

# Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) Bulletin

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## Coordinator's Note

The Mountain Forum Bulletin, after the successful publication of a pilot issue in August 1997, will now be published regularly, twice a year, in March and September. With a view to avoid duplication of information and to cut down on printing and distribution costs, it has been decided to publish the APMN Bulletin together with the Mountain Forum Bulletin.

However, as before, the APMN Bulletin will keep its distinct, regional identity and will continue to focus on information that is specific to the Asia/Pacific region.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform the Asia/Pacific mountain community that ICIMOD, which serves as the Asia/Pacific focal point for the Mountain Forum, was elected by the Mountain Forum Interim Facilitating Committee Meeting, held in November 1997, to serve as the Convenor and Secretariat of the Mountain Forum for two years, commencing in January 1998.

The APMN's Southeast Asia focal point organized a Forum on Sustainable Mountain Ecology from March 19-20, 1998. Several state-of-the-art papers were tabled and discussed, and the proceedings are expected to be published shortly.

APMN/ICIMOD has also signed an agreement with the International University of Krygyzstan to undertake preliminary work to prepare for the Year of the Mountains as proposed to the United Nations by the President of the Krygyz Republic. Towards this end, APMN will be supporting a workshop in Bishkek in May to discuss issues related to mountains in Central Asia.

We hope that the publication of this APMN Bulletin, together with the Mountain Forum Bulletin, has further strengthened our goal of information sharing and dissemination on sustainable mountain development.

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## Hindu Kush-Himalayas

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### Local Water Harvesting and Management in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (HKH)

*By Prof. Suresh Raj Chalise, Mountain Natural Resources, ICIMOD, from a posting to the MF discussion list, Feb 23, 1998.*

#### *Water availability issues in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas*

Despite the fact that the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (HKH) are the largest storehouse of fresh water, for the bulk of the inhabitants, year-round availability of water is a major problem. It is either that the HKH receive too much water during the monsoon or too little for the rest of the year.

Development and management of water resources in the HKH region in the past focused on power generation and/or water for irrigation in the plains and for supply to urban and industrial users. Consequently the institutions, technology and knowledge that have been generated have been primarily concerned with the ever-increasing needs of the plains and urban areas. Although the importance of mountain areas as primary sources of water has been accepted, due to the priority given to the plains in development planning this has been side tracked. The issues that prevail can be highlighted as follow:

The water requirements of mountain communities in the head water regions as well as the need to provide them with a fair share of the total downstream benefits from harnessing upstream mountain resources need attention; the understanding of the hydrology of the headwater regions, which are not only influenced by natural hydroclimatic and biogeophysical processes but also by human activities in upper watersheds needs to be increased; the wide variations and seasonality in water availability need to be considered and matched with the ever-increasing year-round demand for water, and systems for harvesting and sustaining local water resources need to be better understood and applied.

#### *Local water harvesting and management in the HKH*

Depending on the local resources, ingenuity and skills, mountain communities have developed diverse indigenous practices for the management of water. These indigenous practices vary mainly from the arid west to mostly wet eastern parts of the HKH region. Strong community participation and management of such indigenous practices are, however, common features throughout the region.

Throughout the HKH intricate channels which use both perennial and seasonal sources to supply water in agriculture can be observed. These channels are constructed, operated, managed, and repaired by local communities. Similarly, drinking water systems not only provide access to springs and groundwater but also harness rain water.

While the existing indigenous practices fulfilled the need for water in the past, such practices presently have become gravely inadequate and incapable of meeting the ever-increasing demand for water by mountain communities, as well as communities in the plains and urban areas. With the increasing scarcity of water in the mountains, the local communities have been facing the issue of transporting water from distant places. Because of the huge costs of transporting water from distant places, protecting local water resources and improving indigenous water management practices have become imperative, if available water resources are to meet the present and future needs of mountain communities.

Considering the rapidly increasing demand for mountain water resources and to ensure adequate supplies of water for different purpose in future, identifying, developing, and implementing appropriate policies and programmes for the management of local water resources in close partnership with the local communities are essential.

#### *Major Issues in Local Water Harvesting and Management in the HKH*

In order to develop a programme on local water harvesting and management based on the needs and priorities of the ICIMOD member countries a 'Regional Consultative Meeting on Water Harvesting for Mountain Households in the HKH' was organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) from 9-14 April, 1997, in Chengdu, Sichuan (China), in collaboration with the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment.

The meeting recommended the following.

- For an estimated 120 million people in the HKH region, water is a scarce commodity and improved water harvesting practices are critical for ensuring the availability of drinking water for mountain households, production of food grains, meeting the need for biomass, and for improved living conditions. More efficient water use and harvesting methods can also contribute towards improvement in the conditions of other natural resources and thereby contribute to the reliability of water supply systems. People's active participation in all aspects of water use, harvesting, and management have contributed towards the greater equity and sustainability of local systems
- In view of the urgent need for substantial improvements in the management of local water resources in mountain watersheds, the Regional Conference called on ICIMOD and other countries to undertake the following activities.
- Compilation of relevant facts on people's institutions related to water harvesting and dissemination of these facts
- Study of women's role in water harvesting
- Study of water harvesting system's planning, implementation, maintenance, sharing, raising resources, and resolving conflicts
- Study of decentralized policy on water harvesting
- Study of the roles of different organizations in local-level water harvesting and their capabilities in terms of meeting new challenges
- Inventory of water harvesting technologies and their assessment in terms of costs, benefits, and potentials for replication
- Sharing information about different aspects of water harvesting
- Better understanding of Social Capital Development and Water Harvesting Practices in Mountain Areas, including the impact of cultures, local practices, and different policies and programmes on water harvesting
- Training in both technical and farmer levels
- Exchange visits and study tours for greater awareness about sustainable water harvesting systems
- Development of databases on different aspects such as hydrology, meteorology, geomorphology, geology, and biology
- Study of the environmental impacts of different water harvesting systems

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## **Sikkim Biodiversity and Ecotourism Project Report Summary (SBE) 1996-1997**

*By Nandita Jain, The Mountain Institute, Sikkim, India, from a posting to the MF discussion list, Jan 1, 1998. Location: West Sikkim, India; Partners: The Mountain Institute, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), Travel Agents' Association of Sikkim (TAAS), The Green Circle, local organizations and communities.*

### *What's at Stake*

The Himalayan state of Sikkim, which has only recently been opened to tourism, is one of the two most biodiverse areas in India. Sikkim contains the world's third highest mountain peak, Khangchendzonga (8,586m), which is revered as the protective deity of Sikkim and renowned for rhododendrons, diverse flowering plants, birds, and numerous other wildlife species.

Threats to Sikkim's biodiversity include agricultural land conversion, road construction, over-collection of forest products, and fuelwood collection. A partially constructed hydro-electric project is also present near the key project site.

To counter these threats and to build on the opportunity to provide benefits to local communities, the project team is working with a local association of trekking businesses (Trekking Agent Association of Sikkim/TAAS) and local communities to strengthen community-based tourism opportunities at three sites around Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP). These sites include Yuksam, the trekking trail to Dzongri and Goecha-La settlements around Khecheopalri Lake, and Pelling near Pemayangtse Monastery. This project is particularly timely as the state government is eager to promote tourism through the development of policies that minimise the problems that neighbouring states have experienced as a result of the rapid development of the tourism sector.

### *Update 1996-1997*

In its second year, SBE project collaborators and staff have made major strides in training for income generation, capacity building for conservation, biological monitoring, and promoting policy dialogue in conservation and ecotourism development.

Project staff and collaborators have conducted training for over 200 lodge operators, naturalist and trekking guides, trek cooks, vegetable growers, and porters. Lodge operators have recorded increased revenue and are actively using alternative heating and cooking devices that are more efficient in the used of energy than firewood.

Using an innovative participatory planning and action methodology that focuses on community assets, over 200 people in

four communities at the project sites have developed and are implementing local ecotourism plans that include activities which are co-financed by community members. Following these plans, local people have improved garbage management, carried out tree plantation in local settlements, prepared and distributed visitor education and promotional materials, and executed trail repairs.

Two highly successful study/exchange tours were undertaken by villagers and travel agents to neighbouring Nepal. Sikkimese villagers worked with local residents in a TMI ecotourism project in the Helambu region to learn about tourism development and conservation. All made commitments to share the learning and carry out conservation activities; and most of these commitments have been fulfilled. TAAS members held a workshop with the Trekking Agents Association of Nepal and, among other results, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in marketing, conservation, and ecotourism training.

As part of the applied research and monitoring component of the project, GBPIHED began intensive field monitoring of potential project impacts. Additionally, community ecotourism plans using participatory methods are providing useful information for participants on the status and management of natural resources, as well as on project approaches that required modification, e.g., design of study tours in order to maximise the benefits for all community members.

Efforts to promote constructive policy dialogue between government, the private sector, and local communities gathered momentum this year. The Government of Sikkim (GoS) adopted the project model of participatory workshops to discuss major tourism development proposals and participated in a project-sponsored gathering of stakeholders to discuss conservation and ecotourism management issues in and around Khangchendzonga National Park - the site of major trekking routes in Sikkim. The resulting action plan will be evaluated by participants in 1998 (see following quotes).

### *Success Stories*

In an extremely busy and rewarding year for staff, collaborators, and participants, choosing one or two success stories does not fully capture the excitement, pride, and ownership that participants have shown in the project. Instead we asked participants to record their assessments and impressions. Some of these are given below, and we hope that they convey to readers the positive changes seen.

"Through the project I have been able to enhance my own capacity and learn data collection techniques. After attending training I have learned many things and in dealing with the community I have earned more respect from them." Kinzong Bhutia - SBE Community Assistant

"One of the greatest successes of the SBE project I feel is that it has involved local people from the grass-root level and given importance to their participation. This has made people take pride and they will cherish the fruits of this in the future." Pema Gyaltzin - School Teacher, Yuksam

"The project has empowered local people to a great extent to take part in community initiatives and has set a trend of taking action instead of only talking. Examples are the Kathok Lake clean-up, road to Norbugang and Forest Guest House clean-up, getting benches for Norbugang, Dubdi Monastery, Kathok Lake, and the Trekkers' Huts." Chewang Bhutia, Engineer

"Another significant change in Yuksam is the operation of the lodge operators. They have become much better in their service and entire operations after trainings." Sherab Bhutia, Social Worker

"The best thing about the KNP workshop was the involvement of the people from different sectors and backgrounds taking part in the biodiversity and management issues of KNP and the methodology of the facilitators in getting inputs and participation from all participants." K.N. Bhutia, Additional Secretary, Department of Tourism (GoS)

"The best thing about the KNP workshop was that it was the first time that the government departments felt it relevant to discuss and talk with community stakeholders about National Park conservation and management issues and come out with positive recommendations." Pema Bhutia, General Secretary, Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee, Yuksam.

"In future all planning for conservation in KNP should come out through one platform with active participation from different stakeholders." Gut Lepcha, Field Director, Khangchendzonga National Park.

### *Challenges*

A major success story this year is the emergence of a community-based non-government organization, the Khanchendzonga Conservation Committee (KCC), which also presents a significant challenge to the project -- how to support this organization in its efforts to play a positive role in conservation and development? This question highlights a key issue in the project -- how to institutionalise activities and processes introduced by the project so that they are sustainable in the long-term? Local organizations and institutions present one promising avenue, but require initial investment in capacity-building to manage themselves and their activities.

As the project enters its third year, we face a challenge and an opportunity to hand over activities to local groups who will be in a position to continue and modify them, as necessary, in the future. As part of this process of capacity building, KCC has already conducted training for porters and raised a small amount of funds for garbage management in Yuksam.

On a more practical level, an unusually long monsoon highlighted the difficult conditions that participants operate under in fragile mountain environments. On several occasions, staff were cut off from sites and the capital, Gangtok, due to numerous landslides. These conditions have hampered project activities, affecting staff visits to the field as well communications. To

some extent we have overcome the communication delays by using laptop computers in the field and recently acquired e-mail capabilities. Landslides, on the other hand, continue to test everyone's ability to manage complex logistical arrangements and maintain a sense of humour under difficult circumstances.

*Authors: Nandita Jain, Programme Manager with The Mountain Institute and SBE Project Manager, worked with TMI to help design the project and stayed on to manage it. Comments from the field were collected by Renzino Lepcha, Project Officer, who established and managed one of Sikkim's largest tour operations before joining the project, and evaluations completed by participants at the KNP workshop were used.*

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## **Chongqing Declaration on Human Settlements in Mountain Areas (September 17th, 1997)**

*The declaration below was posted to the MF discussion list by Kishor Pradhan, ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal, Jan 8 1998. The declaration is an outcome of the 'International Symposium on Sustainable Development of Human Settlements in Mountainous Regions', organized by the Research Centre for Mountain Cities and Regions (RCMCR), Chongqing Jianzhu University, under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Construction. The Symposium took place from September 15 to 17, 1997, in Chongqing, China.*

### *Preamble*

Mountains cover nearly 30 per cent of the earth's surface and harbour more than 10 per cent of the world's population. As a major ecosystem representing the complex and interrelated ecology of our planet, mountain environments are essential for the survival of the global ecosystem. China's mountainous region covers about two-thirds of the country and includes about half of all urban settlements. Mountain regions are the home of diverse minority nationalities and repositories of culture. Mountain regions are also rich in mineral and forest resources and in biodiversity. The rivers that originate in the snowclad upper reaches provide not only water for irrigation but also a vast potential of hydro energy.

'Sustainable human settlements in an urbanising world' was one of the two themes of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996. The theme is of particular significance to mountain areas where environmental as well as economic and social implications of the rapid growth of human settlements can be profound.

Mountain towns and cities are the centres of administration and social and economic interaction for mountain people. Mountain settlements demonstrate unique traditions of construction and architecture sensitive to the ecological surroundings. In the context of rapid urbanisation, the manner in which the towns and cities are planned, constructed, and developed, will determine the quality and sustainability of the environment as well as the economic, social, and cultural life of mountain people.

In recent decades there has been a great loss of ethnic, cultural, and biological diversity as well as building styles and architecture of mountain habitats, mainly due to 'destructive construction' insensitive to the ecological conditions of mountain areas. There has been a conspicuous 'plains' bias in methods of urban planning and design. This bias has tended to ignore the diversity of mountain conditions and the rich variety of traditional designs and building considerations prevalent in mountain areas. This process, if allowed to continue, will not only contribute to the unsustainability of human settlements in the mountains but also lead to accelerated loss of the mountain heritage, and deterioration in the quality of life of mountain peoples.

Cognizant of these issues, and the concerns reflected in Habitat II as well as in Chapter 13 of Agenda 21, an international symposium on the theme of Sustainable Development of Human Settlements in Mountain Areas was held from 15 to 17 September in the mountainous city of Chongqing, the economic centre of the upper reaches of the Yangtze River. The city of Chongqing, with a history going back over 3000 years, provided the perfect setting for discussing the issues of sustainable development of human settlements in mountainous environments. The papers presented in the symposium covered a wide range of theoretical and practical issues concerning the theme of sustainability of human settlements in the mountains.

### *Recommendations*

The following recommendations were made during the concluding deliberations.

- Sustainable development of human settlements in the mountains requires as a precondition, the conservation and protection of the fragile ecosystem; this includes protection of forests and biodiversity, water resources, prevention of soil erosion, and prevention and mitigation of natural hazards so that the ecological balance of the environment is maintained.
- Sustaining human settlements in the mountains depends on the prosperity of the mountain economy and the development of education, science, technology and culture. Therefore, all resource advantages in the mountains should be fully utilised, green industries should be developed, and ecologically sensitive exploitation of mineral resources should be advocated. All these developments should be guided by considerations of energy conservation, low pollution potential, high functional efficiency, maintenance of mountain-sensitive traditions in building design and architecture, and promotion of a sense of community and neighborhood.
- In the development and growth of human settlements in the mountains it should be recognised that, whereas there are constraints imposed by the environment, there are also mountain-specific resources and conditions that can be taken advantage of, e.g., the use of local building materials in the planning, layout, and design of settlements, buildings, and

infrastructure.

- It is recommended that particular attention be paid to the development of methodology, techniques, and legal systems for urban planning and designs that are sensitive to the environmental, social, and cultural conditions and realities of mountain areas. Educational systems be evolved for training professionals in the planning of mountain settlements.
- It is recommended that in the planning, design, and development of settlements in the mountains a participatory approach that involves all sectors of mountain society, government agencies, and non-government and community organizations be pursued.
- In view of the fact that mountain environments tend to be scale-sensitive and cannot sustain large-scale agglomeration of settlements, it is recommended that emphasis be placed on the development of decentralized urban systems wherever feasible and on the realisation of an organic network of urban-rural integration.
- In view of the need to exchange and share experiences in the methodologies and practice of urban planning and design as well as research concerning mountain settlements, it is recommended that an International Network for Planning of Sustainable Mountain Settlements be created. The Research Centre for Mountain Cities and Regions of the Academia Sinica and the Ministry of Construction (RCMCR) can be the focal point for such a Network.
- It is recommended that a Symposium on Sustainable Development of Human Settlements in Mountain Regions be organized every 4 years.

For further details, please contact:

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## Seabuckthorn: A medicinal plant for high arid-regions

*Excerpted and summarised from a posting by Dr. Abdul Wahid Jasra, National Aridland Development and Research Institute (NADRI), Pakistan, to the MF discussion list, Feb 27, 1998*

Seabuckthorn is a deciduous shrub on a tree (i.e. Hippophae spp) which consists of six species and 10 subspecies. It is found in the temperate zones of Asia and Europe and the subtropical zones at high altitudes (from seashore up to 5,200 m).

Seabuckthorn's annual coverage temperature is 0° C to 12° C, however, it can tolerate temperatures up to 40° C. It can endure extreme minimum temperatures of -40° C to 43° C. It can live with precipitation levels of from 300 to 1,000mm; but from 600 to 700mm is the most suitable range for seabuckthorn plantation. Seabuckthorn prefers well-drained, sandy or stony soils with pH 5.5 to 8.3. It can tolerate a salinity of 1.1 per cent.

### *Composition of Fruit, Leaves and Their Uses*

Its fruit contains 60 to 80% juice rich in sugar, organic acids, amino acids and vitamins. Vitamin C is 200 to 1,500 mg/100 g. The fruit contains 3 to 5% of pulp oil and 8 to 18% of seed oil, rich in unsaturated acids, B- carotene, and vitamin E. In addition, a certain content of flavonoids is found in the residues of the fruit. The leaves contain 11 to 22% of crude protein, 3 to 6% of crude fat, and some flavonoids. The fruit can be used for making soft drinks, wine, healthy food, medicines, and cosmetics. A seabuckthorn industry consisting of more than 100 factories has been set-up in China. There are about 200 products have been developed and marketed. The total output value of the products is about US\$ 40 million annually. The leaves and tender branches are very good fodder for sheep, goats, and cattle. Seabuckthorn supports the food chain's ecological balance--51 species of birds and 29 species of animals are dependent upon seabuckthorn in China.

### *Unique Biological Features of Seabuckthorn and Their Uses*

- Strong root systems and the ability to propagating itself: A five-year plant has a tap root of 3 metres and horizontal roots of 6 to 10 metres. A three-year old plant can produce 10 to 20 new generation plants by root turions.
- Nitrogen-fixing capacity: An 8 to 10-year old seabuckthorn forest can fix 180 kg of nitrogen/ha/year.
- Biomass production ability: A 6-year old seabuckthorn plantation can produce 18 tons of fuelwood. The heat value of seabuckthorn wood is 4785.5 calories/kg. One ton of seabuckthorn wood is equal to 0.68 tons of standard coal.
- Controlling water and soil loss: Compared to with wasteland, 7-year old seabuckthorn forest can reduce 99% of runoff and 96% of soil loss.
- Improving soil fertility: Seabuckthorn forest can greatly increase the contents of nitrogen, phosphorus, and organic matter in the soil.
- Promote the growth of tree species: When pine and poplar were planted with seabuckthorn in mixed forest, it was found that seabuckthorn greatly promoted the growth of pine and poplar.
- Other uses: Wind control, sand fixation, and river bank protection.

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### **Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between ICIMOD and IUK**

The President of the International University of Kyrgyzstan (IUK) and the Director General of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) met in Kathmandu, Nepal, on the 12-14 January 1998, to discuss areas of mutual interest and cooperation. It was agreed that IUK and ICIMOD would cooperate on the following

- Identifying Patrons for the Year of the Mountains
  - Establishing an International Organizing Committee for the Year of the Mountains
  - Publicising and canvassing for Preparatory Activities and an International Conference on Mountains to launch the Year of the Mountains
  - Organizing a Workshop on Central Asian Mountains: Problems, Experiences, and Perspectives
  - Organizing a two-week study visit to the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) at ICIMOD by IUK staff responsible for establishing and managing mountain information systems, databases, and Web pages at UK.
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### **Baltit Fort Documentation Centre in Pakistan**

With the inauguration of the Baltit Fort in September 1996, a separate section of the restored building (sponsored among others by The Aga Khan Trust for Culture and the Getty Foundation), has been reserved for a documentation and research centre to give a forum to academics. Scholars and other donors are invited to support the establishment of international exchange of knowledge about the concerned mountain region in the Karakoram.

Collection of research materials, maps, articles, books, photographs, and films is coordinated by Herman Kreutzman, Chair of Cultural Geography, Institute of Geography, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Kochstr.4, D-91054 Erlangen, FR Germany. He can be contacted at:

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Mr. Hermann is also coordinating a network of European scientists who are engaged in research in the Hindu Kush mountains.

(Source: Mountain Protected Areas Update, March 1, 1998, World Commission on Protected Areas./IUCN)

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### **Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LEDeG)**

The Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LEDeG) is a non-government organization registered as a society in Jammu and Kashmir. It promotes ecological and sustainable development in harmony and building on traditional culture.

LEDeG is mainly running programmes in information; education and cultural preservation; agriculture; appropriate technology; and handicraft enterprise development in the local community.

For further details, please contact

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### **Research, Advocacy and Communication in Himalayan Areas (RACHNA)**

Research, Advocacy and Communication in Himalayan Areas (RACHNA) is designed to meet the information, technical, professional training, and other service needs of social movements, community groups, non-government organizations (NGOs), and development agencies in the Himalayan region.

RACHNA will foster greater people-to-people communication, increased flow of necessary technology, and the sharing of knowledge and expertise among groups interested in making a difference in the lives of mountain communities. It has the following functions.

- To promote policy-relevant advocacy, issue-based research, communication, and action

- To serve as an active meeting ground and platform of emerging ideas for all groups interested in mountain development
- To facilitate capacity building among social groups
- To extend focussed, technical and professional back-up on selected areas consistent with RACHNA's thematic coverage/work plan
- To be a resource centre for information and knowledge on mountain development practices, programmes and professionals

*RACHNA will endeavour to do the following:*

- Advance regional cooperation among Himalayan states and peoples. Inject a Himalayan perspective into global and national debates wherever appropriate.
- Bridge technological and communication gaps that are inhibiting positive interaction among stakeholders within and outside the Himalayas.
- Foster communication, policy dialogues, exchanges, and technical collaboration between governments, the private sector, and NGOs. RACHNA has four operating principles.
- To pursue activities driven by the demands of social groups
- To achieve results without compromising quality or cost-effectiveness
- To integrate, research, advocacy, and communication to maximise impact
- To network with institutions and individuals involved in mountain development.

An Advisory Council of eminent individuals and representatives of institutions working in the Himalayan region govern RACHNA. A small Executive Committee of the Advisory Council closely guides the implementation of RACHNA activities. The Secretariat, located in Dehradun, India, is led by the Executive Coordinator of RACHNA.

#### *Work Areas/Themes*

Activities are currently carried out in the Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh provinces of India. In the near future activities will extend to other Himalayan regions. The current work themes of RACHNA cover four focal areas as given below.

Promotion of innovative thinking and action on sustainable mountain development.

Strengthening of village (panchayati raj) and decentralized institutions that provide administrative and legal space to rural communities to better govern their lives and resources. At the macro-level, efforts are underway to advance understanding and to influence the administrative and fiscal policies of the proposed Uttarakhand State which will be composed of the Uttar Pradesh hill districts.

Wise use of natural resource management that fosters non-farm micro-enterprises and develops watersheds to sustain agriculture and cope with demographic pressure

Social mobilisation to foster positive attitudes towards the girl child and family planning; to constructively involve the youth in the development process and to encourage and initiate dialogues on important social and economic issues

RACHNA seeks the support of individuals and organizations to advance its work and would like to collaborate with those organizations that share its vision and can contribute to its work areas/ thematic focus.

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