

**International workshop on promoting cooperation for biodiversity  
conservation and sustainable rural development in mountain ecosystems:**

**The case of Andes and the Himalayas, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**The HimalAndes Initiative**

**1999**

**Keywords:** mountains, mountain ecosystems, Andes, Himalayas, rural development, biodiversity, Nepal.

## **1. Background**

Management of Natural Resources in mountain areas inhabited by traditional societies has been experimenting technological and market pressures which in many cases have affected sustainable livelihoods. Impacts of new agricultural technologies and crops, indiscriminate use of agrochemicals, new forms of labor organization, increased pressure from city markets, among others are changing the ways in which mountain people have dealt for centuries with their fragile environments. Few innovations have proven beneficial, while others, especially those coming from quite diverse environments, and have had negative effects on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. This is particularly true for both Andean and Himalayan rural societies. This pattern of change is certainly not limited to the technological area. Traditional culture is also undergoing change as part of a globalization process. Some of these effects are working for the better, but not always.

In the last decade a concern for proper management of natural resources has created growing awareness in many international, regional and national institutions, grassroots organizations, ngos and individuals. This trend is clearly reflected in the scope of work of a good number of the Ashoka, Innovators for the Public fellows from the Andean and Himalayan regions. A review of their work shows a shared concern for promoting sustainable livelihoods based on both, salvaging biodiversity and traditional technologies of proven value, and promoting adequate innovations adopted with full awareness of their environmental and sociocultural implications.

Thanks to globalization, the time has come to promote a south-south mountain to mountain collaboration strategy, in this case focussing on mountain environments and societies. Sharing information on successful experiences for promoting conservation and sustainable development could have most fruitful consequences.

## **2. Objectives**

Our purpose is to promote and facilitate the initiation of an Andean-Himalayan collaborative effort aimed at enhancing conservation and sustainable development in mountain environments. For this purpose we will bring together a group of professionals from both, the Andean and Himalayan regions, committed to mountain regions wellbeing.

The workshop will offer the participants the opportunity to present each other with their experiences and perspectives for laying down the basis for a future collaborative program. This workshop should result in the identification of two to three specific projects that could benefit from exchange and transcontinental cooperation.

The HimalAndes Initiative, the attached proposal presented by an Ashoka Fellow as a provocative document to stimulate the workshop, should help in the proposed process. Amongst its objectives, it attempts to cross regional boundaries and start sharing those valuable experiences within a new concept of globalization. Himalayan and Andean rural societies, with much in common have much to learn from each other. The HimalAndes Initiative (HI) promotes a global south-south cooperative program aimed at promoting conservation and sustainable development initially between peoples and organizations from the two main mountain regions of the planet. The workshop will offer the opportunity to discuss some of the HI proposals as well as other projects that can be presented by participants.

### **3. Workshop Rationale and Tentative Program**

In this proposed meeting we would like to formalize and reinforce a new perspective of mountain to mountain collaboration, focussing in areas related to natural resources management: agriculture and animal husbandry, cottage industries and adequate technologies, and community based rural tourism. Two keynote presentations on sustainable development in the context of conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Andes and the Himalayas will open the workshop. This will be followed by a presentation of the HimalAndes Initiative. Participants will then be invited to present their experiences and project proposals. Each presentation will have up to 20 minutes plus 10 additional minutes for comments and questions. On the third and fourth day the workshop will concentrate on designing a strategy and plan for starting cooperative efforts through specific projects.

#### **Workshop Program**

Nov. 29:

Morning : SESSION ONE : Inaugural Session

- 9:30 - 10:30 :
  - Welcome Address, Mr. E. Pelinck, ICIMOD Director General
  - Workshop Introduction : Alejandro Camino

- Participants presentation
- 10:30 - 10:45 : Tea/Coffee Break
- 10:45 - 11:30 : Keynote presentations on the Andes: Dr. Mario Tapia
- 11:45 - 12:30 : Keynote presentation on the Himalayas: Dr. Tej Partap
- 13:00 - 14:30: Lunch break

Afternoon : SESSION TWO : HimalAndes Initiative Presentation

- 14:30 - 15:30 :
  - Presentation of the HimalAndes Initiative
  - International presentation of the HI web page, Alejandro Camino
- 15:30 - 16:00 : Discussion
- 16:00 - 16:15 : Tea/Coffee Break

SESSION THREE : Presentations of Participants

- 16:15 - 16:45 : K. Paul: Holistic Mountain Development
- 16:45 - 17:15 : M. Rabey: Natural Resources management in the Southern Andes
- 17:15 - 17:30 : Discussion

Nov. 30:

Morning : SESSION THREE (continuation): Presentations of Participants

- 9:00 - 9:30 : M. Tapia: Biodiversity Conservation in Andean Agriculture
- 9:30 - 10:00 : S. Sharma: Technology Intervention and Himalayan Development
- 10:00 - 10:30 : Li Bosheng: Overlook for Andean-Himalayan Cooperation for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development
- 10:30 - 10:45 : Tea/Coffee Break
- 10:45 - 11:15 : M. Torres and T. Sanchez: Community based tourism: an Andean Experience
- 11:15 - 11:45 : N. Jain: Community-based Tourism in the Himalayas
- 11:45 - 12:15 : A. Prakash Joshi
- 12:15 - 12:45 : J. Nolte: Paper-making in the Andes: a non traditional craft
- 12:45 - 13:00 : R. Haq: Integrated Rice-Fish Farming in Bangladesh

Afternoon

- 14:30 - 15:00 : A. Chitrakar
- 15:00 - 15:30 : S. Kastl: Application of the Biodiversity Convention: the Andean Case
- 15:30 - 16:00 : J. Baral: Community Forestry in Nepal
- 16:00 - 16:15 : Tea/Coffee Break

- 16:30 - 17:00 : J.P. Ruiz: Preparing an Application for GEF on Natural Resources Sustainable Use and Biodiversity Conservation
- 17:00 - 17:30 : Discussion

#### Dec. 1:

Morning : SESSION FOUR : Strategies for Cooperation

- 9:00 - 9:15 : Workgroups conformation (Three: biodiversity conservation, rural sustainable development, crafts and tourism)
- 9:15 - 11:30 : Workgroups tasks: Identification of areas and topics of potential cooperation. Criteria for exchange and cooperation
- 11:30 - 12:30 : Presentations of three groups
- 12:30 - 13:00 : Discussion

Afternoon

- 14:30 - 16:30 : Three workgroups: How to design joint or collaborative projects
- 16:30 - 17:00 : Presentations of three workgroups
- 17:00 - 17:30 : Discussion

#### Dec. 2:

Morning : SESSION FIVE : Implementing cooperative projects

- 9:00 - 11:00 : Workgroups: Implementing a cooperation strategy
- 11:00 - 11:15 : Tea/Coffee Break
- 11:15 - 12:30 : Presentations of three workgroups
- 12:30 - 13:00 : Discussion

Afternoon

- 14:30 - 15:30 : Workgroups: working plan and follow up mechanisms
- 15:30 - 16:00 : Presentations of three workgroups

SESSION SIX : Conclusions and Closing Ceremony

- 16:30 - 17:00 : Workshop Conclusions
- 17:00 - 17:30 : Closing Ceremony

Venue: ICIMOD Conference Room

#### **4. Adding value to the work of Ashoka Fellows and others, and their organizations**

As stated earlier, the idea is to promote a trend of cooperation between Andes and Himalayas, by encouraging participant Fellows from Ashoka, Innovators for

the Public and others who are or may become aware of the social and environmental similarities of our rural highland societies. In this first workshop we would like to concentrate on exploring and assessing the potential benefits of exchanging highland crops and associated technologies (farming, transformation and utilization). Some has been done, but at a very limited and academic perspective. The idea is to give birth to compromises for a permanent network of exchange and cooperation that may gradually extend to other fields of human activity in the mountain communities: cottage agroindustries and crafts, community based tourism development, alternative energy at high altitudes, etc.

Many of us and our organizations have worked on specifics, and sharing this information beyond our areas may be the trend for the benefit of mountain societies in the coming century.

Since the workshop will bring together individuals and institutions with a commitment and an experience with rural sustainable development in mountain areas, we expect that exposure and familiarization with other experiences will trigger further cooperation between individuals and organizations.

## 5. List of Participants

From the Andean region:

- Alejandro Camino (Peru), Centro de Estudios Regionales Andinos Bartolomé de las Casas-HimalAndes Initiative; Ashoka Fellow (\*)
- Mario Tapia (Peru), Global Mountain Program - CIP; Ashoka Fellow. (\*)
- Fausto Sarmiento (Ecuador), University of Georgia, President of the Andean Mountain Association (\*)
- Miriam Torres(Peru), The Mountain Institute, Andean Program (\*)
- Teodoro Sanchez (Peru) Collon Community Assopciation of Mountain Tourism, Huaraz (\*)
- Josefa Nolte (Peru), Hand Made Paper Project, Asociación Manuela Ramos.
- Máximo Laura (Peru), Centro Piloto Textil, Convenio ADEX-USAID
- Mario Rabey (Argentina), Universidad de Jujuy (\*)
- Juan Pablo Ruiz (Colombia), GEF-World Bank
- Ing. Luis Paz, Peru Export Promotion Board

From the Himalayan region:

- Rep. of H.E. Dr. Kinzang Dorji (Bhutan), Ministry of Agriculture
- Dr. Tej Partap (India-Nepal), Director of Farming Systems, ICIMOD (\*)
- Dr. T.S.Papola, Head Mountain Enterprises and Infraestructure, ICIMOD (\*)

- Dr. P. Sharma, Regional Planner and Tourism, ICIMOD (\*)
- Ms. C. Richard, Rangeland Management, ICIMOD (\*)
- Mr. Anil Prakash Joshi (India), Ashoka Fellow (\*)
- Mr. Sudhirendra Sharma (India), Ashoka Fellow (\*)
- Ms. Urmila Upadhaya Garg (Nepal Creative Arts Trust), Ashoka Fellow
- Ms. C.P. Jayalakshmi (Nepal), Ashoka Fellow and ICIMOD officer (\*)
- Nandita Jain (Nepal), The Mountain Institute, Nepal (\*)
- Mr. Anil Chitrakar (Nepal), Ashoka Fellow (\*)
- Mr. Kalyan Paul (India), PanHimalayan Grassroot Development Foundation, Ashoka Fellow (\*)
- Dr. Li Bosheng (China), National Academy of Sciences (\*)
- Mr. Tashi Dorji (Bhutan), University of Melbourne
- Rezaul Haq (Bangladesh), Wetland Resource Development Society, Ashoka Fellow
- Jagadish Baral (Nepal), Dept. of Forestry, Gov. Of Nepal; University of Western Sidney, Australia

#### International:

- Dr. Egbert Pelinck, ICIMOD (\*)
- Mr. Siegfried Kastl (GTZ, Germany)\*
- Mr. Ulrich Lutz (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)\*
- Mr. H. Laats (CMC, The Netherlands)
- Jerry Casagrande, Ashoka, Innovators for the Public (\*)
- Susan Toch, Natural Resources International

#### \*Confirmed

#### Organizing Committee:

- Alejandro Camino, Centro de Estudios Regionales Andinos
- Bartolomé de las Casas - HimalAndes Initiative, Ashoka Fellow
- Mario Tapia, Global Mountain Program - CIP, Ashoka Fellow
- Anil Chitrakar, Ashoka Fellow, Nepal
- With the collaboration of Ashoka representation offices for India, Bangladesh and Andean region

Notice for Non-Ashoka fellows: If you are interested in learning more about Ashoka, Innovators for the Public, please look on the Internet under: <http://www.ashoka.org>

## Pre-registration Form

*This form applies for both Ashoka fellows and Special Guests. Please, just respond to those items which apply to you.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Address (please include phone number and fax):

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Home Address (please, include phone):

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To which of the two should we send you mail? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an Ashoka Fellow? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, since (year): \_\_\_\_\_

Please, briefly describe the type of work you do and how does it relates to the proposed workshop objectives (you can send institutional brochures to the HimalAndes Initiative address):

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Would you be interested in presenting your experience? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide a title for your presentation:

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Would you need any visual aids? \_\_\_\_\_

Which? \_\_\_\_\_

### Financial Information:

This workshop is been made possible thanks to a small grant from Ashoka, Innovators for the Public - Global Collaboration Funds. Available funding will make possible to cover travel and accomodation expenses of just a few

participants, with a preference on Ashoka fellows. Thus, we encourage you to seek alternative sources of support. Ashoka will be please to support your requests with an official letter recommending your application.

Could your organization cover fully or in part your attendance?\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have identified any source of support which may support your travel expenses?\_\_\_\_\_

Which?\_\_\_\_\_

Will you need a letter of support?\_\_\_\_\_

To whom should we address it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which is the shortest itinerary you could take from your place to Kathmandu?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the cost of the airfare (local tax included)?\_\_\_\_\_

Is there an airport fee or tax you will have to pay at your local airport?\_\_\_\_\_

Please state amount:\_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for Registration: October 17, 1999**

Please return this questionnaire as soon as possible to:

Alejandro Camino D.C.

HimalAndes Initiative

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Miraflores, Lima 18

Peru

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**Notes to readers**

This workshop was organized by The HimalAndes Initiative with the cooperation of International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal, Centro de Estudios Regionales Andinos Bartolomé de las Casas, Cusco, Peru, Global Mountain Program - International Potato Center and the sponsorship of Ashoka, Innovators for the Public - Global Collaboration Fund. Monday, November 29 - Thursday, December 2, 1999.