

Connecting People and Ecosystems in the Indian Himalayas

Working in the Balkila Watershed in the Uttarakhand Himalayas, India

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Context

The project aims to invest in the environment, as a 'critical natural infrastructure' for enhancing climate change resilience while improving community livelihoods in the Balkila Watershed of Uttarakhand State, India. Increased population and development pressures leading to deforestation and changing land use patterns are resulting in ecosystem degradation within the Himalayas. Watersheds in the Himalayas have experienced significant increases over the last decades in soil erosion and deforestation, resulting in reduced groundwater availability and seasonal increase in surface water run-off. There is widespread concern among communities in the region over declining water availability and it is expected that this situation will intensify in the coming years.

Our approach

IUCN in collaboration with Nokia will encourage an integrated multi-stakeholder approach for developing sustainable and effective adaptive strategies to cope with climate change in the Himalayan region.

A priority of the project will be to document and disseminate best practices related to water management and climate change adaptation in the Indian Himalayas and presenting improved water management regimes from the perspective of indigenous systems, the work of government, civil society and community based organizations.

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Implementation

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