

Part I

Perspectives and Issues

This part consists of a chapter, prepared by the editors, summarising the issues, challenges, and options in development of mountain areas in South Asia, as reflected in the statements on the background material for the Conference, those made in the opening session, and presentations in the plenaries and discussions and recommendations in the working groups. It also incorporates the main conclusions and recommendations of the Conference and follow-up actions put forward in the concluding session of the Conference.

The presentations and discussions reflected the wide heterogeneity of the mountain economies and environments. This is evident in this overview also. Diversity is probably the most important characteristic of mountain areas. It not only provides potentials and options, but also places various constraints on development. Finding the right approach to promoting the opportunities within the constraints posed by the mountain environment is probably the key to achieving the twin objectives of poverty alleviation and environmental conservation.

Chapter

- 1. Development in Mountain Areas of South Asia—Issues and Options**
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