

### Founding of ICIMOD

ICIMOD is the first International Centre in the field of mountain area development. It was founded out of widespread recognition of the alarming environmental degradation of mountain habitats and consequent increasing impoverishment of mountain communities. A co-ordinated and systematic effort on an international scale was deemed essential to design and implement more effective development responses based on an integrated approach to mountain development and mountain environmental management.

The establishment of the Centre is based upon an agreement between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) signed in 1981. The Centre was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal in December 1983, and began its professional activities in September 1984, with the support of its foundation sponsors:

**HMG Nepal, the Government of Switzerland,  
the Federal Republic of Germany and UNESCO**

The Centre, located in Kathmandu, the capital of the Kingdom of Nepal, enjoys the status of an autonomous international organisation.

### Participating Countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya Region

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| ◦ Nepal      | ◦ China       |
| ◦ India      | ◦ Pakistan    |
| ◦ Bhutan     | ◦ Burma       |
| ◦ Bangladesh | ◦ Afghanistan |

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