ICIMOD

Regional Database System

A one-stop data portal for the Hindu Kush Himalaya

Background

ICIMOD believes that access to timely and high-quality data is essential to promote and accelerate learning on the challenges facing mountain ecosystems and their people; enable independent research and scientific enquiries; develop knowledge products and innovations that improve the wellbeing and livelihoods of mountain communities; and empower critical and urgent decision making and efforts during regional humanitarian crises. In this context, ICIMOD has established a Regional Database System (RDS) that acts as a central data repository for different thematic areas in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region and provides easy access to these data through a web-based portal.
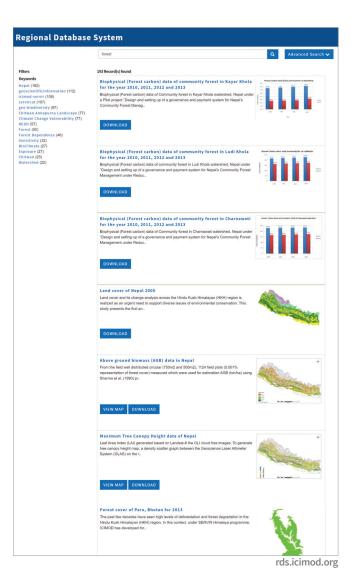
The RDS portal

The RDS portal serves as ICIMOD's clearing house for data curation and dissemination and ensures easy access to curated datasets; users can download ICIMOD's published datasets after following a simple registration process. The portal provides free-text search and advanced search capabilities; users can search by defining the title, abstract, keyword, or geographic extent. The search result shows a list of records consisting of the title, abstract, and thumbnail. Users can narrow down search results using provided filters and also view detailed metadata of any record.

Datasets stored on the RDS can also be accessed from the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) GeoPortal. Select biodiversity datasets are accessible from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility portal.

rds.icimod.org

The RDS framework

The RDS Initiative, under ICIMOD's regional programme on Mountain Environment Regional Information System (MENRIS), is responsible for developing and maintaining the RDS. The Initiative has put in place ICIMOD's Data Sharing Policy, data and metadata standards, and necessary hardware and software infrastructure. The policy facilitates data sharing in the region and among the global community, enabling data usage beyond original research. It also promotes open and free access to scientific information and knowledge philosophy, and facilitates open access and use of scientific and geospatial data.

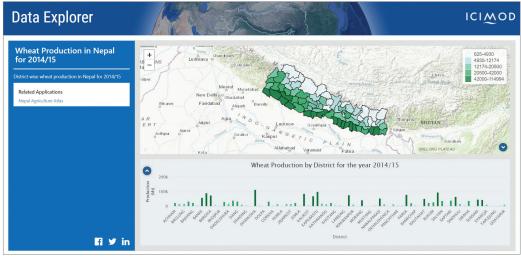ICIMOD's initiatives housed under various regional programmes primarily contribute – independently or in collaboration with partners – to the system's data. The data are made available to various kinds of users such as government and non-governmental agencies, researchers, and the general public. Each dataset curated in the system is assigned a unique Digital Object Identifier complying with existing internet standards and can be readily cited for use in peer-reviewed journals and articles.

The RDS Initiative also allows partner organizations to host and share their data through the RDS portal.

Data Explorer

A Data Explorer application allows visualization of data as dynamic maps and charts. Users can also share the generated maps and charts on social media by using integrated buttons in the application.

rds.icimod.org/DataExplorer