

Mountains, glaciers, and hydropower in a changing climate



ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE



This seminar will highlight the role of mountains in providing water, food, and energy for sustainable growth using examples from the Himalayas, the Alps, and the Andes.

Thursday, 1 September 2016
11:00 – 12:30
Room FH Congress Hall A

Mountains are the water towers that provide food, energy, and ecosystem services to over 1.3 billion people living downstream. However, climate change coupled with socioeconomic changes have put unprecedented pressure on these water resources.

First, we will look at recent scientific evidence on climate change and its impacts on glaciers and rivers. Historical records show that a majority of glaciers worldwide are retreating, except for the Karakoram region where some glaciers are reported to be advancing. Recent studies have shown high variability in glacier mass loss depending on location. Findings will be presented from the Himalayas, the Alps and the Andes.

The second objective of the seminar is to look at climate change impacts on the hydropower sector. HKH has a hydropower potential of around 500 GW. We will look into prospects and challenges of sustainable hydropower development from the perspective of mountain communities using concrete examples of successful benefit sharing mechanisms.

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Programme

Part 1: Presentations

Session Chair: David Molden, ICIMOD

- 11:00 Introduction to the session and setting the context, David Molden, ICIMOD
- 11:10 Glaciers and climate change in the Himalayas and the Alps, Walter Immerzeel and Arthur Lutz, FutureWater
- 11:20 Climate change, and its impacts on hydropower projects in the Himalayas and the Andes, Martin Honsberg, Statkraft
- 11:30 Sharing benefits from hydropower projects at the community level: Examples from Nepal, Aditi Mukherji, ICIMOD
- 11:40 Q&A

Part 2: Panel discussions

Session Chair and Moderator: Mats Eriksson, SIWI

Panel Discussion: What does climate change and melting of glaciers mean for water resources of the mountains and downstream?

Panelists

Dipak Gyawali, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation

Uta Gjertsen, Statkraft

Christina Leeb, World Bank

12:20 Closing remarks and way forward, Aditi Mukherji, ICIMOD



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Photos: Alex Treadway, Jitendra R Bajracharya