

Knowledge for Policy, Practice, and Science



Sharing the knowledge generated by ICIMOD is at the core of the Centre's efforts to raise awareness of mountain issues, to support evidence-based decision making, and to help mountain systems and communities adapt to change. ICIMOD's knowledge management and communication efforts cover the social and technical processes

supporting information gathering, packaging in forms appropriate for different audiences, uptake and learning, and dissemination. These efforts contribute to the outcomes of the Centre and are essential to fostering dialogue and exchange among the researchers, practitioners, and decision makers in the region as well as the global community.

“It is time that the mountain states of India engage pro-actively with regional institutions like ICIMOD, who have significant documented publications, not only restricted to the HKH region, but about other mountain systems of the world.”

– Dr RS Tolia, former Chief Secretary of State, Uttarakhand, India, from ‘A Planning Framework for the Mountain States of India

Panjshir River, Afghanistan



ICIMOD aims to ensure that knowledge transfer results in engagement, learning, and changes in policy, programmes, and behaviour. Through this, ICIMOD works to improve understanding among different audiences – local, national, regional, and global – about the value of mountain systems and important mountain issues such as climate change to influence action and achieve impact.

Knowledge is communicated through a wide array of publications, databases, multimedia, and web content, all of which are available globally online, as well as through meetings, workshops, and online discussions. The impressive number of online visitors and downloads and growing media coverage attest to the expanding reach and use of ICIMOD knowledge products.

Regional country events to support mountain perspectives

Working through knowledge partners in regional member countries, ICIMOD supports events in throughout the region to raise awareness of mountain issues beyond its headquarters in Kathmandu. In 2012, ICIMOD provided support to 34 outreach events and celebrations of UN-declared international days. To capitalize on the awareness that International Mountain Day can build, in 2012, ICIMOD supported activities to celebrate International Mountain Day in India, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Video Conferencing: A low-carbon approach to sharing knowledge



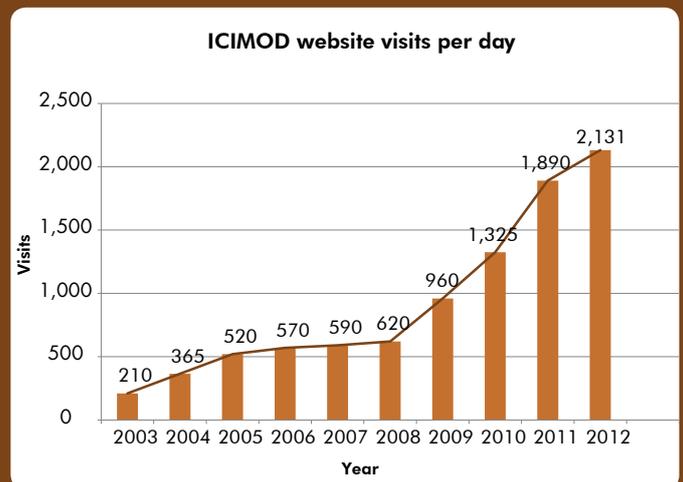
As a new approach to knowledge sharing and exchange, ICIMOD, together with British Council Nepal, organized a Skype-enabled video conference on 24 February 2012. The topic was 'Earth Debate: Can We Put a Price on Nature?'. Youth from Bangladesh, China, India, and Nepal participated in a real-time virtual discussion with a Kathmandu-based panel of experts from the development, media, and tourism sectors. Increasingly, ICIMOD regards video conferencing as an economic, green approach to knowledge sharing – one that transcends international borders and time zones and leaves behind little carbon footprint.

Targeting knowledge for different audiences

To ensure a greater uptake of ICIMOD's knowledge, the Centre is increasing efforts to package knowledge in ways that are targeted to the audiences it aims to reach, including farmers, policy makers, students, and young professionals. ICIMOD distributed its technical and general publications widely in the region and beyond through both traditional and online channels. The ICIMOD website gained popularity worldwide in 2012, with over 2,100 visits per day. Over 74,840 soft copies or chapters of ICIMOD's publications were downloaded from HIMALDOC, ICIMOD's knowledge repository. Similarly, hard copies of 23,795 technical and 70,392 general publications were distributed through various channels by post; at meetings, conferences, and exhibitions and in response to individual requests.

In addition to nine technical publications in 2012, ICIMOD produced 30 general publications with greater focus on clear messages and visual impact. ICIMOD has fully branded and continuously improved its website with mandatory editing for all content.

In 2012, ICIMOD received 121 requests for interviews, conducted four press briefings, and published 21 newspaper articles, 12 press releases, six editions of e-news, and 65 e-circulars, and 558 items of press coverage. A monthly news digest was introduced in July 2012 to streamline the sharing of ICIMOD news and events to the Centre's email contacts. The Centre also helped organize and support five mobile photo exhibitions showcasing changes in the Himalayas in different Japanese cities.



Realizing the shift towards digital information resources, ICIMOD has further developed HIMALDOC, a digital library for regional information sharing platform with almost 20,000 records (articles, theses, working papers, reports, opinion, interviews, books and multimedia resources) and all ICIMOD publications, photos, and other knowledge products.



Lalitpur, Nepal

New ways of knowledge outreach

New modes of communication and interactive knowledge sharing tools are quickly becoming the global norm and will provide further momentum to knowledge management efforts. ICIMOD works to find a balance between global knowledge management and communication innovations while remaining relevant to the region's unique sociocultural context. To bolster traditional modes of knowledge sharing, ICIMOD has put additional emphasis on multimedia and video storytelling and increased its presence on social media sites like Twitter and Facebook.

Hub for external networks

ICIMOD serves as the base for the Asia Pacific Water Forum, Asia Pacific Mountain Network, and Asia Pacific Adaptation Network. The Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) has more than 7,500 subscribers – a membership base of 2,500 people and a network of over 4,000 youth and sustainable mountain development professionals. Over the past year, APMN trained over 200 youth and 50 media representatives through. APMN youth forums contributed to ICIMOD's ongoing advocacy work at regional and global forums.

Comments from readers...

“I am very grateful to ICIMOD for developing such a detailed beekeeping manual. I am a Training Farm Manager working for GIZ in Peshawar and my job is to arrange and impart vocational trainings for women. This manual will definitely help me in my current job. Thank you very much.”

– Seema Qazi, Pakistan

“The publication ‘Climate variability and change in the Himalayas: Community perceptions and responses’ has been shared with NGOs working in the north part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in Pakistan, especially in mountains highly vulnerable to natural disaster. I highly appreciate the quality and instrumentality of the ICIMOD publications.”

– Khalid Hussain, Pakistan

“Thanks for ‘Flash flood risk management: A training of trainers manual.’ It is very useful for field workers and managers. I am associated with an NGO called SPEED doing grassroots-level work in Uttaranchal, India. It would be very beneficial for them.”

– Dr Ramesh Uniyal, Bioresource Division, India

“Congratulations to all of ICIMOD's staff for their efforts on glaciological research in the HKH showcased in two wonderful publications. Thank you very much. These could be very helpful to me and my team working on Himalayan glaciers.”

– Dr DP Dobhal, Scientist, WIHG, India

“ICIMOD has highlighted a very important issue: media and other communication channels can play an important role in experience sharing and alliance building among grassroots organizations working for indigenous people. We provide communications support to more than 200 non-profit organizations in Pakistan through communication trainings, information, research and networking.”

– Aftab Iqbal, Director, Pakistan Centre for Development Communication (PCDC), Islamabad, Pakistan



ICIMOD Knowledge Park at Godavari

In 2012, the ICIMOD Knowledge Park at Godavari – a venue for testing, promoting, and training farmers on green technologies – introduced a number of new tools to empower farmers from around the region with alternative livelihood options and ways to improve living standards, including new solar technologies, improved cooking stoves, and multiple use water systems.

A carbon monitoring plot introduced at the park will allow experts to share REDD+ monitoring techniques with community level forest user groups. A flood early warning system installed on site will be used to test and refine the technology for implementation in at-risk villages as well as raise awareness and demonstrate this life-saving technology.

In 2012, ICIMOD started a Mountain Product Shop to sell 'green' goods from Godavari and members of the local community. It also gave different species of medicinal and aromatic plants to the Nepali NGO, Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA), for herbal gardens in schools of the Kathmandu Valley.

In total, 165 field visits to the Park brought 5,281 visitors, of whom 810 were policy makers or development workers, 643 were farmers, and 3,818 were students. In addition, ICIMOD used the Knowledge Park to conduct trainings, workshops, and meetings, hosting ten events with an additional 243 participants.



At the ICIMOD Knowledge Park at Godavari, visitors can learn about technologies including beekeeping, water harvesting, and solar technologies.

Green Solutions Fair and ICIMOD Green Champion Award

In December 2012, the Knowledge Park hosted the first ICIMOD Green Solutions Fair, which gave a platform for 11 private sector companies from the region to share green products and technologies with over 5,000 visitors.

At the Green Solutions Fair, ICIMOD presented the first Green Champion Award to Tara Mani Khatiwada for his vision and leadership in promoting kiwi farming and other green solutions in eastern Nepal. Khatiwada first learned how to cultivate kiwi fruit at the Knowledge Park and was among the first to introduce kiwi cultivation to Ilam District of Nepal. He also actively promotes the production of bio-briquettes, mushroom cultivation, and the use of organic fertilizers.



Comments from visitors to the knowledge park

“The Park is filled with interesting knowledge about sustainable development and the management of natural resources. It is great place for students and others to learn about the environment. Thank you ICIMOD!”

– Niharika, Shishu Kunja High School, Kathmandu, Nepal

“The students and teachers from GLOBE India visited the Knowledge Park. This was wonderful exploration to them. We appreciate the help ICIMOD provided to plan the visit and the knowledge shared with the students. We hope GLOBE students from India and Nepal will visit this park again.”

– Dr Desh Bandhu, Director GLOBE, India

“One of the most amazing experiences in Nepal. These people get it. The world needs to learn from ICIMOD!”

– Nicole Travis, Pittsburgh University, US

“The Knowledge Park is worth seeing for all development practitioners with an aim to learn and replicate innovative, low-cost technologies and useful techniques, especially for eco-friendly agricultural development in mountain areas.”

– Babar Khan, Gilgit, Pakistan

Farming kiwi fruit: An option for additional income



A kiwi farmer from Illam, Nepal

ICIMOD's 2012 Green Champion, Tara Mani Khatiwada of the Environment Protection and Alternative Power Development Private Limited (EPAPD), introduced kiwi farming to eastern Nepal in 2007 after learning about kiwi cultivation and receiving starter stem cuttings during a visit to the ICIMOD Knowledge Park.

Since then, he has promoted kiwi cultivation in Illam District of Nepal by meeting farmers, training them on techniques, selling starter cuttings, and

marketing kiwi fruit. Now kiwi is a desirable income alternative for local farmers.

"At first, ICIMOD gave me technical knowledge about growing kiwi. Then I learned more from the internet. When I started kiwi farming in 2007, other farmers became interested and started growing their own kiwi. Now, there are about 1,400 kiwi farmers in Illam alone. Kiwi farming is an additional income generation option for farmers. So far progress has exceeded my expectations and I believe that kiwi will bring lots of economic benefits," said Khatiwada.

After a week-long training from EPAPD, Tej Bahadur Gurung planted 200 kiwi plants on land where he normally grew maize. "It is easier to grow kiwi than maize; it is less time-consuming and less work. Plus, it yields greater economic benefits, he said. He also runs a nursery where he sells cuttings for NPR 400-500 apiece.

Biobriquettes for livelihoods and forest conservation

In response to demands from communities and partners working in Mustang and Jumla districts of Nepal, ICIMOD gave biobriquette training as a part of the High Mountain Agribusiness and Livelihood Improvement (HIMALI) project. In these districts, continued degradation of forests and rangelands has increased the time it takes to collect fuelwood, a task women are primarily responsible for.

Forty participants (15 men and 25 women) in Mustang and Jumla attended a three-day training on how to make briquettes from waste paper, sawdust, and rice husks with a briquette-pressing machine. This technology has been introduced as

A woman from Mustang stacks dried biobriquettes, Nepal



a community-based solution for climate change adaptation. Briquettes can be easily made at home from locally available natural resources, reducing the need for fuelwood. After taking part in the training, several participants have continued to share this technology with others.

Sita Ram Tamang is an entrepreneur who first learned to make biobriquettes at the Knowledge Park in 1999. He has been producing them commercially since 2003 and provides jobs to ten people for nine months of the year, with another 10-15 people earning income from collecting biomass from the forest.

"There are many farmers who have benefited from the training from the Knowledge Park. I have shared my knowledge with the people in my village and in seven other districts. I would like to teach briquette making in more places so more people can benefit. Briquette making is good for people as they earn a daily wage. We have ten people in my village working on this and others in Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, and Ramechhap.

"The briquettes have the added advantage of not making smoke, which is better for our health. We realize that making the briquettes saves fuelwood and the forest, which grows faster with less jungle weed, which is used in making the briquettes."