

# Zero Waste Himalayas

## The Bir Declaration

(The declaration adapted by participants of first Zero Waste Himalayas conference held at Deer Park Institute in Bir, Himachal Pradesh, India during 5- 8 August 2010)

We the people concerned about the Himalayas having gathered in Bir to discuss issues that threaten the Himalayan range representing 24 organisations from 7 countries but sharing a common vision of a future where the Himalayas are restored as an ecologically sound, just, peaceful and healthy place to live.

We further agree to work collectively for preserving the beauty and ecological integrity of the Himalayas for the generations to come.

We are particularly concerned about the changing climate and unsustainable waste management practices that impact Himalayan communities and ecosystems.

We realise that transforming greed based economies to sustainable green economies is crucial to protect the natural and spiritual heritage.

We understand that addressing over consumption and wasteful life styles by adopting Zero Waste philosophy can help prevent climate change and other environmental problems.

We recognise the need to find solutions to the growing waste problem in the Himalayas we also believe that no end-of-pipe solutions like burning, dumping and landfilling can sustainably resolve the issue.

We emphasize the need for full public participation in planning, decision making and implementation of community-based initiatives that tap on local wisdom and economy to ensure a waste and toxic-free environment.

We are aware that on a global geographic scale the importance of the Himalayas which is now considered as the 'Third Pole' is immense especially in influencing climate patterns of the larger planet earth.

We therefore resolve to work together:

- To raise awareness on the impacts of wasting resources and climate change
- Assess relationships with nature and recognize interdependence on our environment (people, community)
- Advocate for a lifestyle that is sustainable and ecologically conscious
- Actively participate in different efforts in local, regional, national and global levels to help prevent this impending environmental crisis that is currently impacting communities in the Himalayan region.

We call upon the world international organisations, national governments, institutions and individuals to support and implement action plans to restore Himalayas in their agenda and reaffirms our commitment to take this work forward to care the spiritual treasures of Himalayas and make it trash free.