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### Founding of ICIMOD

The fundamental motivation for the founding of this first International Centre in the field of mountain area development was widespread recognition of the alarming environmental degradation of mountain habitats, and consequent increasing impoverishment of mountain communities. A coordinated and systematic effort on an international scale was deemed essential to design and implement more effective development responses to promote the sustained well-being of mountain communities.

The establishment of the Centre is based upon an agreement between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) signed in 1981. The Centre was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal in December 1983, and began its professional activities in September 1984.

The Centre, located in Kathmandu, the capital of the Kingdom of Nepal, enjoys the status of an autonomous international organisation.

Director : Dr. K. C. Rosser

Deputy Director : Dr. R. P. Yadav

**Participating Countries of the Hindu Kush - Himalaya Region**

- o Afghanistan
- o Bhutan
- o China
- o Nepal
- o Bangladesh
- o Burma
- o India
- o Pakistan



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