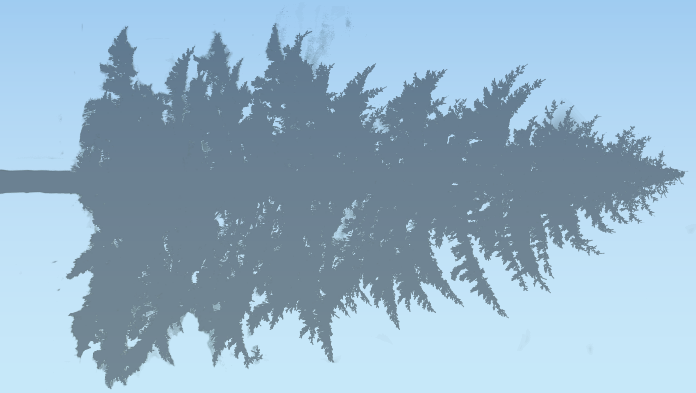
Mission Document

National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)



Mission Document

National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)

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National Mission on
Himalayan Studies (NMHS)

सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Environment, Forest
and Climate Change
Government of India

From the Minister's Desk

I feel proud in introducing the document on 'National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)', which will guide effective implementation of the Mission. Through this Mission, country pays the well deserved attention to the unique and mighty Himalaya. The Government of India has come-up with this Mission in recognition with the fact that the Himalayan Ecosystem is important for ecological security of India. In spite that the Himalaya is special, the diversity and the complexity and the inherent fragility of this massive mountain chain has remained less understood thereby leading to difficulties in holistic planning and execution for environmental conservation and sustainable development in the region.

The Mission, therefore, targets evolving new paradigms of long-term conservation and sustainable development that ultimately help improve quality of life and maintain ecosystem health of the region. This would greatly contribute for ensuring ecological security to the country. In line with the National Environment Policy, 2006 of the Government of India, the strategy of this Mission is to focus on enhancing livelihoods of communities from locally available natural resources to enhance their participation in protection of the resources.

While supporting demand driven research and technological innovations in diverse thrust areas, NMHS will focus on institutional strengthening and capacity building. It is envisioned that successful implementation of this Mission will help generating multi-disciplinary empirical evidences and documenting best practices, which lead to formulation of coordinated policies and ensures enabling environment for innovations and multi-stakeholders engagement in protection of the Himalaya and socio-economic development of local communities.

I am confident, with adequate engagement of diverse stakeholders, this Mission will achieve a grand success.

Prakash Javadekar
Minister of State (Independent Charge)
Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India

सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Environment, Forest
and Climate Change
Government of India

Foreword

Mountains are globally recognized as hotspots for biodiversity, and providers of goods and services to nearly half of the world's human population. The mighty Himalaya, among global mountains, retains a special position for its overwhelming diversity, unique culture and tradition, and value systems. The services emanating from this mountain sustain life much beyond its physical boundaries.

Notwithstanding these values, the Himalayan region till recently has not received adequate attention in the national agenda for sustainable development. The region has suffered from certain factors, such as, low investment per unit of area, isolated developmental efforts lacking integrated approach, poorly developed extension programmes customized to local conditions, limited long-term studies depicting changes in economy and ecology in the region, etc. All this calls for thinking a fresh.

The National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) is, therefore, a timely intervention of Government of India, which will help in better understanding of various components and their interactions. Among others, the Mission envisages building partnership and capacity of organizations that are working on Himalayan issues. This will lead to development of state-of-the art infrastructure and capacities within the region to promote quality researches/studies. The interventions, based on these studies, are expected to address the issues of environment friendly development in the region.

This mission also follows a convergence route and strongly targets strengthening of partnerships across stakeholder constituencies. Towards bringing in a synergistic effect of relevant schemes, NMHS aims to complement and supplement the efforts of other missions like the National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystems (NMSHE).

The Ministry will ensure effective implementation of this Mission so that the difference is seen.

Ashok Lavasa
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Environment, Forest
and Climate Change
Government of India

Preface

The massive and beautiful Himalaya is crown of India, which needs to be protected in a way to keep it always glittering. However, the state of the health of this mountain is not that well. Over the years, largely because of inadequate information base, specificities, complexities and more importantly the sensitivity of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems in this region could not be appreciated, to the extent desired, while devising developmental plans and conservation strategies. As a result, the region has remained far behind of achieving goals of development and environmental conservation. The Himalayan States suffer from locational disadvantage that includes, among others, difficult terrain, inhospitable weather conditions, poor connectivity, and lack of basic amenities, etc. While people at large appear unhappy with the pace and quality of development, communities in far-flung areas are eager to leave their hamlets in search of livelihoods in cities. Lack of developmental planning and faulty execution is further adding to the difficulties by way of increased incidences of landslides, floods, road accidents, and unregulated growth of hill towns, etc.

Therefore, through the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS), Government of India attaches highest priority to the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) and targets to build a strong information base towards addressing the key issues of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The aim is to support innovative studies and related knowledge interventions that lead to demonstrate up-scalable solutions to the problems under diverse thematic areas. Further, a strong focus of the mission is on (i) building a body of scientific and traditional knowledge, and (ii) establishing a network of various practitioners engaged in finding solutions to problems in the region. The approach of implementation is all inclusive wherein differential needs the Himalayan States get priority attention through support of scientifically generated evidences and easily accessible knowledge products to address issues of development. Further focus on the innovative livelihoods, as envisaged in the mission, will be contributing for improving the quality of life of people in the region. Most importantly, the strong evidence based inputs will help bringing-in mountain perspective in national policies and programmes.

Hem Pande
Special Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Executive Summary

1. The Himalaya, a highly complex and diversified mountain system both in terms of physical and biological 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS), a Central Sector Grant-in-aid Scheme, therefore, targets to provide much needed focus, through holistic understanding of system's components and their linkages, in addressing the key issues relating to conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The ultimate goal is to improve quality of life and maintain ecosystem health of the region to ensure long-term ecological security to the country.
5. As the Mission specifically targets the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), the jurisdiction of NMHS includes 10 Himalayan states fully (i.e., Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand) and two states partially (i.e., hill districts of Assam and West Bengal).
6. With a broad Vision to support the sustenance and enhancement of the ecological, natural, cultural, and socio-economic capital assets and values of the IHR, the mission is to launch and support innovative studies and related knowledge interventions. The NMHS envisages to work towards a set of linked and complementary goals to: (i) Foster conservation and sustainable management of natural resources; (ii) Enhance supplementary and/or alternative livelihoods and overall economic well-being of the region; (iii) Control and prevent pollution in the region; (iv) Foster increased/augmented human and institutional capacities and the knowledge and policy environment in the region; and (v) Strengthen, greening, and fostering development of climate-resilient core infrastructure and basic services assets.
7. The Mission strategy is to focus on enhancing livelihoods of local communities, in line with the National Environment Policy, 2006 of the Government, with a basic premise that the most secured and effective basis for conservation is to ensure that people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihoods from the act of conservation than from the degradation of the resources. The NMHS has identified a list of 25 indicative thematic areas under 6 broad thematic thrusts: (i) Sustainable management of land and water resources; (ii) Environmental assessment and management; (iii) Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;(iv) Sustainable infrastructure and energy security; (v) Supplementary livelihood options; and (vi) Awareness and capacity building.

8. While targeting the aforementioned goals and thematic thrusts, the Mission specifically focuses on achieving the objectives of: (a) building a body of scientific and traditional knowledge on the aforesaid indicative thematic areas; (b) building a network of practitioners engaged in working solutions to problems within the thematic areas; (c) demonstrating workable/implementable/replicable solutions to the problems identified in the respectivethematic areas.

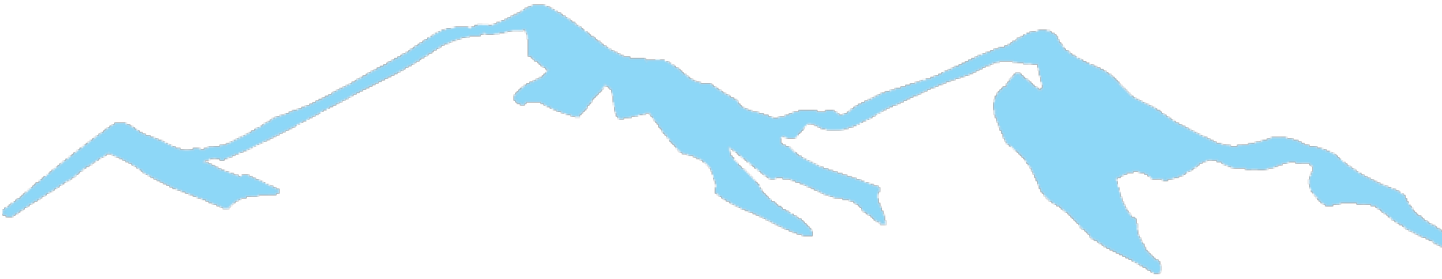
9. The core philosophy is to enhance the focus and funds for supporting demand-driven research and technological innovations along with institutional strengthening and capacity building. Overall attempt is to work towards coordinated policies, duly informed decisions based on empirical evidences and best practices, thereby providing enabling environment for innovations and multi-stakeholders engagement in protection of Himalayan ecosystems and socio-economic development of the local communities.

10. Towards achieving the objectives, the Scheme follows a systematic approach by way of supporting Studies, Pilots and Interventions under three categories: (a) *Small Grants* (up to Rs 50 lakhs): targeted action-oriented research studies for solving location-specific problems; (b) *Medium Grants* (up to Rs 500 lakhs): pilots for standalone projects, potentially up-scalable projects and those currently lacking in extension outreach; (c) *Large Grants* (over Rs 500 lakhs): implementation of doable, achievable and feasible ideas at a scale and size commensurable with the budget of the Scheme. While clear-cut guidelines are in place for developing projects under these categories, the Mission lays greater emphasis and preference to innovative and multi-disciplinary projects that adopt landscape based approach and may have trans-boundary/ inter-state linkages. It is further underlined that the pilots/projects having clear policy dimensions, demonstration on ground and knowledge outcomes would be given higher weightage.

11. The Scheme, in addition, also envisages facilitating knowledge building in IHR Institutions by way of: (i) creating various fellowship and academic (national) exchange programmes, (ii) upgrading infrastructure of key academic and research institutions, (iii) promoting education, awareness and outreach programmes and events, (iv) developing an online system for monitoring and dissemination of results of the studies, (v) creating a central capacity building/training unit or establishing Centre for Himalayan studies; (vi) supporting Masters Programmes in Himalayan Universities; (vii) organizing seminar, conferences, symposia, colloquium, etc., (viii) promoting international, national and regional conferences, workshops, etc.

12. The Scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), and it will have its nodal and serving hub with G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIHED) with a fully dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) with a Database Management Sector for the NMHS. To guide the overall implementation, a Steering Committee, Chaired by the Secretary MoEF&CC, is in place. Also, a Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) with wide base representation of Stakeholder Groups and under the Chair of Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC, has been constituted. Recognizing that the Indian Himalayan states will have differential needs and priorities to be addressed through in-depth studies, representation of all Himalayan States has been ensured in STAG so as to provide equal opportunity to such needs/priorities of states to be covered under the NMHS. While periodically reviewing the progress of studies, the STAG will advise mid-term corrections, if any, and evaluate and recommend the Final Technical Report (FTR) for approval of the steering committee. The overall implementation of National Mission on Himalayan Studies would be monitored periodically, at least twice in a year, by the Steering Committee.

13. The NMHS is a new Central Sector (CS) Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, wherein a provision of Rs. 67.10 crores and 50 crores under Major head '3435' has been made in the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively. It is proposed to carry forward the initiative to the next Five Year Plan with standard incremental increase of 10-15% every year.



PART I

NATIONAL MISSION ON HIMALAYAN STUDIES (NMHS)

1
INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Context

The majestic Himalaya, a life-support system for millions of people in uplands and much more in lowland areas of the country, acts as climate regulator for much of Asia. The ecosystem services emanating from this massive and diversified mountain chain contribute significantly for sustenance of most of the Indian sub-continent. All this, accompanied by the richness and uniqueness of bio-physical and socio-cultural diversity, has earned a global recognition to the region. However, this system being complex and young, the region remains geotectonically active and inherently unstable, fragile, and prone to natural disasters, such as earthquakes, landslides, and flash floods, which are being exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Incidences such as in Leh in 2010, Kedarnath in 2013, Kashmir in September 2014, and Nepal and neighbouring parts of India in April 2015 are some recent examples of such disasters.

Given the complexity accompanied by inherent fragility and intense vulnerability, the Himalayan ecosystem requires a different approach for conservation and development interventions. It has now been well recognized that the interventions that ignore the imperatives of mountain specificities would invariably result in resource misuse and accelerated environmental degradation. This calls for evolving new paradigms of long-term conservation and sustainable development, which helps restoring intricate balance between economic interests and ecological imperatives in the region in particular and country in general.

However, considering various factors which would be important while thinking of new paradigms, following observations on prevailing conditions need to be mentioned w.r.t. IHR: (i) Low investment per unit of area, (ii) Introduction of a technology (and after-effects) without assessing local needs and priorities, (iii) Isolated developmental efforts and absence of integrated management of natural resources, (iv) Absence of synergies and linkages to maximize the benefits of several ongoing schemes and programmes of the Government, (v) Limited extension education programmes appropriate to local needs, (vi) Inadequate long-term studies to support ecological imperatives and economical interests in the region.

Recognizing the above and realizing that the Himalaya is important for Ecological Security of the country, the Government of India attaches the highest priority to protect unique but highly fragile Himalayan ecosystem. The National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS), a Central Sector (CS) Grant-in-Aid Scheme, therefore, targets to provide much needed focus, through holistic understanding of system's components and their linkages, in addressing the key issues relating to conservation and sustainable management of natural resources so as to improve quality of life and maintain ecosystem health in the region. The NMHS is expected to support the 13 monitorable targets towards environment, forests, wildlife and climate change under the Twelfth Plan national priorities, specifically in the context of the IHR. It is envisioned that the NMHS will contribute for achieving the Twelfth Plan goals covering Environment; Forests and Livelihood; Wildlife, Ecotourism and Animal Welfare; and Ecosystem and Biodiversity. Further, the Scheme will help to understand and improve the implementation and effectiveness of various national laws and policies in IHR. In other words, as the Scheme unfolds and robust and integrated information/

datasets begin to flow in, the Government will be in a better position to respond to the need for developing laws and policies focused on the specific issues of the region. Furthermore, the NMHS will also serve to complement and supplement the outcomes of National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) anchored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

1.2. The Himalaya – A Special Candidate

The Himalaya holds a special significance in terms of ecological security of India. This majestic mountain has remained an area of attraction for all in the world on account of its diversity, dynamism and complexity. The spiritual, philosophical, socio-cultural and geo-political value dimensions as well as economic and ecological considerations of the Himalaya are well appreciated. The region has been recognized amongst the 34 global biodiversity hotspots – the Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot (HBH). Broadly, the region also represents parts of the Indo-Burma Hotspot, the Mountains of South-West China Hotspot, and the Mountains of Central Asia Hotspot.

The Himalaya is well recognized for its unique flora and fauna, reflected in high level of endemism, and hosts various critical eco-regions of global importance. The geographical isolation and varied eco-climatic conditions of this region have supported a large number of ethnic and unique socio-cultural groups with distinct traditional knowledge and practices of resource use and conservation. The region has a discrete geographic-cum-ecological entity. It produces a distinctive climate of its own and influences the climate of much of Asia. However, the variations in topographical features along three-dimensional framework (i.e., latitudinal: South-North; longitudinal: East-West; altitudinal: Low-High) have resulted in enormous diversity in respect of climate and habitats within the region.

1.2.1. The Indian Himalayan Region – The target area

With geographical coverage of over 0.53 million km^2 area, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) constitutes nearly 17% of country's geographical area and contributes greatly to richness and representativeness of its biodiversity components at all levels (i.e., genes, species and ecosystems). Although the region represents only about 4% of total human population of the country, it exhibits great diversity of ethnic groups (e.g., 171 out of a total 573 reported scheduled tribes in India), often inhabiting remote and inhospitable terrains. The diversity of biophysical features in IHR is adequately represented through representation of 3 bio-geographical zones and 9 bio-geographic provinces (Table 1.1.).

Table 1.1: Diversity of biophysical features in IHR

Bio-geographic Zones	Bio-geographic Provinces	% of geographical area of India	Major Biome Representation
Trans Himalaya	1A: Ladakh Mountains	3.3	Tundra
	1B: Tibetan Plateau	2.3	Alpine
	1 C: Sikkim Trans Himalaya	<0.1	Alpine, Tundra
The Himalaya	2A: North west Himalaya	2.1	Alpine, Temperate, Sub Tropical
	2B: West Himalaya	1.6	-do-
	2C: Central Himalaya	0.2	-do-
	2D: East Himalaya	2.5	-do-
Northeast India	9A: Brahamputra Valley	2.0	Tropical Evergreen Forest, Very Moist Sal Forest, Tropical Grass Lands

	9B: Northeast Hills	3.2	Tropical evergreen, Tropical Moist Deciduous, Subtropical, Montane Temperate, Wetlands
Source: Rodgers and Panwar, 1988; Rodgers et al., 2000 (Wildlife Institute of India).			

The jurisdiction of the Scheme thus extends across IHR, which includes 10 Himalayan states fully (*viz.*, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand) and two states partially (*viz.*, hill districts of Assam and West Bengal) (Fig. 1.1).

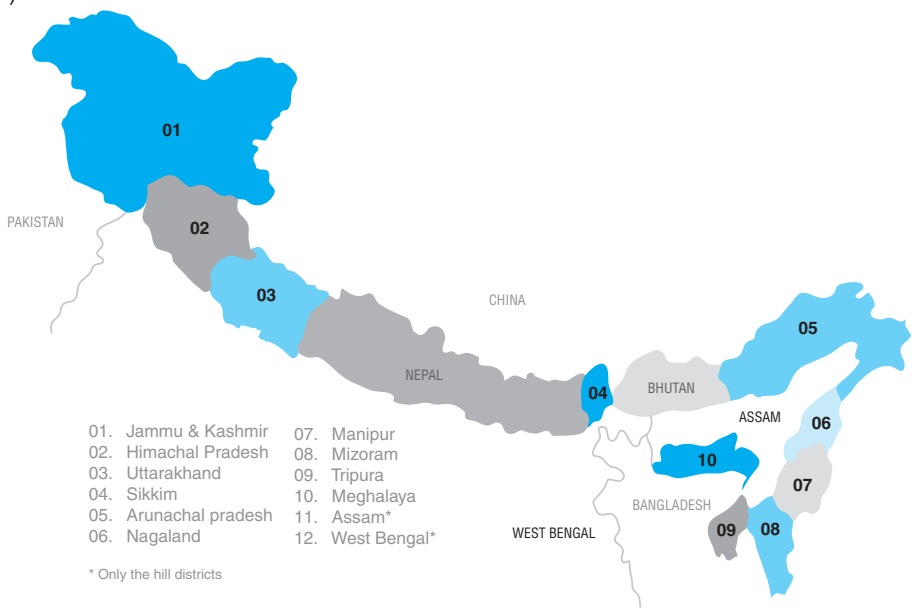


Figure 1.1: **Map showing jurisdiction area of the NMHS – IHR States** [including 10 states fully: AP- Arunachal Pradesh, HP-Himachal Pradesh, J&K - Jammu & Kashmir, MN- Manipur, MG- Meghalaya, MZ- Mizoram, NG- Nagaland, SK- Sikkim, TR-Tripura and UK-Uttarakhand, and 2 states partially viz., hill districts of Assam and West Bengal]

1.3. An Ideal Study System

With such an enormous diversity of life across simultaneously operating gradients of variation in topography, climate and human interventions have made the Himalaya a unique system for undertaking research, yet, the region is often referred to as data deficient (IPCC 2007). This scenario calls for introspection and deserves attention of all concerned.

Review of information suggests that a lot has been written on various aspects of Himalaya, its ecology and resources. Undoubtedly the findings of various researches have also found place in highly referred scientific journals. The outcomes, however, have hardly been recognized by the policy planners and other stakeholders besides academics and researchers. As a result, specific considerations for the region seldom figure amongst the priorities defined and policies framed at national level. Also, such considerations, if any, have scarcely been integrated into programmes related to the core issues of sustainable development and quality of life in the region. This suggests that the approach of research in the region has largely remained knowledge-focused, indicating very poor and indirect link with developmental actions. Action-oriented development approach (i.e., collected information has direct application value) has, however, remained at the lowest ebb. In other words, it would not be out of place to state that most of the researchers in the region have achieved limited success to: (i) fully appreciate the uniqueness and specificities of the region, (ii) catch the pace with fast emerging tools and techniques and thereby changes in contemporary thinking in diverse subject areas, (iii) align studies with the emerging national/international priorities and targets, and (iii) bring-in mountain perspectives for policy interventions.

2
VISION, MISSION & GOALS

Vision

To support the sustenance and enhancement of the ecological, natural, cultural, and socio-economic capital assets and values of the IHR.

Mission

To launch and support innovative studies and related knowledge interventions (that do not tread on the beaten path) towards the sustenance and enhancement of the ecological, natural, cultural, and socio-economic capital assets and values of the IHR.

Goals

The NMHS envisages to work towards a set of linked and complementary goals including:

(i) Fostering conservation and sustainable management of natural resources,

(ii) Enhancing supplementary and/or alternative livelihoods for IHR peoples and overall economic and ecological well-being of the region,

(iii) Controlling and preventing pollution in the region,

(iv) Fostering increased/augmented human and institutional capacities and the knowledge and policy environments in the region,

(v) Strengthening, greening, and fostering development of climate-resilient core infrastructure and basic services assets.

3
STRATEGY AND APPROACH

3.1. Broad Strategy

Towards achieving the goals of NMHS, the strategy is to focus on enhancing livelihoods of local communities, in line with the National Environment Policy, 2006 of the Government of India, which recognizes that while conservation of environmental resources is necessary to secure livelihoods and well-being of all, the most secured basis for conservation is to ensure that people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihoods from conservation than the degradation of the resources. The Scheme also seeks to safeguard and foster diverse socio-cultural milieu of the region as well as build on a range of traditional knowledge and practices, including for example, traditional alternative healing systems.

3.2. Thematic Areas

The NMHS considers an indicative list of thematic areas, which were identified during stakeholders consultation organized by the MoEF&CC in October 2014. While identifying these themes, the vast pool of information, available with the Ministry and its autonomous institutions including G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GPBIHED), was also considered. The themes thus identified are the core business of MoEF&CC and to some extent also addressed by other Ministries. However, the NMHS attempts to focus on the work areas of MoEF&CC in the context of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). An indicative list of broad and sub-thematic areas to be covered are listed below (Table 3.1):

Table 3.1. Indicative list of Broad Thematic Groups (BTG) and identified Thematic Areas of Work (TAW) to be covered under NMHS

S. No.	Broad Thematic Groups (BTG)	Identified Thematic Areas of Work (TAW)
1.	Sustainable management of land and water resources	• Conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing arising out of natural resources utilization
		• Water Management and soil Conservation including recharge of groundwater, aquifers, etc.
		• Study/ Inventory of Springs/ River systems in the IHR
		• Wetlands
		• Restoration/ Regeneration of pastures and grasslands, and Study of permafrost
		• Natural resources accounting
		• Issues related to key resources sharing at local, upstream, downstream and transboundary scales
2.	Environmental assessment & management	• Long-term ecological/ Environmental monitoring
		• Carrying capacity and Product life cycle analyses
		• Sustainable tourism including Eco-tourism
		• Waste management including management of hazardous substances
		• Role of traditional institutions in environment protection and development, ecological implication of migration/ depopulation of villages
		• Natural and man-made disaster risk reduction, Cloud burst, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and Flash flood studies

3.	Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	• Conservation of genetic resources of rare, endemic, threatened and globally significant flora and fauna including agro-biodiversity (on-farm and off-farm conservation)
		• Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		• Multi-purpose trees and other flora: their biology and uses, ecotone studies, especially the timberline ecotone, and pilots for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)/reflecting ES in developmental agenda
		• Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), medicinal and aromatic plants, and other high value niche products from the region
4.	Sustainable infrastructure & energy security	• Environmental compatibility of infrastructure development including border roads and climate resilience of core infrastructure and basic services delivery assets, dam and road building
		• Energy efficiency, conservation, technology development, geothermal energy, heat pumps
		• Strengthening of the existing institutions in the region
		• Sustainability issues of urban agglomerations (sustainable urbanization)
5.	Supplementary livelihood options	• Supplementary livelihood options for local communities and other rural population, market linkages
		• Various facets of Organic Agriculture including value-addition, scientific shifting-cultivation, human-wildlife conflict, geographical indications, etc.
6.	Awareness and capacity building	• Options for education, awareness and outreach
		• Human capacity building including promotion of micro-enterprises and green technologies

3.3. Mission Objectives

The objectives of the Mission include the following:

(i) To build a body of scientific and traditional knowledge on the aforesaid indicative thematic areas

(ii) To build a network of practitioners (individual and institutions) engaged in working solutions to problems in the thematic areas

(iii) To demonstrate workable/implementable/replicable solutions to the problems in the thematic areas

3.4. Approach

The core philosophy, which forms the key plank of the strategy, involves enhancing the focus and fund to support demand-driven research and technological innovations along with institutional strengthening and capacity building. The Scheme targets working towards coordinated policies, duly informed by empirical evidences and best practices, thereby providing enabling environment for innovations and multi-stakeholders engagement in the protection of Himalayan ecosystems and socio-economic development of local communities, so as to ensure the ecological security of the country.

Towards achieving the aforementioned objectives, the following methodological approach has been designed.

3.5. Studies, Pilots and Interventions

The selection of studies, pilots and interventions will be based on their potential to be actionable. In this context, following three categories have been visualized.

1) Small Grants: Targeted action-oriented research for solving location-specific problems. These projects will have a total budgetary outlay of not more than Rs.50 lakhs each.

2) Medium Grants: Pilots for stand-alone projects, potentially up-scalable projects and those currently lacking in extension outreach, with a total budgetary outlay of not more than 500 lakhs each.

3) Large Grants: To support implementation of doable, achievable and feasible ideas at a scale and

size that is commensurate with the budget of the Scheme. These projects will have a total budgetary outlay of over 500 lakhs each.

The admissible components and guidelines for the submission of project proposals to the Mission for these three categories of Grants are appended (Annexure-II.1 & II.2).

While considering the projects under this Scheme, preference will be given to innovative and multi-disciplinary projects that have trans-boundary linkages and adopt landscape based/level approach, and also have clear policy and knowledge outcomes, in addition to their core/supplementary goals/ objectives. Emphasis will also be laid on ensuring adequate climate proofing of all projects supported by grants under the Scheme.

3.6. Himalayan Research Fellowship Scheme

Another integrate part of the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) covers creation of Himalayan Research Fellowships in various universities/ Institutions all across the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The aim is to create a cadre of young and trained Himalayan environmental managers, ecologists and socio-economists and thus help generating information on physical, biological, management and social aspects of Himalayan environment and development. This Himalayan Research Fellowship scheme is constituted at two levels: (1) NMHS-Himalayan Research Associate (NM-HRA) and (2) NMHS-Himalayan Junior Research Fellow (NM-HJRF). Following MoEF&CC guidelines and other provisions as per GFR and NMHS-PMU, these fellowships will be operated through different universities and institutions in IHR, including GBPIHED and its Regional Units. To support this, establishment of Himalayan Chairs engaging eminent scientists and academicians in different universities and institutions, including GBPIHED, has also been made instrumental under the NMHS.

3.7. Facilitation and Support for Knowledge Building

In addition to studies (as mentioned under section 3.5), the Scheme also envisages to facilitate various kinds of support for knowledge building of IHR Institutions. An indicative list of such support system under the Scheme is as follows:

i) Creation of various fellowship and academic (national) exchange programmes,

ii) Upgrading infrastructure of key academic and research institutions,

iii) Education, awareness and outreach programmes and events,

iv) Online system for monitoring and dissemination of results of the studies,

v) Creation of a central capacity building/training unit or, if required, establishing a Database Centre for Himalayan Studies

vi) Support for Masters Programmes to Hill Universities located in the Himalayan States like Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. (Pilot project – carrying out Masters Programme, Doctoral Programme attuned/ with demonstration project on-ground.)

vii) Organizing / supporting seminar, conferences, symposia, colloquium, etc.

viii) Promoting International, National and Regional Conferences/Workshops, etc.

A generic listing of components which could be assisted under the Scheme has been drawn up keeping in view the Thematic Areas indicated under Table 3.1. It may be worthwhile to mention that the list is only indicative and not exhaustive.

Under other support system, cooperation of various Government Departments working in the IHR will be sought for enhancing the effectiveness and delivery of the Scheme. For example, Eco-task Force (raised by Indian Army) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) etc. will be proactively engaged.

4
PLAN OF ACTION

4.1. Implementation and Institutional Mechanism

The Mission, implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), will have its nodal and serving hub with G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIHED) in the form of a fully dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) with a Database Management Sector for the NMHS.

The Scheme envisages building a strong partnership base to achieve the goals. Therefore, IHR state governments, various international developmental aid/support organizations and as well as the public, private and financial sectors would be the key partners for the NMHS implementation. Further, key research institutions, universities, field-based organizations (both govt. and non-govt.) as well as community institutions including individual experts working on Conservation and Development issues of the Himalayan region would also be among the partners in implementation of the Mission. However, in case of individual experts, the support from this Scheme can be rendered only through the affiliated institution(s). Further, the procedure for transparency in selection of the institutes/experts for carrying out the studies will be institutionalized through the following mechanism.

4.2. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee, under the Chair of Secretary (MoEF&CC), has following Terms of Reference:

- To provide overall guidance and direction to the Project Management Team, including approval and review of Project Operational Plan and Annual Work Plans;
- To periodically review progress in project implementation, including taking appropriate decisions on the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG); and
- To review and approve the assessment/findings and outcomes of the NMHS

The duly constituted Steering Committee for NMHS, as per the MoEF&CC OM No. 5/6/2015-CS-I, dated 31 August 2015, is given in Appendix – II.1. The Committee shall meet at least once in six months and would be free to co-opt any additional expert member(s) as per the requirement to provide guidance on specific issues.

4.3. Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)

This group, under the Chair of Additional Secretary concerned in MoEF&CC, will be the major body of representatives from diverse sectors (i.e., Government organizations, State governments of IHR; Himalayan Universities, R&D Autonomous organizations; NGOs, Regional Inter-governmental Organizations, Thematic Divisions of MoEF&CC) to guide implementation of the Scheme and monitor the progress periodically. The STAG shall have following Terms of Reference (ToR):

- Provide scientific and technical guidance for assessing project proposals, invited studies as well as *suo-moto* developed studies;
- Recommend site-specific targeted pilot projects;
- Appraise and recommend case studies ensuring multi-disciplinarily and cross-sectoral integration;
- Advise study teams on assessment frameworks and methodologies for conducting the studies;
- Review progress of the studies on a periodic basis and recommend necessary mid-course corrective and/or preventive measures;
    i. Provide scientific and technical expert advice and recommendations to the Project Steering Committee; and
    ii. Advise the Project Management Team on stakeholder engagement and capacity development areas.

The constituted STAG for NMHS, as per the MoEF&CC OM No. 5/6/2015-CS-I, dated 31 Aug. 2015, is given in Appendix – II.2. The STAG shall meet as frequently as the members may decide. The committee would be free to co-opt any additional expert members as per requirement to provide guidance on specific issues.

4.4. Project Selection, Monitoring and Evaluation

The selection of the projects, i.e. studies/pilots/interventions will be based, wherever possible, on the fulfilment of certain basic criteria regarding their objectives, approach and competence available. The institutes/individual experts shall have excellence and creativity in the field of Himalayan Studies.

The Scheme targets promoting novel initiatives in the form of innovative studies/pilots/interventions, which could be in the nature of pioneering efforts, aimed at catalyzing sustainable approaches to environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods through community-based natural resource management, demonstrating a promising methodology or making a distinct impact on the Himalayan rural poverty situation through scalable initiatives. The studies demonstrating strategies to create long-term and sustainable livelihood opportunities and covering wider landscapes of considerably large ecological significance would be given emphasis/weightage. Further, studies helping formulation and implementation of any innovative skill development programme, promotion of green infrastructure/technology, market linkages, and capacity building, etc. will remain in the focus.

It is well understood that given the bio-physical and socio-cultural diversity of Himalayan region and also considering prevailing disparity in economic status, the Indian Himalayan states will have differential needs and priorities to be addressed through in-depth studies. Therefore, to provide equal opportunity to such needs/priorities of the Himalayan states to be covered under NMHS, representation of all Himalayan States has been ensured in STAG. Also, to reduce the regional biases and/or to minimize the location disadvantages in expressing the competence as project proponent's all efforts will be made to provide equal opportunities for Institutions/individual experts from different parts of the Himalaya by way of organizing regional awareness and pre-proposal workshops/meetings. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will periodically organize such events.

While periodically reviewing the progress of studies, the STAG will advise mid-term corrections, if any, and evaluate and recommend the Final Technical Report (FTR) arising out of pilot project/ study/intervention, etc. to steering committee fo acceptance. The FTR will be placed before Secretary (MoEF&CC) for his consideration and acceptance in the event of unavoidable delay in holding of the STAG/steering committee meeting.

As indicated under section 4.2, the overall implementation of National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) would be monitored periodically, at least twice in a year, by the Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary MoEF&CC. The committee will make policy decisions including mid-term corrections, if required any.

A schematic plan of implementation of NMHS is presented (Figure 4.1).

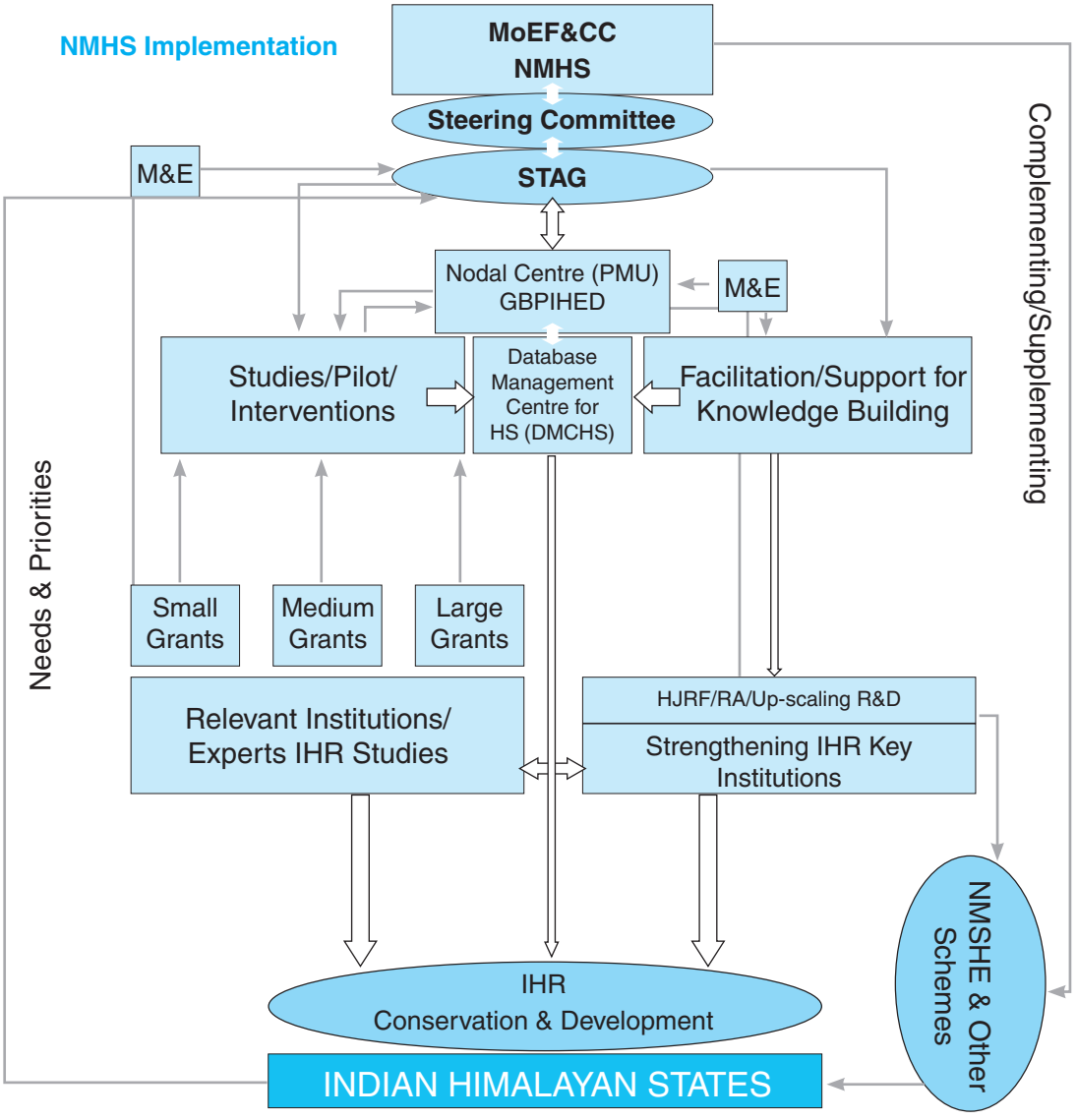


Figure 4.1. Schematic plan of implementation of National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)

5
FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

It is a new Central Sector (CS) Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India. During the Twelfth Plan, a provision of Rs. 67.10 crores and 50 crores under Major Head '3435' has been made in the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively (Table 5.1). The budget estimates under NMHS for year 2015-16 are presented (Table 5.2). It is proposed to carry forward the initiative to the next Five-Year Plan with standard incremental increase of 10-15% every year.

Table 5.1. Budget provisions for NMHS in the Twelfth Plan

S. No.	Financial Year	Amount of allocation
1.	2015-16	Rs. 67.10 crores
2.	2016-17	Rs. 50 crores
	Total	**Rs. 117.10 crores**

Table 5.2. Annual budget estimates for NMHS in 2015-16

11.04 National Mission on Himalayan Studies	(In Thousands of Rs)
11.04.31 Grants-in-aid General	62.75
07.04.35 Grants for creation of Capital Assets at PMU	4.35
Total: National Mission on Himalayan Studies (Detailed Head)	67.10

6
MISSION DELIVERABLES

The national priorities, as laid out in the Twelfth Plan, include up to 13 targets towards environment, forests, wildlife and climate change. So, the NMHS is expected to address these national priorities, specifically in the context of the Indian Himalayan Region. In this direction, the Twelfth Plan goals covering Environment; Forests and Livelihood; Wildlife, Ecotourism and Animal Welfare; and Ecosystem and Biodiversity are needed to be addressed by the NMHS.

As indicated earlier, the NMHS will focus on enhancing livelihoods for local communities, in line with the National Environment Policy, 2006 of the Government of India. The Scheme will also seek to safeguard and foster the diverse socio-cultural milieu of the region as well as a range of traditional practices and knowledge systems including, for example, traditional alternative healing systems.

The Scheme is also expected to complement and supplement the National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) anchored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

6.1. Monitoring Indicators and Expected Outcomes

Specific indicators for each outcome will be worked out before implementation of the projects. However, indicative indicators and expected outcomes for each sub-theme are presented in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1. Monitoring Indicators and Expected Outcomes

S.No.	Broad & Sub Thematic Areas	Monitoring Indicators	Expected Outcomes
1.	Sustainable management of land and water resources		
	• Conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing arising out of use of natural resources	• Extent of area conserved/ brought under sustainable use/communities benefitted/good practices documented and promoted • Number of community institutions engaged/ communities benefitted from equitable benefit sharing mechanisms • Sustainable harvesting methods demonstrated	• Participatory conservation framework developed; • Sustainable harvesting protocols for diverse natural resources developed; • Local natural resource management institutions strengthened; • Good practices documented and up-scaled

	• Water Management and Soil Conservation including recharge of groundwater and aquifers, etc.	• Number of watersheds studied/plans prepared and executed • Area of land ecologically restored • Number of spring-sheds investigated and treated/ rejuvenated • Management decisions supported by the database	• Periodic studies on utilization of ground water and aquifers and their recharge to ensure sustainability • Development of a database on utilization and recharge of ground water and aquifers • Studies on water-shed management to ensure increase in recharge of ground water and aquifers
	• Study/ Inventory of Springs in the IHR	• Effectiveness of knowledge products emanating from inventories • Quantum of data-sets generated/analyzed/ synthesized	• All springs in the IHR inventoried • Periodic flow patterns and dependence on springs studied and documented
	• Wetlands	• Extent of wetlands evaluated for ecosystem services • Number of strategies developed/executed for conservation of critical wetlands	• Valuation of ecosystem services; • Identify threats and pressures and suggest mitigation strategies; and • Support participatory conservation approach and practices
	• Restoration/ Regeneration of pastures and grasslands	• Extent of pastures/ grasslands restored/ regenerated • Evidences of reduction in human-wildlife conflicts/ competition in pastures	• Stocktaking of existing management practices and explore alternative management practices; • Restoration of degraded pastures; • Reduction in human-wildlife conflicts and competition between livestock and wild ungulate/ herbivore species for grazing.
	• Natural resources accounting	• Success rate of capacity building programmes • Extents of inputs that have supported decisions on developmental projects/ helped reducing conflicts • Successful pilots of incentive based mechanisms	• Capacity of local R&D institutions enhanced; • Natural resource accounting of development projects for informed decision-making and minimizing conflicts performed; • Studies on economic valuation (consumptive and non-consumptive) of the region's biodiversity, habitats, landscapes and ecosystem services conducted • Mechanisms to provide incentives to conserving communities developed.

	• Key resources sharing issues at local, upstream-downstream and transboundary scale	• Extent of understanding developed on local/ upstream-downstream/ transboundary resource linkages • Inputs for better resource governance/ policy uptakes for conflict resolution	• Key natural resources used and shared at local, upstream-downstream, and transboundary scale identified/documented; • Existing formal and informal policy and institutional arrangements of their use and sharing at aforementioned scales documented; and • Studies to suggest the sustainable sharing of identified resources and help minimize conflicts in present scenario carried-out.
2.	Environmental assessment & management		
	• Long term ecological/ environmental monitoring	• Number of LTEM sites established/investigated/ robust data-sets generated • Extent of scientific evidences generated across key sectors • Extent of IKP documentation and strengthened through scientific evidence base	• Identification of sites for long-term environmental monitoring; • Relevant institutions identified and engaged; • Mainstreaming of long-term monitoring and building scientific evidence base across key sectors achieved; • Indigenous Knowledge and Practices (IKP) systematically documented and linked to scientific evidence base
	• Carrying capacity	• Carrying capacity of sensitive/critical areas/ systems (No) assessed	• Determine carrying capacity of important social-ecological systems • Carrying capacity of the ecologically sensitive areas/zones assessed/ prepared and disseminated among stakeholders
	• Product life cycle analysis	• Extent promotion of use of regulatory norms and technology • Effectiveness of awareness programmes/ Extent of awareness created	• Support studies to determine the life cycle of various kinds of hazardous waste material and substances conducted; • Regulatory norms and support use of latest technology strengthened; • Mass awareness generated
	• Sustainable tourism including eco-tourism	• Extent of innovative approached developed/ implemented for promotion of ecotourism • Proportional increase in eco- tourism/decline in unregulated tourism	• Ecologically compatible and equitable tourism promoted/ implemented leading to stoppage of unregulated tourism
	• Waste management, including management of hazardous substances	• Innovative approaches developed (No) and implemented/Quantity of waste treated/ managed • Extent of up-scaling of best practices	• Existing institutions and regulatory mechanisms strengthened; • Up-scaling of best practices supported; • Incentive for innovations developed.

	• Role of traditional institutions in environment protection and development	• Level and diversity of engagement of traditional institutions facilitated • Extent of capacity built of the traditional institutions	• Key traditional institutions of IHR states identified; • Their role, norms and practices concerning sustainable natural resource management, environment protection & socio-economic development documented; • Identify their capacity building needs in present day context.
	• Natural and manmade disaster risk reduction	• Effectiveness of the inventory of disasters and disaster prone areas in DRR • Number and utility of early warning systems developed • Extent of awareness generated and impacts reduced	• Natural and man-made disasters, and disaster prone areas in the IHR Inventoried/mapped; • Ongoing efforts including transboundary initiatives to strengthen and put in place early warning systems strengthened; • Studies that help minimize the impact of disasters on eco-systems and physical infrastructure conducted; • Awareness for hastening preparedness to minimize loss of life created
3.	Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity		
	• Conservation of genetic resources of rare, endemic, threatened and globally significant flora and fauna including agro-biodiversity(on farm and off farm conservation)	• Novelty/effectiveness of approaches developed for conservation (in situ/ ex situ) of endemic/ threatened/ globally significant species/ habitats/areas • Level of use of database for conservation and management decisions/ increase in awareness across stakeholders groups • Extent of agro-biodiversity assessed/documented and pilots/models developed for on farm (in situ) conservation • Level of reduction in human-wildlife conflicts	• Critical habitats/ corridors/ ecosystems mapped and investigated • Conservation of endemic/ threatened/significant species augmented through ex situ/in situ mechanisms • Comprehensive biodiversity database developed and used in decision making • Conservation frameworks developed/strengthened/ implemented • Human-wildlife conflicts reduced and landscape level conservation supported • Models/approaches for on farm/in situ conservation of agri-biodiversity developed and promoted • Awareness on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use promoted.
	• Invasive alien species (IAS)	• Extent of IAS assessed/ analyzed/ mapped • Effectiveness of approaches developed for reduction of IAS/ innovative use of biomass/ extent of areas/ landscapes restored	• Vulnerable habitats identified/ mapped; • Threat of proliferation of invasive alien species reduced and adversely impacted areas/landscapes restored; • Suggest innovative use of available biomass; and • Ensure strict implementation of quarantine regulations.

	• Multi-purpose trees and other flora: their biology and uses	• Number of multipurpose species brought to level of commercial harvesting/ cultivation • Extent and cost effectiveness of species multiplied and quantum of degraded land rehabilitated/carbon sinks developed • User-friendly data/ information base developed for species suitability	• Multi-purpose trees and other flora for different agro-climatic zones identified; • Biology/life cycle of high value, multipurpose plant species is understood and economic value augmented • Mass multiplication ensured and productivity enhanced; • Effectively used in rehabilitation of degraded lands through community engagement • Additional carbon sinks developed through degraded land rehabilitation
	• Non-timber forest produce (NTFPs), medicinal and aromatic plants, and other high value niche products from the region	• Number of sustainable harvest practices developed and quantum of NTFPs/other high value species brought under sustainable harvesting/ ensured volume of produce through cultivation • Extent of benefits accrued by community from value addition and value chains • Level of community participation in conservation/sustainable harvesting	• The regeneration patterns, quantum of harvest of various important NTFPs/MFPs, MAPs and other high value marketable niche products is determined • Community based management supported and participatory mechanisms for sustainable harvesting/ conservation developed • Market linkages for NTFPs established through local level value addition and value chains development; • Bio-prospecting of resources conducted.
4.	Sustainable infrastructure & Energy security		
	• Environmental compatibility of infrastructure development including border roads and climate resilience of core infrastructure and basic services delivery assets	• Extent of plans developed and implemented • Extent of green roads/ green technologies demonstrated	• Scientific land use planning, zonation conducted; • Green road norms in environmentally fragile border areas promoted and strengthened; • Regulatory frameworks for promoting Strategic Environment Assessment of development projects developed/implemented; • Capacity of stakeholders built on green technology; • Technological intervention supported and new technology developed
	• Energy efficiency, and conservation	• Size of the population covered/ benefitted • Extent of reduction in use of biomass based energy • Contribution of technologies for 'C' emission reduction	• Support Non- conventional energy sector; • Promote intervention of state-of-the-art technology; and • Promote decentralized energy production.
	• Strengthening of the existing institutions in the region	• Effectiveness of institutional networks • Long-term capacity building plans for relevant institutions	• Establish institutional networking mechanisms; and • Identify the capacity building needs of the relevant institutions in the IHR

	• Sustainability issues of urban agglomerations	• Number of strategies developed and pilot demonstrations	• Review of the growth and sustainability of urban agglomerations in the region; development of strategies and plans for enhanced sustainability; • Studies on the ecological dependence relationships between urban agglomerations in the region with the rural hinterland around these; development of strategies and plans for reversing adverse and enhancing positive dependence relationships
5.	Supplementary livelihood options		
	o Supplementary livelihood options for local communities and other rural population	• Number of value chains established and green jobs created • Value added products brought to market and number of persons benefitted	• Alternative livelihood means giving emphasis on green job creation explored; and • Value addition in local products and value chain established.
	• Various facets of Organic Agriculture including value addition, Geographical indications, etc.	• Extent of production and promotion of value added organic food • Number of GIs registered	• Documentation of environment friendly traditional farming systems • Development of organic pesticides • Integrated pest management • Value added organic foods • GI of agricultural produce
6.	Awareness and capacity building		
	• Options for education, awareness and outreach	• No of beneficiaries • No of trainings/ awareness programs organized • No. of publications/ display materials	• Scientific evidences and databases developed/ augmented/ disseminated; • Photo documentation, film, documentary production; dissemination via electronic and other means supported; • Local, state, national and regional dialogues and fora on the identified thematic areas supported; • All traditional Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and innovative methods such as landscape yatras, travelling exhibition, are effectively used, etc.
	• Human capacity building including promotion of micro-enterprises and green technologies	• Extent of impact of capacity building programmes • Level of effectiveness of microenterprises/extent of green technologies in place	• Identify key sectors and capacity building needs of those having immediate bearing on conservation and livelihoods • Natural resource based and community oriented microenterprises developed/ promoted

6.2. Dissemination of Results and Exit Strategy

It is envisaged to create a Database Management Centre for Himalayan Studies (DMCHS) under the NMHS-PMU, which will maintain an 'e-Library' including a directory of studies with their outcomes, quantum of funds granted and their executive summaries. The library would be made available 'online' for use by all stakeholders. An online web-enabled submission and tracking system for research studies would be developed which will also display studies under consideration, studies under implementation and findings of completed studies. Apart from professional journals/books, final technical reports of completed studies may be disseminated (indicatively) through one or more of the following channels/media, as appropriate:

- Website of the Ministry/GBPIHED/information Centre/NMHS/DMCHS
- Enviro News
- Website of ENVIS Centres/Nodes through EI Division
- Websites of Major Universities (through UGC)/Institutions
- Websites of State Pollution Control Boards
- National/ International Workshops/Seminars/Brainstorming meets.
- Website of popular and prominent NGOs as also connected Government Departments.

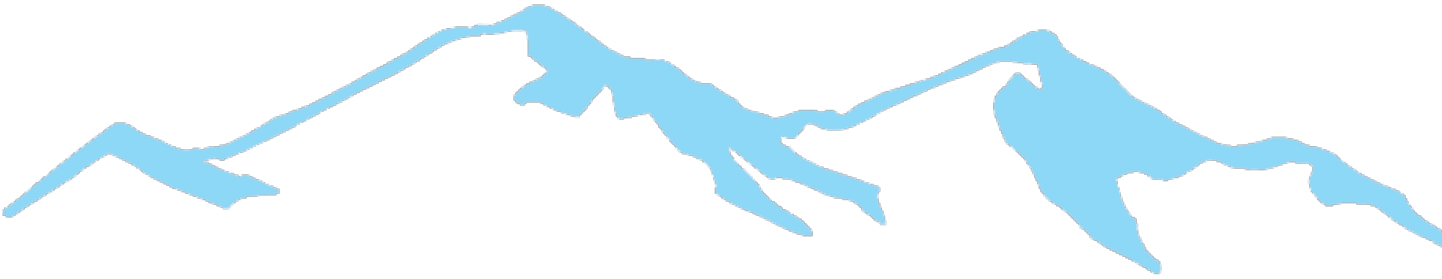
As an exit strategy, the results of the studies launched are expected to be utilized to mainstream the ongoing activities of various existing initiatives of the State and Central governments to ensure adequate synergy and convergence. It is also expected that at the end of the Scheme, the capacities of relevant Central agencies as well as the State governments in the region will be adequately built/enhanced to be able to foster, sustain, and expand on the Vision, Mission, Goals, and other focus areas of the NMHS.

Annexure - I.1

ADMISSIBLE COMPONENTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Following is a generic listing, but not limited to, of components which could be assisted under the Scheme. The list is only indicative and not exhaustive. This has been drawn up keeping in view the Thematic Areas indicated under section I.3.2.

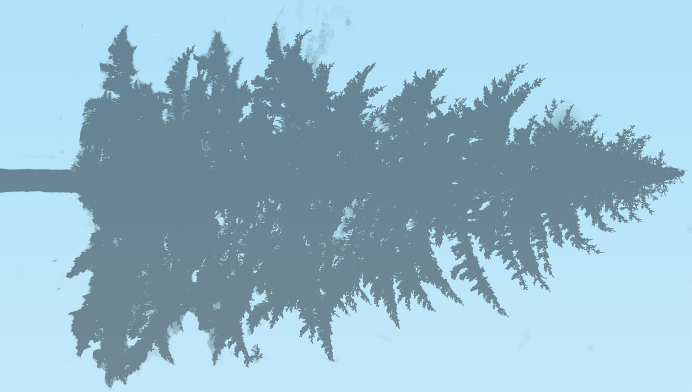
1. Survey, Inventory and Assessment of natural resources in the IHR
2. Micro-enterprise development for reducing dependence on natural resources
3. Afforestation and aided regeneration
4. Conservation and management of genetic resources
5. Action-oriented development research coupled with Pilot Projects
6. Site-specific interventions
7. Participation of local communities
8. Training, Capacity Building, fellowship, awards and development of dedicated centres
9. Education & Awareness
10. Small-scale engineering measures
11. Habitat Evaluation, Improvement including Management of invasive species
12. Pollution control measures, Energy efficiency and Waste management conservation
13. Interception, Diversion & Treatment of point sources of pollution through engineering and biological options
14. Urban conglomeration, inventory of springs, long-term ecological monitoring including riparian ecology
15. Rainwater harvesting, recharging of aquifers, assessment and enhancement of ground water
16. Maintenance of breeding & nursery grounds of keystone floral and faunal species
17. Migratory routes and Corridors of connectivity
18. Sustainable agro-diversity practices
19. Institutional strengthening
20. Multi-purpose trees, NTFPs
21. Development of pastures, grasslands and wetlands
22. Revival of taxonomical and ethno-botanical expeditions in the remote areas
23. Communication and outreach including films, documentaries, reports, books, other knowledge products, etc.
24. Impact assessment of various developmental projects
25. Different facets of tourism
26. Promotion of mountaineering expeditions
27. Concurrent and terminal evaluation of various activities, programmes supported under the Scheme
28. Seismically fragile zones, landslides, avalanche, cloud burst, glacial lake burst, flash floods, tunnels/ channels for communication, etc.
29. Organic agriculture
30. Water Management and Soil Conservation
31. Human-Wildlife conflict
32. Micro-enterprise and Green technology



PART II

NATIONAL MISSION ON HIMALAYAN STUDIES (NMHS)

Guidelines for the NMHS Grant Facilities



PART II

National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)

Guidelines for the NMHS Grant Facilities

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SECTION-A
INTRODUCTION

The National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) has introduced Grants as the main vehicle to deliver on-the-ground results for the well-being of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) and mountain communities in the region. Projects that would supported by the NMHS Grants are expected to address one or more of the 25 indicative Thematic Areas of Work (TAW) within the context of the NMHS and its Vision, Mission, and Goals (Table I.3.1). The projects are expected to address well-defined problems identified by comprehensive situation analysis and they should be funded on well-constructed monitoring frameworks with clear objectives and outcomes/ impacts to enable potential changes brought about by the projects to be reported on clearly.

1. Types of Grants

There are three types of NMHS Grants as follows:

1. **Small Grants (SG):** The main aim of the SG is to finance small projects with a total budgetary outlay of not more than 50 lakhs to support strategic and tailor-made local community action for management of IHR ecosystems and their use on a sustainable basis. Small Projects are meant to support local NGOs/ agencies/ individuals, which/ who are often best positioned to work with local communities and possess a good understanding of local ecological and social-institutional conditions.

   The SG implementation follows a strategic approach by targeting a well-defined geographic and/or thematic area prioritised by the NMHS Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) with the long-term view to develop the resilience of ecosystem-dependent mountain communities. As an overarching principle, the SG projects shall be problem-oriented and shall remain grounded and linked with the realities and needs of local communities.

   Apart from providing direct environmental and livelihood benefits locally, the SG projects are expected to offer tangible 'models' to inspire policy-making and they should include concrete measures to ensure participation, gender equality and secure livelihoods for the marginalized groups. In this way, the SG projects will help in linking the household and community level to the dynamics of policy- and decision-making about mountain area planning and investment.

2. **Medium Grants (MG):** The main aim of MGs is to support medium projects which can be used to build on and/or to expand successful projects with a total budgetary outlay of not more than 500 lakhs and are expected to reflect the multi-sectoral and partnership-based characteristics of NMHS as well as to address two or more TAWs in an effort to examine more complex and often multi-disciplinary issues affecting mountain ecosystems as prioritized by the NMHS.

   It is the intention that the MG should contribute significantly towards building the resilience of ecosystem-dependent mountain communities by addressing specific resilience parameters from either the ecosystem or societal system, or both. Preferably there should be spatial mapping/planning data available and the area should be large enough to be important

at the ecosystem level, containing significant mountain habitats and resources and/or biodiversity.

3. **Large Grants (LG):** The LG will be utilized as a mechanism to address long-term, multi-site, ecological-monitoring of trans-boundary issues in the IHR, i.e. issues spanning over two or more states/countries to consolidate the existing knowledge base, especially relevant to manage mountain resources and conduct research on emerging issues to acquire new knowledge. The LGs are projects that will be with total budgetary outlay of over 500 lakhs.

All projects supported by the NMHS Grants are expected to address the NMHS cross-cutting themes *viz*., climate proofing, gender equality and communication as follows:

- **Climate Change:** The projects must take into cognizance the likely impacts of climate change and climate variability including climate-related problems already encountered or likely to be encountered at the local level (defined by the project system boundary) and the likely climate-driven impacts on the system. The Projects must include a strategy to identify and address these impacts to ensure that interventions are climate proofed.
- **Gender Equality:** The projects should take into account gender equality aspects. Special attention should be paid to differences between men and women with respect to: access to and use of resources (including but not limited to, generation and use of income); observed practices and patterns of participation in decision making; social beliefs and perceptions; laws, policies, and institutions that may affect men and women's participation in the project.
- **Communications:** The projects should include its communication strategy, including the audiences' present awareness level, current practices, media preferences and demographic/ psychographic profiles, identifying the target audiences and interrelationships between each communications among stakeholders/ target audience groups, defining communication objectives, formulating key messages which are important to communicate to audiences, and selecting media which will best assist the grantee/ proponent to achieve objectives and desired relationships. Policy analysis should also form a part of communication strategy.

The key consideration in all NMHS Projects is that information generated from the projects should be freely available for dissemination. Thus, it is required that the Grantees will provide NMHS unhindered access to all information (written material, sound and video recordings, including films, maps, photography, and any other materials in any other medium) generated by the project. The NMHS also encourages the Grantees to freely disseminate all information amongst the project stakeholders and the general public.

While the broad thematic groups and thematic work areas to be covered under NMHs have been given in Table (II.A.1).The following sections provide guidelines for the application, design and planning, and award of projects under the NMHS Grant Mechanisms.

Table A.1. Indicative list of broad Thematic Groups and identified Thematic Areas of Work (TAW) to be covered under NMHS		
S. No.	**Broad Thematic Groups**	**Identified Thematic Areas of Work (TAW)**
1.	Sustainable management of land and water resources	• Conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing arising out of natural resources utilization
		• Water Management and soil conservation including recharge of groundwater, aquifers, etc.
		• Study/ Inventory of Springs/ River systems in the IHR
		• Wetlands
		• Restoration/ Regeneration of pastures and grasslands, and Study of permafrost
		• Natural resources accounting
		• Issues related to key resources sharing at local, upstream, downstream and transboundary scales
2.	Environmental assessment & management	• Long-term ecological/Environmental monitoring
		• Carrying capacity and Product life cycle analyses
		• Sustainable tourism including Eco-tourism
		• Waste management including management of hazardous substances
		• Role of traditional institutions in environment protection and development, ecological implication of migration/ depopulation of villages
		• Natural and man-made disaster risk reduction, Cloud burst, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and Flash Flood studies
3.	Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	• Conservation of genetic resources of rare, endemic, threatened and globally significant flora and fauna including agro-biodiversity(on-farm and off-farm conservation)
		• Invasive alien species (IAS)
		• Multi-purpose trees and other flora: their biology and uses, ecotone studies, especially the timberline ecotone, and pilots for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)/reflecting ES in developmental agenda
		• Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), medicinal and aromatic plants, and other high value niche products from the region
4.	Sustainable infrastructure & energy security	• Environmental compatibility of infrastructure development including border roads and climate resilience of core infrastructure and basic services delivery assets, dam and road building
		• Energy efficiency, conservation, technology development, geothermal energy, heat pumps
		• Strengthening of the existing institutions in the region
		• Sustainability issues of urban agglomerations (sustainable urbanization)
5.	Supplementary livelihood options	• Supplementary livelihood options for local communities and other rural population, market linkages
		• Various facets of Organic Agriculture including value-addition, scientific shifting-cultivation, human-wildlife conflict, geographical indications, etc.
6.	Awareness and capacity building	• Options for education, awareness and outreach
		• Human capacity building including promotion of micro-enterprises and green technologies

SECTION-B

GUIDELINES FOR SMALL GRANT (SG) PROJECTS

1. Eligibility Criteria for SG Projects

1.1 The maximum value of Small Grant (SG) projects shall be up to INR 50 lakhs. However, the STAG may decide to have a reduced upper limit depending on the context analysis.

1.2 Ideally, the SG projects should be of 3 to 5 years duration.

1.3 Based on the NMHS's Guiding Principles that all projects under it and other activities must be partnership-based, all projects should have two or more partners and preferably the partnership should involve partners from different sectors of society; e.g., an NGO or CBO with a government department, university, research institute or private company, etc. The roles and responsibilities of each partner should be explained clearly in the proposal.

1.4 Development of the project proposal should be done in partnership with the local community.

1.5 The proposal must show that the project (a) will not adversely affect the positions of the various stakeholders, (b) seeks to harmonize with the needs, views, expertise and experience of local stakeholders and associates them with the management and (c) is based, whenever possible, on a participatory approach.

1.6 The proposals must explicitly integrate the three NMHS cross-cutting themes of Climate Change, Gender Equality and Communications.

2. Eligibility Criteria of Applicants

Proposals can be submitted by national/local NGOs, CBOs, academic and research institutes, small-scale businesses, management boards, enterprises and individuals which/who meet the following criteria :

2.1 Registered (except in the case of individual applicants) with an appropriate national authority since a minimum period of two years;

2.2 Have demonstrated a proven, or otherwise strong potential capacity to implement participatory and community-based projects in one or more relevant fields, including community development, mountain ecosystem rehabilitation, and conservation/ sustainable use/ management of natural resources;

2.3 Have scientific or professional credibility, as recognized by the peer review process;

2.4 Can demonstrate capacity and experience in project management and financial administration;

2.5 A proponent who has been a recipient of a previous grant can be awarded another grant only after successful completion of the previous project, evidenced by approved final technical and financial reports;

2.6 Proposals from academic and research institutes must demonstrate the applied nature of the research proposed and clearly indicate how the local communities are involved.

2.7 The proponents must successfully complete a Due Diligence check undertaken by the NMHS.

2.8 The proponents are expected to provide co-financing from themselves or from partners in the form of either cash or in-kind contributions, equivalent to at least 5% of the total value of the project.

Limitations on Eligibility

The SG will NOT grant financial support to:

- Pure scientific research falling in the mandate of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation and/ or Department of Biotechnology;
- Travel and subsistence assistance for participation of non-official members in conferences and courses, unless they are organized within the NMHS region and justified as a vital and integral contribution to the activities of the project and/ or to prioritized regional knowledge sharing;
- Proponents who have defaulted previously in grant management, or who did not fulfil their contractual obligations, or who had their contracts cancelled earlier.

In case of individuals, it is mentioned that they will route their proposals through recognized/ registered organizations.

3. Operation of the Small Grants

3.1 Call for Applications

Maximum publicity is given to the call for applications through advertising in national/ local newspapers/ websites/ circulation amongst established networks/ display in public sites, etc. It is also proposed to obtain project proposals by organizing regional project evaluation workshops/meetings with the aim of providing equal opportunities for Institutions/individual experts from different parts of the Himalaya.

3.2 Submission of Applications

Interested agencies should submit a brief of the project as Concept Note in the prescribed format (Annex II.1) along with a full proposal based on the format provided (Annex II.2).

3.3 Administration, Oversight and Execution

The selected proponents will have to enter into an agreement with the PMU-NMHS. Project implementation will be managed by the PMU-NMHS under the guidance of the STAG.

3.4 Design and Planning the Project

The proposal must be aligned to the priorities identified by the STAG, and should be presented following the prescribed formats (Annex II.1 and II.2). Projects will be evaluated by identified experts who may recommend revision of project, if required.

The short-listed proponents may also be required to undertake training, if required in Project

Cycle Management (PCM) organized by the NMHS to ensure that objectives and outcomes of the proposed project are clearly defined and presented following the NMHS standards and requirements.

3.5 SG Project Approval Process

The proposals received for funding through open advertisement shall be sent to the independent experts for evaluation by the Institute. The evaluation report of the experts in respect of project proposals received through open advertisement and report of the expert committee for the project proposals evaluated in the project evaluation workshops/ meetings shall be placed before the STAG, which may invite the project proponents for making a presentation of the project before taking any decision. Final selection of proposals shall be made at a formal STAG meeting.

3.6 Funding Pattern

It is proposed to release the total sanctioned amount for an approved pilot project/study/intervention in at least three instalments.

i. First Instalment - 40% advance payment along with adequate safeguards as applicable

ii. Second Instalment – 50% on receipt of satisfactory Interim Report

iii. Third Instalment – 10% on receipt of satisfactory FTR duly accepted by the competent authority

3.7 Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MLE)

The STAG will regularly undertake MLE missions. Each project will be assessed at least twice during its life, and the Grantees are expected to cooperate with the MLE Team in providing access to the project sites and other information, as requested. In addition, the PMU will arrange a mid-term evaluation of project implementation.

3.8 Reporting

The Grantee shall make periodic progress and financial reports, Utilization Certificates (UCs), as outlined in the Sanction/ Agreement. These will be used for project monitoring and as a basis for grant disbursement on approval.

3.9 Audit

The NMHS may initiate an internal or external financial audit during and/ or after the completion of project implementation.

SECTION-C

GUIDELINES FOR MEDIUM GRANT (MG) PROJECTS

1. Eligibility Criteria for MG Projects

1.1. The value of Medium Grant (MG) projects shall be more than INR 50 lakhs and up to INR 500 lakhs.

1.2. The time period for an MG project shall be 3 to 5 years.

1.3. Development of the project proposal should be done in partnership with the local community. The proposal must show that the project (a) will not adversely affect the positions of various stakeholders; (b) seeks to harmonize with the needs, views, expertise and experience of local stakeholders and associates them with the management; and (c) is based, whenever possible, on a participatory approach.

1.4. The proponents are expected to provide co-financing from themselves or from partners in the form of either cash or in-kind contributions, equivalent to at least 10% of the total value of the project.

1.5. The proposals must explicitly integrate the three NMHS cross-cutting themes Climate Change, Gender Equality and Communications.

1.6. In general, purchase of capital assets is not allowed, unless it is justified as a vital and crucial tool for implementation of the project activities.

2. Organizational and Institutional Criteria

2.1. The MG is open to all sectors, including Ministries and Government Departments.

2.2. Two or more partners should be involved in the implementation of the proposed project, with the lead partner clearly indicated; the existing (or potential) working and communication arrangements between the partners should also be explained clearly.

2.3. The proposal should clearly indicate the involvement and roles and responsibilities, if any, of the key stakeholders, including the Government, wherever relevant or applicable.

3. Operation of the Medium Grants

3.1. Call for Applications

Maximum publicity is given to the call for applications through advertising in national/ local newspapers/ websites/ circulation amongst established networks/ display in public sites, etc. It is also proposed to obtain project proposals by organizing regional project evaluation workshops/ meetings with the aim of providing equal opportunities for institutions/individual experts from different parts of the Himalaya.

3.2. Submission of Applications

Proponents should submit a brief of the project proposal as a Concept Note in the prescribed format (Annex II.3) along with a full proposal based on the format provided (Annex II.4).

3.3. Administration, Oversight and Execution

The selected proponents will have to enter into an agreement with the PMU-NMHS. The projects will be managed by the PMU-NMHS for CS-I Division while implementation will be overseen under the guidance of the STAG.

3.4. Design and Planning of Proposals:

The proposal should be based on a clear problem identification following a comprehensive situation analysis, and should be presented in the prescribed formats. The short-listed proponents may also be asked to undertake training, if required, in Project Cycle Management (PCM), organized by the NMHS to ensure that objectives and outcomes of the proposed project are clearly defined and presented following the NMHS standards and requirements.

3.5. MG Project Approval Process

The proposals received for funding through open advertisement shall be sent to the independent thematic experts/ thematic working group for peer review / external evaluation by the Institute. The Working Groups may also co-opt experts as necessary. The recommendations of these appraisals will be used for further improvement of the proposals, if required.

The evaluation report of the experts/ thematic working group in respect of project proposals received through open advertisement and report of the expert committee/ thematic working groups for the project proposals evaluated in the project evaluation workshops/ meetings shall be placed before the STAG, which may invite the project proponents for making presentation of the project before taking any decision. Recommended proposals, when endorsed by the STAG, will be approved by the Steering Committee. The PMU-NMHS will enter into a contract with the proponent.

3.6. Funding Pattern

It is proposed to release the total sanctioned amount for an approved pilot project/ study/ intervention in at least three instalments.

i. First Instalment - 40% advance payment along with adequate safeguards as applicable

ii. Second Instalment – 50% on receipt of satisfactory Interim Report

iii. Third Instalment – 10% on receipt of satisfactory FTR, duly accepted by the competent authority

3.7. Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MLE)

The PMU-NMHS shall arrange MLE missions at six-monthly intervals. The MLE team will comprise/ consist of at least one STAG Member and one CS-I Division/ PMU representative. Additionally, CS-I Division may co-opt other national or international experts. In addition, the STAG shall undertake MLE missions in between those led by the

NMHS. The Grantee is expected to assist the MLE missions by providing access to the project sites and other information, as requested.

3.8. Reporting

The Grantee shall make periodic progress and financial reports, Utilization Certificates (UCs), as outlined in the Sanction/ Agreement. These will be used for project monitoring and as a basis for grant disbursement on approval.

3.9. Audit

The NMHS may initiate an internal or external financial audit during and/ or after completion of the project implementation.

SECTION-D

GUIDELINES FOR LARGE GRANT (LG) PROJECTS

1. Eligibility Criteria for LG Projects

1.1. The value of Large Grant (LG) projects shall be more than INR 500 lakhs. A higher upper cap may be defined and approved by the STAG and NMHS based on the requirements of specific project proposals.

1.2. The time period for an LG project shall 3 to 5 years.

1.3. Projects have to be in line with and complementary to the overall Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives of the NMHS and have clear relevance to the TAW and the strategic action plans of the participating states/countries.

1.4. The LG Projects must involve inter-state/ trans-boundary initiative(s) between at least two IHR states.

1.5. The proponents should have sound financial and operational structures and be able to provide and enlist significant co-financing and other tangible commitments from its partners. The co-financing in the form of either cash or in-kind contributions shall be equivalent to at least 20% of the total value of the project.

1.6. The proposals must explicitly integrate the three NMHS cross-cutting themes Climate Change, Gender Equality and Communications. In particular, proposals for regional projects should have a clear knowledge dissemination strategy, including mechanisms to take up the results and disseminate those in the multi-state context.

2. Operation of the Large Grants

2.1. Call for Applications

Maximum publicity is given to the call for applications through advertising in national/ local newspapers/ websites/ circulation amongst established networks/ display in public sites, etc. It is also proposed to obtain project proposals by organizing regional project evaluation workshops/meetings with the aim of providing equal opportunities for Institutions/individual experts from different parts of the Himalaya.

2.2. Submission of Applications

Proponents should submit a brief of the project proposal as a Concept Note in the prescribed format (Annex II.3) along with a full proposal based on the format provided (Annex II.4).

2.3. Administration, Oversight and Execution

The selected proponents will have to enter into an agreement with the PMU-NMHS. The LG Projects will be managed by the PMU-NMHS under the guidance of the STAG.

2.4. Design and Planning the Project

The proposal should be based on a clear problem identification following a comprehensive situation analysis, and should be presented following the prescribed formats. The short-

listed proponents may also be asked to undertake training if required, in Project Cycle Management (PCM), organized by the NMHS to ensure that objectives and outcomes of the proposed project are clearly defined and presented following the NMHS standards and requirements.

2.5. LG Project Approval Process

The proposals received for funding through open advertisement shall be sent to the independent thematic experts/ thematic working group for peer review / external evaluation by the Institute. The Working Groups may also have co-opted experts as necessary. The recommendations of these appraisals will be used for further improvement of the proposals, as required.

The evaluation report of the experts/ thematic working groups in respect of project proposals received through open advertisement and report of the expert committee/ thematic working groups for the project proposals evaluated in the project evaluation workshops/ meetings shall be placed before the STAG, which may invite the project proponents for making presentation of the project before taking any decision. Recommended proposals, when endorsed by the STAG, will be approved by the Steering Committee. The PMU-NMHS will enter into a contract with the proponent.

2.6. Funding Pattern

It is proposed to release the total sanctioned amount for an approved pilot project/ study/ intervention in at least three instalments.

i. First Instalment - 40% advance payment along with adequate safeguards as applicable.

ii. Second Instalment – 50% on receipt of satisfactory Progress Report

iii. Third Instalment – 10% on receipt of satisfactory FTR, duly accepted by the competent authority.

2.7. Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MLE)

The NMHS shall arrange MLE missions at six-monthly intervals. The MLE team will comprise/ consist of the relevant STAG Member(s) and one PMU-NMHS/ CS-I Division representative. Additionally, the NMHS Secretariat may co-opt other national or international expert(s).

2.8. Reporting

The Grantee shall make periodic Progress and Financial Reports, Utilization Certificates (UCs), as outlined in the Sanction/ Agreement. These will be used for project monitoring and as a basis for grant disbursement on approval.

2.9 Audit

NMHS may initiate an internal or external financial audit during and/ or after completion of the project implementation.

Annexure - II.1

Template for Concept Note - Small Grant (SG)

The Concept Note should be of maximum two (2) pages (excluding the "Information on the Proponent Organization") (Annex II.5).

1. Project title: Should reflect the work of the project.
2. Name of the Organization:
3. Project idea (please provide short statements on the following questions):
   (a) What is the current situation, and the problem(s) to be addressed?
   (b) What are the main causes for this problem? Which of these causes does the project address and what is the rationale behind this choice?
   (c) Where did the idea for the project originate from?
   (d) Are there other organizations working on the same problem in the project area?
   (e) What would be the project's Objective, Results (= Outputs) and Deliverables?
   (f) Who all will get benefitted from the project?
   (g) What are the main changes expected by implementing the project that will benefit the status of the ecosystems and/or people dependent on the ecosystems?
4. Where will the project be implemented?
5. Relevance to the NMHS criteria and the priorities indicated in the Call for Application
   (a) How would the project relate to the NMHS's Thematic Areas of Work (TAW)?
   (b) How does the project address priority issues identified in the Call for Application (please refer to the Call for Application made by the PMU-NMHS)?
   (c) How would the project address the cross-cutting themes [climate change, gender equality & communications]? [see Section A of the Guidelines]
6. Project duration (months):
7. Project Management
   (a) Provide a brief statement on how the project will be managed.
   (b) List the Partners involved in project implementation and their roles and responsibilities.

Partner	Roles and Responsibilities
(i)	
(ii)	

8. Budget (local currency):

Total Budget	Financing Plan		
	Request from NMHS	Grantee Contribution	Other Contributions

Annexure - II.2

Template for Full Proposals – Small Grant (SG)

(The entire document should not exceed 15 pages)

1. Project Summary: a brief statement of the problem, Objective(s), Results, main Activities and the 'change' sought by the project
2. Introduction
   - 2.1. Rationale of the project: Situation Analysis, Main problem(s) to be considered
   - 2.2. Context: Geographical context; climate, altitude, main ecological and socio-economic characteristics; policy context: relationship to national policies; community context
   - 2.3. Description of project area: Include map and coordinates of project areas
3. Project Description
   - 3.1. Project's Framework: Please provide a framework of the project, which should reflect the following:
     - Goal (long-term vision) towards which the project will contribute;
     - Objective(s) of the Project that will be achieved by the project;
     - Methodology and expected results that will contribute to each objective together with Indicators;
     - Key activities that will help achieve the Results, including deliverables.
   - 3.2. A narrative of the Key Activities: This section should provide the details of how activities will be carried out, and should include the methodologies. This description should follow the format as follows:

Key Activity	Description on how it will be done, with whom etc.
Result #1:	
Activity 1.1	
Activity 1.2	
Result #2	
Activity 2.1	
Activity 2.1	

   - 3.3. Benefits and Beneficiaries: What are the expected benefits of the project, and who are the beneficiaries, and how many are they? (Specify numbers); highlight any livelihood linkages, if any.
   - 3.4. Participation of local people and communities: Participation of local stakeholders, including women and specific disadvantaged group, if any, in the project planning and implementation.
   - 3.5. Cross-cutting themes: Describe how would the project address the cross-cutting themes [climate change, gender equality & communications]? [See Section A of the Guidelines].
   - 3.6. Project's risks, if any, and mitigation plans: Describe briefly the project's risks and how these are to be managed.
   - 3.7. Work Plan: Please provide a time frame in a Gantt chart as below, for each activity; the project should start immediately after the contract is signed. If there is special seasonal requirement (for example, monsoon) it should be clearly expressed here.

Activities	Months																	
Activity 1.1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Etc.						36
Activity 1.2																		
etc.																		

4. Project Management:

   4.1. Management: How will the project be managed (institutional structure, other organizations involved)? If other organizations are involved, describe the responsibility of each partner and how they will work together to achieve the project objectives.

   4.2. Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MLE): How and when will the internal monitoring and evaluation take place? What is the process for capturing the lessons from the project? What is the situation about the baseline of the Indicators? If the baseline is not available, what is proposed to generate the baseline?

5. Continuation of project activities: Exit strategy/ Phase-out mechanism and how project results will continue to be sustained after the funding ends.

6. Budget: Create a detailed Results/Activities-based budget; this budget should also include co-financing, both cash and in-kind. The budget should contain all direct costs relating to activities; the management component should not exceed 10% of the total budget.

7. Proponent Description: In addition to the information provided in Annexure II.5, please provide the following information:

   7.1. Organisational background: [up to 150 words]

   7.2. Capacity of the proponent to undertake this work –indicate briefly the roles and responsibilities of proponent's staff members, their qualifications and experiences for the tasks to be performed.

   7.3. Prior experience in the related projects: Describe, in 100-150 words for each project, up to a maximum of three projects that have been completed most recently, the Outcomes/ Impacts of the projects completed.

Annexure - II.3

Template for Concept Note: Medium Grant (MG) and Large Grant (LG)

The Concept Note should be of maximum six (6) pages (excluding the "Information on the Proponent Organization") (Annexure II.5).

1. Date of Proposal Submission:
2. Project Title: Should reflect the work of the project.
3. Project Site: As specific as possible, attach a general map, as applicable.
4. Project Scale: National/ regional
5. Implementation agency: Name and Address of the Organization
6. Implementing partners: With a brief description of their roles and responsibilities
7. Authorized Representatives from Implementing Agency: Name and designation of a key person from the Organization.
8. Project start date: DD/MM/YY
9. Project duration: In years (from 3 to 5 years)
10. Brief Project Description (as elaborated below):

    (a) **Rationale of the project:** A detailed Situation Analysis, problem identification, justification of why the project is necessary and interventions to be considered to address the problem(s).

    (b) **Context of the project:** Brief description of ecology, community, policies and climate change concerns, if any. How is the project related to the NMHS's Thematic Areas of Work (TAW) and Country priorities?

    (c) **Project description:** Please provide the project's detailed framework which should reflect the following:

    - Goal (long-term vision) towards which the project will contribute;
    - Objective(s) of the project that will be achieved by the project;
    - Results that will contribute to each objective together with Indicators;
    - Key activities that will help achieve the results, including deliverables.
    - Roles and responsibilities of project partners, if applicable

Please provide a brief narrative on how the activities will be implemented.

Does the project build on a previous project? If so, describe the outcomes of the previous project and justify the need for the proposed project and how it will strengthen the situation.

(d) **Project Beneficiaries, Outcomes and Impacts:** Who are the beneficiaries (identify who and specify numbers) or what are the improvements to the ecosystem? What are the 'changes' sought out by the Project? Briefly outline the Outcomes (benefits to the stakeholders/ participants) and Impacts (when the benefits to the stakeholders/ participants are achieved, what changes in organizations, communities or mountain ecosystems might be expected to occur).

(e) **Cross-cutting Themes:** Describe how would the project address the cross-cutting themes [climate change, gender equality & communications]? [see Section A of the Guidelines]

(f) Project Sustainability: The exit strategy - how will the project's Outcomes be sustained after this funding ceases?

(g) Project Risks and Assumptions: Describe potential barriers to the implementation of projects and how they will be overcome.

11. Project Budget: Please provide a framework budget (in local currency) and financing plan in the following format:

Item	Amount
(a) Activities	
(b) Personnel	
(c) Travel	
TOTAL	

12. Financing Plan

Total Budget	Financing Plan		
	Request from NMHS	Grantee Contribution	Other Contributions
100%	XX%	YY%	ZZ%

Annexure - II.4

Template for Full Proposals – Medium Grant (MG) and Large Grant (LG)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

1.2. Project context; detailed Situation Analysis, Problem Identification and Justification for the Project

1.3. Related projects/other relevant activities

1.4. Preparatory activities already undertaken to identify the project

1.5. The project's relevance to the NMHS and national priorities

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1. Statement on the Goal, Project Objective(s), Methodology along with Work plan and Time line (with PERT Chart) and Results, and describe how the Results contribute to NMHS's Thematic Areas of Work (TAW) and other NMHS national priorities; Please provide a timeframe in a Gantt chart as below, for each activity; the project should start immediately after the contract is signed. If there is special seasonal requirement (for example, monsoon), it should be clearly expressed here.

Activities	Months																	
Activitiy 1.1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Etc.						36
Activitiy 1.2																		
etc.																		

2.2. Project Beneficiaries: Who are the beneficiaries (identify who and specify numbers) or what are the improvements to the ecosystem?

2.3. A narrative on activities to support the Results, Outcomes and Impacts: What are the 'changes' sought out by the Project? Briefly outline the Outcomes (benefits to the stakeholders/ participants) and Impacts (when the benefits to the stakeholders/ participants are achieved, what changes in organizations, communities or mountain ecosystems might be expected to occur).

2.4. Strategies to address cross-cutting themes (climate change, gender equality and communications)

2.5. Inputs required (physical resources, manpower, and financial summary)

3. ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS

3.1. Commitment of Stakeholders

3.2. Institutional support

3.3. Accountability

3.4. Sustainability and Replicability: What is the exit strategy- how will the project's Outcomes be sustained after this funding ceases?

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

4.1. National Level

4.2. Local Level(s)

4.3. Procedures for Implementation: In addition to the description of procedures, please also include a narrative on the following:

a. Implementing partners, including the lead implementing agency; roles and responsibilities of Partners. The working and communication strategies between the partners should also be explained clearly.

b. The proposal should clearly indicate the involvement and roles and responsibilities, if any, of the key stakeholders, including the Government, if relevant.

4.4. Financial Management and Procurement

5. MONITORING, LEARNING & EVALUATION (MLE)

5.1. Internal Monitoring and Evaluation System with indicators and frequency of monitoring;

5.2. A description of the baseline information available, as basis for monitoring

5.3. Capturing, learning and dissemination of project's results and outcomes

6. ANNEXES (as appropriate)

6.1. Site Description (with maps, photos where relevant)

6.2. Detailed Budget and Disbursement Plan

6.3. Project Organization Chart

6.4. TOR/Job Descriptions for all project implementing personnel

Annexure - II.5

Information on the Proponent Organization

NOTE: Please fill-in this form and send it with the Concept Note and Full Proposal.

Project Title:		
Name of the Organization:		
Mailing Address:		
Visiting Address (if different from above):		
Telephone:	Fax:	
Email:	Website:	
Mission and Goals of the Organization:		
About the Organization	Registration date: Category: Contact person: Number of staff:	
Bank Account details	Account name: Bank name: Bank address: Account No.: SWIFT or other routing code: Signatories names:	
References	Name, address and Tel no. (Referee 1): Name, address and Tel no. (Referee 2):	
Projects implemented during the last 5 years, relevant to the theme of the current proposal		
Title of the Project	Donor/ Amount	Reference (Name/Tel/e-mail)
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Appendix - II.1

National Mission on Himalayan Studies

Composition and Terms of Reference for Steering Committee (SC)

(Vide OM No. 5/6/2015-CS-I; dated 31st August 2015, amended date 22nd March 2016)

1. Composition of the Steering Committee(SC)

i. Secretary (MoEF&CC) - ***Chair***
ii. Secretary, Deapartment of Science and Technology, GoI
iii. Director General (Forest) and Special Secretary (MoEF&CC)
iv. Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, MoEF&CC
v. Additional Secretary In-charge, MoEF&CC
vi. Adviser/Joint Secretary In-charge, MoEF&CC
vii. Director, GBPIHED, Almora
viii. Prof. R. Gadagkar, President, INSA, Bangalore
ix. Prof. J.S. Singh, Professor Emeritus, BHU, Varanasi
x. Prof. V.K. Gaur, Professor, IIA, Bangalore
xi. Prof. Hari B. Srivastava, BHU, Varanasi
xii. Deputy Secretary, CS-I, MoEF&CC - *Convener*

2. The Committee shall have the following Terms of Reference (ToR):

i. To provide overall guidance and direction to the project Management Team, Including approval and review of project Operatinal Plan and Annual Work Plans;
ii. To periodically review progress in project implementation, including taking appropriate decisions on the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical advisory Group; and
iii. To review and approve the assessment/ findings and outcomes of the NMHS.

3. The Committee shall meet at least once in six months.

4. The Committee would be free to co-opt any additional expert members as per the requirement to provide quidance on specific issues.

Appendix - II.2

National Mission on Himalayan Studies

Composition and Terms of Reference of
Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)
(Vide OM No/5/6/2015-CS-I; dated 31st August 2015)

1. Composition of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group

Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC - *Chair*

Representatives of the Government Organisations:

i. Department of Science & Technology
ii. Ministry of Earth Science
iii. Ministry of Rural Development
iv. Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation
v. Department of Space/Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
vi. Ministry of Mines (Geological Survey of India)
vii. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

Representatives of State Government:

- Chief Secretary or representative on-behalf not below the rank of Principal Secretary of 12 Himalayan States

Representatives of the Himalayan Universities:

- Vice-Chancellor or representative on-behalf not below the rank of Senior Professor of following Himalayan Universities:
  1. North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya
  2. Rajiv Gandhi University (Formrly Arunachal University), Arunachal Pradesh
  3. Sikkim University, Gangtok, Sikkim
  4. Jammu University, Jammu, J&K

Representatives of the Autonomous Organisations:

1. G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIHED)
2. Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
3. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)
4. Director, Institute of Economic Growth
5. DG, IMD or nominee on-behalf
6. Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE), Manali, HP

Representatives of NGOs:

1. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
2. Centre for Science & Environment (CSE)
3. Himalayan Environment Study and Conservation Organization (HESCO), Dehradun

Regional Inter-governmental Organization:

1. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Eminent Experts:

1. Dr. R.K. Kohli, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Punjab
2. Dr. V.P. Dimri, Former Director, NGRI, Hyderabad

MoEF&CC Representatives form the Thematic Divisions:

1. Dr. Ranjini Warrier, Adviser (Mountain Division)
2. Dr. S.K. Khanduri, Inspector General (Wildlife Division)
3. Dr. J.R. Bhatt, Adviser (Climate Change Division)
4. Dr. A.B. Harpanahalli, Adviser (Environment Education)

Convener:

Deputy Secretary, CS-I Division will convene the Committee.

2. The Committee shall have following Terms of Reference (ToR):

i. To provide scientific and technical guidance for assessing project proposals, invite studies as well as *suo-moto* studies;
ii. To recommend site-specific targeted pilot projects;
iii. To appraise and recommend case studies ensuring multi-discplinarily and cross-sectoral integration;
iv. To advice study teams on assessment frameworks and methodologies for conducting the studies;
v. To review progress of the studies on a periodic basis and recommend necessary mid-term correction options;
vi. To provide scientific and technical expert advice and recommendations to the Projcet Steering Committee; and
vii. To advice the Project Management Team on stakeholder engagement and capacity development areas.

3. The Committee shall meet as frequently as the Members may decide.
4. The Committee would be free to co-opt any additional expert members as per requirement to provide guidance on specific issues.