Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative

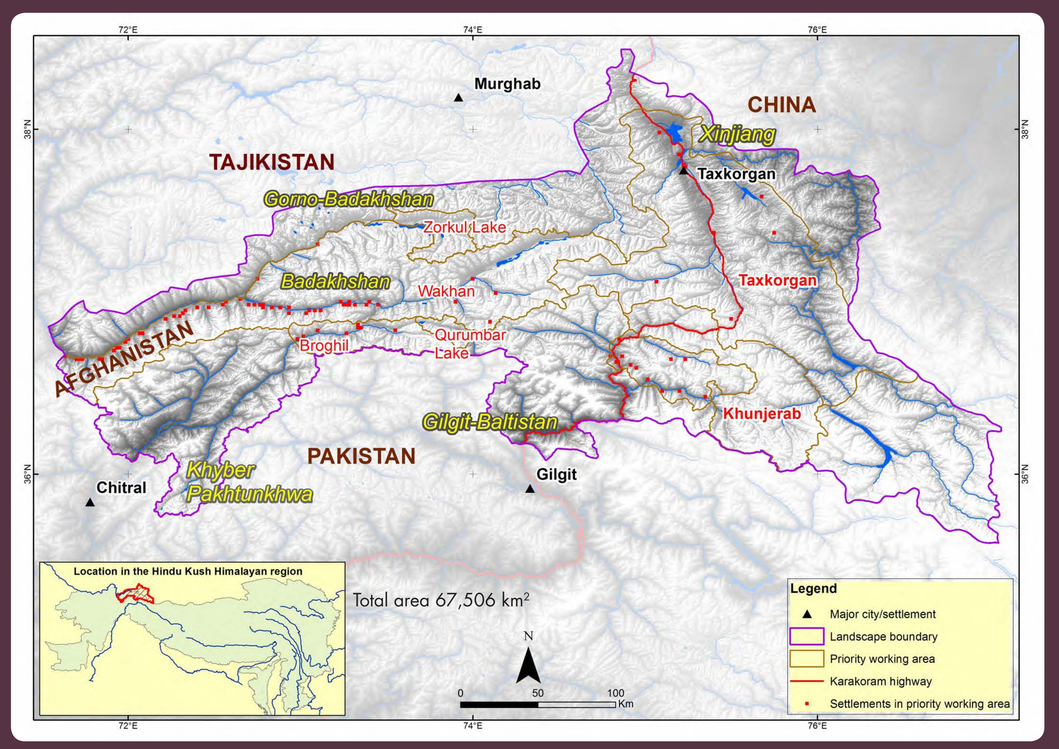
ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

A transboundary initiative for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development across Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.

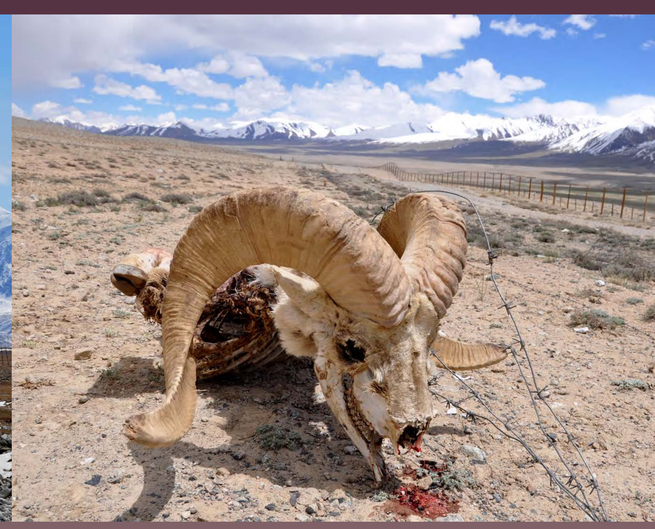
GOAL

Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape (HKPL) is better conserved and managed for sustainable development.



THE LANDSCAPE

- Where the world's three highest mountain ranges – Hindu Kush, Karakoram and Himalaya – meet.
- Cold desert ecosystem with unique biodiversity including the endangered snow leopard and Marco Polo sheep.
- Source of the Amu Darya, Tarim, and Indus rivers.
- Six transboundary protected areas spread over 33,000 km².
- Important trade and cultural exchange corridor – part of the ancient Silk Road.



CHALLENGES

- Lack of sufficient transboundary cooperation mechanisms.
- Lack of landscape level information on environmental conditions, biodiversity, ecosystem services and uses, climate change impacts, and regional socio-economics.
- Improper management of wildlife corridors and ecosystems.
- Lack of infrastructure and capacity for fulfilling existing tourism potential.
- Local communities vulnerable to climate change, natural disasters, and geopolitics.
- Increasing pressure on rangelands, severe energy shortage, and lack of alternative energy technology.
- Lack of alternative sustainable livelihood options and poor development of local niche products.

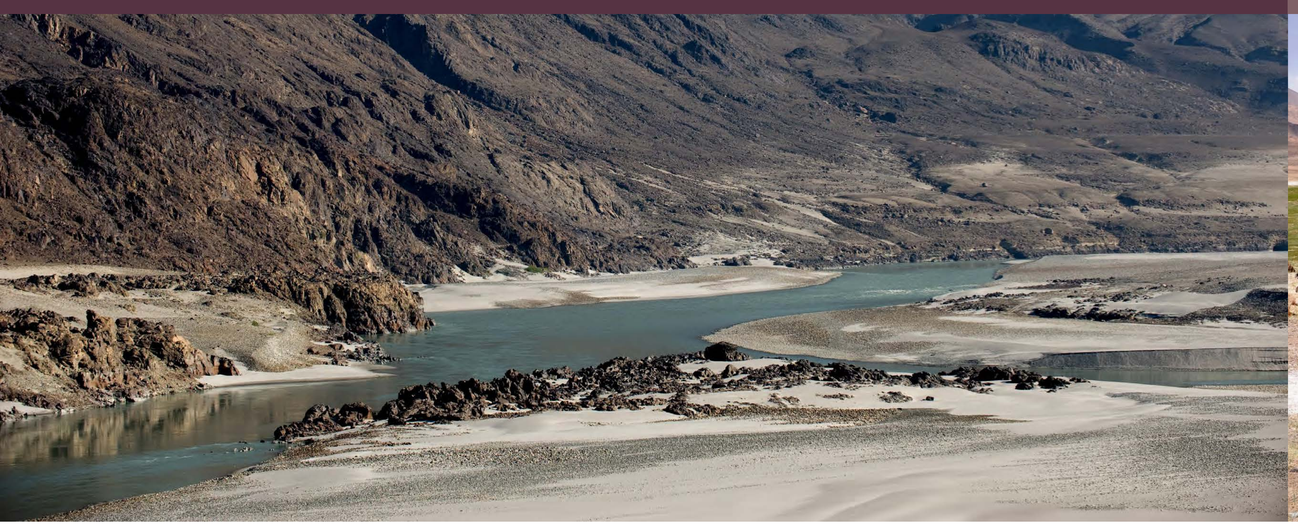
OPPORTUNITIES

Regional cooperation: Throughout the landscape, communities share similarities in language, culture, and religion. Protected areas across national borders are connected, and a historical trade route connects east and west. These are strong motives for creating an enabling policy environment for strategic regional planning.

Trade and tourism: The unique landscape offers diverse livelihood options. There is tremendous potential for transboundary tourism.

Strengthening capacity: Capacity building for biodiversity use and management, income generation, community-based tourism, and ecosystem-based adaptation.

Enhancing resilience and sustainability: Degraded rangeland ecosystems can be restored, diversifying rural energy options and enhancing climate change adaptation.



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