

# Even 1.5 degrees is too hot for the Hindu Kush Himalaya

11 December 2019  
Hall 8, Cryosphere Pavilion  
Madrid, Spain

11:30–13:00

An event organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) at COP25 as part of the Hindu Kush Himalaya Focus Day on 11 December

## The future of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) matters to over two billion people

The first *HKH Assessment* report warned that even 1.5 degrees is too hot for the HKH region, and will lead to the loss of one-third of glacier volume by end of century. At current emission trends, two-thirds of glacier volume will be lost. This session will discuss the key findings of the *HKH Assessment* report related to the HKH cryosphere and the IPCC SROCC findings on high mountain areas pertaining to the HKH. Through presentations and panel discussions the session will address the overarching question how to increase climate urgency and ambition to ensure global warming is kept well below 1.5°C by 2100.

Urgent actions are required to sustain mountain environments and improve livelihoods in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH). Extending 3,500 km over eight countries, from Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east and crossing Pakistan, India, China, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, the HKH is one of the world's greatest mountain systems. It directly supports the livelihoods of over 240 million people living in its hills and mountains, and yields many benefits to the 1.65 billion people living downstream.

Changes on the rooftop of the world are having and will continue to have major consequences, not only for the region but globally. Local, national, regional, and global actions are urgently needed to sustain this global asset, focusing on substantially increased investments and more robust regional cooperation for sustaining mountain environments and improving livelihoods in the HKH and concerted action to limit global warming to well below 1.5°C by 2100.

## Agenda

### **EVEN 1.5 DEGREES IS TOO HOT FOR THE HKH**

#### **Key findings from the *HKH Assessment* report**

##### **Philippus Wester**

Lead Editor of the *HKH Assessment* report and Regional Programme Manager, Mountain Knowledge and Action Networks, ICIMOD

#### **The voice of the HKH in the IPCC SROCC report**

##### **Carolina Adler**

Lead Author of the IPCC SROCC chapter on high mountain areas and Executive Director, Mountain Research Initiative

#### **Tackling air pollution in the HKH and its links with the HKH cryosphere**

##### **Eri Saikawa**

Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, Emory University

#### **Panel discussion with**

##### **Thelma Krug**

Vice-Chair, IPCC

##### **Maheshwar Dhakal**

Joint Secretary and UNFCCC Focal Point, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal

Moderator:

**David Molden**, Director General, ICIMOD

## For further information

Philippus Wester | [philippus.wester@icimod.org](mailto:philippus.wester@icimod.org)

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development  
T +977 1 5275222 | E [info@icimod.org](mailto:info@icimod.org) | [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org)