

Governance Framework

UPPER INDUS BASIN NETWORK (UIB-N)



About ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Globalization and climate change have an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream and downstream issues. ICIMOD supports regional transboundary programmes through partnerships with regional partner institutions, facilitates the exchange of experiences, and serves as a regional knowledge hub. We strengthen networking among regional and global centres of excellence. Overall, we are working to develop economically and environmentally-sound mountain ecosystems to improve the living standards of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services for the billions of people living downstream – now and in the future.



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(UIB-N)

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ICIMOD International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

MWG Monitoring Working Group

RSC Regional Strategic Committee

RUAM Regional UIB-N Annual Meeting

TWG Technical Working Group

UIB Upper Indus Basin

UIB-N Upper Indus Basin Network

WWF World Wide Fund for Nature

Purpose of the Governance Framework

This document has been drafted as recommended during the Regional UIB-N Workshop held at the ICIMOD headquarters in Kathmandu on 24 and 25 April 2018. Learning from the success in Pakistan, the UIB-N has now been expanded to all the basin countries – Afghanistan, China, India, and Pakistan. This document describes the revised vision, mission, objectives, and governance framework of the network. It includes details on how the Regional UIB-N will function regionally as well as at the country level. It also defines the roles and responsibilities of the members and other operational mechanisms of the network in light of the discussions held during the Regional UIB-N workshop.

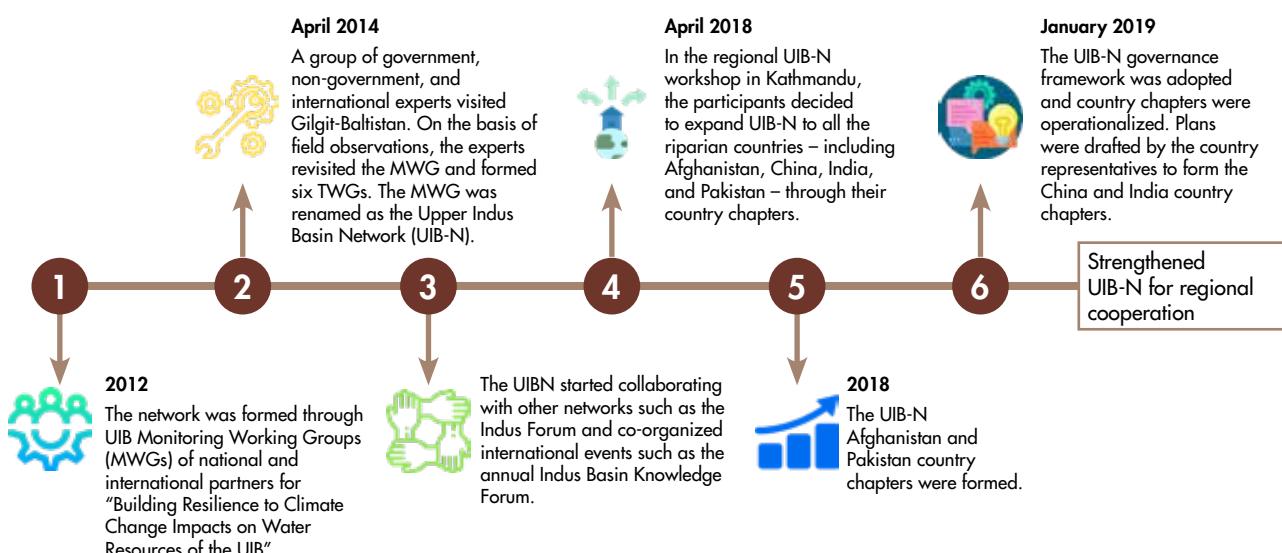
Background

The Upper Indus Basin Network (UIB-N) is a voluntary and informal knowledge and research network of national and international researchers working in the basin. It aims to foster coordination in research related to climate, cryosphere, water, hazards and vulnerability, and adaptation.

The network was formed in 2012 through an Upper Indus Basin (UIB) Monitoring Working Group (MWG) of national and international partners for “Building Resilience to Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources of the UIB”. In April 2014, a group of experts from ICIMOD, Pakistan Meteorological Department, Water and Power Development Authority, Pakistan, EV-K2-CNR, WWF-Pakistan, University of Bonn, Karakoram International University, and other relevant government organizations visited the UIB of Pakistan (Gilgit-Baltistan) for interactions with government officials and community members to be able to develop a research framework based on field observations. During the visit the group of experts agreed to revisit the MWG mission and its structure by forming six Technical Working Groups (TWGs). The MWG was renamed as the UIB-N.

The Indus River basin is shared by Afghanistan, China, India, and Pakistan, and the impacts of climate change on the water resources of the basin are of equal concern for all the basin countries. A neutral, science-based regional platform like the UIB-N can play an important role in fostering coordination among researchers working in the region. Such a platform can allow them to share experiences, knowledge, and understanding and enhance their capacity to effectively deal with the effects of climate change on water resources as well as on the upstream–downstream linkages.

A Regional UIB-N workshop was organized in Kathmandu on 24–25 April 2018. Participants represented different government and non-government organizations of Afghanistan, China, India, and Pakistan, and other international research and academic organizations. The workshop participants highlighted the importance of the regional network and the need to build on its achievements, mainly from Pakistan, and to make it a regional platform for addressing emerging issues of the entire UIB. The participants mutually agreed to expand the UIB-N to other countries in the basin – Afghanistan, China, and India.



Vision

A resilient and empowered UIB region through science-based regional cooperation

Mission

Promote coordination and collaboration among organizations working in the UIB for improved understanding of present and future water availability, demand, and hazards and to develop gender sensitive solutions for all the stakeholders

Core Principles

1	People centric	Contribute to enhancing the adaptive capacities and resilience of people, especially mountain women, men, and children
2	Voluntary contribution	Voluntarily contribute to the society by promoting shared understanding, experiences, and potential solutions to the Indus basin's climatic issues
3	Value	Add value to the existing knowledge and adaptive capacities of key stakeholders
4	Neutrality	Avoid sensitive bilateral or regional issues to establish neutrality
5	Regional approach	Encourage regional approach to address the Indus basin's issues

Objectives

1. Promote regional cooperation and collaboration among organizations working in the UIB to improve understanding through scientific knowledge sharing related to climate, cryosphere, water, hazards, and adaptation
2. Collaboration with key national and international networks and forums such as the Indus Forum to support the formulation of evidence-based regional policies and strategies
3. Strengthen the upstream–downstream linkage for shared economic premium of the Indus basin
4. Develop context-specific and gender-sensitive solutions for sustainable water resources and water-induced hazards management for the UIB communities through regional experience and knowledge sharing
5. Capacity building of partners through interactions, knowledge sharing, and synergies for regional cooperation

Key Focus Area

The UIB-N aims to address the following 10 crucial questions:

1. What were the climatic trends and variabilities in the basin in the past, and how will they be in the future?
2. What is the state of various cryosphere components (glacier, snow, and permafrost), how are they changing with time, and how will they change in the future under climate change?
3. How can the present observation system be strengthened to support issues laid out in questions 1 and 2?
4. How can the effectiveness of data collection, quality control, and dissemination be enhanced at the national and regional levels?
5. How will climate change and cryosphere dynamics impact water availability in the future?
6. What will the water demand scenario of the future be like?
7. How can supply–demand gaps be addressed?
8. What are the most suitable and sustainable development options for the basin's upstream region?
9. What are the natural hazard hotspots, and how is vulnerability changing?
10. What could the impact of cryospheric changes on the ecosystem be?

These questions can be periodically revisited and revised on the basis of the basin's regional and global priorities.

Technical Working Groups

There are six technical working groups (TWGs) of the Regional UIB-N. TWGs were renamed by the members during the April 2018 Regional UIB-N workshop. An additional group, TWG 7, was also discussed; initially it was named Advocacy and Policy, but during group work, participants mutually agreed to rename it Knowledge Communication. Since Knowledge Communication and Gender cut across all working groups, it was proposed that these be retained as crosscutting themes.

The following are the Regional UIB-N TWGs:

TWG	TWGs Names
Group 1	Framework of data collection, quality, and standardization
Group 2:	Climate change, air pollution variability, and black carbon
Group 3:	Cryosphere monitoring and modelling
Group 4:	Surface and groundwater hydrology, water availability, and demand
Group 5:	Understanding and managing hazards and risks
Group 6:	Managing gendered socioeconomic impacts through adaptation measures

Governance Structure

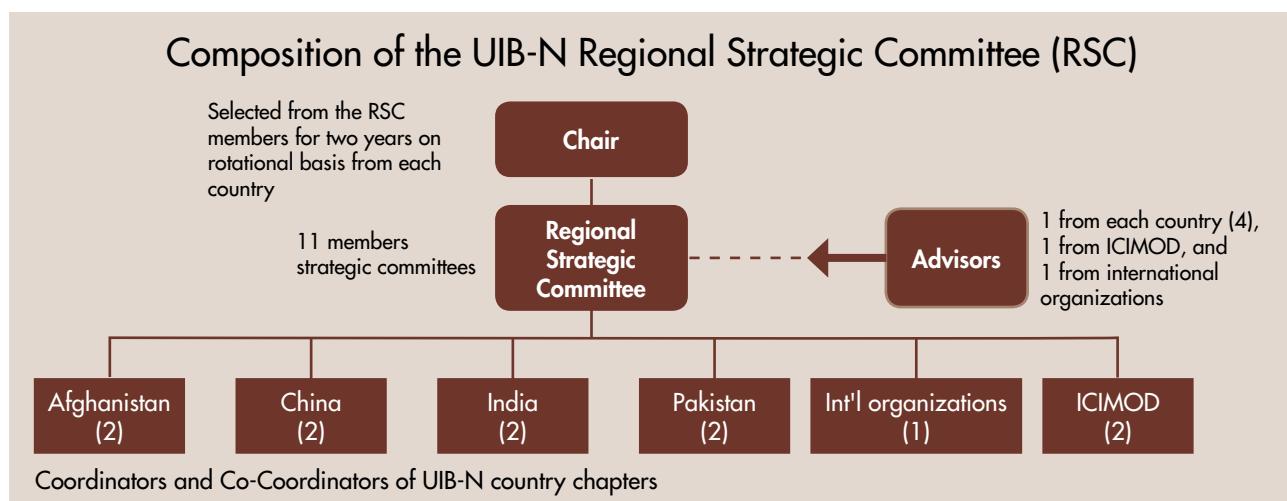
The governance structure of the Regional UIB-N comprises three main components:

Regional Strategic Committee

The Regional UIB-N will be governed through a Regional Strategic Committee (RSC) headed by the Chairperson. The committee will be constituted by two members (Coordinator and Co-Coordinator) from each member country together with one member from any relevant international organization and two members from ICIMOD. The Regional UIB-N will encourage women members to participate as RSC representatives and maintain gender balance within the UIB governance structure. The RSC will be composed of 11 members in total.

The Chairperson will be selected for a period of two years from among the RSC members. The position will be rotated every two years among the member countries in alphabetical order. Additionally, there will be a group of Advisors who will provide technical support to the RSC as and when needed. The members will nominate/recommend one Advisor from each member country (in addition to the RSC member), one Advisor from relevant international organizations and one member from ICIMOD, who can technically assist the RSC. The RSC meeting will be held biannually to assess the functioning of the network, provide strategic guidance to the UIB-N country chapters and to discuss the future course of action. RSC members and Advisors should serve for two years. Upon completion of the two-year term, new RSC members and Advisors will be selected/elected by the respective country chapters through mutual consent. The country chapters can also decide, if they deem it necessary, to allow existing RSC members or Advisors to continue for the next term. If any country chapter decides to engage more than one Advisor, only one can participate in the Regional UIB-N Annual Meeting (RUAM).

The hierarchy within the RSC is illustrated in the chart below:



UIB-N Country Chapters and Strategic Committee

The Regional UIB-N's governance structure is rooted in the member countries. Each member country will have its UIB-N country chapter. The RSC members of each country will be the Coordinator and Co-Coordinator of their respective UIB-N country chapter.

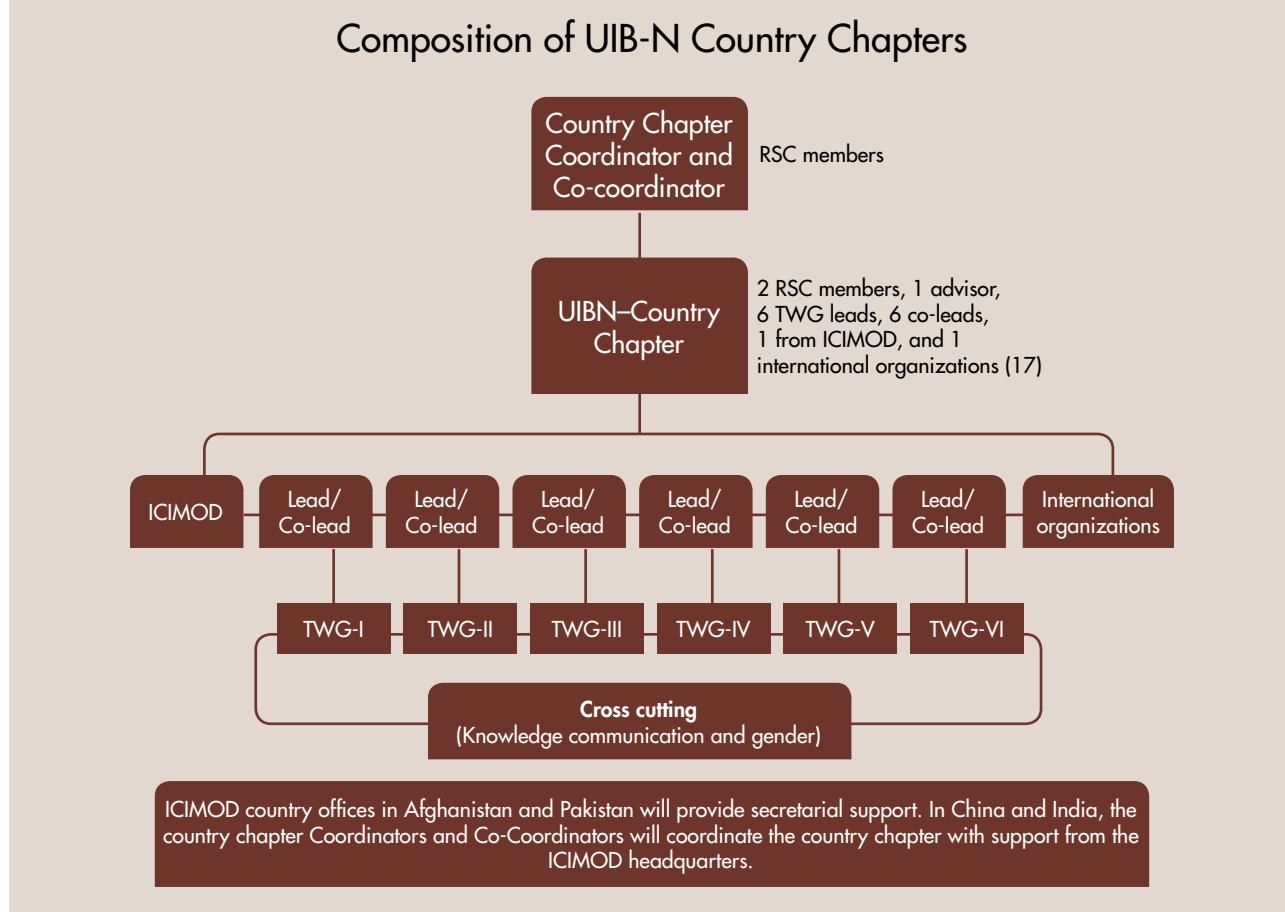
The country chapter consists of TWG Leads and Co-Leads with members of respective TWGs, Coordinator and Co-Coordinator, and Advisor from that particular country and international organization.

The UIB-N country level Strategic Committee consists of Coordinator and Co-Coordinator and Advisors. The UIB-N country chapters will ensure equal gender representation within the country level strategic committees and the TWGs. Gender inclusion will encourage voices of both women and men in decision making and leadership and promote gender perspectives among the different TWGs.

Coordinator and Co-Coordinator will liaise with the TWG Leads and Co-Leads to hold meetings, at least once every six months, of the UIB-N country chapters, before the RSC meeting to assess the TWG's progress and provide support in achieving the desired objectives. The Leads and Co-Leads of six TWGs will coordinate regularly with members of their respective working group to assess the progress. Leads and Co-Leads of TWGs will organize meetings at least every six months and as and when required.

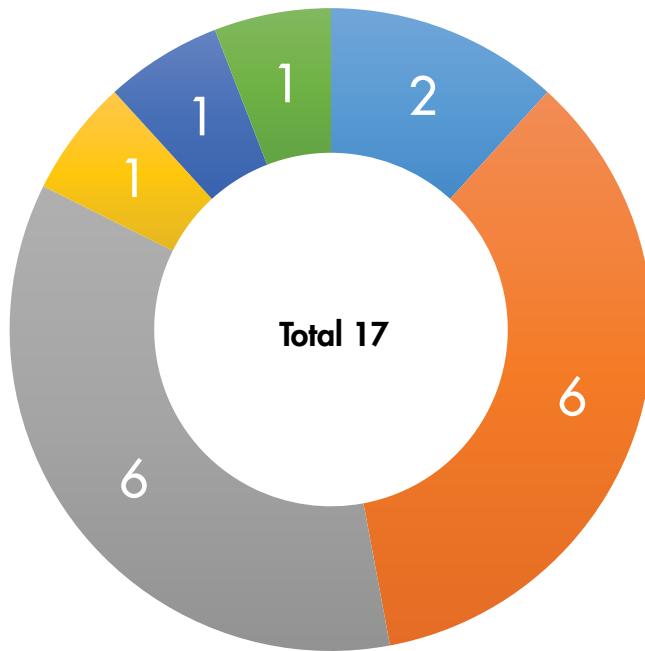
Based on these meetings, the UIB-N country chapter Coordinator and Co-Coordinator/RSC members will present their country chapter's progress in the next RSC meeting. Any member from ICIOD or other international organization can also be part of any TWG, as a member. ICIOD country offices in Afghanistan and Pakistan will provide secretarial support to their respective country chapters for organizing meetings. In China and India, ICIOD HQ will provide secretarial support.

The following is the hierarchy of the UIB-N country chapters:



The number of TWGs can be flexible according to the need of each country in the basin. The UIB-N country chapters in Afghanistan and Pakistan formalized in 2018 and country chapters in China and India will be formalized in the following years with the support of the country representatives who have participated in the UIB-N regional workshops.

Summary of the Country Chapter Members



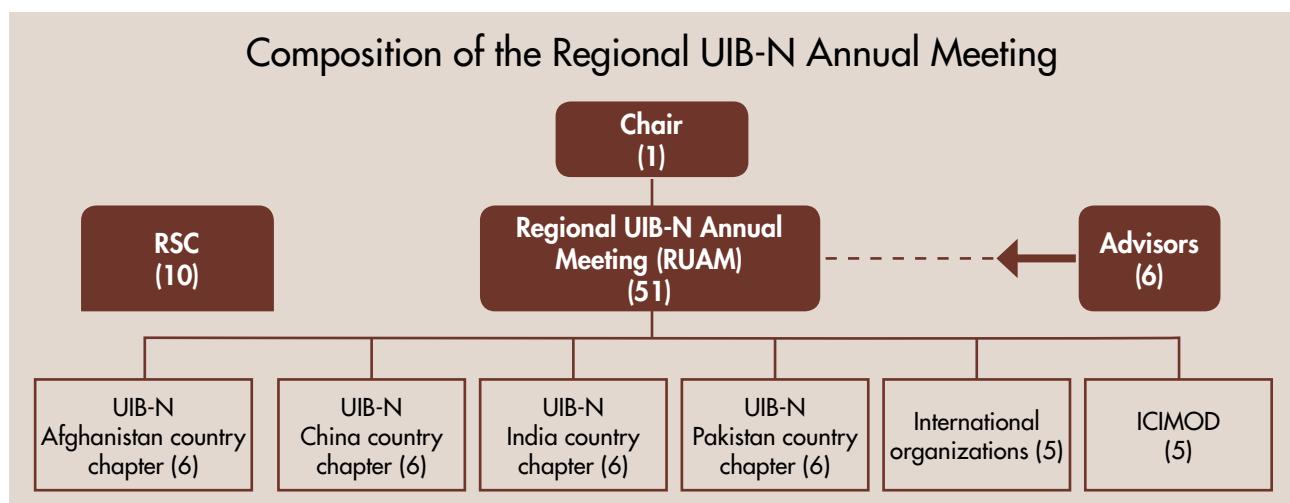
█ RSC members █ TWG leads █ TWG co-leads
█ Advisors █ ICIMOD █ International organizations

RSC members	2
TWG Leads	6
TWG Co-Leads	6
Advisors	1
ICIMOD	1
International organizations	1
Total	17

Regional UIB-N Annual Meeting

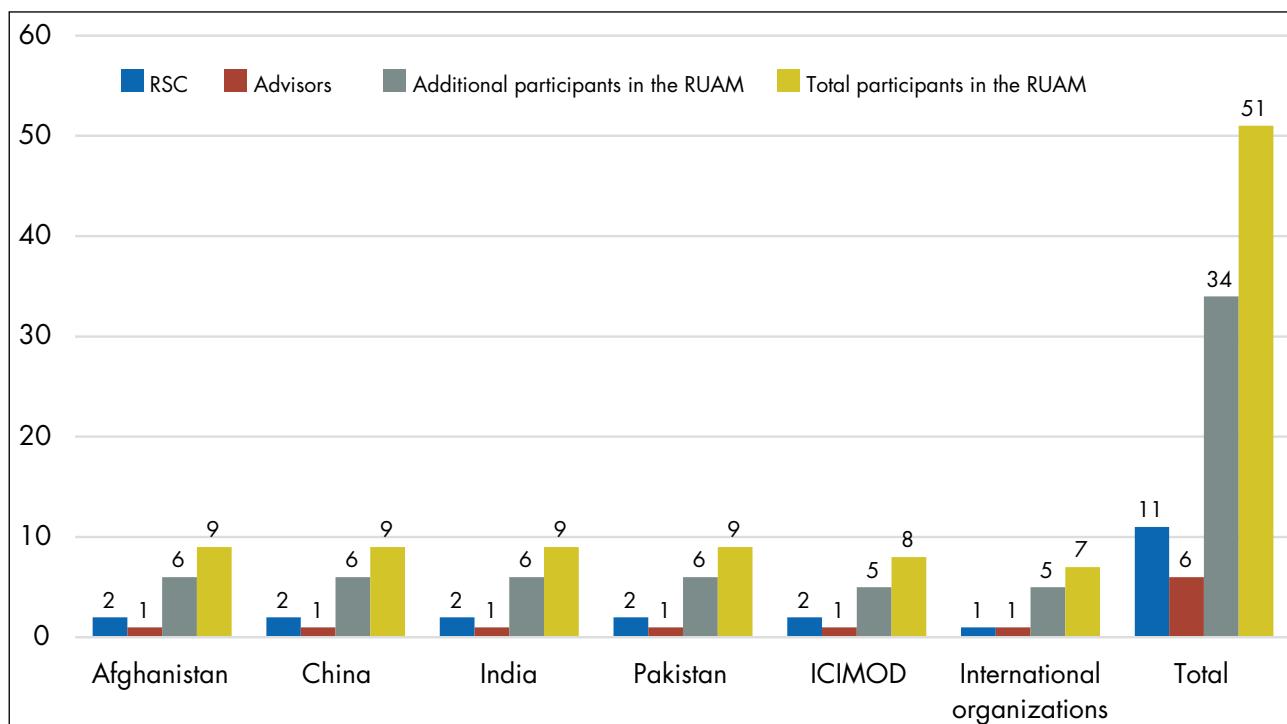
The Regional UIB-N Annual Meeting (RUAM) will be organized once a year. The Chairperson of the RSC will chair the regional annual meeting. The RUAM will be attended by the RSC members (11), Advisors (6), and the Leads of each TWG of the member countries (24). To bring in the regional prospective, 5 members from ICIMOD and 5 members from other international organizations, including those who are part of any country chapter, will participate in the regional forum. All the decisions of the RSC should be endorsed and approved by the regional annual meetings. The ICIMOD headquarters together with its country offices will provide secretarial support to the Regional UIB-N meetings.

The composition of the RUAM is presented in the following chart:



Summary of Participants

A summary of participating stakeholders in different segments of UIB-N is given below.



Operational Mechanism

Position	No. from each country	Total No. from 4 countries	Selection procedure	Duration
Chair	—	1	Rotated among the member countries, in alphabetical order	2 years
Advisors	1	6	1 Advisor from each member country suggested by the RSC members of the respective countries, 1 from ICIMOD and 1 from any international organization	TBD by RSC on need basis
RSC Members	2	11	Recommended by the country chapters with mutual consent, 8 from member countries (2x4), 2 from ICIMOD and 1 from any international organization	2 years
TWG Leads	6	24	Selected by the TWG members by mutual consent	2 years
TWG Co-Leads	6	24	Selected by the TWG members by mutual consent	2 years
TWG Members	3* >	72 >	Suggested by the country chapter, TWG members and ICIMOD	

* 6 TWGs in each country (it can be less than 6 based on each's country need)

* Each TWG is expected to have at least 3 or more members with equal gender representation.

Entry and Exit Mechanism

1. The RSC member should be recommended by the UIB-N country chapters with mutual consent.
2. The UIB-N country chapter will recommend a new RSC member in case of maturity of the term or voluntary end of tenure of any member of the RSC.
3. The RSC members will automatically lose their RSC membership if they do not attend any three consecutive meetings of the UIB-N country chapter, RSC, and regional forum.

4. One-third of the RSC members will retire each year after completing the first term of two years. The retiring members would be evenly distributed among the countries, international organizations, and ICIMOD.
5. Preferably, representatives from each country will voluntarily decide who will retire. However, if there is no consensus, then the one who attended the UIB-N events less frequently over the past two years will automatically retire.
6. Any RSC member who retires from their service but is still willing to contribute to the Regional UIB-N should inform the RSC about his/her retirement from his/her service.
7. The UIB-N country chapters can suggest new potential TWG members who can effectively contribute to the group.
8. New members can be suggested to the respective strategic committee through their Secretariat along with a short profile of the candidate for further discussion and final approval based on some set criteria developed by the strategic committee.
9. The RSC will have the authority to decide on the entry and exit of the Advisors as and when needed. The TWG members and UIB-N country chapters will have the authority to mutually decide on the replacement of any TWG Leads and Co-Leads, as and when needed.
10. The general memberships will be reviewed every two years to assess new entries, status of total memberships, attendance, contributions, and pro-activeness. The total number of members should not exceed a certain number (to be decided by the county strategic committee), so the entry and exit of members should be balanced to keep the total number of members within the agreed limit.

Some Basic Criteria

1. Those who join the UIB-N (regional and country chapters) do so purely on a voluntary basis and the entry and exit of the members should be approved by the RSC.
2. Any individual who is part of any organization (either public or private sector) or works in individual capacity to help achieve the shared objectives of the UIB-N is eligible for membership.
3. Those who are or want to be part of the UIB-N in any capacity should be from a relevant organization (public or private sector) or individuals who share the UIB-N objectives.
4. The UIB-N members understand and are willing to contribute proactively to help achieve the UIB-N objectives for regional cooperation.
5. The UIB-N members are willing to use their own resources for coordinating, knowledge sharing, and networking with other concerned members, TWGs, RSC, etc.
6. Gender inclusion/balance must be ensured at every tier of the UIB-N's structure.
7. The TWG Leads and Co-Leads are selected by the group members with mutual consent.
8. The selected Leads and Co-Leads must accept their role willingly and be committed to play his/her role proactively.
9. There should be at least 40% representation of women in the TWGs and RSC.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following are some of the basic roles and responsibilities of the UIB-N members who contribute to the forum in different capacities. These are just a few guiding points which can be changed and improved by the members over time.

Chairperson, Regional Strategic Committee

1. Provide leadership and governance to set the strategic direction of the RSC and Regional UIB-N to achieve the desired results of regional cooperation.
2. Promote effective relationships, open communication, and a conducive environment for constructive discussions among the RSC members and UIB-N country chapters.
3. Ensure gender inclusion/balance within the Regional and National UIB-N.
4. Convene the RSC meetings biannually and Regional UIB-N meeting annually.
5. Set the meeting's agenda in consultation with the RSC members.

6. Together with RSC members, assess and make necessary recommendations to the UIB-N country chapters and TWGs for improved coordination and operation.
7. Promote the UIB-N in national, regional, and global forums and seek opportunities to use the UIB-N's knowledge in relevant policy and planning processes.
8. Develop a strategy for the financial sustainability of the UIB-N.
9. Additionally, the Chair shares all other roles and responsibilities as a common member of the UIB-N.

Regional Strategic Committee Members

1. Highlight issues of regional interest to create healthy discussions for regional cooperation
2. Communicate regularly with TWG leads on progress made, issues, and gaps identified.
3. Communicate regularly with Regional UIB-N Advisors and jointly address identified issues.
4. Suggest a way forward after Regional UIB-N meetings based on the meeting findings.
5. Suggest working mechanisms for on-ground implementation of key Regional UIB-N decisions;
6. Suggest date and venue, agenda, and objectives of the future UIB-N meetings.
7. Develop a mechanism of coordination among the UIB-N, policy makers, and community members.
8. Provide technical inputs to and feedback on funding proposals developed by TWGs.
9. Provide inputs to knowledge products developed by TWGs, i.e., guidebook on data collection, sharing mechanism/policy, and establishment of a data (met, hydrological, socioeconomic) repository.
10. Promote gender inclusion within the TWGs, i.e., data collection, gendered impacts of air pollution and water insecurity, hazards and risk management, and policy implications.
11. Provide guidelines to integrate new and relevant members in the Regional UIB-N and UIB-N country chapters and to improve its operational mechanism.
12. Provide facilitation for resolving conflicts or issues among the TWGs, if any.
13. Provide a leadership role to the UIB-N country chapters as country chapter Coordinators and Co-Coordinators to keep the TWGs mobilized and convene regular meetings.
14. Contribute in developing strategy for the financial sustainability of the UIB-N.
15. Suggest changes in the governance framework for smooth functioning of the network.

Country Chapter Strategic Committee

The Country Chapter Strategic Committee will be composed of the Country Coordinator, Co-Coordinator, and Advisor/s. The committee will have the following responsibilities:

1. Meet at least thrice a year to review the progress made by the country chapter and the TWGs and provide necessary strategic advice in line with the changing context on matters such as national policies, research, and knowledge needs.
2. Act as a custodian of the country chapter, taking into account the UIB-N governance framework as a basic guiding document.
3. Review and approve entry of new members in the UIB-N country chapter.
4. Represent the UIB-N country chapter in the Regional UIB-N meeting and present the country chapter's progress.
5. Provide support in developing funding proposals together with the TWGs.
6. Contribute in developing strategy for the financial sustainability of the UIB-N.
7. Promote the UIB-N through coordination with other forums and relevant government ministries and institutions.
8. Ensure that the country chapter periodic meetings are held and prepare and approve meeting agenda and minutes.
9. Ensure that the country chapter operates according to the letter and spirit of the governance framework.

Technical Working Group Leads and Co-Leads

1. Invite new members to the working groups based on their research experience and interest and ensure gender representation.
2. The Leads, together with the Co-Leads, should proactively develop a plan and lead the group to collect information about ongoing research and activities implemented by the team members and others in the UIB on topics related to the working groups and crosscutting issues of regional importance.
3. Emphasize the importance of bringing a gender perspective on issues addressed by the TWGs to unpack relations of power, of inclusion and exclusion and to make policy and practice more relevant to people's differentiated needs and responses.
4. Present the progress update of the group in the UIB-N country chapter meetings and share the report with the Regional UIB-N Secretariat bi-annually.
5. Organize TWG meetings regularly (face-to-face or virtual) to share collected information among respective team members.
6. With support from the Secretariat, update archives/database of collected information and experiences, to be hosted on the Regional UIB-N website.
7. Develop policy briefs and/or factsheets as and when required (e.g., if the Climate Change Adaptation Plan for an area is available develop policy briefs or factsheets of the plan).
8. Participate and contribute to the periodic Regional UIB-N, UIB-N country chapter, and TWG meetings, as and when needed.
9. Report during Regional UIB-N meetings on progress made by the working groups, data generated and shared, and major publications produced, if any.
10. Coordinate with the Regional UIB-N Secretariat and other Working Group Leads to ensure integration and maintain synergy among the working groups.
11. Inform the RSC about the progress made by the working group and support in making decisions about the future plans of the network.
12. Help the Secretariat maintain a complete track record of their working groups.
13. In the absence of one, the other (Lead or Co-Lead) will represent the group.
14. The TWG Leads and Co-Leads would be from any relevant government or non-government organizations working in the UIB in the relevant field/s.
15. Additionally, the TWG Leads and Co-Leads share all other roles and responsibilities of TWG members.

Technical Working Group Members

1. One can be a regular member of a TWG based on one's research experience and interest. The regular member can also contribute to other TWGs based on his/her interest.
2. Support the Lead and the Co-Lead to collect, compile and share information on the ongoing researches in the UIB on topics related to the working group and the crosscutting issues (such as gender and climate change).
3. TWG members should contribute specifically to the network in addition to roles and responsibilities in their respective organizations.
4. In the absence of the Lead and Co-Lead, TWG members should, with the Lead or Co-Lead's consent, present the progress update of the group in the Regional UIB-N meetings and share the report with the UIB-N Secretariat bi-annually.
5. Participate in TWG regular meetings (face-to-face or virtual) for sharing collected information and contribute as per the plan and need.
6. Support the Lead and Co-Lead to keep track of their working groups, and compile the group progress updates and PPTs.
7. Participate and contribute to the periodic Regional UIB-N, UIB-N country chapter, and TWG meetings.

Frequency of Meetings

Convening bodies/ events	Frequency of meetings	Responsibility to coordinate and decide on agenda	Secretarial support
RUAM	Annually	Chairperson through RSC	ICIMOD HQ with its country offices
RSC	Biannually	Chairperson through RSC	ICIMOD HQ with its country offices
Advisors	Need based	Chairperson through RSC	ICIMOD HQ with its country offices
Country chapter SC	Thrice a year	Country chapter Coordinators/ Co-Coordinators	Country offices and country chapter Coordinators/Co-Coordinators
UIB-N country chapters	Biannually	Country chapter Coordinators/Co-Coordinators	Country offices and country chapter Coordinators/Co-Coordinators
TWGs	Continuous coordination (physically and virtually)	TWG Leads and Co-Leads	Country offices and country chapter Coordinators/Co-Coordinators

Upper Indus Basin Network (UIB-N) Technical Working Group (TWG) Reporting Template

Reporting period: From <input type="text"/>	To <input type="text"/>	Group Lead <input type="text"/>
Name of TWG		Country <input type="text"/> Co-Lead <input type="text"/>
Activity update: <i>(What, when, where, and why)</i>		Partners and their role <i>(Who and how)</i>
Further opportunities/ upcoming events <i>(What next)</i>		Challenges
Activity 1.2	Activity	
Activity update <i>(What, when, where, and why)</i>		Partners and their role <i>(Who and how)</i>
Further opportunities/ upcoming events <i>(What next)</i>		Challenges

Consolidation and Dissemination of Knowledge

Technical Working Group Reporting Mechanism

Members of the TWGs will coordinate with each other to share knowledge, understanding, issues, and possible solutions. It is important to ensure close coordination and cooperation within and among the TWGs for better results. The TWG Leads and Co-Leads will prepare the TWG progress update following the simple reporting template (provided below) and share it with the respective country chapters for discussion and inter/intra group coordination. The country chapter Coordinators and Co-Coordinators with the help of country Secretariat will consolidate the report and present in the following biannual RSC meeting and regional annual meeting.

Knowledge Management and Communication

Knowledge Management and Communication will be a crosscutting theme for the UIB-N and an integral part of all TWGs and strategic committees. A knowledge management and communication strategy will be developed in the future.

The Regional UIB-N Secretariat is creating a web portal to share relevant knowledge and available information related to the UIB among the UIB-N members and hold discussions on different critical topics. All the UIB-N members (regional and country chapters) are part of the web portal and receive the new posts through email. The members can comment on the posts to provide their views and critical feedback. Members are encouraged to use the platform to actively participate in the discussions as well as to share new knowledge and information with other members. It is expected that at some point in time the knowledge shared through the web portal will be consolidated and synthesized knowledge products will be produced.

To add a gender perspective on the relevant knowledge, information, and policies, the Regional UIB-N web portal will host a gender portal. The gender portal will be focused on the Indus Basin and will shed light on gender realities, build downstream-upstream synergies and promote dialogue to ensure women's agency in food-water-energy governance.

The UIB-N members are expected to build on their shared knowledge and adopt a transboundary approach to deal with the effects of climate change on the UIB.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A detailed theory of change will be developed for the UIB-N to define the intended changes or impact. The theory of change will help define progress indicators for both the short and long term. The UIB-N country chapters will define their monitoring and evaluation plans based on the theory of change.

Resource Allocation

1. ICIMOD will support the Regional UIB-N biannual RSC meetings.
2. ICIMOD will support the RUAM.
3. International partners will cover their own expenses to attend any UIB-N meeting/s.
4. ICIMOD will partially support the UIB-N country chapter meetings where as the members are expected to host country chapter meetings.
5. UIB-N country chapter members will cover their own expenses to attend the country chapter meetings.
6. TWG members to cover their expenses to coordinate, organize, and attend any TWG meetings.
7. ICIMOD country offices in Afghanistan and Pakistan will provide secretarial support to the UIB-N country chapters.
8. ICIMOD HQ and its country offices will jointly provide secretarial support to the Regional UIB-N and RSC meetings and also provide support to UIB-N country chapters in India and China.
9. It is envisaged that the RSC and UIB-N country chapters will develop financial plans for sustainability and independent functioning of the network. During the RSC meetings and the UIB-N's annual and country chapter meetings, it is imperative to discuss in detail how to mobilize resources to sustainably run the network in the long run.

Conflict of Interest

The UIB-N members agree to act in the best interest of the network together with other members. The individual shall notify in writing if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists or arises during the course of the coordination and networking for knowledge sharing. The network is purely a voluntary and neutral forum of scientists, researchers, and development practitioners to share understandings, experiences, and research related to the Indus basin. Therefore, it will not take on issues other than its mandate especially bilateral and regional matters which are sensitive and conflicting in nature at the government/s level.



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