

PEOPLE AND PROTECTED AREAS IN THE HINDU KUSH-HIMALAYA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS
IN THE HINDU KUSH - HIMALAYA, 6 - 11 MAY 1985, KATHMANDU



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In co-operation with

Proceedings of the International Workshop on
the Management of National Parks
and Protected Areas

Department of National Parks and Wildlife

International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/Man
and the Biosphere Programme

World Wildlife Fund-UK

Edited by : Jeffrey A. McNamly, James W. Thorsell, IUCN and
Suresh K. Chatter, ICIMOD

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Response Address:	His Royal Highness Prince Chandra Bir Bikram Shah



His Majesty, King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, inaugurating the Workshop.

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The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation and The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development - both newly-established organisations based in Kathmandu, and both in their first year of active operations - came together at the beginning of this year to organise an International Workshop on the Management of National Parks and Protected Areas in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya Region: the first professional gathering of international experts on this subject ever held for this spectacular but highly vulnerable mountain region. The basic purpose of this Workshop was to assess and share the practical experiences of National Park Management throughout the whole of this vast mountain eco-system extending for some 2,500 kilometres from the Hindu Kush and Karakoram ranges of the west, extending through the Great Himalaya to the Tibetan Plateau in the north and to the Hengduan Mountains of Sichuan and Yunnan in the far east. With the relentless annual increases in population throughout the Hindu Kush-Himalaya, increasing and increasingly intolerable pressure on the fragile mountain habitats, the great challenges of conservation and sustainable protection of this irreplaceable habitat become increasingly more difficult.



Their Majesties, the King and Queen of Nepal grace the inauguration.

Professor A.J.B. Rams
Member, Governing Board
of The King Mahendra
Trust for Nature Conservation
and Chairman, Organising
Committee

Colin Ruxton
Director
International Centre
for Integrated
Mountain Development

FOREWORD

The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation and The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development – both newly-established organisations based in Kathmandu, and both in their first year of active operations – came together at the beginning of this year to organise an International Workshop on the Management of National Parks and Protected Areas in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya Region: the first professional gathering of international experts on this subject ever held for this spectacular but highly vulnerable mountain region. The basic purpose of this Workshop was to assess and share the practical experiences of National Park Management throughout the whole of this vast mountain eco-system extending for some 2,500 kilometres from the Hindu Kush and Karakoram ranges at its western extremity through the Great Himalaya to the Tibetan Plateau in the north and to the Hengduan Mountains of Sichuan and Yunnan in the far east. With the relentless annual increases in population throughout the Hindu Kush-Himalaya exerting an increasingly intolerable pressure on the fragile mountain habitats, the great challenges of conservation and environmental protection of this irreplaceable habitat becomes increasingly more difficult.

The Workshop was convened with the specific intention of examining methods of increasing the growing understanding by the hill communities themselves of the nature of the problems they face, and the growing participation by these communities at the grass roots level in sustained local action in nature conservation and resource management. The whole-hearted involvement of the people in both development efforts and related environmental management is the key to sustainable progress for all. This is the central theme of these Proceedings now being published jointly by the King Mahendra Trust and ICIMOD.

In presenting the results of the Workshop discussions, we express our deepest and most loyal gratitude to His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev for inaugurating the Workshop, and to Her Majesty the Queen for gracing this splendid occasion with her presence. The great honour of Their Majesties' personal presence at the Inauguration – together with other members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the most senior officials of His Majesty's Government, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and many distinguished guests – is ample evidence of the great importance given in this mountain Kingdom to the subject of 'development with conservation'. The highly instructive Keynote Address, on this occasion, delivered with such vigour and commitment by His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, Chairman of the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, was greatly appreciated by all present – and most ably set the tone of practical professional concern which thereafter characterised the Workshop discussions. We are all most grateful to His Royal Highness.

We should also express the joint thanks of the King Mahendra Trust and ICIMOD for the substantial help, both financial and professional, that we received from a number of participating organisations: the Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation of HMG Nepal; The Man and the Biosphere Programme of UNESCO; The World Wildlife Fund - US; The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; and to the Governments of the countries of the Region (India, Nepal, China, Pakistan, Bhutan) who facilitated the participation of senior officials and professional experts. We are also extremely thankful to IUCN and particularly Dr. Jeffrey A. McNeely and Dr. James W. Thorsell both of IUCN and Prof. Suresh R. Chalise of ICIMOD for editing this volume of the proceedings.

We must thank all the members of the Organising Committee – and most particularly Prof. Suresh R. Chalise of ICIMOD and Dr. Hemanta R. Mishra of KMTNC who acted as joint member-secretaries – for their exceptional efforts throughout the months of preparation for this unique and highly important venture in regional professional co-operation. The success of the Workshop rested heavily on these efforts – but also, of course, on the expert contributions of distinguished participants from all over the world who joined with us in furthering the cause, which ICIMOD and the King Mahendra Trust jointly share, of promoting the welfare of the mountain communities of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya through the development and conservation of their spectacular but fragile mountain habitat.

Prabhakar S.J.B. Rana
Member, Governing Board
of Trustees, King Mahendra
Trust for Nature Conservation;
and Chairman, Organising
Committee

Colin Rosser
Director
International Centre
for Integrated
Mountain Development

EDITORIAL NOTE

Mountains tower over the lowlands, both literally and figuratively. For the people living in the plains below the Hindu Kush-Himalaya, the mountains have long been places of pilgrimage, sources of medicinal plants, and the abode of the gods. They have also provided that most important of resources in a monsoon climate: water. Fed by the high-altitude glaciers and snow-fields and absorbed by the lush forests, the streams are givers of life during the long dry season in the Gangetic Plain, the Indus Valley, and the plains of Sichuan.

But as modern technology has made the mountains more accessible and tied them into the global economy, they have lost some of their mystery as well as a good deal of their forests and wildlife. In order to ensure that the forests can still serve their functions of watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and sources of timber, firewood, and medicinal plants, the countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya are establishing systems of specially protected areas covering some of the major critical habitats.

But the protected areas that have been established to date are faced with a number of management challenges. How should managers incorporate and maintain traditional lifestyles of villagers resident in parks? How can management programmes be designed to ensure that local populations achieve maximum benefits from the protected areas, without threatening the conservation values of the areas? How can protected areas be more effectively integrated into regional and national development plans?

To address such questions, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in partnership with the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation and with the support of a number of international organisations, convened an International Workshop on the Management of National Parks and Protected Areas in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya, 6-11 May 1985 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Workshop brought together over 40 of the leading protected area specialists from within the region and abroad to share experiences and make recommendations to governments about how to involve the local people more effectively in mountain conservation. This volume represents one product of that workshop.

However, the most important result of any workshop is not the proceedings volume, but delivering the message to those who need to act upon it. Therefore, it was extremely encouraging to the participants in the Workshop to see the support provided from the very highest levels of the Government of Nepal. It is clear that His Majesty, King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, is intensely interested in ensuring that the benefits of protected areas reach the people of Nepal in even the most remote areas.

It is our hope, and one that is shared by all Workshop participants, that the results of this gathering will be carefully considered and acted upon by all government of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya Region.

On request from the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation and ICIMOD, IUCN has provided major editorial services for this proceedings volume. The final editing was done at ICIMOD. In editing these papers, we tried to reduce repetition to the minimum, though it was encouraging to see that almost all authors were in broad agreement about the principles of protected areas and people. We also put all papers into the same format, and condensed the purely descriptive material. Latin binomials and trinomials are included in an annex rather than in the body of a paper, except where no common name exists for the species. And in order to have the most useful references, all cited literature is combined at the end of the book.

The Workshop was designed to be free-ranging and frank, so the participants represented their personal views as experts rather than presenting institutional views; all papers should be seen in that light. We are confident that this volume will mark a watershed in the history of protecting the Hindu Kush-Himalaya, and that the next such workshop will reveal considerable progress in the intervening years.

Jeffrey A. McNeely and

James W. Thorsell, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland

Suresh R. Chalise, ICIMOD, Kathmandu