

# Centre News

## ICIMOD Programme Advisory Committee and Board Executive Committee meetings, June 2009

Mid-year meetings of the Board Executive (BEC) and Programme Advisory (PAC) Committees were organised in Kathmandu from 24-26 June preceded by a workshop on impact pathway analysis.

### Impact pathway analysis (IPA) workshop

The Programme Advisory Committee Chair, Dr. Jacqueline Ashby, organised a workshop on impact pathway analysis (IPA) as an input to the PAC and BEC meetings. The objective was to enhance the presentation of ICIMOD programmes and to support internal capacity building. Three projects/programmes were taken as case studies: rangeland management, cinnamomum value chain, and the MAPPA network. The results of the workshop were shared in the PAC and BEC meetings. It was suggested that impact pathway analysis should be used as a tool and integrated with ICIMOD's internal planning and evaluation work.

### PAC meeting highlights

The Programme Advisory Committee discussed various aspects of ICIMOD's strategic programmes. The main suggestions made were a) a note on the implementation issues faced by regional programmes should be prepared and shared at the November Board Meeting; b) the role of social scientists (including economists) should be enhanced especially in climate change adaptation work; c) impact pathway analysis

(IPA) should be institutionalised; d) the trans-Himalayan transect approach is a powerful concept and its feasibility should be examined as a possible centre-wide framework; e) ICIMOD should transfer different elements of the Godavari Demonstration Centre experience to other regional member countries as per the suitability of each country's ecosystem; and f) ICIMOD should highlight both problems and solutions in its publications. In addition, five working groups discussed five regional programmes and concepts and made useful suggestions for the programmes.

### BEC meeting highlights

The Board Executive Committee discussed different aspects of ICIMOD's upcoming mid-term evaluation.



Rangelands and herders in TAR, China



After a comprehensive discussion, it was agreed that PAC and BEC will provide suggestions to the coordinator of this task, Dr Daniel Maselli. The necessity of keeping the evaluation at the strategic level should be stressed and the process should be endorsed by the Board of Governors.

Madhav Karki, [mkarki@icimod.org](mailto:mkarki@icimod.org)

## New Regional Board Member



**Dr Yuba Raj Khatiwada,**  
Vice Chairman, National  
Planning Commission,  
Government of Nepal

Dr Yuba Raj Khatiwada was appointed as a Regional Member for Nepal on ICIMOD's Board in June 2009. He served as a Senior

Economist in the UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo for three years (from July 2006) and is currently Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal. Born in 1956, Dr Khatiwada received master's degrees in Economics and Public Administration from Tribhuvan University in 1981 and 1984, respectively, and a PhD in Monetary Economics from Delhi School of Economics in 1991. Dr Khatiwada has also attended numerous national and international training programmes and seminars on issues related to development and planning techniques and has extensive experience of attending such training programmes and seminars as a resource person. Dr Khatiwada served as a Member of the National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, from 2002 to 2005. Prior to this, he was Head of the Economic Research Department of the Nepal Rastra Bank (1999 to 2002), a postgraduate teacher at Tribhuvan University in 1982, and intermittently a visiting faculty member at Tribhuvan University and Kathmandu University from 1992 to 2001. Dr Khatiwada has carried out a considerable amount of research and has authored and co-authored many books and articles. His indisputable knowledge and contribution to the field of development and management has led him to be honoured with awards such as the Suprabal Gorkha Dakshin Bahu (2001), and the Mahendra Bidhya Bhusan (1994). Dr Khatiwada received a Letter of Commendation from the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industries in 2001.

Profiles of the recently appointed regional Board Members for Afghanistan and Bangladesh will be included in the next edition of 'Sustainable Mountain Development'.

# ICIMOD Board of Governors 2009

## Regional Board Members

### Eng Mohammad Sharif 'Sharif'

Deputy Minister of Irrigation and NRM  
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Afghanistan

### Mr Masud Ahmad

Secretary-in-Charge, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Bangladesh

### Mr Sherub Gyaltsen

Chair, ICIMOD Board of Governors  
Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan

### Prof Dr DING Zhongli

Vice President, Chinese Academy of Sciences, PR China

### Mr Vijai Sharma, IAS

Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, India

### U Kyaw Htun

Deputy Director General, Planning and Statistics Department  
University of Forestry, Myanmar

### Dr Yubaraj Khatiwada

Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal

### Mr M Zia-ur-Rehman

Secretary, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Pakistan

## Independent Board Members

### Dr Jacqueline A. Ashby

Chair, ICIMOD Programme Advisory Committee (PAC)  
Vice Chair, ICIMOD Board of Governors (BoG)  
Research and Policy Coordinator, Andean Change Program  
International Potato Center (CIP), Peru

### Dr Elke Förster

GFA Consulting Group GmbH, Representative Office Hanoi/  
Senior Consultant, Vietnam

### Dr Amir Muhammed

Rector, National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Pakistan

### Dr Linxiu Zhang

Professor and Deputy Director, Centre for Chinese Agricultural Policy  
Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), PR China

### Dr A K M Jahir Uddin Chowdhury

Professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management  
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh

### Professor Matthias Winiger

Vice Chancellor, University of Bonn, Germany

### Dr Lars-Erik Liljelund

Director General, Prime Minister's Office, Sweden

### Mr Jochen Kenneweg

Chair, ICIMOD Support Group

### Dr Andreas Schild

(Ex-officio) Director General, ICIMOD

## New projects at ICIMOD

Three important new project initiatives were launched during the first half of 2009, housed within Integrated Water and Hazard Management (IWHM), Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services (ECES), and Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction (SLPR), respectively. We thank the sponsors and co-sponsors for the support provided for these initiatives.

### Capacity building for improved monitoring of snow, ice and water resources in the Indus Basin

ICIMOD and its national partner institutes in the Indus Basin have initiated a project to improve knowledge on water availability over time in the Indus. The Indus river has repeatedly been pinpointed as one of the rivers most vulnerable to climate change since a substantial amount of its water is contributed by melting snow and ice. But how much of the Indus' is meltwater? How much of this is provided at different times of the year? And what do changes in precipitation patterns, including the shift of precipitation from snow to rain, mean for the downstream water availability in the basin? There are many questions that deserve a better answer than current

floods. The ultimate goal is to move towards safe and reliable access to water for household consumption and food production, without compromising on water needs for energy and the environment. This is a highly delicate task, but one where water availability scenarios can help as a decision-making tool.

Initially, the project will focus on implementing hydrological models in pilot catchments at a national level in the basin. Implementation of these models will contribute to capacity building of the national partners involved, this being another of the project's main aims. In the second part of the project, experiences and results from the pilot basins will be used jointly among the countries of the basin to work towards basin-wide water availability scenarios. Funding for the initial phase has currently been secured for Afghanistan and Pakistan from the German Government and the Asian Development Bank. ICIMOD will continue raising funds so as to include India and China. Representatives from all four countries participated with much vigour and enthusiasm in the inception workshop.

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### Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative launched

An inception workshop and regional consultation were jointly convened by ICIMOD and UNEP in Kathmandu from 22 -24 June 2009 to launch the Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) Conservation Initiative. The workshop concluded a pre-inception consultation phase which provided input from all major partners to develop a consultative and participatory transboundary approach for conservation and sustainable development in the greater Mt. Kailash area in China, India, and Nepal. Participants represented institutions and ministries from all three countries, and agreed to an ambitious eighteen-month

knowledge can provide. This project will work towards closing this knowledge gap.

The project is built around the use of hydrological models that take melting snow and ice into account while developing water availability scenarios on a seasonal scale over several years. This kind of knowledge is much needed to enable decision makers to make better informed decisions on water management and allocation in the basin. It is also needed for identifying mitigation opportunities against droughts and



startup phase whose overall goal will be to establish the institutional framework for regional cooperation and ecosystem management approaches for conservation of the rich cultural and biological diversity of this region. The proposed transboundary KSL comprises a vast landscape of great variety and diversity, and includes Mt. Kailash and its environs in the south-west of Tibet Autonomous Region in China, and portions of the adjacent pilgrimage routes in India and the far northwest of Nepal. Mt. Kailash attracts pilgrims from all over the world and is considered sacred by five major religions – the Buddhist, Bon-po, Hindu, Jain, and Sikh faiths.

The KSL will encourage transboundary cooperation to address the challenges of global climate warming and other environmental changes in this region, while encouraging sustainable and environmentally sound approaches for development, improved livelihoods, tourism, poverty alleviation, food security, and alternative livelihood options. This process will be based upon the development of an improved understanding of change processes, a regional knowledge base, information sharing, capacity building, and the promotion of stakeholder consultation and community participation. Currently, this remote region, like much of the rest of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, lacks basic climatic, ecological, socioeconomic and socio-cultural data, as well as the long-term knowledge base required for effective ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. As part of the KSL framework, a transboundary and regional approach for long-term ecological monitoring will be implemented, based upon common protocols, collaboration, and data sharing. The KSL framework addresses the need for improved and coordinated long-term ecological monitoring across the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region by piloting ICIMOD's transect approach, which seeks to facilitate ecological and environmental monitoring through enabling policy frameworks and institutional networks, and encouraging regional cooperation. This approach encourages the collection and sharing of environmental data, long-term climate and ecological monitoring, baseline assessments, and in-depth field studies in order to improve our understanding of the potential impact of global warming across the region on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the livelihoods of mountain communities.

The KSL Conservation Initiative will develop a framework for cooperation and common understanding on transboundary landscape issues in the region, and represents an important and timely opportunity to conserve this irreplaceable cultural and natural landscape. This initiative supports the broad objectives of the international community, ICIMOD, and the

regional member countries, to sustainably manage cultural and ecological diversity in the region through participatory processes, and to promote landscape-level ecosystem management approaches addressing transboundary conservation and sustainable development. Maintaining the sacred nature and intrinsically unique elements of this cultural and sacred landscape will be a key element of the Initiative.

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### Improving Local Governance in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

July 2009 marked the start of the programme 'Improving Local Governance in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas', which has the objective of alleviating poverty and improving natural resource management through mainstreaming good practices of governance at the local level. The focus will be on building and strengthening the capacity of selected local government institutions and civil society organisations (NGOs, CBOs, federations, networks) for promoting good governance in public affairs by establishing the rights of mountain people in relation to social, economic, and gender issues.

The second phase of the programme will be implemented in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan for three years, supported by ICIMOD's long-term partner, ICCO (Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation). The programme follows from the Regional Programme for Capacity Building of Community-based Organisations in Advocacy Strategies in the HKH. The distinct characteristics of the current phase include a strong emphasis on improving governance by enhancing the governance capacity of local-level stakeholders, including local communities working in collaboration with ICIMOD teams on other projects, and documenting and providing regional experiences and lessons in local governance to ICIMOD member countries.

This programme is part of ICIMOD's attempt to promote good governance in the region and to mainstream good practices in the Centre's programmes. Good governance is accepted as a cross-cutting theme in development programmes as it ensures participation and inclusiveness, the rule of law, effectiveness, and responsiveness as well as transparency and accountability. Good governance practices have been identified as the key to optimisation of results while considering equality and equity at all levels in the formulation and implementation of decisions.

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## Workshops, meetings and training events (April – September 2009)

Event	Date	Place
Training on Non-Timber Forest Products' Survey Techniques	5 – 9 April	Kunduz, Afghanistan
NEPCAT Training on Documentation and Dissemination of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Technologies and Approaches using WOCAT Tools	6 – 11 April	Dhulikhel, Nepal
Blue Bag Seminar: World Water Forum by Andreas Schild, Ramesh Ananda Vaidya, Mats Eriksson, and Basanta Shrestha, ICIMOD	10 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
ERDAS APOLLO Server Training	20 – 24 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Training Course on Glacier Mass Balancing Monitoring	27 April – 15 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
National Consultation on Gaoligangshan National Nature Reserve	26 – 27 May	CAS, Kunming
Value Chain Expert Meeting	27 – 28 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Documentation and Dissemination of Sustainable Land Management Technologies and Approaches Using WOCAT Tools	28 April – 3 May	Islamabad, Pakistan
ICIMOD Discussion Series: Himalayan Glacier Caves by Mr. Maurice Duchene, Chairman of the Himalpyramis Association and Honorary Member and Technical Advisor of the Nepal Canyoning Association	28 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Low Cost Soil and Water Conservation Techniques and Watershed Management Activities	29 April – 5 May	Takhar, Afghanistan
Brown Bag Seminar: Incentive-based Mechanisms for Ecosystem Services by Ines Freier, ICIMOD	6 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Innovative Asia-Pacific Symposium	4 – 7 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
ICIMOD Discussion Series: Blending in with the Natural Beauty of Afghanistan – Experience Sharing of the Establishment of the First National Park Band-i-Amir and the First Botanical Garden of Afghanistan at Kabul University by Mr. Anne Feenstra, Visiting Professor, School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, India	8 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Low Cost Soil and Water Conservation Techniques and Watershed Management Activities	9 – 16 May	Parwan, Afghanistan
Dissemination Workshop on Decision Support Tools and Approaches for Integrated Mountain Development	14 – 15 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Nepal's East Regional Rangeland Policy Consultation Workshop	17 May	Biratnagar, Nepal
International Workshop on Sustainable Land Management in the Highland of Asia	18 – 22 May	Northwest Yunnan, China
Brown Bag Seminar: Climate Change Adaptation by Mirjam Macchi, ICIMOD	20 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Experience Sharing Consultation on Landscape Approach to Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Eastern Himalayas	24 – 28 May	Yunnan Province, China
ICIMOD Discussion Series: Experience Implementing a Watershed Programme in Afghanistan by Sanjeev Bhuchar, HELVETAS, Afghanistan	26 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Photo Exhibition: Himalaya – Changing Landscapes	1 – 12 June	Bonn, Germany
Regional Consultation on Sacred Himalayan Landscape Interim Implementation Plan	7 June	Ilam, Nepal
Brown Bag Seminar: Impact Assessment in the CGIAR and World Agroforestry Centre: Current Practice and Remaining Challenges by Dr. Frank Place, Principal Economist, World Agroforestry Centre Nairobi, Kenya	9 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
World Environment Day and Imja Tsho Action Event: Interschool Art and Letter Writing Competition	5 – 8 June & 19 June	Khumbu Valley, Nepal
Regional Workshop on Integrated Tourism Concepts to Contribute to Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions	15 – 22 June	Kathmandu and Mustang, Nepal
Training on Watershed and Flood Risk Management for Engineers from Arunanchal, India	16 – 19 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Inception Workshop on the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative: Developing a Transboundary Framework for Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Greater Mt. Kailash landscape of China, India, and Nepal	22 – 24 June	Kathmandu, Nepal

ICIMOD Discussion Series: University of New Mexico's work in the Himalayas through the Nepal Study Centre by Prof Alok Bohara, Professor of Economics, Dept. of Economics and Director of the Nepal Study Centre in UNM, USA	29 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training Workshop on Rangeland Resources Management	8 – 15 June	Bamyan, Afghanistan
Training on Geo-Informatics for Rangeland Resources Management	6 – 17 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
Brown Bag Seminar: Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific by Ms. Yatsuka Kataoka from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategy (IGES)	6 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
ICIMOD Discussion Series: Lessons Learned from Payment for Environment Services (PEC) Action Research Work, ICRAF, by Dr. Laxman Joshi, South East Asia Regional Office, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Bogor, Indonesia	7 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
ICIMOD Discussion Series: Innovation Systems in Agriculture: Managing Stakeholder Interaction for Learning and Innovation in the 21st Century by Dr. Laxmi Pant	9 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
On-the-job Training for Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation	13 – 24 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
Brown Bag Seminar: Study on People's Perspectives of Climate Change on the Rangelands of Langtang and Mustang of Nepal by Dr. Tara N. Pandey, Expert in researching and developing models in grazing systems, pasture management, and others	29 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
Workshop on the Development of Strategies on the Honey Value Chain in Northern Afghanistan	2 August	Taloqan, Afghanistan
Writeshop on Documenting Local Adaptation Strategies to Climate Induced Water Stress and Hazards in the Greater Himalayan Region	2 – 8 August	Dhulikhel, Nepal
Regional Workshop-cum-Hands-on Training on Mapping and Inventory of Glaciers Using Remote Sensing Data and Techniques	3 – 7 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Brown Bag Seminar: South Asian Perspectives on Climate Change and Water Policy by Mr. Ashok Jaitly from TERI, New Delhi	6 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
P3DM Hands-on Training for the Regional Project on Shifting Cultivation	10 – 15 August	Meghalaya, India
5th International Symposium on Tibetan Plateau/24th Himalaya Karakorum - Tibet Workshop	11 – 14 August	Beijing, China
Training on Low Cost Soil and Water Conservation Techniques and Watershed Management Activities	17 – 29 August	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Training Workshop on Snow and Glacier Runoff Modelling in the Himalayas, Kathmandu	24 – 28 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Workshop on Innovative Tools and Experiences in Mountain Ecosystems Management	31 August – 3 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
ICIMOD Annual Review and Planning Workshop	9 – 11 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
Hands on Training on Bio-Briquette and Compost Making to Farmers and Staff from Gokharna Resort	14 – 17 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Project on Shifting Cultivation, Inception and Sharing Workshop (IDRC/ IFAD)	15 – 18 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for HKH Rangelands	17 – 18 September	Kathmandu, Nepal

'Participatory Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) Survey Techniques' workshop participants in the research garden of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Kunduz, Afghanistan



## Hosted institutions

### Mountain Forum: Highlights from the Board Meeting, Cusco, Peru

The Mountain Forum (MF) Board of Governors has representatives from the regional host institutions and donor organisations, and elected members from user communities in the Andes and Asia-Pacific. The Board met in June in Cusco in the Andes to discuss overall progress and mountain development issues requiring coordination among the regional nodes and their user communities. The Board was pleased to note the growth in the number of user communities; the interaction of users through e-dialogues, e-conferences, discussion boards, and questions from users-to-users; and the development of a mountain repository.

The Board emphasised that the main spirit of MF is to act as a 'network of networks' with a small governance and coordination body and with information and communication exchange primarily executed by the regional nodes. In line with this, the global secretariat will be converted into a global node with reduced staff and the role of the regional nodes strengthened. The future work plan should look into the possibility of engaging new, active mountain institutes in regions currently under-represented especially Africa and Central Asia. These new regions have invested heavily in the past years in advanced telecommunication networks and the Board has noted their demand to be involved in knowledge transfer on mountain issues.

Dr Andreas Schild of ICIMOD explained that he would be unable to continue as Chair as implementation of ICIMOD's ambitious Strategic Framework 2008-2012 required his full attention. This was difficult to combine with chairing MF through its own growth and transition phase. The Board nominated Robert Hofstede (formerly IUCN-Quito, Ecuador) as the new Chair and Daan Boom, ICIMOD, as Vice-Chair. In view of this, the future global node will be hosted by Condesan, the regional host organisation of MF in the Andes, from 1 January 2010. The transition of the Global Node to Lima, Peru will not affect the activities of the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network, the node hosted by ICIMOD. The MF Board's intention is to strengthen the regional node activities through more effective collaboration among the nodes and decentralisation of the global network functions.

Four new staff joined the Mountain Forum Secretariat to complete the outstanding activities in 2009: Ms Sunita Chaudhary for Advocacy and Policy Support; Ms Laura Elizabeth Keenan for Information Production

and Management; Mr Iñigo Ballester Gurrpide for Information Technology and Knowledge Management; and Mr Prabin Gurung for Information and Knowledge Management Systems

Daan Boom, dboom@icimod.org

### Asia Pacific Mountain Network

Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN), the Asia-Pacific node of Mountain Forum (MF), continued to develop its activities as a knowledge-sharing platform connecting mountain regions and members through dialogue and networking. In July 2009, the network had 243 organisational and 1760 individual users from 39 countries.



APMN worked with ICIMOD's knowledge management team to document knowledge and prepare daily briefs for the Innovation Asia-Pacific (IAP) Symposium held in Kathmandu in May. The event was organised by CIAT ICIMOD, and Prolinnova, in collaboration with I-BIRD, and Practical Action – Nepal. The summer 2009 issue of the APMN newsletter appeared with a new name – Asia Pacific Mountain Courier – and a focus on mountain biodiversity with articles, news, interviews, seminar reports, book reviews, and other information. APMN is working closely with the Mountain Forum Secretariat and other regional nodes to collect users views on mountain biodiversity in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat's call for inputs to the Conference of Parties (CoP) 10 to be held in Nagoya, Japan next year.

APMN is also working closely together with youth organisations based in South Asia to institutionalise youth issues in the mountain agenda. It supported the South Asian Youth Summit on Climate Change (SAYSoCC-09) organised from 3-6 September by Nepalese Youth for Climate Action; Clean Energy Nepal; the Indian, Bangladesh and Sri Lankan Youth Climate Networks; '350.org'; and 'ENVIRON VISION', an action initiative of the Youth Network for Social & Environmental Development.

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## Mountain Partnership Secretariat – Asia Pacific Decentralised Hub (MPS-APDH)

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat's Decentralised Hub for Asia and the Pacific (MPS-APDH) has been working towards strengthening the network through capacity building training and supporting members' partnership initiatives. A month-long online training on advocacy was held for participants from thirteen Asia Pacific countries with a curriculum adapted from the training modules prepared by ICIMOD under the advocacy project. The hub now maintains a Yahoo discussion group on advocacy for sustainable mountain development .

An e-survey of MPS Asia Pacific members was carried out with technical support from the Mountain Forum Secretariat and had a 93% response rate. It integrated 70 questions which helped to rank and narrow down the wide range of thematic areas that resulted from the merging of MPS and ICIMOD programme focus areas. The highest ranking themes for members were 'funding' and 'funders related info'. Also highlighted were the need for information sharing platforms, technical support for proposal development/submission, linkage/brokerage with potential donors, the development of training modules, and the launching of joint initiatives for fundraising. Eighty-three percent of respondents were fully aware of the networking tools offered by MPS, and seventy-five percent considered them adequate for forging effective partnerships. The survey highlighted a demand for further diversification of tools. Members also looked for ways to reach out to communities, have member forums in face-to-face meetings, and provide financial support to country-based members.



The joint initiative on Central Asia Outreach (MP members AGOCA/Kyrgyzstan, Eco-Forum/Uzbekistan, and CAMP Kuhiston/Tajikistan) aims to raise awareness of the concept of sustainable mountain development and the challenges of mountain regions. The project facilitates information exchange and communication between the mountain regions to disseminate good practices. Papers by ICIMOD staff and others on such topics as mountain specificities, climate change impacts, glaciers, and the role of local and indigenous knowledge are being translated into Russian and published in national and local dailies and on websites of national information agencies in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Customised radio programmes were designed and broadcast on national and local radio channels. A special bilingual blog (Russian/English) at <http://www.ca-dialogue.blogspot.com> invites civil society to discuss these papers. The project plans to hold live sessions and interviews for Q&A sessions.

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## South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE)

ICIMOD became the new host of the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) in August 2009. SANDEE, launched in 1999, is a regional network that uses economic tools and analyses to address some of South Asia's environmental challenges. It is based on the premise that solutions to economic development concerns and environmental problems are integrally interlinked. SANDEE brings together South Asian researchers and institutes interested in the inter-connections among development, poverty, and the environment. Its main goal is to build the professional skills required to enable South Asians to address local and global environmental concerns. SANDEE works in seven countries in South Asia — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

**Dr Priya Shyamsundar** is SANDEE's Programme Director and for many years has also been a consultant to the Environment Department of the World Bank, mostly on issues related to poverty and the environment. Priya has a PhD in Environmental Economics from Duke University USA. Her research interests range over a number of topics within environment and development economic. **Dr Mani Nepal** is an environmental/development economist and Senior Environment Economist at SANDEE. Dr Nepal has a PhD from the University of New Mexico, USA, in resource/environmental and development economics, and an MSc in Policy Economics from the University of Illinois, USA. His research work has been published in a number of international and national journal. **Ms Anuradha Kafle** is SANDEE'S research and communication officer. She manages the information and research dissemination process, organises regional training workshops, and supports the implementation of programmes in under-served areas. She has a Master's degree in Zoology with a major in Ecology from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Her long-term research and activism interests are in wildlife conservation and natural resource management. **Ms Krisha Shrestha** joined SANDEE as an Administrative Associate in November 2008. She has a BSc in business administration from North-Eastern University, Boston. Krisha will be instrumental in managing SANDEE's research activities and supporting SANDEE's growth as an organisation. Her responsibilities include grants management, organising research workshops, and managing the administrative tasks of the secretariat. **The ICIMOD family** extends a warm welcome to the staff members of SANDEE and looks forward to fruitful collaboration in the days to come.

## Partnership development (April–September 2009)

Through its diverse strategic partnerships, ICIMOD is bringing together the active synergies of relevant institutions to address the emerging issues and challenges of mountain development in the region, including climate change, water hazards, and sustainable livelihoods. ICIMOD recognises that partnership is the main strategy for knowledge development, networking, and impact orientation. During 2009, ICIMOD entered into agreements with a number of strategic partners and international resource centres in order to realise its strategic outcomes. Selected agreements are highlighted below.

### Climate change adaptation

In 2009, ICIMOD signed agreements with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK, and the Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok, with the objective of providing technical and methodological backstopping and coordination to field assessment teams on the identification, collation, and assessment of policies and discourses, and analysing and synthesising the policies and information documented on local adaptation strategies in the context of 'too much and too little water'. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between ICIMOD and SN Power Holding Singapore Pte Ltd to carry out a GLOF Hazard Assessment for the Tamakoshi River Basin. This study will be a part of the feasibility study for the Tamokoshi 3 hydroelectric projects.

### Payment for environmental services (PES)

ICIMOD signed an agreement with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) for the further strengthening of strategic cooperation in promoting and understanding PES. This partnership was established in the context of the recently-initiated IFAD-funded RUPES-II project

(Rewards for, Use of, and Shared Investment in Pro-poor Environmental Services).

### Capacity development

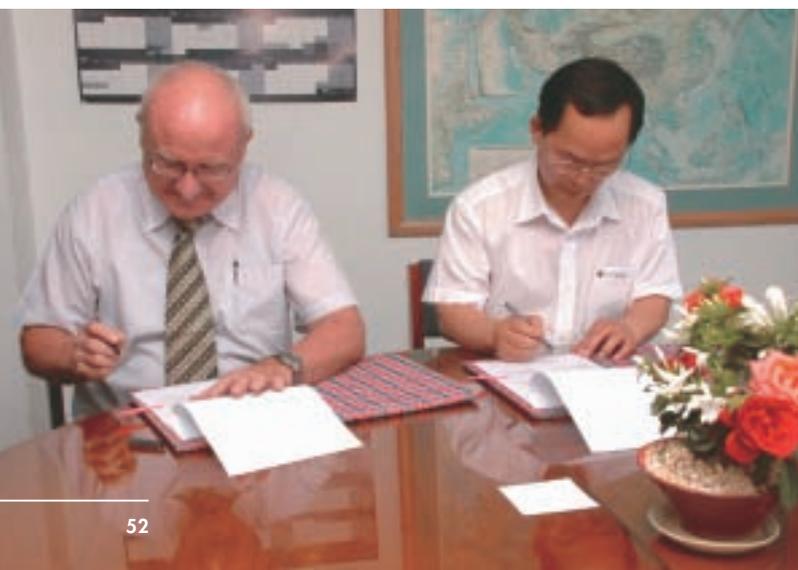
ICIMOD signed an MOU with The World Bank's Office of the South Asia Region Chief Economist, Washington DC to make a research capacity building grant to the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) programme, which is being hosted by ICIMOD.

### Raising awareness of climate change and shifting cultivation

The uncertainties about and challenges to effective biodiversity conservation in the face of climate change in mountain regions is one of ICIMOD's main concerns. ICIMOD signed agreements with the Namsaling Community Development Centre in Nepal to support conservation activities by promoting the landscape approach to biodiversity conservation; with the Nepal Chepang Association and LIBIRD to implement the Regional Project on Shifting Cultivation: 'Promoting Innovative Policy and Development Options for Improving Shifting Cultivations in the Eastern Himalayas'; and with Initiatives for Development and Eco Action Support (iDEAS) to jointly raise awareness of the effects of climate change among the mountain community of the Khumbu region. Under the latter, an interschool art and letter writing competition was organised on the theme 'Climate Change: Voices of Khumbu's Children'; the winning entries will be highlighted at COP 15 in Copenhagen in December.

### Regional knowledge sharing

ICIMOD signed agreements with the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED) with the objective of filling knowledge gaps and gaining a better understanding of the impact of climate change on biodiversity and the environmental services provided by protected areas; and with FAST-National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences Islamabad, Pakistan, to explore research areas of mutual interest; share knowledge, research data, and publications; and support networking of experts and resource persons. An MOU was signed between the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research (ITP), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and ICIMOD to promote academic exchange and research on the natural environment of the Tibetan Plateau and surrounding areas.



### Promoting value chains for sustainable livelihoods

ICIMOD signed a number of agreements with regional institutions to improve livelihoods through knowledge partnerships and value chains for bee products and services in the Himalayas including the Alital Multipurpose Cooperative Limited Nepal; the Honeybee Research Program; the National Agriculture Research Centre, Pakistan; NWFP Agriculture University Peshawar; Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry India; Bangladesh Institute of Apiculture; Central Himalayan Environmental Association (CHEA) India; the Federation of Nepal Beekeepers; and the Agha Khan Rural Support Programme, Pakistan.

### Partnerships with international resource centres

Through its diverse strategic partnerships, ICIMOD is developing synergies among relevant institutions to address the emerging issues and challenges of mountain development in the region. ICIMOD sees partnership as the main strategy for knowledge development, networking, and impact orientation.

In order to strengthen research and capacity development in the area of natural resources, ecosystem services, policy, and governance, ICIMOD signed MOUs with several international resource centres including the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan, and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. ICIMOD also entered into an

agreement with the newly-established Regional Mountain Centre of Central Asia for experience sharing and knowledge management beyond the boundaries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

### Other agreements

ICIMOD also signed agreements with the following partner organisations:

- Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio resources, Nepal
- Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal, (FECOFUN)
- Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-Nepal
- Council for RNR Research, Bhutan Ministry of Agriculture, Thimpu, Bhutan
- Beekeeping Development Section, Department of Agriculture, Nepal
- Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
- Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Nepal
- Research Centre for Rural Economies, Ministry of Agriculture, China
- Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan

Ayushma Rana Basnyat, [ayrana@icimod.org](mailto:ayrana@icimod.org)

Farid Ahmad, [faahmad@icimod.org](mailto:faahmad@icimod.org)

### Unplug and go!

Since May, ICIMOD has been charging its electric vehicles from a solar charging station. The three electric smart cars, used to take staff and visitors to meetings around Kathmandu, are now parked under a purpose built solar charging system where they can plug in and recharge at any time. The system has 28 photovoltaic panels each of 175 watt, which charge 24 2-volt deep cycle batteries, together with a recording device for the solar power input and usage metres charge controllers. Under ideal sunshine conditions, the station generates 4.9 kW electricity. Surplus electricity was used in the summer to power the lights of the ICIMOD compound at night through batteries.



## Outreach activities

### World Environment Day 2009

#### Voices of Khumbu's Children – Interschool art and Letter-writing competition and Khumbu festival

In celebration of World Environment Day 2009, and as a part of the **Imja Tsho Action Event**, ICIMOD organised an interschool art (grades 1 to 6) and letter writing (grades 7 to 10) competition in May/June 2009 together with Initiatives for Development & Eco Action Support (iDEAS) and in collaboration with Sherwi Yondhen Tshokpa, a Sherpa youth organisation based in Khumjung. The competition was held among 11 schools in 3 village development committees (VDCs) in Khumjung. The winning entries were exhibited during the Imja Tsho Action Event and the Khumbu Festival on 18 and 19 June 2009, and were visited by hundreds of students and local people from the Khumbu area.

Mr Mahendra Bahadur Katheth, the Principal of Khumjung High School, distributed prizes and certificates to the winners. The winning schools received

posters of the art and letters and a copy of the Atlas of the Himalayas published by ICIMOD. The winning entries will be displayed at COP 15 in Copenhagen, from 7-18 December 2009.

Sudas Sharma, ssharma@icimod.org

#### Other outreach activities (April to August 2009)

- Poster Display at the regional level Rainwater Harvesting Meeting (June 2009)
- World Environment Day 2009 (5-8 June)
  - Climate Workshop for College Youths
  - Workshop with diverse young people to discuss 'Reality vs. Dream: Picture of Sustainable Development of Nepal'
  - Interschool Environment Competition

### Some of the voices of Khumbu's Children

**Kamal Thapa Magar** (second from right, below), a 10 year-old grade four student from Khumjung High School, won first place in the Interschool Art Competition. Kamal, whose father is a carpenter, has been the "first boy (in class) since sishu (nursery)". Kamal learned about the effects of climate change from his teachers, friends, and parents, who also gave him lots of advice before the competition, as well as setting ideas from books in the school library. He gives credit to his teachers, his friends, and all those who guided him. Kamal wants to become a doctor when he grows up.

**Dawa Futi Sherpa** (second from left, below), a 15 year-old grade nine student from Khumjung High School, won second prize in the Interschool Letter Writing Competition. Dawa Futi's father, Mr. Lakpa Nuru Sherpa, is the former Vice Chairman of the Village Development Committee, and is now involved in a trekking business. Her mother, Ang Lakpa Sherpa, owns a hotel. Dawa wants to become a nurse and serve her village.

The full list of winners is available at <http://www.icimod.org/?page=544>





### **Himalaya – Changing Landscapes photo exhibition draws attention to global climate change**

ICIMOD's photo exhibition Himalaya – Changing Landscapes continued its European tour in 2009. The fifth exhibition was organised in Bonn, Germany, from 1 to 12 June 2009 in conjunction with the UNFCCC climate change conference. The concept of the exhibition was extended with new photos to make it even more compelling. The repeat mountain panoramas and photos of the 1950s glacial research teams were complemented by repeat photographs of landscapes from the mid hills of Nepal and Pakistan. New repeat photos of people were also added, as well as pictures of cultural and socioeconomic changes in the region. The Bonn exhibition was displayed next to the hotel where the UNFCCC conference was being held, and on the way to many side events. The exhibition drew much interest amongst the conference participants and the employees of the German Ministries nearby and was extensively covered in both the local and international

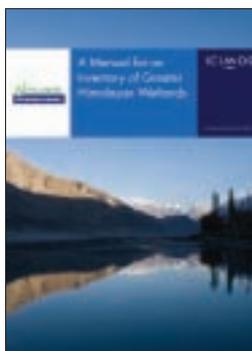
media. The large European exhibition will now move to Switzerland where it will be shown in Berne in October. ICIMOD has received a steady stream of requests from its member countries to have the powerful photos exhibited in the region itself.

As the European exhibition is too large to be transported by air (the panels are 4 m x 2 m), ICIMOD has now created a small version of the exhibition. This 'mobile exhibition' fits inside a box and can travel on an aeroplane. Three sets arrived at ICIMOD headquarters in August 2009. Two will remain with ICIMOD and will be available to travel to different locations where they will be displayed for a limited period, one was custom-made for the GP Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, located in Almora, Uttarakhand, India.

Nonna Lamponen, [nlamponen@icimod.org](mailto:nlamponen@icimod.org)

## ICIMOD publications

The major documents published by ICIMOD between April and October 2009 are shown below. All publications can be downloaded free-of-charge from [www.books.icimod.org](http://www.books.icimod.org). Hard copy publications can be ordered from the Distribution Unit, [distri@icimod.org](mailto:distri@icimod.org). They can be provided free-of-charge to institutions actively involved in sustainable development of the greater Himalayan region.



ICIMOD (2009) *A Manual for an Inventory of Greater Himalayan Wetlands* 56p  
ISBN 978 92 9115 119 6

Mountain wetlands are critically important ecosystems that provide locally and globally significant social, economic, and environmental benefits. Wetland inventorying

is a key activity underpinning planning for sustainable use of wetlands and their resources and biodiversity. This manual provides an explanation and the practical tools and step-by-step guidelines for preparing an inventory of wetlands in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, prepared under a project supported by the Asia Pro Eco programme of the European Commission, and is a development of the Wetlands International Manual for an Inventory of Asian Wetlands. It has been developed to assist governments, professionals, and the public to identify wetlands of importance and help in prioritising their conservation, and to support informed decision making on wetland management.



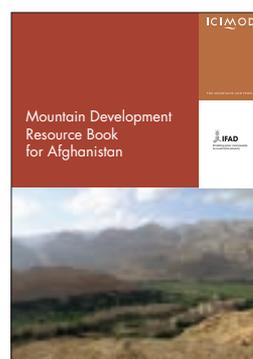
Sharma, E; Shakya, B (2009) *Mountain Biodiversity and Climate Change* 56p.  
ISBN 978 92 9115 123 3

Proceedings of the IMBC  
316p; Workshop Reports  
46p; [CD-ROM]  
ISBN. 978 92 9115 117 2

The booklet *Mountain Biodiversity and Climate Change* was developed from the contributions made at the International Mountain Biodiversity Conference in November 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal, which brought together representatives from the eight countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region with representatives of global programmes with experience related to data collection and biodiversity conservation. It introduces a selection of the ideas presented and discussed, in the form of

answers to questions and in a richly illustrated format. The complete conference proceedings are loaded on a CD-ROM which is included with the hard copy of the booklet and can be downloaded separately. Some of the articles are also presented in summary form in the ICIMOD periodical *Sustainable Mountain Development*, No. 55 (see below).

### Online only

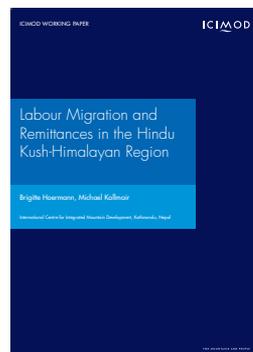


ICIMOD (2009) *Mountain Development Resource Book for Afghanistan*  
ISBN 978 92 9115 122 6

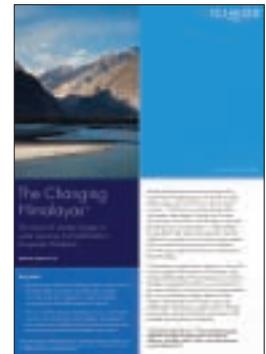
This book is the result of a cross-pollination of ideas among ICIMOD and Afghan partners at a workshop and is part of ICIMOD's efforts to contribute to the rebuilding

of Afghanistan, one of its regional member countries. Each chapter and subject in the book provides a development option or technology applicable to the mountain conditions of Afghanistan, as well as other mountain areas of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, and is illustrated by Afghan examples. The book was designed for use by development practitioners who work with communities in Afghanistan who can use any of the options, technologies, or interventions proposed in the book, and apply them in the areas and communities where they work.

### Working paper



Hoermann, B; Kollmair, M (2009) *Labour Migration and Remittances in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region*, ICIMOD Working Paper



### Annual Report 2008

#### Newsletters

Biodiversity and Climate Change in the Himalayas: Sustainable Mountain Development, No. 55 (2009)

Asia Pacific Mountain Courier: Newsletter of the Asia Pacific Mountain Network, Volume 10, No. 1, June 2009

CNICIMOD Newsletter: Newsletter of the Chinese Committee on International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Volume 3, No. 1 (published by CNICIMOD)

#### Information sheets



Responding to the Challenges of Global Change (ICIMOD Flyer) (Lang: Bhutanese)

Kathmandu Water Declaration – 2009

Water and Hazards: Key Achievements

Climate Change in the Himalayas, IS #3/09

Improving Livelihoods through Beekeeping – Knowledge partnerships and value chains for bee products and services in the Himalayas, IS # 4/09

### Briefing papers

Socio-cultural Engagement and Sensitivity in Disaster Risk Reduction, BP #1/09

The Changing Himalayas: the impact of climate change on water resources and livelihoods in the greater Himalayas, BP #2/09

### Project brochures

Working Today for a Better Tomorrow: Together we can care for Afghanistan's natural resources!

The Mountain Partnership: Asia Pacific Decentralised Hub

## New appointments at ICIMOD (to August 2009)



**Ms Ayushma Rana Basnyat**, External Relations and Monitoring Collaborator, Strategic Planning and Monitoring, Directorate

Ms Basnyat was appointed External Relations and Monitoring Collaborator in the Strategic

Planning and Monitoring Section of the Directorate in July 2009. Before joining ICIMOD, she worked as an intern in Adopt-A-Minefield, a UN-affiliated organisation in London, where she posted articles to the organisation's website and assist in fundraising activities. Ms. Basnyat joined ICIMOD as an intern in May 2004 in the Policy and Partnership Development Programme where she created, updated, and managed the ICIMOD donors' database, and was appointed Communications In-charge in the Human Resources section in June 2005. She holds a Master's degree in International Business from Schiller International University, London, and a Bachelor's degree in Commerce from Lady Sri Ram College in Delhi, India.



**Dr Bishnu Bhandari**, Wetlands Specialist, Integrated Water and Hazard Management Programme

Dr Bishnu Bhandari joined ICIMOD as Wetlands Specialist in August 2009. His major responsibility will be for conservation and sustainable use of the high altitude

wetlands of the Himalayan region under the Himalayan Wetlands Initiative. Prior to joining ICIMOD, he worked at IUCN Nepal as chief technical advisor in the Wetlands Project. He brings with him more than 18 years of experience in the field of wetlands. Dr Bhandari started his career as a senior programme officer for wetland conservation in IUCN in 1991. After eight years, he joined the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES, Japan) where he was responsible for managing activities on environmental education, forests, and wetlands in Asia Pacific. He also worked at Pusan National University, South Korea as a visiting scholar where he was engaged in teaching, action research, and guiding postdoctoral students on wetlands. He is the founder of Nepal Wetlands Society and has contributed to bringing stakeholders and partners together for the cause of wetlands and associated resources.



**Ms Celeste Harris**, Wetlands Specialist, Integrated Water and Hazard Management Programme

Ms Harris joined ICIMOD as a Wetlands Specialist in March 2009. Her work revolves around knowledge building, conservation, and the promotion of wise use

of wetlands in the Himalayan region. Prior to this, she was working at the Riverine Landscapes Research Laboratory in Australia. Her past experience includes interdisciplinary study of wetlands and rivers for the sustainable management of natural resources, which resulted in papers, conference proceedings, articles, technical reports, and manuals. She has extensive experience with geographical information systems and worked as a GIS officer and tertiary level trainer at the University of Canberra. She has studied marine and coastal science, ultimately specialising in landscape geomorphology and hydrology, and graduating with the highest honours.



**Ms Mirjam Macchi**, Adaptation Specialist, Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction Programme

Ms Macchi recently joined the SLPR team as Climate Change Adaptation Specialist. Ms Macchi has wide international experience

in sustainable development issues, including climate change vulnerability and adaptation; policy analysis; biodiversity management; indigenous peoples; and gender. She has a Master's degree in geography with biology from the University of Berne. For her thesis, Ms Macchi spent several months in Bolivia where she investigated problems and conflicts between peasant farmers and authorities resulting from the top-down implementation of a national park. During the past five years she has worked with several institutions active in the field of international cooperation including FAO in Rome, Italy; IUCN in Gland, Switzerland; the Centre for Mountain Studies in Perth, Scotland; and Helvetas in Zurich, Switzerland. Ms. Macchi is a JPO funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.



**Ms Anusha Joshi, Web Associate, Integrated Knowledge Management**

Ms Joshi, a Nepali national, joined ICIMOD as a Web Associate in August 2009. She will be promoting ICIMOD's web presence and managing its web

content. Prior to joining ICIMOD, she worked as the a knowledge management coordinator with BrightMind Synergy Pvt. Ltd., an IT company based in Kathmandu, where she also worked as a functional consultant for Naviworld Nepal. She has given lectures in ICT-related areas in Kathmandu College of Management, Kathmandu Engineering College, and Management Development Campus, the Management Association of Nepal, as a visiting lecturer. She has an ME in Information & Communications Technologies from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.



**Dr Giridhar Kinhal, Team Leader High Value Products & Value Chains, and Coordinator MAPPA, Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction Programme**

Dr. Kinhal joined ICIMOD as Team Leader High Value Products

& Value Chains, and Coordinator for the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme in Asia (MAPPA) in April 2009. As an Indian Forest Service Officer with the Government of India, he brings with him more than 29 years of administrative and field experience in forest management and research. As an Additional Secretary to the Government of Madhya Pradesh, he was involved in the development of several policy interventions in the forestry sector, especially in developing participatory forest management. Dr Kinhal has rich experience working in the NGO sector in addition to serving as a member on important national and international bodies. Dr. Kinhal has a Master of Professional Services degree in natural resource management and policy analysis from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, and several technical papers on forestry issues to his credit in international and national journals and magazines, including a book on Adaptive Management of Medicinal Plants and NTFPs. He has twice been awarded the Brandis Memorial Prize by the ICFRE/ Indian Forester, Dehradun, for his scientific papers.



**Ms Noorin Nazari, Governance Specialist, Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction Programme**

Ms Nazari, an Afghan-Canadian national, joined ICIMOD in June 2009 as Governance Specialist to provide technical expertise and

support to the Improving Local Governance Project, and to mainstream good governance practices in ICIMOD at the level of both the organisation and its programmes. Ms Nazari has experience working in Afghanistan, Nepal, and Pakistan, and Canada and the United States, with national governments, the UN and civil society organisations. Ms. Nazari's most recent experiences include working for the National Solidarity Programme in Afghanistan, where she was involved in the Afghan Government's governance programme; as a subject matter expert working for the Centre for Intercultural Learning of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Canada; and as a regional gender advisor working for the Canadian Centre for International Cooperation and Education in Nepal. Ms Nazari has a Bachelor's degree in Public Affairs and Policy Management from Carleton University, Canada; and a Master's degree in International Development - Project Management from Duke University, USA.



**Ms Doma T Sherpa, Communications Associate**

Ms Sherpa, a Nepalese national, joined ICIMOD as a Communications Associate in July 2009. Prior to this she worked as an intern with ICIMOD's Public Relations unit for one

year and for a short time as a consultant within the Resource Mobilisation and External Relations unit. She was involved in different types of outreach and dissemination activities in both units, and especially with the photo exhibition: Himalaya – Changing Landscapes. She is currently pursuing a postgraduate degree in Environmental Management at the School of Environment Management and Sustainable Development (SchEMS) in Kathmandu, Nepal. A mountain person by birth, Ms. Sherpa enjoys working in this regional development and learning centre, and is pleased to have the opportunity to work for the betterment of mountains and people.



**Dr Golam Rasul**, Division Head,  
Economic Analysis Division,  
Sustainable Livelihoods and  
Poverty Reduction Programme

Dr Rasul, a development economist, was appointed Head of the Economic Analysis Division in August 2009,

following five years as a policy development specialist at ICIMOD. Dr Rasul is from Bangladesh and holds a PhD in regional and rural development planning from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand. He worked for many years in the Bangladesh Civil Service in different ministries and in field administration in different capacities and was involved in the formulation and implementation of development planning and programming. As well as development work, he is actively involved in research in areas that include agriculture, natural resource management, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development in Bangladesh and the South Asian region. His research findings have been published in many international journals and four of his papers have appeared as 'most read papers' in Science Direct. Dr Rasul will provide intellectual leadership to mainstream economic concepts, tools, and approaches to ICIMOD's three Strategic Programmes with a view to contributing to the achievement of the strategic objectives of the Centre.



**Ms Anu Joshi Shrestha**, High  
Value Chain Development  
Specialist, Sustainable  
Livelihoods and Poverty  
Reduction Programme

Ms Shrestha joined ICIMOD in August 2009 as Value Chain Development Specialist. She

brings with her extensive experience in working with development agencies and bi-lateral/multilateral organisations. Ms Shrestha will be focusing on high value product value chains, emphasising the equitable promotion of pro-poor value chains and strengthening rural-urban linkages. Prior to joining ICIMOD, she worked as an Advisor on local and regional economic development for GTZ INCLUDE, where she worked in the value chain promotion of various potential sectors for economic development in Palpa, Kapilbastu, and Rupendehi, including serving as the focal point for NTFP/MAPS value chains. Ms Shrestha has a strong interest in nature conservation and worked with the National Trust for Nature Conservation as a knowledge management officer. She was also a faculty member in Kathmandu College of Management, Kathmandu University. She has an MBA from the University of Wales, UK, specialising in marketing and human resources development.