



Goyul village, Bhutan

# Message from the Director General

Dear Readers, Friends, and Supporters of ICIMOD,

It is my pleasure to submit our Annual Report 2010 for your attention. I hope that the report provides a good overview of our activities during the last year. Our activities are designed to address the different concerns and demands at global, regional, and local levels.

Our main vehicle to promote sustainable mountain development at international events has been climate change and the importance of the ecosystem services provided by mountain systems. We focus on raising awareness at global level of mountain issues and concerns in general, and those of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region in particular, and encouraging inclusion of these in international conventions and other processes .

The main concerns in the region are adaptation to change, building resilient mountain communities, and the sustainability of natural resources as a prerequisite for reducing vulnerability and sustaining food production downstream and freshwater for urban centres. Addressing these concerns will require more intensive regional, transboundary cooperation. We are happy that our member countries are increasingly hearing and appreciating this message.

At the local level, we are convinced that the adaptation of livelihoods needs a sound basis. Our priorities for achieving a direct impact on livelihoods have been the promotion of high value niche products, pro-poor value chains, and the better use of remittances for rural development. Further activities are concerned with understanding the impacts of climate and other change at local level, identifying and sharing information about existing and new adaptation approaches, and reducing disaster risk.

I hope this report gives you an impression of the commitment and hard work of our staff. It might also provide you with an insight into the importance of the regular support from our Board of Governors, partners in the regional member countries, and international sponsors for our endeavour. Their continuous encouragement is a source of inspiration that helps us to overcome our weaknesses and hurdles in order to make ICIMOD a truly professional and dedicated service provider.

I take this opportunity to thank all well-wishers for their continued interest, support, and patience.



Andreas Schild



