

# Dear Friends of ICIMOD,

Knowledge management and communication are very broad terms used to cover the social and technical processes supporting information gathering, management, exchange, learning, and innovation in knowledge-based organisations such as ICIMOD.

Knowledge and communication in this context are key elements in initiating the development process and assessing its effectiveness. The generation, application, sharing, and enriching of information with experience and learning contribute directly or indirectly to the outcomes of a development programme and lead ideally to improved design and implementation of new interventions. With global climate and socioeconomic changes accelerating, in particular in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, data management and knowledge generation have gained momentum. ICIMOD receives many requests from its stakeholders for new, relevant knowledge and information on the changing conditions in the Himalayas.

This edition of our ICIMOD periodical highlights a number of ongoing initiatives on the application and use of knowledge and communication, including our own efforts to serve as an open house for knowledge initiatives on sustainable mountain development. It brings to you a collection of reflections, learning, and insights of project managers, scientists, climate experts, knowledge and information managers, and development practitioners which we hope will contribute to a better understanding of the issues and gaps in our knowledge of global and regional problems such as climate change, as well as to a better understanding of the solutions to them. We understand the knowledge needs of policy and decision makers who have to deal with uncertainties; and so, in this volume, we have tried to compile and share some of the knowledge, best practices, and data available on mountain development issues.

Although there is a large amount of information available on climate change and related topics, there are still major lacunae: in particular the lack of consistent and relevant data and information to assess the impacts in the region constitutes a huge knowledge gap. Development of new knowledge based on research is essential. Rapid changes in tools and technology, such as a broad spectrum of satellite devices, as well as changes in the ways people receive and digest information pose other challenges, especially in reaching out to rural and remote areas in the Himalayas. Often, the challenge for ICIMOD is not the type of format in which the information is delivered, but rather how to develop the capability of our partners to transform information into meaningful and transferable messages or actions to solve their problems. ICIMOD's aim is to ensure that knowledge transfer from the Centre results in learning and behavioural change. Our partners have to be involved actively in this knowledge development cycle. Learning processes in the HKH region are influenced greatly by the sociocultural context in which we try to package and transfer our knowledge. Dynamism is needed to achieve a collective and substantial contribution to the goal of sustainable mountain development.

In concluding, I would like to thank all our contributing authors for sharing their experiences with a wider audience. Your contributions have enriched our understanding.

Sincerely,



Andreas Schild,  
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