

#MOVINGMOUNTAINS WEBINAR

# Renewable energy for a low-carbon pathway in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

Investment opportunities and policy perspectives

14 September 2022 | 10:30–13:00 Nepal Standard Time (UTC+05:45) | Zoom

**Register here**



## About the webinar

This webinar aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge and perspectives on the status of renewable energy solutions in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region in contribution to national climate targets and net-zero ambitions. Expected participants include investors, organisations working on energy, development partners, and the general audience interested in energy and investments needs in the HKH region.

Specifically, the event aims to

- Discuss current policies and strategies to promote renewable energy and sustainable development in the HKH
- Provide an overview of plans and investments in the renewable energy sector along with challenges and opportunities
- Build stakeholders' understanding of the potential of renewable energy and collectively identify gaps
- Gain knowledge of the financial landscape and investment opportunities in the energy sector of the HKH

This webinar is part of the activities planned in the run-up to COP27 and is being organised under the Mountains of Opportunity Investment Framework ([MOIF](#)), a special project of ICIMOD. The key messages from this session will be shared on regional and global platforms. The MOIF is being facilitated under the Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme (HI-REAP) supported by the UK Government through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office ([FCDO](#)).

The event is being jointly organised with ICIMOD's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capability for the Hindu Kush Himalaya ([REEECH](#)) Initiative under the Regional Programme on Adaptation and Resilience Building.

## Background: Climate action in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

The decade spanning 2020–2030 is critical for climate action. The year 2021 was pivotal since parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) communicated their updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. These contributions will also allow the parties to increase

their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and make finance flows consistent with climate-resilient and low-carbon development pathways. The year 2030 will also be a crucial milestone in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

The HKH region, which extends from Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east, crossing Pakistan, India, China, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. A 1.5°C increase in global temperature will likely result in a 2.1°C increase in temperature by the end of the century in the HKH due to elevation-dependent warming. This will expose 240 million people living in the mountains and hills and over 1.6 billion downstream to climate-induced impacts.

In a landmark event, the eight HKH countries signed the [Ministerial Declaration](#) and launched the [HKH Call to Action](#) during the [HKH Ministerial Mountain Summit 2020](#). This declaration focused on sustaining mountain environments and improving livelihoods in the HKH. This historic agreement highlights the need for regional collaboration and ambitious climate action to limit global warming to 1.5°C and adapt to climate change impacts.

As per the updated NDCs and pledges made at COP26 and later, many of the HKH countries have set net-zero goals with considerable focus on energy transition. As a result, there is a need to understand the efforts, pathways, and contributions to the energy transition which can be made in the HKH region.

## Agenda

Time (NPT)	Programme
10:30–10:45	Welcome and remarks – <b>Deepshikha Sharma</b> , Climate and Environment Specialist, ICIMOD  Context setting – <b>Pugazenthi Dhananjayan</b> , Energy Analyst, ICIMOD – <b>Avishek Malla</b> , Energy Specialist, ICIMOD
10:45–12:15	Technical session – <b>Mohammad Sulaiman Nasiri</b> , Chief Executive Officer, Growth Consulting, Afghanistan – <b>Huzur Ali</b> , Joint Secretary, Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Board (CHT), Bangladesh – <b>Dechen Dema</b> , Executive Engineer, Department of Renewable Energy (DRE), Bhutan – <b>Li Dong</b> , Director Science and Technology Department, Chinese Academy of Sciences Chengdu, China – <b>Jeevan Kumar Jethani</b> , Sr. Director/Scientist-F, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India – <b>Nawa Raj Dhakal</b> , Deputy Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC), Nepal – <b>Shah Jahan Mirza</b> , Chief Executive Officer, Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB), Pakistan  Moderator: <b>Deepshikha Sharma</b> , Climate and Environment Specialist, ICIMOD
12:15–12:45	Q&A
12:45–13:00	Closing remarks – Mewang Gyeltshen, Programme Coordinator, REEECH, ICIMOD





## Mountains of Opportunity Investment Framework

In 2021, ICIMOD campaigned ([#HKH2Glasgow](#)) for an urgent call for climate action for the HKH at COP26, in line with the HKH Call to Action. This campaign also included the proposal for the Mountains of Opportunities Investment Framework (MOIF), endorsed by the HKH countries, to scale up investments in mountain-specific climate priorities. This year, we have further advanced the plans for the investment framework, noting that successful implementation would entail:

- Building evidence in support of decision making to channel investments in the HKH priority areas
- Improving connections, interactions, and partnerships between different actors in mountain development
- Amplifying the voices of mountain communities globally for more significant investments

## Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capability for the Hindu Kush Himalaya Initiative

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capability for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (REEECH) Initiative at ICIMOD functions as a regional hub and think-tank with a mountain focus under the umbrella of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) to accelerate universal energy access in the HKH region and to place mountain energy issues prominently on the global sustainable development and climate agenda. REEECH provides a coordination mechanism to foster South-South cooperation for improved access to decentralised sustainable energy solutions for HKH communities and actively promotes the scaling up of climate-resilient sustainable energy markets, industries, and innovation customised for the off-grid mountainous areas of the HKH. The initiative will strengthen adaptation and resilience-building solution packages by identifying options for green agriculture and tourism value chains, promoting inclusive and diversified enterprises and jobs, and enhancing wellbeing.

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