Background

The Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape (HKPL) represents “Bam-e-Dunya” (“roof of the world” in Persian), home to diverse ecosystems, indigenous ethnic groups, and rich cultural traditions. Today, it faces multiple threats to its environment, livelihoods, and way of life, but it also serves as a veritable treasure trove of transformative stories of resilience and progress. ICIMOD’s HKPL Initiative addresses cross-border challenges and opportunities in development and conservation across four countries in this landscape: Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.

The COVID-19 pandemic has drawn attention to the heightened vulnerabilities of mountain communities already dealing with the impacts of climate and other drivers of changes. It has underlined the need to build resilience and find appropriate policy directions, solutions, and cooperation mechanisms. The HKPL Initiative’s work to bolster long-term conservation and development efforts in the landscape presents vast learning opportunities.
About the webinar

This webinar presents a unique opportunity to hear from distinguished scholars and development professionals about the rapid changes and impact narratives for a resilient Bam-e-Dunya. The webinar is open to development practitioners; conservationists; experts on tourism, trade, and agriculture; agricultural economists; community mobilizers; policy makers; academics; and researchers.

This is the first in the “Bam-e-Dunya webinar series: Unleashing the potential of transboundary cooperation for a healthy and resilient roof of the world”. For more, please visit www.icimod.org/hkpl/webinar. Register by 14 July 2020.

Objectives

- Reflect on the broader change narrative and post-COVID-19 scenarios and implications
- Explore transformative stories from the region
- Discuss transboundary cooperation and landscape opportunities, combining conservation with development

Agenda

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<th>Time (NST)</th>
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<td>15:30–15:45</td>
<td>Participants check-in on MS Teams</td>
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| 15:45–16:00 | **Opening**
| | Introduction – Ghulam Ali, Programme Coordinator, HKPL, ICIMOD
| | Welcome remarks – David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD |
| 16:00–16:10 | **SESSION I**
| | **Presentations**
| | Moderator: Ghulam Ali
| | Building resilience in the Hindu Kush Himalaya
| | – David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD |
| 16:10–16:30 | Gender and resilience in the HKPL
| | – Shandana Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan |
| 16:30–16:50 | Potential and resilience of rural communities through participatory development
| | – Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman, Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan |
| 16:50–17:10 | Bam-e-Dunya: Transformation and future prospects
| | – Hermann Kreutzmann, Freie Universität Berlin |
| 17:10–17:30 | **SESSION II**
| | Discussion
| | Interactive session with moderator and speakers |
| 17:30–17:50 | Q&A |
| 17:50 | Closing remarks |
Shoaib Sultan Khan
Chairman
Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan

Shoaib Sultan Khan is one of the pioneers of the Rural Support Programmes Network in Pakistan. In 1982, Shoaib Sultan Khan initiated the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) in the Northern Areas and Chitral (NAC) district of Pakistan. Between 1979 and 1982, he also served as a social development consultant for UNICEF in Sri Lanka. He was appointed as a senior adviser for South Asia Poverty Alleviation Programme of UNDP from 1994 to 1982. He also worked at the Geneva-based Aga Khan Foundation for 12 years. In recognition of his work at AKRSP, he has received many awards including the United Nations Environment Programme Global 500 Award in 1989 and the WWF Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Award in 1994. Khan was also nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009. In 2019, the President of Pakistan conferred on him Nishan-e-Imtiaz, the highest civilian award in Pakistan.

Hermann Kreutzmann
Professor Emeritus
Freie Universität Berlin

Hermann Kreutzmann held the Chair of Human Geography at Freie Universität Berlin until March 2020. He has been serving as the Director of the Centre for and Development Studies at Freie Universität Berlin from 2005. He was awarded his PhD degree by Freie Universität Berlin, and his postdoctoral degree by Bonn University. In 1996, he was the Chair for cultural geography at Erlangen-Nuernberg University. His main research interest is regionally located in Central and South Asia with Pakistan as the prime focus; the topics range from development studies, high mountain research, mobility, and migration to political geography and minority issues. He has published more than 200 research papers, including 20 books.