

Reconciling human-wildlife interface through policy dialogue in the Kangchenjunga Landscape



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The Kangchenjunga Landscape is one of six transboundary landscapes in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region (HKH) identified by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), an intergovernmental regional knowledge and enabling centre. It is where Bhutan, India and Nepal have been working together through a Regional Cooperation Framework to ensure the social and economic well-being of local communities while maintaining ecological and cultural integrity. Within this landscape, growing human population that encroaches on contiguous wildlife habitats and has a high incidence of poverty, is contributing to increased negative interactions between humans and wildlife. Human-wildlife conflicts involving both large and small mammals and increasing cases of wildlife crime, including wildlife poaching and illegal trade, have resulted in the member countries joining hands to look for regional solutions.

Recognizing that human-wildlife interactions and trade in flora and fauna are transboundary in nature, a regional policy dialogue with the objectives of discussing common challenges, learning of best practices, and developing a joint action plan to address these issues, is being organized in Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal, India, from 20 to 25 December 2017. The policy dialogue is expected to be held among high level government representatives from Bhutan, India and Nepal, and with participation of key stakeholders including internal and border security agencies. The policy dialogue will be facilitated by ICIMOD, a centre that has been playing a pivotal role in facilitating transboundary cooperation in HKH for the last 33 years. A field trip with visits to three sites experiencing human-elephant conflict has also been designed to support the preparation of a realistic joint action plan.

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