

# CEE Himalaya

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## **Views on Potential Areas for Climate Change related interventions in Indian Himalayan Region**

"As specified in the Decision 6/CP.17 of SBSTA, in which Parties and relevant organizations are invited to submit to the secretariat, by 17 September 2012, their views on potential future areas of work of the Nairobi work programme, on behalf of CEE Himalaya (Centre for Environment Education – Himalaya Initiative, India) it is proposed to establish an area of work on "mountains and climate change" in view of the special attention needed by mountain ecosystems to adapt to the effect of climate change.

The climate change in the Himalayan region is visible and its early impacts are realized by the local communities too. The increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and natural hazards in mountain regions is noticeable. These changes might result in multiple impacts on livelihoods water availability and the food security of the mountain community as well as downstream. Nearly 80% of the people living in the mountain region rely on natural resources for their livelihood, making them vulnerable to variability in climate, cropping pattern shifts, uncertain crop productivity, reduced water availability and shifts in tree line.

The Indian Himalaya Region is affected by anthropogenic activities including developmental activities, habitat loss, poaching and fragmentation. Mountain landscapes are associated with widespread poverty and socio-economic vulnerabilities. They are also quite vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change - which can in turn have implications for the development in the region. The issue of melting of Himalayan glaciers are a cause for concern as this has implications for the ecosystem security of the region.

Climate change is already seen to be shaping the impacts of other drivers of overall social and natural resources change. Amongst India's vulnerable sections of the population, mountain people are particularly vulnerable to climate and other drivers of change because the mountain system is already a marginal environment, as a result of its fragility, poor accessibility, and relative marginalisation from the mainstream of human and social development.

Occurrence of natural disasters is increasing as the natural ecosystems are becoming fragile and earth's atmosphere getting influenced more by anthropogenic pressures. Mountains are more prone to both the systematic as well as cumulative global environmental changes compared to low lands. Increasing weather related hazards are impacting the lives and livelihoods of poor and marginalized communities threatening their resilience. Disaster preparedness and management is preferred globally over the disaster response for various reasons including economic as well as saving irreversible loss to life. CEE Himalaya suggests long term education/awareness about climate change drivers, impacts, mitigation measures; capacity building towards adaptation and disaster preparedness to be included as priority areas in Nairobi work Programme of UNFCCC"



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