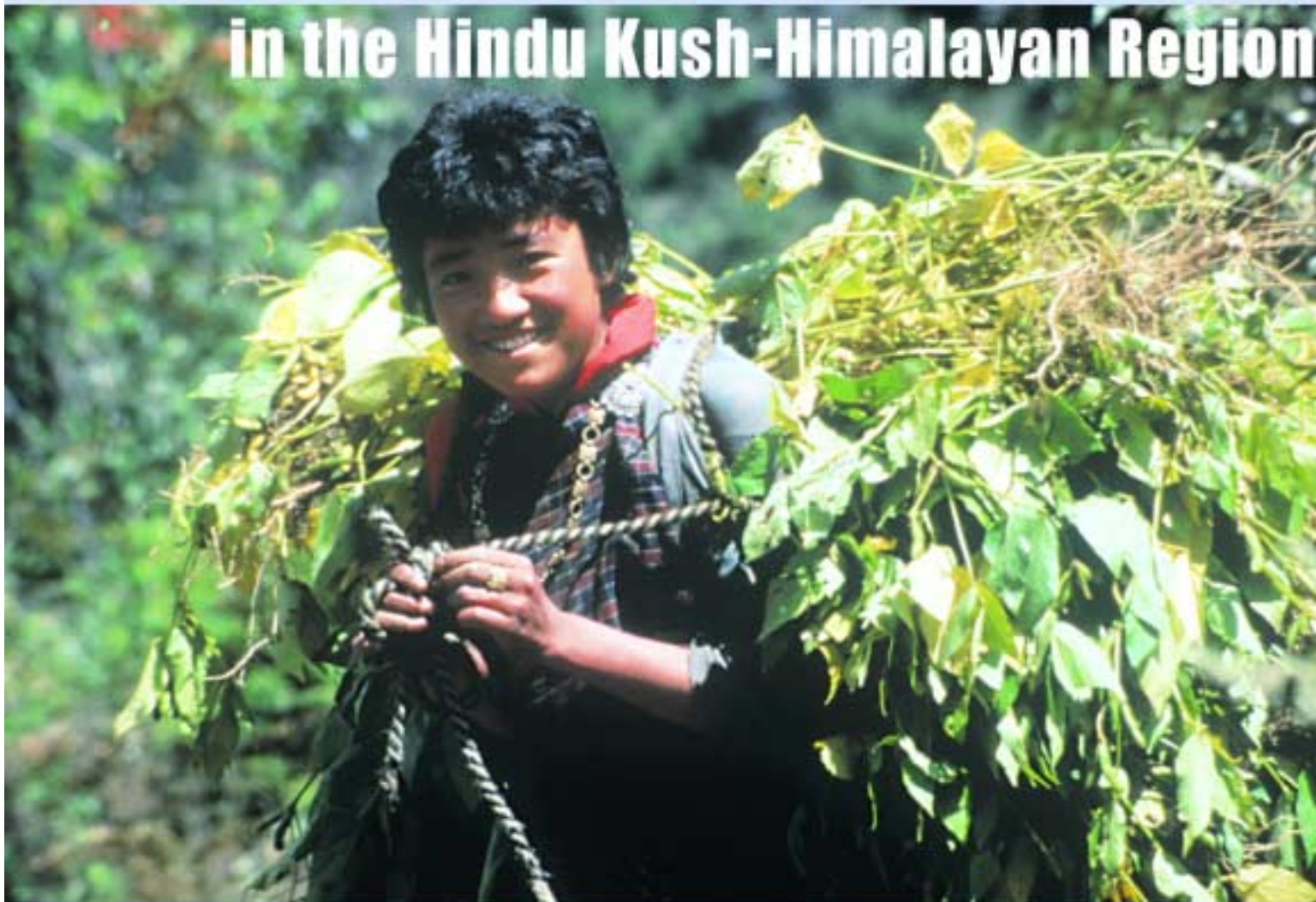




Equity and Rights

in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region



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Equity and Rights on the Web

Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor

The Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor is a journal serving the international development community and all scientists who share a professional interest in indigenous knowledge systems and practices (IKSP).

<http://www.nuffic.nl/ciran/ikdm/>

Cultural Survival

Cultural Survival promotes the rights, voices, and visions of indigenous peoples. Cultural Survival was founded to work for the solutions developed by the nascent indigenous and pro-indigenous movements.

<http://www.cs.org>

Survival International

Survival International ('Survival') is a worldwide organisation supporting tribal peoples. It stands for their right to decide their own future and helps them protect their lives, lands, and human rights.

<http://www.survival-international.org/about.htm>

Minority Rights Group International

Minority Rights Group International (MRG) works to secure the rights of ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples worldwide, and to promote cooperation and understanding between communities. <http://www.minorityrights.org/>

International Dalit Solidarity Network

The International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) is a solidarity unit, in which organisations, institutions, and individuals concerned about caste discrimination and similar forms of discrimination based on work and descent work together. <http://www.dalitfreedom.org/>

List of Ethnic Groups

This website is a free encyclopaedia from Wikipedia. It lists ethnic groups around the world, along with a snap shot introduction and related links. http://en2.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ethnic_groups

International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES)

Established in 1982, ICES strives to evolve a model of historically sensitive theoretical and empirical research on ethnicity and related social and political processes. The site also has links for ethnic and minority protection issues in the South Asian region.

<http://www.icescolombo.org/home.htm>

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Minority Issues)

This is a site under the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The site has links to vital global documents such as the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National, or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities; and the United Nations Guide for Minorities. <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu2/issminor.htm>

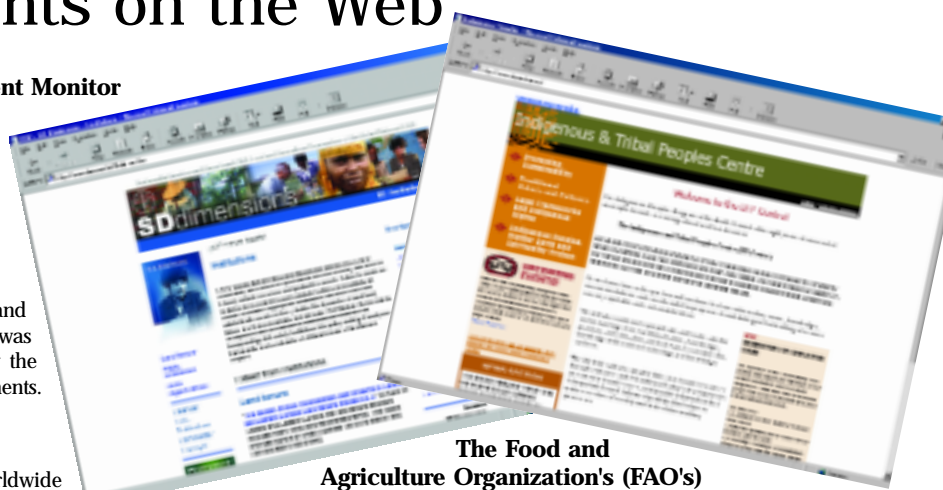
World Wide Web Virtual Library: Indigenous Studies

The Indigenous Studies Virtual Library provides links to general and area-specific indigenous issues.

<http://www.cwis.org/wwwvl/indig-vl.html#asia>

Centre for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS)

CWIS is an independent, non-profit research and education organisation dedicated to wider understanding and appreciation of the ideas and knowledge of indigenous peoples and the social, economic, and political realities of indigenous nations. The Centre fosters better understanding between peoples through the publication and distribution of literature written and voiced by leading contributors from Fourth World Nations. <http://www.cwis.org/index.html>



The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's)

Sustainable Development (SD) Department

FAO's SD department addresses poverty eradication, links between government and civil society, and access to land, natural resources, and productive access. It also analyses the benefits and constraints of different types of land tenure regimes.

http://www.fao.org/sd/INdef_en.htm

Indigenous People: Global Issues, Issue Area Sites

This site provides links to sites focussed on Indigenous People's involvement with specific international and domestic political and legal issues and events.

<http://www.nativeweb.org/pages/legal/indig-issue-areas.html>

The Indigenous and Tribal People's Centre (ITP-Centre)

The ITP-Centre shares information, views, knowledge, recommendations, and results with the purpose of contributing to the building of a secure, equitable, and sustainable future.

<http://www.itpcentre.org/>

UN Seminar on Indigenous Land Rights & Claims

This site contains the document entitled, "Conclusions and Recommendations of the UN Experts' Seminar on Indigenous Land Rights and Claims".

<http://arcticcircle.uconn.edu/SEEJ/unresolution.html>

Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)

RAWA is the oldest political/social organisation of Afghan women struggling for peace, freedom, democracy, and women's rights in fundamentalism-blighted Afghanistan. <http://rawa.false.net/index.html>

Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge

CBIK is based in Kunming, China, and is a participatory learning organisation dedicated to biodiversity conservation and community livelihood development, as well as to the documentation of indigenous knowledge and technical innovations related to resource governance at the community and watershed levels, which is supplementary to government work. <http://cbik.org/>

Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)

FECOFUN is a national federation of forest users advocating community forestry user group rights, locally, nationally, and regionally. FECOFUN's membership stands at about 5 million people from almost all of Nepal's 75 districts. Since its establishment in 1995, FECOFUN has been instrumental in representing the concerns of community forestry user groups in deliberations about policy formulations and forest futures. FECOFUN is an autonomous, non-partisan, socially inclusive, non-profit organisation. It is Nepal's largest civil society organisation.

<http://www.fecofun.org>

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Cover photo : The forests yield valuable supplies for subsistence (Bhutan), Daniel Miller, Printed in Nepal by Hill Side Press

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Letter from the Director General

This special issue of the ICIMOD newsletter aims to highlight the urgent need to recognise that issues of equity and rights have emerged as important imperatives of sustainable mountain development. The Hindu Kush-Himalayan region is witness to diverse levels of entrenched social hierarchy in different domains:

- within the household, a pervasive gender hierarchy, placing women at a disadvantage with respect to voice, opportunity, and control over livelihood resources;
- within communities, hierarchies based on social status, caste, or class, reinforced by disparities in access to livelihood resources, services, dignity, and voice;
- between communities, intolerance for cultural and religious diversity, magnified by the substantial lack of trust between groups, stifling openness to new ideas and preventing collective solutions to common problems; and
- at the level of the nation state and globally, there exists an unequal relationship between mountain peoples and people in the plains, historically marginalising mountain regions.

The Mountain Vulnerability analysis undertaken by ICIMOD depicts how economic, physical, and social vulnerabilities result in insecure and unsustainable livelihoods for poor mountain peoples. Physical and economic vulnerability are intricately linked to mismanagement and degradation of natural resources while lack of access to infrastructure, markets, services, and information leave mountain people marginalised.

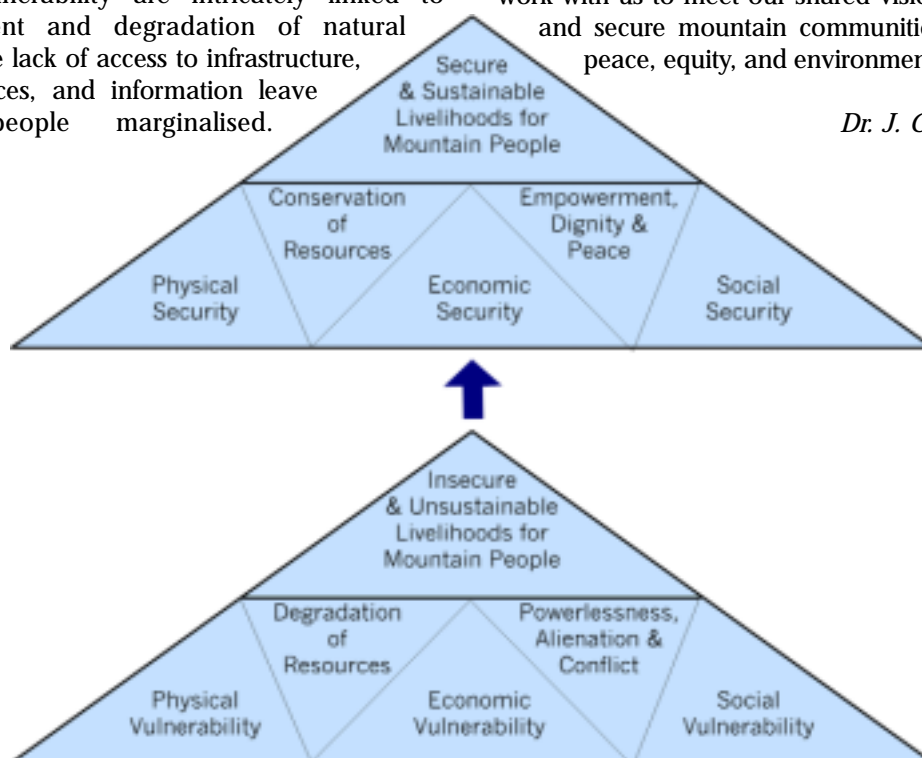
Powerlessness, alienation, and conflict are clearly a combined effect of economic and social vulnerabilities and it is important to recognise this over-arching framework.

These insights and our past work on equity issues makes a persuasive case for the need to give urgent attention to equity issues in all interventions related to promoting sustainable mountain development.

Recognising that sustainable mountain development cannot be created without sustainable mountain societies, ICIMOD has established a new programme entitled, "Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance," in its future five-year strategic plan. Through this programme we aim to give greater priority to the cultural and social dimensions of mountain development and to ensure that these concerns are reflected in all our integrated programmes. ICIMOD's new programme will seek to empower and promote the participation of mountain women in decision making and enhanced rights to resources and assets; enhance the participation, rights, and influence of indigenous mountain communities by mainstreaming their engagement in processes of mountain development; and strengthen the advocacy capacity of community institutions to promote an enabling environment for improved governance by and for mountain communities.

We look forward to building vigorous partnerships with individuals and institutions who would like to work with us to meet our shared vision of prosperous and secure mountain communities committed to peace, equity, and environmental sustainability.

Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell
Director General



Mountain Vulnerability Triangle: A Framework for Understanding Mountain Poverty

Overview of Equity and Rights Issues in Common Property Resources in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

Suman Rai, ICIMOD, srai@icimod.org.np

Mountain societies in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas are facing rapid processes of change driven by a diversity of local, national, regional, and global imperatives. These processes are bringing new challenges to the adaptive ability of isolated mountain societies and economies, leading to widening disparities and inequities. The accompanying challenges of increased pressure on common property resources such as forests, water, and rangelands coupled with the ongoing marginalisation of mountain areas from development processes is exacerbating the changing quality of life of mountain people. Mountain areas are likely to see increased contention over common property resources, especially in regions with embedded issues of deep inequities.

Equity, or fairness, implies people have equal conditions for realising their full human rights and potential to contribute to national, political, economic, social, and cultural development, and to benefit from

the results. In the HKH, local communities are facing various processes that could deprive them of their local governments, economies, knowledge, and means for sustainable resource use. The issue of how local communities can influence decision making in order to assert control of their lives has become critical. In addition, institutions of caste, class, and gender have historically divided communities, because of which certain sub-groups within the area face continuing challenges in eking out their livelihoods.

Equity, in terms of 'what is fair' in the management of common property resources in mountain areas can be discussed within three broad areas. First, in terms of safeguarding mountain community rights and ensuring fair benefit sharing of local resources and knowledge systems, which may face bio-prospecting and the transfer of traditional knowledge. Secondly, the question of the sequestration of local rights to resources as a result of national development and conservation processes that benefit the lowlands - with



Dr. Zbigniew Mikolajuk

Community meeting, Pokhara

mountain communities often having to comply with these externally introduced development and conservation policies without equitable compensation. Thirdly, when discussing equity, fairness at the intra-community level must be examined, with respect to access and withdrawal of resources that includes the power to formulate rules for resource governance.

Competition Policies and Cooption of Traditional Resource Rights

Local knowledge is the mainstay of the existence of mountain communities. For example, seed supply fundamentally relies on decentralised local systems, while farmers' knowledge regarding crop varieties is central to the success of new plant varieties and global food security. However, there are a large number of patents granted on genetic resources and knowledge obtained from developing countries without the consent of local communities (Sahai, 2002). Many of these genetic resources have been developed through traditional knowledge systems. Today, national governments have become signatories of competition policies such as the agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights. The "prior informed consent" of local communities and "equity in benefit sharing" in the case of the use of local knowledge are very important issues of debate. The role of local communities in determining whether a state should give its prior informed consent to the collection and utilisation of local genetic resources and how benefit is shared in practice have serious implications for the rights of local communities over their traditional resource rights.

National Development and Marginalisation of Mountain Communities

The formation of nation states in most parts of the world has meant the colonisation of existing institutions and their sovereignty. This process continues today and there is increasing evidence that local communities are losing their rights over local resources, mainly natural resources, which form the mainstay of the local economy and are linked to local livelihood systems. Traditionally, local rights were enforced through customary law specific to localities and indigenous groups. These are often not codified. Therefore national legislation and economic policies often do not take these local rights into account when framing development and conservation policies. This has led to the expropriation of community rights and their redistribution, sometimes to vested commercial interests. Large-scale hydropower projects, protected areas and biospheres, tourism, timber contracting, or rangeland policies are relevant examples through which the rights of local communities are often coopted, sometimes resulting in displacement and conflict.

Intra-community Equity Issues within Mountain Communities

Divisions because of caste, class, clan, and gender characterise many mountain societies. Such divisions are historical constructs and part of a society's culture. As a result, members of these groups lead their lives from unfair positions. This results in lack of self-esteem, dignity, and development. Similarly, women are marginalised in a diversity of ways despite the fact that they are primarily the managers of common property resources. Women are relegated to their traditional reproductive roles and rarely participate outside their decisions in their houses and communities. Development outcomes are often biased against poorer sub-groups, women, occupational castes, and ethnic and indigenous groups. Even when reservations are made for their participation in decision-making committees for the management of common property resources, they are usually unable to influence decisions because of their subordinate position in the larger society.

There is evidence that even if ways are found for mountain communities to benefit, e.g., through funds allocated for mountain development in exchange for conservation policies or benefit sharing agreements from bio-prospecting, there are certain sub-groups within mountain communities who will continue to be marginalised, and receive less benefit. Paradoxically these sub-groups often have a higher dependence on local common property resources. For a fairer system, the challenge lies in how to instate resource governance mechanisms that better benefit the groups who depend most on local common property resources.

Given the situation described above, ICIMOD has named "Equity and Rights" as one of its Action Initiatives under the Culture, Equity, Gender, and Governance (CEGG) Integrated Programme. This programme is included in ICIMOD's, "Partnership in Sustainable Mountain Development: Securing the Future of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas - Overall Strategy for 2003-2007". The Equity and Rights Action Initiative together with two other Action Initiatives: Gender Mainstreaming and Community Institutions, and Decentralisation and Local Governance, will contribute towards the strategic outcomes of the CEGG Integrated Programme. The logical link of how this contributes to the ICIMOD mission is provided in the table overleaf.

To meet the objectives under the Equity and Rights Action Initiative the following programmes are planned.

1. Mainstreaming Equity and Poverty Issues in the Management of Common Property Resources in the HKH

This programme will sensitise policy makers to equity and poverty issues in the management of common property resources; empower communities regarding current policies for the management of common

ICIMOD's MISSION	STRATEGIC OUTCOME	INTERMEDIATE MTAP OUTCOME	CEGG PROGRAMME FOCUS	CEGG STRATEGIC OUTCOMES	AI OBJECTIVES
ICIMOD's mission is to develop and provide integrated and innovative solutions, in cooperation with national, regional, and international partners, which foster action and change for overcoming mountain people's economic, social, and physical vulnerability.	Greater voice and influence, dignity, security, and social equality for all mountain people	Presence of an enabling environment for strengthened rights and access of disadvantaged people to mountain resources	The CEGG Programme Goal is to contribute to building sustainable mountain societies by promoting an enabling environment which enhances equity and empowers disadvantaged mountain people.	The CEGG Strategic Objectives are to: empower and promote participation of mountain women in decision making and enhanced rights to resources and assets; enhance the participation, rights, and influence of indigenous mountain communities by mainstreaming their engagement in the processes of mountain development; strengthen the advocacy capacity of community institutions to promote an enabling environment for improved governance by mountain societies.	<p>AI 1: Gender Mainstreaming</p> <p>To promote equitable representation of mountain women in decision-making bodies at all levels with a special focus on enhancing the political participation of women</p> <p>To contribute to strengthened and equitable property rights for women in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas</p> <p>To establish a network which will aim to globalise gender equity within and beyond the Hindu Kush-Himalayas</p> <p>AI 2: Equity and Rights</p> <p>To include marginalised groups such as women, pastoral communities, occupational castes, ethnic groups, and the poor, in decision-making bodies for managing common property resources, namely forests, water, and rangelands, in the Hindu Kush Himalayas</p> <p>To promote secure tenure and property rights for indigenous mountain communities by facilitating mechanisms that safeguard their local knowledge through "prior informed consent" and "equitable benefit sharing" arrangements</p> <p>To facilitate a regional network for information exchange in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas</p> <p>AI 3: Community Institutions, Decentralisation, and Local Governance</p> <p>To strengthen the capacity of community institutions on advocacy strategies to enhance the voice and influence in mountain development</p> <p>To promote the right to information as a strategic approach to improved governance in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas</p> <p>To create a regional institutional mechanism to promote decentralised governance in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas</p>

property resources; enhance the capacity of civil society organisations for policy advocacy on equitable policies; and explore the possibility of a network for policy advocacy on equity and poverty issues in the management of common property resources.

2. Regional Programme to Strengthen Equity and Livelihood Security through Sustainable Management of Biodiversity Resources for the Indigenous Peoples of the Eastern Himalayas

The programme will identify, help evolve, and test innovative institutional models for ecological security, community access to and control over biological resources, and equitable benefit sharing; enhance the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles to assert their rights of access to and control over biological resources and benefit sharing; enhance the capacity of mountain women to have a decision-making role in the management, access to, and control of biological resources and benefit sharing; enhance the security of the tenure and property rights of indigenous peoples for control over and access to biological resources; and strengthen field and macro-level advocacy processes and networking, for example through the clearing house mechanism.

3. Advancing Minority Rights to Environmental Justice in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

This programme will identify and map different minority groups in the HKH region with an emphasis on analysing their status with respect to rights of access and control over local natural resources; carry out analysis through participatory action research on selected minority groups facing injustice with respect to their rights over local natural resources; and review selected policies and legal frameworks to generate legal literacy tools on environmental justice and rights to empower minority groups and organisations.

4. Strategies for Strengthening Tenure and Property Rights for Indigenous Peoples in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

This programme will conduct case studies across the HKH to document and analyse real-life practices regarding ownership, control, access, and use of natural resources as well as carrying out a review and analysis of policies, legislations, and acts on tenure and property rights; and will produce policy papers on enhancing secure tenure and property rights for indigenous peoples and women in the HKH.

Participatory Action Research Programme on Equity and Poverty in the Management of Common Property Resources in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

Suman Rai, ICIMOD, srai@icimod.org.np

Through its recent work ICIMOD has identified the urgent need to understand and mainstream appropriate strategies to enhance the equitable distribution of resources in order to improve the lives of poorer and disadvantaged sub-groups of people in the HKH. This is because mountain areas are often marginalised from mainstream development processes, which means local commons like forests, water, and rangelands have a vital role to play in sustaining the livelihoods of mountain communities. ICIMOD, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Berne, Switzerland, has been implementing the Participatory Action Research Programme on Equity and Poverty in the Management of Common Property Resources in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas since April 2001.

A total of fifteen case studies in six countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan - were conducted under the programme. The case studies covered three types of common property resources: forests, water, and rangelands.

The case studies have reinforced the understanding that the poorer, marginalised sections of society lack the ability and knowledge to influence life around them and the socio-political system in which they reside, which means they have less say in decisions of access and withdrawal of common property resources. At the same time they have few assets, owning little land, livestock, or wealth, which limits their opportunity to exploit the resources that are available. One of the key lessons from the programme is the need to recognise that the most vulnerable and needy groups within a society require access to more resources than those groups that are more robust.

The case studies have identified the most marginalised groups among users of common property resources in the HKH: pastoral groups, distant resource users, new settlers in more permanent communities, women, occupational castes, seasonal resource users, non-timber forest collectors, and 'swidden' cultivators. Almost all of these groups are indigenous peoples and local communities who embody traditional lifestyles. Thus there is also a critical need to recognise that the rights of control and ownership of common property resources by indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles must be safeguarded.

Case Study Highlights

BANGLADESH

Indigenous People's Rights and Equitable Livelihoods in Village Forest Commons, Chittagong Hill Tracts

Devasish Roy, Chairperson of NGO Forum, Chittagong Hill Tracts; and Sadeka Halim, Associate Professor in Sociology in Dhaka University, Bangladesh

Indigenous people have lost access to large parts of their forest commons as a result of the 'reserved forests' instituted by the State Forest Department. This has resulted in an innovation by communities based on their traditional resource management patterns to retain forest commons for long-term use, giving birth to the Village Forest Commons of today. The study points out the need for state policy to formally recognise these indigenous systems of forest management in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

BHUTAN

Rights and Benefits for Poor People in the Traditional Grazing System in Western Bhutan

L. Norbu, N.K. Pradhan, and Dophu Dukpa, Renewable Natural Resource Research Centre, Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan

In Bhutan, individuals or a community establish rights of grazing in state-owned forests through the payment of annual fees to the government. Herders have organised grazing systems to optimise the use of grazing land and have set customary sanctions and regulations. This study points out that historically, grazing rights to pastures have been biased towards the rich and elite members of the community, with poorer members being sub-leased grazing lands. Grazing policy will need to focus on arrangements that redistribute grazing rights in favour of the poorer sections of society.

Irrigation Water Rights for Equitable Uses: A Case of Menchhunang Water Users Association

Jigme Wangdi, Renewable Natural Resource Research Centre, Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan

This study examines the present system and practice of water rights and uses in Menchhunang Water Users Association. Water is available in abundance at this site and is distributed on a strictly rotational basis, with farmers also exchanging turns freely, based on

mutual understanding. However, Menchhunang Water Users Association lacks the capacity to carry out agricultural extension functions to support the livelihood of poorer and marginalised farmers.

CHINA

Traditional Rights, Well Being of Pastoralists, and Private Tenure of Rangelands - A Case Study in Zoerge County, Sichuan

Tan Jingzheng, He Qinggion, and Liu Ziaoqian, Sichuan Institute for Integrated Community Development, Sichuan

The Chinese state policy that allows the private tenure of the common rangelands has, in practice, resulted in a diversity of practices by pastoral communities such as fencing individual parcels of tenure and the collective fencing of a group of individual parcels, and which has, in effect, discontinued the traditional pastoral ways. As a result, some of the pertinent issues identified by the study include degradation of pastureland, unequal distribution of access to resources, high cost of fencing, and the dismantling of traditional community-based institutions for grasslands' management.

Case Study of Poor Households and Forest Management, Jinping, Yunnan Province

Lai Qingkui, Yang Tian, and Li Jianqi, Center for Community Forestry Studies, South West Forestry College, Kunming, China

This case study was conducted in an area populated by the Miao, Yao, Dai, Hani, Yi, Zhuang, and Lahu, who are recognised as minority groups in China. The case study reports that women, specifically Hani women, are often excluded from participating in management decisions. Often this is because they do not speak the popular dialects in current usage. Although non-timber forest products are critical to the livelihoods of weaker sections of society, such as the old, poorer people, and women, so far these considerations lack any mention in policies for the management of forests.

INDIA

Study on Equity-Poverty Linkages in Management of Charagah Lands in Adhwad Mohal, Chamba District, Himachal Pradesh

Rajeev Ahal and Kulbhushan Upmanyu, Navrachna, Himachal Pradesh, India

This study looks into the common lands called 'charagahs', which constitute fifty-seven per cent of the total land in the study area. Prior to the independence of India, the charagahs were under de facto community control, but changes have taken place over the years. There is now a multiplicity of interests, like those of the Forest Department and the Revenue Department, which has led to the individualising of these commons. This has subsequently marginalised the livelihoods of poorer families. The study proposes the devolution of management powers back into the hands of local communities.

Community Rights and Livelihoods in Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, Uttaranchal

Alliance for Development, Uttaranchal, India

The Niti Valley in Uttaranchal is best known for the Chipko Movement of the 1970s. Despite this movement, the communities of the Niti Valley were alienated from access to resources with the declaration of Nanda Devi as Protected Area in 1982. There has been prolonged protest by the communities affected, and recently the State of Uttaranchal has issued orders to open the core zone of Nanda Devi for regulated tourism. This study analyses the present struggle by the tribal peoples in the Niti Valley in terms of equitable benefit and opportunities in the management of the biosphere.

Equity and Customary Forest Management in Meghalaya

A.K. Nongkynrih, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, India

In the state of Meghalaya, traditional institutions headed by clan kings and supported by an elected council of ministers not only govern village life but also the management of common property resources. There is a general notion that such customary institutions are more equitable. Through the traditional institutions, permanent members of the community enjoy equal rights to access of common property resources. However, recent settlers are awarded a different set of rights compared to permanent residents. In addition, women have never held any decision-making power in these traditional institutions.

Community Rights and 'Van Panchayats' in the Kumaon Himalaya

Sainion Ka Sangathan, Almora District, India

'Van panchayats' are elected village councils of forest management that were formalised in 1931 as a result of grievances by communities in Kumaon and Garhwal. To date, there is no known analysis of how equitable van panchayats are, although experts say women and certain sub-groups remain marginalised in various ways. This study has analysed micro-level rules that govern the sharing and allocation of resources in van panchayats. It also analyses the recent wave of joint forest management which may be set to coopt van panchayats and thus the community's rights over their common property resources.

Gender and Class Roles in Managing Common Property Resources, Solan District, Himachal Pradesh

Society for Social Uplift through Rural Action, Himachal Pradesh, India

In Himachal Pradesh, the traditionally managed irrigation and drinking water systems have been taken over by the Department of Irrigation and Public Health. This study analyses water management systems in terms of gender and class implications, highlighting patterns of transformation and governance in terms of gender,

class, and caste issues. It reports that two-thirds of the communities confess that with the introduction of new ways they have become more dependent on the state. The benefits of the concept of water sharing are not uniform throughout the villages. Most women do not feel that they have benefited in any way.

NEPAL

Equity Issues in Community Forestry as Rediscovered by the Forest User Groups, Kaski District

Natural and Organisational Resource Management Services, Nepal

Much anecdotal information on equity and poverty issues regarding community forestry has been reported in Nepal. To provide more in-depth understanding, this case study was implemented in two forest user groups - Bamdibhir and Deurali in Hangsapur Village Development Committee, Kaski district. The research analyses inequity in terms of user participation, representation, and benefit sharing in the management of the community forests. It states a clear requirement for the forest user groups in these community forests to facilitate more progressive approaches to increase the welfare and income of poorer and marginalised users.

Leasehold Forestry, Exclusive Use Rights, and Equity: A Case Study of Charpipal Leasehold Forest User Group of Kavre District

ForestAction, Nepal

Leasehold forestry in Nepal has been implemented for the last decade, and focusses on improving the lives of the poorer sub-groups of communities and on improving degraded forest areas. This case study conducted in Kavre district concludes that the basic goal of providing exclusive use rights to the poor has not been successful. Evidence from the study supports the proposition that externally assigned arrangements of property rights with a scheme of use (right) and non-use (duty) to different households of the same community may not be an achievable solution.

Equity Issues in the Management of Irrigation Systems, Nepal - A Study of the Lamachaur Irrigation System, Jitpurphedi, and the Chambu Irrigation System, Chhaimale, Kathmandu

Women Acting Together for Change and National Federation of Irrigation and Water Users Association, Nepal

The research team worked over a period of nine months to study the current situation of irrigation management through participatory action research methods. The team helped the community to develop a participatory operational plan for Lamachaur irrigation system by raising people's awareness about their rights and responsibilities with regard to resource management. The study points out that the rules and regulations for the management of irrigation systems are usually decided by a small group of elite individuals



Participatory action research in common property resources, Nepal

Suman Rai

within the community, which often gives rise to conflicts. Policies related to irrigation so far have not considered this aspect and incorporating measures to make decision making more democratic is critical for the equitable operation of irrigation systems.

PAKISTAN

Access and Control of Water and Forest Resources by Marginalised People in the Management of the Watershed in Hilkot, Hakim Shah

Pakistan Forest Institute, Pakistan

This case study was conducted in the Hilkot watershed where PARDYP (ICIMOD's People and Resources Dynamics Project) is implementing a watershed programme in collaboration with its partner, the Pakistan Forest Institute. The study suggests that there is scope for improvement in the existing tenure and land use practices through better access to common property resources. However, because of the limited availability of natural resources such as land, and a rigid social set and legislation, remodelling the use and rights of common property resources is challenging.

Effects of Usage Regulations Governing Common Grazing Lands on the Livelihood of Pastoralist Communities in the Bumboret Valley of Chitral

Aziz Ali and Nadira Khawaja, Agha Khan Rural Support Programme, Pakistan

The site for this case study was Bumboret Valley, located some 40 km southwest of Chitral town. It comprises nine villages and extends from Dobazh Ayun up to the Ustui Pass (4200 m), connecting Bumboret with Nooristan (Afghanistan). The study investigates and analyses the effects of statutory, traditional, and political usage systems of common grazing lands in Bumboret Valley on the livelihoods of pastoralist communities, and analyses existing policies and regulations in the Northern Areas of Pakistan. It recommends progressive changes to enhance the livelihood conditions of the pastoral communities in the context of a lack of separate policies or laws for the management of grazing commons.

Women and Common Property Resources in Northeast India

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Three 'realities' need to be examined when discussing the issue of women and the management of common property resources in Northeast India. Firstly, Northeast India is strategically placed in an area straddling the plains of South Asia and the hills and waterways of Southeast Asia. The region is ethnically diverse and economically underdeveloped. Nineteenth century colonial intervention introduced structures of taxation, revenue collection, and control of resources that resulted in the isolation of the hills and the establishment of the 'plantation complex' in the foothills and plains. These events have a great bearing on the status of resources in the region today. Secondly, communities living in the region belong to an eclectic anthropological mix that reflects the geographical position of the Northeast. Many of the ethnic groups who live in the sub-Himalayan ranges are autochthons, and have developed unique social structures quite different from others in South Asia. An abundance of community resources for such groups is common in this area. Thirdly, one has to remember that these differences have been articulated as a political expression for many of the insurgent movements in the region since the middle of the twentieth century. The process of militarisation to

curtail such political activities has been central to the formulation of a developmental policy for the Northeast. In such a context, community resources are forced to undergo transformations that affect women's access to resources.

Common property, in its legal 'community ownership' form is widespread in the hills of the region. This form of ownership supports swidden agricultural practices and ensures that the women of the community also have access to the resources needed to maintain such an agricultural regime. This is partly a colonial legacy that is now changing given the new political and economic exigency. Private land ownership is being encouraged, and with it many projects aimed at commercialisation have also ensured new forms of unequal access to common property resources for women in the Northeast. In the traditional system, women had greater say in the manner in which the community's resources were to be utilised. However, these days, new property laws (often disguised as customary law) discriminate against women, especially in the sphere of resource management. Moreover, the commercialisation of land has also devalued the practice of community ownership, as well as the traditional crops that addressed the food security of the people. In its place, one sees an emphasis on cash crops such as tea, rubber, coffee, and areca nuts. When cash crops are grown in such regions they require allied changes in land relations. These changes require networking for markets and credit. Women are considered 'unfit' for such activity.

A combination of factors has made the issue of women's access and management of common property resources an issue that deserves immediate attention by the concerned agencies. To mitigate the effects of lack of access to common property resources (for women) in the region one needs to:

- ensure the participation of women in policy making aimed at restructuring land use regimes;
- evolve micro-level strategies in cases where customary law is seen to discriminate against women;
- extend community-based interventions to include the demilitarisation of politics and society in the region; and
- envisage regional/ multi-local networking in the course of community-based interventions.

Sensitivity to the effects of the accelerated commercialisation of land regimes, the militarisation of politics and society, and the strategic historical location of the region must form the background for seeking solutions.



Suman Rai

Khasi woman and child, Mawphlang, Meghalaya

Governance Issues in the Management of Common Grazing Lands in Bumboret Valley, Chitral, Pakistan

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As a part of ICIMOD's quest to increase the understanding of poverty and equity linkages resulting from the management of various common property resources in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, a case study was conducted on common grazing areas in Pakistan. The site selected was a valley in Chitral district of the North-West Frontier Province, where common grazing areas contribute significantly towards the livelihood of the people. In this valley, known as Bumboret, the public pastures and oak forests provide valuable animal feed, with livestock being an essential part of the religious ceremonies of one segment of society, the Kalash - a tribe with a unique culture, language and religion. Some highlights of the study are shared here: first the systems in place, followed by the poverty-equity linkages.

The system of grazing on the common pastures is essentially one of open access. There are no customary restrictions on the number of animals that a family may graze. Neither is there any internal peer pressure to limit herd size. Climatic factors do, however, exercise a natural threshold on livestock numbers owing to a dearth of feed during the harsh winters. Only males go up to the pastures to graze livestock or collect fuelwood and other products. The exclusion of women on the pastures is irrespective of tribe/clan, religion, or wealth/class associations. Women also do not participate in any village-level decision making or management.

The resulting poverty-equity nexus can therefore be summarised as follows.

The system of limitless rights of use to pastures allows for a subsidised source of livelihood - that of livestock rearing - and the opportunity to earn a cash income through the sale of pasture products such as morel mushrooms and pine nuts. These benefits are available equally to all households. Analysis according to wealth status (poor, medium-wealthy, and rich) shows that grazing areas contribute to the livelihoods of people from all three wealth classifications, albeit with different levels of importance: the poor are assisted in meeting their basic needs and the large herd owners are assisted in maintaining their wealth.

In addition to a shortage of winter feed, a lack of male human resources at the household level was cited as another factor limiting the number of livestock kept by a family. Considering that all the poor interviewed also shared the common characteristic of not having

functional male human resources, the one weak link in the systems affecting the livelihood of the pastoralist community is the gender bias in their society. Since women cannot act as shepherds or participate in related decision making, households not having functional males benefit less from the grazing areas.

The poor interviewed in the study area included two widows. The question arose as to whether the social inequity (lack of access to grazing areas) was the causal factor of the poverty of these two women. Examining the reasons for poverty, it could largely be attributed to meagre assets and young dependents. Therefore being able to use the pastures themselves for grazing would help the women less than simply having more helping hands. However, having the freedom to collect other products from the pastures such as morels would provide a potential source of cash to make life a little easier.

Most of the households in the study area did not have much livestock, and these people tended to support the idea of the conservation and protection of forest and pasture resources. The minority, having a large herd size, reportedly did not encourage conservation owing to vested interests. Here, equity issues arise because of the equal rights in the common property regime, where all households have unlimited access but those who are able to afford large numbers of animals are exploiting the resources unhindered and possibly beyond their carrying capacity, hence threatening the integrity of the fragile mountain ecosystem. A complicating factor in the equity equation is the necessity of fulfilling religious rituals that obligates the Kalash to keep as many animals as possible.



Group discussion during field work for case study Bumboret Valley, Chitral, Pakistan

Nadira Khawaja

Equity and Customary Forest Management of Hima Mawphlang, Meghalaya, India

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The State of Meghalaya is located in the North Eastern region and is governed by the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India. This means that customary beliefs and practices are recognised and legitimised. Therefore the management of people, land, forest, minerals or any other resources is carried out as per the customs of the people. While this has bestowed the rights of resource management on the indigenous peoples of Meghalaya, two aspects of equity still deserve attention. Firstly, in the past, the timber trade of Meghalaya flourished to benefit elitist groups. A Supreme Court order in December 1996 banned indiscriminate logging and timber extraction, which stirred a series of protests. The ban brought a thriving business to a grinding halt, affecting thousands of local people who depended on the timber trade. Secondly, the question of whether the management practices of the traditional institutions are equitable in terms of the benefits and allocation of common property resources must be examined. A case study was conducted with support from ICIMOD, together with the traditional institution of Mawphlang, the 'Hima Mawphlang', to examine the second aspect of equity. The word 'hima' means traditional state and 'Mawphlang' is the name of the place. Within a hima there is more than one village. Hima Mawphlang is one of the hima of the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya.

The objective of the study was to test the general notion that traditional institutions are equitable. The study also aimed to analyse aspects of policy in Meghalaya to recommend the equitable and sustainable management of common property resources.

Forests in Mawphlang are categorised under different names. In Hima Mawphlang the forest is divided into three broad categories: 'khlaw raid' (community forests),

'khlaw kyntang' (sacred forests), and 'khlaw kur' (privately owned forests). The first two categories of forest are directly under the control and management of the Dorbar Hima, the council of the hima, and represented only by male adults from every constituent village. The third category is under the absolute control of the owner. Hima Mawphlang, like other hima of the Khasi hills, allows its permanent residents to use the community forests for different purposes, such as for the collection of firewood and for cutting trees for house construction, cremation, and in cases of emergency. The same is not permitted for sacred forests. Sacred forests are considered to be sanctum sanctorum and are home to a deity that protects and endows the hima with prosperity and health. Any disturbance, it is believed, would invite wrath and disaster. This belief has been carried down many generations and has helped to keep the sacred forests of Hima Mawphlang, known for their thick canopy cover and rich biodiversity reserve, well preserved.

By the late seventies, rapid population growth and excessive use of the community forests had led to their depletion. This prompted the leaders of the hima to take action by formulating and enacting the 1982 rules and regulations. With their strict enforcement, the hima managed to conserve and protect the community forests. The regulations ensured the judicious use of the forests without taking away the rights to use them. Another important contribution of this regulation is the classification of community forests into seven sub-categories. Each sub-category is defined according to its specific use by the community. The 1982 rules and regulations have contributed significantly to the sustainable use of the community forest in Hima Mawphlang. To appreciate the contribution of the 1982 regulations we need to go back to the pre-regulation period. There was no mechanism at this time to control the users. It was free for all and the richer households took more advantage because they had the money to hire daily wage labourers to cut and transfer trees. A few households benefited more than others. After the implementation of these regulations, users - both rich and poor - enjoyed equal rights. The regulations also brought about other fundamental changes in aspects such as grazing rights, grazing months, and areas for the grazing, collection, and cutting of trees; as well as the collection and cutting of grass and the preservation of selected forests. The large-scale depletion of the forests was brought under control and the right to use common property resources was regulated.

Another aspect of community forests is the contribution they make to the permanent residents of the village who have access to the forests to collect fuelwood



Khasi woman and infant. Khasis live in a matrilineal society where the women are the custodians of property

for domestic use, to cut grass for thatched roofs, and fell trees for house construction. The free supply of various items has helped the poor and needy. However, the growing population and the increasing conversion of land, including forest land, for residential purposes has reached alarming levels. Besides this, new settlers are denied the same rights as are given to permanent residents.

Although the 1982 regulations were in one way progressive and very significant, some were not examined closely enough. The regulations provided controlled rights to use and access common property resources. But they did not underline the role and responsibilities of users. An example is the community forests, which are being exploited by users without being regenerated. In addition, the regulations do not refer to people's participation and involvement.

During the course of our investigation we advised the present leadership of the hima about the need to re-examine some aspects of the 1982 rules and regulations and incorporate new elements such as users' responsibilities and participation. We shared our findings with them, in that while the community enjoyed the right

to use the forests, they did not shoulder any responsibility for replenishing the forests that they use. Secondly, we brought to their attention the need for the participation of women and young people as well as recent settlers in formulating and implementing equitable ways of managing the community forests.

There are some significant lessons that can be learned from the Hima Mawphlang experience. Traditional institutions are not necessarily equitable, but can play a vital role in facilitating constructive change. Important catalysts for change include dialogue, interaction, and open communication with traditional institutions. This can be done not by enforcing one's own agenda but by understanding the possibilities of change through such institutions. Take for example the step initiated by the present Chief of Mawphlang. Under his influence one of the leading sports clubs of the hima has appointed a woman as secretary. This has never happened before. As he rightly pointed out, "You cannot just come and say that women should be part of the council. It will be counterproductive. We need to proceed with a prudent mind and respect local culture. Change will come gradually."

From Subordination to the Helm ... More Power to Mountain Women!

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The journey is a long and arduous one but mountain women at the Celebrating Mountain Women conference in Bhutan, 2002 (CMW 2002) were clear about their mission: unless women themselves are 'there' to make the decisions - economical and political - no amount of lobbying, advocacy, support, and goodwill on their behalf can produce the positive outcomes of social and cultural change that we want to see. Since the First World Conference on Women in Nairobi, 1975, the global movement to empower women and bring them centre-stage is only two years short of becoming three decades old. At the Beijing Platform for Action launched at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, some 180 governments agreed that, "In order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, women and men must participate fully and equally in the formulation of macroeconomic and social policies and strategies for the eradication of poverty" (para. 47). The Declaration also recognised the close linkages between poverty and the disempowerment of women and called upon all governments and agencies to, "Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources, and appropriate technology."

Time and again it has been recognised and reiterated that the socio-cultural and structural subordination of

women and male domination in general have multiple consequences. Economically, it has meant that women's interests, experiences, and concerns are rendered invisible and are inadequately voiced in decision-making. This has resulted in effectively excluding women from key decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their families and communities. It also means that the majority of the policies being implemented worldwide (monetary, financial, and trade) - including Structural Adjustment Programmes - are gender blind, resulting in serious economic costs to society as a whole.

Research has also shown that when women are represented in a critical mass they are able to influence policy outcomes. This has been the case in political decision making, where, through targeted structural reforms such as political party reservations, government policies on quotas, as well as training programmes, more women are entering the system. But despite these gains the numbers continue to remain low - women hold only a fourteen per cent combined average of seats in national legislatures.

In the HKH countries of Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and China, efforts to increase women's participation in decision-making structures are on-going. Current estimated statistics on locally elected women (from the Global Database of Quotas for Women: www.idea.int/quota/country.cfm) in the HKH region read as below:

Afghanistan	-	unknown
Myanmar	-	unknown
Bangladesh	-	2 %
Bhutan	-	5 %
Nepal	-	5.9 %
India	-	8.8 %
Pakistan	-	21 %
China	-	27.9 %

While some countries in the HKH are moving ahead with implementing affirmative actions, others wait and watch to learn from the experiences. A third of local assembly (Panchayat Raj) seats in India are reserved for women (Sen, 2000). In Pakistan, 30 % of seats are reserved for women in the national and provincial assemblies. The debate is on about these steps as often women themselves are sceptical about the quota movement, which creates a psychological ceiling, making it difficult for women to reach majority status in any democratically set government. It is also felt that women should not get elected just because they are women. However, it is widely acknowledged that the same system has contributed greatly to increasing female representation in electoral bodies over the past decade by increasing the critical mass of elected women by 30 % to 40 %.

In South Asia and in the HKH mountain countries men and boys hold 'natural', often birth rights to property and all tangible resources, be they land, water, trees, livestock, or energy which strengthens their status and power base vis-à-vis women and girls. Statutory laws and legislation in most countries are driven by the mainstream patriarchal value systems imagined, designed, created, and backed by male pillars of power. Hence, even though some mountain communities have historically been egalitarian, allowing women to be more equal to men in owning and accessing resources and so on, it has been observed that women's status, rights, and dignity within some of these communities have deteriorated over time. Even women among hitherto matrilineal societies are observed to hold only 'token' and symbolic authority over resources and assets. It is no wonder that violence against women and trafficking of girls and women for prostitution and 'employment' are

seeing increasing trends. When women are 'invisible' and insecure and in subordinate positions as dependents not worthy of exercising some of the most basic rights such as full reproductive and citizenship rights, their options for seeking alternative means of securing a dignified livelihood are ever-shrinking.

The way forward for mountain women in particular will largely depend on and be guided by the trends, achievements, and policy instruments within the overall realm of sustainable mountain development vis-à-vis women's role and position. Women must be seen to be heard. Their economic rights must be strengthened in combination with their political rights, beginning with enhanced and effective participation in local and national politics. Only through effective and active political participation in bigger numbers can women influence policy and programme directions. Only with enhanced rights of access and control over property can women ever aspire to improve their economic status and be in control of their lives as empowered women.

It is precisely in this context that the Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance (CEGG) Integrated Programme (IP) has chosen to pay heed to the mountain women of CMW 2002 and has designed the gender mainstreaming action initiative to focus on the issues of property rights and on the political participation of mountain women. Through reviews and studies on the current status in the HKH regional member countries on these key issues, it is envisaged that independent programmes will be developed in a participatory manner with partners and mountain women. It is envisaged that innovative initiatives will be planned and implemented in collaboration with key partners in Regional Member Countries (RMCs) which will contribute to the transformation of gender relations between women and men to one of full and equal partnership. Specific activities planned within this will enable ICIMOD and its partners to contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in mountain areas of the HKH, particularly with regard to reducing poverty and gender inequality. In its own small way the programme should contribute positively to the 50/50 campaigns for women's representation and participation in decision making for, and increased opportunities in, emerging economic development, with enhanced rights, access and control over resources. Women are already widely acknowledged to be the foundation of peace, security, harmony, and survival of communities and society even from their prevailing subordinate positions. With enhanced formal rights and opportunities, which 'count' them as equals and make them more visible, mountain women will be truly as powerful as they are conceived to be. With due recognition of their contributions they will be further inspired to be pillars of households, communities, and nations, thus contributing to making mountain societies secure, free from conflict, and a haven of peace and harmony.



Limbu women in an open air market, cooking and selling hot and fresh local snacks. (Panchthar district, Nepal)

Taking Stock of Equity - Findings from a National Level Workshop on Common Property Resource Management in Nepal

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In recent times the issue of equity has been an important topic in the discourse on the management of Common Property Resources (CPRs). In Nepal too, there is increasing concern regarding equity in the management of CPRs. Several studies and anecdotal experience suggests little positive impact, if not negative, on the livelihoods of the poor, the marginalised, and women as a result of the current management regimes. In this regard, ForestAction, in collaboration with ICIMOD, organised a national-level workshop on 28 May 2003 to share and document CPR management practices to enhance understanding of equity outcomes of CPR management in Nepal.

Eight different case studies were presented, spanning community forest management, national park and buffer zone management, irrigation management, watershed management, and rangeland management. Several noted scholars and policy makers presented their critical insights regarding the policy and practice dimensions of equity in CPR management.

Community forestry featured prominently in the discourse. A general agreement was the huge success of community forestry in Nepal. Nevertheless, equity issues have emerged. Presentations examined equity issues in the context of non-timber forest products (including medicinal aromatic plants), gender relations, and resource distribution. It was found that the expanding NTFP trade was not necessarily associated with equitable benefits to the poor. Likewise, while the participation of women in community forest management seems to be improving in number, the real decision making still appears to be vested, almost solely, with the men, particularly the rich and 'high' caste elite. The overall consensus was that although community forestry has been successful in meeting environmental objectives and contributes to livelihoods as well, there is still much to do to increase equity. The leasehold forestry programme (which seeks to create exclusive CPR access rights to the identified poor in the community) has not been able to achieve as much in terms of equitable benefits as envisaged by the programme.

Despite the explicit emphasis on gender and equity in the policy statements of the watershed management programme, women and the poor are largely ignored in the decision-making process as the very scale of decision and action is too large to suit the interests of smallholder and land-poor farmers. There are indications that the lack of ownership over the programme by the poor and marginalised appears to be the major constraint to creating equitable benefits from the watershed management programme.

A case study was presented on protected area management (Royal Chitwan National Park - both the Buffer Zone and the park itself) which concluded that the indigenous Bote/Majhi people have been alienated from resource use since their traditional rights to enter the forests were curtailed. Again, the compensatory arrangement proposed through the buffer zone management programme had been captured by the village elite.

The authors of the rangeland management case study from western Nepal presented an interesting social and cultural context of resource management, with both equitable and inequitable implications on the sharing of benefits. However, the conclusion was that poverty matters as the poorer households could not accrue as much benefit as the wealthier ones as the former have a limited say in decision making.

The case study conducted in Nepal's central Terai on irrigation management showed that while the water delivery system seems to have improved, equity issues have been largely ignored. The process of irrigation management often ignores the cases of landlessness who are the most deprived groups as far as irrigation benefits are concerned.

Overall, the workshop conclusion indicates that there is much to be done to enhance equity in the management of CPRs, although there are a range of innovative approaches being developed at various scales. A strategy to address this complex issue, which is rooted in the structural inequality and stratification of Nepalese society, is to take a learning-based approach in which actors, including the poor and disadvantaged themselves, get an opportunity to build and negotiate appropriate socio-environmental knowledge systems and power relationships through the continual praxis of action and reflection.



Suman Rai

Use of Census Information in Building an HKH Socioeconomic Database: Concerns Regarding Equity

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Government census information is often the best indicator for understanding ground realities, especially in the HKH region where modes of communication and the accessibility of credible alternative information are often limited. The primary advantage of the use of census information is its coverage, which essentially translates into the coverage of entire micro-administrative regions of a given country.

However, there are crucial issues to be kept in mind when utilising census figures, especially in the context of equity and indigenous issues of the HKH region. One is the need to understand the role played by political instability and indigenous movements. One direct consequence has been the growing disagreement of local indigenous communities on the way census information is presented in many HKH countries, primarily with allegations of inaccurate presentation of data with regards to indigenous populations, their languages, and their resources.

The inclusion of indigenous communities with regard to counts of ethnic and caste groups is a fairly new phenomenon in some HKH countries. For example, Dr. Harka Gurung clearly states with regard to Nepal, "...despite a long series of decennial population censuses

since 1911, the data on ethnic and caste population was reported first time only (sic) for the 1991 census."

The issues discussed above certainly underline the need to handle census data sensitively, and perhaps balance our perspectives with on-the-ground concerns. Census figures should be taken as indicators rather than as a reality in themselves.

The unstable socio-political situation has also hampered the smooth operation of the census in some areas of the HKH region. We know that the census was not conducted in the Jammu and Kashmir region of India for the year 1991. Similar difficulties were also experienced in Nepal, as some remote areas were deemed unsafe to conduct the census in 2001.

Along the same lines, detailed data for 'politically sensitive' regions are hard to find. Information for areas such as Azad Kashmir and the Northern Areas is indeed insufficient from sources so far consulted.

Furthermore, census information for several of the countries accessed were fairly old, some dating back ten years. Obviously one can assume the socio-demographic changes in ten years would be significant (if not very significant), and for some countries, this could be 'missed' in our database presentation.

How do we read the census figures with regards to our own development efforts?

Furthermore, due to differences in the years when the census was conducted in the different HKH countries, it would be methodically incorrect to cross-refer and look for similarities/ differences between the census figures of countries in the HKH for a given point in time. One would be in need of good statistical projections/means of cross-analysing census figures in such instances.

To reiterate, census figures should be taken as indicators rather than as a reality in their own right. The factors discussed above should be kept in mind, given that the census is one of our principle indicators for learning about the state of equity and livelihood of the indigenous people living in HKH region today.



Toshiyuki Hageshita

Indigenous community in West Garo Hills, Northeastern India

Shifting CPR Policies and the Implications for Equity

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The institutional arrangements governing common property resource management evolved as communities responded to the need to manage and use resources collectively for biophysical or economic reasons. Resource use and enforcement mechanisms were formally or informally agreed upon and implemented by communities for their collective gain.

These institutions and arrangements worked fairly well so long as the subsistence, low-population, semi-closed (that is, with limited external links) community survived intact. However, with the influence of state and market interventions, population growth, and other factors, the autonomy of local arrangements was weakened along with the status and extent of common property resources themselves, with the range of products and gains from CPRs as well as access for rural communities being eroded. This note addresses these issues, with a specific focus on the policies and associated programmes which affect CPRs and their management and the equity implications for rural communities. The discussion is based on a general synthesis of understanding and evidence generated by CPR studies in different areas during last two decades, which has been helped in particular by the establishment of IASCP (the International Association for the Study of Common Property Resources) as a global forum for research and discourse on the subject.

CPR Policy Phases

Policies based on external interventions - mainly state and market driven - which have an impact on CPR management institutions and CPRs themselves can be grouped under the resulting broad phases of change.

The subsistence context and passive state policies

The dominant feature of this phase was the state treating CPRs as wastelands since they did not generate revenue like croplands. This led to a policy of indifference towards CPRs and permitted local governance/management of resources as per the norms and practices evolved by the communities. Despite caste, class, and asset based internal differences, the focus on subsistence needs and supplies (food, fodder, fuel) from CPRs did not promote significant internal inequities.

Gradual monetisation and population growth, supplemented by policies/ programmes promoting external links

The major changes under this phase included the gradual commoditisation of the products of CPRs as well as other subsistence products, giving rise to a combination of subsistence and market orientation in rural communities. The state came to an increased realisation that CPRs were an important source of revenue and

expanded its control of local CPRs, especially forests, as shown by the nationalisation of forests in South Asian countries. Consequences included reduced community rights and access to selected CPRs, and a decline in communities' livelihood options. At the same time, the process of monetisation favoured the better-off groups and initiated a process of economic differentiation within rural communities. This was seen particularly in terms of people's preferences for CPR products. Food, fodder, and fuel were prized by the poor, and marketable products including those associated with petty processing (again promoted through state policies) were preferred by the rich. This also put CPR products in a rural-urban exchange chain, resulting in rural inequities.

Policies associated with the massive entry of the state into development and welfare activities

This was the most significant phase of policy-programme interventions influencing CPRs that affected livelihood and equity issues in rural areas. During this period the public sector took on an enhanced role and importance, with the state undertaking the responsibility for rural development and welfare. This led to the rapid growth of legal and administrative provisions and technological measures designed and implemented in the name of development. The extent of CPRs, their biophysical potential, management systems, community rights and access to products, CPRs' multiple services, and their role in the livelihood and sustenance of rural communities were all adversely affected.

CPRs in the era of globalisation

This phase is characterised by rapid economic globalisation, where unprecedented primacy is accorded to market forces, as indicated by the initiation of pro-market reforms and their manifestations at the community level. This leads to the gradual marginalisation of the state as well as the community in the handling of local affairs, including those related to CPRs. There is a disregard of customary rights and a focus on marketable CPR products, bypassing the CPRs' role in local sustenance. Anything, including CPRs' and their usage systems, that is mismatched with market-driven norms and arrangements finds little policy support and protection.

Policy Impacts and Equity Aspects

The policies described above have an important impact on CPRs and their management as well as having far-reaching implications for equity.

The area of CPRs

The state curtailed the area of CPRs through privatisation and the welfare-oriented distribution of CPR land, the regularisation of illegal encroachment, and state

acquisition for infrastructural development such as roads and dams, as well as other uses ranging from mining to the creation of national parks and biosphere reserves. This not only reduced the volume of supplies, but also increased the demand pressure on the remaining CPRs, leading to over-extraction and degradation. More well-off community groups withdrew from using degraded, low productivity CPRs and increased their focus on acquiring CPRs as private land. The population growth-induced hunger for land caused higher land prices and further encouraged the tendency to acquire CPR land as private land. Common land including forests, water bodies, rangelands, and unique biodiversity spots thus became a part of the land market, a situation accelerated by the rapid process of economic globalisation. The state increasingly discarded the communities' customary rights and allowed the transfer of such lands to national or multinational private firms in several mountain regions of the HKH. Local communities and the rural poor in particular lost their livelihood options linked to CPRs.

CPR management

In keeping with mountain specificities such as a high degree of fragility, marginality, diversity, and limited accessibility, the institutions of CPR management formed part of the collective strategy of adaptation evolved by hill communities. However, with the state's intervention in active land policies and the new externally designed administrative arrangements, the communities' management systems and their collective stake in local CPRs disintegrated. The poor began to focus on CPRs as a source of fuel, food, and fodder, while the better-off preferred commercially usable products such as grass for paper mills, or herbs and mushrooms for the market. The preference of the poor for retaining CPRs versus the emphasis on the privatisation of CPRs by the better-off also illustrates this gap, where dual societies were created within the same village. Economic globalisation also encourages the uses and products of CPRs for the external market with limited gains to the poor.

CPR functions and products

CPRs are now increasingly a source of marketable products, particularly high value products such as medicinal herbs and other NTFPs. The associated feature of market orientation is the enhanced direct or indirect involvement of external market agencies in both the collection and marketing of products. Rich groups within the communities themselves often have links with these agencies. One equity consequence of this change is the exclusion of local communities from the gains associated with this change process. The traditional hunters and gatherers who collected NTFPs for needs-based small trading are replaced by the agents of urban firms. The former are thus left with few options. The market driven over-extraction of NTFPs is another negative aspect of this change. The traditional CPR function in terms of ensuring

collective security during a crisis period such as droughts, floods and so on, when supplies from privately cultivated land fall short of needs, has also fallen into disuse. Relief supplies from public agencies, donors, and NGOs have become more important, and the community incentive to care for CPRs has declined. The increased indifference of the community (especially better-off groups) towards CPRs is also the result of new agricultural technologies that replaced CPR products as farm inputs with external products such as chemical fertilisers, and weakened the organic links between farming-forestry-livestock enterprises.

Rising concern and responses

The generalised picture of the CPR situation outlined above does not have uniform acceptance or approval. Both the degradation of CPRs through over-extraction and falling supplies of crucial CPR products (both local and external) have induced concern and policy interventions. Agencies including the state, NGOs, CBOs, and donors have participated in the process to understand and act to alter the situation. The new initiatives in this respect are largely focussed on local forests, water, and biodiversity. However, the most widely known initiatives relate to community forestry, particularly User Group Forestry (UGF) in Nepal and Joint Forest Management (JFM) in India. The initial motivation for these initiatives included the state's inability to effectively police these resources despite increased efforts and cost, and the rising scarcity of locally used products from forests. These new arrangements are not true copies of the traditional management of CPRs, but they do put significant emphasis on involving local communities in managing forests. The provisions and mechanisms characterising UGF and JFM differ significantly.

While the biophysical gains of these initiatives in most areas are decisively demonstrated by increased forest cover, their results in terms of helping the poor are mixed. For instance, under JFM the head loaders, including women and other poor with limited private assets, have lost part of their livelihood options. In FUGs the non-inclusion of many actual users of petty forest products as members has adversely affected the poor. The resource protective/preventive provisions of the new community management systems tend to restrict the people's access to fuel and fodder collection and affect the poor the most. The nomadic pastoralists, especially in Nepal, have lost their grazing space due to UGF provisions, many losing their traditional occupation permanently. The adverse affects on women are also recorded. Given such anti-poor implications, the new community-forestry initiatives are at times described as 'resource focussed' rather than 'people focussed' or 'resource plus people focussed'. One of the reasons for this gap is the standardised approach of new initiatives for whole countries, disregarding the biophysical and social diversities characterising different locations, which were integral to CPR management before the state and the market intervened.

Tourism and Equity

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Past studies on tourism at ICIMOD have observed a number of challenges within the discourse on tourism and poverty eradication. These studies, conducted between 1993 and 1998 in Nepal, Pakistan, and India, found that local communities who conserve and sustain much of their land and natural resources in the mountain regions as tourism assets are marginalised by the tourism industry and usually do not receive a fair and equitable share of tourism benefits. The studies recommended that if tourism is to act as a means of poverty eradication in the HKH region, fair and equal tourism benefit sharing mechanisms must be sought.

From a global perspective, tourism has been unable to reduce poverty effectively. One assessment calculates that eighty per cent of those living in extreme poverty live in just thirteen countries, ten of which have an important tourism sector showing above-average growth over the past years. One of the reasons that tourism has been unable to reduce poverty is that forty to fifty per cent of tourism income leaks back to the traveller's home country. Similarly, tourism may generate ever-increasing foreign exchange for the host country but this is often leaked to fulfill other sectoral priorities, withdrawing commitments to the tourism spot/region. The reported national earnings also do not consider the social and environmental costs incurred by that region. The burden often lies on the local communities who shoulder most of the social and environmental costs of tourism without accruing their share. Micro-studies conducted by ICIMOD have also underlined the leakage of tourism income where private tour operators and governments retain the

maximum share of tourism incomes and the local/host communities are disregarded. The studies observed that investment opportunities for mountain communities are generally limited to menial labour and food production. The prevalent form of tourism also tends to benefit communities/households who already have access to significant assets. In this way, tourism can reinforce the marginalisation of certain groups, such as socially backward classes and women. The case of tourism in Nepal shows that women's employment in tourism activities has improved in the last few years, but is limited to 21% of the accommodation sector. Similarly, the disparity between rich and poor in a community is also changing with tourism's arrival in the region, and a strained relationship between the ones who have benefited and those who have not may occur.

The various problems in mountain tourism as recognised by past ICIMOD studies and the declaration of 2002 as the year of, "Ecotourism and Mountains", have underlined the need for a framework which is sensitive to the fair and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms needed for tourism to act as an agent of poverty eradication in the HKH.

Tourism has a considerable impact on local livelihood strategies and hence on the sustainability of the HKH region. It is imperative that tourism's linkages with equity be appreciated in order to grasp the economics of tourism for the mountain poor. Whether income from tourism reaches the poor who manage and sustain tourism's assets, and how the poor can participate in decision making in tourism's development are crucial issues which must be understood.



Tourists enjoying a panoramic mountain view

Ajay Rastogi

Regional Workshop for Mainstreaming Equity and Rights Issues in Policies in the Management of Common Property Resources in the HKH

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A regional workshop on, "Mainstreaming Equity and Rights Issues in Policies in the Management of Common Property Resources in the HKH", was held from August 5 to 7, 2003, in Kathmandu. A total of 35 participants representing 6 countries of the HKH participated. The objectives of the workshop were to share lessons from 15 case studies on equity and poverty in the management of common property resources in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, and to develop future strategies for mainstreaming equity and poverty issues in policies for the management of common property resources.

During the workshop a total of 13 case studies on equity and poverty linkages in the management of common property resources were shared. Each of the case study researchers exhibited their research findings and lessons in a poster bazaar. Small mixed groups of participants representing policy makers, NGOs, academic institutions, and donors visited each poster stall and talked with the researcher about each presentation.

Besides the case study presentations in the poster bazaar, a total of five papers were presented by policy makers and by a leader of a customary forest management committee. These papers are listed below.

- Jarhdhargoan Forest, A Common Property Resource Of the People, By the People, For the People, by Vijay Jarhdhari & Biju Negi
- Policy Issues for Intra Equity and Community Rights in India with a Focus on the North East, by Dr. V.T. Darlong, Deputy Director, and Ms. Imtiena Ao, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests, North East Regional Office, Meghalaya, India
- Nepal's Forest Policy from Equity Eyes, by Dr. Bharat Pokhrael, Team Leader, Swiss Community Forestry Project, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Nepal
- Traditional Water Rights and Equity: A Case Study of Lingmureyphu Watershed in Bhutan, by Mr. Kelzang Jamtsho, Water Specialist, Planning and Policy Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan
- Common Property Resources and Tribal Livelihood Alienation in India, by Dr. Walter Fernandes, Director, North Eastern Social Research Centre, North East India

The participants identified key policy issues that need to be addressed for the fairer management of common property resources. These recommendations are listed below.

Recognition of traditional regimes of common property resources

Since the early 1980s, the decentralisation of management in common property resources has been the dominant policy paradigm in the HKH. The case studies show that sub-groups within resource users are marginalised when new management regimes are introduced. There is a general lacuna in state policies which do not recognise existing institutions that have been managing common property resources for decades. This has not only led to more categories of resource users being marginalised in some situations but also implies that there is a need to recognise the existing rights of communities and enshrine these rights in policies and legislation. What is evident is that access rights tend to change when existing common property management regimes are interfered with, and often an elite group grabs the rights.

Enhancement of equity in traditional regimes

A fairer governance of common property resources needs to safeguard traditional rights by legitimising existing institutions. But when one looks at the issue of equity, studies have also documented cases where indigenous systems are inequitable. Many studies documented how dominant caste and class groups determine participation and distribution. This dominance is based on the local power hierarchies, as in the state of Meghalaya in India, where traditional institutions are based on clan and kinship; and in the Northern Areas of Pakistan where power is vested in tribal elites; and in Nepal, where existing caste and class define power relations. The aspects of inequity inherent in these institutions must be examined when discussing the legitimisation of existing systems.

Safeguarding traditional resource rights of mountain communities

It is evident that systems for the management of common property resource are dynamic and hence are undergoing changes. These processes have been unleashed by globalisation, the state, population

growth, economic penetration, and 'marketisation'. Like in all other geographical areas, for example the rainforests of the Amazon, indigenous peoples are known to have evolved unique knowledge that is intrinsically part of their livelihood strategy. This is also true for the HKH where traditional knowledge is facing the danger of patenting, copyrights, and material transfers. On the other hand, there are also progressive agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity. There is a critical need at this level to formulate national policies and legislation to ensure equitable benefits and the safeguarding of traditional resource rights for the communities of the HKH.

A holistic policy approach

Policies for the management of common property resources are often resource-specific. For instance, policies for irrigation seldom take landholding status into proper consideration. Benefit from commonly managed irrigation are greater if the land as an asset is inequitable as quality and amount of landholding will mean more scope to use water from irrigation. Similarly, forestry



Poster bazaar

Suman Rai

policies have not specifically addressed the needs of pastoral groups for whom access to land and forest areas is critical for sustaining their livelihoods. Policies for the management of common property resources with the objective of enhancing equity need to be more holistic.

Suggested Reading - Equity and Poverty Issues in Common Property Resource Management

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ICIMOD's Work on Policy

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ICIMOD has a mountain specific mandate and is one of the few agencies working to identify and disseminate policy-programme options for sustainable mountain development in the HKH region. So far the Centre's focus has been on policy as a process rather than as a final product: the latter being seen as the prerogative of the users of ICIMOD's output. ICIMOD facilitates policy-programme promotion for sustainable mountain development mainly through communication and interactions with various groups associated with policy-programme formulation and implementation at different levels and in different contexts. Policy-programme advocacy messages were fielded through problem-focussed research, synthesis and repackaging of information, and dissemination of policy-programme messages to generate awareness and concern for mountain development issues. Cross country exchange of experiences on specific topics are also a feature of its work. This is complemented by workshops and small group meetings involving different stakeholders on specific issues, capacity building through training, field demonstrations, and inter-country visits of professionals associated with policy programme activities. However, despite these efforts, ICIMOD's past work had no explicit, long-term systematic focus on policy issues. Since the policy of advocacy is a part of activities carried out in project mode of work at the Centre, this was quite unavoidable.

Assessment of ICIMOD's Past Experience in Policy

Building upon evidence from and understanding of earlier work carried out at ICIMOD (Jodha 1998), a dozen major programmes/projects of ICIMOD were assessed to identify where ICIMOD and its collaborating partner institutions had facilitated policy and how far ICIMOD outputs had been used in policy-programme interventions in HKH member countries.

From its inception, ICIMOD regarded policy as a process involving different stages and activities rather than as a single phenomenon such as a specific legislation or state order on specific issues. The only exception to this was the work on the mountain perspective framework to examine policy interventions in mountain areas. This work was directly addressed to high-level, policy-planning agencies. This focus on process often revealed the inseparability of policy and programme, where the latter more sharply manifested a specific policy concern in a concrete action context. Besides, through the above exercise, ICIMOD tried to look at the use of ICIMOD outputs at the various stages of policy-programme interventions by government agencies and others (e.g., NGOs, donors). Furthermore, due to the project mode of ICIMOD activities generating usable outputs, most of the policy-programme interventions were largely small or micro-level interventions.

The stages involved in the policy process are as follows.

- Sensitisation about options/ approaches relating to specific policy-programme interventions
- Applying use of ICIMOD outputs for capacity building, training and so forth on policy-programme interventions
- Demonstrating and testing of ICIMOD outputs to establish or strengthen specific programmes
- Planning/preparing/designing specific policy-programme interventions based on outputs
- Policy-programme implementation /decisions/ actions involving ICIMOD outputs or advice based on experience

Uses and Users of ICIMOD's Policy-related Outputs

The main users of ICIMOD outputs are governments and other agencies, such as donors and relevant NGOs. Outputs used by these agencies include policy-briefs, hand-outs, or guide books relating to procedures for handling specific development issues; technological and institutional practices; training modules and advocacy methods; and community mobilisation and participatory methods.

Analysis of the information on the policy-programme use of ICIMOD outputs indicated important facilitative factors promoting the use of ICIMOD's output.

- Intensive dialogue, advocacy, interactions, focussed meetings, and a variety of follow-up activities
- Back-up support for synthesising research and knowledge relating to outputs/options presented to policy/decision-makers
- Capacity building of partner institutions through demonstration and training
- Effective dissemination strategies through films, radio, posters, and other media, printed material (including policy briefs), focussed workshops, interaction, meetings

On the demand side, important facilitative factors identified are as follows.

- Strong convergence or match between requirements of specific interventions and the attributes of the policy-programme options recommended by ICIMOD
- Government commitment, cooperation, and support in promoting the options identified
- Size, scale, and nature of options recommended and local capacities, skills, and understanding to adopt the options.

Renewed Focus on Policy Centred Work

In ICIMOD's Strategic Plan, 'Partnerships in Mountain Development, Securing the Future of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas 2003-2007', policy and advocacy aspects are given high priority. Natural Resource Management (NRM) is identified as the key window to evolve and implement a systematic approach to policy work with a strong emphasis on participatory and demand-driven elements. This

implies (i) involving the partner institution in identifying policy-programme options and (ii) greater sensitivity and understanding of the needs of collaborating partners looking for relevant policy-programme options and approaches. This also includes a strong focus on building the Centre's internal capacities and concerns for the policy dimensions of its integrated programmes. While covering policy and institutional aspects of programmes, both

'product' and 'process' aspects of policies are addressed. The mechanisms to evaluate the impacts of policies in both temporal and spatial terms to facilitate the necessary amendments to the adopted policies will also be emphasised. To facilitate the effective consideration and use of policy-related output, a road map of policy processes covering stages and agencies involved in policy making and policy advocacy will be made.

Mapping Nepal Census Indicators 2001 and Trends

Review by Kunda Dixit, Nepali Times

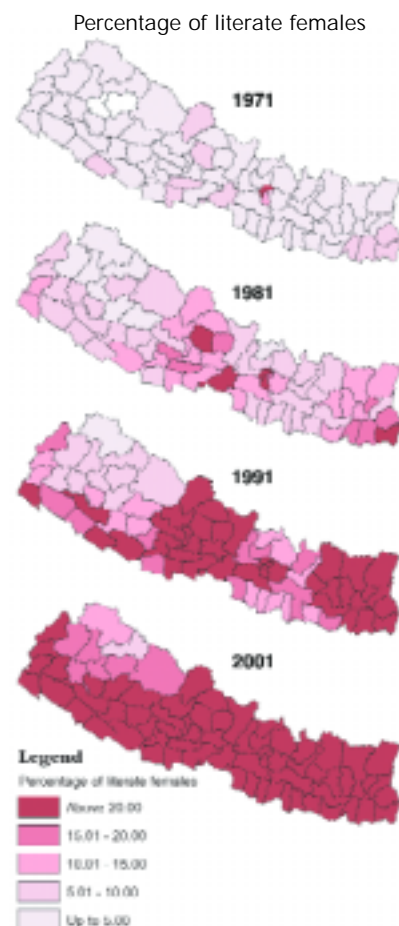
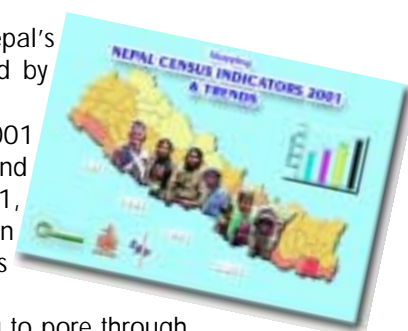
A time atlas of Nepal

Maps that let us quickly find out which districts have made progress since 1971, and which haven't

Maps are static. They show the world flat, as it is. But what if you wanted to see Nepal's progress in development, or lack thereof? And suppose you wanted that segregated by district? Information in both time and space.

That is exactly what the recently published Mapping Nepal Census Indicators 2001 and Trends has done. Brought out by ICIMOD, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and the Dutch aid group, SNV, the book plots census data from 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001, and divides them by district. The maps mean more than just which districts are ahead in schooling for girls, infant health, fertility rate, etc. They also show how much progress each district has made and which ones are lagging behind.

The beauty of it is that you can make these trends out at a glance, without having to pore through pages and pages of figures. And because the districts are colour-coded, the achievements and failures of development at the grassroots over the past 30 years leap out of the page. The problem then, is to figure out what to do about them.



The book was released recently without much fanfare, but deserves much more attention than it has hitherto been given. The study team was lead by ICIMOD's Basanta Shrestha and Rabi Prasad Kayastha of CBS, and used geographical information system techniques to produce the thematic maps that represent trends to enable rapid and visual grasp of the implications for the country of individual development parameters. The book will soon be followed by a CD-ROM that will enable planners and local development officials to segregate the data by thematic areas, districts and timeline.

Starting from relatively straightforward mapping of district-wise trends in population density, the atlas shows us how fast the tarai is being filled. The eastern tarai, for instance, used to have a population density of 200-400 per sq km. By 2001, that figure had jumped to 400-800 per sq km. Kathmandu Valley's density has now crossed the 800 per sq km mark.

The average population growth rate used to be above 4 percent in the eastern tarai in the 1970s. Today it is at an average of 2.5 percent despite migration-related growth. Ilam even shows less than 2 percent population growth and, correlating this with the trends in progress in female literacy, it becomes clear why this is so.

Sex ratio (the number of males for every 100 females) is an important indicator of the status of women within a society. This atlas shows a clear correlation between gender equity and other parameters such as girl's literacy, maternal mortality and fertility rates. It is clear that the worst sex ratio is in the east-central tarai districts of Rautahat, Sarlahi and Mahottari where the number of males for every 100 females has remained above 105 since 1971. The second worst are the Midwestern districts of Achham, Bajura, Bajhang and Dailekh.

The mean age of marriage of women shows that in the eastern hills, Mustang and Manang are far ahead of the rest of the country with 22 years

or above. But girls are still getting married at ages between 16 - 18 in the east-central tarai and the midwestern hills and this mean age hasn't improved much.

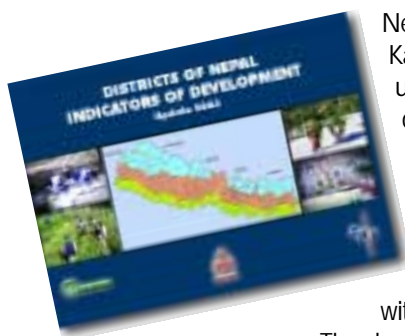
Female literacy rates show the most sluggish progress in the midwestern and far-western hills and east-central tarai in the past 30 years, and hint at the neglect of development that has contributed to the rise of the insurgency. Similarly, the midwestern hills show the least progress in enrollment in schools.

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Districts of Nepal- Indicators of Development 2001

Review by Bhimsen Thapaliya, The Rising Nepal

Easy-to-use Development Atlas of Nepal's Districts



Nepal is a country characterised by its stunning variations. If one travels from Kathmandu to Karnali, both the variation in geography and the disparity in development are simply unimaginable. The country's social inequality stands as one of the towering challenges to development.

Diversity is the beauty of Nepal, but should not be taken as a barrier to progress. As every geographical pocket has a unique potential for development, remoteness is not an excuse for poverty and deprivation. Every region is fertile, every sector is potent, and each individual is capable, given development planners' vision of balance and equal opportunity. To achieve such balance, policy makers first need a database that shows what kind of disparity we are living with and which can act as a guide for balanced development.

The book under review is an atlas of Nepal's human development, showing the comparative development status of the different districts. Designed to be understood easily, the publication lays bare the ironies and challenges of development. This book will tell only the truth about important indicators relating to social, economic, and infrastructure development and women's empowerment. An achievement that results from the combined expertise of statisticians, geographical information system (GIS) specialists, and development practitioners, the atlas makes it easy to see a picture of each district and make a comparative analysis. Let us take child illiteracy rates, for example. The western mountain district of Mugu has 51.75 % child illiteracy as opposed to 5.65 % in Kathmandu. However, the capital district is not the best on this score as Bhaktapur boasts the lowest child illiteracy of 4.17 %. You will also see that the eastern-most district of Ilam fares better in this respect than Lalitpur.

The first part of the publications ranks the 75 districts of Nepal according to different development indicators. Besides the overall composite index, the rankings are presented in terms of poverty and deprivation, socioeconomic and infrastructure development, and women's empowerment. In addition to the ranking from numbers 1 to 75, there are also broader classifications of the districts as 'most developed', 'intermediate', and 'least developed'. Interestingly, the mountain districts of Mustang and Manang fall in the 'most developed' category whereas the Terai districts of Kapilvastu and Parsa fall in the least developed class in the overall composite index. Thus, the book is likely to challenge some of our preconceived ideas.

The next part of the book maps parameters such as health, drinking water facilities, agricultural loans, farm size, livestock density, and irrigation. This part also charts the density of roads, banks, cooperatives, health institutions, and post offices.

In the final section of the atlas, the status of women's empowerment has been depicted through various indicators, including female share in literacy, women's engagement in non-agricultural work, percentage of female teachers in primary schools, and girls' enrolment rate at the primary level. One would probably not be ready to believe that Syangja ranks first in female literacy while Kathmandu trails behind in the 32nd position. Likewise the map will tell you that Kaski is the leader in the rate of girls' enrolment at primary level, followed by Chitwan, Manang, and Mustang. Kathmandu ranks 29th for this indicator. Each map is accompanied by numerical tabulation that lists districts in descending order of development.

ICIMOD, in collaboration with the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and Netherlands Development Assistance (SNV-Nepal) first prepared a study atlas, "Districts of Nepal- Indicators of Development" in 1997, which presented an assessment of the comparative development status of the country's districts. Serving as an information tool for development implementation agencies, including foreign partners, the publication aimed to provide a basis for selecting priority districts for different development projects. According to the publishers, the book drew wide appreciation from organisations involved in policy making and planning.

The present book is a recent update of the study conducted by ICIMOD, CBS, and SNV-Nepal. According to ICIMOD, the indicators are derived from the data gathered under the 10th National Population Census taken by CBS in June 2001. The census data is also supplemented by other relevant data collected in 2000/2001. As this development atlas is an elaborately updated version of the previous publication, readers who have previous copies may be able to identify trends taking place over the years.

Reprinted with author's permission, The Rising Nepal (26 March 2004, Friday Supplement)

Centre News

Highlights of the 33rd ICIMOD Board of Governors and 14th ICIMOD Support Group Meetings



The 33rd Meeting of the ICIMOD Board of Governors and the 14th ICIMOD Support Group Meeting were held in Pokhara from November 30th - 4th December 2003 at the Shangrila Village Resort.

Two very interesting field trips preceded the meetings, the first one on 30th November and the second on 1st December 2003. Details of these are given in Box 1.

On Centre's Day, the Director General, the Director of Programmes, and senior staff members gave briefings on progress made in 2003 and the plans for 2004. Following this, six different groups convened for focussed discussions. Meetings of the ICIMOD Support Group, Finance Committee, Programme Advisory Committee, and the Foundation Meeting preceded the main Board Meeting on 4th December 2003.

The main Board Meeting was chaired by U Soe Win Hlaing with Dr. Anne Whyte as the Vice-Chair. Regional members, observers, and representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, and Pakistan as well as Independent Board Members from Austria, Canada, China, Germany, India, Pakistan, and Switzerland were present.

The Board reviewed ICIMOD's current and planned programmes according to the Strategic Plan document, 'Partnerships in Mountain Development, Securing the Future of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas 2003-2007.' The Progress Report for 2003 and the Work Plan for 2004 were approved.

The Board was happy to note the progress in the construction of the Headquarters in Khumaltar, Lalitpur, and appreciated the commitment shown by regional member countries, especially Bhutan, China, and India, through their generous contributions to the Headquarters.

A new feature of the Board Meeting was the country presentations by Regional Board Members



Dr. Zbigniew Mikolajuk



Nira Gurung

on the activities undertaken as well as future programmes in respective member countries. Presentations were made by Board members from Bangladesh, China, Bhutan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and Myanmar. The Board welcomed the strong commitment of regional members and decided to make these presentations a regular feature of future Board meetings.

The Board suggested that Regional Board Members could give similar presentations to their own governments to inform them of ICIMOD's progress and plans in the context of regional economic and environmental well-being; and this would help establish a clear and definite sense of 'ownership' of ICIMOD.

Another highlight was that approval had been received to establish the ICIMOD Foundation in Switzerland. In this respect, the Board placed on record the notable contribution of Dr. Ruth Egger who has been primarily responsible for this new venture. The purpose of establishing a Foundation is to attract contributions from donors, both private and international. It is hoped that the Foundation will facilitate the long-term growth and stability of the Centre.

The Outgoing Chairperson of the ICIMOD Support Group, Dr. Brigitte Derkrou, who had served as its Chairperson for four years, was given a warm farewell and presented with a plaque. The new Chairperson of the ICIMOD Support Group is Mr. Jochen Kenneweg from BMZ, Germany.

The 34th Board Meeting will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from December 5th to 11th 2004. It is hoped that the ICIMOD headquarters building will be inaugurated at this time.

Quotes from Board Member Country Reports

"Cooperation between ICIMOD and China has been very successful in the past and we hope that this will continue into the future."

- Prof. Sun Honglie, Board Member, China

"ICIMOD-Bhutan collaboration in the past year has been excellent and this is due to increased awareness of ICIMOD programmes among Bhutanese institutions, and also to increased demand for its services."

- Dungkar Drukpa, Board Observer, Bhutan

"While going through the country report, I have learned of the good work ICIMOD has done in Pakistan, and there is room for further improvement, especially in the area of women's upliftment."

- Ehsaan Ullah Batth, Board Representative, Pakistan

"I urge ICIMOD to open a country office in Kabul to begin development activities in Afghanistan, given that security in Afghanistan, especially in Kabul, has improved."

- Gulam Mostafa Jawad, Board Member, Afghanistan

"Activities (in India) cover biodiversity management, rangelands and watershed management, issues of water resources, rural energy, and beekeeping for pollinating services."

- Prabhat Kumar, Board Representative, India

"Demonstration of best practices on sloping land and remote sensing and GIS activities, and particularly forest management in the mountains, are among the activities carried out in Myanmar."

- Soe Win Hlaing, ICIMOD Board Chairman, Myanmar

Box 1 : Empowering Women and Creating Livelihoods through CBOs

A morning visit was organised to the Begnas Lake area at the project site of LI-BIRD (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development) for interaction with farmers and to observe the functioning of farmers' cooperatives. Biodiversity registering systems, participatory in situ conservation, and plant breeding projects were also briefly highlighted by the farmers. In the afternoon a visit was organised to farmers' apiaries located at Lakeside, Pokhara, and two shops were visited: a beekeeping shop managed by a local partner called, "Annapurna Beekeeping and Environment Promotion Centre" at Bagar and a "Diversity Shop" at Chiple Dhunga Chowk, managed by a private individual selling local goods and products supplied by local farmers' groups and individuals from outside Pokhara city. The Board members were also briefed on honey hunting practices in area where *Apis laboriosa* (Himalayan cliff bees) are found, as well as associated traditions, values, beliefs, tools, and techniques. The second day's field visit on 1st December was to Phati Khola Kaulipani Community Forest User Group (Women's Group) and the Lhotsepakha Raniban Community Forestry Users' Group, Dhikurpokhari, Kaski. Representatives of the District Forest Office, HIMAWANTI, and local people gave the visitors a warm welcome with traditional music and garlands. During the interactions the local people show-cased their success in community forestry and also shared their experiences in and problems of various economic issues relating to enterprises and livelihoods as well as natural resource management.



Dr. Zbigniew Mikolajuk



Dr. Zbigniew Mikolajuk

ICIMOD Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

ICIMOD, established twenty years ago to the day, celebrated its birthday by organising a special programme at the Shanker Hotel, Kathmandu, on 5 December 2003. This also coincided with the conclusion of the 33rd Board Meeting held in Pokhara.

Invited to the function were persons who had contributed towards the development and growth of the Centre. They included ICIMOD Board Members, Support Group Members, Ambassadors, Officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, representatives of INGOs and NGOs based in Kathmandu, and other well-wishers of the organisation. The ICIMOD Staff Club carried out the overall coordination of the programme.

Mr. Soe Win Hlaing, Chairperson of the Board of Governors; Dr. Ruth Egger, Chairperson of the Finance Committee; Mr. Johannes Knapp, Representative of the ICIMOD Support Group; Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, Director General; and Dr. Binayak Bhadra, Director of Programmes welcomed the 300 staff and guests.

Two distinguished scientists, Prof. Suresh Raj Chalise and Dr. N.S. Jodha were presented with awards as a mark of their contribution to the development of the Centre over the years. Also felicitated were staff members who recently received their PhDs: Dr. Jian Liu, Dr. Juerg Merz, and Dr. Yan Zhaoli.

Staff members put on an entertaining cultural show starting with the ICIMOD Theme Song, composed by a team of staff led by Dr. Eklabya Sharma.

The finale of the programme was the cake cutting ceremony, an honour shared between representatives of the ICIMOD Board of Governors, the Support Group, and Dr. Gabriel Campbell, Director General. The cake was beautifully designed in the shape of the ICIMOD logo (see photo on back page).

Perna Thapa, pthapa@icimod.org.np

ICIMOD Headquarters - Building in Progress

After 20 years, ICIMOD has begun building its own Headquarters in Kathmandu on a 1.5 ha (30 ropanies) of land in Khumaltar given by His Majesty's Government of Nepal. The site is approximately 4 km away from the present complex of rented buildings in Jawalakhel.

A competition for the architectural design of the headquarters was held in October and November 2001 where an international panel of experts from Germany, the USA, India, and Nepal judged the fourteen submissions and selected the three top entries and three runners-up. At the Board of Governors' meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan in December 2001, Mr. Tom Crees was awarded the architectural design and supervision contract. The Board laid the foundation stone for the building on December 2002.

At tender notice was published in March 2003 and out of 22 construction companies who offered sealed tenders, ANK Construction Company was awarded the contract in May. Excavation work started the same month, and by January 2004 the structure of two floors of the main building was completed.

Work on the roof is in progress, which will take more than a month to complete due to its complex design. The ancillary buildings will take two more months to finish. It is expected that the main structure of the building will be built by April 2004. Plastering the walls, applying floor screed, installing sanitary fittings and electrical wiring, and painting and landscaping will take two more months. Work on interior design has also started. However, funding sources are still required for the air conditioning plant and for an elevator for disabled visitors, the provision for which is made in the building. We plan to complete the building by December 2004, with the inauguration date set for the first week of December 2004.

The total cost of the building is budgeted at US\$ 1.23 million, as approved by the Board in 2002. Out of this, US\$ 530,000 has been met from the internal building reserve fund, while \$ 700,000 is being sought from external sources. China and India have come forward with proposals of financial contributions. The Chinese contribution of US\$ 100,000 has already been received, while the Indian contribution is being worked out with the Ministry concerned. Bangladesh has provided a contribution to build its pavilion in the site. Bhutan has promised to build a country pavilion. Pakistan has indicated interest. This enthusiastic support is a great source of inspiration for all of us who are deeply engaged in the construction of our own Headquarters, so that ICIMOD has a roof of its own.

Milan Raj Tuladhar, mtuladhar@icimod.org.np



Milan Tuladhar

ICIMOD Board of Governors

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Director General
Forest Department, Myanmar

Eng. Ghulam Mostafa Jawad

Deputy Minister of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
Afghanistan

Mr. Syed Mushtaq

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Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell

(Ex-officio)
Director General, ICIMOD

Around and About ICIMOD

Challenges Faced by Farmers in Accessing Irrigation Water

The shortage of irrigation water in the intensively cultivated Jhikhu Khola watershed (JKW) of Central Nepal is of major concern for farmers there today.

ICIMOD's People and Resource Dynamics Project (PARDYP), funded by IDRC and SDC, conducted a detailed study of the Juke Canal in JKW to analyse how different user groups access irrigation water and the institutional mechanisms that exist for managing it. The study reveals that the canal has a command area of 46 ha and benefits 250 households. Its origin is historically associated with the need for a traditional water mill that existed until 22 years ago. Water mill owners in the region were able to unite the different beneficiaries and irrigation water was distributed fairly. However, agriculture is now more intensive and modernisation has forced water mill owners to abandon their mills, taking with them this unique leadership.

In addition, 50 % of the 'tail-end' farmers accessing water from the Juke Canal face 'head-end' communities who use more irrigation water and exercise de facto power in diverting unused water to off-site rivulets to protect their 'khet' (irrigated terraces) bunds from damage. Tail-end farmers are then forced to irrigate their land at night, with women farmers facing more hardship because social norms dissuade them from going to the fields at this time. The marginalised tribal group, the Danuwars, suffer the most from inequitable distribution of water.

An informal institution does exist to maintain the system by inviting contributions during emergencies, but the water-using community wants farmers to unite and develop better all-round management and utilisation strategies, and recognises that the revival of the Juke Water Users' Committee could be one way of achieving this. This committee operated briefly during the 1990s but was dissolved when there was conflict over the collection of a water fee.

The study showed that social, economic, and physical factors govern the dynamics of an irrigation water system, and that only strong socio-cultural, value-based, local institutions which are fair to beneficiaries can save intact irrigation systems from becoming systems torn by conflicts.

Smita Shrestha, sshrestha@icimod.org.np



Juke Canal at Panchkhal valley bottom

Smita Shrestha

CBO Capacity Building in Advocacy: Collaboration with ICIMOD

There is evidence that mountain people are marginalised from mainstream policy-making processes throughout the HKH. Improving community based organisations (CBOs) is one way of bringing the opinions and needs of mountain people to the attention of policy makers and development organisations, and of creating an environment where mountain people themselves can participate in policy and development processes. Recognising this, ICIMOD has begun an Action Initiative, the, "Regional Programme for Capacity Building of Community Based Organisations in Advocacy Strategies in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas".

ICIMOD has assisted several new institutions in HKH countries to emerge and address strategic issues in natural resources management. These institutions focus on empowering their constituency and undertaking lawful advocacy to safeguard the basic rights of mountain communities. Although it is evident that NGOs and CBOs can facilitate these processes effectively, it is also clear that there is inadequate understanding about advocacy and its tools and techniques amongst CBOs in the region. Therefore, the objective of ICIMOD's new programme is to build and strengthen the capacity of selected CBOs in the HKH region through enhancement of their capacity in the concepts, tools, and techniques of advocacy and its use in developing strategies to address social, economic, and gender inequities. The programme will be implemented in collaboration with selected civil society networks and NGOs that demonstrate a clear commitment to CBOs. The programme will initially operate in the mountain areas of Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

We would be grateful for any of the following:

- information about the advocacy issues that you or your organisation are currently working on;
- print, video, or other multimedia material related to advocacy in the region, especially case studies, manuals, and field materials - or information about the same;
- indications of interest in collaborating with the programme.

Please share this information as widely as possible with interested individuals and organisations.

Nani Ram Subedi, nsubedi@icimod.com.np

Empowering Chitrali Women Farmers

APMN/ICIMOD and AKRSP-Chitral jointly implemented a GTZ-funded pilot project entitled, "Protection of the Fragile Mountain Environment through Human Resource Development and Participation of the Community in Chitral, North Western Frontier Province, Pakistan", from September 2002 to October 2003. APMN's role was confined to packaging information on the following agricultural technologies: Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), beekeeping, plastic film technology (PFT), and the benefits and uses of seabuckthorn for women farmers of Chitral as well as for the wider community. AKRSP-Chitral trained 9 women to train some 80 women farmers from Kuragh, Koghuzi, and Reshun on the application of these technologies.

The following was accomplished under the project.

- Manuals in Urdu on SALT, beekeeping, PFT, and seabuckthorn were prepared and distributed.
- Documentaries on SALT, seabuckthorn, and PFT were shown.
- Beehives were distributed to the poorest of the poor women farmers from the said villages and training given to all.
- All the trained women farmers who used PFT to grow vegetables are convinced of its advantage over the traditional method.
- Awareness of multiple benefits and local uses of seabuckthorn, especially in conserving the fragile mountain environment and increasing soil fertility, was raised.
- Four SALT plots now serve as demos in the villages. This is the first time SALT has been introduced in Chitral.
- A women's self-help group was formed in each of the villages. The groups meet regularly to problem-solve as well as to discuss issues of micro-credit, adoption of technologies, marketing of agricultural products, and so on.
- An interaction programme was held to share the objective, process, and components of the project as well as the lessons learnt during implementation, with relevant development partners in Chitral and to ascertain their feedback.
- Radio programmes were developed on the said technologies in dialogue form for broadcast through the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation-Chitral (range: 25 sq. km; potential audience size: 30,000) as well as through the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation-Peshawar (potential audience size: 280,000).

This project is exceptional in the way that it has empowered women in an extremely conservative mountain area of Pakistan and has brought them out of their traditional roles. APMN and AKRSP-Chitral are in the process of discussing the follow-up to this project.



Women farmers from Reshun, Chitral, Pakistan

Ujol Sherchan

Ujol Sherchan, APMN, usherchan@icimod.org.np

An Acknowledgement of ICIMOD's Contribution by Gram Sabha Lata, Chamoli, Uttaranchal, India

On the 55th Republic Day of India, the Gram Sabha of Lata organised the Nanda Devi Women's Festival and officially thanked various persons/institutions who helped in raising their concerns in various national and international platforms. This programme is the first Panchayati step towards the implementation of the Nanda Devi Declaration of 2001.

On behalf of the Alliance for Development, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank ICIMOD for including the Nanda Devi Campaign in its equity and poverty programme. The exercise helped us to understand the intricacies of CPR management with a focus on equity. Provided we survive the 'teething stage', I am confident that the Nanda Devi campaign will gradually evolve as a role model for the Himalayas.

Nanda Devi Women's Festival:

<http://bostonglobalaction.net/UK/nandadevi/festival.html/>

Nanda Devi Declaration 2001:

<http://bostonglobalaction.net/UK/nandadevi/declaration.html/>



Sunil Kainthola, dhaar@vsnl.com

MOUNTAIN FORUM (MF)

Transference of Global Information Server Node (GISN) Responsibilities to MF, Kathmandu

Over the past months, the Mountain Forum (MF), and especially the Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS), has witnessed new developments in its structure.

From 1996 to 2000 MF Secretariat responsibilities were handled on a rotating basis by the MF Regional Nodes. However, since 2001, ICIMOD has hosted a permanent secretariat office after winning a highly competitive bidding process. Additionally, the MF Global Information Server Node (GISN) was founded in 1996 to provide technical coordination and capacity building services to the Mountain Forum network and was hosted by The Mountain Institute (TMI) in the USA.

In 2002, an MF Board mandate resolved that by 2003 GISN functions would be transferred from TMI to a developing-country location. Significant reasons for the choice of ICIMOD as the new home for GISN functions was co-location with MFS and placement in the Himalayan mountains of Nepal. The merging of the global services provided by MFS and GISN clearly brings benefits in enhanced operational efficiency and cost effectiveness.

To meet the needs of a new GISN-merged secretariat, a diverse four-person team - three information services staff and one programme development officer - was recruited in the second half of 2003 through an open global competition. By early December the new team was fully settled and operational.

MF Involvement in the Mountain Partnership

As a result of successful global efforts to stimulate support for sustainable mountain development during the International Year of Mountains 2002, a new global Mountain Partnership has been established through the initiatives of the Swiss and Italian governments. The Mountain Partnership is a broad-based alliance of governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organisations and major groups from around the world, and was established as a Type II Partnership at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002 with the aim of furthering the mountain agenda and achieving mountain-specific goals.

Owing to the Mountain Forum's crucial contributions to increasing the emphasis on sustainable mountain development over the past eight years, the MF network is now set to play a central role in providing communication and information-sharing services to this new partnership. Collaboration with the Mountain Partnership will also be a key factor in setting the long-term strategy of the Mountain Forum.

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The 3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Flow Regimes From International Experimental and Network Data (HKH-FRIEND)

The **3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data (HKH-FRIEND)** was held from May 7-8, 2003, at ICIMOD. The meeting was jointly organised by ICIMOD's Water, Hazards and Environmental Management Programme, (ICIMOD/WHEM) and the International Hydrological Programme of the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IHP); in cooperation with the German IHP/OHP National Committee, the Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG), Koblenz, Germany; and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH). Steering Committee members, HKH-FRIEND research group members, and some invited guests attended the meeting.

Md. Azizul Haque, Director, Joint Rivers Commission, Bangladesh, was elected as the new Chairperson and Ms. Mandira Singh Shrestha, Water Resources Specialist of ICIMOD, was elected as the new Executive Secretary.

During the meeting, HKH-FRIEND's research groups presented the progress of their respective groups since the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting in April 2000. The meeting also had a session on, "Challenges of Water Resources Management for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development in the HKH: the Role of HKH FRIEND".

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Regional Training Workshop on Capacity Building for Monitoring River Quality in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region

Training on, "**Capacity Building for Monitoring River Quality in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region**", was held from May 10-14, 2003, in Dhulikhel, Nepal. The training was organised jointly by ICIMOD/WHEM and Kathmandu University, Nepal, in cooperation with the German IHP/OHP National Committee, the Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG), Koblenz, Germany, and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), Wallingford, UK. Resource persons attended from Austria, Germany, England, and Nepal. The training was made up of technical sessions focussing on bio-monitoring techniques and field trips. In total, 16 participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan attended the training.

Such training is an activity of the Water Quality Group of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Flow Regimes From International Experimental and Network Data (HKH-FRIEND). This training was a follow up of the Water Quality Training held in Islamabad in 2000, and focussed on biological techniques to assess the quality of surface water bodies.

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National Beekeeping Workshop

The Apiculturists' Network, Nepal (Api Net Nepal) organised an ICIMOD-supported **National Beekeeping Workshop** in Kathmandu from May 14-15, 2003. More than 100 participants representing beekeeping groups, GOs, NGOs, and private sector organisations from 60 districts of Nepal took part in the workshop. The national workshop made it possible to bring all bee-related organisations and individuals to one forum to share information, experiences, and opportunities in beekeeping. Participants of this national workshop shared information on the bee population species-wise, on production, and on honey marketing trends in Nepal through individual interviews and group work. As a result, Api Net Nepal is now in a better position to more effectively expand its future activities.

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National Consultation Meetings of the Regional Flood Initiative

National Consultation Meetings on the establishment of a regional flood information system in the HKH region are planned in each participating country as part of the Regional Flood Project being jointly implemented by ICIMOD, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and regional country partners whose goal is to reduce flood vulnerability in the HKH region by saving lives and property. The purpose of the consultations is to assess the needs and requirements of member countries, to collect and disseminate hydro-meteorological data for timely and accurate flood forecasting, and to identify hydro-meteorological stations that can be used in the overall framework of the regional project.

National Consultations have so far been conducted in Bhutan, Bangladesh, and China.

Bhutan National Consultation

The National Consultation for Bhutan was held from 22-24 July 2003, in Thimpu. The meeting was organised by the Hydromet Service Division, Department of Energy, Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTD) of the Royal Government of Bhutan, in cooperation with ICIMOD and WMO. The meeting was attended by 27 participants from the relevant organisations of the Royal Government of Bhutan, ICIMOD, and WMO.

China National Consultation

The National Consultation for China was held on 24-25 September 2003 in Beijing. The meeting was organised by the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) of the People's Republic of China, in cooperation with ICIMOD and WMO. Over 30 participants from the relevant organisations, donor agencies, international experts, WMO and ICIMOD attended the meeting. The participants included decision makers as well as professional personnel from relevant ministries and line departments. A three-day field trip took place, which included a visit to the Three Gorges Project area, the hydro-meteorological stations, and the Yangtze River Commission.

Bangladesh National Consultation

The Bangladesh National Consultation was held from 18-19 October 2003 in Dhaka. The consultation was attended by a total of 56 participants from relevant organisations, donor agencies, international experts, ICIMOD, and WMO. The meeting was organised by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in cooperation with ICIMOD and WMO. A field trip to Sirajganj and Bahadurabad was also organised.

Key Outcomes

The consultations were successful in identifying the needs and requirements of member countries for timely and accurate flood forecasting in the context of the project. The meetings also identified hydrological and meteorological stations for pilot testing and implementation of the regional project.

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Water quality training



Stakeholder Consultation for Establishing Biodiversity Corridors

As a part of the MacArthur Foundation-funded Transboundary Conservation Landscape Project, a stakeholder consultation on the planning and improvement of biological corridors between protected areas within the Kanchenjunga landscape was planned in India, Bhutan, and Nepal. The first consultation was organised in Darjeeling between 8-9 July 2003 for stakeholders directly associated with the development of biological corridors in the Indian part of the landscape. The main goal of the consultation was to find consensus on the feasibility of establishing corridors for conservation between different protected areas in the district of Darjeeling, and at the same time to explore conservation-linked developmental opportunities for local people living in the area. A total of 54 participants from Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Siliguri, Sikkim, and Kolkata came to the workshop, representing government departments, academic and research institutions, NGOs, CBOs, and communities.

Feasible corridors between Singhalila National Park and Senchel Wildlife Sanctuary, Senchel and Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, and Mahananda and Neora Valley National Park were identified and mapped. Attributes such as special features of the area, landscape elements, conservation and developmental constraints, and opportunities were outlined for each of the proposed corridors. The most pressing challenge in the region is to conserve biodiversity and at the same time improve the livelihoods of communities that are dependent on these natural resources. Land-use transformation, habitat fragmentation, unregulated tourism, and unsustainable harvesting of biodiversity are prevalent in the region.

To address the conservation issues and conservation-linked developmental activities, comprehensive action-oriented strategies and action plans were developed for each of the corridors identified. Feasibility assessment and research on landscape elements, the socioeconomic condition of local communities, micro-enterprise development, and capacity building of the associated stakeholders were prioritised as important areas for future activities. Potential areas of intervention such as herbal gardening, floriculture, organic farming, and beekeeping in the agricultural sector; and ecotourism in the non-agricultural sector; were identified and incorporated into the action plan. A consensus was reached on the criteria for identifying potential partners to carry out the participatory planning process in the proposed corridors, and consequently these partners have been identified.

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Framework of an Action Plan on Wetland Conservation and Wise Use in the Himalayan High Mountains

In 2002, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International, the Ramsar Bureau, and the Government of the People's Republic of China, successfully organised a regional workshop in Urumqi, China in August 2002 on the Conservation of High Altitude Wetlands in the Himalayas. This workshop marked the start of regional cooperation in wetland conservation in the high mountain areas and resulted in the 'Urumqi Call' to exchange information and experiences in conserving high altitude wetlands; initiate methodologies and tools for the identification of suitable Ramsar sites; and strengthen regional cooperation with specific steps to continuing the process.

Recognising the importance of mountain wetlands, in November 2002, Ramsar COP8 passed resolution VIII.12 calling for conservation and wise use of mountain wetlands.

In order to implement the Urumqi Call and the Ramsar resolution, WWF International, the Ramsar Bureau, and ICIMOD organised a follow-up workshop, "Wetland Conservation and Wise Use in the Himalayan High Mountains", from August 30 to September 1, 2003, in Kathmandu. The overall goal of the workshop was to strengthen regional cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of high mountain wetlands in the Himalayan region.

The workshop was attended by 34 participants from 11 countries, including government representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, and Kyrgyzstan; and national and international agencies/institutions such as the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Wetlands International, the National Institute of Environmental Studies in Japan, the International Institute for

Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) of the Netherlands, The Mountain Institute (TMI), the WWF national offices of India, Pakistan and China, the Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (China), and Jawahar Lal University (India).

Specific objectives were to strengthen the regional network initiated in the Urumqi workshop, to identify sites that can be declared as Ramsar sites with an emphasis on transboundary cooperation, to seek a consensus on establishing a regional centre on wetland conservation in the Himalayan high mountains, and to discuss and approve a concept note for further development of a joint project for water resource management of highland lakes.

Outcomes included the following:

Participants agreed that the geographic coverage of this regional initiative would cover the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) and Central Asian mountain regions.



File Photo

The current initiative will include the geographic region involving 15 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The Urumqi 2002 workshop report will be finalised for uploading on the Ramsar, WWF, and ICIMOD websites by mid-October 2003.

Countries have agreed that the list of Ramsar and potential Ramsar sites in the high mountains will be further examined and an action plan will be prepared to include new sites in the future. Countries emphasised the need to work on transboundary wetland sites, particularly to list as Ramsar sites.

Ramsar, WWF, ICIMOD, and Wetlands International will take the initiative to prepare a scoping paper on the transboundary high altitude wetland sites in the region.

All the participating countries in this meeting agreed that there is an urgent need to complete the Directory of High Mountain Wetlands of the HKH and Central Asia.

As entrusted by the Ramsar Bureau and WWF International, ICIMOD presented a draft project concept note on, "Freshwater Resource Management and Wise Use of Highland Lakes in Great Asian Mountains", as part of the Highland Lake Initiative. Participants agreed in principle on the concept note.

Countries also agreed in principle that a Regional Centre on high mountain wetlands needs to be established.

ICIMOD, WWF, and the Ramsar Bureau will put up information on the initiative on their websites.

Wetlands International has agreed to work with partners to establish a database of waterbirds and important wetlands in the high mountains.

Dr. Jian Liu, jliu@cashq.ac.cn

Inception Meeting for the Great Asian Mountain Assessment (GAMA) Partnership

The inception meeting for the Great Asian Mountain Assessment Partnership was organised by ICIMOD from September 15-16, 2003, in Kathmandu. There were 12 participants from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Malaysia, India, and Nepal. The main objectives of the meeting were as follows.

- To share information on the Millennium Assessment (MA) sub-global assessments located within mountain areas on the Asian landmass
- To explore the opportunities for (and the costs/benefits of) linking the mountain-oriented sub-global assessments as a multi-scale or cross-cutting effort, including:
 - specific approaches for integrating the ecosystem services, condition, scenarios, and response components of the various GAMA sub-global assessments
 - arrangements for overall coordination and governance
- To identify fundraising opportunities and develop a fundraising strategy and action plan

Film Awards

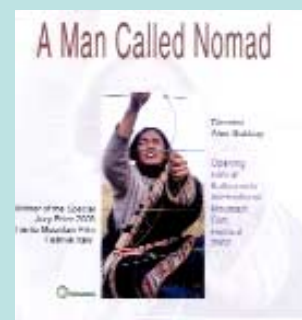
Two of ICIMOD's films on Mountain Culture and one in the Natural Resource Management Series won international awards and recognition. They are as follows.

1. A Man Called Nomad (set in Gansu Province, China)

- Special Jury Prize, 51st International Film Festival of Mountains and Explorations, "Citta di Trento", (51st Trento Film Festival), 26-30 April, 2003 (Italy)
<http://www.mountainfilmfestival.trento.it/pagine/ita/2003/default2003.html>
- Grand Prix Television Suisse Romand
Festival International du Film Alpin des Diablerets, (FIFAD) (Switzerland)
- Best Film on Mountain Culture, 2003, Banff Mountain Film Festival (Canada)
<http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/media/2003/filmfestivalawards.htm>
- The Spirit of the Himalaya, Himalayan Film Festival, 4-5 October 2003 (Netherlands)
- Best Ecological Film, 21st International Festival of Mountain and Adventure Films of Torello, 14-23 November 2002 (Barcelona, Spain)
<http://www.torellomountainfilm.com/angles/principal/principal.htm>
- Best Script, Torello Mountain Film Festival (Barcelona, Spain)
- Best Photography, Torello Mountain Film Festival (Barcelona, Spain)
- Mountain Culture and Environment Film Prize, Kendal Mountain Film Festival (UK) <http://www.mountainfilm.co.uk/winners2003.htm>
- Honourable Mention, International Mountain and Adventure Film Festival (Austria)
- Best of Tibet Short Film, March 2004
12th Annual Environmental Film Festival (Washington DC)
- Mario Ruspoli Prize, 2004, Comité Du Film Ethnographique, Paris, France

2. Timber to Tibet (set in northern Gorkha District, Nepal)

Selected as one of 27 entries (from a total of 102) to "Earth Vision" - Tokyo Global Environmental Film Festival, 30 October to 1 November 2003 (Japan)



Armila Shakya, ashakya@icimod.org.np

CONGRATULATIONS!

ICIMOD Outstanding Achievement Awards

Prof. Suresh Raj Chalise, Senior Associate Scientist, Water, Hazard and Environmental Management (WHEM)

Dr. N.S. Jodha, Senior Associate Scientist, Agriculture and Rural Income Diversification (ARID)

Appointments

Dr. N.S. Jodha, Member of IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) and Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Mountain Science, Chengdu, China

Dr. Eklabya Sharma, Regional Editor for Asia, Mountain Research Development (MRD) Journal, Berne, Switzerland

Ph.Ds Conferred

Dr. Jian Liu, Programme Manager, Water, Hazards, and Environmental Management (WHEM)

Dr. Juerg Merz, Hydrometeorology Research Associate, PARDYP, Natural Resources Management (NRM)

Dr. Yan Zhaoli, Rangeland Specialist, Natural Resources Management (NRM)

Outcome of the Meeting

It was decided that the participating organisations would exchange ideas on the methodologies of the partnership and work to develop a fully-fledged database. They would work together to develop the technology and the indicators to be used in the assessments. It was agreed that the working group would explicitly define the goals of GAMA-integrated assessments and develop a map representing the GAMA region, which would be covered by an integrated assessment. The participants unanimously elected Dr. Jian Liu as the facilitator of the working group. A draft report outline will be prepared for the next meeting in Alexandria, Egypt, to be held in March 2004.

Time Frame

Collaboration began in June 2003. Until June 2004, work will be devoted to Project Development Planning, while efforts in July 2004 to January 2006 will concentrate on the Implementation of Environmental Services (ES) assessment, and policy analysis and valuation of the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) mechanism. The project will reach its final stages in January 2007.

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Planning Workshop for Wider Up-scaling of Indigenous Honeybee Programme

Project partners from regional member countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan, a representative of Austroprojekt, external consultants, project staff, and other members of ICIMOD programmes met for a four-day planning workshop in Kathmandu from 20-24 October 2003 to share the achievements of the current phase of the programme and to develop a regional proposal for Phase III of the Indigenous Honeybee Programme. The first day was dedicated to sharing the achievements of the current phase of the project. Partners and project team members made country-wise, individual presentations and an open discussion on the issues pertaining to sustainable agriculture and beekeeping was held. The last three days were spent in the development of a project document, using the logical framework methodology to work out the project's goal, purpose, outcomes, and indicators with the active participation of all stakeholders. A draft project document is ready for further sharing and consolidation. The guidelines on the call for proposals were prepared based on the project document, which is now available on our website, www.icimod.org.

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Planning Workshop on the Regional Programme to Strengthen Equity and Livelihood Security through Sustainable Management of Biodiversity Resources for the Indigenous Peoples of the Eastern Himalayas

The Eastern Himalayan region, made up of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, Bhutan, North East India, and Nepal is acknowledged to be one of the richest regions in the world in terms of biodiversity. Paradoxically, it is also home to some of the poorest people, who are heavily dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. The Eastern Himalayan region is gradually being opened to external market forces, which bring both new opportunities and concerns. Given this context, ICIMOD's Integrated Programme on Culture, Equity, Gender, and Governance is planning a new endeavour, the, "Regional Programme to Strengthen Equity and Livelihood Security through Sustainable Management of Biodiversity Resources for the Indigenous Peoples of the Eastern Himalayas". To develop this programme, a two-day regional planning meeting was conducted with ICIMOD's partners from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and India from November 2-3, 2003, Kathmandu. A total of 14 participants discussed key issues and identified the areas of work regarding the convergence of livelihood and biodiversity security for the indigenous peoples of the Eastern Himalayas.



File photo

Suman Rai, srai@icimod.org.np

Regional Planning Workshop, Chittagong

The first Regional Planning Workshop for the programme, "**Capacity Building of Community Based Organisations in Advocacy Strategies in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas**", was held from 2-5 November 2003. Thirty-nine individuals from thirty-four organisations took part. The idea of 'capacity building' in this context is to enhance the ability of local activists to frame an advocacy strategy to resolve issues causing hardship to local people. The workshop's primary objective was to finalise future activities for capacity building programmes following a participatory approach, and to bring together potential partners to consider capacity building for community based organisations in their areas.

Past lessons from different programmes and a baseline study commissioned by ICIMOD in 1998 indicate that the very concept of advocacy is itself new to many organisations working in the HKH region. Therefore, for conceptual clarity, the planning workshop also included sessions on sharing 'success stories' and incorporated six presentations from the four programme countries.

One day of the workshop was dedicated to a field visit and represented an opportunity for interaction with some local organisations from Rangamati district in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Participants witnessed the ground realities, at least in Rangamati district, following their discussions on the theoretical perspectives of advocacy.

Current issues causing hardship to local peoples in the programme countries were discussed in the workshop. Through the compilation of common issues within the countries, poor local level governance in mountain areas appeared to be the most common and compelling issue and needs to be examined carefully over the next decade when planning advocacy strategies.

Also discussed was the need to establish regional linkages among potential partner organisations to enhance advocacy capacities in the HKH region in a sustainable manner beyond the life of the programme. Participants endorsed the idea of establishing a regional forum for a resource pool on advocacy, and a four-member working committee was formed to take on the necessary preparation work.

The workshop also reviewed the proposed model for the collaboration and framing of activities for capacity building. Participants realised that case studies from potential areas play a vital role in the capacity building of community based organisations in advocacy. The themes, areas, and potential institutions capable of carrying out such case studies will be crucial for the programme, and there is great hope that the workshop's conclusions will guide all programme activities during 2004 and 2005.

Finally, workshop participants agreed that community based organisations could be the most effective force for carrying out advocacy initiatives. Local-level activists generally lead members of community organisations in raising their voices against whatever forces are creating obstacles to achieving the rights of poor mountain people. Throughout this process, federations of community organisations should be responsible for providing intellectual and professional support. Therefore, workshop participants suggested inviting these organisations to participate in the programme in order to maintain this broad outreach at the local level.

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Regional Workshop on Community Based Natural Resources Management

A regional workshop on "**Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM)**" was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Royal Government of Bhutan, in Lobeyssa, Bhutan, from 4-7 November 2003. The workshop was supported by ICIMOD, IDRC, Helvetas/SDC, GTZ, and SNV. It was attended by 36 international participants, including 6 professional staff and the Director General of ICIMOD; along with 40 national participants, including senior officials from the supporting organisations. Chief Guest at the inaugural session was Bhutanese Agriculture Minister, His Excellency Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup. Dasho Sangay Thinley, the Secretary for Bhutanese Agriculture, presided over the closing session.

The main objective of the workshop was to facilitate the sharing of information and knowledge and to advance CBNRM as a key strategy for the sustainable development of mountain environments. The workshop was designed around three main themes: a conceptual and practice overview of CBNRM, the policy and institutional dimension of CBNRM, and capacity development for up-scaling. An information market was set up and field trips were organised.

During the workshop, the idea of CBNRM as a community-centered learning platform for sustainable resource management and for addressing the environmental and natural resource related issues directly linked to the livelihood strategies of the poor was discussed. It was suggested that CBNRM should build on customary and emerging local institutions, including internally generated rules, and be embedded into formal local government structures. Furthermore, the focus on balancing ecological sustainability with economic benefit was debated, as well as the need for true multi- and inter- disciplinary integration of NRM across sub-sectors, as opposed to mere multi-institutional representation. To scale up action research, capacity building is required at all levels, ranging from farmers to researchers and organisations.

The major issues identified in the workshop were ensuring equity in benefit sharing, empowering communities while ensuring community accountability, and providing enabling policies and institutional support. The workshop recommended the proactive exchange of information and documents using existing electronic networks and the establishing of an e-group for CBNRM practitioners in the region.

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Nakul Chettri

Regional Consultation Meeting on Improving Livelihoods

A regional consultation meeting, **"Improving Livelihoods of Mountain Communities through the Sustainable Utilisation of Non-timber Forest Products,"** was organised by the Agriculture and Rural Income Diversification Programme from 18-20 December 2003. The meeting was organised with the aim of allowing a better understanding of the issues related to NTFP production, management, and trade in four regional member countries: Nepal, India, Bhutan, and Pakistan. A total of 23 participants from the government, universities and research institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, entrepreneurs, and the chambers of commerce and industry attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop a framework and proposal on poverty reduction in mountain areas through the conservation and sustainable utilisation of NTFPs. It resulted in a state of the art review of issues related to NTFPs and explored new opportunities. Based on success stories from the region, the meeting developed strategies to address NTFP-based livelihood issues.

The meeting identified common regional issues while developing the strategies. Three major themes discussed at length were the collection and production of NTFPs, their marketing and trade, and policies related to NTFPs. The meeting concluded by agreeing to take forward the strategies developed and turn them into action with the involvement of a diverse set of partner institutions and professionals, in order to reduce poverty and enhance the livelihoods of mountain communities through the conservation and sustainable utilisation of NTFPs.

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Nepalgunj Consultation Meeting

A one-day consultation meeting was organised under the Indigenous Honeybees Project in Nepalgunj, on December 23, 2003, bringing together all local partners, related stakeholders, and beekeepers from the districts of Jumla and Dadeldhura. A total of 23 participants representing beekeepers, local partners, and other related stakeholders took part. Each participant in the meeting presented his/her experience in project implementation and past achievements. Based on group work and considering the present security situation, a tentative plan of activities was prepared for the remaining period of the project. The meeting also agreed that all local-level stakeholders would take common responsibility for implementing field activities in a coordinated manner.

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PARDYP Highlights

Roger White and P.B. Shah attended the **Farmers' Day** evaluation of PARDYP's work in the Hilkot watershed, Mansehra district, Pakistan, in September. The meeting was organised by the Pakistan Forest Institute. Over 50 people from line agencies, projects, and NGOs joined more than 100 farmers to review and evaluate the 2003 programme and provide comments and suggestions for 2004.

Late Raj Bahadur Shrestha



Raj Bahadur Shrestha (RB to his colleagues) joined ICIMOD on 27 August 1984 as Librarian, initially on special deputation from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, to assist in establishing ICIMOD's Documentation Centre.

Mr. Shrestha's name has been synonymous with the ICIMOD library. He was instrumental in building ICIMOD as a knowledge centre and in the sharing of our learning with Nepal, the HKH, and the rest of the world.

A sincere, highly committed, and cooperative person, Mr. Shrestha was liked by all his colleagues. He passed away on the night of 22 October 2003 following a heart attack. He will be missed by all at ICIMOD.

ICIMOD hosted a workshop, **"Designing the Next Generation of Watershed Management Programmes in Asia"**, in September. More than 50 participants from 11 countries attend this meeting, an FAO initiative aimed at learning lessons from watershed management. The proceedings of this workshop will be available in 2004. The results from these regional stock-taking workshops (also held in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe) fed into the global event held in Sassari, Sardinia. Roger White represented ICIMOD at this meeting.

ICIMOD hosted the global steering committee meeting of the **"World Overview of Soil Conservation Approaches and Technologies"** in Kathmandu at the end of October. Twenty-five participants from Europe, Africa, Central and SE Asia, as well as the HKH region attended this meeting. A one-week training programme on documenting conservation approaches and technologies for 15 participants from across the HKH followed the steering committee meeting. A follow-up meeting to develop a regional node for the mountainous regions of Asia is planned for March.

PARDYP held a two-day **technical workshop** presenting key findings from Phase 2. Over 60 participants attended, including technical representation from Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Proceedings of this workshop will be available in 2004.

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Regional Training of Trainers in Rangeland Co-management

With the aim of enhancing ICIMOD's partners' ability to use participatory approaches/tools, their understanding of rangeland ecosystems regarding co-management, and their training skills on the relevant themes, the Regional Rangeland Programme Phase II (RRP II) has successfully conducted its first regional Training of Trainers in Rangeland Co-management. The training took place in Bhumthang, central Bhutan, from November 22-30, 2003.

The training was conducted in a participatory and flexible manner. Two volunteer trainers from New Zealand and twenty-eight participants from Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and ICIMOD all shared their experience and knowledge on RRP implementation, participatory action research (PAR), and appreciative participatory planning and action (APPA) approaches; as well as on the co-management of rangeland resources, effective use of participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools, and assessment of rangeland health and dry matter. Participants suggested that follow-up training events and more field practice would be highly useful.

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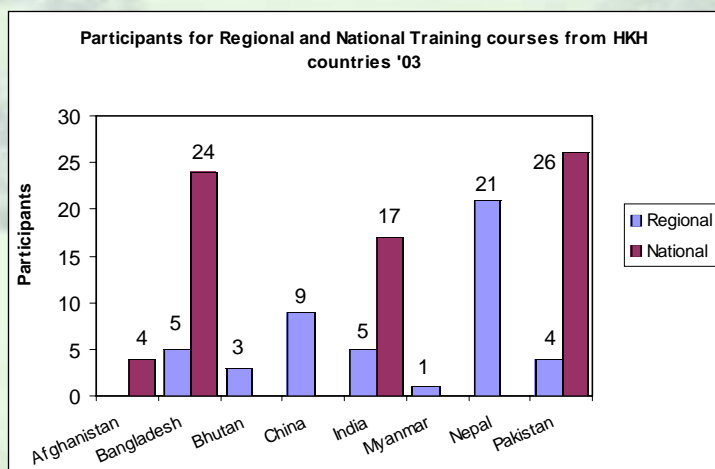
Training on Honey and Beeswax Processing

A three-day training event on honey and beeswax processing was organised in Nepalgunj from December 24-26, 2003, in which 19 beekeepers from Dadeldhura, Jumla, and Kaski participated and contributed. This training was planned for rural women beekeepers. Within three days all trainees acquired skills on making candles and different types of creams from beeswax. At the end of the training session all participants made commitments that they would make candles and creams at least for their own use immediately after getting back to their home village. They are also interested in starting this activity as a collective enterprise in their community if enough raw materials (beeswax) are available and other colleagues in the community join hands with them.

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Regional Training

A regional training course on the “**Inventory of Glaciers, Glacial Lakes and Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Monitoring and Early Warning Systems in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region**” was conducted from 28 July to 8 August in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN-Japan). Eleven participants from China, India, and Pakistan participated in the GLOF training. During the workshop, Martin Rice, Programme Manager from APN-Japan visited ICIMOD and reviewed the progress made by the project, as well as interacting with participants. Six participants from the Tibet Autonomous Region, China were awarded internships at MENRIS-ICIMOD for an additional two weeks.



A refresher course on the “**Application of Geo-informatics for Disaster Management**” was organised from 15 to 25 September in collaboration with the International Institute of Geo-information and Earth Sciences (ITC), Netherlands. Altogether, 25 participants from RMCs and the Asia-Pacific region benefited from the training course. ICIMOD signed a MoU with ITC in December 2002 to collaborate and cooperate in capacity building in geo-informatics and the development of its application to the mountain environment. This course was supported by the NUFFIC programme of the Dutch Government through ITC.

National Training Course

GIS Training in CSK University, Palampur

A two-week training course on “**GIS for Agricultural Land Use Management Using ArcGIS**” was conducted from 12-23 May 2003 at CSK Himanchal Pradesh Agricultural University, India. Sushil Pradhan and Birendra Bajracharya from MENRIS carried out the training, while the co-financing for the training was mobilised through CSK Agriculture University. Thirteen participants from CSK University and four from neighbouring institutions attended the training.



Awarding certificates to the trainers

File photo

A regional training course on **GIS/ RS for Resources Management** was conducted jointly with the National Centre of Excellence in Geology (NCEG), the University of Peshawar, and ICIMOD. The course took place from 1-13 September 2003 in Swat, Pakistan. The training was organised for self-paying participants from different organisations in Pakistan with all the logistics being managed by NCEG. ICIMOD provided resource persons and training materials, and the cost of four participants from Afghanistan. Thirty participants from different professional backgrounds took part, including nine from NCEG and other institutions in Pakistan and Afghanistan - this being the first time that participants from Afghanistan have been included in ICIMOD's GIS training programme. The training was conducted using ArcGIS software and the course included lectures, hands-on exercises, and group project work. The closing session was organised at the NCEG conference hall in Peshawar and was chaired by the Vice Chancellor of Peshawar University, who also presented certificates to the participants. Presentations were made on GIS activities at ICIMOD and the Mountain GIS Portal during the closing ceremony.

A ten-day training course on the **Application of Geo-informatics for Water Resources Management** was jointly organised by LGED, Global Water Partnership - South Asia and ICIMOD, and was conducted in Dhaka from 3-14 November. The objective of the training course was to extend a thorough understanding of the proper application of geo-informatics to water resources management. As geo-information is an evolving technology, its new concepts, new data model and new products will help to solve many of the problems relating to water resources. In the context of Bangladesh, the subject is important for exploring the huge potential for harnessing the country's water resources.

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Interview with Toshiyuki Hageshita, JICA

Toshiyuki Hageshita, from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was a Visiting Associate Scientist at ICIMOD from 13 September 2003 to 7 February 2004 under an agreement between JICA and ICIMOD.

Mr. Hageshita's mission was to learn about the principles, approaches, and methodologies of Participatory Learning Approaches (PLA) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in upland extension interventions. He observed these tools being applied under the IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)-supported North East Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCRMP) in Meghalaya, India. He also gained insight into the application of PRA and Appreciative Participatory Planning Action (APPA) methods in community mobilisation and planning of rural development activities within the project area.

Mr. Hageshita (who speaks fluent Nepali) was interviewed just before the completion of his term at ICIMOD.



T. Hageshita among villagers in Tura, Meghalaya

Where did you go during the ICIMOD-sponsored training?

I was in Kathmandu from 13 to 30 September, where I learned about the techniques of making a participatory 3-model at the Godawari Training Centre. From 1 October until 22 January I was in India, where I stayed with the IFAD-supported North East Region Community Resource Management Project, West Garo Hills District Support Team, Tura, Meghalaya. From 23 January I have been here at ICIMOD to carry out data analysis, report writing, and PRA training.

What lessons and skills did you learn? How can you use these in the future?

After learning more about the PRA and PLA approaches I am confident that I will be able to carry out agricultural extension work even more effectively, not only in Nepal, but also in other countries. I took a class previously in Japan on PRA and PLA, but simply learning about them in a classroom setting was of no use. One needs to have relevant field exposure to truly understand the whole approach, which I was able to do with the West Garo Hills District Support Team in Tura. I was able to observe very closely the villagers at work with the project staff carrying out social mapping, matrix ranking, and other PRA tools.

Having spent time in the field with ICIMOD's partners, can you give us some feedback on our programmes?

Seven other non-governmental organisations are involved with the West Garo Hills District Support Team. I found the project staff very helpful and patient while explaining the aspects of these tools to the villagers. Both PRA and PLA are popular approaches, but I had never actually seen them applied at the ground level until I came to observe them at work in NERCRMP. Community mobilisation is very good in NERCRMP, and due to the project staff's careful explanation, the villagers understand the importance of using these tools.

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MENRIS Database Catalogue

The databases at MENRIS continue to grow, developed through project activities or acquired through different outside sources. A systematic approach has been taken to cataloguing the GIS database, image database, and map database.

GIS database catalogue: An integrated data catalogue has been maintained for all the available GIS datasets for easy access and retrieval through standard metadata for the HKH region. The catalogue is maintained in the MS SQL format and can be accessed through the Mountain GIS Portal.

Image catalogue: The utility of satellite images is continually expanding, hence the image database size is always growing. A catalogue system has been designed in MS Access to hold all the necessary information about the satellite image with a 'quick look' facility. The aim is to have the system serve as the metadata for the satellite image database. It will be integrated into the Mountain GIS Portal.

Map catalogue: A system has been devised to systematically archive the maps produced by ICIMOD. This electronically-based map cataloguing system with an easy-to-use interface and a capability to search the map database is available through the Mountain GIS Portal.

The Digital Review of Asia Pacific

MENRIS has contributed to the research and writing of the chapter on Nepal for the, "Digital Review of Asia Pacific". This is a publication that aims to report on the state-of-practice of ICTs in the region, on the innovative ways that new technologies are being deployed to advance the socioeconomic development of Asia-Pacific countries, and on emerging attempts to transform the digital divide into digital opportunities. The publication contains reports from all ICIMOD member countries. It was supported by UNDP-APDIP, IDRC, and UNESCO Chairs in Communication - ORBICOM - and can also be viewed at <http://www.digital-review.org/>

Central Asian Team Visit

With the support of UNEP, a GIS site has recently been established in Kyrgyzstan. Officials from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan visited ICIMOD from 20-25 October to build the foundation for extended collaboration with ICIMOD in future. The Central Asian Team, along with Surendra Shrestha from UNEP, held a closed meeting with each of ICIMOD's programmes to discuss future collaborations.

Developing Country Pages with GIS Resources

A 'country page' or national geographic information framework has also been set up providing components on data, applications, training, and other resources. National partner institutions will work together to collect and collate data, metadata, applications, and information on other GIS-related activities within their country. Using the available datasets in the public domain, and working in close collaboration with various national institutions, the geographic information on member countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan have been integrated. These are being tested and made available through the portal.



Mountain GIS Portal

First International Mountain Day

ICIMOD took part in the first ever celebration of International Mountain Day (IMD) on 11 December 2003, and participated in a two-day exhibition which ran from 11-12 December at the Birendra International Centre Convention Hall. The exhibition was organised by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation/HMG. ICIMOD was one of the co-sponsors of this event. The exhibition was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Paras Bir Bikram Shah, amid a function which also included the giving of cash prizes to an organisation and individuals for their contribution to the fields of environment and conservation.

With the theme, "Mountains: Source of Freshwater", the exhibition focussed on mountain development and a review of contributions made by various organisations, both in the government and non-governmental sector, mainly in technology, ecology, culture, and in the livelihoods of mountain areas. ICIMOD emphasised its water-related issues under the Water, Hazards and Environmental Management (WHEM) Programme.

The overall objective of International Mountain Day was to follow up on the activities of the International Year of Mountains 2002, raise greater awareness among mountain development partners, share experiences, and explore opportunities for sustainable mountain development.

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Outreach: Exhibitions and Fairs

1. 7th Nepal Education & Book Fair 2003, 9-17 May 2003, Kathmandu, Nepal
2. World Environment Day, 5-7 June 2003, Kathmandu, Nepal
3. Tri-Chandra Book Fair, 31 July to 4 August 2003, Kathmandu, Nepal
4. SAARC Book Fair, August 20, 2003, New Delhi, India
5. A Book Exhibition-cum-sale at the regional workshop on Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM), 4-7 November 2003, Lobaysa, Bhutan
6. International Mountain Day Exhibition, 11-12 December 2003, Kathmandu, Nepal

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)

Date	Partner Institution	Country	Level	Purpose
30 May '03	GWP-South Asia Regional Water Partnership	Bangladesh	Project	To promote data and information sharing in the water sector and to build the capacity of various organisations in the region in water resources data management
19 May '03	SNV/Nepal	Nepal	Project	For the joint study of socioeconomic indicators of development
15 May '03	International Potato Centre (CIP)	Lima, Peru	Project	To implement the collaborative project, "Prototyping Eco-regional Analyses: Tools to Improve Science-based Decision Making in Research and Development".
18 June '03	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Bhutan	Country	Collaboration during ICIMOD's Medium Term Action Plan (2003-2007)
5 Aug '03	Sichuan Grassland Institute	China	Action Initiative	Collaboration on Regional Rangeland Programme - Phase II
5 June '03	Intermediate Technology Development Group	Nepal	Project	Feasibility study of gravity ropeway in Dhading district
26 June '03	Himal Association	Nepal	Project	To prepare four films on Mountain Culture and Natural Resources
27 June '03	ForestAction Group	Nepal	Project	Publication of case studies on management of common property resources
10 July '03	Department of Energy	Bhutan	Project	National Consultation on regional flood information system
10 July '03	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	Afghanistan	Project	Documentation on Status of Natural Resources of Afghanistan
13 Sep '03	China Meteorological Administration	China	Project	National Consultation on regional flood information system
11 Oct '03	Tibet Academy of Agriculture and Animal Husbandary Sciences	China	Project	Review, edit, and publish the GIS manuals in Chinese
15 Oct '03	Bangladesh Water Development Board/ Danish Hydraulic Institute	Bangladesh	Project	National Consultation on Regional Flood Information System
12 Nov '03	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	Afghanistan	Project	Documentation on Rangeland Management Status of Afghanistan
21 Nov '03	South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & the Environment	Nepal	Project	Advocacy campaign on the issue of farmers' rights at the international level
28 Nov '03	Forum for Women, Law and Development	Nepal	Project	Documentation of existing policies, legislation, customary practices, and formal acts on property rights governing the lives of indigenous mountain people and women in the HKH
28 Nov '03	Ministry of Agriculture	Bhutan	Project	Status report on Cordyceps Sinensis - a high value medicinal plant
09 Dec '03	The Ecological Foundation of India	India	Project	Produce the report, 'Using Virtual Water for Developing a Framework for Sustainable Farming Systems in the Mountains'
23 Dec '03	Worldlink Technologies	Nepal	Project	Prepare an operational prototype of the "Knowledge Inventory"

Selected Staff Movements (Major Workshops/Conferences/Trainings)

Name/Date	Workshop, Conference, Training
BANGLADESH	
C. N. Anil/Aug.	Appreciative Participatory Planning Action (APPA) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) training, Kagrachari, Rangamati
B. Banmali/Oct.	Network Meeting and Regional Stakeholder Workshop on Male Declaration, Dhaka
P. Tshering/Oct.	Regional planning workshop on capacity building of advocacy for CBOS in the AKT, Chittagong
B. Bhadra, J. Liu & M. Shrestha/Oct.	Bangladesh Consultation Meeting, "The Establishment of a Regional Flood Information System in the HKH Region", Dhaka
S. Pradhan & L. Rajbhandari/Nov.	Training on, "Geo-information for Water Resources Management", Dhaka
N. R. Subedi/Nov	Regional planning workshop for, "Capacity Building of Community Based Organisations in Advocacy Strategies in the HKH", Chittagong
BHUTAN	
M. Shrestha, G. N. Paudyal/July	National Consultation in Bhutan to establish a regional flood Initiative, Thimphu
P. Tshering/July	Training of Trainers Programme, Paro, Thimphu
C. N. Anil/Aug.	Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Training, Thimphu
Y. Zhaoli, N. Ghale, B. Bajracharya/Nov.	Training of trainers on rangeland co-management, Bumthang, <i>Paper Presented:</i> Brief overview of the Regional Rangeland Programme Phase I & II, Rangeland health assessment, theoretic and methodology
C. N. Anil/Nov.	Training of trainers on rangeland co-management, <i>Paper presented</i> APPA and P3DM (Participatory Three Dimensional Model Training)', Bumthang
S. Rai/Nov	Task force meeting, Phuntsholing
J. G. Campbell, E. Sharma, P. Gyamtsho, E. Kerkhoff, D. Chaudhary, N. Chettri & A. K. Thaku/Nov	Community Based Natural Resources Management Workshop, Lobeysa <i>Paper presented by P Gyamtsho:</i> ICIMOD's Regional Rangeland Programme: Promoting co-management of vital resources in the HKH region. <i>Paper presented by E. Sharma & N. Chettri:</i> Participatory Biodiversity Management Practices in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas: Lessons and Challenges. Regional Conference on Community Based Natural Resources Management
CHINA	
J. Liu/August	GEF-SEPA Workshop, Beijing
J. G. Campbell & M. Shrestha/Sept	Floods National Consultation, Beijing
INDIA	
S. Pradhan, P. Mool, B. Bajracharya/May	GIS Training, "GIS for Agricultural Land Use Management Using ArcGIS", in CSK Himachal Agriculture University, CSKHPAU, Palampur
N. Chettri/May	Workshop, "The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment", Darjeeling, <i>Paper presented:</i> 'Natural Resources and their Ecological Services: A Fact File from the Indian Himalayas?'

K. Banskota/June	Workshop, "Training of Trainers", and "Think Global Act Local" meeting, Nainital & Shimla
N. S. Jodha/June	Planning and Review Meeting, "Evaluation of Drought Relief Impacts", New Delhi. <i>Paper presented:</i> Review and comments on USAID's document on the Relief Programme in Rajasthan, India
N. Chettri/June	Conduct Naturalist, Guide Training for TMI and SLC, Ladakh
N. Chettri/June	"A Regional Workshop on Critical Ecosystem Partnership", Gangtok
E. Sharma, N Chettri,	Stakeholders Consultation on Planning and Improvement of Corridors between Protected Areas within Khanchenjunga Landscape,
E. Kerkhoff, B. Bajracharya,	Darjeeling
R. Acharya/July	
A. Sabharwal/July	To attend the 11th Colloquium of International Association of Ladakh studies (IALS), Leh, Ladakh and meet potential stakeholders.
N. S. Jodha/Aug.	Workshop, "Conversation between Economists and Anthropologists-II", New Delhi & Goa.
	<i>Paper Presented:</i> Methodologies for Studying Common Property Resources.
S. Rai/Sept.	To conduct a state-level workshop under CEGG programme in Shillong and reconnaissance visit to Nagaland, Northeast India
A. Sabharwal/Sept.	To participate in two workshops, meeting with Equations and Winrock International, Delhi, and to finalise the tourism consultation meeting, New Delhi
S. Shrestha/Oct.	Gender and Social Analysis Training, Shillong
S. Bajracharya/Nov.	Training, "Inventory of Glaciers and Glacial Lakes and the Identification of Potential Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) Affected by Global Warming in the Mountains of Himalayan Region", Himachal Pradesh, India, CSKHPAU, Palampur
P. Tshering/Nov.	Workshop, "Woman's Empowerment in the Context of Local Government in India: An Assessment", New Delhi
K. Banskota/Nov.	Workshop and training - Kyoto Project, Nainital & Shimla
E. Kerkhoff &	National Seminar on Organic Farming for Indian Mountain States, Delhi. <i>Paper presented by Dyutiman:</i> "Permaculture and Certification - The Case of Nepal".
D. Chaudhary/Nov.	

NEPAL

J. G. Campbell, J. Liu, & N. Chettri/May	A Regional Workshop on Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Godawari
P. Gyamtsho/May	"Promotion of Appropriate Policies for Sustainable Mountain Development in the HKH Region", Kathmandu
J. Merz/May	Cross Watershed Analysis in Water and Erosion Studies, Kathmandu
J. G. Campbell, G. Rana,	Namche Conference, Namche Bazaar. <i>Paper presented by P. Gyamtsho:</i> "The Future of Livestock in the High Himalayan Ecosystem"
P. Gyamtsho, S. Sharma,	<i>Paper presented by A. Sabharwal:</i> Revisiting Ecotourism in the High Altitude Regions of the Himalayas.
U. Sherchan, A. Sabharwal/May	
S. R. Joshi/June	To facilitate action research programme and assess the impact of beekeeping training, Jumla, Urthu, Patmara, Riya
A. N. Shukla/June	Training on <i>Apis Cerana</i> beekeeping and management, Tansen
A. Toda/July	IFAD Programme Coordinators' Review and Planning Workshop, Kathmandu
P. Mool/July	"Inventory of Glaciers and Glacial Lakes and the Identification of Potential Glacial Lake Outburst Flow", Kathmandu
B. Shrestha, S. Rai/Aug.	Regional Workshop, "Equity & Poverty in Common Property Resources in the Hindu Kush- Himalayan Region", Kathmandu
J. Liu/Aug.	"Wetland Conservation and Wise Use in the Himalayan High Mountains", Kathmandu
R. White/Nov.	Workshop, "Preparing the Next Generation of Watershed Management Programmes", Kathmandu
P. Mool/Nov.	"Institutionalisation of Geo- information for Urban Disaster Management", in collaboration with ITC-The Netherlands, NSET, ADPC and ICIMOD, Kathmandu
A. N. Shukla/Nov.	To conduct training on <i>Apis Cerana</i> beekeeping and management, Dhunkuta, Biratnagar
G. Rana/Nov.	GTZ Workshop: "Creating a Common Understanding of IKM and Networking", Kathmandu
M. B. Gurung	Training on Honey and Beeswax, Nepalgunj

PAKISTAN

R. White & P. B. Shah/June	PARDYP Farmers' Day, Peshawar
S. Pradhan & B. Bajracharya/Sept.	GIS training on, "GIS/ RS for Resources Management", University of Peshawar
S. Bajracharya/Oct.	To give on-the-job training to the staff of the Water Resource and Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Centre of Islamabad, and to develop the database of glaciers and glacial lakes of the Upper Indus basin in Pakistan, using geographic information systems and remote sensing of APN 2003-05 GLOF Project in Pakistan
J. G. Campbell, P. Tshering/Dec	AKRSP Conference, Islamabad

GLOBAL

J. G. Campbell/May	Mountain Forum Board Meeting, Europe
F. Ahmad & U Partap/May	Pollinator Conservation Workshop, South Africa. <i>Paper Presented:</i> Beekeeping and Rural Development
U. Sherchan/May	Mountain Forum Node Managers' meeting, Chambéry, France
L. Montgomery/May	Annual meeting of MF Board of Directors and Node Manager, other meeting with FAO and donors, representing EMF at Annual Meeting of GKP, meetings with TMI/GISN staff, France, Italy, USA
N. S. Jodha/June	Participation in workshop on IFAD Agricultural Research Strategy, Italy, Rome, <i>Paper presented:</i> Review of Report on IFAD Strategies for Supporting Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
P. Tulachan/June	Participated and presented a paper at international symposium, "Animal Production and Natural Resources Utilisation in the Mediterranean Mountains", Greece
E. Sharma/June	Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, Trondheim, Norway. <i>Paper presented by E. Sharma & N. Chettri:</i> "Sustainable Biodiversity Management Practices in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas." In Proceedings of the Norway/UN Conference on Technology Transfer and Capacity Building of CBD, edited by Odd Terje Sandlund and Peter Johan Schei, Trondheim
K. Banskota/July	Meeting, "Think Global Act Local", Tanzania
A. Sabharwal/July	International Conference, 'Politics of Commons- Articulating Development and Strengthening Local Practices', Chiang Mai, Thailand
E. Sharma/July	<i>Paper presented:</i> "Local Communities' Mountain Commons in Ecotourism", "Local Voices in Global Markets." (Panel session)
M. Shrestha/July	Meeting of an Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Mountain Biodiversity, Rome
B. Shrestha, P Mool/July	The International Association of Hydrological Science (IAHS), Japan
L. Rajbhandari/Aug.	23rd Annual ESRI International User Conference in San Diego and to visit a number of US-based organisations to strengthen ties for a collaborative programme and support for current and future MENRIS programmes San Diego, Flagstaff, Sioux Falls, Washington & New York
W. Immerzeel/Aug.	Training programme, "Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Data Potential and Application", AIT, Bangkok, Thailand
E. Sharma, N. Chettri/Sept.	Workshop organised by IWMI for the preparation of a full research proposal for the Challenge "Water for Food" Programme, Colombo, Sri Lanka
J. G. Campbell	World Park Congress, South Africa
L. Montgomery/ Oct.	Meeting on International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions and meeting with donors, Italy & Switzerland
R. White/Oct.	Planning meeting on Mountain Partnership and orientation from GISN for new secretariat staff, Italy & USA
B. Banmali/Nov.	FAO workshop, "Designing the Next Generation of Watershed Management", Italy
J. Pradhan Bhuktan/Nov.	Advanced International Training Programme on Air Pollution Management & Technology, Sweden
F. Ahmad & U. Partap/Nov.	The Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Mountain Forum, Nairobi
	Sao Paulo Plus 5 Workshop on Pollinators as part of GEF project, Sao Paulo, Brazil.
B. Dongol/Nov.	<i>Join paper presented:</i> 1. "Status of Pollinator Research & Development in the HKH Region" 2. "The Role of IT in Pollinator Research and Development" International workshops to exchange experiences on water resources of mountain areas, Martigny, Switzerland, <i>Paper presented:</i> PARDYP project and its activities.
N. S. Jodha/Nov.	Workshop, "Global Change Research", by UNESCO MAB, Zurich, Switzerland
B. Shrestha/Nov.	International Conference on Mountains as Water Towers, Canada. <i>Paper presented:</i> "Emerging Issues, Challenges, and Options in the Intensively Used Middle Mountain Watershed in Nepal"
J. Liu/Nov.	2nd AEIS workshop, "Integrated Tourism Monitoring of Asia Pacific", Sydney, Australia
V. Khadgi/Nov.	"Spread the World", Thailand

Recent ICIMOD Publications

Major documents published between May and December 2003 are shown below with abstracts. The three prices quoted for each publication are applicable to Developed Countries, Developing Countries, and ICIMOD's Regional Member Countries respectively and include p&p. They are available without p&p at the centre itself. For institutions actively involved in sustainable development of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, relevant publications can be provided free of charge. Order on-line (see below) or from the Distribution Officer <distri@icimod.org.np>.

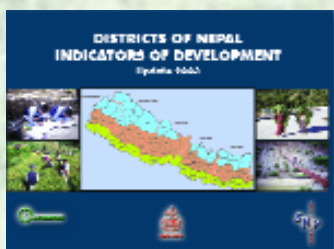


Mapping Nepal Census Indicators 2001 and Trends (Book + CD-ROM) (2003) 320 pp. ISBN 92-9115-782-1 (book), ISBN 92-9115-829-1 (CD-ROM) Price of each separately: \$40, \$35, \$20

Price: book plus CD-ROM: \$60, \$52, \$30

This atlas of the socioeconomic indicators of Nepal is the outcome of a collaboration between ICIMOD and Nepal's Central Bureau of Statistics, supported by SNV-Nepal. Different socioeconomic indicators were abstracted at the district level from data gathered under the National Population Census of Nepal held in June 2001, supplemented by other relevant sources. The indicators are presented district-wise in the form of thematic maps grouped under eight headings (population, economic activity, infrastructure, health and environment, education, children, gender, and agriculture). Trend analyses were also prepared for selected indicators based on the census data from four consecutive censuses and presented in maps to indicate changes over a forty-year period. The companion interactive multimedia CD-ROM contains all the indicators shown in the atlas in the form of maps, together with simple geographic information system (GIS) functionalities that allow the user to browse, query, and prepare different graphical representations, and also allows users the flexibility to add customised indicators.

This book should prove useful to those in policy making, planning, and development who work at the district and national level and who need to use socioeconomic indicators in their work. It should also be helpful to development practitioners in general, researchers and students, and the public at large.



Districts of Nepal: Indicators of Development 2001 (2003) 108 pp. ISBN 92-9115-796-1 Price: \$20, \$15, \$10

In 1997, ICIMOD and Netherlands Development Assistance (SNV-Nepal)

prepared a study entitled Districts of Nepal - Indicators of Development, which provided an assessment of the comparative development status of Nepal's districts and proved very popular. This book presents the results of a recent update of the study, carried out by ICIMOD and Nepal's Central Bureau of Statistics supported by SNV-Nepal, using the data gathered under the Tenth National Population Census held by CBS in June 2001 and supplemented by other relevant data. As in the previous study, districts were classed as belonging to one of three levels of development in terms of a number of primary indicators, and these were then aggregated to provide three major indices, and a single overall development index.

This report provides a useful pointer to the comparative development status of Nepal's districts at present, as well as an indication of the changes that have taken place. It should prove useful to the development community in general, and to policy and decision makers in Nepal in particular, as well as being of interest to a broader audience.



Shrestha, B.; Bajracharya, B.; Pradhan, S.; Rajbhandari, L.
GIS for Municipal Planning: A Case Study from Kirtipur Municipality (2003) 100 pp. (book + CD-ROM) ISBN 92-9115-756-1 (book) ISBN 92-9115-832-1 (CD-ROM) Price of each separately: \$15, \$10, \$7.50. Price: book plus CD-ROM together: \$22, \$15, \$11

This publication presents the background, details, and results of a case study of Kirtipur Municipality, Kathmandu District, Nepal, prepared as a practical example to show the potential for using geographic information systems (GIS) as a tool to support municipal planning and decision-making processes. The general information requirements for municipal planning are discussed, and the design and development of the database described. Base data sets were prepared, verified, and supplemented with information from a high-resolution satellite image and aerial photographs. The results are presented in the form of thematic maps, ward maps, and maps of land use and land cover change. The GIS approach offers major advantages over static mapping. The present limitations tend to reflect organisational challenges more than technical difficulties and the study underlines the need to develop the capacity of municipalities. The book should prove useful to all those interested in applying GIS in urban planning, as well as to those interested in the process of urbanisation and urban planning per se in Nepal.

The companion interactive multi-media CD-ROM contains a pdf file of the publication together with all the data sets, associated metadata, maps, and reports used in the study, integrated with a simple GIS functionality that allows the user to explore the use of GIS and overlay different combinations of attributes.



Integrating Mountain Culture and Natural Resource: An E-conference (Partnership Platforms, 4/03) (2003) 45 pp. ISBN 92-9115-748-1 Price: \$10, \$7, \$5

This book presents the results of an e-conference, "Integrating Mountain Culture and Natural Resource Management", held by ICIMOD and The Mountain Institute as a planning event for the International Year of Mountains 2002. The e-conference brought together 80 participants from all over the world to promote awareness and

understanding of the urgent need to integrate culture with sustainable natural resource management in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. The contributions to the month-long conference are summarised under four broad headings: Conceptual Issues, Challenges and Responses, Ethics, and Which Way Ahead. They include issues such as the influence of 'developer culture' on decision making for local mountain communities, the need for alternative mechanisms of mountain development, gender discrimination and the need for special arrangements to elicit women's knowledge and viewpoints, and the need to frame policies that can integrate culture and natural resource management.

This book will be of interest to all those concerned with natural resource management and mountain development. It is hoped that sharing the results of this conference with a broader audience will support the discussion and debate that can promote the emergence of development planning in partnership with local communities.



Regional Cooperation for Flood Disaster Mitigation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region: Report of the 2nd High Level Consultative Meeting on Establishment of a Regional Flood Information System, March 10-13, 2003, Kathmandu, Nepal (Partnership Platforms, 3/03) (main volume + supplementary volume) (2003) 67 pp. and 96 pp. ISBN 92-9115-734-1 (Main Volume) ISBN 92-9115-779-1 (Supplementary Volume) Price (separately): \$10, \$7, \$5

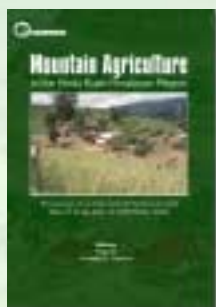
A long-term project aimed at establishing a regional flood information system to reduce flood vulnerability and minimise the negative impacts of floods in the HKH and its downstream plains areas has recently been initiated. This book presents the outcomes of the most

recent meeting held in March 2003 in Kathmandu, Nepal - organised by ICIMOD and WMO, co-hosted by Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), and co-sponsored by the USDS Regional Environment Office for South Asia and the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. The main volume provides background information on the project, short summaries of the presentations at the technical conference that preceded the meeting, and a brief account of the presentations. The results of the discussions of the draft project document and issues related to the project implementation are also included. The action plan is presented in the annexes together with background material gathered from the preceding meetings and consultations. The twelve technical presentations by international and regional technical experts on flood forecasting and information exchange papers are published in full in the supplementary volume.



Celebrating Mountain Women: A Report on a Global Gathering in Bhutan (Partnership Platforms 2/03) (2003) 61 pp. ISBN 92-9115-720-1 Price: \$10, \$7, \$5

Women all over the world must still fight to be accepted as equals, to have their values recognised as relevant, and to overcome the multiple burdens of home and employment. Mountain women are further challenged in that they belong to societies that are already marginalised and are often cut off from mainstream society. In 2002, the International Year of Mountains, mountain women and men met together at a global gathering called Celebrating Mountain Women (CMW), held in Bhutan, to celebrate the drive and spirit of mountain women, discuss the critical issues, and search for new ways forward. This publication summarises the background, discussions, findings, and outcomes of CMW. It is divided into three chapters followed by a bibliography. The first and last chapters describe the background and organisation, the various materials produced, and the way forward. The central chapter looks at the issues, research, and policy needs, and recommended actions identified during the discussions on the five major themes: natural resources and the environment; health and well-being; entrepreneurship; legal, political, and human rights; and culture and indigenous knowledge.



Tang Ya; Tulachan, P. M. (eds.) **Mountain Agriculture in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region: Proceedings of an International Symposium**, 21-24 May 2001, Kathmandu, Nepal (2003) 276 pp. ISBN 92-9115-717-1 Price: \$20, \$15, \$10

Farmers in the HKH region are faced with the challenge of how to find ways of increasing the total value (and volume) of products to meet the needs and expectations of the present and future population whilst avoiding environmental degradation and ensuring that resources are maintained for future generations. Options, potential solutions, and constraints for sedentary agriculture were discussed at the International Symposium on Mountain Agriculture in the HKH, organised by ICIMOD in May 2001. The presentations at the conference are brought together in this publication, loosely organised under six broad thematic topics: issues in mountain agriculture in the HKH; technologies for improving the productivity of mountain agriculture; opportunities and options for income generation and transition; issues of marginal farms and potential for development; gender, empowerment and community approaches; and institutional strategies for improving mountain farming. This publication will provide a valuable source of information for all those working for mountain development, particularly mountain agriculture, in the HKH and other regions.

ICIMOD publications on-line – order direct at
<http://www.icimod.org/publications/pubmenu.htm>
<http://www.panasia.org.sg/mos/icimod.htm>
<http://www.earthprint.com/icimod>



Ahal, R. **The Politics of Cooperative Forest Management: The Kangra Experience, Himachal Pradesh** (Talking Points, 3/02) Lang: Hindi, (2003) 124 pp. ISBN 92-9115-801-1 Price: \$10, \$7, \$5

Participatory forest management (PFM) has emerged as a successful strategy in almost all countries in the HKH region. One of the earliest recorded examples of an attempt to formally involve communities in forest management was the introduction of the Kangra Forest Cooperative Societies (KFCS) in 1940 in Kangra District, now in Himachal Pradesh (HP), India. This paper examines the KFCS, providing a historical overview, reviewing past processes and milestones, and discussing the current problematic situation. Before attempting to look for solutions, the author analyses the roles played and positions taken by the various actors, and reviews the recent history of PFM in Himachal Pradesh. The history of the Kangra cooperatives provides fascinating lessons for community forestry today on what does and doesn't work - and why. Many fundamental changes are suggested. The ideas are not only relevant for decisions now being taken in Himachal Pradesh, they also provide insights that will be useful to foresters and policy makers across the region. This is a thought provoking document, and we hope it will stimulate discussion - and action - that will help facilitate the success of community forestry across the region.

Videos and VCDs

Four Films on Culture and Natural Resources Management Price: (video, each): \$20, \$15, \$10 Price (VCD, each): \$15, \$10, \$7.50

In 2002, ICIMOD and The Mountain Institute (TMI) commissioned Himal Association in Kathmandu to ask filmmakers from South Asia to submit proposals for making films on culture and natural resources management in the HKH region. A committee of representatives from ICIMOD, TMI, and Himal Association selected four out of forty proposals on the basis of the strength of the proposal, the background of the filmmakers, and geographical diversity. These four films were then commissioned with a grant from The Ford Foundation, New Delhi, India.

With amazing visuals from the mountains, these four films tell compelling stories of people caught between war and peace, the pressure placed on limited natural resources by a growing population, people at the crossroads of tradition and modernity, and the convergence of traditional practices and modern laws in mountain communities.



Dzumsa: Traditional Natural Resources Management in Sikkim, India India, 26 min, English. (2002) Directed by Sushmita Basnet

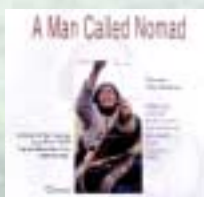
Lachung and Lachen are two unique villages in the remote alpine regions of North Sikkim. As a result of their relative isolation they have developed a highly effective form of self-governance over the centuries, which not only regulates the villages' social life, but is also instrumental in maintaining a balance with nature. It is clear that survival in the mountains is intricately linked with nature; and the villagers' prudent

realisation that unless strictly regulated, the bounty of nature will disappear ensures that the villagers implement the rules rigorously.



Impact of War on Afghanistan's Environment: Twenty-three Years of War has Created an Environmental Nightmare Afghanistan, 25 min, English (also available in Dari). (2002) Directed by Kabir Khan

After two-and-a-half decades of communist revolution, Soviet occupation and civil war in which 1.5 million people died, Afghanistan is now facing a crippling environmental disaster. But political and security issues dominate the headlines now and little is being said about Afghanistan's environment. The more than 10 million landmines buried in Afghan soil, the millions of returning refugees, and the years of drought in Afghanistan have created an environmental nightmare.



A Man Called Nomad China, 38 min, English (also available in Mandarin). (2002) Directed by Alex Gabbay

A Man Called Nomad is the story of a man trying to adjust to the shifting realities of the modern world and working out how to retain a sense of place within his family as fences begin to cross the once-open plains of the Tibetan Plateau, which for generations has provided ample grazing for his people's yak herds. Looking into the life of a 30-year-old Choegatar, father, and provider, we are invited into a world where the temptations of the town intrude. Synthetic fibre is replacing wool, and a man needs capital. This is an honest portrayal of a life changing, all against the backdrop of unrivalled personal and natural beauty. This film received several awards in international film festivals (see page 33)



Timber to Tibet: Trees from Nepal for Food from Tibet

Nepal, 28 min, English. (2002) Directed by Mohan Mainali

The people of Bhotkhola in northern Nepal believe that Bhotkhola was tucked away among the mountains by the gods so that it would not be disturbed. That is why, they say, it should be preserved and protected from human defilement. But the people have begun destroying trees that take a hundred and fifty years to mature. Caravans carrying timber to Tibet and bringing back foodstuffs to Nepal are a common sight all over Bhotkhola. This film deals with the contrast between the pro-conservationist tradition of the people and their compulsion to cut down a priceless Himalayan forest, which will not regenerate once gone.



Catalogue of Publications

January 2003 to January 2004 (with summaries for 2000 to 2002)

Natural Resources Management (NRM)



Dr. Yan Zhaoli, Regional Officer - Rangelands

Dr. Zhaoli has a Ph.D. in Restoration Ecology from the Chengdu Institute of Biology, where, prior to joining ICIMOD, she was Assistant Professor of Ecology. Her research work since 1991 has been focussed on rangeland

ecology and management, wetlands restoration, and gender balance and development.



Dr. Sanjeev Bhuchar, Assistant Programme Coordinator (PARDYP)

Dr. Bhuchar holds a Master's degree in Forest Ecology and a Ph.D. (Botany) from Kumaun University, Nainital (India), and has spent several years conducting action research on social forestry issues in PARDYP's Indian watersheds.

Agriculture & Rural Income Diversification (ARID)



Dr. Stephen D. Biggs, Visiting Scientist

Dr. Biggs is a Professorial Research Fellow with the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. He holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics and brings with him over 30 years of experience and

analysis of working as a social scientist within technology and natural resources innovation systems with several years in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Bhutan. He has extensive experience of working with international research organisations and CGIAR Centres, including providing consultancy services. He has several publications to his credit, both national and international.

Policy & Partnership Development (PPD)



Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Division Head, Policy & Partnership Development, Agricultural Research Policy Specialist

Dr. Gyamtsho joined ICIMOD in November 2002 as an Agricultural Resources Policy Specialist. He has a Ph.D. in Natural Sciences from the

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, and an M. Agr.Sc. from Lincoln University, New Zealand. Prior to joining ICIMOD, he was Deputy Secretary in charge of policy and planning in the Ministry of Agriculture, the Royal Government of Bhutan. Besides his long experience in planning and policy development, Dr. Gyamtsho has worked as a researcher and project manager. He already has a long association with ICIMOD, having attended many of its Board and Support Group Meetings over the last decade.

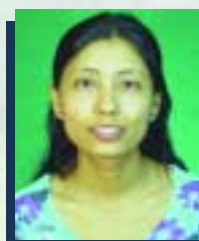
Ms. Srabani Roy, Programme & Project Development Specialist



Ms. Roy has a Master's degree in Energy and Environmental Studies from Boston University and a Bachelor's degree in Geology from Beloit College in the US. For the past seven years she has worked as an environmental analyst with Abt Associates Inc. in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, a social policy consulting firm that works both in the US and internationally. As part of the Environmental Research Area of Abt Associates, she managed several large multi-year projects, including the US Toxic Release Inventory Program Annual Report. In her spare time, Ms. Roy also worked as a freelance reporter for the local newspaper in Cambridge, The Cambridge Chronicle. Ms. Roy will be responsible for managing ICIMOD's programme development and fundraising efforts.

Ms. Mamata Shrestha

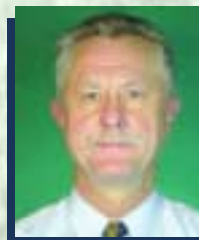
Administration and Research Assistant



Ms. Shrestha initially joined ICIMOD as an intern with the IFAD/ICIMOD programme in March 2002. She has a double Master's degree in Sociology and Statistics from TU, Kathmandu. She was appointed to her new position through an internal recruitment process.

Integrated Knowledge Management (IKM)

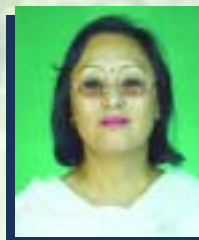
Dr. Zbigniew Mikolajuk, Senior Knowledge Management Specialist



Dr. Mikolajuk, with a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Warsaw Technical University, has over 25 years of experience in information technology and interdisciplinary research project management, including academic research and teaching, private industry, commercial software development, and international project planning and management in over 20 countries. He was Senior Programme Specialist at IDRC prior to joining ICIMOD. His recent projects include a project on the eradication of poverty and knowledge sharing at the grass roots level in several developing countries, including Africa, Central Asia, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Central and Eastern Europe. He is also involved in global initiatives in the ICT sector, such as infoDev and the Global Knowledge Partnership of the World Bank, ENRAP/IFAD. Dr. Mikolajuk has authored and co-authored 31 publications.

Information, Management, Communications and Outreach (IMCO)

Ms. Nira Gurung-Burathoki
Communications Officer, IMCO



Ms. Gurung-Burathoki was one of the first members of the administrative staff who joined ICIMOD during its establishment phase in early 1983. She

has served in different administrative capacities during this time, such as Executive Secretary to the Directorate, Training Officer, and Distribution Officer prior to assuming her recent position as Communications Officer. Ms. Gurung-Burathoki has a Bachelor's degree in Education.

Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information Systems (MENRIS)



Ms. Mandakini Bhatta
Web Assistant, MENRIS

Ms. Bhatta initially joined ICIMOD as an intern with MENRIS/IKM in August 2002. Holding an MBA from the Kathmandu University School of Management, she has a special interest in Management of Information Systems.

Ms. Bhatta was appointed to her new position through an internal recruitment process.

Global Mountain Forum



Mr. Prashant Sharma, Information Services Programme Officer

Mr. Sharma holds a Master's degree in Mass Communications and has a strong media background, including TV, radio and documentary production. He recently completed a Master's degree from the School of

Oriental and African Studies, University of London, in Anthropology of Media where his academic work focussed on Internet technologies. Mr. Sharma worked in the private sector and focussed on the use of information and communication technologies in development for several years before joining ICIMOD. Mr. Prashant is an Indian national.

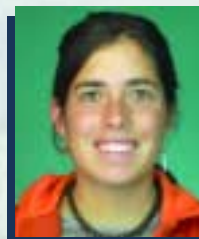


Ms. Celine Curi
Programme Development Officer

Ms. Curi worked with the mountain group at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome for three years prior to joining ICIMOD. She holds a Master's degree in International Management

(sustainable development) focussing on mountain issues. She has relevant professional experience in international organisations and development projects, and brings to the Mountain Forum her excellent language skills in English, Italian, French, and Spanish. Ms. Curi is an Italian citizen of Lebanese descent.

Ms. Ana Agustina Barros
Information Services Programme Assistant



Ms. Barros holds a Master's degree in Environmental Management from Universidad de Congreso, Argentina (2000) and is completing her Master's thesis on wildlife management from Universidad Nacional de Cordoba, Argentina. She has worked for the Conservation Department of Mendoza, participating as an advisor for the Aconcagua and Divisadero Largo Management Plan, a plan for mountain protected areas located in the Andes. She has also participated in some events of the International Year of Mountains, presenting some of the results of her research studies. During early and mid-2003 she worked for The Mountain Institute at the Spruce Knob Mountain Centre, West Virginia, USA, participating in the management plan for Spruce Knob property. Ms. Barros is a national of Argentina.

Mr. Sani Malam Karami
Information Services Programme Assistant



Mr. Karami holds a Master's degree in Administration from the International University of Business, Agriculture, and Technology, Dhaka. Mr. Karami worked and studied in Bangladesh for seven years prior to joining ICIMOD. He has worked as a technical manager responsible for all information systems, including network administration as well as database and website development and maintenance for SPECTRA SN. TEX, a multinational company, and as a website developer for the NGO Partners in Population and Development. Mr. Karami is a national of Niger.

INTERNS

Ms. Kamal Thapa, Natural Resource Management (NRM)

Ms. Gayatri Thapa, Beekeeping Project (ARID)

Ms. Sardu Bajracharya, Water, Hazard and Environmental Management (WHEM)

Interns from Tibetan Autonomous Region (China)

Ms. Xiehui, (NRM)

Mr. Sangbu, (NRM)

Ms. Sonam Yudren, (NRM)

Ms. Benba Drolma, (NRM)



Interns from Tibetan Autonomous Region, China

Narendra Bajracharya

ICIMOD Staff Members

As of March 2004

Directorate

Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, Director General
Dr. Binayak P. Bhadra, Director of Programmes
Mr. Milan Raj Tuladhar, Head, Administration & Finance
Support Staff: Ms. Tika Laxmi Gurung, Ms. Anjeli Shrestha, Ms. Purna Thapa, Mr. Suraj Maharjan

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

Dr. Eklabya Sharma, Senior Agricultural Specialist/Programme Manager
Dr. Pradeep Man Tulachan, Associate Scientist
Ms. Elisabeth E. Kerkhoff, Agroforestry Specialist
Dr. Nakul Chettri, Transboundary & Biodiversity Specialist
Dr. Yan Zhaoli, Rangelands Specialist
Support Staff: Ms. Sami Joshi, Ms. Neetu Ghale
Mr. Suraj Bahadur Thapa, Farm Manager/Horticulturist
Mr. Roger John White, Regional Programme Coordinator, PARDYP
Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Bhuchar, Assistant Programme Coordinator, PARDYP
Mr. Bhubaneswar Shrestha, GIS Specialist, Country Coordinator, PARDYP
Support Staff PARDYP: Mr. Pradeep Man Dangol, Mr. Madhav Prasad Dhakal, Mr. Bhawani Shankar Dangol, Mr. Giri Bahadur Shrestha, Ms. Samma Shakya, Ms. Smita Kumari Shrestha

Agriculture and Rural Income Diversification (ARID)

Dr. Kamal Banskota, Senior Environment Economist/Programme Manager
Dr. Narpal Singh Jodha, Senior Associate Scientist, Policy Analyst
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Ms. Alka Sabharwal, Ecotourism Specialist
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Celebrating ICIMOD's 20th Anniversary

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