



Climate Himalaya Initiative

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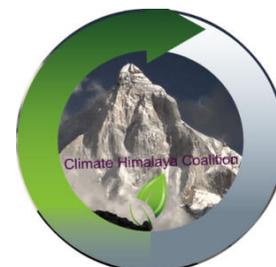
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Why Climate Himalaya Initiative!

Unlike in other part of the World, the Himalayan mountains remain neglected in many ways by the governments and international agencies. Various reports have revealed that the region is already in the state of crisis. The need of Climate Himalaya Initiative is felt due to evident climatic vulnerability and extremes in the Himalayan Mountains that is steadily taking toll in terms of biodiversity losses, ecosystem dysfunction, looming livelihood opportunities and high migration. In this region, the governance system is dysfunctional and various leading government, inter government and research institutions are not playing their role

effectively. A number of coalitions, regional cooperation and initiatives are working in project mode, so the efforts not sustainable. Investments are made in the name of environment and development, however, the results are not only deficient in making a difference, but also poor in quality and outreach. Evidences have shown that, there is missing and disconnected leadership among various stakeholders in Himalayas. The present initiative works on the principles of reform in the present environment governance system in Himalayan Mountains, to develop; an interactive platform of various stakeholders, scien-

tific and practitioners' database, a vibrant leadership network, capacities of people and organizations, and will keep a close watch on various climate change adaptation processes. The initiative partners work together and towards 'Sustainable Mountain Development'.



Climate Himalaya Initiative Logo

LAUNCH of Climate Himalaya Initiative on 5 JUNE, 2010

The Climate Himalaya Initiative has been successfully launched in partnership with IWRS, Times Foundation, Life & Living and Prakriti at Water Resources Development and Management Department at IIT of Roorkee, Uttarakhand India, with the presence of over 50 delegates from various organizations in India, Nepal and Chile.

Report: The Waters of the Third Pole-Sources of Threat, Sources of Survival

This report attempts to point out risks that need to be considered when dealing with what has been defined as the region affected by the waters of the Hindu Kush Himalayan – HKH region. While recognizing the abundance of initiatives that have already been under-

taken in the region by governments, research organizations and community-based organizations to deal with many aspects of potential future threats, this report nevertheless concludes that there are issues which must be recognized and addressed as soon as possible.

The recommendations of this report are intended to suggest ways to strengthen humanitarian crisis prevention and preparedness activities in HKH region that may become increasingly vulnerable to large-scale water-related disasters... <http://tiny.cc/lrwqt>



Photos of Climate Himalaya Initiative Launch at WRDM, IIT Roorkee

Official Launch of Climate Himalaya Initiative on June 5, 2010

The Climate Himalaya Initiative-CHI, has been officially launched at the occasion of World Environment Day, 5 June 2010 at IWRS, Department of Water Resources Development and Management, IIT Roorkee, Uttarakhand in India. The launch event was attended by over 50 experts from diverse background working on various crosscutting issues of climate change in India, Nepal and Chile. An

exhibition of organically grown produce from Himalayas and publications from various organizations working on climate change issues in Himalayan region was also organized. With the formal launch of the initiative, there was panel discussion, where a total 8 speakers from various background and expertise explained about the interconnectedness of climate change, mountains and various climatic phenom-

ena and processes. Panelist emphasized upon the urgent attention and considerations in development and environmental disassociation, vis-à-vis people’s participation in climate change adaptation and mitigation processes, with missing connectedness among various key players. They suggested coming together towards sustainable mountain development. [Read: www.climatehimalaya.net](http://www.climatehimalaya.net)



Biodiversity is life
Biodiversity is our life

International Year of Bio Diversity 2010

“..country’s GDP should be inclusive of the reflection of the growth and development in our Natural Resources..”
Speaker at CHI Launch

The United Nations proclaimed 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity, and people all over the world are working to safeguard this irreplaceable natural wealth and reduce biodiversity loss. This is vital for current and future human wellbeing. We need to do more. Now is the time to act. The International Year of

Biodiversity is a unique opportunity to increase understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth. You share the planet with as many as 13 million different living species including plants, animals and bacteria, only 1.75 million of which have been named and recorded. The systems and proc-

esses these millions of neighbors collectively provide produce your food, water and the air you breathe – the basic fundamentals of life.
Read: <http://tiny.cc/9j15n>

Himalayan Climate Impact Cannot be Generalized



A Farmer in Mori area of Uttarakashi in Uttarakhand, India

Melting glaciers in the Himalayas will have varying impacts on the region’s five major river basins, a study says. Changes to the flow of melt water as a result of global warming is likely to have a “severe” impact on food security in some areas, say scientists. Yet people living elsewhere are likely to see food

productivity increase, they added in a paper published in Science. Overall, the food security of 4.5% of 1.4bn people in the region is threatened, the researchers conclude. More than 1.4bn people depend on water from the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Yangtze and Yellow rivers. “We show that

melt water is extremely important in the Indus basin and important for the Brahmanputra basin, but only plays a modest role for the Ganges, Yangtze and Yellow rivers,” the team from the Netherlands wrote.
Read <http://tiny.cc/1oiu7>

Are Nepal's Poor Secure?

Located in a seismically-active zone, Nepal is a high-risk country, which is highly prone to earthquakes and environmental hazards. This has created a likelihood of problems cropping up that would severely affect sustainable development. Recently, Nepal has been experiencing the impact of climate change especially in the agricultural sector with productivity declining. Food Outlook, a bi-annual commodity publication of the Food

And Agricultural Organization had reported: "If the current price volatility and liquidity conditions prevail in 2008/09, plantings and output could be affected to such an extent that a new price surge might take place in 2009/10, unleashing even more severe food crises than those experienced recently." The prediction came true. As Nepal's rain-fed agriculture suffered weird and dry monsoon during the year 2009/10, the current rise in

food price can be expected to further widen inequality. It has been increasingly realized that the government has to play a key role in the time of contingencies, shocks and difficult economic situations to protect the vulnerable groups from adverse effects of such conditions. Nepal's social safety nets program remains quite unsatisfactory because of the stark dichotomy between.

Read: <http://tiny.cc/8tufk>



A woman going to collect fodder in Garhwal region in Uttarakhand India

Japan, S Korea, China to Further coop in Environmental Protection

Environmental ministers from Japan, South Korea and China met Sunday in Tomakomai City of Hokkaido, Japan to further cooperation in dealing with environmental challenges including climate change and cross-border pollution. During the two-day meeting, the ministers held bilateral and trilateral meetings to stress the importance of regional cooperation

amid growing environment concerns facing the region and the world. Zhou Shengxian, minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, said as a developing country, China has made mistakes in sacrificing the environment for industrial growth, however, the government has increasingly realized the importance of sustainable

growth. "The environment ministry of China has started stringent monitoring and supervising systems over pollution and we have seen remarkable improvements in many areas,"

Read: <http://tiny.cc/336uk>

The pledges to curb carbon emissions made during 2009's Copenhagen Accord are more likely to see Earth suffer a three degree warming rather than the deal's target of two degrees.

Rhetoric Grows Heated in Water Dispute Between India and Pakistan

The latest standoff between [India](#) and [Pakistan](#) features familiar elements: perceived Indian injustices, calls to arms by Pakistani extremists. But this dispute centers on something different: water. India denies the charge, and its ambassador to Pakistan recently called the water theft allegations

"preposterous." International water experts say that there is little evidence India is diverting water from Pakistan but that Pakistan is right to feel vulnerable because its water is downstream of India's. Washington has pressured the two nations to settle their differences. India and Pakistan have

fought three major wars, and the conflict has kept much of Pakistan's army focused eastward, not on Islamist insurgents. "On the Indian side, the last thing I would want to come into India-Pakistan relations is an issue as visceral as water," Briscoe said. <http://tiny.cc/1166c>



The Ganges at Kedarnath, in Uttarakhand India

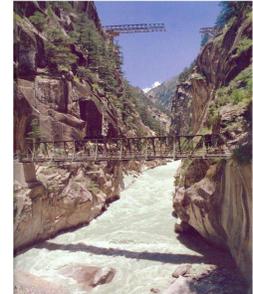
..60 Million Living in...Himalayan Glaciers could suffer Food Shortage

Nearly 60 million people living around the Himalayas will suffer food shortages in the coming decades as glaciers shrink and the water sources for crops dry up, a study *said*. But Dutch scientists writing in the journal *Science* concluded the impact would be much less than previously estimated a few years ago by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The U.N. report in 2007 warned that hundreds of millions of people were at risk from disappearing glaciers.

The reason for the discrepancy, scientists said, is that some basins surrounding the Himalayas depend more on rainfall than melting glaciers for their water sources. Those that do count heavily on glaciers like the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra basins in South Asia could see their water supplies decline by as much as 19.6 percent by 2050. China's Yellow River basin, in contrast, would see a 9.5 percent increase precipitation as mon-

soon patterns change due to the changing climate. "We show that it's only certain areas that will be affected," said Marc Bierkens, an Utrecht University hydrology professor, who along with Walter Immerzee and Ludovicus van Beek conducted the study.

[Read: http://tiny.cc/mxaxv](http://tiny.cc/mxaxv)



OPINION: Andreas Schild and Sharing Climate Data

Described as a 'white spot' for research in the last Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, the Hindu-Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region continues to suffer from a lack of adequate data — according to a recent publication "The Waters of the Third Pole: Sources of Threat, Sources of Survival".

Andreas Schild, director-general of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), spoke to SciDev.Net about the current state of scientific research in the region and the potential for collaboration.

...If we talk about scientific collaboration at the level of the

stakeholders, we find very high interest among researchers in all concerned countries for cross-border collaboration and exchange of information...The government of India's national plan for adaptation to climate change has a chapter on the Himalayas..

[Read: http://tiny.cc/lrwqt](http://tiny.cc/lrwqt)

...Armstrong says, is that river flows are dominated by seasonal rains. "The glaciers are tiny, compared with the monsoon,"

OPINION: It takes time to Change Inertia... Dr. Pachauri

Chairman of the Nobel Prize-winning IPCC Dr. Rajendra Kumar Pachauri is unfazed by challenges to his crusade for arresting climate change, saving the environment and ensuring a sustainable future. Single-handedly responsible for adding an urgent push to preserving the planet for future gen-

erations, he's criss-crossing the globe, building up a tidal wave of world opinion on the need to innovate, fund alternative research, disincentivise carbon guzzlers and ensure sustainable comforts. In between, he lives the romance of the unhurried good life, writing about his beloved Almora and playing

cricket. Over cups of herbal tea developed at his research institute, he talks to Namaskaar editor-in-chief Chandan Mitra about India's need to capitalise on second generation biofuels, solar power, carbon storage glaciers..

[Read: http://tiny.cc/762dn](http://tiny.cc/762dn)



Developmental processes in Himalayas need a reform

Climate Himalaya Initiative

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An Initiative towards Sustainable Mountain
Development



Climate Himalaya Initiative

The Climate Himalaya Initiative is a voluntary initiative of a coalition of people and organizations that envisions Sustainable Mountain Development in Himalayan region. The initiative advocates for an obligatory reform in the present environment governance system by developing; an interactive platform, scientific and practitioners' database, a vibrant leadership network, capacities of people and organizations, and keeping close watch on various climate change adaptation processes in Himalayan Mountains.

The initiative is under preparatory phase that has been officially launched at the occasion of World Environment Day 5 June 2010 in India. It is an evolving group of people and organizations that has keen interest in Climate Change and adaptation issues in Himalayan Mountain ranges and commitment for promoting sustainable mountain development. [Read: http://www.climatehimalaya.net](http://www.climatehimalaya.net)

Featured Organization

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development-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. It supports regional trans boundary programs through partnership with regional partner institutions, facilitate the exchange of experience, and serve as a regional knowledge hub. It strengthens networking among regional and global centres of excellence. Overall, it is working to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services

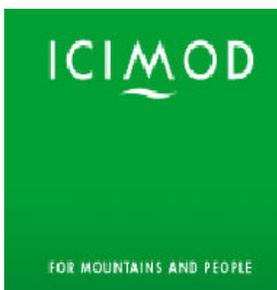
for the billions of people living downstream – now, and for the future.

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*The alternate towards non
availability of electricity in
Mountains*

