



SCALING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR HIMALAYAN RESILIENCE

Exploring Innovations, Finances, Policies, & Technologies

Dates: 30th - 31st January 2026

Venue: Courtyard by Marriott, Shillong

Organised by: Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This conference convenes policymakers, practitioners, academia, key experts, development partners and private sectors to advance Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as core design strategy for climate resilience and sustainable development in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). Hosted by the Government of Meghalaya, and co-organised by the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the conference is expected to develop a shared understanding among stakeholders on growing climate risks, NbS efforts and experiences, the potential that NbS design has to generate multiple benefits, the engagement and contributions of local agencies; and identify regional roadmap for the IHR to move from fragmented small scale efforts to scaling through coordinated policies and finances. The conference builds on Meghalaya's leadership through MegARISE, supported by KFW, and ICIMOD's regional experience from the Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme (HI-REAP) supported by UK-FCDO; and provides a regional platform to connect knowledge, experience, institutions and investments to scale NbS across mountain states, and build climate resilience.

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the mountain NbS agenda by highlighting the urgency and relevance of NbS for climate resilience and sustainable development in the IHR. We will focus on NbS design principle than just the terminology which could be limiting in terms of scaling.
- Define an NbS Framework for IHR identifying priority mountain-specific NbS and enabling conditions for scaling. We will focus on institutions, incentives, governance, technology, and finance to enable wider scale adoption of NbS.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange among experts and innovators from across IHR and from other countries in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH). We will focus on sharing tested approaches, policy frameworks, and investment interests, and technological solutions.

- Initiate a policy and finance roadmap for mainstreaming NbS that generates balanced biodiversity, climate and sustainable development objectives. We will focus at developing the State level roadmap for Meghalaya and a set of recommendations for national and wider state-level adoption in the IHR.

THE THREE TIER OUTCOME

State: Meghalaya	IHR	HKH
Clear, actionable pathways for integrating NbS into Meghalaya's climate resilience, landscape management, and sustainable development strategies, supported by strengthened implementation, coordination, and scale up capacities of the Government of Meghalaya and MBDA	A shared policy and finance-oriented recommendations for scaling NbS across IHR, aligned with climate resilience and sustainable development Clear, actionable pathways for integrating NbS into Meghalaya's climate resilience, landscape management, and sustainable development strategies, supported by strengthened implementation, coordination, and scale up capacities of the Government of Meghalaya and MBDA national priorities and commitments supported by improved inter-state learning and institutional convergence.	Enhanced regional partnership and collaboration on mountain-specific NbS supported by stronger regional knowledge and exchange and shared understanding among government, private sectors, development, and local agencies.

BACKGROUND

The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is among the world's most fragile and climate vulnerable landscapes. Increased rainfall variability, extreme weather patterns, land-use changes driven by economic development interventions and aspirations, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, and rising incidences of floods and landslides directly threaten lives of millions of people who depend on mountain ecosystems for water, food security, and livelihoods. These risks are intensifying under climate change, and require scaled-up integrated landscape-level responses that link ecological integrity with human well-being.

Nature-based Solutions (with its ecologically defined design principles) have emerged globally as a powerful umbrella framework to address our varied societal challenges while simultaneously delivering benefits for ecosystems and biodiversity, mountain livelihoods and economies, and climate resilience. Across, IHR and HKH, Across the IHR, several state governments, civil society networks, and development agencies are piloting and institutionalizing NbS approaches such as springshed management, watershed and landscape restoration, Silvi-agro-pastoral management, rangeland management for multiple benefits; regenerative ecological agriculture, and community-based conservation. However, these efforts remain largely project-based or small-scaled innovations by Indigenous People and local environmental stewards; uneven across states, and weakly connected to policy, financing systems, and cross-sectoral planning.

Meghalaya offers a compelling example of how NbS can be operationalised at scale. The Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) represents a pioneering institutional innovation for integrated landscape and natural resource management. Through flagship programmes such as MegARISE, MBDA is implementing a comprehensive portfolio of NbS interventions, including afforestation, soil and water conservation, springshed revival, SALT models, agroforestry, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), sustainable livelihoods, participatory finance, and GIS-based natural resource management systems.

At the Hindu Kush Himalaya level, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as a regional knowledge centre for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH), has advanced NbS as a green, inclusive and climate resilient solutions, promoting community-owned, government-led, science-oriented and partnership-driven solutions to address water, food, livelihoods insecurities, high altitude ecosystems management and disaster risk reduction. Through its Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme (HI REAP), it is focussing on scaling of NbS through regional cooperation and investment models.

Building on this shared expertise and mandate of MBDA and ICIMOD, the regional conference aims to consolidate mountain-specific NbS experiences, draw lessons from other Himalayan Countries who share challenges and risks, build a shared understanding to elevate the NbS discourse in the Indian Himalayan Region to a shared regional agenda- linking evidence, innovation, policy, and finance. The intention is to trigger policy pathway for mainstreaming NbS across sectors and states, and mobilise finance for scaling from sources going beyond government support.

AGENDA LOGIC

DAY 1

- Shared understanding of NbS design
- Youth circle: NbS models for mountains
- High-level policy roundtable
- Unpacking enablers for NbS

DAY 2

- Mobilising finances
- Community voices
- NE Himalayan regional hub
- Exploring recommendations

For more Information visit: <https://megarise.in/>

