

Concept Note
For Consultative Workshop
20 November 2019 | ICIMOD Campus, Kathmandu, Nepal

Background

Cost-competitive renewable energy solutions, coupled with their modularity and adaptability, provide a unique opportunity to reconcile energy, socio-economic development and climate objectives in the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH) region. Renewables could significantly contribute to improving livelihoods and well-being of mountain communities by providing access to reliable, affordable and environmentally-sustainable energy, while also strengthening local enterprises and climate resilience.

With a view to understand the energy needs in mountain economies and the opportunities offered by renewable energy solutions, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) joined hands to conduct a comprehensive scoping exercise to assess key economic value chains in the HKH region from an energy perspective, the work will also be a contribution to ICIMOD's 'Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capability for Hindu Kush Himalaya' (REEECH) initiative.

IRENA's mandate to serve as a centre of excellence, and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy, and ICIMOD's presence as a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre, provides a natural opportunity for a synergetic partnership.

Objectives

Energy flows and needs along different segments of the economic value chains of mountain communities are still not well-understood and documented to inform effective decision-making. Through this comprehensive scoping exercise to assess selected economic value chains (e.g., yak, bamboo, tourism) in the HKH region from an energy perspective will identify the gaps and potential actions for advancing renewable energy solutions.

In an effort to consolidate the findings of the scoping exercise and validate the proposed actions IRENA and ICIMOD are organizing a Consultative Workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal on 20 November 2019. The scoping exercise and workshop consultations will provide a basis for developing a Regional Action Plan for HKH, outlining potential areas for targeted interventions to foster an ecosystem conducive for deploying renewable energy solutions.

Expected Outcomes

- Collecting feedback on the findings of the scoping exercise and validating the proposed actions to accelerate renewable energy deployment and mobilise investments in the sector.
- Exchanging regional best practices and sharing lessons learned on renewable energy applications across different value chains.
- Increasing awareness among governments, practitioners and development agencies on the cross-sector opportunities offered by renewables for strengthening economic value chains.

Agenda

09:00 09:30	Arrival and Registration
09:30 10:40	<p>Inaugural Session</p> <p>Welcome address by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr. David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD</i> - <i>Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Support and Partnerships, IRENA</i> <p>Special Address by Senior Dignitary from Host Country</p> <p>Presentation of REEECH objectives and focus areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mewang Gyeltshen, REEECH</i> <p>Presentation of IRENA-ICIMOD collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Prasoon Agarwal, IRENA</i> <p>Project overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Divyam Nagpal, IRENA Consultant</i> <p>Introduction of the participants (tour de table)</p>
10:40 11:00	Tea break and group photo
11:00 12:00	<p>Session 1: Understanding renewable energy contribution to resilient enterprise development</p> <p>Overview of renewable energy for resilient enterprise development in the mountain region – <i>Nanki Kaur, ICIMOD</i></p> <p>Findings from the systematic review – <i>Udisha Saklani, ICIMOD</i></p>

	<p>Deep-dive mountain specific case study on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yak Value Chain - Bamboo Value Chain - Tourism Value Chain <p>Q&A and discussions on the presentations</p>
<p>12:00 13:00</p>	<p>Session 2: Developing the ecosystem for enterprise development – Policy, technology and financing perspectives</p> <p>Lead discussants: Entrepreneur, Local practitioner, Developer and Enabler.</p> <p>Long-list of specific questions for discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What policy actions at the regional, national and local-level can support the deployment of renewables for livelihoods and enterprise development in the Mountain Communities? 2. How can the technology innovation and adaptation process be facilitated for application in the Mountain context? Which actors need to be involved and how? 3. What end-user and enterprise financing gaps are inhibiting adoption of renewables in Mountain Context? What innovative financing instruments are needed and by whom to address the gaps? <p><i>Open Discussion/ Q&A</i></p>
<p>13:00 14:00</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>
<p>14:00 15:30</p>	<p>Session 3: Developing the ecosystem for enterprise development – regional partnerships, market linkages and capacity development</p> <p>Lead discussants: Entrepreneur, Developer and Enabler</p> <p>Long-list of specific questions for discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What role can regional cooperation and partnerships play in developing the ecosystem for enterprise development through renewable energy development? 2. Beyond energy interventions, what other complementary measures are needed (e.g., establishing forward market linkages) to strengthen livelihoods and enhance resilience? Who needs to do what? 3. What are the key capacity gaps that need to be addressed across the various value chain relevant for Mountain Communities? <p><i>Open Discussion/ Q&A</i></p>

15:30 16:00	Tea break
	Session 4: Action Plan Session
16:00 17:15	<p>Presentation of draft Action Plan - IRENA</p> <p>Moderated discussion by <i>Dr. Eklabya Sharma, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD</i></p>
17:15 17:30	<p>Closing and conclusions - <i>Dr. Eklabya Sharma, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD</i> - <i>Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Support and Partnerships, IRENA</i></p>
18:00	Dinner reception for all participants