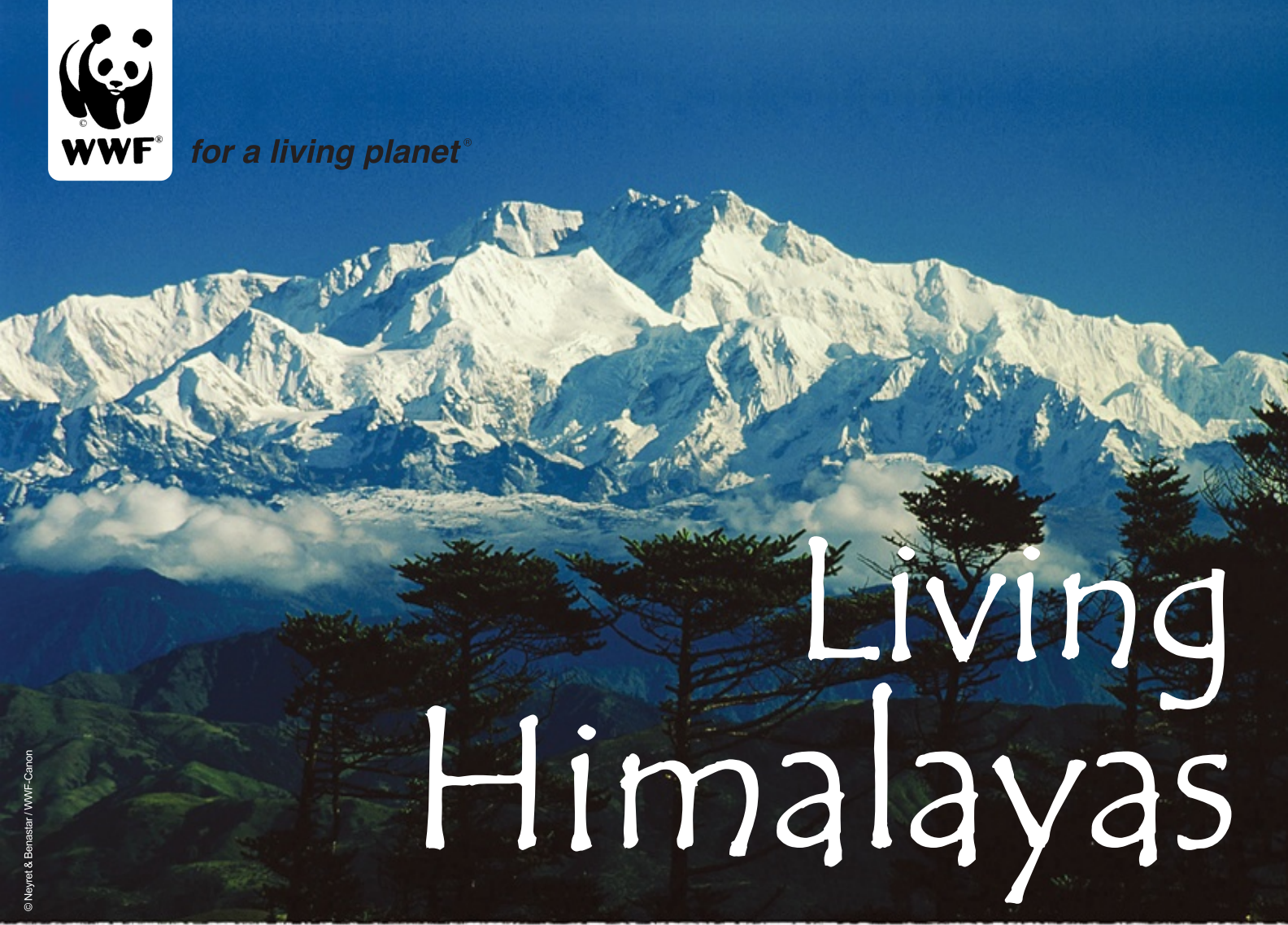




for a living planet®



Living Himalayas

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Bhutan · India · Nepal

NEPAL



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BHUTAN

Thimphu



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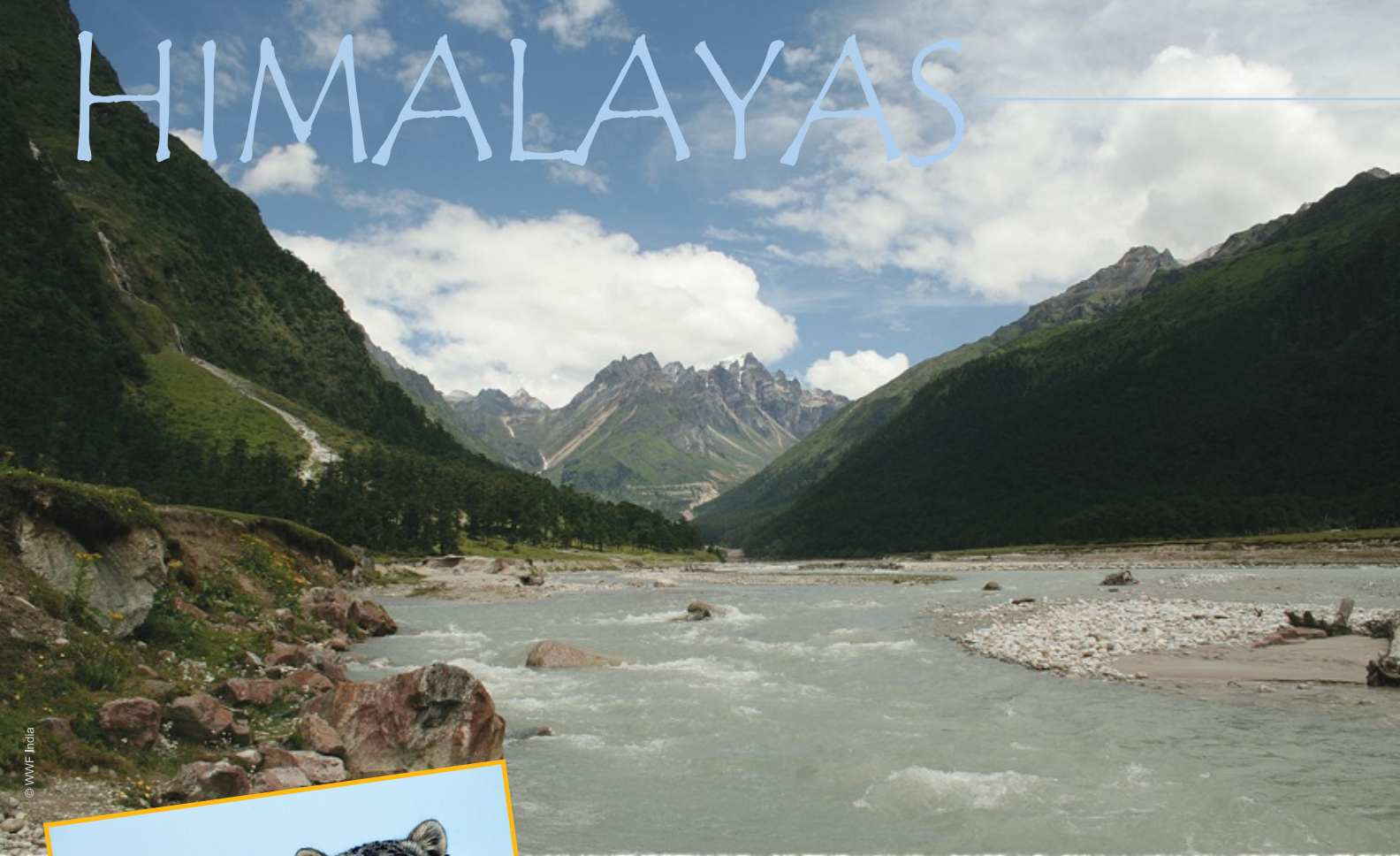
INDIA



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LIVING HIMALAYAS
NETWORK INITIATIVE

HIMALAYAS



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The Glory of Eastern Himalayas

Eastern Himalayan region boasts of lofty peaks, pure lakes, rich forests and many threatened species such as the majestic snow leopard. It is also a place with a fascinating cultural and spiritual heritage. Here, irreplaceable plants and animals coexist with millions of people from diverse cultures and religions. The result is a rich tapestry of life across Bhutan, Nepal and Northern and Northeastern India. However, this tapestry hides a fragile landscape where traditional practices and beliefs are eroding under rapid population growth and threats from near and far- poaching, unplanned development, agricultural expansion, climate change and deforestation.

WWF's Living Himalayas Network Initiative aims to bring the three governments of Bhutan, India and Nepal together to effectively manage and conserve the region for the sake of their exceptional wildlife, breathtaking environment and unique people. Combining connectivity and regional solutions, our work will view the ecoregion as a single unit and not a series of fragmented landscapes in separate countries. Wildlife trade, landscape management and development issues will be treated regionally, bringing people, governments and industry together in the three countries and developing plans that straddle borders and link landscapes.

VISION

The Eastern Himalayas will be effectively managed and conserved through the bold concerted action of the three governments and the empowerment of communities to save the rich, common, natural and cultural heritage of this unique ecoregion.

TARGETS

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation will be mainstreamed into the management of river systems.

CONNECTING HABITATS

A mosaic of five million hectares of high conservation value forests, grasslands and wetlands of the Eastern Himalayas will be secured.

SAVING ICONIC SPECIES

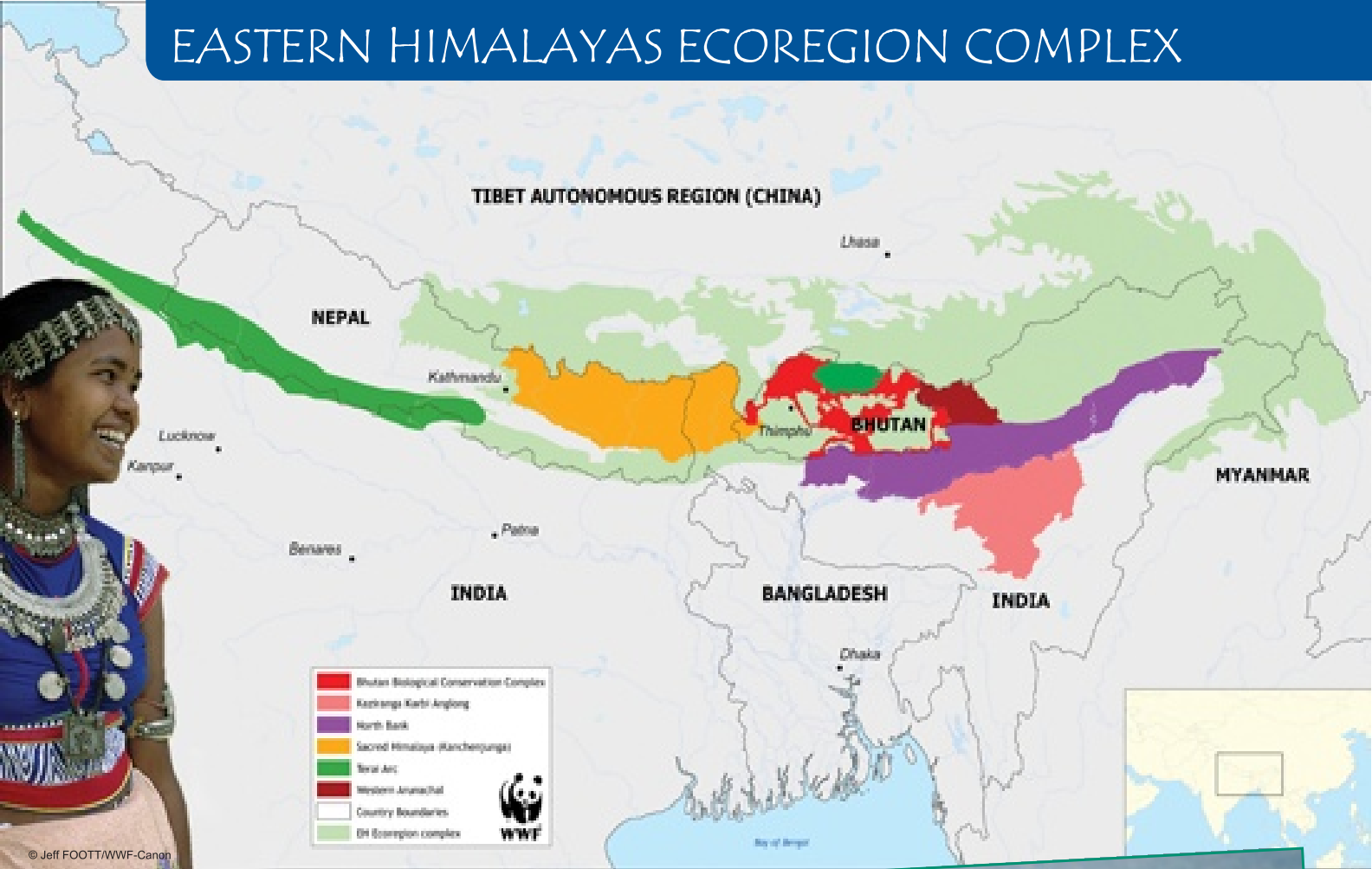
Viable populations of iconic and threatened species are secured and live in harmony with human communities.

'The Himalayan ecosystem is vital to the ecological security of the Indian landmass, through providing forest cover, feeding perennial rivers that are the source of drinking water, irrigation and hydropower, conserving biodiversity, providing a rich base for high value agriculture, and spectacular landscapes for sustainable tourism. At the same time, climate change may adversely impact the Himalayan ecosystem through increased temperature, altered precipitation patterns, and episodes of drought.'

- Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, NAPCC, Government of India.



EASTERN HIMALAYAS ECOREGION COMPLEX



'The Himalayas are the source of fresh water and repository of a rich biodiversity including endemic plant and animal species and many unique medicinal herbs. The Himalayas, its lakes, glaciers and rivers are the water towers that feed Asia's great rivers and ensure drinking water for millions of people.'

Hon. Mr. Kiran Gurung, Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation of Nepal at UNFF8 in 2009.



'Striking unpredictably, unseasonably and with greater fury and frequency, natural disasters such as drought, cyclones, hurricanes, floods and landslides are destroying life, property and crops. Weather patterns have changed and continue to change with far more profound implications for our civilization than we can fathom.'

-H.E. Mr. Jigmi Yoezer Thinley, Prime Minister Bhutan, UN General Assembly, 2008.

WWF Mission:

WWF's Mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:

- Conserving the world's biological diversity;
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; and
- Reducing pollution and wasteful consumption



WWF® for a living planet®

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