Inception Workshop Report

Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative

Kathmandu, Nepal
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Organised by
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
in collaboration with
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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Preface

Biodiversity conservation initiatives in mountain areas have gained impetus in recent years, partly due to biodiversity loss, predictions about climate change and its impacts, and recognition of the global importance of mountains in providing ecosystem goods and services. The Convention on Biological Diversity and its parties are addressing these concerns by encouraging the establishment of protected areas and advocating that countries reduce biodiversity loss by developing effective management approaches, especially landscape-level approaches and regional initiatives.

ICIMOD has been promoting transboundary biodiversity conservation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas through the landscape/ecosystem approach, including the development of transects for long-term monitoring. The landscape/ecosystem approach to transboundary biodiversity conservation involves two or more countries cooperating in the management and conservation of an ecologically important landscape that lies in both territories. ICIMOD has identified seven transboundary landscapes nested in four transects in the HKH region, from west-to-east, from dry-to-wet areas, and from low-to-high-altitudes. These landscapes are Wakhan, Karakoram, Kailash, Everest, Kangchenjunga, Brahmaputra-Salween, and Cherapunjee-Chittagong. ICIMOD and UNEP jointly conceived of the idea to develop cooperation in the Kailash Sacred Landscape applying an ecosystem approach to the management of this important transboundary landscape. The idea was further developed during a three-month 'pre-inception consultation' phase following a participatory process, during which ICIMOD met with national partners (in particular nodal and government agencies) in each of the three Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) countries (China, India, and Nepal) to inform them of the project concept and to discuss and consult with them on the project. Formal consultation meetings were held with all major partners in the three KSL countries and nodal contact points identified in each country. All partners were then invited to present their formal responses and input to the Project Document at a regional consultation and sharing workshop in Kathmandu.

The Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative (KSLCI) Inception Workshop was held from 22 to 24 June 2009 in Kathmandu to share experiences using landscape approaches in biodiversity conservation and to develop the Project Document for cooperation between the three countries sharing the Kailash Sacred Landscape. Approximately 25 experts took part (representatives from government, scientific institutions, and civil society groups, as well as individual professionals) from three of ICIMOD's eight regional member countries (China, India, and Nepal), from ICIMOD and its Programme Advisory Committee, from the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) (Bangkok), and from UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi. This report provides details of the discussions on issues related to the conservation and development of the KSL, national plans for project implementation, and some agreed frameworks for future action.

The main outcome of the Inception Workshop was a fully agreed process for the next 18 months to develop a 'Regional Cooperation Framework' supported by an ecological monitoring plan and feasibility assessment report from the three participating countries, facilitated and supported by UNEP and ICIMOD. The KSLCI will be the first experience in piloting the landscape and transect approach together and a test case for future programmes of this nature in the HKH. The Inception Workshop was funded by ICIMOD, UNEP, and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and supported by all the participating institutions and countries.

Eklabya Sharma, Programme Manager, Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services (ECES)

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Introduction

Mountains, and in particular the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (HKH), are recognised as culturally and ecologically significant, diverse, and fragile (Chapter 13, Agenda 21). The Hindu Kush-Himalayan region encompasses globally significant biodiversity 'hotspots' with large numbers of endemic and endangered species, which are under acute pressure from environmental change and human activity. Population growth, urbanisation, tourism, subsistence activities, and improved accessibility all place stress on the natural environment and cultural landscape.

The geographical focus of the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative (KSLCI) is the Greater Mt Kailash region in the remote south-western portion of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China and adjacent parts of northwest Nepal and India, referred to herein as the Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL). This vast 20,000 sq.km region contains a highly diverse array of ecosystems, biomes, indigenous and endemic species, local cultures, and ethnic communities. This environmentally fragile landscape is home to a range of endemic flora and fauna important in maintaining both global biodiversity and local livelihoods. It is also rich in traditional knowledge and contains a high diversity of medicinal plants.

The Mt Kailash region is the source of the Indus, the Brahmaputra, the Karnali, and the Sutlej rivers, providing transboundary ecosystem services vital to the region, and far beyond. Melting glaciers and changes in the hydrological regime of the landscape are of concern to the large downstream populations.

This KSL is sacred to hundreds of millions of people in Asia, and around the globe, with significance to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, and followers of Bon Po and various other religious traditions. Thousands of religious and

spiritual pilgrims from around the world journey to this sacred landscape every year, coming primarily through India, Nepal, and from other parts of the Tibetan Plateau.

Tourism and infrastructure development is expected to increase significantly within the next three years, including the number of visitors to this area. The Ali Kunsha Airport, which is under construction near Mt Kailash, is expected to be operational from 2010. By the end of this decade, Tibet is expecting over three million foreign tourists, with the operation of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the building of the Qinghai-Tibet Highway, and an associated network of roads including the Sichuan-Tibet Highway, Xinjiang-Tibet Highway, Yunnan-Tibet Highway, China-Nepal road, and their branches.

Climate change is projected to have a high impact on the HKH region. Limited livelihood options for poor communities throughout the region feed a cycle of resource degradation and poverty, and will limit climate change adaptation options, imperilling biodiversity resources. Other regionally important issues include the loss of rare, threatened, and endemic species, as well as the high incidence of illegal trade in CITES species (species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Population growth and local livelihood and subsistence activities, including overgrazing and unsustainable agricultural practices, further impact on the fragile resource base.

Transboundary landscape and ecosystem management approaches, in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Mountain Biodiversity Goals, are urgently required within the KSL region, and need to be identified, developed, and implemented within a fairly short timeframe to manage, and adapt to, the significant impacts of projected change (environmental and developmental) in this region. Mechanisms for maintaining and enhancing biological diversity, essential ecosystem goods and services, and the cultural integrity of this sacred landscape are required if local livelihood subsistence options (mainly livestock production, nomadic herding and subsistence agricultural activities, and tourism) are to be balanced with environmental conservation and sustainable development goals. The need to adapt to ongoing local and global environmental change processes adds extra urgency and complexity to sustainable development and conservation efforts in this region. At present, specific scientific and socioeconomic and cultural data are lacking in the KSL region. There is also very little time series data on climate change and biodiversity.

The participating countries of China, India and Nepal, who share the Kailash Sacred Landscape, in collaboration with ICIMOD and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have been discussing long-term cooperation in the KSL to address the issues outlined above. Together they are developing a Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) to develop the initiative into a full programme. This report deals with the initial discussions held during the three-month Pre-Inception Consultation phase and the results of the KSLCI Inception Workshop.

Pre-Inception consultation: Objectives and overview

Objectives

A Pre-Inception Consultation with national partners was conducted over a three-month period from April to June 2009 to gather input and feedback for the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative. This consultation phase concluded with an Inception Workshop held at ICIMOD in Kathmandu from 22 to 24 June 2009. In order to address the overall Pre-Inception Consultation goal of a fully participatory stakeholder process to develop a conservation initiative in the Greater Mt Kailash region, the following specific objectives were set:

- To allow for discussion with national partners and for the definition of concrete deliverables
- To conclude with an Inception Workshop with the participation of all partners and UNEP
- Based on the Pre-Inception Consultation phase and the results of the Inception Workshop, to formalise an agreement between ICIMOD and UNEP on the plan of operation (KSL Project Document) and the budget for an 18-month programme phase

Overview

During the three-month Pre-inception Consultation phase leading up to the Inception Workshop, ICIMOD visited and consulted with the proposed national partners, in particular, with the nodal and governmental agencies in each of the three KSL countries (i.e., China, India, and Nepal). In each of these countries, nodal agencies were identified and informed about the project. Major partners currently include China, India, and Nepal, as ICIMOD regional member countries (RMCs), and their respective ministries or agencies. All of the major partners in each country were given a full overview of the project, its goals and objectives, as per the preliminary KSL Project Document, and were consulted about the project. Proposed activities and processes within each country were outlined in consultation with national partners, and further discussed and decided upon at the Inception Workshop. Formal consultation meetings were held with all major partners in all three KSL countries. Through this process, the following nodal contact points were identified for China, India, and Nepal:

1. China: Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing, China
2. India: GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), Almora, India
3. Nepal: Ministry of Environment (MoE)/Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), Kathmandu, Nepal

All partners were invited to present their formal national responses and input to the project and the Project Document at the Inception Workshop.

Inception workshop: Objectives, overview and outcomes

Objectives

The Inception Workshop (22 to 24 June 2009) brought together all major partners in the KSLCI project. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Initiate the KSLCI with the stated aim to promote transboundary biodiversity and cultural conservation, ecosystem management, sustainable development, and climate change adaptation within the KSL
- Outline the participatory approach central to the implementation of the KSLCI project and the Regional Cooperation Framework process, as outlined in the final Project Document
- Consult with national partners to define the concrete deliverables of the project
- Develop a coordinated plan of operation based on input from the respective countries for the implementation of the KSLCI, the various activities and tasks, and the Regional Cooperation Framework process
- Develop and identify partnerships and collaboration within the KSLCI, as required, and coordination mechanisms
- Identify a mechanism and provide a process that allows for ongoing consultation and input from the three KSL regional member countries

ICIMOD, in collaboration with UNEP, convened and organised the Inception Workshop. Participants from each KSL country attended, representing the major partners identified for the initial phase of the KSLCI, in addition to UNEP (Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific [ROAP] and Division of Environmental Policy Implementation [DEPI]) and ICIMOD. The list of participants is given in Annex 1.

Overview and outcomes

Participants arrived in Kathmandu on 22 June; an inaugural session was held that evening to open the workshop. Welcome and opening presentations were given by Dr Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD, Dr Tim Kasten, Deputy Director, DEPI and Chief Freshwater and Terrestrial Ecosystems Branch, UNEP, and Professor Bruno Messerli.

Day one of the workshop started with context and experience sharing, the presentation of research overviews by each country, and project details and background. Input and feedback from the national consultations conducted during the Pre-Inception Consultation phase were submitted and presented by the national partners (nodal institutions) for further discussion. The participatory process leading up to the Regional Cooperation Framework was outlined and a discussion of roles and responsibilities by the respective regional member countries (RMCs) initiated the

process of developing clearly defined roles. Activities associated with major project components were discussed, notably the development of a regional dialogue and forum, scientific and technical cooperation, long-term ecological monitoring, and community-based conservation and climate change adaptation.

Day two continued this process to delineate and define activities, and provide an outline of tasks and roles within a specified timeframe. A breakout session allowed national partners to consult and delineate roles within their countries. A networking and coordination mechanism was identified to provide for ongoing consultation with and input from countries and national partners.

The full workshop programme is given in Annex 2. Based on the Pre-Inception Consultation and the results of the Inception Workshop, ICIMOD and UNEP formally agreed on a plan of operation, a final Project Document, and the budget for an 18-month programme phase.

Context and experience sharing

The workshop started with an overview by Dr Shekhar Pathak of the socio-cultural and religious significance of the Mt Kailash area, and an account of the importance of the area as a pilgrimage site. Research overviews relevant to the KSL were given by participants from the three KSL countries.

Research overviews

Dr Yaoming Ma, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research (ITP)

The ITP maintains four data and information collection centres on the Tibetan plateau, which are equipped with weather monitoring stations. These stations generate much information on weather and climate change systems. Dr Yaoming Ma explained that the areas that are being considered by the ITP include the establishment of research stations, monitoring of atmospheric physics, hydrology, atmospheric chemistry, ecosystem studies, glacier and glacial lake dynamics, mass balancing, glacier terminus position, glacier surface altitude change, and glacier depth. To carry out observations in the Mt Kailash region, ITP proposes to add more equipment to monitor the atmosphere, glaciers, vegetation, soil, lakes, rivers, human living conditions, and for remote sensing and data assimilation.

Dr Yang Yongping, Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB)

Dr Yang Yongping of the Kunming Institute of Botany provided a history of botanical expeditions and an overview of vegetation/floral profiles and diversity in the area. Threats to plant biodiversity were also discussed and areas for future collaboration and research activities elaborated on, including:

- conducting a repeat plot survey and onsite monitoring in the context of climate change and human disturbance
- assessing the impacts of pilgrimage and tourism on biodiversity
- motivating community-based conservation and development projects
- mobilising regional data exchange and cooperation

Dr GS Rawat, Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

The Indian portion of the KSL includes the upper catchments of the River Sharada (Kali, Dhauli, and Gori watersheds) and a wide range of ecoclimatic conditions, sacred landscapes, and diverse socio-cultural practices, as well as particularly fragile and tectonically active regions. Key issues elaborated upon by Dr GS Rawat of WII include limited livelihood opportunities for local communities, the illegal trade in wildlife parts and non-timber forest products (NTFPs), the alienation of local people in natural resource management, sustainability of land/natural resource use, and vulnerability to socioeconomic transformations and climate change. Possible interventions include linking national rural employment schemes with forestry/conservation activities, promoting transboundary cooperation towards the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), strengthening Van Panchayats (village forest management committees) in participatory resource management (PRM), managing fire, fuelwood and fodder, and rural technology to save energy.

Dr Ram P Chaudhary, Tribhuvan University (TU)

The Nepal portion of the KSL covers a variety of protected areas and governance structures for conservation, allowing a comparison of approaches. Dr Ram P Chaudhary of TU gave an overview of the location of the KSL in Nepal, its physiography, and ethnic composition. He also outlined research already undertaken in the KSL area, the research gaps, the lack of reliable comparative data, and proposed research areas. He also briefed participants on other issues including livelihood options for communities living with the KSL and the agro-biodiversity of the area, and emphasised the need for networking and capacity building. Dr Chaudhary pointed out the need for the following:

- landscape biodiversity monitoring
- long-term systematic research at demonstration site(s) along altitudinal gradients to generate information to predict climate change
- the highlighting of ecosystem services
- the sustainable harvesting of biological resources
- sustainable tourism
- livelihood diversification
- regional transboundary coordination
- improved regional knowledge

National level

At the national level, the need for the coordination and capacity building of national and local (research and implementing) partners was emphasised by all.

Consultation process and project development

The history of the partnership between UNEP and ICIMOD was outlined, followed by a description of the process followed over the last two months during the Pre-Inception Consultation phase of the project in China, India, and Nepal.

Partnership and consultation process

Dr Subrato Sinha, UNEP

Dr Subrato remarked on the strong partnership that has developed between UNEP and ICIMOD over the last one decade and told how the two organisations agreed to converge their areas of interests while developing the draft Project Document. He explained that UNEP is facilitating Agenda 21 by promoting data and information sharing mechanisms in the Himalayas through ICIMOD. In the past, UNEP and ICIMOD worked closely to produce data and information on glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) and atmospheric brown cloud (ABC), to develop an environmental knowledge hub, and on many capacity building activities. He was of the opinion that the new strategic thinking of ICIMOD and UNEP, reflected in their Ecosystem Management Programme, will bring about synergies for sound science-based collaboration between UNEP and ICIMOD, and also with the countries involved in the KSLCI project. Dr Sinha emphasised the opportunity presented by the KSLCI project and stressed that we must focus on how to overcome the most prevailing challenge in the region – poverty. He concluded by saying that one of the outputs of the project – the Regional Cooperation Framework – could be the window through which to look at these challenges across the region.

Dr Eklabya Sharma, ECES, ICIMOD

Dr Sharma provided an overview of the process undertaken to reach this stage of the project. Although discussions about the possibility of such a project started almost a year ago, to address the complexities involved due to the transboundary nature of the project, a rigorous consultation process was followed over the last three months as a Pre-Inception Consultation phase. He explained how ICIMOD consulted the nodal agencies and other relevant partners in the three KSL countries and expressed satisfaction at the outcome of this process. Dr Sharma said that the project

is exciting for all partners as there are opportunities to link this project with climate change and biodiversity research, and to enhance the capacities of the project partners in these areas. He reported that the input from the project partners during the consultative process was highly appreciated, citing the example of the suggestion to develop terms of reference (ToR) for the policy review and feasibility assessment phase. In conclusion, Dr Sharma reiterated the objectives of the workshop: (i) to bring partners together for discussion and to share their views, (ii) to promote transboundary biodiversity conservation, (iii) to advocate for a participatory approach to conservation, (iv) to discuss and finalise project deliverables, and (v) to discuss the process for future activities.

Dr Robert Zomer, ECES, ICIMOD

Dr Zomer highlighted the significance of the Kailash project area in terms of its sacredness, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and role in hydrology and climate change. He reiterated that the Kailash is sacred to hundreds of millions of people from diverse ethnic groups as the central pillar of the universe. The area is equally rich in biodiversity as it is home to a number of endemic and threatened species including the illusive snow leopard. In terms of hydrology and ecosystem services, four major river systems originate in the Kailash region, namely, the Indus, Karnali, Sutlej, and Brahmaputra. Some of the conservation challenges in the project area are infrastructure development and the potential impacts of increasing tourism in the near future. Accordingly, the proposed project's overall goal and objectives emphasise key deliverables such as the Regional Cooperation Framework, conservation strategy, and the development of a regional knowledge base. The project will also encourage the building of capacity for long-term ecological monitoring (LTEM), and active community participation.

Discussion

The discussion was mainly focused on the clarity of the project concept, process, and deliverables. The participants and board members (as observers) raised concerns about the impact of infrastructure and the continuity of sacredness for posterity. Clarification was sought on the implications of Regional Cooperation Framework and the envisaged research protocol on the other proposed transects and landscapes, especially in the northern portion (TAR-China) of the transects. In addition, concern was raised over the delineation of the project area and community engagement in the process. These concerns were clarified to some extent. It was suggested that the Regional Cooperation Framework should address the impact of infrastructure development and mass tourism by developing some eco-friendly models, along the lines of the Annapurna Conservation Area Project. It was emphasised that these concerns should be addressed in a participatory and consultative process, step-by-step, as the project develops. The importance of the feasibility phase was reiterated, in particular for the delineation of the project area, assessing baselines, and initiating preliminary research for future long-term activities.

National input from the pre-inception consultation phase

Dr Dechen Tsering of UNEP remarked on the positive will of the three KSL countries, China, India and Nepal, in taking the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative forward within such a short time. National input from the consultations held in the respective participating regional member countries during the Pre-Inception Consultation phase was shared in presentations by Dr Palni from the GBPIHED (India), Professor Jha from TU (Nepal), and Professor Shi from IGSNRR (China).

National-level responses

India

The Kailash proposal is appealing to India because the targeted landscape is significant, not only in terms of its unique biodiversity heritage, but also due to its great cultural, historical, and religious significance. The proposal received national recognition because, on the one hand, it touched on a critical issue of national relevance, i.e., that various drivers of change are adversely impacting on this ecologically and socio-culturally sensitive landscape, and, on the other hand, the initiative will provide a platform for better understanding the extent of change at the landscape level and an opportunity to conserve and develop the landscape. Other benefits include the opportunity

to collectively fill in the data gaps mentioned in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report in relation to the Himalayas. The project will help to achieve some of the components of safeguarding vulnerable mountain ecosystems and improving the livelihoods of mountain communities, as enshrined in India's National Mission on 'Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem'.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, had a few initial concerns regarding the physical delineation of the entire landscape across the participating nations and on the very ambitious timeline of the proposal. However, pre-consultations held among national partners were an opportunity to discuss and clarify such matters. The GBPHIED, along with the other major partners (WII and the Uttarakhand Forest Department in particular), will be responsible for this task. ICIMOD will coordinate the policy review part, undertaking the responsibility for developing a ToR for the coordination team, in consultation with the MoEF, comprised of experts from each participating country. It is anticipated that ICIMOD will play the role of facilitator and information provider in this respect. A pre-inception meeting was held between the ICIMOD team and GBPIHED (16 to 17 April 2009) to work out a detailed plan of activities, the project log frame, and budget. Following this ICIMOD had consultations with the MoEF and other national partners including WII and the Uttarakhand Forest Department. All partners have expressed their desire for full cooperation, especially by the Principal Chief Conservation of Forests, Uttarakhand, and the WII has pledged its support in the ecological monitoring of the region. A need for rapid survey for broader understanding of landscape and a thorough review of secondary information is suggested to be carried out. The preliminary feasibility assessment report and the policy and enabling environment assessment report should be submitted to the MoEF by the end of the sixth month of the project.

Nepal

The pre-inception meeting in Nepal provided an opportunity to understand the project objectives and to state Nepal's potential and interest in supporting the initiative. The Tribhuvan University, as lead academic partner, has links with many other organisations of academic relevance and is a member of many national-level organisations involved in biodiversity management, as well as being an international partner in biodiversity exploration and publications. These networks can add value to the research and policy-level actions conducted under the project. The national coordination process will involve a review of earlier work and policy in the region; the emphasis will be on data generation and exchange, the preparation of an ecological monitoring plan, the publication of studies on flora and fauna, and peer reviewed articles. ICIMOD support is required for data management and coordination with other experts in participating countries for the exchange of information, experience, and expertise. An executive committee representing the relevant stakeholders has been constituted and will play a guidance and oversight role in relation to activities in Nepal, and will serve to keep all partners appraised and coordinated. Existing and new conservation efforts in the area offer opportunities for parallel efforts with valuable synergies, although data, research, and monitoring in the region is currently lacking. Experts from all five departments of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) will have to be consulted, including district level implementing offices, as well as local communities.

China

Since the pre-inception meeting with ICIMOD, China has tried to identify partnerships at local, national, and regional levels. Potential local partners include community stakeholders; religious institutions; local governmental organisations related to agriculture, pasture, wildlife conservation, and environmental protection agencies; governmental organisations in the Tibet Autonomous Region related to agriculture, pasture, wildlife conservation, and environmental protection agencies; the Changtang Protected Area administration, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). At the national and regional levels, key partners will be the Ministry of Forestry, Agriculture and Environmental Protection; the Ministry of Science and Technology; CAS; UNEP, Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA), and ICIMOD. The IGSNRR will be the main coordinating body for socioeconomic studies, the Kunming Institute of Botany will look after biodiversity aspects; ITP will focus on climate and hydrology; and the Agricultural and Pastoral Department-TAR will concentrate on policy and livelihoods. Protected areas will be looked after by the Environmental Protection Department of the TAR. The process of coordination will include building local stakeholders' capacity for conservation. At the regional level, the major roles will be to represent regional working

groups and steering committees and facilitate coordination at various levels. Steering committees for coordination at the country level will be established to facilitate feedback to the project implementation. The three major project deliverables envisaged in the initial phase are the Regional Cooperation Framework, a climate change and biodiversity monitoring framework, and identification of community-based climate change adaptation mechanisms and options.

Discussion on national level response: main issues arising

Coordination between actors

- Integration among various organisations and institutes is essential.
- Clearly outlined institutional mechanisms are needed to coordinate among the various actors.
- People's participation should be considered and recognised.
- Roles for each institution within each country need to be identified for science and policy based issues, and the steering and coordination role should be simplified wherever possible.
- A ministerial level meeting among the three KSL countries would facilitate collaboration.

Long-term sustainability/complementarities/information exchange

- The Pre-Inception Consultations were important in terms of allowing the three KSL countries to think about and discuss the issues from their national perspectives and to identify roles and responsibilities at the national level.
- For each country, the mechanism for the development of the RCF is based on the individual country's socioeconomic and socio-political conditions. The three KSL countries should complement each other in terms of bringing about the big picture goal of environmental change in the region. The regional level scenario should be kept in mind and common interests, but the specific needs of each country must also be addressed.
- In the next six months, the focus should be on the harmonisation of issues and prioritising the list of issues.
- The commitment at the country level at this stage is encouraging.
- Collaboration should not be limited to the sharing of data and knowledge. The exchange of experience, expertise, and services among the three nations should be encouraged. The actual transfer of technology across the national boundaries could be an important trust-building exercise.
- The integration of global knowledge from various global actors working in the area and the exchange of mechanisms for data should be considered. Various possibilities for a data sharing platform should be explored such as creating a small Indigenous Knowledge based museum (in the region).
- There is a need to discuss whether or not the kind of ecological, meteorological, and socioeconomic data produced will be enough for the global analysis of change in the region during the six-month period prior to the development of the RCF. This will be significant in terms of analysing what information is already available, where the data gaps are, and where interventions are needed. For example, the Ngari Station for Desert Environment Observation and Research, CAS, is already generating meteorological data and observing environmental change.
- It is important to create a policy enabling environment to facilitate and promote collaboration for the exchange of data and information within the region and globally.

Sacredness/delineation of the boundary of the landscape

- It is essential to differentiate between the term 'pilgrimage' and 'tourism', keeping in mind that 20 per cent of the global population is interested in visiting this area.
- Whatever actions are taken should retain the sanctity of the landscape and analyse the ground level situation. Policy review by respective nations will be an important basis for developing a sound RCF.
- Boundary delineation means defining the working boundary for scientific and socioeconomic interventions or areas where actions related to KSLCI may take place. It will have only scientific, ecological, and developmental considerations – not political ones – and boundary issues will not be raised by the participating States.

- The extent of (tourist) infrastructure development in relation to preserving the wilderness should be taken into account.
- The framework for the long-term monitoring of this ecologically and culturally important area should focus on the monitoring of a few thematic elements that are urgent and of high relevance to the sustainable development of the landscape, such as climate change, tourism, community level adaptation, and so forth.

Project document: Overview, outputs and major components

Project overview and approach

The Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative will develop and engage regional, national, and local partners and other stakeholders in a consultative process to realise a transboundary Regional Cooperation Framework for the implementation of the Mountain Biodiversity Goals as stated in the Mountain Biodiversity Programme of Work (adopted at COP 7) of the CBD. South-south cooperation on biodiversity for development was adopted by COP 9 in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development for effective [regional] cooperation. The KSLCI's 18-month start-up phase will promote and develop a RCF for an integrated and participatory approach to conservation and sustainable development in the KSL. Ecosystem management approaches advocated and promoted by the CBD will be utilised to identify threats to the environmental and the cultural integrity of this uniquely special and fragile region, analyse change processes and drivers of change, and develop a knowledge base upon which to build a transboundary biodiversity and cultural conservation framework and associated implementation strategy. Enhancing socio-ecological resilience within mountain communities, participatory conservation measures based on co-management, and encouraging community-based organisations and approaches relevant to the region will serve as a basis for improved environmental governance and local resource conservation. Integrated ecosystem management and community-based approaches will be identified through stakeholder consultations supported by a knowledge-based process with the intent to develop environmentally and culturally sustainable development and management strategies. This process will build a knowledge base designed to facilitate and allow ongoing regional transboundary dialogue, and to encourage the design and implementation of transboundary landscape, ecosystem management, and community-based approaches for conservation and sustainable development in the KSL.

Project Document

The KSLCI Project Document (i.e., the version current at the time of the Workshop, prior to modification to incorporate partner input) is comprised of 21 activities that focus on delivering specific outputs. The Project Document delineates the project goal, objectives, and outputs. These have now been generally agreed upon by the major partners.

Overall goal

The overall goal of the KSLCI is to enhance cooperation among the regional member countries for the conservation and sustainable development of the KSL region.

Outputs

The Regional Cooperation Framework, which is expected to creating a policy-enabling environment for conservation and sustainable development, is the main instrument for achieving a sustainable and ongoing transboundary approach. Among the major outputs leading to this outcome are:

- a preliminary feasibility assessment including baseline assessments
- a comprehensive conservation strategy
- long-term ecological monitoring plan
- identification of community-based climate change adaptation and co-management options

Additionally, there will be emphasis on knowledge sharing and the development of a web-based environmental knowledge hub (in collaboration with UNEP ROAP).

Boundary delineation

The delineation of the boundary of the KSL project area will be completed by each of the countries during the first six months. The project area should be delineated based upon criteria that promote an ecosystem management approach; for example, using watershed boundaries, and /or based on biomes, ecotypes, species, and other biotic ranges. The project is intended to contribute to meeting the CBD Mountain Biodiversity 2010 target of reducing the current rate of loss of biodiversity at national and regional levels.

Conservation strategy

The overall conservation strategy is intended to be a long-term strategy with a time horizon exceeding a decade. The current implementation process and vision for the operational conservation plan should be for four years. The initial approach will identify and recognise ongoing efforts from each country and work with these to move forward. Efforts towards developing common protocols, sampling procedures, and monitoring plans will be integrated into global efforts. ICIMOD has suggested the GLOCHAMORE (Global Change in Mountain Regions) Research Strategy as a starting point, along with ongoing national efforts as a basis for developing the components of baselines and long-term ecological monitoring.

Community-based climate change adaptation and co-management

Community-based climate change adaptation and co-management is an essential component to provide and encourage full community participation within the KSL from the initial stages of implementation. Efforts in the initial 18-month phase will focus on gaining understanding and building capacity for implementing community activities. Activities will include the development of training manuals and other materials for use as the programme becomes more fully focused on actual conservation and monitoring efforts. In particular, monitoring protocols, translated into community-based approaches, will provide the expertise for community pilot projects and the testing of methodologies. An overview of already ongoing adaptation to environmental change and the assessment of local traditional ecological knowledge systems will be used as the starting point for developing community-based adaptation approaches.

Discussion and feedback on project document

The following issues were discussed in relation to the project document and feedback and suggestions given by national partners.

Issues

Conservation strategy

The development of the conservation strategy will take place at the national level. It will be a process of understanding with each national framework and this will be mainstreamed into the conservation strategy. ICIMOD will take the role of working with the partners to synthesise these into a regional or transboundary conservation strategy.

Community data

Community data can be used to understand both cultural/socioeconomic issues, as well as biophysical conditions. There could be a collective data analysis by scientist, civil society, and other institutions. Data analysis was deemed to be important for monitoring in the long term. Identifying each modality and approach to data collection and sharing, as relevant to the various areas of research, is also important to build the capacity for a viable long-term monitoring effort. Data sharing will be on regional scale.

Framework

The process framework should encourage countries to develop a sound enabling capacity and to maintain transboundary coordination.

Feasibility assessment

The preliminary feasibility assessment is an important component of the initiation phase. Firstly, it will highlight drivers of change: direct drivers (environmental degradation) and indirect drivers (policy constraints and lack of enabling policies). The preliminary feasibility assessment will identify the missing links, and ask how shall we feed these (drivers and feasibility assessment) into the project? It should be clearly integrated into the project. Having a feasibility assessment at the beginning means that the project can move ahead keeping in mind the drivers of change. This feeds directly into the Regional Cooperation Framework, the resultant policy documents, and forms the basis for the ecological monitoring of the landscape. At this level it is important that the national partners take the lead.

National level delineation of tasks and roles

The lead institution in each KSL country will serve as the primary focal point for the project and its interactions with ICIMOD. A letter of agreement will be signed between each lead institution and ICIMOD in relation to the disbursement of funds. A national coordinator will be based within each lead institution. Among the coordinators' duties will be regular reporting to country nodal contact points. Partners will participate, communicate, and coordinate via a web-based coordination mechanism to be developed early in the project as part of the online knowledge sharing platform. This activity will pilot and prototype an active mechanism for regional coordination within the RCF process. Major partners will encourage partnerships, collaboration, and national/regional level institutional networks.

National-level plan: China

Lead institution

Institute of Geographic Sciences and National Resource Research (IGSNRR)

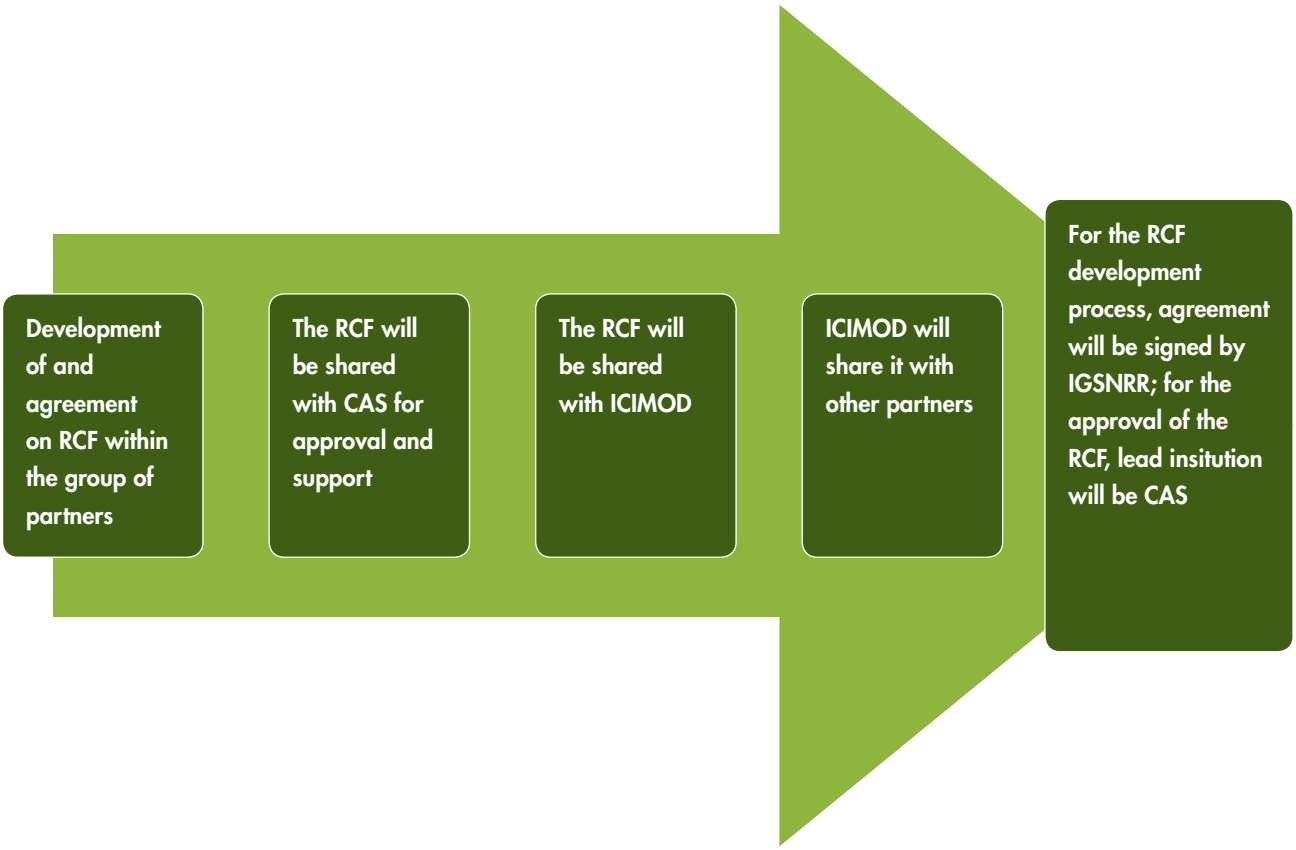
Partner institutions

- Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB)
- Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research (ITP)
- Chinese Centre for Tibetan Research (CCT)

Outline of national-level plan: Chinese Kailash region (6 months)

- Letters of agreement between ICIMOD and lead institution and between lead institution and other partner institutions in China
- Expert consultations leading to electronic consultation led by the lead institution
- Review and compilation of secondary data on flora, fauna, climate, land use, and land cover
- Review of socioeconomic data (economy, demography, culture, and tourism)
- Feasibility assessment – led by IGSNRR based on inputs from reviews and interdisciplinary field surveys carried out by all four participating institutions including stakeholder consultations and needs analysis
- Policy assessment – led by Chinese Centre for Tibetan Research and will also build upon the feasibility assessment and reviews
- Synthesis reports on the feasibility assessment and policy and enabling environment assessment

Regional process for Regional Cooperation Framework



Additional issues

- The KSL work area is season bound.
- The exchange of some data sets requires government approval.
- It is suggested that ICIMOD coordinate efforts to obtain these approvals.
- It is suggested that climate change adaptation studies be undertaken.
- The future implications of large-scale tourism need to be assessed.

National-level plan: India

This plan is subject to approval by the nodal ministry in India, the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Lead institution

GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED)

Roles and responsibilities of partner institutions

Lead/partner institution	Core competences
GBPIHED (Lead institution)	• Himalayan environment and development • Climate change monitoring • Participatory resource management • Rural technology
WII	• Landscape level conservation and management planning • Alpine rangeland ecology (collaborate with LTEM for alpine areas) • Assess the conservation status of wildlife, identify crucial corridors, and evolve trans-boundary cooperation to check illegal trade

Roles and responsibilities of partner institutions (cont.)

Lead/partner institution	Core competences
Uttarakhand Forest Department	• Manpower at the landscape level • Facilitation of the project • Implementation of conservation plans
Other institutes: Kumaun University, defence and paramilitary forces, PAHAR, Rung Parishad and various other NGOs, and civil society organisations	Different components of project implementation including: • participation in LTEM and interventions • working with community-based organisations (CBOs)

Other partnerships for project implementation

- Indian Meteorological Department
- State forest departments
- Van panchayats/village panchayats
- District administrations
- Educational institutions

Outline of national-level plan

1. Preliminary feasibility assessment report (Months: 1-6)
    - Orientation of the team to the landscape
    - Delineation of project area (in consultation)
    - Other components of feasibility (including review)
    - Policy review as per the ToR
    - Flag environmental threats and need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (To be submitted for MoEF's approval)
2. Consultation with communities (Months: 7-15)
    - Natural resource use and co-management
    - Climate change adaptations
    - Identification of best practices and areas of intervention
    - Pilgrimage
3. Develop protocols for LTEM (Months: 7-15)
    - Select sites for LTEM
    - Select sites for weather towers/stations
4. Identify areas for transboundary cooperation (Months: 12-18)
    - Trade
    - Data sharing
    - Control of illegal wildlife trade
    - Possibilities of regional Strategic Environmental Assessment
5. Report preparation – technical and financial (Months: 15-18)

Expected outcomes

1. Regional Cooperation Framework
    - Feasibility assessment report
    - Policy and enabling environment assessment report
    - Conservation strategy
    - Web-based environmental knowledge hub
2. Long-term ecological monitoring plan
    - Common ecological sampling and monitoring protocol
    - Training manual for capacity building for ecological monitoring
    - Ecological and climatic data collection report
3. Strengthening community-based climate change adaptation and co-management of resources
    - Adaptation and co-management options synthesis report
    - Training manual for community-based monitoring
    - Community-based adaptation and co-management plan

National-level plan: Nepal

Lead institutions

- MoE (facilitation)
- MoFSC (implementation and coordination)
- Central Department of Botany, Tribhuvan University (TU) (research)

Major partner institutions

Government departments

- Department of Forests
- Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
- Department of Plant Resources
- Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
- Department of Agriculture and Livestock (National Agriculture Research Centre, NARC)
- Nepal Tourism Board

Local bodies

- District development committees (DDCs)
- Ministry of Local Development (MoLD)

INGOs

- International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- CARE Nepal
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

NGOs

- Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB)
- CBOs
- District Forest Federation
- Nepal Heritage Society

Regional partners

- India
- China

International collaborators

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Conventional on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA)
- Norway
- Italy

Outline of national level plan

Preliminary steps

- Constituting national executing committee for KSL
- Developing ToR for national executing committee
- Approval by the Government of Nepal
- Letter of agreement between MoFSC and ICIMOD

Activities

- Formation of technical taskforce
- Development of ToR for technical taskforce
- Demarcation of the KSL area from the Nepal side
- National consultation workshop
- Policy review report (international, regional, national)
- Literature review (biophysical, biodiversity, socio-cultural, meteorological, hydrological, community coping strategies) – data gap assessment
- Rapid field assessment (sampling site), and district HQ
- Developing a network of institutions/stakeholders engaged in the conservation of the proposed landscape
- Preparation of draft outline for conservation strategy
- Awareness raising
  - National level
  - Landscape level (district headquarters)
  - Media (audio-visual, radio, national and local newspapers)

Following the CBD guidelines, the Government of Nepal has set goals and targets in Nepal's Fourth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity and committed to declare the Api-Nampa Himal area as a protected area by 2010. The proposed conservation area will be an important part of KSL in Nepal and compliment the KSLCI.

Regional coordination

The regional coordination mechanism for the initial 18-month phase will include:

- Regional coordinator – based at ICIMOD
- National coordinator – based within the lead institution in each KSL country
- Regular reports to country nodal contact points
- Web-based coordination mechanism
- Online knowledge sharing platform
- Partnerships, collaboration, and national/regional level institutional networks

Next steps

- Project document to be finalised by end July 2009 and signed between UNEP and ICIMOD
- Hire regional coordinator – based at ICIMOD
- ICIMOD to develop a regional level plan in consultation with partners
- Develop a national level implementation plan and budget for each country
- Letters of agreement to be signed by ICIMOD with national lead institutions
- Hire national coordinators – based within lead institutions
- Initiate the feasibility and policy and enabling environment assessments
- Initiate online knowledge sharing platform
- Operationalisation of the web-based coordination mechanism

Major outcomes of Pre-Inception Consultation and Inception Workshop

The Pre-Inception Consultation of national partners conducted to gather input and feedback for the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative was successfully completed over a period of three months from April to June 2009. The consultation period concluded with the Inception Workshop, which was held at ICIMOD in Kathmandu from 22 to 24 June 2009. All objectives for this period were met, namely:

1. The three-month Pre-Inception Consultation phase served to provide and allow for discussion with national partners resulting in the definition of concrete deliverables. During the Pre-Inception Consultation phase leading up to the workshop, ICIMOD consulted with national partners in each of the three KSL countries (China, India, and Nepal). All major partners in each country were visited, consulted, and informed about the project, its goal and objectives, as per the draft KSL Project Document. Activities and processes within each country were outlined and delineated in consultation with national partners in preparation for further discussion at the Inception Workshop and for the definition of concrete deliverables. This process at the pre-inception stage of the programme was highly appreciated by the partners and regional member countries. This fully participatory approach has created goodwill and a robust partner buy-in at the early stages of implementation of the KSLCI.

2. An Inception Workshop with the participation of all partners, ICIMOD, and UNEP was held to initiate the KSLCI and served as a regional consultation for all partners. All the objectives of the workshop were met, namely, to:
   i) Initiate the KSLCI with the stated aim to promote transboundary biodiversity and cultural conservation, ecosystem management, sustainable development, and climate change adaptation within the KSL
   ii) Outline the participatory approach central to the implementation of the KSLCI project and the Regional Cooperation Framework process, as outlined in the final Project Document
   iii) Consult with national partners to define the concrete deliverables of the project
   iv) Develop a coordinated plan of operation based on input from the respective countries for the implementation of the KSLCI, the various activities and tasks, and the Regional Cooperation Framework process
   v) Develop and identify partnerships and collaboration within the KSLCI, as required, and coordination mechanisms
   vi) Identify a mechanism and provide a process that allows for ongoing consultation and input from the three KSL regional member countries
3. Based on the pre-inception phase and the input from the workshop, ICIMOD and UNEP have formally agreed on the plan of operation (the KSL Project Document) and the budget for an 18-month programme phase, and signed a Project Cooperation Agreement to implement the project starting from 17 July 2009. The Project Document was revised to better reflect partner concerns and more clearly delineate specific activities, outputs, and outcomes. The operational phase of the KSLCI will begin on 1 August 2009.

A consultative and participatory approach was adopted at an early stage of the project, which provided regional member countries and major partners with the opportunity to participate in the formulation of the Project Document, including the definition of concrete deliverables. This has generated much goodwill and allowed for the active buy-in by partners and countries. By facilitating and adopting a consultative and participatory approach during the Pre-Inception Consultation phase, this workshop and the preceding consultation has laid the foundation for long-term commitment, continued stakeholder participation, and sustainable conservation and development efforts in the KSL. This participatory approach encourages national ownership and partner initiatives to promote the long-term goals of ecosystem management. ICIMOD has been promoting this approach (in particular the active participation of major stakeholders in the formulation of the project and its concrete deliverables) in transboundary landscapes across the HKH region, specifically for implementation of the CBD and in ecosystem management approaches. Again, this consultative and participatory approach was highly appreciated by the national partners and regional member countries, and, in fact, was deemed an essential component for the successful implementation of the KSLCI.

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Annex 1: ToR for preliminary feasibility assessment report and policy and enabling environment assessment report

An extensive consultation with the three RMCs and major partners was conducted over a two-month Pre-Inception Consultation phase leading up to the Inception Workshop, as per the Small Funding Agreement (SFSA) Annex 6. Specific recommendations from the three KSL countries were acted upon and integrated into the project design. Significant redesign based upon feedback from the RMCs includes a preliminary feasibility assessment and policy and enabling environment review, as well as a timeline for the delineation of the KSL project boundary. As a result, two terms of reference (ToRs) have been developed to satisfy specific requests from RMCs, notably the MoEF (India), MoE/MoFSC (Nepal), and ISGNRR (China), to be completed within the first six months of inception of the KSL project, with individual national documents to be submitted to respective national agencies, by the end of January 2010.

Terms of reference: Preliminary feasibility assessment report and policy and enabling environment assessment report

To be submitted to the lead institution (of each KSL regional member country) for the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative (KSLCI) for implementation and to be reviewed by the nodal contact point for the regional member country and other relevant national partners for consultation and input.

Purpose: To produce a preliminary feasibility assessment as a first stage document in the implementation of the KSLCI including an assessment of the policy and enabling environment, as relevant to the implementation of the KSLCI.

Time period: Assessment to be completed within the first six months of inception of the KSL project and the assessment document to be submitted to the KSL Project Coordinator (ICIMOD) by the end of January 2010.

Background: General overview of the KSLCI

Overall goal

The aim of this project is to promote transboundary biodiversity and cultural diversity conservation, ecosystem management, sustainable development, and climate change adaptation within the Mt Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) through the following objectives.

Specific objectives

1. To enhance cooperation among the regional member countries through the establishment of a Regional Cooperation Framework, development of a strategy for conservation of the Kailash Sacred Landscape, and development of a transboundary regional knowledge base
2. To facilitate coordination among the various actors and stakeholders within the KSL by enhancing cross-boundary collaboration in ecological and climate change monitoring and information exchange networks
3. To recognise relevant traditional knowledge and strengthen local capacity for community-based participation in conservation and sustainable development, and to enhance cultural-socioeconomic-ecological resilience with respect to climate change

Expected outputs

The major outputs expected from the project are in line with the broad objectives of the global environmental conservation initiative as reflected in the CBD and similar international conventions, and RMC's goals for the sustainable management of cultural and ecological diversity in the region through participatory processes that address conservation issues at a landscape level using a ecosystem approach. The KSLCI provides a much-needed

opportunity to develop a regional framework for cooperation and common understanding on transboundary landscape issues in the KSL region, and a timely opportunity to conserve this important cultural and natural landscape of incomparable value while addressing threats to globally significant biodiversity and local livelihood resources.

Among the expected outcomes of the proposed initiative are:

- A regional dialogue and forum created for RMCs and partner institutions (particularly for KSL countries: China, India, and Nepal) based on an improved knowledge base to promote and facilitate transboundary cultural and environmental conservation through sustainable development.
- A consultative process aimed at developing a Regional Cooperation Framework to facilitate the establishment and implementation of the KSL transboundary conservation landscape.
- A strengthened policy framework both at the regional and national levels that encourages regional cooperation and transboundary management approaches.
- Strengthened local capacity building for community-based participation in conservation and sustainable development efforts within the KSL.

Activities

To achieve the stipulated outputs the following types of activities are proposed:

- Development of a Regional Cooperation Framework and Kailash Sacred Landscape conservation strategy through a consultative process, and the establishment of a regional online knowledge sharing platform.
- Development of long-term ecological, climatic, and biodiversity datasets for the HKH region to promote regional cooperation on the monitoring of environmental and climate change.
- Development of community-based climate change adaptation mechanisms and options under the RCF and KSL conservation strategy.

A. Structure of preliminary feasibility assessment and report document

Objectives and purpose

1. To delineate the target landscape – to clarify the landscape description and boundaries.
2. To conduct a needs analysis for the KSL and to develop a Regional Cooperation Framework.

Outline of major components

The baseline assessment will cover the following points:

- Description of target landscape (within each regional member country) with extent and precise delineation of boundaries
- Resource (biophysical) status of the target landscape
- Status report on environmental degradation and cultural integrity within the target landscape
- Identification of priorities (i.e., biodiversity, environmental, cultural) for the target landscape
- Community perceptions of (a) biodiversity and cultural values, and best-suited livelihood options, and (b) in respect to policies and plans (to be obtained through community consultations)
- Policy and enabling environment assessment (review of existing policies); this activity to be completed under a separate ToR, but incorporated into final synthesis document
- Gap assessment (of all points listed above) – same as conclusion.

Process of report document preparation

- Delineation of target landscape (expert consultation and review)
- Detailed review of available information (secondary data/information)
- Stakeholder consultations (community/experts/practitioners/etc.)

- Rapid survey of representative sites (biophysical and socio-cultural values)
- Compilation, analysis, and synthesis of available information
- Needs assessment for KSL and RCF based on a synthesis of information gathered in above listed activities
- Preparation of preliminary feasibility assessment report – full documentation

B. Structure of policy and enabling environment assessment and report

Objectives and purpose

1. To clarify policy issues relevant and specifically related to the KSLCI and the proposed Regional Cooperation Framework
2. To provide an overview of the enabling (policy) environment and identify constraints on implementation.
3. To produce a policy-based needs analysis for the KSLCI and the proposed Regional Cooperation Framework.

Outline of major components

The baseline assessment will cover the following points:

- Identification and description of policies and other enabling mechanisms within the target landscape (i.e., within each KSL country)
- Identification of policy constraints and potential conflicts that may impede the implementation of the KSLCI or the proposed Regional Cooperation Framework, as well as delineation of policy options
- Analysis of policy constraints and enabling environment for transboundary technical cooperation and proposed data sharing mechanisms
- Delineation of policy priorities (i.e., biodiversity, environmental, cultural) for target landscape
- Assessment and review of existing policies and enabling environment
- Gap assessment (of all points above) – same as conclusion

Process of report document preparation

- Identification of relevant policies and enabling environment within target landscape (expert consultation and review)
- Detailed review of available information (secondary data/information)
- Stakeholder consultations (experts/practitioners/etc.)
- Compilation, analysis, and synthesis of available information
- Policy needs assessment for KSL and RCF based on a synthesis of information gathered in above listed activities
- Preparation of policy and enabling environment assessment report with full documentation

Specific terms of reference

Coordination of this effort will be led by the lead institution (in each KSL country) or other national partner, as determined through consultation with national partners, along with other relevant partners. Upon completion of the document, the same will be submitted to the Regional Coordinator, KSLCI, at ICIMOD headquarters in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Timeframe: To be completed within the first six months after project inception, with an anticipated completion by end of January 2010.

Budgetary arrangements

ICIMOD will make available funds for this activity to the lead institute (in each KSL country) through a letter of agreement as required to complete all necessary activities outlined above.

Annex 2: Inception Workshop Programme

Monday, 22 June 2009
Inaugural Session and Reception Dinner at Hotel Himalaya

19:00–20:15	**INAUGURAL SESSION**
	• **Welcome:** Andreas Schild, Director General, ICIMOD • **Welcome Address:** UNEP and ICIMOD Collaboration for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in HKH – Tim Kasten • **Inaugural Speech:** Biodiversity, Environmental Change and Regional Cooperation Initiatives in Hindu Kush-Himalaya – Bruno Messerli • **Opening Remarks:** Chief Guest • **Convener:** Eklabya Sharma, ICIMOD • Reception Dinner (20:15–21:30)

Tuesday, 23 June 2009
Conference Hall, ICIMOD

09:15–10:45	**PLENARY SESSION I** **Chair:** Eklabya Sharma **Rapporteur:** Farooq Ahmad
	Theme: Mt Kailash Sacred Landscape – Context and Experience Sharing • Overview of Inception Workshop – Robert Zomer • Socio-Cultural and Religious Dimensions – Shekhar Pathak • Research Overview – China – Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research • Research Overview – China – Kunming Institute of Botany • Research Overview – India – Wildlife Institute of India • Research Overview – Nepal – Tribhuvan University Discussion
10:45–11:15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11:15–12:45	**PLENARY SESSION II** **Chair:** Tim Kasten **Rapporteur:** Nakul Chettri
	Theme: KSL Consultation – Process and Inception • Consultation Process – Eklabya Sharma • ICIMOD-UNEP Collaboration – Subrato Sinha • Overview of the KSL Conservation Initiative – Robert Zomer Discussion/Clarification
12:45–14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00–17:30	**PLENARY SESSION III** **Chair:** Dechen Tsering **Rapporteur:** Bandana Shakya
	Theme: National Input and Pre-Consultation Response • India's Response – GBPHIED and MoEF • Nepal's Response – MoEST and TU • China's Response – IGSNRR and Chinese Committee on ICIMOD Discussion/Clarification
15:30–16:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
16:00–16:30	Continued Discussion/Clarification
16:30–17:30	UNEP – Highland-Lowland Project

Wednesday, 24 June 2009
Conference Hall, ICIMOD

09:15–10:30	**PLENARY SESSION IV** **Chair:** Elizabeth Migongo-Bake **Rapporteur:** Navraj Pradhan
	Theme: Outputs, Activities, Tasks and Roles Presentation of Proposed Outputs, Work Plan and Regional Cooperation Framework – Robert Zomer Discussion/Clarification Briefing/ToR on Breakout Session
10:30–11:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11:00–12:45	**National Level Breakout Session**
12:45–14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00–15:30	**PLENARY SESSION VI** **Chair:** Eklabya Sharma **Rapporteur:** Yan Zhaoli
	Theme: Sharing of National Input and Way Forward Presentation of National Inputs – Country-wise (15 minutes each) Coordination and consultation mechanisms for KSL Project Next Steps
15:30–16:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
16:00–17:00	**CONCLUDING SESSION**
	Remarks by HKH Lead Institutions Remarks by UNEP Representative Concluding remarks by Andreas Schild

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Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative
Inception Workshop Group Photo

Kathmandu, Nepal, 22-24 June 2009

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAS	Chinese Academy of Sciences
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	community-based organisations
DEPI	Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
ECES	Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services
GBPIHED	GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development
HKH	Hindu Kush-Himalayas/Himalayan
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IGSNRR	Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research
ITP	Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research
KIB	Kunming Institute of Botany
KSL	Kailash Sacred Landscape
KSLCI	Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative
LTEM	long-term ecological monitoring
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests (India)
MoE	Ministry of Environment (Nepal)
MoFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (Nepal)
NGO	non-government organisation
RCF	Regional Cooperation Framework
RMC	regional member countries
ROAP	Regional Office Asia and the Pacific
TAR	Tibet Autonomous Region
ToR	terms of reference
TU	Tribhuvan University
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WII	Wildlife Institute of India

About ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, ICIMOD, is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Globalisation and climate change have an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues. We support regional transboundary programmes through partnership with regional partner institutions, facilitate the exchange of experience, and serve as a regional knowledge hub. We strengthen networking among regional and global centres of excellence. Overall, we are working to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services for the billions of people living downstream – now, and for the future.

About UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment. To accomplish this, UNEP works with a wide range of partners, including United Nations entities, international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

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