

Annexes

*Dr. Prakash Chandra Lamsal
Minister for Forest Affairs, ICMOD*

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

As a man from one of the most mountainous countries on earth, I am very happy to be opening this exhibition on Himalayan biodiversity and the Workshop on Kanchenjunga Conservation. When ICIMOD opened its doors in 1983, concern for the environment was still in the formative stages. True enough, the prophets of doom had begun to write about the ominous trends in terms of environmental degradation in the plains and in the rain forests, the increasing deforestation had touched the heart of the whole world's consciousness, but who cared about or even thought about the mountains? And then came ICIMOD, the world's first international centre for integrated mountain development. It gave us a mountain perspective.

It is true that, in mountain areas, as everywhere, economic development is at the forefront of thinking among politicians and other people. But the United Nations Conference on Environ-

ment and Development (UNCED) has also taught us that economic development and environmental conservation are two sides of the same coin. One cannot prosper with neglect of the other. In June of this year, a Special Session of the General Assembly of the UN will convene to review the progress made with the implementation of Agenda 21 - UNCED's major commitment to the 21st century. Nepal has proved that, by joining ICIMOD as its territory, it is closely associated with the implementation of Chapter II of Agenda 21 - Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development.

The Hindu Kush-Himalayas give us the most diverse species of flora and fauna. There may be much wealth in their mountains that we have never heard of or seen. I am sure that the exhibition and exhibition is as much as a good deal. Along with there is a great adventure in sharing. Rich and poor developed working this ICIMOD will bring together a collection of people who will give them an oppor-

Annex 1

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

*DR. PRAKASH CHANDRA LOHANI
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HMG/N*

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ment and Development (UNCED) has also taught us that economic development and environmental conservation are two sides of the same coin. One cannot prosper with neglect of the other. In June of this year, a Special Session of the General Assembly of the UN will convene to review the progress made with the implementation of Agenda 21 - UNCED's major commitment to the 21st century. Nepal feels proud that, by hosting ICIMOD on its territory, it is closely associated with the implementation of Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 - "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development."

The Hindu Kush-Himalayas store water, they store diverse species of flora and fauna. There may be much wealth in these mountains that we have never heard of or seen. I am sure that this workshop and exhibition will teach us a good deal. Above all, there is a great adventure in sharing. Each and every international workshop that ICIMOD holds brings together a collection of participants and gives them an oppor-

tunity to learn from each other and to share their knowledge with other partner organisations. I am particularly pleased to see that an international centre such as ICIMOD has joined hands with a local NGO - the World Wildlife Fund Nepal Programme - to discuss conservation of the Kanchanjunga ecosystem.

Located in the northeastern corner of Nepal, the Kanchanjunga massif also straddles Tibet in the north and Sikkim in the east and is recognised as the transition zone between the Central Himalayas and the Eastern Himalayas. I am extremely glad that this unique ecosystem that knows no political or geographical boundaries has brought together experts from our neighbouring countries to discuss common problems and find common solutions to them. I am also happy to learn that the Himalayas - in this case the Indian Himalayas and the Trans-Himalayas - have evoked the interests of two popular photographers, one British and the

other American, in capturing the image of the Himalayan uniqueness with their cameras.

As the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I am pleased that I have the opportunity to open such an international event right here on my own doorstep, so to speak. I am happy to note that the British Council is the progenitor of the section of the exhibition on mountain diversity in the Indian Himalayas, even though the mountains of the United Kingdom have long been 'sat upon' or flattened by geological events. Experts tell me we have much to learn from old mountains because our mountains are very young.

With this in mind, I inaugurate this exhibition and workshop. I wish the participants a fruitful stay in Kathmandu and we look forward to some fresh thinking based on rich, diverse, and not necessarily young, wisdom.

Thankyou.

WELCOME ADDRESS

*MR. EGBERT PELINCK,
DIRECTOR GENERAL, ICIMOD*

Your Excellency, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Representative of the Embassy of India, Senior Officials of HMG Nepal, Ms. Sarah Ewans, Director of the British Council, Mr. Mingma Norbu Sherpa, Director of the WWF Nepal/Bhutan Programme, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the World Wildlife Fund Nepal Programme, the British Council, and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, it is a pleasure for me to welcome you all to the inaugural session of the Regional Workshop on the Management of the Kanchanjunga Ecosystem and the opening of the Photographic Exhibition on 'A Vision of the Indian Himalayas and Biodiversity of the Trans-Himalayas'. We feel particularly honoured that the Foreign Minister, Dr. Lohani, has just inaugurated the workshop and exhibition despite his heavy schedule and other important engagements.

The Regional Member Countries of ICIMOD - Afghanistan, Pakistan, In-

dia, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar - share a biological richness that makes this region one of the world's 'hotspots' for biodiversity conservation. They also share a physical beauty and cultural diversity that attract hundreds of thousands of tourists every year. Within this context, ICIMOD is happy to have brought together this morning the participants to the Regional Workshop on the Kanchanjunga Mountain Ecosystem in an environment in which the beauty and biodiversity of the Indian Himalayas and the Trans-Himalayas have been captured by two excellent photographers, as shown in this exhibition.

The diversity in culture, ecology, and biology offers enormous challenges as well as potentials for sustainable development. I am pleased that against the backdrop of this beautiful exhibition, which covers a large part of ICIMOD's 'territory', the workshop will focus on one particular geographical area, the Kanchanjunga Ecosystem. I am also pleased that we will do so

with experiences and visions from the three countries to which this important ecosystem belongs.

Management of ecosystems includes equal attention to both the human and conservation values, as it has become increasingly clear that sustainability of biodiversity conservation can only be assured if a holistic approach is adopted in which not only a particular area is protected from human interference, but also in which the rightful aspirations of the local people, the traditional custodians of the natural environment, are adequately taken into account. I am therefore also very grateful to the Honorable Member of Parliament, representing Taplejung District, for his participation in this workshop.

Ecosystem management needs biologists, but it also needs the knowledge of agronomists, social scientists, and development workers closely associated with promoting the well-being of the local people. We, at ICIMOD, apply two major approaches to nearly all of our activities that are also very relevant to this workshop: regional collaboration and multidisciplinary.

While experts will deliberate during the workshop on the technical matters in greater detail, I would like to highlight some of the prominent concepts of regional collaboration in transboundary ecosystem management. This concept is gaining popularity all over the world, resulting even in the establishment of formal 'Transboundary Protected Areas'. They are defined as contiguous areas of protected natural habitat, extending nationally across two or more states or provinces, and internationally across two or more countries. The main aim of transboundary reserves is to increase the protection of biodiversity of a particular ecosystem beyond that which can be achieved by a single state, province, or country. The main

issues that surface largely in these discussions not only relate to biodiversity, but also to economic, cultural, and political issues. I would like to touch upon a number of challenges you have before you in the next three days.

Firstly, What do we know about the ecological boundaries of the different sub-ecosystems of this vast area. Does each of the three countries use the same criteria?

Secondly, What is the legal status and land tenure and land-use system of each of these sub-ecosystems in each of the three countries?

Thirdly, What is the status of legal and illegal transboundary resource exploitation and human migration and how does this affect conservation?

Fourthly, What are the present policies of the respective governments in relation to the sustainable management of the Kanchanjunga Ecosystem?

Fifthly, once we have the answers to these questions, or at least once we have agreed upon how to get the answers, how to promote regional collaboration in the sustainable management of this unique ecosystem within an agreed framework of common understanding of the problems and opportunities for both the conservation of the environment and alleviation of the poverty of the people who are part of and depend on this ecosystem? As this is also the dual mandate of ICIMOD, we are happy to be partners with WWF in initiating this dialogue across borders.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for all the interest shown in the subject of biodiversity conservation in this region by yourselves and the participants at the workshop, - I am looking forward to the outcome of your deliberations.

Thankyou.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

MR. MINGMA NORBU SHERPA
WWF NEPAL PROGRAMME

I am honoured to have this opportunity to present the objectives of the regional workshop on the **Conservation of the Kanchanjunga Mountain Ecosystem**. Kanchanjunga, the third highest mountain in the world, lies on the borders of China, India, and Nepal. This presents a unique opportunity for joint collaboration for conservation. This is one of the reasons why we are gathered here today.

The Kanchanjunga mountain system encompasses unique environmental and cultural characteristics. These characteristics make it highly desirable to include the region in the Himalayan protected area network. This area also lies in the Eastern Himalayas, one of the 10 global, biological hotspot sites. Kanchanjunga is home to endangered species of wildlife, an outstanding diversity of vegetation, and a fascinating assemblage of ethnic groups who have maintained their traditional identities, cultures, and religious practices.

Situated in the northeastern corner of Nepal in Taplejung District, the pro-

posed Kanchanjunga Conservation Area borders Sikkim in India and the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China. Thus, the creation of a conservation area there represents an unparalleled opportunity for transboundary conservation.

Kanchanjunga is comprised of intact and increasingly threatened habitats of endangered species such as the snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*), Himalayan black bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*), ghoral (*Nemorhaedus goral*), serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*), and spotted leopard (*Panthera pardus*). The Himalayan larch (*Larix griffithiana*) and extensive juniper (*Juniperus* sp) forests found there are unique to this part of the Himalayan eco-region. The Kanchanjunga area is also justly renowned for its high peaks. There are eleven peaks (which are more than 7,000m high) and extensive glaciers, making it a significant watershed area in all three countries.

A growing local population, poaching, shortened cycles of slash and burn agriculture, and encroachment on forests, however, threaten the pristine state of Kanchanjunga's ecosystem. These problems are exacerbated by the lack of a proper management system.

In Nepal, the need for protecting the Kanchanjunga area has been felt since the early 1990s. In 1994, HMG of Nepal and WWF carried out a feasibility study of the Nepalese side of the mountain. A multidisciplinary team of biologists, natural resource management specialists, and socioeconomists travelled to the Kanchanjunga region for over three weeks. During their field work, the local people provided first-hand information on the importance of the area. Necessary information was taken through participatory rural appraisal methods. Many meetings were conducted in each village. A district-level meeting was conducted at the end of the feasibility study at Taplejung Bazaar — the district headquarters — to discuss the findings of the feasibility study.

This meeting was chaired by the Member of Parliament and attended by all the concerned district-level government officers, businessmen, and social workers. This district-level meeting endorsed the idea of a Kanchanjunga Conservation Area.

The findings were then presented to the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation in Kathmandu. Another meeting was chaired by the State Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation and attended by the Secretary, all Director-Generals, and senior staff of the Ministry. The Ministry for Forest and Soil Conservation and the National Planning Commission endorsed in principle the idea of establishing a Conservation Area.

Since then, WWF, HMG staff from the Ministry of Forests, and development

agencies, such as SNV/Nepal, participated in further developing the project document in the field, taking into consideration the local needs.

I am pleased to report that HMG Nepal is in the process of declaring the Kanchanjunga region a 'Conservation Area'. The Indian side of Kanchanjunga is already a National Park.

The Kanchanjunga area's rich mosaic of ethnicity includes *Limbu(s)*, *Rai(s)*, *Gurung(s)*, *Chettri(s)*, *Tamang(s)*, and *Bhotia(s)*. Significant religious sites in the area attest to Kanchanjunga's rich cultural heritage. Due to its remoteness, the Kanchanjunga area has extremely limited infrastructure, marginalising the area's economy and inhibiting improvements in the local people's lives. The local people lack health care, education, and basic development.

One of the findings of the study is the need for transboundary conservation of the Kanchanjunga ecosystem between Nepal, China, and India. To date, there have been no coordinated efforts to conserve this unique ecosystem and control threats such as poaching, habitat incursion, and over-harvesting of plants.

Transboundary conservation is not new to Nepal. Very good efforts have been started by both the governments of Nepal and China with the establishment of Qomolangma Nature Reserve in the Tibetan Autonomous Region adjoining Nepal's Langtang, Sagarmatha, and Makalu Barun National Parks.

Recently, senior representatives of the governments of Nepal and India discussed transboundary conservation issues at a workshop in Kathmandu.

This regional workshop on the Kanchanjunga mountain ecosystem is to discuss a regional approach in conservation and development by bringing together professionals and policy-makers from China, India, and Nepal.

The three-day deliberations and consultations will cover topics of mutual interest in safeguarding the biodiversity of the area as well as in improving the socioeconomic conditions of the local people.

I also hope that an agreement will be worked out in the near future on setting up a tri-national peace park to protect the biodiversity of the whole Kanchanjunga Mountain Ecosystem.

INTRODUCTION TO THE EXHIBITION

*Ms. SARAH EWANS
DIRECTOR, BRITISH COUNCIL*

The British Council aims to promote an enduring understanding and appreciation of British thought, experience, and achievement across a wide spectrum, notably in the fields of education, science and technology (which includes environment also), and the arts. The British Council has been functioning in India since 1948 and as part of the British High Commission since 1972. The operation in India is the largest of the British Council's overseas' programmes with offices in Delhi, Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta and a staff of over 500.

The British Council Division's programme in the environmental sector has well-defined objectives of which the promotion of the best practice in the protection and sustainable use of natural resources, including biodiversity conservation, features prominently.

The Council manages training programmes in India and overseas for the Overseas' Development Administration and other clients. The Council

sponsors and organises exchanges of professionals between India and Britain as well as arranging high-level conferences and seminars.

This photo exhibition, entitled 'Himalayan Vision', is the outcome of the Council's continuing commitment to environment and sustainable development in India, taking the Himalayas as an example. The Himalayas (the abode of eternal snow) represents one of the richest natural sites of the Indian subcontinent and is unique in the biological, ethnic, and cultural diversity it supports.

This exhibition consists of photographs shot exclusively for the British Council by a British nature photographer, Heather Angel. It addresses a broad range of issues confronting the Himalayas. Heather was specifically commissioned by the British Council Division for the assignment, wherein she travelled extensively in the Himalayan region. Her great love for nature is reflected in the compositions of her photographs which transcend language

barriers and are appreciated by one and all.

Heather Angel is a former President of the Royal Photographic Society and is the author of many books on photographic techniques. She has led photographic teams to many remote parts of the world. In 1986 she was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Bath for 'distinguished work in wildlife photography'. She is currently a visiting professor in the Department of Life Sciences at Nottingham University.

The Himalayas, with their snow-clad peaks, have always been enigmatic, awe-inspiring, and mysterious. They are of utmost importance with respect to their strategic, ecological, economic, social, and cultural values. Spread over thousands of kilometres, the three factors of longitude, latitude, and altitude add to the complexity and multiplicity of the ecosystem, making it a rich repository of natural resources and biological wealth. The region provides varied climatic zones and ecological niches for plants, animals, and human beings.

The Himalayan glaciers are the source of major rivers that feed the vast, fertile Gangetic plains in the foothills.

Forests have been an integral part of our lives since time immemorial. Scattered descriptions of flora and fauna have been found in the holy books - the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, Ramayana, and Mahabharata. Planting of trees was considered pious. Trees were also planted for timber, fuelwood, and fruits. Chanakya, in his book 'Arthashastra', formulated certain guidelines for the promotion of forestry.

Tropical deciduous, tropical evergreen, moist temperate, dry temperate, subtropical, sub-alpine, and alpine pastures are the various forest types found

in the Himalayas. The vegetation of the western ranges is drought-resistant and cold-loving and includes gregarious populations of conifers such as chir, pine, deodar, fir, and spruce. The moist eastern ranges are inhabited by a variety of species with a dominance of epiphytes, orchids, ferns, oaks, rhododendrons, and bamboos.

The Himalayas are particularly rich in aquatic flora and fauna, with a number of perennial rivers emerging from their glaciers.

The Himalayas are a storehouse of plant wealth. This is comprised of more than 8,000 species with a mosaic of plant communities growing wild or cultivated in valleys, hill terraces, and exposed mountain tops all across the diverse agroclimatic mountain ranges. The species and community patterns change in the east-west direction with the two ends being structurally and climatically very different.

The Himalayas are amongst the richest zones in terms of species and habitat diversity and thus support distinct life forms. Sambar, wild boar, musk deer, snow leopard, and brown bear are some of the endemic forms found in the mighty mountains. Despite the richness, there are more endangered species here than elsewhere. The Sikkim stag has already become extinct. Typical examples are the musk deer and the Himalayan brown bear, which are highly endangered.

If the Himalayas can boast about their glorious wildlife, they can be equally proud of their birds. However, many of the endemic species are already on the verge of extinction.

Since time immemorial, man has used the Himalayan ecosystem in various ways to satisfy his needs and greeds. Indigenous and migrant communities inhabiting the various hill ranges have depended entirely on its biotic and abi-

otic resources for their subsistence - cultivation in terraced fields, pastoralism, lumbering, and collection of firewood. Being an integral part of nature and its biological wealth, the relationship should be one of harmonious co-existence.

The escalating human population has exerted great pressure on the fragile ecosystem. Fulfillment of the needs for food, fuel, and shelter from existing resources has already strained the supporting capacity of the local environment. It is in great danger of depletion and erosion due to two main causes - natural and man-made. This has resulted in an alarming decrease of flora and fauna. We must utilise the enormous potential of mountain areas in a responsible conservation-oriented manner.

To reap long-term benefits and preserve the natural biodiversity, economic development that is ecologically sound should go hand-in-hand with cultural change. A research and moni-

toring programme to assess the current status and rate of loss of Himalayan biodiversity is the need of the hour.

There are fifty protected areas in this zone. However, field conservation measures have yet to produce any significant change.

What is utilised or exploited needs to be replenished and preserved. A holistic approach is required for effective management and conservation of our natural resources. Full participation of local people in their own development must be the focus of all conservation efforts. Integration of ecologically effective traditional practices with development activities would be beneficial.

Repeat photography is a useful monitoring tool. These photographs of sites taken more than a hundred years ago are compared with those of the same site taken recently, to illustrate the extent of change, if any.

Annex 2

PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP

Day 1: March 31, 1997

09:00 – 10:00	Registration at ICIMOD	
10:00 – 11:00	Inaugural Session at the Russian Cultural Centre	
	Speech of the Chief Guest	- Dr. Prakash C. Lohani - 10 min.
	Welcome Speech	- Mr. Egbert Pelinck - 10 min.
	Introduction to the Workshop	- Mr. Mingma N. Sherpa - 10 min.
	Introduction to the Exhibition	- Ms. Sarah Evans
	Inaugurate the workshop by lighting the lamp and inaugurate the Exhibition	
	Vote of Thanks	
	Tea and Refreshments	- Ms. A Karki - 5 min.
	Group Photo	
	Technical Session One	
	Overview of Kanchanjunga Region for Biodiversity Conservation (Half an hour of presentation and 15 min for discussion) <i>Chairperson : Prof. Pei Shengji</i>	
11:30 – 13:00	Report from Nepal	Dr. T.M. Maskey, DG, DNPWC, Nepal
11:30 – 12:00	Report from India	Mr. Gut Lepcha, Director, KNP Forest Department, Sikkim
12:00 – 12:30	Report from China	Ms. Ban Zong, DDG, QNP, Department of Forestry of Tibetan Autonomous Region
12:30-13:00	Report from China	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch at ICIMOD Guest House	
	Technical Session Two (20 min. of presentation and 10 min. discussion) <i>Chairperson : Dr. R K. Rai</i>	
14:00 – 17:00	Key Issues in the Conservation of the Kanchanjunga Region	
14:00 – 14:40	Report on Vegetation	- Prof. Pei Shengji and K.K. Shrestha
14:40 – 15:00	Tea	
15:00 – 15:40	Report on Wildlife	- Mr. Devendra Amatya, WWF, Nepal
15:40 – 16:20	Report on Socioeconomics	- Dr. Eklavya Sharma, GB Pant Institute, Sikkim
16:20 – 17:00	Discussion	
19:00	Dinner hosted by Director General, ICIMOD	

Day 2: April 1, 1997

Technical Session Three

09:00 – 13:00	<i>Eco-regional Approach to Conservation</i> <i>Chairperson : Mr. Devendra Amatya</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Transboundry Wildlife Trade Issues	Ms Fahmeeda Hanfee, Director, TRAFFIC India
09:30 – 09:40	Presentation by MENRIS	Mr. Pradeep Mool, MENRIS, ICIMOD
09:40 – 09:50	Remarks by Indian Representative	Mr. P.K. Basnet, PCCF, Sikkim
09:50 – 10:00	Remarks by Indian Representative	Dr. R.K. Rai, New Delhi
10:00 – 10:15	Remarks by Nepali Representative	Dr. Bijaya Kattel, Deputy Director General, NPWC
10:15 – 10:45	Tea Break	
10:45 – 11:00	Break into Groups	
	Group I	- Common Framework for Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring.
	Group II	- Common Framework for Sharing Conservation Benefits with the Local People
	Group III	- Collaborative Arrangement for Cooperative Management of the Kanchanjunga Mountain Ecosystem
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 16:00	Working Group Meeting Continued	
16:00 – 17:00	Presentaton by Chairpersons of each working group	

Technical Session Four

(10 min. of presentation and 10 min. for discussion.)
Chairperson : Prof. Pei Shengji

- 09:00 - 10:00 Follow-up recommendations
- 10:00 - 10:15 Tea Break

Concluding Session

- 10:15 - 10:30 Speech by the Director General, ICIMOD
- 10:30 - 10:40 Summing up of the Workshop, WWF Nepal
- 10:40 - 10:50 Speech by Dr. Eklavya Sharma
- 11:00 - 13:00 Site Seeing
- 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch at ICIMOD Guest House
- 14:00 Optional Trip to Godavari

Annex 3

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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