

## REPORT ON NETWORK AND COMMUNICATION

There is currently international attention for Africa and sustainable resource management. For instance, the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in 2008 considered ways to help Africa manage its natural resources, boost agricultural productivity and modernize its transportation and energy infrastructure.

In 2007, the African Mountain Forum participated in the preparation of policy briefs and dissemination of technologies developed in African Highlands Initiative benchmark sites to a wider community.2007. It also supported the e-consultation in preparation for the Adelboden Group Conference held in October 2007 at FAO in Rome. This consultation resulted in participation of an African voice in the dialogue and activities of the Adelboden group and inclusion of African activities in its future plans

The Global Change Research Network in African Mountains (GCRN\_AM) was launched at a workshop in Kampala, Uganda in July 2007. Among others, the network which consists of 450 members aims to:

- promote research on global change in African mountains;
- create synergism between research and on-going local regional and global initiatives; support data sharing by means of conferences and workshops, mailing and database access;
- provide scientific based information to stakeholders and policy makers;
- influence policy and decision-making to improve livelihoods and the environment of African mountains and highlands; and
- establish a transboundary network of global change research sites.

Currently, MRI hosts the GCRN\_AM website and produces a bi-monthly GCRN-AM Newsflash. The experts' database and the "Who is Who?" list provides access to global change scientists around the world, with 450 of them in Africa. Various activities have since been catalyzed by the network, including the planning workshop on Establishing High Altitude Climate Observatory Systems in the Ethiopian Highlands, held in January 2008 in Addis Ababa University.

Two major outputs of this workshop were: i) drafting of a proposal for the establishment of high altitude climate observatories on at least six summits in Ethiopia and, ii) establishment of a climate change research network for Ethiopia to be hosted by the Science Faculty of Addis Ababa University.

Efforts to re-vitalize the operations of the African Mountain Forum were initiated in 2008. Key features being considered in the process are a decentralized approach, and identification and balanced involvement of a wide range of stakeholders from research, development and policy. Attention is to be given to various languages and specific mountain regions. Possibilities are also being explored to link up future mountain activities in West Africa with FAO programmes.