



Contribution to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)



Harvesting medicinal plants in the Indian Himalayas. ©SDC

ICIMOD is an intergovernmental knowledge and learning centre that develops and shares research, information, and innovations to empower people in the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalaya region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. It serves the region through knowledge generation and sharing to find innovative solutions to critical mountain problems. ICIMOD bridges science with policies and on-the-ground practices. It provides a regional platform where experts, planners, policy makers, and practitioners can exchange ideas and perspectives towards the achievement of sustainable mountain development, and brings regional issues to the global stage.

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region extends 3,500 km over all or part of eight countries from Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east. It is the source of ten large Asian river systems and provides water, ecosystem services, and the basis for livelihoods to around 240 million people in the region. The basins of these rivers provide water to 1.9 billion people, a fourth of the world's population. But despite its global importance, the HKH remains one of the poorest and most neglected regions in the world. The climate change and globalization are wreaking havoc on this fragile asset, wiping out resources, communities and cultures that have existed for centuries. Being at the top of the world, changes happen here before they happen anywhere else, with consequences for the entire region.

Country/Region
South Asia



Climate resilient development

Phase Duration

01.12.2017 – 31.12.2022 (Phase 1)

Financial contribution of SDC

CHF 5'000'000, provided through a joint contribution of the Global Programme Climate Change and Environment and the Asia Division of SDC

Target groups

ICIMOD's work is relevant and useful for mountain people, development workers, environment and natural resource managers, local, national and regional policy makers and planners, and students and teachers.

Achievements so far

- During the first HKH Ministerial Mountain Summit, ministers from the eight ICIMOD member countries signed a historically significant declaration agreeing to strengthened regional cooperation
- In the last 10 years, ICIMOD was involved in more than 600 scientific papers and contributed to 200 book chapters and the ICIMOD data repository featured more than 4 million downloads
- ICIMOD has influenced numerous national policies of its member countries in the agriculture, water, energy, biodiversity and air quality sectors.

Project Objectives

The overall objective for SDC's support to ICIMOD is to contribute to a climate-resilient and inclusive development of vulnerable mountain communities, through strengthening ICIMOD's role and capacity in science and policy dialogue SDC supports the entire programme of ICIMOD, but has specifically highlighted the following outcomes:

- Enhanced resilience of HKH women and men to socio-economic and environmental changes, including climate change.
- Improved regional member country policies, strategies, and development programs for water resources management and disaster risk reduction, informed through robust evidence from research and practice
- Strengthened collaboration among universities, research alliances, policy makers, and youth for sustainable development in the HKH and adjoining regions.

Expected results for the current phase from 2017 to 2022 are:

- Widespread adoption of innovations and practices developed by ICIMOD and partners
- Significant advances in the generation and use of relevant data

- Strengthening of approaches that promote gender equality and inclusive development
- Significantly developed human and institutional capacity in the region
- Policies considerably influenced by the work of ICIMOD
- Enhanced regional cooperation, including conceptualization of an effective regional institutional cooperation mechanism
- Global recognition of the importance of mountains

How this will be achieved

The HKH faces several critical regional issues related to climate change, degradation of natural resources, and floods related transboundary hazards, which provide opportunity for the eight countries to cooperate. ICIMOD is uniquely positioned to foster this cooperation by building a common understanding, creating platforms for exchanging information, and developing common frameworks. Bridging the gap between evidence, policy and practice is one of the key commitments of ICIMOD. It generates evidence through innovative pilot interventions, and contributes to their scaling up through partner organisations and to their mainstreaming in national policies.

ICIMOD organizes its work through six Regional Programmes that address the following areas: Adaptation and resilience building; Transboundary landscapes; River basins and cryosphere; Atmosphere; Mountain information systems; and Mountain action networks. Each of them integrates knowledge, orients research into use and delivers impacts across areas essential to sustainable mountain development

Additional information

- ICIMOD website <https://www.icimod.org/>
- The Hindu Kush Himalaya assessment: Mountains, climate change, sustainability and people <https://lib.icimod.org/record/34383>

Partners

Australia, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Regional member countries

Contact

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and Cooperation SDC**