

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) 2010

ICIMOD marked the International Year of Biodiversity by organizing various activities including participation in global conferences and meetings, hosting regional level trainings, and organising local events. The activities are as follows:

1. A dedicated IYB webpage (February, 2010)

A dedicated IYB webpage was launched with the message of Director General of ICIMOD. The webpage contains valuable information on biodiversity richness of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region, the centre's work on biodiversity conservation and management, events for 2010, knowledge products, media coverage and global/regional news. www.icimod.org/iyb

2. Biodiversity show at Open House (March, 2010)

ICIMOD opened its doors for the general public during Open House event and had a special 'Biodiversity Show' as a part of the celebrations for the IYB. The show was designed to create awareness of the importance of biodiversity in our lives. The show has many visitors, young and old, who learned about the flora and fauna of Nepal, and the Centre's effort towards biodiversity conservation and management. Especially the researchers and students were delighted to take information materials. Understanding was helped through presentation of posters on environmental change and ecosystem services, landscape conservation planning, wetlands, access and benefit sharing and honeybees and biodiversity. The younger generation, especially college and school students, enjoyed themselves at the quiz corner. They learned about biodiversity and IYB through questions with focus on biodiversity. Students flocked at the corner and participated enthusiastically in the quiz and gifts were presented to the winners. www.icimod.org/?page=923

3. Fourteenth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14) (May 2010)

ICIMOD also promoted the IYB by participating in the SBSTTA-14 of the CBD in Nairobi, Kenya. The centre organised a side event in partnership with its regional member countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan- to bring the international notice the collective efforts of the Centre and the regional member countries on biodiversity conservation and management. The side event was focused on 'Implementation Status of CBD especially on the Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity' and 'Draft ABS Regional Framework of the HKH region'. Along with the side event, a total of 7 ICIMOD posters covering various topics related to mountain biodiversity and livelihoods were displayed from 10-21 May 2010 at the SBSTTA-14 venue.

4. International Day for Biological Diversity (May, 2010)

ICIMOD had an in-house celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity on 24 May 2010. The event was an opportunity to share some of ICIMOD's efforts to conserve and better manage the biodiversity in the HKH region. ICIMOD had several biodiversity related activities planned throughout the year 2010 to commemorate the "International Year of Biodiversity". The in-house programme, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May 2010, unfolded highlights of:

- **Photo contest on Mountain Biodiversity** was organised reflecting themes of IYB 'Biodiversity is life Biodiversity is our life' and International Day for Biological Diversity 'Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation'.
- **Street drama on the theme "Biodiversity and water"** was organised at three different public places in the capital city, Kathmandu, to raise awareness on the importance of Biodiversity and Water' among the general public. The drama at the public places was an exciting event which drew attention of hundreds of people. It highlighted the importance of linkages between water and biodiversity and the immense role they play in the lives of all living beings.
- **E-discussion on Gender and Biodiversity (May 2010)** was organised to discuss on issues and challenges and share knowledge on biodiversity management with gender perspective. The Regional Member countries of HKH region were encouraged to share their stories and lessons learnt on gender based case studies helping promotion of policies for effective biodiversity conservation and management. An information sheet has been published from the discussion.

5. World Environment Day (5th June, 2010)

ICIMOD in collaboration with the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) celebrated the World Environment Day with the theme 'Many Species, One Planet, One Future' in Nepal. A competition among the school children on 'promoting herbal gardens within their school' was organized to educate school children of importance of herbal plants and conserve associated traditional knowledge. The competition had three important components: Herbal Poster with Recipe, Herbal Profile, and Herbal Garden. All together fifteen schools from the Kathmandu valley participated in the contest and the competition was formally launched in an inaugural session. The winners received cash prizes and certificates.

6. ICIMOD-GBIF-GMBA Regional Training on Open access to, and publishing of, mountain biodiversity data from the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region (14-18 June, 2010)

ICIMOD in collaboration with Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) organised a regional training on ‘Open access to, and publishing of, mountain biodiversity data from the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region’. Following the principles of free and open access to biodiversity data, and mutual benefits for scientific research, conservation, and sustainable development, the countries initiated a partnership process to adopt globally standardised and harmonised biodiversity information. The workshop introduced international data and metadata standards, geo-referencing of biodiversity data, and use of data in policy making. A follow up action plan was discussed to take the initiative forward in the HKH.

7. A Regional Training on Biodiversity Management and Climate Change was organised on March to build capacity in implementing the integrated conservation at the landscape level and to fill in the gaps in technical understanding of the linkages between biodiversity conservation and societal priorities, cultural perspectives, economic need and challenges imposed by climate change. Twenty professionals from Bhutan, China, India and Myanmar, representing partner organisations from Kangchenjunga, Kailash Sacred and Brahmputra-Salween landscapes participated.

8. Success stories on mountain biodiversity initiatives in the HKH region (August)

ICIMOD collected case studies of initiatives (success stories) focusing on different aspects of mountain biodiversity in the region. The three best case studies received cash prize with certificate and a case study was awarded a special mention certificate.

9. Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

ICIMOD participated as an observer and followed the negotiation processes and the Plenary Sessions on many CBD agendas including the Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity (PoW-MB) and Programme of Work on Mountain Protected Areas (PoW-PA). The Centre hosted, co-hosted, and participated in a series of events and activities in and around the meeting. Three different side events on transboundary conservation, challenges on mountain biodiversity conservation in the context of climate change, and IYB celebrations were organised. ICIMOD shared and presented its mission, initiatives and approaches for conservation and management of biodiversity in the HKH region by holding an exhibition booth during the Interactive Fair for Biodiversity. Scientific and general posters covering various topics related to biodiversity, water, and livelihoods were also displayed during the Poster session and Communication, Education and Public Awareness Fair.