



GLOBAL SOLUTIONS SUMMIT SESSION ON

## Our Ecosystems and Livelihoods Under Threat: Solutions for a changing Hindu Kush Himalaya

Monday 28 May | Parallel session | 11:40–12:30

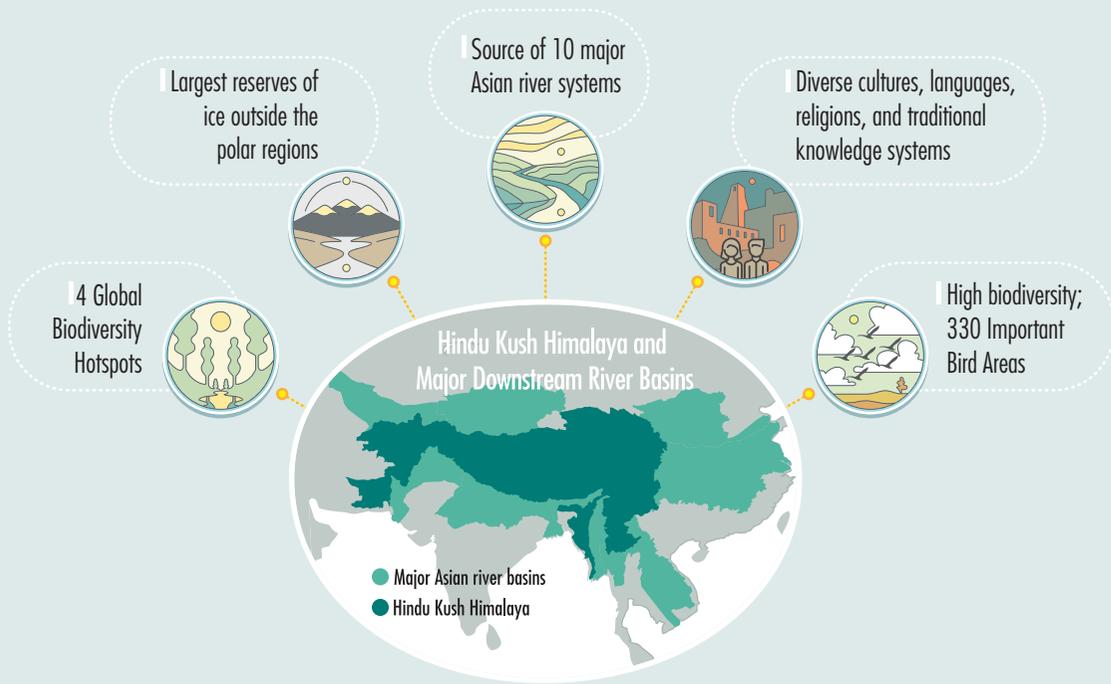
ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) extends 3,500 km over eight countries, from Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east. It is a vital regional lifeline, but human drivers and climate change pose immediate threats to the region's livelihoods, biodiversity, and ultimately sustainability. To meet these challenges, governments should push for regional cooperation, invest more in mountain areas, and ensure that the HKH is globally recognized in adaptation and mitigation efforts.

During this session, experts and policy makers will share research and experience from the HKH, discuss the need for global and regional cooperation to sustain this globally critical region, and explore how to use new evidence on the impact of climate change in mountain areas to inform global development plans and policies.

## SUSTAINING A GLOBAL ASSET: THE HINDU KUSH HIMALAYA



**240 million**

people depend directly on the HKH for their lives and livelihoods

**1.9 billion**

people depend on the HKH for water, food, and energy

**> 35%**

of the world population benefits indirectly from HKH resources and ecosystem services

### POVERTY IS HIGHER IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

**25%**

national average in HKH countries

**33%**

in mountains areas of the HKH

### ENERGY POVERTY IS HIGH IN THE HKH

**500 GW**

hydropower potential

**80%**

of the population lacks access to clean energy for cooking

## WHAT IS AT STAKE

EVEN A 1.5° WORLD IS **TOO HOT** FOR THE MOUNTAINS

THE HKH WILL WARM MORE COMPARED TO THE GLOBAL MEAN AND MORE RAPIDLY AT HIGHER ELEVATIONS

**1.5°C** = **2.1°C**  
 average global temperature increase = average increase in mountain areas



HKH GLACIER VOLUMES WILL DECLINE SUBSTANTIALLY BY **2100**

**33%** in a **1.5° WORLD**

**69%** under current emissions

CHANGING PRECIPITATION AND FLOW PATTERNS WITH: **GREATER UNCERTAINTY**  
**MORE FLOODS AND DROUGHT**



### RICH BIODIVERSITY UNDER THREAT

**35 new species**

discovered each year (1998-2008) in the Eastern Himalaya alone

**70–80% habitat loss**

in biodiversity hotspots in the HKH (relative to 1500)



## SOLUTIONS FROM THE HKH

### Community-based flood early warning systems

Improving disaster preparedness and developing solutions so that flood information reaches the most vulnerable people

### Resilient mountain solutions

Building resilience and supporting transformative change by testing and scaling simple, affordable solutions

### Transboundary landscape management

Promoting co-management of landscapes across boundaries for joint conservation and development

## CLIMATE ACTION IS NEEDED NOW



Promoting cooperation, data sharing, conflict management



Implementing global agreements (Paris Agreement, SDGs)



Monitoring climate change indicators at higher altitudes



Supporting local and regional conservation and disaster management