

## Partners

The project is led by **Wetlands International** and implemented in Asia by the **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development**. The **Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UK)** will provide an assessment of the present and future vulnerability of the wetlands, particularly with regard to potential environmental change and to developing action plans to mitigate any problems identified. **ARGEOPS (NL)** will contribute its experience in using remote sensing applications for wetlands, especially that from the ESA GlobWetland Project.

## Expected long-term outcomes

- A regional technical support platform will be established and hosted by ICIMOD, providing internet based wetland databases with geographic information for use in a regional wetland inventory.
- Risk-based wetland conservation and wise use management plans will be developed, especially for wetlands of international importance ('Ramsar sites'), and used to reduce impacts upon wetlands and their associated communities.
- An integrated strategy will be established for conservation of high altitude wetlands.

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# Support for the Conservation of High Altitude Wetlands



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COOPERATION OFFICE



ARGEOPS



Centre for  
Ecology & Hydrology

WETLANDS  
INTERNATIONAL

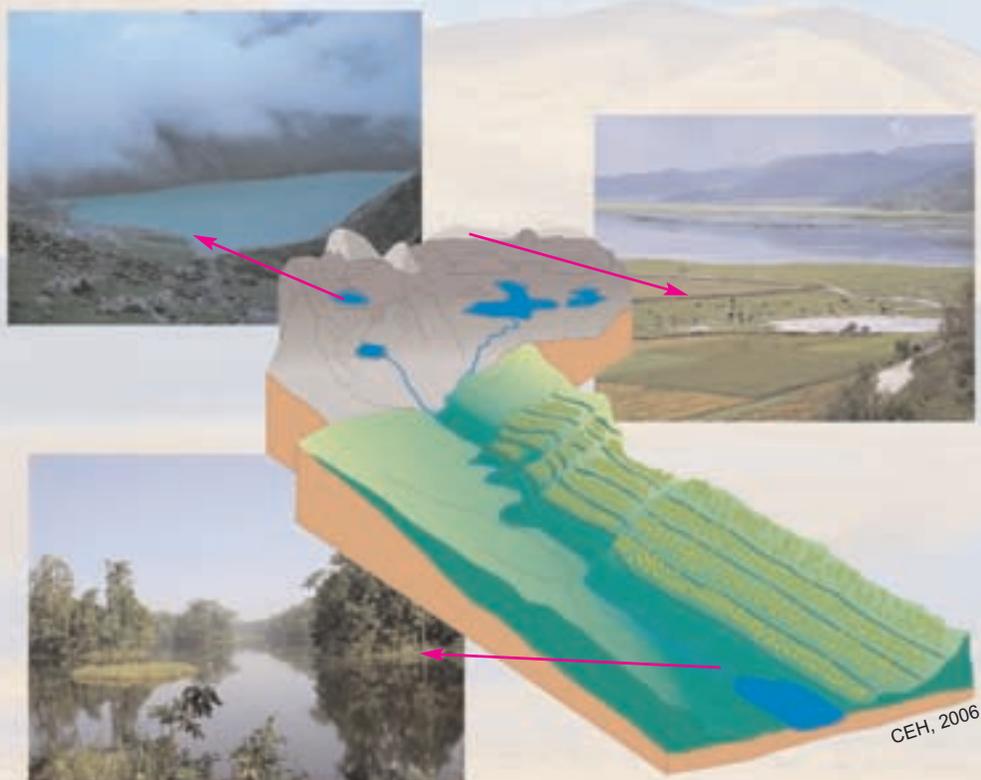


## High altitude wetlands

High altitude wetlands are an important, often overlooked, component of mountain ecosystems. They

- are an integral component of the river basin system they feed into – degradation can impact the entire system down to the coast;
- contribute to water storage and the hydrological cycle in nations that are water towers for the downstream areas;
- contain high biological and cultural diversity and are important staging points for migratory birds; and
- are a major component in livelihood support in mountains, especially in rain shadow areas where they provide water for pastoralists and farmers.

There is an urgent need for methods of management that support both the conservation and wise use of these areas.



Wetlands are found in all parts of a catchment, from mountain to ocean

## The project:

'Support for the conservation of high altitude wetlands through application of the Asian wetland inventory approach and stakeholder-led catchment management in Bhutan, China, India, and Nepal' will run for two years from August 2006. The Asian Wetland Inventory approach developed by **Wetlands International, the Netherlands** will be used to compile relevant data and information, including remote sensing components. The database will be used together with a hydrological model, an ecological experimental model, and social and cultural information and experience, to provide a basis for national stakeholders to develop plans for integrated water resource (catchment) management by stakeholders. The methodology will be developed and tested in a selected river basin ready for extrapolation to other areas in the Himalayas.

## Major features include

- Cooperation and experience transfer between the European Union (Asia Pro Eco) and Asian countries over **wetland inventory technology** and integrated catchment management
- Policy support to the '**Himalayan Initiative**', assisting regional contracting parties (COPs) of the Ramsar convention on Wetlands, in their implementation of the convention goals, which are the basis for project implementation strategies
- Support to preparation of a hydrological and strategic inventory

