

Transforming Mountain Forestry

Bridging transboundary challenges with 21st century paradigms for the welfare of mountain people, forests and environment in the Hindu Kush Himalayas

Forests cover about 25% of the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH). They interface with numerous ecosystems, providing an invaluable range of ecosystem services: they sequester carbon and are the source of livelihoods, recreation, and timber and non-timber resources for millions of people. The ecosystem goods and services from forests sustain mountain agriculture, which is an integral part of ensuring food water and energy security in the context of transboundary socioeconomic, environmental, and cultural linkages of the HKH region. Since the 2007 UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Bali and the 2008 World Forestry Congress, the paramount role of forests in promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation has found global resonance, particularly in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. The health and vitality of many forest ecosystems have already been affected by climatic and land use changes; it is possible that the impact of the latter may outweigh the former.

To sustain forest services in the context of climate change and other contemporary issues, stakeholders in the Hindu Kush Himalayas must consolidate current assessments of future challenges and opportunities and build a case for sustainable and inclusive forest management that brings together practice, policy, and science. Given the range of issues related to forest governance that have upstream-downstream linkages (e.g. illegal trade of forest products, corridor connectivity, human-wildlife conflicts, water management, value chain sustainability), this is increasingly a subject for transboundary cooperation in terms of making future mitigation and adaptation strategies successful.

The Mountain Forestry Symposium will provide a forum for over 200 regional and global experts – including cross-sectoral policy makers, scientists, practitioners, donors, civil servants, media, market actors, and legal experts – to outline the way forward. The conference will include high-level representation from all of the mountain states of India, as well as the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and other key ministries. All eight countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas, as well as key global mountain forestry centres, will be represented as well.



ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

Organized by

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

with

Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Government of India

Date: 18–22 January 2015

Venue: Forest Research Institute Dehradun, India



Symposium Objective

To outline options for sustainable forest management practices and policies that address the changing conditions in the HKH while identifying transboundary opportunities that meet climatic and contemporary challenges, thus simultaneously addressing conservation and inclusive development.

Specific Objectives

- Establish common understanding of forest ecosystem dynamics and the management of mountain forest ecosystems in the Hindu Kush Himalayas to set the research and development agenda at the transboundary scale
- Share good practices in forest ecosystem adaptation and learn from other mountain regions
- Explore options for mainstreaming incentive-based mechanisms (e.g. REDD+, payment for ecosystem services) to promote the sustainable use of forest ecosystem services across transboundary landscapes
- Identify policy deficits and propose priority actions for mainstreaming inclusive forest ecosystem adaptation and good forest governance at the transboundary landscape level to address climate change and globalization processes
- Promote global, regional, and national knowledge networking, research and development, partnerships, and cooperation for influencing policy, science and practice

Conference Patrons

The Mountain Forestry Symposium is pleased to have the support of:

- **Dr David Molden**, Director General, ICIMOD;
- **Dr SS Garbyal**, Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change Government of India; and
- **Dr Ashwini Kumar**, Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education.

Symposium Themes

- **Institutions and governance:** Assessing institutional frameworks and their delivery on good forest governance for shaping policy, science, and practice
- **Forest dynamics and management:** Using the science of forest dynamics to improve the management of mountain forests for sustaining services at landscape levels
- **Linking incentives to stewardship:** Using forest valuation science to bring new incentives for sustained stewardship of mountain forests
- **From subsistence to regional markets:** Identifying opportunities to link value-added forest goods and services and forest technologies to certified markets and enterprises at landscape levels
- **Forestry knowledge forums and regional cooperation for policy, practice, and science:** Promoting options for actions in transboundary forest ecosystem management by interfacing national and regional policies, practices, research, and knowledge networks

Conference Features

- Keynote sessions
- Parallel thematic presentations and panel discussions
- Live streaming coverage
- Output-oriented brainstorming sessions (for example on green felling ban, human-wildlife conflicts, role of remote sensing science, forest engineering, etc.)

Key presentations and recommendations will be incorporated into regional policy recommendations, which will be widely disseminated.

For further information contact

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