

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

ICIMOD

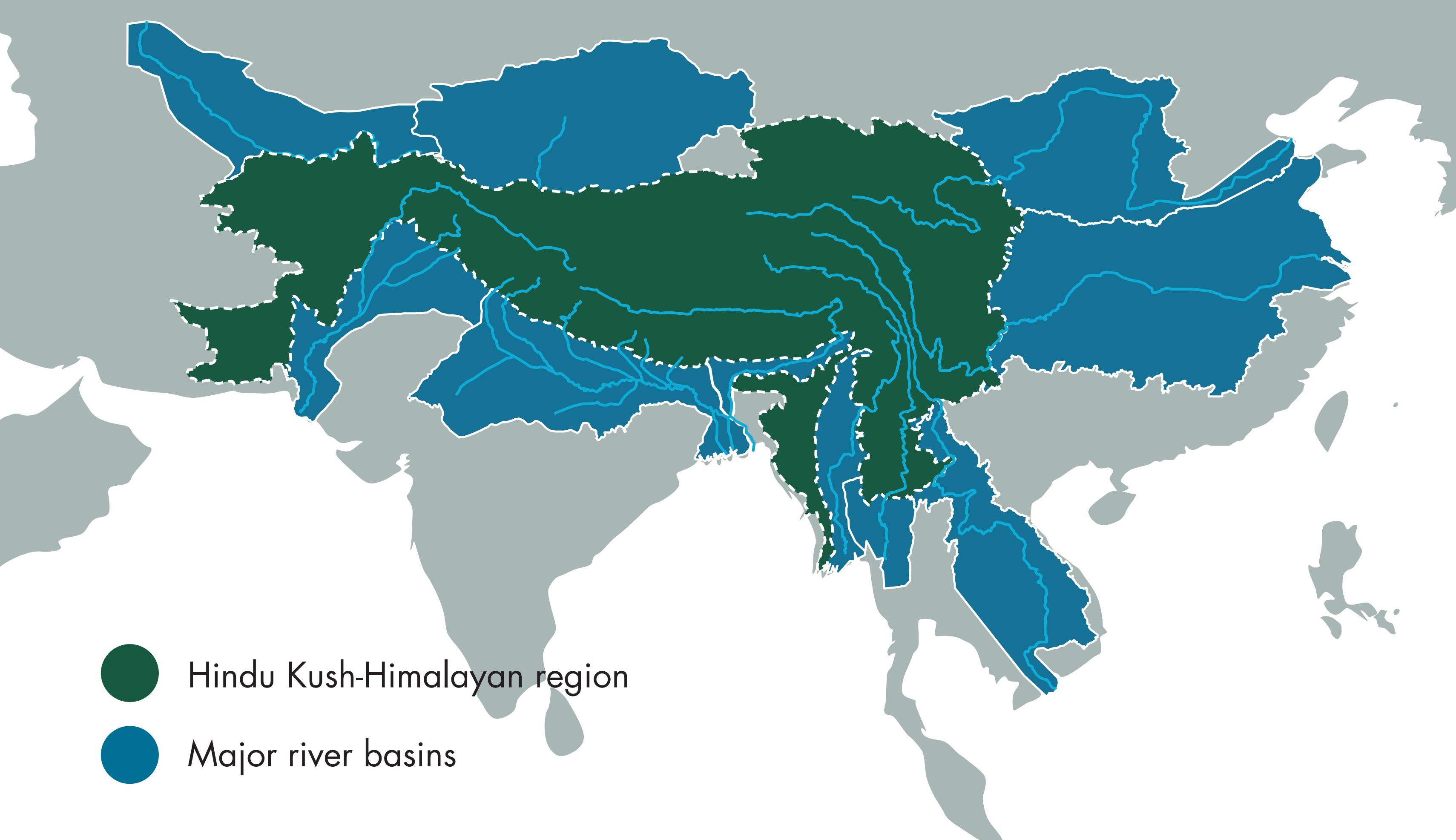
FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

ICIMOD's Vision – the mountain population of the greater Himalayas enjoys improved well-being in a sustainable global environment

ICIMOD's Mission – to enable and facilitate the equitable and sustainable well-being of the people of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas by supporting sustainable mountain development through active regional cooperation

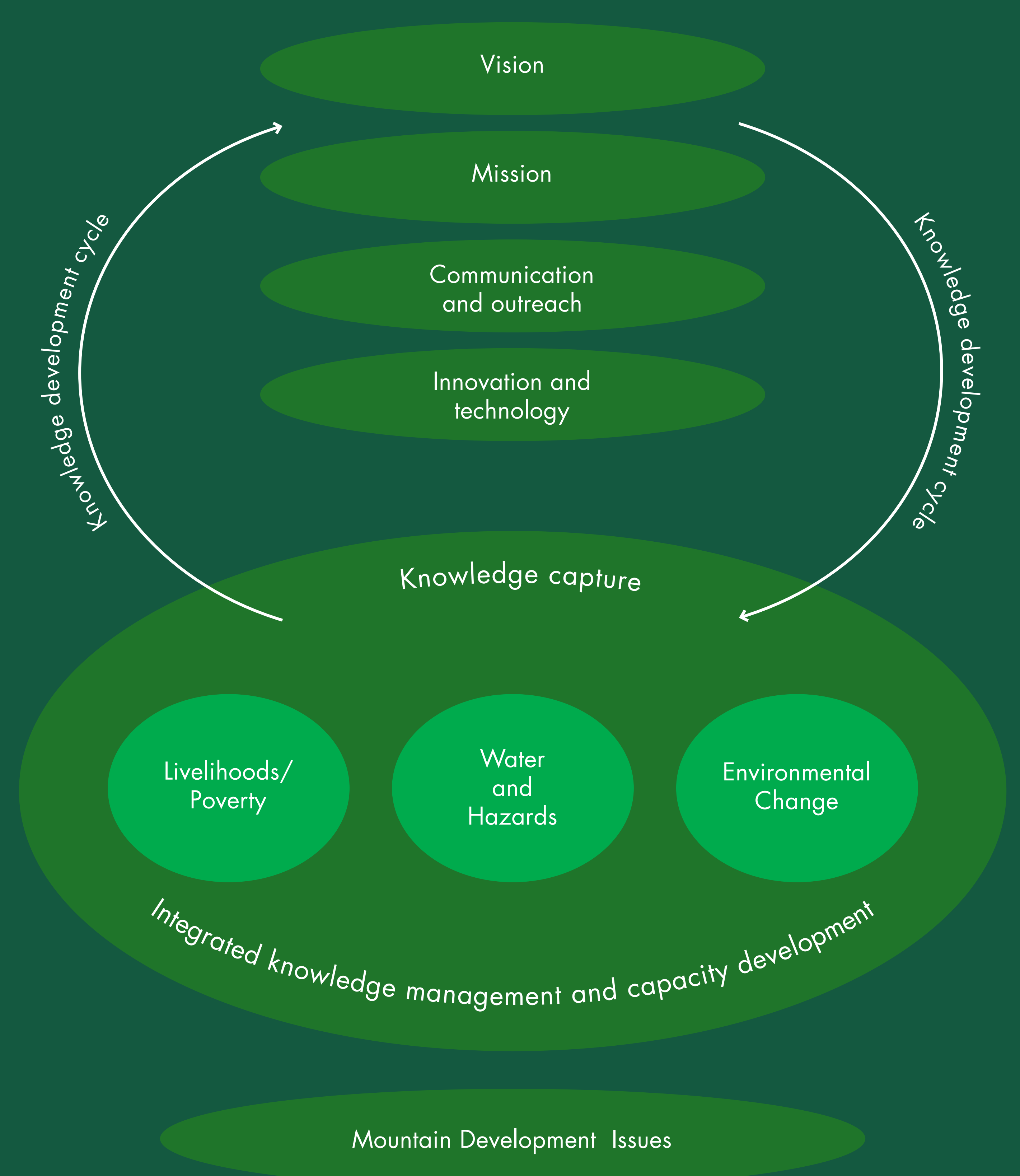


Our Region – The Hindu Kush-Himalayas



- The eight countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.
- The region is the 'Water Tower of Asia'. The Himalayas alone have nearly 4000 cu.km of snow and ice, truly constituting a 'third pole' of the earth and a formidable global ecological buffer.
- The ten major river basins of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region – from west to east – are the Amu Darya, Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong, Yangtze, Yellow and Tarim.
- The region is bio-culturally rich. It has around 1000 living-languages, and contains all or part of four global biodiversity hotspots, 60 ecoregions, 27 Ramsar wetland sites, 488 protected areas, and 13 UNESCO heritage sites.
- The region is comprised of approximately 39% grasslands, 20% forests, 15% shrublands, and 5% agricultural land. The remaining 21% includes barren land, rocky outcrops, built-up areas, snow cover, and water bodies.
- This ecosystem provides services and directly forms the basis for livelihoods for a population of around 210 million people; indirectly, the river basins supply water and other ecosystem services to 1.3 billion people, a fifth of the world's population.

The Strategic Framework



Mountain knowledge, learning and enabling centre

ICIMOD's three strategic programmes, together with knowledge management, uphold its vision and mission.

ICIMOD GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel +977-1-5003222 **Email** info@icimod.org **Web** www.icimod.org