

Centre News

China-ICIMOD Day held

China-ICIMOD Day was held on 7 July 2011 in Beijing, China. More than 30 representatives from partner organisations attended the event, held to cement and further the cooperation between China and ICIMOD. Mr Yao Tandong, Director General of the Institute of Tibetan Plateau, chaired the inaugural session. Dr Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD, welcomed the participants and presented the future outlook of ICIMOD programmes, challenges, and opportunities. Mr Cao Jinghua from the International Cooperation Office, Chinese Academy of Sciences, was the guest of honour at the inaugural session. In his inaugural address, Mr Cao highlighted the importance of ICIMOD's mandate and emphasised the need for closer collaboration with Chinese scientists. Dr Wei Fangqiang thanked ICIMOD and the participants on behalf of the Chinese Committee on ICIMOD.

One of the outcomes of China-ICIMOD Day was the presentation of three key proposals to the China Nature Science Foundation. These proposals focused on the Koshi River basin, rangeland carbon potential in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, and the Brahmaputra-Salween Landscape Initiative. The presentation of the proposals was followed by discussions. ICIMOD said that it sees positive potential for the three proposals and, together with its Chinese partners, believes that it can contribute in a meaningful way to solving some of the basic issues in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

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Myanmar-ICIMOD Day held

Myanmar-ICIMOD Day, which was jointly organised by the Forest Department, Ministry of Forestry, and ICIMOD, was held on 24 June 2011 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. More than 100 people attended the programme including postgraduate students from the Forestry University. The Director General of the Myanmar Forest Department presented the opening remarks, highlighting how the mission of ICIMOD is in line with Myanmar's Forest Policy. He said that Myanmar has been actively collaborating with ICIMOD and hoped that Myanmar-ICIMOD Day would provide an opportunity to scale up ongoing collaborative programmes and identify future priorities and strategic areas. Dr Eklabya Sharma, Director of Programme Operations at ICIMOD, and Mr Basanta Shrestha, Division Head of the Mountain Environment and Natural Resource Information Systems (MENRIS) at ICIMOD, highlighted the role of ICIMOD, its strategic focus, and future possibilities for cooperation with Myanmar.

Discussion groups identified three priority areas for future collaboration: biodiversity conservation and management; land cover, REDD, and forest management; and capacity building, training, and exchange.

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India-ICIMOD Day

The first India-ICIMOD Day was held in New Delhi on 30 September 2011 with the theme 'Challenges in Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation – Potential for collaboration between ICIMOD and India'. More than 90 experts, journalists, academicians, and officials attended the workshop. The event and workshop were inaugurated by Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Srimati Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests, Government of India. In his welcome address, Dr Andreas Schild expressed his pleasure and satisfaction at co-organising the first India-ICIMOD Day with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development. The presence of the two ministers on the occasion pointed to the significance that India assigns to its partnership with ICIMOD and its recognition of the need to broaden efforts in partnership building.

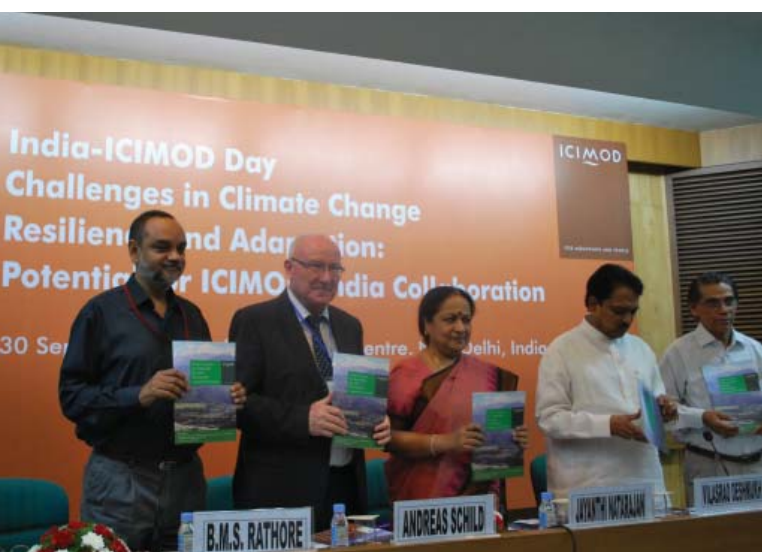
Shrimati Jayanti Natarajan pointed out that climate change impacts do not respect national boundaries and, hence, any efforts to address climate change issues have to transcend boundaries and be regional

Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh drew attention to the collaboration between the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Environment and Forests in two missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change: the National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystems and the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge. In both these missions, the Minister saw the relevance of a strong partnership with a knowledge centre such as ICIMOD.

The day's events were organised into six plenary sessions. In the introductory session Dr Eklabya Sharma gave an overview of current regional programmes, and Dr Giridhar Kinhal highlighted the importance of India's profile in the HKH region and emphasised the need for an intensive consultation with relevant partners in India in the preparation of ICIMOD's third Mid-Term Action Plan (MTAP). Three technical sessions provided an opportunity for national and ICIMOD experts to deliberate on important issues such as the relevance of the green economy to mountains, the need for further study and research on black carbon and its impacts, and the management of mountain ecosystems to enhance the capacity of mountain people for climate change adaptation. A panel discussion session, chaired by Dr Schild, deliberated on the scope for further strengthening partnerships and networking in India. In the last session, chaired by MM Farooqui, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, India, Dr Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General of ICIMOD, summed up the conclusions of each session and sketched out the next steps for the India-ICIMOD collaboration in the coming years.

Two new ICIMOD publications, 'Three Decades of India/ICIMOD Collaboration' and 'Green Economy for Sustainable Mountain Development', were also released at the event.

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in approach. She pointed out that the Himalayas are the most fragile mountain system, given their geological vulnerability and growing population pressure, which in turn places pressure on Himalayan resources. She drew attention to the rich traditional knowledge and resilience of mountain people and suggested that scientific efforts build upon valuable repository of knowledge by including mountain communities in the partnership. Shrimati Natarajan reiterated India's commitment to ICIMOD, highlighting its recent commitment of USD 1 million to the ICIMOD Foundation as a testimony of the Government of India's support for ICIMOD's efforts.



International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development

ICIMOD, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), organised the 'International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development: Opportunities and Challenges in View of Rio+20' in Kathmandu from 5 to 7 September 2011. This conference brought together about 150 participants from the world's mountain regions, including the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America,

ecosystems to promote sustainable development. The participants put forward a declaration on the green economy and sustainable mountain development and recommended that the Rio+20 conference recognise the contribution of mountain systems to the green economy, sustainable development, and human wellbeing. The declaration set principles and policies for global, regional, and national action in support of sustainable mountain development.



North America, and Europe, to discuss and understand the role of mountains in the green economy and to identify the action needed at different levels to promote sustainable mountain development. Dr Ram Baran Yadav, President of the Republic of Nepal, inaugurated the conference and Dr RK Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), delivered the keynote speech.

The conference engaged diverse stakeholders, including international and regional scientists, policy makers, development practitioners, civil society organisations, and the private sector, in mountain development and environmental issues. Participants addressed the role of mountains in the green economy; their upstream-downstream linkages; their contribution to the national, regional, and global economy; and the need for environmental protection. They also discussed emerging challenges and opportunities for promoting sustainable development in the mountains and lowlands.

After three days of deliberations, the participants identified certain priority principles and actions for harnessing the green economy framework to improve the lives of mountain people and to conserve mountain

Other key recommendations in the declaration include the incorporation of the value of ecosystem services in national development planning and decision making; the development of a policy framework and global, regional, national, and local mechanisms to compensate and reward mountain communities for the services that they provide; the establishment of favourable conditions for improving markets for mountain ecosystem goods and services; the promotion of international and regional cooperation for knowledge sharing and capacity building to improve the management of globally and regionally significant mountain ecosystems, improving markets for ecosystem services by simplifying the processes prescribed by international instruments and developing methods for the valuation of environmental services; the inclusion of equity concerns in the green economy in mountains; and access to resources and property rights for mountain women, indigenous communities, and marginalised groups. The declaration will feed into major global policy initiatives including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012. Read more on this conference at www.icimod.org/gesmd.

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Asia-Pacific stakeholders' meeting calls for inclusion of sustainable mountain development agenda in Rio+20

The three-day workshop 'Regional Sharing Workshop on Assessment of Potentials and Opportunities in the Asia Pacific Region for Rio+20', was held at ICIMOD headquarters in Kathmandu from 23 to 25 August 2011. The meeting brought together more than 40 experts from the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan) as well as from the Southeast Asian and Pacific countries (Indonesia, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea) to share the progress made since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and deliberate on the environmental, economic, and social challenges that people living in fragile hilly and mountain ecosystems face in meeting the goals of sustainable development.

The workshop was organised to discuss 14 regional case studies commissioned for the preparation for Rio+20, to synthesise the virtual debate, and to refine a draft regional report prepared for the workshop. A major goal was to identify good practices and missing links and to prioritise environmental issues in the region. The key messages and recommendations of the workshop were presented at the Lucerne World Mountain Conference in Switzerland in October 2011, feeding into the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012.

The main conclusions of the workshop were as follows.

- Collaborative efforts are needed to conserve the mountains and enhance regional cooperation.
- Skills in collaborative negotiation and non-adversarial communication help stakeholders resolve resource conflicts, including those with the private sector.
- Decentralised and devolved governance has been effective in various situations, e.g., at state, autonomous council, and district levels.
- Synergy between top-down and bottom-up processes is crucial for sustainable mountain development policy.
- Natural resource management institutions must be strengthened to ensure internal equity and inclusion, and to avoid external exploitation.
- Attention in the HKH and Southeast Asia and Pacific regions, as well as globally, has shifted to the climate change agenda, which is overshadowing economic and social agendas that are equally or more important. A balanced region- and ecosystem-specific, holistic approach and actions are needed to achieve sustainable mountain development.

The conference made the following major recommendations.

- Poverty and governance should be the crucial concerns of stakeholders.
- More emphasis needs to be given to actionable programmes with clear implementation plans and targets.
- The regional report should have a broad audience, including those working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and adaptation.
- Mountain people should be empowered to participate in the governance of the mountain regions.
- The implementation of political commitments and announced programmes must be monitored by engaging all stakeholders.
- Regional cooperation is the key to achieving sustainable mountain development; mountain countries should have a common platform and position on major issues.
- Although costly, mountain countries must invest in green projects building on already documented success stories, mainstreamed with adaptation and livelihood improvement.

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Road to Rio+20: Mobilising Asia Pacific youth for promoting sustainable mountain development

As the world community takes further steps towards the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, popularly known as Rio+20, awareness is increasing about the role that youth can play in ensuring sustainable development and eradicating poverty through promotion of green economy and low carbon economic activities. In 1992, Agenda 21 identified nine major groups through which all citizens could participate in UN sustainable development activities. As one of these groups, youth around the globe – however diverse in socio-economic, political, and environmental situations – are preparing for this important event

To help mainstream this important group in the Rio+20 processes in the sustainable mountain development context, ICIMOD, through the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN), has organised a series of activities since early 2011. The 'South and Central Asia Regional Virtual Consultation on Youth Perspectives on Rio +20' attracted 550 participants from 38 countries worldwide. Outcomes of this consultation were presented and discussed during the World Leadership Conference 2011 in Singapore and the 'Asia Pacific Youth Forum on Climate Actions and Mountain Issues' organised at ICIMOD headquarters in August 2011. The Youth Forum, attended by 43 young people from 17 Asia Pacific countries, adopted the 'Asia Pacific Youth Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development' and the 'Asia Pacific Youth Position Paper on Rio+20', which are now being used by the Major Group on Children and Youth for Rio+20 debate and have been submitted to Rio+20 Secretariat. These documents were also shared at the 'Regional Sharing Workshop on Assessment of Challenges and Opportunities in the Asia Pacific region for Rio +20' (ICIMOD, 23-25 August 2011), the 'International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development: Opportunities and Challenges in View of Rio+20' (ICIMOD, 5-7 September 2011) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) TUNZA Conference 2011 (Indonesia, 26 September to 1 October 2011).

ICIMOD plans to continue similar youth oriented activities to advocate the mountain agenda and mainstream youth in the sustainability debate.

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REDD pilot project and Forest Carbon Trust Fund in Nepal

A pilot project on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in three watersheds of Nepal (Charnawati, Kayarkhola, and Ludikhola) has focused on designing and setting up a payment system for sequestering carbon in Nepal's community-managed forests. The project is implemented by ICIMOD together with its partners, the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) and the Asia Network for

increased biodiversity richness as well. Funding of USD 100,000 was allocated to the Forest Carbon Trust Fund for 2010/2011. In June 2011, the first payment of USD 95,000 was transferred to the REDD Watershed Network for distribution to the community groups based on their performance in managing and conserving their forests.

The Forest Carbon Trust Fund takes a bottom-up approach. Community forest user groups are responsible for using funds to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, conserve forest carbon stocks, monitor carbon pools, raise awareness and build capacity on REDD, and collect carbon stock data at the community level. The governance mechanism is responsible for validating the carbon stock data from the communities, monitoring and regulating forest management activities, and paying claims based on the increase in forest carbon stock.

The project has been successful in demonstrating that REDD can be implemented at the community level not only for mitigation purposes, but also to enhance ecosystem-based adaptation measures for local



Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-resources (ANSAB), and is financed by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) under the Climate and Forest Initiative. The project involves local communities in monitoring carbon and has enabled them to claim rewards for increasing the carbon stocks in their forests. By making real-time REDD+ payments, the Forest Carbon Trust Fund created under the project seeks to explore how governance systems can be adapted to implement performance-based REDD+ at the local level within community forestry settings. Lessons learnt from the pilot project may be applicable to practitioners and policy and decision makers in relation to national REDD+ programmes.

The project is being conducted in three districts (Dolakha, Chitwan, and Gorkha), covering an area over 10,000 ha and involving 105 community-managed forests with approximately 18,000 households and around 90,000 people. Under the pilot project, these forests saw a stock increment of 100,528 tonnes of carbon dioxide between 2010 and 2011. Since these sites are naturally regenerated forests, the increased carbon sequestration meant



populations that depend largely on forest resources. The project has also demonstrated that local communities can be trained to monitor carbon pools within forests. This is the first time that communities in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region have received REDD+ payments on an experimental basis.

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Highlighting the Critical Role of Mountain Ecosystems for Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Development: Mountain Day at UNFCCC COP 17

4 December 2011 at Durban

ICIMOD, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Mountain Partnership Consortium are the main organisers of Mountain Day 2011 at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 17) on 4 December at Durban, South Africa. Mountain Day 2011 will assemble a high-level panel of global leaders, ministers, and scientists to advocate the value and critical role of mountains in climate change adaptation and sustainable development, and to share scientific evidence and examples of challenges and opportunities. The day-long programme will include plenary presentations and discussions, working groups, and panel discussions.

Approximately 90 countries in the world have more than one-quarter of their territory in the mountains. More than 50% of the world's population depends on water sourced from mountains. Mountains also provide high-quality natural products, rich agro-biodiversity, habitats for rare and endangered flora and fauna, and resources for tourism and recreation. However, climate and global changes are having serious impacts on mountain ecosystems and the goods and services they provide for populations

both upstream and downstream – in particular water, biodiversity, and atmospheric circulation.

Mountain regions have experienced above-average warming in recent years. This change has had significant implications for mountain ecosystem goods and services, which are especially critical for the livelihoods and survival of poor and indigenous communities. Scenarios of climate change in mountain regions are highly uncertain and poorly understood, with large gaps in knowledge.

There is therefore an urgent need to raise awareness and promote policy actions to ensure that mountain ecosystems continue to fulfil their critical role. Mountain Day will call to the COP 17 delegates and global development partners to press for more concerted long-term actions at the national, regional, and global levels to save vital mountain ecosystems. It is hoped that the knowledge shared and the evidence presented will provide a powerful and convincing message to ensure that UNFCCC deliberations include provisions for protecting mountain systems' integrity for the survival of current and future generations.

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David Molden, incoming Director General

Dr David Molden begins his term as Director General in December 2011, taking over from Dr Andreas Schild.

Dr Molden is a development specialist with more than 30 years of experience in designing, planning, executing, and monitoring programmes on water management, livelihoods, environment, and ecosystem services. He has acquired considerable management experience in a number of positions, including Chief of Party for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Government of Nepal Irrigation Management Project in Nepal, Chief of Party for a USAID funded water resources strategic research programme in Egypt, and Leader of the multi-institute Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture programme. Prior to joining ICIMOD he was the Deputy Director General for Research at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Sri Lanka. He has worked in several Hindu Kush-Himalayan countries, including China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, and has experience in projects in the Indus, Ganges, Yellow, Mekong, Yangtze, and Amu and Syr Darya river basins.

Dr Molden was awarded a PhD in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University, United States, in 1987 and has since developed broader interests in integrating social, technical, and environmental aspects of natural resources management. He has contributed to nearly 200 publications including books, refereed journals, research and project report series, and educational materials. He has received many awards including the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Outstanding Scientist award in 2009.



ICIMOD goes 'green'

ICIMOD is going 'green' and more environment friendly by taking simple in-house measures at Headquarters. Three small electric Reva cars have been added to the fleet to reduce the Centre's carbon footprint. Unlike normal vehicles operating on fossil fuel, these cars run on power from inbuilt battery packs which do not emit carbon dioxide. ICIMOD has also installed a solar array of 4.9 KW capacity, comprising 28 mono crystalline photovoltaic PV panels, to capture solar radiation to recharge the electric cars. Options for bigger eco-friendly, low-emission vehicles are also being explored. Waste water generated at Headquarters is recycled to irrigate the garden. ICIMOD has installed a 'constructed wetland' waste water treatment plant on an area of about 54 sq.m for this purpose. The waste water is filtered through the reed beds planted in the constructed wetland. Another eco-friendly initiative within the premises has been the installation of a 10 cu.m biogas plant to recycle vegetation and waste food from the canteen to produce biogas for cooking. The ICIMOD

complex has also become a polybag-free zone. The use of eco-friendly bags is now encouraged. Coloured waste bins have been placed within the premises for differentiation of biodegradable, recyclable, and non-recyclable waste.

The ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre at Godavari now promotes, among others, solar-based green technologies to provide options for alternative energies to mountain farmers in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. Such technologies help to reduce fuelwood use for cooking and heating, thus also reducing indoor air pollution. These technologies are appropriate for mountain areas and are also relatively easy to use and maintain. Some of the solar technologies demonstrated at Godavari are solar cookers, solar driers, solar lamps, and solar water purification systems.

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New Regional Board Member



Mr Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura,
Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill
Tracts Affairs, Bangladesh

Mr Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura,
Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill
Tract was nominated as Regional

Board Member for Bangladesh to the ICIMOD Board in July 2011. Born in 1956, Mr Tripura obtained his Bachelor of Arts with honours and Master's degree in English literature from Dhaka University. He joined the Bangladesh Civil Service in 1982. He graduated from the Police Academy in 1984 and from the National Defence College in 2005.

Mr Tripura has received a number of awards, most importantly the Samar Padak (VVar Medal) in 1971 for his participation in the Bangladesh Liberation War; the Commander's Award for Public Service Medal from the United States Department of Defense in 1994 when he served as the Deputy Contingent Commander of the US-led 'Operation Uphold Democracy' in Haiti in 1994; and the United Nations Medal when he served in the United Nations Mission in Haiti in 1995.

In 2009, Mr Tripura led the Bangladesh delegation in negotiations for a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He was also a member of the Bangladesh delegation at the Home Secretary level talks held in Delhi in 2008.

From March 2007 to October 2010, Mr Tripura served in the police service as the National Project Director, Police Reform Programme, before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On 16 June 2011 he was appointed Secretary In-Charge of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Government of Bangladesh.

Publications authored by Mr Tripura include, among others, 'The Tribal Insurgency in Chittagong Hill Tracts: Background, Evolution and Consequences – an Insider's View', 'Durdeshy' (In Distant Lands), and 'Bangladesher Tripura Janajati' (The Ethnic Tripura Community of Bangladesh), and 'Sardah in Reminiscences'.

Mr Tripura has attended many conferences and training courses including the UN Senior Mission Leaders Course at the Swedish National Defence College, Stockholm, Sweden in 2006, and a Senior Crisis Management Course in Washington, DC, USA in 2004. He has also participated in various UN peace missions and knowledge-sharing sessions.

ICIMOD Board of Governors 2011

Regional Board Members

H.E. Raz Mohammad Raz

Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Infrastructure
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Afghanistan

Mr Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura

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

Mr Sherub Gyaltshen

Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan

Prof. Ding Zhongli

Chairman of CN-ICIMOD
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Dr Tishya Chatterjee IAS

Chair, ICIMOD Board of Governors
Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, India

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Ministry of Forestry, Myanmar

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Dr Christoph Graf

Chair, ICIMOD Support Group
Head, South Asia Department, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Switzerland

Dr Andreas Schild

(Ex-officio) Director General, ICIMOD

* Profile will be provided in the next periodical

Outreach activities

'Himalaya – Changing Landscapes' showcased in Japan

The ICIMOD photo exhibition 'Himalaya – Changing Landscapes' was showcased in Yokohama and Tokyo, Japan to raise awareness of climate change and its impacts on mountain people. The exhibition was organised jointly by ICIMOD and the Himalayan Adventure Trust of Japan (HATJ) and supported by the Embassy of Nepal. It was first shown in Yokohama from 26 to 27 July to coincide with the Third International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP 2011), which was organised by the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES) and United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS). More than 150 forum participants (scientists, research workers, NGO members, and government officials) viewed the photo exhibition. Participants appreciated the clear visualisation of the impact of global warming and the changes in people's lives. The exhibit elicited comments on the difficulty of sustaining local culture with modernisation, and on the pressures of urbanisation on the environment.

The exhibition then travelled to Tokyo, where it ran from 3 to 5 September 2011 as part of the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of HATJ. About 30 invitees from leading mountaineering federations and clubs and 100 HATJ members participated in this event. The brochure of the exhibition translated in Japanese was distributed to visitors. The exhibition was an attraction among the attendees at the ceremony. As a result of the exhibition, interest has been expressed by local mountaineering clubs to organise the exhibition in their hometowns to raise awareness about climate change.

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3rd National Conservation Day Celebrated

The 3rd National Conservation Day was organised at the Nepal Academy Hall on 24 September 2011 under the leadership of the Government of Nepal, supported by 10 conservation consortium members including ICIMOD. The Right Honourable Vice President of Nepal, Mr Parmanand Jha, was the Chief Guest and Mr Mohhamad Wakil Musalman, Honourable Minister for Forests and Soil



Conservation, chaired the function. Conservation awards and scholarships were awarded to individuals and organisations that had made a distinct mark in biodiversity conservation in Nepal. Two video films, 'Sacred Himalayan Landscape' and 'Terai Arc Landscape', and six publications were also formally launched.

ICIMOD showcased the 'Promoting Herbal Gardens in Schools' initiative with the first screening of the video in Nepali, 'Vidhyalayama Jadibuti Uddhan', and hosted an information stall containing publications, flyers, and CDs which were distributed among the many participants. An International Year of Forests photo exhibition was also displayed.

National Conservation Day is led by conservation consortium members Bird Conservation Nepal, Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness, ICIMOD, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the National Trust for Nature Conservation, the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists, The Mountain Institute, Wildlife Conservation Nepal, Wildlife Watch Group, and WWF Nepal, under the leadership of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal.

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Promoting Herbal Gardens in School: Kit Distribution and Video Launch

ICIMOD created the 'Promoting Herbal Gardens in Schools' initiative in 2010 as a part of celebrations for the International Year of Biodiversity. The idea was to involve schoolchildren in creating herbal gardens on their school premises to teach them about the different types of medicinal and aromatic plants, their uses, and their conservation significance. The 'Herbal Garden Kit Distribution and Video Launch' programme was organised by ICIMOD on 26 September 2011 to commence the replication phase of the initiative.

The programme was well attended by participating schools as well as new schools that will replicate the initiative. Also present were representatives of Dabur Nepal, which sponsored the Herbal Garden Kit, and Nepal SBI Bank Limited, which together with Dabur Nepal sponsored the 'Promoting Herbal Gardens in Schools' video film in the Nepali language. The kits, containing some essential garden tools, were handed over to 28 schools. These kits are to be used exclusively by schoolchildren to establish herbal gardens. The

representatives of Dabur Nepal and Nepal SBI Bank Limited pledged their continued support and expressed their delight at being part of such a child-focused conservation initiative.

The launch and screening of the video film was an exciting feature of the day's programme. The film highlights the objective behind the initiative, and reflects on the learning experiences of the schools and students, who are now promoting the concept to new schools.



From 2012 onwards, Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA) will be the National Coordinator of this initiative in Nepal. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed to this effect between ICIMOD and ECCA on 22 September 2011. Mr Prachet Shrestha, ECCA Chairman, reiterated ECCA's commitment to strengthen the initiative.

During his opening remarks, Dr Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD, highlighted the need for partnerships among all sectors of society and mentioned that ICIMOD values initiatives in which private-sector organisations are able to join hands. He also said that this initiative has created a platform for young minds to build their capacity and awareness. While ICIMOD hopes that the initiative will gain momentum with many schools across Nepal, it also expects to gradually launch the programme in other regional member countries in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

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Knowledge Forums 2011

Dr Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which he chairs, and Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), talked about 'Climate Change in the Himalayas and the Way Forward' at a Knowledge Forum organised by ICIMOD on 4 September 2011.



Dr Pachauri began by shedding light on the history, mandate, and modus operandi of the IPCC. He also said that hundreds of top scientists from around the world are working hard to bring out the Fifth Assessment Report by 2014.

He stated that over the last century, the average global temperature has increased by 0.74°C and the sea level has risen by 17 cm. He attributed this rapid global warming mainly to anthropogenic factors.

He underscored the importance of planned adaptation and the co-benefits arising from mitigation actions aimed at containing global warming through the application of transformational technologies (e.g., the solar lanterns promoted by TERI's 'Lighting a Billion Lights' campaign). He also spoke of the importance of measures such as carbon price signals, regulations, standards, carbon taxes, and the valuation of, and payment for, ecosystem goods and services.

He called on Himalayan countries to join hands to come up with a common programme of action – backed by shared resources – to safeguard the Himalayas.

Professor Veerabhadran Ramanathan of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, United States, known for his pioneering studies on atmospheric brown clouds (ABCs) and the role of black carbon, talked on 'The Extreme Vulnerability of the Himalayan-Tibetan Region to Global Warming and Air Pollution' at ICIMOD on 22 March 2011.

He described the role of black carbon aerosols, produced by the incomplete burning of biofuels, in the formation of ABCs over the Himalayan-Tibetan region. He stated that ABCs contribute to overall regional warming, the melting of Himalayan glaciers, reduced sunlight, increased heavy rainfall, and less rain overall. As the atmospheric temperatures rise, more precipitation in the mountains falls as rain and less as snow, leading to an increase in immediate runoff and a decrease in water storage in mountain areas. Black carbon deposited on snow absorbs solar energy, hastening melting. ABCs cause large-scale dimming, reducing crop yields as well as evapotranspiration, thereby contributing to reduced precipitation.

Dr Ramanathan proposed the following pathway to limit global temperature increases to 2°C.



- Reduce CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2050.
- Reduce shortlived warming agents such as black carbon, ozone, and methane by 30% in the next 30 years.
- In the meantime, develop and promote transformational technologies.

He called on all to think globally, assess regionally, act locally, and seek integrated solutions through innovation in science, technology, policy, politics, institutions, and finance.

Ujol Sherchan, usherchan@icimod.org

New appointments at ICIMOD

The list and profiles of ICIMOD staff are posted on the website at www.icimod.org/?q=44



Dr Gopal Singh Rawat,
Deputy Programme Manager
and Senior Scientist,
Environmental Change and
Ecosystem Services
August 2011



Mr Rahul Dabas,
Enterprise Resource
Planning (ERP)
Coordinator,
Administration and
Finance
October 2011



**Ms Bhavana
Syangden,**
Programme Associate,
SANDEE
June 2011

Workshops, meetings and training events (July – September 2011)

Event	Date	Place
Bhutan Summit Water Regional Meeting	2 – 3 July	Dhaka, Bangladesh
Training Workshop on Mountain Specific Value Chain	6 – 8 July	Shillong, India
ICIMOD-China Day	7 – 8 July	Beijing, China
Bhutan Summit Biodiversity Regional Meeting	11 – 15 July	Bhutan
Land Use Change and Human Health in Eastern Himalayas (ECO-HEALTH) – the Final Project Summary and Dissemination Workshop	20 – 22 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
Writeshop for Preparation of Background Paper for Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development Conference	20 – 22 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
Trainers' Training on Beekeeping Management, Quality of Bee Products (Harvesting, Processing, and Value Addition of Honey and Beeswax) and Pollination Management	23 July – 2 August	Kabul, Afghanistan
Photo Exhibition, Himalaya – Changing Landscapes (mobile)	26 – 27 July	Yokohama, Japan
Expert Group Regional Consultative Meeting on Energy Security	28 – 29 July	Kathmandu, Nepal
Asia-Pacific Youth Forum on Climate Actions and Mountain Issues	8 – 12 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Decision Support Tools and Approaches for Ecosystem Management	8 – 10 August	Chengdu, China
Workshop on Gender and Climate Change	18 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Authors' Workshop for the Regional Report on Climate Change in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas: State of Current Knowledge	18 – 19 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Rangeland Management Programme Development and Policy Review Workshop	22 – 23 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Regional Sharing Workshop on Assessment of Challenges and Opportunities in the Asia Pacific region for Rio +20	23 – 25 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Workshop on Integration of GIS and Remote Sensing for Range Resource Assessment	24 August	Kathmandu, Nepal
Expedition for Glacier Mass Balance Setup on the Rikha Samba Glacier in the Hidden Valley in Nepal	2 – 18 September	Rikha Samba Glacier, Nepal
Photo Exhibition, Himalaya – Changing Landscapes (mobile)	3 – 5 September	Tokyo, Japan
Knowledge Forum with Dr Rajendra K Pachauri on Climate Change in the Himalayan Region and the Way Forward	4 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
Enhancing Ecotourism as a Tool for Conservation and Sustainable Community Development	5 – 6 September	Thimphu, Bhutan
International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development: Opportunities and Challenges in View of Rio +20	5 – 7 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
Training on Documentation of Sustainable Land Management Technologies and Approaches using WOCAT Framework	10 – 15 September	Bamyan, Afghanistan
Trainers' Training on Strengthening Honey Production Base and Market Linkages with Special Focus on Beekeeping Management for Honey Production and Pollination; and Harvesting, Processing, Value Addition and Quality of Honey and Other Bee Products	18 – 27 September	Bandarban, Bangladesh
National Conservation Day	24 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
A Knowledge Exchange and Adaptation Partnership Workshop between Hindu Kush-Himalaya-Andes and Central Asian Mountains on Glaciers, Glacial Lakes, Water and Hazard Management and Livelihoods	25 – 28 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
Promoting Herbal Gardens in Schools: Kit Distribution and Video Launch	26 September	Kathmandu, Nepal
India-ICIMOD Day: Challenges in Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation, Potentials for ICIMOD-India Collaboration	30 September	New Delhi, India

News from SANDEE

As South Asia continues to make economic strides, how do we ensure that our measures of growth are accounting for changes in natural assets? The Indian government recently took an important step towards answer this question by appointing an expert group to develop a framework for greening India's national accounts. Chaired by Sir Partha Dasgupta of Cambridge University, other 'SANDEE-ites' who are part of the expert group include Kanchan Chopra, Haripriya Gundimeda, E. Somanathan, and Priya Shyamsundar. SANDEE's work on valuation was disseminated and discussed at the first working group meeting in New Delhi on 22 August.

SANDEE's research grants this year focus on the themes of water management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change and migration. SANDEE received 44 pre-proposals earlier this year and approved eight grants. These grants include a collaborative set of studies with East Asia that will focus on estimating the impact of climate change on migration because of changes in agricultural productivity.

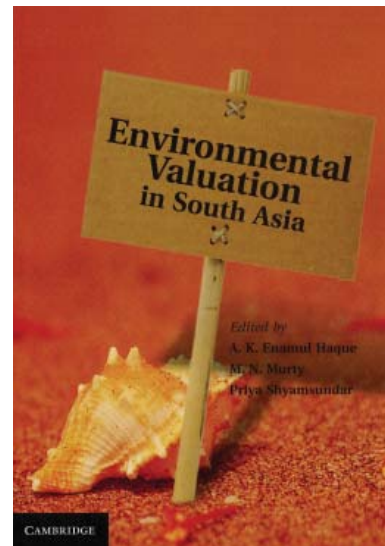
During the last quarter, SANDEE published six working papers and six policy briefs, which are outcomes of completed research projects funded by SANDEE. Cambridge University Press also published SANDEE's second book 'Environmental Valuation in South Asia'. This book is a collection of case studies from across South Asia. It showcases different valuation methodologies and a variety of mechanisms to collect and combine environmental data with socioeconomic information to addresses important themes such as ecosystem services, production externalities, health costs, public investments, and so forth. We hope it will be useful to researchers, teachers, and practitioners. The book was officially launched by five vice-chancellors in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 28 September 2011.

SANDEE's under-served areas programme seeks to support parts of the region that need additional assistance. In August, as part of this set of activities, SANDEE organised a research and writing workshop at the North-eastern Hill University (NEHU) in Shillong, India. This workshop provided researchers from the hill areas of northeast India working in the field of environmental and natural resource economics with a valuable opportunity to learn about research writing and methods. During the workshop, key policy concerns in South Asia related to environmental economics and ways to address them through economic research were discussed. The objective of this workshop was to enable researchers and teachers to take their research ideas and develop them into workable research proposals in the field of environment and natural resource economics.

SANDEE



ECONOMICS & THE ENVIRONMENT



Newly published working papers

1. *Transactions Matter but They Hardly Cost: Irrigation Management in the Kathmandu Valley*, by Ram Chandra Bhattarai, WP No. 56–10
2. *User-based Financing of Marine Protection in the Maldives*, by Mohamed Shumais, R. C. Bhatta and Mahadev G. Bhat, WP No. 57–11
3. *Valuing the Recreational Uses of Pakistan's Wetlands: An Application of the Travel Cost Method*, by Ali Dehlavi and Ifrikhar Hussain Adil, WP No. 58–11
4. *Rights, Responsibilities and Resources: Examining Community Forestry in South Asia*, by Priya Shyamsundar and Rucha Ghate, WP No. 59–11
5. *Motives for Firms to Adopt Solid Waste Management Controls: The Case of Food Processing Sector in Sri Lanka*, by Udith Jayasinghe and Menuka Udugama, WP No. 60–11
6. *The Welfare Impacts of Leasehold Forestry in Nepal*, by Bishnu Prasad Sharma, WP No. 61–11

(Note: All these publications are available online.)

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Partnership development (June – October 2011)

Strategic partnership with international organizations

- A partnership was established with the Ev-K2-CNR Committee, Italy for collaboration in areas of mutual interest, especially in the areas of water management, climate change, ecosystem services, and poverty reduction through knowledge sharing.
- An agreement was signed with the Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA) for the extension and long-term operation of GLORIA observation sites in the HKH region.
- A strategic agreement was entered into with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Sweden for collaboration in research on water governance, policy, and participation in policy dialogues.
- For the preparation of climate change scenarios for pilot catchment in the Indus Basin, an agreement was signed with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich.
- An agreement was signed with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Switzerland for the rehabilitation of the hydro-meteorological network of Pakistan.
- An agreement was signed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Nepal for the implementation of a South-South Knowledge Exchange and Writers' Workshop and support to the Government of Nepal's national position paper as part of the Rio+20 preparation process.
- In support of activities related to Rio+20, agreement was signed with the Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN), Peru.
- An agreement was signed with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Sweden for support of a regional media workshop.
- An agreement was signed with the United States Department of State, United States Embassy, Nepal to host a regional workshop to share knowledge on existing glacier monitoring efforts and develop common methodologies.

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Andreas Schild, Director General, ICIMOD, and Agostino Da Polenza, President, Ev-K2-CNR Committee, Italy, signing partnership agreement



Partnerships with regional institutions for programme implementation

- An agreement was signed with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh to organise and host a regional expert group meeting on water for the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas – Bhutan 2011 and to produce a regional report from it.
- For the implementation of the project 'Establishment of a Regional Flood Information System in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region' (HKH-HYCOS), funded by the Government of Finland, agreement was signed with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department; the Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan; the Pakistan Meteorological Department; and the Water and Power Development Authority, Pakistan.
- For the implementation of the three major components of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) TAG 1113 project, agreements were signed with the Western Uplands Poverty Alleviation Project, Nepal; the Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme, Nepal; the North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project, India; and the Meghalaya Rural Development Society, India.
- An agreement was signed with Sichuan Grassland Sciences Academy, China for developing an integrated mechanism for combating rangeland desertification in Ruergai County, Upper Yellow River, China.
- To conduct a land cover change analysis study to assess past changes and present trends in land cover distribution in the mountain areas of Pakistan, an agreement was signed with World Wide Fund Nature (WWF) – Pakistan.
- Under the 'Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative' project, agreements were signed with the Central Department of Botany of Tribhuban University, Nepal and the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, India.
- For designing and setting up a REDD payment mechanism in the community forest management system in Nepal, under the REDD+ project funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), agreements were signed with the Federation of Community Forestry Users' Nepal (FECOFUN); the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB), Nepal; Forest Action, Nepal; and the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE).
- For the assessment of impacts of particulate air pollutants on respiratory health of school children in the Kathmandu valley under the Male' Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia, agreement was signed with Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), Nepal.
- ICIMOD entered into collaboration with the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Science (ITP-CAS) for sharing of information to strengthen databases of the region.
- For monitoring and assessment of changes in glaciers, snow, and glacio-hydrology in the HKH under the 'HKH Cryosphere Monitoring Project', with a special focus on strengthening the capacity of Nepalese organisations, agreement was signed with Kathmandu University, Nepal.
- With the purpose of promoting herbal gardens in schools in Nepal, agreement was signed with Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness, Nepal.

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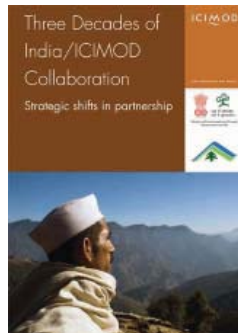
ICIMOD publications

The major documents published by ICIMOD from August to October 2011 are shown below. All publications can be downloaded free-of-charge from www.icimod.org/publications. 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.

General Publications



Green Economy for Sustainable Mountain Development: A concept paper for Rio+20 and beyond



Three Decades of India/ICIMOD Collaboration: Strategic shifts in partnership

Video

Herbal Garden in Schools, 12 min. (Language: Nepali)

Newsletters

Labour Migration: Opportunities and challenges for mountain livelihoods, No. 59, Spring 2011



Information sheets/flyers

Protected Areas and Payment for Ecosystem Services: A feasibility study in Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park, Nepal

Mountain Day: Highlighting the critical role of mountain ecosystems for climate adaptation and sustainable development

Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP): Enhancing resilience of mountain communities through improved understanding of vulnerabilities, opportunities, and potentials for adaptation

Other publications by ICIMOD authors

Bajracharya, SR; Maharjan, SB; Shrestha, F (2011) 'Glaciers shrinking in Nepal Himalaya'. In Blanco, J; Kheradmand, H (eds) *Climate change: Geophysical foundations and ecological effects*, pp 445-458. Rijeka: InTech

Chettri, N (2011) 'Role of actors and institutions in regional tourism development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.' In Kruk, E; Kreutzmann, H; Richter, J (eds) *Integrated tourism concepts to contribute to sustainable mountain development in Nepal*, pp 154-170. Bonn: GIZ

Kruk, E (2011) 'Tourism and sustainable mountain development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas.' In Kruk, E; Kreutzmann, K; Richter, J (eds) *Integrated tourism concepts to contribute to sustainable mountain development in Nepal*, pp 15-29. Bonn: GIZ

Kruk, E; Hermann, K; Juergen, R (2011) *Integrated tourism concepts to contribute to sustainable mountain development in Nepal* Bonn: GIZ

Lama, AK; Kruk, E (2011) *Traditional Loba menu*. Kathmandu: NTNC.

Lusiana, B; van Noordwijk, M; Suyanto, D; Mulia, R; Joshi, L; Cadisch, G (2011) 'Users' perspectives on validity of a simulation model for natural resource management.' *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability* DOI:10.1080/14735903.2011.582362

Matambo, ST; Shrestha, AB (2011) *Nepal: Responding proactively to glacial hazards*, World Resources Report. Washington, DC: World Resource Institute

Oven, K; Hua Ouyang; Nibanupudi, HK; Khadgi, V (2011) *Building rural resilience in seismically active areas*, IHRR Research Brief No 2. Durham: Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience, Durham University

Qamar, FM; Ali, H; Ashraf, S; Daud, A; Gillani, H; Mirza, H; Rehman, HU (2011) 'Distribution and habitat mapping of key fauna species in the selected areas of Western Himalaya, Pakistan'. *The Journal of Animal and Plant Sciences* 21 (2 Suppl.): 396-399.

Schild, A; Sharma, E (2011) 'Sustainable mountain development revisited.' *Mountain Research and Development* 31(3): 237-241

Shrestha, AB (2011) 'Climate change and glaciers.' In Singh, VP; Singh, P; Haritashya, UK (eds) *Encyclopedia of snow, ice and glaciers*, pp 145-152. Dordrecht: Springer

Shrestha, AB; Aryal, R (2011) 'Climate change in Nepal and its impact on Himalayan glaciers.' *Regional Environmental Change* 11 (Suppl. 1): S65-S77

Shrestha, AB (2011) 'What could be the role of developing countries like Nepal in mitigating climate change? (Jalabayu paribartan: Nyunikaranama ke Nepal jasta bikasonmukh rastraharuko bhumika rahanchha?).' *Jeevan Monthly* 13(25): 110-112

Shrestha, M; Artan, GA; Bajracharya, SR; Gautam, DK. Tokar, SA (2011) 'Bias-adjusted satellite-based rainfall estimates for predicting floods: Narayani Basin'. *Journal of Flood Risk Management* DOI: 10.1111/j.1753-318X.2011.01121.x