



# India: Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP)

## Adaptation: Manage the unavoidable

### Global Programme on Climate Change India July 2011 – December 2017

Current scientific evidence suggests uncertainty in the Himalayan ecosystem as result of physical manifestation of climate change impacts and shifts in ecosystems and vulnerability due to cascading effects and change in composition and distribution of natural resources – water, forest and agro-biodiversity. Indian Himalayan region is also facing increased frequency and duration of extreme weather events and natural hazards. With physical changes in the glaciers, there is a potential for increase in volumes and timing of river flows, which can have multiple impacts on the downstream population, their livelihoods and long-term food security of the country. Rising human population and development of large infrastructure projects are increasing pressure on forest resources. The programme builds on three pillars – enhancing scientific and knowledge in context of Himalayan ecosystem through collaboration between Indian and Swiss scientific institutions; adapting to change by communities by following an ecosystem based adaptation approach; and linking science and community level action to policy collateral.

**Specific objective:** The resilience of vulnerable communities in the Himalayas are strengthened and knowledge and capacities of research institutions, communities and decision-makers are connected and enhanced

#### Expected outcomes of IHCAP:

1. Scientists, policy makers and communities have enhanced capacities and a better understanding of climate change dynamics and scenarios on snow, glaciers and water flows for formulating adaptation policy and practice.
2. Local communities and decision makers understand climate change vulnerabilities and impacts and develop and apply suitable adaptation measures.
3. Key sectoral policies of the Himalayan States are coordinated, strengthened and adaptation policies are mainstreamed for improved action.

**Opening Phase** : 01.07.2011 – 31.12.2011

**Main Phase** : 01.01.2012 – 31.12.2017

**Main Implementing Partners in the Opening Phase** : Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India  
Department of Science and Technology, Government of India

Centre for Environment Education (CEE)  
IUCN India Office  
GB Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment & Development  
UNDP India  
Independent Consultant: Mr Joydeep Gupta