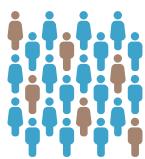


HOW DOES HKH WATER MATTER?



The Hindu Kush Himalaya supports some of the most densely populated countries on earth, with the most area under irrigation, growing energy demands, plus increasing demand for water from cities and industries, and the existing need for environmental flows. There will be increased demand for water from agriculture, cities and industries, as well as more uncertainties about supplies and more chances for extreme events and disasters.



By 2025, 2.2 billion people
will live in South Asia



Irrigation is a major contributor
to food security in South Asia

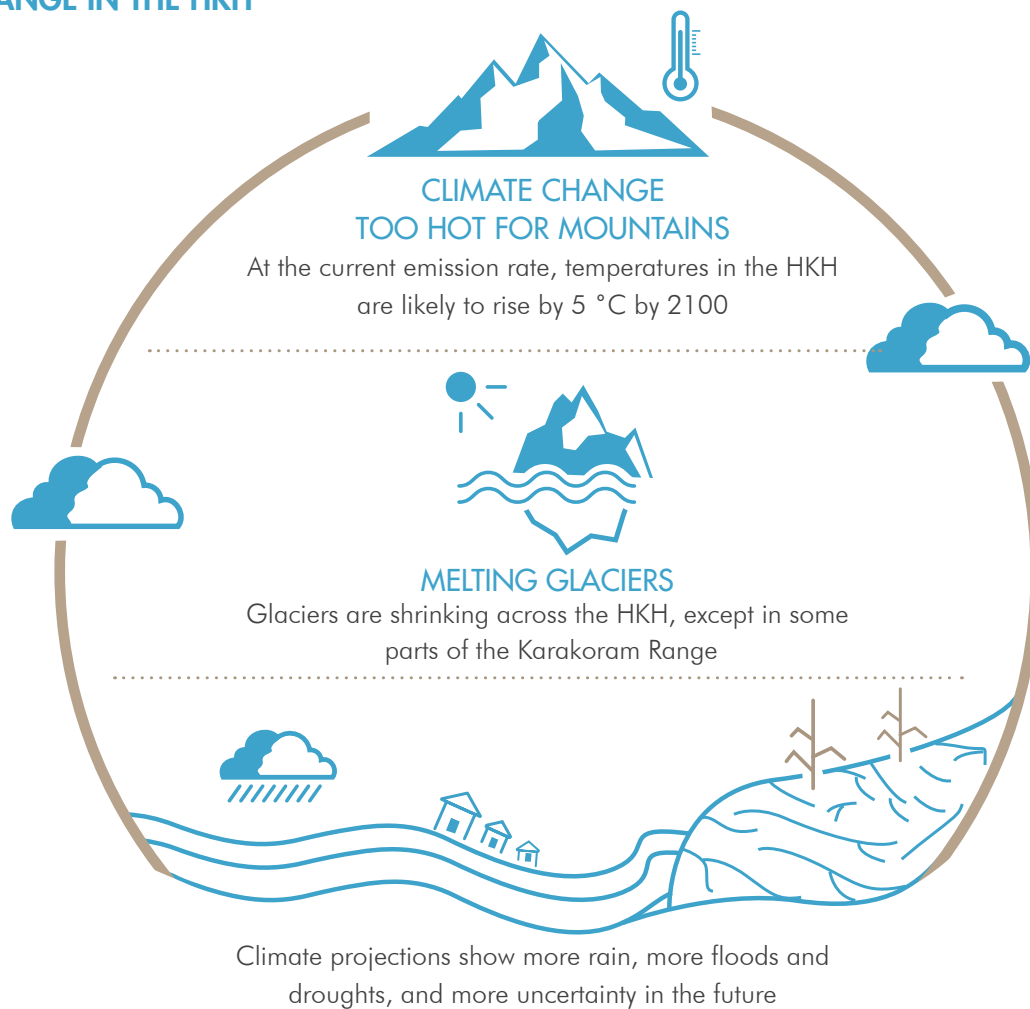


Increasing water demand for
energy, cities and industries



The need for maintaining
environmental flows

RAPID CHANGE IN THE HKH



CLIMATE + CHANGE – CLIMATE CHANGE IS MIXED WITH OTHER CHANGES



Outmigration, especially of men



Rapid urbanisation and land use change



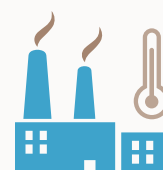
Environmental degradation, including water pollution



Globalization, markets reaching remote areas



Conflicts over natural resources



Increased air pollution, impacting temperature, glaciers, health and agriculture

HOW DOES HKH WATER MATTER FOR BUSINESS

- Increased risk of
 - Reduced water availability and more conflict over water impacting business operations
 - Polluted supplies adding costs
 - Floods, droughts and other disasters that could close down business operations
 - Increased reputational risk if business is not perceived as a good water steward
 - Increased business opportunities in sustainable development
-


WHAT MORE DO WE NEED TO KNOW

- Impacts of climate change on temperature, precipitation, glacier retreat, snow cover, and variation in water flows. More basic data is required for this analysis
- Impacts of changing water flows, and increasing demand for water, on cities, agriculture, hydropower, the environment, and vulnerable men, women and children
- Areas and populations at risk from floods and droughts, and hazards such as flash floods, glacial lake outburst floods and landslides
- Business and economic risks from these changes
- How to improve land management and biodiversity conservation for better water security
- How to build strategies for adaptation and resilience building at community, national and regional level, including governance, knowledge management and communication



WHAT ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT IN THE MOUNTAINS

- Climate services for better planning and risk management. This includes climate monitoring, risk-based forecasting, preparedness and effective communication.
- Early warning systems for floods, droughts and other hazards
- Conservation of mountain landscapes for more secure water supplies
- Climate financing and insurance
- Technologies and approaches for clean and renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Innovative technologies for water supply, treatment and reuse for growing urban areas; water use efficiencies of business and industry
- Promotion of high value mountain products, marketing and value chains
- Agricultural research, focusing on climate-smart water practices
- Management and governance of mountain water supplies to equitably support economic growth



**WE KNOW ENOUGH TO
TAKE ACTION,
BETTER INFORMATION
WILL LEAD TO BETTER ACTIONS**

ICIMOD

© ICIMOD 2018

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal,

T +977 1 5275222 E info@icimod.org W www.icimod.org

Photos: Alex Treadway

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.