



Side Event: COP 16 and CMP 6, Cancun, Mexico

Mountain Alliance Initiative

Date: 4 December 2010, Saturday

Time: 18:30—20:00 hrs

Venue: Sandia, Cancun Messe

The objective of this side event is to bring together relevant government organizations, and leading expert institutions working in the field of climate change in the mountains from around the world to highlight the need to mainstream the Mountain Agenda in the UNFCCC process and in the upcoming Rio+20 Summit. Participating countries will also share experiences and expectations from the Mountain Initiative. At the same time, it will offer an opportunity to provide a basis for raising important mountain issues and gaining increased recognition in different multilateral environmental negotiations and agreements through forging of a Mountain Alliance Initiative.

Duration: 90 minutes

Provisional List of Presentations

1. Nepal Delegation - Overview of Mountain Alliance Initiative
2. Mountain Initiatives in Other Regions
 - Latin American Perspective (tbc)
 - African Perspective (tbc)
 - Central Asian Perspective (tbc)
 - Perspective of the Developed Countries (tbc)
 - Sustainable Development in the Mountains (tbc)
 - Role of Mountain Partnership in Providing Global Support to the Mountain Initiative: MPS (tbc)
3. The Way Forward



Photos: Alex Treadway, Nabin Baral



Background

The Agenda 21 (Chapter 13) adopted during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, and the declarations of the International Year of Mountains (2002), highlighted the need to recognize and mainstream sustainable mountain development in national development plans and programmes. However, implementation of Agenda 21 has been grossly inadequate to address the ongoing and emerging threats from different drivers of change in the mountains.

Realising the significant and unlimited services provided by mountain ecosystems, and negligible discussion of mountains in the UNFCCC process, the Minister of Nepal during the COP 15 events called on “all the mountain countries and stakeholders to come together, form a common platform and make sure that mountain concerns get due attention in the international deliberations..” and “..that our efforts towards adaptation obtain the required international support.”

In May 2010, the Government of Nepal (GoN) decided to initiate the process for enhancing information sharing on mountain issues and urging the international community to address the impacts of climate change in the mountains on their people, livelihoods and ecosystems. In order to share information, GoN organised:

1. Side-events in the June and August 2010 meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies to UNFCCC and AWG-LCA and AWG-KP in Bonn. The events were attended by delegates from 24 mountainous countries and representatives from organizations such as CDM-EB, IUCN, UNDP, and the UNFCCC Secretariat.
2. An International Expert Consultation Workshop on the Mountain Initiative on Climate Change on 23 and 24 September 2010 in Kathmandu. The Consultation Workshop was attended by high level policy and decision makers and national experts from 16 countries, and experts from ICIMOD, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (FAO), World Bank, UNDP, DFID, DANIDA, FINNIDA, UNEP and ADB.

In order to continue information sharing and seek inputs from mountainous countries and partners, the GoN is organizing a side-event on Saturday 4 December 2010 during COP 16 at Cancun. This side-event will present the outcomes of the above-mentioned events and share the rationale for the call for the Mountain Initiative.

The Mountain Alliance Initiative

The Mountain Alliance Initiative is being proposed to build a common platform to support the Mountain Agenda of Agenda 21. The Mountain Initiative provides a framework within which mountainous countries, and global and regional institutions working on mountains, can work together for greater recognition of the critical role of mountain ecosystems in the context of global climate change. It highlights the need to better advocate for mountain ecosystems based on state-of-the-art knowledge so that mountain people can be supported more effectively in their struggle to adapt to the new challenges, and enabled to benefit from emerging opportunities.