

Invitation:

Mountain regions moving towards carbon neutrality

EU Side Event at UNFCCC COP 24, Katowice, Poland

Friday 7 December 2018, 10.30-12.00

EU Pavilion, Room Brussels



Mountain regions worldwide are strongly affected by climate change. Temperature rise tends to be larger than in flatlands; the widespread melting of glaciers is a particularly visible impact of global warming in the landscape. Yet many more repercussions on the natural resources, as well as the increased risk from natural hazards, affect the environment, the population and the economy of mountain regions and, at the same time, millions of people downhill who rely on the water, wood and other services provided by the mountains.

Due to this particular vulnerability, mountain regions around the world are putting efforts in climate change adaptation, but also mitigation. Mountain ranges are often shared between several countries, and climate change doesn't stop at borders. Therefore, mountains are pioneers in transnational cooperation. Experiences of joint climate mitigation action in the European Union and in the Alps will be presented and the scope for enhanced cooperation between mountains worldwide will be discussed. Processes in place to set and reach mitigation goals in Uganda, Nepal, India, Bhutan and Myanmar will be outlined. Approaches range from the identification of the sectors with the highest potential for greenhouse gas emission reduction, to the design of specific measures to improve the mitigation role of mountain forests and to the deployment of co-benefits to improve the quality of life in the area. Special attention will also be given to communication aspects.

PROGRAMME

Welcome

Helmut Hojesky (tbc), Head of Climate Policy Coordination, Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism – Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Presidency of the Alpine Convention

Keynotes

Eric Nanchen, Director, Foundation for sustainable development in mountain regions:
Climate change impacts and vulnerability in mountain areas.

Olivia Gippner, Policy Officer, DG CLIMA of the European Commission:
How Europe is acting.

Panel discussion

HE Mary Goretti Kitutu Kimono, Minister of Water and Environment for Uganda:
Climate change mitigation in mountainous ecosystems: A case of Mountain Elgon in Uganda.

Marianna Elmi, Deputy Secretary General of the Alpine Convention:
Climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps in 2050: A common target system and joint implementation highlights.

Tek Maraseni, Associate Professor, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems, Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland, Australia:
Mitigation through healthy forests: Governance of community-based forest management systems in Nepal, India, Bhutan and Myanmar
– with a video contribution by UN-REDD:
From Strategy to Implementation: Sub-national REDD+ action plans in Nepal.

Mette L. Wilkie, Chief of the Forestry Policy and Resources Division, Forestry Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:
The scope for joint mitigation action for mountains worldwide.

The language of the event will be English.