

Partner with ICIMOD

ICIMOD

To Reduce Poverty and Conserve the Environment in the Himalayas

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE



The Himalayan region provides goods and services that are essential to sustaining local, regional, and global environments and economies. About half of the world's population depends on mountains for drinking water, clean energy, water for irrigation, forest products, genetic resources, and recreation. But these valuable resources and ecosystem services are under threat as climate and socioeconomic changes are rapidly creating challenges for mountains and mountain communities.

The Himalayan Region is Under Threat

- Biodiversity and water resources are exposed to climate change impacts.
- 210 million mountain people face livelihood challenges.
- Millions of homes are vulnerable to floods and droughts.

As users of mountain resources, the private sector has a critical role in ensuring the long-term, green economic growth of the region as well as the protection of its invaluable resources and biodiversity. There is a growing need to support green and low-carbon economic activities and to promote innovative livelihoods in mountain regions. The private sector can play a crucial role in the success of these initiatives by engaging responsibly in the sustainable use of resources and increasing the scope for responsible economic participation of mountain communities in innovative livelihood options and opportunities.

Why Partner with ICIMOD?

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) can link producers and consumers and identify business opportunities that alleviate poverty and can lead to sustainable development.

ICIMOD seeks to improve the lives and livelihoods of mountain women and men. We believe in a future where the region's mountain communities can experience enhanced livelihoods, equity, and social and environmental security; where they can adapt to environmental and climate change; and where future generations can enjoy the benefits and opportunities afforded by the region's natural endowment.

ICIMOD is a knowledge, learning, and enabling centre developing information and knowledge and using innovation and effective communications to empower the eight regional member countries of the greater Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and their people.

As a regional intergovernmental organization with global outreach, ICIMOD has a comparative advantage in carrying out regional activities. We work with communities living in mountain ecosystems in the region who face common challenges and have solutions to share such as changing availability of water resources and its implications; conservation of flora and fauna in transboundary landscapes in the context of shifting species ranges with a changing climate; and high-value niche products that are marketed across borders.



Five Advantages of Partnering with ICIMOD

- Contribute to scientific knowledge and green technology transfer.
- Create market linkages between producers and end users for competitive edge.
- Attract socially and environmentally responsible and climate savvy staff.
- Improve value chains and enhance high-value products for better returns.
- Invest in poverty reduction and climate change adaptation.



What are the Opportunities for Businesses?

Water – An Essential Resource

The greater Himalayan region is home to the world's ten tallest mountains and is the source of ten major river systems that provide fresh water to 1.3 billion people. The impact of climate change on water availability will create risks for businesses, reduce energy availability, and affect operations, competitiveness, and profits.

The private sector can contribute to research to improve understanding of water supply and demand and how these will be affected by climate change to ensure a sustainable supply. Scientific study of the future availability of water coming out of the mountains and analysis of potential climate impacts are of crucial importance for sustainable business practices. The

private sector can also engage in building community resilience to water-related hazards while contributing to developing adaptive integrated water resources management.

Sustained Ecosystem Services

Mountains provide 40% of global ecosystem goods and services including not only water, but also others such as biodiversity and carbon sinks. Their benefits are enjoyed not only by mountain communities, but also by the people living downstream; some of these benefits are global.

Private sector attention is required to ensure that the ecosystem services are maintained and to provide the tools needed for mitigation and adaptation to reduce future business and livelihood risks. Areas for action could include strategic analyses to address the drivers of resilience for sustainable value chains, economic valuation of ecosystems and ecosystem services, and innovative financing mechanisms for natural resource management, including mechanisms such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), payment for ecosystem services, and access and benefit sharing measures, among others.

Livelihood Prospects for Poor Communities

On average, 31% of the population of the greater Himalayan region lives below the poverty line. The private sector can incorporate mountain perspectives to promote sustainable development and simultaneously take advantage of the opportunities emerging from the rapid socioeconomic and environmental changes that are taking place in the region. Inclusive, innovative, and collaborative interventions that provide sustainable livelihood opportunities can reduce vulnerability and mountain poverty. Innovative income generation strategies include ecotourism, agribusiness, herbal/medicinal products, and other non-timber forest products.

Technological Innovation

The vastness and remoteness of much of the greater Himalayan region has often been a barrier to development and to research. The private sector can help bring the benefits of modern technologies to mountain communities in the region. Satellite-based technologies, for example, can broaden understanding of glacier melting and forest cover changes and can assist in monitoring and detecting forest fire, planning emergency response to earthquakes and other disasters, and monitoring agriculture and food security.



Participate

- Get involved in global issues that impact business and poor communities.
- Engage in adaptation to climate change.
- Develop sustainable partnerships for sustainable development.





Make Climate Change Adaptation Your Business

We all need and use energy, water, and natural resources, and they are at risk because of climate change. Businesses need to think strategically about climate change and its potential impact on the competitive context in which they operate. ICIMOD's strategy for corporate social responsibility aims to help you do this. Together, we can help to develop socially, economically, and environmentally sound mountain ecosystems to improve the wellbeing of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services for the billions of people living downstream – now, and for the future.

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The ICIMOD Foundation

The ICIMOD Foundation, established in 2003, is a not-for-profit organization that supports the efforts of ICIMOD to contribute to the stability of the Himalayan region. Conceived as an instrument for complementing ICIMOD's core and donor funding, the ICIMOD Foundation invites government agencies, foundations, and the private sector to participate as important stakeholders to help deliver the impact of ICIMOD's objectives. The ICIMOD Foundation is registered in Berne, Switzerland.

By contributing to the ICIMOD Foundation's endowment fund or making programme-focused contributions, private sector actors can engage in meaningful and sustainable business practices while protecting the natural resources of the Himalayas.

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