



**Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
Government of India**

National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)

Call for Research Proposals for 2015–16



The Himalaya is young, gigantic and diverse mountain system which is the glory of India on several planes, spiritual and philosophical as well as materialistic, economic and ecological. The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) covers about 17% of the country's geographical area along its northern boundary and is home to over 6% of its population. It regulates climate of the entire Indian Sub-continent and feeds the major river systems of the country. There are several valuable plant and animal species, mineral and human societies exclusive to the region with rare or no alternate options elsewhere. It alone represents about one-third of the total forest cover and approximately 45% of the overall good forest cover of the country. The Indian Himalayan Region is a complex and highly vulnerable region because of difficult terrain, severe weather conditions, large forest land, sparse population and dispersed habitations including far-flung small villages difficult to approach, agro-pastoral economy with tiny and scattered land holdings more so on slopes with shallow and gravely soil, low productivity, small and under-developed markets, long international borders, poor connectivity and inadequate general infrastructure.

Government of India attaches the highest priority to protect the Himalayan ecosystem and has recently launched 'National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)' as a Central Sector Grant-in-Aid Scheme which will provide much needed focus in addressing the key issues relating to conservation as well as enhancement and sustainable management of natural resources in the Himalayan region. The Mission aims to build natural and human capital through innovative studies and related knowledge interventions that do not overlap with other existing initiatives in the region. Details of the scheme (NMHS) are available at the websites of MoEF&CC (www.moef.nic.in) and G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (www.gbpihed.gov.in).

Research proposals are invited from scientists/academicians having prior research experience in 'Himalayan Studies'. Multi-centric interdisciplinary research proposals will be encouraged. This new programme is aimed to foster quality scientific research on the issues related to Himalayan environment and development, and providing science based recommendations for policy and practice.

Broad themes for studies, pilots and interventions: Broad issues for projects under NMHS include (1) Sustainable management of land and water resources, (2) Environmental assessment and management, (3) Conservation and management of biodiversity, (4) Sustainable infrastructure and energy security, (5) Supplementary livelihood options and (6) Awareness and capacity building. Details of thematic areas can be seen in the websites of MoEF&CC: www.moef.nic.in and GBPIHED: www.gbpihed.gov.in.

The selection of studies, pilots and interventions will be based on their potential to be actionable. Three categories are visualized. These are as follows:

- (1) Small Grants (not more than Rs 50 lakhs each): Targeted action oriented research for solving location specific problems.
- (2) Medium Grants (not more than 500 lakhs each): Pilots for standalone projects, potentially up-scalable project and those currently lacking in extension outreach.
- (3) Large Grants (over 500 lakhs each): Supports implementation of doable, achievable and feasible ideas at a scale and size that is commensurate with the budget of the scheme.

Who can apply: Indian scientists/academicians with research background in 'Himalayan Studies' and having regular positions are invited to participate in this new scheme. Practitioners actively involved in field based activities related to Himalayan Environment and Development are also encouraged to apply in collaboration with academic and research institutions. Interested researchers are required to submit research proposals in their area of expertise along with Endorsement Certificate from the Head of the Institution and detailed bio-data of PI and Co-PIs. The detailed guidelines and the project proposal format are available on the websites of MoEF&CC: www.moef.nic.in and GBPIHED: www.gbpihed.gov.in.

Project duration: The project duration will be from three (3) to five (5) years.

Where to apply: Ten (10) copies of research proposal in prescribed format should be sent to **NMHS-Nodal Officer** (Er. Kireet Kumar, Scientist G and Nodal Officer, NMHS, PMU-GBPIHED), G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora 263 643, Uttarakhand, by speed post. The envelope may be superscribed with 'Proposals under NMHS'. A softcopy of the proposal should also be mailed to: nmhspmu2016@gmail.com with a copy to Shri A. K. Das, Deputy Secretary (CS-I), MoEF&CC, New Delhi (ak.das59@nic.in).

Last date of proposal submission is: **20 January 2016**.

Administrative Officer