**Vacancy at ICIMOD: Environmental Economist**

**Position: Environmental Economist**

**Programme: Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction (SLPR)**

**Division: Economic Analysis Division**

**Deadline: 18 April 2012**

[**http://www.icimod.org/?q=6854**](http://www.icimod.org/?q=6854)

**Background**

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental knowledge management, learning, and sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the [Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)](http://www.icimod.org/?q=1137) – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. Mountains are one of the important global ecosystems facing the most rapid socioeconomic and environmental changes. Our aim is to influence policy and practices to meet the associated and emerging challenges in the HKH region. To do this we bring together top researchers from the region and around the globe to generate and disseminate state-of-the-art scientific (physical and social) and traditional knowledge for evidence-based decision making; and we provide a neutral meeting platform for transboundary research, knowledge sharing and collaboration. Working across three main programme areas – [integrated water and hazard management](http://www.icimod.org/?q=209); [environmental change and ecosystem services](http://www.icimod.org/?q=272); and [sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction](http://www.icimod.org/?q=368) and supported by integrated [knowledge management](http://www.icimod.org/?q=436) and geoinformatic tools – we seek to improve the lives and livelihoods of mountain women and men, now and for the future.

The HKH mountains are an important source of vital ecosystem services for the region and the world, and they harbour many important natural resources. Ecosystem services and ecosystem management are key strategic thrust areas for ICIMOD. Some 210 million people living in the region, as well as 1.3 billion people living in the basins of the rivers that arise here, depend on the water originating from the greater Himalayas. Rich biodiversity and beautiful landscapes are unique features of the region. Climate change, increasing human population, and globalization are putting pressure on mountain ecosystems with devastating consequences not only for mountain communities but also for human populations living in the downstream areas. ICIMOD is strengthening its competency on cutting-edge knowledge and technologies to help maximize the benefits of mountain ecosystem services.

ICIMOD is currently looking for an experienced Environmental Economist with a good understanding of economic concepts related to ecosystem services, valuations methods, green economy, and institutions and policies. While the incumbent will be housed within the [Economic Analysis Division](http://www.icimod.org/?q=407) to perform core work of economic assessments and concept development, s/he shall also provide socio-economic expertise and perspectives to projects of other interdisciplinary Action Areas and Strategic Programmes at ICIMOD.

**Responsibilities and tasks**

1. Analyse mountain ecosystem related issues, options, policies, institutions, and laws to enhance understanding and promote actions for more economically productive, socially acceptable, and environmentally sustainable management of natural resources in the mountains.
2. Examine recent developments concerning mountain ecosystem services and economic methods, tools, and applications for their valuation, and customize these for valuation of ecosystem services in the HKH context.
3. Develop appropriate methodology for economic valuation of provisioning, regulating, supporting, and cultural services of Himalayan ecosystem services.
4. Guide and support ICIMOD’s different Action Areas to conduct studies of economic valuation of Himalayan ecosystem services.
5. Analyse the economic, social, and environmental causes and consequences of black carbon and explore alternative options to mitigate the impact of black carbon.
6. Analyse the economic, social, and environmental impacts and costs of risks, hazards, and economic consequences of loss of mountain ecosystem services (increased floods, biodiversity loss, etc.).
7. Analyse economic aspects of cross-cutting issues such as water, biodiversity, climate change, watersheds, livelihoods, and sustainable development.
8. Prepare and disseminate reports to feed into policy processes and decisions.
9. Examine national and international policies and strategies on mountain ecosystem management, exploring options for green growth and poverty reduction, including mitigation of black carbon.
10. Organize and/or contribute to relevant workshops, seminars, and training courses to facilitate trans-border learning, knowledge sharing, and good practices of mainstreaming ecosystem and environment issues in policy decisions.
11. Work as a team player within the Economic Analysis Division and ICIMOD to support other relevant activities and promote institutional goals.

**Minimum Qualifications**

* Post-graduate academic degree, preferably Ph.D., in economics, with a focus on environmental economics, water economics, natural resources management, environmental management, or other related field
* Five years of relevant work experience in interdisciplinary research and development in the field of economic valuation of ecosystem services
* Work experience in a similar organisation and/or the HKH region is a strong added advantage
* Good record of publications in environmental economics

**Competencies**

* Excellent and demonstrated analytical and research skills
* Excellent spoken communication and networking skills as well as English writing skills
* Ability to be comfortable working with multidisciplinary teams, particularly with international/regional agencies, and to work with colleagues and collaborators of diverse national and cultural backgrounds
* Computer/Internet Literacy: statistical packages, economic modeling, and MS Office; participation in list-serves or electronic conferences
* Demonstrated commitment to mountain peoples and environments
* Health: physical fitness to undertake frequent travel to mountain areas

**Duration**

3 years, starting as early as possible, of which the first six months are probation, with a possibility of extension subject to ICIMOD’s future funding levels.

**Remuneration**

Salaries and benefits of ICIMOD are highly competitive compared to other regional organisations; remuneration is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

**Gender and Equity Policy**

Qualified and eligible women candidates and those from disadvantaged backgrounds are highly encouraged to apply. ICIMOD implements a gender fair policy and is supportive of working women. It operates a Day-Care Centre at the campus and is committed to gender mainstreaming at the organisational and programmatic levels.

**Method of application**

Applicants are requested to apply online before **18 April 2012** through [ICIMOD's online application system](http://www.icimod.org/cvmgmt).

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.