



**ICIMOD Event, 2 December 2010**

# Mountains in Peril

## Mainstreaming the sustainable mountain development agenda into climate change agreements

Venue: Cancun Messe; Room: Águila

Time: 16:45 to 18:15

This side event is being held to highlight mountain issues and challenges in the light of climate change, and to link these to the debate on how to mainstream the sustainable development agenda while planning adaptation and mitigation activities in mountain areas, including the management of risks and hazards in the fragile mountain environment. The side event will bring together leading expert institutions and relevant government organisations working in the field of climate change from around the world to share with a global audience their understanding of mountain issues, and their experiences, insights, and solutions to make mountain systems more resilient and sustainable. The focus will be on specific and relevant topics that are important to the mountain ecosystem and overall development of mountain communities from a climate change point of view. The side event will relate closely to the topics that ICIMOD, its partner institutions, and governments in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, and other members of the Mountain Partnership Consortium (MPC) network, are involved in. We expect the side event to lead to a better understanding of the work of the MPC members in general, and ICIMOD in particular, and to promote the twin agendas of climate change adaptation and sustainable mountain development in a synergistic and complimentary manner.

### Presenters

#### ICIMOD

Overview of mountain issues and status of Mountain Agenda

#### Ev-K2-CNR/NAST

Black carbon and ozone threats to mountains and mitigation solutions

#### UNIQUE and FECOFUN

REDD case studies from the HKH Region

#### Royal Government of Bhutan

Disaster risk reduction towards 10-year adaptation plan in the Eastern Himalayan region (tbc)

#### Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology

Addressing climate resilience development pathways through Himalayan Mission and Green Performance Index

#### Government of Nepal

Promoting climate resilient development (tbc)

#### International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Tackling mitigation and adaptation under the sustainable development framework

**Refreshments will be served!**



## Background to the event

There is considerable overlap between the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and those of the other Rio Conventions, especially the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD). This side event has been designed to raise awareness about the opportunity to advocate for greater attention to issues brought about by climate change that are affecting mountain people and ecosystems, and argues that doing so will contribute to achieving the goals of the sustainable mountain development (SMD) agenda. The aim is to share knowledge and create new debate and dialogue about reform within the existing structure of global environmental governance. Keynote speakers at the recently concluded Perth Conference stressed the need to gain better commitment of the global environment and development community for achieving the targets of sustainable mountain development as enshrined in Chapter 13 of Agenda 21. They pointed out the need to work collectively to target the upcoming Rio+20 conference by integrating the overlapping goals of different conventions, especially by linking the debates at COP16 in Cancun to the Rio+20 preparatory meeting in Geneva.

A number of national and regional research and policy oriented initiatives will be presented to encourage discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of existing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) like the UNFCCC and Rio Conventions, in the expectation that the debate will provide new ideas for ensuring that the new MEAs are more 'mountain friendly'. We will also assess the relationship between the aims and objectives of the Mountain Initiative and that of the recently concluded Mountain Biodiversity Conservation Strategy agreed at COP10.

The side event will focus on key issues for the mountain environment in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, some of the efforts and solutions, and how some governments are already taking action. It will provide a platform for sharing on what is being done in the region to promote climate resilient and sustainable development measures in the mountains. The presentations are based on the current work of governments and research centres and donors working in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. The platform is intended for sharing of recent developments in the region with regard to climate initiatives, and to highlight the way forward in the coming year.

### For further information please contact

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