



Sharing Knowledge for the Region and the World

ICIMOD reaches out in as many ways possible to raise awareness of findings and solutions for mountain issues. It aims to ensure that knowledge transfer results in engagement, learning, and changes in policy, programmes, and behaviour. As presented by Kunda Dixit in an ICIMOD media workshop in 2011, *“Words into Action: Public awareness → Public pressure → Policy makers → Policy change!”*

The learning processes in the HKH region are influenced by the sociocultural context in which knowledge is packaged and shared. Hence, ICIMOD’s knowledge management and communications units provide a framework to disseminate information through different media in a coordinated way.

Publications for stakeholders and the public

ICIMOD continued its contribution to knowledge sharing in 2011 with 63 in-house publications and 62 staff contributions to journals and book chapters. The combined effect of ICIMOD’s attention to quality and rebranding resulted in a doubling of the number of publications distributed; a marked increase in press coverage and requests for information, interviews, and other contacts; and a notable increase in visits to the website.

In 2011, ICIMOD disseminated 107,000 publications in hard copy, and 74,000 were downloaded. Media and public relations activities included responses to more than 80 requests for interviews, information, or visits; 10 newspaper articles by staff; 20 press releases; and regular presence at fairs and other outreach events. ICIMOD was covered in more than 400 press items in the HKH region and beyond.

Comments from readers...

“The Flash Flood Trainers Manual is a substantial and valuable booklet for educating and training of local authorities and stakeholders. The clear and structured content makes this volume useful for the education of students in water management.”

– from **Institute of Hydrology**, Austria

“We are very grateful to you for sharing such a wonderful trainer’s manual on flash floods. Sindh has faced continuous flash floods for the last two years so this manual will guide our experts at the field level.”

– from **Sindh**, Pakistan

“Thank you for the flash flood manual and congratulations to ICIMOD for the excellent work done on the publication.”

– from **Associated Programme on Flood Management**,
World Meteorological Organization

“The two ICIMOD publications on glaciers and snow-cover mapping and monitoring in the HKH are very important to our current research.”

– from **Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research**,
Chinese Academy of Sciences

“The book and DVD (on glaciers) are important and informative for glaciologists and hydrologists. You used the most modern tools to research lakes and glaciers in Nepal and obtained outstanding results. I consider them the best in the world. This is good example for other researchers.”

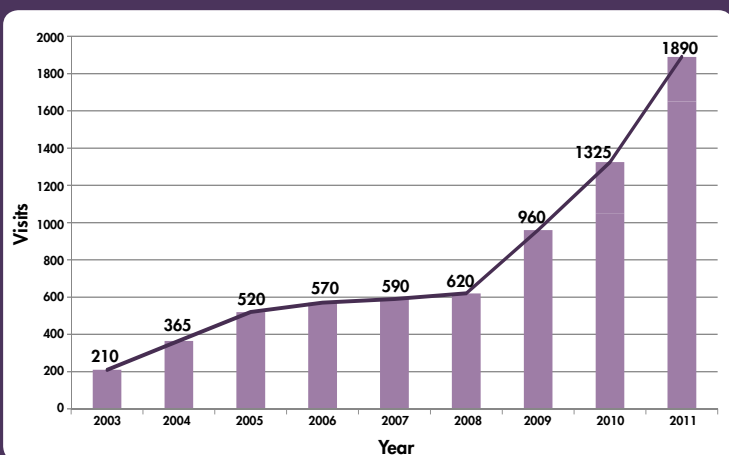
– from **Department of Glaciology**, Institute of Geography,
Russian Academy of Sciences



ICIMOD website

Compared to 2010, 40 per cent more visitors went to the ICIMOD website and 30 per cent more ICIMOD publications were downloaded in 2011 (Figure). Anyone can subscribe to the ICIMOD Facebook page, follow ICIMOD on Twitter, or subscribe to or visit ICIMOD on YouTube.

ICIMOD website visits/day



Hub for external networks

ICIMOD continues to be the knowledge hub for the Asia-Pacific Water Forum and the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network, which is the Asia-Pacific node of the Mountain Forum. As in previous years, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) selected ICIMOD to implement knowledge sharing training sessions for its implementation partners in the region. Over 120 participants, including selected ICIMOD staff and partners, attended these sessions.

ICIMOD has remodelled its library as a Knowledge Centre focusing more on e-resources, with open

access computer terminals, and integration with the publications dissemination unit. Large parts of the resources are being digitized for inclusion in an e-library platform, the Himalayan Document Centre (HIMALDOC), which was launched in March 2011. HIMALDOC provides bibliographic information about various types of resources related to sustainable mountain development and direct access to selected full text and multimedia files in electronic format. The resources include books, articles, periodicals, theses, multimedia products, and other reference materials. By December 2011 the system included more than 14,700 records.

Innovative knowledge outreach

In 2011, ICIMOD presented two Knowledge Forums with distinguished speakers, which attracted over 200 visitors each. The first forum, in March, featured a presentation on atmospheric brown clouds and black carbon by Dr Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Distinguished Professor of Climate and Atmospheric Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, United States. The

Dr Veerabhadran Ramanathan



second forum, in September, featured Dr Rajendra Pachauri, Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India, and Chairman of IPCC, who spoke on Climate Change in the Himalayas.

Staff and visiting scientists also presented ten internal knowledge seminars for learning and dialogue on new and emerging mountain topics and on-going project experiences.



Furthermore, two workshops helped media representatives untangle the facts and fiction of climate change, and two workshops engaged regional youth networks in discussing climate change issues.

The 'Promoting Herbal Gardens in Schools' initiative begun in 2010, which raised awareness on the conservation and uses of medicinal and aromatic plants among children in 21 schools in Nepal, was handed over to Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA) which will continue to encourage schools to establish herbal gardens. ICIMOD developed a video to share the concept with other countries in the region. In November 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests of the Royal Government of Bhutan, the Council for Renewable Natural Resources Research of Bhutan, and ICIMOD signed a Memorandum of Understanding to undertake a similar initiative in Bhutan.

Development of the Godavari Training Centre

ICIMOD has begun to implement a business plan to increase the effectiveness of the Godavari Demonstration and Training Centre and transform it into a knowledge park. In 2011, it provided hands-on training on natural resources management topics to 72 visitors. The training centre also supported the 'Promoting Herbal Garden in Schools' initiative with seedlings and demonstration gardens. In addition, the centre supported the Community Forest User Group in Chapakharka by providing technical and planting material (cardamom) for income generation activities. The Godavari centre had 4,659 visitors in 2011.



School herbal garden, Kathmandu, Nepal

“An excellent demonstration centre to disseminate appropriate technologies. The centre has a huge role to play to transform the rural economy on the principles of sustainable development.”

– **B.M.S. Rathore**, Joint Secretary,
Minister of Environment and Forest,
New Delhi, India

“I am inspired by the simple low-cost technologies and effective and useful solutions demonstrated and provided by ICIMOD for the mountain people. These efforts can be replicated easily in my province. I invite ICIMOD to share its experience for sustainable and nature-friendly development in Gilgit.”

– **Syed Mehdi Shah**,
Chief Minister, Gilgit, Pakistan

“Visiting ICIMOD's Godavari demonstration and training centre is a unique experience for me. Most of the technologies demonstrated are very much relevant to the hill districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.”

– **N.B.K. Triparu**, Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Government of Bangladesh

Godavari Demonstration and Training Centre, Lalitpur, Nepal



Engaging Youth and Media in Climate Discussions

In 2011, ICIMOD organized several events targeted to youth and media. ICIMOD's Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) organized workshops to engage regional youth networks and media representatives in discussions on climate change, the green economy, and sustainable development.

Young people from 17 Asian countries participated in the week-long training and knowledge sharing workshop 'Asia Pacific Youth Forum on Mountain Issues and Climate Actions', organized by APMN in Kathmandu. The participants included 33 young people from ICIMOD's member countries and nine from other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Coming from a wide spectrum of social and academic backgrounds, the participants were all below the age of 29 and more than 60 per cent of them were women. The workshop aimed to help build the next generation of leadership in sustainable mountain development and climate actions. The workshop made a declaration and submitted it to the UNFCCC COP 17 meeting in Durban, South Africa, and the Lucerne World Mountain Conference. In addition, it drafted the 'Asia Pacific Youth Position Paper on Rio+20', which was offered as input to the Zero Draft for Rio+20.

In November 2011 ICIMOD, within the framework of SERVIR Himalaya, organized a youth workshop in Bhutan, 'Earth Observation: Empowering Youth for Climate Actions in the Himalayas' in conjunction with the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas.

"After the youth forum, I came back to my country ready to start the first step – I will do what I can do, and motivate the other youth for knowledge sharing and building up capacity on current issues that we face in Myanmar."

– **May Zin Thaw**, a Youth Forum participant, Myanmar

In May 2011, ICIMOD with partners including the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), and UNEP organized a media workshop for journalists from South Asia. In November, ICIMOD organized a second workshop for journalists from the regional member countries. The goal of both workshops was to orient media representatives on the pressing issues of climate change and the vulnerability of the people of the region to the impacts of these changes. Participants were also briefed on emerging issues such as green economy.



Asia Pacific Youth Forum at ICIMOD

At the May workshop opening, Dr Young-Woo Park, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP, explained the rationale: "The basis of the three-day media workshop is harnessing the power of media and their influence on public opinion in this region for raising awareness on climate change and the need to adapt to it."

"When I started writing for Reuters, understanding the technicalities was a stumbling block to my efficient reporting on climate change, environment, green economy, and mountain development issues. ICIMOD's media training on these issues, field trips to its project areas, and exposure to the local communities have built up my capacity to write on these issues. Thanks to ICIMOD media training, I feel empowered with knowledge and good understanding about these challenging issues and am now comfortable to write on them."

– **Saleem Shaikh**, Climate Change and Development Correspondent, AlertNet Climate, Reuters News Agency, Pakistan

"The workshop addressed concerns of journalists covering climate change with detailed presentations on climate change adaptation, impacts on glaciers, and field visits for first-hand feel of communities engaged in forestry, and the impacts of glacial lake outburst floods. The workshop gave us access to numerous resource persons, and research and networking opportunities for our continuing work."

– **Meena Menon**, a participant representing *The Hindu*, Mumbai

Connecting Space to Village: Enabling On-The-Ground Decisions and Policy

In November 2011, ICIMOD demonstrated its remote sensing applications in a symposium, exhibit, and youth forum on the sidelines of the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas in Thimphu, Bhutan. The exhibit showed the variety of real-world applications that ICIMOD is developing and sharing through the Mountain GeoPortal, from monitoring the melting of glaciers and snow to assessing agricultural productivity for food security analysis, detecting forest fires, and mapping rapid responses for disasters and emergencies.

The Mountain GeoPortal is a web-based virtual platform for geo-information and knowledge resources of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. It facilitates the sharing, integration, and use of geographic information for a wide range of users. It includes training and educational resources, map services, spatial visualization tools, and other related geo-information based services.

These modern decision support tools and technologies aid scientific understanding of mountain systems and thus enable better policy decisions and appropriate development interventions. The use of remote sensing is being mainstreamed in almost all of ICIMOD's strategic programmes. ICIMOD is developing applications in five key areas: cryosphere and water, ecosystems and biodiversity, disaster preparedness and emergency response, transboundary air quality and black carbon, and agriculture and food security.

The ICIMOD side events during the summit in Bhutan highlighted 15 applications, including tools for forest fire detection and monitoring, earthquake emergency

response in the Kathmandu Valley, and modelling water availability in a river basin under different scenarios. There was also a demonstration of land cover databases for Bhutan and Nepal containing data from 1990, 2000, and 2010.

ICIMOD has used these remote sensing tools to map 55,254 glaciers from Afghanistan to the far eastern end of the Himalayas – helping to fill the knowledge gaps identified in the IPCC report of 2007 and convert the HKH from a data deficient to a data sufficient region. The published reports on the regional status of snow and glaciers, released at Mountain Day at COP 17 in Durban, South Africa, were widely covered in the international press, including the *International Herald Tribune* and BBC News. In the month they were launched, they resulted in 1,500 downloads. The findings are having an impact at the global level by contributing to understanding of climate change effects in the cryosphere.

Release of ICIMOD publications in Durban, South Africa



3D demonstration of Eastern Himalaya during Bhutan symposium



“With space technology advancement, we are able to understand climate change challenges by recording and analysing information such as changes in climate variability, food security mapping, glaciers and land-use changes over time. Access to such information should be made a fundamental right of all, and it should be made available in the public domain so that today's slogan ‘from space to village’ can be truly meaningful.”

– **The Honourable Lyonpo Dr Pema Gyamtsho**, Minister for Agriculture and Forest, Royal Government of Bhutan, speaking at the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas