



## 2025 BONN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE SBSTA 62 SIDE EVENT



### Background

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), established under the Paris Agreement, aims to enhance global adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change. While it seeks to unify global adaptation efforts, challenges remain in defining measurable indicators due to the localized nature of adaptation and complex political dynamics. Progress through the GlaSS and UAE-Belém work programs has led to key milestones, including the COP28 adoption of a policy cycle and the Baku Adaptation Road Map (COP29), which aims to finalize 100 globally and nationally applicable indicators by COP30 in 2025.

The Nepal's Ministry of Forests and Environment has organised this special side event in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on the sidelines of the Sixty Second Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB62) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany.

### HKH: A Climate-Critical Region



The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region spans 3,500 km across eight countries and supports over 240 million people directly and nearly 2 billion downstream. As the “Third Pole,” it holds the largest ice reserves outside the polar regions, feeding 10 major river basins vital for water, agriculture, energy, and biodiversity.

However, the HKH is warming nearly twice as fast as the global average, facing severe impacts such as glacier retreat, permafrost thaw, and intensified climate hazards—including floods, landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). A global 1.5°C rise could mean over 2°C in the HKH, potentially shrinking one-third of its glaciers by 2100; under current emissions, this loss could reach two-thirds.

### **Integrating mountains into the GGA**

The GGA presents a critical opportunity to embed mountain-specific needs into global adaptation strategies. For the HKH, this means developing context-sensitive, measurable indicators that recognize the region’s unique vulnerabilities and cross-border challenges. Effective adaptation in the HKH requires integrated policies, sustainable resource management, and international cooperation—underpinned by climate finance and inclusive planning that prioritizes mountain communities.

By operationalizing the GGA with tailored indicators, the resilience of the HKH and other mountain regions can be strengthened, ensuring no one is left behind in the global adaptation effort.

### **Objectives**

- Contextualize mountain resilience within the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) by highlighting the specific vulnerabilities and adaptation needs of mountain ecosystems and communities under climate change.
- Demonstrate the relevance of mountain-specific adaptation actions within the framework of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and how they contribute to achieving the GGA.
- Critically examine existing and emerging adaptation indicators under the GGA framework and assess their applicability and sensitivity to mountain contexts.
- Showcase country and regional experiences in integrating mountain-specific indicators into NAP processes and tracking adaptation progress.



- Foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to align mountain resilience efforts with global adaptation tracking mechanisms, and to support the development of context-relevant indicators for NAPs and the GGA.

**Contact person:**

- Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Chief, Climate Change Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal [mareshwar.dhakal@gmail.com](mailto:mareshwar.dhakal@gmail.com)
- Kunzang, Global Lead, ICIMOD [kunzang@icimod.org](mailto:kunzang@icimod.org)

**Session agenda**

**Moderator:** Pradyumna JB Rana, ICIMOD

Time	Session
15:00-15:07	<b>Opening Session</b> <b>Remarks</b> <i>Dr Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Secretary – Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal (TBC)</i> <b>Objective of the event</b> <i>Pradyumna JB Rana</i>
15:07-15:20	Presentation on GGA and mountains – experience from HKH region – <i>Kunzang, Global Lead, ICIMOD</i>
15:20 – 15:55	<b>Panel discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ziaul Haque</b>, Director, Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh</li><li>• <b>Sonam Tashi</b>, Director, Division of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan</li><li>• <b>Maheshwar Dhakal</b>, Joint Secretary &amp; Chief Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal</li><li>• <b>Dinara Kemelova</b>, Ambassador, Special Envoy of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on mountain agenda</li><li>• <b>Susana Hancock</b>, Global Mountains Director, International Cryosphere Climate Initiative</li><li>• <b>Kaveh Guilanpour</b>, Vice President - International Strategies, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions</li></ul>
15:55 – 16:05	Q&A
16:05 – 16:15	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <i>Dr Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Secretary – Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal (TBC)</i>



ICIMOD

--	--



### ***Guiding questions***

- What are the key limitations of current global adaptation indicators in capturing mountain-specific climate risks and responses, and how can these be addressed?
- In what ways have mountain-specific adaptation strategies been successfully integrated into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and how do these contribute to the achievement of the GGA?
- How do the unique vulnerabilities of mountain ecosystems and communities shape our understanding of resilience within the framework of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)?
- Can you share examples from your country or region where mountain-relevant indicators have been incorporated into NAPs or other adaptation frameworks, and what lessons have emerged from that process?
- How can we ensure that the development of adaptation indicators for mountain areas reflects the voices and priorities of local communities, including women, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized groups?
- What mechanisms or partnerships are needed to align mountain resilience efforts with global adaptation tracking systems like the GGA, and to ensure the development of meaningful, context-specific indicators?