

Analysis of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Countries

Economic incentives for the protection of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge are extremely rare in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. An emphasis on conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing was given after the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by the countries in the region.

The Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity (PoW-MB) adopted by COP 7 was a milestone for conservation of mountain biodiversity. ICIMOD is involved in supporting implementation of the Programme in the region. Countries are at different stages of implementation as summarised below.

CBD Implementation Tools

- National biodiversity strategy and action plans (eight countries)
- National biodiversity laws (three countries, others drafting)
- Regional frameworks



Wild banana in Aarakana mountains, Eastern Himalayas

Impact of CBD Implementation

- Wide-scale awareness of biodiversity resources at policy and programme level
- Empowerment of indigenous and local communities to assert their rights over biological resources and associated traditional knowledge
- Shifting in thinking of policymakers from government towards people friendly policies
- Surveillance by communities on the illicit trade in biological resources
- Access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge and benefit sharing is in the forefront of major discussions on CBD implementation
- Most countries have legally established institutions for biodiversity management in place
- Commencement of bioprospecting in some parts



Future of Mountain Biodiversity

- Challenge is also opportunity. Experiences and lessons from the CBD implementation to protect biodiversity will provide valuable insights for other mountain areas.
- Access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge in the region for private sector industries and institutions, and developing benefit-sharing mechanisms, will help ensure conservation of mountain biodiversity.
- Synergy and challenges between the mountain biodiversity

and ecosystem approach and climate change work in the region will have complementarity for supporting the livelihoods of mountain people.

- Through transboundary cooperation in biodiversity management, HKH countries not only benefit each other but can also provide significant support to downstream countries.
- It is important to emphasise human livelihoods from biological resources and observe the biological and ecological consequences of climate change.



Man carrying biological resources in the mountains