

Renewable energy solutions for enterprise development in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

20 November 2019, Kathmandu



Background

Cost-competitive renewable energy solutions, coupled with their modularity and adaptability, provide a unique opportunity to reconcile energy, socioeconomic development, and climate objectives in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. Renewables could significantly contribute to improving the livelihoods and wellbeing of mountain communities by providing access to reliable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable energy, while also strengthening local enterprises and climate resilience.

With a view to understanding the energy needs in mountain economies and the opportunities offered by renewable energy solutions, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) joined hands to conduct a comprehensive scoping exercise to assess key economic value chains, from an energy perspective, in the HKH region. The work will also contribute to ICIMOD's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capability for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (REEECH) Initiative.

This partnership presents an opportunity to form a synergistic partnership owing to IRENA's mandate to serve as a centre of excellence and a repository of policy, technology, resource, and financial knowledge on renewable energy, and ICIMOD's presence as a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge-sharing centre.

Objectives

Energy flows and needs along different segments of the economic value chains of mountain communities are still not understood and documented well enough to inform effective

decision making. This comprehensive scoping exercise to assess selected economic value chains (e.g. yak, bamboo, tourism) in the HKH region, from an energy perspective, will identify the gaps and potential actions for advancing renewable energy solutions.

Accordingly, IRENA and ICIMOD are organizing a consultative workshop to consolidate the findings of the scoping exercise and validate the proposed actions. The scoping exercise and workshop consultations will provide a basis for developing a regional action plan for the HKH, which will outline potential areas for targeted interventions to foster an ecosystem conducive for deploying renewable energy solutions.

Expected outcomes

- Collection of feedback on the findings of the scoping exercise and validation of proposed actions to accelerate renewable energy deployment and mobilize investments in the sector
- Exchange of regional best practices and sharing of lessons learned on renewable energy applications across different value chains
- Increased awareness among governments, practitioners, and development agencies on the cross-sector opportunities offered by renewables for strengthening economic value chains

Expected participants

Renewable energy experts; entrepreneurs; business-sector representatives; government officials; and representatives from IRENA, ICIMOD, and other developmental organizations will attend the consultation workshop.

Agenda

Wednesday, 20 November 2019

Time	Details
09:00–09:30	Arrival and registration
	Inaugural session Welcome address David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Support and Partnerships, IRENA
09:30–10:40	Special address – Senior dignitary from host country Presentation of REEECH objectives and focus areas – Mewang Gyeltshen, REEECH, ICIMOD Presentation of IRENA–ICIMOD collaboration – Prasoon Agarwal, IRENA Project overview – Divyam Nagpal, IRENA Introduction of the participants (tour de table)
10:40–11:00	Tea break and group photo
	Session 1: Understanding renewable energy’s contributions to resilient enterprise development Overview of renewable energy’s contributions to resilient enterprise development in the mountain region – Nanki Kaur, ICIMOD Findings from a systematic review of case studies– Udisha Saklani, ICIMOD Deep-dive mountain-specific case study on: Yak value chain Bamboo value chain Tourism value chain Q&A and discussions on the presentations
11:00–12:00	
	Session 2: Developing the ecosystem for enterprise development – Policy, technology, and financing perspectives Lead discussants: Entrepreneur (Avishek Malla, SunFarmer? Local practitioner?), Developer (Roshan Mascarenhas, SELCO? Konchok Norgay, HIAL?) and Enabler (Govt. representative?) Long-list of specific questions for discussion: 1. What policy actions at the regional, national, and local levels can support the deployment of renewables for livelihoods and enterprise development in mountain communities? 2. How can the technology innovation and adaptation process be facilitated for application in the mountain context? Which actors need to be involved and how? 3. What end-user and enterprise financing gaps are inhibiting the adoption of renewables in the mountain context? What innovative financing instruments are needed and by whom to address the gaps? Open discussion/Q&A session
12:00–13:00	
13:00–14:00	Lunch break
	Session 3: Developing ecosystems for enterprise development – Regional partnerships, market linkages, and capacity development Lead discussants: Entrepreneur (Laykha Dairy Products? Rahimafrooz? Mahabir Pun?), Developer (Aung Myint, REAM?) and Enabler (Weijun Shen, UNIDO? TP Subramony, International Bamboo and Rattan Org?) Long-list of specific questions for discussion: 1. What role can regional cooperation and partnerships play in developing ecosystems for enterprise development through renewable energy development? 2. Beyond energy interventions, what other complementary measures are needed (e.g. establishing forward market linkages) to strengthen livelihoods and enhance resilience? Who needs to do what? 3. What are the key capacity gaps that need to be addressed across the various value chains relevant for mountain communities? Open discussion/Q&A session
14:00–15:30	
15:30–16:00	Tea break
	Session 4: Action plan session
16:00–17:15	Presentation of draft action plan – IRENA Moderated discussion – Eklabya Sharma, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD
	Closing and concluding remarks
17:15–17:30	- Eklabya Sharma, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD - Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Support and Partnerships, IRENA
18:00 onwards	Dinner reception for all participants