

Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative



ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

What we want

The Kangchenjunga Landscape is better conserved and managed to sustain ecosystem goods and services that will in turn improve livelihoods and enhance ecological integrity, economic development, and sociocultural resilience to environmental changes

How we will contribute

Livelihoods and ecosystem management will be improved sustainably and equitably in selected areas of the Kangchenjunga Landscape through regional cooperation

Guiding documents for the Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI)

- Regional Cooperation Framework
- 20-year Conservation and Development Strategy (2016–2036)
- 5-year implementation plan through adaptive management

Principles of KLCDI

- Respect national sovereignty of member countries
- Adopt an iterative and participatory consultative approach
- Promote equity and inclusiveness
- Ensure sustainability of programme outcomes
- Build partnership synergies
- Adopt an integrated ecosystem approach
- Promote transboundary cooperation
- Share knowledge for evidence-based decision making

FEATURES OF THE KANGCHENJUNGA LANDSCAPE

Globally Recognized Sites

World Heritage Site:
**Khangchendzonga National Park,
Sikkim, India**

Ramsar Site:
**Mai Pokhari,
Ilam, Nepal**

19 Protected Areas

11 Important Plant Areas

1 Biodiversity Hotspot

9 Ecoregions

22 Important Bird Areas

Rich in Biodiversity

Flagship animals

Highlands: snow leopard, yak
Mid-hills: red panda, takin
Lowlands: tiger, Asian elephant, one-horned rhinoceros

43
rhododendron
species

702
orchid
species

5,198
plant
species

49
endemic plant
species

618
bird
species

Traditional Systems of Governance and Resource Management

- **Dzumsa** system among Lachungpas and Lachenpas
- **Kipat** system among Limbus
- **Kiduk** system among Walungpas
- **Traditional pastureland management** systems in the highlands

Rich Culture and Heritage



7.25 million
people



Long tradition of
cross-border exchange
and cooperation



High dependence
on ecosystem
services



Indigenous groups:
Lepcha, Walungpa, Lhop
(or Doya), Mech (or Meche)

Supporting conservation and sustainable development in the KANGCHENJUNGA LANDSCAPE

1

OBJECTIVE 1:

Improve economic wellbeing of women and men, particularly of disadvantaged groups in the KL, by promoting ecofriendly and productive livelihood options

What are we doing to achieve this?

- Implementing activities that contribute to increasing household income:
 - a) adding value to value chains of select products
 - b) developing ecotourism services
 - c) diversifying livelihoods
- Ensuring gender and social inclusiveness in access and benefit sharing of economic resources
- Managing the ecosystems that provide the resource base for income generation

Our work:

Value Chains

- Cane value chain in Doongna Gewog, Chhukha District, Bhutan
- Ginger value chain in Tashicholing Gewog (Sipsoo), Samtse District, Bhutan
- Cattle dairy production in Ribdi-Bhareng, Sikkim, India
- Argeli value chain in Sidhing VDC, Panchthar District, Nepal
- Akbarey chili value chain in Chilingdin, Panchthar District, Nepal

Ecotourism

- Haa valley, Bhutan
- Lingdem, Dzongu, Sikkim, India
- Gorkhey-Samanden, West Bengal, India
- Mai Pokhari, Ilam, Nepal
- Bahundangi, Jhapa, Nepal

2

OBJECTIVE 2:

Strengthen regional cooperation among participating regional member countries for transboundary landscape management in the KL

What are we doing to achieve this?

- Building capacity in landscape governance
- Working to establish a regional platform to conduct dialogues on transboundary issues

Our work:

- Exposure tours for more than 100 people from the landscape
- Training on landscape governance

3

OBJECTIVE 3:

Enhance ecosystem services in the KL through improved community-based ecosystem conservation and management

What are we doing to achieve this?

- Building capacity for ecosystem management in areas of special concern: one Ramsar Site (Mai Pokhari) and two conservation corridors in Bhutan and Nepal
- Addressing human-wildlife conflicts through improved ecosystem management (for wildlife) and increased coping capacity (for humans)
- Ensuring gender and social inclusiveness in access, control, and benefit sharing of natural resources

Our work:

Areas of special concern:

- Mai Pokhari, Ramsar Site, Nepal
- BC-01 (Jigme Dorji National Park - Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve) Biological Corridor, Bhutan
- Chyangthapu-Falaicha Conservation Corridor, Nepal

Mitigating human-wildlife conflicts:

- Bandapani, India
- Bahundangi, Nepal

4

OBJECTIVE 4:

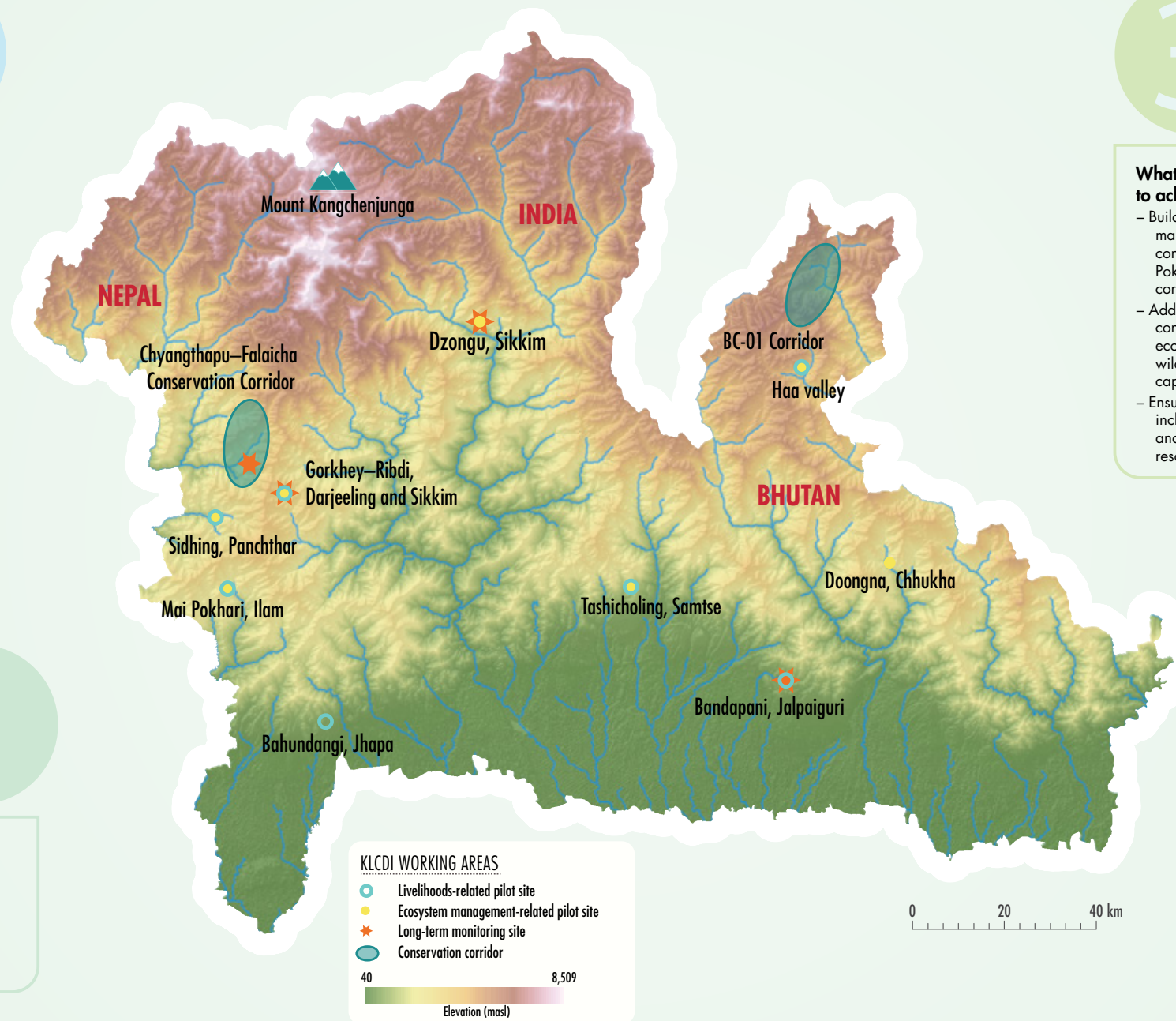
Improve scientific and technical cooperation among academics, practitioners, and policy makers for informed decision-making

What are we doing to achieve this?

- Building capacity to conduct long-term environmental and social-ecological monitoring (LTESM)
- Applying a standard framework for LTESM to establish long-term environmental monitoring sites
- Building a social-ecological database within the ICIMOD Regional Database System for data sharing

Our work:

- Capacity building on LTESM conducted
- Initiated long-term forest monitoring plots in India and Nepal
- Developed LTESM action plan for Bhutan



1995

2000

2005

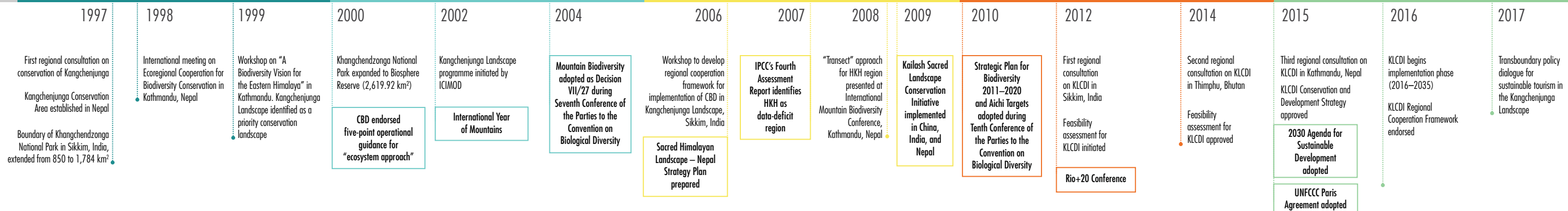
2010

2015

Evolution of the Kangchenjunga Landscape

Relevant global and regional conservation and development milestones outside of the Kangchenjunga Landscape

Milestones within the Kangchenjunga Landscape and Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI)





Why our work matters to the future of the Kanchenjunga Landscape

- Improved management of key ecosystems for ecosystem services, and transboundary ecosystem-based management in particular, is essential to human wellbeing
- Good governance of key ecosystems improves overall management and sustainability of ecosystem services
- Resilient communities and ecosystems adapt more easily to changes
- Greater cooperation among countries in the Kanchenjunga Landscape supports sustainable ecosystem management, contributing to human wellbeing in the region and to global conservation and development targets

Partners

Focal ministries:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan
- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India
- Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal

Lead technical institutions:

- Nature Conservation Division, Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan
- G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, India
- Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Supported by



ICIMOD gratefully acknowledges the support of its core donors: the Governments of Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, and Switzerland

Lead technical partners



For further information:

Nakul Chettri | nakul.chettri@icimod.org

www.icimod.org/klcdi

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel +977-1-5003222
Fax +977-1-5003299

©ICIMOD 2018