

जिगमेत टक्पा  
JIGMET TAKPA



संयुक्त सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Joint Secretary  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

D.O. No. 34/01/2020-CS-I

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

**Subject: Invitation for virtual event "Conserving Mountain Biodiversity: Addressing Climate Change, Disaster risk reduction and Nature- based solutions".**

Dear Madam/Sir,

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) invites you to be a part of deliberations on "Conserving Mountain Biodiversity: Addressing Climate Change, Disaster risk reduction and Nature- based solutions" on the occasion of 17th International Mountain Day to be celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 4:00-5:30 PM.

International Mountain Day, declared by United Nations in 2002, was celebrated for the first time in 2003, highlighting the significance of mountains for sustaining ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation. The increasing intensity and frequency of disaster related events have become serious concerns. The day resonates the impact mountains have and promote natural stability, climate regulation, harnessing multitude of biodiversity and human communities all around the world. These jewels of nature due to advancement of urbanization and climate change impacts are withering away with time and needs to be preserved and conserved for the future. Mountain ecosystems have a vital role in meeting objectives and commitments under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD and other international conventions.

To help spread the importance of mountain and global theme of the Mountain Day: "Mountain Biodiversity", we would like you to be a part of this virtual event. The background note, agenda and virtual meeting link shall be shared separately.

Your confirmation for the virtual event on the occasion of International Mountain Day is requested to be forwarded to [shard.sapra@nic.in](mailto:shard.sapra@nic.in) (+91-11-24695331) and [raeesha.rahman@iucn.org](mailto:raeesha.rahman@iucn.org) (+91-8638493945).

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Jigmet Takpa)

To,

As per list attached.



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**Conserving Mountain Biodiversity:  
*Addressing Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction through Nature Based Solutions***

International Mountain Day  
11 Dec 2020  
16.00- 17.30 hrs (4- 5.30 PM)  
Online Platform: Cisco Webex

**Concept Note**

International Mountain Day is celebrated every year on 11 December. The increasing attention to the importance of mountains led the UN to declare to 2002 the UN International Year of Mountains. The first international day was celebrated for the first time the following year, 2003. Its roots date back to 1992, when the document “Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development” (called Chapter 13), was adopted as part of the action plan Agenda 21 of the Conference on Environment and Development. **Mountain biodiversity is the theme of International Mountain Day, 2020.**

Mountains are home to 15% of the world’s population and host about half of the world's biodiversity hotspots. They provide freshwater for everyday life to half of humanity. Their conservation is a key factor for sustainable development and is recognized as a global priority. Sustainable Development Goal 15, target four, is dedicated to the conservation of mountain’s biodiversity in consideration of its global relevance.

Unfortunately, mountains are under threat from climate change and overexploitation. As the global climate continues to warm, mountain people — some of the world’s poorest — face even greater struggle to survive. The rising temperatures also mean that mountain glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates, affecting freshwater supplies downstream for millions of people.

India has diverse mountain ecosystems ranging from Vindhyas, Aravallis, Eastern and Western Ghats, Nilgiris, and the mighty Himalaya, a highly complex and diversified mountain system both in terms of biological and physical attributes, is considered a life support system for millions of people in uplands and much more in lowland areas of India. It acts as climate regulator for much of Asia and is globally recognized for its sacred, spiritual and philosophical values.

While the richness and uniqueness of bio-physical and socio-cultural diversity and rich heritage of Indigenous Knowledge and Practices (IKP) have earned the Himalaya a global recognition, this system being young and geotectonically active remains inherently unstable, fragile, and prone to natural disasters. Also, the vulnerability of this mountain chain towards human-induced disturbances is now well established.

Therefore, being special and change sensitive system, and more importantly due to its life support values, the Himalaya deserves a special attention. It requires conservation and development interventions in sustainable manner, which do not ignore the imperatives of mountain specificities. This, therefore, calls for evolving new paradigms of long-term conservation and sustainable development that help restoring intricate balance between economic interests and ecological imperatives in the region in particular and country in general.

Recognizing the above and realizing that the Himalaya is important for Ecological Security of the country, the Government of India attaches highest priority to protect unique but highly fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change , Government of India, is organising an online(virtual ) event in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi, to highlight the role Himalayas and its biodiversity plays in addressing climate change impacts and disaster risk reduction through nature-based solutions. IUCN has been working in the Indian Himalayan region since 2007 and has implemented several projects including the project ‘Coping with Uncertainties’ under National Mission for Himalayan Studies. Currently, IUCN is undertaking the ‘Himalayas for Future’ initiative with support from Tata Group. National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, and Government of India is a premier institute and a Statutory Body (under Disaster Management Act 2005) for training, research, documentation, awareness and human resources and capacity development in the field of disaster mitigation and management in India and in the region. NIDM has been giving significant emphasis on climate change adaptation in its training, research and policy planning related activities

The event will enhance our understanding of the challenges and opportunities, in the face of the pandemic and climate change issues and benefit from expert inputs required for realizing the goal of resilient Himalaya. Hon’ble Minister Environment, Forest and Climate Change is likely to inaugurate the virtual event. Speakers/ Panellists will be from Government, International organizations, multilateral/ bilateral donor agencies and academics.