

Message from the Director General

Dear Readers, Friends, and Supporters of ICIMOD,

I am pleased to share the ICIMOD Annual Report for 2012. ICIMOD has made considerable progress in generating and sharing mountain knowledge to contribute to positive impact in the region. This year we worked to refine our strategy to ensure even greater impact in the future. Through work with our national partners, uptake of ICIMOD knowledge within our member countries has resulted in improved policy and the adoption of tools and approaches to improve the lives of mountain men, women and children. Knowledge from the Centre also played a critical role in successfully advocating for the importance of mountains, especially the Hindu Kush Himalayas, at global forums.

This report documents ICIMOD's progress and results in 2012, which build on its experience and the networks it has developed over the years. Promising results have been attained through its work on value chains and beekeeping, contributions to policy change related to rangelands, piloting of inclusive approaches to REDD+, capacity building in the region on glacier monitoring, and improving flood forecasting and early warning systems. Our scientific output has increased with important work on the cryosphere, climate change, poverty and vulnerability, and migration. In 2012, ICIMOD worked extensively with youth from the Hindu Kush Himalayas to address regional issues, not only by building their capacity to advocate for mountain issues at national, regional, and global levels, but also in arming them with cutting-edge research tools.

A series of consultations with partners in the region and beyond in the first half of 2012 helped the Centre fine-tune its Strategic Framework and develop a roadmap for the next five years through the third Medium Term Action Plan for 2013 to 2017. Recognizing ICIMOD's niche role in facilitating dialogue and sharing knowledge in the region and addressing issues that cross borders, this framework calls for improved partnerships, promotes ownership in its member countries, emphasizes the importance of good science, and incorporates impact pathways into planning and monitoring for better results. Looking forward, these documents will focus ICIMOD's work and help transform the Centre's growing body of knowledge into even greater action in on-the-ground practices, national policies, regional cooperation, and global processes.

It was an exciting first year for me as Director General. I would like to thank ICIMOD staff, partners, and supporters, especially those who provided their valuable time and input over the last year to help us refine the Centre's strategy and ensure we continue working to address the needs of the women, men, and children of the region. I am especially grateful to the Centre's core donors: the Governments of Afghanistan, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Switzerland, and now the United Kingdom, who contributed core funding for the first time this year. Their support helps drive innovation and promote cooperation and provides the glue that holds the Centre together as it works to improve the lives of the people of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David Molden". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Molden