

# Summary for Decision-Makers of the Comprehensive Assessment of the Hindu Kush Himalaya: Action to Sustain a Global Asset



## Introduction to HIMAP

The Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme ([www.hi-map.org](http://www.hi-map.org)), coordinated by ICIMOD, has engaged over 300 researchers, practitioners, experts, and policy-makers, to:

- comprehensively assess the current state of knowledge of the HKH region,
- increase the understanding of various drivers of change and their impacts,
- address critical data gaps and
- develop a set of practically oriented policy recommendations.

The first Comprehensive Assessment of the HKH was conducted between 2013 and 2017, with the publication of the assessment report planned towards the end of 2017.

The assessment addresses the social, economic, and environmental pillars of sustainable mountain development and will serve as a basis for evidence-based decision-making to safeguard the environment and advance people’s well-being.



## Realizing the vision: three priorities for action

1. Cooperate at all levels across the HKH region (people to people, business to business, and government to government) for sustainable and mutual benefits. Regional cooperation will magnify upstream and downstream benefits. In contrast, the cost of noncooperation will be unacceptably high—with the heaviest burdens borne by the poor and marginalized.
2. In national, regional, and global decision making institutions and processes, recognize and prioritize the uniqueness of the HKH mountain people. Ensure representation in decision-making. Allocate significantly greater resources and identify incentives for conservation of benefits from mountain ecosystems.
3. Concerted action to keep global level climate change to 1.5 degrees by 2100

## HIMAP Summary for Decision Makers (SDM)

We envision a future for the Hindu Kush Himalaya mountains in which the region’s people (children, women, and men), and societies are:

- Prosperous, healthy, peaceful, and poverty-free.
- Food, energy, and water secure.
- Climate and disaster resilient.

### Prosperous, peaceful, and poverty-free

By 2030, the people in the HKH region will be:

- Healthy and productive, with dignity and with social capital, with a quality of life that ensures well-being.
- Pursuing diversified livelihoods that integrate cultural identities with the maintenance of vibrant ecosystem services.
- Breathing clean air, accessing clean water, managing pollution, and conserving a healthy natural resource base.
- Enjoying equal opportunities and equal access to benefits from resources—regardless of gender, social class, or other historical drivers of socioeconomic inequity.

### Food, energy, and water secure

By 2030, people in the HKH region will have universal and affordable access to:

- High quality, nutritious food in adequate quantities.
- Reliable, renewable, sustainable energy.
- High quality water for domestic and productive uses.

### Climate and disaster resilient

People in the HKH region will be assured of:

- Long-term stabilization of global climate change, with global temperature rise kept within 1.5 degrees by 2100.
- Protection from and adaptation to extreme events [such as floods and droughts] and reduction of disaster risks.
- Minimal loss of ecosystem value due to climate change, and reduced risk of biodiversity loss.
- Access to adequate means of mitigation and long term adaptation—including finance and technology, with the knowledge and capacity building needed to use them.

SDG consistent priorities for mountains and peoples of the HKH	Most Relevant SDGs
End poverty in all its form everywhere in the mountains and ensure that women, men and children of the HKH region lead healthy lives in an inclusive and equitable environment	1, 3, 4
Promote sustainable production systems to assure food security, nutrition security, and income for mountain people, with particular attention to women’s changing roles in agriculture	2, 12
Achieve gender and social equity through inclusive and transformative change in the mountains	5, 10, 16
Ensure a year-round secure water supply in the mountains with universal and affordable access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and water for productive purposes	6, 13
Universal access to clean energy in the mountains from sources that are affordable, reliable, and sustainable	7
Halt biodiversity loss, land degradation and sustainably manage forests and ecosystems in the mountains to enhance ecosystem resilience for sustained flow of services	15
Ensure sustainable adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction for the mountains through evidence-based decision making	1, 11, 13
Build resilient, equitable and inclusive mountain communities empowered by economic opportunity and investment in mountain infrastructure	8, 9, 11
Promote a mountain-specific agenda for achieving the SDGs through increased regional cooperation among and between mountain regions and nations	17