**Side Event**

**UNFCCC COP16**

**Cancun, Mexico**

**Regional approaches for climate change adaptation in mountain areas: sharing the experience**

**Date/Time: Thursday 9 December 2010 (15:00-16:30)**

**Venue: Jaguar room**

**Organizing Partners:**

* Government of Montenegro – Ministry for Spatial Planning and Environment
* Mountain Partnership Secretariat - FAO

**Description of side event:**

In the context of the Mountain Partnership, the Government of Montenegro and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat are jointly organizing a side event for sharing positive experiences and innovative examples of regional approaches and mechanisms to address adaptation to climate change in mountain areas.

Experiences will be shared from the Balkans, Alps, Carpathians, Andes and Hindu Kush Himalaya, highlighting different approaches to cooperation within and between mountain regions. Both formal mechanisms - such as legal conventions - and less formal arrangements will be presented by government representatives whose countries are actively involved in pursuing regional cooperation, in particular regarding adaptation to climate change. The presentations will include information on the role and contributions of supporting institutions, such as the Alpine and Carpathian Convention Secretariats, and mountain centres such as ICIMOD, which contribute significantly to regional cooperation.

The event will aim to enhance ongoing efforts in regional cooperation through the sharing of experience and to use the lessons learned as a basis for initiating new cooperation in mountain regions that would like to pursue closer joint collaboration on mountain issues. Practical steps that can be taken forward, promoted and converted into action in the context of the Mountain Partnership will be identified.

**Speakers/Presenters:**

Minister of Environment of Montenegro

Minister of Environment of Slovenia/President of the Alpine Convention

Minister of Agriculture and Forests of Bhutan

High level Representative of Ministry of Environment of Italy (name to be confirmed)

High level Representative of Ecuador (to be confirmed)

**Facilitator:**

Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Secretariat – Douglas McGuire

**Programme:**

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| 15:00-15:05 | Opening | Mountain Partnership |
| 15:05-15:20 | Regional cooperation in the Balkans | Minister of Environment of Montenegro |
| 15:20-15:35 | Experiences from the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention towards greater cooperation within and between regions | Minister of Environment of Slovenia (President of the Alpine Convention) |
| 15:35-15:45 | Sharing experience and knowledge in the Hindu Kush Himalaya for climate change adaptation | Minister of Environment of Bhutan |
| 15:45-15:55 | Regional cooperation in the Andes: the experience of the Andean Initiative | High level representative of Ecuador |
| 15:55-16:05 | Italian support to regional processes related to climate change adaptation in mountains | High level representative of Ministry of Environment of Italy |
| 16:05-16:25 | Discussion and sharing experiences from the floor | All participants and attendees |
| 16:25-16:30 | The way forward in the context of the Mountain Partnership | Mountain Partnership Secretariat |