

Mountain Development and the Ministry of Forestry of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar joined the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in 1990 and has become a member since then. Myanmar has carried out the activities with the object of developing the mountains in various aspects. Among them were conservation of biodiversity, soil conservation, capacity building, holding workshops and trainings to enhance the skill of managing natural resources, awareness raising about sustainable mountain development, and sending the staff to attend international workshops, trainings and seminars.

In August 2007, the Ministry of Forestry in collaboration with the ICIMOD conducted a country consultation workshop for the implementation of the Medium-Term Action Plan (MTAP) II in Myanmar. The Ministry of Forestry (MOF) in consultation with the ICIMOD organized an operational planning workshop from 25-26 2008 August in Nay Pyi Taw for the implementation of the MTAP II in Myanmar. The objectives of the operational plan workshop was to involve the key national partners for detailed planning and work out joint operational plans in key identified areas by the strategic programmes for increased ownership by national partners.

Within the framework of the MTAP II, the following program areas are being implemented with the financial and technical assistance of the ICIMOD.

(a) Environment Change and Ecosystem Services

Action Area: Biodiversity Conservation and Management

- Transboundary Biodiversity Management and Cooperation
- Biodiversity Assessment of Hkakaborazi National Park

Action Area: Integrated Watershed Management

- Capacity Building - " Soil and Water Conservation Training" at national level
- WOCAT initiative for Myanmar
- Demonstration Site (feasibility) - education and training

Action Area: Community Forestry

- Exchange on community forestry related initiatives (best practices)

(b) Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction*Action Area: High Value Product Development*

- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (Assessment of important MAPs, networking and marketing)
- Beekeeping (Indigenous bees) related capacity building and networking

Action Area: Diversified Livelihoods

- Skilled training for economic empowerment for women

(c) Integrated Water and Hazard Management*Action Area: Assessment of Ice and Water Resources*

- Inventory of Glaciers and Glacial lakes
- Mountain wetlands regional programme partnership

(d) Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information System (MENRIS)

- Regional Landcover mapping and capacity development

(e) Himalayan University Consortium (HUC)

- Participation in Himalayan University Consortium