

About the Editors

Ester Kruk has been working as a Sustainable Mountain Tourism Expert at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) since February 2005. She worked in the hospitality industry for several years and has over eight years of working experience in the field of international cooperation, as a sustainable tourism adviser and consultant, a researcher in tourism and social sciences, and a programme coordinator for different international organisations. She studied international tourism management and consultancy as well as cultural anthropology and graduated from both studies with distinction. She has published books and several papers on tourism, development, and anthropology; won several academic awards; and conducted a number of training courses on topics in this field. She joined for SNV Netherlands Development Organisation in Lao PDR as Pro-Poor Sustainable Tourism Advisor in September 2007.

John Hummel is Regional Senior Advisor and Network Leader Pro-Poor Sustainable Tourism for SNV Netherlands Development Organisation in Asia. He has been working in different pro-poor and sustainable tourism advisory positions for SNV in the Himalayas, the Mekong, and the Balkans since 1996. In the Himalayas he has worked in the tourism industry, as a tourism development researcher and as development adviser. He has been involved as a trainer and guest lecturer for universities, institutes, and NGOs on topics related to planning and development of eco-, community-based, sustainable, and pro-poor tourism for 15 years.

Kamal Banskota has been Programme Manager of ICIMOD's Agriculture and Rural Income Diversification Programme (ARID) since 2002. Prior to joining ICIMOD, he was with the Centre for Resources and Environmental Studies (CREST), a group that provides consultative services to various international organisations, amongst others on mountain tourism. He has published several books and training manuals on mountain tourism and renewable energy. He was awarded a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Alberta, Canada, in 1984. His key areas of interest are in tourism, renewable energy, natural resource management, and environment and poverty and he has been working in these and related fields for the last 25 years.