



Centre News

MTAP HIGHLIGHTS

Planning the next five years...

Programme Advisory Committee plus meeting reviews and approves ICIMOD's new Strategic Framework

ICIMOD organised a three-day meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee plus two special invitees (PAC+) from 9-12 June 2007 to review the draft strategic framework prepared by ICIMOD. (The ICIMOD Board formed the PAC+ Committee.)

The meeting was chaired by the Board Vice-chair, Prof. Bruno Messerli, and started with a presentation by Dr. Andreas Schild, ICIMOD Director General, of the proposed strategic framework for the next five years, 2008/2012. The framework highlights ICIMOD's four new programmatic thrusts: i) Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, ii) Integrated Water Resource Management, iii) Environment Change and Ecosystem Services, and iv) Integrated Knowledge Management.

The PAC+ members expressed support for the new framework and commended ICIMOD's work in such a short time to develop it. The Committee suggested that the new framework have the key messages clear, namely: what is new, what is being added and what is being dropped, what is continuing with new emphasis, and what are the key deliverables and how will be they achieved. The meeting deliberated on the proposed content of the new thrust areas, where the PAC+ members made concrete suggestions. They stressed that the framing of the new framework should give ICIMOD "a strategic chance to do groundbreaking work". Emphasis was laid on better integration of the social and natural science elements in programmatic work, and greater reference to international conventions and global processes. All four thrusts should be



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The PAC+ meeting at ICIMOD

conceptualised and designed in an integrated and transdisciplinary manner. The Committee suggested that, given its critical importance to the regional member country (RMC) partners, the poverty thrust needed some reworking. In revising the document, ICIMOD was asked to focus on meeting the expectations and priorities of the RMCs and international donors, most of whom were participants in the Lucerne meeting, which finally reviewed the framework for the next five years of ICIMOD's work.

Overall it was a productive and fruitful meeting. The PAC+ members expressed interest to continue helping to finalise the documents. The PAC Chair, Prof. Messerli, thanked everyone, and both he and the Director General, Dr. Schild, cited the special contributions of Dr. Anne Whyte, former PAC chair, to the meeting's successful conclusion.

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A fruitful Extraordinary Meeting of the International Support Group

RMCs and cooperating partners commit to continue supporting ICIMOD for 2008/2012

The governments of Switzerland and Germany co-hosted the Extraordinary Meeting of ICIMOD's International Support Group (ISG), held 27-29 June 2007 in the beautiful mountain setting of Lake Lucerne, Switzerland.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss existing commitments and additional resources, which will enable ICIMOD to gear up for its continuing, and further strengthened role as a knowledge leader and technical capacity builder on mountain development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas in the next five years. ICIMOD Director General, Dr. Andreas Schild, presented the Centre's new strategy for 2008/2012, for discussion and feedback by the members and cooperating partners. The new strategy, with programme thrusts in i) Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, ii) Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services, iii) Integrated Water and Hazard Management, and iv) Information and Knowledge Management, will also benefit, especially through research, mountain communities around the world.

Representatives of both the regional member countries and international cooperating partners attended this important meeting. On behalf of the host governments, Mr. Remo Gautschi, Deputy Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Government of Switzerland, and Dr. Elke Loebel of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, German Federal government, welcomed

the meeting's participants, expressing their respective government's concern and continuing commitment to mountain development. Professor V.K. Gaur of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, and Dr. Jian Liu from China representing the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its Secretariat in Geneva, gave presentations highlighting the importance of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas in the context of global climate change. The presentations provided a starting point and background for discussions on the new strategy. Small interactive working groups discussed the new thrusts in detail, with questions presented and answered by ICIMOD's panel of experts in a plenary. An interactive information bazaar elaborated further on the new thrusts. A session was devoted to ICIMOD's new financial strategy, highlighting projections for 2008/2012, which were presented by Mr. Milan Tuladhar, ICIMOD's Director for Finance and Administration.

On the last day of the meeting, Prof. Bruno Messerli, world renowned expert in mountain development from the University of Berne, gave a presentation on the importance of mountains and their global significance; while the Mountain Forum and the Mountain Partnership gave presentations in the context of their alliance with ICIMOD. The participants then joined Prof. Messerli in a field visit to the biosphere reserve in Entlebuch, which event capped the three-day meeting.

Both the co-chairs of the ICIMOD International Support Group, Mr. Jochen Kenneweg and Mr. Olivier Chave, and ICIMOD's Director General expressed satisfaction at the meeting's results. All eight regional member countries and the international cooperating partners showed keen interest in the new programme thrusts and, in principle, committed to continue to support ICIMOD. The actual figures of the commitments will be known during the next Board meeting in November 2007.

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The Lucerne meeting

Preparation of ICIMOD's new Medium-Term Action Plan 2008/2012

ICIMOD's staff are currently engaged in preparing the **Medium-Term Action Plan (MTAP)** for the next five years, 2008/2012. The MTAP builds on the strategic elements of the new strategy of ICIMOD and aims at describing a general programme architecture and the boundaries for a programme of work which ICIMOD will be supporting and carrying out during the next five years. The MTAP process involves a number of key steps taken.

Staff reflections and consultation

After the appointment of the new Director General, a number of internal reflections and brainstorming sessions were carried out among the ICIMOD staff to collectively envision the future strategy and programmatic framework of ICIMOD during 2008/2012. A strategy planning meeting was organised in January 2007, which first outlined new thematic directions based on the external evaluation in 2006. Based on a preliminary menu of ideas gathered through staff reflections and brainstorming, a draft ICIMOD strategy was prepared and shared with the Board and Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) members.

ICIMOD strategy development

The new DG assumed his duties in April 2007. The strategy was revisited once again and a number of thematic working groups were constituted to develop the discussion papers. The papers were categorised into two types: a) Thrust papers and b) Policy papers. The thrust papers covered a number of areas: a) water and disaster, b) ecosystem services, c) pro-poor growth, d) sustainable livelihoods and poverty, e) water and energy, and f) integrated knowledge management. The policy papers provided the basis to incorporate the strategic elements of ICIMOD within the programmatic framework.

Regional and national consultations

The third component of the MTAP was regional and national consultations. ICIMOD plans to use the inputs collected during the national and regional consultations to develop specific action choices in developing its programme in each RMC.



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One of many staff discussions on the MTAP

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Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Afghanistan

Mr. Md. Abdus Sabur
Secretary-In-Charge
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat
Bangladesh

Mr. Sherab Gyeltshen
Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan

Prof. Li Jiayang
Vice President
The Chinese Academy of Sciences, PR China

Ms. Meena Gupta
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Ministry of Environment and Forests, India

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Pro-rector
University of Forestry, Myanmar

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National Planning Commission
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GFA Consulting Group GmbH
Representative Office Hanoi/
Senior Consultant
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VICE-CHAIR BOARD
Professor
Institute of Geography
University of Berne, Switzerland

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Emerging Sciences, Pakistan

Dr. Rob Visser
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DSI)
The Netherlands

Dr. Linxiu Zhang
Professor and Deputy Director
Centre for Chinese Agricultural Policy
Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
PR China

Dr. Andreas Schild
(Ex-officio) Director General, ICIMOD

The aims of the regional consultations were to discuss and define the roles and responsibilities of ICIMOD in developing long-term research programmes of regional nature in ICIMOD and the HKH region. The twin objectives were: a) to enrich the strategic framework with regional perspectives, and b) to identify potentials regional programme opportunities and partners. ICIMOD plans to use the inputs collected during the national and regional consultations to develop specific action choices in programming in each of the RMCs.

The national consultations focused on understanding national priorities, plans, and programmes in each of the member countries, and on identifying potential scaling up partners and mechanisms for cooperation. Given the heterogeneity of political, social, cultural, research, economic, technological conditions in the RMCs, the objectives of the national consultations were to share and finalise the new strategy and identify opportunities and options as well as explore ways of working together with strategic partners.

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ICIMOD raises NRs 567,352 for Nepal flood victims

ICIMOD staff contributed NRs 283,676 to provide relief for the victims of the recent floods in the Terai regions of Nepal. ICIMOD as an institution, and with the approval of the Director General, matched the staff contributions with the same amount, raising NRs 567,352 as the Centre's total contribution for flood relief in Nepal. ICIMOD also gathered used clothing for the flood victims. Forty-two of Nepal's 75 districts, or 56% of the country, has been affected by floods this year. The disaster killed more than 150 people in Nepal, and over 2700 in the whole of South Asia. ICIMOD's contributions were channeled through the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS).

The Centre's attempts to accompany NRCS in relief operations in order to assess the social impacts of the disaster were hindered by security concerns in the Terai. (The Terai regions of Nepal are also presently coping with social and political unrest.) Only the NRCS, which has been leading relief operations in Nepal through its 75 warehouses, distributing relief materials as equitably as possible, was able to reach the remote affected areas. ICIMOD made a special request to the NRCS to bring part of the relief funds and goods gathered to the four most affected districts of Mahottari, Sarlahi, Dhanusa, and Rautahat, where ICIMOD had earlier conducted case studies on disaster preparedness.

Mr. Milan Raj Tuladhar, ICIMOD Director for Finance and Administration, handed over the contributions to Mr Devratna Dhakwa, Secretary General of NRCS, during a small function at the NRCS headquarters on 17 August 2007. Mr Tuladhar also handed over 20 copies



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Mr. Milan Tuladhar hands over ICIMOD's relief contributions on behalf of ICIMOD

of ICIMOD's publication, *The Snake and the River Don't Run Straight*, translated in to Nepali, and 50 copies to DP-Net, a network for coordination, communication, and knowledge development on disaster preparedness in Nepal. The publication is a case study on local knowledge for disaster preparedness with particular reference to flood disasters in the affected districts of Mahottari and Dhanusa. Accepting the contributions for the flood affected areas, Mr. Dhakwa thanked ICIMOD and the staff on behalf of NRCS and the flood victims for the generous contributions. "We are pampered by your recognition".

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Around the world bee colonies are disappearing in huge numbers...

A remarkably different trend appears in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

The recent disappearance of honeybees in large numbers in various regions of the globe – a phenomenon known as ‘colony collapse disorder (CCD)’ – has generated both curiosity and alarm among conservation groups and grassroots organisations around the world. The phenomenon has been reported in Europe, North America, and parts of Latin America, where bees have been disappearing, threatening the heretofore profitable pollination and associated industries.

The beekeeping team of ICIMOD suspects a connection between the introduction and expansion of genetically modified crops and indiscriminate use of pesticides on a large scale in these regions, and the bees' mysterious disappearance, although more studies are needed to reach a definitive conclusion.

We have not observed this phenomenon engulfing the bee industry in various parts of the world in the HKH region in South Asia, but the situation is fluid in areas where genetically modified crops and high value cash crops are being promoted by agencies and institutions. This is leading to landscape changes and reducing the space and scope for all types of pollinators and honeybees.



Farooq Ahmad

Beekeeping in Afghanistan

In addition to this phenomenon, in the HKH region, the European honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, is under severe attack by parasitic mites, *Varroa jacobsoni* and *Varroa destructor*, which have virtually destroyed more than 50% of bee populations of this species in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, India, and in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Asian hive bee, *Apis cerana*, which is the focus of ICIMOD's work in beekeeping, is resistant to these parasitic mites and there is no report of an African hive beetle attack on this bee species in the region.

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Norway supports ICIMOD's next Five-Year Strategic Plan

Norway is the first donor to sign an agreement of support for ICIMOD under the new Five-Year Strategic Plan 2008/2012.

The Norwegian commitment of support totals Norwegian Kroner 25 million. This is an increase of 43% over the support provided by Norway under ICIMOD's last five-year plan. The support is roughly equivanant to US\$ 4.2 million at the current exchange rate. It will be used as core financing for the five-year programmes of ICIMOD.

This encouraging show of support from Norway has paved the way for many other donors to extend their support to ICIMOD's next strategic programme dedicated to the sustainable development of Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

ICIMOD gratefully acknowledges this important contribution from Norway and has expressed its determination to fulfill the objectives laid down in the five-year strategy.

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ICIMOD Books-online going strong

ICIMOD Books-online <<http://books@icimod.org>>, opened to the public on 5 June 2007, and has been a resounding success. In the first five months after this online facility opened, the public downloaded more than 11000 files, some 9000 of them complete books. Altogether, 213 of the 275 available titles were downloaded at least once. Although recently published titles are the most in-demand documents, papers from as far back as the mid-1980s, and from a range of books 10 years old and more have also been downloaded, some in considerable numbers.

We have received many encouraging responses from our readers across the globe, and we are delighted by this indication of the continuing interest in and relevance of ICIMOD publications. As of 1 November, all the 500 titles from our catalogue have been uploaded, with full pdf files for publications for 2000 onwards and titles and contents pages only with an option to order for most titles before 2000.

ICIMOD workshops, meetings, and training programmes

March - September 2007

Event	Date	Place
Regional Workshop/Training on Earthquake Vulnerability and Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment	5-16 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Training of Trainers in Advocacy	13 - 17 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Beekeeping Management and Queen Rearing in Manipur, India for IFAD project beneficiaries	12-22 March	Manipur, India
Regional Workshop of the Advocacy Forum for Revitalising Equitable Societies in the Himalayas	17-19 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
International Workshop on the University Consortium and Fellowship Programme	24-25 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
Workshop on System Dynamics Modelling for Ecosystem Management	27-29 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
National Value Chain Workshop on Herbs	28-30 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
Capacity Building Workshop on Wetlands Database Development and the Asian Wetlands Inventory Approach	30 March - 5 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
UNISDR Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network	02-03 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
Low-Cost Soil and Water Conservation Techniques and Water Management Activities	2-24 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
ENRAP Meeting for IFAD Projects in Nepal	9-April	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Beekeeping Development for Men in Swat	9-15 April	Swat, Pakistan
International Workshop on Bamboo	10-12 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
Application of FAO/UNEP land cover classification system for the study of land cover dynamics in SNPBZ	11-13 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
ICIMOD/InWEnt Partnership Programme Preparatory Workshop and 4th Steering Committee Meeting	11-15 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Management Workshop on EU-BRAHMATWINN Project	25-26 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
Inception Workshop of the Medicinal Plants and Herbs: Developing Sustainable Supply Chain and Enhancing Rural Livelihoods in the Eastern Himalayas	25-27 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Bee-based Micro-enterprise and Marketing for Business Entrepreneurship Development of Small Bee Entrepreneurs and Staff of Partner Organisations	3-5 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Workshop on Sharing Knowledge and Bridging Gaps in Disaster Preparedness	9-11 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Second NATA Himalayan Travel Mart	11-13 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Workshop on Diversification of Knowledge Sharing Methods	21-25 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
National Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Conservation of High Altitude Wetlands through Application of the Asian Wetlands Inventory Approach and Stakeholder-led Catchment Management in Nepal	21 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Beekeeping Management and Queen Rearing in Uttranchal, India for IFAD project's beneficiaries	24-30 May	Almora, India
Workshop on Broadband Connectivity in Mountain Areas of Nepal	25 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Inter-School Environment Quiz Contest, World Environment Day (WED) 2007	31 May, 2- 3 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Mountain Forum Board Meeting and Node Managers Meeting	3-10 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Symposium on Climate Change Impacts in the Himalaya, WED 2007	4 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Publications Launch, WED 2007	5 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Books Online Launch, WED 2007	5 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Exhibition and Painting Competition for Schoolchildren, WED 2007	5-7 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Atmospheric Brown Cloud Consultation and Awareness Seminar, WED 2007	6 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Programme Advisory Committee+ meeting	9-12 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
South Asia Environment Outlook (SAEO) and South Asia Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) meeting	6-8 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
The Extraordinary Meeting of the ICIMOD International Support Group (ISG)	27-29 June	Lucerne, Switzerland
Proposal Writing and Fund Raising Training Workshop	28 June-1 July	Darjeeling, India
Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Conservation of High Altitude Wetlands in China: Response and Adaptation to Climate Change	21-24 July	Kunming, China
Training Workshop on Advocacy Strategies and Gender Equity	30 June - 4 July	Kabul, Afghanistan
Convening of Training Workshops on Participatory Pastoral Innovation and Development in the Context of Rangeland Co-management	9-19 July	Sichuan, Chengdu, China
Consultation Workshop on Declaring Jhum Products as Organic	16-17 July	Shillong, India

Staff Consultation on ICIMOD's Strategy and Medium-Term Action Plan (MTAP) Development Process	16 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
Nepal Consultation to Share ICIMOD's Future Strategy and Identify Programming Opportunities	19 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training Workshop on Flash Floods Risk Management in the Himalayas	1-10 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Consultation on ICIMOD's Future Strategy.	2-3 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
India Consultation to Share ICIMOD's Future Strategy and Identify Programming Opportunities	7 August	New Delhi, India
An Interaction Programme on Issues Related to International Honey Markets, Organic and European Standards for Honey, Bee Products and Services	9 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Afghanistan Consultation to Share ICIMOD's Future Strategy and Identify Programming Opportunities	14 August	Kabul, Afghanistan
Pakistan Consultation to Share ICIMOD's Future Strategy and Identify Programming Opportunities	18 August	Islamabad, Pakistan
Myanmar Consultation to Share ICIMOD's Future Strategy and Identify Programming Opportunities	22 August	Nay Pi Taw, Myanmar
Bhutan Consultation to Share ICIMOD's Future Strategy and Identify Programming Opportunities	31 August	Thimpu, Bhutan
Training workshop in Advocacy Strategies	31 August - 4 September	Malakand, NWFP Pakistan
Bangladesh Consultation to Share ICIMOD's Future Strategy and Identify Programming Opportunities	6 September	Dhaka, Bangladesh
National Training Course and Orientation Workshop on Change Management for Nepal	10-21 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
ICIMOD Planning Meeting	13-15 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
Conservation Day	23 September	Kathmandu, Nepal

Mountain Forum

Mountain Forum organises a 'Virtual Innovation Marketplace' workshop

A two-day workshop on the 'Virtual Innovation Marketplace' was organised by the Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS) and the Global Mountain Programme at Kathmandu on 31 May-1 June 2007. The workshop aimed to present the concept of an 'innovation and information marketplace' as an innovative way to approach the issue of connecting information supplies with information demands in mountainous regions.

Thirteen participants attended representing the Global Mountain Programme (GMP), CONDESAN, the Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Bellanet, Himanchal Foundation, ICIMOD, and the Internet Service Providers Association of Nepal, as well as one external consultant.

Mountain Forum Annual Board and Node Managers' Meet

Mountain Forum Board members, staff from all Regional Nodes of

the Mountain Forum and from the Mountain Forum Secretariat met during 3-10 June 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal, on the occasion of Mountain Forum's Annual Board and Node Managers' meetings. Representatives from Mountain Forum's partner organisations, FAO, GMP, UNEP, and TMI, and from main donor, SDC, also joined the Board meeting, which was held at ICIMOD during 5-7 June. Time was also dedicated to the Node Managers and MFS staff meetings. Discussions revolved around ways to strengthen the network and its collaboration with key stakeholders in the Mountain Agenda.



Mountain Forum Board, Secretariat, and Regional Node members

Selection Process for the new Mountain Forum Executive Secretary Ongoing

A vacancy announcement for the position of Executive Secretary of the Mountain Forum (MF) Secretariat was issued recently. Out of a shortlist of five who were interviewed via telephone patch by a panel including the ICIMOD Director General, the Vice Chair of MF Board and the outgoing MF Executive Secretary two candidates were invited to Kathmandu and presented their concept of 'ICT and Knowledge Management in the Context of Development' before Mountain Forum and ICIMOD staffs. The search committee hopes to appoint a new MF Executive Secretary before the end of the year.

Mountain Forum holds a Retreat

On 1 August 2007, the Mountain Forum Secretariat team organised a retreat in Godavari to discuss collaboration with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat during its next phase. The draft concept document for the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and detailed activities were discussed during the retreat with the participation of Dr. Andreas Schild and Dr. Madhav Karki.

Mountain Forum Bulletin is out

The latest issue of *Mountain Forum Bulletin* on the theme 'Melting Mountains', highlights climate change in the Cameroon Highlands, the Brahmaputra River Basin, the Himalayas, the European Alps, and the Bolivian Andes, amongst others. Visit the following link to download the bulletin: <http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/bulletins/mf-bulletin-2007-07.pdf>

Asia-Pacific Mountain Network

Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) is the Asia-Pacific node of Mountain Forum (MF). It is an informal and democratic information network of individuals and organisations interested in the promotion of sustainable mountain development in the mountain countries of the Asia-Pacific region. At present, APMN is funded by SDC and hosted by ICIMOD, where it is managed by the Information Management, Communications and Outreach (IMCO) Division. As well as moderating two MF discussion lists (mf-asiapacific and mf-centralasia), and contributing to Mountain Forum's other activities, APMN has its own programme and website (<http://apmn.icimod.org>)

The summer issue of *APMN Bulletin* (http://apmn.icimod.org/publications/APMN-bulletin_vol_8_no_1.pdf) was published in July. The Bulletin is intended particularly for off-line members of the network. It highlights recent activities of APMN and critical and emerging mountain issues, as well as mountain-related events and activities taking place in the Asia-Pacific region.

A survey on broadband connectivity in mountain areas of Nepal was carried out in May/June under an agreement between MFS and the Mountain Partnership as a contribution to a wider comparative study including a similar survey in mountain areas in Romania. The Nepal survey was carried out by the Forum for International Telecommunication (FIT Nepal) on behalf of APMN. The results will be presented in the next issue of the APMN Bulletin.



A study has been completed for the Mountain Partnership to assess the communication needs in Central Asia, especially as they relate to Mountain Forum and the Mountain Partnership, focusing on Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The results and recommendations have been submitted to the Mountain Partnership.

Keep up to date on mountain issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Visit

<http://apmn.icimod.org/>

**and join Asia Pacific Mountain Network,
the Asia Pacific node of the Mountain Forum**

New Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements signed with partners

February - August 2007

February

International Water Management Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Promotion and coordination of research and cooperation initiatives in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region

Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Urumqi, China
Regional collaboration, participatory action research, and capacity building

South Asia Partnership International, Kathmandu, Nepal
Building awareness and capacity in knowledge management and development communications in the HKH region

FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance, Islamabad, Pakistan
Development of a training manual on community-based flash floods risk management

Aga Khan Foundation, Kabul, Afghanistan
Collaboration in the major thematic areas of AKF and ICIMOD

GTZ/Private Sector Promotion Project, Lalitpur, Nepal
Up-scaling the honey sub-sector through the value chain approach

March

International Development Research Center (IDRC), New Delhi, India
Development of a Himalayan (HKH) university consortium

Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Beijing, China
Mountain geographic information network and scientific data sharing in the HKH

Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Dhaka, Bangladesh
Mountain geographic information network in the HKH

Kathmandu University (KU), Dhulikhel, Nepal
Sharing information and enhancing mountain-related knowledge

Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), Kunming, China
Medicinal and aromatic plants traditional knowledge network in Southwest China

National Snow and Ice Data Center/ Global Land Ice Measurements from Space (NSIDC/ GLIMS) University of Colorado, Boulder, USA with ICIMOD
Sharing and exchange of data and information on the Himalayan region

Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLRI), Aberdeen, UK
Project collaboration - Range enclosure on the Tibetan Plateau of China: impacts on pastoral livelihoods, marketing, Livestock productivity, and rangeland biodiversity

April

Karakorum International University (KIU), Gilgit, Pakistan with ICIMOD
Sharing information and knowledge in furthering sustainable mountain development in the HKH region through systematic instruction

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Dhaka, Bangladesh
Application of Satellite Rainfall Estimation in the HKH region



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ICIMOD MOU signing with Dr Charles Crissman, CIP Deputy Director General for Research

May

The International Potato Center (CIP), Lima, Peru
Provision of a potato IPM specialist to be stationed at ICIMOD

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of United Nations, Rome, Italy
Development of practical approaches and tools to promote better interagency coordination to design and implement SARD-M interventions

Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture, Thimphu, Bhutan
Development of Sustainable Energy for Rangelands (DESER) Phase I to implement the project in Sio Yaksa and Nubri sites

Sichuan Academy of Grassland Sciences, Chengdu, P. R. China
Development of Sustainable Energy for Rangelands (DESER) Phase I to implement the project in the Sichuan site

June

National Trust for Nature Conservation, Lalitpur, Nepal
Development of Sustainable Energy for Rangelands (DESER) Phase I to implement the project in an Upper Mustang site

July

EvK2CNR, Rome, Italy
Promotion and coordination of research and cooperation initiatives in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region

August

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Chitral, Pakistan
Development of Sustainable Energy for Rangelands (DESER) Phase I to implement the project in a Chitral site

GTZ/Private Sector Promotion Project, Lalitpur, Nepal and Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training, Kathmandu, Nepal
Income and employment generation through producing competent human resources in the field of beekeeping

Simulistics Ltd., Loanhead, Midlothian, UK
System dynamics modelling within the framework of regional Decision Support Systems (DSS-HKKH) partnership project

Outreach activities

ICIMOD joins the world in celebrating World Environment Day 2007, under the theme: 'Melting Ice - a Hot Topic?'

ICIMOD organises as well as takes part in outreach activities regularly. The objective is to inform our partners, stakeholders, as well as the general public about our programmes and activities. One such event was World Environment Day, celebrated in Nepal and around the world June 5 every year, since its declaration by the UN to stimulate worldwide awareness of environmental issues and encourage political action.

The theme for this year's celebration was *Melting Ice – A Hot topic?* Although the theme focused on the polar region, the subject is equally important and relevant for this region where the Himalayan glaciers, known popularly as the 'third pole', are found. ICIMOD played a major role in celebrating this event in Nepal in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal, and the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (UNEP-ROAP), Bangkok. Several interesting activities were organised (See Box 1) the details of which events can be read from our web site at <http://www.icimod.org/home/news/news.content.php?nid=67>

Box 1: World Environment Day Related Activities

- Inter-School Environment Quiz Contest, 31 May to 2-3 June 2007
- Symposium on Climate Change Impacts in the Himalaya, 4 June 2007
- ICIMOD participates in the International Climate Conference in Norway
- Launch of three new books: Nepal Biodiversity Resource Book; Impact of Climate Change on Himalayan Glaciers and Glacial Lakes; Case Studies on GLOF an Associated Hazards in Nepal and Bhutan; and UNEP's Global Environment Outlook on Ice and Snow, 5 June 2007
- Launch of the ICIMOD Books Online, 5 June 2007
- 3-day exhibition at the Birendra International Convention Centre, 5-7 June 2007
- Art Painting Competition for schoolchildren, 5-7 June 2007
- Atmospheric Brown Cloud Consultation and Awareness Seminar, 6-7 June 2007

The main day event was held at the Birendra International Convention Centre (BICC) in Kathmandu on the morning of 5 June 2007, attended by dignitaries, high-level government officials, and representatives of international and local NGOs, community organisations, as well as teachers and schoolchildren in Kathmandu.

On this occasion, the Government of Nepal conferred the *Environment Prize* and the *Environment and Development Honor 2007* to key institutions and individuals including



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ICIMOD Director General, Dr. Andreas Schild, describes Nepal as a 'superpower' in terms of biodiversity during his address at the World Environment Day celebration at the BICC in Kathmandu, Nepal

ICIMOD, UNEP, and WWF Nepal in recognition of these institutions' contribution to environmental protection and conservation efforts. Dr. Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD, and Mr. Surendra Shrestha, UNEP Regional Director and Representative ROAP, Bangkok received the awards on behalf of their respective institutions.

In accepting the award, Dr. Schild, citing the recently published MOEST-ICIMOD-Nepal Naturedotcom book, *Nepal Biodiversity Resource Book* supported by UNEP, described Nepal as a 'superpower' in terms of biodiversity and called on everyone to be conscious of this special status and how to protect it. Mr. Shrestha, accepting the award for UNEP-ROAP, urged the government to work with institutions like ICIMOD and WWF to plan for the continued protection of this wealth in biodiversity.

On the occasion three environmental books were launched by the Honourable Minister Mr. Mahantha Thakur, MOEST/GON. Also launched during *World Environment Day* was **ICIMOD Books On-line**, a new service from ICIMOD

accessed through the website www.icimod.books.org More activities are listed in Box 2.

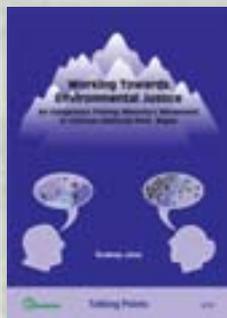
Nira Gurung, ngurung@icimod.org

Box 2: Other Outreach Activities, January-September 2007

- Earthquake Safety Exhibition, 16-18 January 2007, Kathmandu
- The World Wetlands Day Workshop and Exhibition held at the Nepal Tourism Board, Kathmandu, 2 February 2007
- The 21st International Review of Mountain Publications/Trento Film Festival, 24 April – 6 May 2007, Trento, Italy
- 2nd NATA Himalayan International Mart, 11-13 May, Kathmandu, Nepal
- USAID "Share Fair" 5 June 2007, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 4th Asian Regional Conservation Forum, 10-14 September 2007, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Conservation Day, 23 September 2007, Kathmandu, Nepal

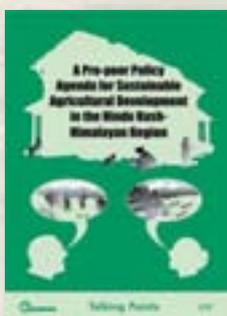
Recent ICIMOD publications

The following are the major documents published between March 2006 and October 2007. The three prices quoted are applicable to developed countries, developing countries, and ICIMOD's regional member countries respectively, and include post and packing. Publications are available at a reduced rate at the Centre itself. Publications can be provided free-of-charge to institutions actively involved in sustainable development of the greater Himalayan region. Order on-line (see below) or from the Distribution Unit, distri@icimod.org, or download from <http://books@icimod.org>



Jana, S. **Working Towards Environmental Justice: An Indigenous Fishing Minority's Movement in Chitwan National Park, Nepal.** Talking Points 3/07 54p ISBN: 978-92-9115-051-9 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

Reconciling the needs of people who depend on natural resources for their survival with nature conservation is a burning issue in many parts of the world. The emerging problems are approached by the concept of environmental justice – the struggle against the unfair environmental burden often placed on marginalised communities. This book traces the struggles of the Bhote-Majhi-Musahars, marginalised indigenous fishing communities who live along the periphery of Chitwan National Park in Nepal, as they try to regain their right to fish, ferry, and collect forest products from the National Park area. Their struggle sums up the problems of many indigenous groups and shows how individual resistance transforms into a movement, and how this movement then withers in the face of changing conditions. It raises the issues of vulnerability to floods, of land title recognition, resettlement, declining in fish populations, and rights to indigenous knowledge. Here is an example of one small group's trials, successes, and failures, and how they are confronting a situation shared by many others caught up in the parks-people conflict.



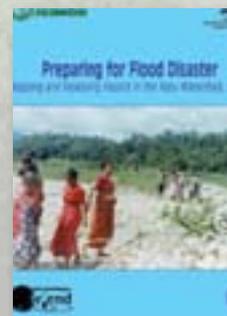
Rasul, G.; Karki, M. **A Pro-poor Policy Agenda for Sustainable Agricultural Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region.** Talking Points 2/07 21p ISBN: 978-92-9115-044-1 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

The conditions in mountain areas are significantly different from those obtaining in the plains. These differences have not been adequately reflected in national agricultural policy, research, extension, and credit, and in other programmes promoting agricultural development in many countries, especially in South Asia with its vast mountain areas.

This Talking Points document offers an alternative mountain-specific framework that calls for an integrated

and holistic approach to agricultural development, the removal of policy biases, and a fundamental change in perception and approaches. The paper recommends the development of a strategy specific to mountain agriculture, that takes into account its agro-ecological potentials, the biophysical and socioeconomic conditions of mountain farmers, and considers specific measures to overcome difficulties in market access. The framework highlights the mountains' comparative advantages: such as the potentials for organic and niche mountain products, and advocates adding value to mountain environmental services. Policy makers, planners, development practitioners, and academia may find the perspective offered useful in designing policies and programmes for agriculture in hilly and mountain areas, and a basis for future in-depth research on mountain agriculture.

Statz, J.; Kotru, R.; Beukeboom, H.; Rasul, G.; Kerkhoff, E.; Karki, M. **Advances in Participatory Forest Management in South Asia: Learning from Field Experience in Bhutan, India and Nepal.** Talking Points 1/07 65p ISBN: 978-92-9115-022-9 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5



The book summarises the findings of a multi-disciplinary team that studied three recently completed GTZ community-based forest management projects in Bhutan, India, and Nepal. The projects represented different approaches to forest resource management with different institutional arrangements and policy orientation. The team examined how the projects have linked people, institutions, sectors, disciplines, and programmes together in a dynamic system of community forest resource management. The results indicate that using appropriate technical and financial support it is possible to achieve the twin goals of forest conservation and poverty reduction. The factors that led to successful innovations, and those that slowed progress are described, and good practices in community-based natural resource management documented – many of them technological innovations that pave the way for a shift from mere subsistence to a more commercial use of forest products. The book will interest all those concerned with community-based approaches to natural resource management.

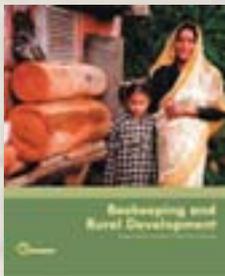


Glossary of Access and Benefit Sharing Terms. 25p
ISBN: 978-92-9115-043-4

(Free-of-charge, hard copy available on written request)

The Convention on Biological Diversity developed a framework in 1992 recognising the sovereignty of the nation-states over their biological and genetic resources, and the authority of national governments to determine access to these resources subject to national legislation. Over 189 countries signed the Convention, which encouraged countries to access these resources and take up measures to ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from their use, a process called 'access and benefit sharing' or 'ABS'.

To facilitate the ABS processes in the HKH region, ICIMOD, with support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), entered into a project to raise awareness on ABS. Explaining ABS terminologies is important in understanding the process of introducing an ABS regime in the region. The Glossary collates over 70 terminologies related to ABS and is part of ICIMOD's contribution to facilitating the ABS process in the eastern Himalayan countries. Many of the definitions are still being debated. The Glossary was written for stakeholders engaged in the development and interpretation of an ABS regime, including policy makers and stakeholders without access to this information.



Ahmad, F.; Joshi, S. R.; Gurung, M. B. **Beekeeping and Rural Development.** Kathmandu, ICIMOD 35p ISBN: 978-92-9115-048-9 US\$ 4 p&p

Beekeeping can play an important role in rural development, by providing products for household consumption and income from

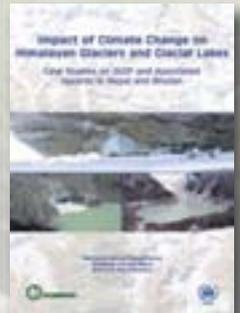
sale of honey and other bee products, and an important source of pollinators to improve productivity, especially of horticultural crops. This generously illustrated booklet describes some of the benefits of beekeeping, especially for the rural poor and marginalised groups in the extended Himalayan region. It also discusses beekeeping's contribution to resource and biodiversity conservation, and looks at the challenges in marketing and the need to follow a market chain approach to ensure that beekeepers benefit fully from their products. Beekeeping can contribute effectively to the empowerment of disadvantaged people and communities, and makes a multifaceted contribution to rural livelihoods. The booklet closes with recommended approaches in future rural development strategies.

Xu, J.; Shrestha, A.; Vaidya, R.; Eriksson, M.; Hewitt, K. (2007) **The Melting Himalayas: Regional Challenges and Local Impacts of Climate on Mountain Ecosystems and Livelihoods**, ICIMOD Technical Paper. 15p ISBN: 978-92-9115-047-2. (Free-of-charge, hard copy available on written request.)



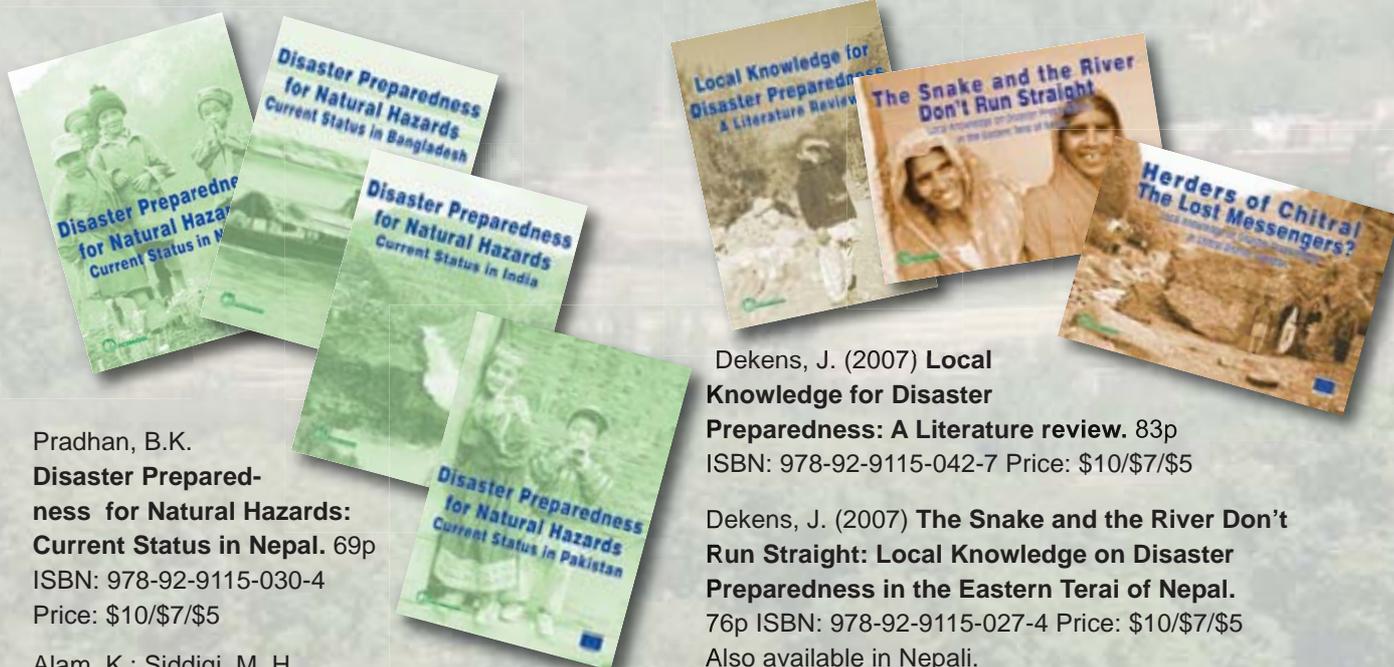
This policy summary looks at reported and possible future consequences of climate change in the greater Himalayan region. The emphasis is on responses to high mountain phenomena like glaciers, permafrost, and avalanches; the implications for water resources, ecosystems, and hazards; and how these threaten regional populations. The assessment points to a serious need to improve relevant knowledge in the region concerning key policy areas and strategies to improve the adaptive capacities of communities at risk.

Bajracharya, S. R.; Mool, P. K.; Shrestha, B. R. **Impact of Climate Change on Himalayan Glaciers and Glacial Lakes: Case studies on GLOF and Associated Hazard in Nepal and Bhutan.** 119p ISBN: 978-92-9115-032-8 Price: \$ 15/\$10/\$7.50



This study, prepared in close cooperation with and supported by the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, investigates the impact of climate change on glaciers and glacial lakes in two major glacial hotspots in the Himalayas: the Dudh Koshi sub-basin in the Khumbu-Everest region in Nepal, and the Pho Chu sub-basin in Bhutan. The focus was on changes in the number and size of glacial lakes forming behind exposed end moraines as glaciers retreat, and the resulting potential threat of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). The report aims to demonstrate methodological aspects of monitoring and potential GLOF hazard assessment using a case study approach. A hydrological model was used to calculate discharge and flood arrival times in downstream areas, and classification into terrain units was used to assess vulnerability in the vicinity of a possible Imja Tsho GLOF. Monitoring glacial lakes in poorly accessible mountain locations using satellite-based techniques is also explored as a basis for monitoring and prioritising disaster mitigation efforts. The study recommends refinements and adaptation to the local situation when replicating in other areas. The report will be useful for scientists, planners, and decision makers, as well as for raising the awareness on the potential impacts of climate change in the Himalayas.

A Series of eight books has been published as an outcome of the project 'Living with risk – sharing knowledge on disaster preparedness' funded by the European Commission through their Humanitarian Aid department (DG ECHO) as part of the Disaster Preparedness ECHO programme (DIPECHO) in South Asia, and by ICIMOD.



Pradhan, B.K. **Disaster Preparedness for Natural Hazards: Current Status in Nepal.** 69p
ISBN: 978-92-9115-030-4
Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

Alam, K.; Siddiqi, M. H. **Disaster Preparedness for Natural Hazards: Current Status in Bangladesh.** 49p
ISBN: 978-92-9115-036-6, Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

Khan, M. A. (2007) **Disaster Preparedness for Natural Hazards: Current Status in Pakistan.** 67p
ISBN: 978-92-9115-039-7 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

Bandyopadhyay, C. **Disaster Preparedness for Natural Hazards: Current Status in India.** 62p
ISBN: 978-92-9115-038-0 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

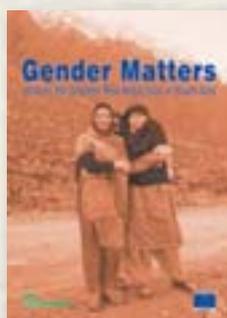
The four country reports provide an overview of the status of disaster preparedness planning in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, including documents, plans, and legal instruments in place and institutions governing their implementation. They include a summary of the conclusions of a workshop held in Kathmandu, Nepal in August 2006 to discuss the status of disaster preparedness in these countries as reflected in policies, strategies, and plans, and to identify gaps and shortcomings.

Dekens, J. (2007) **Local Knowledge for Disaster Preparedness: A Literature review.** 83p
ISBN: 978-92-9115-042-7 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

Dekens, J. (2007) **The Snake and the River Don't Run Straight: Local Knowledge on Disaster Preparedness in the Eastern Terai of Nepal.** 76p
ISBN: 978-92-9115-027-4 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5
Also available in Nepali.

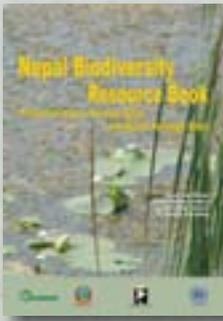
Dekens, J. (2007) **Herders of Chitral: The Lost Messengers? Local Knowledge on Disaster Preparedness in Chitral District, Pakistan.** 70p
ISBN: 978-92-9115-026-7 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

The importance of integrating local knowledge and practices into development and conservation projects has started to receive recognition only recently, but the approach is far from being mainstream. This book is one of a set of three prepared to increase awareness and understanding, particularly among implementing organisations, of local knowledge, practices, and contexts related to disaster preparedness so they can be used in disaster management activities. The first book summarises a cross-disciplinary literature review, and presents a framework that can be used to understand local knowledge on disaster preparedness. It highlights the overriding processes, including the need to understand the nature of local knowledge, the transformation processes influencing it, the key dimensions, and the links between local knowledge, disaster preparedness, and poverty reduction.



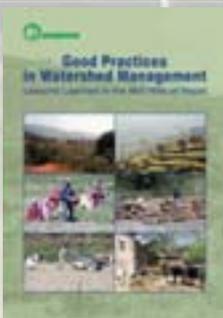
Mehta, M. (2007) **Gender Matters: Lessons for Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia.** 51p ISBN: 978-92-9115-024-3 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

It is commonly assumed by the lay public and disaster preparedness and management professionals alike, that natural disasters are 'levellers,' affecting everyone in a more or less equal fashion. In fact, disasters are extremely gendered events in terms of both their impacts and people's responses. Failure to acknowledge this can diminish the efficiency of disaster responses and create new categories of victims. This book synthesises key findings from the literature, with the aim of helping practitioners understand how and in what ways natural disasters have different impacts on the sexes, and what can be done to integrate a gender perspective into disaster preparedness and management in the South Asian context.



Bhujyu, U. R.; Shakya, P. R.; Basnet, T. B.; Shrestha, S. **Nepal Biodiversity Resource Book: Protected Areas, Ramsar Sites, and World Heritage Sites.** 128p ISBN: 978-92-9115-033-5 Price: \$20/\$15/\$10

This book builds upon the earlier *Biodiversity Profiles of Nepal 1996* to update available information about biodiversity in Nepal published as well as verified in the field. It is organised in eight chapters and discusses currently reported data on flora and fauna including some analysis of the trends since 1996 following the establishment of protected areas and sites, Ramsar sites, and World Heritage Sites in Nepal. The book also makes a note of threatened and protected species, and endemic floral and faunal diversity in protected and unprotected sites. The final chapter advances key recommendations based on comprehensive assessment of the status and issues of biodiversity as a result of the resource book project, and areas and issues which future work on Nepal's biodiversity must address.



ICIMOD **Good Practices in Watershed Management: Lessons Learned in the Mid Hills of Nepal.** 72p ISBN: 978-92-9115-017-5 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

The book summarises lessons learned and recommendations from a participatory action research project carried out in Nepal between September 1996 and June 2006 under the ICIMOD-coordinated People and Resource Dynamics Project (PARDYP) in Mountain Watersheds of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and ICIMOD. The research focused on farming systems, agricultural productivity, water management, and access and equity issues in resource management in middle mountain watersheds. Soil erosion, nutrient leaching, water supply and demand, water management, water quality, forest cover, commercialisation of agriculture, and improved low-cost on-farm options, including methods of composting are discussed. The challenge of livelihoods improvement and issues of access,

equity, and governance, place the activities in context. Ways of sharing the findings and of scaling up are considered, and various participatory approaches are described. The book will be useful for extension workers, planners, development specialists, researchers, and policy makers in national institutions, NGOs, and donor agencies working on watershed management and mountain agriculture.

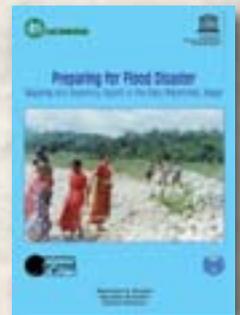
Mijin Cha (2007) **Increasing Access to Environmental Justice: A Resource Book for Advocacy and Legal Literacy in South Asia.** 57p ISBN: 978-92-9115-021-2 Price: \$10/\$7/\$5

Most of ICIMOD's member countries have a good legal basis for ensuring environmental justice, but knowledge about the legal options and processes is limited. This book is an outcome of the 'Minority Rights and Environmental Justice' project initiated in 2004 by the Ford Foundation and ICIMOD. It aims to provide a reference and training resource to increase local awareness of environmental justice, focusing on legal approaches. With examples from Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, the knowledge provided should help users to become familiar with legal concepts and practices related to the environment in these countries. The book will be use the to people and organisations trying to decrease the environmental burdens of marginalised people and contribute to socially and environmentally sustainable societies.



Khanal, N. R.; Shrestha, M.; Ghimire, M. (2007) **Preparing for Flood Disaster: Mapping and Assessing Hazard in the Ratu Watershed, Nepal.** 102p ISBN: 978-92-9115-018-2 Price: \$15/\$10/\$7.50

The Ratu Khola watershed employs flood-hazard mapping to study flood hazard, risk, and vulnerability in a watershed unit. The study combined three approaches: a geomorphic approach using geographical information system and remote sensing; measurement of rainfall-runoff processes using the Hydrological Engineering Corporation's River System Analysis (HEC-RAS) model; and social flood hazard mapping based on community



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<http://www.icimod.org>
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<http://www.earthprint.com/icimod>

experiences. Technologies such as GIS, RS, and HEC-RAS have made flood hazard mapping more accurate and less time-consuming and laborious in recent times. As part of the study, an attempt was also made to develop a community-based early warning system and to identify evacuation routes and areas for safe shelter to improve local capacity to respond to and manage flood hazards. Through the study and the publication of its findings, ICIMOD and UNESCO-Delhi which jointly supported the study, hope to save lives and livelihoods in Ratu Khola, but also to provide a basis for replicating the efforts throughout the Himalayan region.

GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

- **Sustainable Mountain Development** (ICIMOD Newsletter) No. 52, Spring 2007, 'Greater Voice for All Mountain Peoples'
This issue focuses on how ICIMOD and partners try to contribute to a more equitable society in which the voices of all mountain people are heard.
<http://www.icimod.org/home/pub/publications.content.php?puid=100>

New appointments

Andreas Schild, Director General, Directorate

Dr Andreas Schild, a Swiss national, joined ICIMOD as Director General from April 1, 2007.

Dr Schild is a development specialist with over 30 years of experience in designing, planning, executing, and monitoring cooperation programmes mainly in sustainable natural resource management. He is familiar with the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region through various long-term assignments in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal, and through multiple missions to all the regional member countries. He has acquired considerable management experience through a number of positions that he has held, including Country

- **Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) Bulletin**, Vol 7, No. 2. Spring 2007
The bulletin covers the period from Autumn 2005 to Spring 2007. http://apmn.icimod.org/publications/APMN-bulletin_vol_7_no_2.pdf
- **Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) Bulletin**, Vol 8, No. 1. Summer 2007
The bulletin covers the period from January – June 2007. http://apmn.icimod.org/publications/APMN-bulletin_vol_8_no_1.pdf
- ICIMOD books-online, June 2007, 2p (flyer)
- Regional flyer in Dari, May 2007, 2p (flyer)
<http://www.icimod.org/home/pub/publications.content.php?puid=110>
- The Melting Himalayas: Regional Challenges and Local Impacts of Climate Change on Mountain Ecosystems and Livelihoods, June 2007, 4p (leaflet)
- Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Himalayans Region, June 2007, 4p (leaflet)
- BRAHMATWINN: Twinning of a European and a South Asian River Basin to enhance capacity and implement adaptive integrated water resources management approaches, April 2007, 4p (project flyer)



Director of Swiss Development Cooperation in Nepal and Rwanda/Burundi; Executive Director of Intercooperation, a major Swiss NGO; and Chief Technical Advisor in North Korea for the UNDP-financed Aid Coordination Programme. Prior to joining ICIMOD, he was team leader of the Oversight Consultant of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) in Afghanistan.

Dr Schild has a PhD in History and Sociology from the University of Berne in Switzerland.



Eva Kristin Gerharz, Associate Scientist, CEGG

Dr des(ignate) Eva Gerharz from Germany joined ICIMOD as an Associate Scientist in March 2007. She is responsible for the project, 'Advancing Minority Rights for Environmental Justice'.

Based at the Faculty of Sociology at the University of Bielefeld, Germany, she has done research in South Asia for the last 10 years. She holds a degree

in sociology (Dipl-Soz), with a thesis that based on an empirical study about development cooperation, peace-building, and ethnicity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh and worked in CHT as a member of a German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) mission.

Before joining ICIMOD, Eva Gerharz completed her doctoral thesis about reconstruction and development in northern Sri Lanka. Her fields of specialisation include ethnicity and minority-related issues, transnationalisation, and migration



Brigitte Leduc, Gender Specialist, CEGG

Ms Brigitte Leduc is a Canadian national who has acquired extensive experience working on gender and development issues since 1997. She has promoted gender equality in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Nepal, Vietnam, and India. She also lived for seven years in North Africa, conducting training on the gender approach and gender mainstreaming for NGOs, government institutions, parliamentarians,

and international agencies; conducting studies to identify new economic opportunities for rural women; collaborating with the governments of Algeria and Ivory Coast to develop a national strategy and programme in these countries; and developing a gender mainstreaming strategy and tools for UNDP. She has been working in Nepal since 2003. Ms Leduc has a Master's degree in Social Anthropology from the University Laval in Quebec City. She joined ICIMOD in May 2007 as Gender Specialist.

Karma Phuntsho, NRM Policy Specialist, NRM

Mr Karma Phuntsho has a Master's degree in Earth Resources from Colorado State University, Colorado, USA, and a Post-graduate diploma in Forestry from the then Indian Forest College, Dehradun, India.

Mr Karma Phuntsho worked for the Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan for more than two decades. He has extensive field experience in community-based natural resources management and improvement of social and economic performance of mountain farming. His professional experience also covers innovative mechanisms and institutions for making protected areas effectively attain their

goals, raising funds and working with innovative mechanism for financing conservation programmes. In the recent past, Mr Karma headed Policy Analysis and Planning at the Ministry of Agriculture.

He is currently working in the Natural Resource Management division of ICIMOD as a natural resource policy analyst. His work will contribute to policy innovations in natural resource management at ICIMOD.



Rekha Rasaily, Programme Assistant, WHEM

Ms Rekha Rasaily, a Nepali national, joined ICIMOD as Programme Assistant in the Water, Hazards and Environmental Management (WHEM) division from March 2007.

Prior to joining ICIMOD, she worked for 10 years in various positions (administration, logistics and inventory management) for DFID/Nepal, UNCDF, and United Traders Syndicate P. Ltd. Ms Rasaily holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Rural Development from Trichandra College, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Marc Sporleder, Integrated Pest Management specialist, NRM

Dr Marc Sporleder, a German national from the International Potato Center (CIP) in Lima, Peru, joined ICIMOD as a guest researcher in June 2007. He is hosted by the Natural Resource Management division and will coordinate CIP's activities on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in potato production in Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

Dr Sporleder finished three years of vocational training in agriculture, studied International Agriculture at the University of Kassel (GhK), and Agricultural Science at the Georg-August University of Göttingen, where he earned his MA degree. He participated in a one-year post university training course at the Center for Advanced Training in Agricultural and Rural Development (CATAD) of the Humboldt University in

Berlin. He carried out a three-year research initiative on potato integrated pest management in Peru at CIP, and earned his Master's degree in Agricultural Science from the Institute of Plant Production and Agroecology in the Tropics and Subtropics, University of Hohenheim, Germany. The research was awarded the Josef G. Knoll-Scientific Prize of the Father and Son Eiselen Foundation, Ulm, Germany. He has been working as an entomologist at the Agroecology/IPM unit at CIP in Lima, Peru, developing IPM especially for the Potato tuber moth in different agroecologies.



Yi Shaoliang, Coordinator, Regional Rangeland Programme, NRM

Mr Yi Shaoliang, a Chinese national from Kunming, joined ICIMOD in April 2007 as Coordinator of the Regional Rangeland Programme within the Natural Resources Management division.

Mr Yi has a Bachelor's degree in Forestry and a Master's degree in Ecology, both from the Southwest Forestry University in Kunming. His PhD studies from Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy

of Sciences is on the Tibetan pastoral systems and in particular the interactions between anthropogenic activities and alpine ecosystems. Before joining ICIMOD, Mr Yi worked for 20 years in instruction, administration, project management, and research in Yunnan and Sichuan provinces of China.



VISITING SCIENTIST



Ramesh Ananda Vaidya, Senior Visiting Scientist, WHEM

Dr Ramesh Ananda Vaidya is a senior visiting scientist with research interest in the economics and policy of climate change and consequences for water resources, focusing

primarily on disaster risk management and integrated water resources management in the context of regional economic cooperation. He brings to ICIMOD his research and management experience on water resources in the U.S. and Nepal, and economic diplomacy in Japan.

Dr Vaidya started his postdoctoral career as a research associate in water resources economics at

Cornell University. He pursued a teaching and research career as a faculty member at the University of Minnesota. More recently, as Nepal's National Planning Commissioner for water resources, he directed the team that prepared water resources strategy papers for Nepal.

Dr Vaidya earned his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from IIT Delhi, an MBA from MIT's Sloan School of Management, and a PhD in Systems Analysis and Economics from Cornell. He has several publications in this area and has also presented at international meetings on water and disasters.

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