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(Ex-officio) Director General, ICIMOD

The 35th ICIMOD Board of Governors and 16th ICIMOD Support Group Meetings: Highlights



Narendra Bajracharya

ICIMOD's Board of Governors and Support Group members, November 2005

The 35th ICIMOD Board of Governors and the 16th ICIMOD Support Group (ISG) meetings were held in Shillong, Meghalaya, India from 23-25 November 2005. ICIMOD's focal agencies, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Government of India), the Government of the State of Meghalaya, and the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development hosted the meetings and provided support, as did

other partners in North East India including the North Eastern Hill University, the North East Region Community Resource Management Project, and the Himalayan Livelihoods Meghalaya Project.

Exposure field trips preceded the meetings. The first was to a community-managed sacred grove in Mawphlang, and to Nonglang Village in the West Khasi Hills, one of the sites of the North Eastern Region



Discussing project issues in the field



A poster session provided a platform for in-depth discussions with Programme Managers

Community Resource Management Project with which ICIMOD has been associated through the IFAD Project. The second was to Cherrapunjee, renowned for being 'the wettest place on earth'. This was followed by a trip to Nongtraw Village to interact with communities and to give everyone a feel of ICIMOD's and its partners' advocacy work for land and natural resources. The field visits provided an opportunity for the Board, ISG members, ICIMOD staff, and partners to discuss issues and challenges at the project sites.

On 23 November, the Centre's Day, ICIMOD's Board and the ISG met with Mr. Namo Narain Meena, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests; Dr. Donkumar Roy, Deputy Chief Minister of the Meghalaya State; and Dr. Friday Lyngdoh, Forest Minister of the Meghalaya Government. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaudhary, Chair of the ICIMOD Board; Dr. Anne Whyte, Vice-Chair; Mr. Jochen Kenneweg, Chair of ISG; and Dr. Gabriel Campbell, ICIMOD Director General, took turns in welcoming the guests. Dr. Campbell highlighted ICIMOD's mission, underlining the value of regional collaboration and cooperation.

During the Programme Overview session, Dr. Upendra Dhar, Director of the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, and Dr. Kyrham Nongkynrih of the North Eastern Hill University, highlighted the progress made by ICIMOD and identified potential collaborative work in the Indian region of the Himalaya and in North East India. Dr. Madhav Karki, ICIMOD Deputy Director General, Programmes, presented the 2005 Achievement Highlights. An informal walk-around poster session organised in the afternoon

provided the platform for more in-depth discussion with ICIMOD Programme Managers. In the evening, the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Meghalaya, presented a colourful cultural show in honour of the guests.

The Board of Governors, the ICIMOD Support Group, and other associated committees met in sessions from 24-25 November. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaudhary of Nepal, the outgoing Chair, welcomed the new Chairperson, Mr. Ismail Qureshi, Secretary of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Government of Pakistan.

ICIMOD's progress in 2005 and Plans 2006 were approved. In response to the request of the Director General to commence the search for his successor in time for planning and resourcing for the next medium term action plan, the Board formed a Board of Search Committee.

The Board also decided on the composition of the panel of experts for the forthcoming Quinquennial Review of ICIMOD to be carried out in the Spring of 2006. Dr. Zhao Shidong was reappointed to the Board of Governors for another year as an Independent Board Member, while Dr. Bruno Messerli of Switzerland was appointed to a three-year term, also as an Independent Board Member.

A decision was made to hold two Board meetings in 2006 – a special meeting during June and July in Kathmandu, and the regular annual meeting tentatively scheduled for early November in Pakistan.

Eklabya Sharma, esharma@icimod.org

ICIMOD Programme Advisory Committee Meeting

The ICIMOD Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) held its 12th session on 24 November, as part of the 35th ICIMOD Board of Governors' meetings.

Some of the key issues and recommendations raised by the PAC include the following.

- *On Gender:* ICIMOD needs to better integrate gender mainstreaming in its programmes and projects, and a fuller understanding of the concept is required. Members noted that there is still no real grasp of how gender is integrated and how it fits in as part of the larger framework of social inclusion.
- *On Country Distribution:* The PAC noted that much of ICIMOD's activities are focused on Nepal, India, China, and Bhutan, and less on Bangladesh and Pakistan, with a few activities in Afghanistan and Myanmar. The PAC emphasised the need for ICIMOD to pay attention to countries with little activities and to form a strategy to increase programme activities in these countries. The PAC recommended that ICIMOD set up liaison offices in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Myanmar.
- *On Programme Synergy:* Related to the 'spread' of programme activities was the issue of numbers and diversity of programme partners. The PAC suggested that ICIMOD focus its activities on a given area and encourage programme work in these areas with the same partners when appropriate.

The ICIMOD Foundation

Established in December 2002, the ICIMOD Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation established in Switzerland to support ICIMOD's research and development work to develop economically and ecologically sound ecosystems in the greater Himalayan region and to improve the living conditions of the rural population there.

The funds generated by the ICIMOD Foundation will be used to support:

- projects to help poor mountain women, men, and children;
- research and the demonstration of technologies and knowledge for mountain development;
- development of innovative ideas and technologies suitable for mountains;
- capacity building and training of mountain peoples and institutions; and
- long-term assistance for the promotion of sustainable development in the Himalayan region.

The Foundation has a Board of Governors composed of selected members of the Board of Governors of ICIMOD and distinguished, reputable individuals in mountain development.

Current members of the ICIMOD Foundation Board of Governors include:

- Dr. Ruth Egger-Tschäppeler, Switzerland - Chair
- Dr. Bruno Messerli, Switzerland
- Dr. Anne Whyte, Mestor Associates, Canada
- Dr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan
- Prof. Jamuna Singh, Banaras Hindu University, India
- Dr. James Gabriel Campbell, ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Mr. Milan Tuladhar, ICIMOD, serves as Foundation Secretary

Contributing to the ICIMOD Foundation

Individuals, governments, corporations, and trusts may contribute to the ICIMOD Foundation through direct contributions or endowments. To make a contribution, please contact the ICIMOD Foundation Chair or the Foundation directly.

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- *On Scaling Up and the MDGs:* The PAC noted how important it is for ICIMOD to demonstrate the impact it has had on the lives of 150 million people in the greater Himalayan region. One possible way is for ICIMOD to show how it is contributing to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but it was unclear how ICIMOD has, directly or indirectly, contributed to these goals.
- *On ICIMOD's focus/added value/impact:* With regards to programmes, the PAC suggested that ICIMOD focus on cross-border and regional issues and actions that other institutions cannot approach. The PAC emphasised that this is ICIMOD's comparative advantage and the Centre should capitalise on this far more.

In addition, the PAC discussed ICIMOD's progress in developing its monitoring and evaluation system and agreed that ICIMOD should continue to

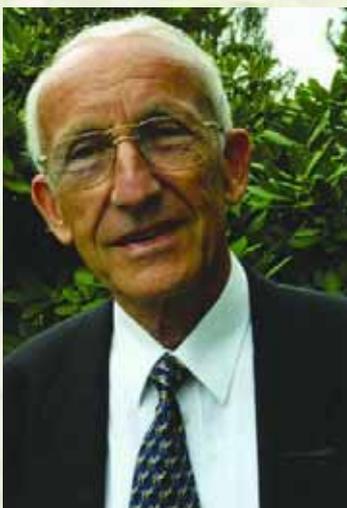
further this, taking into consideration the linkages between M&E cycles and institutional management cycles. The PAC agreed that ICIMOD would not impose its M&E system on its partners.

The PAC also discussed the criteria, questions, and makeup of the upcoming Independent 4th Quinquennial Review of ICIMOD. It noted that the team undertaking the analysis should include experts in social inclusion and gender mainstreaming.

Finally, the PAC emphasised the need for ICIMOD to undertake and prioritise a special initiative for earthquake relief in Pakistan. To this effect, ICIMOD has already initiated an initiative to contribute to rebuilding the livelihoods of the people in Pakistan whose lives have been affected by the 8 October 2005 earthquake, focusing primarily on livestock and agriculture rehabilitation.

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New Independent Board Member: Prof. Bruno Messerli



Professor Bruno Messerli

ICIMOD is pleased to announce that Professor Bruno Messerli, Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Geography, University of Berne, Switzerland, has recently been appointed as Independent Board Member by the ICIMOD Board of Governors. Prof. Messerli will serve for three years.

A Swiss national, Prof. Messerli received his Ph.D. in 1962 and became a full Professor in 1968. He became the Director of the Geographical Institute in 1978, Rector of the University of Berne in 1986, and Professor Emeritus in 1996.

Prof. Messerli's career spans more than four decades. He has carried out pioneering work in sustainable mountain development and interdisciplinary research as well as contributed greatly to research and development in various mountain regions of the world. He has written and published many books and articles in journals of international repute and has received international awards for his initiatives and achievements.

Prof. Messerli has served as Chairman of the Swiss National UNESCO-MAB Committee; was President of the International Geographical Union; Member of the Steering Committee for System for Analysis, Research and Training in Global Change Science; Chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Foundation for Science, Stockholm; and was Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Mountain Research Initiative. Prof. Messerli was also one of the coordinators for the UN Highland Lowland Interactive System and contributed substantially to the preparation of the Mountain Chapter (13) of Agenda 21 for the Rio Conference 1992. He was deeply involved in many mountain initiatives such as the Mountain Research Initiative, the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment, and Global Environmental Change Research, and in International Year of Mountains 2002 activities. He was also involved in the International Year of Freshwater 2003 and in the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto.

Prof. Messerli was one of those who advocated for the establishment of ICIMOD and has been following the activities and achievements of the Centre closely. He was a member of the ICIMOD review team in 1990 and was invited as keynote speaker at the '21st Anniversary Symposium' upon the inauguration of the new ICIMOD Headquarters in December 2004.

Workshops, meetings and trainings

Sharing the results of the 'Glaciers and Glacial Lake Inventory'

In collaboration with the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), a half-day workshop was organised at WIHG in Dehradun, Uttaranchal on 14 July 2005 to disseminate the outcomes and results of the collaborative study to inventory glaciers and glacial lakes in Uttaranchal. Seventy-five participants including 40 scientists and professionals from different departments of WIHG and from fifteen organisations attended the workshop. The Asia-

Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)-supported project. 'Inventory of Glaciers and Glacial Lakes and the Identification of Potential Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) Affected by Global Warming in the Mountains of Himalayan Region' has been ongoing in India, China, and Pakistan since 2002.

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Workshop launches ICIMOD's work on minority rights and environmental justice

The processes of globalisation, urbanisation, and increasing populations have exacerbated the struggle for natural resources, with an increasingly disproportionate burden being faced by poor and historically marginalised communities living in the greater Himalayan region. Environmental justice concerns in South Asia encompass critical issues such as basic rights to food, potable water, housing material, and survival. These issues are often linked to the loss of collective property rights and access to niche habitats – land, forests, water bodies, and pastures.



ICIMOD file photo

From 22-24 August 2005, the Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance (CEGG) Programme of ICIMOD held a workshop to launch its work on **minority rights and environmental justice in the extended Himalayan region**. Bringing together people from five of its regional member countries, the workshop discussed issues of environmental justice in the region. The workshop was structured around three panels: litigation, social movements,

capacity of marginalised communities towards enabling greater environmental justice in the region. Building upon this inception workshop, the CEGG Programme will undertake research and facilitate capacity building to enhance the rights of marginalised communities to environmental justice over the next two years.

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ICIMOD participates in China-EU Sustainable Development Forum

An ICIMOD team attended the two-day Sustainable Development Forum in Beijing, China from 5-6 September 2005. More than 500 local and international participants joined the Forum where approximately 100 papers on six different themes of sustainable development were presented. As a key partner, ICIMOD presented a paper on 'Sustainable Use and Management of Natural Resources in the Mountain Areas of China: Policies, Issues, and the Way Forward.'

The forum shared the latest research findings and raised awareness on Chinese policy efforts and activities on mountain issues. ICIMOD's participation highlights the Centre's role in the sustainable development of China's mountain provinces in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

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Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements Signed (September - December 2005)

Agreements signed with partners in the greater Himalayan region.

- 8 December 2005: District Road Support Programme (DRSP), Kathmandu, Nepal
Beekeeping training for providing technical knowledge to DRSP participants, Nepal
- 2 December 2005. Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, India
To upscale beekeeping programme through research and extension in the mountain areas of Himachal Pradesh, India
- 25 November 2005: Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA), Nainital, Uttarakhand, India
To upscale beekeeping programme through research and extension in the mountain areas of Uttarakhand State of India.
- 22 November 2005: Honey Bee Research Institute (HBRI), Islamabad, Pakistan
To upscale beekeeping programme through partnership and technical backstopping to rural development organisations in Pakistan
- 8 November 2005: Bangladesh Institute of Apiculture (BIA), Bangladesh
To upscale beekeeping programme through partnership and mobilisation of beekeeper's groups and other stakeholders in Bangladesh.
- 1 November 2005: Dabur Nepal Pvt. Ltd., Nepal
To identify strategic non-timber forest products for the IFAD-supported Western Uplands Poverty Alleviation Project (Nepal)
- 6 October 2005: Centre for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED), Kathmandu, Nepal
To upscale beekeeping programme through partnership and mobilisation of community-based organisations (CBOs) in the mountain districts of Nepal.
- 2 October 2005: United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office, Asia and the Pacific
To develop a pilot knowledge hub for mountain ecosystems to contribute to UNEP's Environment Knowledge Hub (eKH)
- 2 October 2005: United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office, Asia and the Pacific
To prepare the Nepal Biodiversity Year Book 2006
- 27 September 2005: NWFP Agricultural University, Peshawar, Pakistan
To upscale beekeeping programme through research and extension in the mountain areas of NWFP, Pakistan
- 23 September 2005: Alital Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd., Dadeldhura, Nepal
To continue partnership in implementing beekeeping activities and collaborative work in Alital VDC, Dadeldhura district, Nepal
- 23 September 2005: Annapurna Beekeeping and Environment Promotion (BEENPRO) Kaski, Pokhara, Nepal
To continue partnership in implementing the activities of the beekeeping programme in Kaski, Pokhara, Nepal
- September 2005: Sichuan University, Chengdu, China
For cooperation in geo-information capacity building and environment and natural resources management in southwestern China
- September 2005: International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), The Netherlands
To distribute ILWIS GIS/RS software for ICIMOD and its network of collaborating partners in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan (HKH) Region

Regional partnership workshop prepares country plans on benefit sharing of biological resources

ICIMOD's Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance Programme organised a regional planning and partnership development workshop from 5-7 September on **access rights and benefit sharing of biological resources for marginalised people of the eastern Himalaya**. The workshop focused on

preparing the project's operational and country-specific plans. Mr. Armin Hofmann, Principal Advisor and Project Coordinator, GTZ Nepal, addressed the workshop, which included 25 participants from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal.

Krishna Prasad Oli, koli@icimod.org

Community and biodiversity in Kohima, Nagaland discussed in a workshop

A four-day workshop, on **'Community and Biodiversity in Nagaland (India)'** was jointly organised by the Nagaland Forest Department, NEPED, and Kalpavriksh, sponsored by the Forest Department, IFACN, the British High Commission, NEPED, and ICIMOD. The workshop was held in Kohima, the capital city of Nagaland from 24-27 October and focused on management systems for biological resources, associated problems, and access to genetic resources related issues. Shri Shyamal Datta, His Excellency the Governor of Nagaland, and Shri I. Kheto Sema, Honourable Minister for Forest and Chairman of the State Biodiversity Board addressed the workshop. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Alemtemshi Jamir, the Agriculture Production Commissioner. Over a hundred participants including community leaders, NGO representatives, and senior government officials, participated.

Nagaland has a growing number of community-led conservation initiatives. These include declared wildlife and forest reserves, seasonal or permanent bans on hunting, the harvest of medicinal plants, and regulations against destructive fishing. Conservation



Participants, Community and Biodiversity workshop in Nagaland, India

Krishna Prasad Oli

initiatives are carried out through local-level institutional mechanisms and arrangements by the Village Council, students' unions, youth organisations, and public organisations. The communities themselves and observers report that the initiatives have had a positive impact on biodiversity conservation in Kohima. Major recommendations were made for the future of biodiversity resources management. There is a wealth of traditional knowledge to be shared in medicinal and aromatic plants, techniques for tree pollarding, and complex shifting cultivation systems which should be useful to neighbouring states within India and for other countries of the eastern Himalayan region.

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GTZ and NORAD missions review ICIMOD Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation System

The Norwegian and German governments are important members of ICIMOD's International Support Group. The Norwegian team, composed of Dr. Stein W. Bie and Ms. Marte Qvenild, The University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway, visited Kathmandu from 2-8 October. Similarly, a GTZ team, made up of Dr. Manfred Gellert and Dr. Christoph Reichert, visited ICIMOD from 15-20 August, 2005.

The Norwegian team carried out a comprehensive evaluation of ICIMOD's Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) system and provided recommendations on improving the system. The GTZ consultants provided an overview of the PM&E system and suggested a milestone for strengthening the system within the MTAP period. Both the missions met with ICIMOD Programme Managers and professional staff to observe and discuss PM&E practices within the Centre's Programmes and co-financed projects.

At the end of their visit, both teams presented and shared their findings with ICIMOD management and professional staff. The mission reports provide initial inputs for the Quinquennial Review of ICIMOD scheduled in May 2006.

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Training in Decision Support Systems demonstrates its use in natural resources monitoring

A three-day training in **Decision Support Systems (DSS)** organised at ICIMOD in late October 2005 by The World Conservation Union-Nepal (IUCN) demonstrated a prototype DSS based on the Sagarmatha National Park scenario. The prototype was developed by the project, Institutional Consolidation for the Coordinated and Integrated Monitoring of Natural Resources Towards Sustainable Development and Environment Conservation in the Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya Mountain (DSS-HKKH). It illustrates the use of DSS in monitoring the changing conditions of natural resources.

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Narendra Bajracharya

Training communities in beekeeping

As part of the capacity building component of the beekeeping project, ICIMOD in collaboration with its partner organisation, Annapurna Environment and Beekeeping Promotion (BEENPRO), trained 45 farmers (37 women and 8 men) in beekeeping management in October 2005. Two training courses were organised: a week long course from 18-25 October for the Kau Danda Beekeepers Group, where 25 (2 men + 23 women) received training; another week long course was organised from 25-31 October for Pragatishil Ama Samuha of Lekhnath VDC of Kaski district where 6 men and 14 women were trained. The courses enhanced the capacity of rural beekeepers to manage bees in movable frame hives. This will help them harvest more and better quality honey from the indigenous *Apis cerana*, free from dead bees, bee parts, larvae, and hive debris. The training also promoted movable frame hive beekeeping in Kaski district.

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Farooq Ahmad

Representatives of Austrian Development Agency (ADA) briefed

Mr. Robert Zeiner and Mr. Gerhard Pulfer of the Austrian Development Agency visited ICIMOD on 17 October 2005. While at ICIMOD they met with ICIMOD management and the beekeeping project team. They also visited the apiary at the ICIMOD Testing and Demonstration Centre, Godavari, where Dr. Farooq Ahmad, Coordinator of the Beekeeping Project gave a presentation on the goal, objectives, and achievements of the bee project.

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International Workshop discusses ways to manage flash floods in the region

The 'International Workshop on Flash Flood Management and Sustainable Development in the Himalayan Region' was held in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region, (PRC) from 23-28 October 2005. The workshop was organised by ICIMOD, the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), with support from the Government of Norway and the USAID Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

The objective of the workshop was to collect information on the status of flash flood management in the eight member countries of ICIMOD – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and to discuss the preparedness, mitigation, and management of flash floods in the context of sustainable development. In a comprehensive exercise, the workshop participants agreed upon a document now called, 'The Lhasa Declaration', which outlines the workshop's conclu-



ICIMOD file photo

Sediment-filled flood wave in a Himalayan river bed

sions and recommendations and the ways to improve the management of flash floods and related natural hazards in the Himalayan region. The declaration highlights an outreach process as the way forward towards improved flash flood management.

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Training trainers in bio-briquette making

ICIMOD's Godavari Demonstration and Training Centre organised and hosted two training of trainers (ToT) sessions in bio-briquette making in November 2005. This was conducted in joint collaboration with the Success Development Centre (SDC-Nepal), a local NGO based in Butwal, Rupendehi district, and the Poor Water Users Association of Kavre and Kathmandu districts. Training was supported by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction through the Department of Irrigation. Five participants from SDC-Nepal (one representative from each region), and ten from the Poor Water Users Association participated. The training aimed at building the capacity of NGO staff and the Poor Water Users Association members to provide training themselves to forest user groups in their working areas and to members of the Poor Water Users Association and other farmers.

Participants first collected 'banmara' weeds (*Eupatorium adenophorum*), pine needles (*pinus spp.*) and 'musure katus' leaves (*Castanopsis tribuloides*). These were then made into charcoal using the charring drum and pit method. Participants were taught how to make the charcoal into powder, mix the charcoal powder with bentonite clay, and press the



Making bio-briquettes

mixture into a honeycomb-shaped mould for sun drying into finished bio-briquettes. In the feedback session, participants said they found the hands-on sessions useful. The skills and knowledge they acquired would be used to train users in their own groups. Bio-briquettes are useful for cooking and heating, while selling the briquettes would be a good means to earn income.

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Samden Lama Sherpa

ICIMOD provides regional perspective at Bhutan's 'First National Workshop on Rangeland Management Policy and Strategies'

The 'tsamdro' or rangeland in Bhutan is a valuable resource in a mountain country where only 8% of the land is suitable for agriculture. Over 400 ha of registered tsamdro provide pasture to more than 350,000 heads of cattle, yak, buffalo, and other diverse species, that in turn provide food and livelihoods (such as dairy farming and wool production) for the Bhutanese people. Rangelands also serve valuable watershed functions and provide biologically diverse resources. A national rangeland policy is thus important to the economy of Bhutan and to other mountain regions of the Himalaya.

In early November, Bhutan's National Feed and Fodder Development Programme, with support from

the Department of Livestock, the European Union, and ICIMOD, conducted its 'First National Workshop on Rangeland Management Policy and Strategies'. ICIMOD provided the regional perspective in this workshop, analysing rangeland issues in Bhutan and sharing the issues and experiences in other countries of the region. Some experiences shared include practical issues in rangeland privatisation in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, and options that have worked such as indigenous rangeland practices in Chitral, Northern Areas of Pakistan; sustainable farming systems through watershed management in India, China, Nepal, and Pakistan through ICIMOD's PARDYP Project; and Sikkim's ecotourism policy. The need to consider rangelands along with other land uses was also recognised. The workshop comes at a time when Bhutan is revising its Land Act. The discussions and recommendations, particularly on land use and management regimes, hope to influence the provisions of the revised Act. ICIMOD and the Himalayan region – half of which consists of rangelands – will also benefit from a national rangeland development policy and strategies that Bhutan is developing. Bhutan's Livestock Department looks up to ICIMOD for regional perspective and its expertise in mountain development to help them craft this policy.

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PNRRC Bhutan

Observing rangeland issues 'on the ground'. One day of the workshop was spent visiting a registered rangeland in Dhur, Bumthang, which includes a one-acre pasture trial field of the Renewable Natural Resources Research Centre experimenting with various types of fodder. In this field trip, participants interacted with the community and some herders and observed rangeland problems and issues on the ground.

ICIMOD and Mountain Forum participates in 'The World Summit on the Information Society' in Tunis

A four-person delegation from ICIMOD and the Mountain Forum (MF) organised a stand at the exhibition, 'ICT4All' from 15-19 November 2005 and participated in related discussions, workshops, and presentations. ICIMOD/MF's exhibition stand represented the countries of the Himalayan region and the Mountain Forum. There were no other stands from the region except for India and China, so the ICIMOD/MF presence was noticed and the stand was useful in promoting ICIMOD's work in the ICT sector. The Summit had over 20,000 registered



Zibgniew Mikolajuk

The ICIMOD/MF stand at 'ICT4All' attracts queries and interest in the region

participants, thousands of visitors, and over 300 exhibitors. It is considered a milestone event in promoting the role of ICT in poverty eradication programmes as related to Millennium Development Goals. Over 200 people visited the stand and visitors collected information materials about

ICIMOD's ICT activities. Ministers and members of high-level delegations from Afghanistan, Bhutan, and Nepal visited the stand and there were discussions on further collaboration between ICIMOD and the respective governments.

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System of Rice Intensification highlighted on Farmers' Day

PARDYP-Nepal celebrated **Farmers' Day** on 3 December 2005 in Salpani, Jhikhu Khola. Mukti Nath Ghimire chaired the programme, while Dandipani Khanal, District Agriculture Development Officer, chief guest, distributed certificates to farmers and resource persons involved in a training of trainers programme on the system of rice intensification (SRI) option. Over half of the 150 participants were women. Representatives from various government agencies such as the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), the Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management (DSCWM), the Spices Crop Development Centre (SCDC), as well as non-government organisations also participated.

The system of rice intensification (SRI) is an agronomic practice of growing rice by transplanting two-leaf seedlings at 8-12 days old at a wider spacing than usual (generally 25 cm x 25 cm, or even wider). Unlike conventional methods, only a small amount of water is applied while preparing the field for trans-



Farmers' Day, Salpani, Jhikhu Khola and a woman receiving a training of trainers certificate

Keshar Man Shrestha

planting, and the field does not need continuous flooding except during the flowering stage. When the land starts to dry and crack, light irrigation is applied to moisten the soil. An alternately dry and moist soil

Collaboration on Ladakh

Three distinguished scholars, Prof. Janki Andharia, Prof. Vidya Rao, and Mr. Shahaji Narwade from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), visited ICIMOD for a week in early September. Their mission was to identify areas where ICIMOD could help in the development of a curriculum for a diploma programme on sustainable development in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC). The team visited the facilities at the ICIMOD Headquarters and the Demonstration and Training Centre, Godavari, and exchanged views with ICIMOD on how the two organisations might collaborate on the proposed capacity building plan for LAHDC. The visit emphasised the importance of maintaining synergies and complementarities between TISS and ICIMOD. Possible opportunities for cooperation include eco-tourism, water and hazard management, GIS/RS technologies, as well as rangelands and pasture management.

Collaboration with Bhutan Sustainable Development Board (SDB)

A high-level delegation from Bhutan comprising seven members from the Sustainable Development Board (SDB) led by Dasho Meghraj Gurung visited ICIMOD from 4-11 September 2005. The objective of the visit was to explore areas of cooperation in rural development programmes. Meetings and discussions were held with ICIMOD programme staff on areas of mutual interest. For insights into the work of ICIMOD and its partners, the team visited the Demonstration and Training Centre at Godavari, the PARDYP site in Jhikhu Khola, the Dabur Nursery in Banepa, the Balaju Yantra Shala Workshop, SNV Nepal Office, the Poverty Alleviation Fund's Office/HMG Nepal, and the Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN). Among the possible areas for joint collaboration the delegation identified replication of land use practices, income generating schemes, rural technologies, rehabilitation of degraded lands, biodiversity conservation and access, medicinal and aromatic plants, sustainable agricultural, tourism development, as well as information exchange and capacity building.

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condition improves aeration and helps the plants to grow more vigorously. SRI is considered an improved way of growing a greater amount of rice using less water.

In testing and promoting SRI as an agronomic option, PARDYP-Nepal supported a Training of Trainers programme using the farmer field school approach. PARDYP-Nepal provided training to 15 lead farmers from the watershed who then ran farmers' field schools in 15 villages, training about 100 farmers. In each field school, the group of farmers implement, observe, study, and draw conclusions about growing rice through SRI and compare the practice with traditional methods.

On Farmers' Day, all groups from the farmers field schools presented the implementation procedures and results of their activities using flip charts and photograph displays, songs, reports, and poems. The results were encouraging.

In the Jhikhu Khola watershed, the rice yield increased by 50% on average. First weeding is more labour intensive than in the traditional practice. Managing irrigation is the difficult part of the system for the areas where irrigation facilities are uncertain. Also on the flat land, where water logging during the monsoon is likely, draining excess water can be a constraint.

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Training workshop shows 'Geo-informatics for Rangeland Resources Management'

The MENRIS and NRM Programmes of ICIMOD organised a workshop on **the application of geo-informatics for rangeland resources management** from 5-16 December 2005. The workshop provided rangeland managers with hands-on training on the use of GIS/RS technologies for mapping rangeland resources, how to plan their use, and monitor changes in rangeland conditions. Designed according to the requirements of partners in rangeland management and biodiversity conservation programmes, the workshop used training materials produced with inputs from a visiting scientist from

Pakistan, Ms. Tehmina Bibi, that participants could already use or apply to their particular rangeland conditions on their return. In order to build on ICIMOD's previous capacity building efforts in rangeland management, 17 participants from six countries namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, took part in the workshop. They also visited the ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre in Godavari, where they took an interest in technologies applicable to mountain farming systems demonstrated at the Centre.

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Stakeholders consulted on Sacred Himalayan Landscape Strategic Plan

The first participatory primary stakeholders' consultation on the **'Sacred Himalayan Landscape Strategic Plan (SHLSP)'** was held in Charikot, Dolakha, from 8-11 December, under the initiative of WWF-Nepal. The Sacred Himalayan Landscape Initiative is a strategy for landscape-level conservation and participatory development and is taking place under the direction of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Nepal, with support from ICIMOD, WWF-Nepal, The Mountain Institute (TMI), and IUCN. The boundary of the Initiative

extends beyond Nepal and includes the Kanchenjunga region of India and Toorsa Strict Reserve in Bhutan. WWF-Nepal, TMI, and ICIMOD lead the initiative to develop a strategic plan for Nepal. ICIMOD will be taking the initiative further to India and Bhutan to expand its regional context and reach. The first consultation focused on identifying the major conservation and development issues particular to Dolakha, Ramechhap, Kavre, and Sindupalchowk districts and on developing a ground strategy from the stakeholders' perspectives. Major

Exchange Scientists, MENRIS, September - December 2005

- Tehmina Bibi, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan, 3 October to mid-December 2005
- A.H.M. Tajul Islam, Institute of Water Modelling, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 17 October to 25 November 2005
- Md. Shaheen Ferdous, Institute of Water Modelling, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 17 October to 25 November 2005
- U Ngwe, U Tint Swe, Forest Department, Myanmar, 27 November to 23 December 2005
- Daw Khin Htar Shwe, Forest Department, Myanmar, 27 November to 23 December 2005
- U Phone Htut, Forest Department, Myanmar, 27 November to 23 December 2005

issues identified were geographical vulnerability and associated calamities, poor land use and resource management, and lack of organisational coordination and public awareness. For further information,

please contact Dr. Sabita Thapa, Coordinator, WWF-Nepal, sabita.thapa@wwfnepal.org and Dr. Nakul Chettri, ICIMOD, nchettri@icimod.org

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GIS capacity building and networking in 2005

GIS technology has many uses, such as in the management of natural resources, in agricultural land use planning, in water resources management, disaster management, environmental planning, and many more. Realising the important role that GIS plays in sustainable mountain development, ICIMOD, through its GIS Capacity Building and Networking activity under MENRIS, has been promoting the use of GIS and remote sensing technology and their applications in various mountain-related issues in the region through training sessions and workshops.

Regional and national training organised in Pakistan, China, and Myanmar

Under the GIS capacity building framework, MENRIS organised and conducted four regional/national-level training courses during 2005 on GIS and remote sensing for different applications, from which 119 professionals from various institutions in the region participated.

Feedback from Training

Participants provided useful feedback about the national training in Pakistan. Some of their statements are as follows:

“...our team from Afghanistan is very happy (to have received) the training. Everyone briefed their supervisors and provided information about the training and the trainers. Thank you very much for organising the training. It was really interesting and useful and we now have...good knowledge in spatial analysis and GIS.”

Shahzad Aryobee, Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS), Afghanistan

“...I miss the days we had there at Peshawar, it was really great and I must thank you for all your patience with us while teaching.”

Mohsin Naqvi, Ajad Jammu Kashmir University (AJK) University, Pakistan

Sushil Pradhan, suspradhan@icimod.org

Title of training	Date	Venue
Regional Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transboundary Landscape Management and Application of Geo-informatics in the HKH 	18-29 July 2005	ICIMOD in collaboration with NRM programme of ICIMOD
National Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geo-informatics for Rangeland Resources Management • Geo-informatics for Natural Resources and Environmental Management • Geo-informatics for Water Resources Management • Geo-informatics for Natural Resources Management 	4- 16 July 2005 19-30 September 2005 17-28 October 2005 5-18 November 2005	National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar, Pakistan Sichuan University in joint collaboration with its Department of Environment and Architecture, Chengdu, People's Republic of China Institute of Water Conservancy Planning and Design in collaboration with Bureau of Water Conservancy, TAAAS, Bureau of Meteorology, TAR, People's Republic China Department of Forest, Ministry of Forest, Myanmar

ICIMOD shares tools, technologies, and best practices in Myanmar

A one-day awareness workshop on 'Technology, Tools, and Best Practices for Sustainable Mountain Development' was organised by ICIMOD in collaboration with the Forest Department, Ministry of Forestry, in Yangon, Myanmar on 11 November to

mark International Geography Day 2005. The workshop discussed, shared and disseminated knowledge and information about tools, technologies, and best practices. More than 200 participants from various government organisations and universities attended.



ICIMOD file photo

Sharing ideas and technologies on sustainable mountain development



The occasion was graced by the Honourable Minister of Myanmar's Ministry of Forest who inaugurated the workshop. Also present was ICIMOD's Deputy Director General Programmes, Dr. Madhav Karki, who gave an orientation on ICIMOD's different programmes. ICIMOD gave presentations on various themes including a GIS showcase to demonstrate various activities in GIS and remote sensing applications in natural resources management. There was also an exhibition of ICIMOD publications.

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Research Updates and Project News

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme in Asia (MAPPA)

The Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme in Asia (MAPPA) was initiated in 1998 and builds on previous research results and on the network partnerships of the International Development Research Centre's (IDRC) Medicinal Plants Network. MAPPA employs a comprehensive and regional approach to the sectoral development of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) in South Asia. ICIMOD began hosting MAPPA from August 2005. The Centre was selected following an open, competitive process of devolution.

MAPPA is a programme of strategic research, collaboration, and networking on MAPs. It develops, provides, and promotes appropriate options, methods, strategies, and technologies and other sustainable solutions to benefit the poor and to help conserve medicinal plant-related biodiversity for use by future generations.

MAPPA emphasises process-based research, incorporating gender and social analysis, which has

the potential to benefit the rural poor and indigenous communities by making favourable impacts on fragile livelihoods and degraded environments. The programme has the scope to influence policy making in biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and improved primary health using the MAP sub-sector as a model. MAPPA works with national governments and has facilitated policy and institutional reforms and evolutions targeted at MAPs.

As a regional network of researchers, research institutions, and funding agencies, MAPPA connects government and non-government organisations, universities, research institutions, and the private sector under a multi-donor initiative. It also acts as a knowledge broker providing leadership in strategic research, coordination, and support for livelihood-focused research and sustainable conservation activities on MAPs.

The MAPPA network under ICIMOD will be developed as 'networks without boundaries'. Three

ICIMOD regional member countries, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and China will be added to the network under the devolved programme to bring in new knowledge, national networks, and potential partners.



Dyutiman Choudhary

Ensuring quality organic products



Dyutiman Choudhary

Awareness through information management

MAPPA has stressed supply chain management of MAPs as imperative for developing the MAP sector to meet the objectives of conservation and quality production, and to access regional and facilitate access to international markets.



Madhav Karki

Creating market linkages



Dyutiman Choudhary

Women self-help groups in primary processing.

Community-based enterprises and efficient supply chains will be developed, keeping in mind the current operating nature and structure of the sector. Knowledge of the institutional capacities, modes of operation, and internal linkages in the domestic and regional MAP sectors is needed. Understanding the constraints to growth will enable the development of sustainable and needs-based solutions. MAPPA/ICIMOD will follow a knowledge-based approach in developing integrated and transparent supply chain arrangements through the following means.

i) A livelihood-focused and pro-poor approach – to ensure that supply chain arrangements support poor producers and lead to pro-poor, sustainable growth that benefits poor women and men. The approach will be rooted in the livelihood strategies of the collectors and producers and will enable poor women and men to have the right of access MAP-based economic opportunities and participation in markets on an equitable basis.

ii) A business-based approach – to gain a better understanding of constraints on productivity, competitiveness, business expansion, and investment in the MAP sector. Interventions will target the needs of the sector, while businesses and stakeholders will be judged on their financial and business sense, and on the sustainability of results.

iii) A governance approach – to understand the institutional, policy, structural, and systemic constraints that impact the growth of the MAP sector in the three countries. Understanding the institutional and policy environment will be ensured when designing forward and backward linkages and networks so that community-based enterprises and supply chain arrangements can have a sustainable impact on poverty alleviation and resource conservation.

Under the supply chain management initiative, MAPPA will test, develop, and promote appropriate

technologies, supply chains, marketing strategies, information and communication tools, networks and linkages, and policies. Continuing to focus on organic production of medicinal, aromatic, and dye plants, MAPPA will work towards harmonising regional standards and protocols to improve quality, conserve the resource base, and curb the use of fake products and substitutes in trade. This will strengthen the marketing and bargaining powers of community-managed micro-enterprises and will provide viable and sustainable income generating options.

MAPPA has incorporated strategies as recommended by its programming experience into the management of its MAP supply chain to address gaps in the regional context. There is a felt need in the MAP sector to identify, develop, and promote multi-stakeholder approaches where the possible needs of all are satisfied and trust and ethics in the business is generated. Targeting the supply chains of MAPs could meet the expectations of major stakeholders, allowing sectoral growth and development with increased investment.

ICIMOD's networks provide a comparative advantage for facilitating regional and national initiatives to address rural poverty, MAP resource conservation, and markets and policy imperatives. Its integrated programmes will facilitate the creation of income and employment in remote regions and will provide national governments with opportunities, expertise, and strategies to develop MAPs as a leading sector for national growth and development. ICIMOD will promote models of good practice in niche-based transformation and in the development of poor communities to improve livelihoods and reduce poverty in remote areas of the HKH.

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On Nyima's farm

It is crisp and cold on the floodplain of the Lhasa River as Nyima Tashi takes visitors on a tour of his life's work: rows and rows of greenhouses up to 100 metres long. Inside, Nyima's spectacles steam up as he shows us cherry tomatoes, miniature cucumbers and yellow watermelons.

It is clear as he caresses the vegetables that this is a labour of love for the Nepal-trained agronomist who has single-handedly made Lhasa self-sufficient in vegetables. The growing season lasts only four months in the cold and arid plateau. The rest of the year, Tibetans have usually relied on dried and pickled vegetables or imported them from Nepal.



On a stint in mountain farming systems with ICIMOD in Kathmandu, Nyima dreamt one day of growing vegetables on the plateau. Within five years, his Tibetan Academy of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry outside Lhasa is a much talked-about success story. It is testimony to one man's vision and also turns the myth that only the private sector can show initiative on its head.

"Tibet is cold but our winters are sunny," explains Nyima, "so we perfected this greenhouse design that is covered with a blanket at night to keep the trapped daytime heat in." Indeed, the temperature inside stays at 18 degrees at night even when it is below zero outside.

Nyima has a strong marketing team that analyses demand and plans cropping cycles to get the best prices. Encouraged by his success with organic vegetables, the farm is now branching out into exotic fruits, tissue culture, Tibetan medicinal plants and high-value ornamental flowers. Nyima shows us potted poinsettias and cacti that are being readied for the holiday season (pictured). The farm now sells 2.5 million yuan worth of vegetables and flowers and ploughs the profit into expansion. The Academy is sharing this knowledge with other mountain regions of the world and has set up an information exchange data base. Says Nyima: "I was inspired to do this in Nepal, and I'd now like to give back what we have learnt here to farmers in similar climatic regions like Manang, Mustang or Ladakh."

Kunda Dixit, Nepali Times, 6-12 January 2006, Reprinted with permission.

Source: http://www.nepalitimes.com/issue280/nepali_society.htm

Five RMCs share regional flood data in 'real time'

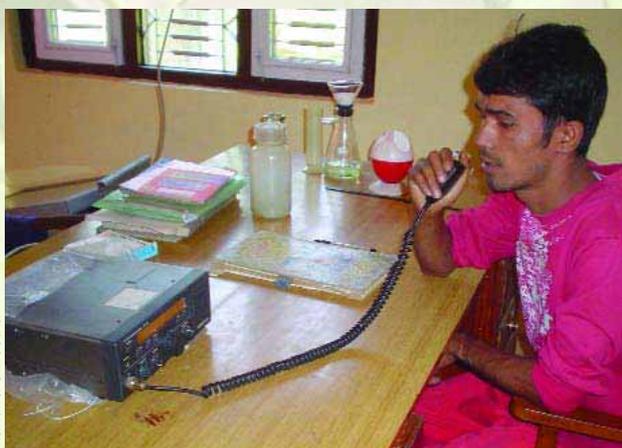
The Regional Cooperation for Flood Forecasting and Information Exchange Project in the HKH region, which seeks to reduce vulnerability to floods and minimise loss of life, conducted its demonstration and testing phase from June to September 2005.

The objective of the demonstration phase was to test the technical feasibility of sharing near real-time data. Five regional member countries – Bangladesh,

Bhutan, China, Nepal, and Pakistan – shared hydrometeorological data in near real-time from selected stations through the project website (www.southasianfloods.org) during this phase, with India participating as an observer. ICIMOD facilitated the sharing of flood data through one or more of these options: a web interface, file transfer protocol, and e-mail. During the demonstration phase, data on water level, stream discharge, and rainfall from more than ten stations were shared daily. The design of the flood information system was upgraded based on the initial feedback from users of the system. The experiences from the demonstration phase indicate that the Flood Information System should, in the future, be automated to enable timely submission of data. This phase has successfully demonstrated the project's technical feasibility as well as the willingness of countries to share information beneficial to all.

For more information, on this initiative, please visit the project website, www.southasianfloods.org

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Mandira Shrestha

Demonstrating the flood information system.

Instrumentation tower to study atmospheric 'brown cloud'

The Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX) carried out in February 1999 on the islands of the Maldives revealed a 3 km thick toxic umbrella, or 'brown cloud', hovering over the entire length covering Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka – among the most densely populated places in the world. The findings come from observations gathered by more than 200 scientists supplemented by satellite readings and computer modelling.

The haze, which is 80% the result of human activity, is composed of a grimy cocktail of toxic ash, black carbon, sulfate, nitrates, acids, and aerosols – tiny solid or liquid particles suspended in the atmosphere. The haze can extend far beyond the Indian subcontinent.

Although follow-up studies are needed to unravel the precise role of the brown cloud, preliminary results suggest serious regional and global implications. The blanket of pollution is reducing the amount of solar energy hitting the Earth's surface by as much as 15%. This has a direct effect on agriculture by infringing on the important process of photosynthesis in plants. Heat is trapped in the lower atmosphere, cooling the Earth's surface while heating the atmosphere. This combination of surface cooling and lower atmosphere heating appears to alter the winter monsoon, leading to a sharp decrease in rainfall over northwestern parts of Asia, and an increase in rainfall along the eastern coast

of Asia. Two consecutive droughts were registered in 1999 and 2000 in Pakistan and the northwestern parts of India, with increased flooding in the high rainfall areas of Bangladesh, Nepal, and the northeastern states of India.

Realising the intensity of the problem, and at the initiation of UNEP and coordinated by ICIMOD, Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen and Prof. V. Ramanathan visited Kathmandu in March 2001. The visit was followed by a pilot study. The year-long study was informative; however, a long-term study is needed to find out the exact reasons for the haze. A permanent observatory known as the Nepal Climate Observatory (NCO) was set up at the ICIMOD Headquarters, equipped with instruments to measure solar radiation, rainfall, wind velocity and direction, among others.

Radiation instruments

- Diffused pyranometer (measures 305-2800nm)
- Pyrgeometer (4.5 μm - 42 μm , observations of far-infrared radiation)
- Pyrheliometer (200 nm to 4000 nm, direct solar radiation measurement)
- Global pyranometer (measures 305 nm - 2800 nm)
- Biospherical instrument (BSI) (400 nm - 700 nm, measures photosynthetically available radiation) - used mainly for crops

Meteorological instruments

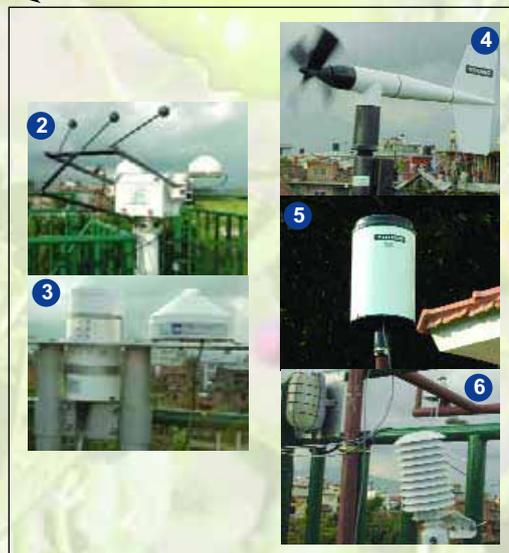
- Air temperature / relative humidity
- Pressure
- Wind direction
- Wind velocity
- Rainfall

The observatory is expected to allow the collection of information on the origins or source of the atmospheric brown cloud.

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Narendra Bajracharya



1. Nepal Climate Observatory (NCO) at ICIMOD
2. Sun tracker (diffused and direct pyranometers)
3. Biospherical instrument/global pyranometer
4. Instruments to measure wind speed and velocity
5. Rain gauge
6. Temperature and relative humidity instruments

New cycle for beekeeping project approved

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) approved Euro 517,000 for the new cycle of the beekeeping project, **'Honeybees of the Himalayas: Promoting Partnerships with Rural Development Organisations and Networks in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas'**. ADA and ICIMOD signed an agreement in this respect on 12 July 2005. The main purpose of the project is 'to contribute to increasing the income of marginalised, rural populations by promoting conservation and sustainable management of indigenous honeybees. The project has identified nine areas including partnership

development, capacity building, awareness raising, networking, *Apis cerana* selection and management, pollination and eco-services of wild bees, marketing and enterprise development, gender mainstreaming, and baseline and impact assessment, which it will promote through strengthened partnerships with rural development organisations. Under the project, activities will be implemented in six countries of the region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, through rural development organisations and technical institutions.

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Project activities in beekeeping begin in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan

The project, **'Honeybees of the Himalayas: Promoting Partnerships with Rural Development Organisations and Networks in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas'** commenced activities from October 2005 in collaboration with partner institutions in regional member countries of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan.

As a first step, the project developed partnership arrangements and signed letters of agreement with various organisations. In Bangladesh, an agreement was signed with the Bangladesh Institute of Apiculture (BIA). In Nepal, an agreement was signed with Alital Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd, Alital, Dadeldhura; with the Annapurna Beekeeping and

Environment Promotion (BEENPRO), Kaski; and with the Centre for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research and Development (CEAPRED) in Kathmandu. In Pakistan, letters of agreement were signed with the Honeybee Research Institute (HBRI), Islamabad; and with Agricultural University (AUP) in Peshawar. The project staff is working to develop partnership arrangements with institutions in Afghanistan, Bhutan, and India to begin activities in these countries. The project intends to identify more organisations in Bangladesh and Pakistan to further expand the scope of beekeeping work.

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Catching up with Mr. A.D. Moddie

The Director General was pleased to have met up with one of ICIMOD's esteemed founding fathers, Mr. A.D. Moddie, earlier this year in Mussoorie, India, at a Himalayan Environment and Tourism Meet. Mr. Moddie remains active in the field of mountain ecosystem conservation, and has published a book on the establishment of ICIMOD, from which the following quotations are taken.



"Between the first walk in the Buddha Jayanti Gardens and the inauguration of ICIMOD ten years down the road in Kathmandu, hope, disappointment, and frustration were our companions. The great encouragement was to find mountain scientists and men of concern all over the world, who became friends and implementers of the idea."

"... and the search has led to more than an international institute known as ICIMOD: it has led to this new consciousness of the holiest of earth's mountain ranges. It is a Himalayan challenge the 20th century has bequeathed to the 21st century in Asia. The Shangrila of a romantic imagination, the long-time Abode of the Gods, has become a high ground of turbulence; earlier geological, now also environmental and technological, political and military."

*'Voices in the Wind', Mountain Environments: The Pursuit of an Idea, 1993
Centre for Development Studies, U.P. Academy of Administration, Nainital, India*

Outreach Activities

ICIMOD takes part in DNPWC Silver Jubilee

ICIMOD took part in a two-day exhibition from 31 August to 1 September 2005 at the Royal Nepal Academy, Kathmandu on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)/Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

Highlighted during the exhibition were ICIMOD's ongoing work in Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) on the Decision Support System (DSS), the Transboundary Corridor concept, Watersheds in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. Also on display were ICIMOD publications, and video films on ICIMOD and partners' community activities as well as a running virtual GIS demonstration on Sagarmatha National Park.

HRH Crown Prince Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev inaugurated the exhibition. HRH Crown Prince spent some time at the ICIMOD stall, taking interest in ICIMOD's work on the east Nepal Corridor to Bhutan, watershed management activities, spatial data on Nepal, the database of mammals and birds, the socioeconomic census report 2001, and the virtual GIS Demonstration of Sagarmatha National Park.



(1) HRH Crown Prince Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev presents ICIMOD, represented by Dr. Madhav Karki, with a certificate of appreciation
(2) Visitors look at some of ICIMOD's work



ICIMOD file photo

On behalf of ICIMOD, Dr. Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General-Programmes, received a certificate of appreciation from DNPWC/Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, HMG/N for ICIMOD's efforts in biodiversity conservation and in the socioeconomic development of buffer zone communities in and around Nepal's protected areas.

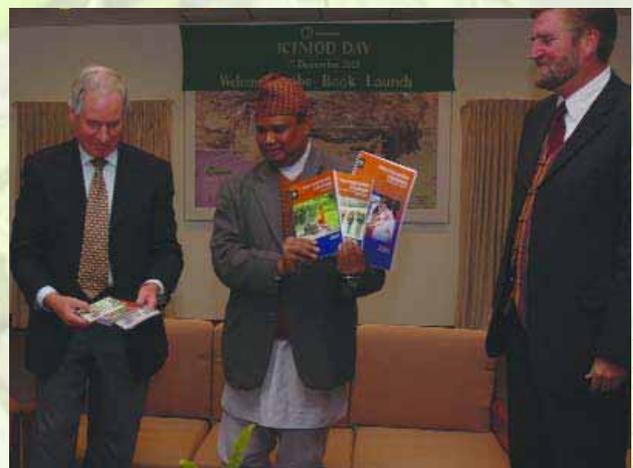
The exhibition was open to the public. Staff from various organisations, universities, colleges, and schools visited the ICIMOD stall, which was another opportunity to promote awareness of ICIMOD's work.

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ICIMOD celebrates 22nd year with book/CD and film launch

ICIMOD marked its 22nd anniversary on 5 December 2005 with a launch of **Women, Energy and Water in the Himalayas**, a set of three books with accompanying CD-ROM versions, and a CD and film on **ICIMOD's Demonstration and Training Centre at Godavari**. Staff, donors, partners including government officials of Nepal, consultants, and the media attended. Dr. Kamal Banskota summed up the contents and significance of the publications and the project on which the experiences, policy guidelines, and the training manual were based. Dr. Eklabya Sharma described the Godavari Training Centre in the context of ICIMOD's work, particularly in NRM and watershed management. Dr. A. Beatrice Murray introduced the other publications produced during the year and 'the other pathways' through which ICIMOD disseminates and shares its work. Putting the publications in context, Dr. Campbell highlighted the statistics on women and their often uncounted contribution to the labour force.

The books and CDs were released by Dr. Ram Prasad Chaudhary, member and previous Chairperson of the ICIMOD Board of Governors and Honourable Member of the National Planning Commission/HMG Nepal; and by Mr. Jochen



The release of 'Women, Energy and Water in the Himalayas'

Narendra Bejracharya

The three books, **'Policy Guidelines', 'Project Learning' and the 'Training of Trainers Manual', as well as the film on 'Women, Energy and Water in the Himalayas'** capture the experiences and lessons from a joint UNEP-ICIMOD project on incorporating the needs and roles of women in water and energy management in the rural areas of Bhutan, India, and Nepal. The project was supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and focused on building the capability of women in the project areas to organise themselves in groups, to identify their own water and energy needs, and to adopt appropriate technologies from a 'basket' of simple and practical possibilities designed to reduce the need for fuel, provide alternative sources of energy, and increase available water close to their homes for drinking and for irrigation.

The project made an impact on the lives of the women in the project areas. They developed their own solutions to their most pressing energy and water needs. Many have used the time they saved to start income generating activities. They also became active members of their communities. The project demonstrated that the issue is not merely which technologies best serve the needs of women, but also how best to enable them to choose from among options those that meet their needs and improve their livelihoods. The Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) in Bhutan, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in India, and the Centre for Rural Technology (CRT/N) in Nepal were project partners.

The **CD-ROM and film on ICIMOD's Demonstration and Training Centre at Godavari** (which can now be viewed on the ICIMOD website) share ICIMOD's knowledge and findings from more than a decade of work on sustainable mountain farming. The Centre was set up on the southern slopes of the Kathmandu Valley in 1993 and, from the heavily degraded slope it once was, has been transformed into a combination of forest, crop-bearing terraces with contour hedgerows, and orchards of citrus and other fruit trees. A wide range of agricultural technologies and income generating activities are demonstrated at the site, together with water harvesting techniques and renewable energy technologies in collaboration with Practical Action (ITDG)/Nepal, the Centre for Energy and Environment, the Centre for Rural Technology/Nepal, and others. The Centre also has off-site demonstration and training activities in local villages in collaboration with Educate the Children/Nepal. The site's activities reflect the integrated nature of mountain farming, where the growing of cereals and other crops is combined with animal husbandry and forestry in a single self-sustaining system.

The interactive CD provides descriptions and summaries of the activities at the site and thus an overview of the different components of integrated farming in the mid hill areas of the Himalayan region, and of feasible and effective possibilities for improved mountain farming. It is richly illustrated with photos and video clips, a slide show, and an interactive map. The film provides a walk-through of the site, with illustrations and discussions of many different activities.

Kenneweg, Chairperson of the ICIMOD Support Group and Head of Division 203 of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Dr. Chaudhary congratulated ICIMOD and UNEP for the joint initiative and thanked SIDA for the financial support. Mr. Kenneweg saw the books as "important pieces of

work on what has been done and what lies ahead" and underscored their usefulness and relevance in the South Asian mountain region context. ICIMOD hosted lunch for staff and guests to cap the anniversary celebration.

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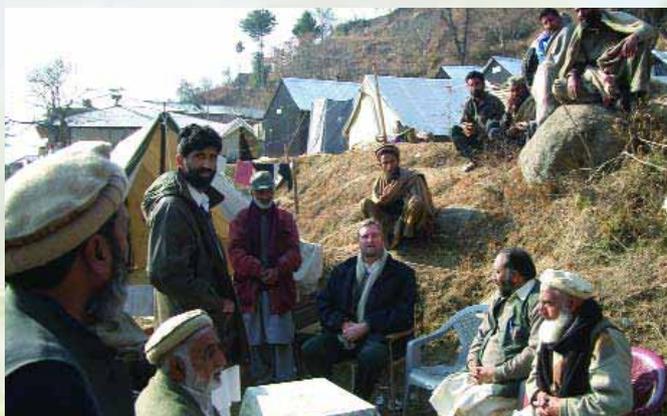
ICIMOD's long-term response to the South Asian earthquake in Pakistan

In December 2005, with the full support of the Board of Governors, ICIMOD fielded a team to assist the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL), Government of Pakistan, to draw up a project proposal on rebuilding the livelihood assets of the people living in the earthquake-affected areas. The worst affected areas lie in the mountainous region of the country and the Board considered it appropriate for ICIMOD to contribute to the rebuilding process, given the Centre's experience in addressing mountain livelihood and environmental

issues. The team visited earthquake-affected areas in both the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Kashmir to gain first-hand insights into the challenges facing the earthquake-affected communities as well as to make an assessment of the potential contributions that ICIMOD could make. During the visit, the team met relevant officials from the government, donor agencies, and non-government organisations in Islamabad, Peshawar, Muzaffarabad, and affected communities in Mansehra (NWFP) and Bagh districts (Kashmir).

At the end of the visit, the ICIMOD team formulated a draft project proposal entitled '**REAL-B3: Rebuilding Earthquake Affected Livelihoods - Building Back Better.**' The document drew extensively on the assessment of losses and damage in the agriculture and livestock sectors carried out by FAO/MinFAL, and the strategic framework for rehabilitation outlined therein. While identifying potential interventions, the team analysed the fit between ICIMOD's competence and the priorities identified by the affected communities, and the policy and strategic guidance given by the MinFAL and the governments of NWFP and Kashmir. Based on this analysis, the following interventions were proposed:

- Livestock production (feed and fodder development, shelter, and backyard farms)
- Crop production (improved seeds, agronomic practices, integrated pest and nutrient management)



The Director General confers with earthquake victims in Hilkot, Pakistan

proven to be socially acceptable and economically more efficient than traditional practices. These include ways and means of substantially increasing farm income, reducing pressure on natural resources, and making more efficient use of water.

The project is proposed to be implemented through the establishment of four nodal sites (adopting the Hilkot model) serving as testing, demonstration, and training centres, from where proven technologies and best practices could be taken up to scale in the larger project area. If fully funded, the project can benefit 80,000 earthquake-affected farm households in the districts of Mansehra and Battagram in NWFP and Bagh and Muzaffarabad in Kashmir.

On 26 December, the Director General of ICIMOD joined the team and had further meetings with the Secretary of MinFAL, the government



Sample of a tent through the efforts of ICIMOD, the Mountain Forum and The Mountain Institute

Narendra Bajracharya

- Income diversification (orchard management, beekeeping, medicinal plants)
- Land rehabilitation (bio-engineering, terrace repairs)
- Forest management (community forestry, agro-forestry)
- Water management (water harvesting, water use efficiency)
- Renewable energy (bio-briquettes, biogas, and solar)
- Farmer support services (farm mechanisation, input supply)
- Institution building (community-based organisations, cooperatives and groups, women's participation, capacity building of partners)

The proposal will provide an opportunity for ICIMOD to scale up over nine years of action research work carried out under the PARDYP Project in Hilkot Watershed, which was also hit by the earthquake. Many of the interventions proposed above have already been tested there and have

representatives of NWFP and Kashmir, as well as some donor agencies. On 29 December the team presented its preliminary report to MinFAL and representatives of other agencies at a debriefing meeting chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture. Based on feedback from this meeting, ICIMOD is now revising the project proposal and is planning to launch pre-project activities in the coming months while working to identify donor partners.

In addition, the MENRIS Programme of ICIMOD is working with the National Centre of Excellence for Geology (NCEG), the University of Peshawar, to provide technical inputs for the earthquake vulnerability and hazard mapping of the earthquake-affected areas. From 2-9 January 2006, a team from MENRIS visited Peshawar and Islamabad, where meetings were held with partner agencies (MINFAL, the Pakistan and the National Agricultural Research Councils [PARC and NARC], the Water Resources Research Institute, the University of Peshawar, the



Tent communities rise over the earthquake-affected areas.

Ministry of Environment, and the Rural Support Programme Network) and with donors, JICA, ADB, and EU. The team conducted field assessments with NCEG, WRRI, and the NARC staff in the earthquake-affected areas. The visit focused on how innovative approaches and geospatial tools such as GIS, RS, and GPS, could be utilised in rehabilitation and reconstruction. Initial discussions were held with national partners and a three-week training course is being put together by NCEG and ICIMOD in March for institutions involved in the rehabilitation. The course will tackle earthquake vulnerability and multi-hazard risk assessment using space technology and geospatial application tools. This will be

followed by a one-day policy workshop and poster exhibition. From a longer term capacity building perspective, a concept proposal is being developed to contribute to Pakistan's efforts to strengthen partner institutions, to utilise modern planning and decision support tools, and to identify approaches useful in rehabilitation and reconstruction.

An earthquake portal containing geospatial information knowledge resources has been created on the ICIMOD homepage:

<<http://www.icimodgis.net/Pak%20earthquake/index.htm>>

Rehabilitating mountain livelihoods after the earthquake will need to look beyond returning to the status quo; it should seek to address the root causes of mountain people's vulnerability and help build their ability to seize opportunities and cope with future threats. Adopting this approach requires understanding the diversity of mountain peoples and communities, especially in relation to their livelihoods.

ICIMOD's rehabilitation plan is based on a vision that moves mountain people beyond the problems of the past. The Centre believes that rehabilitation is not merely about giving people jobs; it must address fundamental social, economic, and environmental reforms.

Pema Gyamtsho, pgyamtsho@icimod.org

Recruitment Announcement: Director General

The Board of Governors of ICIMOD is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of Director General in 2007 following the completion of the current Director General's second term.

ICIMOD is the leading international institute for sustainable mountain development and expertise on the Himalayan region. ICIMOD was established in 1983 and has its headquarters in Kathmandu, Nepal. It is an internationally funded, not-for-profit organisation.

The Director General reports directly to the Board and leads a strong interdisciplinary and multinational staff. The position requires a highly experienced professional who has:

- an established reputation and experience in senior management including managing scientific research and development programmes
- a broad understanding of the biological, environmental and social sciences underlying sustainable mountain development
- a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline or equivalent experience
- working experience in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region
- an in-depth knowledge of the main development and policy issues in the region
- demonstrated success in raising international funds

The successful candidate will have excellent communication skills in written and spoken English and will be able to communicate his/her vision to a wide range of stakeholders.

The anticipated date of joining is January 2007. ICIMOD offers an internationally competitive compensation package. It is an equal opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality. For further information on ICIMOD and a full job description visit www.icimod.org

Send a full CV in confidence with a covering letter and the contact information for three or more professional referees by e-mail to Bourrier International Consultants Inc: bici@sympatico.ca by 15 April 2006.

THE MOUNTAIN FORUM SECRETARIAT

Renewing partnerships

The Mountain Forum Secretariat has renewed collaboration with its closest partner organisation, the Mountain Partnership. The Mountain Forum will support the Mountain Partnership through specific activities such as e-conferences, the development of a resource kit on information and communication technology (ICT) for Mountain Partnership members, among other areas.

The Mountain Forum Secretariat also strengthened its ties with the *Mountain Research and Development (MRD) Journal* by planning a joint agenda for 2006. A joint publication similar to the *Mountain Agenda series* produced in preparation for the celebrations of the International Year of Mountains in 2002 is being planned in view of the upcoming IYM+5 in 2007. In addition, MFS, in collaboration with the regional nodes, will facilitate contributions to MRD's Journal from Mountain Forum members, and subsidised subscriptions to the Journal.

E-consultations

Under the overall moderation of Dr. Pralad Yonzon, Chair of the Resources Himalaya Foundation, MFS conducted a six-week regional e-consultation (22 August-2 September) on Biodiversity in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) for the members of Mountain Partnership's HKH Initiative and other interested organisations.

A second e-consultation was conducted for the Mountain Partnership in collaboration with Mountain Forum's regional nodes from 17-21 October. This e-consultation - moderated by Dr. Peter Trutmann, Coordinator of the Global Mountain Programme - was provided to members of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain (SARD-M) thematic initiative of the Mountain Partnership as a follow-up to their activities.

Node Manager for the African Mountain Forum

Mr. Moses Musinguzi has joined MF as the node manager of the African Mountain Forum (AMF). Moses is from Uganda, and is currently completing his Ph.D. studies at Uppsala University in Sweden with a focus on Spatial Data Infrastructures in GIS. With Moses on board, Mountain Forum looks forward to AMF taking its rightful place as a strong and active community working towards sustainable mountain development in Africa.

Information services

New MF website

We have recently revamped our website <www.mtnforum.org>. It now features an updated visual design, better site navigation, and enhanced security features. The site is more accessible for users with limited internet access. Images have been kept to a minimum, but if users still find it difficult to download, the website <<http://www.loband.org>> allows browsing of a text-only version of the MF (or any other) website.

Restructuring the online library

To provide world-class services to members, the Mountain Forum Online Library is in the final stages of redevelopment. The new library will be keyword-searchable and will feature standard formatting for all documents, bibliographic information for every entry, searchable annotated bibliographies, and well-organised web resources. The online library is expected to go public in January 2006.

Important changes to MF membership

As of January 2006, some MF services, including discussion lists, the online library, and the membership directory, will be accessible to members only. Membership will remain free, of course. The reason for these changes is that until now, discussion list subscribers have been 'hidden' participants who have not enjoyed the same benefits as members, even though many have contributed a great deal. We have also been unable to accurately tell our funders about who is using MF, and from where. As members, you will help MF to report more accurate statistics to current and future funders, who will help us secure the long-term stability of MF for everyone. In return, members benefit in various ways. To find out more, please visit our website <<http://www.mtnforum.org>> or write to us at secretariat@mtforum.org.

Only registered members will continue to be subscribed to MF discussion lists. If you are currently subscribed to one or more list(s), you are kindly requested to complete one of the membership forms (individual and/or organisational) available on the left sidebar on the page found at the following address: <<http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/mem.cfm>>. If you have any questions or need clarification on the re-registration process, please contact us at membership@mtforum.org.

Mountain Forum Secretariat, c/o ICIMOD, Khumaltar, GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal



MF and ICIMOD staff at the World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis

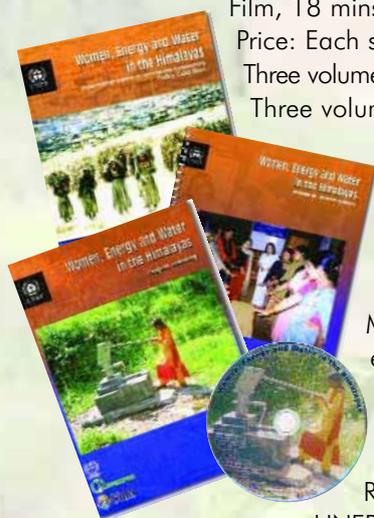
Recent ICIMOD Publications

Major documents published between September and December 2005 are shown below. The three prices quoted are applicable to developed countries, developing countries, and ICIMOD's regional member countries respectively, and include post and packing (p&p). Publications are available without p&p 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>.

Women, Energy and Water in the Himalayas

- Project Learning 113p
- Integration of Women in Planning and Management - Policy Guidelines 64p
- Training Manual 107p
- Women, Energy and Water in the Himalayas (DVD Film, 18 mins.)

Price: Each separately: US\$ 15, 10, 7.50
Three volumes with DVD: US\$ 45, 30, 22.50
Three volumes only: US\$ 34, 22, 16



The three publications and DVD film on Women, Energy and Water in the Himalayas - Policy Guidelines, Project Learning, and Training of Trainers Manual encapsulate the experiences and lessons from a recent project on 'Incorporating the Needs and Roles of Women in Water and Energy Management in Rural Areas in South Asia'. The UNEP and ICIMOD Project was supported

by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and was carried out by local partners in selected sites in Bhutan, India, and Nepal. The project focused on building women's capacity to organise themselves, to identify and prioritise their water and energy needs, to introduce technologies to reduce the time and effort involved in water and energy management, and to use the time saved in income generating activities.

Project Learning summarises the project rationale and approach used, the implementation process, and the impacts in the project areas. **Policy Guidelines** highlights the importance of bringing the gender perspective to water and energy policy analysis and design, and describes a conceptual framework for developing gender sensitive water and energy policies. The **ToT Manual** provides learning tools for carrying out gender analysis, mobilising communities, identifying prioritised needs and solutions, and designing and using gender sensitive participatory action planning in water and energy and other related fields. The **film** tells the story of the project and brings to life the problems outlined, and

the technologies and solutions described in the other publications. A striking discovery was that a few simple technologies in the water and energy sectors had a substantial impact on the lives of the women even within the short time frame of the project. A women-centric approach focusing on the expressed needs of women in energy and water can make a difference in reducing poverty and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. It is a powerful entry point for engendering development and empowering women.

The publications will be useful to policy makers, planners, and development specialists in national institutions, NGOs, and donor agencies engaged in engendering development and empowering women, especially in mountain areas. Policy makers and rural development practitioners can pick from these experiences those that are useful or suitable to their particular needs for replication and scaling up.

ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre, Godavari, CD-ROM & DVD Film (16 mins.)

Price: Each separately, US\$ 10, 7, 5



The ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre at Godavari was set up in March 1993 on 30 ha of land provided by His Majesty's Government of Nepal. It is used to test, select, and demonstrate technologies and practices for sustainable development; to train farmers and those who work with them; and as a repository for plant germplasm resources and floral and faunal biodiversity. The film and interactive CD share more than a decade of knowledge, findings, and activities from the Centre.

The CD describes the activities at the site grouped under thematic areas including vegetation, soil and water management, income generation, livestock and fish farming, biodiversity, renewable energy technologies, community outreach, scientific research, training and visitors, and publications. It is richly illustrated with photos and video clips, a slide show, and an interactive map. This is complemented by the film which walks the viewer through the Centre, with illustrations of the many activities taking place there. Brief interviews underline

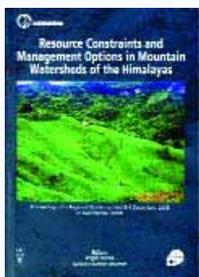
ICIMOD publications on-line – order direct at

<http://www.icimod.org/publications/pubmenu.htm>

<http://www.panaseanemall.org/shop/icimod.htm>

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

the importance of these techniques for farmers, and clips filmed outside the site illustrate how methodologies have been adapted and adopted by local people. Together the publications provide a view of the ICIMOD site, but also an overview of the components of integrated farming in the mid hill areas of the Himalayan region, and feasible and effective possibilities for improvements.

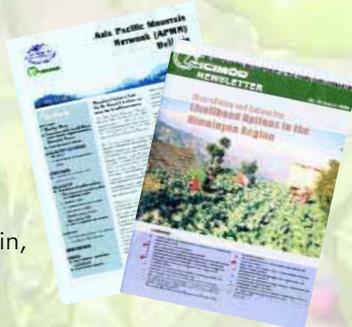


White, R.; Bhuchar, S.K. (eds) (2005) **Resource Constraints and Management Options in Mountain Watersheds of the Himalayas.** 204p. ISBN:92-9115-143-2. Price: \$ 20, 15, 10

ICIMOD's People and Resource Dynamics in Mountain Watersheds of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas Project (PARDYP), funded by SDC, IDRC, and ICIMOD, has been carrying out research in middle mountain watersheds since 1996, focusing on natural resource degradation and community-based options to rehabilitate degraded lands and increase on-farm productivity. This is a compilation of papers presented at a wrap-up workshop for Phase 2 of the Project in December 2003. It assembles three years of research in the five benchmark watersheds by the country teams in China, India, Pakistan, and Nepal, together with the innovative work by others. The papers identify common watershed issues, especially land use intensification and soil nutrient deficiencies, drinking and irrigation water shortages, and water quality problems. Soil erosion and forest degradation were found to be less significant than previously thought. Although agricultural productivity remains a significant issue, opportunities were shown for increasing farm productivity using a proper mix of simple technologies and institutional linkages. The proceedings should be a valuable resource for researchers, development workers, policy makers, and students of natural resource management working in the Himalayan region.

General Publications

1. Newsletter No. 48: Diversifying and Enhancing Livelihood Options in the Himalayan Region
2. Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) Bulletin, Autumn 2005
3. Year Planner 2006
4. ICIMOD Calendar 2006



Other publications by ICIMOD staff (September to December 2005)

Chalise, S.R.; Shrestha, M.L.; Budhathoki, K.P.; Shrestha, M.S. (2005) 'Glacio-hydrological Aspects of Climate Change in the Himalayas: Mitigation of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in Nepal.' In, *Regional Hydrological Impacts of Climate Change - Impact Assessment and Decision Making*, pp 309-316. IAHS Publ. 295. Wallingford, UK: IAHS Press

Chettri, N.; Deb, D.C.; Sharma, E.; Jackson, R. (2005) 'The Relationship Between Bird Communities and Habitat: A Study Along a Trekking Corridor in the Sikkim Himalaya.' In, *Mountain Research and Development*. 25(3): 235-243

Immerzeel, W.W.; Quiroz, R.A.; De Jong, S.M. (2005) 'Understanding Precipitation Patterns and Land Use Interaction in Tibet Using Harmonic Analysis of SPOT VGT-S10 NDVI Time Series.' In, *International Journal of Remote Sensing*, 26(11): 2281-2296

Jodha, N.S. (2005) 'Adaptation Strategies Against Growing Environmental and Social Vulnerabilities in Mountain Areas.' In, *Himalayan Journal of Sciences*, 3(5): 33-42

Jodha, N.S. (2005) 'Economic Globalisation and its Repercussions for Fragile Mountains and Communities in the Himalayas.' In, Huber, U.M.; Bugmann, H.K.M.; Reasoner, M.A. (eds) *Global Change And Mountain Regions: An Overview of Current Knowledge*, pp 583-592. London: Springer

Kerkhoff, E.; Erni, C. (eds) (2005) 'Shifting Cultivation and Wildlife Conservation: A Debate.' In, *Indigenous Affairs*, 2: 22-29. Copenhagen: International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs

Rasul, G. (2005) State Policies and Land Use in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. In *IIED Gatekeeper*, 119. 22. London: International Institute for Environment and Development.

Reid, R.S.; Xu, Jianchu; Geist, H. (2005) 'Linking Land-Use/Cover Change Science and Policy.' In, *IHDP [International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change] Newsletter* 3/2005

Sherchan, U. (2005) 'Mountain Forum: Network of Networks.' In, *Information for Development [i4D]*. 3(8):18 <<http://www.i4donline.net/aug05/mountain.asp>>

Sharma, E.; Chettri, N. (2005) 'ICIMOD's Transboundary Biodiversity Management Initiative in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas.' In, *Mountain Research and Development*. 25(3):278-281

Shrestha, M.S.; Chhophel, K. (2005) 'Landslide Dambursts in the Himalaya: A Case Study of Tsatichhu Lake in Bhutan.' In, *Proceedings of the International Symposium on Landslide Hazard in Orogenic Zone from the Himalaya to Island Arc in Asia*, 25-26 September, Kathmandu, pp 139-149. Kathmandu: Nepal Landslide Society

ICIMOD E-news

<http://www.icimod.org/enews/index.htm>

- Eighth issue: October/November 2005
- Ninth issue: December 2005/January 2006

New Staff Members

ICIMOD attracts competent professionals in their respective fields from around the region and the world. During the period the following new staff joined ICIMOD.

Mats Eriksson, Senior Water Specialist, WHEM



Dr. Mats Eriksson holds a Ph.D. in Geography and a Ph.Lic. in Physical Geography from Stockholm University, Sweden. For a number of years he worked as a glaciologist on glacier mass balance studies and ice depth measurements at the Tarfala Research station in the Kebnekaise Mountains, northern Sweden. After 'getting his feet a bit cold' he changed the glacial environment for the semi-arid savannahs of East Africa where he worked on soil erosion, landscape development, the palaeoclimate, and environmental change.

In 1998, he took up the position of Programme Officer at the Water Division, in the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in Stockholm. In this position he worked with water resources management in a regional and transboundary context in southern Africa and was responsible for the Swedish support to basin-wide projects in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Water Governance, in particular the Zambezi (running through eight riparian states), the Okavango (covering three riparian states), and the Pungwe Rivers (two riparian states).

Dr. Eriksson has carried out research in Scandinavia, East Africa, Australia, the Himalaya, Spitsbergen, and the Patagonian Andes, and has published some 25 scientific papers. More recent research in Australia covered fluvial history and changes in river behaviour in relation to land use and climate change.

Michael Kollmair, Programme Manager, CEGG



Dr. Michael Kollmair joined ICIMOD in November 2005 as a Programme Manager for the Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance (CEGG) Division.

Dr. Kollmair has a Ph.D. in Geography from Giessen University in Germany, and was a Lecturer and Senior Researcher at the Human Geography Division of the Department of Geography in Zurich, Switzerland before joining ICIMOD. As a Project Coordinator for the SDC-supported National Centre of Competency in Research (NCCR) North-South development research project, he worked mainly in South and Central Asia. He has also been associated with ICIMOD's PARDYP project since 2003 as a Scientific Advisor.

Working for more than 15 years in the region, especially in Nepal, Dr. Kollmair has experience in a broad area of development studies and in the application of qualitative and quantitative methods with interdisciplinary and intercultural teams. His main research activities are in the social implications of nature conservation projects including questions of equity, participation, marginalisation, and issues of international labour migration.

Manjari Mehta, Associate Scientist, CEGG



Dr. Manjari Mehta recently joined ICIMOD in the capacity of Gender Specialist with the Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance (CEGG) Programme. She has a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Boston University, and taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for seven years before returning to India in 2004. She has conducted research on changing patterns of agriculture (Garhwal, Uttaranchal), traditional systems of water management (Himachal Pradesh), and the revival of trans-Himalayan trade and weaving traditions (Kumaon, Uttaranchal) with a persistent focus on gender. At ICIMOD she will be working on addressing and integrating gender concerns into a variety of programmes and projects.

Staff Departures

Anil Shrestha, Consultant, PARDYP, 4 November - 31 December 2005

Che Tao, Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (CAREERI), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou, P.R. China, 15 August to 14 September 2005

Huang Jie, Tibet Academy of Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Sciences, TAR, P.R. China, 15 - 30 July 2005

Jacob F. Ferdinand, Consultant, WHEM, 6 June - 5 December 2005

Sanjay Kumar Madhani, Information and Communication Specialist, 20 December 2002 - 19 December 2005

ICIMOD Staff Members

As of December 2005

Directorate

Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, Director General
Dr. Madhav Bahadur Karki, Deputy Director General - Programmes
Mr. Milan Raj Tuladhar, Director, Administration & Finance
Support Staff: Ms. Tika Laxmi Gurung, Ms. Anjali Shrestha, Ms. Prema Thapa

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

Dr. Eklabya Sharma, Senior Agricultural Specialist/Programme Manager
Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Agriculture Resources Policy Specialist
Ms. Elisabeth E. Kerkhoff, Agroforestry Specialist
Dr. Nakul Chettri, Transboundary & Biodiversity Specialist
Dr. Yan Zhaoli, Rangelands Specialist
Mr. Muhammad Ismail, Assistant Research Officer-RRP II
Mr. Samden Lama Sherpa, Godavari Centre Manager
Ms. Ramkumari Shrestha, Garden Consultant
Mr. Roger John White, Regional Programme Coordinator, PARDYP
Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Bhuchar, Assistant Programme Coordinator, PARDYP
Mr. Keshar Man Sthapit, Country Coordinator, PARDYP
Mr. Anil Shrestha, Consultant, PARDYP
Support Staff : Ms. Sami Joshi, Ms. Neetu Ghale, Ms. Bandana Shakya, Mr. Pradeep Man Dangol, Mr. Madhav Prasad Dhakal, Mr. Bhawani Shankar Dangol, Ms. Samma Shakya, Mr. Giri Bahadur Shrestha, Mr. Jiwan Tamang

Agriculture and Rural Income Diversification (ARID)

Dr. Kamal Banskota, Senior Environment Resource Economist/Programme Manager
Dr. Narpal Singh Jodha, Senior Associate Scientist/Policy Analyst
Mr. Bikash Sharma, Energy Specialist
Mr. Dyutiman Choudhary, Enterprise Development Specialist
Dr. Ester van der Blonk, Eco-tourism Expert
Dr. John Hummel, Visiting Scientist
Dr. Farooq Ahmad, Project Coordinator, Beekeeping Project
Dr. Uma Partap, Research Officer/Pollination Specialist, Beekeeping
Dr. Surendra Raj Joshi, Action Research Officer, Beekeeping
Mr. Min Bahadur Gurung, Institutional Development Officer, Beekeeping
Support Staff: Mr. Anirudha Nath Shukla, Mr. Satananda Upadhaya, Mr. Rajendra Shah, Ms. Shova Bhandari, Ms. Pratiba Chhetri

Water, Hazards, & Environmental Management (WHEM)

Dr. Xu Jianchu, Ethno-ecologist/Programme Manager
Mr. Mats Eriksson, Senior Environment Economist for Water Resources
Ms. Mandira Shrestha, Water Resources Specialist
Mr. Jacob Fritz Ferdinand, Consultant
Support Staff: Mr. Rajendra Lal Shilpakar, Ms. Sarita Joshi, Mr. Vijay Ratan Khadgi

Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance (CEGG)

Mr. Michael Kollmair, Programme Manager, Senior Social Scientist
Dr. Nani Ram Subedi, Coordinator, Decentralised & Local Governance
Ms. Radhika Gupta, Coordinator, Equity and Rights
Mr. Krishna Prasad Oli, Regional Coordinator, Strengthening ABSIBIO-EH
Mr. Joy Dasgupta, Assistant Coordinator, ABSIBIO-EH
Dr. Mark Turin, Visiting Scientist
Dr. Manjari Mehta, Associate Scientist

Policy & Partnership Development (PPD)

Ms. Srabani Roy, Programme & Project Development Specialist
Mr. Prem Krishna Manandhar, Programme Officer
Dr. Golam Rasul, Policy Development Specialist
Mr. Farid Ahmad, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Mr. C.N. Anil, Assistant Coordinator
Support Staff: Ms. Samjhana Thapa, Ms. Mamata Shrestha

Information and Knowledge Management (IKM)

Dr. Zbigniew Mikolajuk, Senior Knowledge Management Specialist/Programme Manager

Information Management, Communications, and Outreach (IMCO)/IKM

Dr. A. Beatrice Murray, Senior Editor
Ms. Joyce M. Mendez, Publications Editor
Mr. Sushil Raj Pandey, Systems' Officer
Mr. Sanjay Madhani, Information & Communication Specialist

Ms. Nira Gurung, Communications Officer
Support Staff: Mr. Saisab Pradhan, Mr. Bishwanath (Sudas) Sharma, Mr. Asha Kaji Thaku, Mr. Dharma Ratna Maharjan, Ms. Punam Pradhan, Mr. Deependra Tandukar, Ms. Shanti Prabha Bajracharya, Mr. Ram Sharan Thapa, Mr. Anil Jha, Mr. Shiva Hari Khatri
Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN):
Ms. Sugam Nepal, Node Manager, APMN

Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information Systems (MENRIS)/IKM

Mr. Basanta Shrestha, Division Head
Mr. Pradeep Mool, Remote Sensing Analyst
Mr. Cung Chin Thang, Associate Expert - GIS/NR
Mr. Sushil Man Pradhan, GIS Analyst
Mr. Birendra Bajracharya, GIS Analyst
Mr. Samjwal Ratna Bajracharya, Geomorphologist/GIS Analyst
Ms. Bidya Pradhan Banmali, Environment/Air Pollution Officer
Support Staff: Mr. Govinda Joshi, Ms. Monica Moktan, Ms. Mandakini Bhatta, Mr. Lokap Rajbhandari, Mr. Gauri Shankar Dongol, Mr. Rajan Man Bajracharya

Global Mountain Forum Secretariat (Hosted by ICIMOD)

Dr. Ana Maria Ponce, Executive Secretary
Mr. Prashant Sharma, Deputy Executive Secretary
Mr. Celine Curi, Programme Development Officer
Mr. Sani Malam Karami, Information Technologies Officer
Mr. Ujol Sherchan, Programme Officer, Information Services & Content Development
Support Staff: Ms. Anju Rana

Administration and Finance

Budget & Finance Section

Mr. Rajendra Prakash Mali, Budget & Finance Officer
Mr. Kiran Man Shrestha, Ms. Prabha Raj Shrestha, Mr. Nabindra Raj Shrestha, Ms. Pramila Shrestha, Mr. Akil Nepal
Store Unit: Ms. Jenny Vaidya, Mr. Rabindra Ranjit

Personnel Section

Mr. Chandra Bir Singh Kansakar, Personnel Officer
Ms. Shree Mani Amatya, Ms. Nani Keshari Bajracharya

Communications Unit

Ms. Ayushma R. L. Basnyat, Mr. Pashupati Sadasankar

Security and Maintenance Unit

Mr. Prem Dhoj Malla, Mr. Krishna Tamang, Mr. Ram Bahadur K.C., Mr. Ram Singh Rai, Mr. Birkha Jirel, Mr. Kishore Maharjan, Mr. Babukaji Thapa, Mr. Shambhu Thapa

Procurement and Equipment Maintenance Support

Mr. Niranjana Khanal, Procurement & Equipment Maintenance Officer
Mr. Narendra Bajracharya, Electrical Overseer

Photocopy Unit: Mr. Shyam Shrestha, Mr. Ganga Rana

Travel & Hospitality Section

Mr. Rajen Upreti, Travel Officer
Mr. Rishi Ram K.C.

Motorpool Unit

Mr. Mohan Krishna Shrestha, Mr. Kishore Shrestha, Mr. Ram Lal Maharjan, Mr. Bishnu Magar, Mr. Krishna Maharjan, Mr. Pancha Narayan Maharjan, Mr. Jai Bahadur Subedi, Mr. Sabak Singh, Mr. Dhurba K.C., Mr. Sudama K.C., Mr. Chinikaji Maharjan, Mr. Ram Maharjan

New Associates, Consultants, and Interns

Dr. Nirmal K. Bhattari, Consultant, ARID; Ms. J. Mijin Cha, Consultant, CEGG; Mr. Bijay Kumar Singh, Consultant, PPD
Mr. Sagar Ratna Bajracharya, Consultant, MENRIS
Mr. Rajesh Thapa, Consultant, MENRIS
Ms. Anupa Lamichhane, Consultant, MENRIS
Mr. Anil Shrestha, PARDYP; Mr. Prabhat Kumar, MENRIS, Mr. Jay Karmacharya, Intern-MENRIS; Ms. Prajna Regmi, Intern-MENRIS; Ms. Srijana Limbu, Intern-MENRIS, Ms. Dipit Thapa, Intern-NRM; Mr. Niraj Kakati, Intern-NRM, Mr. Bastian Flury, Intern-PARDYP-NRM; Ms. Alina Tamrakar, Intern, ARID
Ms. Prabina Dahal, Intern-Personnel;
Mr. Tek Jung Mahat, Intern-Mountain Forum