

Land Policies, Land Management and Land Degradation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

India Study Report

T. N. Dhar

**International Centre for Integrated
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Preface

This study, commissioned by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as a part of the Global Mountain Initiative is broadly concerned with understanding and evaluating the land policies, the land management practices, and land degradation that have resulted over time in the Hindu Kush–Himalayas. For India, two studies have been planned: one for the northeastern and one for the northwestern Himalayan regions. The Society for Himalayan Environmental Rehabilitation and People's Action (SHERPA) has been entrusted with the northwestern Himalayan region that, geographically, covers Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and the northern hill areas of Uttar Pradesh in India. The scope, agenda, and methodology of the research include land and land-related policy evolution and implementation by government or other institutions; gaps between policies and ground realities; stakeholders' perceptions; interdepartmental, interinstitutional, and interagency conflicts and their resolution; and desirable changes in ways that policies are formulated and implemented. The study will also examine other policies that have impacts on land use, problems of land degradation, access to land resources, links between policies and their environmental impacts, and required areas of research.

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T.N. Dhar
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Abstract

The present study on land policies, land management and land degradation in the north western Himalayan region of India is a part of an overall effort by ICIMOD to assess the impact of land policies on land management and land degradation in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. The study geographically covers states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and hilly region of Uttar Pradesh.

The study has touched upon a variety of research issues related to land policy, management and state of degradation. These include, land and land related policies evolved and implemented by the state governments and the Federal government. The policy area scope of the study included all land policies pertaining to environment, forests, agriculture land use, land reforms, common property land management, biodiversity, wild life, and agricultural policies. Gaps between policies and ground realities have been analysed and highlighted in appropriate areas. The study also looked at processes and evolution of various land policies in this region and interesting facts have come to light in different states.

Study has indicated that stakeholders' perceptions about sustainable land use may differ much from the land use plans of governments. Similarly, study also highlights the differences about land use approaches among various agencies and governments. Consequently, policies and land use planning for water, energy, demography, industrial development, tourism prepared by different departments/agencies show marked differences. The diversity of policies and land use approaches have led to the evolution of a mosaic of land degradation problems and contributing factors.

ACRONYMS

AISLUS	All-India Soil and Land Use Survey Organization
BR	Biosphere Reserve
CCF	Chief Conservator of Forests
CPCB	Central Pollution Control Board
CPLR	Common Property Land Resources
CSWCRTI	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (Dehradun)
DDP	Desert Development Programme
DFO	Divisional Forest Officer
DPF	Demarcated Protected Forest
DPAP	Drought Prone Areas Programme
EEC	European Economic Community
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EIC	East India Company
FD	Forest Department
FSI	Forest Survey of India
GAREMA	Gramin Resource Management Association
GHNP	Great Himalayan National Park
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOHP	Government of Himachal Pradesh
GOI	Government of India
GOUP	Government of Uttar Pradesh
HKH	Hindu Kush-Himalaya
HP	Himachal Pradesh
HYV	High Yielding Variety
IBP	International Biological Programme
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IGFRI	Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPNM	Integrated Plant Nutrition Management
IRs	Indian Rupees
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
J&K	Jammu and Kashmir
JFM	Joint Forest Management

KFGC	Kumaon Forest Grievance Committee
MAB	Man and Biosphere Programme
ME&F	Ministry of Environment and Forests (New Delhi)
MPF	Minor Forest Produce
NBPGR	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources
NFCTCR	National Facility of Plant Tissue Culture Repository
NFP	National Forestry Policy
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NRRC	National Resources and Research Centre (Mussoorie)
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Produce
NTP	National Tourism Policy
NWDB	National Wasteland Development Board
NWDPPRA	National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas
NWHRI	North Western Himalayan Region of India
PCB	Pollution Control Board (Central)
PFM	Participative Forest Management
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RF	Reserved Forest
RNP	Rajaji National Park
S&T	Science and Technology
SHERPA	Society of Himalayan Environmental Rehabilitation and People's Action
SHG	Self Help Group
SLUB	State Land Use Board
SPBC	State Pollution Control Board
SPWD	Society for Promotion of Watershed Development
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis
SWS	Sub-Watersheds
TOR	Terms of Reference
UP	Uttar Pradesh
UPF	Unprotected Forests
VFC	Village Forest Committee
VFDC	Village Forest Development Committee
VIPKAS	Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Shala, Almora
VP	Van Panchayat
WTO	World Tourism Organization
WWF	World-wide Fund for Nature and Wildlife

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