

## **Indigenous Peoples for UNSG Report - ICIMOD**

Even if the Asia and the Pacific Region achieves the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015, the bulk of remaining poverty will be concentrated among indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups living in less-favoured areas like mountains. Socioeconomic and political marginalisation renders their traditional access to resources like land and forests insecure. Indigenous people's development is central because they are not only among the poorest, they are also custodians of the world's biodiversity and providers of environmental services.

ICIMOD and Tebtebba Foundation (Philippines) finalised an analysis of the achievements of the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in ten countries of Asia with a specific focus on mountain areas.

The main findings shows that despite of increasing recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples, still most states do not fully recognise indigenous peoples in their national constitutions. The most urgent issue demanding attention remains that of rights to land and natural resources.

A significant success story in the Himalayas is that Nepal ratified the central ILO convention 169, which brings up the issues of self-determination and recognition of collective ownership rights to land.