



Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP)

CONTEXT

Climate change poses a serious threat to India's social and economic development and in particular to the Indian Himalayan Region. The region is diverse, sustaining over 50 million people, but it is also very fragile. Current scientific evidence suggests rapid reduction in the volume of Himalayan glaciers due to climate change. The region is also facing increased frequency and duration of extreme weather events and natural hazards.

At the same time, the understanding of the impacts of climate change in the Indian Himalayan Region is beset with a range of restraining factors such as limited availability of scientific data, data-intensive climate change models, poor targeted monitoring in most sectors, etc.

Against this background, the Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme, a project under the Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has partnered with the Department of Science Technology (DST), Government of India to enhance knowledge about climate change issues in the Indian Himalayan Region and build capacities of research institutions, planners, scientists and other stakeholders to plan and implement climate change adaptation measures.

OBJECTIVES

The project has three broad objectives:

- Strengthening capacities for adaptation planning and implementation in Himachal Pradesh through research, training and capacity building
- Scientific capacity building in the field of Glaciology and related areas
- Facilitating dialogues between Himalayan states and key stakeholders for mainstreaming climate change concerns into development planning



Hazard and Risk Management

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Area: Adaptation

Duration: 2012-2015

Budget: CHF 3,720,000

Implementation Partners:

Department of Science and Technology;
Department of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Himachal Pradesh;
GB Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development;
Consortium of Swiss Universities (Geneva; Bern; Fribourg; Zurich);
Consortium of Indian Universities

Geographic focus:

Indian Himalayan Region

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 52 young Indian researchers including 13 women researchers trained in Glaciology and related areas. Out of these, 27 received advanced training.
- 127 representatives from the government, civil society organizations, academic and research organizations of Himachal Pradesh provided orientation and training in climate change adaptation planning and implementation.
- An integrated framework for vulnerability, risks and hazards assessment developed for Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh.
- Collaborative studies focusing on climate baseline, cryosphere assessment and risks and hazards assessment in Kullu district has resulted in 25 publications published in scientific journals and presented at national and international conferences.
- Organized the first regional meeting between 12 Himalayan states and two National Ministries (MoEF&CC and DST) to identify synergies between the State Action Plans on Climate Change, NMSHE and other National Missions.
- Strengthened understanding of environmental challenges including climate change impacts among 74 young researchers (including 24 women) from 12 Himalayan states.
- Enhanced awareness of 60 journalists on climate change in the Indian Himalayan Region through media workshops.
- Ten policy and thematic papers on climate change related issues in the Indian Himalayan Region developed.



PLANNED RESULTS

- Preparing a State of the Himalaya Report in the context of climate change and with reference to key sectors such as water, forests, agriculture, etc.
- Four more trainings to be conducted as part of the Climate Change Adaptation Planning and Implementation programme in Himachal Pradesh.
- The Department of Science and Technology has approved scaling up of climate change adaptation planning and implementation in the Himalayan states.
- Two more media workshops to enhance awareness about the Indian Himalayan Region planned.
- Four policy briefs and three thematic papers on climate change related issues being developed.
- One national workshop towards end of phase one of IHCAP showcasing the results planned.
- Summary for policymakers on Integrated Risks and Vulnerability Assessment and adaptation planning in the Indian Himalayan Region.



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ABOUT SDC IN INDIA

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been a partner of India for more than fifty years. Since 2011, SDC's programme focuses specifically on the issue of climate change. It is part of SDC's Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC), which actively engages in multilateral climate change policy processes, supports innovative climate change and mitigation projects in targeted partner countries and facilitates the generation and dissemination of knowledge.

Website: www.eda.admin.ch/countries/india/en/home.html / www.ihcap.in
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