



Adaptation to climate change in mountain regions: an urgent challenge for development

Regional meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Latin America will boost local capacities to address climate change in mountain regions

Santiago, Chile 26 October 2011- Climate change is having a severe impact in mountain regions and posing serious threats to the environment and the livelihood of people living there, FAO warned today.

“Climate change in mountain regions is leading to the emigration of inhabitants and unsustainable land-use practices, resulting in growing food insecurity, desertification and the loss of biodiversity,” stated Hivy Ortiz, FAO Forestry Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean.

However, there is still very little awareness worldwide of the impact resulting from climate change in mountain regions, and the information that is available tends to focus on retreating glaciers.

In order to contribute to policy debates regarding adaptation to climate change, the Mountain Partnership, in collaboration with Chile’s Ministry for Foreign Affairs, organized a meeting of experts from various Latin-American countries to improve knowledge about these issues and boost support.

Political commitment

“Adaptation to climate change in mountains requires a political commitment, and this should be reflected in greater investment, to the direct benefit of poor communities in these zones,” added Olman Serrano, Mountain Partnership Coordinator.

Apart from this initiative in Latin America, the partnership is carrying out activities in Central Asia and Africa, where regional meetings are being held to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and technical skills.

Field trip

In order to show the participants some local adaptation practices, each regional meeting will include a field trip to a mountain zone where the effects of climate change can be clearly seen.

In Chile, the participants visited the Cajón de Maipo, a canyon in the Santiago Metropolitan Region, in the south-eastern portion of the Andes. It encompasses the upper Maipo river basin, which supplies nearly 75 percent of the capital’s water.

Mountain Partnership

The [Mountain Partnership](#) is a United Nations mechanism to support sustainable development in mountain regions.

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