



FOUR DECADES FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

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FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE



ICIMOD's engagement in the HKH is built on efforts to strengthen resilience among communities, confront the climate crisis, and implement on-the-ground solutions through cooperation that transcends boundaries.

Pema Gyamtsho

Director General, ICIMOD



Foreword

Investing in mountains

In today's vulnerable and interconnected world – reeling under the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution – the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region needs evidence-based action through ambitious partnerships that address its needs like never before.

The highest mountain system in the world, the HKH hosts a high-density population extending 3,500 km over all or part of eight countries from Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east. The rivers originating from its high-altitude glaciers support the lives and livelihoods of nearly two billion people, including those living in the downstream basins. The region boasts a rich diversity of culture as well as an incredible biodiversity of flora and fauna distributed across a range of ecosystems.

Over the last decades, the HKH has experienced rapid and extensive change, and the impacts are projected to worsen. As an organisation that was founded to improve the lives and safeguard the environments of the HKH region, ICIMOD has stressed the importance of mountains since the early 1980s. Over these years, it has served the region by generating and sharing knowledge to develop solutions to critical mountain problems.

Forty years of ICIMOD have meant 40 years of work towards a greener, more inclusive, and climate-resilient HKH. This book is an attempt to capture some of that work. The landmarks described in the pages that follow are not, by any account, comprehensive. However, they are attempts to provide an overview of the work that has been done and the feats that have been accomplished over the years. Every individual, group, and organisation associated with ICIMOD has contributed to what it is today.

Thank you all for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pema Gyamtsho'.

Pema Gyamtsho

Director General, ICIMOD

**ICIMOD and its regional member countries gratefully
acknowledge the generous support of**

Austria, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland
for core and programme funding

and

Australia, Canada's International Development
Research Centre, the European Union,
Finland, Germany, the United Kingdom,
the United States of America,
and the World Bank
for project funding

MESSAGES

As ICIMOD turns 40, the need to ensure that we continue to study what is happening in the HKH region is as critical as ever.

The ICIMOD Board, Programme Advisory Committee, and Steering Committee call upon all to take action and reaffirm their commitments to protect the HKH region and safeguard the livelihoods of its people.





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Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu

BHUTAN
Believe

SECRETARY

MOENR/SEC/ICIMOD/96/2023/268

September 27, 2023

MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Royal Government of Bhutan is delighted to extend its warmest felicitations and sincere appreciation to the Centre, its Governing Board, Member States, and all partners for their outstanding contributions to the sustainable development of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region.

As a founding member of ICIMOD, Bhutan has had the privilege to witness firsthand the Centre's remarkable journey in becoming a leading regional knowledge and learning hub on integrated mountain development. ICIMOD's work has been instrumental in addressing the complex development challenges faced by the HKH region, including promoting sustainable mountain development. The Centre has also been a leading voice on climate change and its impacts on the HKH region, and its work has helped to raise awareness of the challenges facing the region and to develop solutions to address these challenges.

I am particularly honored that Bhutan is currently the chair of the ICIMOD board, and I take this opportunity to reaffirm Bhutan's unwavering commitment to ICIMOD and to promoting the common interests of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region.

As we celebrate ICIMOD's 40th anniversary, let us recommit ourselves to working together to build a more sustainable and prosperous future for the HKH region and its people.

(Karma Tshering)
Chair of ICIMOD Board



Md. Mashiur Rahman ndc
Secretary
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Message

On the auspicious occasion of the 40th anniversary of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Bangladesh extends its warmest congratulations and heartfelt appreciation for the remarkable journey of promoting sustainable mountain development.

ICIMOD's relentless dedication to fostering collaboration among countries sharing the Hindu Kush Himalayan ranges has been pivotal. Bangladesh, despite being a lowland country, recognizes the vital role these mountains play in our region's ecological balance, water resources, and climate regulation. Moreover, the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), which is one tenth of the whole country, are the extension of HKH and directly influenced by mountain climates.

Over the past four decades, ICIMOD's research, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building initiatives have significantly contributed to addressing the unique challenges faced by mountain communities. As climate change increasingly impacts our planet, the importance of ICIMOD's initiatives in preserving these fragile ecosystems are of great significance.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding our precious mountains and the communities that rely on them. Together, we can face the pressing challenges of our times and ensure a brighter future for the world's mountains and the inhabitants.

Congratulations on 40 years of excellence, ICIMOD. The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the ICIMOD the assurances of its highest consideration.

(Md. Mashiur Rahman ndc)

Date: 07 September 2023
Place: Dhaka



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CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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Congratulation Letter to ICIMOD's 40th Anniversary

Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is delighted to extend warmest congratulations on the remarkable occasion of ICIMOD's 40th Anniversary on behalf of China !

ICIMOD, as an inter-governmental organization, has played an important role in uniting regional member countries in pursuing scientific knowledge, learning and sharing good policies and practices, technology transfer and capacity development, and networking academic and development institutions. It has, without a doubt, provided an invaluable platform for fostering collaboration in the HKH region.

China, as a founding member, has actively participated in ICIMOD's programmes and has made significant contributions to it's core funding besides providing additional support through project funding and professional expertise. China's commitment to joint regional research, capacity building and networking through ICIMOD and financial contribution to Chinese Committee on ICIMOD (CNICIMOD) operation exemplifies its profound dedication to sustainable development in the HKH region.

The challenges facing the Hindu Kush Himalaya region today are multifaceted, encompassing challenges of climate change, sustainable socioeconomic development, biodiversity conservation, and environmental preservation. ICIMOD's visionary Strategy 2030, focusing on adaptation, environmental risk management, resilient landscapes, and the promotion of regional cooperative institutions, stands as a testament to your resolve to support the region to address these challenges through enhanced cooperation.

Looking ahead, China reaffirms its unwavering cooperation and support for ICIMOD and will continue to actively participate in ICIMOD's programmes including its mission to further strengthen regional cooperation in pursuit of a more sustainable, prosperous, and resilient HKH region.

Chinese Academy of Sciences



सत्यमेव जयते



LIFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

लीना नन्दन
LEENA NANDAN

सचिव
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST
& CLIMATE CHANGE



MESSAGE

The 40th anniversary of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), is a significant milestone and underscores the importance of this inter-governmental organisation. India, as a founding member, has been represented on ICIMOD's Board of Governors since 1983. Eight countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan - have worked in close coordination over the years and collaborated in various areas relevant to the Hindu Kush – Himalayan mountain ranges.

Assigning high priority to ICIMOD, India has been contributing annually to its core funds and has also been providing in-kind scientific, technical and institutional support for programme implementation. With the climate change challenges that the region is facing, ICIMOD's role as a convener for exchange of scientific knowledge and practices among the member countries, will continue to be pivotal.

It is therefore a pleasure and privilege to reconfirm India's continued support and commitment to ICIMOD.


(Leena Nandan)

Dated : 1st September, 2023
Place: New Delhi



THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
FOREST DEPARTMENT



Message

It is with immense pleasure that we reach out to you today to mark a significant milestone in the journey of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). This momentous occasion not only celebrates four decades of unwavering commitment to mountain development, environments, and peoples, but also highlights the collaborative efforts that have been instrumental in shaping sustainable futures for the Hindu Kush Himalayan region.

From Myanmar, we want to express our sincere gratitude for having had the opportunity to work alongside ICIMOD on a variety of critical conservation initiatives. The support and expertise provided by ICIMOD have played a significant role in advancing our capabilities within areas such as climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, water resource management, and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Moreover, dedication of ICIMOD to preserving biodiversity has been inspirational and aligns seamlessly with our national goals towards environmental sustainability.

Since its inception, ICIMOD has championed research, provided expert knowledge, and fostered policies that have significantly enriched not only environmental conservation efforts but also the lives of countless communities. ICIMOD's efforts in promoting regional cooperation and sharing best practices across borders have undeniably contributed to uplifting local livelihoods while safeguarding our precious ecosystems. Once again, congratulations on forty years of excellence. May ICIMOD continue to grow stronger and achieve even greater heights in the years ahead.

Thaung Naing Oo Ph.D.

Director General

Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation



Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha
Vice Chairman

Government of Nepal
National Planning Commission
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

MESSAGE


I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on the momentous occasion of its 40th anniversary.

As the host country of the ICIMOD Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal takes immense pride in witnessing the growth, impact, and accomplishments of this esteemed institution over the past four decades. ICIMOD's unwavering commitment to promoting sustainable mountain development has not only contributed significantly to the well-being of the mountain communities but has also played a pivotal role in addressing the environmental challenges facing our region.

The collaboration between ICIMOD and its eight member countries has been instrumental in fostering regional cooperation, knowledge exchange, and the implementation of innovative solutions to the unique challenges posed by our mountainous terrain. The exchange of expertise, research findings, and best practices has not only enriched the scientific community but has also informed policy decisions that impact the lives of those residing in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region.

As we celebrate ICIMOD's achievements and milestones, Nepal reaffirms its steadfast commitment to supporting the institution in its mission to promote sustainable development in mountainous regions.

November 2023


(Vice-Chairman)



MESSAGE

As Regional Member Countries, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan, celebrate the 40th year of invaluable collaborations at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), we wish to reaffirm our support and deep commitment to this esteemed organization. From its establishment in 1983, ICIMOD has been instrumental in addressing the unique challenges faced by the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, and Pakistan has been proud to be a founding member of this collaborative endeavor.

Over the years, our engagement with ICIMOD has led to significant contributions in areas such as ecosystem restoration, early warning systems, food security and innovative initiatives like the adoption of zig-zag brick kiln technology. ICIMOD's leadership in shaping the agenda and narrative on critical issues such as water, climate, environment, and loss & damage for the HKH region, at the global platforms, is commendable.

As we enter ICIMOD's 41st year, Pakistan looks forward to strengthening this partnership and continuing to work together to tackle the diverse challenges and opportunities that the mountain region of the HKH presents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rai'.

(Mr. Muhammad Mahmood)

Secretary

Ministry of National Food Security & Research
Government of Pakistan

(02 Nov 23)



40 Years of ICIMOD: An HKH Legacy

Over four decades ago, a group of pioneers with great vision and foresight joined forces and built the fundament of what grew into the large and world-renowned ICIMOD. Before others did, they foresaw that pressing global challenges like climate change and poverty were of utmost importance for the mountain regions of the Hindu Kush Himalaya and that these fragile ecosystems, home to countless communities, would soon find themselves on the frontlines of environmental and socio-economic crises. They understood that the HKH region, with its unparalleled beauty and hosting some of the world's most iconic landscapes and biodiversity, contained remarkable complexity and vulnerability.

Back in the 1980s, climate change was already wreaking havoc, with melting glaciers, erratic weather patterns, flooding, declining biodiversity and air pollution posing a severe threat to both the environment and the livelihoods of the women, men, and youth of the mountain regions. Concurrently, poverty seemed to become a persistent issue, as limited economic opportunities, lack of gender and social inclusion, infrastructural challenges, political tensions, and lack of long-term pro-resilience policy restricted the region's socio-economic growth.

Thanks to the indomitable spirit and dedication of these pioneer leaders and individuals deeply committed to making a difference, ICIMOD was created. Today, the Centre is thriving, thanks to the visionary and passionate men and women who stood on the shoulders of ICIMOD's founders. They all contribute with their own expertise and from within

their own role, be it as Director General and team, as executives, as experts, as regional member country members and partners, as ICIMOD Support Group members, as Board and Program Advisory Committee members, partner organisations and universities, support staff, alumni, and many other members of the huge ICIMOD network. Together, they constitute the ICIMOD Family of today and empowered to make magical things happen.

We are united in our belief in a future where the region's mountain women, men and youth can experience enhanced livelihoods and increased social and environmental security, in spite of the sometimes very disheartening natural disasters, policy challenges and other setbacks. It's a vision of a world where they can be resilient and adapt to environmental and climate change, and where the world's future generations can enjoy the benefits and opportunities afforded by nature in this region. Through its strong sense of commitment and multidisciplinary approach, ICIMOD recognises that the solution to these pressing issues lies in the heart and hands of the people living in these mountain regions.

I feel proud to be part of this journey and celebrate the achievements of ICIMOD.

Teresa Christina Fogelberg

Chair of the Programme Advisory Committee



Happy 40th Anniversary from the ICIMOD Support Group!

As Chair of the ICIMOD Support Group, I represent key partners of ICIMOD and its eminent work in climate change research and adaption in the Hindu Kush Himalaya. The study of what is happening to snow, ice, and glaciers is a crucial part of climate change research. The melting glaciers on the roof of the world, and the consequences for close to two billion people downstream are very worrying.

The Hindu Kush Himalaya, as well as the Arctic and the Antarctic regions, serve as barometers of global warming. Climate change is real, and it is happening now.

October 2023 was the warmest October month ever in world history. We already have the tools and systems in place, and we know what has to be done. We must take action to limit greenhouse gas emissions globally. The pace of climate action must keep up with the pace of climate change. Stronger international cooperation and support is needed. The efforts of ICIMOD are also needed as much as ever!

H.E. Ms Torun Dramdal, Ambassador of Norway

ICIMOD Support Group Chair



Best wishes to ICIMOD

It is my pleasure to speak about the origins and the mission of ICIMOD as I extend my best wishes to the Centre.

In 1973, some scientists of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme and a group of agriculture experts in India felt the need to fight against environmental degradation in the Himalaya by means of a regional institution.

The regional approach imposed itself due to strong interlinkages among countries in the highlands and the lowlands of the mountain range.

Subsequently, the two groups worked out goals and statutes for such an institution. They explored the interest and support of all states of the region. And they named it ICIMOD.

Nepal offered to host the Centre. Other initial sponsors were UNESCO, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Switzerland. An Interim Committee was formed by representatives of all member states and the sponsors.

I myself, being professionally acquainted with regional development in the Swiss Alps, became the Regent for the implementation of the Centre. I had to set up a work programme and prepare the nomination of the first Director as well as the inauguration in autumn 1983.

Four decades on, the wide range of the Centre's activities – from Flood Warning Systems to the Living Mountain Lab in Godavari – paints an impressive picture of the cooperation achieved among its member countries.

I extend my best wishes to ICIMOD – that it may reach, furthermore, its noble goals.

Peter Güller

Regent, ICIMOD, 1982–1984



Pūrṇa Kalaśa – the vessel of abundant life

Following are some personal reflections about the pūrṇa kalaśa or “the vessel of abundant life”. I deal with this ancient symbol in order to better understand the essence of “integrated mountain development”, which is the core task of ICIMOD.

Let me invite you to a trekking tour to the Annapurna Mountain Range in Central Nepal; more precisely, to a tour around one of its most beautiful peaks – Gangapurna.

Annapurna and Gangapurna are names of Goddesses, both of which are forms of the “Great Mother”. She appears in practically all ancient cultures around the world. We may understand her as a reflection of man’s archetypal experience of being utterly dependent on the immeasurable, overwhelming power of nature.

What is the literal meaning of the names Annapurna and Gangapurna?

The Sanskrit word anna means “food”; pūrṇa means “full” or “abundant”. Thus, Annapurna is the Mountain or the Goddess who provides abundance of food.

There is a shrine of Annapurna in Assantole, Kathmandu. Here, like in many private homes, the Goddess is represented in the form of a pot. It may be made of metal or of clay, but, invariably, it is overflowing with flowers and leaves, with abundant life and growth.

In the Sanskrit languages, this vessel is called pūrṇa kalaśa, which can best be translated as “the vessel of abundant life”.

Gangapurna, too, represents the Mother Goddess. Affectionally, she is called Gaṅgā Mā, “Mother Ganges”. She is the one who descends from the Himalayan Mountains down to the plains, being the very lifeline of millions of people and of countless generations.

But Gaṅgā Mā is more than a physical river. In a broader sense, Gaṅgā denominates the “water of life”. Thus, Gaṅgā Mā is depicted as “She who holds the pūrṇa kalaśa” – the inexplicable source of the water of life, in a physical and in a spiritual sense.

Whenever I look at photographs from my trek in the Annapurna Region, a question arises in my mind: Are these images not illustrations of what we mean by the modern term “integrated mountain development”?

Indeed, it seems to me that in the Himalayan livelihood systems, many essential features of “integrated development” can be observed. Let me just mention three of them:

The first essential feature is the respect – nay, the humility! – humans show towards the Great Mother. We call her “Nature” today, but we mean the same overwhelming power,



on which we all depend. When mankind does not show respect and humility, Nature becomes a threat or even destructive. In the photograph above, the Great Mother appears in her form of Gangapurna Peak.

The second feature is diligence and creativity. It is the skill of human beings to pile up, piece by piece, all their experiences and their knowledge. Today we call this procedure “science and technology”. A simile of this is the piled-up stone wall in the foreground of our photograph.

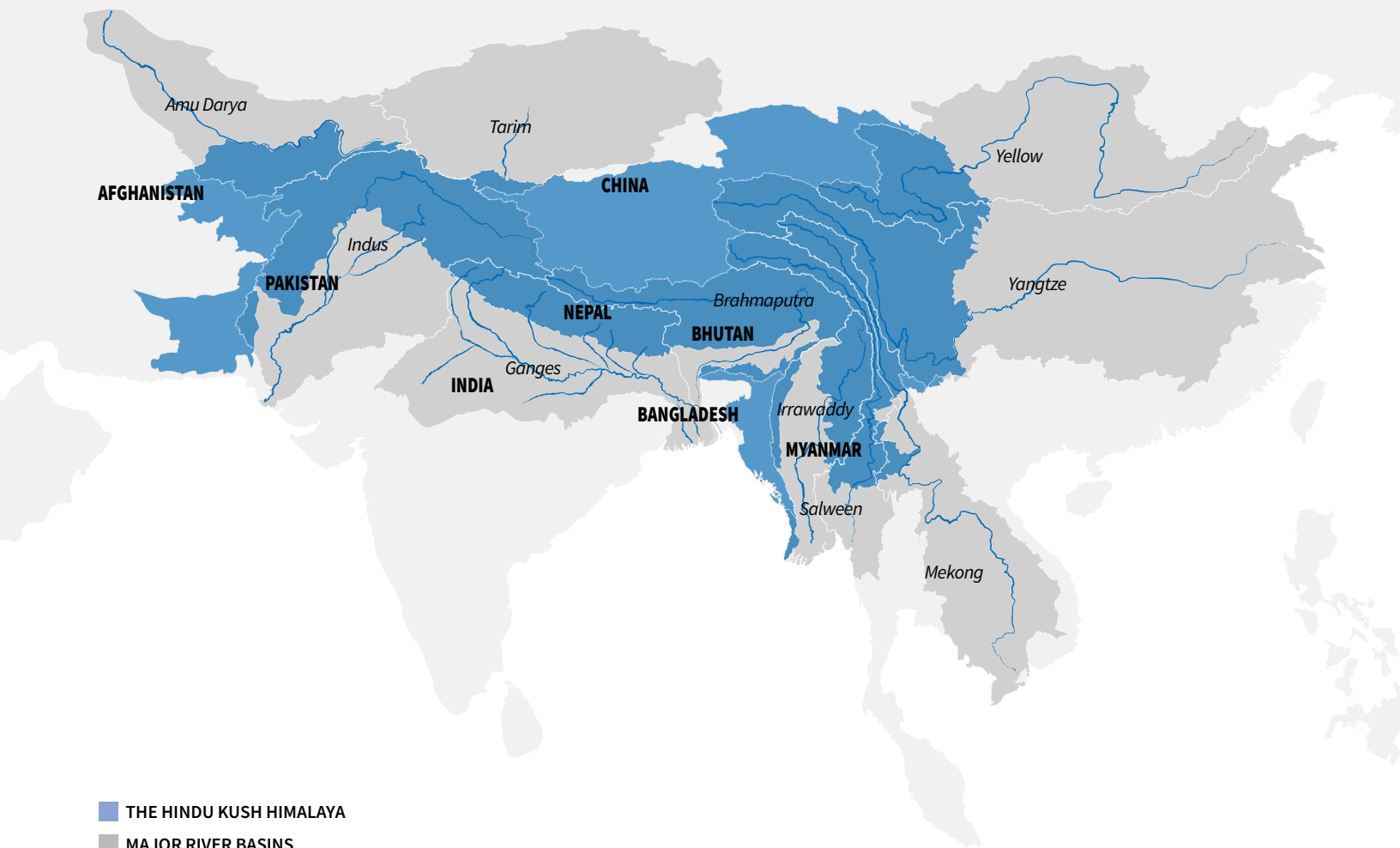
The third essential feature of integrated mountain development is the human need and urge, not only to construct material livelihood systems, but also – or even more so – to seek meaning in life, to seek mental and spiritual orientation in human existence. This urge is inherent in all cultures of all times. There are many symbols for it. One of them is the flagpole on our photograph.

It is my sincere hope and wish that ICIMOD will continue to draw inspiration from these three essential elements, not only for the benefit of the Hindu Kush Himalaya, but also to safeguard our planet as a whole – our planet, which is truly mankind’s one and only pūrṇa kalāśa.

Rudolf Högger

Chair of the Programme Advisory Committee, 1983–1991

THE HINDU KUSH HIMALAYA



- THE HINDU KUSH HIMALAYA
- MAJOR RIVER BASINS
- MAJOR RIVERS

A VISION AND MISSION FOR THE HKH

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) stretches 3,500 km from Afghanistan to Myanmar and has the highest mountain ranges in the world as well as the largest volume of ice on Earth outside the polar regions. Water flowing from the HKH mountains feeds major rivers including the Brahmaputra, Ganges, Indus, Irrawaddy, Mekong, Yangtze, and Yellow. The HKH region holds all or parts of four global biodiversity hotspots supporting diverse flora and fauna.

ICIMOD, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, based in Kathmandu, Nepal, is the leading institute for the study of this region. An intergovernmental knowledge and development organisation with a focus on climate and environmental risks, green economies and sustainable development, it has worked in and for its eight regional member countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – since its foundation in 1983.

Since the early 1980s, ICIMOD has endeavoured to work for sustainable mountain development and has shared the valuable knowledge it gathers with its member countries and the world. Since its foundation years, ICIMOD has moved on to forge a different role for itself by working with governments and partners to address broader and more context-specific

dimensions. It is now more involved in strategic and policy issues at the regional level.

Over the past 40 years, ICIMOD has worked to address emerging development needs in the region. It has embraced and disseminated innovative tools and technologies to help meet new challenges.

While many things have changed, ICIMOD's core mandate and focus have not. It is possible to trace the origins of today's interventions and programmes to those that the Centre started with four decades ago.

Some of the needs that have evolved since ICIMOD's inception are now those that are driving the development agenda. Foremost among the challenges is climate change, which connects all the regions of the world.

ICIMOD has met the challenges it faces with a focus on adaptation and mitigation building on its long history in watershed, landscape, and natural resource management.

Cross-cutting analyses of gender, governance, and economic issues, which were just emerging at ICIMOD's inception, are now an integral part of all interventions.





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MOUNTAINS**





IN THE BEGINNING

Prior to ICIMOD's foundation, the deterioration of mountain resources and the consequent devastating impacts on millions of people in the HKH were already drawing attention from scientists and world leaders.

The need for an institution that would help to promote ecologically sound development in the HKH was felt as early as the 1970s. And while ICIMOD was only formally established in 1983, almost a decade of key international meetings, discussions, and deliberations preceded this.

Key moments preceding establishment

United Nations Conference on Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June

Key insight – development and conservation of the natural environment are inextricably linked



1972

International Workshop on the Development of the Mountain Environment, German Foundation for International Development, Munich, December

Key recommendation – establish an institution for ecologically sound mountain development in Nepal

1974

Regional Meeting on Integrated Ecological Research and Training Needs in the Southern Asian Mountain Ecosystems, Kathmandu, Nepal

Key output – invitation from the then Government of Nepal to establish an international centre in Kathmandu to cater to the needs of all eight HKH countries

1975

The legal basis for ICIMOD was signed at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 30 September 1981 by the Government of Nepal and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

ICIMOD was finally established and inaugurated in December 1983 with its headquarters in the Nepali capital. The first Board of Governors Meeting was held the same year with a Board consisting of representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan, the eight regional member countries.

The importance of ICIMOD's mission was legitimised and reinforced by the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, whose Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 is devoted to sustainable mountain development.

ICIMOD's mission was further reaffirmed in 2012 at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development whose declaration 'The Future We Want' specifically mentions mountain development in its articles 210–212.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION AND HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED
MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Whereas Unesco considers it desirable to support the development of national and regional infrastructures in the field of applied ecology, with priority being given to centres of actual or potential importance at subregional, regional and international levels,

Whereas His Majesty's Government of Nepal has offered to contribute to the establishment and operation on its territory of an International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (hereinafter referred to as the "Centre"),

Desirous of concluding an agreement for the establishment and operation of the said Centre and for the definition of the terms and conditions governing the contributions provided to the Centre,

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, (hereinafter referred to as "the Organization") and His Majesty's Government of Nepal (hereinafter referred to as "the Government"), have agreed as follows:

Article I

Establishment

1. The Government undertakes to make the necessary arrangements, in 1981, so that from the time the present Agreement comes into force, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which

His Majesty's Government of Nepal
Ministry of Education & Science
Keshar Mahal

2038.

A page from the agreement signed between the Government of Nepal and UNESCO at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in 1981





FIT-FOR-PURPOSE FOR THE HKH

DECADE I: 1982–1992



First meeting of the Interim Board of Governors, Kathmandu, Nepal, 11–13 July

Key output

Statutes for the establishment of ICIMOD approved by the Board



Laying the foundations

Key events

First meeting of the Board of Governors (Kathmandu, Nepal, 30 August–1 September)

Mountain Development 2000: Challenges and Opportunities, first international symposium and inauguration (Kathmandu, Nepal, 1–5 December)

1982

1983

1984



Peter Güller appointed as regent of ICIMOD, July

Key asks

Establish necessary infrastructure and services; prepare and distribute publicity package; organise first workshop and inauguration; and ensure recruitment of the first Director General of ICIMOD



First programmes established and Professor Kenneth Colin Rosser appointed as first Director General

The first five programmes

Watershed Management, Off-Farm Employment Generation, Rural Energy Planning, Engineering in Fragile Environments, and Information Systems for Mountain Development



Centre's organisation and programmes expand, 1987–1993

The expanded portfolio looked at Mountain Land Use, Mountain Farming Systems, Mountain Social and Economic Development, Mountain Infrastructure and Technology, Mountain Development Documentation and Information Services



Contributions to the Mountain Agenda at the World Summit in Rio de Janeiro, 1992

Key output

Mountains in the world's environmental agenda

1987

1991

1992



ICIMOD Board restructured to current state and first ICIMOD Support Group formed

Key configurations

Board – eight members representing the regional member countries and seven independent members selected based on their experience and skills

Support Group – representatives from regional member countries and the international donor community

From the very start, ICIMOD's mandate and focus were the people, the natural resources, and the phenomena of the mountains of the HKH region. In working towards these goals, its programmes were always supported by cross-cutting functions on documentation, information exchange, and training.

In its formative years, the Centre worked to build its identity and niche in the HKH. It built a footing as an organisation at the interface of research and development, establishing a base of operations grounded in the region.

As ICIMOD moved out its early years, its focus was on understanding the management of natural resources in the mountains; the role they play in productivity, scarcity, and disasters; and in helping mountain people cope with their rapidly changing environment.

Over its first decade, ICIMOD delivered valuable information and knowledge about mountain research and development in the HKH. It emerged as a hub for documenting knowledge on the unique ecosystems, natural resources, and diverse populations of the HKH.

ICIMOD's research-focused beginnings laid an important foundation. It helped develop regional thinking and perspectives that were crucial to its later transformation into an action-oriented organisation. From 1988 onwards, there was a more direct emphasis on the Centre's basic task of promoting integrated mountain development as an essential tool for achieving the goal of sustainable development of vulnerable mountain regions.

The Mountain Agenda

In 1991, ICIMOD launched the Mountain Agenda with the United Nations University and the International Mountain Society.

With an aim to put mountains on the world's environmental agenda (with the Rio Conference of 1992 as the initial focus), the Mountain Agenda helped legitimise ICIMOD's mission and served as a catalyst to push the Centre further to serve the people of the HKH.

ICIMOD published three documents under this project:

- Status Report on the Mountains of the World
- Appeal Document
- Mountain Manifesto

Ultimately, the Mountain Agenda proved to be a successful, achievable way of giving public visibility to mountains and the fact that they are:

- Essential to the survival of the global ecosystem as a major ecosystem representing our planet's complex, interconnected ecology
- Important sources of water, energy, and biological diversity and of minerals and forest and agricultural products



The First International Symposium and Inauguration of ICIMOD brought together 88 policy makers, practitioners, and scholars to deliberate on how professional and scientific expertise may be mobilised in a framework of regional cooperation



A commemorative tree plantation ceremony took place in Godavari, on the south-east corner of the Kathmandu Valley, following the symposium

The Living Mountain Lab is set up as the ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre

The Government of Nepal provided 30 hectares of land to ICIMOD on in November 1992 to build a training centre for demonstration of practical technologies supporting integrated mountain development.

The area, first established as the ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre, lies on the northern slopes of Phulchowki in Godavari, the south-east corner of the Kathmandu Valley. It evolved into the ICIMOD Knowledge Park and is now the Living Mountain Lab.

It has developed into a place where different technologies and farming and other practices that contribute to sustainable development can be tested, selected, and demonstrated. The entire 30 hectares serve as a repository for plant germplasm resources and associated floral and faunal biodiversity.



Since the Godavari site was first made accessible to the public in 1994, it has welcomed close to 90,000 farmers, development practitioners, students, researchers, and other visitors into its premises



The largely degraded forest around Godavari has, over the decades, been restored – mostly through natural regeneration, a process by which trees and shrubs are renewed by natural seeding, sprouting, suckering, or layering





REVIEWING, EXPANDING, CONSOLIDATING

DECADE II: 1993–2002



10 years of ICIMOD

Underlying theme

Mountain development – constraints and opportunities



ICIMOD sets up its first local area network

Key output

Information resources delivered and shared with ease through a network of connected office computers

1993

1995

1996



New divisions and services, 1995

Key divisions

Mountain Farming Systems, Mountain Natural Resources, and Mountain Enterprises and Infrastructure

Key services

Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information Service; Documentation, Information, and Training Service; and Administration and Financial Service



First-ever glacial lake inventories undertaken in the HKH region, early 2000s

Key publications

Inventory of Glaciers, Glacial Lakes and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods: Monitoring and Early Warning Systems in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region Nepal, 2001

Inventory of Glaciers, Glacial Lakes and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Monitoring and Early Warning Systems in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region Bhutan, 2001

1999

2000

2002



Regional knowledge exchange and support to policy makers on co-management of rangelands, 1999 onwards

Key output

Participatory approach to reducing poverty among people dependent on rangelands, including developing understanding and evidence of the impacts of climate change

First International Year of Mountains and other mountain issues

Key output

ICIMOD becomes founding member of the global Mountain Partnership

Key events

First International Year of Mountains observed with Asia High Summit in Kathmandu, Nepal and Mountain Populations Summit in Sikkim, India

Key technical development

Mountain GeoPortal to facilitate sharing and dissemination of geoinformation on key mountain ecosystems for improved decision making

ICIMOD turned 10 in 1993. With a focus on mountain development and the associated constraints and opportunities, along with a push from the articulation of the Mountain Agenda at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the Centre developed its first Regional Collaborative Programme (RCP) in 1995.

Improved organisation and planning for ICIMOD

Phase I of the Regional Collaborative Programme for the Sustainable Development of the Hindu Kush Himalayas was launched on 1 January 1995. This provided a useful, practical framework for facilitating regional cooperation in the HKH.

Phase II commenced on 1 January 1999. The objective this time around was to mainstream mountain development in the HKH region. The momentum gained during RCP I was further strengthened and consolidated during RCP II (1998–2002). RCP II was developed to mainstream mountain development in the HKH region based on regional cooperation.

The two RCPs led to a new approach for better organisation and planning of ICIMOD activities to meet the needs of the HKH region.

This transformed approach, in turn, led to the importance of partnerships to grow substantially – both as a part of a concerted outreach strategy and for their role as intermediaries with mountain people.

There was a strong focus on strengthening partnerships and networking from 1998 to 2002. People were brought together from across the HKH region and given a forum to discuss governance and rights over the use of local resources in a changing climate.

By 2001, ICIMOD had carved a niche for itself and was acknowledged as a centre of excellence in mountain development. As a result, it played an important role in the celebration of the UN-declared International Year of the Mountains in 2002. It organised and co-organised several national, regional, and global events including the Asia High Summit in Kathmandu, Nepal, Celebrating Mountain Women in Paro, Bhutan, and parts of the Global Mountain Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

ICIMOD also played a lead role in forming the global Mountain Partnership, which was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, and was selected as the host of the global Mountain Forum Secretariat.



In the 1990s, ICIMOD worked to draw the attention of development planners, natural resource managers, and the international donor community to the increasing problems in mountain areas of the HKH



The HKH region was seen as among the last repositories of diversity in a world rapidly embracing industrialisation and urbanisation

Championing the cause of mountain women

The inclusion of gender perspectives across all divisions of ICIMOD's programmes had been a salient feature of the organisation since 1988. However, in 1999, a Gender Resource Centre was formally established at ICIMOD to provide space for the exchange of information on the crucial role women play in mountain farming systems and the unique challenges they face.

Furthermore, in 2000, the Gender Working Group of ICIMOD articulated that one of the main focuses of ICIMOD's activities shall be to champion the cause of mountain women.

ICIMOD will strive to ensure that human values in all their diversity are channelled into effective decision-making through participation and teamwork. ICIMOD will strive to be a learning organisation where the questioning of structured values and norms is encouraged.

In line with this vision, a gender sensitive leadership, capable of challenging entrenched development orthodoxies, will promote gender-balanced development through horizontal integration across programmes. This approach will ensure that ICIMOD maintains itself as a centre of excellence at the cutting edge of change, where life within as well as outside the workplace is creative, fulfilling, and valued.



Over the years, ICIMOD's commitment to ensuring equal opportunities has expanded to include women, the poor, persons with disabilities, people living in geographically remote areas, and people from other excluded or vulnerable groups





SECURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

DECADE III: 2003–2012



New ICIMOD headquarters

ICIMOD campus functions as regional hub for mountain dialogue

A new strategic approach

Guiding document till 2007

Medium Term Action Plan I provides greater focus to meet the needs of both grassroots beneficiaries and decision makers

ICIMOD's first Monitoring and Evaluation System

Key output

A rigorous monitoring and evaluation system developed to ensure ICIMOD could track progress towards its goals

2003

2004

2005

2007



Convention on
Biological Diversity

ICIMOD recognised by the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat as a major partner for implementing the Programme of Work on Mountains

Key output

Support to ICIMOD regional member countries in the development of policies for effective conservation

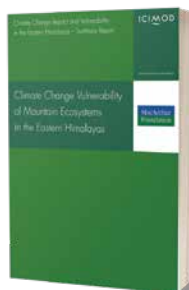
Preliminary assessment of the impacts and vulnerability of the HKH to climate change

Key activity

Rapid country-level surveys, thematic workshops, interactions with stakeholders at national and regional levels, and development of technical papers by individual experts in collaboration with institutions that synthesised the available information on the region

Key publication

Climate Change Vulnerability of Mountain Ecosystems in the Eastern Himalayas: Synthesis Report, 2010





Expanded monitoring and inventory of HKH glaciers and glacial lakes

Key output

Glacial lake inventory updated using satellite images, aerial photographs, and topographic maps from Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan

First International Conference on the Cryosphere of the HKH

Key outputs

Significant contributions to strengthening the exchange of knowledge, enhancing regional cooperation for cryosphere monitoring, promoting regional efforts to better understand the cryosphere, and formulating the initial framework for the HKH Cryosphere Knowledge Hub for regional cryosphere data and information



2009

2011

2012



4 December is celebrated as Mountain Day at COP 17

Key organisers:

ICIMOD, GIZ, and the Mountain Partnership Consortium

High-level panel assembled to advocate the value and role of mountains and call on delegates and global development partners to act to save vital mountain ecosystems from the effects of climate change



ICIMOD work results in unanimous acknowledgement of the importance of mountains in *The Future We Want*

Key output

World leaders approve the outcome document for Rio+20, entitled *The Future We Want*, adopted by 193 members of the United Nations on June 22

In the early 2000s, as ICIMOD moved into its third decade, not a lot was known in detail about the impacts of climate change on the vulnerable mountain ecosystems of the HKH region. There was an urgent need to do more to address climate change and its impacts, including transboundary water, air, and biodiversity issues.

ICIMOD had the experience, expertise, competence, and knowledge to deliver. Its long-term focus on regional cooperation meant the Centre was perfectly positioned to implement a development approach prioritising the ecological boundaries of landscapes rather than administrative boundaries. The organisation's past work on conservation corridors that go as far back at the late 1990s helped lead to its first transboundary landscape initiative in 2012.

That same year, the monitoring and evaluation system first implemented in 2005 was expanded to include the use of impact pathways. This approach allowed ICIMOD to track its impact and recognise potential opportunities to update and scale out its efforts across nations and throughout the HKH.

During this period, based on ICIMOD's accumulated experiences of over two decades and on the analysis of changing requirements, the Centre brought about a major shift in its working modalities, repositioning itself within the HKH region.

It moved from being a project-driven to an interdisciplinary centre. Its strategic areas were complementary and closely interlinked, in many cases dealing with different aspects of the same physical or social reality.





Working modalities were built around

An innovative systems approach

ICIMOD assessed and applied participatory knowledge development methods and strengthened its knowledge management and capacity development areas both within the Centre and outside, involving key regional partners.

Enhanced alignment to stakeholder priorities

ICIMOD increased interaction with regional partners to develop a better understanding of their policies and priorities and to build systematic cooperation with and through them. The Centre also identified and supported regional networks in academia and civil society.

Increased international cooperation

ICIMOD sought the cooperation and support of international resource centres in order to increase its core competencies and to enhance the services it could provide to regional stakeholders.

ICIMOD shifted its focus on the generation of knowledge and scientific information for sustainable mountain development through action research, regional knowledge sharing, and capacity building activities.

The key feature of ICIMOD's work during this time was the implementation of sustainable interventions to ensure that the results of action research contributed to poverty alleviation and environmental conservation. The Centre sought to influence policies, improve practices, and transfer technologies for the betterment of the lives of the people of the HKH region.







ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

DECADE IV: 2013–2022



ICIMOD initiates Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme

Key objective

Conduct a series of assessments every few years to fill the need for regional data identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Sustainable mountain development in the context of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs

ICIMOD co-organised an event bringing together 250 global representatives at the World Mountain Forum in Mbale, Uganda



HKH Call to Action campaign launched during first HKH Science-Policy Forum

Key output

Representatives of think-tanks, senior experts, and high-level decision makers discussed key findings of *The Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment* and charted a way forward for strengthening regional cooperation

2014

2016

2018



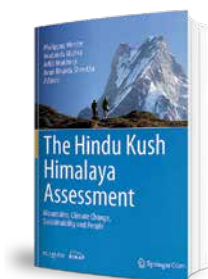
ICIMOD invited as lead author on Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

ICIMOD experts bring scientifically credible and independent information on biodiversity to decision makers to inform the international community's dialogue and action on biodiversity and ecosystem services



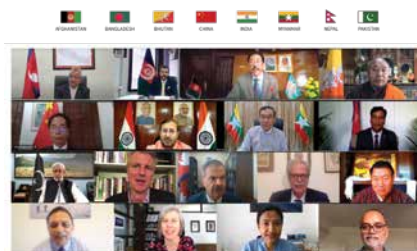
The Status of Glacial Lakes in the Hindu Kush Himalaya published

Comprehensive knowledge on the distribution of glacial lakes across five HKH basins provides baseline data for further investigation of glacial lakes, glacial lake outburst hazards and risk assessment, and mitigation measures



The Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment

The first definitive regional report on the status and future of the HKH



HKH Ministerial Mountain Summit

Key output

Ministers sign the declaration on the HKH Call to Action, a roadmap for the future of the HKH region

A year for mountains

Marking the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2022 as the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development

IPCC and the mountains

ICIMOD experts contribute as co-leads and contributing authors to the cross-chapter 'Mountains' in the IPCC report 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability'

2019

2020

2022

COVID-19 impacts and policy responses in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, a policy paper, assesses the impacts of the pandemic

Key output

Policy responses and actions recommended for HKH countries along with a call for more robust regional and international cooperation for the mountains



ICIMOD and UNDP commit to establishing long-term regional cooperation in the HKH

Key output

MOU signed to establish long-term regional cooperation in the HKH on issues such as transboundary climate risk reduction and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental health, and green mountain economies

IN 2020

Pema Gyamtsho joins ICIMOD as Centre's first regional Director General

The HKH region is a very diverse – geo-physically, ecologically, socio-culturally, politically, and economically. This demands great understanding and sensitivity in the strategizing, planning, and implementation of ICIMOD's programmes and projects.

As Director General, it is my responsibility to ensure that our plans and programmes consider the multiple dimensions of diversity and that we respond to the needs and priorities of our constituents and have adequate financial resources.

Pema Gyamtsho has brought a deep passion for the people of the HKH and a commitment to help address the challenges across the diversity of the region's mountain environments to ICIMOD's directorship.

A Bhutanese national, he is the first head of institution for ICIMOD hailing from one of the Centre's regional member countries. Gyamtsho has sought to build on the institution's strengths and successes in its role as a convener and facilitator for regional cooperation.





IN 2021

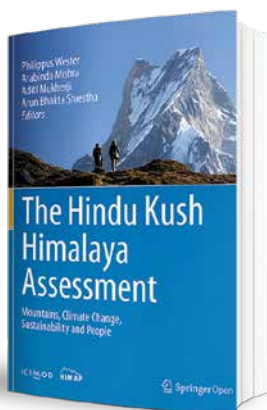
Izabella Koziell joins ICIMOD as Centre's first woman Deputy Director General

As Deputy Director General here at ICIMOD, I am committed to increasing the pace at which we deliver results.

We have a duty to ensure that the men, women, and children of our region enjoy improved well-being in a sustainable and healthy mountain environment and that the almost two billion people who rely on the rivers which emanate from the HKH continue to benefit from them. This is an important duty and one I take very seriously.

Izabella Koziell has brought a depth and breadth of experience working on a range of environment and development initiatives, in multiple management and leadership roles, and across policy, development and research, spanning topics critical for the HKH region, including climate change, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and land and ecosystem degradation.

She has sought to raise global awareness of the HKH region, to which ICIMOD is committed to deliver new solutions and new investment. Koziell joined ICIMOD at an important institutional moment, just as the Centre was beginning to review its past work and ready its next Medium Term Action Plan.



The *HKH Assessment* – the first definitive regional report on the status and future of the HKH

A broad group of more than 300 people – including researchers, policy makers, and practitioners – from across the HKH and around the globe contributed to the development of the first comprehensive assessment of the HKH.

This assessment, a flagship ICIMOD publication, addresses the social, economic, and environmental pillars of sustainable mountain development in the HKH. At the time of its publication in 2019, it provided an evaluation of the current state of knowledge on various drivers of change and their impacts and a set of practical policy recommendations to serve as a valuable resource for decision and policy makers on key issues of mountain development.

The *HKH Assessment* was the first definitive regional report on the status and future of the region that it is ICIMOD's mandate to protect. It was crucial in forging a consensus among policymakers both regionally and globally about the climate vulnerability and significance of the people, nature, and ecosystems within the HKH mountains.





Entering its third decade, ICIMOD reoriented itself through a new strategy and five-year plan to work more closely with partners to generate knowledge backed by solid science. The evidence generated over the years have helped policy makers, planners, development workers, and local communities make informed decisions.

Generating and sharing knowledge provides a critical pathway to sustainable and resilient mountain development. ICIMOD and its partners built a broad knowledge base on the region's changing ecosystems, livelihoods, food, water, energy, and glaciers that provide clear evidence of the challenges mountain people are facing, and also the opportunities that unfold with change.

One of ICIMOD's greatest strengths has been its ability to bring people together to tackle the region's shared challenges. One clear example of this was the collaboration between more than 300 researchers, policy makers, and practitioners to move forward on the development of the first comprehensive assessment of the state of the region's social, economic, and environmental conditions and challenges. This collaboration was the start of the Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme, which led to the *Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment* published in 2019, helping take the message of the mountains to the global community.

ICIMOD continued to play an important role as a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and sharing of knowledge across borders. As new challenges emerged and existing ones become more complex in the face of change, the need for regional cooperation to create sustainable development outcomes continued to grow. The Centre's regional niche and ability to bring HKH countries together to address shared challenges and work toward common goals became an even more valuable asset in its mission to improve the lives and livelihoods of mountain men, women, and children.

This end of this decade also marked the first ten years of ICIMOD's regular engagements in various UN Conference of the Parties (COP) events and processes, focusing specifically on highlighting conservation and development challenges and the aspirations and vulnerabilities of HKH mountain communities. The Centre's work on the cryosphere continues to be as important as ever, and cryosphere pavilions and HKH focus side events have been salient features of ICIMOD participation in UNFCCC COPs.



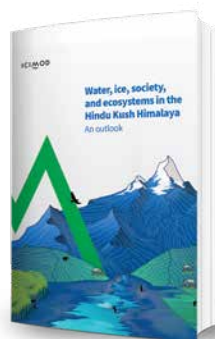


MOVING MOUNTAINS



New strategic plan provides guidance for MTAP V

The centre embarks on a new four-year cycle, committed to driving policy and practice



Landmark report, *Water, Ice, Society, and Ecosystems in the Hindu Kush Himalaya*, published

Launched on 30 June

Draws on recent scientific advances to map linkages between the cryosphere, water, biodiversity, and society in the HKH, charting the impacts of rapid changes in glaciers and snow on people and nature

2023 ...



#SaveOurSnow

Launched on 29 May

#SOS brings together three key communities that are closest to Earth's cryosphere, and most deeply impacted by the imminent and irreversible loss of its snow and ice – mountain communities, scientists, and athletes – to forge an unusual lobbying bloc too powerful to ignore



ICIMOD plays key role at first global summit on Earth's mountain glaciers and poles

8–10 November

ICIMOD representatives play key role in summit convened by French President Emmanuel Macron, which brought researchers and scientists from over 40 glacial and polar nations together

This is a pivotal moment in human history. The world is changing and here, in the HKH region, things are changing remarkably quickly. The HKH faces rapid climate change, biodiversity loss, increased disaster risk, and rising poverty and inequality.

ICIMOD's strategy 2023–2030, *Moving mountains*, outlines how the Centre will work to address these challenges and achieve its vision of a greener, more inclusive, and climate resilient Hindu Kush Himalaya.

It has been developed in response to a request of the ICIMOD Board of Governors and Support Group to raise the Centre's ambition – with ICIMOD turning 40 on 5 December 2023 and in the face of the climate and environment crises hitting the region.

Moving mountains describes a revised institutional theory of change and the impact areas and pathways that will guide ICIMOD's work to effect that change. It highlights the partnerships that will enable this change – with the Centre's eight regional member countries; government, civil society, and private sector partners; and its donors and supporters across the world.

The strategy envisages a new and effective monitoring, evaluation, and learning system in place to enable continuous learning, strategizing, and course correction, with an emphasis on learning from both success and failure. And it charts out the resource mobilisation goals that will enable climate action at scale across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Butan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.

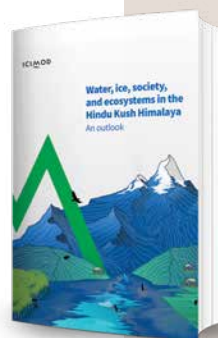


What is happening to this one Earth we inhabit?

Currently, about 75% of Earth's terrestrial ecosystems, 40% of the marine environment, and 50% of rivers and streams show signs of severe degradation caused by humans and climate change.

Globally, an irreversible retreat of the ice sheet in Greenland and the western Antarctic, loss of permafrost, a shift in boreal forests into the tundra, dying coral reefs and Amazon rainforests, and shifting Indian and West African monsoons, are some of the tipping-points we are witnessing in our time.

Rising global temperatures can push parts of the Earth system into irreversible changes, which are likely to increase GHG emissions manifold, raise sea levels by 5–7 m, amplify regional and global warming, cause shifts in ecosystems, biodiversity loss, severe drought in some areas and heavy rainfall in others. Such changes are also evident in the Hindu Kush Himalaya.



Snow and ice in the HKH are fast disappearing, with grave implications for people and nature

The 2023 ICIMOD publication, *Water, Ice, Society, and Ecosystems in the Hindu Kush Himalaya*, is the most accurate assessment of changes to the Asia high mountain cryosphere to date. It is also the first time their impacts on water, biodiversity, and society have been properly mapped.

The report urges policymakers to prepare for the cascading impacts of climate change in this critical mountain biome, which provides freshwater services to a quarter of the world's population.

It calls for urgent international support and regional cooperation for inevitable, near-term loss and damage, and to help communities adapt.

ICIMOD's global advocacy campaign

Without immediate emissions reductions, dramatic losses of mountain glaciers around the world will be locked in.

We know that the HKH cryosphere, water, ecosystems, and societies are deeply interlinked. We also know that the impact of climate change on glaciers, snow, and water resources is clear and supported by robust science. The need to draw global attention to these impacts, especially on mountain societies and ecosystems, is pressing.

With the climate crisis already devastating communities across the Hindu Kush Himalaya, and waters held in these mountains critical for the food and water security of two billion people in Asia, ICIMOD has launched a global advocacy campaign to build the public and political will for faster action and greater climate ambition.

The Centre launched the campaign #SaveOurSnow on 29 May 2023, during celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest.

At Namche Bazar, Tenzing Chogyal Sherpa, a glaciologist at ICIMOD, stood with his grandfather, Kanchha Sherpa, the last survivor of the first ascent, and urged action to save Earth's frozen zones.

Helen Clark, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, the descendants of Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary, joined thousands to sign the #SaveOurSnow declaration. Influential athletes including Kilian Jornet, Reinhold Messner, Rebecca Stephens and Kenton Cool backed the campaign, and over 300 global media organisations, including The Times, Sky News and the BBC, covered the campaign.

#SaveOurSnow brings together three key communities that are closest to Earth's cryosphere, and most deeply impacted by the loss of its snow and ice – mountain communities, athletes, and scientists – to forge an unusual lobbying bloc too powerful to ignore.

ICIMOD is inviting everyone, everywhere, to back the campaign #SaveOurSnow.



SCAN TO
**SIGN OUR
DECLARATION**

ICIMOD

1.5 DEGREES IS TOO HOT

#SaveOurSnow



www.icimod.org/saveoursnow

ICIMOD will take its Strategy 2030 aims and objectives forward into two MTAP periods – MTAP V (2023–2026) and MTAP VI (2027–2030).

With a focus on robust research and innovative approaches, the Centre is working to address climate change risks, improve air quality, and diversify livelihoods and economic opportunities for mountain communities. It is also working to enhance the restoration of degraded ecosystems across the HKH.

ICIMOD's engagements with its regional member countries are guided by a dedicated initiative on strengthening cooperation while leveraging science diplomacy and building on common interests.

Over this Strategy 2030 period, ICIMOD will track its performance against an agreed set of indicators, and review its changing operating context, in case of any necessary course corrections. An integrated, future-forwards approach to performance measurement will ensure that the Centre becomes an adaptive and learning organisation.

The Centre will continue to be guided by its Board of Governors, Programme Advisory Committee, ICIMOD Support Group, and Finance Committee in taking the Strategy 2030 forward.

About ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development is the leading institute for the study of the Hindu Kush Himalaya. Based in Kathmandu, Nepal, we have worked in our eight regional member countries, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan since our foundation in 1983.

Water, Ice, Society and Ecosystems in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, the assessment report we published this year makes clear the scale of the crises this region now faces. Our new strategy, *Moving Mountains* sets out how we will seek to rise to the challenge ahead as we mark our 40th year in operation: addressing climate change, disaster risks, biodiversity loss and air pollution, while ensuring just and equitable transitions for mountain livelihoods. We invite partners to join us in this urgent work.

REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES





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