

Media reporting on socioecological resilience

Trainers' feedback and suggestions

- Media capacity building workshops are quite useful and constructive in terms of enabling journalists to gain first-hand information on issues and challenges the region is faced with, especially through field visits.
- Journalists participating in the field visit witnessed the first-hand impacts of climate change on the environment and called for organizing hands-on workshops on media reporting.
- The media has only focused on selected districts of Gilgit Baltistan, therefore, the focus should be expanded to all the districts to effectively highlight environmental issues.
- Most of the participating journalists have YouTube channels to promote their work. There is a need to further train journalists from the HKH region on using YouTube effectively.
- Environment is a transboundary and global issue. Hence, journalists need to weave the transboundary perspective into their news stories to show the bigger picture. They also need to connect with journalists from other countries through regional forums. ICIMOD can help journalists connect through the Bam-e-Dunya network and other regional networks.
- On information verification, journalists were requested to record the interviewees and quote them exactly to avoid defamation.
- As the world faces numerous challenges including COVID-19, and accompanying economic crisis and threats imposed by climate change, there's a dire need to report on the consequential impacts on the region. Journalists from Gilgit Baltistan need to be trained, informed, and equipped so they can play an integral role in raising awareness amongst the public, which will contribute to informed decision-making.
- To stay connected with environmental journalism, journalists should be encouraged to publish stories regularly. They can send their queries to the WhatsApp group or email the queries to media@icimod.org
- Opportunities such as fellowships and grants need to be shared with journalists that they can benefit from.

- Media training on creating a strong digital media presence that goes beyond Facebook, with a focus on Twitter and YouTube is important. Video making is also key in publishing impactful stories.
- Story writing and narration, and camera handling expertise should be further strengthened.

Suggestions from the journalists

- Local journalists from Gilgit Baltistan appreciated the training and field activity, and have requested for future trainings on forests, land use planning, and wildlife.
- Journalists in the far-flung areas of Gilgit Baltistan do not have a thorough understanding of the environment. They have expressed interest in attending media training workshops at the district or divisional level in Gilgit, Diamer and Astore, and Baltistan.
- Journalists appreciated the social media components disseminated by the trainers and have requested to organize regular media workshops on the subject.
- Creation of a WhatsApp group for exchanging technical information to bridge the media-science disconnect. The group will have the participants of the workshop and experts from ICIMOD and WWF-Pakistan.
- During the field visit, the trainee journalists informed that they needed an environmental expert to accompany them during the field visit so that they could be briefed accordingly.
- Journalists have requested for information on the snow leopard population and the threats they face. Some journalists do not have a good understanding of wildlife, which calls for media capacity building on wildlife-related issues.
- Journalists have expressed interest in learning more about the implementation of environmental laws. It might be useful to keep the media informed on the status of implementation of various environmental laws.
- Most journalists in Gilgit Baltistan are associated with print and electronic media. Future training opportunities could focus on both print and electronic media.
- Journalists reporting from the region sought guidance on how to reach out to international publications. This could be included in future training programmes.