

ICIMOD

Landscape Initiative for the Far Eastern Himalaya (HI-LIFE)

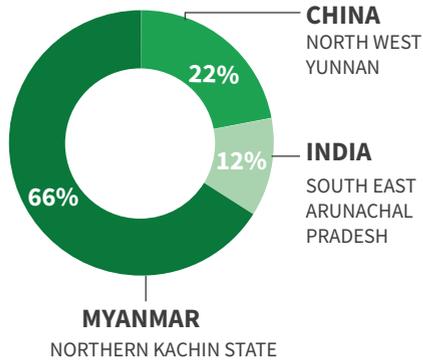


The Far Eastern Himalaya Landscape

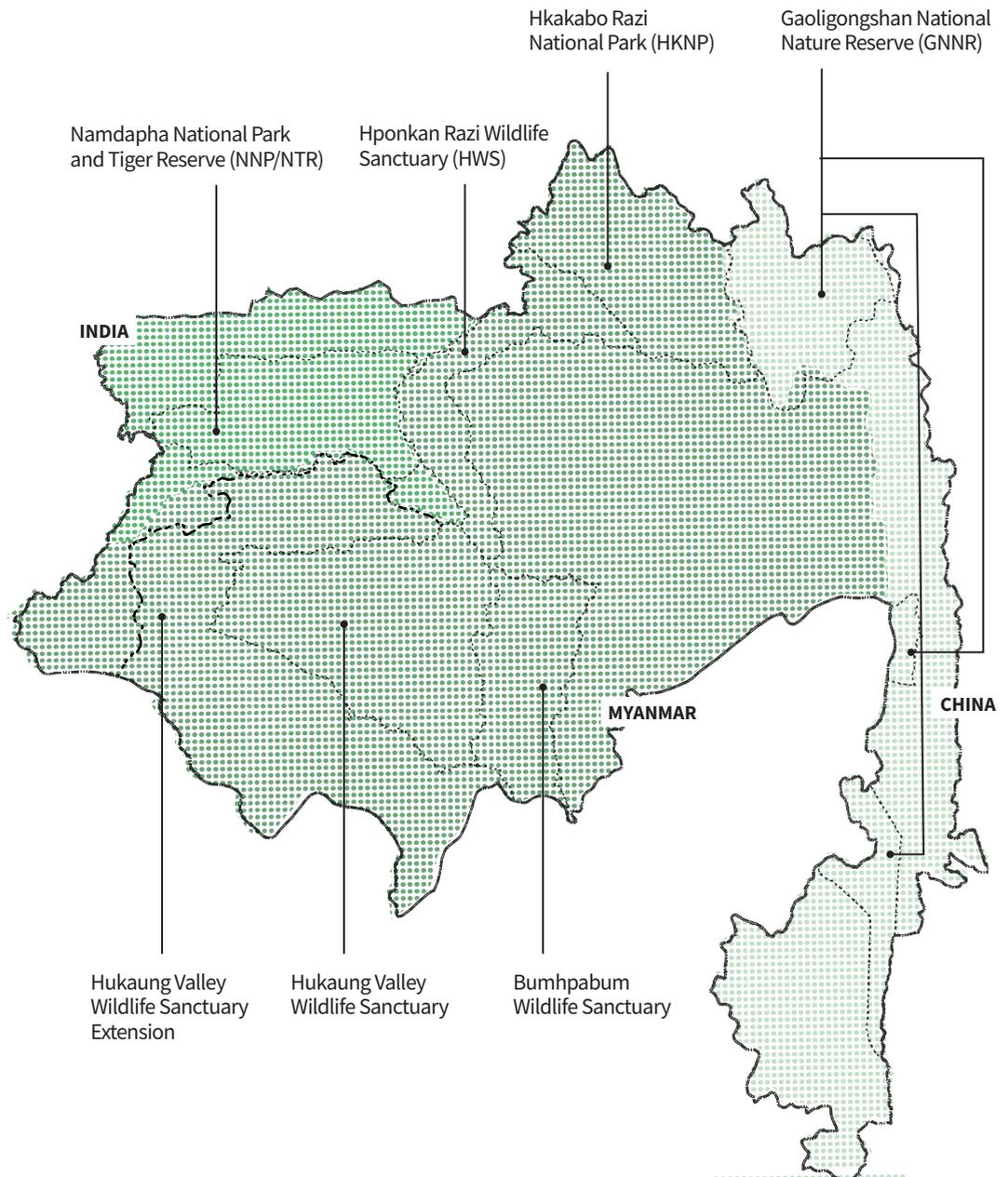
The Far Eastern Himalaya Landscape is defined by the shared ecological, hydrological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic features that transcend country borders.

TOTAL AREA

71,452 km²



■ The Far Eastern Himalaya Landscape
 ■ The Hindu Kush Himalaya region



Uniqueness of the landscape



Rich biodiversity, high endemism

In terms of species diversity and endemism, the landscape is one of the most biologically important places on earth. It has been hailed by botanists as the “epicentre of evolution”, “centre of plant diversity”, and “Eastern Asiatic regional centre for endemism”.



Cultural and linguistic diversity

The landscape is culturally diverse. It is home to over 20 ethnic and linguistic groups like the Rawang, Jingphaw, and Lisu. Some, like the Nu and Rawang, have extremely small populations and are only distributed within the landscape.



Outstanding Universal Value

The unique geographical, sociocultural, and biological features of several sites fit the UNESCO definition of “outstanding universal value”. The Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas is already a World Heritage Site, while sites from India and Myanmar are in the process of being nominated.

Has elements of



3 global biodiversity hotspots

8 eco-regions

9 Important bird and biodiversity areas



~**520**

bird species in GNNR, China

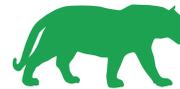
~**450**

bird species in NNP/NTR India

~**440**

bird species in HKNP and HWS, Myanmar

Key habitats for flagship species



Tiger



Takin



Red panda



Rhododendron

120

species on IUCN Red List



Chinese pangolin (CR)
(*Manis pentadactyla*)



Hoolock gibbon (EN)
(*Hoolock hoolock*)

Rufous-necked hornbill (VU)
(*Aceros nipalensis*)



Endemic fauna and flora



Myanmar snub-nosed monkey (CR)
(*Rhinopithecus strykeri*)



Namdapha flying squirrel (CR)
(*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*)



Dove Tree
(*Davidia involucrata*)

~**6,000**

species of vascular plants in GNNR

~**150**

species of timber trees in NNP/NTR

~**110**

species of orchids in HKNP

3 major international rivers

Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, and Salween



About

214,000

people inhabit the landscape

Its ecosystem services directly or indirectly benefit up to

560,000 people

Key issues

Paradox

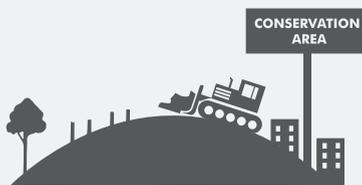


Extremely rich biodiversity but high poverty and social vulnerability

Achieving a balance between conservation and development



Conservation



Development

Drivers of change

- Market penetration
- Government policies and programmes
- Infrastructure development
- Land use/cover change
- Regional connectivity
- Climate change
- Migration

Weakening of customary rights and institutions

- Changes in tenure, resource use, and decision making
- Erosion and loss of traditional knowledge

Sectoral approach

- Lack of coordinated development planning
- Limited stakeholder participation

Data gaps and lack of regional knowledge platforms

Inadequate regional dialogue and partnerships

Transboundary issues

Many issues in the Far Eastern Himalaya Landscape are transnational in nature and are best addressed through regional cooperation.



Illegal wildlife trade



Unregulated extraction and trade of medicinal plants



Limited habitat connectivity for cross-border movement of flagship species

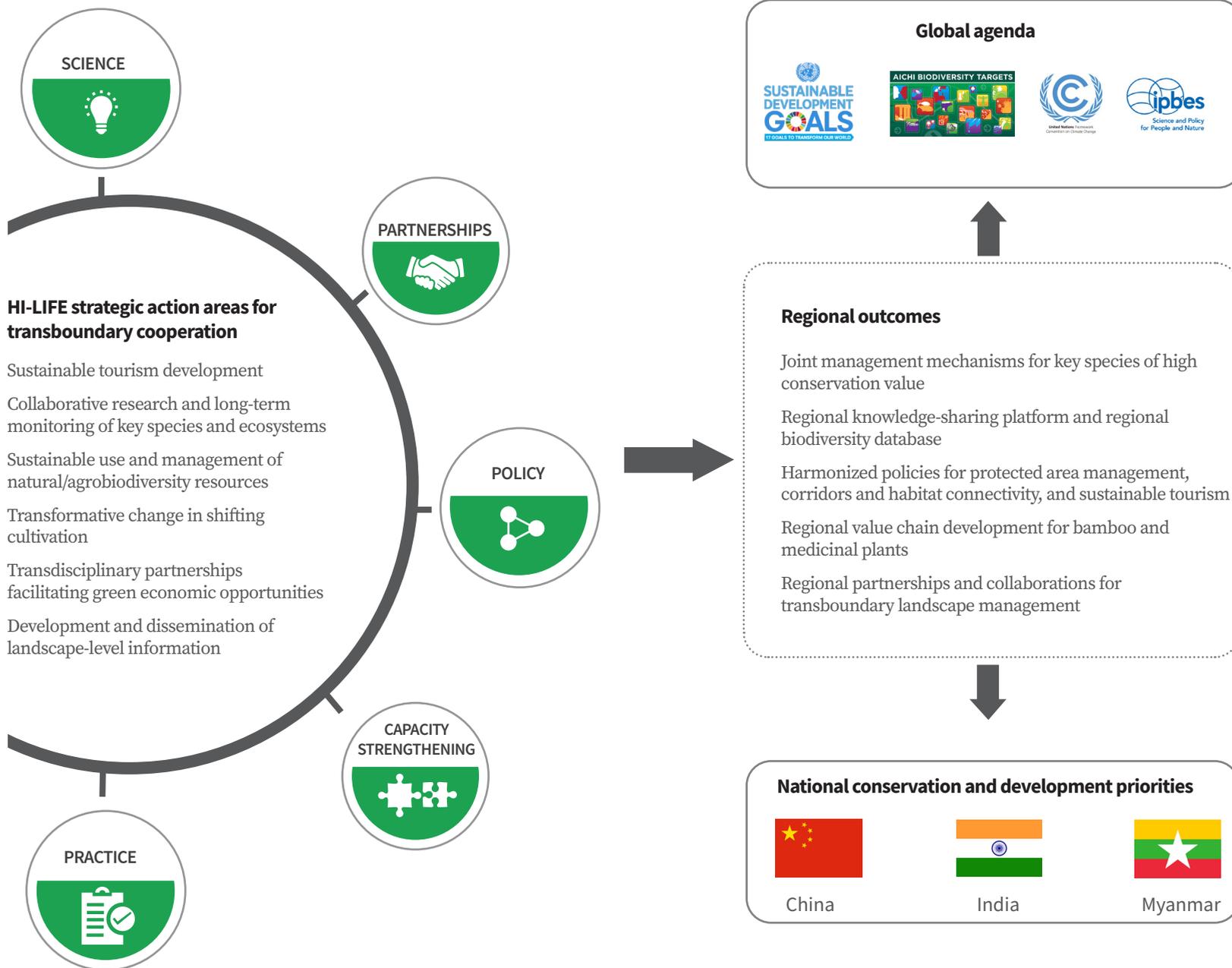


Forest fires



Lack of transboundary monitoring mechanisms

Opportunities for HI-LIFE



Our journey

Inception phase

2008

Conceptualization at the International Mountain Biodiversity Conference

2009

First regional consultation, China (transboundary potential brainstormed)

2010

Pre-feasibility studies

2011

Second regional consultation, Myanmar

Supported by



2012



Preparatory phase

2012–13

Feasibility studies and boundary delineation

2014

Conservation and development strategies and long-term monitoring strategies. Third and fourth regional consultations to finalize regional mechanisms including the Regional Cooperation Framework.

2015

Fifth regional consultation (impact pathway and regional implementation plan finalized)

Supported by



2016



Pre-implementation phase

2016

Landscape journey and preliminary ecosystem services and livelihood assessments

2017

Training of trainers on ecosystem management and landscape governance

Supported by



2018



Implementation phase (2018–22)

Sixth regional consultation – Planning technical collaboration and bilateral convergence

Science action through collaborative research

Long-term monitoring of key species

Value chain development for bamboo and medicinal plants

Sustainable community-based tourism development

Mapping features of transboundary relevance

Joint interventions for transboundary issues related to cross-border trade and forest fires

Supported by



Vision 2030

Strengthened transboundary cooperation with long-term partnership mechanisms

Good landscape governance with optimized ecosystem services and livelihood benefits

Strengthened regional voice on the landscape's contribution to global goals

Partnership Landscape



Why your long-term partnership counts



For further information

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