World Environment Day (5th June, 2010)

As a part of celebrations of International Year of Biodiversity 2010, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (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'* on 5th June at the centre's headquarter, Kathmandu, Nepal. ICIMOD observed this important day with several national activities. A competition among the school children on 'promoting herbal gardens within their school' was organized to educated 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 on 7 June, 2010 followed by a short message from the Director General of ICIMOD and remarks from the Executive Secretary of NTNC. The winners received cash prizes and certificates.

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'. Twenty five participants representing eight Hindu Kush Himalayan countries used an opportunity provided by GBIF/GMBA global platform to publish, harvest, and use biodiversity data from the 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.