

Transboundary Landscape Conservation and Development Initiatives in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region

Learning from the region

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Outline of presentation

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- The Hindu Kush Himalaya region – significance
- The transboundary landscape approach- rationale
- Transboundary Landscape conservation and development initiatives
- Experiences and lessons learnt from the region



Hindu Kush Himalaya region and its significance

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Water Towers of Asia: 1.3 Billion People Downstream

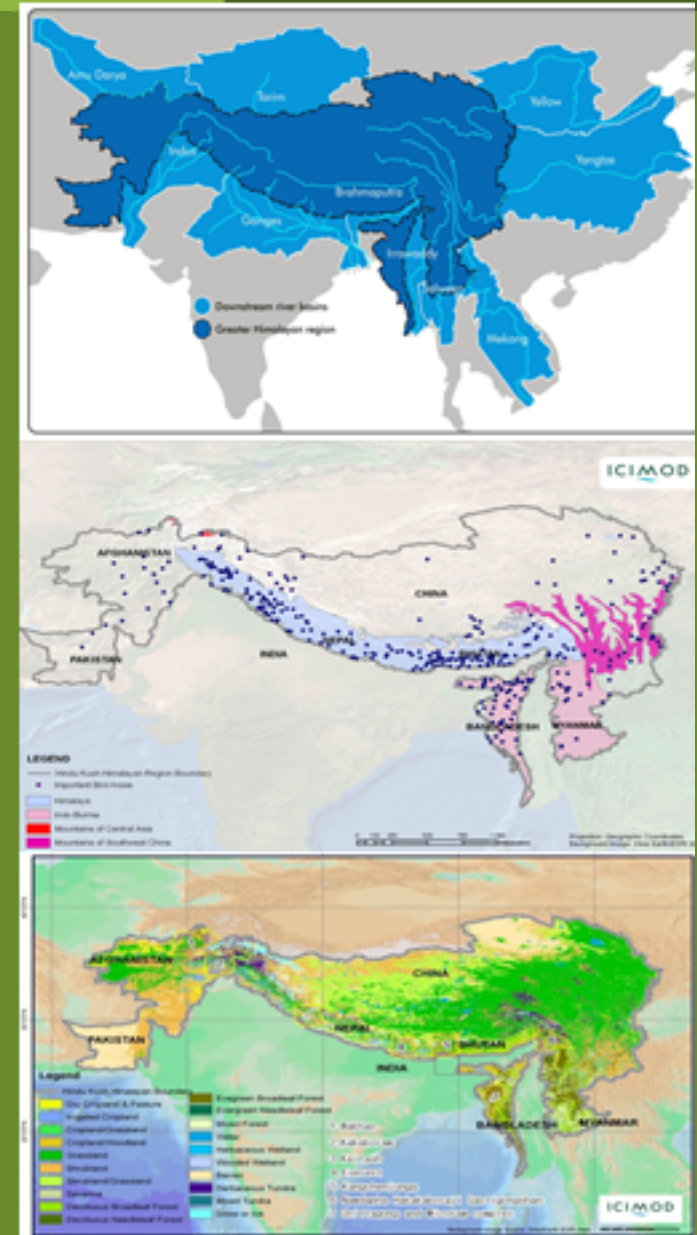
Ecosystem diversity: 4 of the 34 Global Biodiversity Hotspots, 60 Eco-regions, 488 Protected areas, & 330 Important Bird Areas

Agro-biodiversity

Himalayas as a centre of origin of cultivated plants, 50 important tropical and sub-tropical fruits, cereals and rice

Cultural diversity

More than 1000 ethnic groups with their varied traditions and cultures



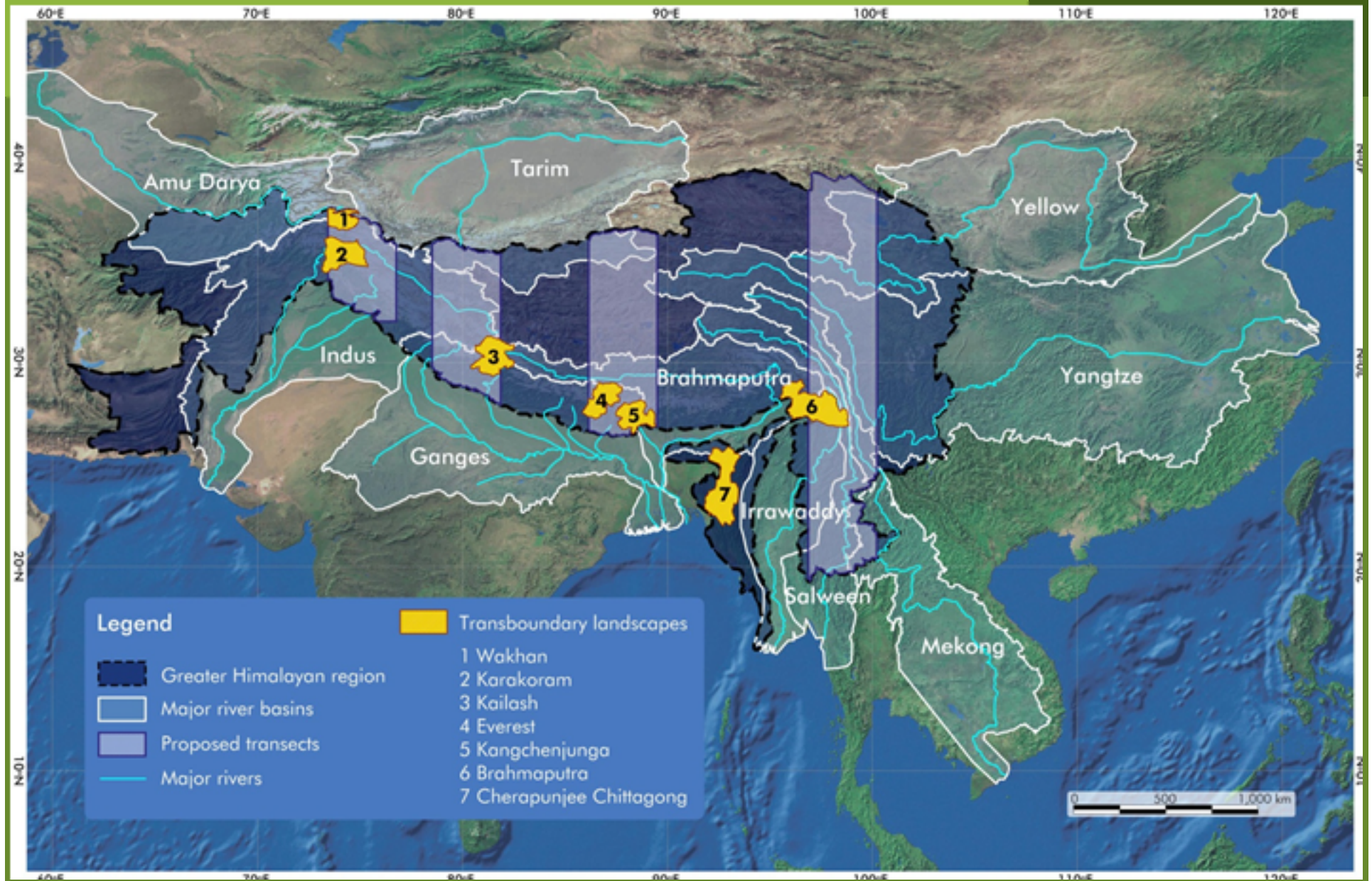
Transboundary Landscapes – the rationale



- The region is home to many globally significant species and use wide range of habitats beyond the existing PAs and beyond the political boundaries
- More than 20% of the PAs are transboundary in nature with numerous transboundary issues
- Conservation effectiveness questioned as most of the PAs are scattered as 'conservation islands', and lack connectivity in between - necessary for viable population as well as in the context of climate change adaptation
- Inconsistent data and diverse research capacity
- Himalayas: A data deficit area as stated by IPCC AR4

Regional Transboundary Landscapes

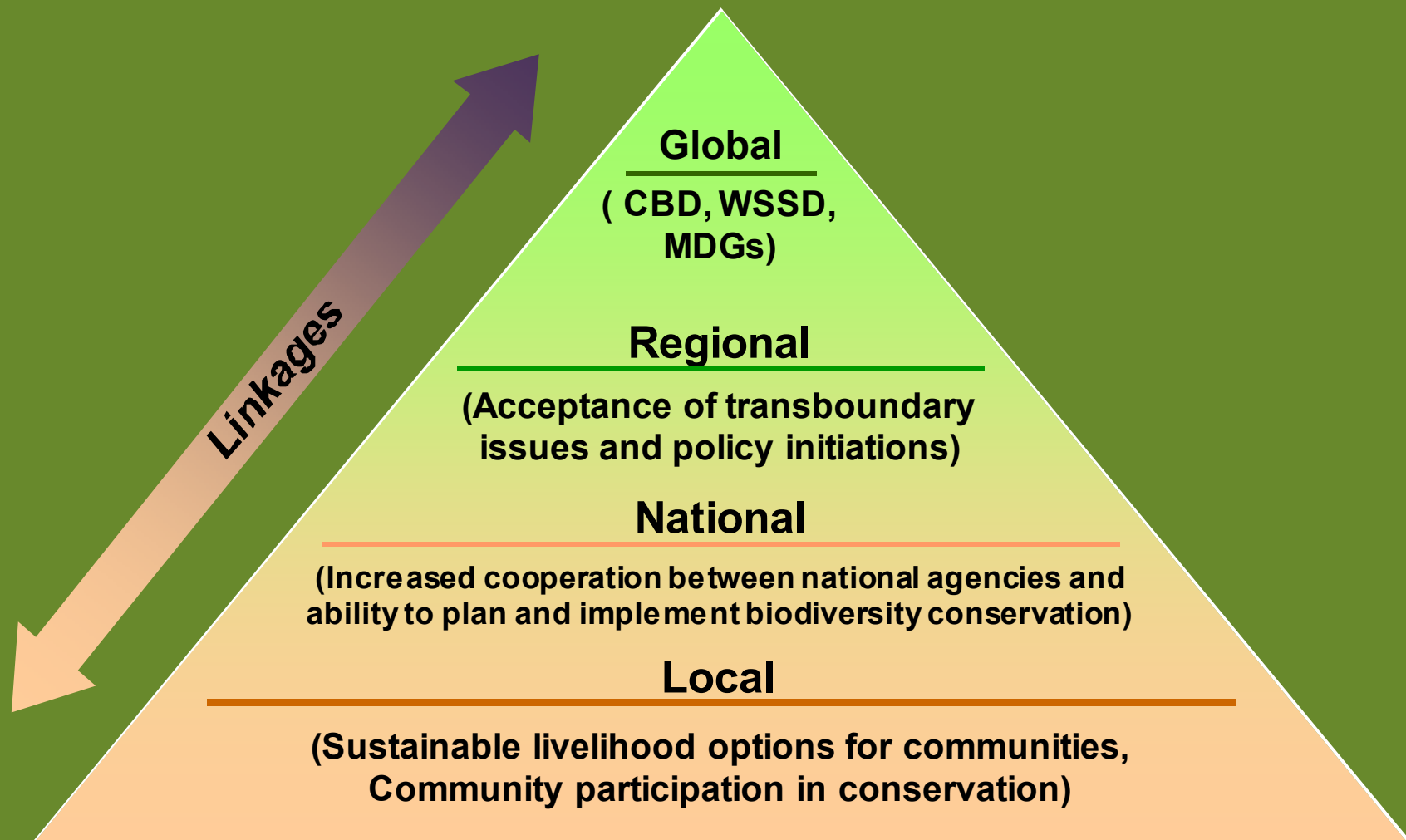
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Conceptual framework

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Transboundary landscape

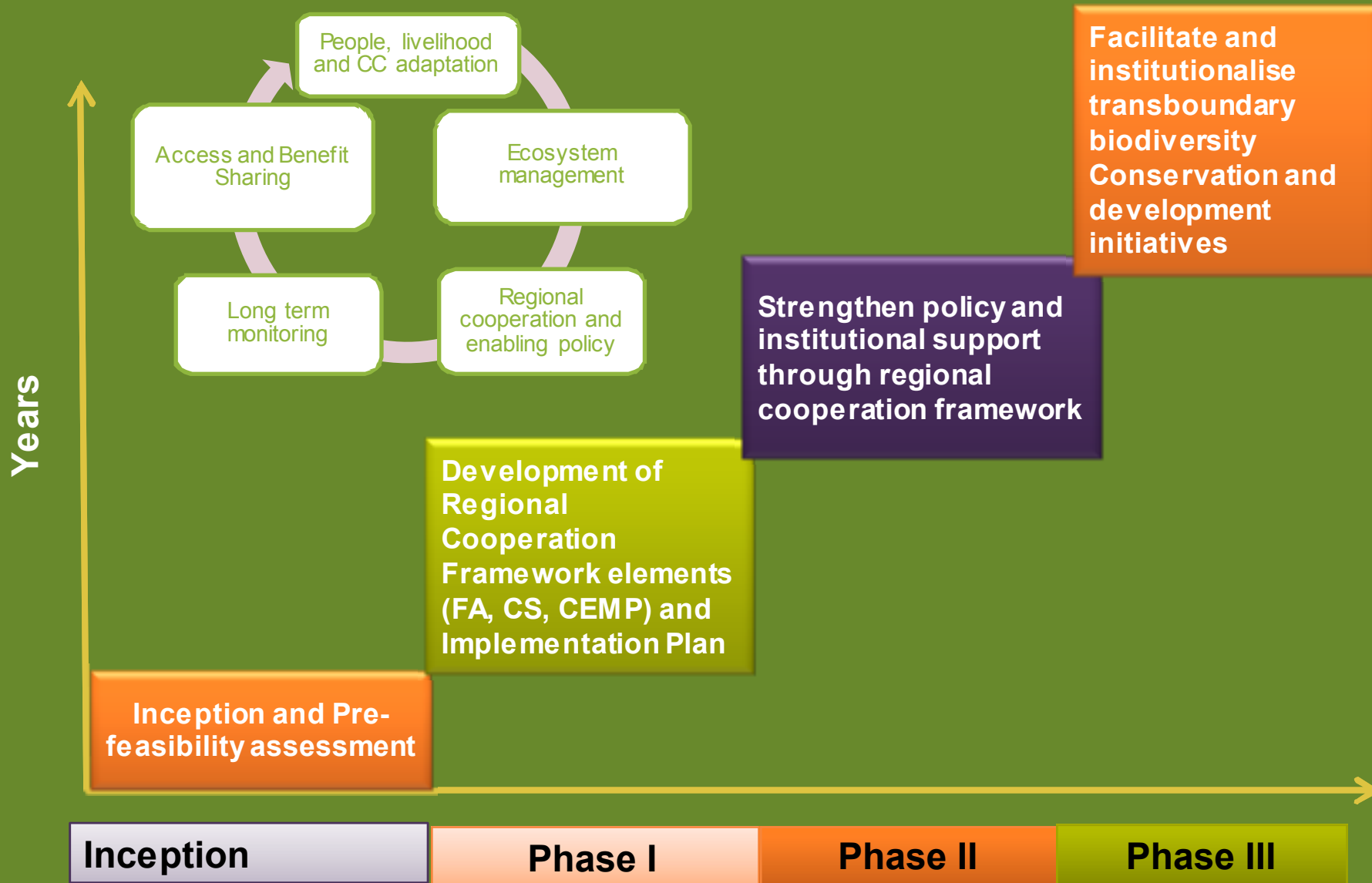
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- **Goal:** Transboundary landscapes are better conserved and managed for sustaining ecosystem services to improve livelihoods and enhance ecological integrity, and socio-cultural resilience to environmental changes.
- **Outcome:** Improved cooperation among RMCs for sustainable and inclusive ecosystem management in identified landscapes for enhanced and equitable livelihood benefits contributing to global conservation agendas.

Process

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Kailash Sacred Landscape

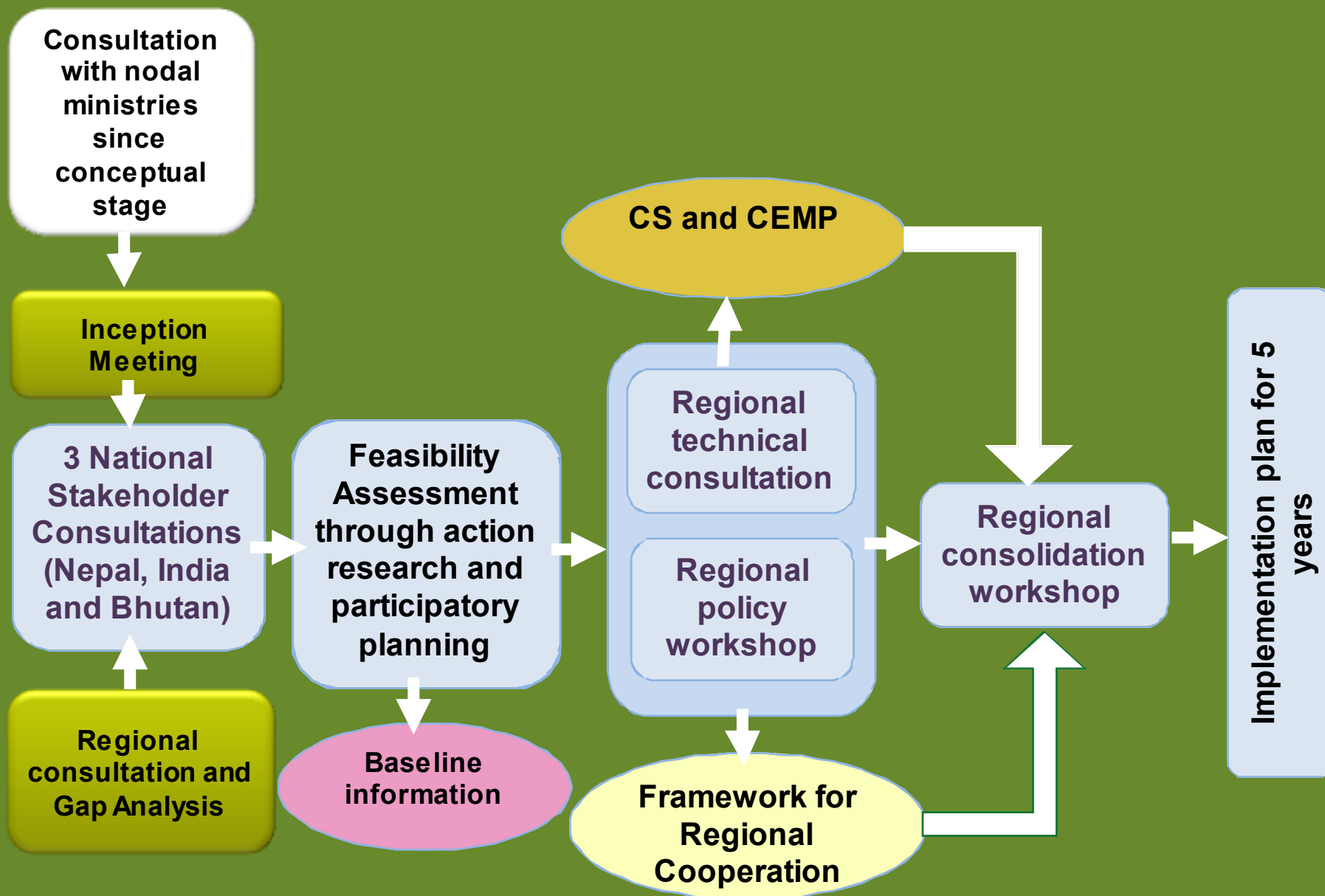
(China, India and Nepal)

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Kailash Sacred Landscape

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Kangchenjunga Landscape

(Bhutan, India and Nepal)

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Years

Uniqueness:

Wet region, having high potentials for developing conservation **corridors** as connectivity for climate change adaptation, Mt Kangchenjunga the **third highest mountain ecosystem**, connecting ecological regions from **subtropical to alpine areas**

Development of Regional Cooperation Framework elements (FA, CS, CEMP) and Implementation Plan

Inception and Pre-feasibility assessment

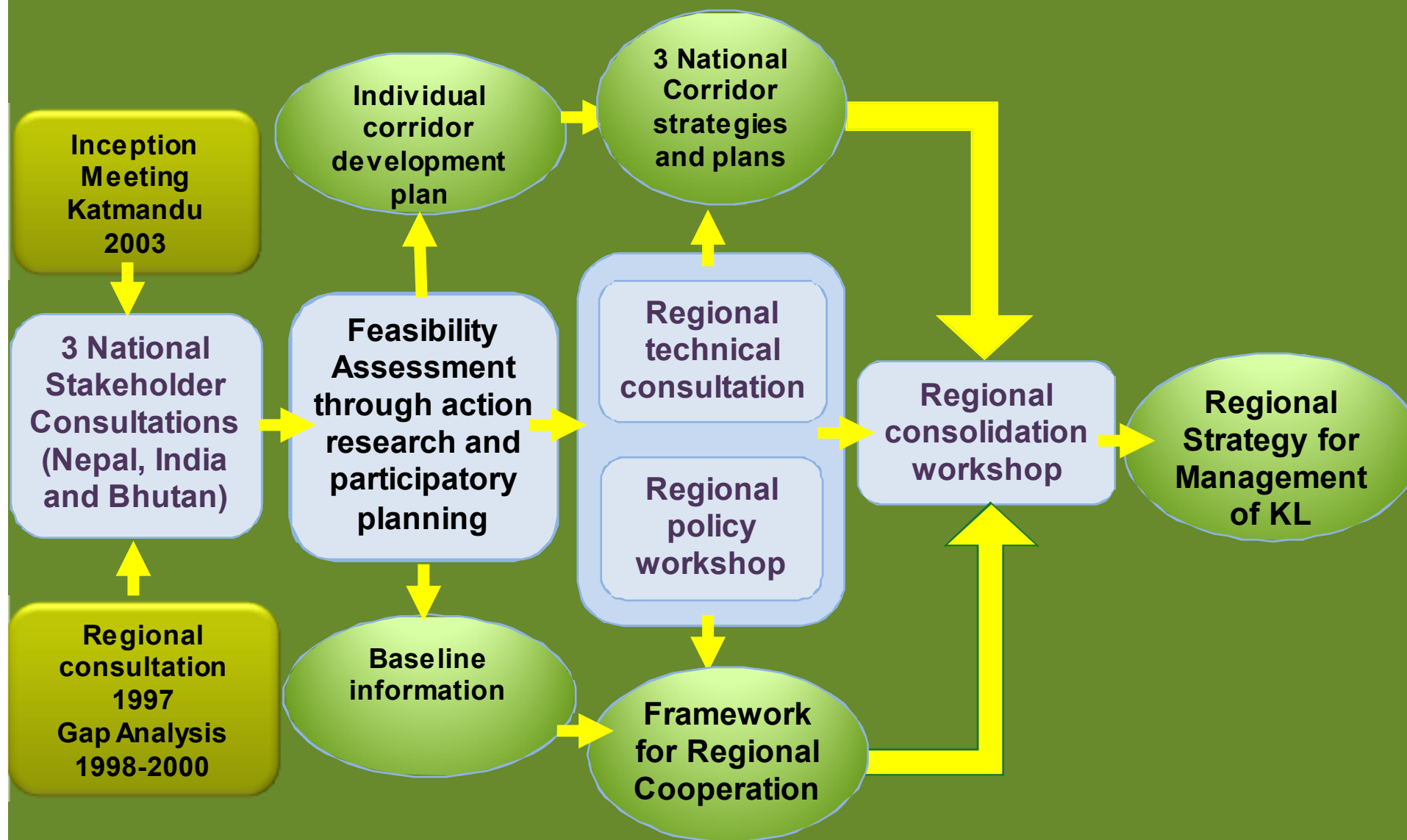


Inception

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III



Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape

India, Myanmar and China

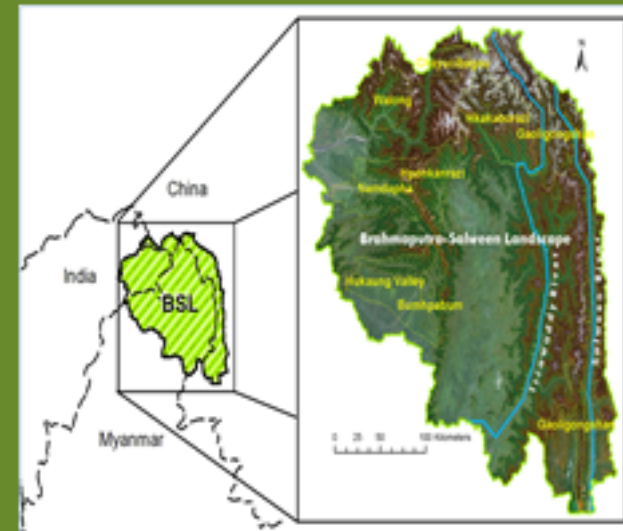
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Uniqueness:
Convergence of three Biodiversity Hotspots – Himalayas, Indo-Burma and Mountains of Southwest China, one of the **highest diversity** of flora and fauna, more than 200 species of Rhododendrons, Landscape that **connects Himalayas with Mekong region**

Years

Inception and Pre-feasibility assessment

Development of Regional Cooperation Framework elements (FA, CS, CEMP) and Implementation Plan



Inception

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Karakoram-Pamir Landscape

(China and Pakistan)

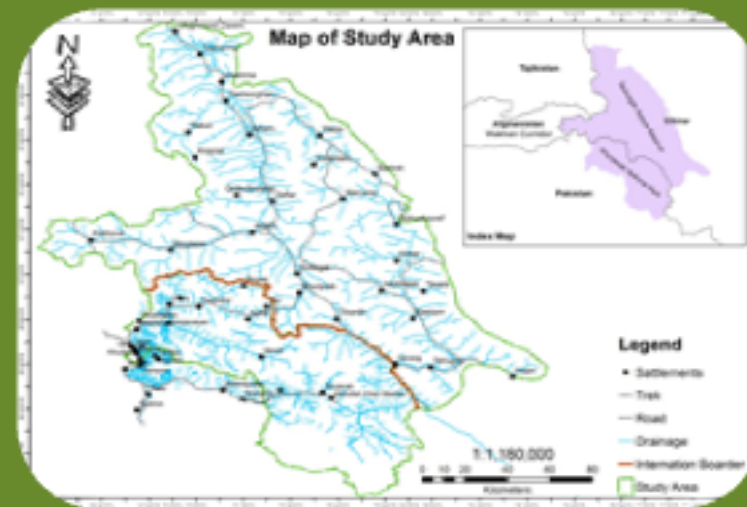
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Uniqueness:
Arid region, **habitat for Marco-Polo**
Sheep and parts of **Silk road** that
connects to Brahmaputra-Salween and
also **links to Central Asian Mountains**

Years

Inception and Pre-
feasibility assessment

Development of
Regional
Cooperation
Framework elements
(FA, CS, CEMP) and
Implementation Plan



Inception

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

- Each landscape are unique and have different conservation and development challenges as well as opportunities
- HKH – geopolitically sensitive but opportunity for synergy and comparative learnings
- Designed through participatory iterative processes among multi-stakeholders within member countries
- Engagement of nodal ministries from respective countries since the conceptual stage of KSLCDI
- Landscape approach - integrative but complex
- Challenges in coordination at local, national and regional levels; and balancing conservation with development
- Implementation strategy – Regional institute such as ICIMOD can play a pivotal role for facilitation

Thank you

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