

Initiatives

References:

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Huber, U., Bugmann, H., and Reasoner, M., eds. 2005. Global Change and Mountain Regions. An overview of current knowledge. Advances in Global Change Research, Springer

Weblinks:

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch>

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-africa/>

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-american-cordillera/>

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-europe/>

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-carpathians/>

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/projects/glochamore/>

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ICIMOD's International Conference and Workshops on Mountain Biodiversity

Bandana Shakya

The International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation and Management for Enhanced Ecosystem Services: Responding to the Challenges of Global Change was held from 16-18



Professor Bruno Messerli giving key note speech at the inaugural session. Photo: ICIMOD.



Participants at the opening of IMBC. Photo: ICIMOD.

November 2008 at the ICIMOD Headquarters in Khumalatar, Lalitpur. The Conference was accompanied by two pre-conference workshops on Mountain Transboundary Protected Areas (10-14 November 2008), Linking Geodata with Biodiversity Information (15-16 November 2008), and a post-conference workshop on a Research Strategy on Global Change in Mountain Biosphere Reserves (19 November 2008).

ICIMOD brought together 12 global institutions and 75 experts and representatives from 20 countries involved in mountain biodiversity conservation and management to develop future alliances to jointly meet the emerging challenges of climate change in the mountains. Climate change, especially in the mountains, is expected to adversely affect mountain biodiversity and the lives and livelihoods of communities, not just living in the mountains but living downstream and beyond. The participants included representatives of global programmes, international and regional professionals, and representatives from government officials of the eight ICIMOD regional member countries. The conference allowed an open exchange of ideas and fruitful discussion on various thematic elements such as climate change and its implication for mountain biodiversity, biodiversity management for economic goods and ecosystem services, and institutionalising long term continuity in mountain research programmes.

The conference produced many concrete results including on the transect approach, the initiation of many bilateral agreements, and the production of a framework on transboundary protected areas. The transect approach on long term monitoring and research for representative HKH systems presented by ICIMOD was well received by the participants; the global programme also showed their enthusiasm and eagerness to support this initiative. Similarly, a framework for large scale ICIMOD protected areas and connectivity management was discussed; ICIMOD partners from China, Myanmar, and Pakistan



Imja Glacier in the 1950s. Photo: Erwin Schneider, Khumbu, Nepal, 1956 - 1961. Courtesy of the Association for Comparative Alpine Research, Munich (Archives of Alton Byers, The Mountain Institute)



Imja Glacier in the 2007. Photo: Alton Byers, Khumbu, Nepal, 2007, The Mountain Institute.

have already tried to customise the framework for strategic planning in two transboundary areas, namely: the Brahmaputra-Salween transboundary complex (Myanmar-China-India) and the Karakorum transboundary complex (Pakistan-China). ICIMOD and UNEP have agreed to initiate collaborative research and conservation actions in the Kailash Sacred Landscape. There was a unified opinion on creating GIS enabled biodiversity portals and information networks in the HKH. Discussions with GLOCHAMORE highlighted the commonalities in their and ICIMOD's strategies, and both agreed to further explore and pursue areas of common interest. UNESCO-MAB also indicated the likelihood of future partnerships with ICIMOD.

At time when the whole HKH region has been tagged as a 'white spot' in terms of long term climatic data representation and analysis, the conference was able to unify the voices from the region and around the world for their commitment in supporting the common cause of biodiversity conservation and management for enhanced ecosystem services by responding to the challenges of global change. The important message was that we need to join hands and direct our efforts to manage mountain biodiversity in the region together for the wellbeing of the people. Details of the conference can be found at www.icimod.org/imbc and the conference report at www.icimod.org/?page=340.

ICIMOD Photograph Exhibition: Himalaya – Changing Landscapes

Nonna Lamponen

The Himalaya - Changing Landscapes photograph exhibition resumed its European tour this spring. Our fourth exhibition was held in Bonn, Germany 1-12 June 2009 at the Robert-Schuman-Platz. Thereafter the exhibition will move to Switzerland later in the summer.

New photos have been added to the concept of Himalaya - Changing Landscapes. The repeat mountain panoramas and photos of the 1950s glacial research teams are accompanied by additional repeat photographs of landscapes from the middle hills of Nepal. New people photographs have also been added, as well as pictures of cultural and socioeconomic changes in the Himalayan region within the last few decades.

The exhibition aims to raise awareness of the impact of climate change, and the new challenges the mountain people are facing.

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