

# Education for Sustainable Development in Indian Himalayas



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# Eastern Himalayas – Biodiversity Hot Spot

- estimated 10,000 species of plants
- about 3,160 are endemic
- as are 71 genera
- nearly 980 birds have been recorded in the hotspot, but only 15 are endemic.
- About 300 mammal species have been recorded in the Himalayas, including a dozen that are endemic to the hotspot.
- At least 175 reptiles have been documented, of which nearly 50 are endemic.
- Among amphibians, there are 105 species known to occur in the hotspot, more than 40 of which are endemic.



# Centre for Environment Education (CEE)

A national institution

Established in 1984

Centre of Excellence in EE

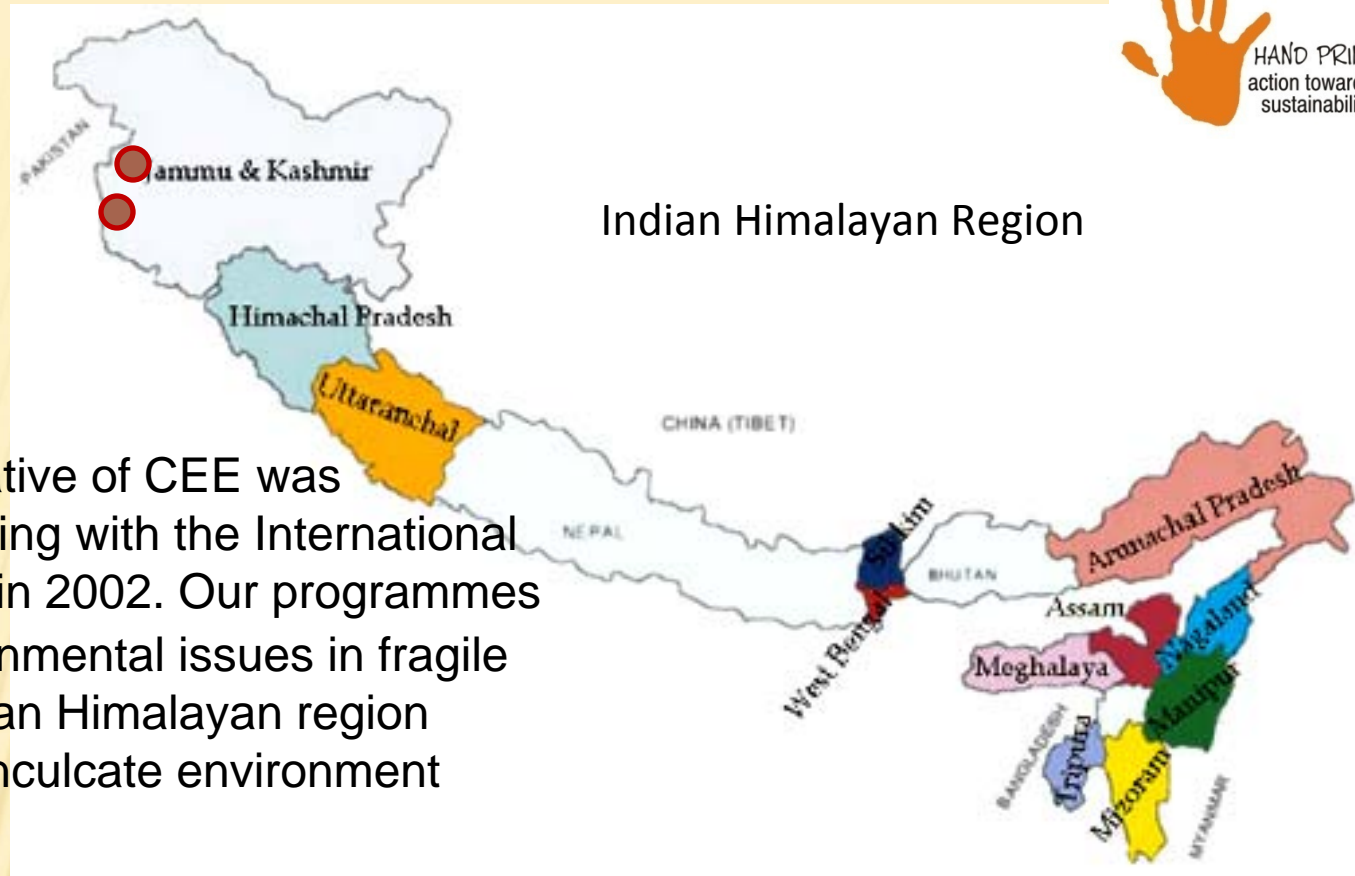
Supported by Ministry of Environment and  
Forests, Government of India

Primary Objective

To raise public awareness and understanding of  
environmental issues, with a view to promote the  
conservation and wise use of nature and natural  
resources.

CEE achieves this through developing  
innovative programmes and educational material  
to build the capacity in Education for Sustainable  
Development (ESD)





## Indian Himalayan Region

### CEE Himalaya

The Himalaya Initiative of CEE was established coinciding with the International Year of Mountains in 2002. Our programmes address the environmental issues in fragile ecosystems of Indian Himalayan region through ESD and inculcate environment friendly attitudes.

CEE Himalaya is contributing towards greening of education in Himalayan states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand through its capacity building programmes and teacher trainings. CEE assisted these states in development of 'green books'. Species, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation has been promoted through various projects implemented in the area.

Some Projects:

**Conserving plant genetic resources through empowering women using alternative media in Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve (NDBR) in Uttarakhand**

A Pilot project supported by UNESCO was implemented with the objectives to make women aware of the threats to the genetic resources in the area and motivate them for conservation *in-situ* as well as by cultivating some of the species. Implemented in 14 villages of NDBR, the project informed women about cultivation of some species of these medicinal plants as sustainable alternative livelihoods.



Some Projects:

## Hardy Mountains, Fragile Environments

Towards educating about the mountains and raising conservation awareness

*A collaborative initiative of*

**CEE**

Centre for Environment Education



SLC



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India

Aimed at sensitizing teachers and students on issues related to highly endangered Snow Leopard and its habitation, mountains in general and their biodiversity values, interactions in the ecosystem - impacts and consequences. An educational package comprising of a set of 4 posters, a teachers' booklet and stickers have been developed.

## Some Projects:

### **Dal Lake Conservation**

Through this project students, teachers, Principals and Headmasters from 20 selected schools falling within the Lake and periphery were oriented about the need for and simple ways of conservation. Eco-clubs formed in schools were actively involved in monitoring water quality and understanding the relationship between waste management, water quality and people's health & livelihoods through small scale action projects.



## Some Projects:

### **Kashmir Earthquake Response**

A relief and rehabilitation programme being implemented in Kashmir in the worst hit areas since the earthquake of October 2005. This is an integrated programme with components like interim shelters, capacity development of local technicians on earthquake resistant construction utilizing salvaged material, capacity building of teachers on post earthquake issues like psycho-social care, overall awareness about earthquake and other natural disasters including climate change, restoration of education in affected schools through reconstruction, economic rehabilitation through livelihood support etc., disaster risk reduction through awareness and preparedness, village level contingency planning.





## Some Issues of Concern

Deforestation – loss of species and habitat  
destruction

Participatory Conservation initiatives

Trans-boundary conservation issues

Biodiversity vs. monoculture

Food security

Impact of Climate Change

War zones – military presence

Loss of traditional wisdom & Cultural erosion



LET'S ALL LIVE TOGETHER



Thank You

