

Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas Bhutan 2011

17-19th November 2011

Sacred Himalayas for Water, Life and Culture

Other Participants

Participation is also open to countries with a history of supporting the region, and are keen to contribute to its sustainable development and adaptation to climate change impacts. Likewise institutions and individuals working on climate change, mountain development and environmental issues will be invited.

Outcomes

The following major outcomes are expected from the Summit:

Political commitment at the highest level for cooperation within the sub-region highlighted in a Summit Declaration for:

1. Adopting and endorsing a road map for adaptation to climate change in the Eastern Himalayas sub-region for ensuring food, water and energy security while maintaining biodiversity and eco-system services.
2. Securing all of Eastern Himalayas temperate and alpine forests and grasslands.
3. Pledges from partner countries, institutions and individuals to fund and collaborate in the implementation of the road map.
4. Creating and operationalization of regional expert groups to advise Governments in implementing the road map and on emerging challenges.

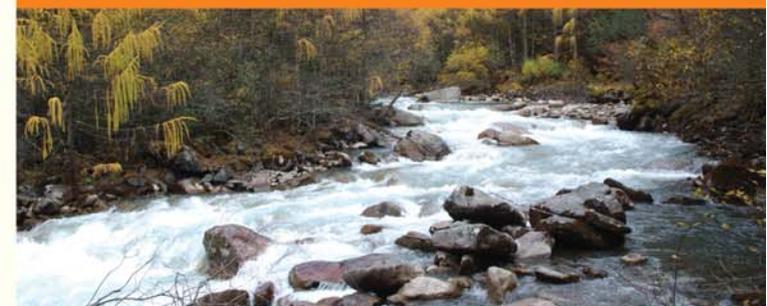
Date and Venue

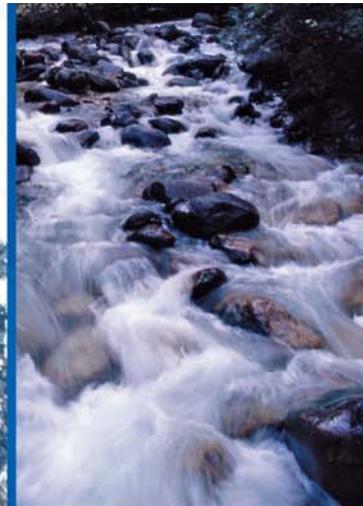
The climate summit for a living Himalayas will be held from 17-19th November 2011, in Thimphu Bhutan. Pre-summit expert group meetings will be held in the participating countries.

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Introduction

It is already established that climate change is happening in the Himalayas. Rapid melting of glaciers, erratic and unpredictable weather, changing rainfall patterns and increasing temperatures impinge on the ability of mountain and downstream populace to sustain their livelihoods. The consequences of such changes on food, water and energy security increasingly feature as the most important concerns for governments across the Himalayan region. Furthermore, the impacts on biodiversity and species persistence are also of concern.

The urgent need therefore for Himalayan nations is to increasingly build resilience to the impacts of Climate Change and generate resources for adaptation, capacity building, and technology transfer. Such action can no longer wait for a global agreement.

In the Himalayas where the impacts of global climate change are manifesting at a rapid pace, the time for action is running out. That is why, the Royal Government of Bhutan, and partners propose to bring together leaders from government, civil societies and academia at a 'Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas'. The objectives of the summit are:

1. Develop and agree on a road map for adapting to climate change in the Himalayas, particularly across the southern face of the Eastern Himalayas;
2. Highlight the issue of climate change and its impacts on the Himalayan biodiversity;
3. Foster partnership and networking to facilitate sharing of information and experience; and to work for bringing attention to the impacts of climate change on the Himalayas as well as the world's mountains.

Thematic concerns

During the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas Bhutan 2011, four thematic concerns will be addressed at a sub-regional level in the Himalayas:

1. Securing biodiversity and ensuring its sustainable use;
2. Ensuring food security and livelihoods;
3. Securing the natural freshwater systems of the Himalayas; and
4. Ensuring energy security and enhancing alternate technologies

Within these four key thematic areas, the cross cutting issues related to natural disasters, poverty, gender and vulnerable communities associated with climate change will be addressed. Furthermore, issues related to research, training, technology transfer, collaboration, information sharing and networking will also be discussed within each theme.

Participating Nations

The countries on the southern slope of the Eastern Himalayas will be the focus of the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas Bhutan 2011. They include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. In order to ensure ownership and recognition of summit outputs, representatives of the neighbouring states of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal will be invited at the Ministerial meetings prior to the summit.