



Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan

Afghanistan Office

In 2011, the ICIMOD country office focused on building partnerships and enhancing the capacity of its Afghan partners, mostly government ministries and universities. The ICIMOD country office was registered officially with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It supported the implementation of a wide variety of programmes in the country and sent several Afghan representatives to workshops and conferences in the region. The first group of Afghan university instructors supported in advanced studies by the Himalayan University Consortium completed their programmes; following studies in India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Thailand, 21 students received their masters degrees in 2011. Six more are expected to finish in 2012.

As part of the South Asia Water Initiative (SAWI) of the World Bank's Small Grants Programme, ICIMOD conducted a workshop in March 2011 to develop regional proposals for research projects on river basin and climate change topics, with institutions from Afghanistan as main partners. The workshop included participants from Kabul University, the Ministry of Energy and Water, the World Bank, Kabul Polytechnic University, the Society of Afghan Engineers, and the National Hydrology Committee.

In partnership with the Sustainable Land Management Institute (SLMI), ICIMOD provided technical support for training to build the capacity of local professionals for evaluation and documentation of good practices in sustainable land management. Eighteen local professionals attended from Bamyan University, Helvetas, Solidarity International, and the Agriculture Department of Bamyan Province.

ICIMOD provided technical support to the development of a National Plan for Rangeland Management in Afghanistan and for an assessment of the status of the country's rangelands using GIS/RS techniques, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation,

and Livestock (MAIL) and Kabul University. The ICIMOD country office and MAIL held beekeeping training for 11 'progressive' (i.e. modernization seeking) beekeepers and nine relevant MAIL staff in July 2011.

Six Afghan officials from the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO) attended skills training. One official stayed in Kathmandu for a month of on-the-job mapping-related training, while two officials had on-the-job training on the GeoNetwork metadata system.



Output from photographic mission, Bamyan, Afghanistan

A photographic mission in Afghanistan produced a large set of high quality photographs for use in publications, the website, and presentations.

The ICIMOD Director for Programme Operations visited Kabul to assess the overall activities of ICIMOD and their impact in the context of Afghanistan's development. He consulted Afghan partners and international agencies. The outcome of the visit was improved collaboration between ICIMOD and its partners in Afghanistan.