

## SIDE EVENT

### “MAINSTREAMING THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY FOR WELLBEING-<sup>1</sup>”

Towards successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”  
COP13 CBD, Cancun, Mexico

9 December 2016,

18:15 to 19:45hours

Like Minded Mega Diverse Regional Group meeting room

## BACKGROUND

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This is the official side event of the current Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union that will focus on the concept of mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being in transboundary mountain regions drawing on the experiences and best practices of the Carpathians, as well as other mountain regions such as the Alps and Hindu-Kush Himalayas.

The awareness of policy makers and the media shall be raised to help them recognize the value and benefits of integrated ecosystem management; thus encouraging governments to use the approach of integration in development planning. Within mountain regions, the concept of integrated management of transboundary ecosystems such as mountains has the potential to improve the overall management of natural capital while contributing to improving human well-being and the achievement of adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A radical shift in thinking about ecosystem management is needed to provide a more holistic and integrated view of the links between ecosystem service delivery and human needs. The Carpathian Convention as a well-established mechanism and platform provides a useful tool and example for how biodiversity can be mainstreamed into other sectors that are key for sustainable development of mountain regions. Best-practices and case studies in different key economic sectors have been collected and visualized via a developed interactive Carpathian knowledge sharing tool containing interactive story maps.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT

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The objective of this event is to present this interactive knowledge sharing platform and initiate broader stakeholder discussion on the need of mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into key sectors relevant for sustainable mountain development drawing on the experiences of the Carpathians, Alps and other mountain regions such as the Hindu-Kush Himalayas. Outcomes shall be mainstreamed into CBD Programme of Work Mountain Biodiversity and related work streams as well as provide concrete contribution/guidance to implementation of the Cancun Declaration and SDGs, in particular those related to water and biodiversity. Case studies shall be presented using the story maps tool (provided by ESRI) as an innovative interactive communication tool. The event shall be utilized as a platform for further knowledge exchange and promoting the concept of mainstreaming.

## DESIRED OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

- Highlighted challenges and opportunities for integrated approaches in ecosystem management in various key economic sectors (such as tourism, transport, energy, forestry, etc.) of various mountain regions such as the Alps, Carpathians and Hindukush-Himalayas;
- Strengthened awareness for need for integrated approaches for ecosystem management in mountain regions based on collected best-practices in the Carpathians using the format of “storymaps” as a new innovative and interactive communication tool;
- Provided platform to initiate broader stakeholders dialogue in the Carpathian region and beyond (other transboundary mountain ecosystems such as Alps, Balkan, Hindukush Himalayas) towards integrated approaches in mountain ecosystems and mainstream outcomes into CBD PoW Mountain Biodiversity and related work-streams as well as provide concrete contribution/guidance to implementation of SDGs.

## PROGRAMME

18:15	Teaser “ Mountains and Sustainable Development Goals”
18:20	<p><b>Opening remarks:</b></p> <p>Dr. Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity            Mr. Rastislav Rybanic, Director-General, Slovak Ministry of Environment            (Presidency of the Council of the European Union)</p>
18:35 – 19:20	<p><b>Panel discussion preceded by short presentations</b></p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Mr. Matthias Jurek, Programme Management Officer, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, UN Environment</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Elfriede-Anna More, Director of International Environmental Affairs, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria (BMLFUW)</li> <li>• Mr. Brij Mohan Singh Rathore, Expert, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)</li> <li>• Mr. Philipp Bubb, Senior Programme Officer, World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)</li> <li>• Mr. Jan Plesnik, Advisor to the Director, Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic (current Presidency of the Carpathian Convention)</li> </ul>
19:20 – 19:30	Presentation “Carpathian knowledge platform”(by Mr. Matthias Jurek, Programme Management Officer, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention - UN Environment)
19:30	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p>Mr. Rastislav Rybanic, Director General, Slovak Ministry of Environment</p>



## KEY PARTNERS

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- Slovakia (Presidency of the Council of the European Union)
- Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- UN Environment
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

## MAIN CONTACTS

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