

UNSG Report on Sustainable Mountain Development 2007-2009

Section VI Communication and Networking (25 words)

78-80 [unchanged]

81. The Mountain Partnership (MFS) aims to foster national policies that favour sustainable mountain development (SMD) and catalyse users/members and projects that have impact on the ground. The MFS with its regional nodes supports these initiatives with information and communication tools comprising an Mountain Library, Calendar of Mountain events as well as an Who-is-Who database with information on over 800 organisations. The regional nodes of Mountain Forum connects over 5000 (2008) individual users from more than 130 countries interested in SMD and who are using the available communication tools to share information and generate new content and insights. In collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network of MF conducted E-discussions and E-Conferences on (i) Biodiversity, (ii) Culture and Risk: Understanding the socio-cultural settings that influence risk from natural hazards, (iii) How disasters can help to improve a country's economy. The e-discussions were captured, summarized and disseminated as Bulleting through the Internet and various Mountain Journals.

82. ICIMOD, the Mountain Centre of the Hindu-Kush Himalaya, celebrated in 2008 its 25th anniversary by reaching out in many new ways to create wider awareness among a broader public regionally and internationally of the impacts of climate change, the need to enhance the adaptation and resilience of mountain communities. The communication and networking activities of ICIMOD during 2007 and 2008 have not only a regional but also a global impact. By building networks and presenting regional issues and concerns in global forums it has contributed actively to the international debate on climate change and water issues.

83. A major event international event ICIMOD organized was a photo-exhibition 'The Himalayas-Changing Landscapes is aimed at environmental and development organizations, government bodies, international media and the general public. During the 1950 many photographs were taken of the glaciers, mountains and valleys of the Everest region. More than fifty years later photographers went back to the same spots to capture the same image which illustrates the significant changes in the landscape. The exhibition was unveiled in a customized format at Mt. Everest basecamp in April 2008, making it probably the highest photo-exhibition in the world. The exhibition then went to Stockholm, where it was shown at the World Water Week, Barcelona, Spain at

the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Kathmandu, Nepal and continues to be shown at major events in 2009.

84. The land cover and its dynamics has been identified as critical information needed for national and regional reporting and decision making concerning key natural resources and environment monitoring. ICIMOD together with FAO's Global Land Cover Network/Regional Harmonization Programme (GLCN/RHAP) and national partners have developed a sub-regional land cover database of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region using a standardized and harmonized methodology. Under this initiative, the partners from the eight regional member countries were involved in the process of development of sub-regional land cover database using a common approach and methodology.