



Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Biodiversity Management



Proceedings of a MacArthur Foundation
ICIMOD Seminar

April 13-15, 1994, Kathmandu, Nepal

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International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Editor

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Views of the Himalayas — B. R. Bhatta

[Inset] *Women from Himachal selling hemp, a minor forest product, in a bazaar town*
— T. Partap.

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Foreword

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The Hondo-Rash Himalayan Region is one of the world's richest ecosystems in terms of biodiversity. This is due to the extreme altitudinal variations with concurrent changes in temperature and precipitation, and differences in soil conditions, which have combined to create a striking vertical zonation in the natural vegetation.

Biodiversity is the result of the interaction of natural and social systems in utilization and conservation. The interactions between species, populations, communities, and ecosystems are complex and dynamic, and are influenced by human activities on the one hand, and culture, technology, indigenous knowledge, and institutions on the other. The HKH Region is characterized by a high degree of biodiversity, and a rich cultural heritage.

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