



Dear Friends,

Greetings on the occasion of **International Day for Biological Diversity!**

The United Nations proclaimed 22 May the [International Day for Biological Diversity](#) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. This year's theme for IDB is [Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Sustaining People and Their Livelihoods](#). The theme underscores the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for life on Earth and the livelihoods and wellbeing of people everywhere. Biodiversity sustains peoples' livelihoods while also enabling development in various sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism.

At ICIMOD, we celebrate this important day each year with a number of activities. To mark this occasion, I am pleased to share with you a [message from ICIMOD Director General David Molden, Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Sustaining People and Their Livelihoods](#).

A feature article, **“Mountain biodiversity: Sustaining lives through generations”** by two of our experts, Janita Gurung, Biodiversity Conservation Management Specialist, and Neha Bisht, Associate Ecosystems Specialist, has been issued for relevant media uptake. The article highlights the important role that biodiversity plays in the lives of mountain peoples for sustenance, employment, and income generation.

It may also interest you to read an [article](#), by our expert Laxmi Dutta Bhatta, Ecosystem Management Specialist, which has been published in today's Nagariknews in Nepali.

ICIMOD organized a blog writing competition among the Centre's young professionals on this year's theme. Five blogs were submitted, and Lipy Adhikhari won the competition ([www.icimod.org/?q=22451](http://www.icimod.org/?q=22451)). We would like to congratulate her and all of the other young professionals who participated.

In addition, an array of events ranging from national to regional levels have also been organized to celebrate this day.

The ICIMOD Country Office in Afghanistan in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) has organized a seminar in Kabul.

In Bhutan, Bhutan Media and Communication Institute (BMCI) has organized a river cleaning campaign with college-level students and tourism sector organizations in Thimphu.

In India, Eco-concept a Non-governmental organization based out of Guwahati, conducted a two days learning event at Nilachal Hill of Guwahati. The Nilachal hill is a nerve centre of biodiversity that shelters wide range of species including the Indian leopard. In order to celebrate IDB 2016, forty students from four different schools in Guwahati came together for an experiential learning.

The idea was to introduce the students to a seat of biodiversity within the city where bounty of nature can be relished and also help them create mindset for conservation. The students will now be able to relate to the concepts of climate change and its impacts of flora and fauna. Learning such as this will surely open a new world within the young minds and motivate them to take action to preserve good practices and initiate new sustainable ideas”.

In Nepal, ICIMOD is supporting the initiatives of the Government of Nepal. ICIMOD is participating in the Yarsha Festival organized in Ranmamaikot, Rukum district where ICIMOD is presenting a paper at a technical session organized by the Ministry of Forests and Social Conservation, Government of Nepal, that focusses on ‘Different aspects of integration of multiple institutions: Solutions for yarshagumba-related conflict in the Himalayan region of Nepal.

On Friday, 20 May, ICIMOD also hosted a [Knowledge Forum](#) on this year’s theme featuring Bharati Pathak, General Secretary, Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN); Pankaj Prasad Raturi, Head of Department, Dabur Nepal; and Resham Bahadur Dangji, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal.

In Pakistan, the ICIMOD Country Office organized a seminar ‘Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Sustaining People and their Livelihoods’ in collaboration with [Pakistan Agricultural Research Council \(PARC\)](#), [Pakistan Science Foundation \(PSF\)](#), [PMAS-Arid Agriculture University](#), [Government of Gilgit Baltistan](#), [Aga Khan Rural Support Programme \(AKRSP\)](#), [World Wildlife Fund for Nature Pakistan\(WWF-P\)](#), [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#), [Mountain AreasFarmer Support Organization \(MAFSO\)](#) and local communities at Skardu, Baltistan. You can read more about these activities at [www.icimod.org/?q=22151](http://www.icimod.org/?q=22151).

All the best in celebrating this important day!

