

REGIONAL SCIENCE-POLICY DIALOGUE

# Regional cooperation on adaptation to cascading climate risks in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

10–11 October 2023 | ICIMOD, Nepal

## Background

The impacts and implications of climate change are not confined by national borders. The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) and its countries are vulnerable to the cascading impacts of climate change which transmits across national and regional borders and pose grave threats to people and the environment. A regional cooperation mechanism is crucial for the HKH countries to collectively and effectively respond to climate risks and pursue region-wide resilience. The consequences of climate change and the measures governments take to respond to them, may be viewed as sub-national and national policy issues, but they also transcend national boundaries and require collaborative remedial action.

This science-policy dialogue aims to identify what a cooperation mechanism on adaptation could look like, the main areas of work it could advance, and the tangible outcomes it could and should deliver. It will engage stakeholders from key constituencies from the eight regional member countries (RMCs), including policymakers, adaptation experts, UNFCCC national

focal points, climate scientists and academics, civil society organisations, Indigenous people, economists and practitioners, as well as experts from international organisations.

## Objectives

- Discuss cascading climate risks of importance to the HKH and the need for regional cooperation on adaptation to these types of risks, and build a collective HKH voice at the global level
- Explore the barriers and enablers of building a regional cooperation mechanism on adaptation in the HKH
- Create a shared vision of what a cooperation mechanism on adaptation in the HKH region should look like
- Explore key areas of work and define what the HKH cooperation mechanism could deliver to RMCs and beyond, practically and politically

# Agenda

Time	Session focus
09:00 – 09:30	Registration Tea and coffee
09:30–10:00	<p><b>Welcome remarks</b></p> <p>Inaugural address – <b>Izabella Koziell</b>, ICIMOD</p> <p>Welcome remarks – <b>Katy Harris</b>, SEI</p> <p>Welcome remarks – <b>Pem Kandel</b>, ICIMOD</p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Pradyumna JB Rana</b>, ICIMOD</p> <p>Rapporteur: <b>Avash Pandey</b>, ICIMOD/<b>Mona Sharma</b>, ICIMOD</p>
10:00–10:15	Introduction to the Science-policy dialogue, setting goals and expectations, and outlining the agenda - <b>Deepshikha Sharma</b> , ICIMOD
10:15–10:45	Group photo Tea and coffee break
10:45–11:30	<p><b>Session 1: Setting the scene and taking stock</b></p> <p>Introducing the session – <b>Pradyumna Rana</b>, ICIMOD</p> <p>Presentations on cascading climate risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Katy Harris</b>, SEI</li> <li>- <b>Neera Shrestha Pradhan</b>, ICIMOD</li> <li>- <b>Pradyumna Rana</b>, ICIMOD (Moderating Q&amp;A)</li> </ul> <p>Presentation to take stock of ongoing regional collaboration and processes that address (or hold the potential to address) cascading climate risks and the state of play of adaptation in the region – gaps, barriers and opportunities - <b>Babar Khan</b>, ICIMOD</p> <p>Rapporteur: <b>Cynthia Nitsch</b>, SEI</p>
11:30 –13:00	<p><b>Session 2: Breakout Groups to discuss the impacts of cascading climate risks on different sectors</b></p> <p>Introduction to the session: <b>Katy Harris</b>, SEI</p> <p>Energy security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Avishek Malla</b>, ICIMOD</li> <li>- <b>Deepshikha Sharma</b>, ICIMOD</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteur: <b>Bhawana Syangden</b>, ICIMOD</p> <p>Food security, trade, finance and infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Katy Harris</b>, SEI</li> <li>- <b>Sara Talebian</b>, SEI</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteur: <b>Avash Pandey</b>, ICIMOD</p> <p>Human wellbeing (water security, health and other dimensions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Nisha Wagle</b>, ICIMOD</li> <li>- <b>Cynthia Nitsch</b>, SEI</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteur: <b>Mona Sharma</b>, ICIMOD</p> <p>Biodiversity and ecosystems services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Nakul Chettri</b>, ICIMOD</li> <li>- <b>Sonam Chuki</b>, ICIMOD</li> </ul> <p>Rapporteur: <b>Udayan Mishra</b>, ICIMOD</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session focus</b>
14:00 – 14:30	Regional cooperation mechanism in the HKH – Babar Khan, ICIMOD
14:30 – 15:45	<b>Session 3: Research, information-sharing and knowledge-based dialogue</b> Presentation introducing the first pillar: research, information-sharing and knowledge-based dialogue – Katy Harris, SEI  60-minute discussion in breakout groups to identify actions and measures
15:45 – 16:15	Tea break
16:15 – 17:30	<b>Session 4: Policy and governance instruments</b> Presentation introducing the second pillar: policy and governance instruments – Pem Kandel, ICIMOD  60-minute discussion in breakout groups to identify actions and measures
Networking dinner	

## DAY 2

Time	Session focus
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day 1 and outlining Day 2 agenda – <b>Mona Sharma</b> , ICIMOD
09:15 – 10:30	<b>Session 5: Climate diplomacy, negotiations and coalition building</b> Presentation introducing the third pillar: climate diplomacy, negotiations and coalition building – <b>Pradyumna Rana</b> , ICIMOD  60-minute discussion in breakout groups to identify actions and measures
10:30 – 11:00	Tea break
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Session 6: Capacity building, implementation and finance</b> Presentation introducing the third pillar – <b>Katy Harris</b> , SEI  75-minute discussion in breakout groups to identify actions and measures
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	<b>Session 7: A roadmap to a regional cooperation</b> 60-review of actions and measures gathered across the four pillars with group reflection and feedback  30-minute stress-testing of recommendations in the future – what would challenge their feasibility and how would we overcome this? What does ‘success’ look like in 5 years? – <b>Sara Talebian</b> , SEI – <b>Babar Khan</b> , ICIMOD  Rapporteur: <b>Pradyumna Rana</b> , ICIMOD / <b>Cynthia Nitsch</b> , SEI
15:00 – 15:30	Tea break
15:30 – 16:30	<b>Session 8: A unified voice at COP28</b> 20-minute presentation and discussion of opportunities at COP28 – <b>Deepshikha Sharma</b> , ICIMOD and <b>Katy Harris</b> , SEI  40-minute breakout groups for each process, brainstorming/drafting text for what a common vision and unified message could look like on this topic that negotiators could take to COP28
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Way forward and closing remarks</b> – <b>Katy Harris</b> , SEI – <b>Deepshikha Sharma</b> , ICIMOD  Country representatives Closing remarks <b>Pema Gyamstho</b> , ICIMOD Rapporteur: <b>Pradyumna JB Rana</b> and <b>Mona Sharma</b> , ICIMOD

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