



Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Biodiversity Management



Proceedings of a MacArthur Foundation
ICIMOD Seminar

April 13-15, 1994, Kathmandu, Nepal

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International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Editor

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Views of the Himalayas — B. R. Bhatta

[Inset] *Women from Himachal selling hemp, a minor forest product, in a bazaar town*
— T. Partap.

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In the preparation of this report, an attempt has been made to reflect the views and interpretations expressed by the participants at the workshop. These views and interpretations are not attributable to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and do not imply the expression of an opinion concerning the legal status of any country, city, or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Foreword

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The Hondo-Rash Himalayan Region is one of the world's richest ecosystems in terms of biodiversity. This is due to the extreme altitudinal variations with concurrent changes in temperature and precipitation, and differences in soil conditions, which have combined to create a striking vertical zonation in the natural vegetation.

Biodiversity is the result of the interaction of natural and social systems in utilization and conservation. The interactions between species, populations, communities, and ecosystems are complex and dynamic, and are influenced by human activities.

The HKH Region is characterized by its unique biodiversity, which is the result of the interaction of natural and social systems. The HKH Region is characterized by its unique biodiversity, which is the result of the interaction of natural and social systems.

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This joint meeting of ICIMOD and the MacArthur Foundation provided participants with a valuable opportunity to learn of initiatives to enhance biodiversity management in the Eastern Himalayas and in Southeast Asia, and to share thoughts on ways to further promote these objectives in the future. In view of the shared concerns of the HKH countries, and the inter-value actions undertaken in some of them, the participants at the seminar expressed a keen interest in the establishment of collaborative arrangements between institutions, organizations, and individuals working in the field of biodiversity research and management. ICIMOD is committed to facilitating exactly these kinds of exchange in the coming years.