**Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP)**

**Summary / Zusammenfassung**

Current scientific evidence suggests instability in the Himalayan ecosystem as a result of climate change impacts and increased uncertainty. Vulnerability is also increased as a result of cascading effects of changes in composition and distribution of natural resources – water, forest and agro-biodiversity. In response, the Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) is a project under Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In India it is anchored under the Framework of Science and Technology Agreement of November 2003 between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of India and is being implemented as a bilateral cooperation programme with Department of Science & Technology (DST).

The IHCAP builds on capacity and knowledge enhancement related to three pillars:

- Scientific and technical knowledge cooperation between Indian and Swiss scientific institutions
- Strengthening Institutions for adaptation measures among vulnerable communities
- Mainstreaming adaptation policies for improved action in the Indian Himalayan Region

**Capacity Building:**

The Capacity Building Programme on Himalayan Glaciology aims at enhancing the human and institutional capacities of Indian students and researchers, comprises three levels, and is conducted every year. Level I provides a basic course in the field of glaciology and related topics. Level II includes field work training followed by an advanced course building on the base of the Level I topics. Finally 2–5 participants will be selected for proposed research under the DST Climate Change programme jointly supervised by Indian and Swiss faculty.

**Integrated Vulnerability and Hazard and Risk Assessment for Kullu:**

Starting from baseline data studies on climate and changes in the cryosphere, the involved institutions conduct wide-ranging studies within the overall framework of integrated vulnerability and hazard and risk assessment in the Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh. Applied scales range from district to village level, and can be expanded to other mountain communities in the Indian Himalaya Region.


**Project Leadership and Contacts / Projektleitung und Kontakte**

Dr. Nadine Salzmann (Project Leader) nadine.salzmann@unifr.ch
PD Dr. Christian Huggel (Project Leader) christian.huggel@geo.uzh.ch
Dr. Andreas Linsbauer andreas.linsbauer@geo.uzh.ch
Dr. Simon Allen simon.allen@geo.uzh.ch

**Other Links to external Webpages / Andere Links zu externen Webseiten**

http://ihcap.in/
http://eclim-research.ch/ihcap

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In Collaboration with / In Zusammenarbeit mit
Nadine Salzmann, Andreas Linsbauer, Department of Geosciences, University of Fribourg
Markus Stoffel, Climatic Change and Climate Impacts, Institut, des Sciences de l'Environnement, University of Geneva
Mario Rohrer, Meteodat GmBH

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