



International Mountain Day

“Celebrating international cooperation on climate change adaptation in mountain environments - from Rio to Lima to Paris”

High-level event at COP21 UNFCCC

10:00 – 11:30 hours
11 December 2015
Perú Pavilion, Paris

A. BACKGROUND and RATIONALE

Mountain environments provide essential services, such as capturing water for the needs of over half of the world’s population and allowing irrigation and energy production. Climate change threatens these services, which calls for the immediate implementation of adaptation measures in mountain environments. The Rio+20 Summit recognized the role of mountains and the need for strengthened international and regional cooperation for sustainable development in mountain regions. Adaptation to climate change is one key area which requires such strengthened international cooperation, by allowing countries to share adaptation knowledge and experience. The importance of regional platforms and initiatives facilitating cooperation on resilience building and adaptation, supported also under the Lima Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) will be discussed alongside emerging financial mechanisms for adaptation in mountain regions including the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The side event will feature the **launch of several recently produced key products including the Himalayan Climate and Water Atlas and several regional outlooks on climate change and adaptation in mountain regions** (the latter carried out in a UNEP-led project funded by the Government of Austria), which will highlight not only the shared climate change challenges in mountain regions, but also the opportunities for regional and international cooperation. The outlooks assess, through a synthesis of academic literature, regional consultation meetings and national questionnaires, the key risks to climate change and existing policies to determine where there are gaps in policy. The assessments conclude with concrete recommendations for the future. The regional outlooks have particularly capitalized on and emphasized findings of the mountain Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) project, joint flagship programme executed by UNEP, UNDP and IUCN. Presenting these projects is itself a practical example of the value of sharing best practices among countries and regions facing similar challenges and opportunities due to climate change.

The event will also **feature a teaser of the recently launched UNESCO exhibition “Mountains: early warning systems for climate change”** produced in the context of UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme (IHP) project “Addressing Water Security: Climate Impacts and Adaptation responses in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe”. UNESCO IHP in collaboration with Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), UNEP and GRID-Arendal and other partners developed an exhibition featuring satellite images, aerial and ground level photography, entitled “Mountains: early warning systems for climate change”. The COP21 labelled exhibition, shown at Cité International in Paris highlights the critical functions of mountains and the implications of climate change for mountain ecosystems, glaciers and water resources. Furthermore, the focus lies on the role of mountains as early warning systems for climate change.

The event is co-organized in the context of the UNEP-led project “Climate change action in developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems from a (sub)-regional perspective” that is financially co-supported by the Government of Austria through its contribution to UNEP in the context of climate financing.

Partners:



B. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The event will be held in the format of a **high-level roundtable discussion**, and is kindly **hosted by the Government of Peru (MINAM)**. The event features the launch of the findings of new regional outlooks for climate change adaptation for five developing mountain regions including the (Tropical) Andes, the Western Balkans/Dinaric Arc, Central Asia, East Africa and South Caucasus. The launch will be followed by an interactive panel discussion involving high-level representatives (tbc!) from countries representing different mountain regions including: Alps (Austria, Switzerland), Western Balkans/Dinaric Arc (Serbia), Andes (Peru), Carpathians (Czech Republic), Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan), East Africa (Uganda), South Caucasus (Georgia), Hindu Kush Himalayas (Bhutan).

C. EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

- Celebration of the International Mountain Day (11 December as designated by the UN GA);
- Launch of two major products: 1. Series of regional outlooks produced by UNEP, GRID-Arendal and regional mountain centres of excellence (CONDESAN, ARCOS, etc.), including key messages of EBA Mountain Flagship Programme (Peru, Uganda, Nepal) 2. Launch of the Himalayan Climate and Water Atlas produced by ICIMOD, GRID-Arendal and CICERO
- Gain recognition and commitment by countries at high level towards:
 1. Strengthened action towards adaptation (in particular water-related) in mountain regions
 2. Need for regional and inter-regional collaboration for sharing experience and coordination of policy action
 3. Need to mainstream mountains and climate change adaptation considerations into relevant climate change financial mechanisms such as Green Climate Fund.

D. TARGETED AUDIENCE

Donors, climate change national government representatives (high-level representatives), scientists and practitioners working on climate change adaptation and sustainable mountain development, etc.

E. CO-ORGANIZERS AND PARTNERS

Main co-organizers of the event: CONDESAN, UNEP, GRID-Arendal, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Further involved partners (list not exhaustive!): ICIMOD, UNESCO/IHP, ARCOS, Mountain Partnership International Mountain Institute, Regional Mountain Centre for Central Asia (RMCCA), University of Central Asia/MP Hub for CA, East African Community, Carpathian Convention, Alpine Convention, EIA, IAEA

F. MAIN CONTACTS

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G. DRAFT PROGRAMME

5min	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Mr. Gabriel Quijandría, Vice-Minister of Environment of Peru
7min	Teaser movie - Exhibition “Mountains: early warning systems for climate change” (UNESCO-IHP) followed by presentation of UNESCO project “ Addressing Water Security: Climate Impacts and Adaptation responses in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe ” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Anil Mishra (UNESCO/IHP)
10min	Launch: Presentation of regional outlooks on mountains and climate change adaptation and key findings of EBA Mountain Flagship Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Matthias Jurek (UNEP) and Ms. Tina Schoolmeester (GRIDA)
10 min	Launch: Presentation of the Himalayan Climate and Water Atlas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. David Molden (ICIMOD)
50 min	Roundtable discussion Moderator: Dr. Barney Dickson (UNEP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Mr. Gabriel Quijandría, Vice-Minister of Environment of Peru H.E. Mr. Andrä Rupprechter, Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria H.E. Mr. Ephraim Kamuntu, Minister of Water and Environment, Republic of Uganda (<i>tbc!</i>) H.E. Ms. Jesca Eriyo, Deputy Secretary General of the East African Community H.E. Ms. Doris Leuthard, Minister of Environment, Transportation, Energy and Communication, Switzerland (<i>tbc!</i>) H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji, Minister of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan H.E. Mr. Teimuraz Murgulia, First Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (<i>tbc!</i>) H.E. Ms. Stana Božović, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Serbia Ms. Bekkulova Djyparkul Eshimbekovna, Head of Environmental Policy and Strategy Department, State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Petr Kalaš, Chief Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Environment (<i>tbc!</i>)
10 min	Wrapping-up and presentation of key findings (including next steps) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Andrew Taber (International Mountain Institute, Chair of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee)