

Green, resilient, and inclusive development in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

Challenges and opportunities

8 July 2021 | MS Team

17:00-18:00 Tokyo Time (UTC+9); 13:45-14:45 Nepal Time (UTC+5:45)

UNFCCC Asia Pacific Climate Week 2021 | BLOCK 5B



Context

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, which spreads across Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, is the pulse of the planet. The region has the largest reserves of ice outside the Polar Regions. It is home to four global biodiversity hotspots and contains the headwaters of ten major Asian river systems. What happens in this region affects the livelihoods of 240 million people living in the mountains, and 1.65 billion people living downstream. Together, the HKH provides essential resources, especially water and ecosystem services, to close to 2 billion people – one-fourth of humanity.

The HKH region is also a climate hotspot. Even if we succeed in limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, it is projected that the HKH will lose one-third of its glacier volume by 2100. This will exacerbate climate induced disasters and have negative impacts on lives and livelihoods in the region and beyond.

The [race to resilience](#) and the [race to zero](#) can deliver ambitious climate action in this region. Aligning

COVID-19 recovery efforts with climate action will provide opportunities for green, resilient, and inclusive development in the region.

ICIMOD is organizing this side event under the thematic track on [National actions and economy wide approaches](#), to steer discussion on the ambitious action in key sectors, and how these actions can be integrated in national planning and economic packages to enable COVID-19 recovery as well as support the Paris Agreement.

This event is one of the many regional and international dialogues being organized by ICIMOD under the #HKH2Glasgow campaign in the run up to [COP26](#).

Objectives

This session will provide a platform for stakeholders from the HKH region to:

- Take stock of climate action and COVID-19 recovery plans in the region
- Identify opportunities to align COVID-19 recovery with green, resilient, and inclusive development in the region



Agenda

Time (NPT)	Programme
13:30–13:45	Check-in on MS Teams Moderator – Nanki Kaur , Regional Programme Manager, Adaptation and Resilience Building, ICIMOD
13:45–13:50	Welcome and introduction – Nanki Kaur , ICIMOD
13:50–14:00	Presentation on climate action and green recovery in the HKH – Pradyumna JB Rana , Climate Change Adaptation and Governance Analyst, ICIMOD – Deepshikha Sharma , Climate and Environment Specialist, ICIMOD
14:00–14:25	Panel discussion: Challenges and opportunities for green, resilient and inclusive development in the HKH Nature-based solutions – Arun Shrestha , Regional Programme Manager, River Basins and Cryosphere, ICIMOD – Sunita Chaudhary , Ecosystem Services Specialist, ICIMOD Resilient infrastructure – Bidya Banmali Pradhan , Programme Coordinator, Air Pollution Solutions, ICIMOD – Asad Mahmood , Manager, Technical/Company Secretary - Energy Conservation Fund, National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA), Pakistan Innovative finance to align financial flows with green, resilient & inclusive development in the HKH – Prem Moktan , Director, Credit and Trade Finance, Bank of Bhutan Limited
14:25–15:38	Q&A
15:38–15:45	Closing remarks and way forward – Izabella Koziell , Deputy Director General, ICIMOD

If you are interested in attending this webinar, please register [here](#).

For further information

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