

Centre News



ICIMOD celebrates World Environment Day June 2005

ICIMOD celebrated World Environment Day June 2005 around this year's theme, 'Green Cities, Plan for the Planet!' by organising and sponsoring, independently and in partnership with others, various programme activities.

ICIMOD staffs planted trees in the new Headquarters grounds as part of the Centre's contribution to the 'greening' of Kathmandu Valley.



ICIMOD also co-sponsored, a three-day inter-school Environmental Quiz among schools in the Lalitpur district in Nepal in partnership with the neighbouring Mahendra Adarsha Vidyashram (MAV) Higher Secondary Boarding School. Sixteen schools, seven government and nine private participated, showcasing their best and brightest students' knowledge of environmental issues. It was also an occasion for the schools to mingle and interact. The quiz's subject raised awareness among students in the audience, of environment issues in Nepal and around the world.

Mr. Huta Ram Vaidya, Nepal's pioneering environmental activist who started the 'Save the Bagmati River' campaign in 1991, calling public attention to the pollution of the sacred river in Kathmandu, was the opening day speaker. Dr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, graced the contest's third and final round and awarded the prizes. ICIMOD Director General,

ICIMOD Director General (above) and staff (below) plant trees at the ICIMOD grounds during World Environment Day..

Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, and Deputy Director General-Programmes, Dr. Madhav Karki were present to underscore the value the Centre gives to environmental education and young people as the vital link to the survival and sustainability of the planet. A professional quizmaster from Kantipur Television presided over the grand finals. Quiz winners brought home cash prizes, other participants were given certificates and tokens of appreciation for participating, and schools received packages of books.

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Winning schools

1. Adarsha Vidya Mandir
2. Little Angels' School
3. Mahendra Adarsha Vidyashram
4. IMS Academy Boarding School

Participants

- 1 Adarsha Vidhya Mandir (AVM), Man Bhawan
- 2 Ananta Secondary Baording School, Siddhipur
- 3 AIMS Academy Boarding School, Lagankhel
- 4 Bal Binod Secondary School, Nawtole
- 5 Ganesh Memorial Boarding School, Satdobato
- 6 Harisiddhi Higher Secondary School, Harisiddhi
- 7 Jalapa Secondary School, Dhapakhel
- 8 Lalit Secondary (Boarding) School, Satdobato
- 9 Little Angels' School, Hattiban
- 10 Lok Smritee Secondary (Boarding) School, Gwarko
- 11 Mahalaxmi Secondary School, Lubhoo
- 12 Mahendra Adarsha Vidyashram, Satdobato
- 13 Prabhat Secondary School, Tyagal
- 14 Shree Shanti Vidyashram Higher Secondary School, Lohal
- 15 Shramjit Kishor Secondary School, Lukhushi
- 16 Vidya Sagar Boarding School, Godawari



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Around and About ICIMOD

Workshops, meetings, and training events

Stakeholders consulted on the 'Sacred Himalayan Landscape' in Nepal



Nakul Chettri

The Chief Guest, Honourable Dr. Hari Krishna Upadhyaya, member National Planning Commission, HMG/Nepal, delivering his address during the consultation. Also in the photo are Dr. Ananta Raj Pandey, Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC), HMG/N, Dr. Mohan Prasad Wagley, MFSC, HMG/N, and Dr. Chandra P. Gurung, WWF-Nepal Program.

landscape. While this initiative learns from the lessons of landscape conservation in other areas of the region, such as Kanchenjunga, it also provides an opportunity to refine earlier conservation approaches. The model to be developed can be applicable in other conservation areas.

Nakul Chettri, nchettri@icimod.org

Developing strategies and action plans for biodiversity corridors in Kanchenjunga

Pursuing the recommendations of the regional consultation held in May in Kathmandu, ICIMOD and partners are developing strategies and action plans for each biodiversity corridor, addressing local conservation issues and community development. The feasibility of biological linkages between protected areas in the Kanchenjunga was assessed. A steering committee consultation on participatory planning and improvement of corridors between protected areas was held on May 10, 2005, at Sukna, Darjeeling District, West Bengal. Participatory planning documents prepared by partner organisations for three identified biological corridors were shared during the consultation and gaps in the process were identified. Discussions included a future strategy.

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Partners for National Park Management in the Hindu Kush-Karakoram: exchanging experiences and approaches



Birendra Bajracharya

Under the framework of partnerships, partners exchanged experiences, approaches, and management processes in conservation and natural resources management at Sagarmatha National Park in Nepal and the Central Karakoram National Park in Pakistan under the 'Regional Decision Support System - Hindu Kush Karakoram Himalayan (HKKH) Partnership Project'. Several activities provided the opportunities for enriching exchange.

One was a policy workshop organised in Kathmandu on 12 April 2005 to sensitise protected area managers, policy makers and other stakeholders in Nepal on the Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) Management Plan being formulated by the Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme (TRPAP). The role of decision support system (DSS) integration in the Management Plan was explored. A workshop on the same SNP Plan and DSS for ecosystem management was organised in Namche, Nepal on 19 April 2005. Seventy participants including a Pakistani delegation, an Italian group, and local stakeholders exchanged ideas and expertise.

Two exchange study tours were organised under the same partnership project being carried out with partners, IUCN, Evk2CNR and CESVI of Italy in April and May 2005. A group from Pakistan composed of Ghulam Tahir, Conservator of Forests, Northern Areas Gilgit; Muhammad Iqbal, Director, Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) Forest Office, Skardu; and Chaudhry Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Head, Constituency and Special Assignments, IUCN Karachi, came to Nepal from 13-23 April 2005, where they observed the work of some institutions in Kathmandu and visited Sagarmatha National Park. They also attended the workshop at Namche.

In exchange, a team from Nepal visited Islamabad and Skardu at CKNP from 30 April-10 May 2005. The team was composed of ten members representing the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation; HMG-Nepal; WWF-Nepal; the Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme, Nepal; the SNP Buffer Zone Committee, and ICIMOD. Partners in the two countries learned from each other through these activities, exchanging experiences, approaches, and expertise.

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GLOF dissemination workshops for Pakistan and China

A team of ICIMOD/MENRIS professionals visited Pakistan and China in April and May to finalise the Asia-Pacific Network (APN) for Global Change Research on the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Project. An inventory of glaciers and glacial lakes, identifying potential glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) affected by global warming in the Himalayan region was disseminated in the workshops. The Pakistan workshop was organised on 28 April 2005 in collaboration with the Water Resources Research Institute, the Natural Resources Division of the National Agricultural Research Centre, and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad.

A similar GLOF dissemination workshop was organised at the Bureau of Hydrology in Lhasa, Tibet on 26 May 2005 to finalise the inventory for Pumqu (Arun), Rongxer (Tama Koshi), Poiqu (Bhote-Sun Koshi), Jilongcangbu (Trishuli), Zangbuqin (Budhigandaki), Majiacangbu (Humla Karnali), Daoliq and Jiazhangangge basins of Tibet Autonomous Region. The GLOF project activities in China were carried out in collaboration with the Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute, Lanzhou, and the Bureau of Hydrology of Tibet, Lhasa, under the supervision of ICIMOD.



The APN-supported project to inventory glaciers and glacial lakes and identify potential GLOFs began in China, Pakistan, and India in 2003.

Pradeep Mool, pmool@icimod.org

High level meeting promotes regional flood information sharing in South Asia

Government officials at ministerial decision-making levels and the heads of national hydrological and meteorological services in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and the USA attended a two-day meeting in Thimphu, Bhutan, in mid-May 2005 to finalise and endorse the pilot phase of a regional project to share flood information in South Asia. A major output of the meeting was an agreement to conduct a demonstration and testing phase from June-September 2005. This would test the technical feasibility of sharing near real-time hydrometeorological data from pilot stations selected by the participating countries during national consultations for the project. The meeting was inaugurated by Bhutan's Prime Minister, His Excellency Lyonchen Yeshey Zimba, and sponsored by the US Department of State, Regional Environment Office for South Asia and the US Agency for International Development Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA). It is part of a project started by ICIMOD and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 2001 to stem chronic flooding catastrophes in the greater Himalayan region. The project is even more relevant today, with the increasing incidents of floods and their catastrophic effects on populations and the economies of South Asia.

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GTZ supports shared learning from community-based forest management projects in Bhutan, India, and Nepal

Mountain people depend largely on forest resources to fulfill their subsistence requirements and need for cash. Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) is now considered a vehicle for sustainable management of forest resources and improved livelihoods for rural people. Various CBNRM practices have been implemented in the region. Nepal has a strong community forestry programme that has evolved from two decades of experience. India has its own years of experience in joint



Ujoi Sherchan

Bhutan joint learning mission members with BG-SRDP team and Waku-Damchi community forest group members, Punakha, 4 June 2005

forest management. Bhutan began its social forestry programme in the mid-1990s; the programme embraces both community and private forests. GTZ has been an active supporter of this movement and advocates adopting community forestry practices. It has projects in three countries of the region: Bhutan, India, and Nepal, and some of these projects have been operational in several phases for more than ten years. It is both useful and interesting to learn what experiences and lessons these pioneering projects have gained over the years, and to what extent the projects have contributed to conserving the forests in these countries and to improving the lives of people dependent on them. To start the learning process, GTZ organised learning missions in all three countries during which composite teams from GTZ, ICIMOD, and partner organisations visited the projects, spending an average of 3-4 days in each country, taking field trips by day to the project sites, talking to community members, and gathering to discuss lessons learned at each site in the evenings. A wrap up session consolidated the lessons in all three countries.

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Workshop demonstrates latest technologies for estimating precipitation

Rainfall is a generally desirable phenomenon and is nature's way of maintaining the water balance in the soil. Intensive rainfall can, however, inundate land, and cause landslides and floods that can destroy crops and property, or worse lead to loss of lives. Being able to forecast weather, especially precipitation, can help people calculate the appropriate time for agriculture and other activities and prepare communities for potential disasters such as floods. With very few hydro-meteorological observation stations in mountainous terrains, rainfall in the greater Himalayan region is difficult to forecast and estimate, however.



Narendra Bajracharya

A five-day workshop was held at the ICIMOD Headquarters from 6-10 June 2005 to:

- strengthen the capacity of regional and local government and non-government organisations in the region to forecast and monitor rainfall using the latest available technologies;
- share water and rainfall data and information among participating countries, and
- establish stronger links among these countries and ICIMOD to develop a joint project in flash flood monitoring, flood management, rainfall estimation and forecasting.

The workshop was sponsored jointly by the U.S. Agency for International Development/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and ICIMOD, and shared the latest techniques developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Geological Survey on rainfall estimation via satellite. Regional hydrologists and meteorologists from the eight ICIMOD member countries participated. The workshop was also a forum to share information and

knowledge on weather forecast and precipitation estimation among and between participating countries. The countries through their representatives prepared implementation plans, applying knowledge they gained during the workshop. The plans will help them predict rainfall better and will enable timely and reliable forecasts. Using advanced remote sensing tools, rainfall can now be predicted with greater accuracy. These technologies can thus prepare mountain communities for impending disasters and their potentially catastrophic impacts.

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Regional workshop tackles access rights and benefit sharing of biological resources in the eastern Himalayas

In mid-July, ICIMOD, through its Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance (CEGG) Programme, and GTZ jointly organised a four-day regional workshop on 'Access Rights and Benefit-sharing of Biological Resources for Marginalised People of the Eastern Himalayas'. The workshop identified major issues with respect to access rights and benefit-sharing of biological resources, and collectively pondered how these issues can be addressed to better secure the livelihood of marginalised indigenous people. Forty-two participants from India, China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, along with staff of ICIMOD and representatives from GTZ participated.

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Platform launched for regional water data sharing

The project Regional Cooperation for Flood Disaster Mitigation in the HKH, is conducting its demonstration and testing phase from June to September 2005. The objective is to test the technical feasibility of sharing near real time hydrometeorological data between and among countries. ICIMOD is facilitating the data sharing through a web interface for submitting and viewing data on the project website, www.southasianfloods.org. ICIMOD developed the formats for submitting data through email and file transfer protocol, a system for exchanging files across the Internet. Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Nepal, and Pakistan are sharing their respective countries' data on water level, water discharge, and rainfall. Data is being shared daily from selected stations since 10 June of this year. The project is also providing instruments and equipment to upgrade selected stations.

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Eight countries present successes and lessons in watershed management

A meeting of watershed management professionals from NGOs, government departments, and research institutes was held from 1-5 June 2005 to share successful watershed management approaches and technologies. Thirty participants from eight countries namely, Pakistan, India (Himachal, Uttaranchal and North East India), Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, China, Bangladesh, and Kyrgyzstan presented the successes and failures of their respective country's work. The workshop participants also visited the ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre, Godavari, where they saw a wide range of technologies applicable to watershed sites. Participants took home a CD-ROM of the presentations, including conclusions from working groups on training needs, research priorities, and network development.

Roger White, rwhite@icimod.org



Roger White

ICIMOD staff and partners trained in project and proposal development

In June 2005, ICIMOD held its second workshop on project and proposal development for both staff and partners. This was an intensive five-day interactive training. Fourteen staff, including key partners in ICIMOD's transboundary biodiversity project, the Advocacy and Governance Programme, and the PARDYP project attended the course. Partners from Bhutan, India, and Nepal and ICIMOD staff from Policy and Partnership Development; Information Management, Communications and Outreach; the Mountain Forum; and Natural Resources Management also participated.

A variety of topics, including logical framework analysis, mind mapping, professional writing skills and concept and proposal development were covered. The Empowerment and Learning Development Centre (ELD) based in Kathmandu conducted the workshop.

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Narendra Bajracharya

ICIMOD participates in workshop on gender and energy

ICIMOD participated in the ENERGIA Asia regional national focal point meeting and gender and energy training workshop organised by the Asia Regional Cook Stove Program (ARECOP) in Chang Mai, Thailand in May. ETC Foundation hosted the workshop, which was attended by 35 participants representing government agencies, UN bodies, business and industry, NGOs, and academia. The forum provided an opportunity to share UNEP/ICIMOD regional experiences on water and energy projects in the rural areas of the Himalayan region and in identifying emerging trends and common ground to address gender and energy issues in Asia.

Following the meeting, a three-day training workshop on gender and energy was held from 5-7 May, also in Chang Mai. The training was instrumental in upgrading the practical application of frontier knowledge on gender and energy.

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Neighbouring villages of Godavari benefit from training in beekeeping

To expand the benefits of the honeybee project, ICIMOD's Centre for Sustainable Apiculture and Pollination at the Demonstration and Training Centre, Godavari, trained farmers in the surrounding villages of Chapakharka and Tribeni in beekeeping. A 21-day training programme was organised with eight villagers together with other participants from Nepal and India. During the first field visit after training, participants were observed to have started making frame hives locally and transferring bees from nucs and log hives to newly constructed hives for better management.

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2005 staff advance works towards greater teambuilding, institutional learning, and staff development at ICIMOD

ICIMOD has been holding staff advances every year as part of its continuing commitment to institutional learning and staff development. This year's staff advance was held in July (4-5) for professional and higher level general services (GS) staff, and July 6 for other staff. On the afternoon of July 6 all staff gathered for wrap-up and appreciation sessions and collective reflection.

The staff advance strengthened dialogue and enhanced team building at both inter- and intra-management levels and across units of the organisation. Staff agreed on areas that need improvement.

Over the course of the three days, ICIMOD staff were able to:

- identify a set of 14 management and team issues, including suggested actions and commitments from staff to work on these issues;
- develop a sense of team cohesiveness and a positive shift in mood/morale by sharing issues, and acknowledging and appreciating each other's work;
- share enthusiasm to learn and practice the techniques of team building by expressing the importance of feedback and acknowledgement for team effectiveness and performance; and
- review matrix management as a mechanism for effective team building.

Overall, ICIMOD staff found the staff advance to be positive and useful, and morale-boosting. A staff party on the evening of the 6th at the ICIMOD Headquarters in Khumaltar celebrated the team building efforts.

The staff advance was facilitated by Mr. Sahadev Mahat and Mr. Sher Thapa of Pragya Management Group, based in Lalitpur, Kathmandu.

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Letter of Appreciation

Chief Secretary, Government of Uttaranchal, India thanks CEA, ICIMOD partner

In a letter dated 4 July 2005, Dr. R. S. Tolia, eminent social scientist and Chief Secretary of the Uttaranchal Secretariat, Government of Uttaranchal, India expressed appreciation for efforts being made to enable local communities to measure and monitor carbon sequestration in community forests and to make a claim for payment for carbon service under the project, 'Kyoto: Think Global, Act Local - Action Research'. The project brings community-based managed forests (CBFMF) projects under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol.

The Chief Secretary lauded the efforts of the Central Himalaya Environment Association (CHEA), ICIMOD's national partner in India. CHEA is based in the state of Uttaranchal. The project team keeps the Secretary informed and updated about the research and he expressed interest in receiving information on progress made not only in Nepal and India but also in the other countries on community forestry, carbon trading, and climate change. This is important to Uttaranchal since Uttaranchal state "is playing a lead role among the Himalayan states in India in the area of climate change and related issues."

According to Dr. Tolia, based on experiences gained, the government of Uttaranchal has "used some finding and concepts profusely in sending necessary directives to the concerned state officials" and to integrate the experiences and opportunities in "framing policy related issues for the state".

The current research project runs for four years and is being carried out in partnership between the University of Twente, International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), the Netherlands, and ICIMOD through national partners, the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation in Nepal, and CHEA in India.

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Research Updates and Project News

ICIMOD supports greener pastures in Mongolia

When Mongolia moved from a state-managed economy during the era of Soviet influence (prior to the 1990s) to a free market economy, the state privatised all livestock and many primary and secondary industries which had been operated by 'collectives'. The grasslands were, however, retained as free access resources, which in practical terms meant that Mongolians can move anywhere with their animals for grazing. Large numbers of state employees were laid off during the transition. Many from school teachers to engineers and factory workers, took to herding as a livelihood source. Animal numbers increased dramatically and overgrazing of the grasslands became rampant. When successive droughts and harsh winters (known as 'dzud') hit the country in 2000/2002, massive loss of livestock deprived many herders of their livelihood. The impact on the environment was even more severe; large tracts of grasslands became degraded from overgrazing and severe climatic conditions. In most areas, desertification set in and the only vegetation to be seen, even at the peak of the growing season was unpalatable weeds.

The Green Gold-Pasture Ecosystem Management Programme (GG-PEMP) was designed to assist the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Mongolia and the Mongolian State Agricultural University (MSAU) to conduct action research in pasture agronomy and to build herder-based institutions to try and improve the conditions of grasslands. It has set up field trials on selecting suitable species of plants for over-seeding the degraded pastures and for improving winter fodder availability in collaboration with the Research Institute of Animal Husbandry of MSAU. Research experiments were conducted by a team of young students from MSAU at several sites representing various ecological zones in the country. The programme's other focus is to build the capacity of herders to manage pastures in a sustainable way by introducing a system of co-management. Herders are encouraged to form user groups through which they can better regulate the use of seasonal pastures as well as water sources using a participatory approach involving local governments, development agencies, and support services. It also involves building the capacity of a group of lecturers from the MSAU to undertake participatory planning and monitoring of grassland management.

Since August 2003, ICIMOD has been involved with a Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)-assisted programme to restore Mongolia's degraded grasslands. ICIMOD was involved in the feasibility study and formulation of the programme as well as in providing regular backstopping to the project support unit in Ulaanbataar. The Green Gold-Pasture Ecosystem Management Programme (GG-PEMP) is now in its second year and will run under its current phase until 2008.



Pema Gyamtsho



Pema Gyamtsho

Pema Gyamtsho, pgyamtsho@icimod.org

Case studies will examine natural resource policy processes in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

ICIMOD's Policy and Partnership Development (PPD) Programme, as part of a GTZ-supported activities on policy and natural resources, is conducting case studies in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal, India, and Pakistan to understand natural resources policy making processes in these countries. The studies also hope to identify issues, gaps, and bottlenecks in policy making that set constraints to the sustainable use and management of natural resources. Except for Bangladesh, all the studies are being conducted by national consultants from partner organisations in ICIMOD regional member countries. The Bangladesh case study is being conducted by ICIMOD's policy staff and focal person for the country. The studies are expected to enhance our understanding of policy processes involving natural resources and the environment, and the stakeholders involved at different stages of policy making, and their respective roles. The case studies will also help identify policy measures that will improve policy making processes and fill in gaps that will facilitate policies. The case study in India focuses on non-timber forest products; the Pakistan and Bhutan case studies focus on water policies, the Bangladesh and Myanmar case studies look into forest policies, and the Nepal case study examines the community forestry programme.

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UNEP/ICIMOD mission evaluates women, water and energy project as a success

Since 2002, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and ICIMOD have been implementing energy and water management projects that build the capacity of women in the mountain and hill areas of Bhutan, India, and Nepal. Through national collaborating partners – the Royal Society for Protection of Nature in Bhutan, the Energy and Resources Institute in India; and the Centre for Rural Technology/Nepal - water and energy projects implemented in the districts of Phobjikha and Limukha in Bhutan, Uttaranchal and Himachal in India, and Palpa and Dhankuta in Nepal are improving the quality of the

lives of women and their resource conditions, and improving gender relations.

This is the overall assessment of an evaluation team from UNEP and ICIMOD that visited the project sites from 11-22 April 2005 as part of evaluating the project's achievements at the end of its current phase in December 2004. Among the project's noteworthy impacts is reduction in drudgery of women's housework – freeing up the women's time for other productive, income generating activities. The mission believes that these are valuable impacts in themselves in the light of current gender relations in the rural areas and the overall poor resource conditions of women. In some project sites, women have proven to be adept entrepreneurs and have come up with good practices. This has drawn significant interest from local governments who are expanding the project's coverage and incorporating some of the good practices into local government programmes. Lessons from the project are being consolidated in the form of policy guidelines, a final report, and a training manual that will enable UNEP and ICIMOD to substantiate a proposal for a second phase. A next phase would allow further testing of the policy guidelines set as a result of the project, establish demonstration models highlighting entrepreneurship, technology options, credit, women-centred institutional mechanisms, and advocacy and outreach. It would also involve local and central governments in these countries in scaling up models of the project.

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Assessment system to evaluate the state of rivers in the Himalayan region



Scientists from Europe and Asia conduct a multi-habitat sampling of a Punkva river site in the Czech Republic (14 June 2005)

The rivers of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya serve many vital functions for the region. It is important to monitor their ecological state, especially given the variety of pressures and impacts they have been subjected to in recent years. In many countries of the world, monitoring the aquatic biota (the rivers' plant and animal life) is complementing chemical monitoring to determine the ecological condition of aquatic systems.

ICIMOD, as part of the HKH-FRIEND network – the Hindu Kush-Himalaya-Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data – has been conducting training workshops on water quality since 2000 with the support of partners in an effort to begin regional monitoring of water quality. A workshop in Dhulikhel, Nepal, in 2003 recommended further research on biological indicators of river water quality. As a follow up to this recommendation, a three-year project, Assessment System to Evaluate the Ecological Status of Rivers in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (ASSESS-HKH), was initiated with financial support from the European Union. The project brings together academic and research institutions from Europe and Asia led by the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna, Austria, two German universities, a university based in the Czech Republic, and five ICIMOD member countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India,

Nepal, and Pakistan. It seeks to transfer the technical knowledge of European countries to the region, in order to develop tools for assessing the water quality of major rivers and water systems. ICIMOD is leading the work on analysing the results in order to develop sustainable management strategies. It is also coordinating the project with regional partners. An inception meeting held in June 2005 in Brno, Czech Republic, clarified partner roles and responsibilities and charted a road map of project activities in the coming months. A multi-habitat sampling of micro-organisms in the Punkva River in the Moravsky kras area was demonstrated to help countries harmonise sampling methods and data collection. Field sampling is planned in each of the five countries by November 2005, the post monsoon season; and in March 2006, during the pre monsoon. A next meeting is planned in Dhaka, Bangladesh in mid-December 2005.

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More mountain inputs to Pakistan's National Environmental Policy 2005

The Government of Pakistan, specifically its Ministry of Environment (MoE), is developing a national environmental policy as an important step to addressing the country's environmental problems, which are intricately linked to the country's economic and social development. Following completion of the draft policy, MoE sought comments and feedback from all sectors and important partners, including ICIMOD. ICIMOD's Policy and Partnership Development (PPD) Programme responded with the following review: the document, provided a fair analysis of the country's environmental problems and addressed several of these issues adequately. Two important aspects – managing mountain ecosystems and poverty reduction – need to be given more much attention, however. ICIMOD provided detailed inputs on how these two issues might be more vigorously addressed.

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Beekeeping project considers greater collaboration with the private sector

ICIMOD's honeybee project is convinced that involving the private sector is essential if the benefits of the project's development interventions are to be scaled up. Honey and beeswax-based beauty and health products are important elements of conservation apiculture. To promote them, a dialogue was initiated with a Chiang Mai-based Japanese company, Naiad Co. Ltd. The company imports organic beeswax from Nepal to formulate into healing and beauty products for the high-end markets of Japan. The project facilitated communication and networking between Nepali beekeepers and traders of raw beeswax. Efforts are being exerted to strengthen and expand this network to Bhutan, where quality beeswax from *Apis laboriosa* is produced in considerable quantities.

Outreach and Networking

Open House 2005: ICIMOD opens its new home to partners, family, and friends

In May, ICIMOD opened its new home in Khumaltar to partners and friends in a celebration of mountain development. A big crowd of ICIMOD partners, donors, alumni, schools, family, friends and others turned out for the Open House. Activities included visits to the different programme offices, films on various ICIMOD activities and projects, and a book fair and information bazaar. Fourteen of ICIMOD's partner organisations participated in the fair.

ICIMOD Director General, J. Gabriel Campbell, and Deputy Director General-Programmes, Madhav Kharki and the head of Administration and Finance, Milan Raj Tuladhar gave an orientation on ICIMOD and its programmes – the first such briefing for a general and not just 'development community' audience. Villagers from Lakhuri Banjyang in the Pulchowki Watershed staged a street drama entitled 'Daura ra Pani' ('Firewood ad Water') to the delight of the crowd that had gathered at the ICIMOD grounds after the briefing. A 'Ramailo Mela' featuring games, handicrafts, and food stalls lent the Headquarters grounds a festive air and capped the event. It was a fun way to celebrate mountain development, share ICIMOD's work with the public, and show the home in Khumaltar.

Partners in the ICIMOD book fair

- Apiculturists' Network (API-NET, Nepal)
- Dabur-Nepal
- Department of Forests/HMG Nepal
- Federation of Community Forest User Groups Nepal (FECOFUN)
- Federation of Irrigation User Groups Nepal
- Himal Association
- IUCN - The World Conservation Union Nepal
- King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation
- Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre (LACC)
- Mountain Forum
- National Forum for Advocacy Nepal (NAFAN)
- Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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Narendra Bairacharya

Alternative Media

Tapping creative community ways of disseminating information in the mountain communities of the HKH

The project

The Alternative Media Project was initiated in 2002 as an action research project to explore and promote the use of traditional media to convey relevant information on natural resources management (NRM), livelihood issues, and biodiversity conservation to mountain communities in the region. The project was supported by the Ford Foundation.

The process

Four sites were selected to test indigenous methods of communicating NRM and other mountain issues with mountain people. The areas selected were Nagaland in India, Chitral in Pakistan, Thaiba in Nepal, and Banderban in Bangladesh. Most of these communities had traditional media in place that had served the communities for generations. The Alternative Media Project tapped these media forms to disseminate mountain development issues.

During the project's preliminary phase, country partners carried out a needs assessment in the selected areas. Common NRM and other issues such as the problem of clean drinking water, watershed management, agricultural



Sanjay Madhani

'BeeCause'a street play



Sanjay Madhani

Performance in front of a village church in Nagaland, India

productivity, environmental degradation, and lack of opportunities for off-farm employment and income, were some of the issues these communities faced.

In the project's second phase 'alternative media prototypes' were developed to deliver knowledge on some of these issues, with messages developed by the community with partners and presented in the villages. Some of the villagers were apprehensive about the project and its objectives at first. But ICIMOD and the project implementing organisations helped them with knowledge transfer by playing a facilitator role. In some communities, events were organised to reach as many people as possible to deliver the intended programme messages. In the name of sporting events such as a polo tournament, and cricket and football matches, for example, or a poetry symposium, a puppet show, or a street play, development issues were analysed and presented before audiences of community people. The project attracted the attention of people in every village of the study. By stimulating audience interest the groundwork for participatory development activities has been set and avenues for village development paved.

What are 'alternative media'

Indigenous or alternative media are communication systems embedded in the culture or existing well before the arrival of modern technology and mass media. They remain a vital mode and channel of communication in mountain communities not yet reached by electricity and mass media (such as television, radio, and the Internet). In some of these communities they are the only means of sharing information and constitute the 'mainstream' and not the alternative.

Current concepts of development focus on capacity building, grassroots participation, and empowerment. This approach has led to a rediscovery of the advantages of traditional media as vehicles for promoting development. In a nutshell, alternative media:

- form part of the rural social environment and, hence, are sources of information people in particular areas are familiar with and believe in
- commands an audience as live media and are ideal examples of two-way communication,
- have proven useful in generating grassroots participation and dialogue between performers and their audience,
- are flexible and action-oriented, adaptable to any subject,
- invite the populace to take part without restrictions on roles, providing a fertile ground for experimentation, and
- are relatively inexpensive, with a rich variety in both form and theme.

- Excerpts from the Alternative Media Desk Study Report

Lessons from ICIMOD's Alternative Media Project

Three years of the project have provided ICIMOD and partners with the following valuable lessons.

- Various forms of alternative media such as puppetry, street plays, dance, and songs work very well in multi lingual settings. The project has increased the capacity of communities to prepare alternative media tools to promote social change. It has empowered local people in the project areas to plan, test, fine-tune, and deliver alternative media packages and messages integrated into indigenous performances such as traditional music, dance, and theatre. The communities have thus gained greater appreciation for the effectiveness of their own indigenous practices for conveying messages, heightening participation, and developing community interest.
- Officials from government departments have come to realise the power and effectiveness of participatory communication that tapped traditional folk media. They now hope to use such methodologies in their own programmes.
- Provided with the right information and consulted on concerns important to the community, community people take charge and begin to use the traditional communication or media channels in ways useful to them.
- Involving local or traditional institutions like the village councils, the village development boards, and religious establishments such as guthis, churches, and mosques is important. People feel more confident when they are involved in a process in which the village authorities and institutions are also engaged.

The pilot phase of the Alternative Media project is over but mountain issues remain around which alternative media can be used effectively to discuss issues and share knowledge and information to communities. This may lead to informed choices and to sustainable ways out of the cycle of poverty.

Zbigniew Mikolajuk, zmikolajuk@icimod.org

THE MOUNTAIN FORUM SECRETARIAT

The Mountain Forum, a global network of networks for information exchange, mutual support, and advocacy for equitable and ecologically sustainable mountain development is an independent organisation hosted by ICIMOD in Kathmandu, Nepal. During the last quarter, the Mountain Forum and ICIMOD were involved with the following key activities.

Mountain Forum Board and Node Manager meetings in France

The Mountain Forum (MF) participated in the Annual Board and Node Manager meetings in Chambéry, France in June 2005. The meetings brought together for four days 25 people from five continents comprising Mountain Forum Secretariat staff, regional node managers, and Board members, to update the Mountain Forum Board and node managers on the progress of the regional nodes and the MF Secretariat activities in the past year. The meetings were also an opportunity to bring to the Board's decision issues needing resolution and ideas for future collaboration and new projects.

Among the new initiatives explored during the Chambéry meetings were:

- i) spreading the benefits of the community radio project (begun in Nepal in 2003/04) across Latin America and North America;
- ii) strengthening the African and the European Mountain Forum and sustaining all MF nodes;
- iii) the possibility of a global digital photo gallery on the theme of sustainable mountain development;
- iv) the new MF on-line library; revisiting MF membership, as well as subscription, database management, ownership, and service delivery;
- v) new e-conferences on amenity migration, an HKH initiative.

The Board also approved the progress reports and plans for 2006.

Regional MF elections: eDemocracy in action

The Mountain Forum recently elected representatives from among its membership to serve on the Mountain Forum Board of Directors for three years beginning 2005. Regional MF elections were organised by InfoAndina for Latin America, and by the Asia Pacific Mountain Network for the Asia-Pacific region. Members from the regions nominated candidates who met the criteria laid down in the election guideline. Voters voted using web-based or email-based voting forms. Nearly 300 votes were cast in the Asia-Pacific election, and 50 in the Latin American election. The members elected are Mr. Ismail Khan for the Asia-Pacific region, and Dr. Sonia Salas for Latin America.

Words of commitment from the newly-elected board members

“This has been a truly amazing exercise in eDemocracy - with a click of the mouse you have 'elected' and 'sent' a representative to the Mountain Forum Board... from a remote and humble village in Skardu - Karakoram.”

- Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan, elected MF board member from Asia-Pacific
Environmental Consultant and Freelance writer

“I will undertake this role with great modesty, and with a strong commitment to ensure that mountain men and women will be represented with equity, promoting opportunities for mountain people - the most excluded in the world - in order to ensure they will be able to decide themselves on their development and progress paths in order to build an equitable world while maintaining their diversity.”

- Dr. Sonia Salas, elected MF board member from Latin America
President of the National Rural Agroindustry Network (REDAR)

The two newly elected members participated in the MF Board meetings held in Chambéry, France, June 22-24, 2005.

The Board also re-elected Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, ICIMOD Director General, as Chairperson for a second two-year term; and Dr. Hugo Li Pun, Deputy Director General, International Potato Center, China Planning Committee, as Vice-Chairperson for a two-year term. Other Board representatives present at the meeting included: Dr. Ann Stroud, Coordinator, African Highlands Initiative; Christopher Komornicki, EMF Board representative; Dr. Leslie Taylor, Associate Director, Banff Centre; Dr. Michael Wiehen, Transparency International; Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan, APMN representative; and Dr. Sonia Salas, President of REDAR-Peru. Thomas Hofer, Mountain Partnership representative, FAO; and Dr. Ulrich Lutz, Senior Executive, Natural Resources and Development Division, SDC, came as observers.

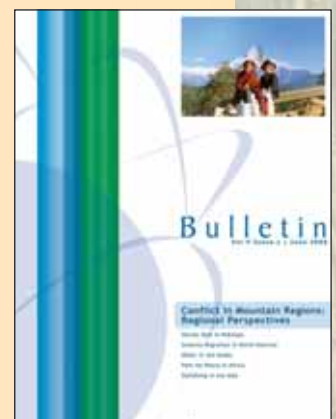
The Mountain Forum Bulletin is back!

The *Mountain Forum Bulletin* is back with a new 'look'. Its first revival issue focused on the theme, 'conflict in mountain regions', which is closely related to the theme of the last International Mountain Day - Peace and Conflict in Mountains. The new MF Bulletin, published in June 2005, will soon be made accessible to Mountain Forum members through the MF website <http://www.mtnforum.org>. The MF Bulletin will also be sent to all organisational MF members as well as to offline members with no Internet access or/and email connectivity.

The revival issue features articles on conflict from various mountain regions, such as dams in Pakistan, amenity migration in North America, water in the Andes, parks for Peace in Africa, and helicopter skiing in the Alps.

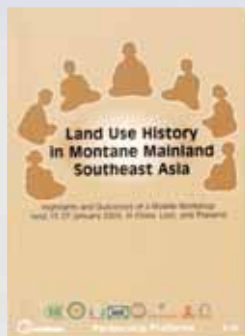
Organisations and individuals with slow or no Internet access may request a copy of the Bulletin by writing to the publication team at bulletin@mtforum.org or at the postal address given below. The Mountain Forum encourages readers to provide feedback on the new MF Bulletin and to contribute to future issues.

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



Recent ICIMOD Publications

The major documents published between April and August 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>.



Land Use History in Montane Mainland Southeast Asia, Highlights and Outcomes of a Mobile Workshop held 14-27 January 2005, in China, Laos and Thailand. Partnership Platforms 2/05. 108p. ISBN: 92-9115-112-2, Price: US\$ 10, \$7, \$5

In January 2005, an interdisciplinary team from eight countries participated in a unique learning process to gather, experience, and exchange information about land use and land cover and the impact of policies and modern developments in the Montane Mainland Southeast Asia (MMSEA) eco-cultural region. The region comprises the upland areas of Yunnan in southwest China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and part of Cambodia. Supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, the 'mobile workshop' traversed through the heart of the MMSEA, stopping at venues in three countries, China, Laos, and Thailand. Its innovative approach included case studies in each area, thematic working groups, community assessments, and policy dialogue. Major questions arose as to whether land use and land cover change can be governed through policy interventions.

The book summarises the outcomes of the workshop, provides insight into the land use dynamics in the Greater Mekong sub-region, and outlines the mobile workshop approach, which proved highly successful. It will be of interest to all those interested in innovative approaches to learning and information exchange on complex regional issues, to planners and policy makers coping with Land Use and Land Cover Change (LUCC) issues, and to those interested in the MMSEA region itself.



Shrestha, M.; Shilpakar, R. L. (eds) **Water Quality in South Asia: Issues and Status - Proceedings of a Regional Integrated Workshop on Water Quality** 29 Jun - 2 July 2004, Kathmandu, Nepal. Partnership Platforms 1/05. 46p. ISBN: 92-9115-076-2, Price: \$10, \$7, \$5

The greater Himalayan region is one of the largest storehouses of freshwater in the world and the source of major river systems. Yet

sufficient and clean water remains an elusive resource, and water management is one of the critical challenges in the region. Poor water quality of the rivers and water bodies resulting from increasing industrial, domestic, and other pollutants threatens both the region's environment and people's health. In 2004, ICIMOD joined the Cooperative Monitoring Center (CMC) at Sandia National Laboratories in the US to form the South Asia Water Analysis Network (SAWAN) – an initiative to support the collection and sharing of water quality information in South Asia, in particular along transboundary sections of the Ganges and Indus rivers in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Water Quality in South Asia: Issues and Status provides a report with summaries of the papers of the first SAWAN meeting – a 'Regional Integrated Workshop on Water Quality' held in Kathmandu in June 2004 with support from the US Department of State, Regional Environment Office for South Asia and the US Department of Energy, Sandia National Laboratories. The book will interest those involved in transboundary activities and information sharing processes in the greater Himalayan region in general, and in water quality issues in particular, and hopes to stimulate interest in the project.

 **Livestock, Fodder Pastures and People**
An Integrated Study in the Northern Areas of Pakistan

Wright, I. A.; Duncan, A. J. (eds.) **Livestock, Fodder, Pastures and People: An Integrated Study in the Northern Areas of Pakistan**. 67p. ISBN: 92-9115-059-2, Price: \$15, \$10, \$7.50

Livestock are an important component of the local economy in the Northern Areas of Pakistan. In 1998, a research project called the Agri-Karakoram Project began to study how livestock productivity may be improved in the Karakoram Mountains. The study examined the constraints livestock production in the region faced, and explored ways of overcoming some of those constraints while sustaining the fragile mountain ecosystem of the Karakoram. The research was funded by the European Commission under the INCO-DC programme and involved seven other organisations.

The book, *Livestock, Fodder, Pastures and People: An Integrated Study in the Northern Areas of Pakistan*, represents the outcome of the project. It documents the project's research process, summarises the findings, identifying key biological and socioeconomic constraints to improving livestock productivity in the area, and suggests ways in which some of those constraints may be overcome. Although the project was

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

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

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

undertaken in Northern Pakistan, some of the principles the research identified and its findings are widely applicable and relevant to similar mountain agricultural settings. The book hopes to contribute to improving the livelihoods of mountain people in general, and those in the Karakoram Mountains in particular.



Stocking, M.; Helleman, H.; White, R. (eds.) **Renewable Natural Resources Management for Mountain Communities.** 312p. ISBN: 92-9115-062-2, Price: \$20, \$15, \$10

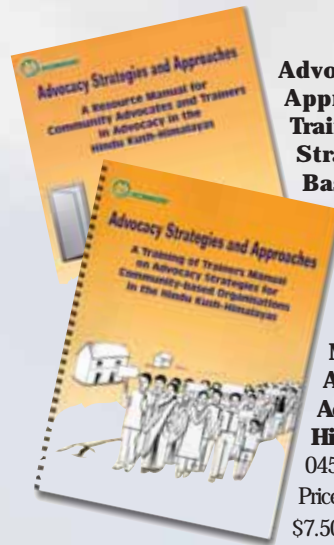
Managing renewable natural resources in hillside and mountain areas is critical to sustaining these resources and the livelihood opportunities they present, especially to marginal farmers. This publication presents the findings of

a Symposium and Research Workshop on 'Renewable Natural Resources Management for Mountain Communities' held in Nepal in 2003. The papers describe the results of research undertaken by ICIMOD's People and Resource Dynamics in Mountain Watersheds Project (PARDYP) and the Natural Resources Systems Programme - Hill-sides (NRSP) of the Department for International Development (DFID) UK, in the highlands of the Himalayas, the Andes, and Africa. The book looks at generic issues in watershed management and presents a series of case studies on a range of natural resource management issues and themes including: the role of participation in developing and promoting hillside farming strategies; issues such as water management, common property, and land rehabilitation; and techniques, tools, and interventions to address declining soil fertility. The central theme of the case studies is finding ways of bringing together farmers' and scientists' knowledge and ensuring participation of farmers at all stages of technology development. Finally, a platform is proposed for generating new research and bridging gaps in current projects.

ICIMOD CD-ROM gets high marks in ADBI, Tokyo, Japan review

The CD-ROM Review Program of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) based in Tokyo, Japan has given 'Developing Sustainable Communities - A Toolkit for Development Practitioners' a high 4 (out of 5) rating. The toolkit was jointly published by the Netherlands Development Organisation/Nepal and ICIMOD and is also available as a CD-ROM.

A review of the CD reads: "The toolkit was clearly written... even users whose first language is not English can understand it." Details of the review may be read at: <http://www.adbi.org/cdrom-review/2005/05/12/1069.sustainable.communities/>



Advocacy Strategies and Approaches: A Training of Trainers Manual on Advocacy Strategies for Community-Based Organisations in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. 171p. ISBN 92-9115-031-2

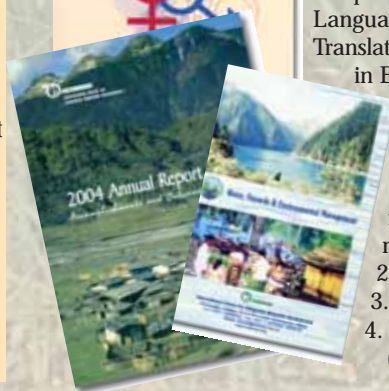
Advocacy Strategies and Approaches: A Resource Manual for Community Advocates and Trainers in Advocacy in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. 127p. ISBN 92-9115-045-2

Price: either separately: US\$15, \$10, \$7.50; both volumes: US\$22, \$15, \$11

Advocacy Strategies and Approaches: A Training of Trainers Manual on Advocacy Strategies for Community-based Organisations in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, and its companion *Resource Manual* were developed for potential trainers of community-based organisations (CBOs) in the HKH region. The manuals are intended to provide useful guides for conducting regional and local level training on advocacy applicable to a variety of mountain development issues and themes. The Resource Manual provides trainers with more in-depth material on subjects discussed in the training manual. The manuals attempt to provide clarity on the concept of advocacy and to help equip CBOs and their networks with tools, strategies, and techniques that will help them assist mountain people to advocate for appropriate strategies to address their social, economic, gender, and other issues. It also attempts to articulate their needs and perspectives to governments, policymakers, and development organisations. The manuals are also likely to appeal to development practitioners and others interested in promoting people-centred, sustainable mountain development.



Groverman, V.; Gurung, J. D. **Gender and Organisational Change.** Yunnan: Yunnan Science and Technology Press. 134p. ISBN: 7-5416-2118-8 Language: Chinese Translation of the book published in English by ICIMOD in 2001



General Publications

1. Newsletter No. 47: Knowledge Management for Mountain Development, Spring 2005
2. Annual Report 2004
3. WHEM Brochure
4. ICIMOD Brochure (update) August 2005

ICIMOD E-news

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

- Sixth Issue: June/July 2005
- Seventh Issue: August/September 2005

Other Publications by ICIMOD Staff

May - August 2005

Anil, C.N. (2005) **Participatory 3-D Modelling for Ecological Monitoring in Mountainous Areas.** In *International Society for Ecological Economics Newsletter*, June 2005, p.4

Chettri, N.; Sharma, E.; Banskota, K. (2005) **Tourism in Nepal,** In *Insights #57*, Sept. 2005, id.21.communicating development research <www.id21.org>

Dongol, B.S.; Dangol, P.M.; Dhakal, M.P.; Shah, P.B.; Shrestha, S.K.; Bajracharya, D.R.; Merz, J. (2004) **First Assessment of Ground Water Quality Status in Jhikhu Khola Watershed, Nepal.** In *Journal of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal.* 1(1): 6-12

Dongol, B.S.; Merz, J.; Dhakal, M.P.; Dangol, P.M. (2005) **Comparative Study on Low Flows in the Middle Mountain Catchments of Nepal.** In *Journal of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal.* 2 (1) 1-7

Pandey, S.; Shrestha, B. (2005) **.np Nepal.** In *Digital Review of Asia Pacific 2005/2006*, pp. 175-180. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre, and Randburg: Orbicom

Onno, W.P.; Chin Saik Yoon; Haque, S.; Kamimura, K.; Koanantakool, T.; Pandey, S.; Quynh, N.T.; Udomvitid, K. (2005) **Appropriate ICT for Asia Pacific: Opting for Open Source, Localization, Internationalization and Free Access.** In *Digital Review of Asia Pacific 2005/2006*, pp. 47-59. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre and Randburg: Orbicom

Sharma, B.; Banskota, K. (2004) **Incorporating Roles and Needs of Women in Water and Energy Management in Rural Areas of the Himalayas: Experiences and Lessons from a Pilot Project in Bhutan, India and Nepal.** In Gurung, G.B.; Karki, B.S.; Sharma, B.D. (eds.) *Proceedings of the regional seminar on Water Resources Use in the Annapurna Conservation Area, 31 Aug, Pokhara, Nepal*, pp. 11-17. Kathmandu: King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation

Shrestha, M. (2005) **Water Hazards Management in Nepal (Nepalma jalautpanna prakop byabasthapan).** In *Paryavaran Monthly*, 13 (Additional Issue, June 2005): 145-54 (published by ECO-Nepal, Kathmandu)

Shrestha, M. (2005) **Regional Cooperation in Flood Forecasting and Information Exchange in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.** In Bhuju, D.R.; Bhattarai, B.; Gosai, K.R. *Proceedings of Seminar on Water Science Water for Life a Decade for Action*, 19 Mar 2005, Bhaktapur, Nepal, pp.1-11. Bhaktapur: Khwopa College

Smakhtin, V.U.; Shilpakar, R.L. **Planning for Environmental Water Allocations: An Example of Hydrology-based Assessment in the East Rapti River, Nepal.** In *IWMI Research Report*, 89. Colombo: Intl. Water Management Institute

Visitors to ICIMOD



High level SAARC Secretariat members visit ICIMOD, explore future partnership

The Secretary-General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), H.E. Chenkyab Dorji, with the directors of the SAARC Secretariat and senior staff visited ICIMOD on 11 June 2005. SAARC is a high-level platform for the peoples of South Asia to work together to accelerate economic and social development in member states. The SAARC team toured the ICIMOD Headquarters, including its library and Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information System (MENRIS) facilities.

ICIMOD Director General, J. Gabriel Campbell and senior ICIMOD staff welcomed the team and briefed them on the current programmes and activities. Expressing appreciation for ICIMOD's work in the region, the SAARC team also noted that five of the ICIMOD member countries are also SAARC members.

The team proceeded to the ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre at Godavari, where they observed various rural technologies, including sloping agricultural land technology, energy technologies, forestry, horticulture, floriculture, livestock and beekeeping. Discussions followed on areas of possible joint programme initiatives and the future of a SAARC-ICIMOD partnership.

Ayushma Basnyat, ayrana@icimod.org



(Upper photo) A SAARC delegation being briefed about the Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information Systems facilities at the ICIMOD Headquarters and (lower photo) inspecting goat-raising as a livelihood opportunity for mountain communities.

Memoranda of understanding and agreements signed

Agreements signed with partners in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region

- April 2005, with SUNGI Development Foundation, Pakistan Framework agreement for collaboration during ICIMOD's Medium Term Action Plan (2003-07)
- February 2005, with Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, India, to conduct a case study in Ladakh, under the Regional Rangeland Programme - Phase II
- February 2005, with North Eastern Hill University, India, to enhance the capacity of community-based organisations in advocacy strategies in Meghalaya, India
- April 2005, with Ladakh Environment and Health Organisation, India to conduct a case study in Ladakh, under the Regional Rangeland Programme - Phase II



New ICIMOD Board member

Dr. Ram Prasad Chaudhary

Dr. Ram Prasad Chaudhary, Honourable member of the National Planning Commission, Nepal was nominated by His Majesty's Government to serve as the ICIMOD Board member representing the host country, Nepal. His status as the Chair of the ICIMOD Board of Governors until the expiry of Nepal's term has been approved by the Board.

Dr. Chaudhary, born on June 10, 1953, comes from a Tharu family from Bara district. He began his academic career as an assistant lecturer in Tribhuvan University in 1978. He received his Ph.D. in Biology (Plant Systematics) from the Komarov Botanical Institute, St. Petersburg (then Leningrad), Academy of Sciences of the USSR in 1988.



Over the last 25 years, Dr. Chaudhary has been involved in postgraduate teaching and research on biodiversity, plant systematics, ethnobotany, environment, plant genetic resources, and molecular approaches to biodiversity assessment. He has conducted independent and collaborative research and has been involved in several academic and professional programmes.

He has also served as a visiting scientist at such prestigious institutes as the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm (1990); Cornell University, Ithaca, USA (2001); Hollins University, Roanoke, Virginia, USA (2001); University of Vienna, Austria (2001); and University of Bergen (UB), and is on the board of many professional and social organisations in various capacities. Professor Chaudhary has published four books and written over 130 scientific research and popular papers in national and international journals and research reports.

In Memoriam Dr. Mohammed Ali



Pema Gyomtsho

ICIMOD conveys its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the late Dr. Mohammed Ali and a shared sense of loss over his untimely passing. Dr. Ali was ICIMOD's long-term collaborator in the Regional Rangeland Programme. At the time of his death in a car accident in May 2005, he was also Technical Officer with the Sheep Husbandry Department at Leh, Ladakh, and Assistant Director of Sheep Husbandry. An active veterinarian, he was admired and respected by all who knew him. ICIMOD's rangeland staff and other partners from the region who had the good fortune to share his insightful knowledge of rangelands and livestock and many memorable moments of joy and laughter will miss him. Dr. Ali was born 10 July 1961 at Chushot village. A devout Muslim, he was equally loved by both Muslims and Buddhists in his community and was the Secretary of the Immamia Mission School which he helped

establish. He is a loss to his family and to the development community in the region. His contributions to the development of Ladakh and to his community are well known and were honoured in separate condolence meetings by officials of the Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department of the Jammu and Kashmir State Government and by his village community.

New Staff Members

ICIMOD attracts competent professionals in their respective fields from around the region and the world. Full-time staff are selected through open competition. During the period the following new staff joined ICIMOD.



Ayushma Basnyat, Senior Receptionist Operator, Personnel section

Ms. Ayushma Basnyat was appointed Senior Receptionist Operator under the Personnel section in June 2005. She holds a Master's degree in International Business from Schiller International University, London, U.K, and a Bachelor's degree, with Honours, in Commerce from the Lady Sri Ram College in Delhi, India.

Before joining ICIMOD, she worked as an intern in Adopt-A-Minefield, a UN-affiliated organisation in London where she was involved in employing a content management system to post articles to the organisation's website and to assist in fund raising activities. In May 2004 she joined ICIMOD as an intern in the Policy and Partnership Development Programme for a year, where she assisted in preparing the Annual Report for the ICIMOD Board of Governors, and created, updated, and managed the ICIMOD donors' database.

Prativa Chhetri, Research Assistant, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme for Asia (MAPPA Project), ARID

Ms. Prativa Chhetri first joined ICIMOD in the Travel and Hospitality section in 1997 where she played a pivotal role in ensuring that all areas relating to staff travel and hospitality ran smoothly. She brings eight years of this experience in office and administrative management as well as in travel hospitality to the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme for Asia (MAPPA), the Centre's newest network project devolved by IDRC, Canada, to ICIMOD. As she forays into programmes in her new capacity as Research Assistant for the MAPPA Project, she looks forward to contributing to the project's overall objectives.



Ms Chhetri has a Master's degree in Sociology from Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal, where she graduated top of her class in 2004, and a Bachelor's degree, with Honours, in Chemistry from the North Eastern Hill University Shillong, Meghalaya, India.



Muhammad Ismail, Assistant Regional Rangeland Research Officer, NRM

Before joining ICIMOD in May 2005, Mr. Ismail worked with the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Pakistan, as Natural Resource Officer in Natural Resource Management and as Resource Development Analyst for seven years.

During this period he was involved in natural resources management activities, mainly rangeland management, afforestation, nurseries development, juniper conservation, environmental education, bee farming, fish farming, and developing community linkages with line departments of the government and with NGOs.

He received his Masters in Forestry from the Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI) Peshawar in 1997. Mr. Ismail comes from Chitral, NWFP, Pakistan.

A. Beatrice Murray, Senior Editor, IKM

Dr. A. Beatrice Murray commenced as Senior Editor at ICIMOD in May 2005. She has been associated with ICIMOD for a number of years working as a freelance editor and later as Editor and Senior Scientific Advisor.

Dr. Murray has a Ph.D. in Biophysics from King's College London, and a B.Sc in Physics from University College London, UK. Her first career was in research science. She worked for some years as a cell biologist at a large research institute in Germany that covered a diverse range of disciplines related to health and environmental science. Later she joined the United Nations Environment Programme where she focused on harmonisation of environmental measurement, in particular urban air quality measurement and vegetation classification. During this time she published more than 100 authored articles, books, and short communications in scientific journals and monographs, as well as non-authored reports, handbooks, and information sheets.



Before joining ICIMOD, Dr. Murray worked as a freelance editorial and publications consultant and as a scientific consultant for data collection and analysis. She has more than 25 years of experience in editing technical and scientific materials for second-language English speakers in pure and applied environmental and medical sciences, and more recently in areas related to different aspects of integrated mountain development in the greater Himalayan region.



Sugam Nepal, MF-APMN Node Manager, IKM

Ms. Sugam Nepal, a Nepalese national, was a research assistant with the Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance (CEGG) Programme of ICIMOD prior to taking up her new position as Node Manager of the Mountain Forum Asia-Pacific Mountain Network in the Information and Knowledge Management Programme. At CEGG, she contributed in the areas of governance, decentralisation, environmental justice, and minority rights. Before coming to ICIMOD, she worked with Media Services International as a Programme Officer where she was responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of a project on media rights.

Ms. Nepal holds a Master's degree in Social Work with specialisation in Urban and Rural Community Development from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India. While a student she was awarded 'Best Foreign Student' by the Institute for "her ability to contrast and compare various facets of development issues in different context".



Krishna Prasad Oli, *Regional Coordinator, Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing of Biodiversity Resources in the Eastern Himalaya, CEGG*

Dr. Krishna Prasad Oli is an Agriculture, Natural Resource Management, and Law professional with 29 years of experience in agriculture research and development, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and environmental law. He has been involved in policy and strategy development and planning for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods, and in coordinating and implementing natural resource management projects in the mountain areas.

Dr. Oli started his career as a livestock officer in Pakhribas Agriculture Center in 1976, continuing to work in this field until 1988. He has since worked with Winrock International Institute of Agriculture Development, and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) where he was an Environmental Planner and Programme Coordinator for 12 years.

He has also been a freelance consultant for UNDP/FAO, ADB, IUCN, South Asian Free Media Association and ICIMOD, undertaking assignments on biodiversity resources management, environmental impact assessment of projects, law and research on issues of natural resources governance at a time of armed conflict, in addition to teaching Environmental Law at Tribhuvan University.

He holds a Masters degree in Animal Science from the University of Edinburgh, and a Ph. D. in Geography from Tribhuvan University where he also obtained his law degree. Dr. Oli speaks fluent Nepali, Hindi, English, Urdu and other South Asian regional languages.

Bandana Shakya, *Research Assistant, Transboundary Biodiversity Project, NRM*

Ms. Bandana Shakya holds a Master's degree in Botany, from Tribhuvan University. She recently completed a second Master's degree, in Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants, from the University of Edinburgh, UK. She brings with her the knowledge of plant sciences, biodiversity and conservation, natural resources management, and herbarium/botanic garden management and eight years of teaching experience at Tribhuvan University and private colleges in Kathmandu. She has conducted research on plant systematics (plant evolutionary diversification), biodiversity, and population genetics.



Ms. Shakya was awarded a Chevening Scholarship from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK in 2003; the Mahendra Vidhya Bhushan award from the Ministry of Education, Nepal in 1995, and the Brahmi Dutta Pandey Medal from the Association of Plant Physiologists of SAARC countries, Nepal in 1993 for her outstanding Masters in Science research. She worked as an intern with the Global Mountain Forum before joining ICIMOD.



Ujol Sherchan, *Programme Officer, Information Services and Content Development, Mountain Forum Secretariat*

Mr. Ujol Sherchan belongs to a minority indigenous mountain community called the 'Thakalis', and the 'j'han'kri khalak' (traditionally, shamans) within the Sherchan clan, and spiritually identifies with Bon, a pre-Buddhist religion.

He holds an International Baccalaureate diploma (Armand Hammer United World College, New Mexico, USA), a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Franklin and Marshall College, Pennsylvania USA, and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in the same field at Tribhuvan University.

He joined ICIMOD in 2001 as Node Manager of the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) – the Asia-Pacific node of the Global Mountain Forum. He joins the Mountain Forum Secretariat – hosted by ICIMOD – as Programme Officer in charge of information services and content development. His areas of expertise and work are moderating discussion lists, organising e-conferences, synthesising e-discussions, e-governance, and knowledge networking, particularly in the context of sustainable mountain development. Before ICIMOD, Mr. Sherchan worked as a freelance consultant for a number of organisations including the Nepal Tourism Board and the International Labour Organisation - Nepal.

Samden Lama Sherpa, *Godavari Centre Manager, NRM*

Mr. Samden Lama Sherpa from the Solokhumbu region of Nepal was appointed Godavari Centre Manager under the Natural Resources Management Programme in June 2005.

Before joining ICIMOD, Mr. Sherpa was with the Natural Resource Management Sector Assistance Programme of DANIDA as Regional Programme Manager in the Eastern region, a Forestry Coordinator in the Churia Forestry Development Project of GTZ in Lahan, and a Forestry Officer at the Pakhribas Agricultural Research Centre. He has 17 years experience working at the community-level with forestry user groups and community development groups through the district forest offices, district soil conservation offices, and non-government organisations in the hills and Terai of eastern Nepal. He promoted sustainable forest management and soil conservation, integrated watershed management, and community-based agroforestry and biodiversity.



Mr. Sherpa received his Master's degree in Agroforestry from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, UK.



Keshar Man Sthapit, Country Coordinator, PARDYP, NRM

Prior to joining ICIMOD in July 2005, Mr. Sthapit was Senior Programme Officer of the DANIDA-supported soil conservation and watershed management component of the Natural Resource Management Sector Assistance Programme in Nepal.

He has held various positions in the Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management-Nepal including Director General as last position. He also served as a visiting scholar in the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara under the International Timber Trade Organization.

Mr. Sthapit has over three decades of experience in the field of soil conservation and watershed management. He holds a diploma in Forestry from Indian Forest College, Dehra Dun India, and a Master's degree in Forestry from North Carolina State University in the USA.

His diverse experience in policy, strategy and guideline formulation, and implementation of participatory soil conservation and watershed management, watershed planning, and watershed research will be useful in the documentation and evaluation of soil and watershed technologies in PARDYP. Mr. Sthapit is from Nepal.

VISITING SCIENTISTS

John Hummel, Visiting Scientist, ARID

John Hummel is from The Netherlands but has lived and worked in several of the world's mountain ranges. He studied forestry with specialisations in nature tourism and sustainable development at Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Dr. Hummel worked as a trekking guide in Europe and the Himalaya in the early 1990s. At that time, he was also a part-time researcher on ecotourism development in Costa Rica, India, and Nepal for the same University. He joined SNV Netherlands Development Organisation as a tourism adviser in 1996. He was first project coordinator in Albania, then senior tourism adviser in Nepal. From Nepal he worked in several countries of the Himalaya and in the Mekong. At present he works at SNV Bhutan as Regional Team Coordinator Pro-Poor Sustainable Tourism (PPST)-Himalaya. He is also the SNV Asia Pro-Poor Sustainable Tourism (PPST) knowledge network leader. He is a visiting faculty in Wageningen, in the graduate course, 'Tourism, Leisure and Environment'. He has published chapters on ecotourism and sustainable and pro-poor tourism in scientific and popular articles.



Huang Jiyung, Visiting Scientist, PPD

Ms. Juying Huang works as an associate professor at the School of Economy and Management, Tibet University, where she teaches Practice and Theory of International Trade, Economy Application Writing, and The Action of Consumers.

She is on short-term attachment to ICIMOD with the Policy and Partnership Development unit (PPD). She will be working with NRM, ARID, and PPD professionals to develop a methodology for assessing the impact of globalisation on the sustainable livelihoods of remote mountain communities under the supervision of Dr. Golam Rasul. She will work towards bringing some regional dimensions into her work, and further refining her study design and analytical methods, and will prepare a proposal on

"Research on the Border Trade between Shigatse Prefecture in Tibetan Autonomous Region in China and Nepal". This paper will analyse the impact of policy on border trade between the two countries and on income and living conditions of people living in the border areas.

Staff departures

The ICIMOD family extends its best wishes to staff members who have left the Centre since April 2005.

- Ms. Augustina Barros, Mountain Forum
1 Nov. 2004 - 11 Aug 2005
- Mr. Bhubaneswor Shrestha, PARDYP, NRM
July 1992 - 30 May, 2005
- Ms. Geeta Pant, Communications Unit,
Personnel section, 1997 to 30 May 2005
- Mr. Kazuya Shinagawa, Intern, NRM
30 June '05 - July 2004
- Ms. Prativa Pradhan, Intern, CEGG
1 May '04 - 30 April 2005
- Ms. Ranju Acharya, Research Assistant,
TBM-NRM, 1 Nov, 2004 - 11 Aug 2005
- Ms. Sharda Gurung, Communications Unit,
Personnel section
15 Oct 1984 - 31 July 2005



ICIMOD interns learn on the job

ICIMOD Staff Members

As of August 2005

Directorate

Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, Director General
Dr. Madhav Bahadur Karki, Deputy Director General - Programmes
Mr. Milan Raj Tuladhar, Head, Administration & Finance
Support Staff: Ms. Tika Laxmi Gurung, Ms. Anjali Shrestha, Ms. Prerna 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
Mr. Roger John White, Regional Programme Coordinator, PARDYP
Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Bhuchar, Assistant Programme Coordinator, PARDYP
Mr. Keshar Man Shapit, Country Coordinator, PARDYP
Mr. Anil Shrestha, Consultant, PARDYP
Support Staff: Ms. Sami Joshi, Ms. Neetu Ghale, Ms. Bandana Shakya (Thapa), 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. Narpat 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. Kurt Luger, Visiting Scientist
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. Prativa Chhetri

Water, Hazards, & Environmental Management (WHEM)

Dr. Xu Jianchu, Ethno-ecologist/Programme Manager
Mr. Pradeep K. Mool, Remote Sensing Analyst
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)

Dr. Nani Ram Subedi, Coordinator, Decentralised & Local Governance
Ms. Radhika Gupta, Coordinator, Equity and Rights
Mr. Krishna Prasad Oli, Regional Coordinator, Strengthening ABSBIO-EH
Mr. Joy Dasgupta, Assistant Coordinator, ABSBIO-EH
Dr. Mark Turin, Visiting Scientist
Support Staff: Mr. Govinda Shrestha

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
Ms. Jiyung Huang, Visiting Scientist
Support Staff: Ms. Samjhana Thapa, Ms. Mamata Shrestha

Information and Knowledge Management (IKM)

Dr. Zbigniew Mikolajuk, Senior Knowledge Management Specialist/Programme Manager
Dr. A. Beatrice Murray, Senior Editor
Ms. Joyce M. Mendez, Publications Editor
Mr. Sanjay Madnani, Information & Communication Specialist

Ms. Nira Gurung, Communications Officer
Support Staff: 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) Division/IKM

Mr. Basanta Shrestha, Division Head
Mr. Cung Chin Thang, Associate Expert - GIS/NR
Mr. Sushil Man Pradhan, GIS Analyst
Mr. Sushil Raj Pandey, Systems' Officer
Mr. Birendra Bajracharya, GIS Analyst
Mr. Samjwal Ratna Bajracharya, Geomorphologist/GIS Analyst
Ms. Bidya Pradhan Banmali, Environment/Air Pollution Officer
Support Staff: Mr. Saisab Pradhan, Mr. Govinda Joshi, Ms. Monica Moktan, Ms. Mandakini Bhatta, Mr. Lokap Rajbhandari, Mr. Gauri Shankar Dongol, Mr. Kiran Shakya, 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 Maharja

Interns/Volunteers/Associates

- Dr. Surya Bahadur Singh, Associate Scientist, NRM
- Dr. Chodok, MENRIS- IKM
- Ms. Chandni Singh, Intern, PPD
- Mr. Jaya Karmacharya, Intern, IKM/MENRIS
- Ms. Srijana Limbu, Intern, IKM/MENRIS
- Ms. Prajna Regmi, Intern, IKM/MENRIS
- Ms. Tseyang Lhamo, Intern, IKM/MENRIS
- Ms. Prabina Dahal, Intern, Personnel section
- Ms. Stuti Basnyet, Intern, Personnel section
- Ms. Dipti Thapa, Intern, NRM