

24 – 26 NOVEMBER 2026 / KATHMANDU, NEPAL

International Sustainability Forum

Management and trade of wild Himalayan medicinal & aromatic plants and fungi

TRAFFIC

ANSAB
Rich Biodiversity and Prosperous Communities

Why this Forum?



Medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) and fungi are vital to healthcare, livelihoods and industries worldwide. The Himalayas are exceptionally rich in these resources, many of which are wild-harvested and internationally traded, providing important income for rural communities.

However, overexploitation, climate change and illegal trade threaten these species and their ecosystems. Around 3,000 MAP species are traded internationally, with more than 1,300 regulated under CITES, making sustainable and legal trade an urgent priority requiring international cooperation.

Nepal is a key hub for the trade in wild Himalayan MAPs and fungi, making sustainable management critical for conservation and local livelihoods.

Building on the 2025 International Himalayan MAPs Workshop in Chongqing, the International Sustainability Forum will bring together governments, CITES authorities, researchers, businesses, donors and communities to strengthen regional cooperation on sustainable harvesting and trade, financing, policy and CITES implementation.

1 Tuesday

24 NOVEMBER

08:00 – 09:00	**Registration and welcome breakfast**
09:00 – 11:00	**Inaugural session: high-level Forum opening**
11:00 – 11:30	TEA / COFFEE
11:30 – 13:00	**Session 1: Towards building a regional framework**
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:30	**Session 2: Global context, policy frameworks and changing threats**
15:30 – 16:00	TEA / COFFEE
16:00 – 17:20	**Session 3: Local realities, living, harvesting and trading in the high-altitude Himalayas of Nepal**
17:20 – 17:30	**Closing of Day 1**
18:00 – 20:30	**NETWORKING RECEPTION & DINNER**

2 Wednesday

25 NOVEMBER

09:00 – 11:00	**Session 4: Data and Evidence for Sustainable Management and Trade**
11:00 – 11:30	TEA / COFFEE
11:30 – 13:00	**Session 5: Strengthening CITES Implementation**
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:30	**Session 6: Trade Dynamics, Transparency and Traceability**
15:30 – 16:00	TEA / COFFEE
16:00 – 17:20	**Session 7: Parallel Workshops** Option 1: Designing a Regional Traceability Framework Option 2: Incentives and Mechanisms for Transparent and Sustainable Trade
17:20 – 17:30	**Closing of Day 2**

3 Thursday

26 NOVEMBER

09:00 – 10:30	**Session 8: Sustainable Partnerships for Equitable Trade**	
10:30 – 11:00	TEA / COFFEE	**Industry Exhibition**
11:00 – 12:30	**Session 9: Sustainable Financing**	
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH	**Industry Exhibition**
13:30 – 15:00	**Session 10: Operationalising Regional Cooperation**	
15:30 – 16:00	TEA / COFFEE	**Industry Exhibition**
16:00 – 17:00	**Closing of Day 3**	

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER - OPTIONAL

Field visit

Visit to National Botanical Garden Godawari and Community Forest

Shared commitments, one roadmap.

SUSTAINABLE USE & LIVELIHOODS
Promote sustainable harvesting, responsible sourcing and equitable trade.

CITES & TRADE
Strengthen CITES implementation, traceability and legal, sustainable trade.

KNOWLEDGE & FINANCE
Identify priority species, evidence gaps and long-term financing needs.

REGIONAL ROADMAP
Agree shared priorities and actions for 2027–2032.

The International Sustainability Forum is part of the SHIFT initiative, supported by the UK Government Darwin Initiative.

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