



Centre News

2008 – Celebrating 25 years for mountains and people!

In 2008 ICIMOD celebrated the completion of 25 years of working for mountains and people. The year-long celebration focused on the themes of resilience and adaptation to global change of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan people, and on promoting sustainable mountain development. On the 1st of January 2008, staff were welcomed with a garlanded banner at the entrance of the building with 'Let us celebrate 25 years of ICIMOD' – setting the tone for the year.

The celebrations started with the [Eco Everest Expedition 2008](http://www.ecoeverest.net.np) <www.ecoeverest.net.np>. ICIMOD joined with Asian Trekking and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to support this unique mountaineering expedition, which brought together climbing, research, and environmental awareness. The climbing expedition, led by Dawa Steven Sherpa of

Mount Everest Region, Nepal was also displayed at Base Camp, and an ICIMOD Information Centre was set up, which together served as an interaction point for visitors, climbers, and local people. An ICIMOD research team led by Basanta Shrestha carried out field studies of the Dig Tsho and Imja Tsho glacial lakes as part of the expedition and held an awareness workshop on GLOFs in Namche Bazaar.

The second major event was the '[Himalaya – Changing Landscapes](#)' photo exhibition, first unveiled in a smaller format at Everest Base Camp in April (see above), and then shown in different formats in Stockholm, Sweden during World Water Week from 17 to 23 August; in Barcelona, Spain from 4 to 15 October, in parallel with the IUCN World Conservation Congress (in partnership with the BBVA Foundation); and finally in Kathmandu at Hanuman Dhoka, Durbar Square from 2 to 8 December (in partnership with the Nepal Tourism Board). The exhibition contains a unique collection of panoramas of mountains, valleys, and glaciers in the Khumbu region of Nepal taken in the 1950s and retaken in the same locations in 2007 by mountain geographer Alton Byers of The Mountain Institute (TMI), together with photos of scientific teams conducting research in the 1950s and portraits of mountain people. The panoramas and historic photos were shared by Dr Byers under the ICIMOD/TMI partnership agreement. The exhibition drew global attention to the impacts of climate change in the Himalayas and has proven to be a powerful tool for raising awareness of global climate change in the Himalayas, as well as for raising the profile of ICIMOD itself.



Asian Trekking, was designed to draw attention to the issue of climate change and the problem of melting glaciers in the Himalayas. A cleanliness campaign was carried out and eco-friendly products and methods field-tested as part of the expedition. The expedition was formally launched on 18 April 2008 at Everest Base Camp. The high point was reached on 26 May when Dawa Steven and his team reached the summit of Mount Everest and displayed an ICIMOD banner. A repeat photography exhibition, '*50 Years of Change – Glaciers, Landscapes, People and Resilience in the*



A Day out in Godavari, a visit to the ICIMOD

Demonstration and Training Centre, was organised on Saturday, 3 May 2008 for members of Kathmandu's diplomatic community and development agencies and their families. Some 70 guests enjoyed observing the different technologies, farming activities, and research being undertaken at the Centre and discussing them with ICIMOD staff.



Two international days were celebrated with special events: **World Environment Day** (5 June) and **International Mountain Day** (11 December). A **Digital Photo Contest** on the theme 'For Mountains and People' was held from 25 March to 16 May 2008 and received more than 1100 entries from 365 contributors in 65 countries. The ICIMOD Hindu Kush-Himalayan Prize went to Prem Hang Banem for his photo 'Worshippers going round the sacred lake Gufa-Pokhari' (2007) and the Mountain Forum Global Prize was awarded to Christian Cristoforetti for his photo 'Transhumant sheep return to the alm in Paneveggio Forest after a winter on the plains' (2007). All entries can be viewed online at <http://www.icimod.org/photocontest>. The top entries were displayed at the World Environment Day (5 June) and International Mountain Day (11 December) events, and during the ICIMOD Open House Day on 6 December. ICIMOD's Asia Pacific Mountain Network also facilitated an **E-discussion on 'Building the resilience of mountain communities to climate change'** from 30 April to 14 May as part of World Environment Day 2008. A summary of the discussion is available online at <http://www.icimod.org/apmn/buildingresilience/>.

September also saw the introduction of a **new brand look for ICIMOD** to meet the challenges of the coming

years under the new strategic framework introduced in 2008 (see separate report).

Two international conferences were held in Kathmandu as part of the celebrations: the **10th International Symposium on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography (HMRSC-X)**, held from 8 to 11 September, and the **International Conference on Mountain Biodiversity** (with three pre and post workshops on Mountain Transboundary Protected Areas; Linking Geodata with Biodiversity Information; and Research Strategy on Global Change in Mountain Biosphere Reserves), held from 6 to 18 November. These conferences provided ICIMOD with an opportunity to bring together many international and regional experts on a common platform and foster regional and international cooperation.

ICIMOD's Director General, Dr Andreas Schild, was awarded the first **Sir Edmund Hillary Himalayan Environment Award** at the headquarters of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) in New Delhi, India, on 14 October. The annual award is given by the Himalayan Environment Trust to an organisation or individual for an outstanding lifetime contribution to the cause of the Himalayan Environment.

The year culminated in a week-long celebration from 1 to 6 December. Members of ICIMOD's Board of Governors and International Support Group were also able to participate as the **39th ICIMOD Board of Governors'** meeting was held from 1 to 4 December (see separate report).

On 2 December 2008, '**Himalaya – Changing Landscapes**' was inaugurated at Hanuman Dhoka, Durbar Square by Ms Hisila Yami, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation. The week-long exhibition was popular among Kathmandu locals and visitors alike, and the panels shown in Nepal are now on permanent display at the International Mountain Museum in Pokhara for all to enjoy and study.

A high-level panel discussion on '**The Role of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) Mountain System in the Context of a Changing Climate**' was organised on ICIMOD's actual anniversary day, 5 December, at the Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kathmandu. Seven invited panellists (two of whom had been present at the first inaugural symposium in 1983) discussed with participants key issues and challenges faced by the region and the potential role of ICIMOD in enhancing adaptation and building the resilience of mountain communities. A 25th Anniversary commemorative book 'ICIMOD and the

Himalayan Region: Responding to Emerging Challenges' was launched, and a commemorative souvenir cover was postmarked with a specially designed anniversary cancellation stamp.

In the evening of 5 December ICIMOD held a [gala function](#) at the Hyatt Regency for staff and invited guests. The function was graced by the Right Honourable President of Nepal, Dr Ram Baran Yadav, who addressed the audience. Other speeches were delivered by Dr Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD,



eminent scientist Professor Bruno Messerli (keynote speaker), and the incoming ICIMOD Board Chair, Mr Sherub Gyaltsen from Bhutan. The programme included a slide show, musical performances, and a dance-drama on the theme of 'Water'. Seven staff members who had completed 25 years of service with ICIMOD were felicitated.

The week-long celebration finished with an [Open House](#) on 6 December at ICIMOD's headquarters in Khumaltar, Lalitpur, which was accompanied by an informative and fun-filled fair. The highlights included guided tours of ICIMOD's programmes and a Climate Change Corner where the glacial melting phenomenon was explained with examples. ICIMOD staff had a rare opportunity to meet the general public and discuss issues and respond to questions on climate change in the Himalayas and global warming. The response from the public was overwhelming; it is estimated that some 2,000 to 2,500 people came to the Open House.

Nira Gurung, ngurung@icimod.org

ICIMOD Board of Governors 2009

Regional Board Members

Eng Ghulam Mostafa Jawad

Deputy Minister of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Afghanistan

Mr Jamil Osman

Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat, Bangladesh

Mr Sherub Gyaltsen

Chairperson, ICIMOD Board of Governors
Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan

Prof Dr Ding Zhongli

Vice President, Chinese Academy of Sciences, PR China

Mr Vijai Sharma, IAS

Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, India

U Kyaw Htun

Deputy Director General, University of Forestry, Myanmar

Prof Dr Gunanidhi Sharma

Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal

Mr M Zia-ur-Rehman

Secretary, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Pakistan

Independent Board Members

Dr Jacqueline A. Ashby

Chairperson, ICIMOD Programme Advisory Committee (PAC)
Vice Chair, ICIMOD Board of Governors (BoG)
Research Coordinator, Andean Change Program
International Potato Center (CIP), Peru

Dr Elke Förster

GFA Consulting Group GmbH, Representative Office Hanoi/
Senior Consultant, Vietnam

Dr Amir Muhammed

Rector, National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences
Pakistan

Dr Linxiu Zhang

Professor and Deputy Director, Centre for Chinese Agricultural Policy
Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), PR China

Dr A K M Jahir Uddin Chowdhury

Professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh

Dr Andreas Schild

(Ex-officio) Director General, ICIMOD

ICIMOD: New challenges, new look

On Monday, 15 September 2008, ICIMOD opened with a new look, new website, and new design for all its print and electronic materials to support the new orientation and way of working outlined in the Strategic Framework introduced in January 2008

The Strategic Framework is intended to guide the Centre's activities, help it meet the growing challenges of sustainable and equitable development, and respond to the growing need for adaptation to climate change. The clear new look developed to support implementation of the framework underscores ICIMOD's belief in flexibility with consistency, and diversity within a common framework. It reflects the need to reduce the complexities of development thinking and focus on clarity and simplicity within a complex field. The logo highlights the focus on mountains and the importance of the environment and water for the people of the region, while the strapline emphasises ICIMOD's theme 'For Mountains and



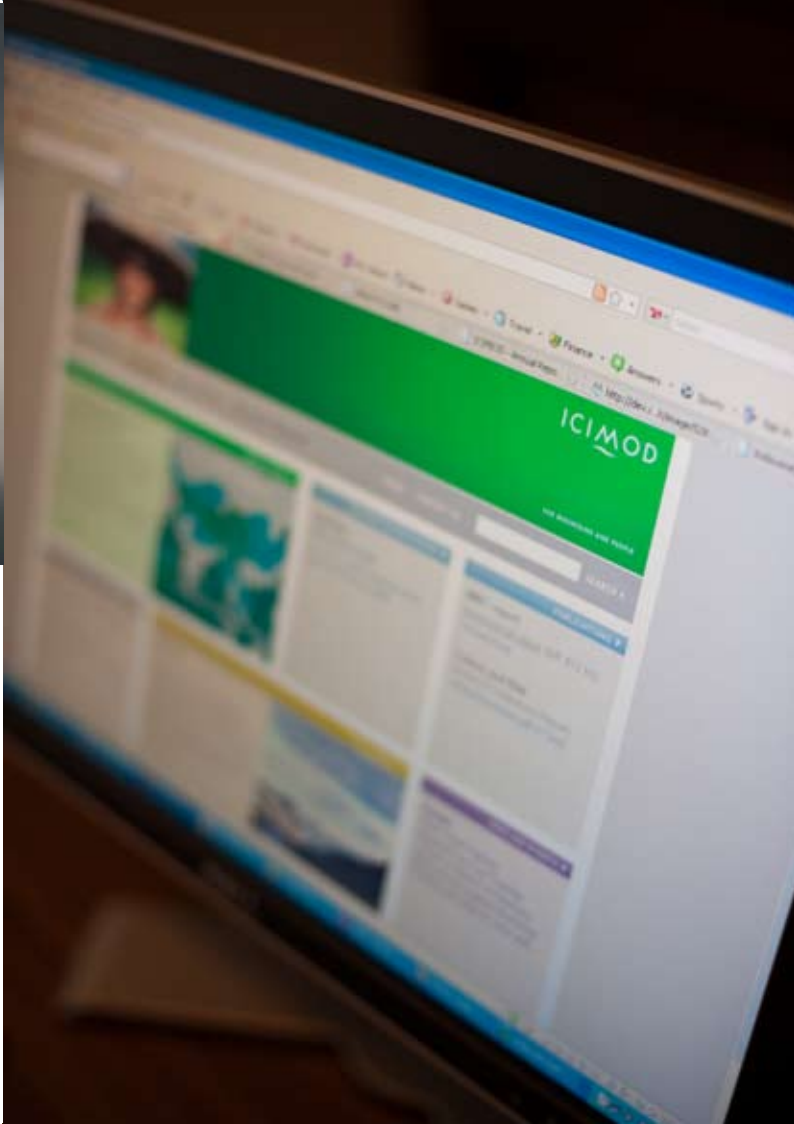
People'. Visually arresting images are used to underscore the communication messages.

ICIMOD was fortunate to be able to interest Alex Treadway, an experienced designer and photographer from England, in the project (see box). Supported by a dedicated team of ICIMOD staff, Mr Treadway took on the responsibility of developing the overall brand, the designs of all materials including the website, and much of the photography. In 2008, all existing products

were redesigned; during 2009 new communications products are being developed and designs added to broaden the overall scope. Examples of the design can be seen everywhere, from this newsletter, through to signs and information boards in the HQ building and the Training Centre, to business cards, email signatures, and ICIMOD vehicles.

The website www.icimod.org was restructured and rebuilt to facilitate knowledge sharing and support ICIMOD's regional role as a platform and a hub. The website offers an overview of the new strategy, programmes, and activities, and an introduction to the themes and topics that are most important for the people of the region. During 2009, the many additional websites linked to ICIMOD's programmes are being integrated into the main website. When this is complete, all ICIMOD information will be fully searchable and available in one place. The new website will help ICIMOD to communicate efficiently and provide easy access to the data, information, and knowledge compiled and developed to help the people of the region.

A Beatrice Murray, bmurray@icimod.org



Alex Treadway - Designer and Photographer

Alex Treadway studied graphic design and photography in England before moving to Denmark and completing a Masters Degree in Graphic Communication at Denmark's Design School in Copenhagen. He started his career with the London-based multimedia agency 'DOGS', where he worked as a graphic designer. Following this, he took on a position as senior designer with the top web agency 'Rufus Leonard' before being appointed creative director for the strategic brand agency 'Blue Goose'. In 2005, he set up his own company and has carried out a number of freelance branding and photography projects since then.

Alex has been working and travelling in Asia for the past two years. In 2008 he decided to stay in Nepal when ICIMOD requested him to produce a new overall image for the organisation. Apart from rebranding ICIMOD, Alex has supported publicity campaigns for international organisations and companies, such as the adventure group 'The Last Resort', and has undertaken a series of photography projects. He is currently planning to produce a coffee-table book depicting the striking transformation Everest mountaineers go through during their attempt to reach the top of the world.

You can see more of Alex's work at:
www.alextheadway.co.uk



The Annual Meeting of the ICIMOD Board of Governors, 2008

The Annual Meeting of the ICIMOD Board of Governors and associated meetings were held from 1 to 6 December 2008 in Kathmandu. As 2008 was the twenty-fifth anniversary of ICIMOD, the annual meeting of the Board of Governors was held in a celebratory mood. A field trip was organised for Board members on 1 December to Hamsapur village, Kaski District prior to the start of the meetings (see Box).

On 1 December, the Sixth Meeting of the ICIMOD Foundation was convened, and the value proposition for fund raising discussed. Although the reactions to the proposition were positive, the Foundation realised that, due to the global financial crisis, the coming year will be more of a consolidation year for the Foundation.

On 2 December, Centre's Day was organised at ICIMOD's headquarters, during which ICIMOD partners made presentations to the Board and International Support Group (ISG) members, and staff presented the programme activities at an 'information market'. In the afternoon, the photo exhibition 'Himalaya – Changing Landscapes' was opened

against the backdrop of Nepal's national heritage site, Hanuman Dhoka. In the evening, the Finance Committee of the Board met to discuss the financial management of the Centre and expressed satisfaction with the current status.

On 3 December, the Programme Advisory Committee was convened, and detailed progress of each programme was presented. The committee commented on the programmes and provided important guidelines for the way forward. In the afternoon, the International Support Group convened its 19th meeting. ICIMOD's regional member countries expressed their continued support for the Centre and non-regional members of the



Field visit by the Board of Governors to Hamsapur village, Kaski district

A field trip was organised for the ICIMOD Board of Governors on 1 December 2008 to Hamsapur village in Kaski district near Pokhara. The aim was to provide the Board with an opportunity to observe the field activities of ICIMOD's partners and to interact directly with local communities and understand their problems and the benefits received through ICIMOD supported activities. The field trip also demonstrated how ICIMOD is working with and through its partners.

The group visited a multi-partnership, community-implemented, biodiversity conservation and community development project funded by UNDP/GEF, ICIMOD, and others. The project is being implemented by a local NGO, the Indragufa Community Development Foundation. Through support from other donors, the village high school has 24-hour internet connectivity, providing information and knowledge services to the students and villagers.

During the field trip, the Board members visited the new school construction site, interacted with the school management community, visited the local biodiversity fair, and enjoyed a brief cultural programme on the local Gurung culture and practices. The Board members also interacted with locals and, in particular, with a large number of women from various community-based organisations. The Board members walked through the village in two groups to observe programme activities such as biodiversity conservation and community forestry, home gardens with medicinal plants, coffee plantations, honey processing, and tourism promotion activities.

Madhav Karki, mkarki@icimod.org

group pledged support for the five-year period covered by the current Medium Term Action Plan (MTAP).

The main event, the 39th Meeting of the Board of Governors, was held on 4 December. Besides routine business, the Board reviewed the progress made during the first year of the new strategic plan. The Board expressed satisfaction at the impressive start. Considerable progress has been made in each of the new programmatic areas set out in the Medium Term Action Plan: Integrated Water and Hazard Management (IWHM), Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services (ECES), and Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction (SLPR). The changes brought about in the organisation will be further consolidated in 2009.

The Board approved a budget of US\$ 12.7 million for 2009 and appointed Price Waterhouse as auditors for the next three years, to replace KPMG who retired in 2008 after a period of 5 years. The Board also realised the need to expand the Directorate and redefine the roles therein and approved the new position of Director of Programme Operations. After the meeting, the Board members joined in the 25th anniversary celebrations with ICIMOD staff (see separate report).

Milan Raj Tuladhar, mtuladhar@icimod.org

Professor Bruno Messerli, ICIMOD's Change at a Time of Global Change

After three exciting years as a member of the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC: 2006 – 2008) and two years (2007 – 2008) as Chair of the PAC, I am looking back with two great impressions: First, the strategic change of ICIMOD at an unbelievable speed of less than two years, and second the high motivation and engagement of the staff at all levels, from the reception at the airport to the secretariat, from the professionals to the management team and the Director General. This too short and too general statement can be better appreciated by looking back on the 25 years history of ICIMOD.

During a research project of the United Nations University on so-called 'Mountain Hazards' in Nepal's Kakani and Khumbu areas at the beginning of the 1980s, I became involved in the preparatory discussions about a future centre for mountain development in Kathmandu, based on the principles of UNESCO's 'Man and the Biosphere' programme. After the inauguration in 1983, I was once more involved in the first five-year evaluation report, where I proposed the creation of a regional programme with strong transboundary components. Then I lost all contacts with ICIMOD until 2004, when I was invited to the inauguration of the new building and headquarters in Khumaltar.

Based on this fragmentary history of ICIMOD, I was surprised and fascinated to experience in these last years a change towards a changing world. Globalisation was no more an economic process alone, but also include such things as the climate, water resources, biodiversity, and food security in general, and the mountains with their resource treasures in particular. It was exciting to see that we need to scale down innovative results from the global change programmes to the regional level and to scale up the results from the more precise national-regional level to the global level in order to improve predictions and projections of future

scenarios. Most important, the global programmes need a better regional knowledge and this means comparable and reliable data in a free exchange about water and hazards, biodiversity and ecosystem services, livelihood and poverty, exactly as it is defined in ICIMOD's longer term strategy. I am persuaded that in the near future the global environmental change programmes will reach a higher accuracy and a higher significance for all the Hindu Kush-Himalayan countries, and that it will therefore be fundamental that ICIMOD is creating a knowledge centre with the necessary capacity to assist the member countries in their future decision processes.

I am sure that UN-institutions, government and non-government organisations, and especially the regional member countries, will realise the unique position of ICIMOD very soon. I hope that the Board of Governors and the PAC will accept and appreciate this long term responsibility besides the necessary short-term results and impacts, both compiled in a meaningful combination of research and development for the mountains and their environment and resources, and also for the concerned highland and lowland populations.

I thank the Director General, the management team leaders, the whole staff and the colleagues and friends of the PAC for all the exciting discussions and interactions. I felt really at home in ICIMOD and I may say that these three years were a real highlight in the last phase of my mountain career.



Dr Robert Visser, Chief Scientist of Development Cooperation, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Professor in Development Cooperation, University of Utrecht

Dr. Rober Visser was appointed as an Independent Member of the ICIMOD Board of Governors in 2001 and completed his term in 2008, at the time of ICIMOD's 25th Anniversary celebrations in December 2008. During his tenure, Dr Visser served on the Board's Programme Advisory Committee and gave valuable guidance and advice on our many programmes. His expertise was particularly welcome in the area of knowledge management and innovation,

and especially during the development of the new knowledge management strategy. He has also provided outstanding services to the mountain people and environment of the Himalayan region. His sharp analysis and in-depth knowledge of the issues, as well as his strong commitment to ICIMOD's work, has been highly appreciated. ICIMOD bade him a warm farewell in December 2008, and looks forward to remaining in contact with him in the future.

New Regional and Independent Board Members



Mr Vijai Sharma, Secretary,
Ministry of Environment and
Forests, Government of India

Mr Vijai Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1974. He is a science

and law postgraduate. As a career bureaucrat, he has held several distinct positions and made invaluable contributions at both the State and Central levels. He has wide experience in matters relating to industry, agriculture and cooperatives, pollution control, energy, the environment, and forests, as well as law and justice. Before joining the MoEF as Secretary, he was Special Secretary of the Cabinet Secretariat.



Professor Kyaw Htun,
Deputy Director General,
Planning and Statistics
Department, Ministry of Forestry,
Myanmar

Professor Kyaw Htun is Deputy Director General of the Planning and Statistics Department in the

Ministry of Forestry, Myanmar and Professor at the University of Forestry, Forest Department, Myanmar. Born in 1950, he has had a long professional career in forest services in different capacities. He started as a junior plantation assistant in Pyinmana Forest Division, Forest Department of Mandalay Division in 1977 and became a senior plantation assistant in 1980 at the Forest Headquarters in Yangon. In 1984, he was appointed as a senior computer programmer at the Forest Department Computer Center. He joined the Planning and Statistics Division of the Forest Department as a staff officer in 1990 and became Assistant Director in 1995. He played a key role in formulating the District Forest Management Plan at the forest management unit level covering the whole country for the period 1996/97 to 2005/06. From 2000 to 2003, he was Associate Professor at the University of Forestry (where he is now Professor) and Head of the ASEAN and International Relations Unit of the Forest Department. He is one of the authors of the *National Action Programme of Myanmar*

to combat desertification in the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and coauthored the *Sustainable Development Strategy* for Myanmar. His research focus is on the general assessment of teak plantations in the Bago Yomas region, the analysis of the productivity of commercial plantations in Myanmar, and predicting the possibility of deforestation using logistic regression models.



Professor Dr Gunanidhi Sharma, Vice Chairman,
National Planning Commission,
Nepal

Professor Dr Gunanidhi Sharma was appointed by the Government of Nepal to the ICIMOD Board of Governors effective 16

January 2009. He is Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission, Nepal and has three decades of experience working in different capacities in academic institutions, government, development agencies, and NGOs. He started his career as Assistant Lecturer at the Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University in 1973, where he was appointed Professor in 1997.

As an educationist, Professor Sharma was a teacher, advisor, and PhD thesis examiner at Andhra University, India. In the government sector, he has held several positions on advisory and governing boards such as the Nepal Rastra Bank and the National Planning Commission. He has also worked as an expert and consultant for such organisations as Winrock, UNFPA, UNEP/UNDP, GTZ, and IIDS. While working for the government and in development, he has served as a member of various evaluation committees, taskforces, and commissions. He has also served on the editorial board of the *Economic Journal of Nepal*, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, and of the *Nepalese Economic Review* since 1989.

Professor Sharma has carried out considerable research and authored and co-authored many scientific research papers, seminar papers, and books. He received his PhD in Economics on 'Monetary control techniques in Nepal' from the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India, in 1984.



Dr Lars-Erik Liljelund,
Director General, Swedish Prime
Minister's Office, Sweden

Dr Lars-Erik Liljelund from Sweden was appointed as an Independent Member of ICIMOD's Board in December 2008. He brings with him valuable experience in the

field of environment and natural resources. Currently, he is Director General of the Swedish Prime Minister's Office where he is responsible for climate change issues and the Baltic Sea. Prior to this, he served as Director General of the Swedish Environment Protection Agency from 1999 to 2008.

Dr Liljelund started his career as a researcher and lecturer in ecology at Stockholm University in 1977 where he obtained his PhD in Plant Ecology in the same year. He served as Senior Advisor at the Department of Environmental Research, Swedish Environment Protection Agency from 1984 to 1989. He joined the Swedish Association for the Conservation of Nature in 1989 as a Department Secretary General. He has held other senior positions in different capacities in the Swedish Environment Protection Agency. He also served as a Director of the Swedish Environment Advisory Council, Ministry of Environment from 1994 to 1998.

Dr Liljelund is actively involved in many scientific organisations. He is currently serving as Chair of the Board of the International Meteorological Institute, Stockholm University and member of the Board of the Swedish University of Agricultural Science, both since 2008, and has also been a member of the China Council (the Environmental Advisory Board to the Chinese Government) since 2007. He has been Vice Chair and Chair of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (1993-1998), member of the Board of the Swedish Space Agency (1997-2003), member of the Board of the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (2003-2007), member of the Board of the Swedish Forestry Agency and Foundation for Environmental Strategic Research (2000-2007), and Chair of the European Environment Agency (2003-2008). From 1985 onwards, he served as an expert on several governmental taskforces, and as a member and negotiator in Swedish delegations to different conventions and/or on political cooperation on environmental and sustainable development issues.



Professor Dr Matthias Winiger, Rector (Vice Chancellor), University of Bonn, Germany

Professor Dr Matthias Winiger, a physical geographer and climatologist from Switzerland, was appointed as an Independent Member of ICIMOD's Board in December 2008.

Professor Dr Winiger is currently Rector (Vice Chancellor) of the University of Bonn, Germany. He started his career as a research assistant at the University of Waterloo, Canada in 1970. He joined the University of Berne, Switzerland, as an Assistant to Professor Dr B. Messerli in 1971 and held various positions there until 1988. He gained his PhD from the same university in 1974. In 1988 he joined the University of Bonn as Professor and Director of the Department of Geography. He has since held several other positions at the university before taking up his present position as Vice Chancellor in 2004.

From the very beginning of his professional career, Professor Winiger tried to combine fieldwork, remote sensing, and GIS modelling in the fields of climatology and landscape ecology, mainly in mountain areas in different geographical settings (the Alps; north, east, and Southern Africa; and South and Central Asian mountain ranges such as the Karakorum, Hindu Kush, and Western Himalayas).

At the University of Berne, the pioneering WESAT Programme (Weather Satellite Programme, with satellite receiving stations, an archive, and application programmes on mountain climatology) was initiated in 1980 and is still running today. At the University of Bonn, his research group established remote sensing and GIS technology programmes that became independent university research units and successfully cooperate with United Nations programmes in Bonn (e.g., UNU, INRES, Biota).

Professor Winiger has been associated with many renowned scientific organisations since 1992. He served as the Chair of the IGU Commission 'Mountain Geoecology and Sustainable Mountain' from 1996 to 2000. He is a founding member of the Subprogramme ProClim (Climate Programme) at the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences. He has been Editor-in-Chief of *Erkunde* since 2006 and is the founding editor of the African Studies series of *Geographische Bernensia*. He has also authored and co-authored many research papers.

ICIMOD workshops, meetings and training programmes

(April 2008 - March 2009)

Event	Date	Place
2008		
Mountain Forum's Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) Board Election	March - April	Kathmandu, Nepal
Mountains and People Global Digital Photo Contest	March - June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Topographic Survey for Paghman Botanical Garden in Afghanistan	1 April	Afghanistan
Country Operational Planning Workshop	1 April	Thimpu, Bhutan
Country Operational Planning Workshop	5 April	Islamabad, Pakistan
Securing Livelihoods in Uplands and Mountains of HKH Region Phase II Review and Planning Workshop	14 - 15 April	Lalitpur, Nepal
Workshop Application of Geo-Informatics and Earth Observation for Natural Resources/and Cover Assessment in Protected Areas	14 - 25 April	Islamabad, Pakistan
Launch Eco Everest Expedition, ICIMOD Research Expedition, and photo exhibition, '50 Years of Change – Glaciers, Landscapes, People and Resilience in the Mount Everest Region, Nepal'	18 April	Khumbu, Nepal
BRAHMATWINN Regional Level Stakeholder Meeting	21 - 23 April	Kathmandu, Nepal
State Level Consultative Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing from Biological Resources for Local Communities	22 - 23 April	Gangtok, Sikkim, India
Awareness Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change and Increasing Resilience of Local People in Khumbu	25 April	Namche, Nepal
Study Tour for Afghan Policy Makers	26 April - 4 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Workshop on Application of FAO/UNEP Land Cover Classification System (LCCS) for the Study of Land Cover Dynamics in CKNP	28 April	Islamabad, Pakistan
Knowledgebase System of the HKH Partnership Project	29 April	Islamabad, Pakistan
E-discussion on 'Building Resilience of Mountain Communities to Climate Change'	30 April - 14 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Mission to Afghanistan: Kahmard District	3 - 13 May	Kahmard, Afghanistan
Fourth Mission for ICIMOD's Watershed Assistance	5 - 15 May	Pakistan
Regional Technical Consolidation Workshop on the Management of the Kanchenjunga Landscape	6 - 7 May	Thimpu, Bhutan
Regional Inception Workshop for the Action Research Project on Value Chains for <i>Cinnamomum tamala</i>	9 - 10 May	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Apiculture for Agriculture Teachers of Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT)	2 - 16 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
World Environment Day	5 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Landslides, Risk and Decision-making in Central Nepal: a Multi-Stakeholder Approach	9 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Workshop on Climate Change and Vulnerability of Mountain Ecosystems in the Eastern Himalayan Region	12 - 13 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Field Work Planning on Assessing Adaptation to Climate Induced Water Stress and Hazards in the Greater Himalayan Region	17 - 21 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Programme Advisory Committee and Special Board Meeting	24 - 28 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Bio Briquette Training of Trainers (ToT)	24 - 27 June	Godavari
1 st Abu Dhabi Knowledge Forum (ADKF) Rivers of the Greater Himalayas: from Source to Sea, Present and Future	25 - 27 June	Singapore

ICIMOD Board Executive Committee (BEC) Meeting	27 - 28 June	Kathmandu, Nepal
Orientation on WOCAT Tools and Methods	5 July	Kabul, Afghanistan
Progress Review Meeting of Kyoto: Think Global Act Local Project	6 - 9 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
E-discussion on 'Can Disasters Help to Improve a Country's Economy'	7 - 28 July	APMN List
Beekeeping Colony Management and Hive Making Training	23 - 29 July	Godavari
Consultation Workshop on GLOF and Flash Flood Risk Assessment in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas as part of the initial phase of the Feasibility Study of a Himalayan Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Assessment	30 July - 1 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Refresher Course on Recent Developments in Geo-hazard Disaster Management Focusing on Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction in Mountainous Regions	11 - 21 August	Peshawar University, Pakistan
Side event: Himalayan Water Towers – Resources under Threat at the Stockholm World Water Week	17 - 23 August	Stockholm, Sweden
Photo Exhibition: Himalaya – <i>Changing Landscapes</i>	17 - 23 August	Stockholm, Sweden
Regional Meeting on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (SARD-M)	18 - 19 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Documentation and Dissemination of SLM Technologies and Approaches using WOCAT Tools	25 - 30 August	Thimpu, Bhutan
Curriculum Development Workshop	30 - 31 August	Kabul, Afghanistan
Regional Technical Workshop on the Himalayan Initiative	1 - 3 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
Geo-Informatics for Mountain Environment Management	1 - 11 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
Higher Secondary Level Teachers Training on GIS/RS jointly organised by ICIMOD, ESA/EDU SPACE, and Nepal GIS Society in connection with HMRSC-X	1 - 5 September	Lalitpur, Nepal
The Tenth International Symposium on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography	8 - 11 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
Global e-conference on 'Culture and Risk: Understanding the Socio-Cultural Settings that Influence Risk from Natural Hazards'	22 September - 3 October	Kathmandu, Nepal
GTZ-ICIMOD Workshop	2 - 3 October	Kathmandu, Nepal
Barcelona Photo Exhibition at the IUCN World Congress	5 - 12 October	Barcelona, Spain
Regional Workshop on Development and Harmonisation of Land Cover Classification in the HKH Region	13 - 24 October	Kathmandu, Nepal
Exposure Visit on Economic Activities in Nepal	15 - 26 October	Kathmandu, Nepal
BRAHMATWININ Workshop in Munich	19 - 26 October	Munich, Germany
Training on Alternative Technologies and Rangeland Management	3 - 5 November	Afghanistan
Steering Committee Meeting for the project 'GLOF Assessment and Mitigation Study of Potential GLOF Lakes in Nepal'	5 November	Kathmandu, Nepal
Pre-conference: The Mountain Transboundary Protected Area and Connectivity Conservation Workshop	11 - 15 November	Dhulikhel, Nepal
Inception Workshop for the project 'GLOF Assessment and Mitigation Study of Potential GLOF Lakes in Nepal'	12 November	Kathmandu, Nepal
Gender Mainstreaming in Rangeland Regions	12 - 14 November	Lalitpur, Nepal
Pre-conference: Linking Geodata with Biodiversity Information in the Himalayas	15 - 16 November	Kathmandu, Nepal
Conference on Biodiversity Conservation and Management for Enhanced Ecosystem Services: Responding to the Challenges of Global Change	16 - 18 November	Kathmandu, Nepal
Post-conference: Research Strategy on Global Change in Mountain Biosphere Reserves	19 November	Kathmandu, Nepal
Post-conference: Field Visit for Exploring GLORIA Target Regions in Nepal	20 - 25 November	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Experience Sharing and Networking Workshop – Advocacy	24 - 27 November	Kathmandu, Nepal

Training Workshop on River Basin Information (RBIS) and DANUBIA Hydrological Modelling for Upper Brahmaputra Basin	24–28 November	Kathmandu, Nepal
39 th ICIMOD Board of Governors' Meeting	30 November - 4 December	Kathmandu, Nepal
Outdoor Photo Exhibition: 'Himalaya – <i>Changing Landscapes</i> '	2 - 8 December	Kathmandu, Nepal
Third International Training School on Atmospheric Brown Cloud	3 - 7 December	Kathmandu, Nepal
SAARC Consultation Meeting	4 - 5 December	Kathmandu, Nepal
Atmospheric Brown Cloud Workshop	4 December	Kathmandu, Nepal
ABC Science Team Meeting	5 December	Kathmandu, Nepal
The Role of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) Mountain System in the Context of a Changing Climate, A Panel Discussion	5 December	Kathmandu, Nepal
ICIMOD Open House	5 December	ICIMOD, Nepal
Regional Workshop on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)	10 - 12 December	Dhulikhel, Nepal
Training Workshop on Capacity Building of Media on Access and Benefit Sharing	15 - 16 December	Meghalaya, India
Inception Workshop/Training on Application of Satellite Rainfall Estimates in the HKH Region – Phase II	15 - 19 December	Kathmandu, Nepal
NEPCAT Workshop – Nepal Conservation Approaches and Technologies	16 December	Kathmandu, Nepal
2009		
IFAD Partner Consultation, Review and Planning Workshop	6 - 8 January	Kathmandu, Nepal
Mountain Pastoralism History and Modernity in Asia	7 - 9 January	Kathmandu, Nepal
World Wetlands Day 2009	2 February	Kathmandu, Nepal
Land Use Change and Human Health in Eastern Himalaya Project Workshop: Summarising Year One and Planning Year Two	2 - 5 February	Kunming, China
Dissemination Workshop on Flash Flood Risk in the Bhote Koshi	2 - 6 February	Bhote Koshi, Nepal
Regional Review and Planning Meeting of the 'Medicinal Plants and Herbs: Developing Sustainable Supply Chains and Enhancing Rural Livelihoods in Eastern Himalayas'	10 - 12 February	Kathmandu, Nepal
Inception Workshop on Capacity Building for Improved Monitoring of Snow, Ice and Water Resources in the Indus Basin	11 - 13 February	Kathmandu, Nepal
Interaction with Nepal's Constituent Assembly, Natural Resources, Economic Powers and Revenue Sharing Committee (NREPRS) Members	13 - 14 February	Kathmandu, Nepal
Experience Sharing on Pro-poor Value Chain Promotion in Nepal's Mountain Areas: Good Practices, Strengths and Weaknesses of Approaches Currently Practised in Nepal	16 February	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Inception Workshop of the Honeybees Project entitled Improving Livelihoods through Knowledge Partnerships and Value Chains of Bee Products	23 February - 2 March	Kunming, China
Brown Bag Seminar on 'Understanding the Global Carbon Budget – An Imperative for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change'	2 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
Assessing Local Adaptation Strategies to Climate Induced Water Stress and Hazards in the Greater Himalayan Region Regional Report Back Workshop	2 - 6 March	Dhulikhel, Nepal
International Women's Day 2009	8 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Training Course on 'Low-cost Soil and Water Conservation Techniques and Watershed Management Activities'	9 - 27 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
World Water Day 2009	22 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
Online Training Course on 'The Basics of Advocacy'	26 February - 20 March	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Workshop on Cryosphere- Assessment and Monitoring of Snow and Ice in the HKH	31 March - 2 April	Kathmandu, Nepal

Mountain Forum

Mountain Forum Workshop on Information and Knowledge Sharing Systems and Tools

In mid 2008, Mountain Forum set out to review its information and knowledge sharing systems and tools to ensure that they provide an effective and up-to-date platform for sustainable mountain development. The Board and regional networks stressed the need to pool resources and focus on the joint development of tools and shared procedures to make information easily accessible.

As part of this process, a workshop was held in January 2009, which brought together managers of the regional networks and partners, notably, APMN/ICIMOD, Mountain Partnership Secretariat Asia-Pacific Decentralised Hub, InfoAndina, One World South Asia, InfoBridge, and the Mountain Forum Secretariat, whilst interacting with the University of Central Asia and North American and Himalayan networks. A questionnaire on the needs and tools of the regional networks and partners, combined with an assessment of new technologies in 2009, formed the basis for the workshop. The workshop addressed the integration of content, decentralised management, use of shared procedures, and the possibility of customising shared tools. It was recommended that the system should address interaction and dialogue with members and partners, as well as having networking and repository functions such as the e-calendar, online library, and membership. The workshop outlined the steps to be taken including identifying the information needs of Mountain Forum's regional networks and partners towards the



development of a joint tool by mid 2009. This is to be led by InfoAndina and coordinated by the Secretariat, with regular feedback and input from partners.

For more information, contact info@mtnforum.org.

Global E-Conference on 'Culture and Risk: Understanding the Sociocultural Settings that Influence Risk from Natural Hazards'

A global e-conference on 'Culture and Risk: Understanding the Sociocultural Settings that Influence Risk from Natural Hazards' was organised by ICIMOD and facilitated by the Mountain Forum Secretariat and APMN from 22 September to 6 October 2008. About 450 participants registered to participate from over 70 countries. The discussion was held on the Mountain Forum platform and moderated by Kenneth Hewitt. The goal was to improve understanding of the links between cultural/social factors and risks from natural hazards.

The e-conference report is available at www.books.icimod.org. The complete documentation of the e-conference can be found at <http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/ec/index.cfm?econfid=16>.

Franciscus Neuman, f.neuman@mtnforum.org

Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN)

Established in 1994, Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) is a knowledge sharing platform connecting mountain regions and members through dialogue and networking. The network, which is managed by ICIMOD, captures, enriches, and disseminates information on mountain development issues in and for the Asia-Pacific region. APMN acts as the Asia-Pacific node of Mountain Forum (MF), a role it has played since 1996. The network has been generously supported by a small grant from the Swiss Agency for Development and

Cooperation (SDC). In addition to moderating two MF discussion lists (mf-asiapacific and mf-centralasia) and contributing to Mountain Forum's other activities, APMN has its own programme and webpage <<http://apmn.icimod.org>>. ICIMOD also uses the APMN platform to disseminate information on its own activities to a broader public. As of March 2009, the APMN network has 230 organisational members from 23 countries and 1641 individual members from 39 countries.

Between May 2008 and April 2009, APMN collaborated with the Mountain Forum Secretariat and ICIMOD in the organisation of an e-conference on 'Culture and Risk', a digital photo contest on 'Mountains and People', and the south Asia regional meeting of the Global Knowledge Partnership; implemented three communication projects with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat; and supported e-discussions on 'Slashing Mountaineering Charges for Climbers' and 'How Disasters Can Help to Improve a Country's Economy'. The recent focus has been on developing 'Recommendations

for a Strategic Direction 2008- 2012', and a joint action plan with the Asia Pacific decentralised hub of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS). The network also participated in various outreach activities including seminars and talk programmes; International Day events; conferences; and training. Two issues of the APMN Bulletin and two e-discussion synthesis reports were prepared and can be accessed at www.books.icimod.org.

Tek Jung Mahat, tmahat@icimod.org

Mountain Partnership Secretariat – Asia Pacific Decentralised Hub (MPS-APDH)

The Mountain Partnership is a voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments around the world. It currently has over 160 members, including countries, intergovernment organisations, and groups (e.g., civil society, NGOs, and the private sector). The Mountain Partnership Secretariat structure consists of central and decentralised hubs hosted by FAO in Rome (Central Hub), ICIMOD in Nepal (Asia Pacific Hub), the Banff Centre in Canada (North America Hub), and the Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN) in Peru (Latin America Hub), as well as the Environmental Reference Centre hosted by UNEP in Vienna.

The work of the Asia Pacific Hub (MPS-APDH) is based on the acknowledgement of the uniqueness of the Asia Pacific Region, as well as the different developmental stages and challenges these countries face. However, what brings together these diverse members is the commitment to the sustainable mountain development agenda. In order to serve more effectively and link members together in activities and lessons learned, the hub has intensified its communication and outreach

activities with a variety of communication tools and platforms. The results have been positive, with more than 80 per cent of the members coming together for regular interactions and networking.

Integration with ICIMOD's activities is also considered essential, as well as building on the organisation's in-house expertise and extensive knowledge of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya region. Some of ICIMOD's past activities, such as the successful advocacy training run for ICIMOD's regional member countries, have been replicated and adapted by MPS-APDH as online training for Asia Pacific members of the Mountain Partnership.

MPS-APDH also works closely with the Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS) and the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) in setting up information exchange platforms and tools such as the Needs Assessment Survey for Mountain Partnership's Asia Pacific members to help identify member demands and priorities for the creation of programmatic priorities. MP-APDH provides regular updates on funding and financial opportunities, especially on climate change and adaptation mechanisms, as well as liaising between country-based bilateral donors and Asia Pacific members. The MPS-APDH network is rapidly expanding, and four new members – CAMP Kuhiston from Tajikistan, ECOFORUM from Uzbekistan, MACDS from Pakistan, and NDRI from Nepal – have recently joined.

The hub provides regular bi-monthly activity updates to members and donors to ensure accountability as well as transparency. The information flow helps the hub to reach out to members and encourages updates and inputs, thus increasing members' ownership of MPS-APDH activities.

Elbegzaya Batjargal, ebatzargal@icimod.org



Partnership development (April 2008–March 2009)

With the implementation of its new five-year Medium Term Action Plan (2008-2012), ICIMOD has taken its institutional partnership efforts to new heights. Over the past year, ICIMOD has played a proactive role in global fora and formalised its ongoing collaboration with global knowledge hubs and centres of excellence in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. Moreover, ICIMOD has continued its role of raising awareness on the impacts of climate change in the Himalayas and mutual learning by working closely with its partners in regional member countries.

Securing a prominent role in global discourse

During 2008, ICIMOD became part of the global discourse on climate change and water by securing membership of various accredited forums. ICIMOD was granted provisional admittance by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in April, observer status by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in June, and observer status by RAMSAR in July. In August, ICIMOD drew global attention to Himalayan water issues by taking part in the World Water Week in Sweden. The Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) acknowledged ICIMOD as a regional knowledge hub for water resources management in mountainous areas, and GEO (Group on Earth Observation) recognised ICIMOD as a participating organisation.

Formalising institutional collaboration with global knowledge hubs

In 2008, ICIMOD promoted its partnerships with global knowledge hubs by signing an MoU with The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for collaboration in the areas of water management, climate change, ecosystem services, and poverty reduction; and with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to consolidate, develop, and intensify cooperation in the field of environment, specifically on climate change responses and ecosystem management.

Streamlining regional member country partnerships

In 2008, an MoU was signed with the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), an autonomous Institute of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, to increase the potential for mutually beneficial research, enable efficient coordination, and ensure the sustainability of the

partnership between ICIMOD and the Government of India. In 2009, an MoU was signed with the Ministry of Forestry (MoF), Myanmar, to increase capacity development activities (exchange programmes, training/workshops, and pilot initiatives) in Myanmar.



Raising awareness on the impact of global warming and climate change

In 2008, ICIMOD helped to raise awareness of the impact of global warming and climate change in the Himalayan region and raise the Centre's international profile through the Eco-Everest Expedition (Nepal) and an international photo exhibition 'Himalaya – *Changing Landscapes*' held in Sweden, Spain, and Nepal (through an agreement with the Nepal Tourism Board).

Addressing the issues of too much and too little water

In 2008, ICIMOD started a collaborative programme with its partners to examine issues of too much and too little water in selected regional member countries. In June letters of agreement (LoA) were signed with Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), China; AARANYAK – a society for biodiversity conservation in India; the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-Nepal (ISET-Nepal), Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP), Pakistan; and, in 2009, with Winrock International, India, to identify, document, and assess adaptation strategies at the community level to water shortages and water-induced hazards.

In 2009, an MoU was signed with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) of the Government of Nepal with the aim of improving the validation of

satellite-based rainfall estimates in Nepal as a part of the HKH regional study conducted in Phase I of the Satellite Rainfall Estimation Project.

Supporting community-based natural resources management

ICIMOD and its partners are promoting and collaborating on community-based natural resources management in the HKH region.

In 2008, ICIMOD signed an LoA with the Planning Commission (Gross National Happiness Commission) of the Royal Government of Bhutan to continue work under Phase III of the Regional Rangeland Programme to scale up innovations that enhance the livelihoods of herders and improve the ecological health of rangeland ecosystems; with the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), Afghanistan, to undertake collaborative activities in line with the Afghanistan Biodiversity and Community Forestry Programme; and in 2009 with the Namsaling Community Development Centre (NCDC), Nepal, on biological corridors in eastern Nepal – conservation corridors are integral to the landscape approach to biodiversity conservation.

Promoting a university network for education and research in the Himalayas

ICIMOD is currently serving as the Secretariat of the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) formed in March 2007 to promote mountain specific curriculum development in higher education, and collaborative training, research, and outreach for broader sustainable mountain development. The Secretariat is in the process of signing broader MoUs with its 15 member institutions and five associate member institutions, the first in December 2008 with the University of Central Asia (UCA).

Conclusion

To sum up, ICIMOD is promoting diverse partnerships at different levels: country-focused capacity building partnerships, regional knowledge generation partnerships, and partnerships to scale up/down and customise available knowledge resources. ICIMOD, in its new programming phase, has gained global recognition as a prominent and reputed institution for mountain people and the environment through this strategic partnership development.

Prem Manandhar, pmandhar@icimod.org

Angeli Shrestha, ashrestha@icimod.org

Outreach activities

'Himalaya – Changing Landscapes' photo exhibition

In 2008, ICIMOD embarked on a journey to create wider awareness of the impact of climate change in the Himalayan region. A major part of this campaign was the 'Himalaya – Changing Landscapes' photo exhibition. The exhibition was initially planned as a one-off event at the Everest Base Camp in April 2008 featuring mountain panoramas. But following its success, ICIMOD decided to extend the scope of the exhibition as one of the events held to celebrate ICIMOD's 25th anniversary. The format and concept of the exhibition were further developed, and a professional designer brought in to create a professional look. The aim was to provide a visual way to raise awareness of the impact of global warming and climate change in the Himalayas. In 2008, the exhibition was held in Stockholm, Barcelona, and Kathmandu.



The exhibition has now moved to its third phase with new photographs being introduced including repeat photographs of landscapes from the mid hills of Nepal showing cultural and socioeconomic changes that have taken place in the last few decades. In 2009, ICIMOD plans to hold exhibitions in Germany, Switzerland, Japan, and India. ICIMOD sees the exhibition as a powerful tool for promoting both the organisation and the cause – raising awareness of the impact of climate change in the Himalayas.

Nonna Lamponen, nlamponen@icimod.org

'Upstream-Downstream: Wetlands connect us all'

ICIMOD celebrated World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2009 with the slogan 'Upstream-Downstream: Wetlands connect us all' in close collaboration with the Nepal Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), the government and RAMSAR focal agency; World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Nepal; IUCN Nepal; and the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), among others. Prof Hua Ouyang, Programme Manager, Integrated Water and Hazard Management (IWHM), and Dr Eklabya Sharma, Programme Manager, Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services (ECES)

sent out a joint message through the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) highlighting the role of Himalayan wetlands in connecting upstream and downstream physical systems and providing livelihood opportunities to local communities, and urging partners and others to work together for the sound management of Himalayan wetlands to ensure ecological sustainability in the context of global change. ICIMOD's publicity material on wetlands conservation was shared offline and online at <<http://dev.icimod.org/elibrary/index.php/downloads/publication/579>>.

Details of this event are available in the ICIMOD eNews # 28 [www.icimod.org/enews/index.php]

Nira Gurung, ngurung@icimod.org



ICIMOD celebrates World Water Day

ICIMOD celebrated World Water Day 2009 on 22 March. This year the slogan was 'Shared Water - Shared Opportunities' and ICIMOD focused on transboundary waters, highlighting the importance of freshwater and advocating for sustainable management of freshwater resources. ICIMOD's Director General Dr. Andreas Schild sent out a message emphasising the importance of cooperation in transboundary water management, and that it can help to build mutual respect, understanding, and trust among countries and people, and promote peace, security, and sustainable economic growth. The message is available at <http://www.icimod.org/index.php?page=362>

The World Water Week Organising Committee (Nepal), with representatives from the Government of Nepal, Nepal National Commission for IHP, UNESCO, UN HABITAT, NTNC, WWF-Nepal, ICIMOD and more than 50 water and climate organisations including 18 youth organisations, prepared a weeklong series of events from 18-23 March 2009 on a nationwide scale. The events raised awareness and sensitised policy makers, development planners, bureaucrats, environmentalists, researchers, advocacy groups, students, and citizens on the proper management of water – a scarce resource.

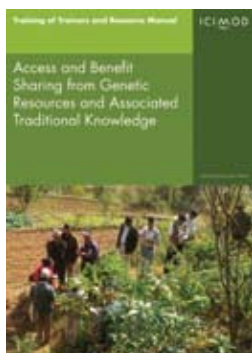
ICIMOD participated in the exhibition from 20-21 March 2009, displaying various publications on water and climate change. The material brought out for the celebration of World Water Day is available at <http://www.icimod.org/resource.php?id=137> The week culminated with the issuing of the Kathmandu Water Declaration 2009, which was adopted as the key outcome of the National Water Week 2009. The Declaration has been widely disseminated and is available at <http://www.icimod.org/?page=367>

Doma T Sherpa, dtsherpa@icimod.org



ICIMOD publications

The major documents published by ICIMOD between April 2008 and March 2009 are shown below. All publications can be downloaded free-of-charge from www.books.icimod.org. Hard copy publications can be ordered from the Distribution Unit, distri@icimod.org. They can be provided free-of-charge to institutions actively involved in sustainable development of the greater Himalayan region.



Oli K; Dhakal T (eds) (2009) *Access and benefit sharing from genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge*. 190p
ISBN 978 92 9115 115 8

This manual provides the materials needed to deliver a basic training in access and benefit sharing (ABS) of

genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as provided for under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The background, key components and procedures, and obligations, rights, and responsibilities of the different actors involved are presented in twenty sessions, supplemented by extensive resource materials and sources for further study. The manual is intended to be used for training trainers, who can then multiply the learning across the region, but can also be used to provide basic knowledge to graduate students of related disciplines.



Erikson, M; Xu Jianchu; Shrestha, AB; Vaidya, RA; Nepal, S; Sandstrom, K (2009) *The changing Himalayas: Impact of climate change on water resources and livelihoods in the greater Himalayas*. 24p
ISBN 978 92 9115 111 0

The greater Himalayan region contains the largest area covered by glaciers and permafrost outside the polar regions. The region and its water resources play an important role in global atmospheric circulation, biodiversity, agriculture, and hydropower, while serving more than 1.3 billion people in the basin areas of the ten large Asian rivers. Climate change is affecting the amount of snow and ice and rainfall patterns, but there is a severe lack of the data needed to understand these processes. This paper discusses these issues, the need to close the knowledge gap, the need for adaptation strategies, and the importance of strengthening local knowledge and the institutions relevant for adaptation.



Shrestha, M; Bajracharya, SR; Mool, P (2008) *Satellite rainfall estimation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region*. (booklet plus full text on CD-ROM). 10p + CD-ROM
ISBN 978 92 9115 107 3 (printed) 978 92 9115 110 3 (CD-ROM)

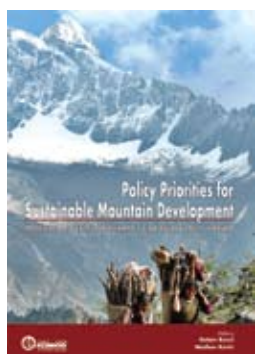
Recently, it has become possible to make more accurate estimates of rainfall using observations from satellites to enhance ground-based data. This publication presents the findings of a project in which representatives of the hydrometeorological services of six Himalayan countries carried out quantitative validation of the satellite rainfall estimates (CPC-RFE2.0) obtained from NOAA climate prediction centres at the national and regional levels, and tested a rainfall-runoff model (GeoSFM) to predict discharge. The project had technical support from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and was funded by the United States Agency for International Development Office for US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA). The results provide an important first step in the use of this new methodology in the region to reduce the impact of water-related disasters.



Rasul, G (2008) *ICIMOD and the Himalayan region – Responding to emerging challenges*. 162p
ISBN 978 92 9115 105 9

In 2008, ICIMOD celebrated its 25th anniversary, providing an opportunity both to look back and reflect, and to look forward and redefine the Centre's role, responsibilities, and orientation. Selected scholars, development practitioners, and scientists from the region and beyond were invited to provide a commentary on different aspects of the Centre from their personal perspective. This publication is the result. It provides diverse views and insights into the development

of the Centre, a review of its work from a regional and global perspective, ideas about the role it could or should play in the future, and prospects for the Centre.



Karki, M; Rasul, G
(2008) *Policy priorities for sustainable mountain development: Proceedings and selected papers from the ICIMOD regional policy workshop*. 144p + CD-ROM
ISBN 978 92 9115 098 4

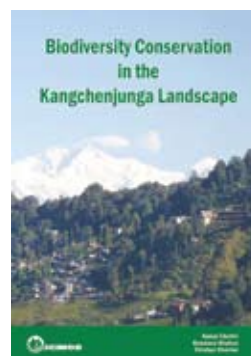
For most governments and planners in the region, planning, programming, and policy making has often been done from the perspective of the plains only. This compendium of selected policy papers, the result of a regional policy workshop that brought together policy makers and development practitioners in the region in 2006, tackles a variety of mountain issues and themes from the perspective. Taken collectively, the papers offer a framework and a lens through which to review policies, government programmes, and development interventions and incorporate the mountain perspective in them. The book discusses policy options in the conservation and management of natural resources, fair trade in natural resources and mountain niche products, innovative mechanisms for payment for environmental services provided by mountain dwellers, and increased equity of access over mountain resources among mountain people. A more complete CD version includes all the other papers read and discussed during the workshop.



Shrestha, AB; Shah, SH;
Karim, R (2008) *Resource manual on flash flood risk management*
Module 1: Community-based management
64p + CD-ROM
ISBN 978 92 9115 090 8
Module 2: Non-structural measures. 102p + CD-ROM
ISBN 978 92 9115 095 3

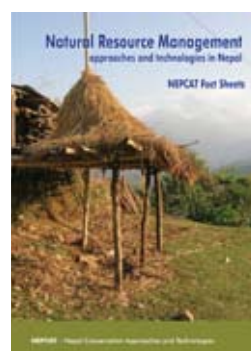
Flash floods are severe flood events that occur with little or no warning, triggered by intense rainfall, dam failure, outbursts of glacial lakes, and similar episodes. They occur frequently in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region where they threaten life, livelihoods, and infrastructure, both in the mountains and downstream. Vulnerable groups – the poor, women, children, and people with disabilities – are often the hardest hit. ICIMOD has

worked with partners to compile resource materials to help those who are working to reduce flash flood risks. These materials are now made available in the form of a resource manual. The first volume focuses on community-based approaches to managing flash floods; the second looks at technology-based non-structural measures. Both volumes were produced under a USAID/OFDA funded project.



Chettri, N; Shakya, B;
Sharma, E (2008) *Biodiversity conservation in the Kangchenjunga landscape*.
172p.
ISBN 978 92 9115 088 5

Around the world, the old paradigm 'people or parks' is giving way to a more humane 'people and parks' approach to biodiversity conservation. ICIMOD's landscape approach to biodiversity conservation reflects this shift, incorporating protecting the rich biological diversity of the Kangchenjunga – a mountain landscape shared by Bhutan, China, India, and Nepal – with alleviating poverty through livelihoods in the areas traversed by the landscape. This publication is a collection of research papers on key conservation and development issues in the southern half of the landscape. It discusses conservation needs, biodiversity values, socioeconomic conditions, and potential enterprise development through income generating opportunities and a policy perspective. The sustainable use of forest resources and alternative livelihood options such as vegetable production, livestock management, and improved agricultural practices are discussed, as well as conservation measures and the impact of conservation policies on land use and tenure systems and customary laws in protected areas.



ICIMOD (2008) *Natural resource management – Approaches and technologies in Nepal*. NEPCAT Fact Sheets. Folder with 30 sheets (also available on CD-ROM)
ISBN 978 92 9115 087 8

Thirty technologies and approaches from the Nepal Conservation Approaches and Technologies (NEPCAT) database, documented using the WOCAT tool, have been published as printed fact sheets to facilitate sharing with a wider audience. The fact sheets are designed to support the efforts of

rural development, especially in Nepal, and provide impetus and ideas for decision makers, development actors, and land users. They cover adaptations of methods and new options for land use and rehabilitation and growing and processing crops that increase productivity and support income generation. Users are encouraged to print out, copy, and distribute the sheets in any form that facilitates sharing. All new contributions to the database and fact sheets are welcome.

Online only

Hewitt, K (2009) *Culture and Risk: Understanding the Sociocultural Settings that Influence Risk from Natural Hazards: Synthesis Report from a Global E-Conference organised by ICIMOD and the Mountain Forum*

ICIMOD (2009) *International Mountain Biodiversity Conference*. Proceedings of conference and pre and post conference workshops

Hoermann, B; Kollmair, M (2008) *Labour migration and remittances in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region*, ICIMOD Background paper

ICIMOD (2008) *Food Security in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region*, ICIMOD Position paper.

DVD films

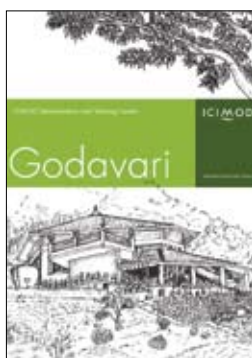


ICIMOD, for Mountains and People



Disaster Risk Reduction (compilation of publications related to disaster risk reduction produced by ICIMOD between 1985 and 2008)

General publications



The Next Five Years: Changes and Challenges in the Himalayan Region (Newsletter No. 54, Spring 2008)

Annual Report 2007

Great Himalayan Trail Preparatory Study: Tsum Valley, Gorkha District (booklet)

ICIMOD Strategic Framework

ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre Godavari, Fact Sheets Folder (update)

APMN Bulletin, Newsletter of the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network Volume 9, No. 1

APMN Bulletin, Newsletter of the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network Volume 9, No. 2

Brochures

Responding to the challenges of global change (ICIMOD Flyer) (Lang: Burmese, Hindi, Chinese, Nepali)

Information sheets



Satellite rainfall estimation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region - Validation

Access and benefit sharing from genetic resources

Regional framework on access and benefit sharing (ABS) in the Himalayan Region

Traditional knowledge in the Himalayan region

Pro-poor value chains in mountain areas

Labour Migration in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas : A core livelihood strategy

Labour Migration in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas : Gender Challenges

Can disasters help to improve a country's economy: E-discussion summary

Project Brochures

Regional rangeland programme

Land use change and human health in the Eastern Himalayas: An ecohealth approach: (Phase 2)

Regional project on shifting cultivation (RPSC)

New appointments at ICIMOD (to March 2009)



Ms Elbegzaya Batjargal,
Mountain Partnership
Development Officer, Asia-
Pacific Mountain Partnership
Decentralised Hub – Integrated
Knowledge Management

Ms Batjargal, a Mongolian national, is an environmentalist with degree in history from Rostov on Don University (Russia) and a Masters in International Environmental Policy from the Graduate School of International Policy Studies, Monterey, USA. She has worked as a Programme Analyst for the Energy and Environment Team, UNDP, in Mongolia and the Maldives, and prior to joining ICIMOD, was the Marketing, Fundraising and Communications Director for WWF in Mongolia. Ms Batjargal enjoys working in multi-cultural teams and having the opportunity to learn and for self-advancement. She views diversity as the key to success and progress.



Ms Basundhara Bhattarai,
Gender Specialist, Sustainable
Livelihoods and Poverty
Reduction Programme

Ms Bhattarai, a Nepali national, joined ICIMOD as a Gender Specialist in February 2008. Her work focuses on documenting gender issues, building the capacities of organisation(s) in mainstreaming gender equity, and promoting gender equity as a crosscutting theme for Hindu Kush-Himalayan mountain development and environmental sustainability. Prior to joining ICIMOD, Ms Bhattarai worked at ForestAction Nepal. She has more than 12 years of experience in research, training, and development, especially in gender and social inclusion dimensions of natural resource management and development. She brings with her the perspective of working together with community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, bilateral projects, and national and international networks.

Dr Robert Zomer, Environment Change Specialist,
Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services
Programme

Dr Zomer, a US national, joined ICIMOD in May 2008 as an environment change specialist to provide technical expertise and support networking with global climate



change research. Dr Zomer has many years of experience in the HKH region in areas related to natural resources management, environment, and climate change mitigation. Previously, he was with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Nairobi, and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Colombo. He was a Peace Corp Volunteer in Nepal from 1984 to 1986. Dr Zomer has a broad background in plant community, forest, and agricultural ecology; as well as practical application of GIS, remote sensing, and landscape level spatial analysis to the issues of sustainable development. Dr Zomer has a PhD in Ecology.



Professor Hua Ouyang,
Programme Manager,
Integrated Water and Hazards
Management

Professor Hua, a Chinese national, joined ICIMOD in August 2008. Prior to this, he was working as Senior Research Scientist and Professor of the Graduate University at the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Professor Hua brings with him more than 26 years of research and administration experience including over 14 years with CAS in different capacities. His research studies in the areas of climate change, alpine ecosystems, carbon cycling, and water resources over the past 10 years have resulted in the publication of more than 80 papers – many in international journals. Professor Hua has a PhD in Ecology from Michigan Technological University, USA.



Dr Ambika Gautam, Programme
Manager and Country
Representative for ICIMOD-
Afghanistan

Dr Ambika P Gautam joined ICIMOD as Programme Manager and Country Representative for the ICIMOD-Afghanistan office in September 2008. He is a natural resources management (NRM) expert with over 20 years of experience in designing,

planning, and implementing different NRM programmes. Prior to joining ICIMOD, he worked as a faculty member at the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, and taught in other reputed universities as visiting faculty. Earlier, he was with the Government of Nepal as a district level forest manager, and has been associated with the International Forestry Resources and Institutions research programme since 2001. Dr Gautam has a PhD in Natural Resources Management from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.



Dr Ashutosh Mohanty, Regional Capacity Development Officer, Human and Institutional Development Unit

Dr Mohanty, from India, joined the HID Unit in September 2008 and is involved in the IDRC-funded 'Human Capacity Development of

Afghan Universities' (HCD/AU) project. Prior to joining ICIMOD, he worked in the University Consortium for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), USA; FORUM-ASIA, Thailand; FredKropset, Norway; and for Tsunami 2005-06, in India-Sri Lanka-Thailand. He has also been associated with a number of complex humanitarian programmes and research activities related to socioeconomic development, environmental management, and DRM/DRR programmes (Super cyclone 99, India; Sidr 2007, Bangladesh; Koshi flood 2008, Nepal, India). He has a Masters and PhD in Environmental Governance; LLB from Utkal University, India; and a Masters in Urban Environmental Management from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.



Ms Ester Kruk, Eco-Tourism Expert, Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction Programme

Ms Ester Kruk has more than nine years of experience in the field of international cooperation as a pro-poor sustainable tourism

advisor and consultant, a researcher in social sciences and tourism, and a programme coordinator, for different international organisations. She studied international tourism management and consultancy as well as cultural anthropology and graduated from both studies with highest honours (summa cum laude). She has published several books, manuals, and papers on tourism, development, and anthropology; won different academic awards, and developed and conducted a number of training courses on topics in this field. She worked as a tourism expert for ICIMOD from February 2005 until October 2007, and happily rejoined ICIMOD in the same position in November 2008.