

Mountain Knowledge Solutions for Sustainable Green Economy and Improved Water, Food, Energy, and Environment Nexus

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE



18 June 2012

9:30–11:00

P3-A, Rio Centro

Rio de Janeiro,

Brazil



Government of Nepal



Mountain Partnership

Why This Side Event

This side event aims to contribute to the 'The Future We Want' outcome document by highlighting the need to better manage mountain natural resources as global public goods supplying water for life, food for health, and clean energy for livelihoods. The event will focus on sharing research-based knowledge on such topics as conservation of fresh water resources and critical biodiversity, maintenance of gene pools, and protection of forest, wetland, and rangeland ecosystems. Particular attention will be given to strategies and action proposals for enhancing people's livelihoods and wellbeing.

Lead organizer:

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Co-organizers:

Government of Nepal; Mountain Partnership Secretariat; Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI); Ev-K2-CNR; Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA); Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Why Knowledge Solutions are Important for Global Sustainability

Rapid global changes including climate variability and socioeconomic transformations are creating new knowledge needs in the world, especially in mountain regions. Mountain water and biodiversity resources are increasingly threatened, while their potential as future sources of water, food, and energy is growing worldwide. Enhancing food, water, and energy security will require an appropriate institutional framework and the development and transfer of research-based knowledge that can influence policies. Technical know-how is also the foundation for building infrastructure that can enhance water, food, and energy supply. Incentives to private, public, and civil society sectors are needed to accelerate the production and distribution of knowledge-based solutions for reducing environmental risks and natural resource scarcities. ICIMOD and its partners are working together to develop knowledge solutions and technical expertise on the water, food, energy, and environment nexus.

Role of Mountains

Mountains have a special role in the water, food, energy, and environment nexus. More than half of humanity relies on water from mountains. Glaciers, ice fields, and snowpack store an immense amount of fresh water and gradually release it to meet year-round needs for irrigation, drinking, sanitation, industrial processing, clean energy, and food production. Mountains are sources of rich biodiversity providing numerous foods and medicinal products. These services are vital for human wellbeing, both in the mountains and downstream, and especially for improving the lives of indigenous, marginalized, and poor people. Yet they are under threat from rapid changes such as globalization and climate change. Applicable, accessible, and affordable knowledge is needed to help mountain people and ecosystems to adapt and to create sustainable societies.



Expected Outputs and Outcome

- Proven knowledge products and good practices shared and possible sustainable mountain specific solutions committed
- Organization of collective actions to energize the nexus between water, food, energy, and environment in the post Rio+20 scenario
- Concrete identification of green economy actions in and beyond the mountains
- Commitment of knowledge management actions to implement the new mountain agenda

Co-chairs

Minister of Environment, Science, and Technology,
Government of Nepal

Minister of Agriculture and Forests, Government of
Bhutan

Speakers

Dr David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD –
Overview

Mr Nabin Chandra Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry of
Forest and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal –
Forest policies and practices

Dr Arzu Rana Deuba, International Union for
Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – Gender dimensions

Dr Karin Lexén, Stockholm International Water Institute
(SIWI) – Water management

Dr Maria Teresa Melis, Ev-K2-CNR – Data and
information management

Dr Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD –
Mountain ecosystem services

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