



# **Mountain Communities & Migration: Perspectives from the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP)**

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**Mountains under pressure: climate,  
hunger, migration**

**11-13 December 2017**

**FAO Mountain Partnership**

# Mountain Indigenous Peoples (MIPs)

- Many/most people in mountains are indigenous or maintain traditional lifestyles.
- The homelands of MIPs are hotspots of biological and cultural diversity that play a critical role as water towers, centres of crop domestication and diversification, and places of high spiritual value.
- The distinct cultural identities, traditional knowledge and customary laws of MIPs ensure sustainable management of ecosystems and provide ecosystem services for rural and urban populations.
- Yet MIPs are amongst the poorest, most marginalised and most vulnerable to climate change, and often face ethnic or religious discrimination.
- Climate change is adding to problems of insecure land tenure, extractive industries, unsustainable development and out-migration.
- MIPs are calling for recognition and respect of their spiritual values, traditional knowledge and holistic worldviews that promote sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and resilience to CC.

See INMIP Potato Park Declaration: <http://pubs.iied.org/G04169/>

# INMIP – International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples

- Established in May 2014 at ISE Congress Bhutan (pre-Congress workshop).
- Coordinated by Alejandro Argumedo, ANDES (Peru), with support from IIED.
- 11 countries: Peru, Bhutan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, China, PNG, Taiwan, Thailand, Philippines, Kenya
- c.40 indigenous communities & 11 country coordinators – NGOs, R.Is (eg. CCAP China, KEFRI Kenya, NBC Bhutan)
- Centres of crop diversity/origin, and mountain forests
- Low, mid & high altitude (mainly 1500 – 3000 masl)

See: [www.inmip.net](http://www.inmip.net)



# ISE Congress Bhutan, 2014



# Migration & Impacts on MIPs- INMIP experience

- Many INMIP communities experiencing growing **out-migration** to urban areas, esp. youth.
- Not in-migration & population growth (like Mt Elgon), but this could increase eg. in Taita hills, Kenya coast.
- Out-migration brings income/remittances - but often small (eg. SW China)
- Reduces agricultural work force & increases burden on women.
- Hampers inter-generational transmission of traditional knowledge (TK).

## **INMIP Responses:**

- Engage youth in community activities, traditional festivals, & link elders and youth.
- Diversify incomes & enhance market linkages for sustainable, TK-based products/services, eg. natural products, agro-ecotourism (farm, non-farm, landscape).

See INMIP Stone Village exchange report: <http://pubs.iied.org/14669IIED/>



# 3<sup>rd</sup> INMIP workshop, Stone Village China



# INMIP examples: Guangxi & Yunnan, SW China

- High rates of out-migration in **Guangxi** province & feminisation/ageing agric.
- % of pp migrating grew from 41% in 2002 to 69% in 2012 (survey of 11 villages in 7 counties)
- CCAP support for Participatory Plant Breeding and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- Farmer incomes 3-4 x higher due to sale of organic rice, vegetables and meat to urban ecological restaurants.
- This has led to return of youth from urban areas to villages & revitalised agroecological farming & biodiversity

See: SIFOR report. Song et al (2016): <http://pubs.iied.org/14664IIED/>

## **Naxi Stone Village, Yunnan (scaling out through SIFOR):**

- Migration c. 44% (little change). Also due to school closing (due to govt. policy)
- CCAP has supported development of traditional food products eg. ham/pork and rice wine, CSA (link to urban markets) and agro-tourism.
- Youth that had migrated to Lijiang city are returning to hometown for opportunity to invest in & develop tourism business

See: SIFOR report + INMIP Stone Village report: <http://pubs.iied.org/14669IIED/>



# China-Bhutan-PP exchange, April 2014





# INMIP example: Potato Park, Peru

- 6 Quechua communities in high Andes – area of 9,600 ha managed by communities with 1400 varieties of potato
- Established with support of ANDES (Peru)
- Temporary out-migration increased from 14% to 22% between 2002 and 2012, due to growth in work opportunities outside communities (eg. taxi driving). Mainly male.
- However, female out-migration declined and % of HHs with both men and women in farming remains high (88%)

This is probably due to Potato Park:

- Micro-enterprises (largely women) have doubled incomes since 2002, eg. natural products, herbal teas, agro-ecotourism, gastronomy, crafts.
- Strong pride & cultural connection with the landscape

See: ANDES (2016): <http://pubs.iied.org/14663IIED/>

# Biocultural Heritage Territories like PP – key response to CC, hunger & migration

- In the PP, potato **productivity has increased** despite severe CC impacts - the lower planting line for potatoes has moved up by 200 metres in the last 30 yrs (due to soil warming, pests & diseases).
- This has been achieved through **genetic diversification, strengthening of TK, and linking TK & science.**
- A repatriation agreement with CIP returned 410 native potato varieties.
- Different varieties are tested in different micro-climates and subjected to evolutionary pressures.
- Quechua farmers ('Potato Guardians') monitor CC impacts & distribute resilient seeds
- Planting different resilient varieties reduces risk
- The PP Association of 6 communities ensures sustainable management of the landscape based on customary laws
- A highly participatory approach has led to strong local capacity, empowerment and ownership – social cohesion, pride, wellbeing
- Micro-enterprises – key component



# Biocultural Heritage: Inter-dependent components



# INMIP: Scaling out successful innovations

- **Vision:** A world rich in BCH that maintains the reciprocal & harmonious relationship among the spiritual, human and natural realms for resilient indigenous mountain communities
- **Mission:** Provide a global platform for exchange of knowledge and experiences for promotion of indigenous mountain BCH
- **Horizontal learning exchanges** – walking workshops: Bhutan (2014), Tajikistan (2015), Stone Village China (2016), Potato Park Peru (2017)
- **Exchanges on:** Resilient farming systems, sustaining TK, community seed banks, PPB & science-TK links, traditional water management, BCHTs & micro-enterprises
- **Evidence** of climate impacts and role of BCH in adaptation; dialogues with policy makers



# Potato Park exchange – 4 day training on BCHTs given almost entirely by Quechua farmers













# Tajik farmer shows adapted Peruvian potatoes in 'Apple Park'



# THANK-YOU!

- The Christensen Fund
- Tamalpais Trust
- SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre
- EU and DFID (SIFOR project)
- UNDP (IKI)
- New Field Foundation

[www.inmip.net](http://www.inmip.net)

[www.bioculturalheritage.org](http://www.bioculturalheritage.org)