



ICIMOD

LETTER OF INTENT (LoI)

Between

**Swami Rama Himalayan University (SRHU)
Uttarakhand, India**

And

**International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
Kathmandu, Nepal**

Concerning

Collaboration for the co-development and scaling of spring-shed water management

June 2023




Background

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) is facing rapid and extensive degradation of the mountain biodiversity and landscapes whilst also providing critical ecosystem services for downstream communities. In the HKH, springs are the primary source of drinking water for millions of people. However, springs are drying rapidly due to climatic change and variability, land use and land cover change, deforestation and other factors. In the Indian Himalaya Region, nearly 50% of the estimated 3 million springs have either dried or their discharge is decreasing, according to NITI Aayog report. This calls for rejuvenating springs through gender and socially inclusive springshed management and multistakeholder collaboration.

ICIMOD has prioritized regeneration and management of springsheds for multiple social and ecosystem benefits as one of the main interventions under new Medium Term Action Plan (2023-2026). The focus of spring invention is on mapping and indexing of springs, promoting effective and inclusive policies for spring regeneration and strengthening the capacities of regional member countries' institutions to inclusively manage springshed revival while taking a multistakeholder approach. The intervention contributes to the ICIMOD's Strategic Group on "Shaping green and inclusive mountain economies".

Furthermore, to amplify and work on the need for rejuvenating springs, ICIMOD would like to collaborate with Swami Rama Himalayan University (SRHU). SRHU is a top private university in Dehradun that endeavors to transform lives through a holistic approach to effective rural development and social outreach programs. Over three decades since its inception, the institute has covered more than 2000 villages through developmental activities in water & sanitation, health, education, skill, and livelihood. The institute has also developed various innovative technologies for water supply and aquifer/spring recharge in mountain areas. The institute is also recognized by the Government of India as one of the key resource centers for capacity building on water and other subjects.

Purpose

The purpose of this Lol is to initiate and strengthen collaboration between ICIMOD and SRHU for co-developing, co-testing and scaling solutions on spring-shed management and other nature-based solutions (NbS) and to bring experts around the HKH to share innovative technologies and best practices.

Collaborative Activities Within the broader collaboration of spring-shed management in HKH, both parties mutually identified the following collaborative activities:

- a) Identify and conduct capacity-building activities with regional and international scope.



- b) Collaborative research and pilots on spring sheds in the Indian Himalayan region.
- c) Finding synergy for other areas of collaboration advancing Himalayan University consortium (HUC) objectives.
- d) Scope out opportunities for leveraging funds.

Based on agreed collaborative activities, both partners mutually agree to the following collaborative roles and responsibilities as highlighted below:

Roles and Responsibilities of ICIMOD:

- ICIMOD will work closely with SRHU for co-developing and co-testing with evidence generation and conducting capacity-building activities.
- ICIMOD will co-design collaborative research and pilots in consultation with SRHU concerning spring shed management or other NbS.
- ICIMOD will help SRHU to engage with the broader network of the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) and related activities, as well as other networks.
- Both parties will share existing knowledge products and co-develop new knowledge products.
- Both parties will scope out the opportunities to leverage funds and develop joint proposals.

Roles and Responsibilities of SRHU:

- SRHU will work closely with ICIMOD for co-developing and conducting capacity-building activities and identifying participants.
- SRHU will co-design collaborative research and pilots in consultation with ICIMOD.
- SRHU will share its best practices and technologies related to mountain communities and ecosystems to be included in ICIMOD's Living Mountain Lab in Godavari, Nepal.
- Both parties will share existing knowledge products and co-develop new knowledge products.
- Both parties will scope out the opportunities to leverage funds and develop joint proposals.

Special Provisions

- i) In the event that the SRHU and ICIMOD foresee that intellectual property that can be protected will be created in relation to any project, program, or activity to be carried out under this Lol, the Parties will negotiate and agree on terms of its ownership.
- ii) Neither SRHU nor ICIMOD shall use the name, logo/emblem, or trademarks of the other Party without the prior express written approval of the other Party in each case.
- iii) When SRHU or ICIMOD intends to publish, in any form, data or information provided



by the other, or information and results originating from joint projects between the (Collaborator) or ICIMOD, they shall inform each other in advance and shall be given the opportunity to review, edit and check the information. The source of information or research results shall be appropriately referenced and/or acknowledged in any publication by SRHU or ICIMOD.

- iv) The SRHU and ICIMOD agree to recognise and acknowledge each other's collaboration, as appropriate. To this end, the (Collaborator) and ICIMOD shall consult with each other concerning the manner and form of such recognition and acknowledgment.

Focal Points

Each Party shall designate a focal point of contact for taking measures to assist in the further development of the cooperative activities and is responsible for implementation of his obligations under this Lol as below:

ICIMOD	SRHU
Name : Sanjeev Bhuchar	Name : Nitesh Kaushik
Designation: Senior Watershed Management Specialist	Designation : In-charge Watsan
Address : ICIMOD, P.O. Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal	Address : Swami Ram Nagar, Jolly Grant, Dehradun, 248016
Tel : +977- 1- 5275222	Tel : 0135 2471346 / 9837021771
Email : Sanjeev.bhuchar@icimod.org	Email : watsan@srhu.edu.in

Duration

This Lol will be effective upon the last date of signature of the approving officials and remain in force for a period of 1 June 2023 to 31 Dec 2026

Amendment and Termination

1. This Lol may at any time be amended, in writing and signed by both the Parties and specifically stating the same to be an amendment of the Lol. The modifications shall become part of the Lol from the date on which the amendments were made, unless otherwise agreed to in writing.



2. This Lol may be terminated by either of the Parties 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.
3. This Lol is not legally binding on either Party and do not commit any financial transaction between the partners. In the event of dispute, the Parties will 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, and as a last resort, this Agreement can be dissolved by either Party.

Entry into force

This Lol between SRHU and ICIMOD shall enter into force upon signature by the authorized signatories in two original copies in English on the date as indicated below:

For ICIMOD



Dr. Pema Gyamtsho

Director General

Date: 3rd July 2023



**Protect the pulse.
FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE**

For SRHU



Dr. Susheela Sharma

Registrar

Date:

