



## 4th Indus Basin Knowledge Forum (IBKF)

Pathways to Impactful Research

23 – 24 August 2019, Kathmandu

*DRAFT Concept Note and agenda*

### **Background**

The Indus Basin (IB) is a key resource shared by Afghanistan, China, India, and Pakistan. Approximately 215 million people living within the basin rely on its resources – while many in the adjacent regions of the basin rely on the basin's critical ecosystem services. However, the basin remains a system under increasing stress. Rapid population growth coupled with economic development place major demands on basin resources. An uncertain climatic future will further continue impacting all current and future users of this unique river system. Geopolitics is a major challenge for the optimum resource use in the basin.

Building on past Indus Basin Knowledge Forums (IBKF), this iteration of the IBKF is aimed at utilizing the strategic nature of the platform with respect to collaborative efforts on ancillary activities such as the Indus Forum. Furthermore, it is also to recognize the value addition brought by each of the partnering institutions and harnessing their respective strengths. These can further contribute towards impactful pathways and set in motion a number of research, communication, and policy oriented activities.

### **Pathways to Impactful Research**

The intent of the IBKF has been to strengthen connections amongst those working in policy making, research, and knowledge generation in the Indus Basin (IB). Taking this concept a step further and strengthening the connections between each of the forums, it is essential to get better insight into past forums as well. While the second forum identified a 10-point action plan, important country perspectives were also noted. For example, a common theme amongst country perspectives was the need to increase knowledge sharing while addressing the systematic limitations to data sharing, policy linkages and science based research in the region. The third forum further identified objectives on addressing these issues through broadly two themes: 1) The need to have better informed decision makers aware of research being conducted in the IB, and 2) A need of trust among scientists, policy-makers, and advisers that could serve as an important meeting point for governments of regional members countries of the IB to further collaborate.

Taking these learnings further, the fourth forum aims to recognize the urgency needed for collaboration among members in the IB. It aims to do this through three proposed pathways. The three pathways are as follows: policy driven impactful research, engagement and inclusiveness and packaging of research.

### **The Three Pathways**

#### ***1) Policy Driven Impactful Research***

This forum proposes to seek expertise from leading policy professionals working in the region with respect to key areas where their expertise could be sought. Through dialogue among policy experts and scientists, it is expected that key policy areas where further research is needed are identified. These would then help scientists in the IB prioritize on areas of research. Furthermore, this consultation would identify country level policy discourse and identify potential strategies for engaging with regional policy discourse.

### ***2) Engagement and inclusiveness***

In order to ensure the effectiveness of research proper engagement with policy makers decision makers and other stakeholders is essential both to design the research and to make use of research results. Furthermore, inclusiveness in the research, particularly gender inclusion is extremely important for impactful research.

### ***3) Packaging of Research***

Whether its communicating new research, or repackaging existing research, a communication and outreach package is essential in keeping decisions makers informed. Through the forum, it is expected that country specific communication plans along with a regional (IB level) communication plan is expected. Furthermore, to ensure that findings are being communicated with the widest number of users, a journalist network is also proposed. This network is expected to work with scientists and co-develop stories that can be printed in popular media outlets. Along with this, the network can have its members collaborate amongst fellow journalists to address issues of misinformation and common misconceptions that exist on various socio-economic and environmental topics of note.

### **Specific Objectives**

1. Explore priority research and engagement areas to continue collaboration in the Indus basin regional member countries.
2. Strengthening of networking between regional member countries through existing networks and exploring new mechanisms
3. Explore the setting up of a journalist network that works between the linkages of science and policy to communicate and promote research that is being conducted in the Indus basin RMCs.
4. Draw on expertise from policy experts in each of the RMCs to recognize policy needs at the country and basin level. This interaction will also serve as guiding principles for conducting of research.

### **Participants**

To accomplish this, the Fourth Indus Basin Knowledge Forum will convene stakeholders from research, academia, government, and the donor community to actively engage in discussions on the three pathways to impactful research.

### **Organisation of the Forum**

The forum is co-convened by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) therefore building on the earlier work of the Indus Forum, the Upper Indus Basin Network and other basin-level initiatives, noticeably the Global Environment Facility funded Integrated Solutions for Water, energy and Land project (ISWEL).

## Tentative Agenda

### Day-I

Time	Description	Facilitator/s
09:00-09:30	Participants registration	Ashmita Shakya (ICIMOD)
09:30-10:30	<p><b>I. Opening Session:</b></p> <p>Setting the context of the Indus Basin Knowledge Forum, with opening remarks by</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">David Molden, ICIMOD (7 min) Piotr Magnuszewski, IIASA (7 min.)</p> <p>Brief description of why we have gathered in Kathmandu and what are we to achieve in the next two days?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">IBKF's journey so far - Simon Langan (IIASA), (10 min) 3 participants of 3<sup>rd</sup> IBKF (3 min each total 12 min.) Pathway ahead - Arun (10 min.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Remarks by the Australian Ambassador to Nepal (10 min)</p>	<p>Arun B Shrestha (ICIMOD)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Rapporteur: Madhav Dhakal</p>
10:30-11:00	Tea/Coffee Break and Group photo	
11:00-12:30	<p><b>II. Impactful science research</b></p> <p>Participants/organization will share their experiences of result based science and how the scientific results can be made more impactful. How important is networking and knowledge consolidation in this process.</p> <p>Barbara to take the first half of session and Farid to moderate the group work and Q&amp;A after the PPT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eng Mohammad Tayib Bromand, Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, IRDP/MEW, Afghanistan</li> <li>2. Yinsheng Zhang, Institute of Tibetan Plateau, China</li> <li>3. Anamika Barua, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati</li> <li>4. Dr. Renoj Thayyen, National Institute of Hydrology, India</li> <li>5. Asif Khan, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan</li> </ol>	Barbara Willaart (IIASA) and Farid Ahmed (ICIMOD)

	6. Muhammad Riaz, Pakistan Meteorological Department, Pakistan	Rapporteur: Nisha Wagle
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-15:00	<p>III. Policy Needs Driven Science</p> <p>Panel Discussion with policy experts identified from each country- what are key policy needs that IBKF should prioritise?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fayezurahman Azizi, Ministry of Energy and Water, Afghanistan</li> <li>2. Jiang Tong, Special Advisor National Climate Centre , China Meteorological Administration Yunnan, China</li> <li>3. Simi Thambi, National Institution for transforming India (NITI) - Aayog Researcher, India</li> <li>4. Balwinder Singh Sidhu, Commissioner Agriculture, Punjab, India</li> <li>5. Khalid Mohtadullah, UIB Network, Pakistan</li> <li>6. Hina Lotia, Lead Pakistan</li> <li>7. Naseer Ahmad Gillani, Ministry of Planning, Development &amp; Reform, Pakistan</li> <li>8. Afreen Siddiqui, Massachusetts Institute of Technology &amp; Harvard Kennedy School, USA</li> </ol>	<p>David Molden (ICIMOD)</p> <p>Rapporteurs: Debabrat Shukla and Sanita Dhaubanjari</p>
15:00-15:20	Tea/Coffee Break	
15:20-16:45	<p>IV. Engagement and Inclusiveness in research</p> <p>Panel discussion to suggest how researchers should engage with stakeholders and how gender inclusiveness can enhance research impacts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fawzia Taranum TERI SAS</li> <li>2. Farid Alam TAF, Pakistan</li> <li>3. Yasmeen Karim, AKF</li> <li>4. CSIRO</li> <li>5. ICIMOD</li> </ol>	<p>Darryl Day (ICEWaRM) and Kosar Banu (ICIMOD)</p> <p>Rapporteurs: Ajaz Ali (ICIMOD) and KMC Associate (ICIMOD)</p>
16:45-17:00	Wrap up the day: Discussion on the elapsed sessions and briefing on next day activities,	Simon Langan (IIASA) and Neera Shrestha Pradhan (ICIMOD)
18:00 onwards	Reception dinner hosted by DG ICIMOD	

Day-II

9:00-10:30	<p><b>V. Impactful science communication</b></p> <p>Media panel to discuss how impactful reporting of science can lead to better policy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Omair Ahmad, Journalist and political analyst</li> <li>2. Zofeen Ebrahim, The Third Pole</li> <li>3. Syed Abubakar, Freelance Environmental Journalist</li> </ol>	<p>Laurie Vasily (ICIMOD) and Joydeep Gupta (The Third Pole)</p> <p>Rapporteurs: Debabrat Shukla and Binu Maharjan</p>
10:30-11:30	<p><b>VI. Partnership Insights Session</b></p> <p>What has been the value addition of the IBKF? How can it fit into the donor plan to achieve strategic targets? (panel discussion)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undala Alam, DFID</li> <li>2. Manfred Kaufmann SDC</li> <li>3. Robert Novak, UNIDO, Austria</li> <li>4. Brian Dawson, DFAT</li> <li>5. Neeti Malhotra, DFID</li> </ol>	<p>Mandakini Surie, DFAT</p> <p>Rapporteur: Saurav Pradhananga</p>
11:30-11:45	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:45-13:00	<p><b>VII. Breakout Session</b></p> <p>Groups to identify relevant theme/country level outcomes. Members will identify priorities and then draft an impact pathway to reach the desired outcome. Session will consist of group work among Country Groups (1 Policy Expert, 1 Researcher, 1 Donor) OR Mixed Group (from any country)</p> <p>4 Country Groups and 1 Regional Group.</p> <p>Findings from this will be placed into a panel on IBKF plan of action</p>	<p>Chanda Gurung Goodrich (ICIMOD)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Pradeep Dangol</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-14:30	Session VII Group work presentation	



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14:30-15:00	Tea/Coffee Break	
15:00-16:00	<b>VIII. Panel Discussion</b> Priorities of IBKF based on the two days discussions <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Naim Eqrar, Kabul University</li><li>2. Kui Peng, Global Environmental Institute</li><li>3. Nisar Memon, Water Environment Forum</li><li>4. Ashok Dimri, Jawaharlal Nehru University</li><li>5. Nustrat Nasab, AKAH</li><li>6. Mobin Ahmed, CSIRO</li></ol>	Eklabya Sharma (ICIMOD)  Rapporteur: Kabi Raj Khatiwada
16:00-17:00	<b>IX. Closing Session</b> Country representatives Donor/s IIASA ICIMOD Vote of Thanks	Arun B Shrestha

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