

## SIDE EVENT COP13 CBD, Cancun, Mexico

### “MAINSTREAMING THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY FOR WELLBEING<sup>1</sup> Towards successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Cancun Declaration

9 December 2016,  
18:15 to 19:45

Venue: 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 **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 must be raised to help them recognize the value and benefits of integrated ecosystem management; thus encouraging governments to use an integrated approach 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 the improvement of human well-being and the achievement of the 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 services 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 the 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 the interactive Carpathian 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 and the Alps in particular, as well as other mountain regions such as the Hindu-Kush Himalayas. Outcomes shall be mainstreamed into the CBD Programme of Work (PoW) on Mountain Biodiversity and related work streams. It will also provide a concrete contribution/guidance for the implementation of the Cancun Declaration and the SDGs, in particular those related to water and biodiversity. Case studies shall be presented using the story maps (provided by ESRI) which is an innovative communication tool. The event shall be utilized as a platform for further knowledge exchange and to promote the concept of mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations.

## 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 the Hindu Kush-Himalayas;
- Strengthened awareness on the need for integrated approaches for ecosystem management in mountain regions based on collected best-practices in the Carpathians;
- Provided platform to initiate broader stakeholder dialogue in the Carpathian region and beyond (other transboundary mountain regions such as Alps, Balkan, Hindukush Himalayas) towards integrated approaches in mountain ecosystems and to mainstream outcomes into the CBD PoW Mountain Biodiversity and related work-streams as well as to provide concrete contribution/guidance to implementation of the SDGs.

## PROGRAMME

18:15	Teaser “Mountains and Sustainable Development Goals”
18:20	<b>Opening remarks</b>  Dr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity Mr. Rastislav Rybanič, Director-General, Slovak Ministry of Environment (Presidency of the Council of the European Union)
18:35 – 19:20	<b>Panel discussion preceded by short presentations</b>  <i>Facilitator:</i> Mr. Matthias Jurek, Programme Management Officer, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, UN Environment <i>Speakers:</i> <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. Bijaya Raj Paudyal, CBD National Focal Point, Nepal</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	<b>Presentation on the “Carpathian knowledge platform”</b> (by Mr. Matthias Jurek, Programme Management Officer, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention - UN Environment)
19:30	<b>Closing remarks</b>  Mr. Rastislav Rybanič, Director General, Slovak Ministry of Environment

## KEY PARTNERS

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

## MAIN CONTACTS

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