

## **ICIMOD – A Regional Mountain Learning Centre**

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The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. Our aim is to influence policy and practices to meet environmental and livelihood challenges emerging in the HKH region. To do this we bring together researchers, practitioners, and policy makers from the region and around the globe to generate and share knowledge, support evidence-based decision making, and encourage regional collaboration. ICIMOD delivers impact through its six Regional Programmes of Cryosphere and Atmosphere, Adaptation to Change, Transboundary Landscapes, River Basins, Mountain Environment Regional Information System, and Himalayan University Consortium.

In the Cryosphere and Atmosphere Programme, the impact of climate change on glacial melting and atmospheric processes and its implications for water availability and quality of life are at the core. Key outcomes will include an increased understanding of the cryosphere and atmosphere, the changes they are undergoing, and the impacts of these changes in the mountains and downstream, as well as improved regional capacity to monitor the cryosphere and atmosphere.

ICIMOD's work on the cryosphere focuses on the monitoring of glaciers, snow, and glacial lakes; glaciohydrology with an emphasis on modelling; and remote sensing and in situ measurements including mass balance measurements. The programme aims to build a regional cryosphere knowledge hub to collate and share knowledge of partners working in the region, and to build capacity to study the cryosphere, working with institutions that focus on glaciology which countries throughout the region have been establishing.

ICIMOD's work in black carbon and atmospheric pollution has two sides: first, investigation of the science to improve understanding of emission sources, atmospheric transport and transformation processes, and impacts on the atmosphere, glaciers, and snow melt; and second, consideration of key mitigation strategies. Since atmospheric issues are transboundary in nature, ICIMOD as a regional institution has a decided advantage in taking a leadership role to coordinate communication among scientists, planners, and policy makers both regionally and globally.

ICIMOD has established a Regional Database System (RDS) and Mountain Geoportal that acts as a central data repository for different thematic areas in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region and provides easy access to these data through this RDS portal. The portal allows users to search metadata. All of ICIMOD's published datasets are available for download after simple registration and acceptance of the data use agreement.