

Partnership Development

ICIMOD establishes strategic partnerships with regional and international organizations to address mountain issues and to enhance the social and environmental security of mountain people. Some of the partnerships entered into from January to December 2011 are listed here.

Strategic partnerships with international organizations

- A strategic agreement was signed with the Center for International Climate and Environment Research (CICERO), Oslo, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/GRID-ARENDAL on cooperation under the Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP).
- A partnership was established with the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Japan, for academic exchange and cooperation in the areas of water hazards, water resources, and disaster risk management.
- An agreement was signed for the provision of funds from the United States Forest Service to organize and host an Eastern Himalayas Regional Workshop on Forests and Climate Change.
- An agreement was signed with Le Miroir, France, to co-produce a film called 'A Cloud on the Roof of the World' to raise public awareness of advances in knowledge about climate change and atmospheric brown clouds.
- A Letter of Agreement was signed for the provision of funds from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in support of the implementation of three regional knowledge sharing workshops.
- FAO signed an agreement with ICIMOD to support a workshop on the new generation of watershed management in Asia.
- For collaboration in the areas of water management, climate change, ecosystem services, and poverty reduction through knowledge sharing, Memorandums of Understanding were signed with:
 - Ev-K2-CNR (Mount Everest-Mount K2-Italian National Research Council), Italy; and
 - Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA).
- A broad framework Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) for long-term collaboration on cryosphere and hydroclimatology research and development.
- ICIMOD signed an agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in support of the SERVIR-Himalaya initiative
- An agreement was signed with UNEP, Nairobi, to cooperate with ICIMOD on the project 'Assessment in Dryland Areas in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya'.
- A strategic agreement was entered into with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Sweden for collaboration in research on water governance, policy, and participation in policy dialogues.
- For the preparation of climate change scenarios for pilot catchment in the Indus Basin, an agreement was signed with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich.
- An agreement was signed with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Switzerland, for the rehabilitation of the hydro-meteorological network of Pakistan.
- An agreement was signed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Nepal, for the implementation of a South-South Knowledge Exchange and Writers' Workshop and support to the Government of Nepal's national position paper as part of the Rio+20 preparation process.
- An agreement was signed with the United States Department of State, United States Embassy, Nepal, to host a regional workshop to share knowledge on existing glacier monitoring efforts and develop common methodologies.
- A partnership was established with the Secretariat of Asia-Pacific Regional Target Coordinators (AP-RTC) to conduct a part of Asia-Pacific Regional Process the 6th World Water Forum.
- An agreement was entered into with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for the implementation for preparing full-size project document for community-based flood and glacial lake outburst risk reduction for UNDP Nepal.

- A financial and technical agreement was signed with GIZ for the project RED, Uttarakhand, India on 'Development of Knowledge Products on Value Chain Development in Uttarakhand.

Partnerships with regional institutions for programme implementation

- For cooperation on the use and development of remote sensing and geographic information systems, agreements were signed with:
 - Forest Resource Assessment (FRA), Nepal;
 - Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Bangladesh;
 - Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARSO), Bangladesh;
 - Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Bangladesh; and
 - WWF, Pakistan.
- A Letter of Agreement was signed with the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN), Bhutan, to support the project 'Biodiversity and Climate Change Adoption in the Eastern Himalayas – Phobjikha Wetland Ecosystem as Case Study'.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal, to continue collaboration on climate impacts on the glaciers of the Himalayas.
- To support partners in the implementation of the second phase of 'Development of Sustainable Energy for Rangelands (DESER-II)' activities, including the establishment of a knowledge base on energy uses in rangeland areas, testing new technologies through participatory processes, building partners' capacities, and constructing a trombe wall in rangeland areas, Letters of Agreement were signed with:
 - National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal;
 - Wildlife Institute of India (WII), India;
 - Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC), Royal Government of Bhutan; and
 - Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), Chitral, Pakistan.
- For the adoption and upscaling of various rangeland technologies and options for livelihood diversification for better adaptation to climate change, and for the valuation of ecosystem services in the Hindu Kush Himalayas, ICIMOD entered into partnership with:
 - Lanzhou University, China;
 - People's Agriculture Research and Development Center (PARC), Nepal;
 - Wildlife Institute of India (WII), India; and
 - CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur (India).

Visiting partners watch a demonstration of glacial mapping at ICIMOD



- A tripartite agreement was signed between the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB), Nepal, the Federation of Community Forestry Users' Nepal (FECOFUN), and ICIMOD to set up a Forest Carbon Trust Fund (FCTF) and regulate seed grants under the NORAD REDD+ Project.
- An agreement was signed with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh, to organize and host a regional expert group meeting on water for the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas – Bhutan 2011 and to produce a regional report from it.
- For the implementation of the project 'Establishment of a Regional Flood Information System in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region' (HKH-HYCOS), funded by the Government of Finland, agreements were signed with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department; the Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan; the Pakistan Meteorological Department; and the Water and Power Development Authority, Pakistan.
- For the implementation of the three major components of the AdaptHimal agreements were signed with the Western Uplands Poverty Alleviation Project, Nepal; the Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme, Nepal; the North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project, India; and the Meghalaya Rural Development Society, India.
- Under the 'Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative' project, agreements were signed with the Central Department of Botany of Tribhuban University, Nepal, and the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, India, and IGSNRR, China.
- For designing and setting up a REDD payment mechanism in the community forest management system in Nepal, under the REDD+ project funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), agreements were signed with the Federation of Community Forestry Users' Nepal (FECOFUN); the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB), Nepal; Forest Action, Nepal; and the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE).
- For the assessment of impacts of particulate air pollutants on respiratory health of school children in the Kathmandu Valley under the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia, an agreement was signed with Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), Nepal.
- ICIMOD entered into collaboration with the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Science (ITP-CAS) for sharing of information to strengthen databases of the region.
- For monitoring and assessment of changes in glaciers, snow, and glacio-hydrology in the HKH under the 'HKH Cryosphere Monitoring Project', with a special focus on strengthening the capacity of Nepalese organisations, an agreement was signed with Kathmandu University, Nepal.
- With the purpose of promoting herbal gardens in schools in Nepal, an agreement was signed with Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness, Nepal (ECCA).
- For the implementation of the Baseline Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity Assessment in the Eastern Brahmaputra Basin as a part of the Component 5: Vulnerability and Adaptation of the Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP) agreements were signed with
 - Aaranyak, Assam, India;
 - The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), Pakistan; and
 - Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), Nepal.
- To conduct a collaborative research on rangeland ecosystem services for sustainable mountain development, an agreement was entered into with Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chengdu, China.
- For adopting water quality assessment methods for rapid appraisal of water services under the World Agroforestry Centre-Rewarding Upland Poor for Environmental Services (RUPES) project, an agreement was signed with Aquatic Ecology Centre, Kathmandu University.
- For promoting herbal gardens in schools in Bhutan, an agreement was signed with the Council for Renewable Natural Resources Research of Bhutan (CORRB), Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Thimphu, Bhutan.
- To support a mountain initiative conference led by the Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal (MoENV/GoN), an agreement was signed with Integrated Development Society (IDS) Nepal.