

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative:

Institutional consolidation for systemic planning and management toward poverty alleviation and environmental conservation in the framework of the sustainable regional development in the Hindu Kush – Karakorum – Himalaya mountain complex”

This partnership is proposed within the framework of the Swiss-FAO-UNEP International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions

Expected date of initiation: 2003

Expected date of completion: 2006

Partners Involved:

Governments: Italy (Ministry of Foreign Affairs - DGCS); Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan (member countries of ICIMOD)

Intergovernmental organizations: ICIMOD, IUCN, FAO, UNEP

Major groups:

Ev-K²-CNR Committee

CESVI Cooperation and Development - NGO

Global organizations - IUCN

Regional organizations - ICIMOD

Governmental organizations - DGCS

Other

Collaborating institutions:

Italian National Research Council (CNR)

Universities of Torino, Brescia, Trieste and Milan

INFN –Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare / Progetto ARGO YBJ

The Chinese Academy of Science

National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping Beijing - China

Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (RONAST)

Tribhuvan and Kathmandu Universities

HMG/Nepal Department of Forests, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation,

Department of Hydrology and Meteorology

Tibet Academy of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Sciences, Lhasa, Tibet

Tibet Hydrology and Water Resources Bureau, Lhasa

Geological Survey of Pakistan – Quetta

Centre for Integrated Mountain Research – UNI. Punjab – Lahore, Pakistan

CESVI Cooperazione e Sviluppo

IUCN Asia's Himal Programme

Leading Partner: Italy (DGCS)

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Please provide a brief description:

Background

With the UN declaration of 2002 as International Year of Mountains, local, regional and international initiatives have had the opportunity to consolidate and expand on the attention placed on mountains, yet now it will be critical, especially following the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), to ensure implementation of specific, focused projects and actions. With reference to systemic planning and management toward poverty alleviation and environmental conservation in mountain regions, Chapter 40 of the Draft Plan of Implementation for WSSD states that actions are required at all levels to: a) mobilize national and international support for applied research and b) strengthen capacity building, c) provide financial and technical assistance for the effective implementation of sustainable development of mountain ecosystems in developing countries, as well as d) in countries with economies in transition, address the poverty alleviation priority among people living in mountains, through concrete planning of actions and subsequent implementation of projects and programmes. This with adequate support from all stakeholders, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of the Mountain 2002.

Actions will also be required to:

Develop and promote programmes, policies and approaches that integrate environmental, economic and social components of sustainable mountain development, and strengthen international cooperation for positive impacts on poverty eradication programmes, especially in developing countries.

Implementation priorities identified in the “Draft Plan” further underscore the need to address deforestation, erosion, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, disruption of water flows and retreat of glaciers.

As stated in the “International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions” to be presented at Johannesburg as an official “Type 2 outcome”, the implementation of the recommendations for mountain sustainable development through improvement, strengthening and promotion of greater cooperation and partnerships is a critical priority for attaining success. Furthermore, there is an urgent need for harmonization among projects to obtain benefits from synergy among research, monitoring and implementation activities at global and regional levels. Coordination is also needed to facilitate interaction between relevant data management and provider institutions and users, be they governmental, non governmental or private. Interaction between relevant stakeholders is, moreover, hindered by the lack of reciprocal knowledge on existing information and data availability and inadequate communication and circulation of

information not only geographically but also between both decision makers and communities

Justifications

The mountain regions of the Hindu Kush - Karakorum - Himalaya, rich in resources, traditions and cultures, are faced with significant environmental and political vulnerability which makes sustainable mountain development and attainment of a sufficient quality of life of the mountain populations a priority. In order to reach these goals, close trans-boundary collaboration between institutions, governments and organizations for exchange and transfer of experiences, technologies and cultural and scientific knowledge becomes essential.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has confirmed, over the past two decades, its role as the only regional centre in the world for promoting the economically and environmentally sound development of mountain ecosystems, as well as for improving the living standards of mountain populations. In particular, ICIMOD's expertise as a Knowledge Management Centre and its Spatial Information Systems and Tools Program, testifies the support ICIMOD can supply in the creation of a sophisticated eco-regional planning and management support platform, based on regional biophysical and socio-economic database applications and analytical predictive models. Application of such tools to Natural Resource Management and Hazard Reduction (in particular caused by climate change) ensures a spatial basis for outcome and indicator monitoring. ICIMOD's commitment to capacity building ensures that local actors fully participate and benefit from the development and application of the above tools, which will be integrated within the development of a Decision Support System (DSS) to be applied at a regional level. ICIMOD thus not only provides support as a policy advisor but as deliverer of policy instruments, crucial for the sustainable governance of vulnerable territories.

Involvement of Italian experts with consolidated capacity in databases and GIS, simulation and modelling tools, as well as DSS applications and/or international researchers with advanced expertise in environmental and natural resource management, climate change, glacier monitoring, in the Himalayan regions over the past 10 years within the framework of the Ev-K²-CNR High Altitude Scientific and Technological Research Project will be a key factor for the success of the proposed initiative. Through the collaboration with this network, a scientific base and support for training and knowledge transfer, aimed at the creation of a DSS to help in policy development and program implementation throughout the Hindu Kush - Himalaya - Karakorum region can be realized.

Objectives

Within the scope of the priorities defined in the WSSD Draft Plan of Implementation and considering the recommendations also made for achieving successful implementation of the priorities identified in Agenda 21, the proposed partnership aims to facilitate links between existing networks at the local, regional and global levels, as well as build the capacity of decision makers and stakeholders in accessing, gathering, managing and making proper use of key data on natural resources, climate change and biodiversity. This through advancement of science and facilitation of technology transfer, including technical mechanisms such as GIS and DSS for systemic planning and management of vulnerable mountain environments, to the advantage of the reduction of poverty, sustainable mountain development and conservation of biodiversity in the largest and youngest mountain region in the world, Hindu Kush - Karakorum - Himalaya, which encompasses parts or the entire countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

In 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, mountain areas were recognized for the first time as fragile ecosystems to be managed according to specific indications. As described in Chapter 13 of Agenda 21, key programme areas for sustainable mountain development are: a) generating and strengthening knowledge about the ecology and sustainable development of mountain ecosystems and b) promoting integrated watershed development and alternative livelihood opportunities. Specific objectives indicated in Chapter 13 include 1) development of land-use planning and management, 2) promotion of income-generating activities and 3) development of technical and institutional arrangements for affected countries to mitigate natural disasters in mountain regions, all of which are supported through this partnership. Other chapters of Agenda 21 also highlight the importance of international cooperation, including to widen the scientific base on environment and development especially in developing countries, integration of environment and development in decision making, conservation of resources (including forests, atmosphere, water, biodiversity, agriculture, etc.) and the role of local actors in sustainable development. Finally, also indicated in Agenda 21 is use of technologies such as remote sensing and GIS for coordinated, systematic and harmonized collection and assessment of data on land cover and environmental conditions, and especially for monitoring degradation. Bridging of the data gap through capacity building in such sectors is also indicated as key.

Through improved observations and modelling, increased capacity of local actors, coordinated training and institutional capacity building, it will be possible to contribute to the UN Millennium Development Goals, and focus effectively on most significant components, including eradication of poverty, promotion of gender equity and ensuring environmental sustainability, through integration of principles of sustainable development into country policies and protection of biodiversity.

Expected results

Please provide a brief description:

- Through international and regional scientific cooperation a Decision Support System DSS for best governance to be used by decision makers on a local, national or regional level, based on collection, organization and consolidation of socio-economic, physical and environmental data in the region will be developed and implemented. It will include georeferenced and dynamic databases, predictive models, trained staff, a general regional plan for system management and some detailed operational plans for pilot project applications. The latter will focus on specific/sectoral development problems shared across boundaries and/or regionally. In particular, databases will allow consolidated and integrated scientific data on mountain ecosystems, natural resource management, water resources, climate change and socio-economic trends in the Hindu Kush - Karakorum - Himalaya. Essential aspects will be:
 - collection and completion of objective and georeferenced socio-economic and biophysical natural resource data (geology and geophysics, land use, forest cover, lakes and waterways, glaciers and glacial lakes, climate and meteorology, pollution transport); development of relevant database and GIS applications,
 - development and implementation of analytical, simulating and predictive models for

- the relevant problems and ecosystems,
- training and involvement of local scientists and experts for knowledge exchange and transfer,
 - integration of the above database/GIS applications and analytical/simulating/predictive models into a DSS for the trans-boundary planning and sustainable management of the mountain ecosystems of the Hindu Kush - Karakorum - Himalaya region, in the light of an integrated undertaking of poverty alleviation and environmental conservation priorities,
 - capacity building of system users (policy makers, stakeholders).
- Implementation of the above pilot networking projects will contribute to sustainable development through capacity building, environmental safeguarding and bridging the digital divide.
 - The results of above will lead to the harmonisation, mapping and monitoring of changes in other areas, as the system is replicated elsewhere in comparable areas of the region, finally facilitating informed decision-making related to sustainable management of land and water resources in mountains, strengthening food security, and improving environmental protection.
 - A process started of poverty alleviation building upon outcomes from the above regional and global mapping and system planning and monitoring initiatives, contributing to bridging the digital divide, training in scientific and technology fields and capacity building of individuals and institutions for sustainable livelihood promotion.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

- coordination of partners, exchange of data, research campaigns and field work, training of local scientific experts; consolidation of data base, setting up of open GIS base in pilot region, training in GIS implementation; expansion of environmental observation stations within the region
- capacity building initiatives in pilot area, development of predictive models, start of regional networking, focus on regional networking, data collection and exchange
- development of regional (pilot) integrated system for decision support involving local actors; application of pilot Decision Support System, planning for transfer, replication.

The above targets, which are to be considered as triggers/foundations for long-term sustainable development processes, are expected to be achieved within a three year time frame.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

ICIMOD will provide general coordination based on its networking capacity and experiences in the region. Through its established expertise, it will also provide policy advising for facilitating operational execution, implementation of certain project components such as training and institutional capacity building, data base creation (in particular in sectors such as agriculture and economy) and facilitate access and interlinkages between databases of various institutions. It will also monitor progress of the initiative as related to specific indicators (in particular the Millennium Development Goals). ICIMOD will be in charge of the development of the Decision Support System hardware-software complex (modelling), together with Ev-K²-CNR.

Ev-K²-CNR will provide specialized support to the scientific research component in the environmental and socio-economic sectors, make available and compile complete data for the Himalayan environmental and climate change database and provide technical and scientific training and technology transfer. It will also participate in capacity building initiatives and development of the GIS and its implementation as part of the Decision Support System.

IUCN will be a resource for databases (on biodiversity, water, climate change, natural resources and protected areas' management, law and advocacy, environmental education) and a network through which it will be possible to access further environmental and socio-economic data. Coordination with the IUCN Climate Change and other relevant initiatives will also be done. IUCN will also play a key partnership role also in advising on conservation strategies, policy advocacy and sustainability.

UNEP will participate, through coordination with the UNEP Mountains Programme, providing technical support relevant to the development of data bases and standardization of environmental information, as well as data regarding their initiatives such as the "Asian Brown Cloud" project.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

The core partners, DGCS, ICIMOD, Ev-K²-CNR, IUCN, UNEP, will provide support through financial and in-kind contributions. All organizations, countries and partners involved will be responsible in varying degrees for necessary sources of funding to ensure implementation of this partnership. The expected DGCS contribution will be of EURO 3.900.000.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

As indicated above, among the Partnership Initiative contributions, the provision emerges for training, know-how and technological transfer, institutional strengthening and users' capacity building.

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

Expected arrangements for technology transfer include the establishment of a methodological and procedural framework including development of regulations and methodology, on-the-job training on pilot partnership projects, inter-institutional cooperation.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Please provide a brief description:

A number of current regional and global processes not only for sustainable mountain development and data management and exchange but also for their use in environmental and

development pursuits are underway. This project in particular will identify synergies with those activities already promoted by the partner organizations as well as by those participants in the WSSD International Partnership for Sustainable Mountain Development.

Monitoring Arrangements

*Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:
(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)*

The involvement of reference institutions e.g. UNEP, FAO, IUCN will ensure adequate monitoring standards and effectiveness of modalities will be developed and evolve over the course of project implementation. Progress reports, partner updates via email and distribution of information to the public via existing on-line networks such as Mountain Forum and the house organs of the partner institution will be foreseen and scheduled according to accepted international project criteria.

Other relevant information:

Web-site (if available):

Partners web-sites:

DGCS: www.esteri.it,
 ICIMOD: www.icimod.org,
 Ev-K²-CNR: www.mountnet.net,
 IUCN: www.iucn.org,
 FAO: www.mountains2002.org; www.fao.org,
 UNEP: www.unep.org

Other selected web-sites:

Agenda 21, Chapter 13: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21chapter13.htm>

International Year of Mountains background documents:

<http://www.mountains2002.org/m-backdocs.html>

ICIMOD:

Capacity Building for Sustainable Mountain Development: <http://www.icimod.org/rcp/rcp2/rcp2f.htm>

Mountain Environment and Natural Resources' Information Service (MENRIS)

assessing and monitoring natural resources: <http://www.icimod.org/general/menris.htm>

Ev-K²-CNR (draft partnership proposal) – Microsoft Word document

“High Summit 2002” Final Documents: <http://213.21.158.8/high-summit/findoc.asp>

IUCN – climate change initiative <http://www.iucn.org/themes/climate/climatechangeandiucn.html>

FAO – sustainable mountain development

Summary document on climate change: <http://www.mountains2002.org/i-climate.html>; Summary document on biodiversity: <http://www.mountains2002.org/i-bio.html>; Summary document on water resources:

<http://www.mountains2002.org/i-water.html>

Side Event on Mountain Sustainable Development at the FAO Food Summit (10-13 June, 2002):

<http://www.fao.org/WorldFoodSummit/sideevents/papers/Y6894e.htm> and

<http://www.mountains2002.org/news.html>

UNEP – UNEP and The International Year Of The Mountains

<http://www.unep.org/documents/default.asp?DocumentID=239&ArticleID=3019>

Asian brown cloud project: <http://www-c4.ucs.edu/ProjectABC/>

WSSD – Draft Plan of Implementation for WSSD (chapter 40)

http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/prepcom4docs/bali_documents/draft_plan_1206.pdf

International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (proposal version: 3 June, 2002,

Bali) – paper form

Millennium Development Goals: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html>

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