



The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Regional Water Knowledge Hub for Water Resource Management in Mountainous Areas

ICIMOD's Expertise

Established in 1983, ICIMOD is a regional knowledge, capacity development, learning and enabling center dedicated to supporting and promoting sustainable mountain development in the Hindu Kush–Himalayas. The river basins of the 10 transboundary rivers originating in the Himalayas provide water-related services to about 1.3 million people downstream. But while the water sourced from these mountains is essential to agriculture, drinking water, hydropower, and ecosystem maintenance, it also threatens populations with hazards such as flash floods, riverine floods, and landslides. Furthermore, global climate change is expected to lead to extreme events and water scarcity, affecting farming, energy generation, and ecosystem services. Serving Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the People's Republic of China (PRC), India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan, ICIMOD works through three key strategic and programmatic thrusts: integrated water and hazard management, environmental change and ecosystem services, and sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction, to help clients balance the priorities of highland and lowland communities, plan for and adapt to climate change impacts, and apply effective integrated land and water resources management strategies.

ICIMOD's Services

Using a transdisciplinary problem analysis, design, and implementation model, ICIMOD helps clients translate their concerns into operational action by supporting interdisciplinary team work; instituting program monitoring and evaluation measures; and optimizing their use of financial, human, and institutional resources. ICIMOD's programs are committed to integrating crosscutting criteria of policy, governance, equity, and gender, and to mainstreaming principles of information and knowledge management. More specifically, as the regional water knowledge hub for water resource management in mountainous areas, ICIMOD has the working knowledge to:

- Monitor and assess ice, snow (glaciers), and water resources, and strengthen national and regional capacities to monitor and assess the cryosphere using satellite-based and field-based investigations;
- Assess water-induced disaster risks using risk identification, evaluation, and mapping, and develop regional flood information systems;
- Create and hold training courses in disaster risk management and integrated water resource management;
- Develop river basin-wide scenarios for climate change impacts and water availability;
- Scale down global trends to the Hindu Kush–Himalayan region and synthesize and package the results for multiple audiences;
- Provide timely and useable water and environment-related data on the Hindu Kush–Himalayas and the Pamir Mountains using ICIMOD's GEO-portal and its Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information Systems (MENRIS), an internationally recognized resource center for geo-information;
- Scale up knowledge development in partnership with regional and international centers of excellence through capacity development and training;
- Through its Himalayan University Consortium initiative, work with academia in promoting improved curricula on environmental change;

- Exchange, promote, and support dialogue among partners; disseminate knowledge and information using websites, the geo-data portal, and community-based networks; and organize transboundary knowledge exchange platforms;
- Share methodological approaches, technological packages, and policy proposals; and tailor global knowledge to meet regional and national needs.

ICIMOD's Knowledge Partners

ICIMOD's goal is to act as an open source and a clearing house for the sharing of water resource management initiatives for mountainous areas within the Hindu Kush–Himalayan region and across the region. As a regional platform where policy makers, water experts, infrastructure planners, and practitioners can meet and exchange ideas and perspectives, ICIMOD facilitates the transfer of knowledge from providers to users, scales down and customizes international knowledge to meet regional needs, and promotes regional cooperation around the management of natural and environmental resources.

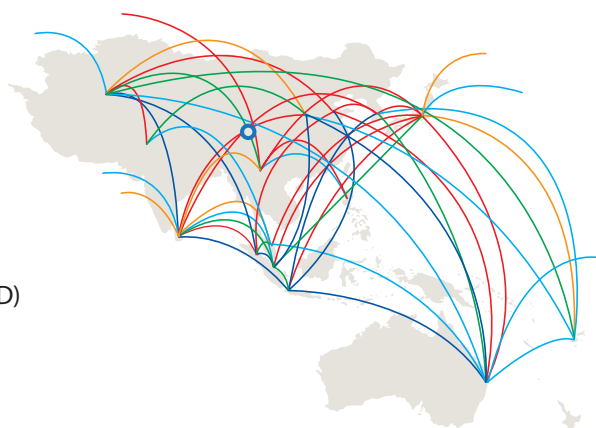
ICIMOD's key member partners include the following institutions:

- Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
- Bangladesh Water Development Board
- Chinese Academy of Sciences, PRC
- Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (CAREERI), PRC
- Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC), Pakistan
- Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, India
- Himalayan University Consortium, Nepal
- International Institute for Geo-Information Science, The Netherlands
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka
- Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Kabul, Afghanistan
- Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), Afghanistan
- National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), India
- Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, Nepal
- Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal
- Tibet Hydrology and Water Resource Bureau, PRC
- University of Salzburg, Austria
- United Nations University, Japan
- Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, India
- Water Resources Research Institute, National Agriculture Research Center, Pakistan

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About KnowledgeHubs

KnowledgeHubs, the Asia-Pacific Water Forum's network of regional water knowledge hubs, is a family of internationally recognized institutions committed to generating and sharing water knowledge and building capacity in the Asia-Pacific region. Each hub takes the lead in networking with clients and partners on a priority water topic such as urban water management, water quality in river basins, flood management, river basin organizations and management, water and climate change adaptation, hydroinformatics, irrigation service reform, water governance, and more. For more information, visit www.apwf-knowledgehubs.net.

About the Asia-Pacific Water Forum

The Asia-Pacific Water Forum is an independent, not-for-profit, nonpartisan, and nonpolitical network dedicated to improving sustainable water management by championing best practices, boosting investments, building capacity, and enhancing cooperation in the water sector. For more information, visit www.apwf.org.