

#ArcticHKH

# The first Inter-Polar Conference: Connecting the Arctic with the Third Pole – the Hindu Kush Himalaya

6–9 September 2023

[www.icimod.org/arctichkh](http://www.icimod.org/arctichkh)

## About the conference

The Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland and ICIMOD are jointly organising the first Inter-Polar Conference in collaboration with the UARctic Chair in Arctic Legal Research and Education, and the Law Thematic Network.

The Arctic and the Third Pole – the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, both contain important elements of the cryosphere, the near-permanent presence of water in a frozen state. However, as temperatures in both regions are currently increasing, these areas are rapidly thawing, and several elements of the cryosphere are possibly at tipping points.

Changes in the cryosphere will have major impacts on local communities and ecosystems, and also lead to larger-scale changes: the rapid melting of the Himalayan glaciers and changes in snowpack will have significant regional effects related to the provision of water to a quarter of humanity, and the melting of cryosphere in the Arctic will contribute significantly to global sea level rise, affecting the 10% of humanity living within 10 m of sea level, as well as global trade as docks and other infrastructure at sea level are affected.

The interlinked aspect of the cryosphere thaw and climate change has been evidenced as crucial in promoting polar science. However, the Arctic and Third Pole are almost always considered separately, demonstrating very little knowledge about the commonalities, links, and differences between both regions, especially concerning geo-political, socio-cultural, environmental, and legal dynamics of effects of and responses to these changes.

## Objectives

- Discuss inter-polar perspectives from both Arctic and the Hindu Kush Himalaya region, and scope out the possibilities of creating an inter-polar knowledge network bringing experts from both regions
- Better understand climate change-driven impacts on the regions and help prepare scholars and stakeholders to develop an in-depth understanding of sustainability in both regions

## AGENDA

**DAY 01: 6 September, 2023**

Venue: Kailash hall, ICIMOD

Time (NPT)	Programme
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
<b>Inaugural plenary session</b>	
Moderator: <b>Pradyumna JB Rana</b> , Climate Change Adaptation and Governance Analyst, ICIMOD	
09:30 – 11:00	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Pema Gyamtsho</b>, Director General, ICIMOD</li></ul> <p>Opening presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Arun Bhakta Shrestha</b>, Strategic Group Lead, Reducing climate and environmental risks</li></ul> <p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Kamrul Hossain</b>, Director of NIEM at the Arctic Centre &amp; UArctic Chair (Law)</li></ul> <p>Introduction to the Arctic: a holistic way of looking to the Arctic region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Markku Heikkilä</b>, Head of Science Communication, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland</li></ul> <p>UArctic and its thematic networks and cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Kirsi Latola</b>, Vice-President TN, University of the Arctic</li></ul> <p>#SaveOurSnow: A science-communication campaign for a cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Annie Dare</b>, Head of Communications, ICIMOD</li></ul>
11:00 – 11:30	Group photo, tea break, and networking
<b>Keynote session</b>	
Moderator: <b>Udayan Mishra</b> , Communications Officer, ICIMOD	
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Keynote 1: Arctic governance amidst geopolitical tensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Timo Koivurova</b>, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland</li></ul> <p>Keynote 2: Science, technology, and resilience building in the face of climate change in the Himalayas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Akhilesh Gupta</b>, Senior Adviser, Department of Science and Technology Secretary, Science and Engineering Research Board, Government of India (Virtual)</li></ul> <p>Keynote 3: Building climate resilience of vulnerable communities in the face of cryospheric change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Aisha Khan</b>, Chief Executive, Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), Pakistan</li></ul>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

14:00 – 15:30		Breakout session 1 Cryosphere – Theory, Ideas and practice	
<b>Panel 1</b> Venue: Kailash Chair: Deepshikha Sharma		<b>Panel 2</b> Venue: Tirich Mir Chair: Avash Pandey	
<b>Kamrul Hossain</b> Cryosphere: Legitimising deconstruction of the normative structure of international law? Reference to the Arctic and the Third Pole		<b>Medy Dervovic</b> Melting Boundaries in the Cryosphere: Connecting Arctic Baselines and Himalayan Land Borders	
<b>Ranjan Datta</b> Climate change and disaster research from indigenous perspective - Lessons to be learned from the Arctic		<b>Shazzad Mohashin</b> Inuit Jurisdiction in the Arctic: An Assemblage Encounters Sovereignty	
<b>Ayushi Nirola</b> How much can the hills hold? - Perspectives on transformation of a Tiny Sikkim Himalayan State		<b>Daniel Stein</b> 20th Century Polar Literature	
<b>Margot Hurlbert</b> Indigenous rights and time of the Anthropocene		<b>Deo Raj Gurung</b> Assessment to inform adaptation actions in high mountains geographies of Central Asia – AKAH's pilot study	
<b>Panel 3</b> Venue: Hkakabo Razi Chair: Albert van Wijngaarden		<b>Suman Chakrabarty</b> People's Perception on Climate Variability in the Sub-Himalayan Regions: A Case Study among the Rabha Tribe in West Bengal State of India	
<b>Marlene Payva Almonte</b> Rethinking nature in a climate-changing world: An Inter-Polar perspective		<b>Tom Tshering Lepcha</b> Effects of Climate Change, Resilience and Sustainability among Lepcha Indigenous Community in the Sikkim Himalayas: Challenges and Opportunities	
<b>15.30–16.00</b>		Tea Break	
		<b>Raushan Tara Jaswal</b> Arctic Amplification and its Impacts on Indian Summer Monsoon: Navigating Climate Vulnerabilities and Collaborative Conservation	

16:00 – 17:30		Breakout session 2 Societal and Political issues	
<b>Panel 4</b> Venue: Kailash Chair: Pradyumna Rana		<b>Panel 5</b> Venue: Tirich Mir Chair: Babar Khan	
		<b>Panel 6</b> Venue: Hkakabo Razi Chair: Medy Dervovic	
<b>Laura Junka-Aikio</b> Military use of Indigenous lands: on the colonial dimensions of militarization of the Arctic		<b>Marco Volpe</b> Comparative analysis of science diplomacy in the Arctic and in the third pole	
<b>Trym Eiterjord</b> Toward an Inter-Polar Epistemic Community: Navigating Science Diplomacy and Geopolitics		<b>Tapas Ranjan Chakraborty</b> Communicating Science with Mass Community in Rural Bangladesh	
<b>Shreya Sinni</b> Assessing the Social Impact of Climate Change on Livelihoods in the HKH Region: The Role of Communication in Advancing the SDG13		<b>Avash Pandey</b> Institutionalizing regional cooperation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya	
<b>Eleni Kavvatha</b> Melting: Linkages, Similarities, and Best Practices on Sustainability and Climate Change Mitigation from Indigenous Communities in the Arctic and the Himalayan Region		<b>Asylbek Aidaraliev et al.</b> Consolidation of Institutional, Regional and Global Cooperation for Global Sustainable Mountain Development	
		<b>Ahmed Nawaz</b> Linking conservation with socio-economic benefits of local communities: An analysis of resources regimes of Central Karakoram National Park, Pakistan	
		<b>Binita Verma</b> Challenges to Peace and Stability in the Arctic: Role of the Arctic Council	
		<b>Tanuja</b> The role of adaptation policy and governance in addressing climate change in himalayas	

=== End of Day 1 ===

**DAY 2: 7 September, 2023**

09:00 – 09:15	<b>Day 2 opening plenary, and tea</b>
<b>Venue: Kailash</b>	<b>Introductory presentation on Living Mountain Lab</b> - <b>Surendra Joshi</b> , Head, Living Mountain Lab, ICIMOD

09:15 – 10:45	<b>Breakout session 3</b> Melting glaciers and water
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<b>Panel 7</b> <b>Venue: Kailash</b>  Chair: Pem Kandel	<b>Panel 8</b> <b>Venue: Hkakabo Razi</b>  Chair: Aisha Khan	<b>Panel 9</b> <b>Venue: Tirich Mir</b>  Chair: Albert van Wijngaarden
<b>Hasina</b>  Spiritual ecology of Glaciers: A case study of Gilgit Baltistan	<b>Khusboo Sharma &amp; Pramod Kumar</b>  Snowfall Shift and Precipitation Variability over Sikkim Himalaya Attributed to Elevation Dependent Warming.	<b>Suhail A. Lone</b>  Basin-wise dependence of streamflow on meltwater in Upper Indus Basin, western Himalayas
<b>Sewa Bhattarai</b>  Love for the mountains in songs of Himalayan communities	<b>Aman Kumar</b>  Analysing the Spatiotemporal Evolution and Transitions of Dry and Wet Events in the Upper Indus Basin for Water Resource Management.	<b>Surbhi Vyas</b>  Assessing climate-related risks at the district level: A profile of Sikkim, India
<b>Tanmay Dhar</b>  Calibration of WRF-Hydro for Bhagirathi-Alaknanda basin	<b>Shristy Kayastha</b>  Assessment of wastewater treatment Plant at Dhulikhel Hospital	<b>Kabiraj Rokaya</b>  Estimating Glacier Velocity and Understanding Climate Change Impacts in the Nepalese Himalayas
<b>Mohd. Sayed Ul Hasan</b>  Pixel Based Assessment of Future Trend and Directional Distribution of Precipitation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Under Changing Climatic Condition	<b>Shaheena Gulam</b>  Assessing Cryosphere Contributions to Streamflow in the Upper Indus Basin: Insights from Stable Isotope Analysis	<b>Anna Maria and Roger Norum</b>  Growing Glaciers – Validating Indigenous Expertise
<b>10:45 – 11:00</b>	Tea break	

11:00 – 12:30	<b>Breakout session 4</b> Polar perspectives
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<b>Panel 10</b> <b>Venue: Kailash</b>  Chair: Medy Dervovic	<b>Panel 11</b> <b>Venue: Tirich Mir</b>  Chair: Marco Volpe	<b>Panel 12</b> <b>Venue: Hkakabo Razi</b>  Chair: Albert van Wijngaarden
<b>Sara Fusco</b>  Negating “ecological grief”: Reposition of Indigenous Environmental Rights in constitutional law: A reference to Arctic Constitutions.	<b>Balasubramanian C</b>  Emerging Geopolitical and Environmental Challenges: China’s Impact in the Arctic and Himalayas	<b>Akriti Sharma</b>  Security Perspectives from the Arctic and the Third Pole: A Case for Cooperation
<b>Suprita Suman</b>  Reflection of Interpolar Connectivity of the North Pole and the Third Pole: Envisioning through the Prism of Science, Law and Geopolitics	<b>Federico Prizzi</b>  Italian Scientific Research between the Arctic and the Third Pole-Himalaya - A winning example of Cultural Diplomacy among the ice	<b>Sanna Kopra</b>  The Role of China in Polar Geopolitics, especially in the Arctic
<b>Pratap Bikram Khand Thakuri</b>  Preventing Transboundary Harm in the Third Pole: Prospects of Modelling the Arctic Practice for the Himalayas	<b>Yitong Chen</b>  What Can We Learn from the Arctic Governance to Protect the Third Pole?	<b>Monila Limboo</b>  Saving the Sacred Groves: A case study of Devithans in the Sikkim Himalayas
<b>Tiina Seppälä</b>  Entangling Global South/Arctic: Disaster Social Work for Sustainable Development in the Himalayan Region	<b>Kanagavalli Suryanarayanan</b>  India's unique role as a ' Tripolar state' in connecting the Arctic and the Third Pole	<b>Rajan Kotru</b>  Indo German Development Cooperation Programme - GOPA Consultants Worldwide International CTA

12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 – 17:00	<b>Excursion to ICIMOD’s Living Mountain Lab</b>
Prior registration required: <a href="https://hkh.pub/LMLVisit2023">https://hkh.pub/LMLVisit2023</a>  Max capacity: 75-80	This excursion will include a guided tour of ICIMOD’s Living Mountain Lab, which is located at Godavari (30-minute drive from the ICIMOD headquarters premises). The tour will take around 1 hour of slow hiking through a hilly forest landscape, observing the demonstration of sustainable technologies for mountains. Please come prepared with comfortable outdoor clothing, and a pair of hiking shoes!

=== End of Day 2 ===

**DAY 3: 8 September, 2023**

09:00 – 09:15	<b>Day 3 opening plenary, and tea</b>
<b>Venue: Kailash</b>	

09:30 – 11:00	<b>Breakout session 5</b> The role of science and technology in changing polar landscapes	
<b>Panel 13</b> <b>Venue: Kailash</b>  Chair: Marco Volpe	<b>Panel 14</b> <b>Venue: Tirich Mir</b>  Chair: Medy Dervovic	<b>Panel 15</b> <b>Venue: Hkakabo Razi</b>  Chair: Arun Bhakta Shrestha
<b>Sher Muhammad Malik</b>  Impact of Climate Change on Irrigation Water in the Hindu Kush-Karakorum-Himalayas: A Case Study of Irrigation Water Management in Village Kushum, Pakistan	<b>Michelle Blade</b>  Two-eyed seeing: pairing of permafrost science with Indigenous knowledge for enhanced characterization of Nunavut, Canada permafrost and changing permafrost landscape dynamics	<b>Bishnu Maya K.C.</b>  Bamboo based eco-rehabilitation technology in Siwalik (Churia) hills: A low cost climate change resilience technology to mitigate the cryosphere thawing
<b>Nitish Mondal</b>  Climate sustainability and its impact on health from the perspective of the Sikkim Himalaya	<b>Saeeda</b>  Estimation of above ground biomass of a forest area in bunerswat to evaluate their environmental significance in combating climate change	<b>Namdu Lhamo</b>  Thermal Performance of Different Building Typology in Thimphu
<b>Albert van Wijngaarden</b>  Desperate times require desperate measures?: Technoscientific interventions to mitigate cryospheric decline in the Arctic and the Third Pole	<b>Archana Bawari</b>  Assessment of Aerosol Characteristics and its Impact on Radiative Forcing Over the Central Himalayan Region	<b>Surjeet Singh Randhawa</b>  Multi-Sensor Capability to Map the Climate Induced Hazard Threat in parts of Upper Indus Basin from Himachal and Trans Himalayan Region of Tibetan Catchment, India
<b>Zhanna Anshukova</b>  Advancing Regional Sustainability: Exploring the Strength of Scientific and Educational Collaboration in Climate, Cryosphere, and Community Resilience through the Arctic Five		<b>Sidra Tul Muntaha</b>  Satellite-based Analysis of Drought and Heat Wave Events in Arid and Semi-arid Regions of Pakistan
11:00 – 11:30	Tea break	

11:30 – 13:00		<b>Breakout session 6</b> Life on Thawing Land	
<b>Panel 16</b> Venue: Kailash Chair: Mandira Shrestha		<b>Panel 17</b> Venue: Tirich Mir Chair: Sonam Chuki	
<b>Narayan Gautam</b> An overview of climate change and water resources: special case of Nepal		<b>Anna Sinisalo</b> Changing cryosphere- changing values – a case study from the Arctic to Himalaya	
<b>Gunjan Ghimire</b> Regional Cooperation Among Youths Towards Shaping Climate Resilience		<b>Sangay Diki Bhutia</b> Climate Change and Religious Practices with Special reference to the Eastern Himalayas	
<b>Sudarshan Prasad Regmi</b> Valuation of Common Property Resource – The Pastureland a Means of Livelihood Security in Nepal		<b>Yashika Subba</b> Tea gardens of Darjeeling Hills in changing climate	
<b>Jose Edgardo Gomez Jr</b> Urbanization and a Warmer Third Pole: Climate Change and Strategic Responses of Nepalese Cities		<b>Anusree Ghosh</b> Impact of Climate Change on Livelihoods and Culture in the Meghalaya Foothill Wetlands located in Bangladesh	
		<b>Laxman Khatri</b> Climate Change, Food Security, and Migration: Nepal's Interconnected Challenges	
		<b>Gh Jeelani</b> Permafrost: An important component of the cryospheric system in the Upper Indus Basin	
		<b>Govinda Choudhury</b> Climate change, vulnerability and rural livelihood diversification in the Himalayan region of Eastern India	

13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 14:30	<b>Closing session</b> Venue: Kailash Hall Moderator: Udayan Mishra
	<b>Closing remarks</b> - <b>Albert van Wijngaarden</b> , Visiting Researcher, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland  <b>Vote of thanks</b> - <b>Pem Narayan Kandel</b> , Chief Policy Advisor, ICIMOD
14:30 – 16:00	Interactive networking, and Tea

=== End of the conference ===

**DAY 4: 9 September, 2023**  
Departure from Kathmandu