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## Initiative 8: Mountains Environmental Policies Repository

*Create an environment for mutual learning and experience sharing*

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### G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development

Kosi-Katarmal, Almora-263 643, Uttarakhand

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#### Background

For devising and/or reorienting environmental policies for any region, one needs to observe and respect interconnectivities or synergies in Nature. In order to ensure such interconnectivities or synergies w.r.t. Mountain Ecosystems that ensure supply of water, control of climate parameters, and growth of biodiversity, it would be relevant to build a single platform for cross-learning and facilitating the integrated environmental management and sustainable development of worldwide mountain ecosystems, particularly by taking into account the lessons/works of existing regional, national and international level organizations. One such platform is being thought as Mountains Environmental Policies Repository. This will allow taking a comprehensive view of national and relevant international policies and their interdependencies to recognize the relative strengths and weaknesses of different national and international policies. Subsequently, it will help in bridging the gap to address any environmental crisis as “International Mountainous Community in Unity” (IMCU). Towards building a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development taking International Mountainous Community in Unity (IMCU), this is an opportune time to create a platform for mutual learning and experience sharing by filtering and developing on existing strategies, protocols, policies, treaties, etc. towards cross-learning, filling the gaps and understanding the routes and detours of Nature.

“Mountain Environmental Policies Repository” has been envisioned as a ready-reckoner to major environmental challenges of mountains towards reflecting on past practices and building on the present efforts. Aim is to provide scope for learnings from various initiatives across mountain regions which have helped making the planet greener and a better sustainable home for our future generations.

The Himalaya is a transboundary landform and intensity of global environmental problems such as ecosystem degradation, climate change, etc. in the region has made the Institute to think beyond the national boundaries and even act on trans-boundary landscapes counting on resembling factors.

#### The initiative

The Institute, recognizing the synergy in diversity and trans-boundary connectedness of the Himalaya, has made a beginning by way of initiating Mountain Environmental Policies Repository. The mission of this initiative is to:

- Create an Environmental Policies Repository that covers various environmental challenges & solutions across global mountains
- Reaching out to nations facing similar adversities for cross-learning and exchange of knowledge for ensuring improved quality of life for mountainous inhabitants

- Develop appropriate knowledge products to ensure proper knowledge dissemination across mountain regions.

### The objectives

1. To identify and analyse the good policies and practices from different mountain countries.
2. To improve access to environmental policies and knowledge products by way of developing a repository that includes knowledge base regarding conservation practices in the mountain regions of the world.
3. To create and strengthen the communications network and information sharing.
4. To generate knowledge products and facilitate good practices as a ready-reckoner for prompt evaluation of environmental risks and challenges in mountainous ecosystems.

### Implementation Charter

#### Phase I

Environmental Policies Database generation collecting all Environmental Conventions, Treaties, Policies, Protocols, Frameworks, Amendments, etc. of all mountainous countries of the world.

#### Phase II

Segregation and Standardization of Database prepared in Phase I with the help of policy-planners, subject-matter experts and professionals at national and international levels open to the task.

#### Phase III

Online Presence of Repository, seeking out synergies and interconnectivities in Nature, extracting cross-learning chapters and implementation frameworks.

### The outcomes

- It is envisioned that the Institute will be successful in making a Mountains Environmental Policies Repository covering environmental challenges and prompt solutions applied worldwide.
- The repository will act as a ready-reckoner of good policies and practices of mountain environment and development. The knowledge product developed through this initiative will assist in policy-planning and decision-making counting on interconnectivities and synergies found between mountainous regions of the world

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**Contact us:** Dr. P.P. Dhyani, Director [psdir@gbpihed.nic.in, ppdhyani@gbpihed.nic.in]; Er. R.K. Singh [rksingh@gbpihed.nic.in]; Mr. Puneet Sirari [puneet.sirari@gmail.com]