

Women's Knowledge and Practices on Biodiversity Management in the Himalayas

Contributions to Climate Change Adaptation

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

- In the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, women are the backbone of the mountain economy and play a crucial role in the conservation and management of biological resources.
- Women have tremendous knowledge on the medicinal and nutritional value of diverse plant species.
- Women have a greater store of knowledge on the use of biological resources in the household.
- The vast repository of traditional knowledge in the region, gathered over generations, can help mountain people adapt to the changes resulting from climate change and socioeconomic factors.

Adaptation to climate change – When gender makes a difference

- The Himalayan women's rich knowledge on the use of natural resources and skills in appropriate mountain farming practices can help mountain communities adapt to the impacts of climate and other change.
- Women are the custodians of traditional knowledge on seeds and they can help maintain a diverse gene pool contributing to the in situ conservation of biological resources.
- Women's knowledge on medicinal plants in the Himalayas is significant for the primary health care of communities and provides an important source of income.
- Women's knowledge and special skills in agriculture and natural resources plays a crucial role in preserving and regenerating mountain biodiversity and in adapting to both social and climate change.



ICIMOD's work on gender in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region

- Collecting and disseminating information on the impacts of climate change
- Conducting research on traditional knowledge and local adaptation strategies that give visibility to women's roles and capacities
- Building capacities to better understand gender issues related to biodiversity conservation
- Promoting new livelihood options that make the best use of alternative energy sources and enhance mountain people's resilience by reducing the pressure on mountain natural resources
- Advocating at the global, and regional level for the empowerment of women and for gender mainstreaming as an adaptation strategy to deal with both social change and climate change

