



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Environment

MOUNTAIN INITIATIVE

VOICES FROM THE MOUNTAINS

For Further Information:

Mr. Krishna Gyawali
Secretary, Ministry of Environment
Government of Nepal
E-mail: kgyawali9@yahoo.com

Dr. T. N. Bhattarai
Project Manager, Nepal's Strategic
Engagement with the UNFCCC, IDS-Nepal
E-mail: idsnepal@wlink.com.np



Background

Climate change impacts have resulted in a global challenge of conserving not only mountain ecosystems but also the centuries old human settlements and indigenous knowledge. Recognizing the importance of mountain ecosystems and their services, the Mountain Agenda Chapter 13 on Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development provides the basis for addressing mountain specific issues.



Mountain Initiative (MI)

The Mountain Initiative expounded by the Prime Minister of Nepal during the High-level Segment of the Conference of Parties (COP 15), ensures mountains and their people receive highest possible attention for addressing the adverse impacts of climate change through enhanced international support. It aims to provide a framework within which mountainous countries, in collaboration with specialized global and regional mountain agencies, can work for greater recognition of the fragility of mountain ecosystems, advocate based on well researched and documented knowledge and support mountain people more efficiently in their struggle to adapt to the new challenges posed by global warming. It also aims to enable and encourage mountain people to benefit from emerging opportunities resulting from climate change.

Milestones of Mountain Initiative (MI)

- **December 2009, COP15 to UNFCCC in Copenhagen:** Prime Minister of Nepal called on mountain countries and stakeholders to come together and form a common platform.
- **May 2010:** Government of Nepal endorsed the initiative and designated the Ministry of Environment to take the Mountain Initiative forward. A secretariat with a high-level steering committee was also formed.
- **June and August 2010:** Side-events organized at the meetings of Subsidiary Bodies to UNFCCC and AWG-LCA and AWG-KP in Bonn. The events were attended by delegates from mountainous countries and representatives of different development organizations.
- **September 2010:** An International Expert Consultation Workshop was organized on 23 and 24 September 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal, leading to formation of a Technical International Working Group.
- **December 2010:** A side event on the Mountain Initiative was held at 16th Session of the COP to the UNFCCC in Cancun, Mexico. Representatives of Peru, Uganda, Tajikistan and Nepal and the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, ICIMOD and the Mountain Partnership discussed mountain development issues.
- **June 2011:** The FAO and the Mountain Partnership organized a meeting on mountains and climate change during the SBI meeting in Bonn. Representatives from Armenia, Bhutan, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Morocco, Nepal, Peru, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Bangladesh, and ICIMOD and the UNFCCC Secretariat attended the meeting.

Coming Soon
International Conference of Mountain
Countries on "Climate Change
Initiatives" in Nepal

Tentative Program for the Side Event in Durban

Date: 5 December 2011

Time: 17:00 to 19:00 (120 Minutes)

Venue: Hotel Vintage, 32/34 Second Avenue, Morningside, Durban 4001, South Africa, Phone No.: 031 3095647

Objectives: The objective of this side-event is to bring together relevant government organizations, and leading expert institutions working on climate change in the mountains from around the world to discuss the need to mainstream the Mountain Agenda in the UNFCCC process.

Time	Program
16:45 – 17:00	Registration/ Tea, Coffee
17:00 Onwards	Chair: Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary, Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), Government of Nepal (GoN) Chief Guest: Mr. Hem Raj Tater, Honourable Minister of Environment, Government of Nepal Master of Ceremony: Dr T. N. Bhattarai, CDKN/IDS-Nepal
17:10 – 17:15	Video on "Climate Change Impact on Mountains and Snow Peaks of Nepal"
17:15 – 17:30	Highlight on the need and objectives of Mountain Initiative by Mr. Batu K. Uprety, Joint Secretary (Tech.), MoEnv, GoN
17:30 – 17:50	Representatives from different regions, development partners (tbc)
18:50 – 18:00	Dr. David Molden, DG, ICIMOD
18:00 – 18:10	Dr. Dinesh C. Devkota, Former Vice-Chair, NPC, GoN
18:10 – 18:20	His Excellency Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Permanent Representative of Nepal to UN
18:20 – 18:40	Floor open for discussion
18:40 – 18:50	Address by the Chief Guest
18:50 – 19:00	Address by the Chair
19:00-	Dinner