

## ICIMOD/Nepal

### **Snow Accumulation and Melt Dynamics in a Himalayan Watershed: Observations and Modelling - SnowAMP**

**Partner:** International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

**NVE Mandate:** To contribute to increased scientific knowledge on snow melting and accumulation dynamics in the Hindu Kush Himalayan watersheds and on role of snow melt for the water resources in the area, and to share and increase the knowledge on snow measurement, analysis and modelling techniques and the challenges of their application in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Mountain environment.

To support hydropower development through capacity building on environmental safeguards in collaboration with IFC and fact-finding missions to investigate areas where more support could be relevant, such as hydrological data for hydropower development, sediment dynamics and a broader long-term support.

**Goal:** To increase the understanding of the snow accumulation and melt dynamics in Hindu Kush Himalayan watersheds. In this second phase of the programme, the project will expand the research to another site. In addition, the programme will support the development of hydropower in Nepal.

**Contract Value/ Duration:** 10 807 400 NOK / 2019-2022.

**Background:** The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded a successful cooperation between NVE and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) for the period 2014 – 2018 under ICIMOD's Regional Programme Cryosphere and Atmosphere and attached to the Strategic Thematic Area Water and Air (ICIMOD MTAP – III Medium-Term Action Plan 2013 – 2017).

**Activities:** The Part A of Snow AMP for 2019-22 continues the well-established co-operation between ICIMOD and NVE on glacio-hydrological monitoring and modelling. The plan covers the activities to be carried out by NVE and funded by ICIMOD, as requested in the Grant Agreement between Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and ICIMOD in 2018.

The activities and deliverables of the Part B of SnowAMP will extend the work in Part A, and widen the scope of activities related to supporting the hydropower and energy sector development in Nepal. The Part B plan includes additional activities to be jointly carried out by NVE and ICIMOD, and proposed to be funded by an Addendum to the Grant Agreement between MFA and ICIMOD to develop the hydropower framework in Nepal (Budget proposal provided in section 5).

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