

# ICIMOD's Strategy for Mountains and People

ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

With its vast reserves of snow and ice, the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) is the source of 10 large Asian river systems that sustain livelihoods across eight countries, providing water and ecosystem services to more than 240 million people and supplying water downstream to more than 1.9 billion people, a quarter of the world's population.

Mountain ecosystems are exceptionally fragile. The cultures and communities they host are particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change, and to factors such as increasing migration, changes in land use and cover, and globalization. These challenges, however, present opportunities to view mountain development as a primary driver of change that can build resilience upstream and downstream and to generate ideas to create a more sustainable world.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is an intergovernmental knowledge and learning centre that generates and shares knowledge using innovation and effective communication to empower eight countries in the HKH. ICIMOD provides a regional platform for policy makers, experts, planners, and practitioners to exchange ideas and perspectives to achieve sustainable mountain development. In this role, ICIMOD facilitates knowledge exchange across the region, helps customize international knowledge, and tailors it to the region's needs. Our mandate inspires us to bring mountain issues to the global stage, drawing on 34 years of research and experience in fields such as water and air, livelihoods, and transboundary cooperation.

## Strategic Impacts

All ICIMOD initiatives contribute to its three strategic impacts: i) reduced poverty, ii) enhanced resilience by reducing physical and social vulnerabilities, and iii) enhanced ecosystem services.

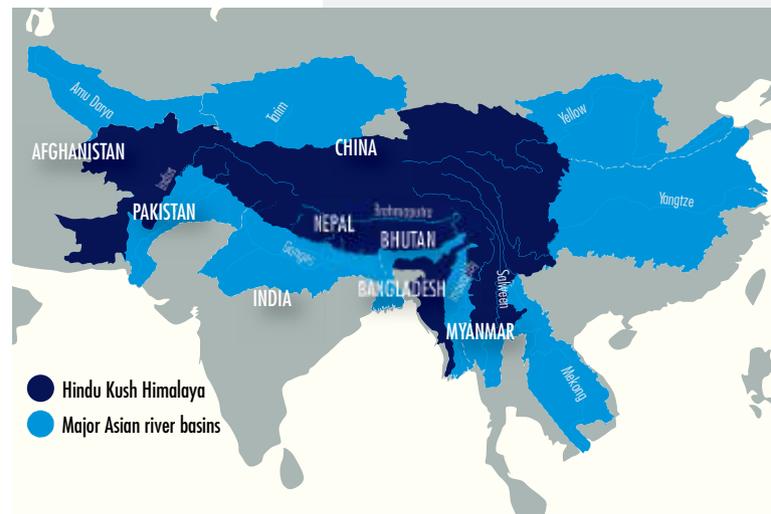
Action to sustain the Hindu Kush Himalaya has the potential to improve the lives of over one-quarter of the world's population

## Vision

Men, women, and children of the Hindu Kush Himalaya enjoy improved wellbeing in a healthy mountain environment.

## Mission

To enable sustainable and resilient mountain development for improved and equitable livelihoods through shared knowledge and regional cooperation.





## Promoting Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Mountain Development

ICIMOD occupies a unique niche in the development community, combining rigorous, transdisciplinary research with targeted outreach and capacity building. With its expertise in sharing knowledge, ICIMOD provides a crucial link between science partners who generate primary knowledge and policymakers and implementation partners who bring practical aspects of this research to mountain communities.

ICIMOD sees research and science as a means to promote cooperation in the region. Forming a bridge between science, policy, and development practices, we are positioned to share critical knowledge and work with diverse stakeholders in the HKH to develop solutions to address the region's shared challenges.

## Sustainable, Equitable, and Inclusive Mountain Development through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

ICIMOD recognizes that sustainable mountain development needs to be equitable and inclusive. We align our work with the UN SDGs so that the benefits of development reach everyone in vulnerable mountain communities.

## Regional Programmes

### Adaptation and Resilience Building

To foster transformative action in light of socioeconomic and environmental change

### Atmosphere

To inform policy and practice to address air pollution challenges

### Transboundary Landscapes

To improve cooperation across borders to sustain ecosystem services

### Mountain Environment Regional Information System

To make better decisions from the village to country to regional levels

### River Basins and Cryosphere

To develop more effective water resource management and disaster risk reduction practices

### Mountain Knowledge and Action Networks

To build capacity in academia and cultivate future generations of scholars and leaders in the HKH

## Core Competencies



Livelihoods



Ecosystem Services



Water and Air



Geospatial Solutions



Gender



Knowledge Management and Communication

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