

**Mountain Pavilion
Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development
Athletes Park, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
13 to 22 June 2012**

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) through the UNEP ROE/ Vienna Office – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention supported the Mountain Pavilion (presented at the Athletes Park) organized under the leadership of the Government of Peru and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), CONDESAN and others alongside the Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development. UNEP – through ROE's UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention Office – coordinated the relevant content of Theme 3: "Investment in mountains" and – with the strong support of the EURAC Vienna Office implemented concrete activities including conferences, workshops and thematic posters. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) contributed financially to the Mountain Pavilion as well as supported UNEP coordinated activities (content-related and in strong collaboration with its Regional Offices – facilitation of participation of relevant experts of ADA key countries such as Bhutan and Georgia).

Highlights of activities that have been officially supported by ADA:

- Co-Organization of the Technical workshop: "Mountains under review: human alteration of landscapes" with UNOOSA, UNEP, ICIMOD, GRID and others (Final Programme attached). The workshop paved the way for the possible further development of the idea: "Mountains under review" to be developed in close collaboration with DEWA and the UNEP GRID Network (GRID Geneva, GRID Arendal, possibly GRID Warsaw) and others. The workshop included a special feature on the mountains of Brazil (presentation by the local NGO Iguasso Iterei). The event was kindly opened by a representative of the State of Rio de Janeiro.
- Co-Organization of the Conference: "Investment in Mountains: Opportunities and Challenges" with FAO, CONDESAN, Bhutan Government, Alpine Convention and others (final programme attached) This event attracted a great audience due to the interesting topics that were presented and discussed. Among the issues that have been discussed were many issues that are also key priority issues for ADA such as renewable energy and energy efficiency (hydropower), sustainable tourism and responsible mining.
- Co-organization of the High-level Conference: "Regional cooperation in mountains: From Rio to Rio and beyond" with participation of the State Secretary for European and International Affairs of Austria HE Wolfgang Waldner and Minister of the Environment of Slovakia (Final Programme attached) following the Pavilion official opening ceremony.
- Presentation of thematic Posters on investment in mountains: land-use, sustainable tourism, responsible mining etc. in collaboration with European Academy Bolzano (EURAC), GRID Arendal and others that were displayed in the Pavilion.

The ADA supported events were well attended due to the participation of several high level speakers (e.g. Austria, Bhutan, Slovakia, director's level of respective institutions) the broad variety of speakers (representatives from NGOs, IGOS, Governments, local/Brazilian stakeholders etc.) as well as the issues that were discussed (human alteration of landscapes and investments in mountain regions). Also a geographical balance and balanced gender representation could be achieved (see attached final programmes with regards to participants).

In addition to the aforementioned events, HE State Secretary for European and International of Austria Wolfgang Waldner participated in the official opening ceremony of the Mountain Pavilion that received great media attention.

In this respect, its also important to note that the Rio+20 outcomes contains specific "mountain language"(see outcome document "The Future We Want", in particular paras. 210-212). The mountain sections contains a specific mandate for future action/ concrete activities in the field of Sustainable Mountain Development at the global level, emphasizing he importance of regional cooperation in mountain regions in order to achieve Sustainable Mountain Development.

Thereby, the Rio outcome provides a sound basis for further action in the field of regional cooperation: strengthening of existing regimes such as the Alpine and Carpathian Convention as well as the exploration of new arrangements and agreements, where appropriate: *"We invite states to strengthen cooperative action with effective involvement and sharing of experience of all relevant stakeholders, by strengthening existing arrangements, agreements and centres of excellence for sustainable mountain development, as well as exploring new arrangements and agreements, as appropriate"*.

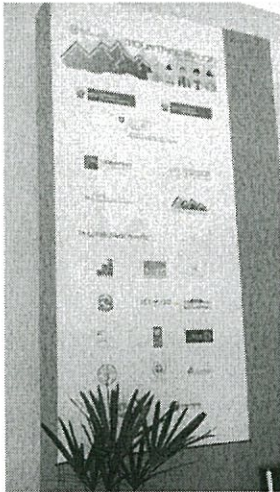
Alongside the Rio+20 Summit and the Mountain Pavilion various informal meetings were held with the view of defining possible activities and initiatives in follow up to the Rio+20 summit and Mountain Pavilion.

The "mountain language" as contained in the Rio+20 outcome document, in complementary to the outcomes of the Mountain Pavilion, could serve as guidance/reference for defining the future possible "mountain component" to be developed within ADA.

Results of specific relevance for ADA :

- Contribution to ADA's visibility on the international stage, in particular, global mountain community through various activities;
- Representation of ADA as strategic key partner with regards to global mountain agenda and global Mountain Partnership (cooperating/supporting partner of Mountain Pavilion as well as specific high level events);
- Presentation of ADA expertise/project portfolio in the field of SMD e.g. through thematic posters;
- Strengthened partnerships with existing countries (including Bhutan, Ethiopia, Armenia, Georgia,) and regions that are priorities for ADA (including Balkans, South Caucasus), as well as cooperating institutions (including ICIMOD, UNEP), established new partnerships.

Impressions:



MOUNTAIN PAVILION *presented by* 



TECHNICAL WORKSHOP
“Mountains under review: human alteration of landscapes”

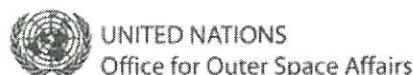
Special feature: The mountains of Rio

16 June 2012, 11.00 – 13.00 hours
Auditorium, Mountain Pavilion, Athletes’ Park, Rio de Janeiro

PROGRAMME

11.00 – 11.10	<i>Introductory statement – Ms. Rita Cardoso C. Delboni, State of Rio de Janeiro</i>
11.10 – 11.25	<i>“Integrated Space Technologies Applications for Sustainable Development in the Andean Regions” Mr. David Stevens, Programme Coordinator, UN-SPIDER, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)</i>
11.25 – 11.40	<i>“The Mountain comes to Rio+20” - Ms. Léa Corrêa Pinto, coordinator of Iguassu ITEREI</i>
11.40 – 11.55	<i>“Alps under review – land use change” Mr. Giacomo Luciani, European Academy Bolzano (EURAC)</i>
11.55 – 12.10	<i>“The need for comprehensive data collection – experiences from the UNEP GRID network” - Mr. Lawrence Hislop, Head of Polar Programme, UNEP Grid Arendal</i>
12.10 – 13.00	<i>Conclusions and discussion among panelists and the audience – Mr. Peter Gilruth, Director, UNEP DEWA</i>

Organizing and Supporting Partners:



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Background and introduction

Mountains cover approximately one-quarter of the world's surface and are home to 12 percent of the human population. Mountain regions and their inhabitants are disproportionately affected by climate change, increasing natural disasters, food and energy crises, population growth, water scarcity and desertification, loss of biodiversity, degradation of ecosystems, migration, and growth of cities. Mountains also offer significant opportunities for solutions by providing key environmental services such as freshwater, biodiversity conservation and energy to more than half of humanity. However, a lot of changes and impacts that mountain ecosystems are witnessing are human-driven, e.g. increasing urbanisation, deforestation, mining or mega infrastructures. Changes that are already visible but now well perceived by decision-makers and the public society.

The fact is however, that to date, there is **no appropriate mechanism for exchanging up-to-date environmental information between different mountain regions, and providing accurate briefings to decision-makers covering the global mountain environment.** Enhanced information-sharing and communication as a solid basis for decision-making with the view of gaining also a better understanding of the problems unique to mountains, in particular, by demonstrating human alteration of landscapes (land-use change, increasing urbanisation, deforestation, mining activities, impacts of tourism etc.) visualization of the challenges and opportunities. It is also important to **improve the global knowledge** about spatial and socioeconomic interrelationships between mountain and non – mountain areas, in particular low-land areas.

The objective is to communicate information on mountain environments to policy-makers and create environmental knowledge to enable positive changes. This will be achieved by collecting, organizing and transforming available data on mountain environments into credible, science-based informational products, delivered through innovative communication tools and capacity-building services targeting relevant stakeholders.

Future possible joint initiatives can build on and organize already existing global resources and knowledge, covering all major mountain systems of the world - from the Alps to the Himalayas (including the Carpathians, Caucasus, Urals and multiple others in South Asia), from the Andes to the Atlas, and the Denalis/Rocky Mountains of North America - facilitating knowledge exchange, «best available techniques» and experiences for coping with environmental change and problems unique to mountains. The results of such environmental assessments and early warnings could be exchanged and publicized in relevant fora such as global and regional events, meetings of the Mountain Partnership and the World Mountain Forum.

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Description

The event will be structured in the way that short presentations by key experts followed by an interactive dialogue among the speakers with concrete recommendations guiding the discussions and outcomes of the Rio Earth Summit. It targets governmental representatives, representatives from IGOs and NGOs, the science community dealing with sustainable mountain development.

Key experts from mountain regions, e.g. the Alps, Carpathians, Andes, Hindu-Kush Himalayas and the representatives of the space sector will demonstrate the human aspect of alteration of landscapes by visualizing the changes. Applied remote sensing and other means will be used with the view of better demonstrating the scale of the impacts, in particular by highlighting the upstream and downstream linkages. A specific feature will be a presentation of the key study "The mountains of Rio de Janeiro and S. Paolo".

The side event will also present challenges and concrete opportunities (e.g. in the field of data collection, transfer of data into, and methodologies for measurement for concrete policy action) with the view of generating a better understanding of the changes of mountain ecosystems, and the anthropogenic factors in this respect.

Objectives

In response to the highlighted challenges and opportunities, the proposed event aims, in particular, at presenting the human dimension in changes of mountain ecosystems by demonstrating the concrete impacts of human alteration of landscapes exacerbating global change. Through this the event aims at highlighting the need for a comprehensive mountain information database in order to get a better understanding of the impacts of human activities.

It also aims at presenting concrete opportunities, e.g. by highlighting the planned joint initiative "mountain under review" and paving the way for establishing possible strategic partnerships with other relevant actors, including the space sector.

The foreseen event will form a substantive contribution to the discussions held at Rio Earth Summit 2012, in particular, with regards to sustainable mountain development and serve as additional guidance for possible outcomes, in particular to the subsection "mountains" as included in the current zero draft document.

Contact information

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CONFERENCE

“Investment in Mountains: Opportunities and Challenges”

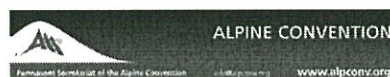
17 June 2012, 13.00 – 15.00 hours

Auditorium, Mountain Pavilion, Athletes’ Park, Rio de Janeiro

PROGRAMME

	<i>Moderator: Mr. Mario Boccucci, Chief, Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit, UNEP DEPI</i>
13.00 – 13.05	<i>Opening statement - “Why invest in Sustainable Mountain Development”- Mr. Olman Serrano, Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO</i>
13.05 – 13.20	<i>“Experiences from Hindu-Kush Himalayas – Hydropower and Ecotourism in Bhutan” – HE Lyonpo Pema Gyamtsho (PhD), Minister for Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan</i>
13.20 – 13.35	<i>“Sustainable tourism and crossborder cooperation in the Balkans” – Ms. Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)</i>
13.35 – 13.50	<i>“Experiences from the Andes - Extractive industries and the need for responsible mining” - Mr. Miguel Saravia, Executive Director, CONDESAN</i>
13.50 – 14.05	<i>“Experiences from the Alps - the Alpine Convention guidelines on small hydropower” – Mr. Marco Onida, Secretary General, Alpine Convention</i>
14.05 – 14.20	<i>“Experiences from the Caucasus – Sustainable Tourism in Georgia”- Ms. Ana Japaridze – Head of Marketing and PR Division, Agency of Protected Areas, Georgia</i>
14.20 – 14.35	<i>“Experiences from Brazil” – Mr. Dagnino, Independent Consultant, Technical Director of Qualifactory Consultoria</i>
14.35 – 15.00	<i>Conclusions and interactive discussion with the public - Chair: Mr. Jan Dusik, Acting Director, UNEP ROE</i>

Organizing and supporting Partners:



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Background and introduction

Mountains cover approximately one-quarter of the world's surface and are home to 12 percent of the human population. Mountain regions and their inhabitants are disproportionately affected by climate change, increasing natural disasters, food and energy crises, population growth, water scarcity and desertification, loss of biodiversity, degradation of ecosystems, migration, and growth of cities. Mountains also offer **significant opportunities for solutions by providing key environmental services such as freshwater, biodiversity conservation and energy to more than half of humanity**. "Because of the importance of mountains and the many services they provide, sustainable mountain development does not only regard mountain communities, but is a global concern"(source: Why invest in SMD, FAO, 2011)

Mountain regions and their inhabitants are disproportionately affected by climate change, increasing natural disasters, food and energy crises, population growth, water scarcity and desertification, loss of biodiversity, degradation of ecosystems, migration, and growth of cities.

However, the upstream and downstream linkages as well as the concrete benefits deriving from mountains are not properly recognized and valorized. It is important to provide incentives to attract economic actors for promoting Sustainable Mountain Development linked to Green Economy. The task and challenge is to **unlock the potential of mountain ecosystems** – in terms of ensuring that they continue to provide services to the local and global economy - while at the same **ensuring their conservation and sustainable management**. In order to unlock this potential it is *inter alia* necessary: → To **increase levels of investment and funding for sustainable development** in mountain regions at the global, regional, national and community levels, including through international funding mechanisms such as REDD and REDD plus programmes and through **better integration of the private sector** → **Integrate sustainable mountain development into green economy strategies** and ensure that institutional arrangements are in place to allow mountain communities to benefit from these emerging opportunities and to **protect mountain resources from increasing demand** (source: Why invest in SMD, FAO, 2011)

Investment in mountain regions bears many opportunities but also many challenges, in particular, in the field of sustainability. There are various examples proving this strife for such a balance, e.g. in the field of hydropower and extractive industries/mining.

Description

The event will be structured in the way that short key presentations by key stakeholders (governmental representatives, IGO and NGOs representatives etc.) followed by an interactive dialogue among the speakers and the public with concrete recommendations guiding the discussions and outcomes (in particular the mountain section) of the Rio+20 Earth Summit. It targets governmental representatives, representatives from IGOs and NGOs, the science community dealing with sustainable mountain development.

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Objectives

The event aims, in particular, at presenting concrete opportunities and challenges in the field of investment in mountain regions with special focus on the aspect of sustainability, by presenting examples in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency (such as hydropower), extractive industries/mining and sustainable tourism. It also aims at exchanging information and best-practices between various mountain regions with the view of fostering mountain-to-mountain cooperation and paving the way for new strategic partnerships.

The foreseen event will form a substantive contribution to the discussions held at Rio Earth Summit 2012, in particular, with regards to sustainable mountain development and serve as additional guidance for possible outcomes, in particular to the subsection "mountains" as included in the current zero draft document.

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HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

“Regional cooperation in mountains: from Rio to Rio and beyond”

20 June 2012, 14.00 – 15.00 hours

Auditorium, Mountain Pavilion, Athletes' Park, Rio de Janeiro

PROGRAMME

14.00 – 15.00	Moderator: Jan Dusik, Acting Director, UNEP ROE
	Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- HE Peter Ziga, <i>Minister of the Environment, Slovak Republic</i>- HE Wolfgang Waldner, <i>State Secretary, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria</i>- Marco Onida, <i>Secretary General, Alpine Convention</i>- Madhav Karki, <i>Deputy Director General, ICIMOD</i>- Harald Egerer, <i>Head of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention</i>- Maria Teresa Becerra, <i>General Secretariat of the Andean Community</i>

Organizing and supporting Partners:



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Background and Introduction

The international community recognized the importance of mountains at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992 through adoption of Chapter 13 in Agenda 21, the often referred to so-called "mountain agenda". Chapter 13 underscored the role of mountains in global sustainable development. So far, the Alpine and the Carpathian Convention are the only two regional mountain Conventions worldwide.

Various experiences and practices can be drawn from existing regional approaches and initiatives that exist in mountain regions such as the Alps, Andes, Carpathians or the Hindu-Kush Himalayas (HKH). The typology in this respect is a very broad one, from "hard" legal instruments such as the Alpine and Carpathian Convention to "soft" instrument: programmes-projects orientated approaches such as ICIMOD.

The Alpine and Carpathian Convention follows for the structure the "framework protocol approach": The framework provides the "umbrella" setting general objectives and provisions of a more general character, for substantive and procedural matters. The objectives and general provisions are further elaborated by subsequent Protocols, setting out specific obligations that are in conformity with the rules as set out in the Framework Convention.

The Alpine Convention¹ is an international treaty between Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Liechtenstein, Monaco and Switzerland as well as the EU, aimed at promoting sustainable development in the Alpine area and at protecting the interests of the people living within it. It embraces the environmental, social, economic and cultural dimensions. It was open to signature in 1991 and entered into effect in 1995. It is the first international Treaty in the world dedicated to a transborder mountainous region and it encompasses eight legally binding thematic protocols on Spatial Planning, Mountain Farming, Forests, Energy, Tourism, Soil protection and Transport.

The Carpathian Convention² is an international treaty between Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic as well as Serbia and Ukraine provides the framework for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development, and a forum for dialogue between all stakeholders involved. It was open to signature in 2003 and entered into effect in 2006. Now 3 thematic protocols on Biological and Landscape diversity, Sustainable forest management and Sustainable Tourism have been adopted by the parties. An agreement was signed in 2006 between the two Convention with the aim of, inter alia, join forces and work together at the international/global level. A Declaration, paving the way to a possible Convention, was signed in 2011 among the Countries of the Dinaric Arc involving Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia and Kosovo. Both, the AC and the CC demonstrate that SMD can be achieved – or at least pursued – mainly through multilateral cooperation among the different states sharing one joint ecosystem. They further

¹ Visit www.alpineconvention.org for further information

² Visit www.carpathianconvention.org for further information

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demonstrate that regional development through conservation and valorization of shared natural assets is possible.

Whatever the precise merits of the different approaches are, caution has to be taken when approaches are chosen for other mountain regions. The given geopolitical situation on the ground, maybe characterized by armed conflicts and tensions, might favor the latter option. What is important to note is that regional agreements, even though having its scope on mountain regions can have an impact on the wider region, encompassing the lowlands as well as vice versa. This is of particular relevance in the light of the important upstream and downstream linkages that are given with respect to mountain ecosystem goods and services.

Description

The High-level event follows the informative event organised in New York on 27 April 2012 during the Rio + 20 Preparatory Meeting on contributions of regional governance mechanisms for mountain regions to the Rio +20 process.

Concrete experiences of existing mountain-specific regional approaches, including Multilateral Environmental Agreements, which can be shared with other mountain regions of the world, and their implementation and impact in the territory under their scope, in particular in the fields of tourism, infrastructure, clean energy and land-use changes, will be presented by the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions Secretariats representatives and high-level Country representatives. Representatives of the European Commission and the Andean Community will present the importance of regional cooperation in mountain areas and of mountain-specific MEAs from their perspective.

The concrete merits and contribution of regional cooperation in mountain areas and of mountain – specific MEAs in particular to the Rio + 20 process and topic investment in mountain regions will be discussed by the Conference participants.

Mountain Pavilion – key message

“Cooperative action can be strengthened by establishing new or reinforcing existing regional agreements for sustainable mountain development”

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Objectives

- Underline the importance of regional cooperation and in particular of mountain – specific MEAs for the governance of mountain areas and their relation and integration with other regional governance instruments
- Presentation and discussion of different types of regional approaches (legal “hard” instrument vs. soft instruments)
- Discussion of the opportunities and challenges regional cooperation – the post Rio dimension with a specific focus on investment in mountain regions

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