

Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas

Contract No: ASIE/2012/292-464

Annual Report 2013

ICIMOD
30

THREE DECADES
FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE



About ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, ICIMOD, is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Globalization and climate change have an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues. We support regional transboundary programmes through partnership with regional partner institutions, facilitate the exchange of experience, and serve as a regional knowledge hub. We strengthen networking among regional and global centres of excellence. Overall, we are working to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services for the billions of people living downstream – now, and for the future.



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Executive Summary

The Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas (Himalica) programme is a demand-driven, need-based programme managed by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and financed by the European Union (EU). This programme aims at supporting poor and vulnerable mountain communities in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region in the context of socio-economic and climate change, and the conservation of ecosystem services, through active regional cooperation.

The two main expected results are that the capacity of the national and regional stakeholders in dealing with livelihood development and protection of the environment in the HKH region is enhanced; and that poverty among mountain people is reduced through increased resilience and the unlocking of new livelihood opportunities, and through the promotion of more equitable approaches.

The promotion of diversification of livelihood opportunities by identifying new and risk reducing income and employment opportunities in mountain areas is the centre part of the programme aiming to enhance livelihoods. Linking value chain development to investment and employment generating activities, developing community involvement in tourism as non land based income generation, and to leverage financial and social remittances from labour migrants have been identified as focal areas.

The programme is part of the larger ICIMOD regional programme Adaptation to Change with the overall objective of improved resilience and livelihoods of mountain people of the HKH region through adaptation to socioeconomic and environmental change including climate change. In addition to the EU's contribution, the regional programme Adaptation to Change is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with different initiatives.

The year 2013 was the first full year for the programme after the signing of the agreement in December 2012. During this pioneering year, Himalica has made significant progress towards planning and implementing activities under its five components particularly focusing on Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan.

Policy support

The work areas regarding Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) policies that were initiated with Poverty and Vulnerability Assessments (PVA) in Myanmar, with analysing CCA in the context of local-level development planning in Nepal, and ecosystem service assessments in Nepal, Myanmar and Bhutan, are seen to clearly increase the collaborative capacity of policy stakeholders in these countries. Collaboration on policy review on migration and remittances in Bangladesh and Pakistan has been embarked as well.

Knowledge management

Case studies on the role of migration in building community resilience in Pakistan and Nepal were initiated, and exposure visits for Bhutan government officials to India as well as for Myanmar officials to Nepal were accomplished.

Collaborative action research

Action research on innovative livelihood opportunities has been initiated in Myanmar, Pakistan and Nepal to generate evidence-based knowledge on adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

Pilot projects

For the conceptualisation of pilot projects multi stakeholder consultations have taken place in Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh, and implementing partner institutions have been identified. Pilot activities are selected according to the criteria for selection of pilot projects.

Capacity building

Institutional partners have been identified in Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan, and two trainings on CCA were conducted.

ICIMOD is working with a mix of academic institutions, NGOs, and government stakeholders, who sometimes do not have expertise on climate change adaptation. As part of the need assessment the capacity of these partner institutions on climate change adaptation will be build up.

Programme management

Strong emphasis was given to explore interlinkages between the five main activities of the programme and to promote concrete cooperation between the areas of activities. Cross-initiative convergences have been identified between the Himalica, HICAP and Adapt-Himal initiatives under the regional programme Adaptation to Change.

In the process of building partnerships and conceptualising activities in several countries the team adopted a participatory approach by consulting governments and stakeholders.

The operational start took place with the establishment of the programme management and the building of an interdisciplinary team of experts within ICIMOD. Criteria and procedures of selection and identifying partner institutions have been developed. The Programme Steering Committee has been established and two addendums to the agreement were developed and signed together with the EU.

Lessons learned

From the first year's experience it is clear that strong government support is essential for sustainability and scaling up of all activities to achieve impacts beyond the programme's duration. This will be taken into account as the programme management will continue to consult and involve governments from the beginning of planning of activities in the regional member countries. Inputs from other stakeholders including NGOs present on the ground will be also essential.

Key Achievements

Activity wise progress

The programme is part of the larger ICIMOD regional programme Adaptation to Change with the overall goal of improved resilience and livelihoods of mountain people of the HKH region through adaptation to socioeconomic and environmental change including climate change.

The outcome of the regional programme is to achieve improved cooperation among regional member countries for sustainable and inclusive ecosystem management in identified landscapes for enhanced and equitable livelihood benefits contributing to global conservation agendas.

The regional programme is measured against following outcome indicators:

1. Regional cooperation frameworks for transboundary landscapes management in place and implemented.
2. Number of partners using programme inputs and analyses for developing relevant policies, legal frameworks and implementation guidelines for use at local, national and regional levels.
3. Increased number of RMC organizations and global institutions using improved ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation approaches in mountain landscapes including a mix of forests, rangelands, agriculture, watersheds, wetlands etc.
4. Number of women, men and children benefited by ecosystem management approaches in identified transboundary landscapes.

Table 1 summarises the progress of the five activities against the specific indicators under the Himalica log frame, and the outputs of the regional programme Adaptation to Change. The table also indicates the link of each activity to the regional programme outcome indicators listed above.

Regional Programme Adaptation to Change outcome indicators	Regional Programme Adaptation to Change outputs	Intervention logic (As per the programme log frame)	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement (As per the programme log frame)	Achievements/Progress 2013
3	Output 3: Improved resource governance, access and support services identified, assessed and promoted for livelihoods	Activity 1: Develop capability to adapt policy. Increase the national and regional collaborative capacity to develop adapted policies impacting on mountain rural livelihoods, taking socio-economic and climate change into account	6 Climate Change adaptation policies or strategies identified, monitored and assessed 4 NAPA or national strategies or policies and processes are supported and adapted to mountain-specific context through project influence At least 5 knowledge products on ecosystem services are developed and used by stakeholders Mountain specific poverty index applied in at least 4 member countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nepal: District stakeholder workshop on integrating climate change adaptation strategy with district development plans in Udayapur was accomplished, and a similar workshop for Khotang planned for 2014 Bangladesh: Initial deskwork analysis on national CCA policy and mountain specificity completed, results to be incorporated into assessment in 2014 after partner identification 2 LoAs signed with partners from Bangladesh and Pakistan for collaboration on policy review on migration and remittances Technical collaboration with the working committee for Nepal's National Tourism Strategy, to ensure attention for mountain specificities. Draft presented to the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation in December. First draft ecosystem services knowledge product framework and questionnaire prepared.
2, 3	Output 1: Knowledge products for enhanced understanding of risks, uncertainties, vulnerabilities, gender issues, migration, poverty and opportunities to adapt to change developed and strategically disseminated	Activity 2: Knowledge management. Raising awareness and disseminating knowledge on the effects of climate change and adaptation responses in the HKH region	At least 25 knowledge products on CCA related issues (e.g. poverty, value chains, tourism, ecosystem services) developed, packaged and disseminated 6+ Exposure visits organised to share CCA knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LoA for Poverty & Vulnerability Assessment (PVA) signed with Myanmar Survey Research (MSR) and training of enumerators conducted in Myanmar in relation to mountain specific poverty indices; Although initiated, similar PVA in Bhutan and Bangladesh will commence in both countries in 2014 1 case study on the role of circular migration in building household level adaptive capacity or community resilience in the Koshi sub-basin in Nepal initiated 1 case study on the role of circular migration in building household level adaptive capacity or community resilience in Upper Indus sub-basin in Pakistan initiated Training manual on Adaptation to change drafted and tested. 1 exposure visit for Bhutan government officials to India accomplished 1 exposure visit for Myanmar government officials to Nepal accomplished

2, 3, 4	Output 4: Gender-specific livelihood diversification options (high value products, value chains and ecotourism) to enhance income and adaptive capacity of mountain people identified, piloted, validated and up-scaled, in collaboration with partner	Activity 3: Collaborative action research. Strengthening collaborative action research in the region in relation to mountain livelihoods and eco-systems, generating evidence-based knowledge on adaptation and mitigation to climate change in the HKH region. This may include European / international organisations	<p>10+ High value product value chains are analysed with implementing bodies</p> <p>3 action research initiatives on tourism or ecosystem services developed and under implementation with implementing bodies</p> <p>3 action research initiatives on migration or population dynamics developed and under implementation with implementing bodies</p> <p>3 new action research initiatives on innovative livelihood opportunities developed and under implementation with implementing bodies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 high value products (HVP) VCAs on tourism (trekking and home stay) have been completed in Myanmar (linked to tourism action research) 2 HVP VCAs on pollination services (apricot and Apis Cerana honey) agreed with local partners in Pakistan (linked to pollination action research). LOAs to be signed in first quarter of 2014. 1 action research to encourage hill community involvement in tourism in the Inlay Lake region of Myanmar ongoing with partners (2 value chain analyses linked) 1 action research on ecosystem services linked to livelihood enhancement agreed upon with partners in Udayapur, Nepal. LOA to be signed in 2014 2 action research concepts on migration prepared in collaboration with partners in Nepal and Pakistan. LOAs to be signed in first quarter of 2014. 1 action research on agricultural extension services to promote intercropping with maize with local partners in Nepal, using randomized control trial (RCT) method initiated and LoA signed with Department of Agriculture 1 action research on apple pollination services agreed with local partner in Chitral, Pakistan (2 value chain analyses linked). LOAs to be signed in first quarter of 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot project concept notes were developed for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar and approved by the nodal ministries. LoA with IID (MILD) in Myanmar is signed. LoA with MoAF Bhutan and LoA with MoCHTA Bangladesh were in the process of finalising LoA with MSR signed which includes baseline studies for the pilot in Myanmar, questionnaires developed A conceptual framework and background paper for micro planning with climate change adaptation/environment focus has been developed
2, 4	Output 4: Gender-specific livelihood diversification options (high value products, value chains and ecotourism) to enhance income and adaptive capacity of mountain people identified, piloted, validated and up-scaled, in collaboration with partner	Activity 4: Pilot activities on climate change adaptation. Conduct pilot activities in a collaborative manner in vulnerable areas that strengthen the resilience of mountain men and women through delivery of services and products that will improve livelihood opportunities and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.	<p>At least 8 pilot collaborative HKH projects implemented;</p> <p>At least 4 HKH countries are hosting pilot collaboration activities;</p> <p>3 new pilot activities addressing livelihoods of poor mountain men and women identified, developed and into implementation in year 1;</p> <p>5 new pilot activities addressing livelihoods of poor mountain men and women identified, developed and into implementation in years 2&3;</p> <p>20 community-led micro plans developed with CCA/environment focus</p>	<p>At least 8 pilot collaborative HKH projects implemented;</p> <p>At least 4 HKH countries are hosting pilot collaboration activities;</p> <p>3 new pilot activities addressing livelihoods of poor mountain men and women identified, developed and into implementation in year 1;</p> <p>5 new pilot activities addressing livelihoods of poor mountain men and women identified, developed and into implementation in years 2&3;</p> <p>20 community-led micro plans developed with CCA/environment focus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following 7 capacity building partners have been identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Association of VDCs in Nepal (NAVIN), Alliance Nepal, Nepal Administrative Staff College, Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) and Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC) for Bhutan, Arannayk Foundation (AF) for Bangladesh, Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN) for Pakistan. A total of 50 potential trainers of identified capacity building partners have been trained as training of Trainers (ToT) on Adaptation to Change including climate change issues. A total of 52 staff members from government and non-government bodies from Bangladesh and Pakistan have been trained by capacity building partners on adaptation to change including climate change issues.
2, 3, 4	Output 5: Capacities of relevant institutions (public, civic, and private) to mitigate risks and manage change strengthened	Activity 5: Capacity building. Support to building capacity in higher education, training institutions and NGOs across the HKH region in particular at local level, to scale up best practice for improved resilience to climate change.	<p>8 training bodies identified across the region, MOUs signed</p> <p>120 staff from training bodies have received CCA training</p> <p>120 staff from government and non-government bodies have received CCA training</p> <p>Training in relation to good practices demonstrated through pilot projects (from Activity 4).</p>	<p>8 training bodies identified across the region, MOUs signed</p> <p>120 staff from training bodies have received CCA training</p> <p>120 staff from government and non-government bodies have received CCA training</p> <p>Training in relation to good practices demonstrated through pilot projects (from Activity 4).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following 7 capacity building partners have been identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Association of VDCs in Nepal (NAVIN), Alliance Nepal, Nepal Administrative Staff College, Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) and Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC) for Bhutan, Arannayk Foundation (AF) for Bangladesh, Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN) for Pakistan. A total of 50 potential trainers of identified capacity building partners have been trained as training of Trainers (ToT) on Adaptation to Change including climate change issues. A total of 52 staff members from government and non-government bodies from Bangladesh and Pakistan have been trained by capacity building partners on adaptation to change including climate change issues.

Country wise coverage of activities

Out of the eight regional member countries of ICIMOD the programme embarked collaboration in five countries within the first year: Myanmar, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Table 2 shows key activities in these five regional member countries of ICIMOD.

Countries	Key activities
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A national conference hosted by the Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs and jointly organised by ICIMOD, presenting a seminar on shifting cultivation and on ecotourism, laid ground for stakeholder interest to encourage a pilot project on ecotourism management. The Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Tourism, and State Minister of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs also participated in the event. (Activity 4 Pilot projects) The pilot was designed to promote community engagement in tourism for diversification of local livelihood options in Ruma sub division of Bandarban district in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The project will work with the Hill District Council and will also facilitate the development of a strategy for tourism development in Bandarban which could be replicated to the other districts. (Activity 4 Pilot projects) A scoping study led by the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, University of Dhaka, followed by a planning workshop on development and management of tourism in Bandarban Hill District with national and district stakeholders, narrowed down the pilot scope and encouraged wide support. (Activity 4 Pilot projects) Local levels training on adaptation to change have been successfully conducted in the districts of Rangamati and Bandarban. The training was organized for participants from government organizations, representatives of local schools and media. (Activity 5 Capacity Building)
Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystem services assessment consultations were completed, with implementation to begin in early 2014. The assessments will further enhance the understanding of the state and dynamics of ecosystems and their linkages to human wellbeing in the planned pilot project sites, and ensure to mainstream the knowledge into planning and development strategies. The assessment will also assist in identifying practical solutions for improved ecosystem management and alternative livelihood options. (Activity 1 Policy Support) A planning workshop was jointly organised with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) in September to consult and have a participatory approach for identifying pilot areas and potential pilot activities. Representatives from MoAF, local government from Tsirang district and ICIMOD participated. (Activity 4 Pilot projects) The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) will be the collaborator for the pilot project in Bhutan. The pilot project will enable the Tsirang District administration to improve the livelihoods of farmers in Barshong gewog to adapt new and improved practices for producing crops, livestock and other niche products with sustainable management of natural resources like land and water. (Activity 4 Pilot projects) During the first round of need assessment for capacity building with the nodal ministries in Bhutan and Myanmar knowledge gaps on climate change were identified. Visits were organised to enable officials to support programme implementation and future up scaling. An exposure visit was organised for a group of 10 people from different government departments of Bhutan, who visited Himachal Pradesh of India focusing on water management in high lands. (Activity 2 Knowledge Management)
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A multi stakeholder planning workshop was jointly organised with the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MoECAF) in July to consult and have a participatory approach for identifying pilot areas and potential pilot activities. . Representatives from government, INGOs and local NGOs, local government from Shan State, University of Forestry and ICIMOD participated. (Activity 4 Pilot projects) A competitive call for proposals was published and the Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID, former IID) was selected as implementing partner. The pilot project aims to develop strategies for sustainable management of water for agricultural and cash crop production. A watershed approach will be adopted to identify and treat critical and degraded areas to check soil erosion, surface run off and promote water harvesting storage for recharging soils, irrigation, crop production and drinking water. (Activity 4 Pilot projects) The Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment (PVA) was initiated in Myanmar, but postponed to early 2014 in Bhutan and Bangladesh due to elections in both the countries, as well as political unrest in the latter. The PVA in Myanmar was initiated at the end of 2013 on the signing of the LoA, with planning for survey enumerator training to be held in early 2014 in Yangon led by ICIMOD. (Activity 1 Policy Support) Scoping for tourism policy development was carried out with stakeholders, which resulted in endorsement from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to assign ICIMOD in the lead role on the development of a national Ecotourism Management Strategy for Protected Areas in Myanmar (a key objective in Myanmar's Tourism Master Plan 2013-2020). (Activity 1 Policy Support) In June 2013 the first action research has been initiated in Myanmar to identify opportunities for rural hill communities to engage with tourism development of Inlay Lake region in Shan State. The collaborative action research takes into consideration the vulnerable ecosystem of the lake and its surrounding hills as well as gender and social inclusion elements. Two value chain analyses have commenced to look into opportunities and linkages with local tourism. (Activity 3 Action research) An exposure visit was organised for a group of 8 people mainly from government departments of Myanmar, who visited different parts of Nepal to learn about community forest, tourism and livelihood options. (Activity 2 Knowledge Management)

Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities focused on identifying policy-gaps in integrating climate change adaptation strategy with development plans at local level in Udayapur and Khotang districts in Eastern Nepal. The first consultation meetings held on this topic with local stakeholders in these districts were well attended with active participation concerning identification of priority issues for capacity building, and for ground level action. The outcome of the consultancy assignment has been duly reported and the findings will be followed up in 2014. (Activity 1 Policy Support) ICIMOD scoping for tourism policy development was carried out with stakeholders, which resulted in collaboration on the National Tourism Strategy in Nepal. Under the leadership of the Joint Secretary of the working committee Himalica team contributed mainly on the topics of enhancing community involvement in the tourism sector, management of natural heritage and overall environmental protection, and climate friendly tourism. (Activity 1 Policy Support) A Letter of Agreement (LoA) has been signed with the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD) to conduct an action research on how agricultural extension services can be improved cost-effectively by applying randomized control trial (RCT) method. This action research is a joint venture between the Department of Agriculture, Nepal Development and Research institute (NDRI) and ICIMOD, with effective support from Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). The action research aims to evaluate and identify a cost effective modality that will assist the Department of Agriculture in disseminating knowledge on agriculture and supporting the adoption of innovative agricultural technologies (focusing on intercropping with maize) to further improve the quality of agricultural extension services benefiting rural mountain communities across Nepal. (Activity 3 Action research) A case study on the role of circular labour migration in building adaptive capacity of migrant sending households and/ or community resilience in the Koshi sub-basin in Nepal was initiated in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility, Kathmandu. This case study aims to understand the circumstances where circular labour migration or ensuing remittances will build household level adaptive capacity of migrant sending households and/ or community resilience in rural communities affected by riverine/ flash floods, which are a proxy for climate change shock. (Activity 2 Knowledge Management) In preparation for the action research on migration, Nepal Institute of Development Studies, Kathmandu, prepared a report on the status of the pre-departure loan for the migrant workers in Nepal. (Activity 3 Action research) A need and capacity assessment workshop on the role of labour migration and remittances for climate change adaptation in Nepal was organized in Kathmandu in September 2013. The workshop participants included government stakeholders, international organizations, and non-government organizations. (Activity 3 Action research) Planning for ecosystem services assessment and related consultations were completed, with implementation to begin in 2014. (Activity 1 Policy Support)
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter of Agreement (LoA) has been signed with Aga Khan Rural Support Programme to undertake collaborative action research on apple pollination and analyse upgrading opportunities within two associated value chains on apricot and Apis Cerana honey, to commence in 2014. The framework for this action research is based on ICIMOD's experience with Apis Cerana beekeeping and pollination (mainly in Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh). (Activity 3 Action research) A case study on the role of circular labour migration in building adaptive capacity of migrant sending households and/ or community resilience in the Upper Indus sub-basin in Pakistan was initiated in collaboration with the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad. This case study aims to understand the circumstances where circular labour migration or ensuing remittances will build household level adaptive capacity of migrant sending households and/ or community resilience in rural communities affected by riverine/ flash floods, which are a proxy for climate change shock. (Activity 2 Knowledge Management) A need and capacity assessment workshop on the role of labour migration and remittances for climate change adaptation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan was organized in Islamabad in August 2013. Representatives from government, INGOs and local NGOs, University of Peshawar and ICIMOD participated (Activity 3 Action research) Pakistan Institute of Development Economics was commissioned to prepare a policy review on the role of migration and remittances in context of climate change adaptation in Pakistan with a special focus on the mountainous and hill regions. (Activity 1 Policy Support)

Programme Management

Interlinkages and synergies

Strong emphasis was given to explore interlinkages between the five main activities of the programme and to promote concrete cooperation between the areas of activities.

- For example, some capacity building activities are streamlined with stakeholders and government line agencies involved in pilot projects.
- Consultation meetings held on identifying policy-gaps in integrating climate change adaptation strategy with development plans at local level in Udayapur and Khotang districts in Eastern Nepal identified priority issues for capacity building, and for ground level action.

- The results of the action research initiated in Myanmar to identify opportunities for rural hill communities to engage with tourism development of Inlay Lake region in Shan State will feed into the pilot project in the same area. Additionally local public and private stakeholders have requested a Regional Destination Management Plan for the Inlay Region. Inlay is a vulnerable ecosystem that is experiencing high pressure from tourism, so a strategic management plan is highly important. The plan will cover the lake site as well as the surrounding hill areas and will include benefit spreading mechanisms (based on the results of action research and value chain analysis).

Cross-initiative convergences have been identified between the Himalica, HICAP and Adapt-Himal initiatives under the regional programme Adaptation to Change. Migration research is a part of all the initiatives. The planning of activities on migration and remittances has been jointly conducted for Himalica and HICAP. This will facilitate cross-learning, cover a wider geographical area (five countries), conduct a wide array of activities (case study, policy review, action research, and stakeholder consultation), and ensure an efficient use of the available human and financial resources.

- For example, the research methodology of the case study has been developed as a part of the HICAP research in China and India. This research methodology is now being implemented in Nepal and Pakistan as a part of the Himalica initiative.
- Similarly, the action research design developed within the Himalica initiative for Nepal and Pakistan is being used in the HICAP initiative for the action research in India.
- The case studies on migration as an adaptation strategy in China and India, which are part of the HICAP research, will be complemented by case studies in Nepal and Pakistan as part of the Himalica initiative.

Regional approach

While the start of implementation of activities in several countries was the main focus in the initial period of the programme, a regional perspective was included in the conceptualisation of all activities, e.g. thematic areas for action research and pilots across the region, regional training events, planning of knowledge sharing at the regional level.

For example, in the research on the role of migration as an adaptation strategy, a strong regional approach has been taken, with ICIMOD collaborating with seven national institutions across Bangladesh (Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit), Nepal (Nepal Institute of Development Studies, Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility, and International Organization for Migration-Nepal), and Pakistan (Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, and World Wildlife Fund-Pakistan). This research activity is also developing the expertise of these institutions to conduct research on climate change, migration and adaptation; and in turn building a community of practice in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. Experts from two international institutions (University of Sussex and Hamburg University) are also part of this research group.

Partnership development

In the process of building partnerships and conceptualising activities in several countries the team adopted a participatory approach by consulting the nodal ministries, line agencies, nongovernmental organisations, research institutes and rural communities. Field visits were conducted to understand the key issues being faced by rural communities and these were discussed in national multi stakeholder consultation meetings to identify the strategies to address these constraints.

Implementing partner institutions have been identified across the region and cooperation in five countries of the region has embarked (Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal). The selection criteria and procedures developed under the programme have been implemented to establish partnership collaboration. 11 contracts with partners (including 2 consultancy contracts) have been signed under the programme within the first year. The selection of implementing partner institutions for pilot projects is done together with a selection of pilot activities.

For the selection of implementing partner institutions for pilot projects a competitive call for proposals was published and the Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID, former IID) was selected in Myanmar. In Bhutan and Bangladesh consultations with government line agencies and other stakeholders were ongoing.

Needs of institutional capacity building of the current programme countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan) have been identified by interactions with responsible stakeholders during scoping and working missions throughout the year. A needs assessment report has been prepared and is considered as a work in progress document for regular updates. The report indicated that the concept of adaptation to change is the priority need of these countries; hence a draft training module on adaptation to change has been prepared. The draft training module was tested together with consulting partner by organising two events of Training of Trainers (ToT) on adaptation to change in Nepal.

Operational management

The operational start of the programme took place with the establishment of an interdisciplinary team of experts within ICIMOD. Internal experts from different thematic areas and strategic functions were identified according to the main activities of the programme. The internal allocation of available staff time was undertaken in coordinated manner with other ICIMOD programmes. The first round of planning of activities was linked to the outputs of the regional programme Adaptation to Change.

A team structure with leads of activities and a core team was established by the programme coordinator. The new team for the programme had to be incorporated within the new institutional matrix structure of ICIMOD. During the team building phase, internal communication and information was established through a regular meeting structure, email information and intranet workspace.

A programme associate to assist the programme coordinator in administrative and management issues was recruited and started working from February 2013 onwards.

Selection criteria and selection procedure for partnership as well as the procedure for selection of implementing partner institutions for pilot projects were developed, laid down and published by ICIMOD.

The Addendum No. 1 to the contract was signed between ICIMOD and EU stating that ICIMOD acts in partnership with institutions which were listed in the annex. The partner selection criteria and procedure were listed in the annex as well. It was agreed that additional partner institutions selected according to the procedure will be notified by ICIMOD to the European Union by exchange of formal letters. Pilot activities will be implemented through direct contracts between ICIMOD and implementing institutions taking into account the selection criteria. To ensure transparency and equal treatment, invitations for submission of pilot proposals will be published on ICIMOD's website and the evaluation and awarding will follow ICIMOD's procedures. However, the selection of pilot projects will be followed by the Programme Steering Committee.

The Addendum No. 2 to the contract was signed between ICIMOD and EU stating the EU supported programme is part of the larger Regional Programme Adaptation to Change, with an overall objective of improved resilience and livelihoods of mountain people through adaptation to socio economic and environmental change including climate change. In addition to EU funding the overall budget of the regional programme is funded by Norway, Sweden and IFAD.

The Programme Steering Committee (PSC) was formed in May comprising three members of representatives each from ICIMOD and European Union. Director General, ICIMOD will be permanent invitee. Members from ICIMOD are the Director Programme Operations, the Director Administration and Finance, and the Programme Coordinator (member secretary). Members from EU Delegation to India are the Head of Operations, the Head of Finance, Contracts and Audit, and the Project Manager. Observers can be a delegate from EU Delegation to Nepal, the Head Strategic Planning and Monitoring, ICIMOD, and other representatives including other EU Delegations than Nepal and India on a need base.

Adjustments needed in the plan

Based on the first year experience an assessment of the need for adjustments to the annual plan was undertaken and is reflected below.

- The duration of the action research on migration in Nepal and Pakistan will be extended. Since the action research on role of access to information, integrated training on financial literacy and flood preparedness, and flood proof value chains for the migrant sending households in the flood affected rural communities is conceptually new to the partner institutions, considerable time was required to reach an agreement with the partners on scope, content, timeline, methodology, and budget. Hence, the action research will be initiated in second quarter of 2014 (instead of third quarter of 2013). Based on the feedback from experts, it has been decided to extend the duration of the action research to 32 months instead of 15 months as planned originally. This will allow sufficient time to implement the action research and capture its impacts.
- The planned policy reviews on migration and climate change adaptation in Bhutan and Myanmar had been put on hold as the use of such policy reviews need to be discussed in depth with national stakeholders (government and non-government) to identify requirements of the policy makers.

Constraints and Challenges

During the inception stage, following challenges were observed under the programme:

- Governments in member countries have been involved in initial scoping and planning, but lengthy procedures were observed in all kind of cooperation. Delays have been observed in the drafting and signing of letters of agreement (LoAs) for pilot projects. Pilots in Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh were planned to embark within the first year, but only the LoA for Myanmar was signed until December 2013. Also the planned Poverty & Vulnerability Assessments (PVA) could not be initiated in Bhutan and Bangladesh. Delays were caused by time consuming procedures as well as political events like national elections in Bhutan and Bangladesh, and additionally insecure situations in Bangladesh.
- Studies and subsequent activities on tourism and migration are foreseen to be critical thrusts for understanding and opening up options for diversifying off-farm livelihood activities. This will require the close engagement of ICIMOD's expertise on both the subjects. Present staff is inadequate to meet the needs of Himalica, given the necessity of the same professionals to also provide expertise to other initiatives and programmes. The programme coordinator has already initiated discussions with the management to address the issue in order to enhance the strategic staff allocation in these thematic areas by 2014.
- The development of pilot projects took more time than anticipated due to procedural delays in joint contractual preparations.
- In general it was observed that building of partnerships requires sufficient time and interaction reaching beyond the preparation and signing of contracts.

Fund Utilisation

Out of the overall amount of the first instalment of EUR 2,140,000 the amount of EUR 711,942 was utilised in the calendar year 2013.

EUR 629,872.04 were spent by ICIMOD (ICIMOD Managed Fund). EUR 206,718.68 were disbursed to partner institutions in the year 2013 out of which EUR 82,070.13 were realised as expenses until the end of 2013 (Partner Managed Fund).

The financial report provided in Annex I complies with Art. 2.7. of Annex II of the Contract No. ASIE/ 2012/292-464.

In the first year, majority of funds was used by ICIMOD due to planning and conceptualising of activities under the programme, while partner institutions received first payments after the signing of contracts.

The utilisation of funds is expected to increase significantly in 2014 due to the growing number of signed contracts with partners for implementation of activities.

Lessons Learned

The year 2013 has been a learning process about the programme and strategic planning for its smooth functioning. Some of these have been highlighted below.

From the first year's experience it is clear that strong government support is essential for sustainability and scaling up of all activities to achieve impacts beyond the programme's duration. This will be taken into account as the programme management will continue to consult and involve governments from the beginning of planning of activities in the regional member countries. Inputs from other stakeholders including NGOs present on the ground will be also essential.

The set-up process of Poverty & Vulnerability Assessment (PVA) with partners and agreeing on methodology with sampling is complex, including gaining an understanding on local conditions and required permissions. More time than envisioned will be needed to finalize the PVA set-up.

Nodal ministries and partner institutions will need support to form Project Steering Committees (PSC) at the national level with representation from ICIMOD to ensure that the pilot projects and other programme activities are monitored adequately and are in line with national plans.

Finalizing agreements with government institutions are time taking processes. Therefore, it is necessary to expedite planning processes to shorten the overall time duration until signing of agreements.

Plan for the next Reporting Period

In a stakeholder workshop planned for June 2014 impact pathways will be developed together with partner institutions.

Key elements of the 2014 work plan are

- PVA implemented and data entry by partner in Bhutan; results analysed by ICIMOD
- PVA implemented and data entry by partner in Bangladesh; results analysed by ICIMOD
- Development of mountain-specific CCA policies and strategies in Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh
- Development of the National Strategy on Ecotourism in Myanmar
- Development of integration process for local CCA policy and development planning in Nepal
- Consultation meetings of the NAP process in HKH countries (LDCs) for learning exchange supported
- Scoping for updated CCA policy and strategy analysis, and for 4th PVA implementation
- Participation in conducting the ICIMOD International Conference on Adaptation to Change, in close collaboration with other ICIMOD programmes
- Policy review on the role of migration and remittances in context of climate change adaptation in Bangladesh with a special focus on the Chittagong Hill Tracts
- Case study on the role of labour migration and remittances in building household level adaptive capacity and community resilience in flood affected origin communities
- Action research on the role of access to information, integrated training on financial literacy and flood preparedness, and flood proof value chains for the migrant sending households in the flood affected rural communities of Nepal and Pakistan
- Action research in partnership with the Royal University of Bhutan towards promotion of change resilient livelihood options through capacity development (action research activity linked with capacity development activity)
- Deepening of action research on rural hill community involvement in tourism in Inlay Lake region towards Myanmar's first Destination Management Plan upon request from local public and private stakeholders
- Conceptualization of action research on opportunities for local communities to engage with and financially benefit from regional and domestic tourism markets (synergy with similar research within another programme managed by ICIMOD, Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative)
- Three new pilot projects to be launched
- Identify two more capacity building partners
- Train around 200 potential stakeholders on adaptation to change including climate change issues
- Organize exposure and interaction for around 30 selected stakeholders in regional level
- At least 5 publications in relation to capacity building in climate change adaptation and livelihoods published

Annexes

Annex 1: Financial statement



FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

Support to Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalaya

Donor: European Union

Project No. 1-903-154-0-P

Financial Statement

for the period 4 December 2012 - 31 December 2013

Project Commenc
Project Ending

4-Dec-12
3-Dec-17

EXPENDITURE

(Amount in Euro)

LINE ITEM	BUDGET	Dec'12	Jan-Dec'13	Total	BUDGET BALANCE
Human Resources	4,455,216		408,476.94	408,476.94	4,046,739.06
Consultancy/subcontracting	995,000		47,513.80	47,513.80	947,486.20
Travel Expenses	903,000		48,804.59	48,804.59	854,195.41
Equipments	551,000		3,232.87	3,232.87	547,767.13
Workshops and Training	2,180,000		146,136.34	146,136.34	2,033,863.66
Communication/IT	785,000		4,841.38	4,841.38	780,158.62
Materials and Supplies	515,000		6,359.00	6,359.00	508,641.00
Administrative Costs	726,895		46,577.25	46,577.25	680,317.75
Total	€ 11,111,111		€ 711,942.17	€ 711,942.17	€ 10,399,168.83

INCOME

Month/Year

	Euro	Amount US\$	Rate
Dec'12	€ 2,140,000.00	2,786,458.33	1.30208
Total	€ 2,140,000.00	2,786,458.33	

	Euro
Income	€ 2,140,000.00
Expenses	€ 711,942.17
Balance	€ 1,428,057.83

Director General
2-May-14

Director, Administration & Finance

Project Coordinator

Budget & Finance Officer

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
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Support to Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalaya
Donor: European Union
Project No. 1-903-154-0-P

Financial Statement (Activity wise)
for the period 4 December 2012 - 31 December 2013

EXPENDITURE		(Amount in Euro)				BUDGET
LINE ITEM	BUDGET	Dec'12	Jan-Dec'13	Total		BALANCE
	<u>Euro</u>					
Activity -1 Capability to Adapt Policy	1,570,000		125,697.82	125,697.82		1,444,302.18
Activity -2 Knowledge management	1,060,000		95,231.21	95,231.21		964,768.79
Activity -3 Collaborative Action Research	1,660,000		152,642.95	152,642.95		1,507,357.05
Activity -4 Pilot Activities	4,419,216		188,835.54	188,835.54		4,230,380.46
Activity -5 Capacity Building	1,675,000		102,957.40	102,957.40		1,572,042.60
Administrative Costs	726,895		46,577.25	46,577.25		680,317.75
Total	€ 11,111,111	€	711,942.17	€ 711,942.17	€	10,399,168.83

Support to Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalaya
Donor: European Union
Project No. 1-903-154-0-P

Financial Statement (ICIMOD & Partner's Managed Fund)
for the period 4 December 2012 - 31 December 2013

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		(Amount in Euro)		
<u>LINE ITEM</u>	ICIMOD Managed Fund	Partner Managed Fund	Total	
Human Resources	365,111.11	43,365.83	408,476.94	
Consultancy/subcontracting	33,603.63	13,910.17	47,513.80	
Travel Expenses	41,131.94	7,672.65	48,804.59	
Equipments	2,893.59	339.28	3,232.87	
Workshops and Training	97,560.50	48,575.85	146,136.35	
Communication/IT	715.65	4,125.72	4,841.37	
Materials and Supplies	5,120.91	1,238.09	6,359.00	
Total direct costs of the Action	546,137.33	119,227.59	665,364.92	
Administrative Costs	46,577.25	-	46,577.25	
<u>Total</u>	€ 592,714.58	€ 119,227.59	€	711,942.17

Annex 2: List of partner institutions 2013

SN	Name /Organisation	Country	Activity
1	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)	Pakistan	Action Research
2	Alliance Nepal	Nepal	Capacity Building
3	Arannayk Foundation	Bangladesh	Capacity Building
4	Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM)	Nepal	Knowledge Management
5	Department of Agriculture (DoA)	Nepal	Action Research
6	Green Forum Nepal	Nepal	Policy
7	Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID)	Myanmar	Action Research
8	Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID)	Myanmar	Pilot Activities
9	Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS)	Nepal	Action Research
10	Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)	Pakistan	Action Research
11	Rural Support Programme Network(RSPN)	Pakistan	Capacity Building

Annex 3: List of publications

- A draft report on “A Rapid Assessment of Tourism in Bandarban District of Bangladesh”.
- Training of Trainers’ Manual on Adaptation to Change (Draft English version)

Annex 4: List of capacity building events organised

- Training of Trainers on Adaptation to Change for Nepal participants 22-26 October 2013, Nepal
- Training of Trainers on Adaptation to Change for regional participants 22-26 November 2013, Nepal
- Exposure visit for Myanmar participants to Nepal 17-30 September 2013
- Exposure visit for Bhutan participants to Himachal, India 2-11 December 2013

Annex 5: News articles

<http://www.dhakacourier.com.bd/?p=12596>

<http://bnionline.net/index.php/news/mizzima/16153-cimod-to-provide-usd-500000-for-inlay-lake-conservation.html>

Annex 6: Description of pilot projects

In 2013, the first three pilot projects were identified in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. In the process the team adopted a consultative and participatory approach by consulting the departmental heads in nodal ministries, line agencies, nongovernmental organisation (NGOs), donor agencies, research institutes and rural communities. Field visits were organised to understand the key issues being faced by communities which were discussed in national consultation meetings to identify the strategies to address these constraints over a three year time period.

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, the pilot project objective is to support the development of mountain rural livelihoods in the context of socio-economic and climate change from community engagement in tourism for diversification of local livelihood options in Ruma sub division of Bandarban district. As per recommendation of a planning meeting organised together with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) and participated by all relevant stakeholders from the tourism sector in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), the livelihood support activities from tourism development will be carried out in the Bandarban district by the Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC), with engagement of local communities in tourism specifically in Ruma sub-district. The project will work with the BHDC, in collaboration with local NGOs and other relevant local institutions.

The pilot project will promote community engagement in tourism at Boga Lake and surrounding areas of Ruma sub division and develop direct and indirect engagement of communities with tourism. It will promote farm and non-farm linkages with tourism, value chain development of local products, community based ecosystem management, institution development for management of tourism activities and build capacities of target groups and stakeholders, facilitate community based micro planning with a focus on climate change adaptation and environment management, private sector engagement for marketing and promotion of Ruma as a tourist destination.

The pilot project will also facilitate the development of sustainable tourism development and management strategy through a participatory and multi-stakeholder process for Bandarban district. The plan will incorporate relevant aspects of environment management, private sector investment, institutional linkages, infrastructure development, destination planning, and culture conservation which will be adopted by the MoCHTA and the Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC) at the end of the project.

Bhutan

The pilot project in Bhutan will enable the Tsirang district administration to improve the livelihoods of farmers in Barshong gewog to adapt new and improved practices for producing crops, livestock and other niche products with sustainable management of natural resources like land and water. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) will be the collaborator for the pilot project in Bhutan. Relevant civil society organisations will be engaged for specific tasks.

As per the decisions of the working group meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) promotion of value chains (VC) from improving productivity of existing crops as well as the promotion of high value crops, efficient post harvest systems and developing market linkages and capacity building in Barshong gewog of Tsirang district will be the main focus. Following an integrated approach the pilot activities will support watershed and sustainable land management activities which will help in conserving and managing water, reduce soil erosion, and improve soil productivity. Improved technologies for soil management, crop mix and rotation, soil fertility management and irrigation technologies will be piloted with a community based approach to sustain and promote hill agriculture. The pilot project will raise adaptive capacities of farmers from access to information, sustainable production technologies, and platforms for local value addition, increased income, and policy and institutional support. To achieve the above, the pilot project will facilitate collaboration and linkages between the renewable natural resources (RNR) sectors as forestry, livestock, agriculture, and watershed through inter departmental collaboration. The results will be analysed with concrete evidence for sustainable land and water management and increase in rural incomes. This tested approach would be adopted as a standard methodology by the MoAF for up scaling across the country.

Myanmar

In Myanmar, the pilot project supports the development of strategies for sustainable management of water for traditional as well as cash crop production. The pilot project in the hills surrounding the Inlay Lake in Southern Shan State is implemented by the Myanmar Institute for International Development (MIID), an international agency based in Myanmar. The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forests (MOECF) is strongly involved in planning and supporting all relevant activities. To develop this pilot model a cluster of 5 villages (4 in Ngwangshe Township and 1 in Kalaw Township) in the West bank of the Inlay Lake inhabited by the Taungtha ethnic groups has been identified.

Initial investigations show that in the pilot villages shifting cultivation (which has now transformed to more sedentary rain fed agriculture in sloping lands) is the traditional farming system. Farmers have recently started to cultivate cash crops in their home gardens. These two comprise the major source of cash income. While road networks are emerging, these areas are typically difficult to access, are marginal, and lack income and employment generating opportunities. Farmers lack access to technology, support services, information and capacities. Due to the absence of appropriate land and water management practices soil erosion and land degradation is rampant. These villages face acute water shortages and are dependent only on rainwater to meet their irrigation and drinking water requirements. The currently available rainwater harvesting system provides drinking water for households only during the rainy season (June - September). While new roads provide better access to markets, people are constrained by lack of water and adequate extension services to diversify their production systems, increase productivity and to produce high value products and cater to the demand of the booming tourism sector at Inlay Lake.

Interventions through this pilot project will develop good practices for integrating sloping land and water management with improved livelihoods. A watershed approach will be adopted to identify and treat critical and degraded areas to check soil erosion, surface run off and promote water harvesting for recharging soils, irrigation, crop production and drinking water. Interventions will be designed to increase soil fertility, enhance productivity and diversify farm production from improved land and water management, facilitate access to information, technologies, develop infrastructure for local value addition, improve income and employment generation from farm and non-farm sectors and increase household income by 30% in the pilot site. The long term goal is that efficient management of hill watersheds will sustain the ecosystems in the plains of the Inlay Lake area. Learning from this pilot will be up scaled by the MOECF, Government of Myanmar in the surrounding hills of the Inlay Lake and other areas.

Annex 7:

European Union – International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas

Training of Trainers (ToT) on Adaptation to Change
Including Climate Change Issues

Capacity Needs Assessment

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
March 2014

Introduction

Institutional Capacity Building is one of the activities in Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas (Himalica) Programme. The programme is funded by the European Union and implemented by ICIMOD in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region from 2013 to 2017.

ICIMOD organized several scoping and working missions to different countries during 2013 to identify partners, working areas and modality of the programme implementation. The capacity building activity was equally part of those missions in all countries. During these missions, some of the common areas of capacity gaps at national and local level in the countries of Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan and Nepal were identified. In Pakistan, interaction with several partners and resources persons about the common needs took place.

Based on these field visits, interactions and correspondences, the capacity building activity has prepared this assessment report as a working document. It is understood that new needs will be identified in the coming years when the implementation of the programme will enhance.

Whenever there are needs of capacity building identified together with partner institutions and stakeholders, those needs will be documented in updates of this assessment report.

Dr Nani Ram Subedi
Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas
Lead – Institutional Capacity Building
ICIMOD

Background

Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas has five key activities – policy support, knowledge management, collaborative action research, pilot projects, and capacity building. In terms of resource and expected outputs pilot projects are in the centre of all other activities and directly dedicated to improve livelihoods of the people in a climate friendly way. The capacity building activity is supposed to work as support component to cater capacity building needs arising during programme implementation. The ICIMOD team carried out several scoping missions to different countries during the year 2013 to explore working areas, collaborative partners and country specific needs.

In this context, the capacity building activity is supposed to interact with all other activities to identify several capacity building needs. When there is need of a particular capacity, the lead of activity will explore relevant capacity building partners, resource persons, and resource materials. At the same time, it is a responsibility of the capacity building activity to find out broader needs of different countries proactively and to conduct trainings on adaptation to change for several stakeholders.

This assessment has been documented based on information collected during 2013. This assessment will also serve as baseline of capacity building in the starting of the programme. Capacity building needs are changing because of new concepts and changes taking place in development field. In this context, it will be a working document because many new needs will emerge when pilot projects, action research activities and other activities get started in programme countries. When new needs, either country specific or at a regional level, are observed this document will be updated regularly. Therefore, this report reflects the starting of capacity needs assessment and training activities.

Myanmar

The first scoping mission to Myanmar under this programme took place in February 2013. This mission was important to introduce the project at the level of ICIMOD's Board Member (Director General of Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forests MOECF) and get suggestions about the focus area for piloting. As per the suggestion, the mission visited Shan State and met the Chief Minister and other line ministers. Finally, the government of Myanmar suggested Himalica to focus on the west hills of Inlay Lake for piloting activities.

In addition to higher level meetings, the mission had also chance to interact with district level officials and community leaders. One of the field visit areas was in Pa-O community area where the mission had chance to see the livelihoods of the people. The Inlay Lake is also one of the famous tourist areas of Myanmar. After opening up of the country for tourism, the lake receives a big number of tourists in all seasons. In this context, some of the capacity building needs observed during the missions are as following:

1. **Development exposure:** Myanmar is a country closed for outside exposure for over 20 years. The country is being opened up in many aspects since 2011 in a limited scale. Now, there is a big influx from western communities in the name of funding agencies, development organizations, and consultancy groups. For example, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank have just opened their mission in Myanmar. Many other donor agencies and international NGOs are in the process of coming down. However, there are not enough qualified potential partners on the ground to work with. Therefore outside exposure at any field is very important.
2. **Climate change:** Adaptation to climate change is relatively new in all Hindu Kush Himalayan countries. It is very new in the context of Myanmar. There are only a few initiatives started at Union level but not at state and district level. People are very keen to know about climate change concept and context but qualified institutions are not available in the country. Therefore, this is observed as a clear gap of knowledge in Myanmar that can be accommodated under this programme.
3. **Language:** The Himalica programme is also interested to contribute to promote sustainable tourism. While interacting with central level officials, the mission was informed about the recent formulation of a national tourism strategy. Still there are several restrictions and obligations for tourists travelling in the country. Several

areas are restricted due to insecurity and ongoing conflicts. However, tourism at state and district level shows significant numbers of growth. The lack of capacity of foreign languages is a common factor in the tourism sector. Therefore the capacity of tour operators and tourism related private sector in terms of international communication is poor.

4. **Growing tourism business:** The mission observed several hotels, restaurants and guest houses in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan state and Inlay Lake area. In many places, minimal level of understanding about tourism is also lacking among those who are involved in this business, even in upcoming high class hotels. While observing the situation of a fast growing tourism industry, it will be very difficult for the private sector to recruit competent human resources to run those facilities in a professional manner.
5. **Distribution of opportunities:** From the visit of some rural areas nearby Inlay Lake, the mission got impression that there is inadequate level of upstream downstream linkages. Some of the business oriented people are not paying attention to rural people. In many cases, business people are from different social classes and areas. Local rural people are hardly experiencing benefits from the tourism entrepreneurs.
6. **Community forestry:** During the period of the military rule, Myanmar destroyed almost 20% of forest resources. Now, the central government is very keen to promote and recover forest resources. However, there are also other drivers of changes like population growth, urbanization, and climate change. In this context, community involvement in forest protection and management is very important. This reality has been realized by the central government. But it seems to be very difficult to promote and embark concrete actions. It needs changes in mindset and existing rules and regulations. This is another area of capacity gap at all levels.
7. **Leasehold forestry:** In many hill areas of Myanmar, there is traditional practice of shifting cultivation. The central and state government have priority to eradicate shifting cultivation from the hills. However, there are many livelihoods issues connected with this practice, which are not being considered by the government authorities. The leasehold forestry could be one of the solutions but there is no sufficient exposure and awareness on this aspect.
8. **Legal reforms:** The country as such is slowly coming towards democratic culture from top level. There are still several rules and regulations and related mindset conceived during the previous military rule. Changing rules and regulations may be easier part but changing mindset and working culture is more difficult. The Himalica programme will have scope to contribute in this direction by exposure, training, workshops, and seminars on the legal aspects and regulatory framework of various subjects related to climate change adaptation and livelihood opportunities.
9. **Participation of people:** Various discussions, field visits and individual interactions provided the impression that the development scenario of Myanmar is in fast transition. During the earlier rule, development was coming down from the top level. People were treated as recipients only. In this situation, there is no participation of people in developmental decisions. However, the top level government changed and the country tends more to go for bottom up development. It is good that top level decision makers realized the importance of participation of people. But it is time taking to start development processes from the bottom because it is a matter of changing mindset of many people working at different levels. Therefore, there is a clear gap of knowledge and skills on participatory approach in all sectors.
10. **People centric development:** This approach is not very new in developing countries. The people centric approach was practiced very much in developing world during 1990s. However, this approach is still new in Myanmar. How to initiate such development which is in the interest of people, and how to bring people in the centre of development? It needs a lot of skills and behavioural changes on those who are working in front line together with the people. This is a big gap that programmes like Himalica can contribute to fill.

Bangladesh

ICIMOD is working in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) area as part of Hindu Kush Himalayan region from Bangladesh. There are three hill districts in the CHT, where 2% of the total population of Bangladesh live in 10%

of land mass. Under Himalica, pilot projects and other action research will focus on CHT but there is no such limitation for capacity building programme. It can go beyond the CHT if there is genuine need and connection with CHT. However, the following capacity gaps have been identified based on the reviews of CHT:

1. **Adaptation to change:** Majority land mass of Bangladesh including the capital city Dhaka is almost at sea level. Therefore, the impacts of temperature rise and sea level rise is very visible in Bangladesh. Because of these physical features, severity of climate induced vulnerability is higher in Bangladesh than other Hindu Kush Himalayan countries.

Similarly, Bangladesh is one of the highly populated countries in South Asia. The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are less populated in comparison to other areas within Bangladesh but not less populated in comparison to neighbouring countries. Despite of very productive land, it is very hard to feed families from their own production. Consequently, a lot of out migration for seasonal work is taking place in all parts of Bangladesh. Therefore, climatic as well as non-climatic drivers of changes are taking place in a parallel way.

Considering these realities, Bangladesh has already started interventions on climate change issues. Finalizing and indorsing 'Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009' is one of the examples of national level interventions. Based on this strategic document, several government and non-government organizations are pouring resources to mitigate negative impacts of climate change focusing more on seas level rise and cyclones. However, it is still a gap to bring such understandings to grassroots level in CHT.

2. **Tourism:** In overall Bangladesh, tourism is not very much flourishing. There are several reasons behind this situation. The CHT in particular has its own reasons. One of the reasons is that local people have not conceived tourism for their benefits. In other word, the local population is not well prepared for promotion of tourism. In earlier days, many development agencies including UNDP made efforts to promote tourism in the Hill Tracts. Besides that the CHT area still has security issues due to post conflict situation. It is difficult for outsider to travel through the Hill Tracts. If the local people are prepared for developing tourism, the security issues will become secondary concern and get slowly to normal. But this is not happening in the CHT for years. It is visible that there are some gaps of understanding and skills in relation to promote tourism but these are not easily removable. It needs a rigorous analysis and demonstration efforts of good management in several places.
3. **Cost and benefits analysis:** Bangladesh is a country where all kinds of efforts for maximum production have already been done. There is also a heavy involvement of international development and funding agencies to support for maximizing the production. However, the CHT is the area where there are still gaps to carry out proper analysis of cost and benefits. Some of the ethnic groups living in the CHT are still practicing their traditional ways of production regardless of changes taking place out of CHT and market dynamics. If they are interested to catch the speed of changes, they need to change their production system by analysing cost and benefits. If some products are not cost effective, they need to change the production or crops. The Himalica programme can play some role to inform farmers about market dynamics in the CHT.
4. **Value chain:** There are some unique products in the CHT. The interior parts of CHT, which are not often accessible for development agencies, are even more important for this kind of production. However, the local producers do not know the proper value chains of their products. They simply produce and sell locally as usual. The knowhow of value adding is also not practice in a systematic way. Once a value chain is conceptualized by producers, they can try to get better price for existing products or add value to their products in future. So far the mission have got impression from the CHT, this is a clear capacity gap that Himalica can contribute.
5. **Market driven economy:** Because of big population and urbanization process, the market is very active in Bangladesh. Influence of globalization and market competition is very high including in CHT. Most of possible efforts for better and greater benefits have already been carried out. Very good scenario is that the market has gone ahead of traditional monopoly ownership. However, the rural people of CHT are not able to grasp the concept of local economy determined by market. The CHT people are still not able to customize their products as per market demands. The CHT people are still trying to determine the value of their products by themselves as they have been doing for a long time. It should be other way round at present context that they need to produce such goods which are in demand by consumers. Himalica programme can contribute to build capacity of local producers in order to fill in this gap.

Bhutan

Bhutan is a small and less populated country. Himalica team carried out a couple of scoping and working missions to Bhutan in order to identify partners and working areas. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, which is the nodal agency for ICIMOD, has asked Himalica programme to implement pilot activities in Tsirang district. While observing the overall situation of this district and interaction with district level stakeholders, the following capacity gaps have been identified so far:

1. **Adaptation to change:** Awareness on adaptation to change at national level looks very high in Bhutan. In addition to National Adaptation Plan of Action, Bhutan has started Sector Plans for Adaptation. This indicates that Bhutan is one step ahead of other Hindu Kush Himalayan countries. However, awareness on adaptation to change on the ground level is still poor. Climate change issues are taken as crosscutting but there are no responsible agencies at district level to deliver the concept up to the grassroots level. General awareness may not be enough to deal with specific issues and concerns.
2. **Community forest:** Bhutan has still better forest resources in comparison to other Hindu Kush Himalayan countries. The central level government agencies are interested to involve local people in forest management. They have already got exposure from community forest from Nepal, Van Panchayat forest and Joint Forest Management from India and the other models practiced in other countries. In principle, there is enough exposure at executive level. However, there is a matter of giving forest rights to the people. Changing several rules and regulations are connected with this issue. Therefore, Himalica can contribute to develop knowledge on policy reform depending upon the interest of concerned departments.
3. **Tourism management:** Bhutan is following a restricted tourism policy. Some interest is there to promote ecotourism at village level so that local communities with a small business investment could get benefits. They are also thinking to promote ecotourism inside the protected area so that benefits could go to nearby settlements. Under Himalica policy activity, support to the development of a national ecotourism policy and management strategies can be offered, and in line with that capacity on ecotourism can be built by providing exposure and required skills.
4. **Skill development:** Communities in the hill areas of Tsirang district in particular are producing a lot of fruits and other cash crops. Market access for such products is good but not in the remote areas. However, knowledge on analysing value chains of such products and processing skills are not adequately transferred to farmers' level. For example, the mission observed several orange orchards in Tsirang district but not managed and marketed properly. Similarly, there are other cash products like ginger, turmeric, and kiwi. Therefore, skill development on orchard management, fruits processing, and value adding will be one of the areas for capacity building under Himalica.
5. **Water management:** Most of the hill areas are getting dry because of reduced run-off water from spring sources. The responsible government agencies are keen to find out alternative options for water management on the hills. Therefore, rainwater harvesting and other water management tools, which are successful in other countries, are very important for Bhutan. Some of the water management elements learned from Koshi Basin project may be very relevant for Bhutan. The Himalica programme can facilitate to bridge this capacity gap.

Nepal

With suggestion from National Planning Commission (NPC) of Nepal, Solukhumbu, Khotang, Udayapur and Saptari districts have been selected for Himalica programme in Nepal. Based on field observation, interactions with different stakeholders and prior knowledge of ICIMOD, it looks that Nepal is a country where many climatic and non-climatic changes are taking place in recent years. A huge out migration of rural youths is one of the growing drivers of non-climatic change. Some of the capacity gaps observed in the field and identified by different interactions have been listed as following:

1. **Adaptation to change:** Nepal is much ahead in climate change adaptation. Nepal has already prepared and disseminated its National Adaptation Plan for Action (NAPA). There are also several committees at

national level to implement NAPA through all ministries. Similarly, Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA) is also being prepared for several districts by NGOs and INGOs. Some of the stakeholders are also talking about Community Adaptation Plan for Action (CAPA). All this indicates that the level of awareness on climate change adaptation at national level is very high. However, from the interactions at district level, knowledge and awareness of national level on climatic issues have not gone down to the district level.

At the district level, there is one branch in District Development Committee named Environment branch. When there is issue of climate change at district level, everybody points out that branch being responsible to deal with. However, this kind of small branch itself is not capable to deal with climate change issues which are often crosscutting and beyond their capacity of staff.

When the concept of adaptation to change is analyzed, climate changes are just one side of the changes taking place in the communities. There are several non-climatic drivers of changes which are very active in Nepal, but are not taken in consideration even at national level. When there is a debate about changes people simply think about climatic side and comment on forest, flood, and temperature increase. Therefore, there is a clear gap of knowledge to see the changes in a holistic manner and take actions accordingly in planning and resource allocations.

2. **Valuation of ecosystem services:** Nepal is still rich in ecosystems – water, forest, and land. People are still getting relatively good volume of services from the ecosystem up to now. Some people have realized that the services are reducing because of various reasons. Most of the people perceive ecosystem services as free gift but not considering their responsibilities to preserve the system for continuation of such services and sustainability of livelihoods. The values of ecosystem services are directly connected with livelihoods but people do not have enough awareness to give proper value for ecosystem.
3. **Skill development for rural youths:** Out migration of rural youths in a way looks good to receive remittance from economic point of view but there is also another side of the coin. If all of the socio anthropological consequences of migration are analysed, it is one of the biggest problems in Nepal. The village level people themselves argue that migration has created negative impacts on livelihoods, ecosystem and gender roles. They want to keep their young generation at home if there are employment opportunities. Now the situation looks that government is trying to educate people for safer migration.

Some migrants returning back from Gulf countries and Malaysia have started different kinds of commercial productions in the rural areas of Nepal. This is one of the good symptoms in regard to build capacity of many other rural youths in production, value addition and value chain analysis. The trickle down effects of such initiatives are visible in different parts of the country at present. The Himalica programme can contribute to speed up such initiatives in the country.

4. **Mobilization of local institutions:** As Himalica team learned from government agencies, there are several institutions established at the grassroots level. Citizen concern forum at VDC level and Ward citizen's forums at Ward level are some of the examples. These are permanent in nature but established as loose forums under the legal umbrella of the government. In addition to these, there are social mobilizers in all DVCs, who are supposed to mobilize communities for promoting innovative livelihood options. However, the executive functionaries of the government are not able to give proper businesses to these forums. These are the groups of human resources they are available at village level. Programmes like Himalica can give some roles to these forums to mobilize communities in climate change adaptation, taking adaptation measures at community level, and promoting climate resilient livelihoods options.
5. **Ecotourism:** It is obvious that Nepal is one of the famous countries in South Asia for tourism. On behalf of the government of Nepal, Nepal tourism board is very active to promote tourism in the country. However, status of benefit sharing in tourism sector is still poor. Whatever benefits are coming from tourism sector is going to feed a higher class of population, who are operating tourism related businesses. Therefore, how to make an equitable benefit sharing mechanism in tourism sector is still a big question mark in Nepal. Recently, some thoughts of ecotourism, village tourism, home stay, group hospitality system, and village exposure trips have come up. Some of local NGOs are trying to promote some of these practices here and there. However, these

have not been promoted as an approach for benefit sharing. This will be an area that Himalica can contribute through its capacity building programmes.

Pakistan

The information about capacity building presented in this document so far is based on distance communication with partner organizations and earlier contacts. The focus area of ICIMOD in Pakistan is northern part mainly Gilgit, Chitral and Kashmir. The climatic condition, socio cultural set ups, and livelihoods options of these areas are different than mainstream Pakistan. Based on known features of northern Pakistan, the following capacity gaps have been identified so far:

1. **Adaptation to change:** The Himalica programme is currently working together with Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN) to implement some capacity building activities in northern Pakistan. As the RSPN presented in their proposal for collaboration, adaptation to change is a relatively new concept in Pakistan. There are several debates, seminars and strategies at national level for raising awareness on climate change adaptation. However, responsible stakeholders have not yet realized that the non-climatic drivers of change are also important.
2. **Concept of social mobilization:** Northern Pakistan is famous for emerging the concept of social mobilisation. Community development through social mobilisation was practiced first time in northern Pakistan around 35 years ago. Now, this concept has become very famous throughout Pakistan and there are 11 Rural Support Programmes linked to Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) started first in northern Pakistan. Now the time has come to include the concept of adaptation to change into social mobilization. This is one of the areas that Himalica can contribute to all RSPs through RSPN.
3. **Gender and climate change:** Because of religion and traditional practices, imbalance in gender roles is wider in Pakistan than in other South Asian countries. It is the present reality that climatic and non-climatic drivers of change have added further imbalance. Therefore, women should understand more than men about adaptation measures. The concept of gender and climate change in general may not be enough in the case of Pakistan. If the concept of adaptation to change is included in social mobilization, it will be better understandable for women.
4. **Value chain analysis:** The concept of social mobilization has been focusing more on production. However, the production patterns have been changing over the years because of various internal and external influences on communities. External factors for enhancing production have not been adequately considered while mobilizing communities. In this context, it will be wise to include value chain analysis of different products. It gives a clear idea for the producers to add inputs in different chains for getting expected benefits.

Common needs of programme countries

Climate change adaption: The concept of climate change has been discussed at national level. Some documents have been prepared and shared mainly with donors to get more funding either through government or from non-government sectors. The reality at present is that almost all funding agencies have kept climate change adaptation as one of their funding strategies. However, this debate has not gone down to district level. Village level is still very far from this concept.

A few resource persons at country level are busy to deal with international and national issues. They hardly have time to create resource materials and disseminate for the use of local level stakeholders. Similarly, it is also difficult to get appropriate resource persons at local level. Therefore, one of the common needs in all programme countries of Himalica (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan) is to bring the concept of climate change down to the district and village level.

Adaptation to change: Adaptation to change is bigger than climate change adaptation. It considers the non-climatic drivers of changes as well. Climate change is one of the phenomenons but there are many other non-climatic drivers influencing livelihoods more than climatic drivers. Until and unless people do not pay attention on both

types of drivers of change, a meaningful adaptation cannot be promoted. Observing the situation of programme countries from this perspective, it is another topic that Himalica can contribute.

Water management: Many research projects and case studies over the world have indicated that volume of runoff water is decreasing. For example, there was a case study sharing workshop in Qatar in 2012. Several case studies were presented in the workshop. One of the common findings was that running water source has decreased by 25% by 2012. For example, the finding of Mexico and Nepal was the same. It indicates that running water source is in decreasing trend. It also indicates that there will be big crisis of fresh water after some decades. The countries will be better off at that time if they start thinking of water management today. However, there is a big question about how to manage surface water in a sustainable way. Nobody has clear and widely acceptable answer as of now. It needs a continuous research, piloting, and testing of different approaches.

Exposure: This is a common need. Innovation is definitely a new thing that comes after a long term hit and trial. Some countries might have developed some innovative ideas or practice in different field. There is a role of facilitating organization to be in touch with such innovative practices for learning purpose. This is also one of the sectors of capacity building which receive critical comments. There are comments that exposure visit programmes do not yield much impacts in comparison to investment. It may be partly true because it is education related activity. Education definitely yield more impacts than expected in a long run but may not be visible immediately. Therefore, exposure to innovations and best practices is always important. Cross fertilization on best practices in different countries can be taken as a part of capacity building.

Resource materials: All of the programme countries of Himalica say that they have only a few resource materials about adaptation to change in local language. There are many resource materials made available online in English. There are only a few efforts made at country level to compile those materials and publish in local language. Therefore, one of the common needs of regional countries is to support for preparation and publication of resource materials in adaptation to change, climate change issues, and relation of changes in livelihoods. The materials can be in the form of training manual, resource manuals, leaflets, posters and so on.

Conclusion of the assessment

Adaptation to change: It will be good starting of capacity building from adaptation to change including climate change issues in all countries where Himalica programme has started implementation. In this context, it will be good to take adaptation to change as one of the entry activities for capacity building in Himalica programme. The same module may not be feasible in all countries but the core concept of adaptation will remain the same. The remaining measures can be adapted on country specific needs.

Migration: From all of these countries, young people from rural areas are migrating either to urban areas of the same country or to overseas. The situation of Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan is that most of young people from rural areas are going to Gulf countries and Malaysia for employment. Focus on alternative employments for rural youth will play a role to discourage migration. While talking to guardians and families, they are not encouraging their youths to go out of home for a risky job and getting not significant returns. If there are opportunities at home countries or home towns, they are not interested to go out of their families. The present situation is a kind of compulsion to maintain livelihoods. Migration is also one of the bigger non-climatic drivers of change. It is necessary to focus on local employment generation targeting to rural youths as a part of adaptation.

Production sector: It is obvious that livelihoods are directly connected with production sector. People have to increase food and other productions to feed growing population. Particularly in rural areas, farmers are trying their level best to produce more than earlier years. It will be wise to take example from Bangladesh, where many new technologies and practices have been applied to produce more because of population booming. In other countries, several new technologies and other means have been applied to increase the volume of production. However, only a few people know about value chain analysis not only in production but also about the whole chain from production to consumption. Therefore, the value chain analysis of certain products and transfer of this skill to rural population is another topic that Himalica can contribute.

Use of information technology: Information technology is booming in all countries but mostly used in urban areas for entertainment but not much used in rural areas for the benefits of farmers, small producers and to cater the needs of rural youth. There are several opportunities to encourage IT to be part of adaptation to change, market linkage, access to banking facilities and access to information. It is difficult to determine exactly what technology is suitable in what context. It is a matter of exploration of suitable linkages and benefits coming out from using such technologies. If a programme like Himalica can facilitate some of TI use in promotion of livelihoods, it will be a good connection and time demanded adaptation.



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