



Mountain Partnership

4th Global Meeting of Members of the Mountain Partnership. Erzurum, Turkey, 17-20 September 2013

SIDE EVENT REPORT

1. **Name of Side Event:** Building Together Africa's Sustainable Mountain Development Agenda

2. **Name of Organizers:** Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), on behalf of the Africa Mountain Partnership Champions Committee (¹)

- Moses H. Duku: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Government of Ghana
- Margaret Afoma Chukwu: Environment and Tourism Support (EATS) - Nigeria
- Sam Kanyamibwa: Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) - Uganda
- Paul Mafabi, : Ministry of Water and Environment - Government of Uganda
- Mookho Monnapula: Lesotho Meteorological Services - Government of Lesotho
- John Owino: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-ESARO) - Kenya
- Francis Dany Matip Nouga, Ministry of the Environment Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) - Government of Cameroon
- Musonda Mumba, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Kenya (Observer)
- Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat (FAO) – Rome (Observer)

3. **Topic addressed:** Progress and new perspectives in promoting SMD in Africa

4. **Objectives of side event:**

- To discuss the new Africa Work Plan 2013-2015
- Exchange on on-going members' activities in promoting SMD
- General discussion on coordination and Communication mechanisms in promoting Africa's Mountain Agenda
- Election of Africa representatives to the MP Steering Committee

5. **Topics discussed:**

The Africa Mountain Partnership Champions Committee (AMPCC) was established during the Africa Mountain Partnership Members Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in February 2013, with the aim to revitalise the activities of the MP in the African Region and promote a Mountain agenda in the context of the Mountain Partnership. The Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) was designated to host the Secretariat.

The first task of the AMPCC has been to develop a 3-year Africa Mountain Partnership Work Plan, aligned to the new Global Mountain Partnership Strategy (2013-2017), which had been shared with members electronically. The 4th Global Meeting of Members of the Mountain Partnership held in Erzurum, Turkey, 17-20 September 2013, offered opportunity to African MP to discuss the Work

¹ For further information: Dr Sam Kanyamibwa, Email: skanyamibwa@arcosnetwork.org,

Plan document, and share on-going activities in promoting sustainable mountain development in Africa.

After the introduction of all participants and welcome remarks by the AMPCC Chairman (Francis Dany Matip Noug, Ministry of the Environment Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), Government of Cameroon, welcome everybody to the side event. On behalf of the Africa Mountain Partnership Secretariat, Sam Kanyamibwa (ARCOS), gave a presentation of the new AMPCC work plan (in both English and French) and the progress that has been made so far, including the seed money support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), through the Mountain Forum on *“Building Bridges between Policy, Society and Science for Sustainable Mountain Development”* to promote Sustainable African Mountains”. The meeting was attended by African MP members and few participants from other regions (see participants list).

The participants provided useful information for improving the Africa MP Work plan, particularly the suggestion to include another component on Climate Change, which was initially considered as a cross-cutting issue. Given the increasing impact of climate change on mountain ecosystems and the need to develop resilience strategies, and funding opportunities in relation to green economy, it was agreed to include climate change as a separate issue of the work plan.

The meeting provided the opportunity to clarify the structure of the Mountain Partnership, the Africa Mountain Partnership Committee, and how the Africa MP Secretariat relates to the Global MP Secretariat, and FAO.

Questions were raised in relation to the need to translate the work-plan into French, given that part of the MP members in Africa don't speak English, as well as the geographical and linguistic issues faced by Africa. General information on the Mountain Partnership, including the conditions to join the Partnership and how to recruit new members in Africa was discussed..

Additional clarification was provided with regard to the relationship between ARCOS and other institutions promoting mountain sustainable development such as the Mountain Forum and the Afromont, University of Pretoria, South Africa, part of the Mountain Research Institute

6. Updates from AMP Members:

6.1. Governments

Cameroon

Mountain ecosystems in Cameroon are located from the South West to the Far North through the North West, the West and the Adamaoua regions. The Mount Cameroon, above 4,750 m is a very complex volcanic structure still active. One of the characteristics of the mountains in Cameroon is that they are very populated and very rich in biodiversity. Some projects are undergoing with some international NGOs like “Mount Cameroon project”. The Government lunched some years ago, a project of forest regeneration in the Far North called Green Sahel, with the goal of resisting the desert that is advancing from the Sahara. Next year, the Government intends to lunch a project on conservation and sustainable management of the western highlands ecosystem. We intend to gather and mainstream all the actions targeting the mountains as from 2014 at the at the level of the government to avoid disorderly interventions.

DRC

Mountain ecosystems of the Democratic Republic of Congo are mainly located in the eastern part of the country, a region marked by civil war and conflicts for the last 15 years. This has not helped efforts to promote sustainable mountain development.

Ethiopia:

- The government of Ethiopia initiated a national programme on Sustainable Land Management since 2008.
- A project on National land was submitted to various donors, and today, a consortium of donors is contributing to the programme.
- Started with 85 watersheds, including conservation agriculture. Today 85 watersheds are covered by the project.
- The process involves community mobilisation at all stages of project implementation, including monitoring and evaluation.
- Local institutions, including universities are involved
- Involves people resettlement establishment of cooperatives, and hillside rehabilitation.
- A climate change adaptation strategy has been developed.
- Limited capacity and land ownership issues in Ethiopia are the main challenges.

Ghana

CSIR work is focused on land degradation and watershed degradation in the Akwapim-Togo Ranges (mountains), a narrow belt of ridges and hills in Ghana extending in a southwest–northeast line for about 200 miles. Problems addressed include Deforestation and Land Degradation, Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation (Renewable Energy: Bio-energy, Technology Development), Promotion of renewable Energy Technologies, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, Watershed Management and Water Resources Management, Protection of water bodies, Environmental Sustainability and Science and Technology Policy.

Guinea

There are over 10 mountain ecosystems in Guinea but they face a lot of degradation due to deforestation, erosion and bush fire. There is significant reduction of water quantity in mountains and sanitation problems, but also the lack of access roads, school facilities and drinking water. The main focal areas of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests have been mainly the sensitisation of communities in the three villages of Mont Gangan on the sustainable mountain development.

Lesotho

Over 80% of Lesotho lies above 1,800 metres with the highest point being the peak of the Thabana Ntlenyana mountain, which reaches an elevation of 3,482 metres. Over 80% of Lesotho lies above 1,800 metres. The highlands formed by the Drakensberg and Maloti mountain ranges in the east and central parts of Lesotho and the foothills that form a divide between the lowlands and the highlands. The government of Lesotho has developed a 20 years strategy for Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area, with 5 years Action Plan.

Madagascar

Mountains cover 50% of Madagascar territory and provide various services such as water used for domestic use and irrigation. Forests hold a high concentration of Madagascar Biodiversity and are increasingly concentrated in high altitude area due to slash and burn agriculture pressure and rice cultivation extension. Madagascar mountain areas and highlands are home to people who are preserving their wealth and culture value.

Uganda

There are three major mountain terrain areas in Uganda, the Mt. Elgon, Rwenzori mountains and Virunga mountains. In collaboration with UNEP, UNDP and IUCN, the Ministry of Water and Environment of the Republic of Uganda is involved in the project “Ecosystem Based Adaptation in Mountain Ecosystems”, aimed at supporting countries and communities to adapt to the adverse

impacts of climate change through improved biodiversity and ecosystem services, while taking into account risk management and resilience enhancement, as part of overall local and national level adaptation strategies. The project looks at the impacts of climate change on the integrity and functioning of mountain ecosystems in three countries, namely Nepal, Peru and Uganda.

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) is member of the Mountain Partnership since .AMCEN met in Arusha, Tanzania, from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the 14th session in relation to Africa's post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development. AMCEN's commitment to African mountains is reflected in the Arusha Declaration on Africa's post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development makes reference to mountains in Africa, paragraphe 27, as follows:

"To request the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with member States and partners, to support, with financial and technical assistance, through multilateral, North-South and South-South cooperation, the implementation of the agreed decision under the Rio+20 Conference regarding mountains in Africa";

In addition, a side event was organized during the AMCEN meeting on "The Future we want for African Mountains".

6.2. Civil Society Organisations/NGOs

Association for the Protection of Mountains of Burundi (APMB)

The Association for the Protection of Mountains of Burundi (APMB) has a mission to protect the biodiversity and others natural resources of mountains; to promote ecotourism in mountains and conciliate conservation and development. Our approach is summarized in this principle:" By the people and for the people"

Albrtine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)

The Albertine Rift mountains are globally important for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services to communities and national economy. ARCOS is the only organisation operating solely at regional level in the Albertine Rift. However, ARCOS promotes networking and information sharing not only in the Albertine Rift, but also other mountain ecosystems in Africa. ARCOS is involved in 4 mountain landscapes: Echuya Forest, Uganda), Mukura Forest and Rugezi Wetlands (Rwanda), and Kibira Forest Lanscape, promoting biodiversity monitoring, community livelihoods, climate change resilience and policy dialogue. ARCOS advocates for strengthening knowledge exchange and collaborative actions to address issues affecting mountain ecosystems and communities and supporting informed decisions for sustainable mountain development in Africa mountains.

Environment and Tourism Support (EATS)

The Environment and Tourism Support Initiative works in (EATS) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) founded in 2004 in response to issues relating to the Environment, Water and Sanitation and Good Governance. EATS work in the Northern and Southern parts of Nigeria with mountain dwellers, engaging in advocacy, enlightenment campaigns, education on the importance of portable water and safe sanitation practices.

Foundation For Environment and Development (FEDEV)

The Foundation For Environment and Development (FEDEV), was registered as a non-governmental organization with head office in Bamenda, Cameroon since 2001 and work in several areas related to sustainable mountain development:

- -Sustainable water management for mountain people;
- -Protection of watershed areas(planting of trees around the catchment areas);
- -Biodiversity conservation and protection of the mountain ecosystems (Mount Kupe. Mount Muoanenguba, Mt Cameroon. Kilum-Ijim Mountains, Bamendakwe mountain, etc.
- -Capacity building through information sharing;
- -Fight against desertification, climate change mitigation strategies etc.

Ghana Wildlife Society

GWS is a non-governmental organization which seeks to conserve wildlife in all its forms to ensure a better environment and improved quality of life for all people. The Society aims to achieve this through:

- Initiating and supporting projects which address specific problems.
- Public awareness and conservation education programmes.
- Promoting the conservation of wildlife protected areas.
- Encouraging research on wildlife and environmental protection and conservation

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) focuses on green and sustainable pest control strategies, with a particular emphasis on biological and integrated control. One of ICIPE's programme is on the coordination and implementation of a four-year research and development project on Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystem Services and Food Security in Eastern Africa (CHIESA), focusing on Montane ecosystems of the Taita Hills, Kenya, in Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania and in the Jimma Highland, Ethiopia. The project currently works directly with more than 100 farmers in each of the three target areas, but the objective is to make Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies and methods available to a total of 3000 farmers by the end of the project through farmer outreach, exchange visits, demonstration sites, training workshops and educational materials.

Makerere University

The Mountain Research Centre (MRC) at Makerere University is mandated to (i) undertake research to generate knowledge in support of sustainable management and development in the mountain ecosystems (ii) lobby and advocate for integration of Mountain issues in development planning and agendas MRC is engaged in various research and development activities in the different mountains in East Africa, including the impact of land use change on water resources and livelihoods in Mt Elgon supported by SIDA; investigating the causes, spatial analysis, vulnerability & response such as landslides and floods, soil erosion and fertility decline, climate change impact on glacial retreat and aquatic ecosystem on Rwenzori. The results show increased awareness creation about environmental degradation and climate change and improved knowledge about rate of climate change

Sorraine Uganda

SORAIN-UGANDA is a local private organisation registered in Kampala, Uganda, providing short and long-term technical assistance to farmers and communities in three key areas namely: agriculture/food security, environment/climate change and research, knowledge sharing and dissemination. One of the key activities of Soraine-Uganda in mountains is watershed management, floods mitigation through tree planting.

6.3. Exchange from other regions

Global Mountain Action

Global Mountain Action (GMA) was established in 2009, as an association interested in issues related to food, and contribute to sustainable development of mountains and their inhabitants focusing on the well-being of people and their environment. One of the GMA work focuses on fungi and mushrooms in particular, which are important not only for their crucial environmental role and place in human culture, but also in terms of health and nutrition. In Africa, GMA is involved in Ethiopia and are interested in developing new activities in other countries.

7. Follow up Action planned:

1. **Language issue:** The Secretariat to translate all key documents in French and next meeting to explore translation services.
2. SDC Project: Sam to contact members for input to the process to collect information on the status of mountains in Africa.

8. Members' expected contribution:

1. **Recruitment of new members:** The number of MP Members in Africa is still limited. All members were requested to contribute in the recruitment of new members and inform the Secretariat as appropriate. Special attention should be given to governments.
2. **National Committees:** Given the importance of national process in promoting mountain sustainable development agenda, members are encouraged to explore how to establish national committees, especially in countries with several MP Members such as Cameroon, Ghana and Uganda.

9. Election of Africa's Representatives to the Global MP Steering Committee

Nominations	Results
Governments	Governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Cameroon➤ Ghana➤ Uganda	Cameroon Alternate: Uganda
NGOs	NGOs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ ARCOS➤ FEDEV➤ Ghana Wildlife Society➤ RENASONGCAM	ARCOS Alternate: Ghana Wildlife Society

10. Participants List

No	Name	Organization
1	Francis Dany MATIP NOUGA	Ministere de l'Environnement et du Developement durable, Cammeroon
2	Moses H. Duku	CISR –Ghana
3	Paul Mafabi	Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda
4	MABARI Lebamang Clement	Ministry of Tourism Environment and Culture, Lesotho
5	Sam Kanyamibwa	ARCOS
6	Eric Nanchen	FDDM, Switzerland
7	Tino Johansson	ICIPE
8	Gilbert KILOLA	Ministere Environnement /DRC
9	Talessa Debelle Dilalessa	EIAR, Ethiopia
10	Valerie Benjamin Ramahavalisoa	Ministere de l'Environnement, Madagascar
11	Tsala Messinga Jean Marie	RENASONGCAM, Cameroon
12	Rob Nakilesa	Makerere University, Mountain Research Centre, Uganda
13	Peter Trutmann	Global Mountain Action, Wsitzrland
14	Ruth Leyuga Titamanyu	Foundation for Environ33ment and Development, Cameroon
15	Mamara Louis Pascal	Ministere de l'Environnement, Eaux et Forests, Guinee
16	Nzigiyinka Leonidas	Association Protection Montagnes du Burundi
617	Keith Porter	Forestry Department, Jamaica