

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON

Advancing collaborative springshed management in the HKH

12–15 July 2022 | Kathmandu, Nepal



About the workshop

There has been considerable progress in springshed-related research and interventions in the region. To address the issue of drying springs and evolving threats to water security across the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is implementing [action research and pilots](#) to support and strengthen the capacity of local and state actors and institutions for spring rejuvenation using a [six-step methodology](#) in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal. Along with spring rejuvenation activities, we also work to strengthen policies and programmes around springs and increase capacity for gender-responsive springshed management.

This workshop will bring together policy and decision makers, practitioners, academics, and development partners to identify good practices and opportunities for implementing and scaling gender-responsive springshed management in the HKH region. Discussions during the workshop will explore the scope for convergence, collaboration, and regional networking for scaling of springshed management. Participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan will together plan a way forward for collaborative springshed management in the HKH.

Workshop objectives

- Understanding achievements, challenges, and opportunities for springshed management in the HKH
- Sharing good practices on springshed management
- Exploring scope for convergence, collaboration, and regional networking for scaling up springshed management
- Co-planning a way forward for advancing collaborative springshed management in the HKH

Workshop module

2.5 days at the ICIMOD headquarters in Kathmandu

1.5 days in the field, in Kavrepalanchok District and the ICIMOD Knowledge Park at Godavari

Background

Springs have historically been the primary source of groundwater for many mountain communities across the HKH region. Springs are important for consumption and agricultural, economic, and cultural activities. They also contribute significantly to base flows in rivers, and the drying and loss of springs has consequences for the sustainability of Himalayan landscapes and river systems, ecosystems, and biodiversity.

Depleting groundwater resources and decreasing discharge/drying up of springs are emerging issues in the HKH region. It is estimated that nearly **50% of the springs in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) are drying up**, affecting communities whose lives and livelihoods depend on spring water. Lack of scientific evidence, inadequate knowledge and skills of communities and institutions, lack of gender-responsive policies and governance systems, and lack of investments are some of the challenges and gaps that need to be addressed for advancing springshed management in the HKH.

To address the issue of drying springs and evolving threats to water security across the region, ICIMOD is collaborating with the Advanced Center for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM),

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, People's Science Institute (PSI), and other government and non-government partners, to implement an **initiative** to advance scientific knowledge and evidence, strengthen capacity building, and develop a user-friendly decision support system for springshed management in the IHR. The initiative is part of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's (SDC) project on Strengthening State Strategies for Climate Action (SCA-Himalaya) in India.

The action research under the initiative is being implemented at four pilot locations in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Manipur. While the field implementation of this initiative is across the four pilot sites in the IHR, the learning will be used for scaling up spring rejuvenation at the regional level.

Agenda

Tuesday, 12 July 2022

Day 1: Understanding achievements, challenges, and opportunities for springshed management in the HKH

Venue: ICIMOD headquarters

Moderators: **Barsha Rani Gurung** and **Karishma Khadka** (ICIMOD)

Time (NPT)	Session	Rapporteurs
08:45–09:15	Registration and tea	Rasmi Dangol, Mayaju Maharjan, Santosh Paudel and Gunanidhi Pokhrel, ICIMOD
09:15–10:15	<p>Inaugural session</p> <p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, ICIMOD (10 min) <p>Introduction to the ICIMOD Strategy (2023–2030)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Basanta Raj Shrestha, Director Strategic Cooperation, ICIMOD (15 min) <p>Setting the context and sharing objective of the workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nand Kishor Agrawal, Programme Coordinator, Resilient Mountain Solutions (RMS), ICIMOD (10 min) <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dipak Gyawali, Academician, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and distinguished fellow, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF), Nepal (5 min) – Neena Grewal, Project Director and State Level Additional Chief Executive Officer, SLNA at Watershed Management Directorate, Government of Uttarakhand, India (5 min) – Lalit Jain, Director, Department of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Himachal Pradesh, India (5 min) <p>Keynote speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sindhu Prasad Dhungana, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal (5 min) 	Kripa Shrestha and Erica Udas, ICIMOD
10:15–11:00	Introduction of all participants (1 min each)	
11:00–11:15	Tea break and group photo	

Time (NPT)	Session	Rapporteurs
11:15–11:30	Strengthening climate change adaptation in Himalayas (SCA-Himalayas): A project overview – Ridhima Sud , Team Leader, SCA-Himalayas, SDC India	Kripa Shrestha and Gunanidhi Pokhrel ICIMOD
11:30–12:00	Background and overview of RMS Initiative and springshed initiative – Sabina Uprety and Sanjeev Bhuchar , ICIMOD	
12:00–13:15	Lessons from four action research sites (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Manipur) under the springshed initiative Spring water management in Himalayan region: Pathway to HKH groundwater governance – Jayesh Desai , and Himanshu Kulkarni , ACWADAM Participatory springshed management: Experiences from Uttarakhand (India) – Debashish Sen , PSI Participatory springshed management: Experiences from Himachal Pradesh (India) – Rajesh Kumar , PSI and Narender Paul , CORD Integrated springshed management: Leveraging spring instrumentation and isotope hydrology in the Indian Himalayan Region – Sumit Sen , IITR	
13:15–14:15	Lunch	
14:15–15:30	Parallel group work Six-step protocol – Madhav Dhakal , Kripa Shrestha , ICIMOD, and Kunal Upasani , ACWADAM Gender and social inclusion – Gunanidhi Pokhrel , ICIMOD, Simran Sumbre , ACWADAM, and Dikshya Upadhyay , PSI Monitoring and evaluation – Ghulam Mohammad Shah , Sabina Uprety , ICIMOD and Debashish Sen , PSI Policy and regional networking – Sanjeev Bhuchar , ICIMOD, and Sukesh Bartarya , PSI Knowledge management and communication – Barsha Rani Gurung , ICIMOD, Himanshu Kulkarni , ACWADAM, and Rajesh Kumar , PSI Advancing science for springshed management – Erica Udas , Kiran Shakya , ICIMOD, Ipsita Roy , PSI, and Jayesh Desai , ACWADAM	Madhav Dhakal Gunanidhi Pokhrel Sabina Uprety Sanjeev Bhuchar Barsha Rani Gurung Erica Udas
15:30–15:45	Tea break	
15:45–17:15	Panel discussion Achievements, challenges, and opportunities for springshed management Panel 1 – Neena Grewal , Project Director and State Level Additional Chief Executive Officer, SLNA at Watershed Management Directorate, Uttarakhand, India – Braja Kumar Singh , Deputy Director, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Manipur, India – Susheel Chandra Acharya , Director General, Department of Water Resources and Irrigation, Nepal – Jambay , Lecturer, College of Natural Resources, Bhutan – Md. Motaleb Hossain Sarker , Director, Water Resource Management Division, Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Bangladesh Panel 2 – Basu Kaushal , Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh, India – Suresh Chand Attri , Principle Scientific Officer, Department of Environment, Science, and Technology (DEST), India – Manohara Khadka , Country Representative, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Nepal – Moti Lal Rijal , Associate Professor, Central Department of Geology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal Moderated by Himanshu Kulkarni , ACWADAM	Erica Udas and Santosh Paudel, ICIMOD
17:15–17:30	Reflections from Day 1 using mentimeter – Participants	Sabina Uprety and Gunanidhi Pokhrel
17:30–17:45	Briefing of day 2 programme and introduction to the field sites – Erica Udas and Madhav Dhakal , ICIMOD	

Wednesday, 13 July 2022

Day 2 Improved understanding of achievements, success factors, challenges, and gaps and opportunities

Venue Namobuddha Municipality, Kavrepalanchok District

Moderators Erica Udas and Madhav Dhakal, ICIMOD, and CEAPRED

Time (NPT)	Session
08:00–10:00	Travel to field site
10:00–13:00	Visit to resilient mountain village and spring sites
13:00–13:30	Travel to Dhulikhel
13:30–14:30	Lunch
14:30–15:30	Reflections from the field visit
15:30–17:00	Return to Hotel Himalaya, Kathmandu

Thursday, 14 July 2022

Day 3 Scope and areas of collaboration at regional and global levels for advancing springshed management

Venue ICIMOD headquarters

Moderators Sabina Uprety and Rasmi Dangol, ICIMOD

Time (NPT)	Session	Rapporteurs
08:45–09:00	Screening of ICIMOD Knowledge Park video	
09:00–10:00	Group work on decision support system for springshed management – Kripa Shrestha and Kiran Shakya, ICIMOD, and Jayesh Desai, ACWADAM	Santosh Paudel and Gunanidhi Pokhrel, ICIMOD
10:00–10:15	Tea break	
10:15–11:00	Panel discussion on: Breaking the bias – Diksha Upadhyay, Civil Engineer, PSI, India – Simran Sumbre, Social Scientist, ACWADAM, India – Karishma Khadka, Springshed Management Associate, ICIMOD, Nepal – Karma Uden, Program Officer, Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan – Thingreiphi Lungharwoshi, Executive Secretary, Mountain Indigenous Knowledge Centre, Uttarakhand, India Moderated by Sanjeev Bhuchar and Kripa Shrestha, ICIMOD	Santosh Paudel and Gunanidhi Pokhrel, ICIMOD
11:00–12:15	Strengthening climate resilient land and watershed management for spring rejuvenation in the Himalayas: Action oriented research proving on and offsite benefits – Hanspeter Liniger, World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT), Switzerland Identification and revitalization of water sources for sustainable water resources management of Chittagong Hill Tracts – Md. Motaleb Hossain Sarker, Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Bangladesh Forest ecosystem service approach: 11 step methodology from FES project Indo-German Biodiversity programme – Ritesh Sharma, GIZ, India Mainstreaming springshed policy for groundwater in the HKH – Chiranjibi Bhattarai, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCFF), Nepal	Karishma Khadka and Santosh Paudel, ICIMOD
12:15–13:15	Lunch	

13:15–14:15	Regional networking for springshed management: Inputs (purpose, good practices) Discussions and way forward – Sanjeev Bhuchar , ICIMOD, and Himanshu Kulkarni , ACWADAM	Santosh Paudel, and Gunanidhi Pokhrel, ICIMOD
14:15–14:45	Monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework – Ghulam Mohammad Shah , ICIMOD	
14:45–15:00	Refresher game – Barsha Rani Gurung , ICIMOD	
15:00–15:30	Knowledge management, communication, and outreach – Barsha Rani Gurung , ICIMOD	Santosh Paudel, and Gunanidhi Pokhrel, ICIMOD
15:30–15:45	Tea break	
15:45–17:00	Group work Convergence with relevant government programmes resources, possible funding opportunities, and regional collaboration – Santosh Raj Pathak , ICIMOD	Kripa Shrestha, Barsha Rani Gurung, and Santosh Paudel, ICIMOD
17:00–17:15	Reflections from Day 3 – Participants	Santosh Paudel and Kripa Shrestha, ICIMOD
18:00–20:00	Reception dinner at Tukuhe Restaurant, Lalitpur	

Friday, 15 July 2022

Day 4 Action for collaboration and networking

Venue ICIMOD headquarters

Moderators **Kripa Shrestha** and **Madhav Dhakal**, ICIMOD

Time (NPT)	Session	Rapporteurs
9:00–9:15	Key highlights of the previous three days – Madhav Dhakal , ICIMOD	Sabina Uprety and Gunanidhi Pokhrel
9:15–10:15	Panel discussion Springshed management for water security – Ridhima Sud , Team Leader, SCA-Himalayas, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), India – Narayan Khawas , Technical Specialist, NIRAS, Denmark – Praveena Shreedhar , Chief Science & Technology Officer, Frank Water, U.K. – Vaibhav Eknath Gosavi , Scientist, Center for Land and Water Resource Management, G.B.Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development, India Moderated by Nand Kishor Agrawal , ICIMOD	
10:15–10:30	Tea break	
10:30–11:00	Reflections from the participants	
11:00–11:30	Way forward – Nand Kishor Agrawal , ICIMOD Closing remarks – Pema Gyamtsho , Director General, ICIMOD Vote of thanks – Karishma Khadka , ICIMOD	
11:30–12:30	Lunch	
12:30–17:00	Visit to the ICIMOD Knowledge Park at Godavari	

For further information

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