



# The Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme (HIMAP)

## Assessments and Science-Policy Dialogues to Sustain a Global Asset



HIMAP is an important collaboration among experts from the Hindu Kush Himalaya and around the globe to fill critical data gaps and generate evidence for action to sustain a globally significant region.

.....

### **In Brief:** The Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme

The Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme (HIMAP) is a collaborative effort of over 300 scientists and policy experts to provide information on the status of, and threats to, the people and environments of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH), through assessments and science-policy dialogues.

HIMAP compiles and analyses current science on the HKH in order to produce robust evidence to reduce scientific uncertainty and to identify actions that governments, civil society, and development professionals can take to address the challenges in the HKH.

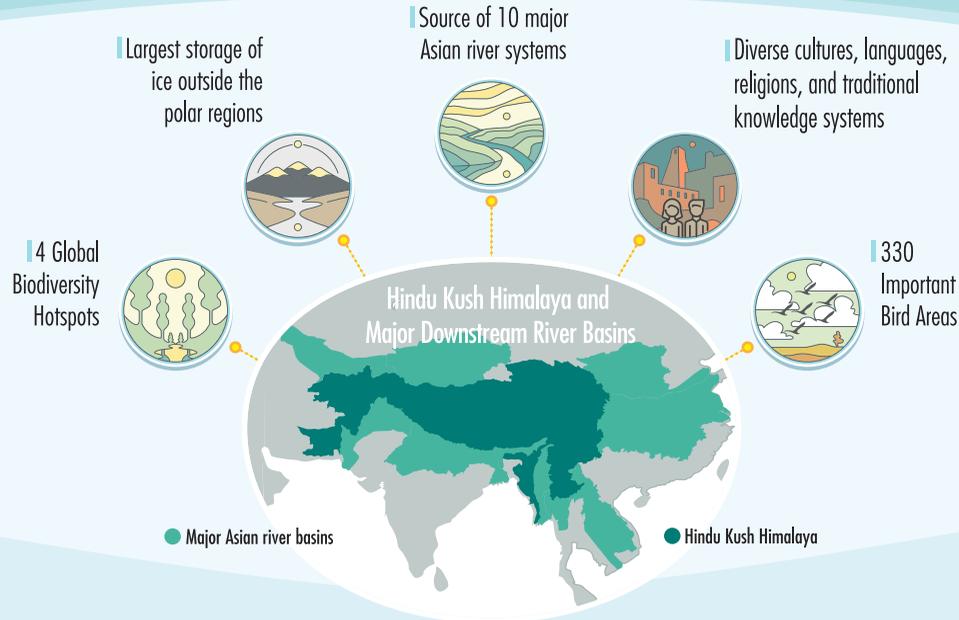
The programme's first comprehensive assessment, set to be published in late 2017, goes beyond climate change and is expected to greatly assist efforts to address threats, act on opportunities, and scale cutting-edge approaches. The HKH Assessment Report contains a wide-ranging, innovative evaluation of the current state of knowledge in the region and of various drivers of change and their impacts, and a set of practical policy recommendations.

## The future of the Hindu Kush Himalaya matters to over one billion people.

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) is one of the greatest mountain systems in the world. Home to the world's highest peaks, unique cultures, diverse flora and fauna, and a vast reserve of natural resources, the HKH supports the lives and livelihoods of over 210 million people living in the hills and mountains. This region also provides numerous benefits to people living beyond its borders. As the source of 10 major Asian rivers, the HKH provides essential resources, especially water, to over a billion people and feeds the grain baskets of Asia.

The HKH is undergoing rapid change, driven by forces such as climate change, disasters, economic growth, globalization, infrastructure development, migration, and urbanization. Changes at the rooftop of the world will have major consequences, not only for people living in the region but globally.

Both regional and international action is required to sustain this global asset.



**210 million**

people directly depend on the HKH for their lives and livelihoods

**1.3 billion**

people live in river basins originating in the HKH

**+35%**

of the world population benefits indirectly from HKH resources and ecosystem services

## Vision for the HKH

A future in which the region's people and societies are:

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

## Achieving the vision

The Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme (HIMAP) is a long-term, integrated science-policy initiative that aims to support policy change and sustainable solutions to some of the region's most immediate challenges by:

- Comprehensively assessing the current state of knowledge of the HKH region, including thematic assessments and annual outlooks
- Increasing understanding of various drivers of change and their impacts
- Developing evidence-based policy solutions and recommendations
- Engaging decision makers across sectors and institutes through a series of HKH Science-Policy Dialogues

## Bringing together diverse stakeholders to develop lasting solutions

HIMAP is a platform for long-term collaboration and coordination among a broad and diverse group of more than 300 leading researchers, practitioners, and policy specialists working in the HKH. Under HIMAP, experts from the region have come together to develop the first Comprehensive Assessment of the HKH, which is set for publication

in late 2017 as the first in a series of monitoring and assessment reports. 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 wellbeing.

## Promoting and monitoring HKH priorities in UN Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals set targets for countries to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. To support countries in the HKH in achieving these goals for mountain communities, HIMAP has developed SDG consistent HKH Mountain Priorities.

The programme will work with countries to periodically monitor their performance and progress toward achieving SDGs at the HKH regional level. It will also promote the use of HIMAP findings and HKH Mountain Priorities in national plans for adaptation and development.

## Taking HIMAP findings into action through HKH Science-Policy Dialogues

Strong scientific evidence is needed to support effective decision making and planning in response to emerging challenges. Through policy-relevant assessments, HIMAP generates sound scientific evidence to support governments in the HKH in their efforts to address challenges related to climate change and other environmental and development stressors.

HIMAP also promotes country and regional deliberations and HKH Science-Policy Dialogues to discuss and define possibilities for enhanced cooperation based on HIMAP results.

Through targeted policy outreach, HIMAP ensures that its findings will contribute to both international dialogue on climate change, adaptation, and resilience as well as action in the eight countries of the HKH by the people who make decisions on investment in, and management of, mountain development – natural resource managers, private sector investors, policy makers, and civil society members.

## Priorities for action



Cooperate at all levels across the HKH on sustainable mountain development



Recognize the uniqueness of the HKH in decision-making institutions and processes



Take concerted action to keep global level climate change to 1.5 degrees by 2100





HIMAP is supported by ICIMOD's core donors:  
the governments of Afghanistan, Australia, Austria,  
Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal,  
Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, and Switzerland.

HIMAP is coordinated by the International Centre for  
Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

[www.hi-map.org](http://www.hi-map.org)

*Photos: Alex Treadway and Rajendra K Shakya*

