

ICIMOD is the first international centre in the field of mountain development. Founded out of widespread recognition of environmental degradation of mountain habitats and the increasing poverty of mountain communities, ICIMOD is concerned with the search for more effective development responses to promote the sustained well being of mountain people.

The Centre was established in 1983, and commenced professional activities in 1984. Though international in its concerns, ICIMOD focuses on the specific, complex, and practical problems of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region which covers all or part of eight Sovereign States.

ICIMOD serves as a multidisciplinary documentation centre on integrated mountain development; a focal point for the mobilisation, conduct, and coordination of applied and problem-solving research activities; a focal point for training on integrated mountain development, with special emphasis on the assessment of training needs and the development of relevant training materials based directly on field case studies; and a consultative centre providing expert services on mountain development and resource management.

Mountain Environmental Management constitutes one of the four thematic research and development programmes at ICIMOD. The programme is concerned with sustainable use and management of natural resources and the impact of development activities on the mountain environment. This programme is devoted to the scientific and technical understanding of biophysical aspects of mountain environment vis-a-vis traditional and modern human-use systems through appropriate research, state-of-the-art reviews, and field studies. Proper understanding of the functioning of natural systems and their interrelationships with the development needs of the people provides the basis for the sustainable development of mountain ecosystems.

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