

# Linking ICIMOD's Programme and its Impacts to the Millennium Development Goals

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	How ICIMOD programme initiatives undertaken by the ARID programme are contributing to achieving the MDGs
<b>GOAL 1</b> <b>Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme initiatives address the needs of landless people and focus on labour intensive activities and high value products such as beekeeping and non-timber forest products [NTFPs]. The Programme promotes technologies accessible to the mountain poor that help them save time, reduce the drudgery of work, and enhance their productivity, allowing them to diversify rural farm and non-farm incomes in order to enhance the well-being of their families. The Programme further links mountain people to markets through projects in energy entrepreneurship, honeybee production and pollination services, and other micro-enterprises based on mountain niche products like NTFPs and mountain tourism.</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 2</b> <b>Achieve universal primary education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Programme's thrust to enhance and diversify rural incomes and energy projects that reduce the hours and burden of collecting water allows parents to engage in other productive enterprise that help send their children to school.</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 3</b> <b>Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender concern is a crosscutting element in all programme initiatives. The Programme focus on capacity building of women through various training programmes and awareness raising activities contributes to reducing gender disparities at different levels.</li> <li>By supporting income-generating activities, the Programme also aims to empower women and men equally, both socially and economically</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 4</b> <b>Reduce child mortality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved access to clean energy and water through the programme's energy projects has reduced indoor air pollution and waterborne diseases in the project areas. Projects have also increased resistance among children against infectious diseases through honey and traditional health care systems based on medicinal plants and NTFPs in remote mountain communities.</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 5</b> <b>Improve maternal health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme initiatives have reduced the health hazards women face from indoor air pollution and the burden and drudgery associated with carrying heavy loads (of fuelwood and water). Provision of traditional health care systems based on medicinal plants and honey has improved women's health in project areas.</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 6</b> <b>Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness raising and social mobilisation activities are integral components of participatory action research in ICIMOD programmes. A special focus on the cultural aspect of mountain tourism and traditional health care systems has the potential to heal a number of diseases affecting mountain women and men and to raise awareness for disease prevention.</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 7</b> <b>Ensure environmental sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental sustainability is the touchstone and guiding principle for the design and implementation of any programme within ICIMOD. Environmentally-friendly renewable energy technologies are integrated into initiatives such as tourism and enterprise development. For example, planting ensures slope stability, retards soil erosion, promotes carbon sequestration and other environmental services; renewable technologies reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; bees pollinate and interact with plants and ensure gene flow; and community-based conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants and NTFPs in farming systems enhances overall ecosystem health and mitigates threats to biodiversity by improving soil structure, water infiltration, and crop productivity on rugged mountain slopes.</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 8</b> <b>Develop a global partnership for development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships with public and private sectors and NGOs in ICIMOD regional member countries to pilot, implement, and upscale good practices and make an impact at the policy level contribute to the goal of global partnership for development.</li> <li>The programme has engaged in partnerships with international agencies such as ENERGIA International, SNV, UNEP, and the University of Twente for networking and advocacy to mainstream its policy initiatives. It has engaged in other global and regional partnerships such as the rainwater partnership secretariat, the regional medicinal and aromatic plant networks through the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme in Asia (MAPPA), and the global mountain partnerships focusing on sustainable agriculture and rural development and improving the quality and efficiency of mountain products and enterprises.</li> </ul>

\* Agriculture and Rural Income Diversification (ARID) is one of ICIMOD's integrated programmes to address mountain poverty and mountain development.

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