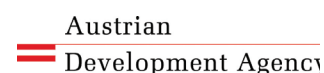


# Proceedings of 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Strategic Consultative Meeting on the Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative

23–24 February 2015, ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal

Organized by  
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal and  
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)



# 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.



ICIMOD gratefully acknowledges the support of its core donors:  
the Governments of Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan,  
China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Switzerland, and  
the United Kingdom.

Internal Report

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**Report Preparation**

Karma Phuntsho, Janita Gurung, Pratikshya Kandel, Kamal Aryal and Nakul Chettri

**Production Team**

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

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# Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	
Background	1
Workshop objective	1
 Day 1: Wednesday, 18 February 2015	 1
Welcome address	1
Transboundary Landscape Initiative of ICIMOD	2
Remarks from Bhutan	3
Remarks from India	3
Remarks from Nepal	3
Remark from Manfred Seebauer, GIZ	3
KLCDI: highlights of the process and outputs from preparatory phase	4
Session: Linking to the bigger picture	4
Session: Partnership for sustainable impact – How partnership helps ICIMOD managing impact?	5
Session: Problem analysis, objective analysis and visioning for KLCDI	5
 Day 2: Thursday, 19 February 2015	 5
Session: Knowledge management and communication for outreach and policy	5
Session: Actors mapping, outcome logic and risk management for KLCDI	6
Session: Impact logic for KLCDI	6
 Day 3: 20 February 2015	 6
Session: Result oriented monitoring and evaluation (ROME) and KLCDI M&E Plan	6
Session: KLCDI indicators	7
Session: KLCDI M&E plan	7
 Concluding Session	 7
 Annexes	
Annex A: Programme Outline	8
Annex B: Problem Analysis – Bhutan	10
Annex C:	15
Annex D:	20
Annex E:	22
Annex F: List of Participants	24



# Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
CDS	Conservation and Development Strategies
DPO	Director Programme Operation
FAR	Feasibility Assessment Report
GBPIHED	G B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
KL	Kangchenjunga Landscape
KLCDI	Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative
MoAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
PIPA	Participatory Impact Pathways Process
RCF	Regional Cooperation Framework
RECAST	Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology
SPM&E	Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
WCD	Wildlife Conservation Division

## Background

The Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI) is one of ICIMOD's seven transboundary landscapes initiatives identified in the Hindu Kush Himalayas. The initiative was started in August 2012 in the First Regional Meeting in Gangtok, India, by representatives from participating countries - Bhutan, India and Nepal. Over the last two years, this initiative has progressed through rigorous national level assessments and produced country Feasibility Assessment Reports (FARs) and Conservation and Development Strategies (CDS). The Second Regional Meeting, held in Thimphu in April 2014, reviewed the country FARs. Subsequently, the Regional FAR and CDS for the Kangchenjunga Landscape were prepared by synthesizing the country FARs and CDSs. A Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) was drafted as the basis for implementing the subsequent phases of the KLCDI. Regional and country implementation plans have also been drafted. The Third Regional Meeting was hosted jointly by the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) and ICIMOD with the objective given below.

## Objective of the Third Regional Meeting

The objective of the Third Regional Meeting was to consolidate the findings of the preparatory phase of the KLCDI and to apprise country delegates of the content of the Regional FAR and CDS, and the draft RCF and implementation plans, while seeking endorsement of the RCF for implementation of KLCDI programs.

## Meeting outputs

- The main outputs of the 3rd Regional Meeting were:
- Endorsement of Regional FAR, CDS and implementation plans;
- Reaching of an agreement on the process for endorsement of the RCF for KLCDI.

The programme of the meeting and list of participants are annexed as Annexure A and D.

## Day 1: Monday, 23 February 2015

### Inaugural Session

Chair: Mr Sharad Chandra Paudel, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal

### Welcome address

Dr David Molden, Director General of ICIMOD, accorded a warm welcome to all the participants on behalf of ICIMOD and the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal. He said that transboundary landscape issues call for strong coordination and collaboration among participating countries, so he thanked all the high level delegates and participants for participating in the meeting. He said that ICIMOD's landscape programme promotes people of different countries to work together to protect biodiversity and cultural diversity of the region. He said that it is very important for all of us to work with local communities and improve their livelihood through innovative and adaptive natural resource management programme. He mentioned that ICIMOD and its partners are generating knowledge and data and stressed the need to apply the knowledge to address problems affecting local people.

## ICIMOD's transboundary initiative in the Hindu Kush Himalayas: An overview

Dr Eklabya Sharma, Director Programme Operations, ICIMOD, highlighted the transboundary landscape programme of ICIMOD. He said, ICIMOD in collaboration with its partners identified seven transboundary

landscapes in the HKH – Kangchenjunga Landscape being one of them – for strengthening conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. He highlighted that these landscapes have significant ecosystem service values and are globally important as they host four of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots. However, he said that climatic and or anthropogenic changes are happening affecting natural resources and livelihoods of the local communities. He mentioned that, under such circumstances, we need to be innovative to adapt or cope with changes.

He mentioned that ICIMOD's work in general focuses on linking science with policy and practice, and the landscape programmes have been designed accordingly. However, the transboundary landscape programmes are very challenging as there are many issues to be resolved. He noted that an integrated approach through regional cooperation would be the key to promoting effective long-term conservation and development in the transboundary landscapes.

The KLCDI, he said, has already progressed well to achieve some important milestones. The country FARs, CDSs, RCF and regional FAR and CDS are some of the important outputs. He expressed his appreciation to the experts of the three countries and ICIMOD staff for the achievement. He also mentioned that ICIMOD and its partners have developed Ecosystem Management Framework and Long-term Environmental and Socio-Ecological Monitoring Framework which must be operationalized in the Kangchenjunga Landscape. He also emphasized the importance of scientific collaboration and generation of evidence-based data for long term monitoring.

## **Workshop background, objectives and programme**

Dr Nakul Chettri, Initiative Coordinator, KLCDI, highlighted the chronological achievements of KLCDI since 2012 till date. He also mentioned that the country partners agreed on the formats of regional and national feasibility assessment reports in the Second Regional Meeting held in Bhutan 2014. Furthermore, in August 2014, CDSs were discussed and presented in a workshop in Pokhara, Nepal, while in early 2015 country and regional FARs and CDSs, and the draft RCF were presented and reviewed in Chalsa, India.

## **Opening remarks – GIZ**

Mr Manfred W Seebauer, Chief Technical Advisor, GIZ, welcomed all participants on behalf of GIZ. He urged the partners and ICIMOD to work on the ground to deliver outcomes and impact. He shared the opportunity he had to work with Mr Narendra Modi, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat, who used the acronym 'CM' to connote 'Common Man' and suggested that the KLCDI work with the common man on the ground to deliver impacts.

## **Opening remarks – Austrian Development Agency (ADA)**

Mr Ramesh Chhetri, Programme Officer, Austrian Development Agency, mentioned that ADA has a long lasting development cooperation with ICIMOD and will continue its support for mountain people and environment. He conveyed ADA's ongoing commitment to continue its support to ICIMOD and its partners' work on transboundary landscape programme. He also acknowledged the importance of coherent, interconnected strategic approach, which is certainly the appropriate way to respond to the complex challenges which the region and the mountain people face today. He expressed that that this meeting was timely and that ADA looks forward to having detailed workable implementation plan. In conclusion, he wished the meeting a success.

## **Opening remarks – India**

Dr JR Bhatta, Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, made the opening remarks on behalf of Indian participants. He asked the question, "Why are Indian participants in the Meeting?" His response was to show their commitment and support for KLCDI and work for KL and the people living in it. He highlighted that common culture and respect for the management of nature binds all the participants together. He viewed that ICIMOD and its partners' landscape management approach provides opportunity for



improving the corridor connectivity for not only large mammals, but also for smaller animals and plants. He also stressed that the landscape management approach promotes partnership and collaboration which is very much essential for rejuvenating our collective creativity. He underlined the importance of participatory approach and involvement of local communities and stakeholders in landscape management to strengthen community stewardship of natural resources in the landscape.

## Inaugural Address – Chief Guest

Dasho Tenzin Dhendup, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan, welcomed participants and wished them a very happy New Year. On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan, he conveyed commitment of the government to support KLCDI. He said that for an effective and sustainable conservation and development programme such as KLCDI, people-centered development approach needs to be employed. He also mentioned that as biodiversity does not recognize political boundaries the participating countries and partners of KLCDI need to work together to manage the landscape and its natural resources for the present generation and also hand over the landscape to future generations in good condition. He also noted that traditional knowledge and practices that the people have in the landscape are important assets and that traditional knowledge should not be compromised while applying scientific knowledge in the landscape.

## Book launch: Kangchenjunga Landscape Nepal from conservation and development perspectives

A book on Kangchenjunga Landscape Nepal from conservation and development perspectives, published by MFSC, Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology (RECAST) and ICIMOD was jointly launched by Mr Sharad Chandra Paudel, Secretary, MoFSC, Government of Nepal; Dasho Tenzin Dhendup, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan; and Dr JR Bhatta, Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India.

Lead author of the book, Prof Dr Ram Prasad Chaudhary gave an overview of the book. He mentioned that the Kangchenjunga Landscape is a biodiversity hotspot which has significant ecological, economical, cultural and spiritual values. He also mentioned that the book presents biophysical, socio-economic and environmental perspectives of the landscape which will be very helpful for designing future projects and programme. He thanked all co-authors for their hard work and thanked MoFSC and ICIMOD for their support in publishing the book.

## Remarks from Session Chair

Mr Sharad Chandra Paudel, Secretary, MoFSC, Government of Nepal, on behalf of the government of Nepal and the organizers of the workshop, welcomed participants to the workshop as well as to Nepal. He mentioned that in Nepal, KLCDI is a collaborative initiative undertaken by MoFSC with support from ICIMOD and RECAST. He said that the government of Nepal is committed to support KLCDI as well as cooperating with other participating countries in regional and bilateral transboundary issues such as cross-border wildlife migration, illegal wildlife trade and others. He noted the need to set up a framework for regional cooperation for managing transboundary conservation and development problems. He also summarized the gist of the speakers of the inaugural session.

## Vote of thanks

Dr Rajan Kotru, Regional Programme Manager, Transboundary Landscapes Programme, proposed a vote thanks. He thanked MoFSC for its support in hosting the Third Regional Consultation Meeting. He also thanked all the speakers of the inaugural session for their addresses and remarks. He also thanked participants from the three countries for attending the meeting, as well as ICIMOD colleagues for their effort in organizing the meeting. Dr Rajan Kotru also summarized the salient points of different speakers of the inaugural session.

## Technical Session I: Highlights of KL Feasibility Assessment Report and Conservation and Development Strategy

**Session Chair:** Dasho Tenzin Dhendup, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan

After assuming the chairperson role, he invited Dr Janita Gurung, Biodiversity Conservation and Management Specialist, and Mr Karma Phuntsho, Sr Natural Resource Management Specialist to make their presentations.

### Presentation and plenary discussion: highlights from KL Regional Feasibility Assessment Report

Dr Janita Gurung from ICIMOD presented the highlights of the regional FAR. The outline of the presentation included the FAR process, salient features of the landscape, conservation and development issues and priorities, and recommendations and way forward. The Regional FAR process involved activities undertaken by the countries after the First Regional Consultation Workshop held in Gangtok in 2012 upto the Second Regional Meeting in Bhutan in 2014 which resulted in country FARs that were synthesized to develop the Regional FAR. The presentation on the salient features covered the area of KL with criteria for boundary delineation, socio-economic features, and ecological features.

The issues and priorities included the drivers of change in the KL, the results of these changes, and the long-term impacts. Among the various drivers of change, two topics were further elaborated: land use change in the KL, and human-wildlife conflict from both large, as well as small mammals, and knowledge gaps. Specific ecosystems and biodiversity issues presented included wildlife poaching, unsustainable collection of natural resources, lack of pastureland management, forest fire, invasive species, rapid urbanization; development projects and inadequate institutions and service delivery. Similarly, specific livelihoods issues presented were declining productivity, tea gardens and associated impacts, lack of potable water, unmanaged tourism and solid wastes.

The way forward advocated a transboundary landscape programme. Some actions recommended as a result of the feasibility assessment were ensuring human well-being through maintenance of ecosystem functions and services in the landscape through sustainable management of key ecosystems; improved governance of natural resources; wise, equitable and sustainable use of natural resources; enhancing livelihoods through value addition, REDD+, and ecotourism. In addition, increasing resilience of communities and ecosystems through integrated landscape approach, reduction of human-wildlife conflicts and community-based resilience and mitigation measures were suggested. Monitoring changes in key aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services through monitoring and knowledge sharing and exchange were also recommended. And most importantly, improving cooperation among KL member countries for transboundary conservation and sustainable development.

### Presentation and plenary discussion: KL Regional Conservation and Development Strategy

Karma Phuntsho presented the draft regional CDS. The presentation covered vision, goal, outcomes, strategies, actions, implementation mechanism and monitoring and evaluation. The summary of the presentation is annexed as Annexure B.

The presentation suggested that the mechanism for implementing the regional CDS would involve government agencies, non-governmental organizations and private sector in the three countries. He said that two types of plans - one type at the country level and the other at the landscape level – would be formulated and implemented. The national level plans would analyze issues and problems specific to each country and design and implement country-specific interventions to translate the CDS into actions. The regional level plan would focus on regional issues to engage relevant national agencies to deal with cross-border problems affecting conservation and development, promote joint research and training programmes, facilitate exchange of best practices and technologies across the landscape, support development of regional database and information systems, and establish platforms for regional

cooperation and cross-border learning. Each country would set up national coordination mechanism and ensure integrated and participatory planning and implementation of the country plans. ICIMOD and donor organizations would support the countries.

On the monitoring and evaluation, based on Theory of Change and Impact Pathway Analysis, a logframe for the landscape will be prepared setting the goal, outcomes, outputs and activities. The logical link between activities and outputs, outputs and outcomes, outcomes and goal will be ensured. Indicators to measure the impact, outcomes and outputs will be designed and applied. Activities for the logframe will be identified based on the main actions listed under different strategies in the CDS. Means of verification of different indicators will also be designed and included in the logframe. Regular monitoring of the outputs from the implementation will be carried out by the implementing partners in the three countries, while mid-term and final evaluation would be done by donors/independent entities.

A discussion followed the two presentations. Dr HK Badola mentioned that the area of KL has changed and inquired about how the change has been reflected. Dr Nakul Chettri clarified that in the initial consultation with Bhutan, the area was rather small and limited to conservation corridors and protected area, but it now includes areas outside the protected areas thereby constituting about 24% of the landscape. Similarly, in Nepal after revision the area has increased. He said that all the documents with the revised figures have been approved by partner organizations. These will be posted in the webpage and the username and password will be shared with all participants.

Mr KP Acharya, Joint Secretary, MoFSC said that Nepal CDS proposed a total ten strategies with two outcomes under each strategy. He said that the regional CDS had four outcomes and seven strategies when presented in the Chalsa Meeting, but it has now been reduced to four outcomes and six strategies. He questioned if it will be able to address all the issues within these six strategies and asked how it has been readjusted. Karma Phuntsho clarified that the country CDS, which were prepared in varying formats, were reviewed and the regional CDS was prepared such that no issues raised by the countries were left out. The draft CDS had only six strategies, not seven, when it was presented in the Chalsa Meeting, he said.

Prof RP Chaudhary noted that setting up livestock scheme programme could not materialize in the Kailash Sacred Landscape. He asked if some light can be shed as to how an insurance scheme for wildlife depredation could be operationalized in KL. It was responded that Nepal team may like to clarify this themselves as this particular idea originated from the Nepal CDS. Mr KP Acharya mentioned that community livestock insurance scheme is being successfully implemented in the Langtang National Park.

Mr Ramesh Chhetri noted the need to do baseline studies regarding disadvantaged groups, women and ethnic groups and inquired if the regional FAR captured the baselines. The response was that the Regional FAR provides a general baseline for the landscape, but more detailed baselines would be guided by the programmes in the implementation plan. It was agreed that such baseline studies would be necessary and appropriate for the programme.

Dr JR Bhatt inquired how people's participation would be promoted to reach the last person KLCDI wanted to reach. Dr Chettri responded that the Regional CDS, which is 20-year document, will be implemented through 5-year implementation plans. Community participation will be ensured in the designated pilot areas and successful practices will be scaled out. Dr Bhatt also suggested to get regional FAR and CDS peer-reviewed for value addition to which Dr N Chettri mentioned that both these documents will be reviewed internally and by peer partners.

Dr Thomas Chandy, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest-cum-Principal Secretary Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim, India, said that there is a need to institutionalize statistically valid ecosystem services valuation and suggested that a strategy be added for the valuation of ecosystems. He also inquired as to how far this CDS can complement strategies that are implemented in some parts of the landscape by other agencies. He said, for example, that Sikkim has very good policies that are practiced nowhere else in India. So, how to gel the CDS with already existing strategies would be a big challenge. On the crop and livestock insurance, he said that a common strategy is needed for the landscape.

Mr Tashi Tobgay, Chief Forestry Officer, Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan, sought clarification on the frequency of monitoring and evaluation to which it was responded that while regular monitoring would be carried out by implementing partners, according to ICIMOD's institutional policy, mid-term and terminal evaluation would be done by an independent body to assess the impact. Dr Nakul Chettri added that external evaluation would be done by an independent body, donors or ICIMOD. He said that every progress will be reviewed and activities will be reoriented, if necessary.

Mr Rajendra Gurung, Chief Executive Officer, Ecotourism & Conservation Society of Sikkim, sought clarification as to how KLCDI would bring about convergence among the existing programmes in the KL of individual member countries. He felt that this needs to be spelled out in the CDS. On this it was stated that the CDS suggests that the line agencies in the landscape take integrated approach to planning and conservation and development activities to affect convergence of their sectoral programmes. In addition, it was clarified that almost 70-80% of the actions suggested in the CDS are being implemented by the member countries and the CDS will add value to the activities already being implemented.

## Remarks from the Chair

The Session Chairperson said that the KLCDI documents will have to be taken as guiding documents. While all partner countries have very good plans, policies and strategies for KL, it would be necessary to promote common strategies. He also said that the CDS has to be viewed as a dynamic document requiring regular updating. He stated that in addition to the suggestions given during the discussion all the participating countries should review the KL documents and give feedback to ICIMOD for improvement.

He also emphasized that the high incidence of poverty in KL should translate to people-centred programmes on conservation and development by the partner countries. Moreover, partner countries also need to cooperate to translate the CDS into actions in order to achieve its conservation and development objectives. He felt that in the course of CDS implementation, regular meetings will be necessary to review strategies and activities and to rectify and improve weaknesses. He suggested that ICIMOD and partners organize regular meetings to understand each others' circumstances and strengthen regional collaboration and cooperation.

## Technical Session II: The Theory of Change for KLCDI

**Session Chairs:** Dr JR Bhatt and Dr Thomas Chandy jointly chaired the session

### Presentation and plenary discussion: Theory of Change through Participatory Impact Pathway

Mr Farid Ahmad, Head, Strategic Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Unit made a presentation on the topic. He said that at ICIMOD, this methodology is being applied to all the Initiatives of different regional programmes. ICIMOD's programmes, he said, are complex and involve research, but that ICIMOD is not a research organization.

The Theory of Change (ToC) training is expected to help ICIMOD have a more clear strategy, he said. He explained that participatory development of ToC and impact pathways is important (i) to have shared understanding, (ii) to have better defined processes, (iii) for setting up an objective ground for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) programme which are implemented by partners, (iv) to better define M&E strategies, and (v) to help have better ownership of the programme by bringing everyone together to understand the process.

He said the 3 major questions usually asked are:

- Can you show us where we have made the difference?
- Can you tell us who is using your research? How are the research results scaled up and scaled out?
- Do you have good community engagement strategies in place to achieve the desired impact?

Participatory Impact Pathways Process (PIPA) was explained covering problem tree analysis (which help to understand the results better); objective analysis; stakeholders and other actors analysis; and constructing the impact logic. While explaining problem analysis, he mentioned that KLCDI partners and ICIMOD have developed the regional FAR. He said that the core problems, their causes and effects, and how we can solve them have to be reviewed and finalized. Moreover, he said that as outputs will not automatically lead to outcome, rigorous efforts are required in order to come up with comprehensive M&E plan which will also help partners to come up with good M&E strategies.

Dr Thomas Chandy asked for clarification between critical changes of institutions and critical changes of actors. Farid Ahmad responded that actors could be individuals, while institutions are key players. He said that institutions are big players and unless institutions are taken on board it is difficult to make changes at policy level of those institutions. Critical changes in institutions may be needed along with changes in knowledge and attitude, which are qualitative factors needed to affect positive impacts.

On the question asked by Dr Thomas Chandy as to where the good practices in the region could be recorded, Farid responded that within this landscape programme good practices will be recorded by ICIMOD and partners. On the question of whether any person who does desktop research can come up with this kind of headings and write-ups, he responded that all the partners and ICIMOD have done comprehensive FAR, with rigorous research and group work.

## **Presentations and plenary discussions of country implementation plans**

Mr Sonam Wangchuk, Chief Forest Officer, Wildlife Conservation Division, Department of Forest and Park Services, Bhutan, presented the Bhutan Implementation Plan Bhutan, while from India Dr HK Badola presented their Plan, and Professor RP Chaudhary for Nepal. The implementation plans of the three countries are annexed as Annexure C.

During the plenary discussion, it was pointed out that 208 species of flora presented in Bhutan's FAR is very low, and that it would likely approximate 2000 species. Additionally, Bhutan may host more endemic species than indicated in its country FAR document.

## **Presentation and plenary discussion: Regional Implementation Plan**

Dr Nakul Chettri presented regional implementation plan attached as Annexure C.

In the discussion that followed, it was noted that regional collaboration is the most important aspect and more homework needs to be done at the country levels to achieve this. It was suggested that focus should on what is doable and achievable. Since the region is data-deficit, more information in various fields such as endemic species need to be collected to bridge the data gap. Similarly, it was suggested that efforts be made to supplement livelihoods, not encroach into additional natural resources. As animals will not recognize re-created boundaries, management of important ecosystems to strengthen corridor connectivity was stressed in view of facilitating movement of floral and faunal species.

It was also suggested that resource governance be given due consideration and the activities suggested by the countries be made to feed into regional cooperation. Since climate change and invasive species are important issues, they should receive priority attention. Besides, participants suggested that data in the area of hydrometeorology and cultural aspects needed improvement. The importance of improving infrastructure for tourism to improve livelihoods was suggested as another priority area. Some participants stated that themes that involved all three countries (for example wildlife trade) should be prioritized.

## Technical Session III: The KL Regional Cooperation Framework

Mr Sharad Chandra Paudel chaired the session.

### Plenary discussion: Revisiting the nomenclature of KLCDI

A discussion took place about nomenclature of Kangchenjunga as to whether to use 'Kangchenjunga' or 'Khangchendzonga.' The issue was discussed by each country with their views summarized below.

Bhutan stated that Mt Kangchenjunga is shared by India and Nepal which both use different nomenclature. Since Bhutan does not have a name for it, they stated to abide by whatever nomenclature is jointly proposed by India and Nepal. They felt that nomenclature should not dampen the spirit of regional cooperation.

India mentioned that nomenclature of the landscape is something which must be resolved amicably through a unified approach. Indian participants explained that the government of Sikkim has notified the official spelling as 'Khangchendzonga'. They mentioned that the same nomenclature has been used for Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve. They also said that the mountain itself has religious significance to the people of Sikkim, and that there are various rituals performed to the deity of the mountain. The Lepcha people, who are a unique indigenous group, also call it by this name. This being the case, they said that the people of Sikkim would be offended if a different name is used for Khangchendzonga. Thus, they advocated that the nomenclature for the landscape be Khangchendzonga.

Nepal stated that the nomenclature 'Kangchenjunga' was agreed upon during the First Regional Meeting held in Gangtok in 2012. Nepalese participants also expressed that the government of Nepal has adopted Kangchenjunga as official spelling while notifying the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area. They said that this nomenclature has deep religious and cultural connotation. The group thus proposed that the same spelling be used.

Another proposal was made to consider adopting a different name similar to the Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape which has been re-named as Hi-LIFE if there is no agreement on the nomenclature. It was proposed that since ICIMOD has used Kangchenjunga from the beginning it can be adopted as official nomenclature. However, ICIMOD's legitimacy to name the landscape was questioned by India. India felt that whatever nomenclature adopted should not ignore local names given centuries by local people reflecting their spiritual and cultural values. It was also suggested that Nepal and India can use their own nomenclature. It was clarified that ICIMOD has not given nomenclature to the landscape, but used the nomenclature available in literature. As there was no consensus, it was decided that a nomenclature acceptable to all the countries will be finalized in due course of time.

### Presentation and plenary discussion: Regional Cooperation Framework for Implementation of KLCDI

Dr Nakul Chettri presented the regional cooperation framework document. Dr Chettri reiterated the programme goal of transboundary landscape programme of ICIMOD and emphasized on 'sustaining ecosystem goods and services, improved livelihood and strengthen socio-ecological resilience in changing environment'. He also rationalized the need for RCF to be able to change the regional challenges into opportunity and enhanced regional cooperation. During the presentation, he highlighted the content of the RCF starting with the 'Preamble' followed by 'Process, Principles and Mechanisms'. Dr Chettri emphasized on having a 'Regional Coordinating Body' and formation of 'Regional Working Groups' for Bhutan and India and India and Nepal in a bilateral basis.

In the discussion session, Dasho Tenzin Dhendup reaffirmed Bhutan's commitment to KLCDI. He said that Bhutan support the principles and framework of regional cooperation. He added that Bhutan supports the idea of setting up working groups between the bordering countries for dealing with bilateral issues related to KLCDI, as well as setting up a regional body for dealing with regional transboundary problems. He mentioned that a coordination body already exists between India and Bhutan. He underlined the need for KLCDI to develop terms of references for the bilateral and regional bodies.



Dr Thomas Chandy said that so far KLCDI-related discussions have taken place largely at the level of Secretaries and below. He suggested that some forums be created at the Ministry level in the three countries for the same. He also viewed that the modality for bilateral and regional bodies needs to be framed and operationalized. He said that perhaps such bodies could be termed as 'Boards.'

Mr KP Acharya said that the texts need revision as there are inconsistencies. As an example, he pointed out the Millennium Development Goals which will soon be changed to Sustainable Development Goals. He suggested the following changes:

- Paragraph 5: Replace 'National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans' with 'National Biodiversity Strategy and Implementation Plans'
- Paragraph 8: Replace the 'State of Sikkim' with 'the whole of Sikkim'.
- Paragraph 17: remove 'within and outside PAs' in the objective
- Paragraph 20: This need not put as a separate objective as this is the motto of the KLCDI- RCF

He pointed out that members of the bilateral and regional bodies, and their terms of references need to be elaborated along with the mechanism to report to the regional committee. He also felt that the mechanism of KL implementation ended abruptly and suggested for its improvement. He added that implementation modality is missing in the document, while ICIMOD's role in the regional cooperation needs to be included.

Professor RP Chaudhary sought a clarification, in the case of Nepal, how the mechanism of implementation will be linked to the Kailash Sacred Landscape.

Dr Rajan Kotru explained the modality operational in the Kailash Sacred Landscape. He said that 5-year implementation plans are prepared in coordination with the Project Management Unit based in ICIMOD. The Programme Steering Committee, comprising of representatives from the governments of participating countries, is set up to review and approve the implementation plan. This implementation plan is then used to interface with donors, he said.

## Concluding Session

Mr Basanta Shrestha, Director, Strategic Cooperation, ICIMOD, chaired the session. At the outset, the Chairperson placed on record that the meeting provided a platform to share the progress of past years and promoted a rich discussion among the experts and policy makers of the partner countries and ICIMOD. He then invited the speakers to make their concluding remarks.

## Way forward

Dr Rajan Kotru presented a way forward. He stated that the FAR, CDS, and Implementation Plans will be consolidated based on the inputs from the 3rd Regional Meeting. The next step, he said, will be to refine the KL RCF based on the feedback from partners. This will then be submitted to the countries for endorsement by the key Ministries. Following its endorsement, implementation will start at pilot scale within which baseline data will be collected and prioritized activities will be implemented on the ground. He also mentioned that exposure visit to the Kailash Sacred Landscape will be arranged for staff from partner countries to facilitate learning. He stressed that two-way communication among different stakeholders will be crucial for effective implementation of field activities.

## Remarks from member countries

For Bhutan, Dasho Tenzin Dhendup reaffirmed Bhutan's support to KLCDI. He expressed Bhutan's solidarity with other countries in implementing KLCDI and mentioned Bhutan will extend their cooperation to take the initiative forward. He appreciated the word 'development' in the KL documents as it connotes a paradigm that will allow integration of conservation and development. He also said that development is crucial for the Initiative as there is high incidence of poverty in the landscape; in KL Bhutan incidence of poverty is 17% against the national average

of 12%. He stressed the need to make a balance between conservation and development in KL, not making more ecology-centered and less people-centered. Since many cross-cutting issues, challenges and opportunities exist in the landscape, he said that there is a need to prioritize and implement the activities that are doable.

For India, Dr JR Bhatt said that KLCDI needs to build on the brotherhood that exists among the three countries and emphasized that the Initiative should focus on doing something good on the ground. Everything else is subsidiary, he said. He said, "We will come and go, but the landscape will remain." He reminded participants that the landscape particularly uplifts the human spirit and that this reverence must be maintained at all times.

He viewed that meetings are important for strengthening collaboration, as well as for introspecting about where we are. Meetings broaden our mental horizon and improve our understanding through interactions and knowledge gained, he said. However, he asked, "From this meeting did we get what we expected, or did ICIMOD get what they have expected from us?"

He also suggested that KL documents be improved through rigorous peer review. He cautioned that we should not always pursue modern philosophy, but focus on indigenous knowledge and traditional practices of the landscape. Nature cannot be taken for granted; nature will protect humans only if she is protected, he said. He urged the participants to commit to use KLCDI as a forum to achieve actions on the ground and to strengthen ties between the countries. He concluded by reaffirming the Government of India's support to the initiative.

For Nepal, Mr Sharad Chadra Poudel offered sincere thanks to all participants of the workshop. He quoted Al Gore, "People only feel what they see, and they don't believe what they don't see." He said human beings either have to live sustainably or perish. As other creatures, animals, birds, and rivers do not see political boundaries, the countries in the landscape need to embark on transboundary landscape work in order to manage the habitats of such species, he said. He also said that ecosystems and cultures of KL are very important. As activities of one country affect other countries we need collaborative effort, which is a challenge in itself to achieve. He appreciated ICIMOD's effort in bringing the three countries together to work on KLCDI and reaffirmed the Government of Nepal's commitment to implement KLCDI activities under the proposed Regional Cooperation Framework.

## Remarks from GIZ

Mr Manfred Seebauer said that collaboration among the three countries should come at the personal level. He said that it should be the forest divisions and districts in the countries collaborating. While the things done in a meeting like this are necessary, actions need to be taken on the ground, he said. He noted that communication and coordination strategies need strengthening and GIZ would do its best to support the partners in this endeavour. Regarding the name of the landscape, he said, there would be no harm in having three or four names as long as they are literally not translated into English name.

## Remarks from ADA

Mr Ramesh Chhetri said that this is one of the first meetings of the KL initiative that he attended which he found very educating. While all countries have made good presentations and demonstrated good participation, he said that constraints are actually faced during the implementation phase. He conveyed ADA's ongoing commitment to support ICIMOD and the KL countries in KLCDI. He also felt that KLCDI provides a platform to balance development and conservation. While ICIMOD is just a catalyst and facilitator, the ultimate onus, he felt, lies with the member countries. He proposed ICIMOD's guidance and support for the operationalization of monitoring and evaluation at the country/field level to ensure quality and effectiveness of the programme. He also noted that the experience of Kailash Landscape shared in the meeting was enriching. He took cognizance of the rich indigenous knowledge in KL and urged KLCDI to capitalize on this. On the whole, he expressed his satisfaction on the outputs of the meeting and sounded convinced that the outputs will provide a sound basis for KLCDI to move to the implementation stage.

## Vote of thanks

Mr KP Acharya, on behalf of the organizers of the meeting, thanked all the participants for their active participation and contributions. He also thanked the governments of the three countries and the donor agencies for their support. He thanked all the KLCDI country teams and ICIMOD staff for preparing KL documents and presenting them at the meeting. He also thanked all the speakers of the concluding session for their remarks. Before closing, he thanked all those who supported in bringing the meeting to a successful conclusion.

## Annex A

Day 1: Monday, 23 February 2015		
08:30–09:00	Registration	ICIMOD
<b>Inaugural Session</b> Event Host – Krishna Acharya, MoFSC, Nepal Chair - Sharad Chandra Paudel, Secretary, MoFSC, Nepal Chief Guest - Dasho Tenzin Dhendup, Secretary, MoAF, Bhutan		
09:00–09:15	Welcome address	Dr David Molden, DG, ICIMOD
09:15–09:45	ICIMOD’s transboundary initiatives in the Hindu Kush Himalayas: An overview	Dr Eklabya Sharma, DPO, ICIMOD
09:45–09:50	Meeting background, objectives and programme	Dr Nakul Chettri, ICIMOD
09:50–09:55	Opening remarks – GIZ	Manfred Seebauer, GIZ
09:55–10:00	Opening remarks – ADA	Ramesh Chhetri, ADA
10:00–10:05	Opening remarks – India	Dr J R Bhatt, Advisor, MoEFCC, India
10:05–10:15	Opening remarks from Chief Guest	Dasho Tenzin Dhendup, Secretary, MoAF, Bhutan
10:15–10:20	Book Launch – Kangchenjunga Landscape Nepal – From Conservation and Development Perspectives	Introduction – Prof R P Chaudhary Launch by Sharad Chandra Paudel, Dasho Tenzin Dhendup, and Dr JR Bhatt
10:20–10:25	Remarks from the session Chair	Sharad Chandra Paudel Secretary, MoFSC, Nepal
10:25–10:30	Vote of thanks	Dr Rajan Kotru, RPM-TBL, ICIMOD
10:30–11:00	Photo session and refreshments	
<b>Technical Session I: Highlights of KL Feasibility Assessment Report and Conservation &amp; Development Strategy</b> Session Chair: Dasho Tenzin Dhendup, Secretary, MoAF, Bhutan		
11:00–11:15	Introduction of participants	
11:15–11:55	Presentation: Highlights from the KL Regional Feasibility Assessment Report	Dr Janita Gurung, ICIMOD
11:55–12:30	Presentation: Regional Conservation and Development Strategy for the KL	Karma Phuntsho, ICIMOD
12:30–12:50	Plenary discussion	
12:50–13:00	Remarks by the Chair	Dasho Tenzin Dhendup, Secretary, MoAF, Bhutan
13:00–14:00	Lunch	
<b>Technical Session II: The Theory of Change for KLCDI</b> Session Chairs: Dr JR Bhatt, Advisor, MoEFCC, and Dr Thomas Chandy, IFS, PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary, Government of Sikkim, India		
14:00–14:30	Presentation and plenary discussion: Theory of Change through Participatory Impact Pathway Assessment	Farid Ahmad, ICIMOD

14:30–15:45	Country presentations and plenary discussion: Implementation Plan: Bhutan India Nepal	Sonam Wangchuk, WCD Dr HK Badola, GBPIHED Prof. Ram P Chaudhary, RECAST-TU
15:45–16:00	Tea break	
16:00–16:30	Presentation and plenary discussion: Regional Implementation Plan	Dr Nakul Chettri, ICIMOD
16:30–17:00	Discussion and remarks by the Chair	
18:00–20:30	Reception dinner hosted by MoFSC and ICIMOD	

## Day 2: Tuesday, 24 February 2015

### Technical Session III: The KL Regional Cooperation Framework

Session Chair: Mr Sharad Chandra Paudel, Secretary, MoFSC, Nepal

09:00–09:30	Plenary discussion: Revisiting the nomenclature of KLCDI	Dr Rajan Kotru, TBL-PM, ICIMOD
09:30–09:45	Presentation and plenary discussion: Regional Cooperation Framework for implementation of KLCDI	Dr Nakul Chettri, ICIMOD
09:45–10:20	Country remarks on KL RCF:	Dasho Tenzin Dhendup, Bhutan Dr JR Bhatt, India Krishna Acharya – Nepal
10:20–10:30	Discussion and remarks by the Chair	
10:30–11:00	Tea break	

### Concluding Session

Chair: Mr Basanta Shrestha, Director Strategic Cooperation, ICIMOD

11:00–11:15	Way forward for KLCDI	Dr Rajan Kotru, RPM-TBL, ICIMOD
11:15–12:30	Remarks: Bhutan	Dasho Tenzin Dhendup, Secretary, MoAF, Bhutan
	Remarks: India	Dr J R Bhatt, Advisor, MoEFCC, India
	Remarks: Nepal	Sharad Chandra Paudel Secretary, MoFSC, Nepal
	Remarks: GIZ	Manfred Seebauer, GIZ
	Remarks – ADA	Ramesh Chhetri, ADA
	Closing remarks by Session Chair	Basanta Shrestha, ICIMOD
	Vote of thanks	Krishna P Acharya, Joint Secretary, MoFSC Nepal
12:30–13:30	Lunch	
14:00–18:00	Visit World Heritage Site of Bhaktapur Durbar Square	Optional

## Annex B: Regional CDS

<b>Mission:</b> Men, women, and children of the Kangchenjunga landscape enjoy improved wellbeing in a healthy ecosystem with richer biodiversity.	
<b>Vision:</b> A transboundary landscape where social and economic wellbeing of beneficiaries is ensured and ecological and cultural integrity is maintained.	
<b>Goal:</b> The Kangchenjunga landscape is better conserved and managed for sustaining ecosystem goods and services to improve livelihoods and enhance ecological integrity, economic development, and socio-cultural resilience to environmental changes.	
Outcome 1: More eco-friendly and productive livelihood options adopted;	
Outcome 2: Improved management of ecosystem services in the landscape;	
Outcome 3: Improved natural resource governance, equitable benefits and cultural integrity;	
Outcome 4: Improved cooperation among scientists, academics, practitioners and RMCs in development works;	
Outcome 5: Strengthened regional cooperation among participating RMCs.	
Strategies	Actions
1 Promote eco-friendly & more productive livelihood options for local communities;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversify livelihood options - tourism, off-farm employment;</li> <li>• Enhance productivity – agriculture, horticulture, livestock, forests, agroforestry;</li> <li>• Promote enterprises - cottage industries, processing and value addition and so on;</li> <li>• Promote efficient and sustainable use of water &amp; energy;</li> <li>• Explore setting up crop/livestock insurance programme;</li> <li>• Strengthen local culture and tradition – arts, crafts, skills and practices;</li> <li>• Strengthen research and technological support.</li> </ul>
2 Strengthen management of protected areas, biological corridors & ecosystems outside protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen conservation effectiveness of protected areas;</li> <li>• Promote CBS to manage ecosystems within and outside PAs;</li> <li>• Enhance management of forest resources- GF, CF, PF...</li> <li>• Implement management plans for important floral and faunal areas outside PAs;</li> <li>• Strengthen infrastructure - management of PAs and BCs;</li> <li>• Enhance scientific knowledge - ecological communities, species, genetic diversity, ecosystem functions and agrobiodiversity.</li> </ul>
3 Promote participatory, gender sensitive, inclusive and equitable approaches in natural resource management policy and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remold and harmonize sectoral natural resource policies;</li> <li>• Promote policies, institutions and practices that ensure socially and gender inclusive development;</li> <li>• Strengthen multi-stakeholder and community-based institutions, including customary institutions;</li> <li>• Strengthen mechanisms for coordinated planning &amp; implementation of NRM plans;</li> <li>• Promote policies and legislations - equitable access to species and genetic resources, regional cooperation.</li> </ul>



4 Strengthen regional transboundary cooperation and actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and make transboundary cooperation platform functional - resolve cross-border issues of trade of natural resources, and so on;</li> <li>• Design and apply common methodologies and frameworks;</li> <li>• Develop a regional database and share data, including research findings, good practices and others;</li> <li>• Implement transboundary landscape management plans - management of ecoregions, migratory species and others.</li> </ul>
5 Monitor environmental and socio-economic changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen collection, analysis, management and sharing of meteorological, hydrological, cryosphere data....</li> <li>• Operationalize a system - assessment, analysis and documentation of demographic, economic and social changes;</li> <li>• Set up and make a system functional - measure, analyze and document changes in the structure of ecosystems.</li> </ul>
6 Strengthen capacity of strategic actors /stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance managerial &amp; planning capacity - social mobilization, resource management planning, conflict resolution, agroforestry management, forest management....</li> <li>• Strengthen technical capacity - soil and water conservation, policy revision/formulation, research, extension...</li> <li>• Strengthen capacity for transboundary cooperation - resolving cross-border illegal trade, wildlife migration and so on;</li> <li>• Raise awareness - NR use, illegal wildlife trade, poaching, policy change, new technologies, improved natural resource use practices, success stories and others;</li> <li>• Strengthen capacity of stakeholders for effective monitoring and evaluation of programme/ project.</li> </ul>

## Annex C: Implementation Plan

### Implementation Plan – Bhutan

Activities	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Responsible organizations
<b>Outcomes 1: Economic and social well-being of local communities improved</b>						
1.1: Strengthen and develop community facilities and other income generating activities						
Support best energy saving device						Dzongkhags and DOFPS
Promote incentivized conservation (ecotourism, alternative livelihood)						
Identify gaps and impart hands-on training (energy saving device, SGI, etc.						
1.2: Strengthen CBNRM and promote gender equality						
Diversification and value additions of NWFPs						
Formation of women and disadvantaged groups						
1.3: Promote rangeland governance and livestock-based value chain						
Provide value addition on the existing farmer groups and other co-operatives						
Value addition and continue strengthening of market for livestock products						
<b>Outcomes 2: harmonious co-existence between human and wildlife enhanced</b>						
2.1: Conduct participatory action research on understanding cause of human wildlife conflict						
Conduct biological and socio-economic assessments						DoFPS
2.2 Mitigation and adaptation options of human wildlife conflict						
Value addition work on the existing mitigation measures adopted						DoFPS
Document and revive traditional practices						DoFPS and Dzongkhags
<b>Outcome 3: Ecosystem functions and services in relation to climate change improved</b>						
3.1 Generate and update socio-ecological data						
Revalidation of existing data and recording new one where gap exist						
3.2 Mitigation of potential environment risks and hazards						
Identify and assess potential environmental risks and hazards and institute appropriate measures						MOHCA, DGM, DOFPS
Document critical watersheds and prepare management plans						DoFPS
Align above listed hazards with priorities listed under NOAPA and SAPA						
3.3 Strengthening and promoting community based surveillance and institution						
Capacity building and awareness on PES, mitigation measures for green house gas emissions						

**Outcome 4: Resource governance and coordination strengthened****4.1 Strengthening management base in JKSNR**

Improve infrastructure, interpretation and information base

**4.2 Promote collaboration with stakeholders**

Organize awareness and coordination workshop on sustainable use of natural resource

DOFPS and Dzongkhags

**4.3 Promote transboundary cooperation among partner countries**

Strengthen co-ordination mechanisms to reduce illegal wildlife trade

MoHCA and MOAF

**4.4 Explore and produce innovative mechanisms to reduce illegal wildlife trade****4.5 Harmonize existing policies/guidelines and strengthen M&E systems DoFPS****Implementation Plan – Nepal**

Activities	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Responsible organizations
<b>Outcome 1: Economic and social well-being of indigenous and local communities, especially disadvantaged groups and women in the landscape are improved</b>						
Identify and promote cash crops and livestock products through value chain approach						
Promote community level productive infrastructure and services						
Prepare and implement cultural and natural heritage-based tourism development plan and develop infrastructure						
Support to promote alternative energy technologies						
<b>Outcome 2: Ecosystem structure and functions are conserved</b>						
Support to prepare and implement participatory management plans of IBAs and IPAs outside PAs						
Support to prepare/update and implement district forest sector plan/forest operational plan/watershed, rangelands and wetland management plans						
Mai Pokhari Ramsar Management						
Churia-Tarai Madesh Conservation Development						
Prepare/update and implement Species Conservation Action Plan for priority species						
Develop and implement participatory mechanism to control illegal wildlife poaching and trade						
<b>Outcome 3: Participatory resource governance and equitable access to natural resources and benefit sharing are improved</b>						
Capacity building of stakeholders						
Human wildlife conflict resolving						

**Outcome 4: Long-term socio-ecological and environmental monitoring systems are operationalized/ established**

Long-term socio-economic and environmental monitoring						
Support to enhance line ministries capacity in landscape level policy formulation						
Support strengthening capacity of DFSCC and other local (CBOs, FUGs) institutions						

**Implementation Plan – India**

Activities	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Responsible organizations
<b>Outcomes 1: Natural and agro ecosystem assessed and prioritized</b>						
Objective 1.1: Assess and prioritize ecosystems, ecosystem functions and value ecosystem services						
Information generation on ecosystems, ecosystem functions, ecosystem services, and understand their linkages	√	√	√	√	√	GBP /Other organizations/ Volunteers
Identify threats and most vulnerable ecosystems, and prioritize the measures to minimize the impacts		√	√	√	√	GBP / Other organizations/ Volunteers
Valuation of ecosystem services	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/DoF-WB&SK/ Other organizations/ Volunteers
Objective 1.2: Assess biodiversity and agrobiodiversity functions and services through participatory approach						
Bio-resources- assessment and scientific validation and ethno-biological evaluation of important bio-cultural resources	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/Volunteers/Other organizations
Develop protocols for documentation, characterization, evaluation and conservation of plant genetic resources, traditional and bio-cultural diversity	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/ Other organizations/ Volunteers
Assess biodiversity, agro biodiversity and their functions and services	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/Volunteers/Other organizations
Objective 1.3: Strengthen and improve ecosystem management through policy review and multi-stakeholder dialogue						
Assessment / review of existing policies and identify gaps, and develop sustainable management tools	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/ other organizations/ Volunteers/ DoF-WB&SK
Strengthen linkages and convergence between stakeholders and line departments	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/ DoF-WB&SK / Volunteers
<b>Outcomes 2: Socio-economic status of local communities, with focus on marginal people, improved</b>						
Objective 2.1: Diversify livelihood options, enhance on-farm and off-farm productivity						
Promote high-value cash crops, including underutilized/lesser known crops, etc.	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers/GBP/ DoF WB&SK
Ex-situ conservation of MAPs/ NTFPs	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers/GBP/ DoF WB&SK
Improve and strengthen value chain of livestock farming/enterprise		√	√	√	√	Volunteers/GBP /DoF WB&SK/ Other organization

Promotion/improvement/development of Apiculture/Sericulture, / post-harvest technology, pisciculture and their value chain	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers/GBP/DoF WB&SK
Promotion and improvement of small scale enterprises	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers/DoF WB&SK
<b>Objective 2.2: Ensure equitable and fair opportunities for resource use and decision-making</b>						
Strengthen and involve social capital (between/within the communities, institution/ organizations etc.) for sustainable natural resources management	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers/DoF -WB&SK
<b>Objective 2.3: Strengthen market access through value chain approach for agricultural produce</b>						
Inventorize, assess and improve value chain of agro-products	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/Volunteers/other organizations
Establish/strengthen service and market centres and their linkages including cooperatives (collection system, exhibitions, agro- fairs, etc.)		√	√	√	√	Volunteers/other organizations/DoF-WB&SK/ GBP
<b>Objective 2.4: Promote community-based sustainable and equitable tourism</b>						
Identify cultural and natural heritage assets and develop appropriate ecotourism products	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers /GBP/ Other organizations/DoF-WB&SK
Skill/capacity development of tourism service providers (youth, communities etc.) including conservation awareness	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers/GBP/Other organizations /DoF-WB&SK
Explore transboundary tourism and strengthen marketing linkages	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/DoF-WB&SK/ Volunteers / Other organizations
<b>Objective 2.5: Gender equality and women empowerment</b>						
Understand the existing social and gender issues	√	√				Volunteers/Other organizations
Ensure women involvement/ empowerment in various activities in different groups and cooperatives	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers/Other organizations
<b>Outcomes 3: Effective natural resource management systems are in place and functional</b>						
<b>Objective 3.1: Strengthen community participation in natural resource management</b>						
Strengthening community participation through inter-institutional organizations (GOs, NGOs, CBOs, BMCs, Himal Rakshaks, Pokhari Sanrakshan Samiti, EDCs, FPCs) including tea garden workers	√	√	√	√	√	DoF-WB&SK/Volunteers/ GBP
Revive traditional natural resource management practices- religious/ ethnic lines	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers/GBP/ DoF-WB&SK/Other Organizations like Ayus
<b>Objective 3.2: Improvement of knowledge on conservation and management of soil and water resources</b>						
Study on effect of dolomite mining on in the Dooars region; explore transboundary mitigation measures	√	√	√	√	√	DoF-WB&SK/Volunteers/ GBP

Revive traditional soil and water conservation approaches (springs) and innovative interventions	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers /DoF-WB&SK
<b>Objective 3.3: Mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts (HWCs)</b>						
Assess human-wildlife conflicts including feral populations for specific areas	√	√	√	√		GBP/ Volunteers/ Other organizations/DoF-WB&SK/
Develop/ implement HWC mitigation measures	√	√	√			DoF-WB&SK/Volunteers/ GBP/ Other organizations
Studies on wildlife population and their habitats including feeding habits	√	√	√	√	√	DoF-WB&SK / Other organizations/ GBP / Volunteers
Wildlife-specific capacity building in monitoring wildlife movements, etc. and promote community-based volunteer groups for HWCs management	√	√	√	√	√	DoF-WB&SK /Volunteers
Strengthen wildlife corridor /habitats	√	√	√	√	√	DoF-WB&SK /Volunteers
<b>Objective 3.4: Curbing illegal trade in wildlife produce and grazing</b>						
Assess illegal collection and trade and strengthen information network	√	√	√	√	√	DoF-WB&SK /Volunteers
Improve governance including transboundary cooperation		√	√	√	√	DoF-WB&SK /GBP/ Volunteers
<b>Objective 3.5: Improve access and benefit sharing (ABS) through mechanism like National Biological Diversity Act</b>						
Awareness generation among community through inter-institutional network	√	√	√	√	√	DoF-WB&SK/ Volunteers/ GBP
Develop community base biological resource management mechanism			√	√	√	DoF-WB&SK/ Volunteers/ GBP
<b>Outcome 4: Status of trends of ecosystems and human environment understood</b>						
<b>Objective 4.1: Establish monitoring mechanisms in key sites, through participatory approach</b>						
Establish monitoring mechanism and ensure community participation real-time filed observations on physical, biological and social areas at landscape, ecosystem, village and plot level	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/DoF-WB&SK/ Volunteers/Other organizations
<b>Objective 4.2: Long-term monitoring of biodiversity, ecosystems and climate change</b>						
Monitor sensitive/keystone/flagship species: Plant-phenology/animal movements, etc	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/ DoF-WB&SK/ Volunteers/ other organizations
Monitor important ecosystems and key habitats e.g. regeneration pattern, community composition and dynamism, etc	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/Volunteers/ DoF-WB&SK/other organizations
Improve understanding climate change vulnerability (i.e. exposure, sensitivity and response capacity)			√	√	√	GBP/Volunteers/other organizations/ DoF-WB&SK
<b>Objective 4.3: Long-term monitoring of socio-economic, socio-ecological and socio-cultural changes at local and transboundary levels</b>						



Assess demography, socio-economy and resource management	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers/ GBP/ other organization/DoF-WB&SK
Monitor resource use changes and assess impact of large infrastructure projects	√	√	√	√	√	Volunteers/ GBP/DoF-WB&SK
Evaluate socio-ecological and socio-cultural changes over time	√	√	√	√	√	GBP/ Volunteers/Other organizations/ DoF-WB&SK

## Regional Implementation Plan

Themes	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Responsible organizations
Diversify livelihood options (Tourism, NTFPs, agriculture, livestock based enterprises etc.)	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot	Upscale	Upscale	
Strengthen ecosystem management (Valuation, Ramsar sites, corridors, forest, wetland, rangeland etc)	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot	Upscale	Upscale	
Inclusive resources governance and equitable benefit sharing (e.g. PES, REDD+)	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot	Upscale	Upscale	
Initiate Long Term Environmental and Socio-Ecology Monitoring (Environmental, ecological and socio-economic aspects)	Baseline	Baseline	Monitoring	Monitoring	Monitoring	
Establish transboundary cooperation platform (Thematic taskforce, periodic planning, review, monitoring)	Platform, prioritize issues, action plan	Review, revisit plans and monitor	Review, revisit plans and monitor	Review, revisit plans and monitor	Review, revisit plans and monitor	Review, revisit plans and monitor

## Annex D: List of Participants

### Bhutan

Dasho Tenzin Dhendup  
Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
Royal Government of Bhutan

Mr Ratu Wangchuk  
Nature Conservation Specialist  
Department of Forest and Park Services  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Thimphu 11002, Bhutan  
Email: sangaywangchuk33@yahoo.com

Mr Sonam Wangchuck  
Chief, Wildlife Conservation Division  
Department of Forest & Park Services  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Thimphu 11002, Bhutan  
Email: sonamwangchuck@gmail.com

Mr Kaka Tshering  
Deputy Chief Forestry Officer  
Department of Forest and Park Services  
Samtse territorial Division, Samte, Bhutan  
Tel No.: +975-05365359 /Fax: +975-05365359  
Email: Caca\_shering@hotmail.com  
dfosam@maof.gov.bt

Mr Sonam Wangdi  
Chief Forestry Officer, Samtse Division  
Department of Forest and Park Services  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Thimphu 11002, Bhutan

Mr Namgay Wangchuk  
Chief Forestry Officer  
Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve  
Department of Forest and Park Services  
Cell No. +975-17627920  
Email: namwang10@gmail.com

Mr Tashi Tobgay  
Chief Forestry Officer, Gedu Division  
Department of Forests and Park Services  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
Thimphu 11002, Bhutan

Mr Phub Dhendup  
Chief Forestry Officer  
Department of Forests and Park Services  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
Divisional Forest Office, Sarpang Division  
Tel No.+975-06-365341/Cell No.+975 17936520  
Email: pdhendup@moaf.gov.bt

Mr Rinzin Dorji  
Senior Planning Officer  
Policy and Planning Division  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
PPD, MoAF Thimphu  
Bhutan  
Email: Rnzn\_dorji@yahoo.com

Dr. Kinley Choden  
Vet Officer  
Wildlife Conservation Division  
Department of Forest and Park Services  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forest  
Tel No. +975-325042 / Cell No.+975-17162077  
Email: kilaydc@gmail.com

Ms Namgay Bidha  
Forestry Officer and KLCDI-Bhutan Coordinator  
Wildlife Conservation Division  
Department of Forest and Park Services  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forest  
Thimphu 11002  
Cell No. +975-77441210  
Email: bidhanamgay@gmail.com

Mr Ramesh Chhetri  
Programme Officer  
Austria Development Agency  
P.O. Box 307, Thongsel Lam, Lower Motithang  
Thimphu 11001, Bhutan  
Tel No.: +975 (0)2 32 44 95, 32 42 87, 32 30 53  
Fax: +975 (0)2 32 44 96  
Email: Ramesh.Chhetri@ada.gov.at

## India

Dr J.R. Bhatt  
Advisor  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
Government of India  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi 110003, India  
Tel: +91 11 24695130/24695293  
Email: jrbhatt@nic.in

Dr Thomas Chandy, IFS  
PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary  
Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department  
Government of Sikkim, India  
Tel: +91 03592 281261  
Email: pccfcumsecretary@gmail.com

Dr Hemant Kumar Badola  
Scientist 'F' & In-charge  
GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development  
Sikkim Unit, Pangthang, Gangtok  
East Sikkim 737101, India  
Tel: +91 3592 237328 / 2371899  
Cell: +91 9609308881 / 9609740419  
Email: hkbadola@gmail.com

Dr Kailash Singh Gaira  
KLCDI Project Coordinator  
GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development  
Sikkim Unit, Pangthang, Gangtok  
East Sikkim 737101  
Tel: +91 3592 237328 / 2371899  
Email: kailash\_gaira@rediffmail.com

Dr Sunita Pradhan  
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment  
17/B Cooch Behar Road  
Darjeeling 734101, West Bengal  
Tel: +91-03592-206403 /Cell 09434467681  
Email: sunita.pradhan@atree.org

Dr Ghanashyam Sharma  
Program Manager  
The Mountain Institute-India  
Abhilasha, Development Area  
Gangtok, Sikkim 737101  
Tel: +91-3592207942/Cell +91-9800491599  
Email: banstolag@yahoo.co.in

Mr Rajendra Prasad Gurung  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ecotourism & Conservation Society of Sikkim  
J-155, Tayakhim Daradaon, Tadong  
Gangtok, Sikkim 737102  
Tel: +91 3592 232798  
Cell: +91 9733088003  
Email: rpgecoss@gmail.com

Mr Sailesh Chandra Sharma  
Programme Manager  
DLR 'Prerna'  
Hayden Hall Complex, 42, Laden-la Road, Darjeeling  
Tel No. +91-0354-22-55894/Cell +91-9800869959  
Email: saileshkharel@gmail.com

Mr Animesh Bose  
Programme Co-ordinator  
Himalayan Nature & Adventure Foundation- Nivedita market, Hospital Road  
Siliguri 734001, West Bengal  
Tel No. +91-353-2430856 Cell No. +91-9434167299  
Email: hnafsiliguri@gmail.com

Mr Nawraj Gurung,  
Project Coordinator,  
Centre for Mountain Dynamics,  
Pudung Basti, Kalimpong,  
West Bengal  
Email: gurungnawraj@gmail.com  
NEPAL:

Mr Sharad Chandra Paudel  
Secretary  
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation  
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel No. : +977-1- 4211567  
Fax: 977-1-4211868  
Email: paudelsc@yahoo.com

Mr Krishna Prasad Acharya  
Joint Secretary  
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation  
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: +977 1 4211567 / 4211936  
Cell: +977 98511311831  
Email: kpacharya1@hotmail.com

Mr Tika Ram Adhikari  
Director General  
Dept of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation  
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation  
Government of Nepal  
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel No. +977-1-4227926, 4220850  
Cell No. +977-9851053998  
Email: tikaramadhikari.cw@gmail.com

Mr Prakash Nath Pyakurel  
Regional Director  
Eastern Forestry Directorate  
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation  
Biratnagar, Nepal  
Tel: +977 21 460446  
Email: pphyakhurel@yahoo.com

Dr Rajan Kumar Pokharel  
Director General  
Department of Forests  
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation  
Government of Nepal  
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Mr Dhirendra Prasad Singh  
District Forest Officer  
District Forest Office – Taplejung  
Tel: +977 24 460117  
Cell: +977 9849285300  
Email: dhirendraprasad2000@yahoo.com

Mr. Bishnu Prasad Shrestha  
Planning Officer  
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation  
Singhdarbar, Kathmandu  
Tel No. +977-1-4211936  
Cell : 9846030678/9851160678  
Email: bishnu\_stha@yahoo.com

Mr. Hemraj Acharya  
Conservation Officer  
Kangchenjunga Conservation Area  
Lelep-3, Taplejung  
Cell: +977 9845348575  
Email: hracharya@mfsc.gov.np  
hemraaz\_69@yahoo.com

Prof Ram Prasad Chaudhary  
Executive Director and Collaborator of KLCDI  
Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur  
Tel: +977 9841283652  
Email: ram@cdbtu.wlink.com.np

Prof Krishna Kumar Shrestha  
Core Team Member – KLCDI  
Central Department of Botany  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur  
Tel: +977-9851156782  
Email: kk.shrestha@cdbtu.edu.np

Prof Khadga Bahadur Basnet  
Core Team Member - KLCDI  
Central Department of Zoology  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur  
Tel: +977-9841399434  
Email: khadgabasnet@gmail.com

Prof Krishna Raj Shrestha  
Professor and Core Team Member – KLCDI  
RECAST  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur  
Tel: +977-9841298694  
Email: shresthakr1@hotmail.com

Dr Govinda Bahadur Basnet  
Core Team Member – KLCDI  
Independent Consultant  
Tel: +977-9751003810  
Email: gbasnet@gmail.com

Mr Surya Prasad Joshi  
KLCDI Team Member  
Independent Expert  
Tel: +977-9841628480  
Email: joshipsurya@gmail.com

Dr Yadav Uprety  
Programme Officer  
Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology  
(RECAST)  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur  
Tel: +977 4335615  
Cell: +977 9843772554  
Email: yuprety@yahoo.com

## GIZ

c/o ICIMOD, Khumaltar, Nepal  
Tel: +977 1 5003239 / 5003315

Mr Manfred W Seebauer  
Chief Technical Advisor  
Email: manfred.seebauer@giz.de

Ms Corinna Wallrapp  
Technical Advisor  
corinna.wallrapp@giz.de

## ICIMOD

GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: +977 1 5003222

Dr David Molden  
Director General  
Email: David.Molden@icimod.org

Dr Eklabya Sharma  
Director Programme Operation  
Email: Eklabya.Sharma@icimod.org

Mr Basanta Raj Shrestha  
Director Strategic Cooperation  
Email: Basanta.Shrestha@icimod.org

Dr MS Murthy  
Theme Leader – Geospatial  
Email: Manchiraju.Murthy@icimod.org

Dr Golam Rasul  
Theme Leader – Livelihoods  
Email: Golam.Rasul@icimod.org

Mr Farid Ahmad  
Head, SPM&E  
Email: Farid.Ahmad@icimod.org

Dr Rajan Kotru  
Regional Programme Manager–Transboundary  
Landscapes  
Email: Rajan.Kotru@icimod.org

Mr H Valdemar Erling  
Programme Coordinator – HIMALICA  
Email: Valdemar.Holmgren@icimod.org

Dr Anjal Prakash  
Programme Coordinator – HI-AWARE  
Email: Anjal.Prakash@icimod.org  
Dr Rucha Ghate  
Senior NRM Governance Specialist  
Email: Rucha.Ghate@icimod.org

Dr Chanda Gurung Goodrich  
Senior Gender Specialist  
Email: Chanda.Goodrich@icimod.org

Dr Tashi Dorji  
Livelihoods Specialist  
Email: Tashi.Dorji@icimod.org

Dr Uma Partap  
Agriculture and Beekeeping Specialist  
Email: Uma.Partap@icimod.org

Mr Ghulam Muhammad Shah  
Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist  
Email: Ghulam.Shah@icimod.org

Mr Karma Phuntsho  
Senior NRM Specialist  
Email: Karma.Phuntsho@icimod.org

Ms Lalu Maya Kadel  
Monitoring & Evaluation Analyst  
Email: Lalu.Kadel@icimod.org

Mr Nawraj Pradhan  
Ecosystem Management Analyst  
Email: Nawraj.Pradhan@icimod.org

Mr Kamal Aryal  
NRM Analyst  
Email: Kamal.Aryal@icimod.org

Dr Janita Gurung  
Biodiversity Conservation & Mngmt Specialist  
Email: Janita.Gurung@icimod.org

Ms Pratikshya Kandel  
Biodiversity Research Associate  
Email: Pratikshya.Kandel@icimod.org

Mr Kabir Uddin  
GIS and Remote Sensing Analyst  
Email: Kabir.Uddin@icimod.org

Ms Rekha Rasaily  
Programme Associate  
Email: [Rekha.Rasaily@icimod.org](mailto:Rekha.Rasaily@icimod.org)

Dr Nakul Chettri  
Programme Coordinator – KLCDI  
Email: [Nakul.Chettri@icimod.org](mailto:Nakul.Chettri@icimod.org)







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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](mailto:info@icimod.org) **Web** [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org)