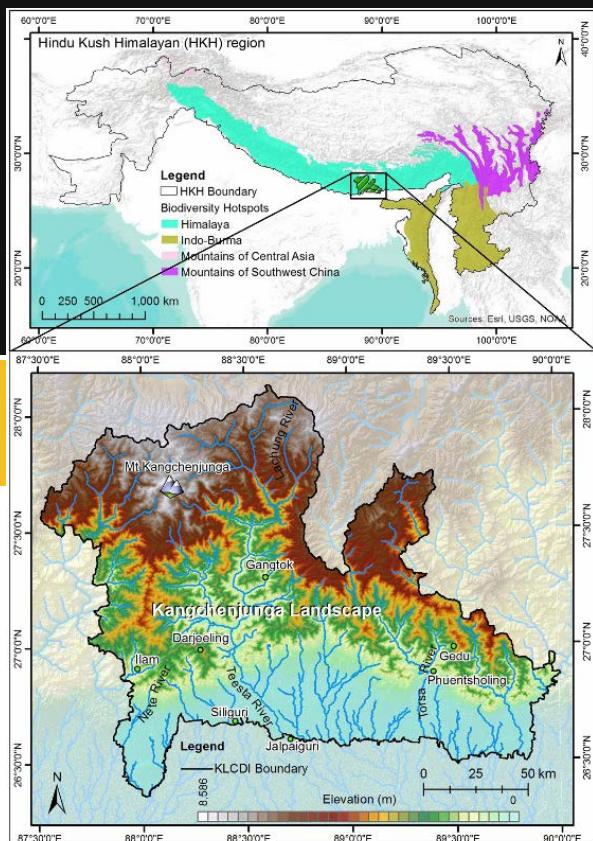# Kangchenjunga Landscape in the Hindu Kush Himalayas

The Kangchenjunga Landscape, one of six transboundary landscapes identified in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, is situated between 26°21'40.49" and 28°7'51.25" E latitude and 87°30'30.67" and 90°24'31.18" N longitude. With a total area of 25,086 km²; 5,834 km² in Bhutan, 14,127 km² in India, and 5,125 km² in Nepal, the landscape ascends from the Terai-Duar lowlands of India and Nepal through the middle hills to the high Himalayan region, with an elevation range from 40 to 8,586 metres above sea level. With 19 protected areas, the majority of which are transboundary in nature, the landscape is exceptionally rich in faunal and floral diversity. The richness of biodiversity is evident with 5,198 flowering plants, 190 mammals, 121 reptiles, 199 fishes, 586 butterflies and 813 birds, many being endemic to the landscape.

Conceptualised in 2003, the landscape went through rigorous systematic planning processes with a preparatory phase (2003-2011), planning phase (2012-2015), and finally to implementation phase (2016-2020) with a vision document of 20 years. With formal inception in August 2012 during a regional meeting in Sikkim, India, the three member countries prepared a Regional Feasibility Report, Conservation and Development Strategy (2016–2036) as part of Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI), supported by a Regional Cooperation Framework. With broad focus on an integrated approach, the landscape initiative advocates an 'ecosystem approach' in strengthening socio-ecological linkages. Interventions on poverty alleviation, ecosystem management, promotion of good governance, long-term science based decision-making and regional cooperation have been identified as working areas among the participating countries. All these documents have been endorsed with commitment for implementation through regional cooperation.

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