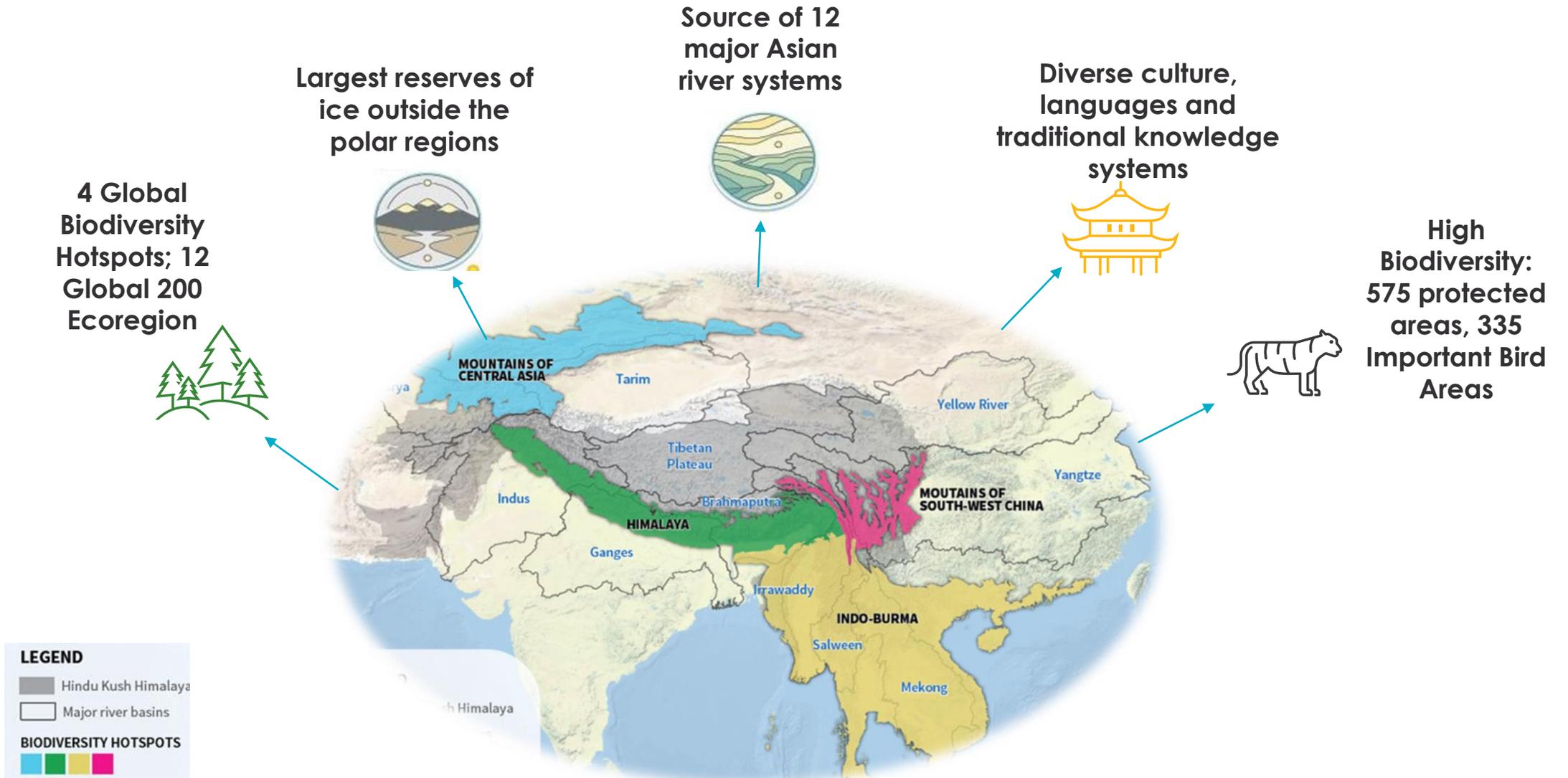


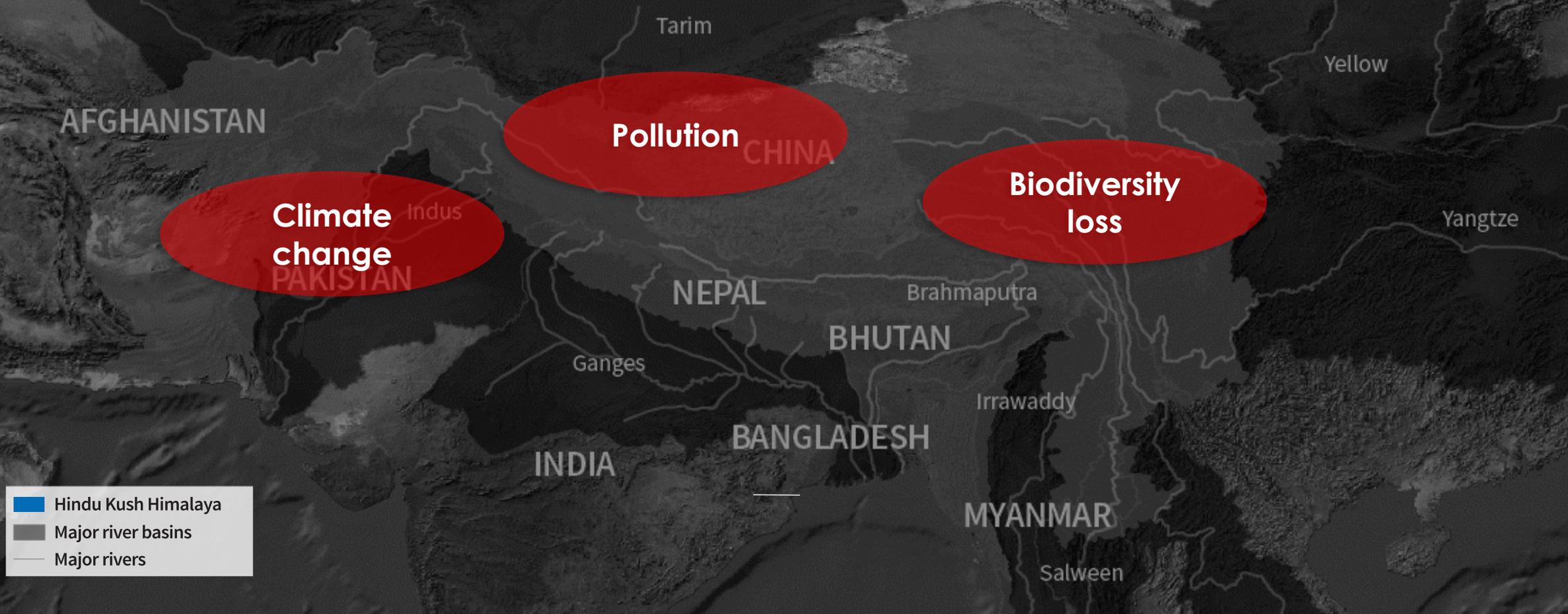
Sunita Chaudhary, PhD
18 June 2024

HKH Crisis: Urgent call for actions

Hindu Kush Himalaya – a global asset

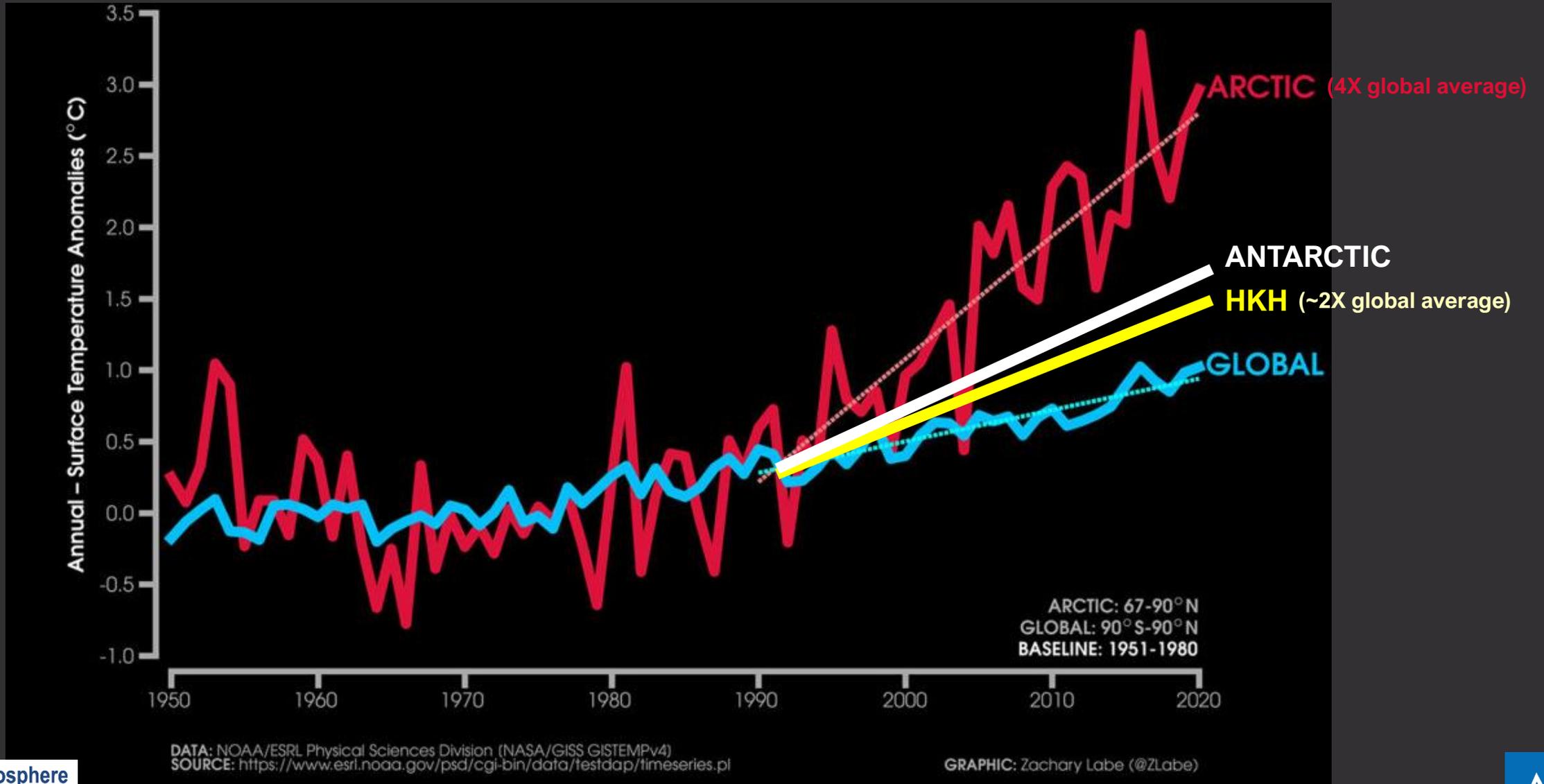


The Hindu Kush Himalaya region – global importance but accelerating crisis



1.5°C IS TOO HOT

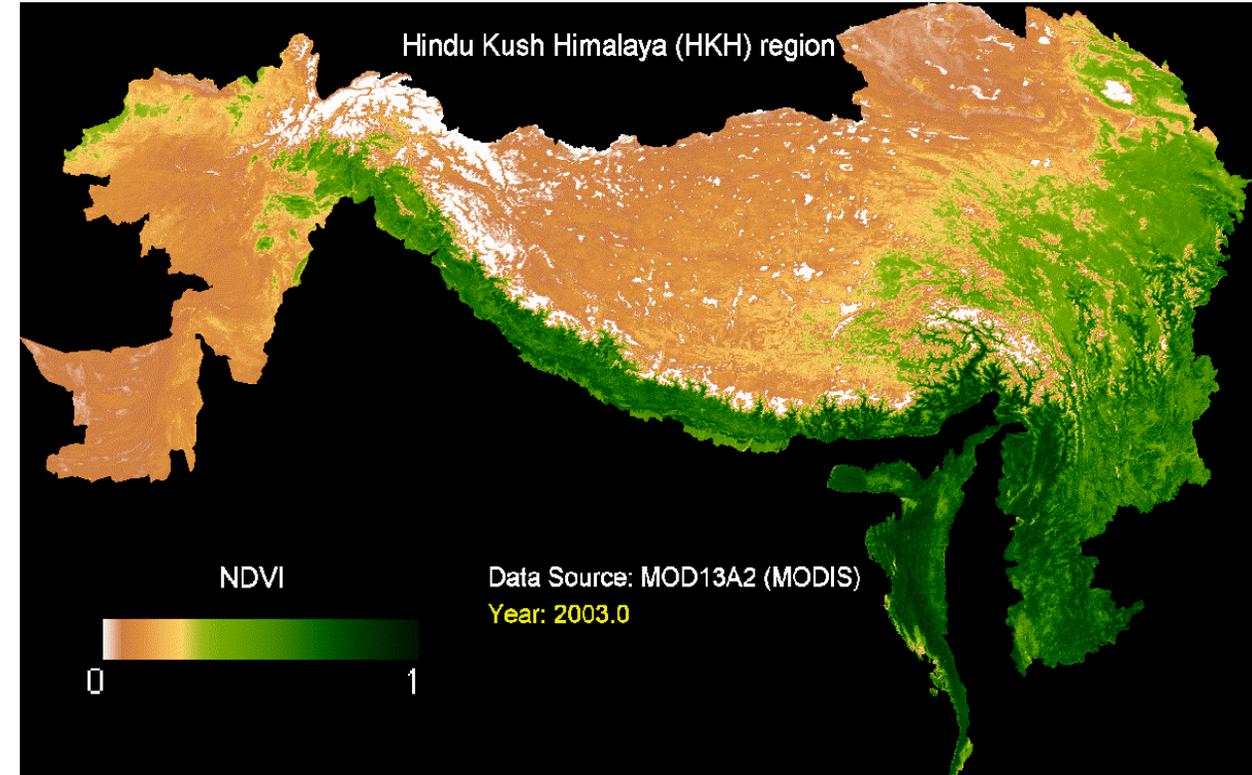
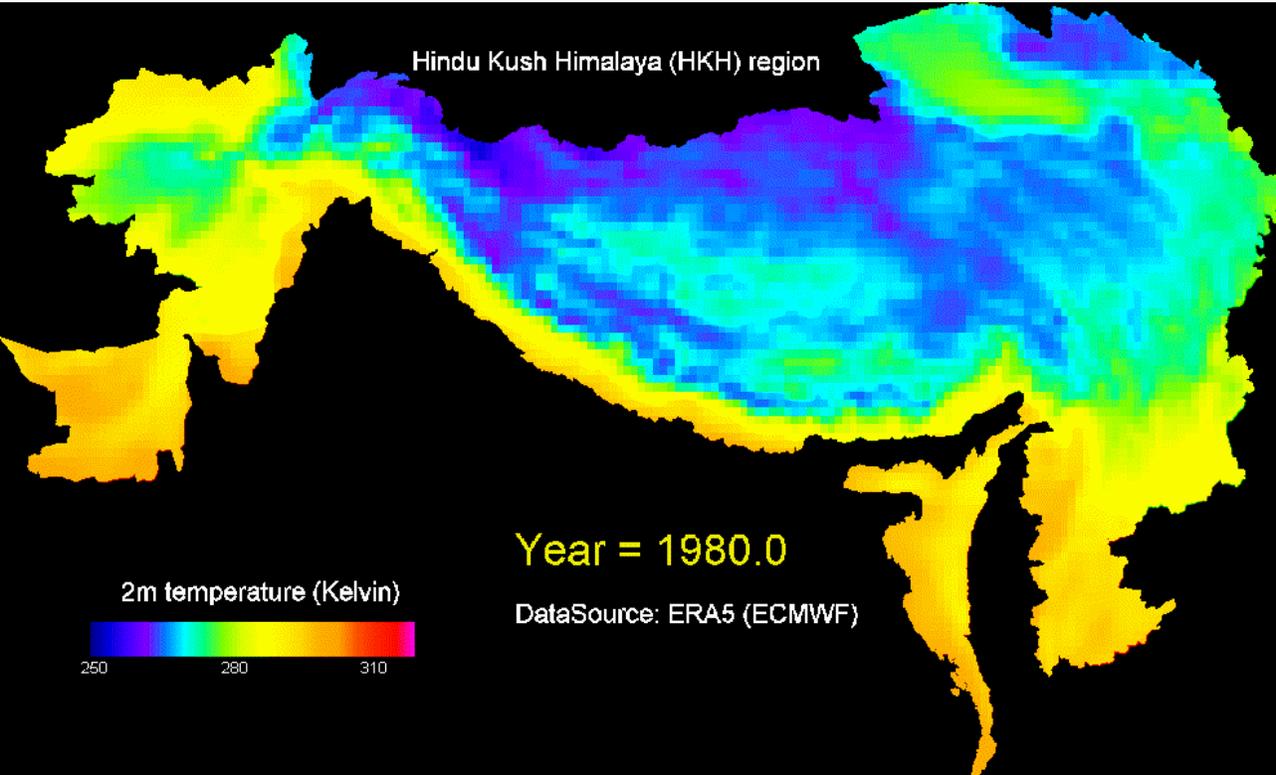
HKH cryosphere is warming 2x faster than the rest of the world





**Plants are under
increased stress
& subject to
higher risks**

Greening HKH



Invasive species

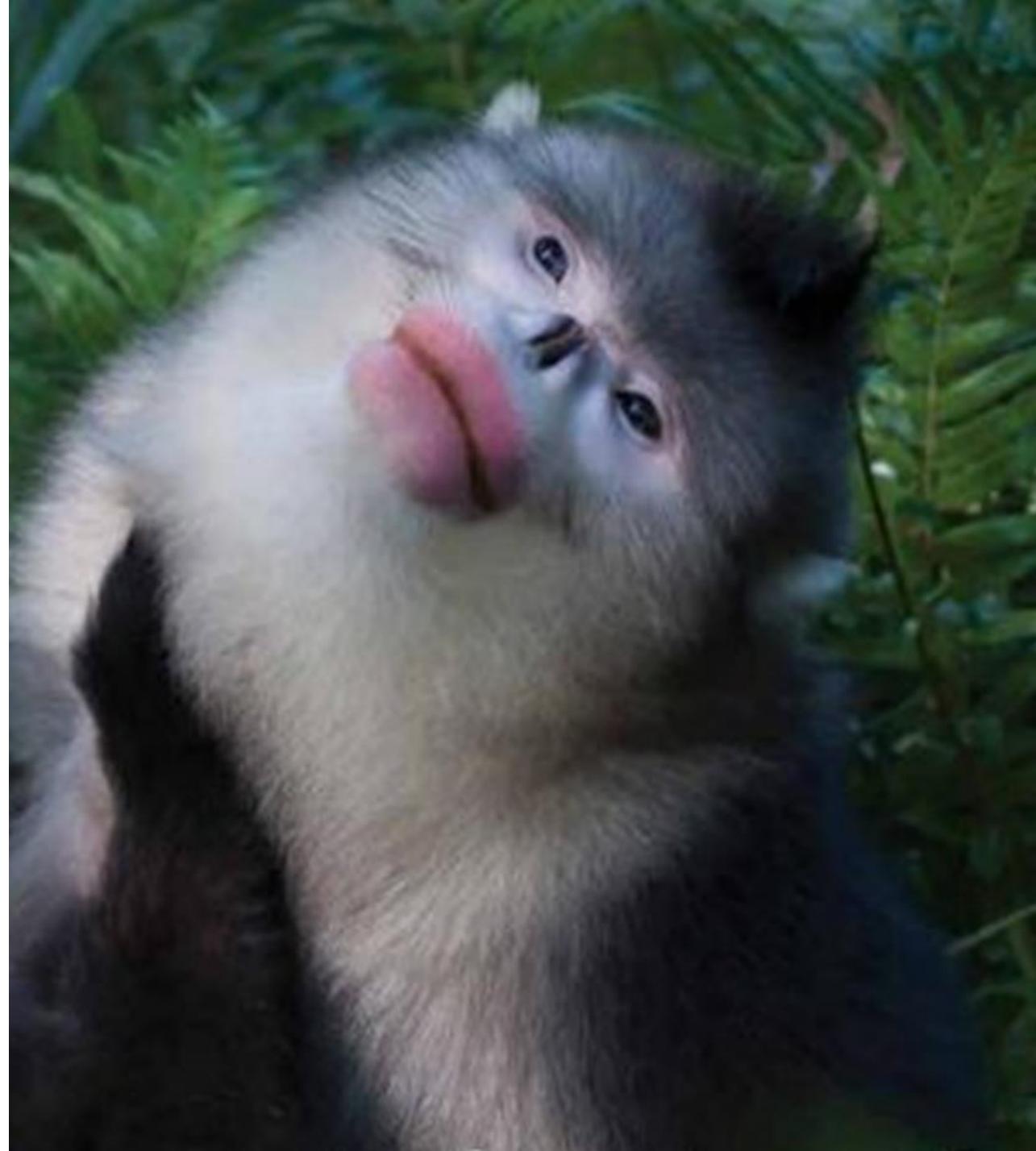
- Aggressively invading and moving upwards
- Severe threats to native and endemic species
 - *Ageratina Adenophora* (3,029m)
 - *Lantana camara* (3,018m)
- Pests and diseases

Pest attack on apple orchard, Mustang Nepal



Fauna

- **Amphibians** are among the mostly impacted and may face likely extinction.
- **Butterfly:**
 - 14 species of **butterflies** have disappeared from the coniferous forests of Murree Hills in Pakistan;
 - Apollo butterfly endemic
- **Mammals:** Population size of the Golden snub-nosed monkey in Tibetan Plateau in a dramatic decline.



Future risks to biodiversity at species and ecosystems levels are worrisome

Habitats shrink

- Asiatic bear – 44%
- Tibetan antelope – 21%
- Wild yak – 20%





Decline in ecosystem services will impact human health, wellbeing, economy, & hence SDGs.

Yaks in the HKH

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-40242700>

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'Tragedy' as 300 yaks starve trapped by snow in India

© 12 May 2019

Three hundred Himalayan yaks starve to death from unusually cold winter weather

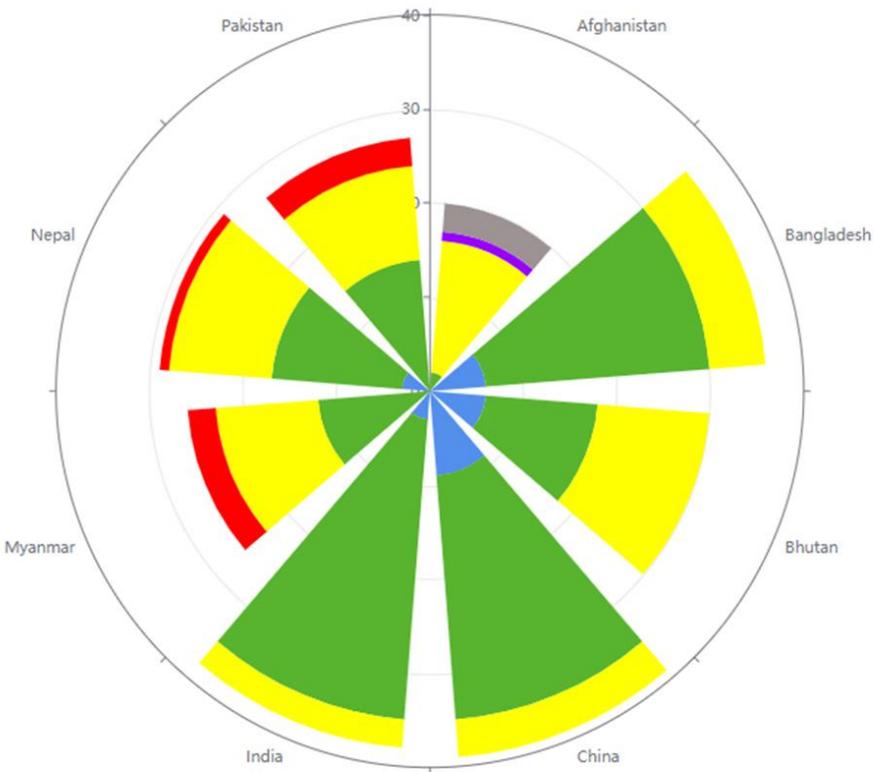
Residents sought help feeding their 1,500-strong yak herd after an unusually-heavy snowfall in the region.



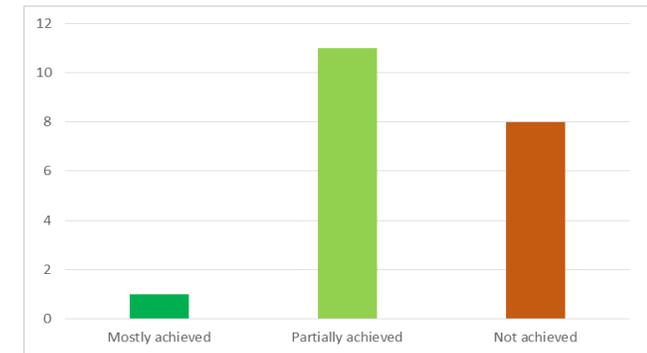
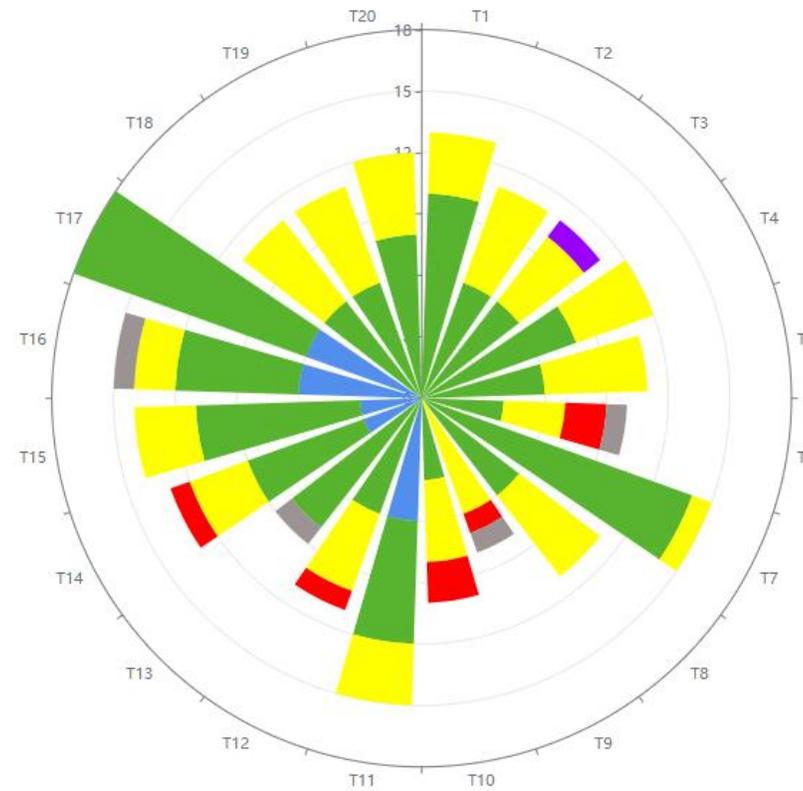
CBD implementation in the HKH: a regional overview

Relatively progressive

Country-wise



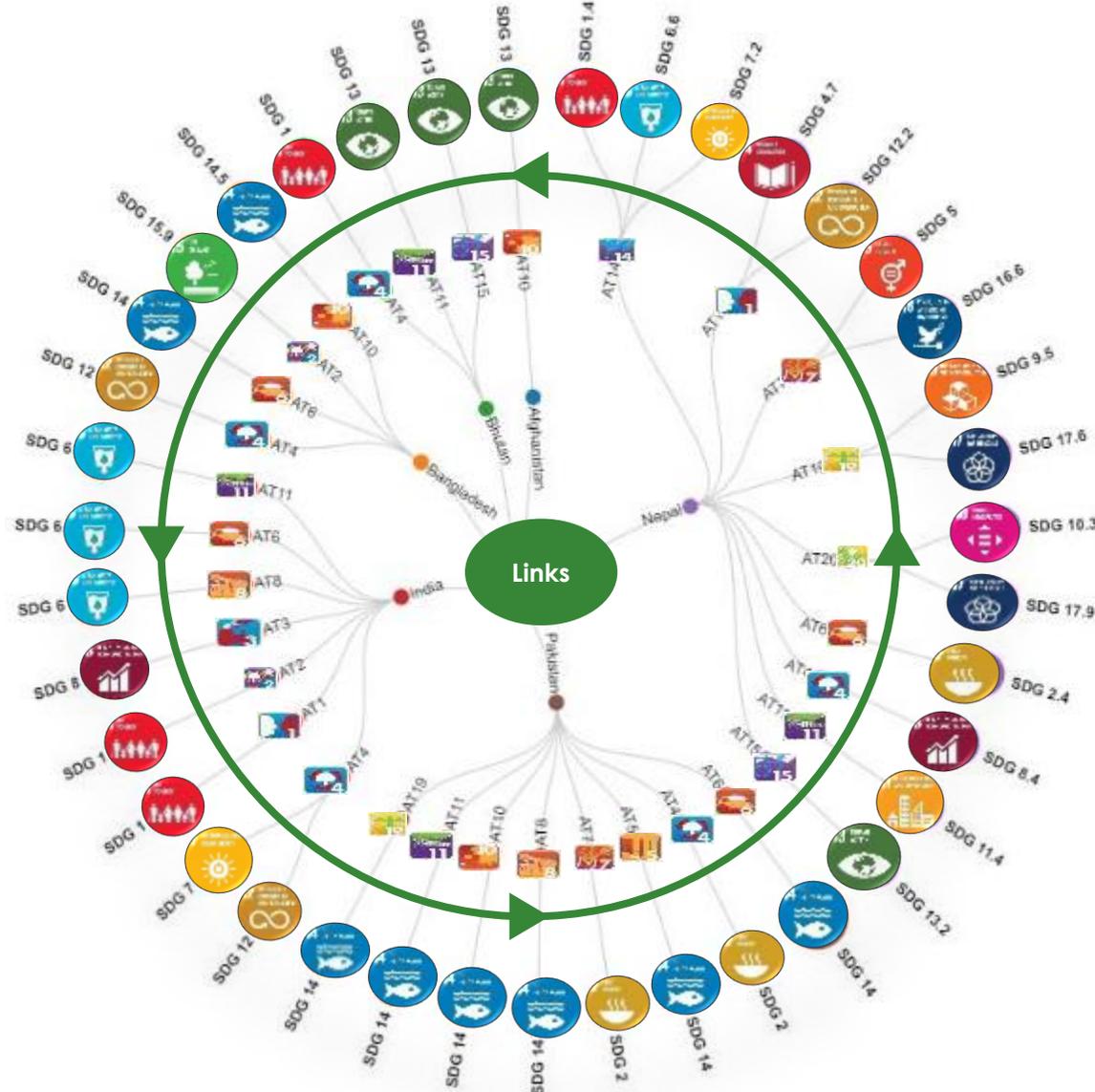
Target wise



■ Exceed
 ■ On track
 ■ Some progress
 ■ No change
 ■ Moving away
 ■ Unknown

Links between Aichi targets and SDGs

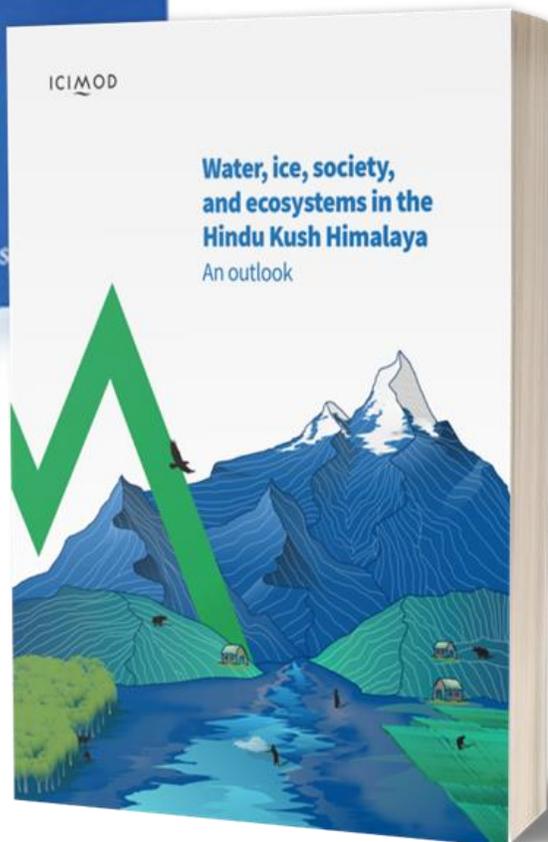
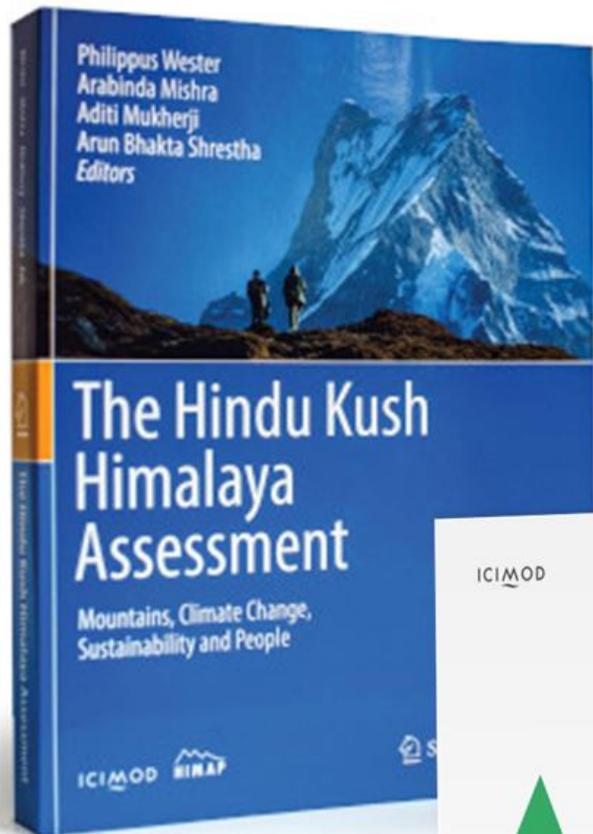
-  No poverty
-  Zero hunger
-  Good health and wellbeing
-  Quality education
-  Gender equality
-  Clean water and sanitation
-  Affordable and clean energy
-  Decent work and economic growth
-  Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
-  Reduced inequalities
-  Sustainable cities and communities
-  Responsible consumption and production
-  Climate action
-  Life below water
-  Life on land
-  Peace, justice and institutions
-  Partnerships for goal



-  T1: awareness raising
-  T2: biodiversity values
-  T3: incentives/harmful subsidies
-  T4: sustainable production/consumption
-  T5: habitat loss
-  T6: sustainable fisheries
-  T7: sustainable agriculture/forestry
-  T8: pollution
-  T9: invasive alien species
-  T10: coral reefs
-  T11: protected areas
-  T12: threatened species
-  T13: genetic diversity
-  T14: ecosystem services
-  T15: ecosystem resilience
-  T16: Nagoya Protocol implementation
-  T17: NBSAP update
-  T18: traditional knowledge
-  T19: knowledge, science, technology
-  T20: financial resources mobilization

Source: 6NRs

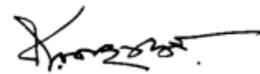




Ministerial Declaration by the HKH countries



AFGHANISTAN
H.E. Anwarul Haq Ahadi
Minister, Ministry of
Agriculture, Irrigation
and Livestock



BANGLADESH
**H.E. Bir Bahadur Ushwe
Sing MP**
Minister, Ministry of
Chittagong Hill Tracts
Affairs



BHUTAN
**H.E. Lyonpo Yeshey
Penjor**
Minister, Ministry of
Agriculture and Forests



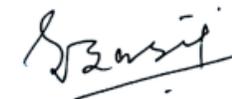
CHINA
H.E. Zhang Yaping
Vice President, Chinese
Academy of Sciences



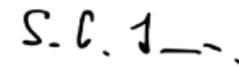
INDIA
H.E. Prakash Javadekar
Union Minister, Ministry
of Environment, Forests
and Climate Change



MYANMAR
H.E. U Ohn Winn
Union Minister, Ministry
of Natural Resources
and Environmental
Conservation



NEPAL
**H.E. Shakti Bahadur
Basnet**
Minister, Ministry of
Forests and Environment



PAKISTAN
H.E. Syed Fakhar Imam
Federal Minister,
Ministry of National Food
Security and Research



To protect the HKH region, we must collaborate, make scaled investments and forge partnerships for transformative change.

It is high time for the global leaders to recognise and act for mountains and its communities.

Global science processes such as IPBES and IPCC could be instrumental to highlight the fate of 22% of mountains areas

UNFCCC, CBD and other MEAs

THANK YOU



#SaveOurSnow

Keep mountains on the global agenda

Sign the declaration

Spread the word

Share stories and photos of
climate impacts on mountains

www.icimod.org/saveoursnow

