon the learning of the Kailash initiative, and said we should seek ways to promote regional efforts, and look for areas for joint collaborative actions.

Dr R P Agarwalla, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Assam, welcomed all the participants on behalf of the Assam state and congratulated all for adopting the multi-stakeholder and regional approach. He mentioned the GIZ-supported project on climate change in Assam that uses a multistate and multisectoral approach to assess the impact of climate change on agriculture. He stressed the need to link the BSLCDI initiative to the objectives of climate change adaptation, as well as the need to explore cultivation of special crops such as tea and coffee for improving livelihoods. He said that given the importance of the rainforests of upper Assam, it will be necessary to document the effects of climate change on these forests over the years.

The opening session ended with remarks from Mr B. M. S Rathore, who stated that the most encouraging aspect of the BSL is that the contiguous tracts of natural forests in that landscape are still more or less intact. Initiative like the BSLCDI provides all three countries an opportunity to come together and salvage the remaining parcel of land which is of global importance. Needless to say, such an effort will be faced with myriad challenges. Mr Rathore said it is important to understand those challenges and seek answers by working together and building on the experiences gathered in other landscapes. He expressed concerns regarding knowledge asymmetry between the three countries and stressed the need to share available knowledge through some kind of regional knowledge sharing and networking mechanisms. We still need to find ways to link conservation to livelihoods development, and to ensure that the ecosystem services provided by this wonderful landscape primarily benefit the local people while also making a positive impact on environment both at the regional and global level. There are other practical issues that need to be addressed, such as shifting cultivation, floods, governance, gender and climate change, and other non-climatic drivers of change. Regional cooperation is crucial for enabling us to see the BSL as one single constituency or a management unit. There is huge opportunity to build on the experiences of several national programmes being implemented in the landscape, and this makes leveraging of resources easier. We also have to look into policies and guiding instruments at the global and national level. The IUCN programme on protected areas could be very useful in this regard. Links can also be made with the state's Action Plan on Climate Change and district-level planning. There are several institutional and governance issues that need to be analysed from a regional perspective. It is important to have premier national institutions on board, including key stakeholders such as the state government, forest department, rural development stakeholders and universities. The interdisciplinary approach being promoted by ICIMOD is necessary for developing a good partnership framework and ensuring that a wide range of stakeholders take ownership of the initiative. In sum, said Mr Rathore, the landscape provides great opportunities for us to work together and achieve our collective goals.

Highlights of the Technical Sessions

Technical Session I: Sharing of country feasibility assessment and regional synthesis draft

The objective of the session was to understand the geographic extent of the BSL, conservation and development issues and challenges, prospects and opportunities for scientific and technical collaboration, institutional coordination mechanisms for implementation of the BSLCDI, including integration of gender and governance, and communication and knowledge management into the BSLCDI framework. The session was chaired by Mr B M S Rathore and Dr R P Agarwalla. The session comprised of:

- Background presentation on the BSLCDI
- Presentation of the Feasibility Assessment Reports by the respective countries
- Chapter-wise presentation on the Regional Feasibility Assessment by ICIMOD

Background presentation on the BSLCDI

Dr Gopal S. Rawat from ICIMOD gave a background presentation on the BSLCDI. He highlighted the rationale for building scientific and technical knowledge, policy harmonization for effective biodiversity management for the benefit of people, and the need for regional cooperation among the three countries sharing the BSL. He touched on the importance of the BSL landscape as an area of high biogeographic, ecological, hydrological and sociocultural significance. He discussed the brief history of collaboration among countries for the BSL and the possible future direction, as well as the different layers of cooperation needed for the landscape initiative -- scientific and technical cooperation, strategic collaboration for enabling policy mechanisms, and ultimately cooperation for collective practical action on the ground.

Presentation on the Feasibility Assessment Reports

Myanmar

Dr Naing Zaw Htun presented the Feasibility Assessment Report for Myanmar. He began with a brief introduction of the physical and demographic features of Myanmar including vegetation types, forest cover, biodiversity, protected areas, and the organization of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF). He talked about the participatory processes involved in the preparation of the country feasibility assessment report, and about the geographic extent of the target areas delineated for the BSL in Myanmar. The landscape includes seven townships from two administrative areas: Kachin State (Nawngmun, Putao, Machanbaw, Khaunglanphu, Sumprabum, Tanai) and Sagaing Region (Namyun). They cover a total area of 46,410 sq. km and have contiguous ecosystems and protected areas, with 76% coverage of intact forests, five key biodiversity areas, five protected areas, and two nationally designated biodiversity corridors. The rich and unique biodiversity in the area comprises mixed vegetation representing four of the global 200 ecoregions, and a diverse taxa comprising birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, flowering plants, etc. The ethnic diversity is represented by Rawang and Lisu sub-groups in the northern portion, Naga in the far west and Jingpaw sub-group of the Kachin in the east. Being one of the least developed areas in Myanmar, the target area faces several challenges in biodiversity management and development, such as inadequate physical infrastructure, financial constraints, and lack of technically skilled human resources. There is also a lack of site-specific management plans or clearly defined land use policies that can motivate people's participation in biodiversity conservation efforts. The government's priority for management in the area is reflected in the designation of five protected areas that cover more than 55% of the target areas of the BSL. Several mega-development projects and development-based activities are being planned, such as livestock rearing and fish culture, promotion of community forests for fuel wood production, extension of road networks and telecommunications, projects for water and electricity supply, and a project for a special zone for hotels, among others. These activities will open up opportunities for improving livelihoods but they require careful planning to minimize their impact on the natural resource base. Myanmar has several broad policies, laws and strategies to guide conservation actions and to address crosscutting issues relating to climate change. Dr Htun elaborated on conservation and development interventions of national priority; possible actions that the countries can jointly undertake; the existing mechanism for cooperation (MoU with Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden and Kunming Institute of Botany under CAS); and research collaboration with international organizations such as WCS, FFI, and Marburg University. In conclusion, he said that Myanmar will seek to ensure gender integration and participation of relevant partners and stakeholders while implementing the BSLCDI, and that regional efforts should be geared towards maintaining biodiversity and providing a wide range of services for the well-being of people in the landscape.

Some of the national priority actions for Myanmar include:

A: Biodiversity Management

- Effectively enforce laws against encroachment, poaching, illicit logging and illegal extraction of forest products
- Strengthen monitoring along international borders against illegal trade of forest products, wildlife, etc.
- Restore forest cover in critical watersheds.

- Introduce buffer zone management in peripheral areas around PAs to harmonize sustainability of biodiversity and sustainable development of local communities.
- Conduct status surveys of priority species and distribution, and link the results to conservation management.
- Assess the status of existing biodiversity outside PAs and develop options for managing major drivers of change.
- Promote community forestry and agroforestry.
- Promote communities' participation in biodiversity conservation through a buffer zone approach.

B. Livelihoods enhancement

- Consider how local people will benefit through the management of PAs.
- Promote ecotourism to ensure benefits for local communities and to minimize impact on nature and local traditions.
- Implement integrated water resource management.
- Replace destructive shifting cultivation practices by permanent agriculture.
- Establish markets for local crops.

C. Climate Change

- Improve meteorological and hydrological observation stations for early warning systems.
- Develop early warning system for reducing the vulnerability of local communities to floods.
- Assess the hydrological impact of climate change on river systems.
- Monitor climate change impacts as well as adaption measures in the area.
- Research on types of agriculture that endures the effects of climate change
- Promote research on climate change and pest resistant varieties of food crops that are favourable to local conditions.
- Research and knowledge generation
- Long-term environmental monitoring
- Capacity strengthening and technology transfer

India

Dr Prassana K. Samal presented the Feasibility Assessment Report for India. He began with a brief overview of GBPIHED's mandate, and went on to explain the rationale for defining conservation targets, understanding conservation and development trade-offs, building participatory conservation alternatives, incorporating climate change dimensions, and developing a functional network of institutions. Dr Samal shared seven options for the geographic extent of the BSL in India, though at present the BSL only includes the Namdapha National Park/Tiger Reserve and surrounding areas covering about 2000 sq. km. The National Park is located in Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh. Its significance lies in its strategic biogeographic location and transboundary feature; it is the gateway into Chinese, Burmese and Thai flora, as well as home to a large number of endemic and globally threatened species. The local communities living around the Namdapha National Park can be divided into three well-defined groups: (a) groups known to be living in the area from time immemorial (Singhphos, Tangsas and Tutsas), (b) groups known to have migrated over the last few centuries (Lisus, Noctes and Oeories) and (c) groups of refugees known to be resettled (Tibetans, Chakmas and Hajongs). Dr Samal said that the Namdapha National Park is identified as an Eastern Asiatic Regional Center of diversity and endemism and is a huge genetic reservoir of diverse species. It is one of the relict rainforest patches in the country that harbors the rare lowland tropical wet evergreen Dipterocarpus forests. The Namdapah NP is home to many species of global importance, such as the four wild cats (tiger, clouded leopard, snow leopard, common leopard), Hollock gibbon, Hornbill and Namdapha flying squirrel, as well as many flowering plant species. Out of 136 mammalian genera found in India, Namdapha is home to 75 genera. Twelve distinct forest types are found in the Namdapha NP with a large variety of timber and endemic species. The area also has a substantial amount of agrodiversity resources that are integral to the community. There are several national policies and initiatives supporting biodiversity management, as well as state policies such as Arunachal Pradesh Biological Diversity Rules, 2011, Arunachal Pradesh Forest Reserve Act, 1975, and Balipara/Sadiya/Tirap Frontier Tract Jhum Regulation 1947 (also known as Assam Jhum Land Regulation, 1947). The local people carry valuable knowledge about ecological viability and maintenance of soil fertility in shifting agriculture, land tenure and customary practices, community dynamics, indigenous SWC practices, mixed

cropping, weed management, coppicing of trees, creation of fire lines, and clearing of dried leaves. Dr Samal's presentation also highlighted gender integration for empowering women and building their economic capacity.

Some of the national priority actions for India include:

A. National Level

- Forest mapping and inventorization of the rich and unique flora and fauna to acquire a reliable database on forest and wildlife
- Promotion of community-based tourism to improve livelihoods of local communities
- Promotion of horticulture by adopting 'integrated agro-horti-silviculture cultivation' model that offers scope for addressing the issue of shifting cultivation and promotion of horticultural crops
- Need-based assessment for potential interventions, institutionalization of mechanism for technology backstopping and capacity building of rural upland farmers in simple, low-cost, appropriate technologies
- Documentation of traditional knowledge and NRM, biodiversity conservation and its incorporation in conservation strategy

B. Regional Level

- Share information about biodiversity among the three countries to advance knowledge about their regional significance and optimize resources for conservation actions.
- Strengthen regional collaboration and build networks for research and livelihoods enhancement.
- Mutual cooperation in expertise and capacity enhancement training

China

The Feasibility Assessment from China was presented by Dr Xuefei Yang from Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Dr Xuefei began by briefly recounting the history of the BSLCDI. She recalled the first national consultation in Kunming, where representatives from different countries reached consensus on ICIMOD's transboundary conservation and landscape initiative. The first regional consultation provided an opportunity to discuss key issues in conservation, which gradually expanded the understanding of biodiversity values and conservation challenges in the BSL. The consultation also provided a platform for fruitful interactions among partners in other countries who knew about specific aspects of transboundary cooperation. As a follow-up to the process, China organized a national consultation to discuss the possibility of applying for National Science Foundation fund to support research and knowledge development activities in the BSL. Dr Xuefei then reminded the participants of the second regional consultation held in Myanmar that consolidated the plan of action for the BSL. The national consultation for feasibility assessment and policy analysis covered the following topics -- ongoing ecosystem monitoring in Gaoligangshan, conservation, reintroduction of plant species with extremely small population (PSESP), community co-management of water resources in protected areas, and China-Myanmar cooperation for alternative cash crop plantation in northern Myanmar. On the delineation of areas within the BSL, Dr Xuefei indicated that the three portions of Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve (GNNR) and parts of the area that has been designated as a World Heritage Site will be included within the BSL. She also shared some updated information about species diversity in GNNR, and about the efforts to monitor the sites and establish permanent plots along the Gaoligongshan range. Further, she said that there are around 2 million inhabitants living in areas adjacent to GNNR. They are either Han Chinese, or belong to ethnic groups such as Nu, Yi, Lisu, Dulong, Tibetan, and Pumi. Most depend on traditional paddy farming or rain-fed upland cultivation for livelihoods. Other sources of income include cash crop plantation, off-farm employment and non-timber forest products. Among existing conservation and community development programmes are China-Dutch Intergovernmental Cooperation Project that supports interventions related to energy, afforestation, livestock rearing, capacity building and village infrastructure development; and Global Environmental Facility Project that facilitates a participatory management approach and piloting of energy saving options. She indicated that China is now looking for ways to link development and conservation, which will help establish mechanisms for local consultation and dialogues within communities. There is already a farmer co-management committee in GNNR whose members are involved in several conservation related activities such as Framework Tree Plantation Demonstration Project. Dr Xuefei then drew attention to some threats to biodiversity in GNNR and surrounding areas, the most pressing ones being large

scale commercial harvesting of traditional medicinal plants and ornamental orchids, transboundary forest fires and habitat fragmentation. She also talked about China's policy for enabling regional transboundary biodiversity conservation.

At the national level, priority actions for China include:

- Prepare a biodiversity inventory for the less explored areas in Gaoligongshan and establish more monitoring plots.
- Develop a knowledge sharing platform.
- Launch a pilot study of ecosystem service payment mechanism.
- Strengthen capacity with regards to value addition of plant products.
- Establish a national Gaoligongshan biodiversity centre in Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB) for project coordination.

At the regional level, actions proposed for China include:

- Establish mechanisms for controlling forest fires and biodiversity smuggling between China and Myanmar, and for the management of transboundary protected areas.
- Enhance both bilateral and multilateral cooperation for biodiversity conservation.

Some actions plans suggested were:

- Joint expedition and surveys
- Biodiversity information facility, database and data sharing guidelines
- Establishment of monitoring sites
- Registration of farmers' intellectual property rights
- Co-management and compensation for ecosystem services

Regional Synthesis: Feasibility Assessment of the BSL

Delineation of target area for the BSL

Dr M. S. R Murthy of ICIMOD began his presentation by explaining the process in which the countries delineated the areas of operation for the BSL, and explained how the boundaries are merged at the regional level. The regional level boundary included criteria such as the contiguity between globally recognized ecosystems, the degree of topographic contrast (elevation and aspect), diversity of land cover and use (habitat heterogeneity and resource contrast), land use (shifting cultivation and fire occurrences). These topics are important for the integrated regional boundary of the BSL. The tentative boundary of the BSL has been developed after combining the proposed areas from three countries. He stressed that the BSL boundary will not be an administrative boundary, but rather an operational boundary that guides the implementation of the BSLCDI activities and helps to consolidate the regional learning in the landscape.

The landscape: significance, issues and challenges

Ms Bandana Shakya of ICIMOD elucidated the significance of the BSL, noting that the BSL landscape richly contributes to global biodiversity and represents the priority areas of global conservation such as Global Biodiversity Hotspots (depicting high endemism and loss of >70% of original habitats); Global 200 Ecoregions (depicting the world's most outstanding habitats with evolutionary and biogeographic significance); Endemic Bird Areas, Centre of Plant Diversity, Alliances for Zero Extinction (species level endemism and conservation); Key Biodiversity Areas, World Heritage Sites, and ASEAN Heritage Parks (areas of high biocultural value). The landscape already has seven protected areas – one in India, one in China (in three segments), and five in Myanmar. This clearly indicates priority in part of the countries for the protection and management of the unique biodiversity of the BSL. Besides its rich biodiversity, the BSL is a tremendous warehouse of knowledge and wisdom of several ethnic communities. Its significance also lies in the fact that it hosts the last remaining tracts of intact natural forest ecosystems, several transitional ecoregions and zoogeographic ecotones (ecosystems stratified by elevation and aspect-therefore with

high beta diversity); agrodiversity resources (nurtured by traditional knowledge and practices of communities); relict species; and several endemic, rare and globally endangered species. The landscape has areas that are scientifically least explored and known, and thus provides opportunity for research and scientific collaboration for proactive conservation of large, contiguous areas. Estimating the biodiversity richness of the landscape is challenging as some areas are inaccessible owing to their complex mountain topography, and there are gaps in the countries' capacity for assessing diversity. The other important aspect of BSL is its socio-cultural diversity and richness. The local communities carry abundant skills that can be promoted for strengthening and diversifying livelihoods options. Indiscriminate harvesting of natural resources, especially medicinal plants, habitat fragmentation, over-exploitation of resources, illegal logging, poaching, invasion of exotic species, deforestation for timber and firewood, urbanization, mining, and forest fires pose serious challenges to conservation efforts. Addressing conservation and development issues in the BSL demands transcending the political boundaries of individual countries and achieving strong cooperation between governments. Some bilateral efforts are under way, such as the formulation of a joint committee between the governments of Myanmar and Yunnan Province in China to combat illegal logging along the China–Myanmar border. However, there is an urgent need for a holistic regional framework to tackle common conservation concerns and bring integrated outcomes for science, conservation and development for the entire landscape.

Integrated landscape management priority actions including research priorities

Biodiversity conservation

Dr Gopal S. Rawat of ICIMOD began his presentation by reiterating the rationale for a transboundary landscape initiative: to expand knowledge about the landscape and integrate efforts to manage the ecosystem in order to enhance the ecosystem services and the resilience of communities. He stressed the need for a regional biodiversity data portal, ecosystem management and a long-term monitoring framework to facilitate research that generates comparative data from across the landscape. An interdisciplinary approach is necessary to achieve holistic knowledge about the various elements of change in land use, land cover, ecosystems, communities and livelihoods. Research in the BSL can address key issues related to ecosystem degradation as well as the lack of scientific understanding about certain parts of the landscape. There is need for research in areas such as the status (health and integrity) of various ecosystems within the BSL; potential opportunities for large scale ecosystem restoration that can promote biodiversity and human well-being; comparison of the flow of ecosystem goods and services in Wildlife Protected Areas and in Community Conserved Areas in the BSL; the economic potential of various ecosystem services, etc. Collaborative research could also be conducted to assess ecosystem vulnerability and valuation of key ecosystems. Findings from such research can help us restore degraded areas, identify ecologically sensitive and important areas, and develop appropriate management interventions. Dr Rawat shared the matrix outlining research priorities for each country, so that they are reflected in both CDS and CESMS.

Livelihoods and development

Dr Dhruvad Choudhury from ICIMOD offered insight into why it is important to synchronise the objectives of conservation with communities' aspirations for livelihoods and the policy objectives of governments. Citing the example of shifting cultivation, Dr Choudhury stated that despite several efforts to discourage the practice, it still persists in many countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Myanmar. The common perception is that the practice is primitive, economically unviable, causes deforestation and environmental destruction, and hence must be replaced. Reality is that shifting cultivation has always remained a subsistence farming practice. It has limited scope for cash generation not due to lack of marketable products but due to inadequate and unorganised links to markets. Alternatives such as wet rice cultivation and cash crop plantation have been introduced, but communities still continue to practice shifting cultivation, because in its undistorted form, it provides them with food for the whole year through sequential harvesting of multiple crops, and other provisions such as fuel wood and wild edibles from forest fallows, which are essential to shifting cultivation. Shifting cultivators nurture their fallow forests even during the cultivation phase. In addition fallow management involves important conservation-oriented practices such as retaining tree species through coppicing and lopping, and retaining root stocks and trunks for sufficient regeneration. Shifting cultivation could thus be seen as an interdependent production system that allows

sequential agriculture and forest management in the same plot, separated over a time period. After providing this background, Dr Choudhury discussed the prospects of furthering our understanding about agricultural and forest land use in the BSL, and the prospects for research on REDD plus, innovative livelihoods, biodiversity assessment of shifting cultivation areas, changes in land use and ecosystem services, and gender and governance.

Gender integration in the BSLCDI

Dr Manohara Khadka of ICIMOD stated that gender integration in the BSLDI is essential for making all related policies, processes and programmes gender-sensitive. It will enable us to examine the differences between women and men in terms of their roles, needs, priorities, capacities, opportunities, and structural issues related to inequality, power relations affecting access to and control over resources, and benefits and opportunities of participation and decision making. This will help us gain a multi-layered and gender-nuanced understanding of natural resource management, mountain biodiversity, water, energy, forests, rangelands, wetlands and land management and farming practices etc. It will also help us explore gaps in institutions' capacity for gender analysis, gender-sensitive policy making and advocacy, research and knowledge development and communication. Dr Khadka then shared the gender integration framework for the BSLCDI, highlighting issues of equal access in participation, voice, and influence. She then elaborated on the six-step process for gender integration in a transboundary landscape. Dr Khadka indicated that gender integration is not a one-time affair, but a continuous process of learning, review and reflection. ICIMOD and its strategic partners and other stakeholders of the BSLCDI will engage in a series of non-linear actions to make this process successful.

Integrated knowledge management and communication for BSL

Mr Deependra Tandukar of ICIMOD described ICIMOD as a centre for regional knowledge, learning, and action in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. He mentioned that the organization has been facilitating information and knowledge exchange using a diverse range of communication pathways and products. The communication strategy for BSL fits into the broader framework of ICIMOD's institutional communication strategy to address information needs pertaining to specific regional initiatives. He stressed the need to develop a strategic communication mechanism for disseminating information about the BSLCDI initiatives and its linkages with existing national efforts among a wide range of stakeholders including communities in the remote areas in the landscape. The regional mechanism should incorporate existing mechanisms for bilateral communication between two countries. Mr Tandukar stated that effective communication for the BSLCDI is essential for smooth information flow and for effective coordination among the three participating countries and ICIMOD. It will help prevent duplication of efforts by different organizations and promote collective ownership for BSLCDI by the partners. A schematic diagram of knowledge management and communication for the BSL was also presented, highlighting different tools for sharing information, different KM products targeted for specific audiences, mechanisms for internal communication, and linkages to existing Geoportal, HimalDoc, BSLCDI collaborative workspace, ICIMOD website, Regional Database, and Mountain Good Practices portal. At the end, Mr Tandukar talked about the BSL process documentary on the BSL, that is being developed as a part of feasibility assessment. At the end, he urged the countries to identify capacity strengthening needs for knowledge management, and effective coordination and implementation of BSLCDI activities.

Framework for an institutional coordination mechanism for the BSLCDI

Dr Rajan Kotru of ICIMOD began the presentation by reminding that ICIMOD has been generating and sharing innovative knowledge and bridging policy, practice, research and development. Touching upon the programme design process for the BSLCDI, Dr Kotru stated that we should be collectively aware of the BSLCDI's goal and understand the plan, process and mechanisms for achieving that goal. The important aspect of implementing regional programme is clarity about institutional coordination both at the national and regional levels. At the regional level, there can be a regional steering committee or the highest decision-making body comprising government representatives, donors, observers, and invitees. At the national level, national coordination committee is required to oversee the technical aspects of the programme including networking and building national-level

partnerships. Focal institutions are an integral part of the national coordination committee and programme management unit (ICIMOD and representatives of focal institutes from the three countries), and they have a key role in coordination and in building a national-regional linkage.

Partnership development and impact pathways

In his next presentation Dr Rajan Kotru of ICIMOD elaborated on the importance of cooperation between partners for implementing regional programmes. Achieving broad outcomes for the whole landscape requires integrating the efforts of all stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels, because one or two institutions alone cannot achieve the goals of improving the quality of science, sharing and upgrading knowledge and practices, and ensuring benefits for the local people. In this regard, partnership mapping is important for identifying and assessing available skills and knowledge and then initiating complementary efforts for making positive impacts. For building long-term partnership, it is important to respect every single contribution from partners and maintain transparency.

There are various criteria for building partnership, and it is important for each partner to identify key starting points and have clarity about their mandate and goal. Broad partnerships are needed to strengthen the impact pathway. Each partner should evaluate how they are making an impact on the regional programme, taking into account the intermediary actions, outputs (direct deliverables of an activity or linked activities) and outcomes (short-term and medium-term effect of an output). Judging the impact pathway also requires understanding terms or harmonized terminology such as baseline (quantitative and qualitative value of an indicator as it exists prior to the intervention), and indicators (quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement, to reflect the changes). Measuring results through such pathways is important for determining the success and failure of the process, and on that basis, either expanding it or finding an alternative. Measuring results in the BSLCDI will require an iterative process that involves defining what we can measure, planning how and when we measure it, and communicating with all stakeholders for generating better results. For regional programmes where stakeholders come from different countries, it is important to have a common set of principles for evaluation such as relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability.

Technical Session II: Linking FA to the preparation of Conservation and Development Strategy, Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring Strategy and Regional Cooperation Framework

The session focused on how to link feasibility assessment to the other two technical documents for developing the basis for regional cooperation among the three countries. The sessions included presentations on various elements of the Conservation and Development Strategy and the Comprehensive Environmental and Socio-economic Monitoring Strategy.

Long-term monitoring and transboundary biodiversity conservation in Gaoligongshan (GLGS), Southwest China

Prof. Gao Lian-Ming's presentation focused on various aspects of long-term environmental monitoring such as system setups, plant community assemblage and biodiversity inventory, mainly in the middle part of the Gaoligong Mountains range bordering China and Myanmar. Gaoligong Mountain is a hotspot for biodiversity with a large number of endemics and species gene pool. In order to monitor the biodiversity, the Kunming Institute of Botany has established several permanent plots on both the western and eastern slopes of the mountain along varied altitude gradients. The plots are meant to measure all trees, shrubs herbaceous plants including specific plant traits (DBH, height, canopy, leaf thickness, leaf area, leaf dry weight, Nitrogen, Phosphorus; shrub branch number, branch diameter and height; herbs cluster number, coverage and height). The environmental and climatic factors are also measured. Dr Gao also elaborated on plot sizes, comparison of plant diversity along these different plots, and explained how the monitoring plots will help us understand biodiversity dynamics over different time periods, along elevation gradient, and in the changing climate. They will also help us determine the evolutionary significance of community niche structures and assemblages, and thus contribute to the science of phylogeny and biogeography. He talked about a DNA barcoding project for biodiversity of GNNR that develops new approaches

to species identification and discovery, and provided references to several scientific publications. He added that such information can support effective monitoring of even plant and animal products, and thus enable systematic planning for conservation. Dr Gao concluded his presentation by sharing the findings of molecular studies on Yew (*Taxus* sp) from the Hindu Kush Himalayas and the prospects for transboundary research.

Integrated landscape management: Use of geospatial tools and Regional Information Systems

Dr M. S. R. Murthy of ICIMOD elaborated on the use of geospatial technology for integrated landscape management, referring to the hierarchy of spatial and temporal scale and also of various practices, processes and impacts of landscape management. He shared examples from the SERVIR-Himalaya Initiative for developing regional characterization and a monitoring system for agriculture, grasslands, forests, snow and daily aerosols, and explained how they can be used to understand processes such as transhumance grazing, forest type transitions, land cover change and fragmentation, habitat suitability and corridor identifications, and forest fire vulnerability. Dr Murthy also talked about the prospects for niche modelling based on presence-absence data, analysis of species abundance and distribution, forest resource information map, and identification of biodiversity rich zones. He explained that in a geospatial interface system, the patterns, processes, structure and functions of the landscape can be analysed to guide direct strategic planning or predict calamities, on the basis of which adaptation and mitigation actions can be devised at the ground level. To achieve these results and outcomes, it is necessary to share data and synergise the efforts of all relevant institutions.

Policy and enabling mechanisms for regional cooperation in conservation and development: Perspectives from India

Dr Pijus K. Dutta from Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), India began his presentation by highlighting the major areas that require transboundary cooperation such as innovative livelihoods options for communities, capacity building of institutions for research and development, Illegal wildlife trade, community based natural resources management, and information and knowledge sharing. He then elaborated on related legal provisions in India, including state laws that guide biodiversity management in the BSL-India. There are also similar instruments at the global level such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resource (ITPGR) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that place conservation and development actions of individual countries within a broader framework. In India, the objectives of regional initiatives such as the BSLCDI are already complemented by the National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, which advocates for protecting vulnerable ecosystems and people, enhancing ecological stability and deploying innovative technologies on the ground, enhancing monitoring, promoting community-based management and strengthening regional cooperation for exchange of information with countries that share the Himalayan ecology. Secondly, there is also a 'Look East Policy' that aims to enhance economic relations with ASEAN countries.

It was suggested that target based approach to systematically ensure community participation outside the core and buffer area of Namdapha NP would enhance the conservation process. Convergence of BSL-India initiatives with government policies and programmes, synchronization of the conservation/development activities under BSL-India with agriculture/other activities of the local communities, community's involvement in the initiative from the early stage of programme development, women empowerment, capacity enhancement of local people, confidence building, data gap identification and matrix approach to strengthen the local institutions like Village Council, Anchal Samiti, Zila Parishad, are some parameters of intervention. Although, it is essential to integrate Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) with traditional institutions, it is also important to strengthen PRIs so that they can play a pivotal role in the growth and development of local communities.

Role of governance and institutions

Dr Rucha Ghate of ICIMOD mentioned that when we are clear about the three w's – what, where, and why – for the programme, we have to look into the 'how and who' for implementation. In integrated programmes such as the BSLCDI, which involves different tiers of stakeholders, identifying the 'who' is complex and demands a coordinated regional effort that caters to communities, national stakeholders, and regional and global players. It is necessary to integrate conservation actions and development initiatives and to ensure that management is not focused on one tier at the expense of others. It is also important to consider institutional diversity, as it provides a buffer and safety net in times of change and crisis, just as areas with higher species diversity have higher potential for adaptation. Dr Ghate underscored the need to rethink the governance of protected areas by asking: 'protection for whom?', 'protection from whom?' and 'protection by whom?'. Change of governance regime can have several unintended outcomes. Explaining the guidelines on governance mechanisms for transboundary landscape, Dr Ghate stressed that 'cooperation' might be the only solution for dealing with the complex ecosystems and the multiple perspectives, institutions and challenges in a regional landscape shared by more than two countries.

Conservation and development perspectives in Myanmar

Dr Naing Zaw Htun from Myanmar said that Myanmar faces many conservation issues, and the challenge is to harmonize economic development and sustainability of natural capital. Dr Htun elaborated on the National Comprehensive Development Plan (NCDP), which considers thematic areas such as climate change and environmental conservation, forest resource conservation, biodiversity conservation and ecotourism, rural development, and poverty reduction. This can encourage green growth for the well-being of both the environment and people. A comprehensive framework for biodiversity conservation, management and utilization is also provided by the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Myanmar is committed to promoting conservation in accordance with international conventions, and has already identified seven potential natural sites such as the Northern Mountain Forest Complex and Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, which are located in the target areas of the BSL-Myanmar. Conservation-oriented development is being promoted through ecotourism development. Several protected areas including those within the BSL-Myanmar, such as Hkakaborazi National Park, Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary and Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary have been designated as ecotourism sites, and developing an ecotourism strategy for protected areas is on Myanmar's priority list. The Environment Operations Center (EOC) under the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) programme is preparing a concept for ecotourism development and regulation of the distribution of ecotourism benefits. Exploring REDD+ and the development of national REDD+ mechanism is another area that can contribute to the objective of conservation and development. In the BSL, priority actions for conservation and development include establishing communication mechanisms to combat illegal wildlife trade; incorporating watershed protection in the crosscutting programmes; managing shifting cultivations; promoting traditional and indigenous knowledge about sustainable resources utilization; and surveying native agrobiodiversity. Since majority of people in the BSL areas are marginalized farmers who rely on subsistence livelihoods, it is important to focus on livelihoods development, training and education.

Adaptation to change: Livelihoods and food security

Dr Dhruvad Choudhury of ICIMOD began by introducing the framework for ICIMOD's regional programme on 'Adaptation to Change.' He described the linkages between science, practice, and policy that are necessary for enhancing the adaptation capacity of women, men and children of the HKH region. He also briefed the participants about the various initiatives that contribute to the objectives of the regional programme, such as the Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP), Improving Livelihoods and Enhancing Resilience of the Rural Poor in the HKH (*Adapt HIMAL*) and Support to Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas (HIMALICA). These initiatives support knowledge generation on climate and water availability in selected river basins, assessment of stream flow, and the delineation of poverty pockets through the use of Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment Tools, which are made available for policy reappraisal and refinement and for targeting development interventions. Qualitative assessments of communities' perception of change, impacts of change and communities' responses are also done by using participatory rural appraisal tools. Such interventions provide

insights about how to integrate adaptation into development objectives. Regarding actions for adaptation on the ground, Dr Choudhury shared examples of livelihoods diversification options that have increased communities' on-farm non-farm opportunities, created better market linkages and improved access to information, extension services and government programmes and schemes. Dr Choudhury mentioned that strengthening communities' capacity and institutional capacity is an integral component of all initiatives and regional programmes, where support is provided to strategic partners for their capacity building, with prime focus on women empowerment and skill development. As land use has special relevance for the BSL, Dr Choudhury shed further light on how to manage the changes in shifting cultivation.

Technical Session III: Country-wise group work

The session helped the three countries understand the objectives of the other two technical documents (Conservation and Development Strategy and the Comprehensive Environmental and Socioeconomic Monitoring Strategy) and to identify their key elements.

Participants worked in their respective country-wise groups. Colleagues from ICIMOD joined the group as needed. Templates were provided for group work. The results from the group work were presented in the plenary session.

Group work A: Conservation and Development Strategy (CDS)

The purpose of the BSL Conservation and Development Strategy is to promote biodiversity conservation at various levels and to keep the ecosystem services intact. Conservation and management of resources have to be carried out through an integrated approach to ecosystem management and by strengthening regional cooperation among the three countries. The main objective of the CDS is to support the conservation of important biodiversity (ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic diversity) in the BSL, and to promote sustainable use of bio-resources to improve people's livelihoods, and in the process make people part and parcel of the conservation agenda and biodiversity governance.

For the group work on the CDS, participants explored the following questions:

1. What are the areas of national focus and priority actions with regard to C&D in the BSL area?
2. What mechanisms already exist for conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in the BSL?
3. What regional activities do you propose for enhancing or supporting C&D actions for the BSL?

Country-wise summary is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of components of CDS

	Country Group (China)	Country Group (India)	Country Group (Myanmar)
Key national priority areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate Corridor Plan in GLGS • Build GLGS Biodiversity Information Facility • Expedition and Biodiversity Inventory • Conservation and Re-introduction of PSESP (plant species with extremely small population) • Community development and payment for ecosystem services. Pilot case study of community co-management and compensation for ecosystem service; • Registration of farmers' intellectual property rights, trade markers, such as geographical indication, and certification of organic products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity characterisation of NNP • Research and survey in NNP and areas outside especially in Red list species • Mainstream biodiversity concerns in buffer/multiple use zone • Promotion of suitable conservation based livelihood for communities (community-based ecotourism in PAs, promotion of Women Self Help Group (SHG) etc.) • Capacity building of local communities to strengthen the management and protection of biodiversity rich areas; capacity strengthening of frontline staff • Ensure sustainable utilization of forest resources for sustenance (fuel wood, bamboo, timber) and for commercial purpose – Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) • Rationalization of PA boundaries and zonation including multiple use areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combating illegal wildlife trade • Reducing unsustainable land use practices (shifting cultivation, gold mining, dynamite fishing, etc.) • Monitoring development activities (dam construction, hydropower plant, road expansion) • Biodiversity assessment, at least for key or flagship species • Strengthen biodiversity management activities • Documenting indigenous and traditional knowledge on sustainable resource utilization • Baseline data for ethnic population, livelihoods, traditions and customs • Restoring shifting cultivation affected areas • Considering gender/ social equity in project planning and implementation

Existing mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's Strategies and Action Plans for Biodiversity Conservation (2011-2030) • Research data available with many individual researchers • MOU for biodiversity conservation between Chinese of Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Forest Department • Ongoing projects on conservation mechanism for PSESP • Guiding policy to be released at the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has comprehensive and exhaustive framework of laws and policies, such as Wildlife Protection Act for its rich biodiversity conservation. • In order to help in realizing the objectives of CBD, India has enacted an umbrella legislation called the biological Diversity Act 2002. • National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem under National Action Plan on Climate Change for Himalayan Sustainable development while addressing also the protection of the fragile ecosystem. • State government and other institutions have NNP in their mandate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National laws and policies; National strategic plan for advancement of women • Extension services (patrolling in PAs, etc.) • Limited research on indigenous knowledge, and implementation of community forestry activities • National population census is being planned • A large body of literature and cultural committees
Regional activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish and enhance bilateral or multilateral cooperation with conservation agencies in Myanmar and India • Establish a regional platform for data/information sharing • Joint survey with institutions in Myanmar to build a biodiversity information base • Regional sharing of knowledge on conservation of PSESP; household plantation of valuable plants: tea, tea oil, medicinal plants, coffee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen research collaboration with Myanmar and China to understand vulnerabilities of different ecosystems and habitat • Share information about biodiversity among the three countries to advance knowledge about their regional significance and optimize resources for conservation actions. • Strengthen regional collaboration and build networks for research and livelihoods enhancement. • Mutual cooperation in expertise and capacity enhancement training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication mechanism for information sharing • Joint learning and sharing of best practices; technology transfer to strengthen extension services to communities; sharing of knowledge on agroforestry practices and home gardens, etc. • Joint biodiversity survey and relevant capacity building of technical institutions, including support for research and infrastructure development • Promotion of value chains for traditional products for enhancing livelihoods for communities.

Group work B: Comprehensive Environmental and Socioeconomic Monitoring Strategy (CESMS)

The purpose of the BSL Comprehensive Environmental and Socioeconomic Monitoring Strategy is to build regional and national capacity for environmental monitoring and long-term ecological/socioeconomic research, to promote the early identification of and response to potential adverse environmental impacts associated with various ongoing processes (including climate change), and to facilitate and encourage regional knowledge sharing and transboundary cooperation. The BSL-CESMS will strengthen science with regards to the BSL area to influence better and informed decision making.

For the group work on CEMS, the following questions were explored:

1. What are key priority thematic areas with regard to Long Term Monitoring (LTM) in the BSL?
2. What actions are needed to improve LTM and subsequently collaborative research in the BSL area?
3. What mechanisms for LTM already exist and which institutions are already involved?
4. What regional activities do you think will enhance or support LTM actions for the BSL?

Country-wise summary is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of components of CESMS

	Country Group (China)	Country Group (India)	Country Group (Myanmar)
Key national priority thematic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing and establish more LTEM systems • Establish elevational transect plots for monitoring biodiversity • LUCC monitoring of GLGS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate, local weather conditions • Water resources and cryosphere, important river systems • Biodiversity-ecosystem functions and services; ecological processes • Social and institutional governance • Impact of development project • Illegal trade • Livelihoods options • Vulnerability, risk and hazards assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LULCC • Water resources (quality and volume) • Impact of climate change on ecosystems and livelihoods • Glacier • Ecosystem services • Forest species composition • Wildlife movement • Illegal trade • Alien Invasive Species (AIS)
Priority actions for improving long-term environmental monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A standardized protocol for data collection shared among relevant monitoring stations; • Mechanism for data sharing • Remote sensing based Land Use Cover Change (LUCC) analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge sharing and exchange of information • Infrastructure development for monitoring • Effective PA management • Actions for improving livelihoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity strengthening • Infrastructure development for monitoring
Existing mechanisms and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIB in collaborations with other institutions such as YAFA, ICRAF are already involved in monitoring • Data from existing permanent plots are available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State government and national government priority • National laws and policies, state biodiversity action plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest resources Assessment (FRA) every five years - Forest Department • MOT, NOAA- Water resources • NBSAPs and NAPAs
Regional activities for enhancing LTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective coordination between the three BSL countries • Enhance cooperation with Myanmar in LTEM in the middle part of GLGS • Strengthen information sharing between the BSL countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative research • Joint monitoring mechanism in transboundary protected areas • Knowledge exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective research and capacity strengthening • Harmonization of monitoring methods

Group work C: Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF)

Regional Cooperation Framework is a mechanism that guides the entire process of scoping and conceptualization; strategy development; and operationalization of actions for implementing the regional landscape conservation and development initiative. The development of RCF is an iterative process involving consultation and documentation, which aims to identify challenges and issues, strategies to address them, and the synthesis of regional coordination mechanism, regional communication mechanism and regional knowledge and information sharing mechanism to promote regional cooperation.

For the group work on CESMS, the following questions were explored:

1. Do you agree with the principles of RCF as mentioned in the KSLCDI document? Suggest changes for the BSLCDI, if any
2. What are the essential elements of regional coordination mechanisms for implementing the BSLCDI?
3. What joint activities will facilitate regional cooperation?
4. What could be the mechanism for sharing information and knowledge and technology among the three countries?

Country-wise summary is given in table 3.

Table 3: Summary of components of RCF

	Country Group (China)	Country Group (India)	Country Group (Myanmar)
Principles of RCF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Sovereignty • Consultative and participatory management; • Equitability; • Partnership; • Transboundary cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with all proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same principles as those of KSLCDI
Elements of regional coordination mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth education programme; • Scientific exchange; • Regional consultation meeting; • Bilateral or multilateral MOU on BSLCDI; • Long-term programmatic interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual cooperation in expertise and capacity enhancement training; • Experience sharing; • Exchange of information with regional countries; • Regional consultation meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional steering committee • National steering committee and focal contact institute • Multi-stakeholders (GOs/ INGOs, Women association/ CBOs, Academic/ Research institute)
Activities to facilitate regional cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a platform for information/knowledge sharing; • Joint grant proposal; • Establish a national GLGS Biodiversity Research Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing and exchange of knowledge and expertise • Several community-based organizations are actively contributing to the knowledge building process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint research • Study tour-mentorship programme • Collective participation in international events • Co-organize workshops
Suggestive mechanism for sharing knowledge and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authentication based on user groups; • Standardization of data format; • Protocol for data sharing; • Timely data updating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of regional level workshops/ consultations at regular intervals • Web portal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web portal • Data sharing policy • Regular reporting system and communication

Discussion points

- Adequate baseline data in the feasibility assessment report will help in designing programme intervention effectively and guide the preparation of conservation and development strategy and comprehensive environmental monitoring strategy, and also help in monitoring the progress over time
- Ecotourism, as an important source of conservation-oriented livelihood, was featured in all the country presentations. It would then be desirable to have basic information on the current state of tourism in the area delineated as the BSL in each country: has some progress already been made? How many tourists visit per year and from where? What kinds of tourist facilities, infrastructure, and tourism management strategies have been identified (e.g., waste management, information centres)? Have pilot sites already been identified? What mechanisms for benefit-sharing are used in ecotourism sites that are already in existence?
- In order to promote ecotourism as one of the livelihood options for the poor, a clear assessment of potentials and feasibility will have to be included in the feasibility report. The feasibility report should also suggest other livelihood options. What sort of ecotourism would be appropriate? Who will be the clientele? And what infrastructure and extra services are needed to meet their needs?
- In all three countries, there are several remote and nationally protected areas in the northern part of the BSL, where special permit is required for all activities. There is a need to consider how such an arrangement might impact the flow of tourists in the area.
- Ecotourism has to be real, and not in name only, with a concrete benefit-sharing mechanism and the ability to sustain the flow of tourists. Since culture is an important aspect of tourism, the local community's relationship with the landscape should also be considered. Festivals of ethnic communities such as Namdapha Butterfly festival will have to be supported.

- Promotion of indigenous knowledge, practices and customs need to be incorporated in the BSL initiative. This was clearly mentioned in the Myanmar presentation. The feasibility report should provide baseline information on the diversity of ethnic communities in the BSL area, as well as information on their customary institutions.
- We also need to consider which activities we can carry out as part of the BSLCDI, and how they can complement existing efforts in the respective countries. Given the limited timeframe and resources, the activities will have to be planned carefully and we should have realistic expectations. Based on the country presentations, China seems particularly conscious of this fact; it has planned a few targeted activities.
- We must look beyond protected areas and examine what is changing outside the PAs and what implications they will have for the biodiversity and people in the BSL.
- In Myanmar, the Lorwor tribe in Kachin state has a unique skill for making fibre from wild orchid. This knowledge is gradually fading as young generations are no longer interested. Programmes are being implemented to revive this tradition and develop the skills of the younger generation. Such interventions can be further strengthened through the BSLCDI.
- There is a need to harmonise processes and methodologies for long-term monitoring, so that data from the three countries are comparable. The three countries will have to sit together and develop a common protocol and data sharing mechanisms.
- There are international standards that can be followed for geospatial categorization, and also for many other data - be it on biodiversity or social data. ICIMOD through its Regional Database will try to harmonize and standardize many of monitoring indicators, and will provide an open access platform for sharing data that can be readily used for regional analysis. This will also have a standardized policy for data sharing.
- Discussion for Regional Cooperation Framework should be taken up separately from the preparation of two documents – the Conservation and Development Strategy and the Comprehensive Environmental and Socio-economic Monitoring Strategy – as it involves receiving feedback and approval from a different audience at another level of intervention.

Concluding Remarks

Dr Gao Lianming made the closing remarks on behalf of the China team. He stated that the consultation provided them an opportunity to share their ideas, experiences and knowledge. He mentioned that the group work allowed them to grasp the objectives of CDS and CESMS more firmly. Dr Gao indicated that more discussion would be needed to discuss matters requiring regional cooperation, in particular the topics on which the countries differ or have varying ideas. He said that China endorses the activities planned for 2014 and has a few suggestions on the design of the activities. He suggested that we first consider easy and doable activities so that we can build confidence for taking regional cooperation forward, and that activities be designed for the short, mid and long term. A complete blueprint for regional cooperation for the BSLCDI will be ready by the end of 2014. In the end, Dr Gao thanked the host country for their wonderful hospitality and expressed hope that they would meet again in the next consultation.

Dr Ranbeer S. Rawal offered the closing remarks on behalf of the India team. He stated that India clearly recognizes the value of the BSL, and is committed to work for the landscape in cooperation with the other two countries. He stressed that India will propose activities that take into account people's need and the ecosystem, and will try to create harmony among them. He also mentioned that India will propose to expand the area in the BSL as discussed and agreed, and will work towards getting approval of the extended area. India agrees on the tasks planned for 2014, he said, and will make every effort to fulfil the requirements in time. Lastly, he thanked all the participants for their time and for sharing their views and ideas.

Dr Saw Lwin from Myanmar offered the closing remarks on behalf of the Myanmar team. He said it was great to meet many old friends from the Tengchong consultation held at Tengchong and to make many new friends in this consultation. He indicated that discussions on the country feasibility assessment, regional synthesis, CDS and CEMS were extremely useful. They enabled Myanmar to understand the other countries' perspectives on the Landscape. Dr Lwin also stated that the presentations by ICIMOD staff members gave good insight on the BSLCDI and its linkages with other initiatives, and on how to promote regional cooperation framework. He concluded his remarks by thanking GBPIHED and ICIMOD for their hospitality and for choosing such a pleasant venue for the consultation.

The Chair of the closing session, Mr A K Wahal, PCCF and Principal Secretary, Department of Environment and Forests, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, noted that the consultation had set the stage for action on the BSLCDI. He said it was very heartening to see the participants from the three countries and ICIMOD coming together and thrashing out their ideas for the BSL. He stressed that the issue demands the attention of scientific communities, planners and policy makers, as well as political will for getting more out of regional cooperation. He expressed his satisfaction that the issues were discussed in a focused and systematic manner, and that participants were able to outline clear tasks and build a timeline for each country partner. Mr Wahal also expressed hope that the ideas shared during the consultation would culminate in valuable but also implementable plans. Scientific ideas should not be filled with complex jargon that intimidate ordinary people, he said; rather, they should be made accessible and interesting for everyone involved in the work. He reiterated that the ultimate objective is to start action on the ground. The documents jointly produced by the countries would be understood and valued widely only if they are written in clear and simple language while also being rigorous and factually accurate. As an administrator, he suggested that we should all contribute our ideas to planners and policy makers. He added that it was heartening to see the participants' enthusiasm and commitment, and that the consultation was able to shed valuable light on the process, as well as on why conservation is necessary not only for the present but also for the future. The most important aspect of the consultation was the stress it laid on finding solutions from within, based on what is already being done. This realization is crucial because in many instances people's aspirations for development have exceeded the practicality, and have brought peril to the landscape. The initiative hence seeks to integrate conservation and development with the aim of benefiting both people and the landscape. He said the discussion had been a rewarding experience for him, and thanked ICIMOD for launching the initiative. Finally, he said he wished every success for the initiative.

Way Forward Action

The participants of the regional consultation representing India, China and Myanmar, and ICIMOD agreed on the following activities and timelines:

S. No	Activities	Tentative Timeline	Responsible institute	Discussion reference
1	Draft LOAs to be sent to partners for their review and processing for approval	First week of February 2014	ICIMOD	This will give the nodal institute in each country some time to review the LOA and process the approval
2	Countries to send their final feasibility assessment reports to ICIMOD	30 March 2014	Country focal institutes	This is to incorporate changes and additional information in the country feasibility assessment.
3	Review of LOAs and processing for approval completed	30 March	Country focal institutes	The LOAs for the 2013 activities related to the preparation of CDS and CEMS should be approved and ready for signing
4	Signing of LOAs for the preparation of CDS and CEMS	By 15 April 2014	Country focal institutes and ICIMOD	ICIMOD/ Countries to sign the LOAs
5	Finalize Regional Synthesis of Feasibility Assessment for BSL and share with partners	30 April 2014	ICIMOD	Based on the country reports from the three countries, ICIMOD will synthesize the feasibility assessments from a regional perspective, highlighting the need for regional cooperation
6	Comments on RFA-BSL and finalization	30 May 2014	Country focal institutes and partners	This is to concretize and get consensus on the RFA-BSL
7	Organize meeting to share and discuss RCF-BSL	May-June 2014	ICIMOD/ country partners	It was agreed that RCF being a strategic document should be separated from the other three technical documents and that discussion on the same should be held simultaneously. It would be an umbrella document with a scope of flexibility for country specific tasks.

8	Publish FA report for BSLCDI	31 July 2014	ICIMOD	A joint publication by countries and ICIMOD that will reflect the contributions of all national partners.
9	LOA based activities by countries	15 April -15 Sept 2014	Country focal institutes and other national partners	The three nodal institutes have the responsibility to prepare the CDS and CEMS through a consultative process that involves other partners as applicable
10	Submission of final country reports on CDS and CEMS to ICIMOD	15 Sept 2014	Country focal institute	The report submitted to ICIMOD will be used for draft regional synthesis. The summary from the documents will be shared in the next regional consultation.
11	Regional Synthesis (draft)and preparation for the 4th regional BSLCDI consultation	Oct 2014- Nov 2014	ICIMOD	Involves preparations for the consultation
12	Organize the 4th regional consultation on the BSLCDI (at ICIMOD)	First week of Dec 2014	ICIMOD/ partners in three countries	The 4th regional consultation will be organized in ICIMOD, Kathmandu. The objective will be to share country CDS and CEMS, discuss regional synthesis, long-term programme proposal and RCF.

Annex 1: List of Participants

China

Gao Lianming
Professor of Botany
Kunming Institute of Botany, China
gaolm@mail.kib.ac.cn

Xuefei Yang
Associate Professor of Ethnobotany
Kunming Institute of Botany, China
xuefei@mail.kib.ac.cn

Zhang Zhigang
Associate Professor of Ethnobotany
Kunming Institute of Botany, China
zhangzhiqiang@mail.kib.ac.cn

India

A K Wahal
PCCF & Principal Secretary,
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
India
pccf-arn@nic.in

B M S Rathore
Ministry of Environment and Forests,
Government of India
bms.rathore@nic.in

Jyumir Basar
Assistant Professor
Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies
jumyir@yahoo.com

Khilendra S. Kanwal
Scientist-C
GBPIHED, NE Unit, Itanagar,
Almora, India
Kskanwal03@gmail.com

M K Yadava
Director, IFS
Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India
Mkyadava.ifs@assam.gov.in

Mahendra Lodhi
Scientist -D
GBPIHED, NE Unit, Itanagar,
Almora, India
mahen29.mail@gmail.com

P K Mathur
Scientist-G, Wildlife Institute of India,
Uttarakhand, India
mathurpk@wii.gov.in

Panna Deb
Assistant Professor
Assam University, Assam
pannadeb@rediffmail.com

Pijush Kumar Dutta
Assistant Professor
Tata Institute of Social Science, Assam
pijush.dutta@gmail.com

Prasanna K. Samal
Scientist-F & Scientist Incharge
GBPIHED, North east Unit,
Vivek Vihar, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
prasannasamal@rediffmail.com

R P Agarwalla, IFS
PCCF, Govt. of Assam, India
rpagar.ifs@assam.gov.in

Ranbeer S. Rawal
Scientist-F
GBPIHED-Almora, India
ranbeerrawal4@gmail.com

Sarnam Singh
Scientist -G
Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Uttarakhand, India
sarnam@iirs.gov.in

Myanmar

Naing Zaw Htun
Assistant Director
Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest
Department Myanmar
nwcdfdmof@gmail.com

Saw Lwin
Vice President
Myanmar Floriculturists Association
Myanmar
myanmarorchid@gmail.com

Soe Soe Win
Ministry of Education, Myanmar
drsoesoewin99@gmail.com

Than Zaw
Country Coordinator
Wildlife Conservation Society, Myanmar
thanzaw.wcsmp@gmail.com

GIZ

Manfred W. Seebauer
Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)
International Centre for Integrated Mountain
Development (ICIMOD)
Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and
Development Initiative (KSLCDI)
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
GmbH
c/o ICIMOD, Kathmandu/Nepal
Phone: 5003239/5003315 Ext. 226,
M + 977 985 111 0535
F + 977 1 5003277/5003299
manfred.seebauer@giz.de

ICIMOD

GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu Nepal
Phone: 977 1 5003222

Bandana Shakya
Associate Programme Coordinator, BSLCDI
bandana.shakya@icimod.org

Deependra Tandukar
KM, Multimedia and Web Officer
deependra.tandukar@icimod.org

Dhrupad Choudhury
Regional Programme Manager,
RP-I Adaptation to Change
dhrupad.choudhury@icimod.org

Gopal S. Rawat
Chief Scientist, Programme Coordinator
BSLCDI Initiative
gopal.rawat@icimod.org

Manohara Khadka
Gender Specialist
manohara.khadka@icimod.org

M S R Murthy
Theme Leader
Geospatial Solutions
msr.murthy@icimod.org

Prabha Shrestha
Senior Programme Associate- ES Theme, BSLCDI
Initiative
prabha.shrestha@icimod.org

Rajan Kotru
Regional Programme Manager,
RP-II, Transboundary Landscapes
rajan.kotru@icimod.org

Rucha Ghate
Senior NRM Governance Specialist
rucha.ghate@icimod.org

Annex 2: Detailed programme

Day 1: Wednesday, 22 January 2014

Arrival of all participants at Guwahati International Airport in the morning

Transfer to Kaziranga (4 hours' drive)

Check-in Resort Borgos, Kaziranga

Lunch at Resort Borgos (12:00–14:30)

Opening session followed by reception dinner (16:00 – 20:00)

16:00–16:30	Registration	ICIMOD+GBPIHED
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OPENING SESSION: Background and rationale for regional cooperation for Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (BSLCDI)

Venue : Conference Hall, Resort Borgos

Chair: Mr B M S Rathore, MoEF, Gol; Co-Chair: R. P Agarwalla, PCCF Assam

16:30–18:30	Welcome remarks (5 min)	Gopal S Rawat, ICIMOD
	Welcome remarks (5 min)	B M S Rathore, MoEF, Gol
	Opening remarks including an overview of ICIMOD's transboundary landscape regional programme and Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (15 min)	Rajan Kotru, ICIMOD
	Opening remarks (10 min)	China-Focal Institute
	Opening remarks (10 min)	Myanmar-Focal Institute
	Remarks by GIZ (10 min)	Manfred W Seebauer, GIZ
	Remarks by host country (10 min)	RP Agarwalla, PCCF-Assam
	Prospects for interlinking BSLCDI with ICIMOD's other regional programme (15 min)	Dhrupad Choudhury, ICIMOD
	Outline of the third regional consultation on BSLCDI (5 min)	Bandana Shakya, ICIMOD
Remarks by the Chair (10 min)	BMS Rathore, MoEF, Gol	
18:30–20:00	Reception Dinner	

Day 2: Thursday, 23 January 2014

TECHNICAL SESSION I: Sharing of country feasibility assessment and regional synthesis draft

Objective: This session will impart an equal understanding among country partners from China, India and Myanmar, and ICIMOD on the geographic extent of Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape; issues and challenges, prospects and opportunities for regional cooperation, institutional coordination mechanisms for implementation of BSLCDI, gender integration, communication and knowledge management. The inputs received will help consolidate and finalize the Regional Feasibility Assessment Report for the BSL.

Chair: Mr B M S Rathore, MoEF, Gol

9:00–9:15	The Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (BSLCDI) – An introduction	Gopal S Rawat, ICIMOD
9:15 –9:45	Presentation 1: FA-China (20 min) Comments and inputs (10 min)	China
9:45–10:15	Presentation 2: FA-Myanmar (20 min) Comments and inputs (10 min)	Myanmar
10:15–10:45	Presentation 3: FA-India (20 min) Comments and inputs (10 min)	India

10:45–11:00	<i>Tea Break and Photo</i>	
11:00–11:30	Regional Synthesis: Part 1: Delineation of BSL's geographic /work boundary (15 min) Discussion and finalisation (15 min)	MSR Murthy, ICIMOD
11:30–12:00	Regional Synthesis: Part 2: Landscape significance, major issues and challenges (15 min) Discussion and finalization (15 min)	Bandana Shakya, ICIMOD
12:00–12:30	Regional Synthesis: Part 3: Integrated landscape management priority actions - Biodiversity Management perspective, including research priorities(15 min) Discussion and Finalisation (15 min)	Gopal Rawat, ICIMOD
12:30–13:00	Regional Synthesis: Part 4: Integrated landscape management priority actions - Livelihoods and development perspective, including research priorities (15 min) Discussion and Finalization (15 min)	Dhrupad Choudhury, ICIMOD
13:00–14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
14:00–14:30	Regional Synthesis: Part 5: Gender integration strategy for BSLCDI (15 min) Discussion and Finalisation (15 min)	Manohara Khadka, ICIMOD
14:30–15:00	Regional Synthesis: Part 6: Integrated knowledge management and communication – Platforms and prospects for BSLCDI Discussion and Finalization (15 min)	Deependra Tandukar, ICIMOD
15:00–15:30	<i>Tea Break</i>	
15:30–16:00	Regional Synthesis: Part 7a: Institutional coordination mechanisms for implementing BSLCDI – Framework and roles (15 min) Discussion and Finalization (15 min)	Rajan Kotru, ICIMOD
16:00–16:30	Regional Synthesis: Part 7b: Partnership mapping and impact pathways; Monitoring and Evaluation (15 min) Discussion and Finalization (15 min)	Rajan Kotru, ICIMOD
16:30–17:00	Summary remarks by Chair	

Day 3: Friday, 24 January 2014

TECHNICAL SESSION II: Linking FA to the preparation of Conservation and Development Strategy, Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring Strategy and Regional Cooperation Framework

Objective: This session will impart understanding about how feasibility assessment is linked to the other three strategic documents for building regional cooperation among the three countries. The presentation by the countries and ICIMOD are meant to highlight ongoing and existing efforts towards the goals outlined in these documents.

09:00–09:15	Long-term ecological monitoring: procedures and mechanisms of site identification, selection and management	China
09:15–09:30	Integrated landscape management and use of geospatial tools and Regional Information Systems	MSR Murthy, ICIMOD
09:30–09:45	Questions and clarification	
09:45–10:00	Policy and enabling mechanisms for regional cooperation in conservation and development: Perspectives from India	India
10:00–10:15	Importance of good governance, institutions, partnerships, and policy linkages	Rucha Ghate, ICIMOD
10:15–10:30	Questions and clarification	
10:30–10:45	<i>Tea Break</i>	

10:45–11:00	Conservation and development perspectives from Myanmar	
11:00–11:15	Adaptation to change: Livelihoods and food security	Dhrupad Choudhury, ICIMOD
11:15–11:30	Questions and clarifications	
11:30–12:00	Explanation for the country-wise group work on the components of Regional Conservation and Development Strategy, Regional Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring Strategy, and Regional Cooperation Framework	Gopal S Rawat and Bandana Shakya, ICIMOD
12:00–13:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	

TECHNICAL SESSION III: Country-wise group work

Objective: This session will help each country understand the objectives and elements of the Conservation and Development Strategy, the Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring plan and the Regional Cooperation Framework

Chair: Dr Saw Lwin, Myanmar

13:00–15:30 (with tea break in between)	Task 1: Analyse components of Conservation Development Strategy on the basis of regional FA	For each country group: Define facilitator and presenter.
	Task 2: Analyse components of the Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring Strategy	ICIMOD participants to divide and join country groups
	Task 3: Analyse the components of Regional Cooperation Framework	
15:30–15:45	Plenary Presentation: China	China
15:45–16:00	Plenary Presentations: India	India
16:00–16:15	Plenary Presentation: Myanmar	Myanmar
16:15–16:30	Inputs and Comments	Saw Lwin, Myanmar
16:30–16:45	Summary remarks by Chair	
16:45–17:00	Presentation on Kaziranga National Park	

CONCLUDING SESSION

17:00–18:00	Summary and Way Forward	Rajan Kotru, ICIMOD
	Remarks by country representatives	Naing Zaw Htun, Myanmar; Ranbeer S Rawal, India; Gao Lianming, China
	Closing remarks	RP Agarwalla, PCCF and Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh
	Vote of thanks	Prassanna K Samal, GBPIHED

Day 4: Saturday, 25 January 2014

Field Trip to Kaziranga National Park (A World Heritage Site)

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/337>

<http://www.kaziranganationalpark-india.com/>

Lunch and departure of participants from Kaziranga

Towards Developing the Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative

The third Regional Consultation on Developing Transboundary Cooperation for Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (BSLCDI)





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International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel +977-1-5003222 **Fax** +977 1 5003299

Email info@icimod.org **Web** www.icimod.org