



## Responding to the Challenges of Global Change - Enhancing resilience and supporting adaptation of mountain communities.

The impacts of climate change are already becoming evident in the Himalayan region in the form of a higher incidence and intensity of natural disasters. It is increasingly clear that the lives and livelihoods of the people of this region are at risk. Access to water, biodiversity, and environmental services is becoming more and more critical. What is needed, in addition to the mitigation measures being proposed by the international community, are adaptation measures that enhance the resilience of the mountain communities and reduce their vulnerability in the short term.

### Vision and Mission

ICIMOD's Vision is that the mountain population of the greater Himalayas enjoys improved well-being in a sustainable global environment; its Mission is to enable and facilitate the equitable and sustainable well-being of the people of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas by supporting sustainable mountain development through active regional cooperation.

### Taking action now

Three key strategic areas – water, environmental services, and livelihoods – have been identified through intensive consultations between ICIMOD, its regional member countries\*, and its stakeholders. These will help translate key concerns into operational priorities and make the most of available financial, human, and institutional resources. ICIMOD's strategy is aimed at benefiting the people of the region, but the long-term benefits will also be enjoyed by the billions of people living downstream, and eventually the rest of the world.

\*Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan

## Water and Hazards

The conservation of water, its sustainable management, and negotiated future use are of paramount importance for the Himalayan people and have implications for the prosperity and stability of the entire region and beyond. Water is not only the single most important resource and a source of wealth, but also the source of catastrophic hazards. ICIMOD's integrated approach aims to contribute to the management and sustainable use of water as part of the greater mountain ecosystem, including the use of water and land resources for livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, human health, and the environment. ICIMOD works to monitor and assess ice and water resources, promote community resilience and preparedness for disaster risk reduction, ensure the sharing of upstream-downstream benefits, and provide information and tools for better risk management.

## Ecosystem Services

Mountain poverty is exacerbated by environmental change. Livelihoods in the mountains are considerably more susceptible to environmental and economic change than those in the plains. They tend to be more strongly linked with and react faster to, the management and availability of natural resources. ICIMOD contributes to the promotion and management of the ecosystem services that the region provides, and analyses the consequences that land use has for the livelihoods of mountain people and downstream inhabitants. ICIMOD helps to validate the supply of ecosystem services, including water and carbon sequestration, and works with the people of the region to conserve and manage biodiversity as a natural heritage and a resource for livelihoods and ecological resilience. The Centre promotes integrated watershed management, rangeland resources management, and community and livelihoods forestry.

60% of the land area in the greater Himalayan region is rangelands – these are threatened by degradation and desertification.

Innovative options aimed at increasing productivity and food security are studied in conjunction with watershed adaptation strategies.



Geo-based solutions provide a common geographic data framework to integrate social, economic, and environmental parameters.

Communications and exchange take many forms including: training courses, meetings, books, manuals, on-line publications, and many others.





## Sustainable Livelihoods

During recent years, new economic growth, shifting population dynamics, and climate change have been taking place so rapidly that the region's traditional adaptation methods are losing their efficacy. The result has been poverty and marginalisation for mountain populations. The region's people must be enabled and empowered to cope with, adapt to, and benefit from the changes they are experiencing so that they can enjoy enhanced livelihoods along with increased social and environmental security. ICIMOD monitors and analyses the poverty situation and its main drivers, and helps to develop policy-relevant data with a special emphasis on high value products and value chains, innovative livelihood options, and economic analysis. The Centre promotes resilience to help alleviate poverty by promoting sustainable income generation strategies that help address the effects of socioeconomic and environmental change.

## Knowledge Management

ICIMOD is a regional knowledge development and learning centre that serves as a documentation centre, a focal point for training and applied research, and a consultative centre in scientific and technical matters. ICIMOD's activities are underpinned by an integrated knowledge management framework which provides the tools and approaches to support ICIMOD's programmes and share information and knowledge with and among partners. The emphasis is on communications and exchange, an integrated information management systems, geo-information and decision support systems, ICT systems management, and capacity building. International knowledge is customised and tailored to meet the region's needs. The knowledge sharing activities are at the core of ICIMOD's role as a regional platform where policymakers, experts, planners, and practitioners can meet and exchange ideas and perspectives.

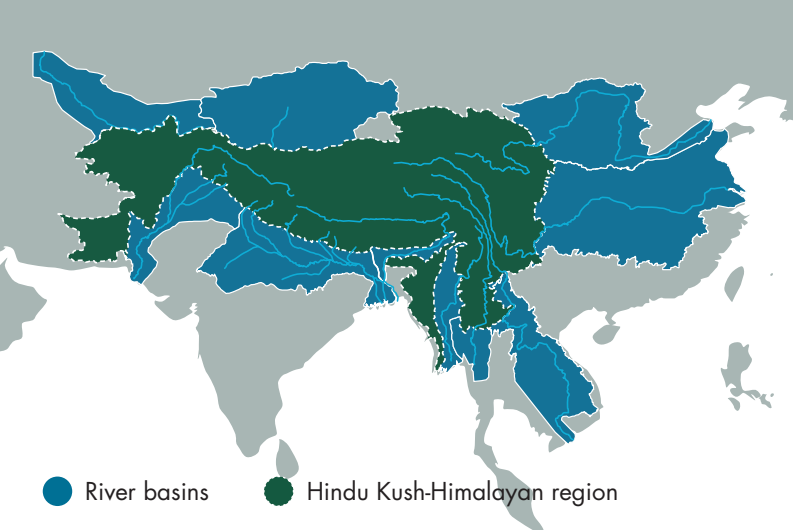
ICIMOD's expertise in the areas of honeybees and bee products and medicinal and aromatic plants is highly valued in the region.

Eco-tourism and high value products are proving viable and innovative livelihood options.



Ecosystem services provided by mountain people to the millions who benefit in the downstream need to be adequately recognised.

Monitoring air, water and ice resources provides information and tools for better risk management.



The Hindu Kush-Himalayan region is known as the 'third pole' of the earth, due to its inaccessibility and the amount of water stored in the form of ice and snow. It is also known as the 'water tower' of Asia, the source of ten of its largest rivers. The map shows both the mountain ranges and the main river basins.



## About ICIMOD

Founded in 1983, ICIMOD is non-political intergovernmental organisation based in Kathmandu, Nepal, that serves the eight countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region and the global mountain community. We're working to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations – now, and for the future.

Over the past 25 years, ICIMOD has acted as a knowledge development and learning centre that aims to build awareness and takes action to preserve the unique role that the Himalayan mountain system plays. ICIMOD's long history of working in the region, its well-honed core competencies, together with its strategic position and comparative advantages put it in a unique position to make a significant contribution to helping the region take on new challenges. Its holistic approach ensures that centre-wide policies on economic analysis, gender and equity mainstreaming, and governance are an integral part of a complete solution.

## Our partners

ICIMOD's partners are the different agencies and organisations in its regional member countries that interact with development practitioners, policy makers, and advocates. A feedback loop between these groups ensures that as conditions and policies change, inputs are continuously revised. ICIMOD also encourages long-term partnerships with international centres of excellence from outside the region as a means of acquiring the specific expertise it needs in technical areas. ICIMOD's financial sponsors are considered to be financial partners, as development in the region benefits both the people of the region and the greater global community.

## Funding

ICIMOD is funded by long-term sponsors, who provide both core and programme funding. These sponsors include its regional member countries and non-regional financial partners who support ICIMOD's objectives. Specific programme activities are supported by other public and private, regional and international donors. Scaling up activities, which take the form of well-defined projects in the member countries, are largely financed through the regional member countries themselves. Public and private donors can make contributions through the ICIMOD Foundation ([www.icimodfoundation.org](http://www.icimodfoundation.org)).