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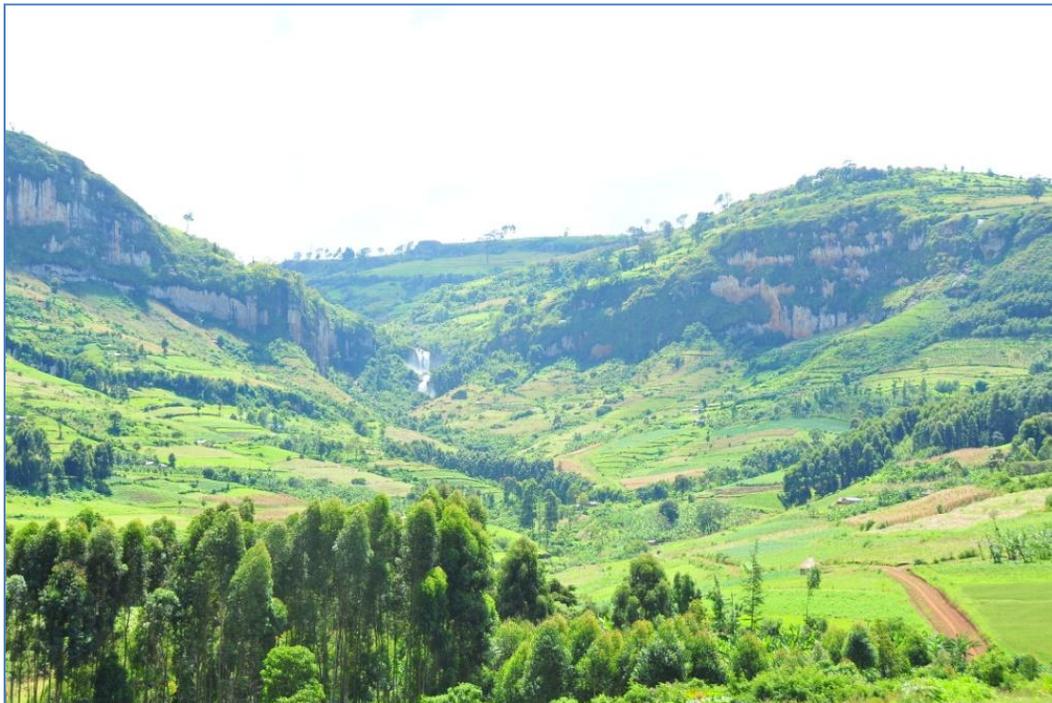
# REGIONAL MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICAN MOUNTAIN REGIONS

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*Climate Change Impacts, Adaption and Development in  
Fragile Ecosystems*

16-18 November 2011

Mbale, Uganda





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## INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of the "[Strategic Initiative for Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Development in Mountain Regions](#)", the Mountain Partnership Secretariat has organized three regional meetings in Chile, Tajikistan and Uganda with support of the World Bank's Development Grant Facility. These meetings aimed at raising awareness about the impacts of climate change on mountain ecosystems, targeting in particular representatives of national governments.

Experts, researchers and journalists from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe met in Mbale (Uganda) for this Africa Regional Meeting, organised by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) Central Hub hosted at FAO jointly with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The meeting was an initial step for establishing an African process to develop an agenda for action on Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) and a constituency to support it. By stimulating dialogue and experience sharing, the meeting laid the foundations for more effective regional cooperation in the future and concluded with an affirmation by participants for the importance of strengthening collaboration on SMD in Africa.

The first day of the meeting consisted of a field visit to two mountain villages in Kapchorwa district of Mt. Elgon. The aim was to observe the challenges faced by the communities, including massive soil erosion, change in water regime and deforestation, as well as to gain a better understanding of ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) approaches. Meetings of the Working Groups and plenary sessions took place during the second and third day.

This document provides a summary of the outcomes of the meeting. It includes the following sections:

1. Outcome of the meeting
2. Context: Field trip and EBA
3. Outcomes of the Working Groups
4. Agenda
5. List of Participants
6. Press release



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## 1. OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

Representatives from governments, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, and communication and academic sectors gathered together in Mbale (Uganda) from 16-18 November 2011 in order to reflect on the current status and future prospects of Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) and climate change adaptation in the African mountain regions. Based on the discussions, the following conclusions were reached:

1. Participants acknowledged that African mountains represent "islands" of high productivity, biodiversity and endemism, and cultural diversity in a continent where severe environmental pressures are regular and common features.
2. African mountains play an important role in economic development, poverty alleviation and environmental protection, not only of upland areas, but also have a critical role to play in sustaining the lowlands through the provision of a wide range of ecological goods and services. This highland–lowland interaction is particularly apparent when addressing water: African mountain ranges are the headwaters of most of the large African rivers, including the Nile, Zambezi and Orange Rivers.
3. It is important to provide enabling conditions and incentives for investment by the private sector in sustainable development in African mountain areas and include appropriate funding in national budgets in order to enhance wellbeing and reduce disparities.
4. Increasing levels of environmental degradation in mountains, accelerated by climate change (e.g., flooding, droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, shifting seasons) and unsustainable human activities, together with their intrinsic geographical isolation, are further compounding the ongoing marginalisation of mountain communities. This fragile situation is exacerbated by an increase of human activity, food insecurity, high population growth and increasing incidences of resource conflict therefore requiring a holistic integrated management approach.
5. There remains a gap in Africa between the results and recommendations of research, development and policy-making processes. The relatively low political priority given to mountain systems in Africa has resulted in poor progress in the implementation of the objectives of SMD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as they relate to SMD; this is unfortunately further compounded by relatively low human and financial resources being dedicated to addressing SMD.



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6. In appreciation of different capacity gaps and needs, such as access to information and public participation, as well as the development and strengthening of frameworks of local institutions, there is a need for appropriate institutional requirements and mechanisms, such as inter-sectoral coordination, particularly at the national level.
7. It is of utmost importance that mountain-related issues are mainstreamed into national, regional/subregional and international development agendas, and the promotion of ecosystem-based adaptation may play a key role in enabling practical understanding of the linkages between ecosystems, people and governance systems. Supporting this mainstreaming process, it is important to provide the necessary enabling conditions and incentives for investment by the private sector in SMD in Africa and include appropriate funding in national budgets in order to enhance national and regional wellbeing and reduce disparities.
8. Furthermore, it is vital to further promote SMD and explore possible fields of sectoral and inter-sectoral cooperation on the regional and sub-regional scales. Enhanced collaboration with established institutions, with the view towards promoting the African voice on SMD-related issues at the global level, is of utmost importance in this context. Several key sectors and issues have been identified of being of common concern in African mountain regions and may serve as a basis for initial regional engagement in discussions, including:
  - Food security
  - Biodiversity and forest conservation
  - Water management
  - Energy security and infrastructure development (including communications)
  - Population pressure
  - Conservation of cultural and traditional knowledge practices
  - Resource and political conflicts
  - Livelihoods
  - Potential of mountains as key drivers of economic development
9. The participants called for development and implementation of a common action plan and the identification of options for establishing an African Mountain Hub in the context of the Mountain Partnership with the view towards advancing the SMD agenda more systematically in Africa. To this end, the



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participants agreed upon the convening of a follow-up meeting to prepare the necessary steps and have requested the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, UNEP and other interested parties, to facilitate this process and mobilise the necessary resources.

10. Key milestone activities to achieve the establishment of this African Mountain Hub include:

- Review of submissions by African countries to UN-DESA for Rio+20
- Development of an African mountains agenda (i.e., issues, solutions, requirements)
- Stakeholder and process analyses of the challenges and opportunities in the establishment of an African mountains agenda
- Canvassing countries and lobbying key decision-makers to become involved in the African SMD process for Rio+20

11. Key events for the promotion of SMD and the development of an African Mountain Hub include:

- International Mountain Day at margins of UN COP17 UNFCCC, Durban (4 December 2011)
- UN COP17 UNFCCC, Durban (28 November to 9 December 2011)
- Intersessional Preparatory Meeting for RIO+20 at CSD New York (15-16 December 2011, with the Mountain Partnership side-event on 14 December 2011)
- Meeting of Mbale expert group planning group (development of discussion/position paper) (date to be determined)
- 12th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum(GC/GMEF), Nairobi, (20 to 22 February 2012) UN Intersessional Roundtable meeting (March 2012)
- Meeting of Mbale expert group planning group (advocacy and key decision-makers) (date to be determined)
- AMCEN (June 2012)
- Rio+20 Earth Summit (June 2012)
- Meeting of Mbale expert group to take stock of process and determine whether the process is to be continued (August 2012?)



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## 2. CONTEXT: FIELD TRIP AND EBA

The field trip to two mountain villages in Kapchorwa district, Mount Elgon, aimed to show that ecosystems and human well-being are strongly linked in East African mountain regions. During the field visit, community representatives discussed some of the challenges as well as the opportunities. In Sansara, a village in the foothills of Mt. Elgon, villagers described the challenges related to water from the lack of clean drinking water to the droughts and alternatively floods that affect the village. In Atari, a village farther up the slopes of Mt. Elgon, the village has received training on soil conservation and livelihoods that have improved farming techniques and outputs.

The sites are involved in the project "Ecosystem Based Adaptation in Mt. Elgon Ecosystems, which is a partnership between UNEP, UNDP and IUCN with support of BMU, which focuses on the impacts of climate change on food security and rural development, suggesting the need to consider ecosystem-based solutions in adaptation strategies.

As explained during the field visit, Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) is an emerging approach that helps people to adapt to adverse impacts of climate change through the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as a part of an overall adaptation strategy. EBA contributes to strengthen ecosystem resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities.

## 3. OUTCOMES OF THE WORKING GROUPS

Three working groups were identified in order to further analyze and focus on the different issues related to climate change and Sustainable Mountain Development. The first group dealt with **Communication issues**, the second focused on **Capacity Development** and the third one on **Planning**.



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Each working group prepared a document explaining the outcome of each discussion, highlighting the issues pointed out and proposing strategies for the future.

## WORKING GROUP 1 – COMMUNICATION

The group tried to identify the major communication gaps and issues, and to highlight specific communication objectives.

The main issues related to communication are:

- How to define mountains?
- What communication systems are in place? Evaluate what kind of communication system we can provide? Different communication means, depending on the different audiences.
- What would it be our target audience? Establish and identify the key target audiences.
- Where does the local community come in?
- How to elaborate specific messages according to our different audiences and our different communication objectives?
- Need for a communication strategy to be endorsed at regional/continental level.
- What language shall we use to reach our target people?
- Need for media training on mountains and climate issues.
- Creating a network of journalists dealing with environment and mountains.

Furthermore, the working group identified also a number of objectives related to communication:

- Raise awareness of the impact of climate change on mountain ecosystems and mountain people.
- Catalyze the attention of the leaders (and the Church, spiritual leaders).
- Provide solutions instead of telling people what they don't have to do. Communication objectives need to be specific, appropriate, measurable and time-balanced.



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Lastly, the focus moved on how communication could help to share the mountains agenda in Africa. The following solutions were identified:

- Advocacy work amongst political, community and religious leaders on the impact of CC on mountain environments. Build the case on the importance of conserving mountain ecosystems, provide information, research and figures.
- Systematically get in touch with grassroots communities and share. Adopt a participatory approach, bottom-up.
- Identifying the key milestones and meeting during the year on which media and communication can support.
- Tell the story in a simplified way.
- Looking at the established channels of communications and start from there.
- Develop not only a regional, but also a national communication plan to go in line with the regional communication strategy.
- Lobbying at the local level.
- Communication should build the momentum towards Rio+20, to support organizations and pushing the mountains agenda.

## WORKING GROUP 2 – CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The second working group focused on the following questions:

- What is SMD and which are the key SMD issues in Africa?
- What are the capacity needs for people working on mountain issues in Africa?
- What institutional arrangements/mechanisms need to be set up for effective sharing of information?
- Who is the target audience for a mountain agenda in Africa?

The working group identified the main points related to the idea of Sustainable Mountain Development, characterized by economic, social and environmental aspects:

- Use of resources,



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- Preservation for present and future generations,
- Better livelihoods (economic aspect, as well),
- Resilient mountain ecosystem,
- Cultural aspect of mountain ecosystem (spiritual/aesthetic).

Important sectors to SMD were identified, together with issues and challenges related to SMD:

SECTORS	ISSUES/CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forests</li> <li>- Soils</li> <li>- Climate</li> <li>- Water</li> <li>- Vegetation</li> <li>- Biodiversity</li> <li>- Agriculture</li> <li>- People (culture and tradition)</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Education</li> <li>- Energy &amp; industry</li> <li>- Trade</li> <li>- Tourism</li> <li>- Gender &amp; social equity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deforestation and degradation,</li> <li>- Loss of biodiversity,</li> <li>- Over population,</li> <li>- Bad practice of farming,</li> <li>- Soil erosion,</li> <li>- Floods and drought,</li> <li>- Political interference and governance,</li> <li>- Land tenure,</li> <li>- Over use and exploitation and over dependence of the population on natural resources,</li> <li>- Over grazing,</li> <li>- Peace and security (conflict)</li> <li>- Inadequate planning</li> <li>- Urbanization</li> <li>- Inaccessibility/remoteness</li> </ul>

Who are the key actors (critical and strategic) we should involve in the issues?

- Communities are very important stakeholders,
- Local government,
- Religious groups and leaders,
- Minorities and indigenous groups,
- Research and academia,



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- Surrounding communities,
- Regional bodies (authorities),
- Private sector,
- Donor/international community,
- Surrounding and mobile communities,
- Central government.

Capacity needs for actors:

- It would be very important to empower local communities // capacity building and awareness knowledge,
- Strengthening of institutions,
- Necessary funding,
- Public participation,
- Access to information,
- Mobilization,
- Education,
- Transfer of technology,
- Infrastructures,
- Assisting communities on diversification of livelihoods,
- Training,
- Better understanding of environmental security and interaction between highlands and lowlands.

Institutional arrangements. We should divide it in sub sectors.

- Local: community management structures and management structures; associations, clubs and interest groups; local councils system, regulatory framework.
- National: mountain disciplinary research teams; integrated planning.



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- Subregional/regional: integration of mountain aspects into existing regional bodies; strengthened mechanism of communication between bodies; coordination of mountain aspects between regional bodies and regional water management bodies. Establishment and strengthening of networks;
- Pan-African: do you think it is necessary to have a coordination system? Creation of an African Hub!
- International: Enhanced linkage to global processes (MP), more visibility and promotion of the African dimension.

## WORKING GROUP 3 – PLANNING

This document presents the outcomes of Working Group 3 and recommendations until August/September 2012.

### **RATIONALE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AFRICAN MOUNTAIN HUB WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT**

1. There is a need/opportunity to promote a mechanism/process/initiative to enable a coherent/coordinated/unified/etc. response for Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) in Africa, to improve the livelihood of mountain people, protect mountain ecosystems and continue to provide essential goods and service to lowland people.
2. The African decentralised hub of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat seeks to provide an open sharing platform on SMD-related issues in Africa that mobilises existing Mountain Partnership members, creates an enabling environment for independent and objective analysis, advocacy and science-based advice on pertinent policy and technical issues to achieve SMD, for reducing poverty and promote environmentally-sensitive economic and socio-cultural development in African mountain areas.

### **GOAL OF AN AFRICAN MOUNTAIN HUB**

3. The Hub will aim to include the African voice within the Mountain Partnership and to mobilise the necessary human and financial resources related to mountains and SMD-related issues that cut across countries and regions with a view to enhance the relevance and contributions of mountains to the people of Africa and their environment.



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## **OBJECTIVES OF AN AFRICAN MOUNTAIN HUB**

- Actively engage existing Mountain Partnership members and promote wider participation
- Provide a forum for knowledge and information sharing, partnership development
- Connecting key actors – experts, scientists, policy-makers and communities
- Enable members to influence national development plans to make mountains a national priority
- Mobilise resources and enable capacity building

## **OPERATING MODALITIES TO ACHIEVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AFRICAN MOUNTAIN HUB**

4. Operating modalities Up to June 2012 (Rio+20)
  - a. Need to recruit a consultant to facilitate activities and process
  - b. Support the progress on the interim workplan building on existing capacities at FAO, UNEP and Mountain Partnership Secretariat
5. Proposed profile of African Mountain Hub consultant (mid-career level):
  - a. Bilingual (English & French)
  - b. Knowledge of the African Mountain process
  - c. Technical knowledge of sustainable development, natural resources, ecology, or related fields
  - d. Experience working in Africa and knowledge of mountains systems
  - e. Understanding of relevant stakeholders and institutions
6. Proposed key roles and responsibilities of African Mountains consultant
  - a. Facilitate the organisation of meetings and events (planning meetings, side events, etc.), in consultation with the Mbale expert group and relevant stakeholders
  - b. Analysis of Rio submissions to UN-DESA
  - c. Analysis of stakeholders/processes in Africa and globally on SMD
  - d. Produce position papers on (a) the African mountains agenda and (b) stakeholder and process analyses of the challenges and opportunities in establishing an SMD agenda in Africa.



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## **WORKPLAN TO ACHIEVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AFRICAN MOUNTAIN**

7. Key events for the promotion of SMD and the development of an African Mountain Hub Association include:

- Mountain Day (4 December 2011) at UN COP17 UNFCCC:
  - a. Video of Mbale meeting and other DGF meetings
  - b. Speeches by ex. President AMSEN (Uganda Min. Env.) or Min. Environment / President of Rwanda or Env. Protection Authority Ethiopia (need brief/ speaking points – contact person: Rosalaura) or Mohamed to contact current President AMSEN (until June), through UNEP Nairobi or African Development Bank (President)
- Climate Change COP17 Durban (28 November to 9 December 2011)
- Intersessional Preparatory Meeting for RIO+20 at CSD New York (15-16 December 2012, Mtn Partnership event on 14 December )
- Meeting of Mbale expert group planning group (development of discussion/position paper) (date to be determined)
- UNEP Governing Council (February 2012):
- UN Intersessional Roundtable meeting (March 2012):
- Meeting of Mbale expert group planning group (advocacy and key decision-makers) (date to be determined)
- AMCEN (June 2012)
- Rio+20 (June 2012)
- Meeting of Mbale expert group to take stock of process and determine whether the process is to be continued (August 2012?)

8. Key milestone activities include:

- Review of submissions by African countries to UN-DESA for Rio+20
- Development of the African mountains agenda (issues, solutions, requirements)
- Stakeholder and process analyses of challenges and opportunities => discussion / options paper for Mbale group to discuss



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- Between February (UNEP council) and June (AMCEN): Canvassing countries and lobbying with key decision-makers to become involved in the African SMD process for Rio+20

## 4. AGENDA

**Wednesday, November 16, 2011**



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**09:00 a.m. - 07:00 p.m.**

Field visit

**Thursday, November 17, 2011**

**09:00 a.m. – 06:00 p.m.**

9:00 Opening and welcome addresses (Mohamed A.S. Abdel-Monem & Mario Bocucci)

9:10 Presentation of the Strategic Initiative on Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Development in Mountain Regions and of the Mountain Partnership (Rosalaura Romeo)

9:30 Round Table introductions and expectations: Statements and reflections of national representatives and other participants (all)

10:30 Setting the stage: Introduction of the meeting objectives and review of the agenda (Bryan Hugill)

**11:00 COFFEE**



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11:20 Presentation and discussion of the Assessment Reports on Africa on Sustainable Mountain Development (Festus Bagoora)

## **12:40 LUNCH**

14:00 Presentation of the outcomes of ICEAM meeting (Bob Nakileza)

14:50 Presentation on why mountains matter (Rosalaura Romeo)

15:20 Presentation on the ecosystem-based adaptation (Musonda Mumba)

## **15:50 COFFEE**

16:00 Case study on the Albertine mountain system (Sam Kanyamibwa)

16:45 Set-up of the Working Groups (Bryan Hugill)

- WG1 Communication
- WG2 Capacity Development
- WG3 Planning

16:45 Meeting of the Communication Working Group

**Friday, November 18, 2011**



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**08:00 a.m. – 04:30 p.m.**

8:00 Meeting of the Capacity Development & Planning Working Groups

**11:15 COFFEE**

11:30 Meeting of the Capacity Development & Planning Working Groups

**13:00 LUNCH**

14:00 Presentation of the outcomes of the meetings of the three Working Groups

15:15 The Way Forward: Identification of key challenges and opportunities in the field of SMD and Adaption to Climate Change in African Mountain Regions (Bryan Hugill – Workshop outcome statement)

15:40 Concluding remarks by the participants and co-organizers

**16:30 DRINKS @ THE POOL**

The documents and presentation made are available online at  
<http://www.mountainpartnership.org/eventspage/MountaiRegions/MounReg.html>



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## 5. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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## 6. PRESS RELEASE

### **Climate change adaptation in Africa's "living places": mountains specific actions must be placed squarely on the international agenda**

#### **Regional experts meet in Uganda as mountain communities are facing urgent climatic challenges**

**Mbale (Uganda) 21 November 2011.** From the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro to the Atlas in Morocco, the landscape of Africa's mountain regions constitutes a varying and fragile ecosystem with many crucial functions. It is often an agricultural landscape. As a temperate island in a harsh landscape, it is a site for towns and ongoing urbanization. It supports subsistence farming for households. And it provides water for local and downstream communities and other resources for pastoral peoples.

In order to set in motion the development of an enhanced mountain agenda for Africa, international experts, researchers and journalists from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe met in Mbale, Uganda, for three days. Together, they discussed the increasing challenges and opportunities involved in the sustainable development of mountain regions as part of the "Strategic Initiative for Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Development in Mountain Regions". The meeting was jointly organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with support from the World Bank.

Participants in the meeting explored the relationship between mountains and climate change, as well as the potential for sustainable development in mountain regions, collectively identifying key issues such as the need for capacity building and the importance of the upcoming Rio+ 20 conference in 2012.

#### **Africa's mountains, "living places"**

About 50 percent of the countries in Africa incorporate highlands, mountains or steep sloping areas. While large mountains are limited to the northwestern, eastern or southeastern regions, isolated and relatively small mountains are found scattered throughout the continent. The benefits of mountains, through the provision of ecosystem goods and services, extend well beyond the highland



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regions, reaching cities, towns and rural areas in the surrounding lowland regions. On the other hand, Africa's mountains face many challenges. As described by Bob Nakileza, Chair of the International Conference on East Africa Mountains 2011, based at the Mountain Resource Centre of Makerere University in Uganda, "Mountains in Uganda are a very important store of wealth but are fragile ecosystems. They are facing major challenges, especially due to population pressure and resource degradation exacerbated by climate change impacts. Uganda recognizes the rights of mountain people to sustainable livelihoods and development, and therefore the need for leverage investments in these regions for poverty alleviation and equity, which are key requisites to reduce isolation and marginalization."

### **Highlands and lowlands, coping locally with global climatic challenges**

To help set the stage for the discussions of the ensuing days, the meeting started with a field visit to two villages located on the slopes of Mount Elgon, showcasing some of the opportunities and challenges faced by communities in Africa's mountain regions. "Africa's mountain ecosystems are important for local communities, national economies and international benefits," said Sam Kanyamibwa, Executive Secretary of the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), a regional NGO operating in one of Africa's mountain regions. "Owing to their vulnerability, particularly to climate change, these ecosystems need to receive special attention from everyone, especially governments involved in development planning, as well as the donor community," he added.

To reduce vulnerability, farmers in Atari, a high-altitude village, have received soil conservation and livelihood training from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with funding support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A programme on ecosystem-based adaptation has been initiated to boost capacities.

As farmer Rose Kiteiywo, 38, reported: "These days rains are very heavy. As a result, our soil has been degraded. So we do not grow as much food as we used to. And this means that even when the price of food crops is high, we do not get the benefit because we are supplying so little to the market."

In Sansara, a village in the foothills of Mount Elgon, District Councilor Khalifan Towet explained that the biggest challenge villagers face is the lack of clean drinking water: "The water in the river that flows down from the mountains is very dirty and not fit for consumption. We are also experiencing a lot of flooding due to heavy rains."

"The ecosystem services provided by African mountains play an essential role in the livelihood of African communities," said Mohamed Abdel-Monem, Ecosystem



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Management Officer working with UNEP. "We are consulting concerned stakeholders in order to address these challenges using tools for the sustainable management and conservation of ecosystems, taking the impact of climate change into consideration," he added.

### **Strategic Initiative for Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Development in Mountain Regions**

This is the third regional meeting organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat in the framework of the World Bank's Development Grant Facility on the "Strategic Initiative for Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Development in Mountain Regions". Each meeting has brought together government delegates, policy-makers, journalists, scientists, and mountain and climate change experts, to boost knowledge on the impact of climate change in mountain areas, discuss adaptation options for mountain ecosystems and promote better partnerships and cooperation amongst countries with mountain territories.

"Several groups are working with mountains. However, given the multi-sectoral nature of their projects, they neglect to capitalize on any advances," said Olman Serrano, Mountain Partnership Secretariat Coordinator, who went on to add: "Very few mountain-specific issues have been highlighted because projects are not labeled as mountain-related or mountain-specific. This needs to be brought to the attention of those setting the international agenda."

"Without a clear understanding of the relatively fragile environments that mountain areas represent, and the political will to redefine national development in terms of a sustainable development framework, continued severe degradation is almost inevitable," concluded Serrano.

The first of these regional meetings – for Latin America – was held in Santiago from 26 to 28 October 2011 in collaboration with the Government of Chile. The second – for Central Asia – was held in Dushanbe from 9 to 11 November 2011 in collaboration with the University of Central Asia and the Government of Tajikistan. All the relevant presentations, material and conclusions may be found [here](#).

#### **Links of interest:**

- [www.mountainpartnership.org](http://www.mountainpartnership.org)



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- [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)
- [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)
- [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)
- [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)