

INDIA@COP21



Addressing Climate Change in Himalayan Ecosystems

ICFRE – ICIMOD joint side event at COP21 in Paris

Date : Wednesday, 9 December 2015

Venue: India Pavilion at COP21,
Le Bourget, Paris, France

Time : 15:00–17:00

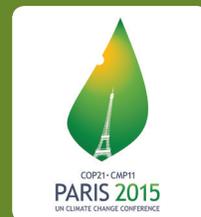
Organizers

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

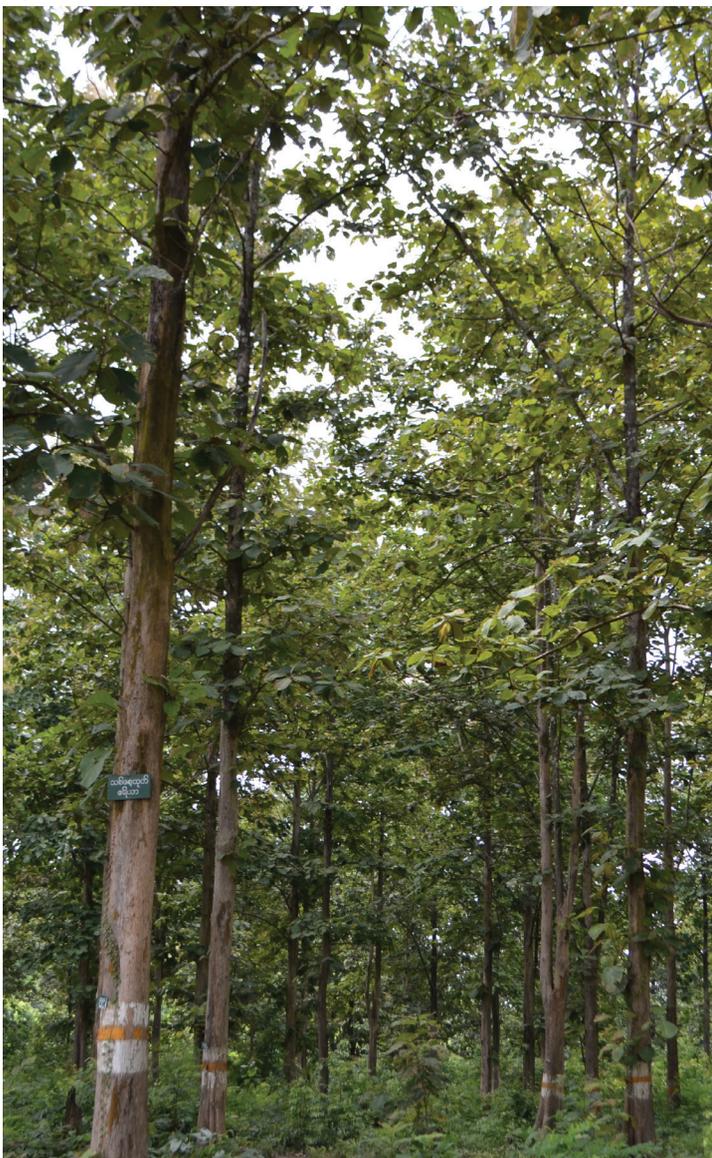


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ABOUT THE EVENT

The Himalayan (HKH) region is highly dynamic, with many socioeconomic and environmental drivers of change at play, including climate change. The impacts of these changes challenge the resilience of natural and human capacities and the environment. The Himalayan region and downstream areas that depend on its water supply and other ecosystem services, including the Indo-Gangetic plain – ‘the grain basket of South Asia’ – are particularly vulnerable to these changes.

Managing the Himalayan ecosystem sustainably is critical not only for preserving its pristine beauty and spectacular landscapes, but also for ensuring the ecological security of the entire Indian sub-continent. Government of India’s “National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)” has announced the launch of a National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem. The mission aims to deliver a better understanding the impact of climate factors on the Himalayan ecosystem and provide inputs for Himalayan sustainable development and fragile ecosystem preservation.

The Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI) is a pioneering endeavour for managing larger landscapes with co-benefits which transcend nations. The initiative is being implemented in China, India and Nepal and facilitated by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

Conceptualised through an iterative consultation process between participating countries, programme outputs are being generated by working with a set of stakeholders, including local communities and governments. Derived from an overarching 5-Year Implementation Plan, countries prepare annual plans which are endorsed through a regional governing body represented at the highest level by all countries.

Data and learning gathered from the ground will bring local conservation and development problems forward providing innovative opportunities. National policy and practices reflect common issues needing regional and transboundary solutions. The honey value chain between India and Nepal is an example where bringing farmers from different countries together allows them to share and improve their local business and marketing practices.

There is a need to establish a monitoring network for the Himalayan environment to assess freshwater resources and the health of the ecosystem. This side event features representatives of Hindu Kush Himalayan countries who will share their collaborative progress with South Asian countries and countries sharing Himalayan ecology.

KEY SPEAKERS

Dr David Molden

Director General, ICIMOD

Dr Ashwani Kumar

Director General, ICFRE

Dr. G.S. Goraya

Deputy Director General, ICFRE

Dr Nisha Mendiratta

DST, Government of India

Dr Andre Wehrli

SDC

Dr Ajay Lal

DEST, Government of Himachal Pradesh, India

Dr. Eklabya Sharma

Director Programme Operation, ICIMOD

Dr V.R.S. Rawat

ICFRE

Dr T.P. Singh

Assistant Director General,
Biodiversity and Climate Change
ICFRE, India

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

S. No.	Topic:	Speaker	Time Minutes
1	Opening Remarks	Dr David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD	15
2	Importance of Himalayas in Indian Subcontinent and ICFRE Initiatives in Indian Himalayas	Dr Ashwani Kumar, DG, ICFRE	10
3	Climate Change threats for Himalayan floristic composition: A case from Western Himalayas in India	Dr. G.S. Goraya, DDG, ICFRE	15
4	National Mission for Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystems (NMSHE)	Dr Nisha Mendiratta, DST, Government of India	15
5	SDC's initiatives on Climate Change in Mountain Ecosystem	Dr Andre Wehrli SDC	15
6	Risks and Hazard Assessment of Climate Change in the Indian Himalayas: A case from Himachal Pradesh, India	Dr Ajay Lal, DEST, Government of Himachal Pradesh	15
7	Community based flood early warning system in Assam, India	Dr. Eklabya Sharma, ICIMOD, Nepal	15
8	Kailash Sacred Landscape	Dr V.R.S. Rawat, ICFRE	10
8	Way Forward and Vote of Thanks	Dr. T. P. Singh,	5

Networking time with tea/coffee

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND?

- The fragile Himalayan mountain system has a direct influence on climate, regional hydrology and the environment of the Indian subcontinent. Altitude varies considerably and locally exceeding 5000-6000 masl resulting in highly diverse ecological conditions.
- Government of India's "National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)" has announced the launch of a National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem. The mission aims to deliver a better understanding the impact of climate factors on the Himalayan ecosystem and provide inputs for Himalayan sustainable development and fragile ecosystem preservation. This will require the joint effort of climatologists, glaciologists and other experts.
- Under the NMSHE, two thirds of IHR area is targeted to be under forest cover with local communities playing an important part in its maintenance. Payments for the ecosystem services (PES) of the standing forests of this region can involve local communities in the conservation and adaptation efforts. Dovetailing the mission objectives of NMSHE and Green India Mission can lend effective implementation of these two important national missions under the NAPCC where forestry plays an important role in mitigating climate change.
- ICIMOD climate change initiatives in the Himalayas:

- Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI): In this context, the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI) in the HKH is a pioneering endeavour for managing larger landscapes with co-benefits transcending nations. The initiative is being implemented in China, India and Nepal and facilitated by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). As the world moves to implement SDGs 2030, KSLCDI can show a practical and creative pathway with four key messages:
 - Transboundary landscapes concept must begin with country ownership — from the conception and regional cooperation framework prepared through a rigorous consultation process that recognises each country's national sovereignty, policies and governance system.
 - Landscape approach depends on the promotion of local livelihoods, while ensuring the enhancement of ecosystem services, through conservation and development interventions prepared through stakeholder participation.
 - Compatible interventions and investments across the landscape must be matched and leveraged from the public. Programmes to address up-scalability and sustainability of positive impacts engages with private sector wherever feasible.
 - Thematic/issue specific regional dialogue is a viable policy and practice process tool for distilling transboundary learning for influencing national, regional and global policies.
- Community-Based Flood Early Warning Systems: A community-based flood early warning system (FEWS) is an integrated system to detect and respond to flood emergencies that are prepared and managed by the communities. The objectives of community-based FEWS are to manage flood or flash flood risk by providing early warnings to downstream communities and to enhance cooperation between upstream and downstream communities in the sharing of flood information.
 - The proposed event will promote collaboration with the South Asian countries and countries sharing the Himalayan ecology. There is a need to establish an observational and monitoring network for the Himalayan environment to assess freshwater resources and the health of the ecosystem.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



ICFRE

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is an autonomous organisation or governmental agency under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Headquartered in Dehradun, its functions are to conduct forestry research; to transfer technologies developed to the states of India and other user agencies; and to impart forestry education. The council has nine research institutes and four advanced centres for the research needs of different bio-geographical regions. These are located at Dehradun, Shimla, Ranchi, Jorhat, Jabalpur, Jodhpur, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Allahabad, Chhindwara, Aizawl, Hyderabad and Agartala.

ICIMOD

ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Globalisation and climate change have an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues



Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change

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