Dr. David Molden is the Director General of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), an intergovernmental knowledge organization dedicated to mountains and people of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. Now in his second term, David Molden has been instrumental in positioning ICIMOD as a regional organization working within and across eight countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan) in fields such as climate change, adaptation and resilience building, ecosystem management, the cryosphere, air pollution, water resource management, and information systems. Dr. Molden has been instrumental in the development of the Himalayan University Consortium to promote academic learning and exchange, and the Hindu Kush Himalayan Assessment, an IPCC like assessment that lays out policy options for sustainable development in region. He is now formulating the HKH Science-Policy Forum to bring countries together to jointly address issues of mountain environment, livelihoods, and regional cooperation. Dr. Molden has promoted regional cooperation in one of the least integrated regions worldwide, by using science and development for diplomacy.

Dr Molden comes from a background specializing in water resource management and sustainable mountain development with an interest in integrating social, technical, and environmental aspects of natural resources management. He has experience in leading and implementing development and research work across Asia and Africa, and is now leading ICIMOD at the interface of science, policy and practice to help bring knowledge into use for societal benefits. Prior to joining ICIMOD he was the Deputy Director General for Research at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) based in Sri Lanka which was awarded the Crystal Drop Award and Stockholm Water Prize for work carried out during his tenure (1995 to 2011). He has contributed to the publication of over 200 works in books, refereed journals, research reports, the media, and educational materials. He has received many awards including the Outstanding Scientist Award of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in 2009.