

Transboundary Cooperation in the Far-Eastern Himalayan Landscape

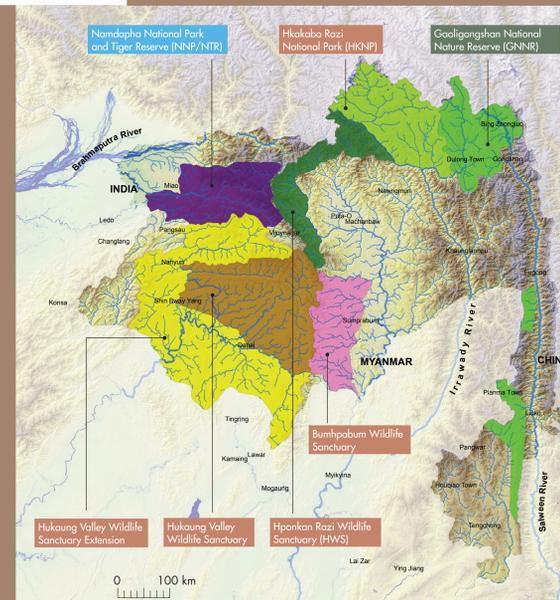
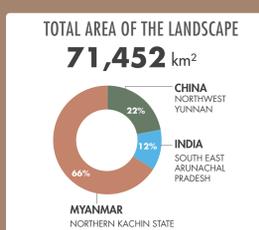


Cooperation between countries is critical for protecting the rich biodiversity of the Far-Eastern Himalaya and sustainably developing this remote region.

The three countries sharing the landscape – China, India, and Myanmar – have recognized this and are collaborating under the Landscape Initiative for the Far-Eastern Himalaya (HI-LIFE). This poster highlights activities currently being undertaken by partners under this initiative. These activities are creating a foundation for sustainable development and cross-border collaboration that will protect the environment and improve the lives of people in this unique landscape.



The Far-Eastern Himalayan Landscape is defined by shared ecological, hydrological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic features that transcend country borders.



KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE FOR THE FAR-EASTERN HIMALAYA



1 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND LONG-TERM MONITORING

Joint monitoring and collaborative research between partners from the three countries sharing the Far-Eastern Himalayan Landscape help us develop a comprehensive understanding of the status of flagship species (both plant and animal) across the landscape.



A researcher from HI-LIFE partner Aaranyak presents research on the Hoolock gibbon at a symposium



In Putao, Myanmar, HI-LIFE partners conduct a survey of local plant resources to understand local use of plant resources.

2 BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The Far-Eastern Himalayan Landscape has incredibly rich biodiversity. It has elements of three global biodiversity hotspots, and serves as the habitat for flagship species like the tiger, takin, and red panda. Protecting this biodiversity requires transboundary cooperation.



HI-LIFE partners in Myanmar discuss the flow of ecosystem services from protected areas

3 RURAL LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The rich natural resources of the Far-Eastern Himalayan landscape provide ample opportunities to develop innovative livelihoods and new sources of incomes in remote areas with high rates of poverty and limited options available.



Bird watching in Baihualing village, Yunnan, China



Experts from ABARI in Nepal explain the durability and effectiveness of using bamboo for construction to participants from a HI-LIFE regional training of trainers

6 CULTURE AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The Far-Eastern Himalayan landscape is home to communities that have developed rich and unique cultural traditions. When these activities are linked with rising tourism in the landscape, communities can generate additional income while protecting their heritage.



A member of the Dulong community in Gongshan, Yunnan, China produces a textile using their traditional weaving process and patterns

5 SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

HI-LIFE promotes the cultivation of medicinal plants and other high-value mountain resources, which adds to the resource-dependent livelihoods of communities as well as protection of species in the wild.



Paris polyphylla, a plant cultivated for its medicinal properties

4 REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Collaboration between science, practice, and policy partners is needed to conserve biodiversity and effectively manage the landscape. HI-LIFE acts as a platform for bringing stakeholders together to share knowledge and plan joint activities.



Bilateral meeting between China and Myanmar for collaboration on conservation and development



Regional consultation workshop on Planning Transboundary Technical Collaboration

7 LANDSCAPE JOURNEY

Communities, scientists, practitioners, and decision makers from all HI-LIFE countries exchange ideas and identify challenges and possible solutions during a journey across the landscape. This process helps connect on-the-ground realities with realistic planning for the programme and decision makers.



Community members in Miao, Arunachal Pradesh, India, exchange information with scientists during the HI-LIFE landscape journey

8 SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ACTION

Communities and the government near the Hkakabo Razi Landscape in Myanmar are jointly developing a Community Information Resource Centre (CIRC), which will be a place for knowledge exchange, and local tourism development, as well as a model for the rest of the landscape.



The Community Information Resource Centre (CIRC) in the Hkakabo Razi Landscape will have facilities for accommodation, interpretation and knowledge exchange, as well as demonstration of good practices

9 CAPACITY STRENGTHENING OF PARTNERS

HI-LIFE draws together the varied strength of its partners to promote knowledge exchange and capacity development. Exposure visits to Nepal and China have introduced new ideas and skills related to tourism for participants from other HI-LIFE countries.



HI-LIFE partners joined an exposure trip to Ghalegaun, Nepal, to learn good practices for ecotourism development



An exposure trip to Baihualing, China, helped partners from other countries learn about innovative approaches to bird watching tourism