



WWF

FACT SHEET

LIVING
HIMALAYAS

Eastern Himalayas

A mosaic of diverse landscapes

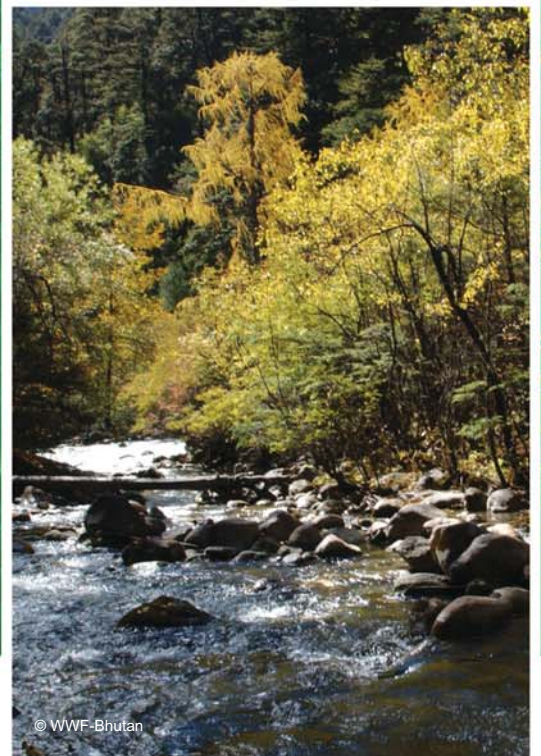
Arcing across Bhutan, India and Nepal, the Eastern Himalayas are known for its rich biodiversity and home to some of the world's most iconic and diverse species – tigers, elephants, rhinos, red pandas and snow leopards. The landscapes that they live in are as equally diverse.

Most people associate the Eastern Himalayas with the world's highest peaks,

but the region also comprises lush forests and rich alpine meadows, tall grasslands, extensive savannahs and high-mountain wetlands. Many natural sites here are revered by local communities as sacred.

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION
WWF, through its Living Himalayas Initiative, is working with the governments and people of Bhutan, India and Nepal to

conserve and reconnect the region's natural landscapes, ensuring that plant and animal species are able to thrive and that the needs of people are met without compromising the needs of nature conservation. WWF continues to build on its landscape-wide conservation experiences, while developing innovative approaches that balance environmental protection with economic development.





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THE SACRED HIMALAYAS

The Sacred Himalayan Landscape covers an area of 39,021 km², of which about 73.5% falls in Nepal, 24.4% falls in Sikkim of India and the remaining 2.1% falls in Bhutan. It extends from Langtang National Park in central Nepal through the Kangchenjunga region in Sikkim and Darjeeling in India to Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve in western Bhutan. Sacred Himalayas are a transboundary conservation area that boasts a mosaic of habitats – from broadleaf and conifer forests to alpine meadows to high altitude freshwater lakes, springs and rivers. The area is also home to diverse peoples and cultures. The landscape is rich in biodiversity and is home to the red panda and the globally threatened snow leopard. WWF is working to safeguard the biological and cultural treasures of the world's highest sacred mountains and deepest valleys, while local people's rights over resources are protected and their livelihoods enhanced and sustained.

BHUTAN BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION COMPLEX (B2C2)

Covering over 50% of the country, Bhutan's Biological Conservation Complex is a network of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, nature reserves and biological corridors that allows tigers, snow leopards, rhinos and other wildlife to move between Protected Areas. WWF works closely with the Government of Bhutan and other partners to address conservation threats, including deforestation, poaching, overgrazing and human-wildlife conflict, facing the Complex.

THE NORTH BANK AND KAZIRANGA-KARBIANGLONG

Located in the foothills of the Himalayas of northeast India, the North Bank Landscape's lush evergreen forests and grasslands are home to extraordinary wildlife: tigers, rhinos and one of the

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region's largest populations of elephants. It is also a region populated by millions of people, including many distinct tribal communities.

On the south side of the mighty Brahmaputra River lies the Kaziranga-Karbianglong Landscape, with 70% of the world's greater one-horned rhinos and densest populations of tigers. Kaziranga National Park, along with the connecting Karbianglong Hills, is one of the few places on Earth where one finds such a diverse range of large mammals: tigers, elephants, rhinos, wild buffaloes and swamp deer. Of the 500 bird species in Kaziranga-Karbianglong, 25 are globally threatened.

TERAI ARC LANDSCAPE

Covering 15 Protected Areas in India and Nepal, the Terai Arc Landscape is home to Endangered tigers and elephants and Vulnerable rhinos – one of the few places in the world where these three large threatened mammals coexist. WWF's efforts in this part of the Eastern Himalayas are focused on the restoration and community management of forests. Other activities include reducing pressure in forest areas through the use of alternative energy as well as strengthening anti-poaching measures and reducing human-wildlife conflicts.

WWF's work in these Eastern Himalayan landscapes is focused on restoring and maintaining wildlife corridors between prime wildlife habitats to ensure that wild animals continue to exist in viable populations while living in harmony with people.

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