



**Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the
Himalayas**

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Annual Progress Report - 2014

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*ICIMOD is a regional knowledge, learning and enabling centre for the
promotion of sustainable mountain development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas*

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1. Introduction

The overall objective of the Regional Programme on Adaptation to Change is to enhance resilience and support adaptation by vulnerable mountain communities in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. The operational strategy of the programme to achieve this objective is based on three fundamental pillars: scientific knowledge generation to improve understanding of the contours and drivers of change as well as the responses and support needs of mountain communities to manage change; innovative pilots and action research to promote sustainable, secure livelihoods and adaptive strategies; and the contribution of knowledge inputs for the refinement and formulation of pro-poor, mountain-specific enabling policies through effective policy engagement. The programme pays particular attention to addressing the challenges faced by women and strengthening and empowering their roles in adapting to and managing change. The regional programme is measured against following outcome indicators:

1. At least 12 institutions in six regional member countries will upscale ICIMOD methodologies / frameworks / approaches/ strategies
2. Eight relevant local and 29 national institutions will be enabled to plan, implement and monitor adaptation related programmes in their respective countries and areas
3. At least 15 mountain specific national development policies, strategies and approaches (including tools such as National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs), Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) and Biennial Update Reports making use of recommended practices and knowledge in participating RMCs in at least five countries
4. 2000 people (50% women) benefited (12 districts in six countries in pilot areas) in by innovative adaptation-related strategies, policies, and programmes

The strategic implementation approach of the programme is strongly founded on the promotion of joint ventures with partners, piloting with practitioners and beneficiaries, and promoting and supporting champions for policy engagement, thereby strategically laying the foundation for upscaling and ensuring impacts. This is further concretized by the mapping of impact pathways and partnership networks to develop a conceptually clear theory of change for the programme, as well as each of its initiatives. The programme is anchored by three major initiatives, the Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP), Support to Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas (Himalica), and Improving Livelihoods and Enhancing Resilience of the Rural Poor in the Hindu Kush Himalayas to Environmental and Socioeconomic Changes (AdaptHimal). Presently, the regional programme has operations in seven regional member countries (RMCs) and efforts are being undertaken to expand to the eighth in the near future. Himalica is part of the larger ICIMOD regional programme Adaptation to Change, thereby, in addition to the EU's contribution for Himalica, the HICAP initiative is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and AdaptHimal is supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalaya (Himalica) programme

Himalica is a demand-driven, need-based programme managed by the International Centre for 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 through active regional cooperation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region in the context of socio-economic and climate change, and the conservation of ecosystem services.

The two main expected results are: An enhanced capacity of national and regional stakeholders in dealing with livelihood development and protection of the environment in the HKH region, and poverty reduction among mountain people 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 central part of Himalica. Linking value chain development to investment and employment-generating activities, developing community involvement in tourism as off-farm based income generation, and to leverage financial and social remittances from labour migrants have been identified as Himalica focal areas.

2. Executive summary

The year 2014 was the second year of implementation for Himalica. Despite a change in project management due to attrition of the Programme Coordinator and the Team Lead for pilots early in the year, implementation of the project continued in a satisfactory manner following recruitments for the vacancies created. With proactive support from the Regional Programme Manager and the Directorate, the Himalica team succeeded in expanding the scope of project implementation with consolidation and strengthening of activities initiated since 2013. The team successfully designed and operationalised new pilots in Bangladesh and Bhutan. Consolidation of activities initiated in the previous year in Policy Development support, Action Research and Capacity Building also constituted a major focus of activities during the reporting year. This helped in addressing a lull in project implementation, particularly in regard to pilot implementation effectiveness and capacity building activities that had set in during the transition in management. Following several field visits to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar, the team also succeeded in developing conceptual frameworks for implementation of pilots as well as capacity building approaches.

Policy support

During the reporting year, significant results have been achieved in the area of policy support. The main achievements of Himalica in this regard was in the context of development of Myanmar's Tourism Master Plans and the specific support requested by the government in developing the Regional Destination Management Plans for the Inlay Lake as well as the technical expertise to help in the development of an Eco-tourism plan. This achievement, based on the results of Himalica's action research on involvement of Inlay Lake's hill communities in tourism, is in regard to the development of a Destination Management Plan for Inlay by the Ministry of Tourism. ICIMOD, in collaboration with MIID, is facilitating the formulation of a Destination Management Plan drawing largely from the action research findings; it may be pointed out that this will be the first Destination Management Plan in Myanmar and will serve as example for other destinations. This is an outcome of the input support provided by Himalica through ICIMOD's tourism specialist in 2012 for the formulation of Myanmar's Tourism Master Plan.

Although the implementation of Himalica is still in the early stages, an opportunity for enhancing capacities of partner institutions in better planning and implementation has already opened up in Myanmar. ICIMOD is technically facilitating the formulation of Myanmar's Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy for protected areas, in close collaboration with Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MOHT) and Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF). The key outcome sought is the ecotourism plan which has a holistic approach, incorporating tourism and conservation objectives. However, a critical process outcome is the close coordination and collaboration between the two ministries (and other related ministries) at all levels for better planning, alignment and effective implementation across scales. Towards the achievement of this objective, an early achievement was the establishment of the Ecotourism Task Force, a platform that meets every quarter and includes the participation of members from all concerned ministries and their departments at the district level. Representatives from the tourism and forest department, including the Park Wardens of selected Protected Areas have been regular participants in such meetings. Inputs from nature conservation organizations and tourism operators (private sector) are also providing inputs through an Ecotourism Working Group, thus contributing to better planning at the local level. In addition, Himalica has supported the collaboration between the two aforementioned ministries to conduct 3 consultation workshops for multi-stakeholder input to the development of the Myanmar ecotourism policy and management strategy for protected areas (PAs). This brought together PA and tourism

stakeholders from the northern, central and southern states and regions of Myanmar to a multi-sectoral platform for decision-making on scope and content for part of the tourism sector, one that is of investment priority for the Myanmar government. The support has resulted in the development of Myanmar's Ecotourism Policy which is expected to be finalised and endorsed by the relevant authorities within the next month.

In addition, in the context of policy support on climate change adaptation, Himalica aims to take learnings on CCA mainstreaming into development plans at local level as entry points for support to the National Adaptation Plan process, especially in the Least Developed Countries in the Region. This year, CCA and development planning gap analysis was conducted in 2 districts in Nepal. A significant Himalica activity-area lies in conducting Poverty and Vulnerability Assessments (PVA) in 4 countries to increase knowledge on where communities' livelihood vulnerabilities lie, and how policy development can support interventions to increase community resilience. This is an extremely important initiative and will contribute significantly to the member countries' efforts in developing their National Adaptation Programmes (NAPs).

Knowledge Management

Despite the reporting year being the initial stages of implementation of Himalica activities, there are a few knowledge products that have been prepared. Significant among these is the Ecosystem Services Assessment (ESA) Framework developed with stakeholder participation and used by Partners to collect field data as basis for ecosystem rehabilitation. The ESA framework and related training proceedings have been published online. The Destination Management Plan produced for the Inlay Region as tourism planning tool reported above, is also ready and is awaiting the endorsement from the concerned ministry before publication.

While Himalica will undertake a total of 4 Poverty and Vulnerability Assessments (PVA), currently the first one in Shan and Chin States, Myanmar, is under finalization, with field work and data entry fulfilled. A comprehensive analysis report is being prepared and should be completed by end 2014. This work covers 4,680 HH in 12 Shan State districts, and 780 HH in 2 Chin State districts. Furthermore, a baseline survey of 546 HH in 7 Settlements in the Pilot project area has also been carried out by the same partner and field teams. Planning for the second PVA in Bhutan is completed with preparations at final stage for implementation start towards the last quarter of this year, while the baseline survey of the pilot areas in Bhutan has been completed.

Pilots

Specific value chains have been identified through participatory approaches for the pilot in Shan State, Myanmar, for further development and contribution to diversification of livelihood and income enhancement opportunities. Value chain analysis for the selected products have been completed and the results being examined to identify specific leverage points for designing interventions. An action plan was prepared for this and includes a methodology for implementation of water and land management package of practices, prepared jointly with partners in both Myanmar and Bhutan. The action plan also covered inception phase activities such as household baseline data collection, VC analysis, and assessment studies for water management, storage and distribution, and capacity building of target communities have been completed. Value chain analyses focused on farm produces and on tourism in support of pilots aimed at strengthening community resilience to climate change impacts are ongoing activities in Myanmar and Pakistan. In Pakistan, the apricot and honey value chain analysis have been completed. Further work in this direction focusing on bee-keeping and pollination services have been initiated in Bhutan and Bangladesh. In all of these, efforts are being made to strengthen inclusion and build capacities of women groups.

An inception planning workshop was held in June in Bhutan with the objectives of prioritizing inception activities, and plan for the overall project period for concretising activities for the pilot in Tsirang (Barshong Geog). The workshop included representatives of the Geog, line agencies, and departments under MoAF, as well as NGOs. The action research and pilot activities initiated in different sites have been designed and are being implemented with the ultimate objective of enhancing adaptive capacities of the target groups through improved natural resource management, diversification of livelihood and income opportunities and capacity building of communities and supporting institutions.

Action Research

The Randomised Control Trial approach aims to strengthen agricultural extension services, in particular, the delivery and uptake of extension inputs in Nepal. As part of the ongoing activities under this action research, capacity building of field extension workers under Department of Agriculture (DoA) has been conducted. The action research will ultimately help to build capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture in strengthening effective extension services to rural farmers in Nepal. In Pakistan, action research on pollination services was conducted in six villages of Chitral - Booni, Awi, Mastuj, Mulkhov (Warijun), Rayeen, and Brep - situated at three different altitudes in three different valleys. Apple is an important cash crop in this area and farmers are interested to introduce honeybees for apple pollination. The villages are representative in terms of landscape, farming practices and socio-economic characteristics and hence, the conclusions of the action research can be extrapolated for application in other parts of the district. The action research is linked to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Agriculture University, Peshawar and hence will help in strengthening institutional capacities of the area in pollination services and improved management of the apple orchards, benefitting both the beekeepers as well as the orchard owners. The preliminary results suggest that fruit yield (number of fruits per tree) and fruit weight (weight / 100 fruits) are significantly affected - significantly higher in orchards having bee colonies (as a result of bee pollination). Apple quality (colour, brightness and shape) are also positively improved as a consequence of pollination compared to controls.

Capacity Building

Himalica has also conducted several capacity building events in climate change adaptation. Capacity building for government officials, NGO members and community leaders and partner institutions has been completed in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. A total of 400 individuals have been trained through these activities. Capacity in Adaptation to Change and Risk Management has also been conducted to strengthen 9 institutions across the region - 2 institutions in Pakistan, 5 institutions in Bangladesh and 2 in Nepal). Capacity building has also been conducted through exposure visits for 11 technical officials from Bangladesh (4 women) from the MOCHTA and CHT-based department/divisions and CHT-based NGOs to Nepal. The focus of the visit was on low-cost technologies, micro-hydel and diverse livelihood approaches that address food security, nutrition and income generating opportunities. Capacity building was also done for AKRSP field staff, participating farmers and beekeepers in Pakistan on pollination services and honey products through the action research reported above.

3. Activity-wise progress

Overall Himalica progress in 2014 is presented Activity-wise in an accumulative format to 2013 in Table 1, below. Progress of the five activities is shown against the specific indicators of the Himalica log frame, and the RPI outputs and outcome indicators. The following paragraphs highlight the main achievements during the reporting year.

In 2014, Himalica expanded implementation scope in terms of initiating new pilots and strengthening start-up activities from late 2013. Conceptual frameworks for Pilot and Capacity Building implementation have been developed in close collaboration with ICIMOD Directorate and RPI Manager in order to strengthen both the cohesion of Himalica implementation, and the basis for ICIMOD inter-programme collaboration. Several country visits were made by the new Coordinator with team members to assess status of progress and to review work plans with partners in order to strengthen implementation modalities, particularly in regard to implementation of pilots in Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Implementing partners there were provided with PRA tools for conducting situation assessment, and value chain development framework, for identification of leverage points for designing interventions that are equitable and climate smart.

Policy support

Himalica provided technical support to the formulation of Myanmar's Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy for 21 designated Protected Areas (PAs), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry. A government Ecotourism Task Force, a platform chaired by the Union Minister of Hotels and Tourism that includes the participation of members from concerned ministries and their Union level departments, reviews the progress in bi-monthly meetings.

First Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment (PVA) finalized in Shan and Chin states, Myanmar with field work and data entry completed for preparation of a comprehensive analysis report. This work covers 4,680 households in 12 districts in Shan State, and 780 households in 2 districts in Chin State. Furthermore, a baseline survey of 546 households in seven settlements in the pilot project area has been carried out by the same partner and field teams.

Planning for the second PVA in Bhutan is complete, with implementation aimed for early 2015.

District-level assessments on mainstreaming climate change adaptation in development planning in Udaipur and Khotang districts, Nepal have been finalized and reported. These will be used as a resource for input into the NAP process in Nepal. Policy reviews on migration and remittances in Nepal and Pakistan are under finalization.

Knowledge management

An Ecosystem Services Assessment (ESA) Framework has been developed with stakeholder participation in Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar, and is being used by partners to collect field data as a basis for ecosystem rehabilitation.

A Destination Management Plan produced for the Inlay Region as a tourism planning tool launched at national level by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

From Myanmar Pilot site, land, water and gender assessment reports finalized as State and National planning tools.

A training manual on climate change adaptation is being prepared and a group of experts in-house ICIMOD is reviewing the document to make it at institutional standard. The similar resource books in Nepali and Bhutan language are also in the process of publication.

An Ecosystem Services Assessment (ESA) Framework has been developed with stakeholder participation in Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar, and is being used by partners to collect field data as a basis for ecosystem rehabilitation. Land, water and gender assessment reports for the Pilot in Myanmar have been finalized as State and National planning tools.

Collaborative Action Research

A Destination Management Plan (DMP) for the Inlay Region was officially launched by the Union Government of Myanmar in October. This first DMP in Myanmar will serve as an example for other destinations in the country and in the HKH region. The Shan State authorities and various civil society groups and development partners are currently implementing action points of the DMP. For example, the forming of a Destination Management Organization, and the Pa-O National Organization has begun establishment of community-run bed and breakfasts across 9 villages along a trekking trail in the hills.

In support of pilots, value chain analyses focused on farm produce and tourism conducted in Myanmar and Pakistan, and aimed at strengthening community resilience to climate change impacts. Similar work focusing on beekeeping and pollination services has been initiated in Bhutan and Bangladesh. In all of these, efforts are being made to strengthen inclusion and build the capacities of women's groups.

Developing and strengthening of beekeeping focusing on management using improved technology, processing, value addition, branding and marketing, has been taken up by the Royal family of Bhutan as appropriate for their own Palace-based sustainable beekeeping development project for rural communities.

Pilot projects

Myanmar pilot implementing partner conducted detailed assessments of land, water, gender and livelihood options of target villages in Kalaw and Nyaung Shwe Townships. The studies provide strong basis for designing interventions to improve adaptive capacity while increasing income of rural households.

Bhutan pilot work-plans for upgrading the vegetable and goat meat value chains which are considered the most promising livelihood enhancement options for people in Barshong Geog, Tsirang, developed with communities and Dzongkha.

Implementing partners of Pilot projects in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar provided with PRA tools for conducting situation assessment and value chain development framework to identify leverage points for designing interventions that are equitable and climate smart.

Himalica facilitated Pilot – Government – Community (led by Village Tract Administrators) consultations for partnership-strengthening in areas of complex relationships, to identify a strategy for up-scaling, for example in the Pilot site of Inlay, Shan State.

Capacity Building

Several capacity building events in climate change adaptation have been conducted for government officials, non-government organization (NGO) members, community leaders, and partner institutions

in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan with a total of 400 individuals trained through country based partners.

Capacity building in adaptation to change and risk management has also been conducted to strengthen nine institutions across the region – five in Bangladesh, two in Nepal, and two in Pakistan.

Capacity building has also been conducted through exposure visits for 11 technical officials from Bangladesh (including 4 women) from the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)-based department, divisions and NGOs to Nepal.

A Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted at regional level where participants from the countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan participated. All of these participants were nominated by partner organizations from these regional member countries. Together with ToT, the participants collected a draft training manual and associated training materials to conduct change sensitization workshop in their respective working areas.

Participant from all of these countries conducted over 11 training events in their respective working areas and sensitized over 300 mid-level professionals from government and non-government sectors. Some of internal review and progress reports from partners indicate that the participants from formal training institutions have incorporated some learning from these trainings in their regular courses in climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, and environment protection.

The training manual on adaptation to change in English language is already in the process of finalization at institutional level at ICIMOD. The capacity building partner from Nepal has adapted some of the learning from this training and training manual to prepare a comprehensive booklet on adaptation to change in Nepali language. The objective of this effort is to make a simple reading material available at district level development stakeholders. The other countries are also in the process of preparing several Information, Extension and Communication (IEC) materials on adaptation to change in national language so that the concept of adaptation to change including climate change issues could go down to the grassroots level stakeholders in understandable languages.

4. Programme Management

Changes in Himalica personnel took place mid-year as the Coordinator and the Lead for Pilots departed from ICIMOD to engage with other endeavours. Replacements were formally in place by 1st October, and Himalica management focused on strengthening and streamlining pilot implementation. Visits were made to each site, aiming to assess pilot site ground conditions, objectives, means and procedures, and discuss solutions to bottlenecks with full participation with partners and local communities in Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Thereby, a common understanding of a sound way forward to current activities and to 2015 was reached.

A new framework for Pilot implementation was formulated, with a clear framing of rationale, approach and desired results. This, and the outcome of the above mentioned field visits with full participation of respective partners, led to streamlining and strengthening of pilot implementation: Myanmar pilot bottlenecks have been addressed and implementation is progressing satisfactorily, and the design of Bangladesh and Bhutan pilots have been refined and work plans formulated.

Moreover, the scoping that was made for new Pilot interventions in Nepal and Pakistan before year end resulted in the identification of feasible activity scenarios and potentially productive interventions that will be developed further in follow up during early 2015.

Similarly to the development of the pilot framework mentioned above, the framework for Himalica capacity building was finalized for implementation guidance. This comprises: (a) CCA sensitization and awareness raising, (b) thematic/technical capacity building that strengthens CCA, and (c) capacity building for enterprise development (entrepreneurship skill development).

ICIMOD considers that programme implementation has increased in effectiveness to achieve Himalica objectives through the formulation of the above mentioned conceptual frameworks for pilots and for capacity building.

Interlinkages and synergies

The links between the five main activities if the programme have become more visible and strong through conscious efforts at improved communication from the Coordinator to teams and individuals, both personally/verbal and by email, and through meetings. Himalica aims to not be limited to cross-initiative convergences within the RP1, but to grow further by identifying synergy with other initiatives under different RPs, for example in identifying new Pilots. This will facilitate institutional and regional cross-learning and promote greater programme impact.

Partnership Development

New partnerships were developed during 2014 in Nepal with National Association of VDCs in Nepal (NAVIN), in Bhutan with Royal University of Bhutan / College for natural Resources (CNR), in Pakistan with National Agricultural Research Council (NARC), and in Bangladesh with Ethnic Community Organization (ECO-DEV).

The list of Himalica partners and their role is presented in Annex 4 to this report.

ICIMOD organized a regional Impact Pathway and Monitoring and Evaluation workshop in Kathmandu in October, to bring all implementing partners together with Himalica experts to refine impact pathways and clarify strategies for building community resilience, improving livelihoods and reducing risks, within the theory of change for Himalica. Teams from all 5 Himalica Activities participated with the aim of gaining understanding of the mutual input requirements necessary for achieving measurable impact.

Operational Management

Himalica operational structure remained the same as had been established in 2013, with an interdisciplinary team of ICIMOD experts from different thematic areas and strategic functions holding roles of partner coordination and implementation oversight according to the main activities of the programme, and under the overall supervision of the Coordinator. The internal allocation of available staff time was established in collaboration with other ICIMOD programmes, and the Theme leaders. Implementation of activities is linked to the outputs of the regional programme Adaptation to Change.

ICIMOD follows a systematic process to develop pilot intervention concept, design and implementation schedule, to carry out baseline surveys and to monitor the project. Earlier, pilot sites were selected based on scoping and exploration visits of ICIMOD staff, and pilot concept notes were developed before selecting an implementing partner. Once partners were selected (for example, Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development) it took substantial time for them to understand target communities' needs, and to design relevant interventions for building resilience and livelihood improvement of the communities. In the interest of effective time-use, the concept of three new pilots is being developed based on information/knowledge gained by ICIMOD and its partners over the years within ICIMOD transboundary landscape programmes. The identification of livelihood diversification options/value adding opportunities will be done together with the partner after they come on board as per Himalica/EU partner selection guidelines and criteria.

The Addendum No. 3 to the contract was signed between ICIMOD and EU stating that, under:

Art 1: Purpose:

1(5) The Action is a Single-donor Action for all Purposes of this Agreement.

Art 3: Financing the Action

3(1) The total cost of the Action eligible for financing by the Contracting Authority is estimated at EUR 10,000,000. as set out in Annex III.

3(2) The Contracting Authority undertakes to finance a maximum of EUR 10,000,000. Equivalent to 100% of the estimated total eligible cost specified in paragraph 1; the final amount will be established in accordance with Articles 14 and 17 of Annex II.

Art 6: Annexes

The revised version of "Annex I: Description of Action" and supplementary annex, "Annex I-3 Indicative Logical Framework" are attached.

The revised version of "Annex III: Budget of the Action" is attached.

All other terms and conditions of the Contract and its previous addenda, remain unchanged.

The second Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was held at ICIMOD on 12 June 2014.

Minutes of this meeting are attached as Annex 3 to this report.

Adjustments needed in the plan

A review of Pilot identification process and implementing modality was undertaken after mid-year in connection with change of Himalica personnel, and adjustments made to value chain analysis and implementation structure previously defined for the 3 current pilots (see immediately above).

5. Constraints and challenges

In mid-year, both the Coordinator, and the Lead of Pilots/Activity 4, resigned from ICIMOD to pursue careers elsewhere. Replacements were recruited through ICIMOD external/open application procedure, and by October the new team members were on-board. Himalica Coordinator is the ICIMOD Snr Climate Change Adaptation Specialist and earlier Himalica Activity 1 Lead, and new Pilot Lead is a senior livelihood development specialist with broad and proven experience in value-chain development.

Various issues in each of the 3 first Pilots in Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh accumulated, and by mid-year each pilot had manifested implementation delays. Visits by the new Himalica team were made to each site, including full participation of partners and local communities, with focused aims of re-visiting Pilot objectives, means and procedures, and of discussing solutions to bottlenecks. A common understanding of solving current issues and of defining a sound way forward of interventions was reached with all teams. Streamlining of pilots through the new conceptual framework is considered to significantly increase implementation effectiveness.

Government officials are often busy with many issues and tasks apart from ICIMOD collaboration, and it takes much time to get responses, and to keep the planned timeframes for intervention implementation. Field visits of ICIMOD experts/teams will be undertaken regularly with government counterparts, as implementation support. Options of involving local NGOs to also support government teams will be promoted, particularly in Bangladesh and Bhutan where LOAs are signed with the government. It is important to have ownership of pilot projects by relevant government agencies to ensure continuity and scaling out of Himalica interventions, and creation of synergy with national programmes/projects. ICIMOD therefore works closely with national and local government, either as implementing partner, or as project steering member. Inclusion of capacity building of government officials in the various aspects of Himalica interventions are an important part of programme planning and action formulation.

6. Fund utilisation

From the overall amount of the first instalment of EUR 2,140,000 the amount of EUR 1,310,432:- was utilised in the calendar year 2014.

EUR 844,630.59 were spent by ICIMOD (ICIMOD Managed Fund), and EUR 474,801.71 were realised as expenses until the end of 2014 (Partner Managed Fund).

The financial report provided in Annex 1 complies with Art. 2.7 of Annex II of the Contract No. ASIE/2012/292-464.

In 2014, majority of funds was used for implementation of Activities under the programme, including partners' payments in accordance with contract stipulations. Most of the first instalment funds were utilized by the end of year.

7. Lessons learned

Finalizing a letter of agreement (LoA) with government institutions and developing plans that are acceptable to all stakeholders are time-taking processes. Therefore, it is important to begin the LOA process with drafting the relevant documents as soon as parties reach consensus about the planned intervention. Implementation partners should be involved from the beginning of intervention situation analysis, action priority-setting, and workplan formulation.

Moreover, ICIMOD reviewed its internal procedures and decision-making process for LOA and contract issuing, and has introduced system measures aimed at improving the decision-chain flow and process time.

Experiences with government agencies as implementing partners has shown that establishing and maintaining effective partnerships can be challenging due to slow communication and delays in implementing activities because of time consuming internal procedures, protocols etc. For example, the first installment released by ICIMOD to GNHC, Bhutan – the signatory of the LOA- has taken an unexpectedly long time to transfer the money to the local implementing body (Tsirang Dzongkhag). Having back-up plans to support/facilitate partner for smooth implementation of project needs to be in place. For example, imposition of new rules for traveling to CHT and security situation and political sensitivity delayed the whole process of pilot interventions in CHT Bangladesh.

8. Plan for the next reporting period

Key elements of the 2015 work plan are:

- PVA implemented in 2 RMCs with data entry by local partner and results analysed by ICIMOD
- Explore PVA implementation in Afghanistan, with data entry by local partner and results analysed by ICIMOD
- Conduct socio economic HH baseline surveys in 3 pilot project sites (Bt, Bd, plus Np?)
- Myanmar Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy for PAs finalized
- International Conference on Ecotourism in Protected Areas held in Myanmar by mid-year
- CCA policy/strategy development supported in at least 2 RMCs
- NAP process support through consultations, gap analysis, ground-learning
- 3 Analytical Ecosystem Services Assessment (ESA) reports prepared
- 1 peer reviewed journal article on comparative analysis of ESA in three countries drafted
- 2 articles on migration and gender submitted to the peer reviewed publication
- A position paper on climate change and migration to be prepared by the government stakeholders in Nepal and Pakistan initiated
- Action research on Apple pollination and its impact on production yield and quality
- Review and capacity building of field staff on maize intercropping completed, RCT Nepal
- Technology adoption survey for action research on RCT in Nepal completed
- Develop a framework for integrating Gender in Pilot activities for enhancing income and adaptive capacity
- Value Chain Analyses for the Pilots in Bhutan and Bangladesh
- Value Chain Analyses for new Pilots in 2 RMCs; tentatively Nepal and Pakistan
- Develop and implement two microplans with gender focus in Nepal to enhance adaptive capacity in two villages
- Regional ToT on micro-planning with community-led water, energy and food nexus
- Regional Training on geo-hydrological techniques for Partners' technicians in water management/ harvesting
- Flood preparedness training of the beneficiaries from the migrant sending household is completed in Nepal and Pakistan
- Support development of module on Flood preparedness and financial literacy for migration action research in Nepal and Pakistan

- Train 200 representatives (district level govt and civil society) from districts of Solu, Khotang, Udayapur, Saptari, Nepal in CCA
- Train 200 representatives (govt, civil society, and potential partners) from identified Pakistan pilot area in CCA

9. Tabular Cumulative Progress

Table 1: Summary of progress of the five Himalica Activity areas against the Himalica log frame indicators and the outputs of the Regional Programme Adaptation to Change (RP1). The link of each Activity area to RP1 outcome indicators is also stated.

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 – 2014 (in bold) / Accumulative	
At least 15 mountain specific national development policies, strategies and approaches (including tools such as National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs), Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) and Biennial Update Reports) making use of recommended practices and knowledge in participating RMCs in at least five countries	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District stake-holder workshop on integrating climate change adaptation strategy with district development plans in Udayapur was accomplished, and a similar workshop for Khotang planned for 2014 • Initial deskwork analysis on national CCA policy and mountain specificity completed, results to be incorporated into assessment in 2014 after partner identification. 	
				2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District level report on mainstreaming CCA in development planning in 2 Districts of Nepal finalized. Draft final report and findings presented to Government of Nepal / Chief CCA Division.
			4 NAPA or national strategies or policies and processes are supported and adapted to mountain-specific context through project influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
				2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft of Policy review reports for Pakistan has been finalised and findings presented at a roundtable on climate change and migration with the government stakeholders (jointly organized by ICIMOD, IOM, and

				<p>PARC in Islamabad). The first draft report for Bangladesh had been received from the RMMRU and feedback of the reviewers had been shared with the lead author. The second draft report is expected in January 2015.</p>
			At least 5 knowledge products on ecosystem services are developed and used by stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First draft ecosystem services assessment /ESA knowledge product framework and questionnaire prepared. <p style="text-align: right;">2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESA Framework developed with stakeholder participation in Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar last year is being used by partners to collect field data as a basis for ecosystem rehabilitation.
			Mountain specific poverty index applied in at least 4 member countries	<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; Scoping for similar PVA in Bhutan and Bangladesh initiated, with aim to commence in both countries in 2014; <p style="text-align: right;">2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar PVA completed, covering 4,680 households in 12 districts in Shan State, and 780 households in 2 districts in Chin State. Data analysis expected to be completed for publication in early 2015. Furthermore, a baseline survey of 546 households in 7 settlements in the Inlay pilot area carried out by the same partner and field teams. • The ICIMOD initiated revision of the PVA instrument was concluded by mid-2014, and revised PVA shared with Bhutan. •
Eight relevant local and 29 national institutions will be enabled to plan,	Output 1: Knowledge products for enhanced understanding of risks, uncertainties,	Activity 2. Knowledge management. Raising awareness and disseminating knowledge on the	At least 25 knowledge products on CCA related issues (e.g. poverty, value chains, tourism, ecosystem services) developed, packaged and disseminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

<p>implement and monitor adaptation related programmes in their respective countries and areas</p> <p>At least 15 mountain specific national development policies, strategies and approaches (including tools such as National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs), Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) and Biennial Update Reports) making use of recommended practices and knowledge in participating RMCs in at least five countries</p>	<p>vulnerabilities, gender issues, migration, poverty and opportunities to adapt to change developed and strategically disseminated</p>	<p>effects of climate change and adaptation responses in the HKH region</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem Assessment Framework (ESA) framework prepared and used by partner; Regional Orientation training on ESA organised; Training on PRA and facilitation on ESA questionnaire organised for researcher of three countries (Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar) • Detailed Ecosystem Services Assessment was carried out in Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar; Capacity building of partner(Nepal and Bhutan) in GIS and remote sensing organised at ICIMOD; Data analysis and draft report on ESA is ready • In Myanmar, MOU signed with MOHT, brought MOECAAF on board, framework for the policy and management strategy drafted, to be finalized by April 2015. • Assessment of HV products has been completed and three potential value chain for livelihood diversification is identified in Myanmar.
			<p>6+ Exposure visits organised to share CCA knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 exposure visit for Bhutan government officials to India accomplished • 1 exposure visit for Myanmar government officials to Nepal accomplished
				<p style="text-align: right;">2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure visit for Bangladesh participants to Nepal in June. A total of 11 participants (3 women and 8 men)

<p>Eight relevant local and 29 national institutions will be enabled to plan, implement and monitor adaptation related programmes in their respective countries and areas</p> <p>At least 15 mountain specific national development policies, strategies and approaches (including tools such as National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs), Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) and Biennial Update Reports)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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>	<p>10+ High value product value chains are analysed 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 <i>Apis Cerana</i> honey) agreed with local partners in Pakistan (linked to pollination action research). LOAs to be signed in first quarter of 2014.
				<p>2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First year of pollination action research results are available, validation of results planned for 2015. Value chain analyses of <i>Apis cerana</i> honey and apricot in Chitral, Pakistan are completed. • The LOA with ECoDevelopment, Bandarban, Bangladesh signed for carrying out beekeeping value chain analysis. Inception workshop conducted and detailed activities identified. LOA for carrying out beekeeping value chain analysis in southern Bhutan approved and signed by the GNHC Bhutan.
			<p>3 action research initiatives on tourism or ecosystem services developed and under implementation with implementing bodies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
				<p>2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Action research and 2 value chain analysis are finalised and resulting Destination Management Plan for Inlay Region published and officially launched with MOHT in Taunggyi, Myanmar. • Action research on ecosystem management in Udaypur Nepal completed its first year. Zero grazing in

<p>making use of recommended practices and knowledge in participating RMCs in at least five countries</p> <p>2000 people (50% women) benefited (12 districts in six countries in pilot areas) in by innovative adaptation-related strategies, policies, and programmes</p>				<p>community forest, plantation in degraded land, home garden improvement and the improved cooking stoves are the activities undertaken by Bird Conservation Nepal in collaboration with Nawaprabhat Nepal. Exposure visits to the farmers and stakeholders; training on nursery management and vegetable production and distribution of planting and seed materials are carried out. About 35,000 saplings of fodder and tree species were distributed and planted in degraded area. Baseline data is being processed and progress and inception report has been submitted by partner. Field visit with partner was organised and the progress on action research activities found to be satisfactory.</p>
			<p>3 action research initiatives on migration or population dynamics developed and under implementation with implementing bodies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 action research concepts on migration prepared in collaboration with partners in Nepal and Pakistan. LOAs to be signed in first quarter of 2014. <p style="text-align: right;">2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AR on Migration in Nepal initiated and on track. Jointly organized a workshop in collaboration with HICAP, the training module design in Kathmandu for the partners from India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The NIDS, partner in Nepal for migration identified the treatment wards in Udayapur district and prepared a beneficiaries list. They shared the first draft of the Financial Literacy Training Module, which is being reviewed. The baseline survey by the CESLAM is ongoing. The contractual agreement for the AR in Pakistan is being discussed with the WWF. This process is at an advanced stage. A major challenge in concluding this process has been the difficulty for the Migration and Population Specialist to travel to Islamabad. A WWF representative had participated in the aforementioned workshop on the training module design. This AR is likely to be initiated in the first quarter of 2015.

			3 new action research initiatives on innovative livelihood opportunities developed and under implementation with implementing bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 action research on agricultural extension services initiated to promote intercropping with maize with local partners in Nepal, using randomized control trial (RCT) method, 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.
				2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action research on Climate resilient village is initiated. This is a unique action research under Himalica going on in Bhutan. The action research has completed in-house orientation, community selection and baseline information collection. In overall, the progress of 2014 is very much on time.
Eight relevant local and 29 national institutions will be enabled to plan, implement and monitor adaptation related programmes in their respective countries and areas 2000 people (50% women) benefited (12 districts in six countries in pilot areas) in by innovative adaptation-related strategies,	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.	At least 8 pilot collaborative HKH projects implemented; At least 4 HKH countries are hosting pilot collaboration activities; 3 new pilot activities addressing livelihoods of poor mountain men and women identified, developed and into implementation in year 1; 5 new pilot activities addressing livelihoods of poor mountain men and women identified, developed and into implementation in years 2&3; 20 community-led micro plans developed with CCA/environment focus	<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 (MIID) 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
				2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies and approach for 3 new pilot projects developed; Partners in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar oriented about the Himalica pathways; Project logic has been formulated by partner in Myanmar; Bhutan submitted the draft work-plan detailing the activities for value chain development. Project management unit and steering mechanism established for implementation of pilot project in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. Situation analysis/ community assessment conducted to

<p>as National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs), Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) and Biennial Update Reports) making use of recommended practices and knowledge in participating RMCs in at least five countries</p> <p>2000 people (50% women) benefited (12 districts in six countries in pilot areas) in by innovative adaptation-related strategies, policies, and programmes</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"> • 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. <p style="text-align: right;">2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Himalica has provided stipend support for 5 students in Bhutan for Master's Degree in Development Practices in College of Natural Resources (CNR) under Royal Bhutan University. All of these students are making good progress. Various short term and vocational courses for other RMC participants are being sorted out.
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Country wise coverage of activities

In 2014, Himalica interventions were implemented in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. Table 2 shows key activities in these five ICIMOD regional member countries.

Moreover, exploratory discussions were held within ICIMOD and partner networks concerning interventions in Afghanistan regarding the possibility and feasibility of conducting a Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment (PVA) survey, and of supporting CCA policy development. Concretization of these initial discussions will be pursued in early 2015.

Country	Key Achievements
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project management unit (PMU) headed by the CEO, BHDC and with local Project Coordinator and Admin/Finance Officer established at BHDC to ensure implementation of project activities as specified in the LOA. • National Steering Committee (NSC) under the chairpersonship of the Secretary, MOCHTA at national level, and project implementation committee headed by the chairperson of BHDC formed, for policy guidance and strategic decisions for tourism development in Bandarban. • Consultations held with Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC), PMU, community members and tourism stakeholders on work-plan and next. TORs drafted and procurement started for national NGO to do situation analysis of target communities. Interventions are to be designed to promote tourism and diversify benefits through value addition of products and services based on assessment of livelihood opportunities, resources, hazards, trends and critical constraints of the value chains. • Arannayk Foundation (AF) as capacity building partner conducted two sensitization workshops in each of CHT districts resulted in decision to incorporate climate change issues in ongoing district development work. Learning to be used in pilot and action research work for risk and vulnerability management. • The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of University of Dhaka completed fieldwork for the <i>Policy Review on the Role of Circular Labour Migration in Context of Climate Change Adaptation in Bangladesh with a Special Focus on the Chittagong Hill Tract Region</i> in six Upazilas in Rangamati, Khagrachari and Chittagong districts, with fieldwork by researchers from Chittagong University. This included key informant interviews in 27 villages and a household survey that covered 345 households. Preliminary findings presented by RMMRU at the partners' meeting in Kathmandu in February. • The abundance of <i>Apis cerana</i> bees and rich diversity of bee floral resources in CHT makes a great potential for promoting beekeeping as income generating activity. Drawing on its earlier projects i.e. ICIMOD-UNDP CHT Livelihoods Project and Beekeeping Project, Himalica is partnering with ECo Development – a local organization for identifying equitable and sustainable upgrading strategies with particular focus on gender aspects for securing benefit to local communities through strengthening the capacity of the partners, bee farmers and honey hunters in value chain analysis in CHT districts. Inception workshop held and detailed VCA activities identified.
Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing for Hon. Minister, Director Generals and other senior officials at MOAF by ICIMOD team on the revised pilot concept. District Agriculture Officer (DAO) and District Livestock Officer (DLO) took part in impact pathways workshop in KTM to gain clarity about the impacts Himalica aims to achieve.

Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot set-up meeting organised at Barshon Geog in November to prioritise most promising value chains, attended by 75 community members, DAO, DLO, District Forest Officer (DFO), Gup and Geog extension officers. Through participatory appraisal of comparative advantage (PACA) tool, vegetable and goat meat value chains identified for pilot interventions. Detailed activity plan for upgrading identified value chains under finalization DAO (assigned as local project coordinator), in consultation with other stakeholders. • In support of monitoring outcomes from generic CCA sensitization the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) is partner in work at 8 selected village level government organizations from two districts to implement capacity building program with grassroots level stakeholders. Over 50 indicators set at various levels to assess change in two years' time after CCA sensitization workshops. Productive lessons learned will be advocated to out-scale and upscale in other parts of Bhutan • Bhutan, like CHT, has an abundance of <i>Apis cerana</i> bees and rich diversity of bee floral resources, thus a great potential for promoting beekeeping as income generating activity to improve people's livelihoods. RNR-Research and Developm. Centre Jakar of the Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests is partner in honey VCA to identify equitable and sustainable upgrading strategies with particular focus on gender aspects in securing benefit to local communities. . The Letter of Agreement on strengthening the capacity of partners, bee farmers and honey hunters in VCA under finalization, with activities to be initiated in early 2015. • TOT on developing and strengthening beekeeping VC in southern Bhutan organized for the district extension officers, RNR- RDC professionals, HRH nominees and Prime Minister's nominees on a special request from the MOAF, Royal Government of Bhutan. Training comprised Beekeeping management using improved technology, processing, value addition, branding and marketing of honey and other bee products, bee flora and pollination role of bees, community mobilization and institutional development. Exposure visit to beekeeping institutions and enterprises in and around KTM was also organized. RG of Bhutan support also through provision of key beekeeping equipment.
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot implementing partner Myanmar Institute for Integration and development (MIID) conducted assessments on land and water resources,, t and participatory livelihood and natural resources in 5 villages of Nyaungshwe and Kalaw Township, Southern Shan State, to assist develop strategies for sustainable management of water for agricultural and cash crop production. • Water resource recommendations include improvements in both water quality and quantity for household use within the five villages. Short-term recommendations include mobilization of community water users group, promotion and awareness raising in household-level roof rainwater harvesting system, and improving water quality of community pond infrastructure. Long term recommendations include consolidation of community water users group and production of concrete rings (storage) in the villages. • MIID-PMU staff were recruited including Horticulture Development Officer and NRM, Geohydrologist, and Agriculture /Rural Developm. Project Officer. • Pilot intervention logic has been developed in line with the 'Theory of Change' of Himalica programme. Mass meetings organised in each of the villages to share information about market demands and trends of various products, and to get community suggestions for VC selection. • The Union Government of Myanmar officially launched the Destination Management Plan (DMP) for the Inlay Region in October. This first DMP in Myanmar will serve as an example for other destinations in the country and in the HKH region. The Shan State authorities and various civil society groups and development partners are currently implementing action

	<p>points of the DMP. For example, the forming of a Destination Management Organization, and the Pa-O National Organization has begun establishment of community-run bed and breakfasts across 9 villages along a trekking trail in the hills surrounding Inlay Lake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of Myanmar Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy for 21 designated Protected Areas (PAs) through dedicated technical support initiated in June, in close collaboration with both the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, and the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry. A government Ecotourism Task Force, a platform chaired by the Union Minister of Hotels and Tourism that includes the participation of members from concerned ministries and their Union level departments, reviews the progress in bi-monthly meetings. • Exposure visit organized for participants selected by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forest (MoECAF), as entry for capacity building activities for Myanmar.. MOECAF included participants from Union as well as Shan State, (selected as target for pilot and action research). Priority topic of the visit is to learn more about alternative options to shifting cultivation and participatory forest management, and the itinerary was set up to have community forestry in Nepal in focus.. Visit learnings expressed from participants included issues related to policy formulation and amendments concerning forest and environment conservation, which would be brought in as element for pilot project site environment management in Shan state. • Understanding established with MIID on striving for early identification of pilot / action research capacity building needs in order to achieve good planning and strong synergy between those components and capacity building component.
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping for 1st Nepal pilot on pro-poor value chain development in Kanchenjuga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI) was carried out with stakeholders to leverage knowledge and networks build by ICIMOD on livelihoods and natural resources over a decade in KLCDI. The concept is to showcase results in one district (Taplejung) using Cardamom production as an entry point, with a strategy for intervention scale-up in other areas by national stakeholders. • Consultations held with national stakeholders to explore 2nd potential site for pilot project in Nepal. Field visit for ground-truthing planned for assessment of Udaypur district along Solukhumbu-Saptari transect, which is shortest transect linking Mt. Everest with plains, will be made in early 2015. • In preparation for CCA sensitization workshops, simple CCA materials in Nepali prepared. • Action research on agriculture extension by Randomize Control Trial (RCT) method is going on in Nepal focusing on mid-hill districts.. The total duration is 2 years starting from January 2014. A total of 8 districts, 40 agriculture service centres and one directorate on agriculture extension from government of Nepal are involved. Capacity building of these stakeholders in action research methods, processes and technology has been successfully completed in 2014. • Support to Government of Nepal by ICIMOD and International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the role of labour migration and remittances in the climate change discourse in a roundtable to discuss the <i>role of migration and remittances in climate change adaptation in Nepal</i>, hosted by the National Planning Commission (NPC). Government representatives from the NPC, MoLE, MoWCSW, MoAD, MoSTE, ICIMOD and IOM participated, and follow-up is led and coordinated by Dr. Bharatendu Mishra, Honourable Member, NPC). Next step is to support relevant government stakeholders to prepare a position paper on the role of migration and remittances in CCA Nepal for COP 21.
Nepal	<p>A case study on migration and adaptive capacity in Khotang, Udayapur, and Saptari districts is undertaken by ICIMOD and the Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility</p>

	<p>(CESLAM). The primary objective is to understand the circumstances when labour migration or remittances could build household level adaptive capacity. This case study aims to provide empirical evidence and the research has adopted a mixed method approach. Fieldwork includes 96 focus group discussions completed in 16 VDCs across four districts, 640 households surveyed in 32 rural wards across three districts, and 40 women from the migrant-sending households interviewed in one rural ward in Udayapur district.</p> <p>Action research on migration and adaptive capacity implemented in six rural wards in Udayapur district from October 2014-December 2016, by ICIMOD and the Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS). This AR examines the role of financial literacy, flood preparedness, and value chain trainings in leveraging remittances to build household level adaptive capacity of the remittance recipient households in flood affected rural communities. Three separate trainings are envisaged over a period of 9 months, with each organized over a 3-day period in each of the 6 rural wards. The trainees are approx. 240 women from remittance recipient households. The first training is being conducted in February 2015.</p>
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot scoping meetings have taken place with potential partners/stakeholders before and during impact pathways workshop to explore focus, target communities, and potential value chains. • Pilot concept note prepared on promoting climate-adaptive practices (efficient use of water, energy, soil nutrients) to improve production systems, reduce post-harvest losses and add value in selected products (e.g. temperate fruits, vegetables, dairy) in mountains and hills of northern Pakistan. • Rural Support Program Network (RSPN) conducted three events of training in northern Pakistan to sensitize the district level stakeholders on adaptation to change. RSPN is a network of 10 rural support programs in Pakistan. Training comprised topics to clarify issues related to water, bio-diversity and soil erosion. In view of positive responses to the training, additional sessions are being conceptualized for when the pilot and action research activities are ready, and will link to them. Could. <p>A case study, on migration and adaptive capacity in Chitral, Ghizer, Hunzanagar, and Gilgit districts is undertaken by ICIMOD and the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). The primary objective is to understand the circumstances when labour migration or remittances could build household level adaptive capacity. This case study aims to provide empirical evidence, and the research has adopted a mixed method approach. As part of the fieldwork, 48 focus group discussions had been completed in 8 villages across three districts. A household survey, which will cover 720 households in 36 villages across four districts is ongoing.</p> <p>Report entitled Analysis of the Existing Migration and Remittance Policies in a Context of Climate Change Adaptation in Pakistan with a Special Focus on the Mountain Region, prepared by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). The next step is to build on the report findings to prepare a position paper on the role of migration and remittances in climate change adaptation in Pakistan by government stakeholders for COP 21.</p> <p>Roundtable on the role of migration and remittances in the climate change adaptation policy in Pakistan held in Islamabad in November, jointly organized by ICIMOD, IOM, and PARC. The primary objective is to discuss the policy implications of the research findings in context of the national and provincial climate change adaptation policies and provisions with the government stakeholders. The participants included representatives from the Federal Ministries in Islamabad and Provincial Governments of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan provinces.</p> <p>Action research on the importance of honeybee pollination in enhancing the productivity</p>

	<p>(yield and quality) of horticultural crops implemented in six villages in Chitral district in collaboration with Agha Khan Rural Support Programme – Chitral, KP Agricultural University and the Department of Agriculture. First year results are available, with results-validation planned for early 2015.</p> <p>Value chains analyses of apricot and honey in Chitral are also being conducted. So far, questionnaires, guidelines and checklists have been prepared, shared and finalized jointly with the partner organization and data collection completed. Workshops for mapping and analysing the value chains have been planned.</p>
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Himalica

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Annexes

- Annex 1 Financial statement
- Annex 2 Logframe
- Annex 3 List of Partners