

Transboundary Landscapes

ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE



Transboundary landscapes initiatives at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) redefine conservation and development perspectives through multi-stakeholder engagement. Transboundary cooperation through agreed upon Regional Cooperation Frameworks and South-South Dialogues are essential to forging collective new solutions for mitigating governance deficits. Transboundary initiatives at ICIMOD have demonstrated that transboundary cooperation adds value to livelihoods at scale, while securing ecosystem services and enhancing both social and ecological resilience. ICIMOD's Transboundary landscapes approach visualizes conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources at the scale of larger landscapes defined by ecosystem.

ICIMOD's guiding document—the Framework for Trans-Himalayan Transect and Landscape Approach—identifies four north-south transects and six transboundary landscapes in the region. These are all recognized

by several global conservation and environmental organizations such as the CBD and UNESCO.

Lessons from the Medium-Term Action Plan III (MTAP-III) underline common transboundary challenges for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH):

- How to achieve common management of shared ecosystems and bio-resources given the plethora of local and transboundary level problems such as human-wildlife conflict, forest fires, and illegal wildlife and non-timber forest products (NTFP) trade
- How to ensure water security in upstream-downstream contexts given the negative impacts of climate change on permafrost, glaciers, springsheds, and wetlands
- How to mainstream standardized frameworks and research protocols, and knowledge network to pilot best practices to influence policies and national development strategies for transboundary cooperation

Initiatives

Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI)

- Promoting common branding of KSL value chain products
- Implementing the “landscape approach” at a transboundary scale balancing conservation and development
- Cooperating at the regional level to encourage transborder responsible tourism, value chain markets, and World Heritage status of selected sites from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Strengthening of linkages between existing transboundary institutional mechanisms and knowledge Network building at transboundary scales

Geographical coverage: China, India, Nepal

Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+)

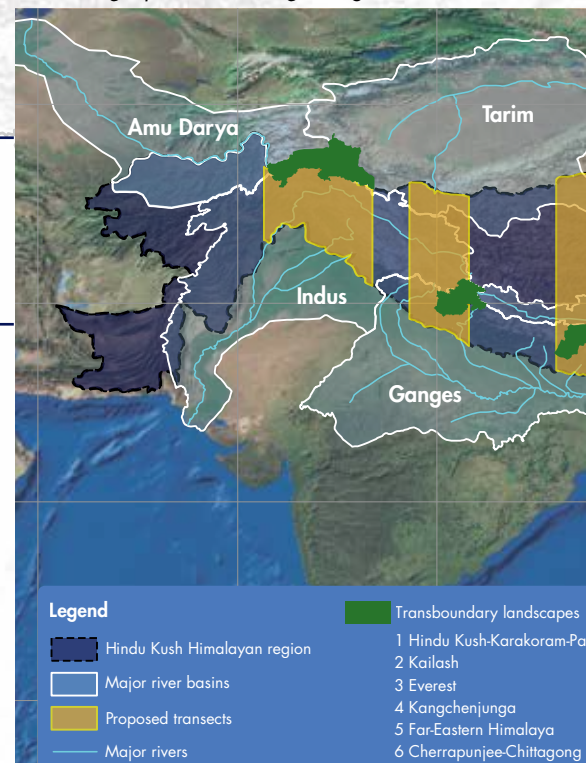
- Promoting the co-benefits of forest conservation
- Conserving biodiversity and sequestering carbon
- Conducting alternative energy and livelihood improvement activities
- Addressing climatic and contemporary non-climatic issues such as poverty and inclusiveness

Geographical coverage: Bhutan, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan

Hindu Kush, Karakoram, Pamir Landscape Conservation

- Promoting transboundary partnerships for scale
- Addressing water security issues for livelihoods especially in relation to large wild mammals
- Promoting livelihood diversification through live
- Mainstreaming bilateral partnerships for levera
- Integrating culture and nature in mainstream d

Geographical coverage: Afghanistan, China, Paki



Outcome

Improved transboundary cooperation among member countries demonstrated through regional policies and strategic partnerships leading to sustenance of mountain ecosystem services and equitable livelihood benefits at regional landscape level.

Key Results

- Enhanced climate resilience and improved livelihoods at the regional level
- Participatory integrated ecosystem management, and long-term environmental and socioecological monitoring at the transboundary scale
- Enhanced local and scientific knowledge generation, and the dissemination and promotion of its use
- Strengthened regional institutions, partnerships, and coordination for biodiversity conservation

Impact Strategy

The centerpiece of transboundary cooperation is the adoption of the “landscape approach” which pivots on multistakeholder analysis, dialogue, and actions leading to:

- Common understanding and priority setting on conservation and development needs at scale
- Collaborative planning and effective implementation
- Regional monitoring of joint progress and performance

Impacts

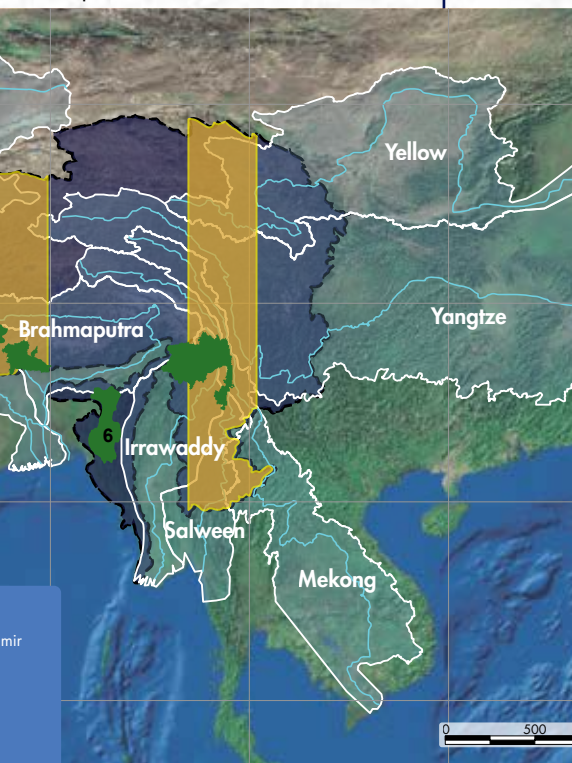
- Functional regional/bilateral institutional mechanisms for the sustainable management of ecosystem services and inclusive livelihoods at the transboundary landscape level
- Harmonized scientific standards and methodologies for research and monitoring, and availability of the resultant data for application by regional planners and practitioners
- Improved scientific credibility for evidence-based policy influencing, enabling regional cooperation
- Socio-economic development of poor and indigenous groups based on criteria for sustainable utilization of biological resources for both domestic and cross-border trade

Conservation and Development Initiative (HKPL CDI)

ed-up conservation and development
and biodiversity conservation,

estock, medicinal plants and tourism
ing regional programme investment
development (environmental archeology)

stan, Tajikistan



Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI)

- Developing a “connectivity corridor”
- Developing and promoting regional tourism and niche products
- Addressing transboundary issues, including human-wildlife conflict
- Facilitating multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approaches in landscape management
- Strengthening regional cooperation through institutional set up and mechanisms

Geographical coverage: Bhutan, India, Nepal

Landscape Initiative for the Far-eastern Himalayas (HI-LIFE)

- Developing knowledge products highlighting transboundary landscape linkages and issues
- Promoting landscape level joint biodiversity monitoring and information sharing platform
- Establishing a regional/bilateral mechanism for the management of transboundary issues and sustainable trade of biological resources
- Promoting the participation of local communities in sustainable ecotourism as a link to innovative livelihoods
- Developing value chains for both domestic and cross border trade

Geographical coverage: China, India, Myanmar

Measuring Outcomes

Indicator 1

Number of global, regional and national networks using research protocols, frameworks and guidelines in mountain landscapes

1. Facilitating and Promoting multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach in transboundary landscape
2. Outscaling of programme inputs for implementation and influencing policies and practices

Indicator 2:

High Quality long term research for Transboundary management

1. Datasets on HKH on ecosystem services using ARIES Platform as well as capacity development of national institutions
2. Landscape level monitoring (biodiversity, wildlife conflict, springshed etc.)
3. Mainstreaming long term monitoring sites with national monitoring programmes

Indicator 3:

Policies and decision making processes influenced at various levels leading to regional cooperation

1. Promote regional scale cooperation on cultural, tourism into policy and practice
2. Strengthen cross border mechanism
3. Transboundary branding and certification
4. Strategic development of Transboundary landscape programme and coordination

Indicator 4:

Knowledge disseminated and contribution to global agenda settings (SDG's; IPBES; UNFCCC-GLF etc.)

1. Promote mountain development learning at global forums
2. Share knowledge with country focal points and build capacity to influence global forums
3. Climate resilience, landscape approach, incentive mechanism

Indicator 5:

Communities benefit by integrated conservation and development in the landscapes

1. Promotion of livelihoods and niche products
2. Gender and inclusive Development
3. Development of value chains for sustainable utilization

Science Policy Interface

- Influencing key natural resource management (NRM) policies in HKH countries in line with MTAP–III lessons and the focus of MTAP–IV (from local and subnational, to national and global levels)
- Strengthening policy engagement/influencing key regional issues, and global commitments and obligations [e.g., nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)]
- Enhancing two-way customization for mountain-specific agendas in global policy arenas through bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change–Global Landscapes Forum (UNFCCC–GLF), CBD, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Ramsar Convention, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Beneficiaries and Intermediaries:

Beneficiaries consist of local communities and stakeholders directly dependent on ecosystem services at scale. This group includes farmers, forest dependents, marginalized and indigenous populations, and women and the youth. Indirectly, the group includes all downstream communities which benefit from water security, carbon sequestration, and the marketing of mountain products.

Intermediaries

- Governments at provincial and national levels
- Ministries and departments within governments with relevance to environmental and transboundary issues such as rural development

- Civil society
- Media—print, radio, television, and internet-based
- Academic and research institutions
- Private sector partners
- Global fora, including regional policy think-tanks, financial institutions, and development agencies.

Knowledge Management (Key achievements)

- Scientists from around the world collaborate to spot geo-hazards
- Harmonization of vegetation types classification across countries
- Contribution to International events/forums of knowledge exchange and global conventions (CBD, IPBES)
- Documentation of heritage loss with ICIMOD devised tools
- Contribution to national planning and development forums and Himalayan studies
- REDD+ remote sensing based carbon assessment methodology
- Interdisciplinary publications
- Innovative publications, and bibliographies and data from the HKH Conservation Portal

Partners in Development

Transboundary initiatives link scientific knowledge to development through policy and practice for sustainable mountain development.

Regional partners are engaged at different levels and scales of ownerships, convergence, and continuity for sustainable conservation and development solutions.



For further information contact

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