

## Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation Programme

In recognition of the link between poverty and ecosystem services, three UK agencies are developing an "Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation Programme". The purpose of this programme is to aid in poverty reduction by taking account of the many varied pressures on ecosystems and improving the management and delivery of ecosystem services.

The current phase of the ESPA programme focuses on four of the world's poorest regions: Africa, Amazon, China and India and the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. Concurrent Situation Analyses are being undertaken in each of these regions. These systematic analyses will lead to the identification of core research requirements, which can be used to support the development of regional projects.

ESPASSA will produce the Situation Analysis for the India and Hindu Kush- Himalayan Region.



## Funding and Support

The concept for this programme was developed by the Department for International Development (DFID), National Environmental Research Council (NERC) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

## Consortium

Led by Dr. R. K. Pachauri from TERI University, the ESPASSA consortium comprises over 25 scientists from the region (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Pakistan) and in the United Kingdom. The consortium partner organisations are:

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The ESPASSA project is managed by Mr M.D. Wood (SWIMMER) and Dr A. Mishra (TERI University).

## Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation Study in South Asia (ESPASSA):

*A Situation Analysis for India and the Hindu Kush - Himalayan Region*  
[www.espassa.org](http://www.espassa.org)



Funding provided by

## The ESPASSA Project

According to the 2004 Asian Development Bank report, "Poverty in Asia: Measurement, Estimates and Prospects", approximately 1.9 billion people (60% of developing Asia's population) live on an average of less than US\$2 per day. 357 million extremely poor people from this region live in India and another 77 million in other South Asian countries.

There is a recognised link between poverty and ecosystem services (the benefits that people derive from ecosystems). Therefore to achieve poverty reduction, which is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), measures must be taken to protect and enhance the delivery of ecosystem services.

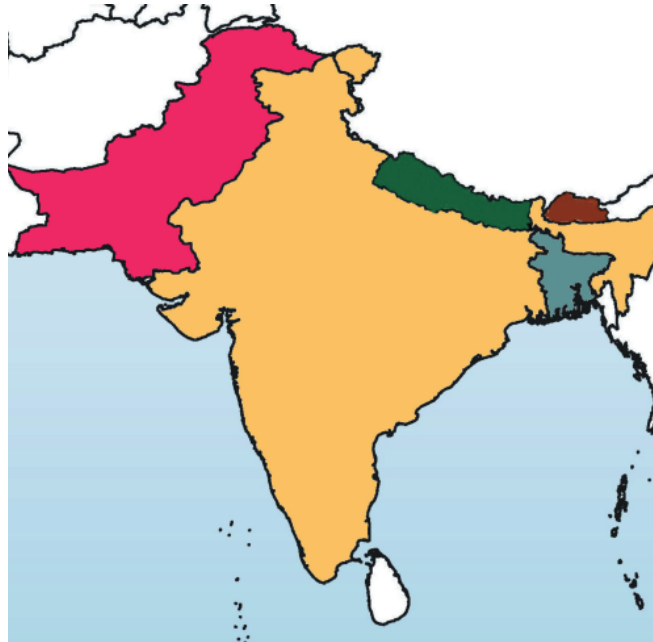
ESPASSA, a project within the UK-funded "Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation" programme, is investigating the status, trends and relationships in poverty and ecosystem services for India and the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. ESPASSA will deliver a "Situation Analysis (SA)", which will provide the underpinning evidence to support the development of projects to address poverty alleviation in the region.



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## Countries Included in the ESPASSA Situation Analysis

The ESPASSA SA for India and the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region will focus on **Bangladesh**, **Bhutan**, **India**, **Nepal** and **Pakistan**.



Graphic: Niroshan Mirando

## What is the Situation Analysis?

The SA will examine the role of ecosystem service delivery in relation to human well-being, and identify opportunities for alleviating poverty through improved service delivery.

The SA will be informed by stakeholder engagement and literature review. The stakeholder engagement process will be made available through direct communication (a series of workshops) and through the project website ([www.espassa.org](http://www.espassa.org)), which has a dedicated stakeholder area and a project email address ([info@espassa.org](mailto:info@espassa.org)) for collecting additional stakeholder input.

## Outputs and Outcomes of the Situation Analysis

The SA will identify, for the South Asian countries, the:

- (1) regional ecosystem services most important to the well-being of the poor
- (2) main threats to the ecosystems that provide these services, with a special emphasis on climate change and monsoon variability
- (3) key ecosystem management opportunities for maximising poverty alleviation

Future information and knowledge needs will be assessed for policy makers and international organizations to inform policy change and enable better ecosystem management. Strategies for skills and knowledge exchanges will be proposed to strengthen the capacity of developing country partners, resulting in the development of a 'critical mass' of research expertise.

The outputs from the SA will provide a comprehensive strategic understanding of the relationship between poverty and ecosystem services within the region and may be used to inform and guide the development of the regional projects, under the proposed next phase of the Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation Programme.



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