

Biodiversity

Diverse micro-environments, plants, and animals occurring naturally in the mountains are selectively exploited and protected by mountain residents as part

of their strategies for survival and long-term security. As the primary users and managers of agricultural and forest lands in all areas of the HKH mountains (e.g., Archarya and Bennett 1983, Mehta 1990, Shrestha 1988, World Bank 1990), the women there have the sophisticated knowledge to manage a multiplicity of roles and small production systems to adapt and survive in a fragile environment.