### Adaptation Actions in Systems: The Hindu-Kush Himalayan Region



Dhrupad Choudhury Programme Manager Regional Programme on Adaptation to Change

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Kathmandu, Nepal

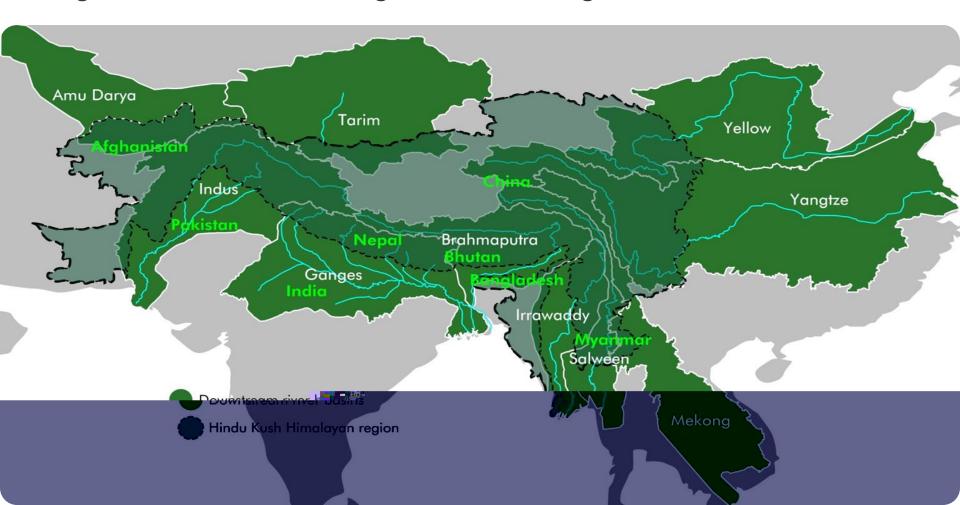
3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum Incheon, Republic of Korea

## Serving the eight countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas



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#### Intergovernmental learning and knowledge centre



## Responding to the challenges of global change



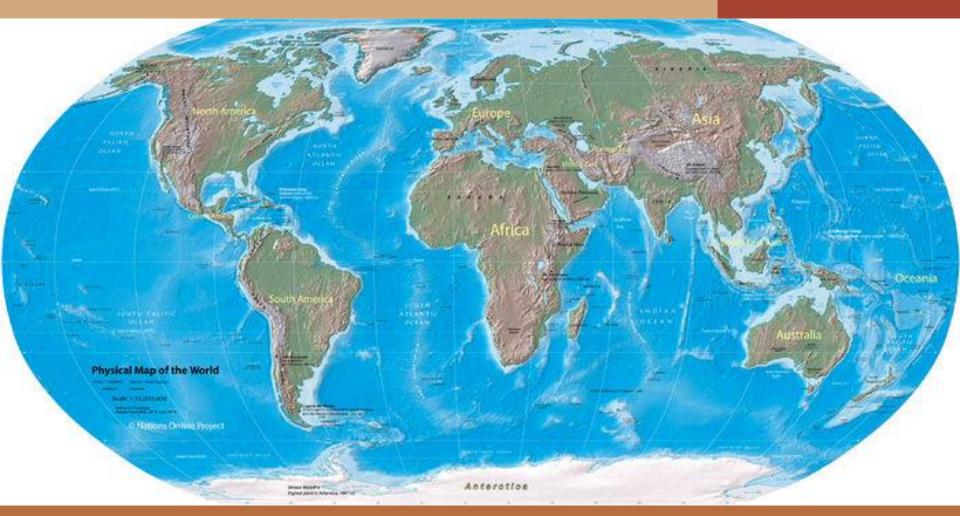
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Enhancing resilience and supporting adaptation of mountain communities



### ICIMOD

#### Importance of Mountain Regions



Mountains occupy 24% of global land surface; home to 12% population; About 10% of world's population directly depend on the mountains for their livelihoods; 40% indirectly depend on water, hydroelectricity, timber, biodiversity and niche products, mineral resources, recreation, and flood control

## Mountain ecosystem services and human well-being



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Mountain ecosystems **SUPPORTING** Upstream-downstream linkage Nutrient cycling Soil formation Primary production **PROVISIONING REGULATING CULTURAL** Food Climate Aesthetic Fresh water Flood Spiritual Wood and fibre Educational Disease Fuel Water-purification Recreational Basic material Good social Freedom and Security Health choice for good life relations

SERVICES

WELLBEING

## Mountains: The World's Water Towers



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Vital source of water, food, energy, forests, biodiversity...

For people in the mountains and downstream



### The Himalaya: The Third Pole





#### Ten major river basins of Asia



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210 million people in the HKH

1.3 billion people downstream

#### The HKH Region

...has a wide variety of ecosystems and a rich cultural diversity (repository of biodiversity and traditional knowledge)





### Snow cover over parts of the Himalaya has been decreasing...



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1973 (photo ICIMOD archive)

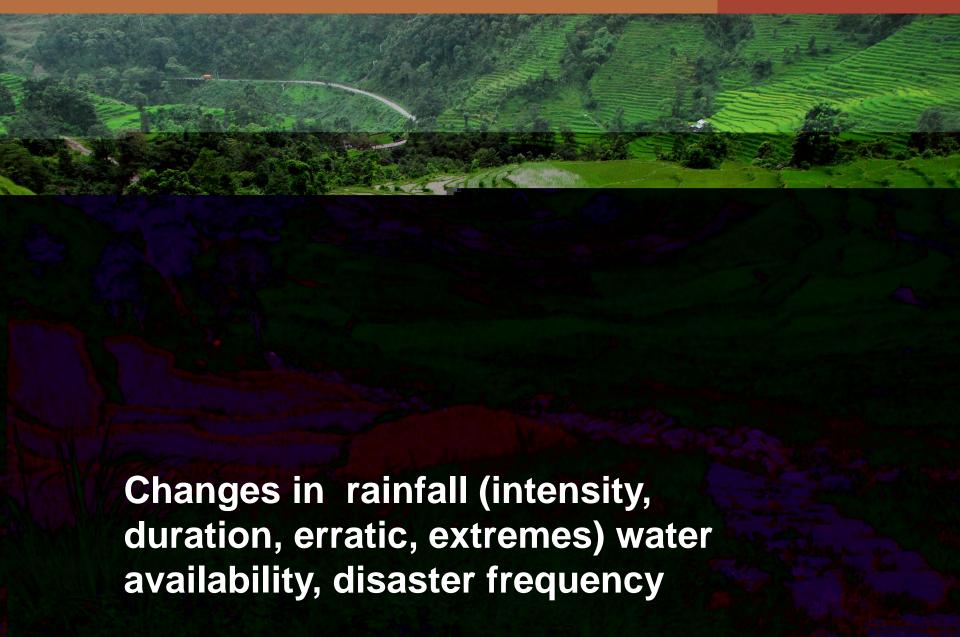


Mt. Machhapuchhare, Nepal, 6993 meters

2011 (photo Panday)

### Changing patterns of the monsoon...

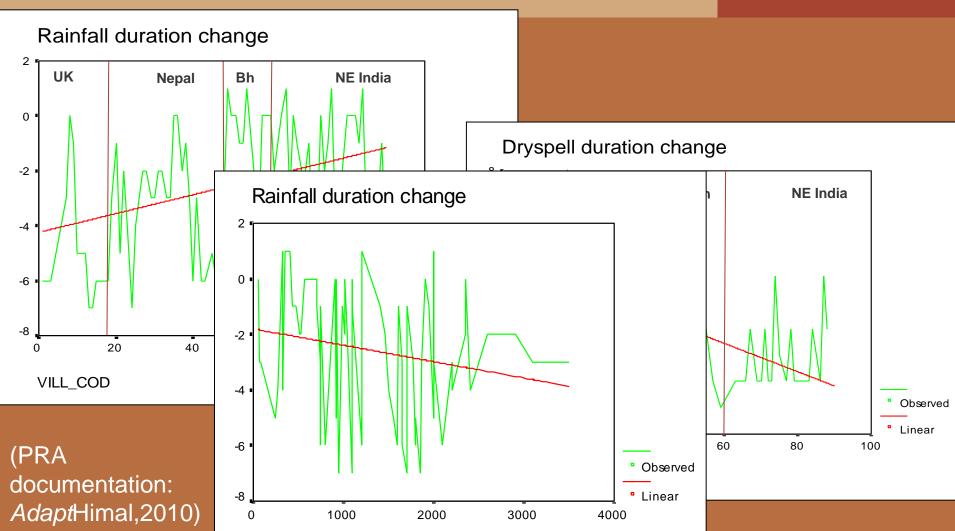




# Community perceptions: Trends of change in annual duration of rainfall & dryspells (west to east)

elevations





### Impact of Climate Change Some Examples from Southern Himalayas



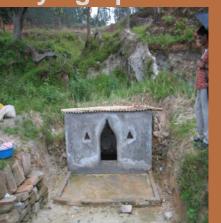
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Increased scarcity of drinking water



Natural springs and water sources drying up

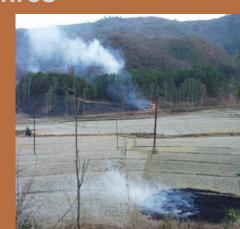


**Loss of productive lands** 



Habitat loss for wildlife and productive lands for domestic animals

Increased incidence of forest fires



## Impact of Climate Change - Water Induced Disasters - Downstream



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Assam, North
East India –
flood impact
(sand casting)



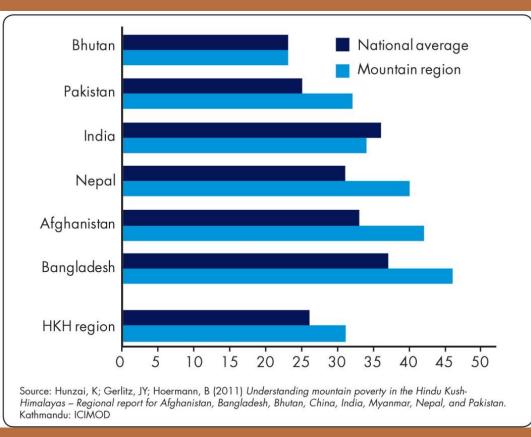
## How to adapt to a changing ecological and social environment?

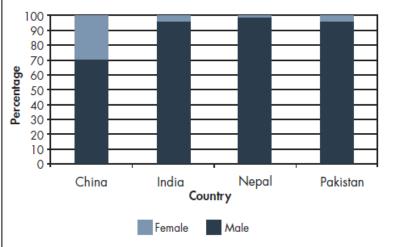
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# High Poverty, Gendered Migration and increased 'Feminisation' (increased burden of management)



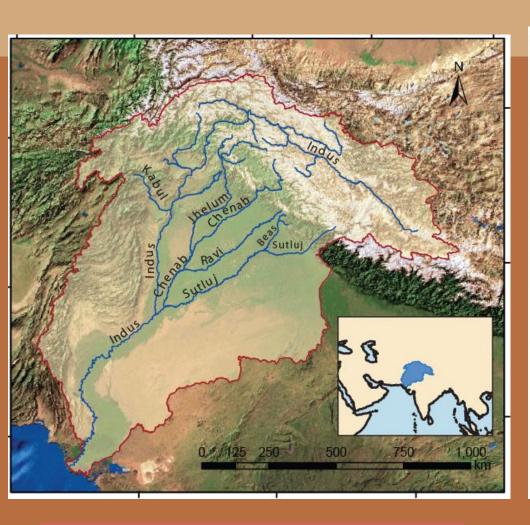


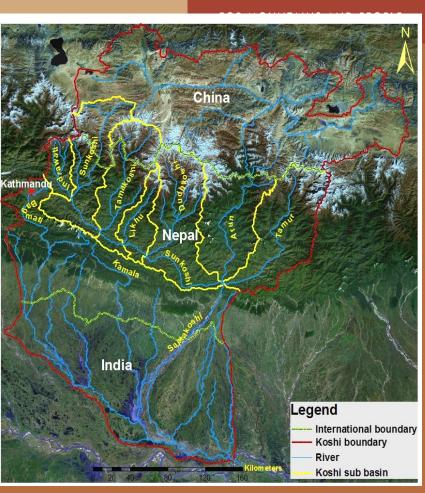


Regional Transboundary Approaches ICIMOD 100°E 110°E 120°E **Tarim** Amu Darya Yellow Indus Yangtze Brahmaputra Ganges

### River Basin Management – Linking Upstream and Downstream





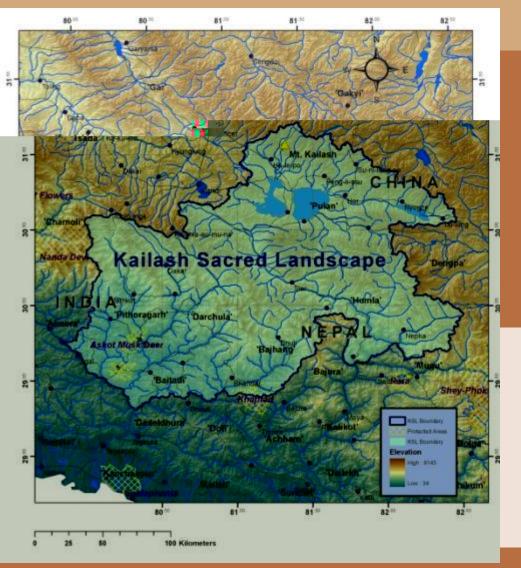


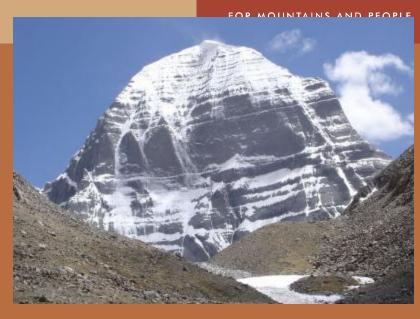
**Indus Basin** 

**Kosi Basin** 

### Kailash Sacred Landscape China-India-Nepal

### ICIMOD

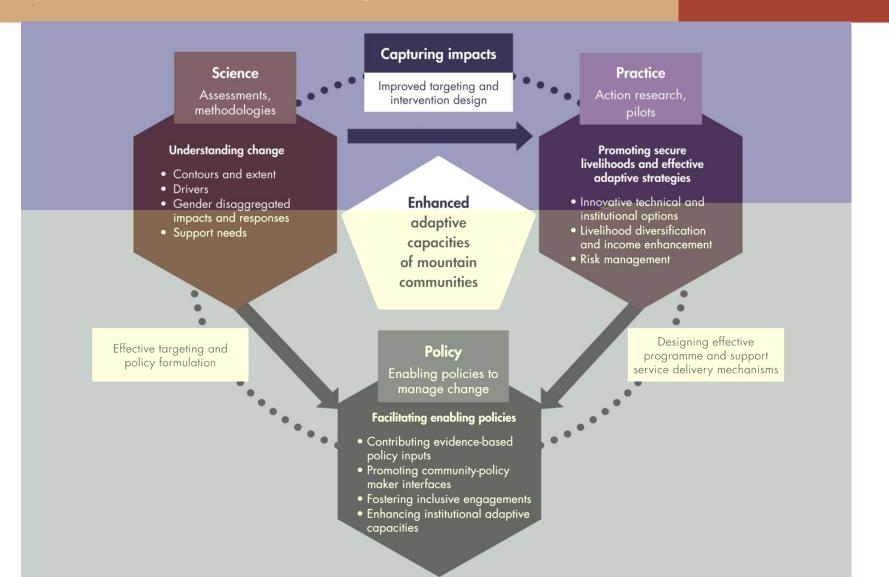




- Addressing scientific uncertainties
- Regional cooperation framework for research
- Capacity building and information sharing

## Regional Programme on Adaptation to Change: Understanding Change to shape Action and Policy





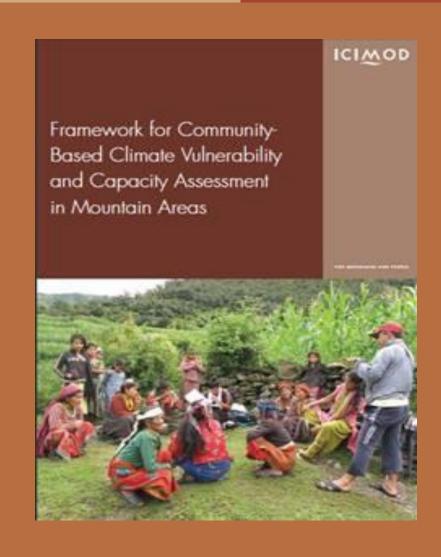
# Managing Change: Assessing resource dependency, responses and needs



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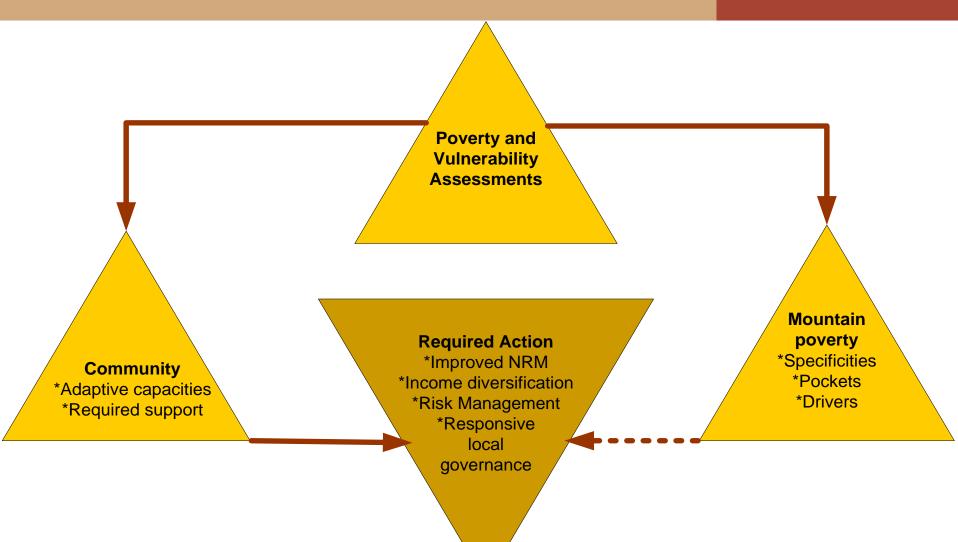
- Community perceptions
  - Impacts
  - Resource dependency
  - Responses (capacities)
  - Institutional support needs

(AdaptHimal, Too Much Too Little Water, Himali....IFAD, SIDA, ADB, MacArthur...)



# Knowledge to Practice: Shaping development interventions (Action Research pilots)





### Livelihood Diversification Options: Building on past experiences from the region



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Income enhancement and diversification through Value Chain approaches:

- On-farm and non-farm opportunities
- Market linkages
- Access to commodity pricing
- Support services
- Extension and technical services



# 'Bridging the Last Mile': Technical backstopping (veterinary healthcare) Garo Hills, India



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Promotion of Community Resource Persons (CRPs), linked to veterinary clinics of department

Basic and preventive (vaccinations) healthcare, extension material

Complimented with promotion of improved feed and forage from local resources

Access to Commodity Prices and Extension Information through ICT Dailekh, Nepal

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- Updated information on commodity prices
- Providing a 'level playing field' for producers
- Increasing their bargaining power, hence returns.
- Access to technical information for extension using SMS



# Managing Change: Perspective Land Use Mapping Garo Hills, India

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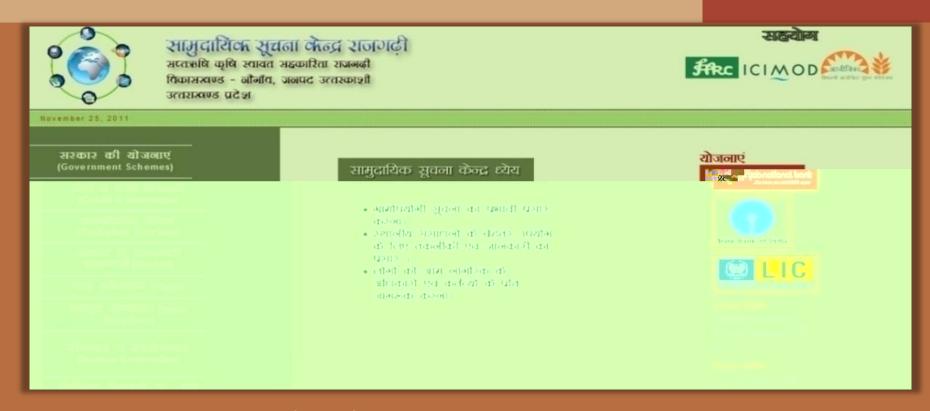
Managing land use change in shifting cultivation areas

- Accommodating livelihood and income needs
- Participatory resource management at the landscape level
- Promoting community
   management and conservation
   of forests, water, and ecosystem
   services



## Improved Access to Information Uttarakhand, India





- •Information on government/bank/insurance schemes and programmes
- •Guidelines for application; forms, contact details
- •At SHG Federation offices in pilot sites
- Online www.infodev.in/
- Sustainability: Advertisements from agencies

### Building capacities to manage risks: Flood Preparedness - Early Warning Systems



- Participatory early warning system
- WiFi link for relay warning downstream

   communities, DRR
   system
- Complimented with Flexible Planning for enhancing adaptation to flood-related hazard management





### Capacity Enhancement: Enhancing community and institutional capacities



- Need Assessments for capacity enhancement
- Institutional capacity enhancement
  - Local institutions
  - National institutions
  - Partner institutions
- Support to strategic partners for capacity enhancement
- Leadership skills enhancement for women professionals



### Bridging the Information Gap: Consultative policy engagement for strengthening local adaptation



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#### Adaptation Learning Highways:

Process framework for facilitating:

A horizontal and vertical exchange of information and knowledge to strengthen

- informed decision making
- making local governance more responsive; and
- to contribute to effective local adaptive strategies formulation



#### Community-Scientists Interface Forum (CSIF)

- ·Knowledge exchange
- •Identification of promising adaptive mechanisms
- Designing participatory M&E framework
- •Result sharing, dissemination and upscaling framework



- •Share findings, concerns and learning
- •Policy action
- recommendations
- •Formulation of policy support for upscaling



#### C2C Knowledge Exchange Forum (C2C KEF)

- Knowledge exchange
- •Peer verification (acceptance)
- ·Peer assessment
- •Gap identification and need assessment ( support services required)



Forum for exchange and interaction with local decision and policy makers
(FIP)

- •Share issues, concerns and gaps in support system
- •Identify means to make system more responsive •Identify existing
- •Identify existing programmes and institutional mechanisms that can respond to community concerns
- ·Identify policy action



Implemented in India and Nepal (supported State Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation of Uttarakhand, India)

# Contributing to evidence based policy making for real impacts: shaping national policy and action



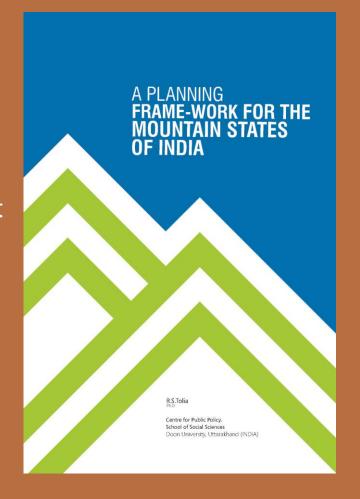
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'...to promote the formulation/ refinement of pro-poor policies through analytical work and knowledge sharing'

Working Group on *Mountain Ecosystems and Challenges faced by Hilly Areas*, set up for first time by the Planning Commission, Government of India for preparation of the Approach Paper for XII Five Year Plan,

#### In the Report

- draws extensively on Poverty Assessment
   Framework
- recommends re-appraisal of poverty indices and poverty assessments for mountain states



# Promotion of sustainable action: Green CIMOD Economy and SMD – Refining understanding & approaches

- Green economy, SMD & adaptation to CC
- Role of mountains in green economy & adaptation to CC
- Promoting green economy & adaptation to CC
- Policies & insitutional measures needed for promoting green economy & adpatation to CC



## Supporting Regional Governments for long-term policy action



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#### **Mountain Initiative 2010-2013**

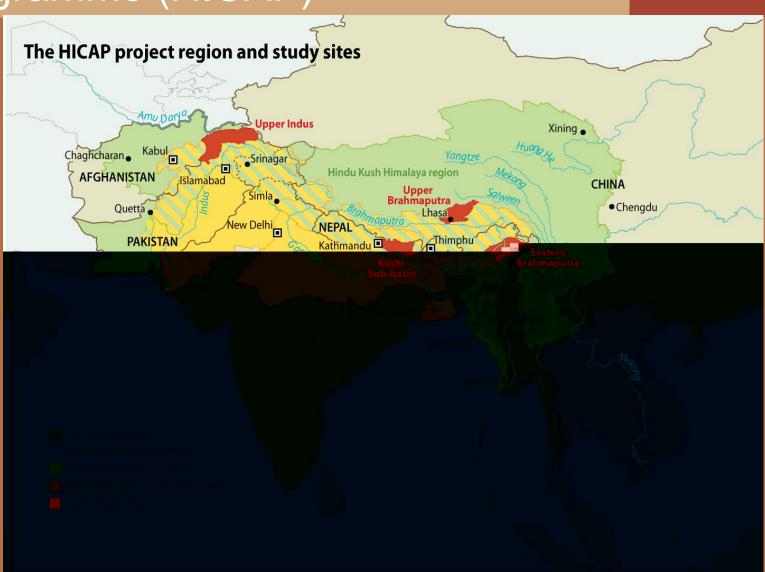
- Technical backstopping to Government of Nepal to launch Mountain Initiative
- State of the art report on Climate Change in HKH region
  - Mountain Initiative (India)
  - Mountain Day 1 and 2 (CoP)

#### **UNFCCC** and Rio

- Spearheading Mountain Issues (Nepal)
- The Future We Want: Mountains
- Nepal elected Chair of LDC group for 2013 and 2014
- International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change, 2012 - Kathmandu Call for Action

# Reducing Uncertainties: Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP)

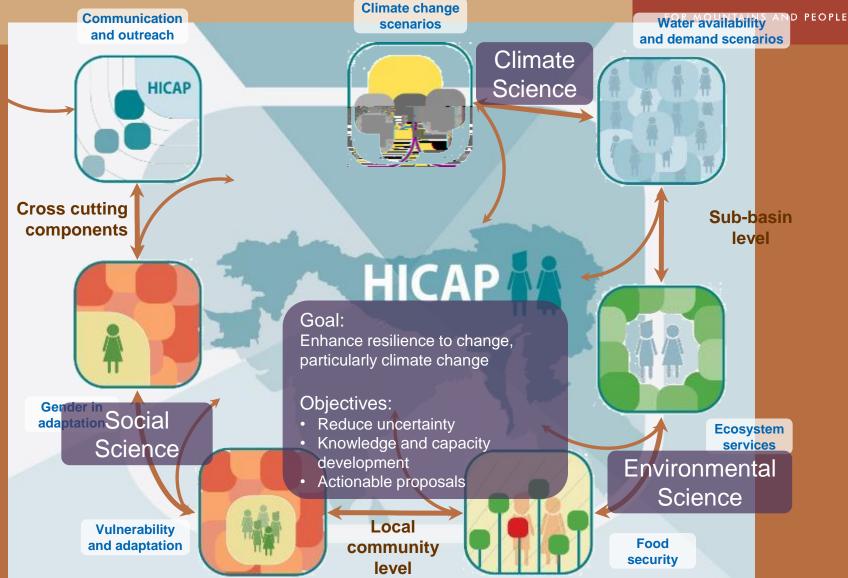




## Himalayan Climate Adaptation Programme (HICAP)







Partnering with Media: Increasing understanding, raising awareness for shaping policies and action



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### REGIONAL JOURNALISTS WORKSHOP CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION



### Thank you!

