

ICIMOD



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED MOUNTAIN
DEVELOPMENT (ICIMOD)
LALITPUR, NEPAL**

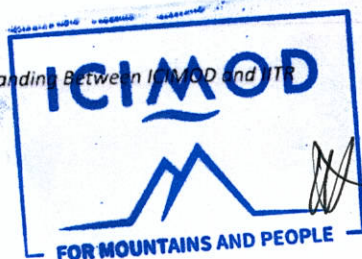
AND

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE (IITR)
ROORKEE, INDIA**

**CONCERNING
FOR STRENGTHENING COOPERATION ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND
CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN THE HINDU KUSH HIMALAYA WITH FOCUS ON
INDIAN HIMALAYAN REGION.**

May 2025

Memorandum of Understanding Between ICIMOD and IITR



Preamble

WHEREAS, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (CSR Registration No. CSR00003687), an academic institute of national importance and a statutory body existing under the provisions of the Indian Institute of Technology (Roorkee) Act, 2001 having its main campus and administrative office at Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India.

The Integrated Centre for Adaptation to Climate Change, Disaster-Risk Resilience and Sustainability (hereafter referred to as ICARS), is a joint Centre of Excellence established by Govt. of India in Dept. of Science & Technology DST with Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee in its NCR Campus at Greater Noida (GNEC). IITR's ICARS is a first and unique establishment of Govt. of India (a joint Centre under DST) at IIT Roorkee's Gr. Noida Campus (NCR) to work on adaptation to climate change in India and this part of the world, and it is unique as it works on the integration of adaptation with disaster resilience and sustainability.

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WHEREAS, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (hereafter referred to as ICIMOD), established in 1983, is a leading regional and intergovernmental knowledge and learning center, serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – working regionally for the benefit of the countries and communities of the HKH.

With four decades of experience and relationships in the region, the ICIMOD Strategy 2030 raises the ambition of its vision for a greener, more inclusive, and climate-resilient HKH. ICIMOD primarily works with and through a diverse network of partners at national, regional, and international levels. Its work supports HKH countries to cope with climate and environmental challenges via opportunities for knowledge collaboration, building mutual trust and confidence among member countries, sharing of best practices and regional learning, enhancing regional cooperation, and strengthening the socio-economic security of the region.

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WHEREAS, IITR and ICIMOD recognize and share common objectives with regard to policy, advocacy, capacity building, and knowledge cooperation on DRR and resilience, adaptation, environment and sustainability issues, for the benefit of mountain and downstream communities of the HKH, with specific focus on the Indian Himalayan Region, and their

environment and wish to collaborate to foster these common goals within their respective mandates and governing rules and regulations of their organisations;

WHEREAS, IITR and ICIMOD will discuss on the priority areas of possible collaboration for the promotion of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) and the HKH DRR Hub for sustainable mountain development that is of mutual interest and benefit, and specifically in the areas of DRR and resilience, adaptation, ecosystem resilience, and sustainability through separate agreements;

NOW THEREFORE, IITR and ICIMOD (hereafter referred to as Parties) agrees to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set a broad framework of collaboration to achieve the objectives under this MoU.

Article I: Purpose

The intention of this MoU is to establish a collaboration between the Parties in the areas of mutual interest of both organizations, guided by the prevailing organisational norms or the organisations and the laws of India. Primarily, this collaboration intends to strengthen disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience, and foster resilient development across the IHR and the HKH. This could be achieved through a multi-faceted approach, encompassing joint technical assistance, the contextualized and agreed upon implementation of frameworks like the Multi-hazard Risk Assessment (MHRA) in the mountain context, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for DRR, and the collaborative dissemination of knowledge through joint publications and learning exchange programs based on mutual consent and through separate specific agreements for different activities. Furthermore, the MoU intends to facilitate joint capacity-building initiatives and resource mobilization efforts as per the prevailing norms of the institute. Through this MoU, ICIMOD designates IITR as India nodal point with ICARS-IITR as SPOC for the activities under this MoU. A specific focus on the Koshi River Basin will be considered as part of the collaboration through separate agreement. The parties wish to set up a joint Unit of HKH DRR Knowledge Hub at IITR with funding from ICIMOD, with required resource persons/professional assistance and resources for coordination at IITR to enable smooth functioning and cooperation activities.

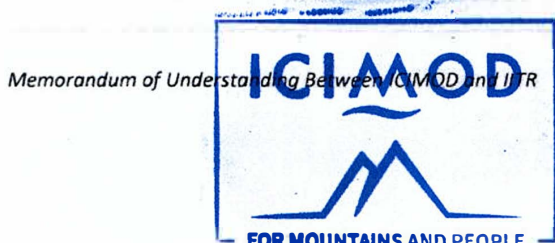
Article II: Areas of cooperation

Areas of cooperation will be as agreed upon jointly between the parties of the MoU. The Parties wishes to collaborate on the following preliminary themes as per the prevailing norms of institute, which are outlined below:

2.1. Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Resilient development:

- **Joint technical assistance:** Provide collaborative technical expertise to support DRR and resilient development in both the IHR and the HKH.
- **Contextualized framework implementation:** IITR will assist ICIMOD in operationalizing the Multi-hazard Risk Assessment (MHRA) in mountain context, and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for DRR frameworks, providing contextual inputs and supporting the development of region-specific guidelines.

2.2. Knowledge sharing and dissemination:



- **Joint publications:** Collaborate on publications, reports, and research papers to share knowledge and best practices related to DRR, climate adaptation, and resilient development.
- **Learning exchange programs:** Actively participate in, support, and facilitate each other's learning exchange programs focused on DRR and climate adaptation as per prevailing norms of both parties.
- **Joint participation in conferences:** Jointly apply for and organize main and side events at global and regional conferences to amplify shared messages and promote collaborative initiatives.

2.3. Capacity building and resource mobilization:

- **Capacity building initiatives:** Leverage each other's infrastructure and expertise to conduct joint capacity building programs for stakeholders, including State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) and Climate Change Cells subject to availability of resources and as per the guidelines of IITR.
- **Joint resource mobilization:** Collaborate on developing and submitting joint proposals to secure funding for collaborative projects and initiatives as per mutual consultations between the parties.

2.4. Regional cooperation and focal point roles:

- **Cooperation in the IHR and HKH:** Enhance cooperation within the IHR (led by IITR) and the HKH (led by ICIMOD), engaging with SDMAs and Climate Change Cells as per the prevailing norms at both organisations.

2.5. Specific river basin collaboration:

- **Koshi River Basin collaboration:** Implement joint projects and initiatives focused on addressing DRR and climate adaptation challenges within the Koshi River Basin through mutual consultation between the Parties.

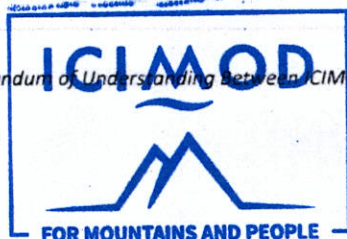
Article III: Duration

This MoU will be effective upon the last date of signature of the approving officials and remain in force for five (5) years unless terminated in accordance with Article VII.

Article IV: Principles and Framework of Cooperation

- 4.1. The Parties shall ensure that this MOU is carried out with due diligence and efficiency, consistent with their internal policies and capacities. Each Party shall furnish to the other such information relating to the areas of cooperation only to the extent necessary, subject to applicable laws, institutional policies, and confidentiality obligations. The Parties agree to work in a programmatic manner, recognising each other's mandate, core competence, and potential for greater value-addition. The specific areas on which the Parties shall collaborate under this MoU are mentioned under Article II.
- 4.2. This MoU is a non-binding statement of the Parties' mutual understanding of their proposed collaboration framework. This MoU is not intended to create any legally

Memorandum of Understanding Between ICIMOD and IITR



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enforceable rights or obligations in respect of either Party, including any obligation on their part to enter into any Supplemental Agreement.

- 4.3. Public statements and publications by either Party regarding activities undertaken jointly under this MoU shall expressly acknowledge this collaboration, subject to prior review and written approval by the other Party. Neither Party will make any commitments, representations, or take any positions on behalf of the other without obtaining the other's specific prior written consent.
- 4.4. Information provided by either Party to the other may be used solely for agreed capacity-building and strictly non-commercial purposes, subject to the provider's prior written consent. If either Party intends to publish, in any form, data or information provided by the other, the provider must be informed well in advance and given the chance to review, edit, or withhold such information, and appropriate acknowledgement and referencing of the source shall be ensured. No publication shall proceed without the provider's explicit written approval.

Article V: Implementation Arrangement

- 5.1. The Parties may hold regular bilateral meetings, as mutually agreed, on matters of common interest, to implement and monitor collaborative activities. Such meetings shall take place only as deemed necessary by both parties to discuss technical and operational issues related to the objectives of this MoU.
- 5.2. Each Party shall, as its discretion, designate a representative as a focal point for taking measures to assist in the further development of the collaborative activities and is responsible for the implementation of their obligations under this MoU as below:

For IITR

Name: Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta
Designation: Professor, WRDM,
ICARS, IIT Roorkee (PI)
Email: anilg.icars@wr.iitr.ac.in

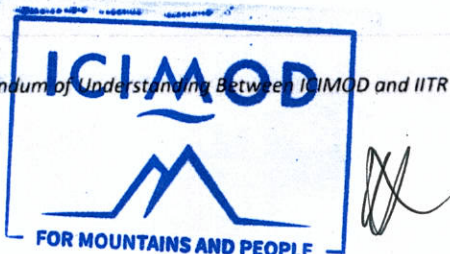
For ICIMOD

Name: Dr. Saswata Sanyal
Designation: Intervention Manager-DRR, ICIMOD
Telephone: 977-9767817273
Email: saswata.sanyal@icimod.org

- 5.3. For the purpose of this MoU, usual communications shall be made through e-mail/internet, and face-to-face meetings between the points of contact will be held as deemed necessary by both the Parties.
- 5.4. Implementation of any subsequent activities, projects, and programmes pursuant to this MoU, including those involving the transfer of funds between the Parties, shall be subject to the prior negotiation, formulation and execution of separate and appropriate legal agreements (such as Letter of Agreement), which must be duly approved by the respective competent authorities of each Party. This MoU itself does not create any financial, legal, or contractual obligations.

Article VI: Special Provisions

Memorandum of Understanding Between ICIMOD and IITR



- 6.1. Any Annex to this MoU shall be considered an integral part of this MoU only after being mutually agreed upon and duly signed by the authorised representative of both Parties. References to this MoU will be construed as including any Annexes, as varied or amended in accordance with the terms mutually agreed, and in case of any inconsistency between an Annex and this MoU, the terms of this MoU shall prevail.
- 6.2. Neither Party shall have the authority to act or make legally binding declarations, or make commitments on behalf of the other Party. Nothing in this MoU shall create, or be deemed to constitute any joint venture, agency, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Parties.
- 6.3. In the event that the Parties anticipate that intellectual property that can be protected will arise from any activity under this MoU, the Parties shall enter into a separate written agreement prior to the commencement of such activity, defining the terms of IP ownership, management, and use as per the IPR Policy of IITR.
- 6.4. Neither Party shall use the name, logo/emblem or trademarks of the other Party without the prior expressly written approval of the other Party in any case.

Article VII: Amendment and Termination

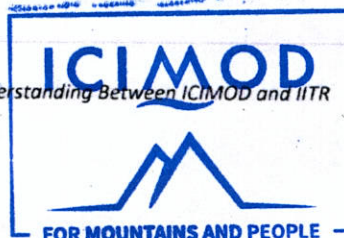
- 7.1. This MoU may be amended, provided that such amendment is made in writing and signed by both Parties through their duly authorized representatives, specifically stating the same to be an amendment of the MoU. The modifications shall become part of the MoU from the date on which both Parties have signed.
- 7.2. This MoU may be terminated by either Party by giving three months' prior written notice to the other party with or without assigning any reasons for termination, provided that such termination shall not affect any Supplemental Agreement that may still be in effect at that time between the Parties unless expressly agreed otherwise.
- 7.3. This MoU is not legally binding on either Party. In the event of dispute, the Parties shall work together to seek resolution in a friendly and equitable manner. First attempts at resolution shall be made by the focal points. Subsequent attempts shall be made by executive representatives of the Parties. Should this not lead to satisfactory resolution, this MoU can be dissolved by either Party as per Sub-Article 7.2 above.

Article VIII: Entry into Force



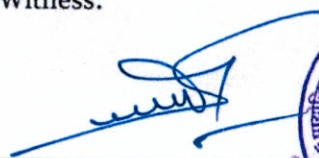

This MoU between IITR and ICIMOD shall enter into force upon the signature of both Parties and will remain in effect for five (5) years from the date of the last signature.

Each Party will hold a copy of the signed MoU in the English language and having equal validity.

Memorandum of Understanding Between ICIMOD and IITR



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below

For the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)	For the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
 Dean Sponsored Research & Industrial Consultancy Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee Roorkee-247 667 (INDIA) Dean, Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy	 Dr. Pema Gyamtsho Director General
Date:	Date: 2/5/2025
Witness:  	Witness: 