

Reports from the Country Offices and Committees

CNICIMOD Secretariat

In 2009, the Chinese Committee on ICIMOD (CNICIMOD) began a project on Geo-surface Processes and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Himalayan Region initiated by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The project aims to gather resources, both at home and through scientists at ICIMOD, to cooperate with ICIMOD's regional member countries on basic research. This would lay the foundation for sustainable management of multilateral resources and international cooperation.

Under the IDRC/ICIMOD 'Human Capacity Development of Afghan Universities' project, CNICIMOD arranged activities for two Afghanistan delegations to visit Sichuan in June and July 2009.

The ICIMOD-CNICIMOD Planning Workshop was held in Chengdu in August 2009. Representatives from ICIMOD and China discussed the implementation plan for ICIMOD's projects in China and put forward constructive suggestions for future work.

The 40th ICIMOD Board Meeting was held in Chengdu on November 2009. CNICIMOD and ICIMOD jointly organised a symposium 'Concerning Mountains and Supporting the Future'. Five presentations introduced current research work on mountains and ICIMOD's development strategy. The CNICIMOD Commission Meeting was also held at the same time. Representatives discussed how to strengthen and enhance the role of CNICIMOD. Both meetings were a great success and CNICIMOD's contribution was highly appreciated.

CNICIMOD received visiting experts from ICIMOD several times. Ms Hu Ying, Secretary of CNICIMOD, went to ICIMOD Headquarters for a six-week familiarisation visit. Dr Fan Jihui from Chengdu Mountain Hazard and Environment Institute participated in ICIMOD's first International Training Course on Participatory Integrated Watershed Management in October 2009.

In 2009, CNICIMOD published two newsletters giving updates on the activities of ICIMOD and CNICIMOD and reporting topical information on mountain research and mountain development.

On December 11, International Mountain Day 2009, CNICIMOD displayed the posters and prepared publications reflecting research work on mountain hazard management and climate change adaptation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

Field visit, Board Meeting 2009





Afghanistan Office

At ICIMOD's Afghanistan office, the year was marked by two key achievements:

- successful implementation of the Afghanistan Biodiversity and Community Forestry (ABCF) programme (2007-2009) supported by USAID,
- preparation of a five-year (2010-14) programme aimed at capacity building of the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) for its overall long-term reform and development strategy as outlined in the National Agriculture Development Framework.

The ABCF programme plan focused on capacity building and implementation. Of eleven sets of activities planned, six were 'fully achieved', four 'partially achieved', and

provided support for two one-month stays of the Capacity Development Officer under HCD-AU; a field study in Badakhshan under RRP; and a national workshop for the Indus Basin project in Kabul with a field visit to Panjsher.

The office also gave continuous support to MAIL, and the natural resource management and rangeland coordination groups. It maintained linkages with existing partners and developed relations with the Parwan and Kapisa Provincial Reconstruction Team; ECODIT Inc.; and Kabul University's Advancing Afghan Agriculture Alliance Project. ICIMOD became a founding member of the Sustainable Land Management Institute.

In August, the Afghan government nominated a new member of the ICIMOD Board, Eng. Mohammad Sharif, the Deputy Minister for natural resource management at MAIL. He participated in the ICIMOD Board meeting in China and visited ICIMOD headquarters on the return journey, supported by the office.

The office is developing a structure to support the institutional mandate efficiently and help develop more country ownership. It is sharing its operational costs among the institutional/liaison agenda and regional programmes, and trying to ensure its longer-term financial sustainability through country programme funding. The office is continuing the ongoing process of office registration for ICIMOD to have a formal status in the country.

Field trip, Panjshir, Afghanistan

only one was 'not achieved.' By June 2009, 235 participants (24% women) were trained on various natural resource management topics through nine sets of tailor-made events at six different provincial centres.

The office supported activities in Afghanistan of ICIMOD's regional programmes including Human Capacity Development of Afghan Universities (HCD-AU); Regional Rangeland Programme (RRP); and Capacity Building for Improved Monitoring of Snow, Ice, and Water Resources in the Indus Basin (Indus Basin). It





Kalasha girl, Chitral, Pakistan

Pakistan Office

In 2009, ICIMOD's Pakistan country office was successful in securing funds from the German government for the project 'Capacity Building for Improved Monitoring of Snow, Ice and Water Resources in the Indus Basin'. It also obtained funds from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the project 'Promoting Climate Change Impact and Adaptation in Asia and the Pacific'.

These two projects will complement each other by conducting a gap-analysis on the state of hydro-meteorological knowledge in the western Himalayas of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and North India. They will also implement ADB's water and hydro-energy project and formulate a practical guide for a mountain glacier and downstream water risk management framework and adaptation.

The projects will build the capacity of the national partners to undertake research on monitoring of snow, ice, and water resources in the Indus Basin and develop future scenarios of water availability. These partners include the Water and Power Development Authority, Pakistan Meteorological Department, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, and the Global Change Impact Study Centre.

A field mission of 15 experts from ICIMOD and national institutions visited Gilgit and Hunza to select sites for the installation of equipment for climatological and hydrological monitoring. The Passu glacier was selected for installation of hydro-met equipment for further study. Later, 48 participants attended a National Inception Workshop to sensitise policy makers and the public about climate change and its impacts on water availability, and collect feedback from the national implementing partner institutions regarding their needs for capacity building and agreement on field sites and methodology.

ICIMOD continued support to the Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management at the University of Peshawar, which initiated a one-year diploma course in 2009. The centre was inaugurated by the Governor of NWFP at an event with 300 participants from national and international institutions.

The Government included ICIMOD as a member of both the Task Force on Climate Change Policy and the Task Force for the Development of Rangeland Policy. The country office provided necessary inputs to the meetings of both task forces in order to advance the Mountain Agenda and regional perspective. The office also played a significant role in mobilising the government's support for the side event organised by ICIMOD at COP15.

The office continued support to the implementation of regional programmes, activities of the honeybee management programme, the FAO/SIDA watershed management project, WOCAT training, and the Himalayan University Consortium project activities at the NWFP Agricultural University, Peshawar.

Passu glacier, Pakistan

