



# Themes from Celebrating Mountain Women

Editors  
Govind Kelkar  
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International Centre for  
Integrated Mountain Development

# About ICIMOD

The **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** is an independent 'Mountain Learning and Knowledge Centre' serving the eight countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas – Afghanistan , Bangladesh , Bhutan , China , India , Myanmar , Nepal , and Pakistan  – and the global mountain community. Founded in 1983, ICIMOD is based in Kathmandu, Nepal, and brings together a partnership of regional member countries, partner institutions, and donors with a commitment for development action to secure a better future for the people and environment of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. The primary objective of the Centre is to promote the development of an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem and to improve the living standards of mountain populations.

Themes from  
**Celebrating  
Mountain Women**

Editors  
**Govind Kelkar and Phuntshok Tshering**

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# Editorial Note

References included in the original text have not been given with the extended abstracts, only the introductory chapter retains them. Full texts and references are available in a CD ROM of the full CMW proceedings. Those interested may contact the Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance (CEGG) Programme - ICIMOD.

# Acknowledgements

“In mountain regions, as in the world over, women, as a class, are more undernourished, more under-compensated for their labour, and are more under-represented in formal decision-making bodies than men, as a class. “What is clearly missing is a description of their situation told by mountain women themselves”. “...it is clear that state structures are dominated by patriarchal interests that have worked to the detriment of women”

These are some excerpts from ICIMOD's publication - Searching for Women's Voices in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas edited by J.D.Gurung, (1999) which was based on Fact Finding Studies conducted by researchers in the regional member countries of ICIMOD. The book was published as a first attempt to reach out and examine women's situations and perspectives on national and international policies and mountain development in general.

Against this background, ICIMOD and the Mountain Forum agreed to host and organise an international conference for mountain women as part of its plans for celebrating IYM 2002, and this resulted in the historic gathering in Bhutan, from 1-4 October 2002 of 250 mountain women and men from 35 countries around the globe, called 'Celebrating Mountain Women' (CMW)

CMW was one of the first global conferences to make mountain women its only agenda. Some of the outputs: audio, video, and print proceedings, briefs, and a resource kit are testimonies of the voices of mountain women from all over the globe. In the end it was a simple, fun-filled, heart-warming gathering with a lot of life, energy, and colour that made it special and memorable. It was organised around five major themes: Natural Resources and Environment; Health and Well-being; Entrepreneurship; Legal, Political and Human Rights; and Culture and Indigenous Knowledge. There were serious discussions when it came to research in all the five theme areas and, in addition, to sharing what we knew already, critical issues and gaps were identified to be addressed in the future, post CMW.

The enthusiasm with which a core group of students of development research and senior researchers responded to our request and call for papers on mountain women in all five themes was most encouraging. While a few undertook special assignments to pull together what we required, others sent us work they had already pursued in their respective professions. Overall we received close to 44 papers out of which 39 were closest to the topic of the conference and its themes and were selected to be shared at CMW and some to be later compiled for this publication. We are most grateful to all our authors and, through this publication, we would like to encourage you to pursue your research agenda on mountain women much more vigorously. Some of our authors couldn't attend CMW for various reasons but most of you did. From among those who attended, we also had the privilege of getting their willing services to facilitate and rapport on the respective sessions. Thank you for your help !

Without Dr. Govind Kelkar and her excellent team, comprised of Ms. Krishna Kakad and Ms. Sadhna Jha, the basic sorting, typing, formatting, editing, selection, and compilation of these papers would have been a mammoth's task for the CMW Secretariat. The team handled the responsibility most ably and willingly despite many difficulties.

The documenting and editing team led by Mr. Amba Jamir and his creative and 'roving' reporters and artists put in many intense hours to help us come out with other innovative products such as the Conference Briefs and the Resource Kit. The Conference Briefs and the Resource Kit provide the gist of all the exchanges that took place at CMW and capture the essence, colour, and excitement of the gathering. In contrast this book of extended abstracts of technical papers provides a background to the whole CMW and it is but one of the products designed, edited, and re-formatted at ICIMOD with the support of the Information Management, Communications and Outreach programme.

Thank you all for helping make CMW 2002 a reality and memory !

Phuntshok Chhoden Tshering  
for CMW 2002, ICIMOD

# Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AKHS	Aga Khan Health Services
AKRSP	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
BDFC	Bhutan Development Finance Corporation
BMNP	Bale Mountains' National Park
CADC	Certification of ancestral domain claims
CAFOD	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development of England and Wales
CBFM	community-based forest management
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CHW	community health worker
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CMW	Celebrating Mountain Women
CRC	Constitution Review Committee
DANIDA	Danish Agency for Development Assistance
DFID-ODA	Department for International Development–Overseas Development Administration
DGIS	The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Assistance Programme
DMTs	Decision-making tools
DOT	Department of Tourism
DUV	direct use value
EOC	emergency obstetrics care
EPC-MTI	Entrepreneurship Promotion Centre – Ministry of Trade and Industry
EWCO	Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FD	Forest Department
FFR	forest-based food resources
FODE/UNICEF	Friends of the Don East/United Nations' Children Fund
FPAP	Family Planning Association of Pakistan
G/WID	Gender/Women in Development
GDP	gross domestic product
GHNP	Great Himalayan National Park
GOI	Government of India
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ICC	indigenous cultural community
ICDP	integrated conservation and development project
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research

ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross/Crescent
IEC	information, education, and communication
IUD	intra uterine device
IUV	indirect use value
JFM	joint forest management
LGC	local government code
LIUCP	Low Income Upland Community Project
LPM	League of Peace Missionaries
LSMS	living standards measurement study
MAIFC	market alternative individual function cost method
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MFI	micro finance institutions
MICS	multiple indicator cluster surveys
MISR	multiple indicator survey results
MISR/MWLE	Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment/Uganda
MMR	maternal mortality rate
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOU	memorandum of understanding
MPRP	Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party
NCA	national commission on agriculture
NGOs	non-government organisations
NFE	non-formal education
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NTFPs	non-timber forest products
NUV	non-use value
NWAB	National Women's Association of Bhutan
NWFP	North-West Frontier Province
OB/GYN	Obstetrics and gynaecology
OPD	outpatients' department
OV	option value
PAR	performance appraisal review
PDS	public distribution system
PIP	Parks in Peril project
PNG	Papua New Guinea
POA	programme of action
PRA	participatory rural appraisal
R&D	research and demonstration
RH	reproductive health
RMB	rembini yuan (Chinese currency)
RPR	rapid plasma reagin (a screening test for syphilis)

RTIs	reproductive tract infections
SAHARA	Society for Scientific Advancement of Hill and Rural Areas
SANAMA	Samahan-ng Mga Nagkakaisang Alangan Mangyan, Indonesia
SC	Shilpakars
SCA	Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
SFD	state forest department
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
STDs	sexually transmitted diseases
TBAs	traditional birth attendants
TEV	total economic value
TFR	total fertility rate
UNAC	Upland NGO Assistance Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Family Planning Association
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UV	use value
VDC	Village Development Committee
VLOs	village-level institutions
VF	Vesico vaginal fistula
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation
WIDTECH	Women in Development Technical Assistance
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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