Water Tower Initiative and Pillar Actions

Priority areas for action

1. **Research and knowledge**
   a. Looking at the existing information to identify the knowledge gap on socio-economics, legislative/policy framework, environmental (mountain ecosystem issues - land, water, biodiversity, land-use, agriculture etc; trends in demography, land-use and climate change etc).

   Approaches:
      i. Baseline studies and analysis (on areas listed above to be collected and analysed) at the basin landscape level;
         - identifying stakeholders and agreeing on common methods for data collection and analysis;
         - identification of national programmes/plan on Mountain ecosystems e.g. national climate change adaptation programmes;
      ii. resources required for carrying out the baseline

2. Advocacy/policy and governance

    a. Carrying out stakeholder and institutional analysis (*links to approach on research and knowledge above*) to understand the organizational and agencies involved and their activities in the Mountain Ecosystem, strength, weaknesses and experts;

        i. Government plans, policies and strategies (NAPAs, NAMAs etc are they conducive to the Mountain Ecosystem

        ii. Linkages to the global conventions e.g Ramsar, CBD, UNFCCC etc

    b. Land-use planning taking into account the landscape and ecosystems

Approaches

Policy briefs;

3. Payment for ecosystem services
   a. Generate/synthesis information to create awareness for politicians, urban, industrial, private and corporate water users for them to see the need for payment for ecosystem services;
      i. awareness creation for upstream/downstream interaction,
      ii. awareness creation on eflow etc
   b. Private sector engagement – sensitize and involve them

Approaches
Develop and implement awareness creation strategies (at local and high level) on the need for PES

4. Community livelihoods and development
   a. Understand the livelihoods of the people in the Mountain Ecosystem
   b. Create/promote alternative sources of income; possible links to the energy plus or bio-energy partnership
   c. Issues of access and benefit sharing
   d. bridging the income gap between upstream/downstream people

   Approaches
   - Community involvement in collaborative management;
   - promotion of nature based enterprises including edible insects

5. Information sharing and networking – is cross-cutting;

6. Capacity building
   a. Agencies - need for capacity enhancement;
   b. Local communities - need for capacity building through trainings to equip them with practical skills