
**REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE
BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE HINDU KUSH
HIMALAYA, 25 -26 SEPTEMBER 2024
WORKSHOP REPORT**

Introduction

Climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss are arguably the greatest challenges impeding the progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – collectively known as triple planetary crises. Adapting to climate change, halting, and reversing biodiversity loss, minimising pollution and ensuring human prosperity and wellbeing are four interlinked goals that governments aim to achieve by the first half of this century. This means the triple planetary crisis objectives must be pursued jointly and coherently in science and decision-making, to minimise trade-offs, maximise the positive impact and potentially deliver additional societal benefits. Failing to meet any of the goals impacts severely at scales that range from global to local. The role of biodiversity in human development and addressing climate change, and the need for synergy has been realised and recognized as a major contemporary global need.

The Hindu Kush Himalayan region (HKH), the one of the highest biodiverse regions in the world, is also the most vulnerable mountain regions to climate change and biodiversity loss. Recognised as the ‘Third Pole’ and ‘Water Tower of Asia’ due to the largest mass of glaciers outside the North Pole and South Pole, and the region with four out of 36 Global Biodiversity Hotspots. It is evident that, due to elevation dependent warming, the HKH is witnessing a higher rise in temperature compared to the other mountain ranges and the global average with cascading impacts on biodiversity, water, people’s livelihood, and food security among others.

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are the two most important global Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) contributing to addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. There is a growing realisation that the contemporary twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss could be effectively overcome through synergy, using multipurpose solutions, which benefit both nature and people. The UNFCCC and the CBD, both agreed upon in Rio in 1992 and have considered biodiversity and climate change in their respective work programmes. The existing global mechanism such as Joint Liaison Group of UNFCCC, CBD and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and national mechanisms such as National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) guided by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Adaptation Plans (NAP) guided by the Paris Agreement could be instrumental in developing coherence among the two conventions to address the contemporary challenges faced by humanity.

About the dialogue

With an increasing realisation to focus on coherence in approaches and developing strategic interventions on climate change and biodiversity through ‘connecting the dots’ UN Environment Programme (UNEP) through its Environmental Policy Unit (EPU), is developing an umbrella programme document on issues related to science

policy interfaces, policy coherence and governance through consultative process seeking inputs in designing interventions at global, regional, and national levels.

The 'Regional Dialogue on Strengthening Science-Policy Interface between Biodiversity and Climate Change in the Hindu Kush Himalaya' was jointly organized by ICIMOD and UNEP on 25th and 26th September 2024. The dialogue brought together Ministers, experts, policymakers, scientists, and stakeholders from across the HKH region to discuss the interlinkages between biodiversity conservation and climate change and the role of science to address these two global challenges. The event aimed to address the challenges and opportunities in the HKH region, focusing on bridging gaps between science, policy, and practice. Discussions during the dialogue covered regional climate and biodiversity priorities, science-policy integration, financing, and the role of nature-based solutions.

Purpose and objectives of the dialogue

The purpose of the regional dialogue was to understand the state-of-play on climate and biodiversity nexus in the HKH region. The dialogue further explored commonalities in scientific and policy approaches to understand responses contributing to the Conference of Party (CoP) meetings of the CBD and UNFCCC. It also envisaged to come up with actionable long-term priority areas focusing on strengthening regional/national science policy coherence to provide a collective view of the interconnected challenges. The specific objectives are as follow: -

Objectives

1. To solicit ideas/ inputs for developing a long-term regional programme strategy aimed at enhancing science-policy interfaces to address biodiversity conservation and climate change nexus in the HKH
2. To identify and prioritize implementable actions at national and regional levels and strengthen exiting instruments (NBSAP, NDC, NAPs etc.) to address the interconnected challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss in the HKH
3. To explore options for establishing a regional community of practice focused on the climate-biodiversity nexus and develop key messages to communicate to the global communities using platforms such as Conference of Party meetings and other platforms.

Opening Remarks and Sessions

Overview by Kunzang and David (ICIMOD)

Kunzang and David provided an overview of ICIMOD's work in the region, including ICIMOD's ongoing efforts to connect science with policy in the context of climate change and biodiversity. They emphasized the importance of creating policies that are informed by scientific knowledge, especially in the HKH region, which is highly sensitive to climate change impacts.

Overview of the regional challenges by Mozaharul Alam (UNEP)

Mozaharul Alam offered a comprehensive overview of the regional challenges posed by climate change and biodiversity loss, linking them to broader global efforts to address environmental issues. He highlighted the significance of UNEP's 2019 Climate Change Policy, which emphasizes the use of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and adaptation measures. Key points from his presentation include:

- The critical need for standardized scientific assessments and access to accurate data for policy implementation.
- The challenge of mobilizing adequate finance to support policy implementation at national and regional levels.
- The vital role of UNEP in facilitating regional collaboration and supporting countries in policy coherence.

Remarks by Buddi Sagar Paudel (Joint secretary and chief of climate change management division)

Buddi Paudel focused on the close relationship between biodiversity loss and climate change, emphasizing that both issues must be addressed together to achieve sustainable outcomes. He outlined Nepal's climate and biodiversity goals:

- **Nepal's Net Zero Ambition:** The country aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2045, demonstrating a strong commitment to addressing climate change.
- **Preparation for NDC 2025:** Nepal is actively preparing for its next Nationally Determined Contributions, emphasizing the need for cross-sectoral partnerships and resource mobilization.
- **The Role of Regional Collaboration:** Paudel stressed the importance of collaborative efforts at both the regional and national levels to effectively conserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change.

Vote of thanks by Nakul Chettri (ICIMOD)

In his vote of thanks, Nakul Chettri underscored the significance of biodiversity in climate change mitigation. He called for:

- **Effective Policies and Global Collaboration:** Nakul Chettri highlighted the need for strong policies that align with international efforts, urging all stakeholders to work together.
- **Collective Action:** He advocated for seizing opportunities for biodiversity conservation through collective action at local, national, and regional levels.

Technical Sessions Summary

Technical Session 1: The Importance of Science-Policy Interface

The session opened with discussions on how Science-Policy Interface (SPI) can effectively link scientific research to actionable policies, enhancing regional resilience against biodiversity loss and climate impacts. Key speakers outlined the critical role of SPI in aligning science with policy, particularly under the HKH's unique environmental pressures. This session underscored the objective of developing a **long-term regional program strategy** through an inclusive SPI approach.

1. Balakrishna Pisupati (UNEP):

- **Role of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs):** He highlighted how MEAs like the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) serve as frameworks to integrate scientific findings into policy across multiple sectors. He provided examples of successful MEA applications that have addressed climate-biodiversity linkages and called for their replication in the HKH region.
- **Policy Coherence and Sectoral Alignment:** He stressed that effective SPI requires cohesive policies that cross-link sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and water resources, which are highly sensitive to

climate impacts in the HKH. By emphasizing policy coherence, he aimed to guide the region toward integrated strategies that reflect both biodiversity and climate objectives.

- **Science as a Policy Foundation:** He reiterated the importance of grounding policy in robust scientific data and emphasized the necessity of policy flexibility to accommodate scientific advancements, making SPI a dynamic process adaptable to changing environmental realities. science-policy gap.

2. Heather Nonhlanhla Maseko-Msyale (UNFCCC):

- **Inclusivity in Science Representation:** she emphasized that a successful SPI must be inclusive, incorporating diverse scientific perspectives globally and regionally. She pointed out that equitable representation in policy processes ensures that scientific findings are translated into policies beneficial across different socioeconomic contexts within the HKH.
- **Actionable and Equitable Policies:** Drawing from her experience with the UNFCCC, she highlighted the need to translate complex scientific findings into policies that are actionable and equitable. By focusing on equity, she linked SPI to broader social justice, reinforcing the importance of policies that consider both biodiversity preservation and the climate impacts on vulnerable communities.
- **Global Advocacy for Regional Needs:** she encouraged the development of regional key messages for advocacy on global platforms like the COP. She underscored that clear communication of the HKH's specific needs would strengthen the region's influence on the global stage, fostering international support for regional challenges.

3. Nakul Chettri (ICIMOD):

- **Vulnerability of the HKH Ecosystems:** Nakul Chettri presented on the unique vulnerabilities of HKH's ecosystems, noting how biodiversity in high-altitude areas is especially threatened by climate-induced shifts. He advocated for an **integrated approach** that not only aligns policy with science but also considers financing mechanisms dedicated to adaptation and conservation in the HKH.
- **Policy-Finance Synergy:** He emphasized the need to synchronize funding strategies with policy objectives, calling for innovative financing solutions to address gaps in adaptation and biodiversity conservation funding. This approach aligns with the objective of identifying implementable actions and prioritizing investments that reinforce biodiversity alongside climate resilience.
- **Community Engagement and Local Knowledge:** Chettri advocated for community-inclusive policies that incorporate local knowledge. He noted that indigenous knowledge systems in the HKH can provide crucial insights for climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation, fostering an equitable SPI model.

Presentations by country representatives

Md Faisal Abedin Khan, Bangladesh: The presentation focused on the country's climate resilience priorities, emphasizing adaptation strategies in agriculture, water management, and renewable energy. Bangladesh aims to integrate biodiversity conservation into national development strategies through cross-sectoral policies. It

seeks predictable financing for loss and damage response and promotes nature-based solutions, such as reforestation, to address climate change sustainably.

Pem Dorji Tamang, Bhutan: Emphasized the incorporation of mountain-based indicators in national policy, ensuring synergy between biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. Bhutan highlighted the importance of aligning various ministries' efforts, implementing sectoral low-emission development strategies, and updating its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The lack of adequate funding was pointed out as a key challenge, along with the need for enhanced capacity-building and monitoring mechanisms.

Wu Ning, China: The speaker addressed the interconnectedness of biodiversity and climate change, emphasizing the importance of an integrated monitoring system at the national and regional levels. A notable reference was made to a landmark joint workshop held in 2020 by IPBES and IPCC, which aimed to create synergies between biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation.

K K Gang & P Ragavan, India: Discussed the complexities of bridging the policy gaps between CBD and UNFCCC. India's National Action Plan on Climate Change includes a strong focus on conserving the Himalayan ecosystems. The speaker stressed the need for bottom-up approaches in policy implementation to ensure that policies are not only coherent at the top level but also effective on the ground.

Panel Discussions and Outcomes

The panel discussions were pivotal in bringing out regional perspectives on opportunities for synergy, barriers to policy implementation, and enhancing regional cooperation. The panelists Md. Saifur Rahman from Bangladesh, Sonam Tashi from Bhutan, Wu Ning from China, K K Gang from India and Vishaish Uppal, WWF India shared their views with the following takeaways notes:

- **Integrated Monitoring Systems:** The need for an integrated biodiversity and climate monitoring system at a regional level was highlighted to ensure effective data collection and policymaking.
- **Private Sector Involvement:** The discussions emphasized the importance of involving private sectors in supporting NDCs and enhancing contributions to biodiversity and climate policy.
- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** The need for capacity-building initiatives and sharing of best practices across the HKH countries was a key recommendation.
- **Forming Expert Groups:** It was agreed to form regional expert groups to foster collaboration and dialogue among countries on biodiversity and climate issues.
- **Establishing a Community of Practice:** Panellists supported creating a regional community focused on knowledge-sharing and collaborative initiatives. This community could serve as a hub for capacity building, training policymakers on biodiversity and climate-related issues and enabling exchange among HKH nations.
- **Regional Advocacy for Global Platforms:** Panellists discussed using platforms such as the Conference of the Parties (COP) to convey the unique challenges and solutions relevant to the HKH. Developing key messages on biodiversity-climate interactions, tailored to global audiences, was prioritized to strengthen HKH representation.
- **Prioritizing Funding for Ecosystem Services:** The session identified funding shortfalls as a significant challenge and recommended mobilizing both regional and international funding, especially for ecosystem services projects that support both biodiversity and climate adaptation.

Group Discussions and Outcomes

Group discussion contributed to highlighting some of the common challenges faced in climate change and biodiversity including science contribution, spill-over effects, regional implications and suggested a roadmap with short term, medium term and long-term action points as reflected in Annex 1. Some of the highlights from the discussion are as follows: -

- **Challenges:** Limited and complicated process and access to the available funding and technologies, lack of synergy among the global conventions, sectoral approach to address national and regional challenges
- **Contribution from science:** Limited knowledge on the complex linkages between biodiversity and climate change in the mountains along with lack of real time, long term and demand driven knowledge base at national and local levels.
- **Spillover effects:** Challenges in balancing conservation and development (resilience), poor understanding of adaptation and mitigation on biodiversity and maladaptation and contribution of biodiversity to climate change.
- **Regional implications and needs:** Climate change and biodiversity loss have regional implications and need regional approach along with a common voice to highlight regional implications and adaptation need at the global platforms. Joint and collaborative research, regional data sharing platform and an open clearing house mechanism could improve regional cooperation
- **Short-terms actions:** Mapping of existing programs at national and regional levels, preparation of common frameworks, methods, protocols and action plans focusing on joint research, formation of thematic working groups and preparation of summary from global reports relevant at national levels are necessary
- **Medium-terms actions:** Collaborative joint projects, periodic regional dialogue and capacity building activities, establishment of regional mechanism to monitor transboundary issues and share data along with integrated finance for climate change and biodiversity were recommended.
- **Long-terms actions:** Improved synergy among NDC, NAP, and NBSAP at national and local levels, increased government funding on restoration and nature-based solutions and functional regional cooperation on research, data sharing and decision making contributing to synergy between UNFCCC and CBD.

Summary of the Dialogue by Kunzang (ICIMOD)

Kunzang provided a comprehensive summary of the two-day dialogue, highlighting the critical discussions on the integration of science and policy. The key points included:

Gaps Identified: The dialogue underscored the limited cross-sectoral coordination, inadequate funding, and lack of stakeholder ownership in implementing biodiversity and climate initiatives. Additionally, there is still a gap in translating science into policy, which hinders effective action.

Opportunities for Synergy: Kunzang noted opportunities for integrating Nature-based Solutions to address both environmental and social challenges. There is potential for leveraging sustainable finance and promoting community engagement to align national climate and biodiversity strategies.

Science-Policy Integration: Strengthening the coordination between scientists and policymakers is crucial, with a focus on fostering regional collaboration. The importance of localized data collection and institutionalizing coordination mechanisms to support implementation and reporting was emphasized.

Financial Mechanisms: The dialogue repeatedly highlighted the need for an integrated financial framework to address resource constraints in the region, with a focus on improving access to international funds for biodiversity and climate action.

COP Priorities: The discussions also charted priorities for international forums, including COP 16 (CBD) and COP 29 (UNFCCC). Key issues include resource mobilization, mountain-specific adaptation indicators, and the global narrative on limiting warming to 1.5°C, which is critical for the HKH region.

Remarks by Tita Korvenoja, Chief of the Environmental Conventions & Policy Branch, Law Division, UNEP HQ, Nairobi

In her closing remarks, Tita Korvenoja emphasized the importance of teamwork in tackling the interconnected problems of climate change and biodiversity loss. She emphasized UNEP's dedication to assisting regional projects such as those in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, which are vital forums for promoting communication, exchanging expertise, and developing workable plans. She emphasized the significance of coordinating science, policy, and implementation to attain transformative results and commended ICIMOD and regional member nations for their contributions in leading the way in creative solutions. Her comments were in line with the conference's objectives, which included establishing the community of practice for biodiversity and climate resilience in the HKH region, identifying practical interventions, and creating a regional program strategy.

Remarks by Hon'ble Minister, H.E. Lyonpo Gem Tshering, Ministry of Energy & Natural Resources, Bhutan

Hon'ble Minister H.E. Lyonpo Gem Tshering highlighted Bhutan's commitment to environmental conservation through its policy of maintaining 60% forest cover, as introduced by the King. This policy reflects Bhutan's deep-rooted dedication to green energy and its decision to avoid thermal power generation in favor of sustainable energy sources. The Minister emphasized Bhutan's limited industrial activities, focusing only on non-polluting industries to uphold its environmental priorities.

The Hon'ble Minister further elaborated on Bhutan's innovative efforts in waste management and water conservation, discussing collaborations with the Ministry of Water to address the country's growing water needs for drinking, irrigation, and hydropower generation.

He acknowledged the regional challenge of global warming and climate change, emphasizing that countries in the region must work together to address these threats. He highlighted Bhutan's upcoming "Mindfulness City" initiative, a globally unique project designed to promote innovation and environmentally conscious urban development. The Hon'ble Minister extended his gratitude to the event organizers and called for continued collaboration among HKH countries, reiterating the importance of regional unity in the fight against climate change.

Remarks by Hon'ble Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal

Hon'ble Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri from Nepal delivered a powerful speech on the interconnected nature of climate change issues, emphasizing the cascading effects of water scarcity, air pollution, and global warming on ecosystems and human populations. He expressed the urgent need for stronger evidence-based policies and collaborative regional efforts to address these multifaceted challenges.

The Hon'ble Minister highlighted Nepal's key climate-sensitive sectors—energy, hydropower, tourism, and national parks—and underscored the critical role of these sectors in driving national prosperity. However, he pointed out that biodiversity loss and climate change are significantly hindering this progress. Considering these issues, the Minister stressed the need for science-based policies and reinforced the importance of research and innovation in shaping climate solutions.

He emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and dialogues, such as this one, in exchanging knowledge and best practices. The Hon'ble Minister expressed optimism that the regional dialogue had laid a foundation for short- and long-term solutions to shared climate challenges. He extended his gratitude to ICIMOD, UNEP, and the event organizers for facilitating such an important platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Vote of thanks, Babar Khan, ICIMOD

Babar Khan concluded the event by emphasizing the strong link between climate change and biodiversity, highlighting the multiple crises facing by the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region, including biodiversity loss, air pollution, and climate change. He called for a comprehensive, evidence-based policy approach to address these challenges and protect the livelihoods of the 240 million people living in the mountains and the millions downstream.

He thanked the Hon'ble Ministers of Nepal and Bhutan for their presence, reaffirming their commitment to the sustainability of the region. He also expressed gratitude to ICIMOD's regional member countries, UNEP, the World Bank, WWF India, and all participants for their valuable contributions to the dialogue.

Mr. Babar Khan acknowledged the significant role the HKH region plays in the global economy, contributing approximately \$3.471 trillion annually. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts to protect these resources in the face of accelerating climate change. He concluded by thanking the organizing team, ICIMOD leadership, and the Hotel Himalaya for their support in making the event a success.

Annex I.

Outcome from the group discussion highlighting common challenges, science contribution, spill-over effects, regional implications and short term, medium term and long-term action points.

Commonalities	Climate actions (adaptation/mitigation) and biodiversity conservation
Challenges	• Inadequate fund, complicated process to access the fund and lack of firm commitments • Lack of access to technology for local actions • Lack of synergy between the global conventions including UNFCCC and CBD • Limited sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination to address regional challenges • Lack of consideration of biodiversity in loss and damage •
Contribution of science	• Global reports (IPCC, IPBES) are available but local and national level science base is limited • Lack of knowledge on the complex linkages between biodiversity and climate change • Inadequate documentation on mountains and local good practices and actions and documentation on co-benefits of biodiversity on climate and economy • Lack of real time, long term and demand driven research on climate change and its impacts on biodiversity and data sharing among the HKH countries • Lack of effective communication to policy makers • Inadequate use of advanced technology (AI, Bigdata etc.) • Limited geographical representative research and data for the HKH
Spill-over effects	• Challenges in balancing conservation and development (resilience) • Positive impacts of adaptation and mitigation on biodiversity • Positive impact of afforestation/restoration on biodiversity • Maladaptation and its negative impacts on biodiversity • Increasing out-migration and its impacts • Halting biodiversity can contribute to achieving long term resilience and stronger social-ecological system to face climate change • Improved biodiversity will enhance access to ecosystem services to people • Combined reporting for climate change and biodiversity conventions may encourage synergy
Regional implications and needs	• Climate change and biodiversity loss have regional implications and need a regional approach • Common voice to is needed to highlight regional implications and adaptation need at the global platforms • Mainstreaming biodiversity data and actions in national and regional plans necessary • Regional data sharing platform and an open clearing house mechanism could improve regional cooperation

Short term actions (1-2 years)	• Mapping of existing programmes at national and regional levels • Preparation of common frameworks, methods, protocols and action plans focusing joint research information sharing • Summary reports from all thematic topics published at the global levels Sensitization of people through awareness programs • Forming thematic working groups
Medium term actions (3-5 years)	• Collaborative joint projects on climate change and biodiversity • Periodic regional dialogue and capacity building activities to ensure synergy • Establishment of regional mechanism to monitor transboundary issues • Developed integrated finance for climate change and biodiversity • Regional data sharing and clearing house platforms established • Coordinated voice from the region to global discourses • Climate change and biodiversity linkages inclusion in curriculum of universities
Long term actions (6-10 years)	• Improved synergy among Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Adaptation Plans (NAP), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) at national and local levels • Increased government funding on restoration and nature-based solutions • Upstream-downstream linkages through ecosystem services (PES) • Explore carbon and other sources funding for nature-based solutions • Functional regional cooperation on research, data sharing and decision making • Improved synergy between Multilateral Environmental Agreements including UNFCCC and CBD
Target (e.g. by 2050)	• Net zero (India - 2070, Nepal- 2045) • Decarbonized development • Keep temperature under 1.5 degree centigrade

Annex II: Agenda

Time	Agenda	Resource Person
Day 1 – 25th September		
Registration - Time: 09.00-09.30 PM		Rekha Khatri Thapa, ICIMOD
INAUGURAL SESSION – 09:30-10:30		
Host: Kunzang, Coordinator - Strengthening Global Leadership in Sustainable Mountain Development, ICIMOD		
Rapporteur/ Timekeeper: Rachel Naidu and Pradyumna Rana, ICIMOD		

09:30-09:35	Welcome Remarks	David Thomas Potter , Strategic Group Lead, ICIMOD
09:35-09:45	Remarks	Mozaharul Alam , Regional Coordinator, Climate Action and Head, Secretariat of Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office
09:45-09:55	Opening Remarks	Buddi Poudel , Joint Secretary MoFE, Government of Nepal
09:55-10:00	Vote of thanks	Nakul Chettri , Sr. Biodiversity Specialist, ICIMOD
Group photo and refreshments 10:00 – 10.30		
TECHNICAL SESSION I – Setting the context - 10:30-13:00		
Moderator: Srabani Roy , Strategic Group Lead, ICIMOD		
Rapporteur/ Timekeeper: Sushmita Kunwar and Avash Pandey , ICIMOD		
10:30-11:00	Introduction of Delegates	
11:00-11:30	Presentation Understanding of potential interventions to strengthen science policy interfaces and policy coherence	Balakrishna Pisupati , Head, Environment Policy, UNEP (online)
11:30-11:40	Presentation Climate change – a global perspective (tentative)	Heather Nonhlanhla Maseko-Msyale , Programme Officer, Collective Progress (GST and RSO), UNFCCC - (online)
11:40-11:55	Q&A	
11:55-12:15	Presentation Linking climate change and biodiversity nexus in the HKH	Nakul Chettri , Sr. Biodiversity Specialist, ICIMOD
12:15-12:30	Q&A	
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-14:45	Presentations and discussion National science-policy coherence practices in CBD and UNFCCC (nexus) (6-7 min each)	Country presentations Md Faisal Abedin Khan, Bangladesh Pem Dorji Tamang, Bhutan Wu Ning, China K K Gang and P Ragavan, India
	Guiding questions 1. Brief introduction about priorities on CBD and UNFCCC. 2. How synergy between the CBD and UNFCCC is considered at national and regional levels? 3. What instruments are being used? (MEAs- NBSAP, NDC, NAP, NAPA and others) and Development Plan (National, Sectoral, Spatial and others) 4. What are the gaps and challenges? 5. Where are the opportunities for synergy between the biodiversity and climate agendas?	

	6. Areas where ICIMOD and UNEP can support!	
14:45-15:00	Q&A	
15:00-15:30	Tea break	
TECHNICAL SESSION II – National and regional opportunities - 15:30-17:00		
Moderator: Bhupesh Adhikary, Climate Action Lead, ICIMOD		
Rapporteur/ Timekeeper: Rachel Naidu and Pradyumna Rana, ICIMOD		
15:30-16:45	Panel discussion Current understanding and approaches towards science policy interfaces in support of biodiversity and climate change nexus	Panelists Md. Saifur Rahman, Bangladesh Sonam Tashi, Bhutan Wu Ning, China K K Gang, India Vishaish Uppal, WWF India
	Guiding questions: - <i>1. How is science contributing to policy processes in addressing biodiversity and climate change challenges at national and regional levels? Especially scientific assessments and special reports from IPCC and IPBES.</i> <i>2. What are the options available on climate and biodiversity finance and what countries are already doing to attract such finance, and where are the gaps?</i> <i>3. What can the organization such as ICIMOD and UNEP do to enhance greater contributions from our RMCs to global assessments?</i>	
16:45-17:00	Wrap up from Day 1	Mozaharul Alam, UNEP
Day 2 – 26 th September		
TECHNICAL SESSION III – Preparation of roadmap - 09:15-12:30		
Moderator: Babar Khan, ICIMOD		
Rapporteur/ Timekeeper: Sushmita Kunwar and Avash Pandey, ICIMOD		
09:15-09:20	Recap of the day 1	Bhupesh Adhikary, ICIMOD
09:20-10:30	Group discussion Preparing a road map for science policy interfaces at national and regional levels	Avash Pandey , ICIMOD Group representatives
10:30-10:45	Tea Break	
10:45-11:45	Group Work Sharing of the road map outputs	Avash Pandey , ICIMOD Group representatives
11:45-12:30	Moderated discussion Policy coherence in support of biodiversity and climate nexus	Ruci Mafi Botei, Mozaharul Alam , UNEP
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
TECHNICAL SESSION IV – Way forward and key messages for CBD and UNFCCC CoPs - 13:30-15:30		
Moderator: Brij Rathore, Chief Policy Advisor, ICIMOD		
Rapporteur/ Timekeeper: Rachel Naidu and Pradyumna Rana, ICIMOD		
13:30-13:45	Presentation	Nakul Chettri , ICIMOD

	Priority areas, approaches and key messages for CoP 16	
13:45-14:00	Presentation Priority areas, approaches and key messages for CoP 29	Kunzang, ICIMOD
14:00-15:00	Plenary discussion on key messages	Brij Rathore, ICIMOD
15:00-15:30	Tea Break	
CLOSING SESSION – Closing - 15:30-17:00		
Moderator: David Thomas Potter, Strategic Group Lead, ICIMOD		
Rapporteur: Sushmita Kunwar and Avash Pandey, ICIMOD		
D Chief Guest: Hon’ble Minister Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal		
Special Guest - Hon’ble Minister Lyonpo Gem Tshering, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan		
Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, ICIMO		
15:30-15:50	Summary from the dialogue	Kunzang, ICIMOD
15:50-15:55	Remarks	Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, ICIMOD
15:55-16:25	Remarks from Regional Member Countries	Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, World Bank
16:25-16:30	Remarks from UNEP	Tita Korvenoja , Chief of the Environmental Conventions & Policy Branch, Law Division, UNEP HQ (online)
16:30-16:40	Remarks from special Guest	Honorable Minister, Lyonpo Gem Tshering , Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan
16:40-16:50	Remarks from Chief Guest	Honorable Minister Mr. Ain Bahadur Shahi , Ministry of Forest and Environment Government of Nepal
16:50-17:00	Vote of Thanks	Babar Khan, ICIMOD
17:30 onwards	Reception dinner	Hotel Himalaya

Annex III: List of participants

S.No	Full Name	Country	Job Title	Organisation
1	Md. Faisal Abedin Khan	Bangladesh	Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2	Md. Saifur Rahman	Bangladesh	Deputy Secretary (Forest-2)	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3	Md. Shahadat Hossain	Bangladesh	Senior Assistant Secretary	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

4	H.E. Lyonpo Gem Tshering	Bhutan	Hon'ble Minister	Ministry of Energy & Natural Resources, RGoB
5	Sonam Tashi	Bhutan	Director	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
7	Chimi Dorji	Bhutan		Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
8	Pem Dorji Tamang	Bhutan	Assistant EO	Ministry of Energy & Natural Resources
9	Tshering Dhendup	Bhutan	Deputy Planning Officer	Ministry of Energy & Natural Resources
10	Dorji Wangdi	Bhutan	Principal Forestry Officer	Ministry of Energy & Natural Resources
11	Sonam Yangchen	Bhutan	Dy. Chief Livestock Production Officer	Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
12	Yeshley Lhan	Bhutan	Dy. Chief Councillor	Women and Children Division, Ministry of Education and Skills Development
13	Professor Wu Ning	China	Director General	Chinese Academy of Sciences
14	Vishaish Uppal	India	Director, Governance, Law and Policy	WWF
15	Anupam Joshi	India	Senior Environmental Specialist	World Bank
16	Krishan Kishor Garg	India	Scientist D	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
17	Ragavan Pandisamy	India	Scientist C	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
18	Hon'ble Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri	Nepal	Honorable Minister	Ministry of Forests and Environment
19	Buddi Sagar Poudel	Nepal	Joint Secretary and Chief of Climate Change Management Division	Ministry of Forests and Environment
20	Zona Zaidi	Pakistan	Deputy Conservator Wildlife	Ministry of Climate Change and Environment Coordination
21	Ruci Mafi Botei		Programme Management Officer	UNEP, Nairobi
22	Mozaharul Alam		Regional Coordinator	UNEP, Bangkok
23	Tita Korvenoja		Chief of the Environmental	UNEP, Nairobi

			Conventions & Policy Branch	
24	Heather Nonhlanhla Maseko-Msyale		Programme Officer	UNFCCC, Nairobi
25	Pema Gyamtsho			ICIMOD
26	Brij Rathore			ICIMOD
27	David Thomas Potter			ICIMOD
28	Kunzang			ICIMOD
29	Nakul Chettri			ICIMOD
30	Srabani Roy			ICIMOD
31	Bhupesh Adhikary			ICIMOD
32	Avash Pandey			ICIMOD
33	Babar Khan			ICIMOD
34	Pradyumna Rana			ICIMOD
35	Bhawana Syangden			ICIMOD
36	Sushmita Kunwar			ICIMOD
37	Rekha Thapa			ICIMOD
38	Rachel Naidu			ICIMOD
39	Abinash Maurya			ICIMOD