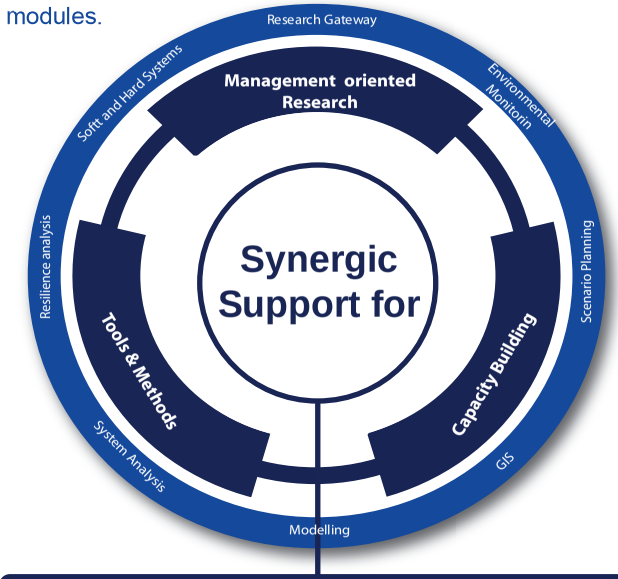
HKKH Partnership
for ecosystem management

Tools and methodologies

Building on the most advanced experiences in ecosystem management, the project will develop and test tools to support ecosystem management processes at different spatial and temporal scales. These tools will address the needs of key stakeholders and will be developed through their direct involvement. The tools will gradually evolve in to a Decision Support Toolbox for ecosystem management (DST) comprising both participatory and science based modules.



- Strategic planning
- Collaborative management and monitoring
- Community mobilization
- Research management
- Stakeholder partnership development
- Knowledge dissemination and exchange

Application examples

The Project is conducting several activities, starting with a focus on the local and national levels. Examples of ongoing experiences and applications are:

Qualitative and quantitative modeling of the dynamics of Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) socio-ecosystem to simulate possible responses to management interventions

Scenario Planning with Tourism Operators, Government, NGOs and local communities to develop a common vision for the future of SNP

GIS databases and 3D simulations to support resource use zoning, biodiversity conservation, tourism management and marketing

Development of visitor registration systems

Support the development of Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) management plan

Baseline studies on biophysical and socio-economic aspects as a reference for future monitoring

National workshops on System Dynamics modeling and land cover mapping

Exchange visits and cross learning for communities and Park staff

bringing together science and participation to achieve sustainable mountain ecosystem management

supported by Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo – Ministero degli Affari Esteri

Ev-K²-CNR

ICIMOD

CESVI

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

Decision support toolbox

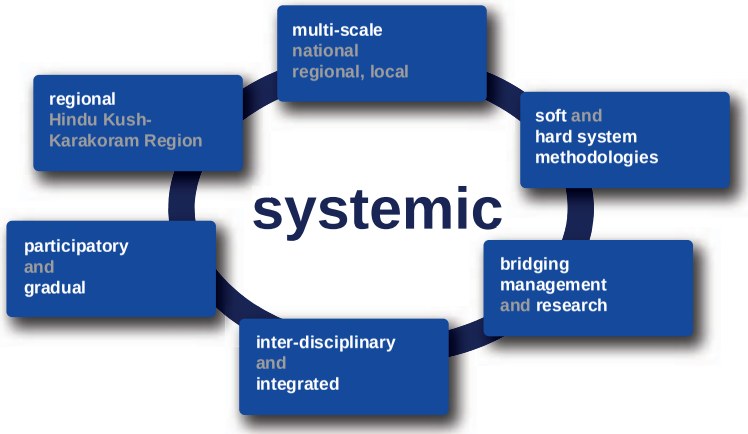
Applications

Building partnerships for the HKKH region

The project "Institutional consolidation for the Coordinated and the Integrated Monitoring of Natural Resources towards Sustainable Development and Environmental Conservation in the Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya Mountain Complex" (HKKH Partnership Project) is a regional initiative aimed at consolidating institutional capacity for systemic planning and management of socio-ecosystems at the local, national and regional levels in the HKKH region. The project, supported by the Italian Cooperation, is implemented by The World Conservation Union (IUCN) in partnership with CESVI, Ev-K2-CNR and ICIMOD.

The Project was presented by Italy and approved by UN as a Type II outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and is part of the Global Mountain Partnership. This multi scale initiative is active at regional, national and local levels with a special focus on three protected areas: Sagarmatha (Everest) National Park (SNP) in Nepal, Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) in Pakistan and Qomolongma Nature Preserve (QNP) in Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Currently activities have started in Nepal and Pakistan while are planned to begin in China.

The intervention will be calibrated on the specificities of each site and of each country so that the benefits will be most tangible and effective for the beneficiaries.



A systemic approach for managing complex ecosystems

In high mountain regions of developing countries, several ecosystems are fragile. The communities depend for their livelihood on the services provided by the same ecosystems, exercising a constant pressure on the resources but at the same time shaping the ecosystem though long standing traditional management practices. The complex nature of the interactions occurring within these socio-ecosystems render conventional management approaches based on command and control ineffective in achieving long term sustainability. While new approaches and methodologies have emerged to address these issues, few of them have been applied for operational management. Building on the Systemic paradigm, the Project aims at putting in action adaptive management and resilience theory to operationally support the planning, management and monitoring processes at local, national and regional scales. Participatory methodologies and science - soft and hard system approaches - will be integrated in a process supporting collaborative management and contributing to fill knowledge gaps on key ecosystem dynamics.

Bridging research and management

Using sound scientific knowledge to support the management process of mountain ecosystems is one of the conditions to achieve sustainability together with the effective participation of the stakeholders directly depending on and managing those ecosystems. Currently major gaps exist in the knowledge of crucial socio-ecosystem dynamics of the HKKH mountain complex and no clear mechanism is established linking research with management priorities. At the same time, results of past international research are often not available to national institutions and communities directly involved in the management process. Strategies and tools will be developed to bridge research and management throught the development of “Research Gateways”, platforms dedicated to foster the sharing of existing knowledge and data as well as bringing together the management and research communities with a common goal: sustainable ecosystem management.

To achieve long term sustainability, research will be carried out through partnerships between national and international researchers and promoting regional cooperation.

- **Building partnership between institutions, communities and the private sector**
- **Enhancing their capacities to jointly manage the highest ecosystems in the world**

Ev-K^2-CNR *(www.evk2cnr.org)* - high altitude scientific environmental research

CESVI *(www.cesvi.org)* - promoting socio-economic development in the world

ICIMOD *(www.icimod.org)* - leading mountain knowledge center in the region

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) *(www.iucn.org)* - world leader in nature conservation

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