



International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI)

10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (2:00 PM – 3:30 PM)

## Climate Resilient Multi-Functional Himalayan Landscapes

### Background

Mountains occupy more than one-fifth of the world's land area and are home to about one-eighth of the world's population. Mountains support 25% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity and include nearly half of the world's biodiversity 'hotspots'. Multi-functional landscapes of the mountains provide goods and services of global significance in the form of water, food, energy (hydroelectricity), timber, biodiversity, minerals, recreation, and flood management.

The Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region is one of the most important mountain ecosystems of the world providing immense goods and services to humanity. The HKH region is one of the hotspots of vulnerability to climate change and land transformation. The HKH has been witnessing high frequency of extreme weather events, rapid biodiversity loss, cryosphere loss, ecosystem degradation, increased disaster risk, and rising vulnerabilities to people both in the mountains and downstream areas.

The highlight of this event will be to focus on restoring multi-functional landscapes and developing climate resilience for sustenance and prosperity in the HKH.

### Agenda:

**MC:** Bhawana, ICIMOD

**Introduction** – TBC (5 minutes)

#### **Theme Presentations**

- Climate Change Induced Disasters and Resilience Building on Cascading Impacts in the Downstream of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (Arun Bhakta Shrestha, ICIMOD) – 15 min
- Climate Change Resilience Building by Restoring Multi-Functional Landscapes in North-East India (Eklabya Sharma, ATREE) – 15 min

**Panel Presentation and Discussion** - moderated by Anuja Malhotra, ATREE (40 minutes) – Q&A

1. Bhutan
2. Pakistan
3. India
4. Nepal

Discussion (10 minutes)

**Concluding Remarks** – DR Pem Kandel (5 minutes)

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**Organized by**

- 1) International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu
- 2) Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru