Challenges of Ecological Networking in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

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Presentation Outline

- Ecological Networking
- Linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable development
- Challenges of climate change – resilience
- ICIMOD’s Role in HKH
- Mountain conventions, CBD and ICIMOD
Ecological networking
Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region

- The third pole on earth - an area of extraordinary beauty and a world heritage site for biodiversity
- Ecological buffer between Tibetan Plateau and South Asia
- Provides ecosystem services and directly forms the basis for livelihoods for 200 million people; indirectly water and other ecosystem services forms the lifeline for one third of humanity
Major river basins and countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region
Linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable development
Conservation trends – linkage with people and development

**Conservation trends**

- **Charismatic species conservation**
  - 1930
  - 1980

- **Habitat/PA management approach**
  - 1970
  - 2000

- **Buffer zone/community based approach**
  - 1980
  - 2002

- **Landscape/ecosystem approach**
  - 1998
  - 2006

PA in HKH increased from 11 to 39% in last 12 years
Conservation and Livelihoods linked ICIMOD projects

- Landscape approach using corridors – addressing biodiversity management and livelihoods in transboundary areas
- Medicinal and aromatic plants – sustainable harvesting and developing value chains
- Indigenous honeybees – pollination and increasing production
- Access and Benefit Sharing of biological and genetic resources – conservation, traditional knowledge and benefits to custodians of resources and knowledge
Challenges of climate change – resilience
We need to reduce scientific uncertainty!
Risks associated with Climate Change: The Asian Challenge

Source: WBGU, 2007
Imja Glacier, Nepal – Repeat Photography

1956
photograph of Imja glacier
(Photo: Fritz Muller; courtesy of Jack Ives)

2006
photograph of Imja glacier
(Photo: Giovanni Kappenberger courtesy of Alton C Byers)
ICIMOD programmatically focuses on Climate Change

- Integrated Water and Hazard Management
- Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services
- Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction

Monitoring
Ecological and societal resilience
Adaptation
Payments for ecosystem services
Disaster risk reduction approaches
Capacity building
ICIMOD’s Role in HKH
ICIMOD Role (1)

- Inter-governmental non-political international organization mandated to Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH)
- Mountain learning, knowledge and enabling centre
- Promote regional cooperation and transboundary approaches
- Build capacities in the HKH region
- Link research with practice
ICIMOD Role (2)

- Broker with a mountain perspective
- Contribute to customizing of international knowledge for the HKH
- Contribute to global agendas such as CBD, UNFCC, IPCC etc
- Support global networking – such as Mountain Forum, Asia-Pacific Mountain Network, Mountain Partnership etc
Mountain conventions, CBD and ICIMOD
Mountain Conventions and ICIMOD

- ‘Mountain Conventions’ process sharing and learning – ICIMOD has been active partner in Bertesgaden 2002, Bolzano 2005, Curitiba 2006

- Experience sharing - Alpine and Carpathian Conventions, Balkan, Caucasus, Andes, Hindu Kush-Himalayas

- Mountain Park Twinning Programme between Nepal and Italy – exchange between Alps and Himalayas
CBD and ICIMOD

- Actively involved in developing ‘Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity”
- Implementing CBD especially for achieving all the three objectives and especially mountain biodiversity
- Specific projects on ecosystem and landscape approaches, transboundary cooperation on critical landscapes, and access and benefit sharing on biological resources
CBD and ICIMOD

National Strategy & Action Plans → Regional cooperation framework → Mountain Biodiversity (COP VII/27) → Convention on Biological Diversity

Bhutan → India → Nepal

Regional & transboundary collaboration (Goal 2.3) → Reduction of loss of mountain biodiversity
Thank You