



FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE HINDU KUSH-HIMALAYAS

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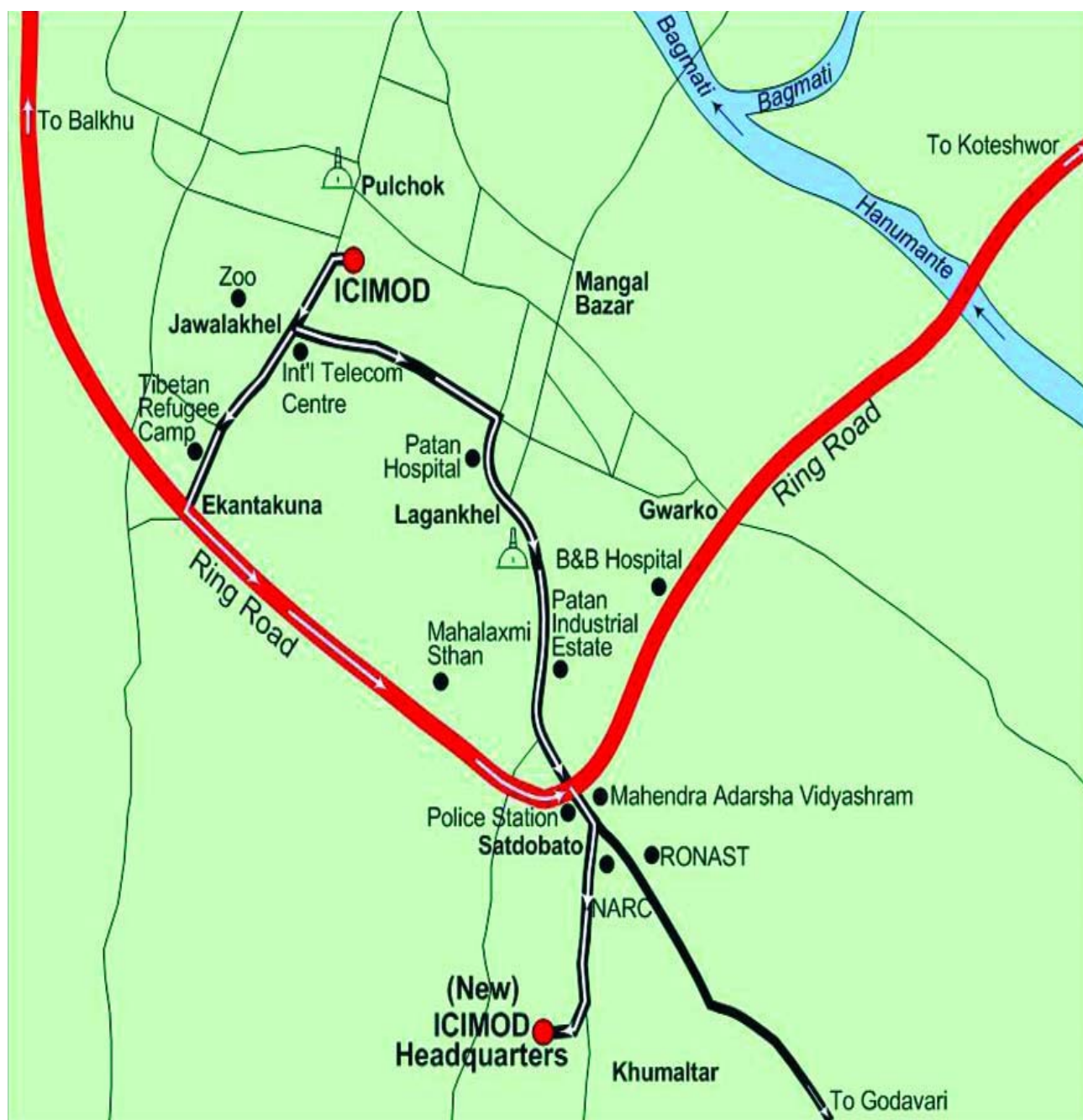
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Location Map of the ICIMOD Headquarters Khumaltar, Lalitpur



A.K. Thaku

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Editorial Contact: ICIMOD Publications, imco@icimod.org.np *Guest Editors:* Dr. Pema Gyamtsho and Srabani Roy *Consultant Editor:* Rosemary A. Thapa
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Letter from the Director General

Dear Friends of ICIMOD,

This special edition of our newsletter coincides with two landmark events in ICIMOD's history: the high-level symposium on mountain development, 'Securing Sustainable Livelihoods in the Hindu-Kush Himalayas: Directions for Future Research, Development and Cooperation' and the inauguration of our new Headquarters in Khumaltar, four kilometres from our present rented quarters. These two events mark significant progress and represent our founders', sponsors', Board of Governors' and other major partners' confidence in ICIMOD's fruitful continuation, and their belief in our mission for integrated mountain development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region.



This issue also draws substantially from our report to our Board and Support Group to highlight some of our major accomplishments in 2004. These include our contributions to policy and advocacy development, approaches and technologies for alternative income generation, and increased regional cooperation for addressing poverty and physical and social vulnerability in the region. Violent conflicts, raging floods, and forced migrations of mountain peoples, along with increased air and water pollution, continue to dominate the news throughout much of our region and are seemingly more prevalent than before. The equally salient, but more silent, stories about areas of increased prosperity, increased management of forests and rangelands through community mobilisation, and increased regional cooperation and information exchange rarely make the headlines. While the pressing and depressing reality of poverty and vulnerability continue to underline the need for ICIMOD and its partners to address these challenges on a wider scale, it is the efforts that are succeeding, at least in part, that continue to give a sense of purpose to the Centre and its staff.

For ICIMOD, 2004 has been the year in which the Medium-Term Action Plan (MTAP) for 2003-2007, including its new strategic directions, has been fully launched, and the basic human and financial resources necessary for its full implementation acquired. Due to the continuing commitment and support of the core programme donors, including the Regional Member Countries (RMCs) of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan; and the European countries of Austria, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland; the Centre is assured of its critically required financial base. With the co-financing that these funds enable the Centre to leverage, through projects from a number of supportive donors, ICIMOD has been able to recruit the staff required to carry out the new strategy - although this had to be delayed to the second half of the year until the financing was secured.

For example, contributions to strengthening the community-based management of natural resources were made through policy dialogues on shifting cultivation, rangelands, beekeeping, equity and rights, and biodiversity management. Practitioner and advocacy networks dealing with such issues have emerged through these initiatives, and as demonstrated by the high degree of interaction and activity, are a meaningful mechanism for debating issues and solutions.

Similarly, the regional cooperation on exchange of flood forecasting information that is starting to take place is reinforced by regional cooperation in glacial lake outburst flood data exchange, water quality information exchange, and cooperative efforts on climate change. All of these contribute to reduced physical vulnerability although they involve different initiatives and teams of staff and partners. The fostering of web-based portals for these exchanges, with increasing linkages to partner databases in related fields, is also increasing the reality of regional cooperation and providing new platforms for ICIMOD to help integrate and support knowledge management in the future.

Networks devoted more to technologies and market linkages have also expanded their reach and taken new information inputs from ICIMOD programmes, contributing to improving and diversifying incomes. Pilot efforts in our network of watershed sites are already being taken up by an increasing number of households and are being incorporated into new government programmes. Pilot efforts on key medicinal plants show great promise of being scaled up to have significant income enhancement potential.

The increased interest and willingness of governments and partners in the region to address the pressing issues of equity, exclusion, and local resource management as they apply both to gender differences and social discrimination, has brought a new set of initiatives designed to contribute to the outcome of a greater voice and security for marginalised groups. Although some of these are new initiatives that will take time to bear fruit, they are building on previous success with grassroots' associations and networks such as FECOFUN (Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal), and HIMAWANTI (Himalayan Grassroots' Women's Natural Resource Management Association), as well as professional groups such as SAWTEE (South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment) that are dealing with the impacts of globalisation and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

This past year saw some significant implementation of a more strategic partnership development policy. Formal linkages have been established with eight policy development institutions in each of our regional member countries. ICIMOD, however, needs to continue to develop innovative mechanisms to build depth within its partnerships in the region and respond to the continuing requests to extend its partnership initiatives beyond the HKH.

The Centre also provided increased support and systematised procedures for the critical task of joint planning with partners and obtaining co-financing for projects through proposal development and fundraising. As well as increasing partner ownership, this additional support also provides a mechanism through which the Centre's new strategic thrusts and programme criteria developed by the Board can be integrated into the on-going work.

The Centre's continuing effort to increase regional representation and programmatic balance was carried out through intensive consultations and exchange visits with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, and Pakistan. These resulted in prioritised lists of programmatic areas of joint interest, and increased participation of country nationals in on-going ICIMOD programmes. However, funding constraints for expanding programmes, particularly for Afghanistan and Myanmar, continue to limit our activities. We expect that the recruitment of additional staff from Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, and Pakistan will provide some assistance in bringing greater balance to ICIMOD's activities in the future.

ICIMOD continues to serve as an information hub and resource. In addition to our traditional publications, book fairs and displays, we have been experimenting with alternative media, e-News, intranets and extranets, interactive web portals, and other electronic and non-electronic means of not only disseminating information, but also receiving and interacting with information providers. ICIMOD is primarily a mountain learning and knowledge centre, and it is through information exchange and regional cooperation that we fulfil our mission.

ICIMOD is extremely grateful to the Board of Governors and the ICIMOD Support Group for the generous guidance and support they have provided to enable us to serve the poor peoples and dynamic environments of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. We look forward to fulfilling the confidence placed in us in the years ahead.

J. Gabriel Campbell, Ph.D.
Director General

Advances in Policy Development

'Jhumias' Sow Seeds for Change



Participants of the Regional Shifting Cultivation Policy Dialogue Workshop, Shillong, India

Jhum (shifting) cultivation can be good for the environment and livelihoods, say experts from five countries of the Eastern Himalayas (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, and Nepal). This was the topic discussed at a three-day regional policy dialogue workshop, held in Shillong from 6 to 8 October 2004. ICIMOD organised the workshop in collaboration with the North Eastern Council, Shillong; LEAD-India; the Missing Link; and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCRMP). Participants included experts from the scientific as well as the policy field, NGOs, and farmers who gathered to debate viable policy options for shifting cultivation.

Over thirty researchers, development workers, and farmers from the five countries were involved in developing more than twenty case studies. They covered farmers' innovations and adaptations in the context of the marginalisation of shifting cultivation as well as responses to agricultural transformations in all the five countries. Each country team selected and analysed their cases based on their own views and country context, considering the fact that policies will also have to be made suitably accommodating at the national level.

Shifting cultivation, or rotational agro-forestry, is an agricultural system mired in misunderstanding. It has been generally subject to policies that are based on questionable perceptions of the ecological and livelihood realities of both the practice and the farmers involved. Policy makers have often wrongly assumed that shifting cultivation is universally unsustainable and destructive of forests and wildlife. The great variety of land use types, the cultural knowledge of the indigenous peoples, the increased food security of poor and landless households, and the vast number of plant and tree species associated with shifting cultivation are too often ignored by policy makers, governments, and analysts. Tenurial arrangements

often undermine farmer motivation for investing in longer-term agricultural and forestry practices.

The main aim of the Shillong workshop was to share the findings and experiences presented in the draft policy document entitled, "Shifting Cultivation in the Eastern Himalayas: Perceptions, Innovations, and Policy Imperatives". It was debated with policy makers and decision makers, who are dealing with the future of shifting cultivation. Common policy issues were agreed upon and policy recommendations made. There were more than 70 participants, including representatives of government bodies and NGOs, donors and fundraisers, scientists and farmers, as well as members of civil society.

At the inaugural session Dr. Kamal Taori, Secretary of the North East Council (NEC), expressed the commitment of the NEC, while the Vice President of IFAD, Dr. Phrang Roy, strongly believes in the process of livelihood enhancement and environmental sustainability by strengthening traditional community institutions such as those of shifting cultivators.

Mr. Paty Ripple Kyndiah, Union Cabinet Minister for Tribal Affairs and Development of the North East, Union of India, delivered the Inaugural Address as the Chief Guest. He also released a book entitled, "To Jhum or Not to Jhum: Policy Perspectives on Shifting Cultivation", written by Dr. V.T. Darlong and published by The Missing Link.

The concluding session was chaired by the Chief Secretary of Meghalaya, Mr. Peter Bazeley, who praised the ICIMOD initiative and hoped for concrete action on the ground as well as policy improvements for shifting cultivation in the Eastern Himalayan region. The Shillong Declaration on shifting cultivation in the Eastern Himalayas was developed and adopted during the workshop. Dr. Eklabya Sharma of ICIMOD expressed his hope for the continuation of this process of policy change for the benefit of the shifting cultivators of the Eastern Himalayas.

The Shillong Declaration

for Shifting Cultivation in the Eastern Himalayas

Shillong, Meghalaya, India, 6 to 8 October 2004

Responding to the suggestion of the Hon'ble Union Minister of the Government of India on Tribal Affairs and Development of the North East Region, Mr. P.R. Kyndiah, to propose a Shillong Declaration,

Recognising that shifting cultivation is key to production systems, both agriculture and forestry, for providing a livelihood to many ethnic and tribal groups in the tropical and sub-tropical highlands of Asia and Africa as well as Latin America,

Recognising that shifting cultivation is one of the most complex and multifaceted forms of traditional agro-forestry practice in the world reflecting a robust traditional ecological knowledge,

Realising that shifting cultivation evolved as a traditional practice and is an institutionalised resources management mechanism at a species, ecosystem, and landscape level ensuring ecological security and food security and thus providing a social safety net,

Being conscious of the diverse traditional institutions and tenurial systems pertaining to shifting cultivation in the Eastern Himalayan region comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, and Nepal,

Understanding that the institutional mechanisms ingrained in traditional shifting cultivation systems can ensure access to productive resources for every member of the community including the landless and the most marginalised,

Recognising that shifting cultivation is a way of life for a large number of indigenous, tribal, and other poor and marginalised upland communities,

Recognising that traditional shifting cultivation systems have been stressed by external and internal forces,

Having knowledge about existing policies on shifting cultivation in the countries of the Eastern Himalayas.

We, the participants from the Eastern Himalayan countries, representing government agencies, farmers, international bodies, non-governmental organisations, academia, science and research institutions, local institutions, international donors, and development assistance agencies, the private sector, and other professionals concerned about shifting cultivation and shifting cultivators, regionally and worldwide, assembled in Shillong in Meghalaya, India from 6 to 8 October 2004, declare as hereunder:

- (a) That shifting cultivation must be recognised as an agricultural and an adaptive forest management practice which is based on scientific and sound ecological principles.
- (b) That it is imperative to provide an enabling environment in order to address the urgent livelihood and ecological concerns arising out of rapid transformations driven by development and other externalities including market forces.
- (c) That it is imperative to empower shifting cultivators as practitioners of rotational agro-forestry to become active participants in decision making and policy processes that impact them most.
- (d) That it is essential to make existing research and extension services sensitive and relevant to the needs and challenges of shifting cultivation and shifting cultivators and simultaneously assimilate the traditional ecological knowledge of shifting cultivation into future research, development, and extension processes.
- (e) That it is necessary to recognise the traditional institutions and intellectual capital generated from traditional practices relating to shifting cultivation and ensure its protection in the legal and policy regime.
- (f) That it is essential to provide interactive forums and an environment for information access and sharing between multiple stakeholders at the local, national, regional, and global level.
- (g) That it is imperative to acknowledge that women usually play the most critical role in shifting cultivation both at the activity and impact level and therefore any development intervention must be sensitive to this fact.

AND THEREFORE

The Regional, National, and Local Policies for Shifting Cultivation need to be re-appraised and, where necessary, reformulated. For this purpose, the detailed recommendations of the 'Shifting Cultivation Regional Policy Dialogue Workshop for the Eastern Himalayas', 6 to 8 October 2004, Shillong can provide input.

WHERE ALL POLICIES AND ACTIONS SHOULD BE FOUNDED ON THE FOLLOWING GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To support decentralised, participatory, multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary, eco-regional and adaptive management approaches that respect human and cultural diversity, gender equity, livelihood security and enhancement as well as environmental sustainability where we value and build upon both traditional and scientific information and knowledge.

Co-management of Rangelands Promoted in China, Nepal, and Bhutan

ICIMOD has intensified its efforts to promote the co-management of rangelands through its country partners. In April 2004, in collaboration with the Sichuan Grassland Institute (SGI) and the Chengdu Institute of Biology, ICIMOD conducted a training of trainers session for 45 officials in Sichuan Province, China, on co-management of rangelands. These officials included county-level governors and vice-governors, as well as animal husbandry and rangeland development officers. ICIMOD is providing further support to the SGI to up-scale the co-management experiences from the pilot site in Hongyaun County.



Mr. Tshering, Governor of Nakchu County, TAR, and staff of TAAAS discussing rangeland management options in the field with ICIMOD's rangeland specialist, Dr. Pema Gyamtsho

ICIMOD's work on rangelands in Mustang in collaboration with the Upper Mustang Biodiversity Conservation Project is also picking up momentum. New and high-yielding pasture plants are being introduced and a co-management approach initiated with the building of a P-3D (participatory three-dimensional) model. In Bhutan, ICIMOD has started working with the Dzongkhag Administration, Paro, and the Wang Watershed Management Project to conduct participatory action research on rangelands and to introduce

the co-management approach at a pilot site in Soe Yaksa.

ICIMOD also supported the Fourth International Yak Congress held in Chengdu, China. The meeting brought together leading experts on yak breeding, feeding, and rangeland specialists from the region and beyond. A special session on rangeland management was organised by ICIMOD where the results from the various pilot sites in the regional member countries were presented, shared, and discussed among professionals from the different countries.

Additionally, strategic innovations for improving pastoral livelihoods in the HKH highlands as a whole have been synthesised and published and are being shared with institutions, policy makers, and professionals. There is now an increased recognition of the need to re-orient policies to increase community management roles.

Triticale: A Potential Multi-purpose Crop for Mustang

Two years after testing various types of fodder crops and grasses, a 'green revolution' is in the offing in Upper Mustang, one of Nepal's highest and driest regions. Triticale (*Triticum x Secale* hybrid) was found to not only grow well but to produce as much as 1 tonne of grain and over 30 tonnes of leafy straw, which is much more than yields from the traditional barley crop. The triticale crop is fast-growing and requires a shorter season than barley, which suits the short growing season in Mustang. It also requires little water and nutrient inputs. Triticale also provides increased livestock production from supplementary winter feeding with its straw. In Bhutan, where it was introduced from Switzerland, local farmers have found it to be better suited than local wheat and barley for producing 'tsampa' and 'chang', two popular food and alcoholic products. Indirectly, the crop will enable herders to increase feeding indoors with the straw, thus reducing grazing pressure on the highly degraded rangelands. Already many requests have been received from farmers for supply of seeds.

ICIMOD brought the triticale seeds from Bhutan and is trying other crops suited to high altitude conditions from Bhutan as well as from New Zealand and Switzerland. Other fodder species showing great promise are lucerne, oats, fodder beet, cocksfoot, and Italian ryegrass. This work is part of the Rangeland Initiative and is carried out in collaboration with the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation through its Upper Mustang Biodiversity Conservation Project.

Advances in Policy Development Tools

Decision Support System for Conservation Management and Sustainable Livelihoods

ICIMOD continues its progress and development of sophisticated, geographic information systems (GIS)-based tools. The Decision Support System - Hindu Kush-Karakoram Himalayas (DSS-HKKH) initiative, covering the Sagarmatha National Park in Nepal and the Central Karakoram National Park in Pakistan, was launched this year. The initiative is a regional and international partnership between ICIMOD, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Ev-K2-CNR (an Italian scientific organisation), and CESVI (an Italian NGO). The two national parks have been identified as pilot sites in the HKKH region to develop a GIS-based DSS for protected area conservation and management. A number of activities are underway, such as the conceptual design of DSS, DSS problem tree definition, an initial GIS data and satellite image collection, and GIS data gap analysis, as well as networking of partners. The pilot DSS is expected to be ready by the end of the year, contributing to the development of databases and a DSS for park management. ICIMOD has also conducted several training sessions on DSS.



Participants in the 2nd DSS meeting at CNR, Rome, with Italian MPs

Lorenzo Cappon

Finally, several initiatives were completed this year in regional and country-specific socioeconomic indicator databases. A regional database on socioeconomic indicators is now available in searchable CD and print formats. The database aims to enable better planning and to provide information and trends for improved programme decision-making and enhanced future impact. Using the database, a study report has been prepared that quantitatively locates the 'poor' living in six countries of the HKH region (Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan).

Socioeconomic Indicators

ICIMOD also released several landmark publications related to socioeconomic indicators for Nepal, 'Mapping Nepal: Census Indicators 2001 and Trends' and, 'Districts of Nepal - Indicators of Development.' These publications drew widespread recognition for their usefulness in policy planning processes. ICIMOD collaborated with the Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal and SNV-Nepal for these publications. The studies look at various socioeconomic expressions of the country using GIS tools and techniques based on the new census data. They also look at the comparison of data from the past three censuses and present the trends over time. Based on the success of the Nepal case, ICIMOD is currently collaborating with national partners in other RMCs to conduct similar joint studies. There has been great demand for the publication and the book is being translated into Nepali. It will be made available on CD-ROM as well as on the Intranet in English and Nepali.

Three-dimensional (P-3D) models: Effective Community-level Planning Tools

Participatory three-dimensional (P-3D) models have been developed in villages surrounding Nokrek National Park in Meghalaya, India. P3-D models are effective tools for community-based natural resources management and have been extensively used by the communities for land allocation in shifting cultivation, natural resource use, village planning, and for negotiating with government officials about services and the development of natural resources. An original model was up-scaled by the project and the communities, and is now available in twelve villages. The model has also been successfully applied in the villages surrounding ICIMOD's Demonstration and Training Centre in Godavari and in Mustang, Nepal, for participatory natural resources management in watersheds and rangelands. Complementary options for participatory community mapping and planning are also being appraised, which could open up additional potential, or the up-scaling and integration of new GIS 3-D tools.



P-3D Model

Elisabeth Kerkhoff

Alternative Approaches for Rural Income Generation

Eco-Tourism Innovation: 'Cliff Bee' Tourism

ICIMOD's well-known indigenous beekeeping programme began developing a new 'bee-watch' tourism project to conserve the cliff bees of Nepal and increase the income of surrounding communities by bringing in international tourists or bee enthusiasts to observe the nesting habitats of Nepal's cliff bees. Instead of destroying nests for honey, local communities and tour operators are being offered conservation incentives through tourism fees. National Geographic, Austrian Public Radio, and Pulse of the Planet have publicised this story globally and interest is growing in Austria and France for this interesting tourism option, with French and Austrian tour agencies already promoting this tourism product. In Nepal, the capacity of local honey hunter groups has also been strengthened to develop social fences around bee cliffs to conserve bee habitats.

Further, by providing small subsidies to farmers in the form of a revolving fund as well as training, advisory, and technical support, the indigenous honeybee programme has been able to provide tangible gains to poor people in the mountain areas of the region. ICIMOD has been able to make a breakthrough in the difficult area of *Apis cerana* multiplication. It has been able to achieve mass queen



Honey hunter displaying the art of hunting honey from *Apis laboriosa* nests in Kaski District, Nepal

rearing and nucs marketing, which is a step ahead of a prototype bee development programme. This has led to the development of private and small businesses in Pokhara, Nepal, in 16 VDCs, from which 348 households are already benefiting. ICIMOD's partners in Kaski, Nepal, were able to generate 70 000 Nepalese rupees by selling honey, nucs, equipment, and training services. The work in Nepal, India, and Pakistan has led Bangladesh to launch a five-year programme on beekeeping throughout the country. ICIMOD is assisting the Bangladesh Cottage and Small Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in developing this programme.

Integrated Dairy and Horticulture Farming Model

In order to assist Bhutan in its up-scaling of integrated dairy-horticulture farming models (cattle with fruit trees and assorted vegetables), ICIMOD and its partner, the Renewable Natural Resources Research Centre (RNRRC), in collaboration with the Dzongkhag and Goeg staff (district-level and local renewable natural resources staff), developed pilot programmes in two villages - Thridangbi and Kalampang - in Eastern Bhutan. Fourteen farmers from Thridangbi and eleven farmers from Kalampang were chosen to take part in the programme.

To date, the impact of the project has been extremely positive. Staff of the RNRRC say that the project has proven to be an innovative farming model. They have taken it upon themselves to expand the model in the district beyond integrated dairy-horticulture and have added agro-forestry and water harvesting. Staff from the Dzongkhag commended the project's capacity building and partnership potential, saying that it has helped them to maintain formal linkages with the RNRRC as well as providing opportunities to experiment with different farming and other options aside from their regular programmes. Similarly, local Goeg staff maintain that the project has helped them get additional attention both from their superiors at the district level as well as from RNRRC. The programme has helped them to enhance their technical skills and has enabled them to understand the farmers with whom they work better by building more effective working relationships. Finally, the project's impact on the participating farmers has been very positive. RNRRC reports that farmers take good care of the plants and planting materials and that there is a 100 % survival rate for all plants provided. There is visible improvement in the landscape with either hedgerow plantation, agro-forestry, and intercropping of pasture and fodder trees. Significantly, the farmers in Thridangbi plan to introduce a group savings scheme and the farmers in Kalampang would like to buy a power tiller together and use it to earn extra income for the group. The mixed farming models in these two villages have become popular and receive many visitors, including other farmers and experts, enabling further exchange of information and knowledge.



The integrated dairy and horticultural farming model in Thridangbi, Mongar, Bhutan

Up-scaling of Technologies

ICIMOD has pioneered several alternative income generation options for rural mountain peoples through its work at the ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre at Godavari in Nepal; through its indigenous honeybees programme; and through the development and promotion of integrated dairy and horticulture farming and a system for rice intensification.

ICIMOD piloted a 'bottom-up' approach for up-scaling options for rural technologies to generate alternative energy and income by organising the training of trainers (ToT) for community leaders from rural areas in Nepal. ICIMOD received positive feedback from several sites, and local governments and civil societies have started adopting these technologies.

This year, ICIMOD continued building the capacities of local communities through its work in and around the ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre, Godavari, Nepal. Capacity was built in farm-based technologies, including water harvesting and plastic sheet greenhouses. Also, lead farmers from remote Nepali villages were trained at the Godavari Demonstration and Training Centre site. They in turn have already initiated various activities for implementation and sharing in their own villages. Women's groups and forest user groups from the villages surrounding the Godavari centre have started using many of the available technologies, particularly for increasing farm income and community forest management. Ten forest rangers from Lalitpur District, Nepal were trained to use new inventory methodologies, Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS), and GIS for making community forest inventories. This is a basic requirement if they are to hand over the management and use of the forests to local communities.



Mountain farmers receiving hands-on training on bio-briquetting

Suraj Thapa

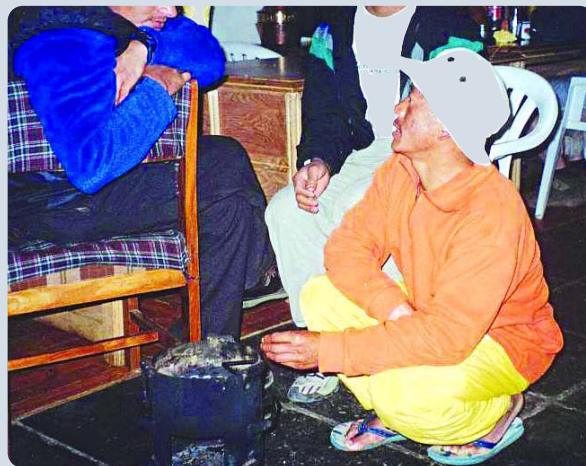
Namche Bazaar Gets its Heat from Bio-briquettes

Ang Pasang Sherpa was one of the 11 participants in the ICIMOD hands-on training in, "Rural Water Harvesting, Income Generation and Energy Technologies for Community Leaders," which was conducted at ICIMOD's Godavari Training and Demonstration Centre in January 2004.

In April 2004, Ang Pasang Sherpa started a project on bio-briquette production in Namche Bazaar, Nepal. He built 120 briquettes, using the knowledge acquired during the training and using local materials. He used clay and the coals of firewood instead of the forest weeds used at Godavari since these species do not grow at high altitudes.

The bio-briquettes made by Ang Pasang have been tested in the local hotels and were found to last at least one hour for cooking and three hours for heating. The owners of the lodges think that this technology could be very useful for heating rooms in hotels, an added service that would be much appreciated by tourists.

Such clean technologies not only contribute towards a cleaner environment, but also could potentially be a source for added income for mountain communities.



Ang Pasang Sherpa with his new stove in Namche Lodge, Khumbu (Everest Region)

Agustina Barros

Improving Farmers' Livelihoods - Success in Pakistan

In early 1999, the local people of Hilkot village, Mansehra District, in the Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan, had few expectations when a research team from the Pakistan Forestry Institute started working in their area. Curious villagers were told that the research was about watershed management, land rehabilitation, trees, and runoff. The only visible signs of the work were the river gauging stations and automatic weather recorders.

However, by late 1999, some roadside trials had begun to attract interest. The farmers involved started to tell other farmers of the difference in yields between the varieties being grown in the trials and their traditional varieties. The use of new maize varieties and improved husbandry led to a quadrupling of yields in the first year and a further doubling in the second year. By the 2004 season, yields had again doubled in the same fields. In the same way, wheat grown as a fodder crop is now giving up to four tonnes of grain per hectare as well as greatly increased amounts of straw.

Many other successes have followed the arrival of the researchers. A 200-tree apple orchard, which had almost been dug up because of low yields, is now producing 30 boxes of organic apples per year. These are snapped up by dealers for the Islamabad market at double the local market price. In 2001, one enterprising farmer decided to grow onions for seed with encouragement from the project's agronomist. Now, three years later, there is a flourishing seed cooperative in the area. In 2004, it produced and sold 200 000 Pakistani rupees' worth of certified seed. It is also selling a wide range of vegetable seed and the improved maize and wheat seeds promoted by the project.

After a while, the research team felt that they needed to share their findings with a wider audience.



In 2001, they organised a Farmers' Day to allow the growing number of trial participants to explain their successes to other farmers and to exchange their ideas and opinions about the new techniques.

An agricultural fair was held at the same time with stalls from the bee research institute, the renewable energy department, other government agencies, private companies, and NGOs. This fair has become a regular part of the local calendar and in 2004, 500 farmers attended.

The project has increasingly involved women farmers in testing and evaluating farming methods new to the area. Trials and recommendations to improve home gardens, simple ways of improving drinking water by solar

distillation, and the storage of crop surpluses have all made a real difference for local women.

Given that local social values discourage women from attending public events alongside men, in 2004 the team decided to hold a separate Farmers' Day and agricultural fair for women farmers. The team expected no more than 150 women to attend. In fact, over 350 women came, attracted by stories about reduced workloads, improved family nutrition, and other benefits that had led from taking part in the project's initiatives.

The project has also helped to overcome deep seated and divisive social differences between the rich Khans who live in the valley bottom and the tenants, mostly from the Gujar community, who rent the marginal land on the upper slopes from the Khans. Improved understanding between the two groups has led to great benefits for both sides. As one landlord explained, "A few years ago I would not have travelled in the same vehicle as one of my tenants - but now I am feeding them in my house" (at the Farmers' Day). This dialogue and improved understanding has also led to the tenants feeling more secure about their rights, prompting them to invest more in their rented

So what about indicators of success?

Perhaps the most visible sign of success is the return to the area of many local people who had left for Islamabad and Karachi to earn a living. Returnee Momin Khan told researchers, "Now with new crops and farming methods I can earn much more on our family farm than working in a tea shop in Karachi."



Farmers' meeting in Sathagali, Pakistan

Mohammed Jehangir

land by planting trees and taking other measures to conserve the soil.

The researchers helped to set up a groundbreaking meeting where the landlords, who also own most of the forest areas, the tenants (the forest users) and the forest department (the custodians of the forests) sat down together and agreed how to manage the area's forests. The landlords say that as a result there is less illegal felling of 'their timber'.

The year 2004 has seen a number of project initiatives beginning to bear fruit in the Hilkot Watershed. The innovative SRI technique of transplanting single, very young rice seedlings at wide planting intervals - as opposed to the traditional, more mature bunches of seedlings at a closer interval - has resulted in a 25 % to 50 % yield increase. The skeptical farmers who transplanted the rice found these results unbelievable. The use of earthenware pitchers to trap water runoff when establishing fruit trees on stony upland soils is also showing promising results. This technique is well-suited to this area of moderately low, but fairly well-distributed rainfall. Another recent success has been the adoption of the innovative agroforestry system of poplar trees with vegetables. This has been adopted in the valley bottoms and involves the planting of hybrid poplars developed at the Pakistan Forest Institute. These trees are ready for harvesting in six years and give valuable wood that is used for furniture making and for construction.

Why has it worked when other similar interventions have failed?

First, the project deliberately kept the expectations of local people low. Second, the donors' long-term commitments have allowed the development of sound relationships and project credibility. Third, the relatively small immediate study area of 1600 ha has allowed for adequate and regular attention to be given to research and demonstration activities. Fourthly, the permanent local presence of a team of young, enthusiastic, and qualified scientists is perhaps the key factor in that it has led to friendly competition between the different teams from across the region. Finally, the project's flexible approach has been crucial in allowing it to continue to make good progress when difficulties have arisen.

Hilkot is one of the five research watersheds of the People and Resource Dynamics in the Middle Mountain Watersheds of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas project. Young scientists from ICIMOD's partner, the Pakistan Forest Institute, are carrying out this research. This project acts as a regional research network with each of its watersheds sharing its successes and lessons learned with researchers and farmers in the other watersheds and beyond. Project successes from Nepal, India, and

China have been presented to and discussed with farmers in Hilkot. This has led to some Hilkot farmers trying out new farming methods.

The many changes brought about by the introduction of new techniques and the exchange of ideas has led to cumulatively large changes, although, taken alone, many of the resulting successes have only involved small improvements. One such example is the

And what about the future?

Pakistan's Inspector General of Forests is keen to extend the approaches used and the innovations developed in the Hilkot research watershed to farmers across all of the surrounding areas of the critically important Tarbela Watershed. The Hilkot Watershed is a beacon of innovation and is now attracting funds and staff from donors, NGOs, government departments, and research institutes.

adoption in other watersheds of the technique from Nepal of covering compost heaps with black plastic. This has led to an average 10 % improvement in compost quality and the compost is ready to use in a shorter time. In line with this philosophy of small cumulative improvements,

PARDYP is encouraging government extension services to promote a basket of appropriate techniques that taken together can make a huge difference to hill farmers.

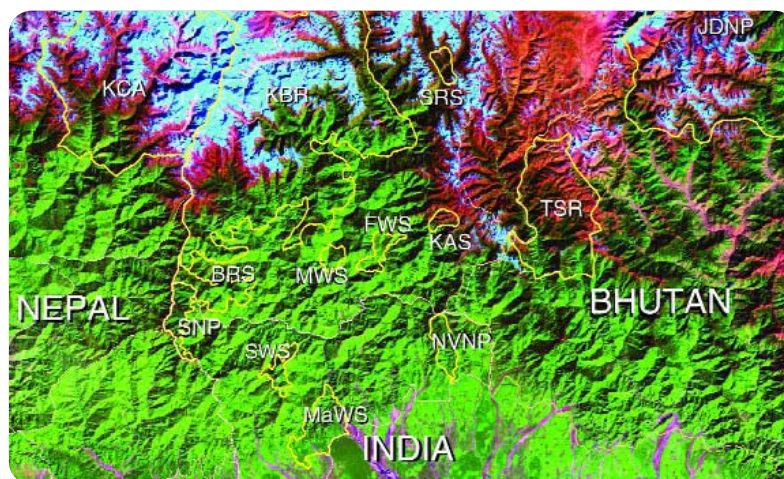
Other techniques that have been successfully demonstrated and adopted in PARDYP research watersheds have included new water harvesting techniques, drip and micro sprinkler irrigation, hydraulic rams for lifting irrigation water, simple polyhouses, and composting with worms. In the coming years the project will support local farmers to further test and adapt these techniques to local conditions.



Recently transplanted vegetables under hybrid poplar. The poplar will be harvested when it is six years old

Increased Regional Cooperation in Biological Conservation

Transboundary Landscape Conservation



Kangchenjunga Conservation Landscape showing protected areas

KCA	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area	KBR	Kangchenjunga Biosphere Reserve
BRS	Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary	MWS	Mainam Wildlife Sanctuary
FWS	Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary	SRS	Singha Rhododendron Sanctuary
KAS	Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary	SNP	Singhalila National Park
SWS	Senchel Wildlife Sanctuary	MaWS	Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary
NVNP	Neora Valley National Park	TSR	Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve
JDNP	Jigme Dorjee National Park		

Many models of conservation have evolved over the years, from species-level conservation to protected area management. ICIMOD is supporting a landscape approach by putting conservation efforts into transboundary complexes starting from Mount Everest and expanding to the Kangchenjunga complex in the eastern Himalayas. There has been a realisation that protected areas alone cannot meet the demands of conservation, and a holistic approach considering the landscape/ecosystem - including human beings as part of the system - is required.

The transboundary landscape conservation concept was put into action by ICIMOD through involving all levels of stakeholders in consultations on the planning and improvement of biological corridors between protected areas. Three consecutive consultations were organised in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. Taking part were politicians, policy makers, government officials, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), and communities who debated on a common platform the issues that are relevant to community development and biodiversity conservation.

Participatory planning tools have been adopted and action-planning processes initiated. These include options to combine conservation with enterprise

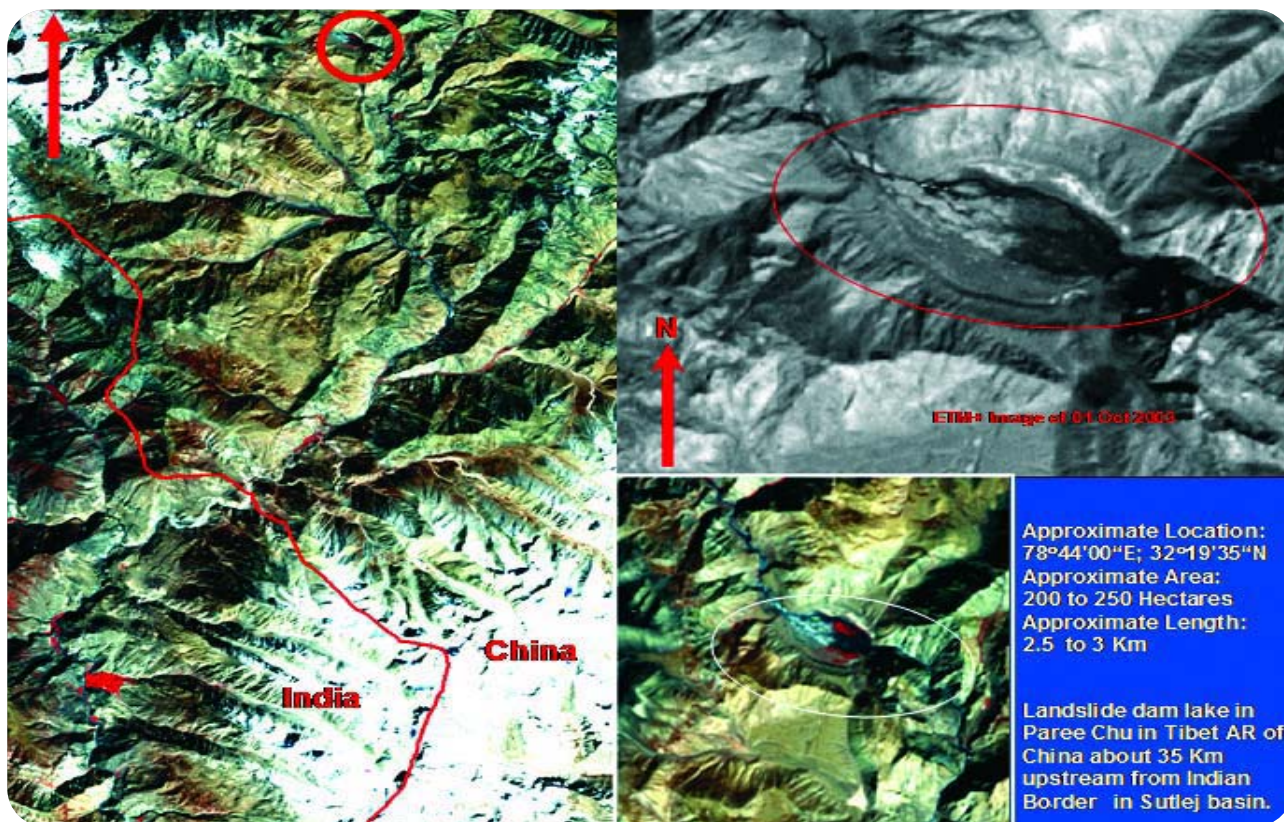
development by the communities in the corridor areas, including community forests, agro-forestry, and mixed agriculture using the existing biodiversity resources. The corridor provides connectivity between protected areas for wildlife movement and gene flow, as well as livelihood options for prevailing communities.

Together with The World Conservation Union (IUCN), ICIMOD is developing a database on all the protected areas of Nepal in GIS format, which will form the basis of a national-level biodiversity database and its application in the region. The database for the Kangchenjunga landscape has been established. These databases will be available for use by conservation professionals and institutions and will enable the study of changes in land cover over time. Eventually such databases could help formulate policy recommendations for conservation activities.

After a decade-long process, cooperation for conservation between India, Nepal, and Bhutan is beginning. For the first time, conservation and developmental issues were presented from a community perspective and were placed together in a regional forum for discussion. This process of collaboration for conservation considering the landscape approach provided an opportunity to consolidate a cohesive partnership among conservationists, development authorities, and civil society.

Flood Disaster Mitigation

Increased Regional Cooperation in Flood Forecasting and Disaster Mitigation



Landslide-created lake in Tibet, China, 2004

ICIMOD has made significant progress in regional cooperation and networking through its regional flood forecasting programme. This initiative has allowed precipitation and flood forecasting data to be accessed by local partners in the region for the first time. This is a unique initiative, which has enabled high-level participants from the countries of the HKH region to share a common platform and continue dialogue about regional cooperation to mitigate flood disasters. The initiative has allowed the participating countries to identify their needs and priorities in flood forecasting and has also given the relevant national organisations and institutions involved in different aspects of flood disaster mitigation the opportunity to strengthen their networks to increase awareness and to interact in national consultations. Partners in this programme are ICIMOD, the World Meteorology Organization (WMO), the collaborating institutions of each of the regional countries, as well as donors and international organisations working with flood-related programmes.

The programme so far has been successful in bringing together high-level individuals working on

flood forecasting and disaster management from the countries of the HKH region and giving them an opportunity to sit down together and learn about current and new approaches, and to discuss possible new directions for more effective collaboration. The initiative has also helped build confidence and trust among the participating countries.

As more and more technologies become available for assessing mountain hazards and risks such as floods, ICIMOD's GIS and RS programme increases its ability to effectively utilise this data for disaster mitigation in the region. For example, the remote sensing data, provided by the National Air and Space Administration (NASA) and the Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) science team (which was further validated by ICIMOD) concerning the landslide-created lake on the Paree Chu River in Tibet, China; and the imminent disaster downstream in India along the Sutlej River in mid-2004; has increased awareness about the importance of sharing information on hydrology, rainfall, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) among ICIMOD's member country partners.

Overcoming Poverty Through Advocacy

Networks for Advocacy

More than 70 individuals and institutions, including women's organisations in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan have been strengthened and empowered for better management of resources, and increased access (particularly to water and forest resources) through a series of training of trainers workshops (ToT) held this year. A regional working group, the Advocacy Forum for Revitalising Equitable Societies in the HKH (AFRESH), has been formed to enhance networking. An alliance of institutions on advocacy, the National Forum for Advocacy Nepal (NFAN), has also been established as a network for collaborative capacity building and enhancement of issue-based advocacy.



Network representatives of the Advocacy Forum for Revitalising Equitable Societies in the HKH (AFRESH)

Reference materials for advocacy building have been developed and made available to more than 50 interested local NGOs and CBOs. These include a training manual on advocacy strategies, a resource manual for trainers and advocacy professionals, and various other training materials, some generated by the ToT workshop participants themselves. Ten 'best practice' case studies on community advocacy approaches have also been published.

Such advocacy training events have been extremely successful and effective in providing communities and organisations with greater voice in local and national policies. For example:

- One partner organisation from Himachal Pradesh, India, organised a meeting of Members of Parliament just before the state-level election to influence them about the issues of poor mountain people in relation to local governance.
- Federations of community-based organisations in Pakistan have strengthened their efforts to form their own federation and obtain access to the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF).
- The Federation of Community Forestry User Groups of Nepal (FECOFUN) has been advocating on behalf of community forest users to reduce the percentage of tax imposed by the government on the earnings of users from forest products. They have been partially successful in influencing the government to reduce the local tax on community forestry users.
- Five lead trainers from the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh have been trained in advocacy strategies. As a consequence, other national and international agencies working in Chittagong are now able to use these resource persons in advocacy. These master trainers are frequently invited to train others by over ten development agencies.
- Local organisations from Meghalaya, India, have started a state-level forum for advocacy. Over 30 community-based organisations have joined the forum to initiate issue-based advocacy collectively. They have already concluded an MoU for a forum called "CAN - Centre for Advocacy and Networking".



Tibet Academy of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Sciences (TAAAS)

<http://www.taaas.org>

The Tibet Academy of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Sciences (TAAAS) is one of the principal partners of ICIMOD in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China.

TAAAS is the main institute implementing the agenda and plan of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of PR China in terms of technology innovation and dissemination for sustainable rural and agricultural development. It is also the focal institution for carrying out and implementing national and regional research and development programmes on agriculture, livestock, and vegetable production in Tibet.

At TAAAS there are four research institutes and one laboratory: namely, the Agricultural Research Institute, the Livestock and Veterinary Research Institute, the Vegetable and Horticulture Research Institute, the Centre for Highland Agricultural Resources Management and Environmental Research, and the Lab for Soil and Agro-products' Nutrients Control. There are also three thematic and managerial divisions: the Division of International Collaboration and Training, the Division of Integrated Agricultural Development and New Technology Innovation, and the Division of Research Management.

TAAAS pursues its mandate through the following functions:

- Mobilising, conducting, and coordinating applied and problem-solving research activities in cropping, livestock, and vegetable production as well as sustainable agricultural development in TAR.
- Developing and providing integrated and innovative solutions, in collaboration with national and international institutions, to promote practical actions to reduce poverty and achieve food security on the Tibetan Plateau.
- Developing relevant training material for the training of trainers for rural areas and extensive training of local farmers and agricultural technicians in Tibet with an emphasis on know-how and the transfer of new technologies to farmers.
- Documenting multidisciplinary mountain farming and exchanging and disseminating new technologies inside and outside Tibet by producing publications on cropping, livestock, vegetable production, and research.
- Providing consultancies to relevant institutions and the government by providing expert services and organising workshops on issues and problems in sustainable agricultural development in TAR.

TAAAS aspires to influence development decisions and actions by implementing, conducting, and testing; as well as by consulting with regard to problem-solving research, methodologies, models, and strategies for sustainable agricultural development in Tibet. TAAAS seeks to play the role of a mobiliser, project formulator and implementor, networker, trainer, consultant, and partner.

ICIMOD has been collaborating with TAAAS for over a decade and has helped to build its capacity in research management, GIS/RS applications, and information and data management. Dr. Nyima Tashi, Vice President of TAAAS and Director of the Tibetan Agricultural Research Institute, is an alumnus of ICIMOD and plays a leading role at the Academy. Current collaboration between TAAAS and ICIMOD include policy development in natural resources management, rangeland management, capacity building in information and knowledge management, and GIS/RS applications.



Tibet Academy of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Sciences (TAAAS)



The Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan

<http://www.moa.gov.bt>

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Bhutan is one of ICIMOD's oldest partners. This partnership is actively nurtured by the Secretary of the MoA who has represented the Royal Government on ICIMOD's Board of Governors since 1993. Dasho Sangay Thinley, the present Secretary of the MoA, continues to uphold this important tradition, and assumed membership of ICIMOD's Board of Governors in 1999.

The MoA is responsible for the development of the renewable natural resources sector, consisting of agriculture, horticulture, livestock, and forestry. The policy objectives adopted by the MoA for the Ninth Five-Year Plan are as below.

Agriculture

- To intensify and diversify an integrated approach in nutrient and pest management and achieve at least 70 % self-sufficiency in food grains.

Horticulture

- To develop and promote high-value, low-volume cash crops that offer a comparative advantage over other crops and allows the capture of the off-season markets in India and other neighbouring countries.

Livestock

- To promote superior breeds of higher productivity and reduce the total population of livestock.
- To provide proper health care to all types of livestock and contain the spread of epidemic and zoonotic diseases.

Forestry

- To place a higher priority on conservation than on commercial exploitation.
- To maintain at least 60 % of the country's area under forest cover.
- To conserve the country's rich diversity in flora and fauna.

The operational wing of the MoA consists of three departments: the Department of Agriculture (DOA), the Department of Livestock (DOL), and the Department of Forest Services (DFS). These departments are supported by five non-departmental agencies: the Council of Research and Extension (CORE), Quality Control and Regulatory Services (QCRS), Information and Communication Services (ICS), the National Biodiversity Centre (NBC), and the National Resources Training Institute (NRTI). The secretariat consists of two divisions: the Policy and Planning Division (PPD), and the Administrative and Finance Division (AFD). In addition, three corporations are affiliated to the MoA, namely the Food Corporation of Bhutan (FCB), the Forestry Development Corporation (FDC), and the Druk Seed Corporation (DSC).

ICIMOD has been collaborating with various agencies of the MoA in GIS/RS applications for land use planning, rangeland management and livestock improvement, information and knowledge management, as well as biodiversity conservation and utilisation. Current collaborative activities include a district-level poverty mapping project between the PPD and MENRIS; the development of a marketing information system between the Agriculture Marketing Section and IKM; policy development in pasture and rangelands, and livestock feed improvement and processing between DOL and Natural Resource Management (NRM)/PPD; integrated horticulture and livestock research between NRM and CORE; and transboundary biodiversity conservation between NRM and DOF.



The Ministry of Agriculture's Renewable Natural Resource Research Centre's field station at Lingmethang, Mongar, Bhutan

Pema Gyamtsho



Centre News

ICIMOD Headquarters - Inside Out The Architect's View

ICIMOD's Needs

ICIMOD's work involves research, study, documentation, and innovation at a scholarly level in all aspects of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan range. The building is to be a think-tank guided by highly qualified professionals from across the world: experts in mountain development and research, an experienced generation of knowledgeable scientists and administrators, and youthful first generation professionals. This carefully crafted three-tiered mix cuts across the best and brightest of all the generations, picked from the eight countries and intermixed with world professionals. The new ICIMOD Headquarters had to provide well-appointed, versatile spaces catering to the variety of creative uses required by such an organisation.

A prevailing requirement was that the building, located adjoining a historic precinct of Lalitpur in the Kathmandu Valley, should be visually representative of a building in Nepal. However, internally the offices must be modern, 'wired' internal spaces of an international standard. Almost in the same breath was the wish that the building must reflect 'ownership' for the eight member countries of ICIMOD.

The designs aimed to provide relaxed, studio environments, transparent and 'connected' to encourage people meeting and sharing. A rock-solid budget ceiling required stringent cost control of the

project, despite unforeseen contingencies. This has necessitated some features being phased for future inclusion.

Master Plan

Whenever a variety of functions are required on a large plot of land, unless ordering devices are deployed the end result can be a clutter of buildings and places. In this project a series of large and small axes have been deployed between the 'events'. The shape and orientation of the initial plot indicate and support these. The result is that all spaces are well grounded into the scheme, where they remain in balance with each other and sit comfortably interconnected.

On the 15 267m² site (30 ropanis approximately) are the main building, an office annex, a security centre, visitor and project parking, and a services building containing the transformer, switchgear, generator, engineer's office, air conditioning pumps, and heat exchangers. In the landscape are gardens and a demonstration plot and orchard where prototypes of improved mountain species will be planted.

The main building is designed around a rear courtyard which provides light and air to the building perimeters and becomes a focal point of outdoor functions. The proximity of the cafeteria provides an easy service point. The open spaces to the rear of the building are presently given over to the gardening unit.

However, this is where major extensions to the complex may be planned in future.

The Observation Tower at the rear is an interesting addition. A late-comer to the construction phase, the unit is under the aegis of UNEP (the United Nations Environment Programme). The basic equipment is a laser beam that pierces the atmosphere straight up, 60 km into space. This beam monitors the Atmospheric Brown Cloud.

Architecture

The various elements of the building have come together in a strong symmetrical front façade which includes columns and colonnades, and complements the vernacular heritage of the municipality of Lalitpur and Nepal.

The main features are tiled and gabled roofs, the wraparound awnings (or 'chajjas' in the vernacular), the stylised eave struts and timber rafters, the rhythm and proportions of the windows, the ornamented brick cornices ('dachi appa'), the small scale proportions used on various room eaves and floor lines, and the distinctive stylised shapes of columns and head plates.

The 'ownership' element was harder. The innovations are:

- The building name to be inscribed in all the ICIMOD languages on the entrance name plate
- A flag array with each nation's flag flying (scheduled for a later phase)
- Pavilions in the landscape as meeting places, where the architecture of each land is to be displayed

- Interior décor to depict the cultural decorations and display items of each country

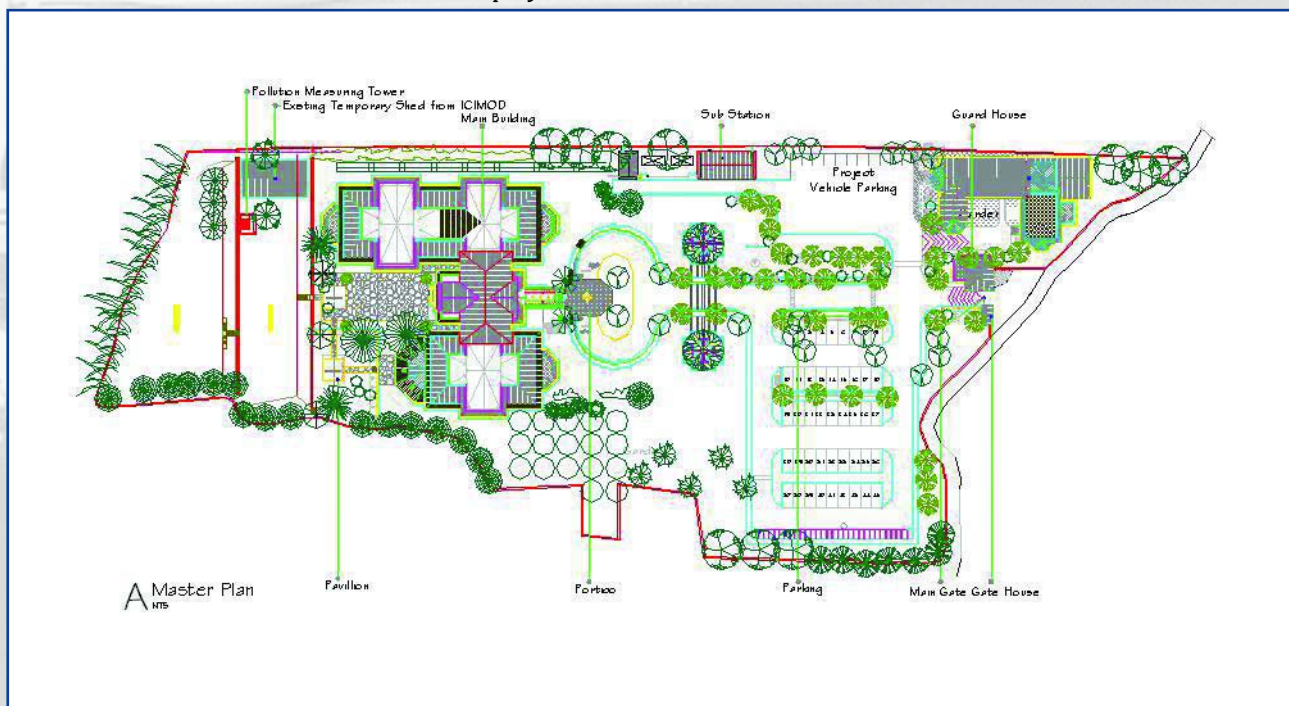
In addition, double height columns at the corners of the building are designed to imply a 'colonnade' which is a common feature in the capital cities of the ICIMOD countries. Exposed stone is used as a 'pedestal', which is a common mountain material familiar to all. Other regional collectables will be displayed in the interior spaces and are expected to be layered into the fabric of the building over the years.

The Main Building

The interior space has been devised as a spacious studio environment and open office layout plan. Flowing and interconnected spaces do not have doors between departments. All partitions are demountable for future planning adjustments to changing work groupings. The ceilings are not at one level throughout. Intimate spaces have lower ceilings, open workspaces have increased height, and the central circulation has 'voids' that open up the full height of internal entrance spaces. All cellular spaces are glassed so they interact with 'open' workspaces.

The disabled access is via ramps on the ground floor and an elevator to the upper floors.

There is a variation of light and shade to counteract the monotony of uniformly lit spaces. Shady verandas, airy cafeteria spaces, and inviting places in the garden have all been woven into the scheme to create a diversity of different environments to work and meet



Master Plan of ICIMOD Headquarters



ICIMOD HQ, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal

in. Contact with the outdoors is everywhere, and all things green are close at hand.

The Structure of the Main Building

The structures were designed to comply with the new seismic codes of Nepal, which are reputed to be of a high professional quality.

The main building comprises three separate structures, separated with construction joints to facilitate better stability and behavioural characteristics during an earthquake. In planning spaces, they are categorised as:

Block A The cafeteria, the library and the conference room

Block B The main office floors over three levels

Block C

The 'bridge' building with amenities at every level, going up to four levels

The footings have been horizontally tied together with footing beams. Plinth beams also tie the footings at ground level. The structure is basically an RCC frame building. A kiln-fired brick was chosen against machine-made bricks at half the cost as all the walls are 'fill in' and not structural in nature. Apart from cost, the colour of the local brick is warmer and more natural.

Interior Office Planning

The cellular offices are fitted with vertical blinds to achieve a degree of privacy when required. Each workspace is designed as a welcoming environment, efficiently laid out with easy access to co-office spaces. Each level has a different carpet colour.

The lighting levels have been reduced from the generally recommended standards for office design to affect energy cost savings. This has been made possible without losing visual quality by the self-lit screens of computers at every workstation. Task lighting is planned on each table. The individual variety of each space along with other personal touches such as pot plants, personal photos and so on, is encouraged.

Architect Tom Crees



Bhutan Pavilion under construction

Building ICIMOD's Headquarters

ICIMOD has long cherished the dream of having its own building - ever since the first agreement between UNESCO and His Majesty's Government of Nepal was concluded in September 1981, when the host country offered to provide 1.5 ha of land to build an ICIMOD Headquarters in Nepal.

The formative years of ICIMOD were spent mainly on creating a firm foundation for the institution. The main issues dwelt on at this time were programme orientation and financial sustainability. With the expansion of ICIMOD's programmes, the demand on the physical facilities of the institution also grew. The number of buildings rented for the ICIMOD campus grew from one building in 1983 to a total of 10 buildings in 1993. Meanwhile, an attempt was made to seek funding for ICIMOD's own building. For this, an ambitious proposal was developed for a building project costing US \$ 3.8 million. This proposal was presented, among others, to the Government of Japan. The failure of this proposal led to the idea of ICIMOD having its own building being shelved for several years. Then with the launch of the Regional Collaborative Programme in 1995 ICIMOD's programme expanded even further, along with the financial base of the institution.

In the concluding year of Regional Collaborative Programme (RCP) I, the Asian Development Bank offered to finance the building of a small Training Centre for ICIMOD at its Test and Demonstration Site in Godavari, Lalitpur, Nepal. This \$ 60 000 building was the first ever structure built by ICIMOD. The Late Crown Prince Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev inaugurated the ICIMOD Training Centre on 21 December 1999. During the inauguration ceremony, the representative of HMG Nepal announced that the Government would provide 1.5 ha of land in the Ring Road area of Kathmandu to build a Headquarters. This offer was followed by a letter to the same effect.

In 2001, HMG decided to provide 1.5 ha of land in Khumaltar, which was originally part of the Vegetable Development Directorate of HMG. This decision was warmly welcomed at ICIMOD. The location is considered suitable as several institutions are already established here, including the Nepal Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), the Royal Nepal Academy of Sciences and Technology (RONAST), and several private educational institutions. Yet this area is far enough (1.5 km away) from the Ring Road of Kathmandu to keep off the dust and noise of the heavy traffic.

Upon receiving information about the donation of the land from the host country, the Centre worked on developing an architectural design for the Headquarters. An open competition was held, and 15 reputed architects submitted their designs. A panel of architects comprising experts from Nepal, India, Germany, and the USA judged the entries.

Three main prizes and three consolation prizes were announced from among the contesting architects. The first prize winner, Mr. Tom Crees, was also awarded the architectural consultancy contract.

The tendering process for the construction did not start until the Board gave its final approval on the financing plan in December 2002. The tender process was finally completed in March-April 2003. A total of 22 reputed construction companies put in bids. After very careful examination of the tenders, the contract was awarded to ANK Construction on 27 May 2003. The total cost of the project, including the interior, is estimated at \$1.3 million. The excavation work started immediately. By the time the Board Meeting was held in Pokhara, Nepal in December 2003, two floors of the structure were already complete.

The interior of the building was also designed by Mr. Tom Crees. The interior partitions, suspended ceiling, and carpeting were by four different specialised interior companies assigned directly by ICIMOD through competitive offers. This helped maintain quality as well as economy. At one point there were approximately 20 different entities involved in the construction, including more than a dozen subcontractors of ANK Construction Company. ICIMOD expresses its gratitude to all those involved in the building process and thanks those providing financial and moral support. In particular, we gratefully acknowledge the support of China (\$100 000), Bangladesh (\$28 300), Bhutan (pavilion crafted in Bhutan and support in kind), and India (\$100 000).

The landmarks in the building of the ICIMOD Headquarters and the parties involved follow overleaf.

Milan Raj Tuladhar, mtuladhar@icimod.org.np

List of Main Consultants and Builders Involved in the Construction of the ICIMOD Headquarters

Tasks

- Architectural Consultant
- Interior Consultants
- Structural Design
- Air Conditioning Consultant
- AC Ducting and Related AC Work
- Building Contractor
- Interior - Glazed Partition
- Interior - Gypsum Partition
- Interior - Suspended Ceiling
- Contract Carpeting
- Blinds
- Reception and Furniture
- Reception Tibetan Carpets
- Kitchen Equipment
- Conference Hall Partition
- Elevator
- Landscaping Consultant
- Approach Road Consultant
- Interior Manager
- Documentation Architect
- AutoCad Drafts Person
- Site Architect
- Civil Engineer In Charge
- Hydraulics & Plumbing
- Geotechnical and Foundation Engineers

Parties Responsible

Mr. Tom Crees and his team of architects and engineers
 Mr. Tom Crees and associates
 Under the supervision of Mr. Tom Crees
 M.R.B. Associates - Manohar Rajbhandary
 Under the supervision of Mr. Tom Crees - Engineer Mr. Nirmal Gupta from New Delhi
 Malanpur Entech Private Limited
 ANK Construction Company
 SkyLight (P) Ltd.
 Renuka Enterprises
 Aakirti International (P) Ltd.
 La Décor
 Aakirti International (P) Ltd.
 Himalayan Wood Carving and Himalayan Interiors
 Carpet Land Pvt. Ltd.
 Bishal Kitchen Equipment Industries (P) Ltd.
 Hufcor Partition by Wotek Corporation, USA and Wotek Corporation, New Delhi
 Otis Elevator Company
 Mrs. Ramkumari Manandhar
 Mr. K.S. Chakhun
 Ms. Sangeeta Shrestha
 Mr. Ramesh Manandhar
 Ms. Sangeeta Shakya
 Mr. Maheshwor Man Singh
 Mr. B.M. Dongol
 Mr. B.M. Dongol / Mr. Ramesh Manandhar
 Mr. K.B. Ranamagar

LANDMARKS

21 December 1999

Inauguration of the Godavari Training Centre and announcement by HMG Nepal representative that HMG intended to provide 30 ropanis of land in the Ring Road area for the Headquarters, followed by a letter to this effect.

October 2001

HMG informs ICIMOD of its decision to provide 30 ropanis of land belonging to the Vegetable Directorate at Khumaltar - design competition held.

December 2001

Board Meeting in Bhutan finalised the architectural design. The Board asked the management not to start the building process until external financing plan is approved.



Foundation stone laying ceremony

June 2002

The Board asks management to go ahead with the Foundation Laying Programme and seek external financing once again.

December 2002

Foundation stone laid by Board and ISG Members. The Board approved the Firming Plan which included a partial bank loan to meet the shortfall of internal resources.

March to April 2003

Tendering process for construction completed

27 May 2003

Contract for construction signed

5 December 2004

Building inauguration



Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, Dr. Anne Whyte; Director General, Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell; and Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Soe Win Hlaing in front of ICIMOD's new Headquarters' building, Khumaltar, Nepal

Milan Raj Tuladhar

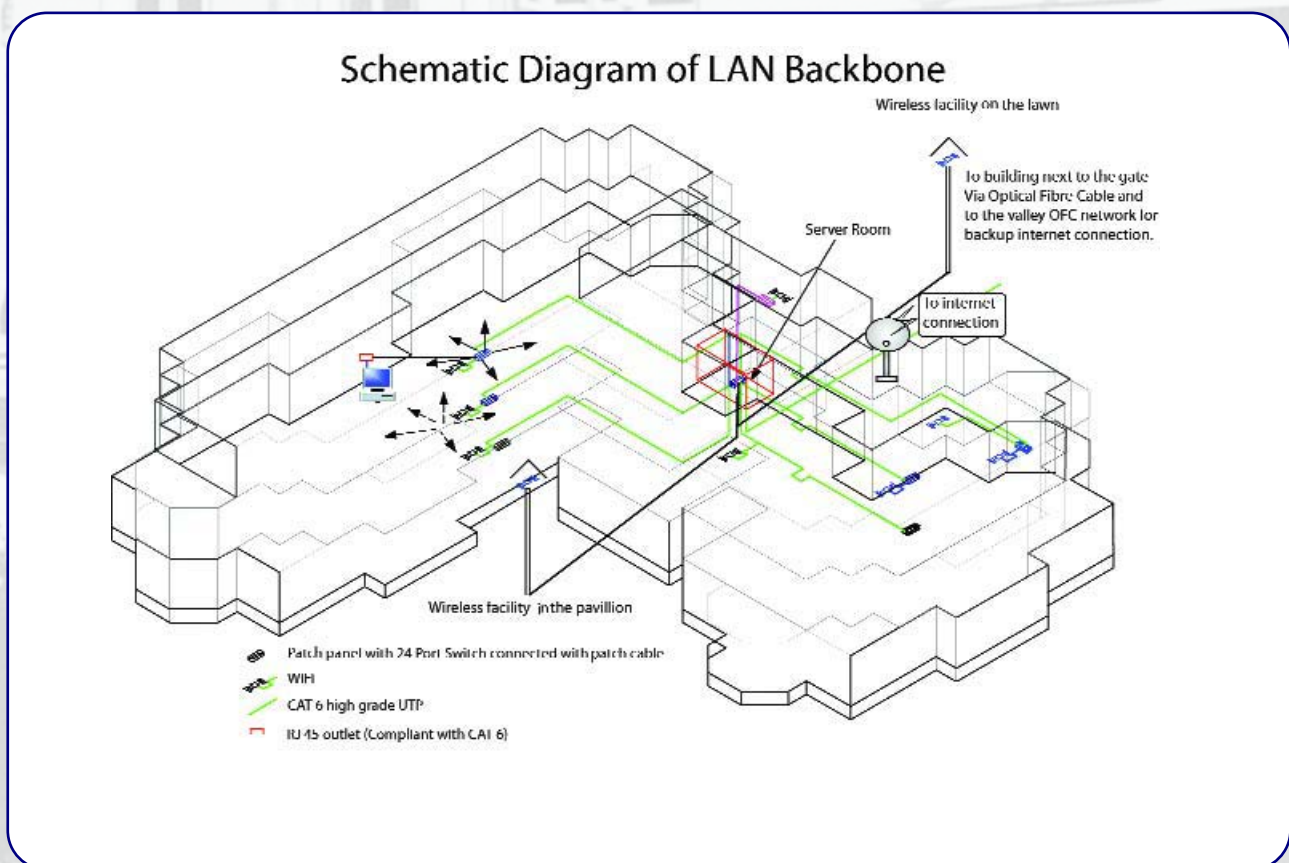
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Infrastructure at the New Headquarters

ICIMOD has been systematically promoting, managing, and enabling the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) and other related technologies for ICIMOD and its partners for mountain information and knowledge management since the inception of the Mountain Environment and Natural Resources' Information Systems (MENRIS) programme. To further improve information and knowledge management at ICIMOD and among partner organisations, the Medium-Term Action Plan (MTAP) 2003-2007 strategy emphasised ICIMOD as a mountain knowledge and learning centre.

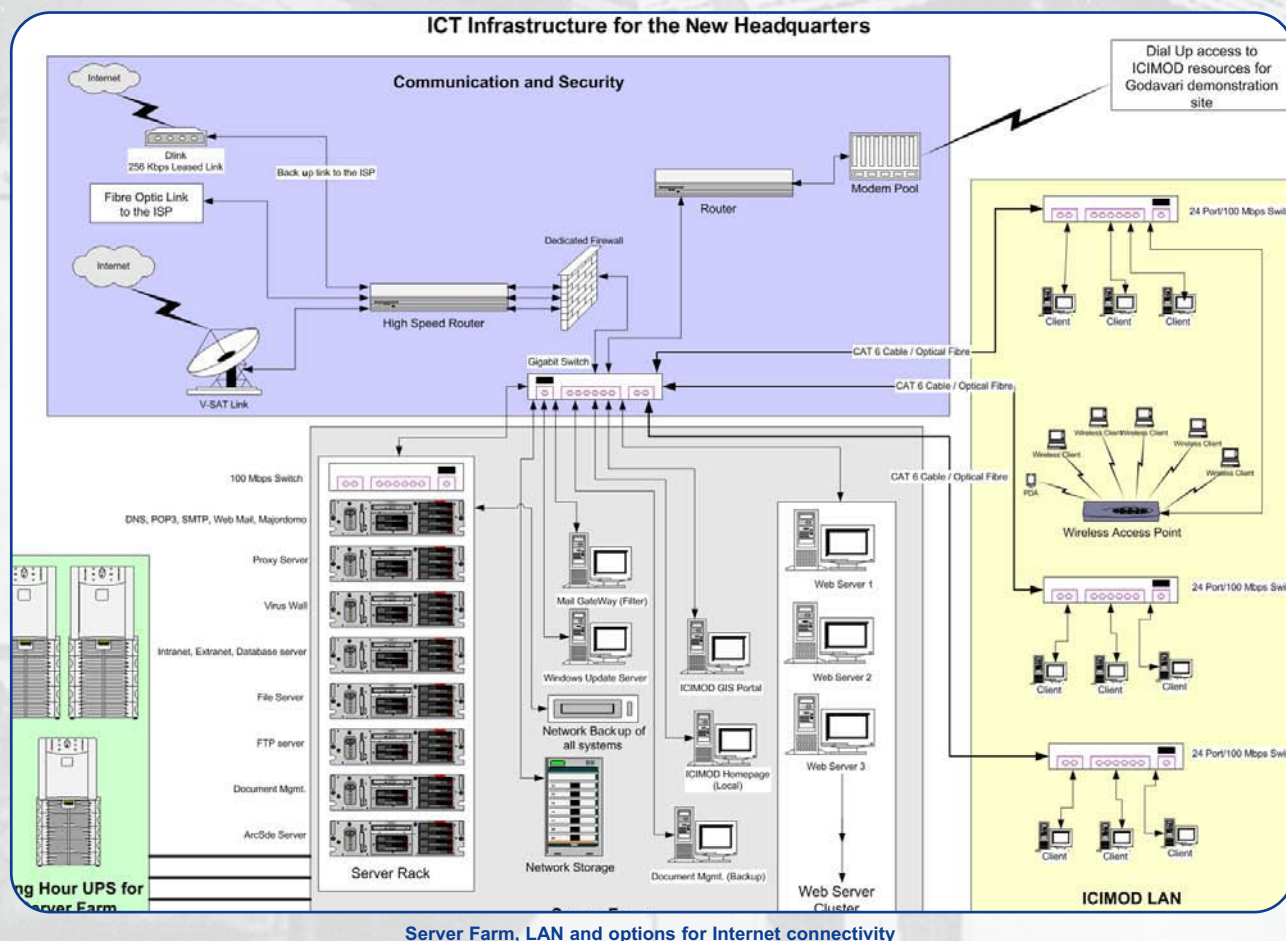
Tools, information, and communication technologies are the basic ingredients surrounding the management of data, information, and knowledge generation: their storage and codification, their dissemination, and their transfer. There is immense advantage to electronic communications for establishing a viable and attractive forum for discussion and integration of knowledge stakeholders. ICT is undoubtedly an effective enabler, and at its very core ICT infrastructure plays a crucial role. To sustain and expand ICIMOD's leading role in applying information and communication technologies, we need to improve our ICT infrastructure and support our partners' efforts to expand their use of ICT. Due attention has thus been given to establishing a state-of-the-art ICT infrastructure at the new ICIMOD Headquarters, ensuring that future demands are met seamlessly, as is described briefly below.

Local Area Network and the Server Farm

All ICT-based communication and access to information is accomplished via the local area network (LAN) and is an important part of the ICT infrastructure. The explosive growth in computer networking has brought a new type of bandwidth-hungry user and applications, demanding fast and immediate access to the network at all times and avoiding network bottlenecks. Such applications at ICIMOD range from e-mails and office applications through to access to the Internet, Extranet and Intranet, file transfers, multimedia applications, imaging, and GIS. Further, these applications put heavy demands on the network in terms of scalability, reliability, reach, outsourcing and security, as well as bandwidth.



ICIMOD has installed the switched 10/100/1000 Mbps Ethernet network at the new HQ. The network supports up to 1000 Mbps with state-of-the-art structured cabling by CAT-6 UTP (category 6 unshielded twisted pair) cable. Fast Ethernet switches have been placed strategically to cover the entire building efficiently, forming the network's high-speed backbone. From each of these switches, CAT-6 horizontal cables run to the different end user offices. The network converges at the master switch in the Server Farm, where there is the gateway to the Internet and the hub for all server and application resources, as shown in the diagram below. Wireless (Wi-Fi) access to the network and thereby to the different resources, including the Internet, is also available in the conference room, the library, reception, the lawns and other specific areas of the building.



Internet Connectivity

The Internet is becoming an indispensable tool for organisations like ICIMOD. In the early days, e-mail and access to web resources were the chief applications. Now there is an equal need for higher bandwidth, as demanded by the newer web applications and by the outreach services that ICIMOD provides. ICIMOD has its own fleet of industry-standard Internet servers, and while we access the Internet from our network, we also host a few of the websites meant for our partners and for public use such as the Mountain GIS Portal, the Intranet, and the Extranet sites.

For the new HQ, Internet connectivity through VSAT (very small aperture terminal) has been the primary option. Accordingly, a VSAT with a 1.2 metre dish antenna matched with the necessary indoor and outdoor equipment is being put in place. The Europe Star 1 satellite connects through the Singapore hub with a bandwidth of 256 Kbps to start with, but there is flexibility in maintaining bandwidth as per demand. Video conferencing and multi casting are also easier with VSAT. As a backup link, the optical fibre cabling that is being laid down in Kathmandu can be used. Higher bandwidth is needed to carry out fully-fledged information and knowledge management initiatives since Internet connectivity has implications on web presence in terms of access, outreach, web hosting, and management.

Sushil Pandey, spandey@icimod.org.np

Securing Sustainable Livelihoods in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas: Directions for Future Research, Development, and Cooperation, 5 to 6 December 2004

Since its establishment in 1983, ICIMOD has been using rented buildings for its offices in Jawalakhel, Kathmandu. Following the generous contribution by His Majesty's Government of Nepal in 2000 of 1.5 hectares of land in Khumaltar, 4 km south of ICIMOD's present location, the Board of Governors approved the construction of ICIMOD's own headquarters.

The foundation stone laying ceremony took place in December 2002 in the presence of members of the Board of Governors and the ICIMOD Support Group, and construction started immediately thereafter. ICIMOD will finally be moving to its new headquarters on 5 December 2004: this is indeed a milestone in ICIMOD's history.

The ICIMOD Headquarters will be inaugurated by His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal. The Keynote Speech, 'Securing Sustainable Livelihoods in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas: Directions for Future Research, Development, and Cooperation' will be delivered by Prof. Bruno Messerli, Professor, Institute of Geography, University of Bern/MAB, Switzerland.

To celebrate the move to its new headquarters, ICIMOD decided to hold a Symposium, "Securing Sustainable Livelihoods in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas: Directions for Future Research, Development, and Cooperation". The Symposium will be held over two days from December 5 to 6, 2004, in Khumaltar, the location of ICIMOD's new headquarters, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Sessions have been planned to match ICIMOD's new strategy on, "Partnerships in Mountain Development, Securing the Future of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas" which encompasses the Centre's Medium-Term Action Plan (MTAP).

The purpose of the Symposium is to reflect on the Centre's achievements in the past two decades and to look ahead to the future to meet the challenges emerging in the HKH region.

The objectives of the Symposium are as follows:

- ♦ to draw lessons from the successes and failures of the past twenty years;
- ♦ to identify contemporary and emerging challenges posed by global warming and climate change to the environment of the HKH region and identify priority research and development needs in relation to long-term environmental security;
- ♦ to identify contemporary and emerging socioeconomic challenges and opportunities faced by mountain communities; and
- ♦ to strengthen ownership of the Centre by regional member countries as well as partnerships at various levels, from civil societies, research and development agencies, government and non-government agencies, the private sector, and the international community in order to improve the sustainability of the Centre and its services.

There will be approximately 100 participants: high-level government officials, the Board of Governors of ICIMOD, representatives of donor agencies, representatives of Regional Member Countries, INGOs, NGOs; as well as academicians, researchers, and development professionals representing the social and natural sciences.

The Symposium is expected to provide recommendations to guide ICIMOD's future work and help develop an agenda to enhance cooperation in the mountain region.

*Anupa Rimal Lamichhane, alamichanne@icimod.org.np
Nira Gurung, ngurung@icimod.org.np*

PROGRAMME

INAUGURAL SESSION

Sunday, 5 December 2004

- ♦ Inauguration of the Headquarters' Building by His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev
- Unveiling of the Plaque and Ribbon Cutting
- Tour of Bhutan and Bangladesh Pavilions
- MENRIS Presentation
- Welcome by Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell, Director General, ICIMOD
- Address by U Soe Win Hlaing, Chair, Board of Governors
- Address by Mr. Jochen Kenneweg, Chair, ICIMOD Support Group
- Address by the Honb'le Minister Mr. Bachaspati Devkota, Ministry of Population and Environment
- Keynote Address on, 'Securing Sustainable Livelihoods in the HKH: Directions for Future Research, Development and Cooperation' by Prof. Bruno Messerli, Institute of Geography, University of Bern/MAB, Switzerland

21st ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

Sunday, 5 December 2004

Working Session I: Securing the Mountain Environment

Keynote Speech: Securing the Mountain Environment

- Impact of Global Warming and Climate Change on Mountain Ecosystems
- Policies for Upland Environmental Management
- Environmental Services and Upstream-downstream Relationships
- Advanced Technologies for Mountain Environmental Research and Management

Monday, 6 December 2004

Working Session II: Securing Sustainable Use of Mountain Resources

Keynote Speech: Securing Sustainable Use of Mountain Resources

- ♦ Water Resource Management
- ♦ Economic Policies for Sustainable Land Use
- ♦ Institutional Dimensions of Sustainable Use of Mountain Resources
- ♦ Sustainable Management of Biodiversity

Working Session III: Securing Livelihoods

Keynote Speech: Securing Livelihoods for Mountain Peoples

- ♦ Pro-poor Policies and Development Institutions
- ♦ Mountain People, Economic Benefits, and Biodiversity
- ♦ Poverty and Environmental Linkages
- ♦ New Opportunities for Mountain Economies

Working Session IV: Strengthening Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing

Keynote Speech: Strengthening Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing

- ♦ Learning from Global Knowledge Initiatives
- ♦ Identifying and Up-scaling Successful Development Approaches
- ♦ Linking Knowledge Providers and Users
- ♦ Lessons from the Alpine Convention Experience for the HKH Region

Closing Session

- ♦ Rapporteurs' Summary
- ♦ Remarks by the Chair of the Board of Governors
- ♦ Remarks by the Chair of the ICIMOD Support Group
- ♦ Closing Remarks by the Director General, ICIMOD

Afghanistan Rejoins ICIMOD Support Group

Afghanistan makes its first contribution of US\$ 5000 to ICIMOD for 2004 and becomes a core programme donor along with the other member countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. Afghanistan's contribution is a token of its strong desire to join the efforts of ICIMOD to serve the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region.

ICIMOD appreciates the continuing commitment and support shown by its core programme donors, its co-sponsors, as well as its regional country members.

Research Updates and Project News

Land Degradation Mission in Bhutan

The Royal Government of Bhutan is likely to be the recipient of a \$12 million grant through the Global Environmental Facility to combat land degradation. Roger White, Coordinator of PARYDP (People and Resource Dynamics Project) at ICIMOD was invited to join the project design team recruited by The World Bank so that lessons learned in PARYDP could be incorporated at the design stage. The mission took place from 28 June to 9 July. The World Bank is keen to see that the activities carried out by PARYDP are shared across more countries in the region. The three pilot sites likely to be selected under this project are Phuentsholing in the south, Trashigang in the centre, and Radhi in the east of Bhutan.

In Phuentsholing, the project will look at soil erosion and land degradation caused by heavy rainfall, in Trashigang it will focus on the problems relating to shifting cultivation, and in Radhi it will study erosion and land slips caused by a combination of high grazing pressure and badly designed irrigation.

It is notable that the work carried out by PARYDP is receiving attention from other countries in the region as well as donors. A follow-up visit will take place from 2 to 13 November 2004.

Roger White, rwhite@icimod.org.np

Up-scaling the Honeybee Programme

The ICIMOD project, 'Indigenous Honeybees in the Himalayas: A Community-based Approach to Conserving Biodiversity and Increasing Farm Productivity' has made a strategic shift towards helping farming communities and organisations through rural development networks; as well as continuing its on-going research and development activities. Based on this strategic shift, a new concept note for the next cycle of Austrian funding was developed and shared with all stakeholders, including grassroots beneficiaries, partner organisations, and donors.

A series of consultations were carried out with prospective partners in Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Pakistan. Participatory planning workshops were held in Nepal, India, and Pakistan where selected partner organisations and representatives from beekeepers' groups participated in developing specific sets of Logical Framework Matrices for the full-size project document. An extended planning session with our partner from Austroprojekt was held to incorporate their views and suggestions. The next cycle of the project entitled 'Honeybees in the Himalayas: Promoting Partnerships with Rural Development Organisations in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region' is now proposed for implementation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Pakistan with the overall objective of improving the livelihoods of rural mountain people and conserving biodiversity in selected areas. Initially, the project will run for two years from January 2005 to December 2006. The project will be funded by the Austrian Development Agency and will be co-financed by ICIMOD and selected partner organisations in the region.

Farooq Ahamad, fahmad@icimod.org.np

GTZ Project: Promotion of Sustainable Policy Initiatives in the Management of Natural Resources in the HKH Region

The Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) area of the project, "Promotion of Sustainable Policy Initiatives in the Management of Natural Resources in the HKH Region" has made significant progress in building awareness about IKM at ICIMOD and within partner institutions. The document, "A Strategy Framework for Information and Knowledge Management at ICIMOD and its Partner Institutions" has been completed and disseminated to ICIMOD staff and selected partner institutions.



Zbigniew Mikolajuk

Five 'Communities of Practice' are beginning to produce concrete results and are an example of the application of IKM methods and tools at ICIMOD:

Group activity - knowledge mapping

- IKM training materials
- Guidelines for ICIMOD's presence on the Internet
- IKM/ICT Support Team
- Knowledge Networking Study Team
- A proposal for the Mountain Knowledge Partnership (supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation [SDC])

A Community of Practice is a group of practitioners who share a common interest in a specific area of competence and are willing to share their knowledge and work together.

Consultative workshops on IKM in Bhutan and Tibet and the dissemination of information material to partner institutions (China, Myanmar, Afghanistan) fostered interest in IKM issues and joint activities. Mr. Chhime Tshering and Ms. Ugyen Dema of the Ministry of Agriculture of Bhutan joined the IKM Training Team on 13 September 2004. They worked at ICIMOD on a toolkit for knowledge networking and on a case study about the application of knowledge management in the marketing of agricultural products. Three researchers from the Tibet Academy of Agricultural and Animal Sciences began their three-month assignment at the IKM Programme on 10 November, participating in the International Workshop on IKM in Policy Making.

Zbigniew Mikolajuk, zmikolajuk@icimod.org.np

Pilot Radio Project: Dialogue with the Grassroots

Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) is collaborating with the Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS) and Radio Sagarmatha (RS) - the oldest community FM radio in South Asia - on a pilot project to allow the voices of rural mountain communities to be heard. The idea behind the project is to facilitate two-way communication between the Mountain Forum and the world at large, and rural mountain communities of the Nepal Himalaya through a mix of community radio and Internet technology. The pilot project will help to determine if this model of information flow can work on a larger scale. A detailed description of the pilot project is available at <http://www.mtnforum.org/radio/index.htm>.



Interviewing a girl child in Khalte, Lalitpur

Billy Bierling

To date, six radio programmes have been produced on the following themes:

'Mountain Identity' explores how hill communities in and around Kathmandu perceive themselves in relation to those living in the plains or cities. http://www.mtnforum.org/apmn/radio_one.htm

'Tourism Conflict' explores the nuances of the conflict between the local community and tourism service providers in and around Nagarkot. http://www.mtnforum.org/apmn/radio_two.htm

'The Bhatte Danda Ropeway' highlights how the ropeway has transformed the rural economy of Bhatte Danda and neighbouring villages in the decade since it was established. http://www.mtnforum.org/apmn/radio_three.htm

'The Park-People Conflict' highlights the impact of the gazetting of the Shivapuri National Park on the locals and ponders how they feel about a possible relocation from their land. http://www.mtnforum.org/apmn/radio_four.htm

Other themes such as the impacts of development work in Tripeni and Chhapakharka as well as rural-urban migration have also been covered. In the meantime, the three partners are collaborating to improve the pilot for smoother, more timely running and greater impact. Funding to expand the project in the next phase will be proactively sought, after a thorough evaluation of the pilot.

Radio Team, radio@mtforum.org

Workshops, Meetings and Training

Reaching Out to Farmers

On 18 and 19 September 2004, PARDYP-Pakistan (People and Resource Dynamics Project-Pakistan) organised 'Farmers' Days' in the Sharkool-Hilkot Watershed (Mansehra District, NWFP, Pakistan). About 500 men turned up, the majority of whom were young and old landowners and tenants.

Farmers who had benefited from PARDYP's on-farm research activities related their stories. On display were new technologies and products from PARDYP, the Tea Research Centre, Pioneer Seeds, the Solar Energy Department, Lever Brothers, and other research institutes. On farm visits, the participants and project team members were apprised by the farmers of new and promising farming options for areas such as the Hilkot Watershed. These included maize-bean line cropping, radish-carrot intercropping, peanut cultivation, onion-tomato relay cropping, hybrid poplar agro-forestry, bio-fertiliser trials, a system for rice intensification, and an organic method of producing apples.

A young Khan in Malka village expressed his enthusiasm at the results, "Until last year, I used to work far away from home in Karachi in a cloth mill on a meagre salary, just enough for myself. I had seen the new options being tried with PARDYP by different farmers here, including my father. This year, instead of going to Karachi, I helped my father cultivate onion seeds, tomatoes, radishes, carrots, maize and beans, and to plant fruit trees and rice. We have managed to buy a jeep from the money earned from our small farm this year. I think if we work hard and look for new ways of farming, young farmers like me can well afford to stay in villages during the farming seasons and earn a decent living."

The Farmers' Days in Hilkot indicate that the farmers of poor and isolated mountain communities are looking to research projects for information that can bring them new opportunities. The PARDYP-Pakistan team is trying to address such needs to build a new generation of farmers.

Sanjeev Bhuchar, sbhuchar@icimod.org.np
Madhav Dhakal, mdhakal@icimod.org.np

Joint Training Workshop on Rangeland Management, Lhasa

The Tibetan Regional Training Workshop on Participatory Rangeland Management and Cashmere Industrialisation was held from 13 to 18 September in Lhasa, Tibet, PR China. The workshop was co-sponsored by ICIMOD and the Livestock Research Institute, Tibet

Academy of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (TAAAS). Unlike other ICIMOD co-sponsored training workshops, the latter mainly financed the workshop while ICIMOD sent Dr. Yan Zhaoli as the leading trainer with training materials.



Participants in the Joint Training Workshop on Rangeland Management

Twenty-eight trainees from county- and township-level government organisations from the northwestern Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) participated in the workshop, which consisted mainly of lectures followed by exercises and discussions. Topics covered during the training included rangeland ecology and health assessment, developing and managing participatory rangeland projects, co-management of rangeland resources, and techniques for improved production and management of cashmere goats.

The training workshop was greatly appreciated by all participants, the average workshop evaluation score given being 9.53. It was observed that knowledge sharing is much needed, and it was recommended that such training workshops be held regularly in future

Yan Zhaoli, yzhaoli@icimod.org.np

Second Regional Stakeholders' Workshop on the ICIMOD-UNEP Project

A two-day regional stakeholders' workshop on incorporating the roles and needs of women in water and energy management in the rural areas of the Himalayas was held from 3 to 4 November 2004 in Kathmandu, Nepal and was organised by ICIMOD and UNEP. The main objectives of the workshop were to share the findings, experiences, and lessons learned so far from the pilot project (in operation from early 2003 in Bhutan, India, and Nepal) and to come up with gender-sensitive policy guidelines for integrating the needs and roles of women in the national policy decision-making process for the future design and implementation of water and energy projects in rural areas.



Participants in the Second Regional Stakeholders' Workshop, Kathmandu, Nepal

Altogether, 50 participants (26 women) from Bhutan, India, and Nepal attended, including government officials, development practitioners (representing national project partners, NGOs, the private sector and women's community groups) and researchers working in the area of household energy, water, and gender.

The workshop contained four broad sessions: the inaugural session with a welcome by the Director General of ICIMOD and a keynote speech by the Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission; country presentations and a discussion session; a working group session; and a concluding session.

The outcomes of this workshop were:

- a common understanding of the key findings, experiences, and lessons learned from the implementation of pilot activities in each country and their policy implications on the future design and operation of gender-sensitive water and energy initiatives at the household/community level;
- consensus on identified needs, constraints, and the intervention approach regarding water and energy at the household/community level;
- consensus on common areas of concern, including country-specific priorities to be considered when designing the policy guidelines; and
- enhanced understanding of possible follow-up activities and replication of the project in each country, based on the areas identified for further work.

The Regional Integrated Workshop on Water Quality

The ever-increasing growth in population and industrialisation, the steady rise in irrigation activities, urbanisation, and a higher standard of living exert a tremendous pressure on available water, which is highly uneven in its spatial and temporal distribution in both quantity and quality. A long-term project: South Asia Water Analysis Network (SAWAN) is addressing the deterioration of water quality in the transboundary rivers of South Asia. The project seeks to share regional environmental information as a means of building trust and confidence and to promote regional cooperation in South Asia. As part of the project, a Regional Integrated Workshop on Water Quality was held in Kathmandu from 29 June to 2 July 2004, organised by ICIMOD and the Cooperative Monitoring Center (CMC) with support from the US Department of Energy, Sandia National Laboratories, and the US Department of State, Regional Environmental Office for South Asia. Partners, government organisations, international organisations, donor organisations, NGOs, and academics from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and the United States attended the workshop. The workshop discussed the progress of transboundary water quality monitoring in the Ganges and Indus rivers and their major tributaries; country-specific water quality issues of the participating countries Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and



Participants in the Regional Integrated Workshop on Water Quality

Pakistan; and also discussed extending partnerships and obtaining feedback and ideas on the further development of SAWAN.

The workshop was successful in bringing together key government institutions in the region, international organisations, NGOs, and academics involved in water quality to learn and share each other's experiences and to discuss country-specific water quality issues. Participants expressed their continued interest in and commitment to fostering regional cooperation through water quality monitoring and data sharing. A regional-level protocol for water quality monitoring was deemed necessary. Participants also gave high priority to the need for better monitoring and data collection along transboundary rivers and to ensuring the reliability and authenticity of data. The four thematic areas recommended to be taken up are: continuation of the project and planning of the next steps for transboundary water quality monitoring; assessment of river water quality monitoring using bio-indicators; the application of IT tools for modelling the quality of the transboundary rivers in the region; and the development of regional protocols for water quality monitoring standards, river classifications, and training and capacity building.

Mandira Shrestha, mshrestha@icimod.org.np
Rajendra Shilpakar, rshilpakar@icimod.org.np

Training of Trainers (TOT) in Advocacy

ICIMOD organised a Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop from 29 June to 4 July 2004 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This was the second of such workshops this year. A total of 25 participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan took part. A resource team, including two trainers and two rapporteurs from Nepal and India, conducted the workshop. All efforts were made to invite resource persons with diverse experience in advocacy, rights-based approaches, and media advocacy.

The main objective of the TOT workshop was to enhance understanding and skills in advocacy strategies so that participants can work as master trainers in advocacy within their respective constituencies. The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- establishing a common understanding on the conceptual framework of advocacy and strategising processes;
- sharing contextual experiences from different parts of programme countries of the HKH in advocacy strategies and initiatives;
- analysing different tools and techniques practiced by various organisations for advocating on behalf of the poor to attain their basic human rights;
- contributing to the setting up of a common pool of resources through networking and alliance building to undertake advocacy initiatives for contextual issues in the HKH; and
- developing future strategies to implement a capacity building programme for CBOs in advocacy concepts and tools.

Project Planning and Proposal Writing

In November 2004, ICIMOD held an internal workshop on Project Planning and Proposal Writing for staff. Ten action initiative coordinators from each of ICIMOD's integrated programmes attended the course. The Empowerment and Learning Development Centre (ELD), based in Kathmandu, facilitated the workshop. The course consisted of modules on project planning, problem tree analysis, alternatives and objectives analysis, plain English, and clarity in writing. Participants found the workshop very useful in helping them to understand and improve their planning, writing, and communication skills.

Srabani Roy, sroy@icimod.org.np



Participants in the Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop

Capacity Building and Networking: Regional Training Courses

A regional training course on the Application of Geo-informatics for National Park Management was organised from 12 to 23 July for the participants of the regional partnership project 'Decision Support Systems in the Hindu Kush-Karakoram Himalayas (HKKH),' which is developing a DSS for the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. This partnership project is being implemented jointly by ICIMOD; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and the Italian research institutions, Everest-K2-Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (Ev-K2-CNR) and Cooperazione E Sviluppo (CESVI), an Italian NGO, in order to develop a Decision Support System to help in the systemic management of conservation and community development in Sagarmatha National Park (SNP). Sixteen participants from ten different institutions benefited from the course.



Participants in the tailor-made training course

ICIMOD Archive

A regional training course on the Inventory of Glaciers, Glacial Lakes and Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Monitoring and Early Warning Systems in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region was conducted from 9 to 20 August with support from the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN-Japan). Six participants from China, India, and Pakistan participated in the training course. Some past alumni were involved in the training as resource persons.

The four-month-long tailor-made training course on Geo-informatics for Water Resources Management in HKH began in June and concluded on 24 September at the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), The Netherlands. This training course was organised by ICIMOD together with ITC in response to the need expressed by partner institutions for more focused application-oriented training. Eighteen participants from five ICIMOD member countries participated in the course.

The sixteen-week course was divided into three main components. In the first component (7 June to 2 July) a number of water resources models were introduced, and participants defined the themes and the titles of their proposed case studies related to water management issues relevant to their home country and to ICIMOD's interest. The second component (5 July to 20 August 2004) was devoted to the development of case studies in the participants' home countries. The case studies were finalised during the third component (23 August to 24 September) of the training course at ITC.

National Sustainable Development Strategy Workshop

A four-day-long workshop on the National Sustainable Development Strategy was jointly organised by the Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE), ICIMOD, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Kathmandu from 15 to 18 September. The objective of this workshop was to gather valuable inputs from all the participating stakeholders and resource persons in order to prepare the Country-specific National Sustainable Development Strategy Guidelines for Nepal.



Participants in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development workshop

ICIMOD Archive

The development of a strategy plan for sustainable development was initiated in Kathmandu in April 2004. Similarly, an inception workshop was also conducted in Bangkok in June on National and Sub-regional Sustainable Development Strategies in South Asia.

International Conference on Sustainable Rural Development in Mountainous Regions with a Focus on Agriculture in the Tibet Autonomous Region

ICIMOD was one of the four partners involved in organising the 'International Conference on Sustainable Rural Development in Mountainous Regions with a Focus on Agriculture in the Tibet Autonomous Region', 26 July to 30 July 2004, Lhasa, TAR, PR China. The other organising partners were the Tibetan Academy of Agricultural and Animal Sciences (TAAAS), InWEnt Capacity Building International, and the Germany and Panam Integrated Rural Development Programme supported by the European Union.



Participants at the International Conference on Sustainable Rural Development in Mountainous Regions

The conference brought together representatives of governments and non-government agencies, experts, community leaders, and farmers and herders. Participants came from across Tibet and other provinces of China, as well as from Bhutan, India, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Germany. Under discussion were policies and strategies for rural development in mountain agriculture, specialisation and market orientation, the impact of globalisation on rural mountain communities, opportunities for exploiting biological and cultural niches, and the comparative advantages of mountain areas.

ICIMOD's staff presented two papers at the conference, "Rural Livelihoods in Nepal: The Case of Mustang District," and, "The Impact of Globalisation on Rural Development with a Focus on Mountain Areas", which generated significant interest and discussion among the participants.

The recommendations of the conference included the development of a comprehensive poverty alleviation and income generation strategy for TAR. This was presented on the closing day and was endorsed by the representatives of the TAR Government.

Pema Gyamtsho, pgyamtsho@icimod.org.np

Other Workshops, Meetings and Training

July 7 - 9: Planning workshop on 'Honeybees in the Himalayas: Promoting Partnerships with Rural Development Organisations in the HKH Region', Manali, HP, India

July 19 - 23: The Access Meeting, Kathmandu, Nepal

July 26 - 28: Planning workshop on 'Honeybees in the Himalayas: Promoting Partnerships with Rural Development Organisations in the HKH Region', Islamabad, Pakistan

September 27 - October 1: Ecoagriculture Conference in Nairobi, Kenya

September 27 - October 1: International Conference on Hydrology of Mountain Environments, Berchtesgaden, Germany

October 4 - 10: Planning week and finalisations of project proposal entitled 'Honeybees in the Himalayas: Promoting Partnerships with Rural Development Networks in the HKH Region', Kathmandu, Nepal

October 27 - 29: Mountain Partnership Meeting, Cusco, Peru

November 10 - 11: Information and Knowledge Management in Policy Making, Kathmandu, Nepal

Forthcoming Events

5 - 6 December: 21st Anniversary Symposium "Securing Sustainable Livelihoods in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas: Directions for Future Research, Development, and Cooperation"

6 - 11 December: 34th Meeting of the ICIMOD Board of Governors and ICIMOD Support Group and the associated committees

13 - 17 December: People and Resource Dynamics Project (PARDYP) Operational Planning Meeting Kathmandu, Nepal

The Mountain Forum Secretariat

www.mtnforum.org

The Mountain Forum (MF) is a global 'network of networks' for information exchange, mutual support, and advocacy for equitable and ecologically sustainable mountain development and conservation. The Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS) is an autonomous organisation hosted by ICIMOD in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Recent Developments

In order to increase its outreach to the grassroots, the Secretariat has launched a pilot project in association with ICIMOD's Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (the Asia-Pacific node of the Mountain Forum) and Radio Sagarmatha, which is the oldest independent community broadcasting station in South Asia. The idea behind the project is to facilitate a two-way communication between the global Mountain Forum network and rural mountain communities of the Nepal Himalaya through a mix of radio and Internet technologies.

Collaboration between the Mountain Forum and the Mountain Partnership has been further strengthened during the past few months. The Mountain Forum Secretariat, in collaboration with the regional nodes, has been working closely with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat based in Rome, Italy, in preparation for a global meeting of the Mountain Partnership that will take place in Cuzco, Peru, 28 and 29 October 2004. In preparation for this event, the Mountain Forum moderated an electronic consultation (30 August to 17 September 2004) which aimed to provide an open and participatory platform for members to air their views and to finalise the Mountain Partnership Plan of Action prior to the conference.

Of late, the Secretariat has represented and promoted the work of the MF network at two international fora. In August 2004, MFS participated in a GTZ-funded meeting in Indonesia on the Networking of Regional Organisations in Asia. The participants were from the Mekong River Commission, the ASEAN Secretariat, ICIMOD, and national-level forestry officers associated with ASEAN. MFS organised a programme with Gadjah Mada University and the Wana Mandhira Foundation about controversies concerning the formation of a national park in Mount Merapi, and organised a field trip to Mount Merapi. As a result of MFS' participation in this initiative, the Secretariat will conduct an exploratory study on, "Indicators of Success in Networks" in collaboration with ICIMOD's Information and Knowledge Management Programme. In September 2004, the MFS Executive Secretary also attended and gave a keynote address to the 'Fifth International Conference on Sustainable Development of Mountain Territories: Problems and Perspectives of the Integration of Science and Education' in Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia-Alania Republic. On this occasion, the MFS Executive Secretary was the only one of thirty foreigners selected to participate in the Conference who did attend the event following the Beslan massacre. MFS has recently consolidated its ties with the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences to collaborate on the Institute's Eurasia Mountain Newsletter.

MFS Staff

The Mountain Forum Secretariat is pleased to announce two outstanding additions to its staff. In August, an intern, Ms. Salima Khatoon, joined the Secretariat to assist the MFS information services

Mountain Forum Board of Directors

Chairperson

J. Gabriel Campbell
International Centre for
Integrated Mountain
Development

Catherine Cooke
The Mountain Institute

Hugo Li Pun
International Potato Centre

Martin Price
European Mountain Forum

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Swiss Agency for
Development and
Cooperation

United Nations Environment
Programme

Douglas McGuire
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United
Nations

Ex-Officio Secretary

Layton Montgomery
Mountain Forum Secretariat



Rishi Acharya (Radio Sagarmatha) and Agustina Barros (MFS) during a field interview, Bhojeni, Kathmandu, Nepal

section with proactively seeking out information for the calendar of events, the MF discussion lists, and the On-Line Library.

In September, MFS was delighted to welcome a highly experienced librarian, Ms. Suzy Conway, to assist with the restructuring and revamping of the Mountain Forum's On-Line Library. Ms. Conway, who possesses an impressive background in library science, was head reference librarian for Harvard Medical School before joining the Kathmandu University Medical School as head librarian during 2002 and 2003.

On a less happy note, MFS staff regrets that it will soon bid farewell to its Executive Secretary, Mr. Layton Montgomery, who will be departing from the Mountain Forum at the end of 2004. The Mountain Forum staff extends to Mr. Montgomery its heartfelt wishes for continued success in any future endeavours and wishes to thank him for the dedication, hard work, and good spirits that have contributed so remarkably to the accomplishments of the MF Secretariat and the Mountain Forum as a whole, and to the wonderful team spirit enjoyed by all Mountain Forum staff during his tenure.

Celine Curi, celine@mtnforum.org

Visit by Members of the National Solidarity Programme – Afghanistan

A full day's visit to ICIMOD was organised by the Agriculture and Rural Income Diversification (ARID) programme for a delegation from Afghanistan which comprised 12 senior staff from the National Solidarity Programme (NSP), on 2 November 2004. Arranged and sponsored by UN-HABITAT, NSP is a rural development programme of the Afghanistan Government. The overall purpose of this visit was to enable members to learn about social mobilisation using participatory planning approaches through visiting different project sites in Nepal to observe the different rural technologies that have been successfully applied here, and to meet and interact with people and institutions who have had long experience in community-led rural development. The delegates were keen to learn about how local communities selected local projects, and how such projects are planned, implemented and managed.

At ICIMOD, they were briefed on the Centre's activities, which was followed by a visit to the IKM facilities to observe ICIMOD's web pages on the Internet and the GIS facilities. The delegation was then taken to the ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre, Godavari, where they were able to observe the different technologies in action.

In Godavari, Mr. Suraj Thapa welcomed the delegates and made a presentation of the different activities that are carried out. This was followed

by a site visit where the delegates were shown SALT (Sloping Agricultural Land Technology), comparative soil erosion studies, renewable energy technologies, water management, beekeeping, livestock, and horticulture. The delegates showed a great deal of interest in the renewable energy technologies and water management. They expressed their interest in developing a similar model, based on science and technology that could benefit the rural communities. Further visits and information sharing were suggested as a future course of action towards developing collaboration and partnership with ICIMOD projects.



Members of the National Solidarity Programme – Afghanistan

Narendra Bajracharya

Dyutiman Choudhary, dchoudhary@icimod.org.np

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Agreements Signed

- **8 July 2004: Programme Development and Learning Unit (PDLU); The World Conservation Union (IUCN)-Nepal Country Office; and MENRIS/ICIMOD, Nepal**
To develop and maintain a web portal on Biodiversity of Protected Areas of Nepal
- **17 September 2004: International System for Analysis, Research, and Training (START)- Asia Pacific Network (APN) and MENRIS/ICIMOD, Nepal**
Continued funding of the 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 India, Pakistan, and China/Tibet Autonomous Region"
- **September 2004: Cold and Arid Regional Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (CAREERI), Chinese Academy of Sciences, PR China; Bureau of Hydrology Tibet Autonomous Region of PR China; and MENRIS/ICIMOD, Nepal**
Project on, "Inventory of Glaciers and Glacial Lakes and the Identification of Potential Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) Affected by Global Warming in the Himalayan Region in Tibet Region of PR China"
- **30 September 2004: Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE), HMG Nepal; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP), Thailand; and MENRIS/ICIMOD, Nepal**
Preparation of Kathmandu Valley City Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) and State of the Environment (SOE) report for 2005
- **30 September 2004: United Nations Environment Programme for Asia and Pacific (UNEP-AP) and MENRIS/ICIMOD, Nepal**
Framework Agreement for Environment Cooperation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas
- **14 October 2004: World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and MENRIS/ICIMOD, Nepal**
To establish a working relationship between the two organisations to undertake mutually desirable activities

Visiting Scientists



Dr. Mark Turin (CEGG)

Dr. Mark Turin joined the Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance (CEGG) Programme in October 2004 as a Visiting Scientist for one year. Trained in Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Cambridge and in descriptive and comparative linguistics at Leiden University in The Netherlands, he conducted his doctoral research on Thangmi, a little-known Tibeto-Burman language spoken by 30 000 people of the same name in the Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk districts of eastern Nepal. Alongside his teaching commitments back at the Department of Social Anthropology in Cambridge, Dr. Turin is also

Director of Digital Himalaya, <<http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/>>, a pilot project to develop digital collection, storage, and distribution strategies for multimedia anthropological information and historical texts from the Himalayan region. While at ICIMOD, Dr. Turin is writing a report on language endangerment and linguistic rights in the HKH region, with a specific focus on promoting language issues within the Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance Programme.



Prof. Kurt Robert Luger (ARID)

Prof. Kurt Robert Luger is from Austria and has a Ph.D. in Communications. He holds a number of eminent positions apart from his current position as a University Professor of International and Intercultural Communication, Department of Communication, University of Salzburg, Austria. He is also the Head of the Transcultural Division and Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Tourism Research. Since 1998 he has been the Acting Chairman of Eco Himal - Society for Ecological Cooperation Alps-Himalaya, which he also co-founded; and since 1994 he has been Chairman of KommEnt - Society for Communication and Development (a joint venture of the Transcultural Division of the Salzburg Department of Communication and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Development Cooperation Division). He was also a Visiting Guest Professor at Pepperdine University, California and Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. Since 1995 he has managed a number of development projects in Nepal. Some of his most recent publications are on sustainable mountain tourism.

Prof. Luger will contribute to an exchange of enhanced scientific knowledge between ICIMOD and the University of Salzburg on sustainable development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region, with a particular focus on culture, tourism, and communication.

At the Helm of ICIMOD Director Generals and Deputy Director Generals

Mr. Peter Gueller

The Interim Board of Governors appointed Mr. Peter Gueller in July 1982 as 'Regent' of ICIMOD. Born in 1935 in Zurich, Mr. Gueller is of Swiss nationality and is an architect holding SFIT/STA/BSP degrees and memberships. Mr. Gueller is a specialist in regional development and project evaluation.



Mr. Gueller was charged with establishing ICIMOD's infrastructure and services; preparing a publicity package and looking for distribution; managing the recruitment of the director; and organising the first symposium and inauguration of ICIMOD on 5 December 1983. Mr. Gueller made a remarkable contribution to the establishment of ICIMOD before leaving Nepal in April 1984.

Professor Kenneth Colin Rosser



On 1 April 1984, Professor Kenneth Colin Rosser of the United Kingdom became the first Director General of ICIMOD. He received his Ph.D. in 1956 in Social Anthropology at the University of London with a thesis on 'The Social System of a Himalayan Community'.

Before joining ICIMOD, he served as the Chief Consultant in planning and development of Metropolitan Calcutta, West Bengal; Programme Adviser on the Urban and Regional Programme to the Government of Indonesia; Professor of Development Planning in the University of London and headed a World Bank financed project at the Institute of Technology, Bandung to help organise the Master's courses in Urban and Regional Development.

Prof. Rosser organised the initial growth of ICIMOD as a Centre. During his tenure, ICIMOD endeavoured to direct its efforts both to the actual development needs of local populations in mountain regions and to the concerns of government policy-makers responsible for formulating and implementing systematic development programmes in these regions. It was during Prof. Rosser's time that ICIMOD established itself successfully in the region and built up a steady core of professionals, alumni, and well-wishers. Through his vision, ICIMOD branched out from its base in Kathmandu and began to hold meetings and workshops in other countries of the region, building linkages and partnerships that were to continue long after Prof. Rosser retired. Prof. Rosser completed his term on 31 July 1989.

'It is 16 years since my term as Founding Director at ICIMOD was completed and I returned home to Britain and retirement. Over the years I have followed the remarkable progress of the Centre, through its splendid publications and newsletters, with both great pleasure and much admiration. I especially admire its success in building effective programme collaboration throughout the participating countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya - the Centre's fundamental objective. Although, sadly, I cannot be present at this memorable Inauguration, please allow me to send my warmest congratulations to HMG Nepal, the Boards of Governors current and past, and, of course, not least to the Director General and his excellent multinational staff. Thanks to them all, ICIMOD clearly has the bright and useful future that its founders hoped and planned for in the visionary symposium of 1983.'

Dr. Ram Prakash Yadav



Dr. Ram Prakash Yadav, a national of Nepal, became ICIMOD's first Deputy Director General on 1 September 1984. Dr. Yadav earned a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University, USA, in 1975. He was a founding staff member of the Agricultural Projects Services

'O ICIMOD! Now that you are moving into your own permanent home from December 5, 2004, you can live forever and continue to protect, manage and improve the living environment of people in the mountains, hills, and uplands of the world in general and of the Himalayas and its influence area in particular. I wish all success to ICIMOD's effort to improve the physical, economical, social, ethical, and spiritual environment of mountain peoples.'

Centre (APROSC) and became its Executive Director in 1979. In 1982 he was awarded an IDRC fellowship to work on 'Resource Allocation and Incentives for Agricultural Research in Nepal' at the International Food Policy

Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington DC, where he was a Research Fellow until joining ICIMOD. While at ICIMOD, Dr. Yadav contributed to the examination of rural technologies and farming systems. He also led a very active ICIMOD newsletter editorial board.

Dr. Yadav was subsequently awarded the Mahendra Bidya Bhusan medal by His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev in 1976. Dr. Yadav left ICIMOD on 1 of December 1991 to join the National Planning Commission of Nepal as its Member responsible for Agriculture, Forestry, Land Reform, Environment, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Dr. E. Frank Tacke

Dr. E. Frank Tacke, a national of the Federal Republic of Germany, and an agricultural economist, succeeded Prof. Rosser as Director General of ICIMOD on 1 August 1989.

Dr. Tacke came to ICIMOD after a distinguished career of 30 years in international agencies such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) where he was Director of one of ADB's major programmes. Dr. Tacke was no stranger to the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region as his earlier work took him to most countries of the HKH where he applied his expertise to promote agriculture and rural development. Under Dr. Tacke, progress was made with publications and outreach. He established the foundation of a fully-fledged information cell and proper publishing standards. It was during Dr. Tacke's tenure that ICIMOD received its own ISBNs. He promoted SALT and other soil-conserving farming systems. He was also instrumental in developing the concept of a trial and demonstration site in Godavari, which is now a place for training and applied research.

Dr. Tacke was with ICIMOD until March 1994.



Dr. Mahesh Banskota



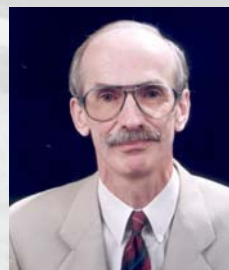
On 1 July 1992, Dr. Mahesh Banskota of Nepal was appointed Director of Programmes, and on 1 July 1995 was confirmed as Deputy Director General of ICIMOD by the Board of Governors, having worked for ICIMOD in various capacities since July 1984. Dr.

‘Congratulations ICIMOD!’

After 20 years you now have your own sweet home! Hats off to all of you who have worked so hard to make this possible. Let us hope this growing maturity and the security of your own home will further strengthen ICIMOD's contribution to a brighter future for the mountain peoples of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas.’

Banskota was appointed Chief Programme Coordinator in June 1987 and was designated Acting Director of Programmes in November 1991. Dr. Banskota has a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University, USA, and is an economist by background. He brought a wealth of experience from his previous positions as an economist with the National Planning Commission, Nepal; as Programme Director, Development Planning and Project Analysis with the Nepal Administrative Staff College; and as Associate Professor and Reader with the Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA). He has also served as Director on the Board of Governors of Nepal Rastra Bank, and has been a member of different national committees and government task forces.

Dr. Banskota's contribution was primarily in programme development and review where his experience and insight helped to steer ICIMOD programmes to contribute to the Centre's twin mandates of environmental improvement and poverty alleviation. He made a substantial contribution to research on off-farm employment, poverty in mountain areas, and sustainable mountain agriculture. He was also instrumental in establishing a regional network at ICIMOD, the Asia Pacific Mountain Network. Dr. Banskota was with ICIMOD until 30 June 2000.



Mr. Egbert Pelinck

On 1 March 1994, Mr. Egbert Pelinck, a national of The Netherlands, took over as the Director General of ICIMOD. Mr. Pelinck is a graduate in Forestry and Nature Management

‘My heartfelt congratulations to the Board and Staff of ICIMOD with the inauguration of the new Headquarters building and the completion of 21 years dedicated to the peoples and environment of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. I have experienced ICIMOD as an unique centre of multicultural and regional cooperation and hope very much that this will continue to be the basic framework of all its work in the years to come.’

from the University of Wageningen, The Netherlands. He has had 25 years' experience in environmental management and development cooperation in Asia and Africa, as well as at the headquarters of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Department of Development Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He first came to Nepal in 1971 as a national park planner and prior to joining ICIMOD, he was the Chief Technical Adviser for FAO's Regional Wood Energy Development Programme in Asia, based in Bangkok, Thailand.

During his tenure, Mr. Pelinck introduced a programmatic approach through the Regional Collaborative Programmes for the Sustainable Development of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, Phase I and II, which focused on actual needs identified by the regional member countries of ICIMOD and its partners. During his tenure the funding for ICIMOD grew substantially and for the first time core funding was received from countries other than ICIMOD's sponsors and regional member countries. The core programme budget before RCP-I was between \$1.1 million and \$1.5 million, with only two non-regional donor countries contributing, from 1996 onwards the core programme budget ranged from \$2.6 million to \$ 2.9 million, mainly from seven non-regional countries.

Dr. Binayak P. Bhadra



Dr. Binayak P. Bhadra of Nepal was appointed Director of Programmes at ICIMOD on 3 April 2000. Dr. Bhadra has a Ph.D. in Resource Economics from Oregon State University, USA, and is also an electrical engineer. Prior to joining ICIMOD, Dr. Bhadra was Professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic Development and Administration at Tribhuvan University. He has also been a member of the National Planning Commission, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, and has worked as a consultant with many multilateral and bilateral agencies. He also served as Programme Convener for the Rural Energy Planning Programme at ICIMOD during 1984-1987.

Dr. Bhadra's immense role in securing the present ICIMOD Headquarters site in Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal, along with his counterpart in HMG/Nepal is highly commendable. Dr. Bhadra completed his term in June 2004.

Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell

Dr. J. Gabriel Campbell of the USA is the current Director General of ICIMOD.

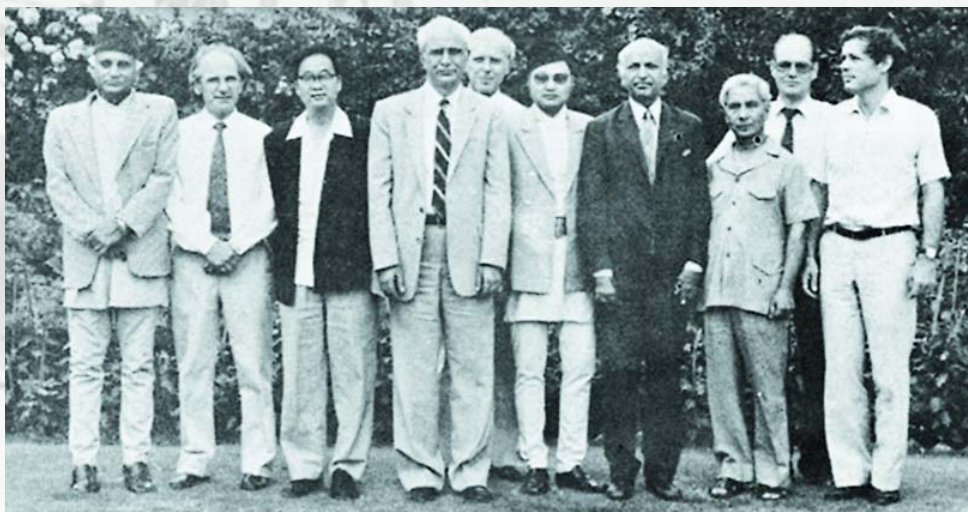
In March 2000, Dr. Campbell was appointed as the Director General of ICIMOD. Dr. Campbell has a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Columbia University, USA. For ten years Dr. Campbell was responsible for developing, managing, and raising funds for the Himalayan programme of The Mountain Institute, an international NGO based in the Appalachian mountains in the USA. Prior to this, Dr. Campbell worked for many years in Nepal and India in community forestry and related fields for the FAO, The World Bank, USAID and others. While at The Mountain Institute he worked to facilitate the implementation of the Qomolongma Nature Preserve and the Makalu-Barun projects of the institute and a number of other endeavours in environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Dr Campbell was born in the Himalayas and speaks a number of regional languages.



Dr. Campbell introduced the Overall Strategy 2003-2007 called the 'Partnership in Mountain Development, Securing the Future of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas', which forms the basis of the strategic framework for the Medium-Term Action Plan (MTAP) 2003-2007 currently being implemented at the Centre. This strategy provides a result-oriented framework in which programmes are strategically focused on supporting partnerships in the region, policy dialogue, and knowledge management.

If ICIMOD did not exist, it would have to be created.

Members of the ICIMOD Board of Governors 1983 to 2004



ICIMOD Archive

First Meeting of the ICIMOD Board of Governors, 30 August to 1 September 1983

Afghanistan

Mr. Atta Mohammed Noorzad
General President
Ministry of Agriculture

Eng. Ghulum Mostafa Jawad
Deputy Minister of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Bangladesh

Major General Abdus Salam
(Vice Chair 1988-1991)
Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board
Government of Bangladesh

Major General Mahamudul Hassan
(Chairperson 1992)
Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board
Government of Bangladesh

Major General M.A. Rahman
Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board
Government of Bangladesh

Mr. Kazi Golam Rahman
(Chairperson 1998)
Secretary in Charge, Special Affairs Division
Prime Minister's Office

Mr. Md. Sakawat Hussain
(Chairperson 1999)
Secretary
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Mr. Mahfuzul Islam
Secretary
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Mr. Chowdhury Mohammad Mohasin
Secretary
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Mr. Azm Shafiqul Islam
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Mr. Syed Mushtaq
Secretary
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Mr. Md. Shahjahan Majumder
Board Member Designate
Secretary in Charge
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Bhutan

Dasho Karma Letho
Ambassador of the Royal Government of
Bhutan to India and Nepal

Lyonpo Dr. Kinzang Dorji
(Chairperson 1994 and 2000)
Minister
Ministry of Agriculture
Royal Government of Bhutan

Dasho Sangey Thinley
(Chairperson 2000/2001)
Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture

China

Dr. Li Wenhua
(Vice Chair 1987)
FAO Regional Watershed Management Project

Prof. Liu Dongsheng
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Prof. Sun Honglie
(Chairperson 1995, 2001, and 2003)
Academician
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Prof. Zhao Qiguo
Academician
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Prof. Zhao Shidong
(Independent)
Research Professor
Forest Ecology
Vice Chair and Secretary General
Scientific Committee of the Chinese Ecosystem
Research Network (CERN)
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Prof. Li Jiayang
Board Member Designate
Vice President
Chinese Academy of Sciences

India

Dr. T.N. Khoshoo
Department of Environment
Government of India

Mr. T.N. Seshan
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Government of India

Mr. K.P. Geethakrishnan
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Government of India

Mr. Mahesh Prasad
Ministry of Environment and Forests and
Wildlife
Government of India

Mr. R. Rajamani
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Government of India

Dr. A.N. Purohit
(Independent)
G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment
and Development

Mr. N.R. Krishnan
(Chairperson 1995 to mid-1996)
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Government of India

Mr. T.K.A. Nair
(Chairperson 1996)
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Government of India

Mr. Bishwa Nath Anand
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Government of India

Prof. Jamuna Sharan Singh
(Independent)
Professor, Department of Botany
Banaras Hindu University

Mr. K.C. Misra
(Chairperson 2003)
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forests

Dr. Prodipto Ghosh
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forests

Myanmar

U. Soe Kyi
Forestry Department

U. Tin Hla
Director General
Forestry Department

Lt. Col. Thane Han
Director General
Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and
National Races and Development Affairs

U. Than Nwai
(Chairperson 1997)
Deputy Director General
Department of Forests

U. Soe Win Hlaing
(Chairperson 2004)
Director General
Forest Department

Nepal

Dr. Ratna SJB Rana
(Chairperson 1983 to 1986)
Royal Nepal Academy of Science and
Technology

Prof. Dor Bahadur Bista
Tribhuvan University

Dr. Narshing Narayan Singh
Secretary
Ministry of Education and Culture

Dr. Prachanda Pradhan
Professor of Public Administration
Tribhuvan University

Mr. Madhukar SJB Rana
Chairman and Project Manager
Man Maheswar Memorial Nursing Home Co.
Ltd

Dr. Harka Gurung
(Independent)
New Era Consultants

Dr. I.P. Upadhyaya
(Chairperson 1993)
Secretary
Ministry of Education and Culture

Mr. Lokendra Man Pradhan
Act. Secretary
Ministry of Education and Culture

Dr. Govinda Raj Bhatta
Secretary
Ministry of Population and Environment

Mr. Mukti Narayan Shrestha
Secretary
Ministry of Population and Environment

Mr. Khem Raj Regmi
Secretary
Ministry of Education and Culture

Mr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya
Secretary
Ministry of Population and Environment

Mr. Barun Prasad Shrestha
Act. Secretary
Ministry of Population and Environment

Mr. Lok Man Singh Karki
Secretary
Ministry of Population and Environment

Mr. Mohan Bahadur Karki
Secretary
Ministry of Population and Environment

Dev Raj Regmi
Board Member Designate
Secretary
Ministry of Population and Environment

Pakistan

Mr. Hasan Nawab
Ministry of Science and Technology

Mr. A.Q. Kazi
(Vice Chair Dec. 1991 to April 1992)
Senior Scientific Adviser
Ministry of Science and Technology

Dr. Zafar Altaf
(Chairperson 1997/1998)
Secretary
Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Mr. Shafqat Ezdi Shah
Secretary
Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Livestock

Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan
(Independent)
Chairman
Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)

Mr. Salik Nazir Ahmed
Secretary
Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Livestock

Mr. Ismail Qureshi
Board Member Designate
Secretary
Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Livestock

Austria

Dr. Karin Inmann
(Independent)
Managing Director
Eco Himal

Canada

Dr. Anne Whyte
(Independent)
(Vice Chairperson 2004)
International Programme on Human
Dimensions of Global Change (IHDP), and
President, Mestor Associates

Germany

Dr. Klaus J. Lampe
German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

Dr. E.E. Clemens
German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

Prof. Winfried Von Urff
(Independent)
Institute fur Agrarpolitik
Technische Universität

Dr. Hans Gsaenger
(Vice Chair 1998 to 2003)
German Development Institute

Japan

Prof. Shunji Murai
(Independent)
Institute of Industrial Science
University of Tokyo

Norway

Dr. Tone Bleie
Chief, Gender and Development
UN ESCAP
Thailand

Switzerland

Dr. Rudolf Hoegger
(Chairperson 1987 to 1991)
Directorate of Development Cooperation and
Humanitarian Aid
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Remo Gautschi
(Vice Chair 1992 to 1997)
Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)

Dr. Ruth Egger
(Independent)
(Vice Chair 2003)
Deputy Executive Director
Intercooperation

The Netherlands

Dr. Klasjan Beek
International Institute for Aerospace Survey
and Earth Sciences (ITC)

Mr. Jan Willem F. Cools
Agroeconomist Consultant

Dr. Rob Visser
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DSI)

UNESCO

Dr. G. Glaser
Division of Ecological Sciences
UNESCO
Paris

USA

Dr. Lynn Bennett
The World Bank

ICIMOD STAFF ALUMNI (1983 to 2004)

Listed below are members of staff who served the Centre for a minimum of one year.

Bangladesh

Iftikhar Uddin Sikder
Md. Abdul Aziz
Syed Zahir Sadeque
Zafar Karim

Bhutan

Lakpa Tshering
Nima Ome
Phuntshok Tshering

China

Chen Guang Wei
Hu Zhenou
Huang Wenzui
Ji Ziao Yun
Jian Liu
Jiang Yulin
Li Tianchi
Li Yan Hua
Lin Quifa
Lu Rongsen
Lui Chengfeng
Fu Shuqing
Nyima Tashi
Pei Shengji
Shujie Zhao
Sun Qingguo
Tang Ya
Wu Weitian
Yao Bijien
Zhang Li
Zhang Rongsu
Zhu Xia
Zun Ji-Jizheng

India

Ajay Rastogi
Asha Thapa
Beena Kala
C.P. Jayalakshmi
D.C. Das
Dayanti Chhetri
Jayanta Bandyopadhyay
K.G. Tejwani
Laiq Ram Verma
M.S. Rathore
Pradipto Roy
Pradyumna K. Kotta
Prasad S. Thenkabail
Prem Thapa
Purnima Wilson
S.D. Bhardwaj
S.S. Teatolia
Sofy Jomi Augustin
Susan Ann Ranger
T.M. Vinod Kumar
Tej Pratap
Trilok Singh Papola

Myanmar

Aung Sein Mya
Daw Tin Tin Ohn
Ma Sein Mya
Moe Myint
U Aung Kyaw Myint

Nepal

A.M. Dixit
Amit Baidya
Anirudra Man Shrestha
Anita Manandhar
Anita Pandey
Anju Shrestha
Arati Shrestha
Archana Singh Karki
Arun Neupane
Ashish Karmacharya
Balram Bhatta
Bandana Kayastha Pradhan
Bandana Prajapati-Merz
Beryl Rajbhandari
Bhakta Bahadur Subedi
Bhaskar Thapa
Bikash Pandey
Binayak Bhadra
Binod Bhandari
Binod Tiwari
Birendra B. Deoja
Birendra Raj Adhikari
Bishnu Kuenkel
Bishnu Prasad Khanal
Bishwomher Man Pradhan
Chakra Budhathoki
Chitra Bahadur Khadka (Late)
Dasarath Moktan
Dawaman Lama
Deepak Bajracharya
Deepak M. Shrestha
Deewakar Paudel
Esther Moktan
Ganesh Ram Shrestha
Gopal Nakarmi
Gumdu Gurung
Hikmat Bista
Jeet Bahadur Rai
Jit Pradhan "Bhuktan"
K.K. Panday
Kamal Rijal
Karna Bir Sunar
Kedar Nath Parajuli
Kedar Prasad Sharma
Khadga Bahadur Thapa
Kishor Pradhan
Krishna Bahadur Karki
Krishna Khatri (Late)
Krishna Kumar Shrestha
Krishna Prasad Osti
Krishna Ram Amatya
Kumar Karki

Lalit R. Shakya
Madan Lal Shrestha
Madhab K.C.
Madhav Pandey
Madhusudan Man Singh
Mahendra Nath Subedi
Mahesh Banskota
Manju Dangol
Man Bahadur Katwal
Megh Raj Dhital
Megh Ranjani Rai
Minerva Subba
Mohan Bhuju (Late)
Mohan Tamang
Mona Lacoul
Mona Thapa
Namita Kiran
Nanu Rajbhandari
Nar Bahadur Tamang
Narendra Raj Khanal
Ojaswi Josse
P.L. Maharjan
Padam Ghimire
Pitamber Sharma
Prabha Thacker
Pradeep Prasad Lohani
Pramod Pradhan
Pravakar Bickram Shah
Pravin Lal Shrestha
Prem Bahadur Karki
Prem Raj Neupane
Raj Bahadur Shrestha (Late)
Rabindra Thapa
Rachana Shrestha
Raju Khadka
Ram Krishna Shrestha (Late)
Ram Lal Neupane (Late)
Ram P. Yadav
Ram Shrestha
Ramesh Karmacharya
Reeta Rana
Reeta Shrestha (Late)
Renuka Shrestha
Ruben Subba
S. Devkota
Sabina Pradhan
Sadhana Subba
Sadhana Malla
Samar B. Gurung
Sambhu Khadka (Late)
Sameer Karki
Sally Shahi
Sandhya Shrestha
Sangeeta Pandey
Saran Dhoj Rai
Saroj Acharya
Saroj Basnyet
Saroj Pandey
Sharad Prasad Joshi
Shyam Poday (Late)

Subarna Bajracharya
Sudarshan Shrestha
Sudip Pradhan
Sugandha Shrestha
Suman Rai
Sunil Kumar Wagley
Sunil Nath Lohani
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ICIMOD Family 2000

Who is Really Behind the Bandhs (Strikes) in Kathmandu?

[A personal analysis of the lighter side of Bandhs in Kathmandu by Pema Gyamtsho]

Bandhs (strikes) have become a regular feature of life in Kathmandu over the past two years or so. By the end of October 2004, a total of 31 days had been registered as bandhs of various forms and nature, varying from passive shut-downs of business and traffic to a state of total curfew.

So who is really behind the bandhs? If one cares to analyse the beneficiaries of bandhs, a host of potential groups come to mind. One cannot help feeling that any one of these groups may be involved at least unwittingly in the institutionalisation of bandhs. In alphabetical order these groups include the following.



A road scene on the day of a bandh

Ram Humagai

The Airlines

Most airlines operating in and out of Tribhuvan International Airport are overbooked and suffer from regular layovers. Having frequent bandhs provides them with an excuse to adjust their bookings and catch up on the flight schedules without being sued by irate passengers.

The Animal Rights Groups

Kathmandu has a rich diversity of animal life, from stray dogs to stray cattle, to free ranging monkeys. On normal days their right to space and garbage resources are restricted by people and traffic. Maybe it was the animal rights groups who came up with the brilliant idea of having a bandh every now and then to allow the animals to claim their right of access to the roads and garbage dumps and to explore other potential niches such as someone's kitchen and backyard garden.

The Automobile Workshops

Another group of people who might be active behind the scenes are the automobile workshops. Bandhs offer them a chance to persuade mobs to damage vehicles and bikes and thereby boost their business.

The Public Servants

Public servants, not just in Nepal but the world over, are always after a paid holiday. There is nothing like a day off without having to apply for casual and annual leave.

The Environmental Lobby Groups

After a bandh one cannot help appreciate the visible improvement in the quality of the air and the reduction of dust and smoke pollution. Environmentalists therefore, must see the bandhs as a positive step towards a healthier environment in the city.

The Expat Community

Kathmandu boasts a high population of expats. All of them complain about the air pollution, the heavy traffic and the lack of time to do things they want to do like riding on their fancy bicycles. They see bandhs as an occasion to ride their bikes or to sport their blue-plate vehicles.

The Five-Star Hotels

It is hard to believe that the five-star hotels in the city, particularly those that have casinos, are not involved with the bandhs. Being the only authorised hotels to operate shuttle bus services to and from the airport, they are the only places where guests arriving on bandh days can stay. Usually they time it well so that the guests are not able to leave on the next flight out of town and have to spend a satisfactory amount of money in the casino.

The Rickshawallahs

There is one group who makes a killing on bandh days - the rickshawallahs. For an unfortunate passenger intending to take a trip to the airport from Jawalakhel, the fare is between NRs. 500 and 1000, and with no motored vehicles allowed to ply on that day, they must be making hay on bandhs.

The Telecommunications Companies

If you are in Kathmandu on business, disrupted flights, closed offices and delayed deals mean calling home, offices, and contacts to keep them informed. Telephone calls from Nepal are not the cheapest and therefore telecom companies have much to gain and nothing to lose.



A rickshawallah making hay while the sun shines

The Traffic Police

Bandhs must be a blessing in disguise for the traffice police as they do not have to stand in the middle of congested spots to direct an impossible traffic flow. Come on - they do deserve a break every now and then, and what is better than having no traffic at all on the streets?

The Tyre Dealers

Every time there is a bandh, car tyres are the first objects to go up in flames. Is this a cheap and innovative way of disposing of used tyres? Where do the protestors get them? Unless they have an inborn hatred for tyres, the motive is questionable. There must be some involvement of tyre dealers who are bent on selling new tyres and on stopping the use of resoled tyres.



Smoke signals

Although I cannot accurately pinpoint who among the above list of potential benefactors are to be blamed or appreciated for supporting the bandhs, they certainly deserve our admiration and support. At ICIMOD, we have learned to live with bandhs and have devised some strategic coping mechanisms. We have developed an effective Bandh Forecasting System (BFS) and have managed to run our offices on bandh days by motivating staff to work from home and use their own telephones. We have organised our own rickshaw fleet to ferry people to the airport and back; fixed our cars with used tyres to keep them out of reach of

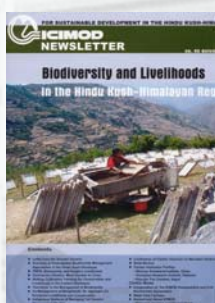
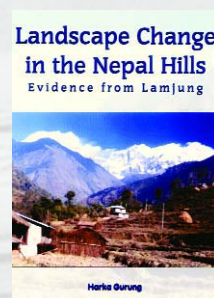
the mobs; and ensured that those who come to work cannot flush the toilets to avoid detection by the bandh organisers. In the coming year, we will be coming up with a Decision Support System (DSS) after conducting more detailed studies on the subject in partnership with some of the above groups and identifying the best practices followed during bandhs. The DSS will also consider some innovative partnership arrangements with Jawalakhel Zoo to hire the services of their elephant to transport people to and from the airport.

Pema Gyamtsho, pgyamtsho@icimod.org.np

Major documents published between July and November 2004 are shown below with abstracts. The three prices quoted for each publication are applicable to Developed Countries, Developing Countries, and ICIMOD's Regional Member Countries respectively and include p&p. They are available without p&p at the Centre itself. For institutions actively involved in sustainable development of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, relevant publications can be provided free of charge. Order online (see below) or from the Distribution Officer <distri@icimod.org.np>.

Gurung, Harka. **Landscape Change in the Nepal Hills: Evidence from Lamjung**. 2004. 84p. ISBN 92 9115 877 1
Price: \$15.00, \$10.00, \$7.50

Landscape change in the mountains; including changes in land use, forests and agriculture, architecture, and dwelling areas; continues to be a subject for debate and the basis for development investment. Uncertainty over past conditions, rates, and directions of some landscape change continue to fuel discussion. In this volume, Dr. Harka Gurung, renowned geographer, historian, planner, policy-maker, author, adventurer, and spokesperson for the excluded ethnic groups of the Himalayas, has brought together an extraordinary collection of repeat photographs and field observations focused on a hill area in Lamjung, Nepal, and has used them to illustrate and discuss the landscape dynamics of the area. Numerous maps and diagrams dealing with the area's geology, geomorphology, climate, vegetation, and land use are included as support material. The study represents a valuable contribution to our understanding of the on-going changes in the Himalayan mountains and will be of interest to development workers, students, historians, civil servants, and government, and all those interested in the processes of landscape change.



ISSN 1013-7386

ICIMOD Newsletter 45 (Autumn 2004): Biodiversity and Livelihoods in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region.

The ICIMOD newsletter covers issues important to mountain areas as well as information on ICIMOD activities and staff. With excellent articles and profiles, it is oriented towards all those interested in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas - researchers, development workers, and academics - as well as those interested specifically in the Centre itself. Also available online at <<http://www.icimod.org>>.

The current issue focuses on how biodiversity conservation is tied to the livelihoods of people in the mountains of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region.

ISSN 1680-5275

Mountain Development Profiles

These are two-page summaries of selected ICIMOD activities.

MDP No. 9: South Asia Water Analysis Network (SAWAN)

<http://www.icimod.org/publications/profiles/profile_menu.htm>.

Second Issue of ICIMOD eNews (Oct/Nov 2004) is now available at <<http://www.icimod.org/enews/index.htm>>.

Turin, Mark with Thami, Bir Bahadur. **Nepali - Thami - English Dictionary**. Kathmandu: Martin Chautari 2004. 115p. ISBN 99933-812-4-1. Price: NRs. 75

Thangmi (known as 'Thami' in Nepali) is a little-known and endangered Tibeto-Burman language spoken by an ethnic group of over 30 000 in the Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk districts of eastern Nepal. With the support of Bir Bahadur Thami, Mark Turin has been studying and learning Thangmi since 1996 and has produced a grammar, a lexicon, and has analysed a set of texts for publication by Brill in The Netherlands. The Thangmi community, however, have long requested that Turin produce a trilingual dictionary of Nepali, Thangmi, and English for publication in Nepal. Earlier this year, with generous financial backing from ICIMOD and other local organisations, the dictionary was published by Martin Chautari.



Thangmi is an oral language with no standardised written tradition. In discussion with Thangmi language activists, Turin and Thami devised a modified Devanagari script for rendering the Thangmi language on paper. This pocket-sized book contains over 2000 Thangmi language entries and a bilingual introduction. The entire contents of the dictionary can be searched online using Unicode Nepali fonts at <<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/reference/dictionary/thangmi/index.php>>.

ICIMOD publications online – order direct at

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

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

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

New Staff Members

Policy and Partnership Development (PPD)



Dr. Golam Rasul
Policy Development Specialist

Dr. Golam Rasul joined ICIMOD in September 2004 as a Policy Development Specialist. From Bangladesh, Dr. Rasul holds a Ph.D. in Regional and Rural Development Planning from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand, with a specialisation in watershed management. Before joining ICIMOD, Dr. Rasul worked as a Research Specialist and was a member of the adjunct faculty at AIT. He also worked in the Bangladesh Civil Service for about 12 years in different ministries and in the field administration in various capacities. Along with development work, he is actively involved in research and publication. His research findings have been published in many reputed international journals including *World Development*, *Agricultural Systems*, *Applied Geography*, and *Land Degradation and Development*. Dr. Rasul conducted his Ph.D. on shifting cultivation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. He is a Fellow of GATT and The World Bank and a member of many professional organisations. His research area includes agriculture, natural resource management, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development.



Mr. Farid Ahmad
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

Prior to joining ICIMOD in August 2004, Mr. Farid Ahmad was with the Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP), Pakistan, as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer where he worked for 4 years in Chitral. During this period, he participated in different international seminars and training programmes, independently evaluating 10 projects and programmes. He also worked as a Principal Investigator with the Cultural Area Karakoram (CAK) project in Pakistan from 1999 to 2000. A Master in Economics from the University of Peshawar, Mr. Ahmad comes from Chitral, NWFP, Pakistan.

STAFF HONOURS

The ICIMOD family extends its best wishes to the following staff members who have left the Centre:

Ms. Alka Sabharwal (1/03 - 7/04)
Eco-tourism Specialist (Associate Expert)

Mr. Suman Rai (9/01 - 8/04)
Coordinator, Equity & Rights Programme

Mr. Sudip Pradhan (1/02 - 9/04)
Spatial Data Analyst

Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance (CEGG)



Ms. Radhika Gupta
Coordinator, Equity & Rights

Ms. Radhika Gupta is a sociologist by training and studied at the Delhi School of Economics and the London School of Economics & Political Science. She has been working in the area of natural resource management for the last four years, with a particular focus on community-based water management and extensive field experience in India. Her expertise lies in social, institutional, and policy analysis and she is particularly interested in exploring the interface between cultural practices and value systems and resource management. Ms. Gupta has a long-abiding passion for the mountains, drawing on her work in Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh in India.

Natural Resource Management (NRM)



Ms. Ranju S. Acharya
Research Assistant, TBM-NRM

Ms. Ranju Acharya worked in the International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) Research Programme in Nepal for four years and then in the USAID-funded Women's Empowerment Programme in Nepal for two years, during which time she gained field-level experience in natural resource management and community development. She has worked in ICIMOD in different capacities, first joining as an intern in 2002 under the TBM project. She holds a Master's degree in Botany from Tribhuvan University, Nepal, with a focus on forest ecology.

Interns/Volunteers/Associates

Mr. Kazuya Shinagawa, NRM
Mr. Bastian Flury, Volunteer Intern, PARDYP
Mr. Stephen Keelings, Consultant Editor, PARDYP
Ms. Lucia de Vries, Consultant Editor, CEGG
Ms. Sajani Singh, Data Entry Asst., CEGG
Ms. Anupa Rimal Lamichhane, PPD
Mr. Jan Vaillant, PPD
Ms. Kumari Sauden, IKM/IMCO
Mr. Sudarshan Shrestha, IKM/IMCO
Ms. Dejee, IKM
Ms. Lachang, IKM
Mr. Haung Jie, IKM
Mr. Dungkar Dukpa, IKM/MENRIS
Ms. Fatima Akhtari, IKM/MENRIS
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Ms. Nazneen Sultana, IKM/MENRIS
Mr. Dungkar Drukpa, IKM/MENRIS
Mr. Sharad Joshi, IKM/MENRIS
Ms. Salima Khatoon, Mountain Forum
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Ms. Anshu Shrestha, Personnel
Ms. Suniti Maharjan, Personnel
Ms. Robina Maharjan, HQ Complex
Ms. Dristi Vaidya, HQ Complex

As of November 2004

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Mr. Milan Raj Tuladhar, Head, Administration & Finance
Support Staff: Ms. Tika Laxmi Gurung, Ms. Anjali Shrestha, Ms. Purna Thapa

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Dr. Ekabya Sharma, Senior Agricultural Specialist/Programme Manager
Ms. Elisabeth E. Kerkhoff, Agroforestry Specialist
Dr. Nakul Chettri, Transboundary & Biodiversity Specialist
Dr. Yan Zhaoli, Rangelands Specialist
Mr. Suraj Bahadur Thapa, Farm Manager/Horticulturist
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Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Bhuchar, Assistant Programme Coordinator, PARDYP
Mr. Bhubaneswar Shrestha, GIS Specialist, Country Coordinator, PARDYP
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Dr. Surendra Raj Joshi, Action Research Officer, Beekeeping, Mr. Min Bahadur Gurung, Institutional Development Officer, Beekeeping
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Ms. Mandira Shrestha, Water Resources Specialist
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Ms. Radhika Gupta, Coordinator, Equity and Rights
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Ms. Maria Armila C. Shakya, Programme Development Coordinator
Dr. Mark Turin, Visiting Scientist
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Mr. Farid Ahmad, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Mr. Prem Krishna Manandhar, Programme Officer
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Moving On...



Narendra Bajracharya



International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Khumaltar, Lalitpur, G.P.O Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal
Telephone: (977 1) 5525313
Fax: (977 1) 5524509, 5536747, Cable ICIMOD, Nepal
email: icimod@icimod.org.np

www.icimod.org

www.southasianfloods.org
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