

## Thematic Report on Mountain Ecosystems

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

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**Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.**

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### Mountain Ecosystems

1. What is the relative priority your country accords to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X
2. How does your country assess the resources available for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems, both domestic and international?					
a) Good		b) Adequate	X	c) Limiting	
3. Has your country requested financial assistance from GEF for funding the activities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) no					X
b) yes, please provide details					

### Assessment, Identification and Monitoring

4. Has your country undertaken any assessment of direct and underlying causes of degradation and loss of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	X
b) yes, please specify major threats and their relative importance, as well as gaps	
c) If yes, please specify the measures your country has taken to control the causes of loss of mountain biodiversity	
5. Has your country identified taxonomic needs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	X
b) yes, please specify	
6. Has your country made any assessment of the vulnerability or fragility of the mountains in your country?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	X
b) yes, please specify the results and observed impacts on mountain biodiversity	
7. Has your country made any assessment important for conservation of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels? (You may wish to use the Annex I of the Convention for categories of biodiversity important for conservation)	
a) no, please specify the reasons	X
b) yes, some assessments or monitoring undertaken (please specify)	
c) yes, comprehensive assessments or monitoring programmes undertaken (please specify where results can be found, and opportunities and obstacles, if any)	

### Regulatory and Information System and Action Plan

8. Has your country developed regulations, policies and programs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	X
b) yes, please specify sectors	
9. Has your country applied the ecosystem approach (adopted at COP 5) in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	X
b) yes, please provide some cases or examples	
10. Does your national biodiversity strategy and action plan cover mountain biological diversity?	
a) no, please specify why	X
b) yes, please give some information on the strategy and plan, in particular on mountain biodiversity	
11. Has your country disseminated the relevant information concerning management practices, plans and programmes for conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	X
b) yes, please provide details where information can be retrieved concerning management practices, plans and programmes	

### Cooperation

12. Has your country undertaken any collaboration with other Parties for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems at the regional level or within a range of mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the objectives of this collaboration and achievements	X
13. Has your country signed or ratified any regional or international treaty concerning mountains?	
a) no	X
b) yes, please specify which treaty and provide as much as possible a report on the progress in the implementation of the treaties, including any major constraints in the implementation of the treaties	

### Relevant thematic areas and cross-cutting issues

14. Has your country taken account of mountain ecosystems while implementing thematic programmes of work on agricultural; inland waters; forest; and dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes – but in only one or two thematic programmes of work	
c) yes, included in all programmes of work	
d) if yes, please specify details	
15. Has your country taken any measures to ensure that the tourism in mountains is sustainable?	
a) no , please specify why	X
b) yes, but in early stages of development (please specify the reasons)	
c) in advanced stages of development (please specify the reasons)	
d) relatively comprehensive measures being implemented (please specify the reasons)	
16. Has your country taken any measures to protect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	X
b) not relevant	X
c) yes, but in early stages of policy or programme development	
d) yes, in advanced stages of development	
e) some programmes being implemented	
f) comprehensive programmes being implemented	
17. Has your country developed any programmes for the protection of natural and cultural heritages in the mountains?	
a) no	X
b) yes, please provide some information in the programmes	
18. Has your country established protected areas in mountains?	
a) no	X
b) yes, please specify the percentage of mountains under protected areas out of total mountain areas in your country	
19. Has your country undertaken any activities to celebrate the International Year of Mountains and Eco-tourism?	
a) no	X
b) yes, please specify	

## Case-studies

**Please provide case-studies made by your country in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems.**

Generally, the Netherlands don't have any mountain ecosystem since the highest elevation rarely exceeds 300m asl. In their development cooperation the Netherlands frequently cooperate with developing countries, supporting their biodiversity. Mountain biodiversity forms part of the cooperation.

Specifically:

Ad 4-7)

Domestic measures not applicable, since no mountains are present in the Netherlands

Ad 12)

The Netherlands support the conservation and sustainable use of mountains (see further comments below).

Ad 13-19)

Measures not applicable, since no mountains are present in the Netherlands

## Further comments

Ad 12)

In the framework of Developing Cooperation the Netherlands have supported or are supporting a wide range of mountain activities. Overarching principles of the activities are the link with poverty alleviation and the objectives of the CBD. Important elements are often the transboundary nature of mountains, involvement of local and indigenous people in the management and the importance to maintain the vegetation cover of the mountains for services lower down the slopes (water, biodiversity products, ..).

Some of the cases.

- Core support to ICIMOD International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. Through the core support ICIMOD can support the Himalayan to develop an approach to sustainable mountain management.
- Worldwide integrated conservation and development activities together with Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). Through the WWF programme three countries (Ecuador: Sangay; Philippines: Mt Guiting Guiting and Ethiopia: Bale Mts) are supported to strengthen the integration of conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity. It is important to create a stable land use environment around protected areas and to avoid that project activities in bufferzones attract people from outside and so increase the pressure on the biodiversity.
- In the programme of Water Food and Nature the sustainable management of riverbasins is strongly supported. Through integrated water management and the ecosystem approach the watershed functions of mountains are strengthened worldwide.
- Nepal, China: efforts to conserve the biodiversity and the pristine forests and the conservation and sustainable development of the broad Mt Everest Mountain systems (Makalu Barun and Qomolangma). The fragile nature of the biodiversity at high altitudes makes a careful management of the use of the local people indispensable. The mountain is an important watershed management for the Arun river in Nepal.
- Philippines: the conservation and sustainable management of Mt Malindang and the Sierra Madre. The development of effective bufferzones to national parks is promoted through NGOs and local communities. The high population pressure and the fragility of the vegetation make this very urgent but achieving stable landuse and poverty alleviation that is a prerequisite for effective bufferzones is under these circumstances difficult. Having the development of bufferzones and management of national parks closely linked is also essential.
- Vietnam. The programme is directed to reforestation also in the mountainous areas. The Annaman mountainrange on the frontier with Cambodia and Laos is important in this context. Objectives are sustainable socio-economic development and poverty alleviation in forest dependent areas; maintaining bio-diversity and environmental functions and involving local people and hill tribes in the management. The conservation of the Vu Quang reserve with its rich flora and fauna with many endemics has been an important activity.
- Bhutan: In the Zhemgang district and Black Mountains of Central Bhutan sustainable development through community development activities and conservation of the Black Mountains National Park; an important topic is the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants.
- Pakistan: in NW Province social forestry is used to rehabilitate forest and rangeland of the mountains. The objectives are the reduction of the depletion of forest goods and services combined with poverty alleviation.
- Uganda and Kenya: The creation of sustainable financing mechanism through an endowment fund will the Mt Bwindi national Park.
- In Central America initiatives are supported to strengthen the Central American Biological Corridor which will lead to a cohesive ecological network. People and

mountains are important elements.

- Bolivia: Programmes improving the environment in the high Andean plateau by integrating forestry in the production system of the local population. A fund is created for sustained financing of the parks system, with emphasis to the protected areas of the Andean slopes.
- Colombia: The improved management of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta has created a platform for cooperation between the different groups of actors on the mountain slopes.