

Information and Outreach

Library

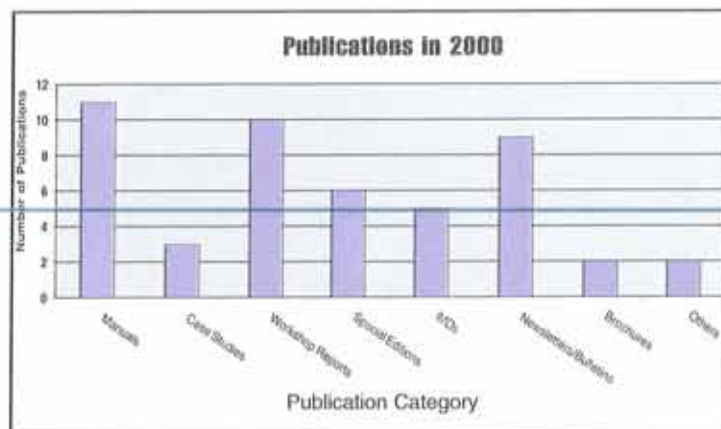
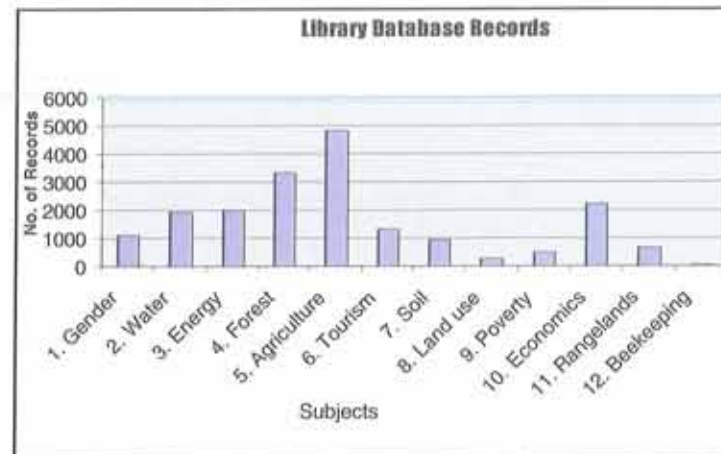
In 2000, altogether 1,992 new titles were added to the Library database, making a total of 22,843 records. These include 12,355 documents from or on the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. Forty-five ICIMOD publications were added to the FAO AGRIS database. Fortnightly lists of New Documents in the library and monthly issues of New Serials were published electronically on the ICIMOD Intranet.

The Library database is now available for ICIMOD staff through the Intranet. The Library has an Internet Drop-in Centre for external users for access to international databases through the Internet. Twenty-three retrospective searches were made in 2000 resulting in 3,578 references and 2,203 people used the library.

Publications

In 2000, one of the central focuses of the publications produced was on the issue of poverty itself, as in a joint publication of ICIMOD with the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), based on seminar papers on 'Growth, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Resource Management in the Mountain Areas of South Asia'. Throughout the year, the problems of land used who owns it? is it sufficient? do governments have equitable laws? and who are the marginalised (landless groups)? recurred and culminated in a publication by Piers Blaikie and S. Z. Sadeque - 'Policy in High Places'. Land resources and soil degradation were also directly tackled in the collected papers of the People and Resource Dynamics Project's Baoshan workshop papers edited by Allen et al. Along with these came other publications on the associated problems of marginalisation of the poor, access to water and forests, the handling of both in a participatory manner, do user groups work or don't they? and if they don't what are the conflicts that prevent them from working?

Not that ICIMOD concentrated only on problems. Opportunities were also a focus of attention and research. In this respect beekeeping profited from a joint publication with Asian Apiculture Association on the progress of research into Asian bees and beekeeping - leading the way for a number of manuals on beekeeping techniques, pollination, and best practices. On the bright side, 'Profiting from Sunshine' discussed passive solar building in mountain areas of China, India, Nepal and Pakistan. The green hope of the special editions on grassland



ecology, edited by Richard et al., was, significantly, a popular series. It is heartening to note the awakening of interest on the grasslands/rangelands that account for a significant proportion of the territory of the region and which are often ignored.

Distribution

The Centre organised and took part in at least six major book fairs and exhibitions, notable being the Publishers and Booksellers Guild / South Asia Book Fair (Calcutta Book Fair), Calcutta, India, 26 January - 2 February 2000, and the 14th New Delhi World Book Fair, New Delhi, India, 3-15 February, 2000. The ICIMOD Annual Book Fair, from 29-31 August, 2000 was a special one because the IUCN - The World Conservation Union - Kathmandu, was invited to participate.

The Centre has ventured into the field of electronic commerce by becoming a member of the Pan Asia Networking E-Commerce Mall, hosted by Pan Asia IDRC and based in Singapore, and Earthprint.com, an on-line environmental bookshop of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), managed by SMI (Distribution Services) Ltd, United Kingdom. Both sites are alternative avenues for promoting and showcasing our products on fully automated e-commerce systems. Selected titles are listed and both can be accessed at <http://www.panasia.org.sg>

SEARCHING FOR WOMEN'S VOICES IN THE HINDU KUSH-HIMALAYAS, by Jeannette D Gurung

The Reviewer, Issue: 1.24, January 16, 2000, Reviewed by Subir Ghosh

"This visually appealing compilation is a far-cry from the dour-looking books about case studies of women. Processes of historical, economic, and social development are, more often than not, told exclusively by men. Here is a book that provokes a discussion of gender relations from the neglected perspective of women."

MOUNTAINS OF ASIA: REGIONAL INVENTORY

By Harka B. Gurung

The Reviewer, Issue No. 1.26, 30 JANUARY 2000

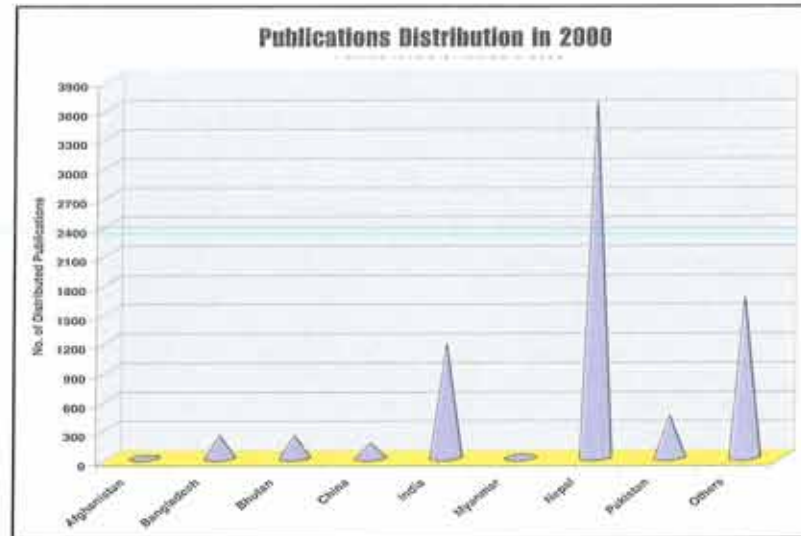
Reviewed by Subir Ghosh

"...Gurung's compilation does provide an overview and insight into the principal mountain ranges 'as dynamic entities in themselves'. As his results indicate researching mountains can be as daunting as mountaineering. ..."

Outreach

In the year 2000, in addition to the regular outreach publications such as the Newsletter, Issues in Mountain Development Series, MENRIS Bulletin, the Mountain Forum and the Asia Pacific Mountain Network Bulletins, ICIMOD undertook several other initiatives in order to reach out to its diverse clientele.

In the first quarter of the year, ICIMOD sponsored and coordinated five radio programmes on topics of interest and concern to the Centre. Five one-hourly programmes (some interactive) were broadcast on five



executive Saturdays on FM 100, which goes beyond the Kathmandu Valley to Charikot, Dolakha, Sinduli, Pokhara, Jomsom, and Gorkha. The programme was well received and ICIMOD will undertake more of these in the years to come, including some in other HKH countries. ICIMOD held several seminars/talk programmes on issues ranging from hybrid energy systems to high altitude herding. In order to provide the Kathmandu-based research and development community with a platform for exchange of information, for sharing experiences, and for exploring the potential for collaboration,

In addition to participating in exhibitions on mountain environments and livelihoods organised on various occasions in Kathmandu, ICIMOD also put up a stall at the IUCN World Congress in Amman, Jordan in October. This provided an opportunity for ICIMOD to make the issues of the HKH known to a wider global audience.

A highlight in terms of outreach was the 'Mountains and Media Workshop' organised together with Panos South Asia in November. The workshop brought together 14 journalists from South and South-East Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan and Thailand) together with 7 resource persons. The objective of the workshop was to sensitise journalists to issues relating to mountain regions and mountain peoples and to provide them with the necessary tools, information, and contacts to report effectively about these matters. This was achieved through a combination of briefing sessions, tutorials, practical sessions, and a field trip, and has encouraged more publicity in the HKH countries.

ICIMOD Homepage

The ICIMOD Website received a total of 878,752 hits in 2000, an average of 73,229 hits per month. The site had more hits in months when there were vacancy announcements. Visitors were mainly from educational institutions (edu), organisations (org). Hits originated mostly from North America, UK, Nepal, India, Australia, and Singapore. Partnership Oneworld helped bring more visitors to the website. Other key referring sites were those of the Mountain Forum, PanAsia, and Mercantile Communications' south-asia.com site.

A new feature was introduced in 2000 - a feedback form for visitors. While there has been only limited response so far, most have indicated that the information was useful and that the download time for the website was faster than that of other websites. Half of the respondents found the website through a search engine (yahoo and google seemed the popular choices) and others were either informed about it by friends and colleagues or found a link to the website from another related site. The respondents included students, researchers, agriculturists, agronomists, engineers, and medical scientists. Many liked the presentation, the amount of information, and the fact that it relates to some of the issues they come across in their own work.



The APMN

The Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) elected Dr. Tej Partap (the then Head of ICIMOD's Mountain Farming Systems) as the Asia/Pacific representative on the Mountain Forum Board of Directors for 2000-2003. It also organised, with PANOS South Asia, a 'Mountain and Media Workshop' for journalists from all over Asia/Pacific to highlight mountain issues in regional media. It funded six project proposals received from India, Tajikistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Iran under its Small Grants' Programme, 2000-2001. Under the Central Asia Project on 'Web Publishing and Internet Technologies', it held a workshop in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in September for participants from all over Central Asia, to strengthen the IT capabilities of the institutions they represented. In April and September, 2000 issues of the APMN Bulletin were published and distributed.

Currently, the APMN has some 900 members worldwide, about half of whom reside in Asia/Pacific. The APMN provides electronic and publication services. Membership in the APMN is free and open to all. To register, please visit:

<<http://www.mtnforum.org/survey/survey.htm>> or write to the APMN Administrator at <apmn@mtnforum.org>.

The Mountain Forum

Early in the year, ICIMOD was awarded the hosting of the Mountain Forum's global Secretariat through a global, competitive process. The appointed Executive Secretary of global network, Mr. Alejandro Camino, from Peru, started at ICIMOD in October.



The Mountain Forum Secretariat coordinates and supports the work of the associated mountain networks: the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network, coordinated by ICIMOD, the African node hosted by ICRAF in Kenya, the European Mountain Forum, working out of IUCN in Switzerland, and the Latin American node operating from the CONDESAN Consortium at the International Potato Center in Peru. A Global Information Server node, hosted at The Mountain Institute in the United States of America, operates as the interim node for North America.

The Mountain Forum has as its mission the promotion of global action towards equitable and sustainable mountain development. This is achieved through sharing information, mutual support, and advocacy. In order to achieve these objectives, the Mountain Forum uses modern and traditional communications, supports networking and capacity building, and encourages its nearly 2,500 members from over 100 countries to be proactive in advocating sustainable development of mountain areas.

Thanks to the generous support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Mountain Forum Secretariat has initiated the legal process of incorporation as an international organisation in Switzerland, with global headquarters in Kathmandu.

A meeting of the node managers was held in Catalunya, Spain (23-27 Oct.) with the support of Fundacio Territori y Paisatge. The Executive Secretary attended the 7th Inter-Agency meeting of FAO where a consolidated plan for the International Year of Mountains 2002 was presented.

The Mountain Forum has an independent Board of Directors with members from each region.

On 16-17 Nov. the Mountain Forum Board Meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Hubert Zandstra, Director General of the International Potato Center, was elected as the new Chair of the Board.