



The Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme (HIMAP)

Assessments and Science-Policy Forums to Sustain a Global Asset

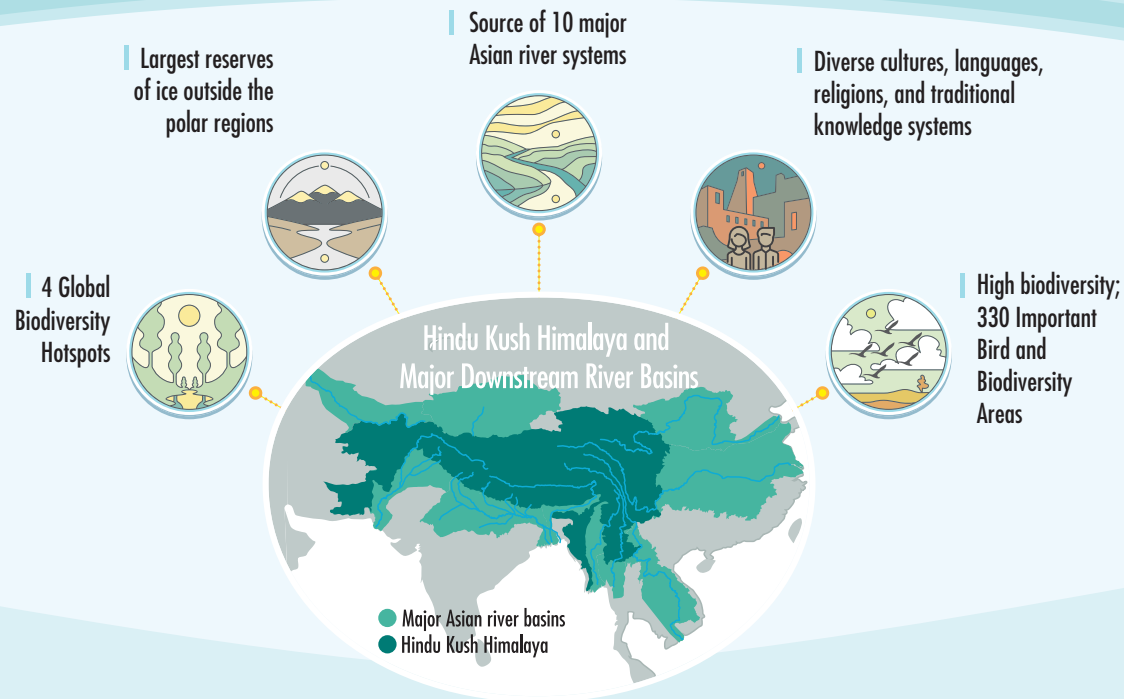


The future of the Hindu Kush Himalaya matters to over two billion people.

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) is one of the greatest mountain systems in the world. Home to the world's highest peaks, unique cultures, diverse flora and fauna, and a vast reserve of natural resources, the HKH supports the lives and livelihoods of over 240 million people living in the hills and mountains. This region also provides numerous benefits to people living beyond its borders. As the source of 10 major Asian rivers, the HKH provides essential resources, especially water, to nearly 1.65 billion people living in downstream areas and more than 3 billion people benefit from the food produced in its river basins.

The HKH is undergoing rapid change, driven by forces such as climate change, disasters, economic growth, globalization, infrastructure development, migration, and urbanization. Changes on the rooftop of the world will have major consequences, not only for people living in the region but globally.

Both regional and international action is required to sustain this global asset.



240 million
people directly depend
on the HKH for their
lives and livelihoods

1.9 billion
people depend on
the HKH for water,
food, and energy

>35%
of the world population benefits
indirectly from HKH resources
and ecosystem services

Vision for the HKH

A future in which the region's people and societies are:

- Prosperous, healthy, peaceful, and poverty-free
- Food, energy, and water secure
- Climate and disaster resilient

Achieving the vision

The Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme (HIMAP) is a long-term, integrated science-policy initiative that aims to support policy change and sustainable solutions to some of the region's most immediate challenges by:

- Comprehensively assessing the current state of knowledge of the HKH region, including thematic assessments and annual outlooks
- Increasing understanding of various drivers of change and their impacts
- Developing evidence-based policy solutions and recommendations
- Engaging decision makers across sectors and institutes through a series of HKH Science-Policy Forums

Bringing together diverse stakeholders to develop lasting solutions

HIMAP is a platform for long-term collaboration and coordination among a broad and diverse group of leading researchers, practitioners, and policy specialists working in the HKH. Under HIMAP, experts from the region have come together to develop the first *HKH Assessment*, published in early 2019 by Springer, as the first in a series of

monitoring and assessment reports. The assessment addresses the social, economic, and environmental pillars of sustainable mountain development and will serve as a basis for evidence-based decision-making to safeguard the environment and advance people's wellbeing.

Taking HIMAP findings into action through HKH Science-Policy Forums

Strong scientific evidence is needed to support effective decision making and planning in response to emerging challenges. Through policy-relevant assessments, HIMAP generates sound scientific evidence to support governments in the HKH in their efforts to address challenges related to climate change and other environmental and development stressors.

HIMAP also promotes country and regional deliberations and HKH Science-Policy Forums to discuss and define

possibilities for enhanced cooperation based on HIMAP results.

Through targeted policy outreach, HIMAP ensures that its findings will contribute to both international dialogue on climate change, adaptation, and resilience as well as action in the eight countries of the HKH by the people who make decisions on investment in, and management of, mountain development – natural resource managers, private sector investors, policy makers, and civil society members.

Download the HKH Assessment

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-92288-1>

Promoting and monitoring HKH priorities within the UN SDGs

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals set targets for countries to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. To support countries in the HKH in achieving these goals for mountain communities, HIMAP has developed SDG consistent HKH Mountain Priorities.

The programme works with countries to periodically monitor their performance and progress toward achieving SDGs at the HKH regional level. It also promotes the use of HIMAP assessment findings and HKH Mountain Priorities in national plans for adaptation and development.

Priorities for action



Cooperate at all levels across the HKH on sustainable mountain development



Recognize the uniqueness of the HKH in decision-making institutions and processes



Take concerted action for limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees by 2100



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HIMAP is coordinated by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

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