



ADAPTATION  
KNOWLEDGE  
PLATFORM

# E-COMMUNIQUÉ

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March 2011

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The e-communiqué is part of the efforts by the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) to share and exchange information about activities and initiatives related to climate change adaptation in Asia, the Pacific, and beyond.

The e-communiqué welcomes you to tell us about your Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) activities, announcements, events and new initiatives. You can send your submissions to [info@climteadapt.asia](mailto:info@climteadapt.asia)

### *Tribute to Japan earthquake survivors*

We salute the remarkable courage and fortitude of our Japanese brethren who braved a magnitude 8.9 earthquake, the world's fifth largest in the last 110 years, on March 11. It was caused when the Pacific tectonic plate dived under the North American plate. It shifted eastern Japan toward North America by about 13 feet, and sank Japan by about two feet. The quake also moved the earth's axis by 6.5 inches, and shortened the day by 1.6 microseconds as the earth's mass shifted toward the center, spurring the planet to spin a bit faster. Even though we know that this quake was out of our control, we can't but underscore its significance in influencing global climate, thus adding another dimension to the climate change calculations being made by scientists, negotiators and policy-makers.

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## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Here is a brief look at the various activities undertaken by Adaptation Knowledge Platform (AKP) and Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) in March.

### 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of APAN in Bangkok, Thailand, 1 March

The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) organized its second Steering Committee meeting in Bangkok on March 1. This is a regular meeting, which is held twice a year or when required to review the activities undertaken by APAN and discuss plans for its future. Besides doing this, the second Steering Committee meeting also approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for sub-regional nodes and national implementing partners of the Network, and identified potential sub-regional nodes.

### Second Training Needs Assessment (TNA) Meeting of APAN in Pathumthani, Thailand, 11 March

The second TNA meeting was held at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok in continuation of the first TNA meeting on 31 January 2011. This meeting aimed to (i) review the process of conducting TNA in five countries by the national partners, (ii) discuss the advantages, constraints, challenges and other issues faced by the national partners in conducting TNA, and (iii) find out ways to overcome these challenges and the way forward for detailed TNA. For more information, contact Ms. Huong Le ([Huong.Le@rrcap.unep.org](mailto:Huong.Le@rrcap.unep.org))

### Sri Lanka Mission, 9-14 March

The purpose of the mission by Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) was to meet with all the key stakeholders at the national level to introduce APAN. It also aimed to generate and identify new contacts to create leads and referrals for APAN; discuss the potential contribution of APAN to the countries, and find out the current status of adaptation in the country. The mission of experts also gathered information regarding climate change legislations besides identifying key line agencies and different government agencies involved in adaptation. The mission further explored the possibility of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) becoming a sub-regional node for APAN in South Asia.

### Maldives Mission, 14-18 March

Adaptation Knowledge Platform and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network undertook a maiden mission to Male for consultation with key ministries, development agencies and NGOs to understand the status of climate change adaptation (CCA) in Maldives. The national mechanism in place, the mission members discussed capacity development as well as projects and initiatives on climate change adaptation. CCA has become a priority for the country ever since its President declared his resolve to have a 'Carbon Neutral Maldives' by

2020. There are concerns about lack of data and downscaling of climate projections hindering better policy/ planning. Lack of coordination between line ministries and departments is also an impediment to better implementation of CCA projects, which are at present mostly short term in nature. The mission discussed capacity building of both the government agencies and national institutions working on CCA besides underlining the importance of research in order to generate data for making more accurate projections and planning. The mission also underlined the need for better financing for both the government and international agencies to undertake CCA activities.

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## COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

### Parallel Session on Community-Based Adaptation in Dhaka, 28-31 March

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform (AKP) will organize a parallel session on Community-Based Adaptation Knowledge Management at the 5th Community- Based Adaptation Conference in Dhaka on March 29. The session will deliberate on barriers and challenges faced by developing country governments and others in accessing, interpreting and applying good quality research and information for designing their own climate change adaptation policies and programmes. The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) will also attend the meeting to identify stakeholders and gather information regarding climate change legislations, including National Climate Change Adaptation Plans. For more information, visit [www.bcas.net](http://www.bcas.net)

### Institute of Sufficiency Economy's (ISE) annual event: Climate Change Adaptation - The 'Ground Work' solutions, 19 March, Chonburi, Thailand

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform participated in the annual event of the ISE as a panel and presented its initiatives, roles in the context of climate change adaptation, including the knowledge sharing and capacity building activities undertaken in Thailand. This yearly event serves as knowledge exchanging venue for small-scale farmers in Thailand practicing ecosystem-based adaptation measures, local individuals, media, private and public sectors and international organisations to meet and share their own adaptation knowledge.

### Africa Adapts to Climate Change, 9-11 March

Adaptation Knowledge Platform attended the AfricaAdapt Climate Change Symposium 2011, in Addis Ababa, to share its experiences with adaptation practitioners in Africa.

The three-day bilingual (French/English) symposium discussed approaches, tools and methods for addressing climate change and sustainable development in Africa. The symposium showcased new research and experience on climate change and development across Africa.

Following were some of the themes that were explored:

- Links between adaptation, mitigation and low carbon, or "climate compatible" development.
- Role of local and indigenous knowledge in addressing climate change.
- New thinking on community-led responses: From local to global.
- The role of media and intermediaries in translating, sharing, and advocating climate change adaptation.
- National and international policy: Linking policy and practice.

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Annual Progress Report 2010: A Brief Look at the Activities and Achievements of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in the Year Gone by.

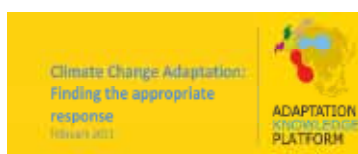
The Adaptation Knowledge Platform made big strides in the year 2010, in its mission to mainstream climate change adaptation into development planning in the region, and ensure an effective two-way flow of information from researchers working on ways to cope up with the changing climate to policy-makers, and communities who are actually battling the changes on the ground. Now entering its third year of inception, the Adaptation



Knowledge Platform also ensured that adaptation became a real cause of concern for governments in the region, and not just a term restricted to scholarly discussions behind closed doors.

## Tiempo Climate Newswatch: Linking Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction:

Roopa Rakshit shares the outcomes and take-home messages that emerged during discussions at a Bangkok seminar on linking disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Even when information on future climate risks is available, the challenge lies in how to unpack the information, how information can be interpreted for decision-makers and how to improve communication strategies to convince decision-makers to conduct long-term planning and boost understanding of climate change adaptation through strategic communication for its effective use and applications at various levels.



## Climate Change Adaptation: Finding the Appropriate Response

The research "An approach to climate change adaptation research: events, strategies, and drivers in Cambodia" is part of a broader study entitled 'Climate Change: Finding the Appropriate Response' that draws on the Adaptation Knowledge Platform work to disseminate and exchange adaptation knowledge amongst a wider audience. The overall research objective is to develop situational and functional adaptation measures, and to capture practice-based knowledge adaptation response that can be integrated into planning and delivery at community, district, and provincial levels.



## Policy Brief: Climate Change Resilience in Coastal Cambodia: Adaptive Capacity & Human Development

This policy brief is based on the findings of a participatory research effort: "Climate Change Adaptation - Factors of Choice, Effectiveness, and Supporting

Systems", conducted in the provinces of Koh Kong and Sihanoukville in Cambodia in the late 2010 and in January this year. The study is a continuation of work supported by the Asian Institute of Technology and the United Nations Environment Programme (AIT-UNEP RRCAP), through the Adaptation Knowledge Platform to disseminate and exchange adaptation knowledge among a wider audience.



Photo credit: SEI



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 5th Bi-Monthly Seminar on Public Awareness, Behaviour Change and Calls to Action for Sustainable Consumption & Production: The Role and Responsibility of the Media, Entertainment & Creative Industries in Adapting to Climate Change in Bangkok, Thailand, 27 April

The workshop will explore how partnerships with international development and donor agencies as well as private sector companies can affect issues such as climate change by encouraging mass awareness of green consumption. It will also examine ways to enhance communication and strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations and the mass media to influence environmental governance in Southeast Asia in the spirit of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration 1992. The workshop will include a panel of professionals who will demonstrate the use of media relationships and tools for advocacy, awareness and behaviour change in accomplishing sustainable development. Efforts to engage the media and the entertainment and creative industries will facilitate the cultivation of an enlightened consumer and public opinion, which can exert direct and indirect pressure on decision makers.

### Media Workshop on Adaptation Practices from Mountains to the Sea, Dhulikhel, Nepal, 18-20 May

The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia (Adaptation Knowledge Platform) and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) are jointly organizing a three-day media workshop in Dhulikhel, near Kathmandu, Nepal, from 18 to 20 May. The theme of the workshop will be climate change effects and adaptation practices in the areas of water and agriculture, from the mountains to the sea. Experts in various subjects will brief journalists, who will also have the opportunity to witness the effects of climate change and adaptation practices during a one-day field trip that will be part of the workshop.

The workshop is open to journalists from any media organization in eight South Asian countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Those interested in participating should apply through the form available at [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org). Complete application requires CV and two clippings/links to audiovisual content. The deadline for receiving applications is 8 April 2011. Only successful candidates will be contacted, and their expenses to attend the workshop will be borne by the organizers. For more information: [info@climateadapt.asia](mailto:info@climateadapt.asia)

### Media Workshop: Community and Media Leadership in Protecting Livelihoods and Advancing Economic Development in the Era of Climate Change, Vietnam, 5-7 July

While national-level leadership is vital to establishing strong frameworks for climate change adaptation planning and preparedness, the bulk of the response falls on local communities, especially responses aimed at protecting and enhancing local livelihoods. Communities must have the tools to understand the changes already upon them, the means to assess how these changes might affect them over the long term, and strategies to backcast economic development objectives that make allowance for these changes. Themes include major issues internally and externally that may effect development in the next few decades, as well as issues specific to climate change (storm patterns, food production, water supplies, natural disasters, etc.). The workshop will be spread across two-three days, with accompanying field trips to help both community members and journalists to get a better grasp of the issues they face, and to develop some cohesion among participants before their actual work is undertaken.



## Upcoming CCA Events &amp; Conferences CCA News

**Second Workshop on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins: Challenges, Progress and Lessons Learnt in Geneva, 12-13 April**

Organized within the framework of the UNECE Water Convention for exchanging experience on adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context, this workshop aims to share practical knowledge and lessons learnt on the technical and strategic aspects of adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.

**Resilient Cities 2011, 2nd World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change Bonn, Germany, 3-5 June**

Partners ranging from international organizations to national governments, from research institutes to development banks and professional associations are endorsing the 2011 congress. The 2011 edition will be larger and with stronger links between researchers and practitioners.

**Adaptation Academy 2011: Professional Development Courses in Using Climate Information and Supporting Adaptation, Cape Town, South Africa, 11 July-5 Aug**

The Global Climate Adaptation Partnership (GCAP) and the Climate Systems Analysis Group (CSAG) at the University of Cape Town are partnering with the Oxford office of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) to offer an integrated 4-week foundation course in two parts. The first part is an intensive 2-week module on climate change information, and the second part a continuation module on vulnerability and adaptation planning.

**International Conference on Climate Change & Social issues hosted by Nobel Peace Laureate 2007, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 13-15 Dec**

Organized by the Toulouse Business School France & Institute of Human Development and Training Sri Lanka (IHDT), the conference will focus on the social impacts of climate change and offer a forum to stimulate practical and empirical discussions from multi-sectoral attendees who will set up working groups to take actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation by involving all the stakeholders. For more information: [r.morimoto@esc-toulouse.fr](mailto:r.morimoto@esc-toulouse.fr)

**Bangkok Call for Action on Climate Change and Aid Effectiveness**

During 2010, the United Nations Development Programme led a multi-country initiative in the Asia Pacific, with the objective of strengthening capacity to govern public finance for climate change through aid effectiveness principles. The focus of the work was on promoting dialogue among public sector officials and policy makers spanning both climate change and ODA management, with participation from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam. This led to the release of a number of outputs including: (i) country specific action plans; (ii) a synthesis report; and a (iii) Call for Action on 'Making the most of climate change finance' (October 2010). The Call for Action provides important recommendations for countries, governments and international funders in improving the 'quality' of climate change financing, using the Paris Declaration targets and indicators for the management of development assistance as key benchmarks.

**Bhutan's Fight with Melting Glaciers**

Bhutan, perched on the eastern end of the Himalayas, is surrounded by ice caps that have been melting with increasing speed over the past decade. The massive ice bed surrounding one of the most dangerous lakes in Bhutan, Thorthormi Glacier Lake, is melting at the rate of 30-35 m per year, and the natural wall between it and the neighboring Lake Rapstreng is becoming thinner every year. If this wall collapses, the lake will flood the valleys of Punakha, Wangduephodrang, Tsirang and Dagana, causing great human and economic loss.

**Bangladesh: Securing Coastal Communities with Mangroves**

To enhance the process of securing coastal ecosystems and livelihoods, IUCN Bangladesh is working with the Bangladesh Government to facilitate its full membership of Mangroves for the Future (MFF). A draft scoping report was recently prepared with an action plan for MFF in Bangladesh. A national strategy and action plan for MFF in Bangladesh is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. [e-news@mangrovesforthefuture.org](mailto:e-news@mangrovesforthefuture.org)

**Nepal Day Highlights Opportunities in Climate Change Adaptation, 12 March**

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and its Nepal partners organized a Nepal Day knowledge sharing event on March 11 for enhancing climate resilience and adaptive capacity in Nepal. Dr. Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD, called for a long-term perspective when addressing climate change adaptation and resilience building in the Himalayan region. [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org)

**Nepal Takes Climate Change to Schools**

Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center is conducting Climate Change Awareness program in secondary schools of Kathmandu valley. The program that will spread over January to March is targeting students of Class VIII, IX and X in 12 schools. It aims to create awareness about climate change impacts and to motivate students to take the message to their community. Students can have a multiplier effect in disseminating climate adaptation message.

**Advancing Food Security in a Changing Climate**

The World Bank underlined the importance of investing in agriculture and rural development for food security keeping in mind the changing climate. Globally, 75% of the poor live in rural areas and most depend on agriculture for their living. For this reason, agriculturally-based economic growth is two to four times more effective in reducing poverty than growth in other sectors.

**Blue Carbon: An Oceanic Opportunity to Fight Climate Change**

Mangroves, salt marshes and sea grasses soak up to five times more carbon than tropical forests, making their conservation critical. Mangroves are tangled orchards of spindly shrubs that thrive in the interface between land and sea. Worldwide, these coastal habitats are recognized for their natural beauty and ability to filter pollution, house fish nurseries and buffer shorelines against storms.

**Adaptation Fund Board Approves Projects in Solomon Islands, Eritrea and Ecuador**

The Adaptation Fund Board has approved funding for projects in Eritrea, Ecuador and the Solomon Islands totalling US\$19.5 million. The decisions were taken during the Board's 13th meeting, in Bonn, Germany, on 17-18 March 2011.

The total available resources of the Fund is currently US\$168.5 million. This figure is expected to increase to US\$334 million by the end of 2012.

**Learning and Funding Opportunities****Full Scholarship, University of Sussex**

University of Sussex/Institute for Development Studies, UK, is offering full scholarship to Commonwealth nationals for M.Sc in Climate Change & Development through the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship scheme for entry in October 2011. The deadline for applications is May 2011. [climate@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:climate@sussex.ac.uk).

**TERI-IGES-World Bank Online Learning Course**

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), IGES and the World Bank will hold an online learning course "Science and Policy of Climate Change" from 8 April to 8 June. The course is open for participants from the Asia-Pacific region and registration will be available online until March 31. The program follows an interdisciplinary approach. It also uses the facilities of Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) - an initiative started and developed by the World Bank in 2000.

**Climate Change Professional Fellows Program**

Funded by USAID, this international program invites professionals and emerging leaders from Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, and the United States to explore the science, impact, adaptation, mitigation and actions related to climate change. The two planned programs include Spring: April 3 to May 6 or Fall: September 18 to October 21. Participants' expenses are borne by the program.

**E-Learning - Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change**

The e-learning tool 'Planning for Community Based Adaptation (CBA) to Climate Change' supports training on community-based climate change adaptation in agriculture. The tool links research-based knowledge on climate change impacts with examples and experiences on CBA drawn from FAO field projects and a range of country-specific case studies.

**Call for Papers****Research Grants for Southeast Asia Country Researchers**

Sumernet-CDKN is holding a competition for research grants worth USD 75,000 each. The two themes for research are: (i) Energy, urbanization and climate compatible development (ii) Food security and the livelihoods of small-scale farmers. The deadline is 7 April.

**Essay contest - Women and Climate Change**

"How can we counteract the disproportionate burden of climate change on women? How can we empower women so that they become key partners in reducing climate change? How can gender equality be fully integrated into climate policies?" Writers of the best three essays on this topic will be invited to the Green Summer University in Frankfurt (Oder) and Slubice.

**CCA Information Resources & Knowledge Products****Timor-Leste & Nepal: NAPAs Completed**

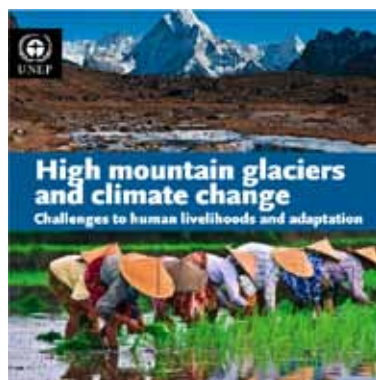
Since 2005, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have been formulating their National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) with support from UNDP and GEF. Last year, both Nepal and Timor-Leste presented their NAPA, hence bringing UNDP/GEF's engagement in the NAPA preparation exercise to a successful closure.

**Reports****Agro ecology Highlights Climate Change Adaptation Benefits**

The UN Special rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, presented a report titled "Agro ecology and the Right to Food" to the 16th session of the UN Human Rights Council on 8 March in Geneva, Switzerland. The report highlights that agro ecology, if sufficiently supported, can double food production within ten years while responding to climate change and reducing rural poverty.

**High Mountain Glaciers and Climate Change: Challenges to Human Livelihoods and Adaptation**

The conference "High mountain glaciers and challenges caused by climate change" was held in Tromsø in 2009 to discuss impacts of climate change on high mountain glaciers and snow ablation. This report presents an update based on presentations and working group discussions at the conference.

**Climate Change****Negotiations: A Collection of Post-Cancun Analyses**

This post is a compilation of all the expert analyses, commentaries and other resources on the Cancun conference. These range from descriptions of the

Cancun meeting and analysis of its agreements, to the implications for a wide array of issues.

**Bulletin****Climate Change Adaptation**

The UNDP has released the fifth issue of its Climate Change Adaptation Bulletin, a quarterly publication that provides an overview of the technical assistance to countries at the national, sub-national and community-levels. This issue provides an overview of UNDP's Adaptation Portfolio as of January 2011, with over 50 projects under implementation.

**Book****Coping with Climate Change: Considerations of Adaption and Mitigation in Agriculture**

Changing climatic conditions are projected to affect food security from the local to global level. This book provides a perspective on the impacts of climate change, and the need for adaptation and mitigation strategies. It also gives policy recommendations that need to be taken in the short and long term.

**Article****Is Climate Change Making Our Food More Dangerous?**

Four scientists, speaking at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, said global warming will lead to "increased levels of contamination of food, as well as faster spread of diseases."

**Tools****Help for Farmers Mitigate Climate Change**

The Rainforest Alliance and the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) unveiled the new "Climate Module: Criteria for the Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change". The module aims to make farmers more aware of the impacts of climate change, and to promote the adoption of good agricultural practices. The criteria are easy to implement for farmers in tropical countries.

**Framework to Boost Local Adaptive Capacity in Africa**

The Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA) has developed a "Local Adaptive Capacity



Framework" (LACF) which lays out five distinct yet interrelated characteristics of adaptive capacity, with the underlying assumption that positive impacts of these characteristics should enhance a community's adaptive capacity.

### **Postcard from Addis Ababa: When Bull Elephants Fight**

"When bull elephants fight, it's the grass that suffers." The AfricaAdapt Climate Change Symposium at Addis Ababa in March was full of rich metaphors. This one came from Lindiwe Sibanda, head of the FANRPAN network, in her closing presentation. The picture showed two bull elephants facing each other, one labelled 'scientific knowledge', and the other 'indigenous knowledge'.

### **Multimedia 'Climate Dish'**

A short film by Germanwatch and Bread for the World, 'Climate Dish' is directed by Peter Wedel and addresses climate and development issues in an unusual way. A meal sets the scene for home-made climate disasters.

### **'The Bill'**

In this four-minute movie produced by Peter Wedel, the CO2 intensive lifestyle of an urban dweller (played by Benno Fürmann) is brought in sharp contrast to the people in developing countries who are affected most by climate change.

### **For the Forests**

This is a short talk on adaptation to climate change by Emilia Pramova from the research domain of Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). She speaks on enhancing the role of forests in adapting to climate change, and shares her views on the outcomes of COP16 in Cancun for climate change.

### **Profile**

#### **Adapting to Climate Change in China**

Adapting to Climate Change in China (ACCC) is a major collaborative project between China, the UK and Switzerland, for doing pioneering policy research on climate change adaptation. The 3-year project focuses on improving the understanding of climate change impacts in a range of sectors in China, including agriculture, water resources, disaster risk reduction and human health.

### **Professional Alliance for Conservation Agriculture**

It is the belief that conservation agriculture can bring about a desired change in the agricultural system

that has brought together a group of professionals on a common platform titled Professional Alliance for Conservation Agriculture (PACA). PACA endeavors to be an agent of change working within the agriculture system by encouraging conservation agriculture practices and contributing to improved food security for the benefit of humans and environment.

## **Featured Guest Article**

### **Climate Change Knowledge Transfer Hub**

Daan Boom, Programme Manager, Integrated Knowledge Management; Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General;  
Tek Jung Mahat, Asia Pacific Mountain Network, Node Manager  
ICIMOD

Mountains are the earth's unique freshwater reservoirs. They store immense amounts of water and hold them to gradually release to support the lives downstream. The important cooling and mitigating climatic services offered by the frozen ice of the mountains to the atmosphere have been taken as a given fact of nature. Despite their critical importance for the well-being of humanity, mountains receive little attention in the international development agenda.

Global climate change has brought about other dimensions of mountains to the attention of the scientists, and a growing number of citizens and politicians. The vision of melting glaciers and of mountain slopes sliding down because of receding permafrost has become a frightening vision. It questions the vision of 'mountains built for eternity' and the concern is growing for the sustainability of systems we have all taken for granted. This refers to the familiar panorama of snow-capped mountains, not only as a source of beauty but also as a natural heritage for mankind. It refers also, and very realistically, to the continuous availability of water, and electricity, and touches the basic requirements and services we need for our survival. All of a sudden, mountains as a natural system with natural and human features are not anymore in a position to provide the services we have taken for granted all along. The greater Himalayan region known as the 'Water Tower of Asia', directly sustains more than 150 million people, but the river basins of the nine rivers originating in the region count more than 1.3 billion inhabitants, and up to 3 billion people directly and indirectly depend on the food and energy produced through the use of Himalayan rivers.



Secretariat

## AdaptationKnowledgePlatform

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