**Region: Himalayas**

Countries Include: Bhutan, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan

**Threats to Biodiversity, Environment, and IPLC Regional Context:**

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| Country | Threats to biodiversity and environment | Threats to IPLCs, and Root Causes |
| Bhutan | * Main threats to wild species diversity include land conversion, overexploitation, dependence on wood for fuel, pollution by domestic sewage, climate change and forest fires. Forest biodiversity is threatened by the state of the country’s development process and their associated needs for forest products, infrastructure development, population growth and living space requirements, rapid urbanization, agricultural expansion, grazing pressures and forest fires. Likewise, pressure on water resources is bound to increase as a result of growing urbanization and industrialization (the city population is likely to increase by 50 percent by 2020).[[1]](#footnote-0) * From 2001 to 2018, Bhutan lost 19.8kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 0.77 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 9.12Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Bhutan, the top 8 regions were responsible for 51 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Paro had the most relative tree cover loss at 1.7 percent compared to an average of 0.80 percent. | * Bhutan is ranked 88th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been steadily improving across economic, political, and social indicators since 2016. Only the indicator linked to group grievances appears to be worsening. * No data on whether land defenders have been killed since 2015. |
| India | * Top threats to Himalayian areas of India: 1) Trans-Himalaya Livestock pressure, tourism, exotic plantations, extraction of medicinal plants and NTFPs, poaching, human-animal conflict, climate change. 2) Himalaya Climate change, deforestation, invasive species, extraction of medicinal plants and NTFPs, fire, land use change, development and urbanisation, mining, tourism. [[2]](#footnote-1) * From 2001 to 2018, India lost 1.67Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 4.3 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 645Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In India, the top 6 regions were responsible for 63 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Nagaland had the most relative tree cover loss at 15 percent compared to an average of 3.3 percent. | * India is ranked 68th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). Human rights and group grievance indicators have sharply worsened since 2019 while other political, social, and economic indicators appear to be mildly improving or flat. * According to Global Witness, at least 40 land defenders were killed in India between 2016-2018. |
| Nepal | * Primary threats to biodiversity in the mountains and high Himalayas include poverty, ecological fragility and environmental instability, inappropriate management of natural resources and faulty farming practices. Rangeland ecosystems are under high grazing pressure and on the verge of depletion of palatable species, especially the legume components. Agro-biodiversity is in a state of depletion which is primarily due to the destruction of natural habitat, overgrazing, land fragmentation, commercialization of agriculture, indiscriminate use of pesticides and the extension of hybrid varieties.[[3]](#footnote-2) * From 2001 to 2018, Nepal lost 44.3kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 0.86 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 20.7Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Nepal, the top 3 regions were responsible for 74 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Central had the most relative tree cover loss at 1.1 percent compared to an average of 0.84 percent. | * Nepal is ranked 49th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). While political and economic indicators seem to be steadily improving, most social and cohesion indicators are worsening or flat. * No data on whether land defenders have been killed since 2015. |
| Pakistan | * The major threats to terrestrial ecosystems are from overgrazing and deforestation due to high population pressure and increasing poverty. The diversion of water for irrigation has adversely impacted the ecology of mangrove and riparian ecosystems. Game birds and animals are heavily hunted while fisheries from inland and marine ecosystems are harvested beyond capacity.[[4]](#footnote-3) * From 2001 to 2018, Pakistan lost 9.53kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 0.97 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 2.86Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Pakistan, the top 3 regions were responsible for 94 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. F.A.T.A. had the most relative tree cover loss at 4.1 percent compared to an average of 1.0 percent. | * Pakistan is ranked 25th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It appears to be improving among most political, social, cohesion and economic indicators - especially since 2015-2016. * According to Global Witness, at least 4 land defenders were killed in Pakistan between 2016-2018. |

1. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=bt#facts> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/in/in-nr-05-en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=np#facts> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=pk#facts [↑](#footnote-ref-3)