

# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON Mountain Environment and Development

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Inadequate marketing facilities and information can be a major constraint for development



A highly erodible environment adds heavy sedimentation to rivers at higher elevations in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas



The understanding of the behaviour of snow and glaciers is still very limited



Extreme climatic events (e.g., intense rainfall) frequently trigger landslides and cause large-scale destruction in fragile mountain environments



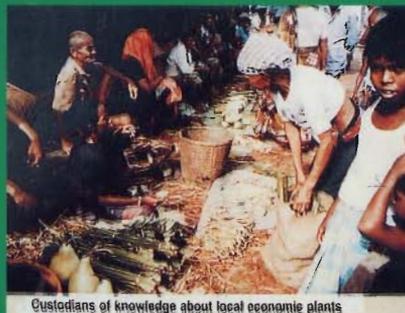
Repair of roads and bridges; rehabilitation after destruction is an expensive and difficult task



Active geology and poor water management cause large-scale damage to mountain slopes



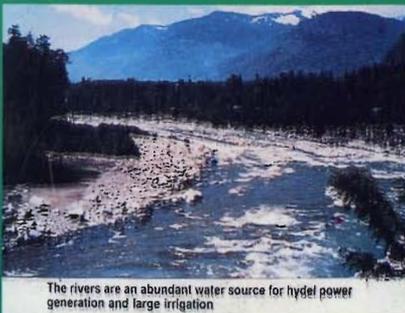
Floriculture: harnessing native floral wealth



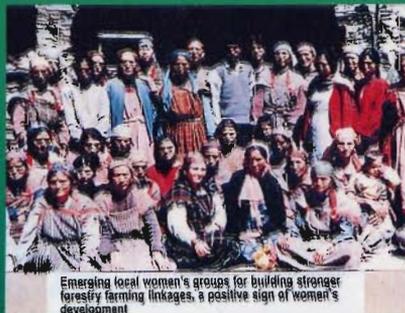
Custodians of knowledge about local economic plants



Gentiana: a high mountain medicinal plant



The rivers are an abundant water source for hydel power generation and large irrigation



Emerging local women's groups for building stronger forestry farming linkages, a positive sign of women's development



Angora rabbit: small animal option

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Spencer Platt  
Director General

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# Foreword

This Foreword for the Report on ICIMOD's **10th Anniversary** Symposium brings to mind ICIMOD's **Inaugural** Symposium in December 1983. Both Symposiums were held at the end of a significant decade. The first was a unique occasion in that it marked the coming into being an idea that had been conceived a decade earlier. The second was another unique occasion because it took place at the end of one decade of ICIMOD's work and provided us with an opportunity to review our work over the decade and to examine what were the constraints and, more important, the opportunities that had arisen from the challenges we set ourselves in 1983.

The establishment and growth of the Centre, which has an international character (staffing and governance) and a regional mandate, to act as a facilitator of development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region is quite an achievement. The representation of all the eight HKH member countries of ICIMOD at the Symposium reflects the continuing relevance of ICIMOD for regional collaboration in the sustainable development of this largest mountain range on earth. In terms of programmes, over ten years, ICIMOD has graduated from producing state-of-the-art reviews to policy analysis, practical problem-solving activities, training and skill enhancement, and information exchange activities. All of these are being enriched day by day.

Since ICIMOD was conceived of as a mountain development think tank, it is important to bear in mind that as soon as old challenges are met there will be new problems to solve, new constraints to surmount, and new opportunities to seize. This is a time to renew ICIMOD's very challenging commitment to integrated and sustainable mountain development. The present document is not only a reflection on the past 10 years but rather a mandate for ICIMOD's future. Much is left to be done under ICIMOD's statutory established tasks of Documentation and Information, Research, Training, and Advisory Services. Participants at the Symposium, through their active involvement in the discussions and panels, have indicated priorities for action by governments, NGOs, individuals, and ICIMOD. ICIMOD is ready to enter the second decade of its existence with the mandate extended by the participants.

I am grateful to all my present colleagues at ICIMOD who put in a great deal of effort to make the Symposium a success and who prepared this document. Particular thanks go to my predecessor, Dr. E.F. Tacke, who successfully mobilised international and regional agencies and experts and was responsible for this very useful and timely Symposium.

Egbert Pelinck  
Director General

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