



Centre News

Special Highlights

38th Meeting of the ICIMOD Board of Governors Approves New Five-year Strategy

Meetings of the ICIMOD Board of Governors (BoG), ICIMOD Support Group, BoG Finance Committee, BoG Programme Advisory Committee, and ICIMOD Foundation Committee were held in Dhulikhel, near Kathmandu, from 26 to 28 November 2007. The meetings were attended by the regional board members, the independent board members, and representatives of ICIMOD sponsors, as well as special invitees Mr Muhammad Ismail Qureshi, Secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, Pakistan, and Dasho Sangay Thinley, Former Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan (both former board members). The new Chair of the Board of Governors for 2008 was Mr Md. Abdus Sabur (now deceased), Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Bangladesh, taking over from the outgoing Chair HE Eng Ghulam Mostafa Jawad from Afghanistan.

The main focus of the meeting was the new Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Action Plan for 2008-2012, which were approved. The new strategy envisions three strategic programmes – Integrated Water and Hazard Management, Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services, and Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction – supported by a strong knowledge management group and specialists in gender, equity,

governance, and economics, working together on programmes designed to help people adapt to climate change and improve their livelihoods, while protecting the environment. Details of the Strategic Framework and Plan are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The new Strategic Framework was developed against a background of increasing challenges for the people of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. Globalisation and climate change have been so intense that coping mechanisms are losing their efficacy. The new strategic programmes were designed following consultations with governments and organisations in the Centre's eight regional member countries. The discussions were spearheaded by ICIMOD staff and involved input from



Meeting participants visiting Gaukhureswor Community Forest

Madhav Dhakal

the Programme Advisory Committee, the ICIMOD Support Group, and the Board of Governors. Through improved understanding of the potential impacts of climate change, people and governments can be helped to avoid the worst risks of disasters, to plan for water management, to use better the opportunities open to them, and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The new strategic programmes build on ICIMOD's more than two decades of experience in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region and strong network of partners, and will emphasise the interdisciplinary and regional nature of the challenges that face mountain people.

ICIMOD was delighted by the very positive response and strong commitment shown by the regional member countries to the new agenda. ICIMOD's sponsors, including many long-term donors, expressed their strong support for the new plans, and generosity and

encouragement for 2008. The planned budget for the coming year is US\$ 10.7 million, compared to US\$ 6.3 in the previous year.

ICIMOD's new Director General, Dr Andreas Schild (in office since April 2007) described the programme as challenging and ambitious, as well as an exciting opportunity to make a difference for the people of the region. He said that the new programme will involve many changes in the way that ICIMOD works, both within the Centre and outside, and praised the staff for their commitment, enthusiasm, and hard work in developing the strategy and plan.

The next regular Board Meeting will be held in Kathmandu to coincide with ICIMOD's 25th Anniversary on 5 December 2008.

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Medium-Term Action Plan (MTAP) 2008-2012

Under its new strategy, ICIMOD's mission is to 'enable and facilitate the equitable and sustainable well-being of the people of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas supporting sustainable mountain development through active regional cooperation'. This mission and the overall strategy, as well the directives of the Board of Governors arising from the external review in 2006, guided the process of planning and designing ICIMOD's Medium Term Action Plan (MTAP) for 2008-2012.

MTAP planning process

The medium-term planning process started with national consultations in all eight regional member countries (RMCs), followed by a regional consultation in Kathmandu. These consultations were attended by the concerned RMCs, ICIMOD board members, and senior

policy makers. They made the following recommendations:

- ICIMOD should scale up its pilot projects nationally and regionally through its strong relationships with, and commitment from, its RMC partners.
- ICIMOD needs to build partnerships and realign itself with other centres of excellence in its RMCs.
- ICIMOD should closely engage with national strategic partners from the planning phase onwards to avoid duplication.
- Climate change related impacts, especially water shortages and the degradation of environmental services, are major issues for research.
- High value products, their marketing and value addition, and influencing value chains are of high priority.

The main objective of MTAP II is to convert ICIMOD's new strategy into a programmatic framework in the form of a detailed five-year plan and annual plans. As a first step, three strategic programmes were defined: Integrated Water and Hazards Management, Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services, and Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction. The second task was to convert the strategic goals into strategic outcomes under each programme. The three strategic programmes have been



organised into nine action areas, each headed by an action area team leader. All interventions in the regional member countries will be at the action area level, while the strategic programmes originate at headquarters.

The Integrated Knowledge Management (IKM) group will consolidate and package information and knowledge resources and make these available to both ICIMOD and RMC-based programmes. IKM will work closely with the three strategic programmes, integrating their activities to support new innovation and co-development strategies in KM. Remote sensing, GIS, and geo-ICT tools and technologies will be developed to help share information across the region. ICIMOD will be further developed as a geo-information and knowledge resource centre. ICIMOD publications will be more targeted and e-publications will increase.

Scaling up activities in the RMCs

ICIMOD will promote the scaling up of programmes through different action areas. This will also be a major focus of the Human and Institutional Capacity Development unit. Activities related to the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) will be linked to human capacity development activities, and will focus initially on development of the university faculty in Afghanistan. Partnership creation and development will be given a strategic focus with the objective of developing, acquiring, and customising international knowledge to meet conditions in the HKH. With its new strategic focus, ICIMOD hopes to enhance the integration of knowledge and service-oriented activities to meet the national and regional needs of its RMCs and to share knowledge with global mountain communities.

Implementation process

The implementation process will start with refining of the annual action plan. The major activity will be planning and integration of recommendations and actions from the national and regional consultations. Ongoing programmes will be reoriented in line with the new strategic direction. Ongoing projects that do not match the priorities of the new strategic framework will be gradually phased out.

The new strategy envisions a number of specific internal changes for 2008. First and foremost, the way that ICIMOD does business will be changed through a change management training process. Professional staff and technicians will be introduced to a new work culture, working in interdisciplinary teams with clear-cut, output oriented agenda. The mainstreaming of gender and governance will be improved, and the economic dimensions of our programmes will be built up.

Conclusion

ICIMOD is concerned with the generation of knowledge and scientific information for integrated mountain development. In line with this, ICIMOD's work under MTAP II will include action research, regional knowledge sharing, and capacity building activities that improve the livelihoods of mountain people in its RMCs. Over the next five years, ICIMOD plans to implement sustainable interventions and ensure that the results of the action research that we support contributes to poverty reduction, influences policies, improves practices, and transfers knowledge and technologies that have a bearing on the lives of our ultimate beneficiaries – the poor and marginalised people in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

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ICIMOD Board of Governors 2007/08

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Dr. Andreas Schild
(Ex-officio) Director General, ICIMOD

Climate Change, Glaciers, and Water Resources in the HKH Region: ICIMOD Organises Session and Launches Concrete Initiative at the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Japan

ICIMOD was invited to organise a session on 'Climate Change, Glaciers, and Water Resources in the Himalayan Region' at the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Beppu, Oita Prefecture in Japan, December 3-4, 2007. The Summit was attended by 10 heads of government and 35 ministerial level delegations from countries in the region, as well as leaders from the region's foremost water-related institutions. The Summit was convened by the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, whose establishment was announced by the former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico in 2006. The theme was 'Water Security: Leadership and Commitment', and entailed a bid to mobilise the political will and commitment required to put water high on the region's national agendas. The Summit was officially opened by HIH the Crown Prince of Japan, HRH Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, and HE the Prime Minister of Japan.

The ICIMOD session was graced by the presence of HIH the Crown Prince of Japan. Speakers at the ICIMOD session, which was attended by more than 150 guests, included the head of government and ministers from Japan (the major donor country in the region) and four of ICIMOD's eight regional member countries – Bhutan, China, India, and Nepal – as well as senior officials from ICHARM and JICA and the World Bank, two major donor agencies. The session was chaired by Mr Nobuo Mimura, Director of the Institute for Global Change Adaptation Science of Japan, and moderated by Dr Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD.

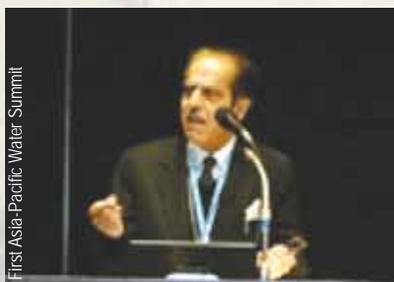
While setting the stage for discussions at the session, Dr Schild highlighted the fact that, despite their importance to human well-being, mountains have received little attention on the international development agenda. The impending disasters of melting glaciers and collapsing mountains due to receding permafrost

have become a frightening vision. The rapidly changing environment is threatening mountains as a natural system with natural and human features, and their pristine position in providing environmental services, which people take for granted. The storehouse of freshwater in the Himalayas, also considered a 'third pole', has been degrading over the years due to climate change.

The speakers addressing the session reinforced the view of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that there is insufficient data and information on climate, hydrology, and meteorology in the Himalayan region; the region is a 'blank spot' on the global map of climate change. They also stated that it is essential to strengthen mechanisms for the regional exchange of data and information to reduce scientific uncertainty and to facilitate proper planning and decision making towards the development of adaptation measures.

The dignitaries also expressed their commitment to take up a number of adaptation measures. Bhutan and Nepal are pursuing measures to adapt to the potential impact of glacier lake outburst floods on hydropower plants. Revenue from hydropower already forms the economic backbone of Bhutan, and has the potential to do so in Nepal. India's National Institute of Hydrology is analysing adaptation measures at its world-class IITs. And, China is developing and promoting technologies to enhance water-use efficiency and water conservation. Japan remarked that adaptation measures to overcome water stress and hazards should have a 'zero victim' goal, and expressed interest in contributing further through technical assistance programmes.

The speakers highlighted the need to create a platform for regional dialogue and to engage the international community in pursuing adaptation measures on a long-



H.E. Professor Saifuddin Soz, Minister for Water Resources of India



Alpinist Ken Noguchi, Japan



H.E. Lyonpo Dr. Kinzang Dorji, Prime Minister of Bhutan (right) and Hon'ble Mr Gyanendra Bdr Karki, Minister of State for Water Resources of Nepal

term basis. The World Bank pointed out that a long-term commitment from the international community for technical and financial support would be necessary. A platform for regional dialogue, driven and fully owned by the countries in the region, is urgently needed to understand the benefits of cooperation and the cost of non-cooperation. JICA implicitly supported the World Bank's view and added that the role played by ICIMOD as a regional international organisation is going to be highly instrumental in coordinating with countries in the region.

The overarching message of the session, eloquently presented by alpinist Ken Noguchi, was that unless the international donor community takes urgent action commensurate to the magnitude and scope of the problems related to climate change, glacier melting, and water resources in the Himalayan region, the consequences of climate change in terms of glacier- and water-related disasters and water stress due to

spatial and temporal variability in water availability may have a catastrophic impact on the livelihoods of the more than 1.3 billion people living in the nine river basins in the region.

The Summit Steering Committee expressed the belief that Japan will be able to highlight the importance of water and convey the outcome of the Summit in the forthcoming G-8 Summit, to be held in Japan in 2008. Furthermore, to follow up on the recommendations made by the dignitaries at its session, ICIMOD, with encouragement from the same Steering Committee, launched a concrete initiative on 'Climate Change, Glaciers, and Water Resources in the Himalayan Region,' a progress report on which will be presented to the national governments and water stakeholders of the world at the forthcoming Fifth World Water Forum in 2009.

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Paradigm Shift in Viewing Forestry under Climate Change Accords from Marrakesh to Bali

Forests stabilise the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ by sequestering it biologically into the terrestrial ecosystem. Realising this, emissions and removals resulting from land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) activities form an integral part of the Kyoto Protocol (KP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The current rules of the KP on LULUCF were accepted at COP 7 in Marrakesh (2001) under the Marrakesh Accord.

During the first commitment period (2008-2012), mitigation options applicable to most of the developing countries are confined primarily to afforestation and reforestation (AR) activities. AR projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) have been restricted to areas that were not forested in 1990. Avoiding deforestation was not accepted as an eligible CDM for two reasons:

- 1) It was thought that leakage from projects that avoided deforestation could be very significant and difficult to estimate and monitor.
- 2) There was strong opposition to including large-scale land use change management because this would reduce efforts in the energy sector.

Community-based forests also did not meet the CDM criteria as such forests were mainly used for avoiding emissions from deforestation and conserving degraded forest. In addition the KP also neglected to account for global deforestation, which accounts for an estimated 18% to 25% of global emissions, as highlighted in the

Stern Review (2007). This weakened the KP's position on addressing emission mitigation and was a major reason why the CDM-AR activity was unable to attract as many LULUCF projects as initially intended.

At COP 9 (2003), the need to include 'avoided deforestation' as a strategy to reduce emissions was realised. COP 11 (2005) adopted a broader term 'reduced emissions from deforestation' (RED), which includes a wider range of forest management activities in addition to conservation activities. The adoption of RED overcame earlier difficulties, as it accounts for emissions from deforestation, addresses leakage, and helps reduce transaction costs. Each country can benefit from RED depending on how responsible they are in reducing emissions from deforestation. The Stern Review (2007) states that interventions in the forestry sector are among the least cost mitigation solutions for carbon.

With all these developments in RED taking place, discussions and side events at the COP 13 in Bali in 2007 were dominated by negotiations and presentations on reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD); 'forest degradation' (the removal of woody biomass without reducing the area to less than 10-30% canopy cover) was also recognised and added to 'deforestation'. Finally, the Parties decided to address emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by taking into account forest management under REDD.



Emissions from forest degradation as a result of the removal of woody biomass without a reduction in the forest area (forest thinning)

Partnership Facility (FCPF) with a financial plan of US \$165 million allocated to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries in the tropics and to preserve forests by linking economic incentives to forest management and conservation.

With the Kyoto Protocol coming to an end in 2012, the climate conference in Bali set the stage for the development of a new 'roadmap' for a follow-on agreement. The centrepiece of this new agreement will be to rely on the forestry sector for climate stabilisation, being the least cost mitigation solution. While this will open up opportunities in community forestry, how baselines are drawn will determine if community forestry will actually benefit.

The COP 13 decision on REDD

- Acknowledges the contribution of the emissions from deforestation to global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions;
- Recognises the potential role of further actions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries in helping to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention;
- Affirms the urgent need to take further meaningful action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries;
- Invites Parties to further strengthen and support ongoing efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation on a voluntary basis.

The Bali outcome on REDD was important in that the Parties agreed to strengthen and support REDD policies to reduce emissions. Although the decision invites parties to take action on a voluntary basis only, progress has definitely been made between the Marrakesh and Bali meetings. Carbon measurement methodology at the field level is now accepted, based on the recommended methodology of the IPCC. In 2007, the World Bank established the new Global Forest Alliance (GBA) with conservation agencies like Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, and WWF to create funds to intervene in the forestry sector. For this, the World Bank has established the Forest Carbon

ICIMOD's contribution to the REDD policy process

Since 2003, ICIMOD has been implementing an action research project 'Kyoto: Think Global Act Local'¹, with the aim of investigating the possibility and potential of including community-managed natural forests as an eligible carbon mitigation activity under future international climate change agreements. The project is essentially a REDD project. It has developed carbon measurement methods using IPCC guidelines and has monitored carbon fluxes over a three-year period in six community managed forest sites, three in India and three in Nepal. Results show that net CO₂ sequestration ranges from 13.6 to 7.1 t CO₂ per hectare annually, where forests were managed and harvested regularly to meet community subsistence needs.

At the regional level, ICIMOD has held several seminars and meetings to sensitise policy makers to the opportunities and challenges faced by the forestry sector under the developing climate change accords. This research project has enabled ICIMOD to maintain its leading position in climate change policy research related to mountain communities and carbon forestry. The carbon measurement methodology is now available for organisations in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan countries to use.

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Symposium on Biodiversity Resources and Climate Change

The International Society for Tropical Ecology and HNB Garhwal University organised the Tropical Ecology Congress in Dehradun, India from 2-5 December 2007. The Congress was co-organised by the Forest Research Institute and Wildlife Institute of India, and sponsored by many institutions including ICIMOD. The congress was attended by some 500 participants from all over the world. In addition to the technical sessions, the main feature was the organisation of symposia on topics of global interest, such as Biodiversity Resources in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas: Challenges and Responses to Climate Change; Biodiversity Conservation in the Tropics: Issues, Concerns and Strategies; Climate Change: Impact, Assessment and Management; and Mountain Ecology: Focus on the Indian Himalayan Region.

During the Congress, ICIMOD organised a symposium on 'Biodiversity Resources in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas: Challenges and Responses to Climate Change', coordinated by Dr Eklabya Sharma, and chaired by Professor A.N. Purohit, former independent member of ICIMOD's Board of Governors. Seven panelists (Professor P.S. Ramakrishnan from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; Professor Yang Yong-Ping and Dr Yang Xuefei from the Kunming Institute of Botany, China; Dr Laxman Joshi from the World Agroforestry Centre, Indonesia; and Drs Eklabya Sharma, K.P. Oli, and Yan Zhaoli from ICIMOD) made presentations. Some 60 participants attended the symposium, including two former independent members of ICIMOD's Board of Governors (Professors A.N. Purohit and J.S. Singh) and the four past and current Directors of the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development.

The panel presentations covered a wide range of topics including traditional ecological knowledge systems; protected area and landscape management of biodiversity in the changing climate; dynamics and responses to climate change in high altitude wetlands; plant succession in recently deglaciated areas; impacts of climate change on rangelands and herders' livelihoods; biodiversity conservation in land-use transformation systems using a jungle rubber example from Indonesia; and access and benefit sharing from biodiversity resources in the global change context. The role of both formal and traditional ecological knowledge systems was highlighted by the presenters in relation to coping with climate change and globalisation. The discussion on traditional knowledge systems concluded that it is as important to address societal perspectives and human elements as it is to consider biodiversity resources. The presentations also used examples to describe how intangible benefits can be converted into



Yan Zhaoli

ICIMOD Symposium at the Tropical Ecology Congress, Dehradun: Panelist Professor P.S. Ramakrishnan making a presentation

tangible benefits in the context of the recent changes that mountain societies are facing. Biodiversity rich areas and mountains are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It was concluded that the challenges of climate change, in terms of both mitigation and adaptation, demand multi-stakeholder partnerships and multi-disciplinarity, especially when it comes to mountains. The panelists provided some good examples of both multi-stakeholder partnerships and multi-disciplinarity and helped to clarify further the various processes for adoption in future. The importance of legal systems and policies on the effectiveness of adaptation were also emphasised.

The symposium deliberations and outcomes will feed into the report on 'Assessment of Climate Change Vulnerabilities on Mountain Ecosystems of the Eastern Himalaya', which will be used by ICIMOD, its partners, and the MacArthur Foundation in future programming on biodiversity and climate change research, and for development in the eastern Himalayas.

Both the Tropical Ecology Congress and the ICIMOD Symposium received wide media coverage through the publication of highlights in newspapers and on television. The Congress was inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and the valedictory speech was delivered by His Excellency the Governor of Uttarakhand, Professor S.P. Singh, Vice-Chancellor of HNB Garhwal University. The Congress Convener appreciated ICIMOD's contribution in his address in both the inaugural and closing functions. Dr Yang Xuefei, one of the panel presenters, received the 'Alice Murphy Award' for young ecologists (below 40 years of age). Symposium organisers, including Dr Eklabya Sharma from ICIMOD, were honoured during the valedictory function for their contribution to the great success of the Congress.

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Outcomes of the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC)

Over 25 participants, including chancellors, vice-chancellors, rectors, deans, directors, professors, and other senior officials from fifteen universities, institutes, and research centres in five Himalayan countries, and one each from Austria and Thailand, were brought together by ICIMOD and other key members of the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) for the second annual meeting of HUC at ICIMOD on 26-27 February, 2008.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and operationalise two proposals on the strengthening of Afghan universities and collaboration around change (notably climate change, economic globalisation and migration, and urbanisation), and to finalise the vision, mission, goals, and functions of the Consortium. The major outcomes of the meeting are summarised below.

1. **Mission:** The mission of the Consortium was tentatively confirmed as to 'encourage and facilitate relevant and responsive research, exchange, education, and outreach in mountain development sciences and related areas. To this end HUC will support the acquisition, development, archiving, and dissemination of knowledge and documents relevant to a wide spectrum of disciplines, and promote the conducting of research and related academic training programmes by HUC members jointly and individually for the benefit of researchers, civil society, and the development community in HKH region'.
2. **Functions of the Consortium:** The Consortium will initiate and steer programmes, starting with the two programmes identified so far, but may venture into other collaborative activities as well.
3. **Name:** The name of the Consortium was confirmed as the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC).

4. **Full membership:** Full membership was in principle restricted to the fifteen founding members, to be extended to include one university each from Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar, so as to represent all HKH states. Other requests or proposals may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
5. **Associate membership:** Universities and institutes located outside the HKH region countries that provide knowledge resources to HUC may be given associate membership status; non-member universities within the HKH region may be invited to participate in various HUC programmes and activities.
6. **Charter:** The meeting unanimously adopted the proposed Consortium charter and decided to hold the next meeting in Dehradun, India in March 2009. This meeting will be hosted by the Indian Consortium members, confirming that ownership of the initiative extends well beyond ICIMOD.
7. **Capacity building programme for Afghan universities:** A human capacity building programme developed by ICIMOD and its key HUC partners and funded by IDRC, Canada, will facilitate training and capacity building of the faculty members and staff of Afghan universities. In particular, the programme will aim to help Kabul University regain its position as the leading university in the Western Himalayas and in the development of Afghanistan. This aim will mainly be pursued through scholarships for masters and diploma courses, largely at regional universities, thus strengthening the teaching, course design, and research capacities of university faculty in Afghanistan. In addition, short training courses will be offered for university staff, as well as government officials, in technical and management topics to enhance research and outreach on mountain issues. The programme will particularly focus on Kabul University as a leading university in Afghanistan.
8. **Afghan programme needs assessment:** The meeting also made decisions about the management of the Afghanistan programme and the selection of candidates in a participatory, transparent, and efficient manner. It was also agreed that, based on a clear ToR, a mission of officials from ICIMOD and at least two universities in the region will carry



Narendra Bajracharya

out a needs assessment and prioritisation by early summer this year. This mission will also make an inventory of the HUC member universities that may be able to cater for these needs.

9. **Project Steering Committee:** The PSC (comprised of HUC representatives), the secretariat of which is based at ICIMOD, in close collaboration with Kabul University, ensures that returned faculty members effectively strengthen their universities by ensuring that they are able to apply their newly acquired knowledge.
10. **Model programme:** In general, the Afghan strengthening programme will be studied as a case and model of how support to a weaker member of the Consortium can be boosted by pooling together the resources of the relatively stronger members. While Afghan universities have several international support programmes in place, the uniqueness of the current programme was seen to be its regional, mountain-specific, and collaborative nature. This programme is also expected to strengthen the regional network of mountain universities.
11. **Proposal for a new collaborative programme on adaptation to change:** A new proposal was presented and embraced by the meeting under the working title 'Adaptation to Change and Enhancing Resilience – A Proposal for a Collaborative Programme of Hindu Kush-Himalayan Universities'. The idea for this programme was first conceived as

a response to the ironic dichotomy between the clearly observable changes in the region, and the scarcity of consistent data to confirm the magnitude and impact of trends related to climate change. The meeting debated the proposal and widened its focus to include research on, and adaptation to, globalisation and urbanisation, in addition to climate change. Other major issues under debate were the need for field verification of data (especially GIS and RS data), coupled with the need for field research by students, and the need to make research data and findings better available within, and especially across, universities. It was decided to develop this proposal into a full proposal involving key members of the Consortium.

12. **Sharing mountain-specific curricula:** A number of universities also agreed to start drawing up and sharing mountain-specific curricula for one or more masters and diploma courses shortly after the meeting. This responds to the desire for short-term action and results, since 'collaborative change' will take another year to become operational.
13. **Call to governments:** The meeting ended with the adoption of a call to governments in the HKH region to give the utmost priority to climate change (referring with appreciation to the initiatives of India and China in this regard).

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Switzerland and Sweden Support ICIMOD

Switzerland and Sweden have become the second and third non-regional members of ICIMOD, after Norway, to sign agreements with ICIMOD to support the new strategic plan. Switzerland has committed to make a contribution of 5 million Swiss Francs in core funds to ICIMOD for the five-year period from 2008 to 2012, equivalent to US\$ 4.46 million at the current exchange rate; SDC has already paid the first instalment for 2008. Sweden has committed to make a contribution of 15 million Swedish Kroner in programme funds for the

three-year period from 2008 to 2010, equivalent to US\$ 2.35 million at the current exchange rate, for the strategic programme on Integrated Water and Hazard Management. SIDA has already paid the first instalment towards the programme costs of 2008. ICIMOD expresses its wholehearted thanks to these two non-regional members for their strong support of the new Strategic Plan.

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ICIMOD Press Releases

Eco Everest featured in Earth.Google.com (28 April 2008) <http://www.icimod.org/home/news/news.content.php?nid=82>

Expedition draws attention to climate change threats and unveils world's highest photo exhibition

Eco Everest Expedition 2008 launches from Everest Base Camp (18 April 2008)

<http://www.icimod.org/home/news/news.content.php?nid=81>

ICIMOD repeats study on Himalayan Glacier (17 April 2008)

<http://www.icimod.org/home/news/news.content.php?nid=80>

Eco Everest Expedition Pre Departure Press Conference by Asian Trekking (3 April 2008)

<http://www.ecoeverest.net.np/pressrelease.php>

Eco Everest Expedition 2008 to be launched from Everest Base Camp on 18 April 2008 (24 March 2008)

<http://www.icimod.org/home/news/news.content.php?nid=77>

Focusing on climate change in the Himalayas and celebrating ICIMOD's 25 years for mountains and people

(11 February 2008) <http://www.icimod.org/home/news/news.content.php?nid=76>

New Regional Board Members

ICIMOD is pleased to announce the new Regional Board Members from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Pakistan.

Mr Shaikh Altaf Ali, Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Bangladesh

Mr Shaikh Altaf Ali, Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, was nominated as ICIMOD Board Member by the Government of Bangladesh in April 2008. Mr Ali is a career civil servant. He joined the Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Cadre in 1981 as an Assistant Commissioner. In his long professional career, he has worked in different ministries in different capacities and been involved in the formulation and implementation of national planning and programming. He has long experience in field administration and has served in different capacities including Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Additional District Magistrate, Upazila (sub-district) Magistrate and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (Chief Executive Officer of a sub-district), and has been involved in the implementation and management of several development programmes and projects. Mr Ali has held many senior positions in the government including Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism; Member (in charge) Planning Commission; and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information. In April 2008, he joined the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs as Secretary. The Ministry is responsible for the overall planning, coordination, supervision, and formulation of policies relating to Chittagong Hill Tracts affairs. Mr Ali has a Masters degree in Commerce and has attended training events at home and abroad in management and development administration. He is a member of several professional organisations, is actively involved in social work, and has travelled extensively.



Professor A.K.M. Jahir Uddin Chowdhury, Professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh

A.K.M. Jahir Uddin Chowdhury is a Professor at the Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh. His research focus is on management of water resources systems. He has authored or co-authored 23 papers in national and international journals, 38 papers in local and international conferences and workshops, and 29 research reports. Professor Chowdhury graduated as a civil engineer from BUET in 1974, after which he gained an M.Sc. (water resources) from BUET in 1977 and a Ph.D. from the University of Strathclyde, UK, in 1982. He joined the Department of Water Resources Engineering, BUET as a lecturer in 1974, and became Associate Professor in 1984 and Professor in 1987. He has been Director of the Institute for two terms: 1985-1988 and 2001-2003. He spent a year as a visiting scientist at the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University, USA, in 1989, and was a member of the National Water Resources Council of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh during 2002 to 2006. Professor Chowdhury has provided advisory and consultancy services in the field of water management, hazard management, and water resources system modelling to 30 projects from government, semi-government and autonomous organisations.



Mr Sherub Gyaltshen, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan

Mr Sherub Gyaltshen started his career in the Bhutanese civil service in 1978. In his 29-years career, Mr Gyaltshen has made valuable contributions in the Ministry of Agriculture in various capacities. Besides serving as Acting Director and subsequently as Director of Research and Extension from 1996-2001, Mr Gyaltshen served as Director and then as Director General in the Department of Agriculture (2003-2007) before being appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture on 18 August 2007. Apart from his present affiliation, Mr Gyaltshen is also actively involved in a number of other government bodies. He is the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Bhutan Development Finance Corporation Limited, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited (of which he was Managing Director from 2001-2003), Chairman of Bhutan Agro Industries Limited, Vice-Chair of the Drug Regulatory Authority, and member of the National Land Commission of Bhutan. He has also held high profile positions as Chairman of Druk Seed Corporation and as a member of the Boards of Bhutan Agro Industries Limited and Bhutan Finance Corporation Limited. Mr Gyaltshen has a Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Engineering from Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, India. He also received professional training on Post Harvest Horticulture Technology (1983) from TDR, London, and completed a Refrigeration Engineering and Post Harvest Technology course conducted by CSIRO, Sydney, Australia (1980).



Professor Ding Zhongli, Vice President, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Ding Zhongli, Professor at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), was born in Shengzhou, Zhejiang Province in 1957. He was elected as Academician of CAS in 2005, as Chairman of the Chinese National Committee for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (CNC-IGBP) in January 2008, and as a member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China in March 2008. He became Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in January 2008, following nearly seven years as Director of the CAS Institute of Geology and Geophysics. For the past two decades, Professor Ding has focused his research on the Quaternary climate change and associated forcing mechanisms, and made systematic observations and a pedostratigraphic correlation of the loess sequences over the Chinese Loess Plateau, laying a foundation for later study. For the first time, he established a 2.6-Ma orbital timescale of stacked grain-size records for Chinese loess that is highly compatible with the marine isotope record. He found that the East-Asian winter monsoon intensity registered in the loess grain-size was in phase with the Milankovitch cycles, particularly the 100 ka eccentricity cycle, and that the winter monsoon intensity is closely related to global ice volume changes. A recipient of many awards, his achievements and many innovative results have been published in numerous highly-ranked international journals and are widely cited. He has also contributed to textbooks that have been published in America and England. Professor Ding has a Ph.D. in Quaternary Geology from the Institute of Geology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and a Master of Science in Geochemistry from the Institute of Geology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.



Ms Meena Gupta, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India

Ms Meena Gupta joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1971 and has worked in various senior positions in the Government of Orissa and the Government of India since then. She has worked for significant periods of time in the sectors of health, labour, tribal affairs, and environment and forests. As Secretary of Health in the Government of Orissa, she introduced several pioneering reforms. In the Ministry of Labour in the Government of India she was associated with the Child Labour (Protection and Regulation) Act and the National Child Labour Projects. She also worked in the ILO Office, New Delhi for four years on a child labour project which extended support to the Government of India's efforts. Ms Gupta's recent postings have been as Additional Secretary and Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Secretary in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and, since June 2007, Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. As Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Ms Gupta was responsible for the enactment of the landmark legislation, the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, which for the very first time recognised the primacy of the rights of people, particularly tribals, who have been living and depending on forests for their livelihood for generations. Ms Gupta moved to the Ministry of Environment and Forests as Secretary on 1 June 2007. Ms Gupta has written a number of papers and articles which have been published in different journals and newspapers.



Mr Muhammad Zia-ur-Rehman, Secretary Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MINFAL), Pakistan

Mr Muhammad Zia-ur-Rehman started his career in the Civil Service of Pakistan as an Assistant Commissioner/Sub Divisional Magistrate in 1976. Since then he has served in different government offices holding important positions over the past three decades. To name a few, he was the Secretary, Services to the Punjab Government (1990-1994-1996); Secretary to the Governor of Punjab (1997-1999); Secretary, Ports and Shipping Division (2005-2006); Secretary, Planning and Development Division (2006); and has been the Secretary of MINFAL since 1 June 2007. Mr Zia-ur-Rehman has also served as deputy secretary, joint secretary, and in other capacities on different boards, and in various divisions, and departments of the Government. Mr Zia-ur-Rehman received training and studied courses on administration and management within Pakistan, as well as abroad in the UK, USA, South Korea, Singapore, and Nepal. He has two Masters Degrees – in Economics and Political Science – and a Bachelors Degree in Law.



In Memoriam Mr Md. Shaheedul Haque

Mr Md. Shaheedul Haque was the Regional Board Member for Bangladesh from February 2008 until his sudden and untimely death in March 2008. During his brief period as Regional Board Member Mr Md. Haque became a true friend to ICIMOD. His contribution, though short lived, will be remembered by all of us. He will be sorely missed. ICIMOD offers its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

New Appointments at ICIMOD

Babita Bohra, Regional Rangeland Consultant, Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services

Dr Babita Bohra, an Indian National, joined ICIMOD as a Regional Rangeland Consultant for Regional Rangeland Programme III in the Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services Programme. Dr Bohra obtained her PhD, majoring in Dairy Husbandry and Animal Nutrition, from the GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUA&T), Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, India. During her studies, she carried out a prestigious project on 'Rangeland resources and dairy farming in the mountain agro-ecosystems of Uttaranchal'. Dr Bohra has some seven years of work experience in the mountains of Uttarakhand, India. Her work is primarily focused on dairy farming, rangeland resources, and livestock dependent livelihood systems in mountain areas. She has also worked as a Senior Research Fellow on the project 'Development of strategies to improve nutrition of dairy animals in the mountains of Uttaranchal'. Dr Bohra has published sixteen research papers and a book related to crucial issues of mountain development.



Marianne Heredge, Programme Officer, Mountain Forum Secretariat

Ms Marianne Heredge joined the Mountain Forum Secretariat as Programme Officer in August 2007. She is a British/French citizen with a varied background, having trained as a teacher and worked for local government and in the financial sector as a management consultant and project manager. More recently, she was involved in financial regulation and anti-money laundering in London. She has an MBA and an MSc in Development Studies from Birkbeck College, University of London. In Nepal for the last two and a half years, Marianne has taught children in mountain village schools, taught English in Kathmandu, and has been involved in training trekking staff and teachers. As Programme Officer, Marianne's role will be to continue the development and maintenance of the on-line library and to edit the bi-annual Mountain Forum Bulletin.



Frans Neuman, Executive Secretary, Mountain Forum Secretariat

Mr Frans Neuman joined the Mountain Forum Secretariat in January 2008. He is from the Netherlands and brings with him expertise in knowledge management and networking in a variety of fields around the world. With a background in agriculture and development, Francis comes to Mountain Forum from IICD (International Institute for Communication and Development), where he focused on synthesising lessons learned and fostering the use of ICTs in development processes. As Technical Advisor for the Netherlands Government, Francis was involved in international agriculture research and, in particular, ecoregional programmes such as Condesan and the African Highlands Initiative. An important focus of his work was multi-stakeholder involvement in addressing a geographically-focused agenda. During the last decade, Francis has carried out projects with regional networks and national partners in various continents. -



Diederik Prakke, Head, Human and Institutional Development

Mr Diederik Prakke joined ICIMOD as head of HID in January 2008. He is a Dutch national and is looking forward

- among partners: to strengthening partner organisations and partnerships (such as the HUC),
- towards partners: improving ICIMOD trainings and workshops, and
- at ICIMOD: bringing out the best in people through capacity building and change.

Directly prior to joining ICIMOD, Diederik worked for six years with MDF Training and Consultancy, designing and conducting courses, workshops, and consultancies in Asia, Africa, and Europe. He covered issues such as (inter-cultural) communication, conflict management and negotiation, meeting and facilitation skills, HRD and coaching, time management, advisory skills, leadership and team building, training of trainers (ToT), project formulation (PCM), planning, monitoring and evaluation (PM&E), procurement and financial management, institutional and organisational development (ID/OD), and implementing change. Bringing his two children with him to Kathmandu, Diederik is no stranger to this region. He lived in Bhutan for seven years where he initially worked as an irrigation engineer, in which field he holds a Masters degree. Diederik joins ICIMOD with 'a sense of hope and hunger, keen to see whether I will realise the dreams I bring to this job'.



Sagendra Tiwari, Programme Manager, ICIMOD-Afghanistan Country Office

Mr Sagendra Tiwari joined the ICIMOD-Afghanistan Country Office in Kabul as Programme Manager on 20 November 2007. He will be responsible for the implementation of the Biodiversity and Community Forestry project funded by USAID. Mr Tiwari brings with him a wealth of experience on forest, protected areas, natural resource management, and biodiversity. He was with the Government of Nepal for over twenty years and held key positions such as M & E Officer and Chief of Training in the Department of Forest. Mr Tiwari took voluntary retirement in 1999 after which he became engaged in the conservation and development sector. He worked for GTZ in Nepal as the Programme Coordinator for the Churia Forest Development Project in eastern Nepal. He joined IUCN-Nepal as Programme Coordinator for four years and as Acting Country Representative for two years and was largely involved in programmes and projects linking conservation with sustainable livelihoods. Mr Tiwari has a Masters Degree in Resource Management from University of Edinburgh, UK and a Postgraduate Diploma in Forestry and allied subjects (AIFC) from the Indian Forest College, Dehradun, India.



Brigitte Hoermann, Business Economist, Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction Programme

Dr Brigitte Hoermann, an Italian national, joined ICIMOD as a Business Economist on 1 March 2008. She is a team member in the Economic Analysis Unit within the Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction Programme (SLPR). At ICIMOD, Dr. Hoermann will focus on income generation and poverty reduction in mountain areas through land-based niche products and off-farm activities. The identification of opportunities to strengthen rural urban linkages through analysis and equitable promotion of pro-poor value chains and the analysis of investment opportunities for remittances will be particularly relevant. Before joining ICIMOD, Dr Hoermann held various positions within the private sector in the United States, Indonesia, and Europe and worked in the field of development cooperation with a primary focus on rural economic development in southern Nepal. Dr Hoermann has a strong academic and research background. She obtained her PhD in Business Administration from Innsbruck University, Austria, completed a Master's in International Development by research from Melbourne University, Australia, and holds a Master's in Communication Science from Salzburg University, Austria.



Ines Freier, Senior Environmental Economist, Economic Analysis Unit, Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction Programme

Dr. Ines Freier, a German national, joined ICIMOD as a Senior Environmental Economist in the Economic Analysis Unit of the Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction Programme in March 2008. Her work will focus mainly on strengthening the Centre's competence in payment for environmental services and environmental and social certification. Dr Freier has more than 10 years of professional experience as a consultant for environmental policy and management, working for GTZ, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Co-operation, the German Federal Environmental Agency, and the EU Commission in India, Nepal, Central Asia, Latin America, and the European Union. She holds a PhD in Political Sciences. She did a postgraduate degree at the German Development Institute, where she worked on community forestry in the Terai region of Nepal. She completed her graduate studies in Economics and Latin American Studies.



Daan Boom, Coordinator, Integrated Knowledge Management and Capacity Development

Mr Daan Boom, a Dutch/British national, joined ICIMOD on 1 March as Integrated Knowledge Management and Capacity Development Coordinator. Daan's primary task at ICIMOD will be to coordinate and implement the information and knowledge management strategy of ICIMOD and ensure integration of knowledge into the Centre's work, application of lessons learned, and transfer and effective dissemination of ICIMOD's knowledge to regional centres and networks and vice versa. He will also be ICIMOD's coordinator for Asia Pacific Mountain Network.

Prior to joining ICIMOD, Daan headed the Knowledge Management Centre of the Asian Development Bank in Manila from 2003 to 2007. For the ADB, he drafted and implemented a knowledge management framework covering improvement of internal processes and an effective dissemination and outreach programme. Before joining ADB, he was Director Knowledge Management at the international accounting firm KPMG. Daan graduated in Library and Information Science from The Hague and Amsterdam, the Netherlands.



Karma Tsering, Coordinator ICIMOD-MacArthur project

Mr Karma Tsering joined ICIMOD as the Coordinator of the ICIMOD-MacArthur project: "Assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability of mountain ecosystems in the Eastern Himalaya" in the Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services programme (ECES) on 11 February 2008. He brings with him 17 years of professional training and field experience in both biodiversity management and climate change sciences and applications. Before joining ICIMOD, Mr Tsering worked for the Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan, as the Chief Meteorologist under the RNR (Renewable Natural Resources) Research Council of Bhutan (CORRB). He was also the Permanent Representative of Bhutan to WMO (World Meteorological Organization), and National Focal Person for IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change). Mr Tsering was one of the lead authors in the preparation of the 1st National Biodiversity Action Plan, the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), and is currently involved in the preparation of the Second National Communication. Mr Tsering has a Master's Degree in Applied Genetics in Conservation and Use of Plant Resources from the University of Birmingham, UK, and a degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Adelaide, Australia.



ICIMOD Workshops, Meetings, and Training Programmes October 2007 to March 2008

Event	Date	Place
Documentation Workshop on Application of Satellite Rainfall Estimation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region	1-5 October 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Training on Spatial Analysis Concepts, Tools, and Application of Geo-Informatics for Protected Area Management held in connection with the HKKH Partnership Project	1-11 October 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) From Genetic Resources	8-9 October 2007	Nagaland, India
Workshop on Application of FAO/UNEP Land Cover Classification System (LCCS) for the Study of Land Cover Dynamics in CKNP Karakoram International University, Gilgit, Pakistan	31 October - 1 November 2007	Gilgit, Pakistan
Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of Hindu Kush-Himalayan Flow Regimes for International Experimental and Network Data (HKH-FRIEND)	15-16 November 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
Prakashan Exhibition (Grand Book sale)	19-24 November 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
ICIMOD Board of Governors' Meeting	26-28 November 2007	Dhulikhel, Nepal
Field Demonstration in Bio monitoring in the Middle Marshyangdi Project	21 November 2007	Lamjung, Nepal
ASSESS-HKH Dissemination Workshop on Rapid Field Bio-assessment Method (Field Screening Protocol)	26-29 November 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
International Conference on Experiences with Prospects for Regional Exchange and Cross Border Cooperation in Mountain Areas	29 November - 2 December 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
ICIMOD Symposium on Biodiversity Resources in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya: Challenges and Responses to Climate Change during the Tropical Ecology Congress 2-5 December 2007	3 December 2007	Dehradun, India
ICIMOD Day 2007 – Eco Drama, 'For Tomorrow', Rimal Theatre, Gurukul, Old Baneswor	5 December 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme	10-12 December 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
International Mountain Day 2007, Media Exposure Visit, Cosponsor Gorkha Tourism	11 December 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Global Positioning System for Field Data Collection in Sagarmatha National Park (SNP)	12-13 December 2007	Monjo, SNP, Nepal
Climate Change and Vulnerability of Mountain Ecosystems in the Eastern Himalayan Region (Nepal Stakeholder Workshop)	12-13 December 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
Expert Consultation on Developing Training Framework on Participatory Integrated Watershed Management (PIWM)	17-21 December 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal

Value Chain Development Training for Facilitators	17-21 December 2007	Dehradun, India
Private Sector Participation for Wetlands and Water Conservation	19 December 2007	Kathmandu, Nepal
Mountain GIS e-Conference: Promoting Geographic Information and Earth Observation, Applications for the Sus. Dev of the HKH Region	14-25 January 2008	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training of Trainers in Advocacy Strategies	27 January - 2 February 2008	Kathmandu, Nepal
Project Evaluation Mission meeting with Executive Members of Alital Multi-purpose Cooperative	29 January 2008	Alital, Dadeldhura district of Nepal
Project Evaluation Mission meeting with Executive Members of Annapurna Beekeeping and Environment Promotion Centre, Kaski	31 January 2008	Pokhara, Nepal
World Wetlands Day 2008	2 February 2008	Kathmandu, Nepal
Project Evaluation Mission Meeting with field staff of the Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research Extension and Development in Kabhre district, Nepal	3 February 2008	Panchkhal, Kabhre, Nepal
Regional Programme Development Workshop on Enhancing Livelihoods and Reducing Poverty of Mountain People by Linking High Value Products and Services (HVPS) to Value Chains and Markets	4-5 February 2008	Kathmandu, Nepal
Project Evaluation Mission meeting with staff of RNR-RC, Bhumtang and Executive Members of Beekeeper's Association of Bhutan	6 February 2008	Bumthang, Bhutan
Project Evaluation Mission meeting with project partner organisations in Pakistan	10-12 February 2008	Islamabad and Peshawar, Pakistan
Project Evaluation Mission meeting with Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry and Society for Technology Development, Himachal Pradesh, India	14 February 2008	Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, India
Project Evaluation Mission meeting with Central Himalayan Environment Association, Uttarakhand, India	18 February 2008	Nainital, India
2 nd Annual Meeting: Operationalising the Aspirations of the Himalayan University Consortium	26-27 February 2008	Kathmandu, Nepal
Country Operational Planning Workshop	28 February 2008	Kathmandu, Nepal
Writershop for the ICIMOD Resource Book for Afghanistan	29 February - 7 March 2008	Nagarkot, Nepal
Country Operational Planning Workshop, India-West	3 March 2008	Shimla, India
Country Operational Planning Workshop, India-East	11 March 2008	Shillong, India
Climate Change and Vulnerability of Mountain Ecosystems in the Eastern Himalayan Region	11-12 March 2008	Shillong, India
Orientation Workshop on HKKH-Partnership Decision Support Tool Box	13-14 March 2008	Kathmandu, Nepal
Country Operational Planning Workshop, Bangladesh	16 March 2008	Dhaka, Bangladesh
Country Operational Planning Workshop, China	21 March 2008	Kunming, China
Country Operational Planning Workshop, Afghanistan	27 March 2008	Kabul, Afghanistan
Workshop on High Altitude and Water Management in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region - regional consultation with Bhutan, China, India and Nepal	27-29 March 2008	New Delhi, India
Consultative Workshop on Management of Flash Floods – Capacity Building and Awareness Raising in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas	27-28 March 2008	Kathmandu, Nepal
International Workshop on Cryosphere and Hazards for the Hindu-Kush Himalaya and Tibetan Plateau	31 March - 2 April 2008	Kathmandu, Nepal
ICIMOD 2 nd International Training Course on Low Cost Soil and Water Conservation Techniques and Watershed Management Activities	31 March - 22 April 2008	Kathmandu, Nepal

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Mountain Forum

New Executive Secretary at the MFS

Frans Neuman, a national of the Netherlands, joined the Mountain Forum as its new Executive Secretary in February 2008. Mr Neuman is a senior Information management and networking expert. After graduating as a socioeconomist, Mr Neuman advised various Netherlands ministries, IFAD, the EU, and ADB on agricultural information policies and programmes. Mr Neuman has been involved in multi-stakeholder programmes in Africa and Asia for several years, focusing on documenting and sharing information for sustainable development and establishing local information centres linked with capacity building. Before joining the Mountain Forum, Mr Neuman, was at the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD, Netherlands) where he was responsible for systematising lessons learned in ICT4D in various sectors, and for development of national networks in Africa and Latin America.

Mountain GIS E-Conference

The Mountain Forum Secretariat, ICIMOD's MENRIS, and APMN jointly organised an e-conference on 'Mountain GIS: Promoting Geographic Information and Earth Observation Applications for the Sustainable Development of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region', from 14-28 January 2008. More than 750 people from over 70 countries participated. The e-conference started with special messages from Dr. Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD; Mr. Jack Dangermond, President of ESRI; and Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director of UNEP for Asia and the Pacific. The topics discussed were capacity building and networking; mountain databases, tools, and methods; and applications and decision support systems. The main conclusion of the



e-conference was that 'mountain GIS' is different from 'plains GIS', and that it needs to go beyond mapmaking to developing spatial data infrastructure at all levels as well as applications for addressing real mountain issues. More information is available at: www.mtnforum.org/rs

Who's Who Exercise

The Mountain Forum Regional Networks and Secretariat are currently conducting a 'Who's Who' mapping exercise to identify key mountain stakeholders worldwide. The exercise is taking place under the frame of the collaboration between the Mountain Forum and the Mountain Partnership. The stakeholders will be identified by key thematic areas (natural resources, livelihoods, climate change, and cross cutting issues) as well as by region and country. Access to the profiles of the key organisations is expected to enhance collaboration, partnership and networking among mountain stakeholders to promote the Mountain Agenda at the regional and global levels.

Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN)

Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) is the Asia-Pacific node of Mountain Forum (MF), hosted by ICIMOD's knowledge management section. Established in 1994, it is an informal and democratic information network of individuals and organisations interested in the promotion of sustainable mountain development in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. In addition to moderating two MF discussion lists (mf-asiapacific and mf-centralasia) and contributing to Mountain Forum's other activities, APMN has its own programme and webpage <<http://apmn.icimod.org>>. In March 2008, APMN had 1316 individual and 191 organisational members from a total of 39 countries.

Under ICIMOD's new strategic framework, APMN will be strengthened as a component of knowledge management and will act as the communication arm of the Centre. Services to members will be maintained, while the network will be developed overall as a channel for regional and global communications providing services for project and programme activities. A close association is envisaged with the decentralised hub of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat to be established at ICIMOD. SDC has generously agreed to support APMN in 2008; additional funding will be secured through service activities. Currently, APMN is developing communication tools to support the Biodiversity

Conservation Initiative of the Mountain Partnership, with a focus in the first instance on the Mountain Twinning Programme between Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy) and Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal).

The winter issue of the APMN bulletin covers a range of topics including climate change impact in mountain areas, education for sustainable development, ICT for rural development, and conservation in protected areas. The bulletin is available online at http://apmn.icimod.org/publications/APMN-bulletin_vol_8_no_2.pdf.



Tek Jung Mahat

Mountains and children: hope for the future

New Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements Signed August 2007 - March 2008

Regional Rangeland Programme

The third phase of the Regional Rangeland Programme (January 2007 to December 2009) is continuing to collaborate with partner institutions in the regional member countries. The objective of the programme is to promote ecologically appropriate, socially equitable, and gender sensitive innovations to enhance the livelihood of herders and the condition of rangeland ecosystems. To carry out the joint programme activities, letters of agreement were signed with the following six institutions in the second-half of 2007:

- Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Chitral, Pakistan
- National Trust for Nature Conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chengdu, China
- Sichuan Grassland Sciences Academy, Chengdu, China
- Tibet Academy of Agricultural and Animal Sciences, Lhasa, TAR, China
- Planning Commission Secretariat, RGoB, Thimphu, Bhutan

A remarkable feature of the rangeland programme is the increased counterpart contribution from its programme partners. ICIMOD, on behalf of the programme donor, contributed cash funds of about 15% of total estimated costs. The programme partners committed the remaining 85% of the costs in cash, kind, and services.

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme in Asia

The Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme is working with programme partners in five regional member countries and Sri Lanka. A letter of agreement was signed in October 2007 with CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur, India (covering a one-year extension phase from February 2007 to February 2008) to carry out gap filling activities with co-financing from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The programme implemented by the CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University promotes the organic cultivation of medicinal, aromatic, and dye plants in degraded and marginal lands under agro-forestry systems in the state of Himachal Pradesh. Likewise, a memorandum of understanding was signed with German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Private Sector Promotion-Rural Finance (PSP-RUFIN) Nepal (for the period December 2007 to June 2008) to build programme partner capacity in pro-poor marketing; enterprise development; value chain analysis and development; and micro, small, and medium enterprise finance.

Securing Livelihoods in the Uplands and Mountains of the HKH

The Livelihoods Programme is working with programme partners in six regional member countries. The objectives of the programme are to introduce and support innovations that sustainably improve the livelihoods of poor and disadvantaged people; to build capacity and promote the development of pro-poor



Narendra Bajracharya

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Eco Everest Expedition

institutions; and to foster improved policy dialogue. A letter of agreement was signed in September 2007 (covering the period up to October 2008) with The Missing Link, Guwahati, India to facilitate participatory policy development on shifting cultivation in selected states of North East India.

Eco Everest Expedition 2008

In January 2008, the Centre signed a memorandum of understanding with Asian Trekking, Kathmandu, Nepal to organise the Eco Everest Expedition 2008, one of the major activities in ICIMOD's Silver Jubilee celebrations. The aim of the Expedition is to draw the attention of the global community to the problems caused by melting glaciers due to climate change, the threat posed to local communities and infrastructure by glacial lake outburst floods, and the need for environmental conservation of fragile mountain ecosystems in the wake of global warming. The Eco Everest Expedition has two

independent components: the first, an Everest climbing expedition, and the second, research and field investigations combined with special events.

Geo-Based Solutions for Sustainable Mountain Development

ICIMOD is one of the main regional institutions promoting geo-based solutions for sustainable mountain development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. It aims to be an internationally recognised resource centre for geo-information and earth observation applications. Towards this end, the Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information Systems (MENRIS) programme of ICIMOD is undertaking capacity building and networking, integrated geo-data management, and development of mountain-specific application and decision support systems, as well as serving as a clearing-house. The Centre signed three memoranda of understanding in March 2008 on joint initiatives in promoting geo-based solutions:

- Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal and Keio Research Institute at SFC, Keio University, Japan on a real-time monitoring and early warning system for Imja glacial lake in Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal
- National Trust for Nature Conservation, Lalitpur, Nepal on developing an interactive mapping and information system and spatial visualisation of the Bagmati Watershed, Nepal, which will contribute to development of a comprehensive plan of action for restoration and management of the river system
- Centre for GeoInformatics (Z_GIS), Salzburg University, Austria on promoting mountain-focused geographic information courses.

Prem Manandhar, pmanandhar@icimod.org

Outreach Activities

ICIMOD's Agenda on Climate Change Covered by Japanese Media

The First Asia Pacific Water Summit (APWS), a high level conference held in Beppu Japan from 3-4 December 2007, generated a lot of interest in ICIMOD's work on climate change, especially focusing on Himalayan glaciers, glacier lakes, and the impact of climate change on the people and environment.

The Director General and senior ICIMOD team members participated in this important event. ICIMOD organised a panel session on 'Climate Change, Glaciers, and Water Resources in the Himalayan Region'. The session was attended by His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan, former Prime Minister and Chairman of the APWS, Mr Mori, the Prime Minister of Bhutan,



Press briefing by Basanta Shrestha aired on television, 5 December 2007

ministers from ICIMOD's regional member countries, and other high level dignitaries from the UN, multilateral and international agencies, and from Japan.

The forum proved to be an effective platform for ICIMOD to increase the visibility of its work at the global level and provided an excellent opportunity for ICIMOD to highlight the importance of the entire Himalayan region in the global ecosystem, in particular its role as the water tower of Asia, and the growing negative impacts of climate change. During the Summit and on subsequent visits to Japan, many outreach activities were carried out with the Japanese media on issues of climate change impact in the Himalayan region.

Prior to the APWS, the Japanese media sought information on these issues and media teams from Asahi Shimbun and TV Asahi interviewed ICIMOD

experts in Nepal. Other TV stations were in touch with ICIMOD via email including NHK World News and Formulation Incorporated, Japan. At a press conference organised by the Japanese Press Club and United Nations Information Centre on 5 December, Basanta Shrestha briefed the press on the issues of climate change and their impact on the Himalayas. Major television news channels covered the story in Japan in a comprehensive manner. NHK World News brought out a documentary, telecast on 4 January 2008, with a section devoted to the Himalayas. Overall, there was wide coverage of the Summit in Japan, and the issues raised, in the print media and on television, before, during, and after this important event. The Japanese media are highly sensitised to the issue of global climate change and Japan's role, especially in view of the G-8 Summit to be held in Japan in mid 2008.

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Celebrating 25 Years of ICIMOD for Mountains and People

Focusing on Climate Change and Adaptation in the Himalayas

2008 marks ICIMOD's 25th anniversary of working for mountains and people in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region – the Centre was established in December 1983. ICIMOD is celebrating with a year-long series of events aimed at raising awareness of the impacts of climate change; the need to enhance the adaptation and resilience of mountain communities; and ICIMOD's way forward. We hope that these events will also help bring ICIMOD to the attention of a larger public – regionally and globally. Some of the major events are highlighted below.

Eco Everest Expedition 2008

<http://www.ecoeverest.net.np>

The Eco Everest Expedition 2008 is climbing Mount Everest to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change in the Himalayas. Dawa Steven Sherpa of Asian Trekking is leading the expedition, which is being supported in partnership with ICIMOD and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The expedition will field test eco-friendly approaches to mountain climbing. Parallel to the climbing expedition, some research is being carried out to monitor glaciers and glacial lakes in the region and gather information to help communities and develop early warning systems. Two field expeditions have been undertaken – one to Dig Tsho Glacial Lake to measure the present size of the lake and one to Imja Tsho Glacier to investigate the status of the glacier. ICIMOD together with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Government of Nepal, and Keio University of Japan, the National Agricultural Research Council (NARC) of Japan, and Nepal Research Education Network (NREN) is also investigating setting up an early warning system for potential glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) using innovative technologies.

A Trust Fund has been set up to support development of early warning systems, scientific investigations to help assess risks, monitoring of the melting glaciers,

and removal and disposal of waste in eco-friendly ways. Every climber on the expedition has contributed to the fund and contributions are now being solicited from interested individuals and organisations. (see <http://www.ecoeverest.net.np/contributors.php>)



Paribash Pradhan

Visitors at the Information Centre and '50 Years of Change' photo exhibition



Eco-friendly solar heater tested by the Eco Everest Expedition Team

'Mountains and People' Global Digital Photo Contest

ICIMOD and the Mountain Forum/Asia Pacific Mountain Network have jointly organised a global digital photo contest with the slogan 'For Mountains and People'. The competition was launched on 24 March 2008. The top two entries will receive the ICIMOD Hindu Kush-Himalayan Prize and the Mountain Forum Global Prize. In addition, four Special Mentions will be awarded, one for each category. Screening and judging will take place in the last two weeks of May; the results will be announced before World Environment Day on June 5. The winners and other selected photographs will be exhibited at the Kathmandu World Environment Day celebrations and on other relevant occasions. Over 1000 photos have been submitted from 65 countries. For

details see <<http://www.icimod.org/photocontest>>.

The Expedition was officially launched at the Everest Base Camp on 18 April 2008. A traditional Buddhist religious ceremony or 'puja' was conducted to mark the start of the climb. Dr. Andreas Schild handed over the ICIMOD Silver Jubilee flag to Dawa Steven Sherpa to take to the top of the world. An Eco Everest Information Centre was opened, as was a photo exhibition (see box). A series of scientific reports, dispatches, photographs, and other updates related to the expedition 2008 have been posted at <www.ecoeverest.net.np>.

World Environment Day 2008 (5 June)

E-discussion, 'Building Resilience of Mountain Communities to Climate Change'

An e-discussion on 'Building Resilience of Mountain Communities to Climate Change' was organised by ICIMOD's Asia Pacific Mountain Network together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-ROAP); the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal (MoEST/GoN); and the Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS), from 30 April to 14 May 2008. The thematic moderation was provided by ICIMOD climate change experts. The discussion was divided into three areas: (i) concept and methods of assessing impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation; (ii) climate change adaptation experience; and (iii) limits and barriers to adaptation and desired policy responses. The discussion contributions will be synthesised and the report sent to New Zealand, the host country for the World Environment Day 2008 celebrations, as well as being shared online and offline.

Nira Gurung, ngurung@icimod.org

Photo Exhibition: Himalaya - Changing Landscapes (April - December)

A photo exhibition 'Himalaya - Changing Landscapes' is being organised by ICIMOD in collaboration with The American Alpine Club, The Mountain Institute, and others. The exhibition contains a unique collection of repeat panoramas of mountains, valleys, and glaciers taken in the 1950s, and retaken in the past few years, as well as photographs of the scientific teams conducting their research in the 1950s, and mostly recent photos of the Khumbu people. The photographs provide a striking visual impression of how climate change and glacial melting are affecting the Himalayas, and the changes that have taken place in the climatic, cultural, and physical landscape of the Khumbu over the past half century. A customised version was unveiled at Everest Base Camp on 18 April under the title '50 Years of Change - Glaciers, Landscapes, People and Resilience in the Mount Everest Region'. The exhibition is expected to be shown in several European countries and will also be exhibited in Kathmandu for ICIMOD Day on December 5.

Other Outreach Activities

October 2007 to March 2008

- GIS Day 2007, 14 November 2007
- Sajha Prakashan Exhibition (Grand Booksale), 14-23 November 2007
- Cottage Industry Festival 2007, 6-10 December 2007 (CRT represented ICIMOD)
- International Mountain Day 2007 Celebration, 11 December 2007
- ICIMOD's Anniversary, 5 December 2007
- World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2008

Recent ICIMOD Publications [October 2007 to March 2008]

The following are the major documents published between November 2007 and March 2008. The three prices quoted are applicable to developed countries, developing countries, and ICIMOD's regional member countries respectively, and include post and packing. Publications are available at a reduced rate at the Centre itself. Publications can be provided free-of-charge to institutions actively involved in sustainable development of the greater Himalayan region. Order on-line (see below) or from the Distribution Unit, distri@icimod.org, or download from <http://books.icimod.org>



ICIMOD Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Himalayan Region: Proceedings of two workshops on planning processes, social inclusion, and local knowledge for disaster preparedness
 ISBN 978 92 9115 086 1
 Online publication (2008)

This report is the last in a series of publications prepared under the project 'Living with Risk – Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Preparedness in the Himalayan Region', implemented by ICIMOD during 2006 and 2007 and funded mainly by the European Commission through their Humanitarian Aid department (DG ECHO) as part of the Disaster Preparedness ECHO programme (DIPECHO) in South Asia. The book (published on-line only) documents the results of two workshops – one early in the project which looked at the status of disaster preparedness planning in the region, and one at the end of the project which looked at social inclusion in disaster preparedness plans. It provides a short background to the project and workshops, a synthesis of the major findings and recommendations, and details of the proceedings. The publications, training sessions, and workshops were undertaken in the context of the 'Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015' which recommends that regional organisations should promote sharing of information; undertake and publish baseline assessments of disaster risk reduction status; and undertake research, training, education, and capacity building in the field of disaster risk reduction.



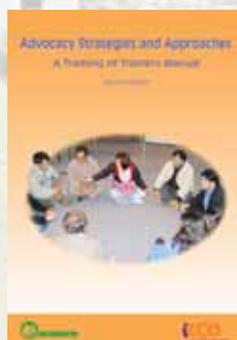
Turin, M. Linguistic Diversity and the Preservation of Endangered Languages: A Case Study from Nepal,
 Talking Points 4/07. 41p
 ISBN: 978-92-9115-055-7
 Price: \$ 10/7/5

In this issue of Talking Points, anthropologist Mark Turin draws our attention to the alarming phenomenon of loss of many of the world's spoken languages, especially minority languages, and the cultures

associated with them in the context of contemporary Nepal and the Himalayan region. A large number of Nepal's over 100 mother tongues are in danger of being wiped out, reduced to mere markers of identity if nothing is done to reverse the trend. Turin thus raises awareness about the importance of language protection programmes that support mother tongue literacy and educational reforms to preserve language and culture. ICIMOD supports these discussions in recognition that they form a part of conserving mountain biological and cultural heritage.

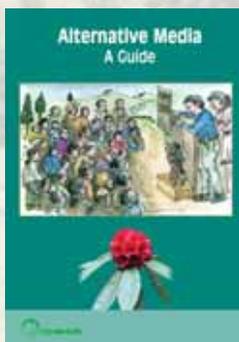


Subedi, N.R. Advocacy Strategies and Approaches: a Resource Manual (2nd edn).
 120p. ISBN: 978 92 9115 081 6
 Price: \$ 15/10/7.50



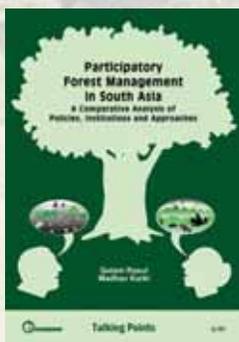
Subedi, N.R. Advocacy Strategies and Approaches: a Training of Trainers Manual (2nd edn) 154p.
 ISBN: 978 92 9115 083 0
 Price: \$ 20/15/10
 Both volumes: \$25/20/14

These two manuals have been developed for potential trainers of community-based organisations (CBOs) in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region as well as for advocates themselves. The Training Manual provides a guide for conducting training on advocacy applicable to a variety of mountain development issues and themes. The Resource Manual provides more in-depth material on the subjects contained in the training manual. The books are intended to provide clarity on the concept of advocacy and to help equip CBOs and their networks with tools, strategies, and techniques to help them as they assist mountain people articulate their needs and perspectives to governments, policy makers, and development organisations. Both manuals are also likely to appeal to development practitioners and others interested in promoting people-centred and sustainable mountain development.



ICIMOD. **Alternative Media : A Guide** ISBN: 978 92 9115 073
Online publication

This brief guide presents a summary of traditional methods of communicating like street theatre, puppet shows, and songs and dance, and their use to communicate messages related to development. The guide is an offspring of ICIMOD's Alternative Media Project funded by Ford Foundation which ran from 2002 to 2005. The aim was to explore traditional media and forms of communication in local communities and use them to deliver messages that could contribute to the improvement of livelihoods. Development organisations and other knowledge providers can develop alternative media products in partnership with a community and then communities themselves can carry out the process of delivering information. The process empowers communities because they control the creation and transmission of useful information. The guide was prepared to share the experiences of the project with others interested in development communications at the grassroots. It presents some of the project activities, and describes different types of media and how and when they can be used.



Rasul, G.; Karki, M. **Participatory Forest Management in South Asia, A Comparative Analysis of Policies, Institutions and Approaches.** Talking Points 5/07. 31p ISBN 978 92 9115 0786 Price: \$ 10/7/5

Several participatory forest management approaches have emerged in different countries in South Asia in the effort to develop an effective institutional framework and mechanisms for the management of forest resources. These different approaches have different features, characteristics, and degrees of participation by local forest users, and thus different implications for the management of forest resources and the livelihoods of forest-dependent people. This discussion paper makes an attempt to analyse the participatory forest management approaches adopted in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal, on the basis of primary and secondary information. The models are compared and contrasted using specific criteria such as level of institutionalisation, tenurial security, degree and quality of local participation, decision-making authority, rights and obligations of stakeholders, benefit sharing arrangements, and actual practices. Measures to overcome weaknesses and to promote participatory forest management are suggested.



ICIMOD. **First International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in Asia, 1995-2004: Assessment Synthesis Report.** 78p ISBN 978 92 9115 069 4 Price: \$ 15/10/7.50

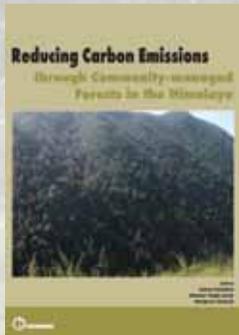
This publication synthesises the findings of individual assessments of the impact of the First International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in ten selected countries of South and Southeast Asia. The assessments were carried out in cooperation with the Tebtebba Foundation in the Philippines, and were supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The book highlights some important successes of the Decade, including increased solidarity among indigenous peoples, and the development of international tools to support initiatives of indigenous peoples as well as some enabling laws and constitutional provisions to enhance their access to resources. However, it also brings out failures which include the lack of awareness about the Decade among policy makers, development practitioners, and the public in general; serious implementation gaps in national laws and international conventions; and the lack of recognition of indigenous peoples rights.



Kruk, E.; Hummel, J.; Banskota, K. (eds) **Facilitating Sustainable Mountain Tourism** Vol. 1: Resource Book. 158p ISBN 978 92 9115 056 4 Vol. 2: Toolkit. 91p ISBN 978 92 9115 066 3 Prices: Volume 1: \$ 20/15/10; Volume 2: \$ 15/10/7.50; both volumes: \$ 30/22/15

This resource book (Volume 1) and toolkit (Volume 2) bring together the practical concepts, tools, and approaches needed to develop a type of mountain tourism in the Himalayas that can generate sustainable benefits for mountain people while conserving the breathtaking beauty of the environment. The materials are a revised and expanded version of the course materials used in a training course held in 2006 by ICIMOD, the Netherlands Development Organisation SNV/Nepal, and the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), under ADB's SASEC Plan, for representatives of national and state tourism organisations from various Himalayan countries. They

provide a comprehensive resource document for development of a sustainable mountain tourism approach with illustrative case studies from the Himalayan region.



Banskota, K.; Karky, B. S.; Skutsch, M. (eds) **Reducing Carbon Emissions through Community-Managed Forests in the Himalaya**. 85p ISBN 978 92 9115 058 8 Price: \$ 10/7/5

The world's average temperature has risen more in the last 100 years than in the last 10,000. Of the 10 recorded warmest years in history, nine were recorded during the last decade. Greenhouse gases from human activities are among the major causes for the alarming trends. Two of the most recent policy instruments devised to address these issues are the United Nations Framework on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, which offers creative, market-based measures that allow emission producers to offset their emissions by paying others to carry out emission reducing activities. But the solutions offered under the Protocol fail to consider one important source of emissions in developing countries – deforestation and forest degradation. The Kyoto Protocol commitments will be reviewed in 2012, and possible changes are now being debated. This book provides a timely addition to the discussions, and urges the inclusion of avoided deforestation in carbon offset measures in the Framework on Climate Change. Field studies in India and Nepal show how communities can carry out the measurements needed to calculate carbon sequestration, the basis for calculating the impact of avoiding deforestation. Including 'avoided deforestation' in climate change policy will not only help the global climate, it will provide a way for millions of poor people in developing countries to benefit directly, and will help stop the destruction of forests and encourage further conservation.



Sharma, E.; Chettri, N.; Gurung, J.; Shakya, B. (Comp) **The Landscape Approach in Biodiversity Conservation: A Regional Cooperation Framework for Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Kangchenjunga Landscape, Framework Paper**. 29p ISBN 978 92 9115 060 1

This Framework Paper presents the Regional Cooperation Framework developed for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the southern part of the Kangchenjunga landscape, which includes parts of Nepal, Sikkim (India), and Bhutan. The Framework is the result of a long process that started with a pilot initiative on transboundary biodiversity management. It is intended as a guide, with provisions that can be adapted and applied to the individual countries in the landscape to achieve cooperation for implementation of the CBD at national level. Based on the principles of the CBD, and taking into account the national biodiversity strategies and action plans of each of the three countries, it gives directives on four constitutive elements of biodiversity conservation: transboundary biodiversity conservation, scientific and technical cooperation, information exchange and sharing, and regional guidelines and soft legal instruments; and touches upon the implementation mechanisms and identification of stakeholders and their key roles at local and national, and regional and international, levels. The paper discusses the concept of transboundary landscape management within the context of conservation of biological diversity and the CBD, describes the historical development of transboundary biodiversity conservation and cooperation in the eastern Himalayas and the development of the Framework, as well as presenting the Framework itself.

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Cover photo by Paribesh Pradhan – Women carrying fodder to Thame in Langboche valley, Khumbu region, Nepal

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