

MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEM

TATA SUSTAINABILITY MONTH, JUNE 2021



WHAT IS IT?

Mountain lands provide a scattered but diverse array of habitats in which a large range of plants and animals can be found.

AT HIGHER ALTITUDES, HARSH ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS GENERALLY PREVAIL, AND TREELESS ALPINE VEGETATION IS SUPPORTED.

Lower slopes commonly are covered by montane forests (forests found on mountains). Present on every continent, mountain ecosystems also include a multitude of unique species such as snow leopards and mountain gorillas. They are also home to great cultural diversity among people adapted to the challenges of mountain life.

THE LARGEST AND HIGHEST AREA OF MOUNTAIN LANDS OCCUR IN THE HIMALAYA-TIBET REGION. OTHER PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF MOUNTAIN LANDS INCLUDE THE ALPS, PYRENEES, CAUCASUS AND URALS



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



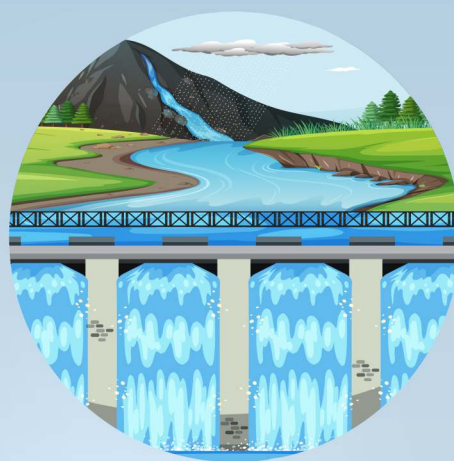
MOUNTAINS COVER 24% OF THE EARTH'S LAND SURFACE

They are home to 12% of the world's population and another 14% of the population resides in their immediate proximity



MOUNTAINS CAPTURE WATER FROM THE ATMOSPHERE

and store it as snow and ice that supplies streams and rivers throughout the year



HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION DEPENDS ON MOUNTAINS

for their drinking water or hydroelectric power



MOUNTAINS HARBOUR A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF

distinct ethnic groups, varied remnants of cultural traditions, environmental knowledge and habitat adaptations

HOW IS IT DEGRADED?



DEFORESTATION

Unsustainable clearing of land results in erosion of fertile soil and increases the threat of avalanches, landslides and flooding



TOURISM

The already fragile ecosystem is burdened by the growing number of visitors leading to heavy pollution from vehicles and waste



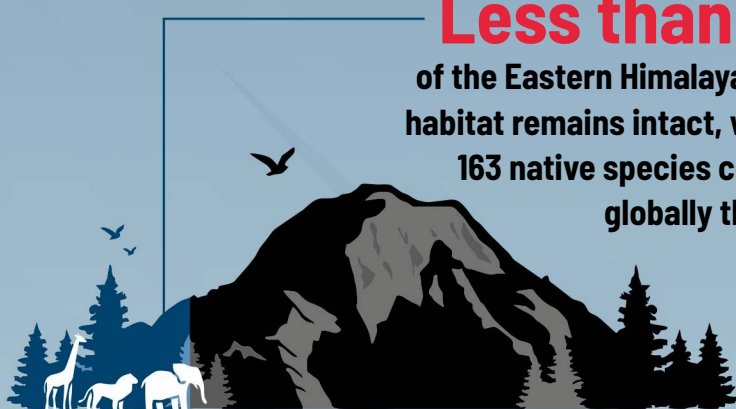
GLOBAL WARMING

Fast-rising temperatures are forcing mountain species, ecosystems and the people that depend on them to adapt or migrate. Global warming also threatens the quantity and timing of water supplies to farms, cities, industry and power stations

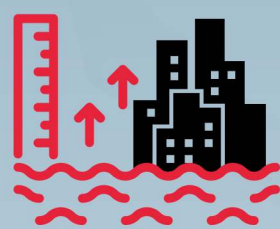
HOW BAD IS THE SITUATION?

Less than 25%

of the Eastern Himalayas' natural habitat remains intact, with some 163 native species considered globally threatened



Climate change is causing glaciers to shrink rapidly contributing to sea level rise that threatens coastal communities



1.3 trillion kg of ice melts from glaciers in the Alps, every year. Everest is on track for a glacial loss of at least 70% by 2100

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO RESTORE THEM?

1 ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

advocate for international action to curb GHG emissions that lead to global warming



2 INCREASE FOREST COVER

to help conserve soil, safeguard water flows and guard against natural disasters such as avalanches, landslides and floods



3 LEARN FROM INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Ancient traditions and livelihoods of many communities remain woven into the balanced use of natural resources



WHAT CAN MY ORGANIZATION DO?



MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS MINING



DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION THROUGH GHG REDUCTION

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?



Travel responsibly and support ecotourism services



Pledge to reduce your own carbon footprint to mitigate climate change

