



# World Mountain Forum

*“Mountains for our Future”*

**Mbale, Uganda : 17-20 October 2016**

# WMF 2016



## **1. Objectives of the WMF 2016**

After the second WMF2014 which took place in Cusco, Peru, the WMF 2016 will present an opportunity for mountain stakeholders to share lessons and experiences on past activities in sustainable mountain development and to discuss challenges and opportunities for SMD in the future referring to the recommendations from the last WMF 14 and conclusions of on-going international policy processes including climate change negotiation and new sustainable development goals.

The WMF 2016 outcomes are expected to inform the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and guide interventions in mountain areas at local, national and international levels. Furthermore, the WMF 2016 will offer an opportunity for mountain countries to discuss how to effectively implement the decisions from climate change negotiations and the post-2015 agenda for sustainable mountain development.

## 2. Background

Mountains cover almost 27% of the world's land surface and directly support the 22% of the world's population. Mountains provide indispensable goods and services to a significant proportion of humankind. They supply half of the global population with freshwater for domestic use and lowland irrigation in support of global food security and play an important role in the production of hydropower as a form of green energy. Mountains are centres of cultural and biological diversity, sources of raw materials, and important tourist destinations.

Despite these key goods and services they provide, mountains still remain among the ecosystems least documented, offering services least accounted for. At the same time, many mountain regions are confronted with multiple risks and hazards, including widespread land degradation, inequitable land rights, resource grabs, and dire poverty. Globally, approximately 40% of the mountain population in developing countries is vulnerable to food insecurity, and half are chronically hungry. The situation is exacerbated by global climatic, environmental and socioeconomic changes. With uncertainties created by climate change, high population growth and land use change, urgent political actions are needed to enable environments at global and local levels and to facilitate the implementation of SMD activities based on available knowledge and information while promoting investment in sustainable mountain development (SMD).

In order to promote SMD in view of the considerable global challenges ahead, a program funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) named "Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC)" was initiated with an objective to contribute to sustainable development in mountain regions under uncertain and changing climatic, environmental, and socioeconomic conditions. The programme involves the establishment of SMD policy instruments at different levels; and knowledge management to enable mountain stakeholders and communities to implement knowledge-based SMD activities. One of the activities of the SMD4GC Programme is to support different multi-stakeholder events to enhance policy dialogue as well as knowledge sharing. The backbone of these events is the World Mountain Forum (WMF) – an outstanding platform for SMD. It is in this framework that, following the last WMF held in Cusco, Peru in 2014, a third WMF will take place in 2016 at Mbale, Uganda. The Forum brings together mountain

stakeholders from around the globe, and provide a platform for exchange, promotion of collaborative action and fostering political dialogue among different levels of society. The overall goal of the World Mountain Forum is to engage dialogue with articulated concrete actions and concerted efforts to address the plight of mountain ecosystems towards the SMD.

## 3. Themes

The 2016 WMF will be held under the main theme of "Mountains for our Future and sub themes as listed below:

1. Mountains and Climate Change
2. Mountains Communities and Livelihoods
3. Mountain Ecosystem Services
4. Sustainable Mountain Agriculture

## 4. The Venue of the WMF 2016

The WMF 2016 will be held in Mbale, a town located near Mount Elgon in Eastern Uganda, East Africa.

## 5. WMF's week at a glance

The WMF2016 will be held from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016, back to back with the Global Mountain Partnership General Assembly (MP-GA). Delegates to the MP-GA are also expected to attend the WMF. Below is the WMF16 at a glance:

Date	Activity
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arrival of participants at Entebbe/Kampala</li></ul>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transfer to Mbale</li><li>• Special Africa mountains event</li></ul>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Official Opening</li><li>• Theme 1-4</li></ul>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High level segment</li><li>• Forum conclusions and closing</li></ul>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field trip</li><li>• Departure</li></ul>
Friday- Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mountain Partnership General Assembly</li></ul>



## 6. Participants

The forum will bring together participants from different background all around the world including government representatives, development actors, researchers, representatives of mountain communities and political actors in mountain areas at national and global levels. There is limited funding/sponsorship for especially active contributors and participants from developing countries. Self-funded participants are strongly encouraged to apply. The interested candidates should register at the [event website](#) (the registration fee is 50 \$).

## 7. Key Dates

- First announcement: **1<sup>st</sup> October 2015**
- Deadline for early registration and submission of abstracts for presentations and posters: **30<sup>th</sup> April 2016**
- Announcement of selected presentations and posters: **31<sup>st</sup> May 2016**
- Deadline for late registration: **30<sup>th</sup> June 2016**
- Deadline for final versions of presentations and posters: **31<sup>st</sup> July 2016**
- Starting of the WMF 2016: **17<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

## 8. Partners

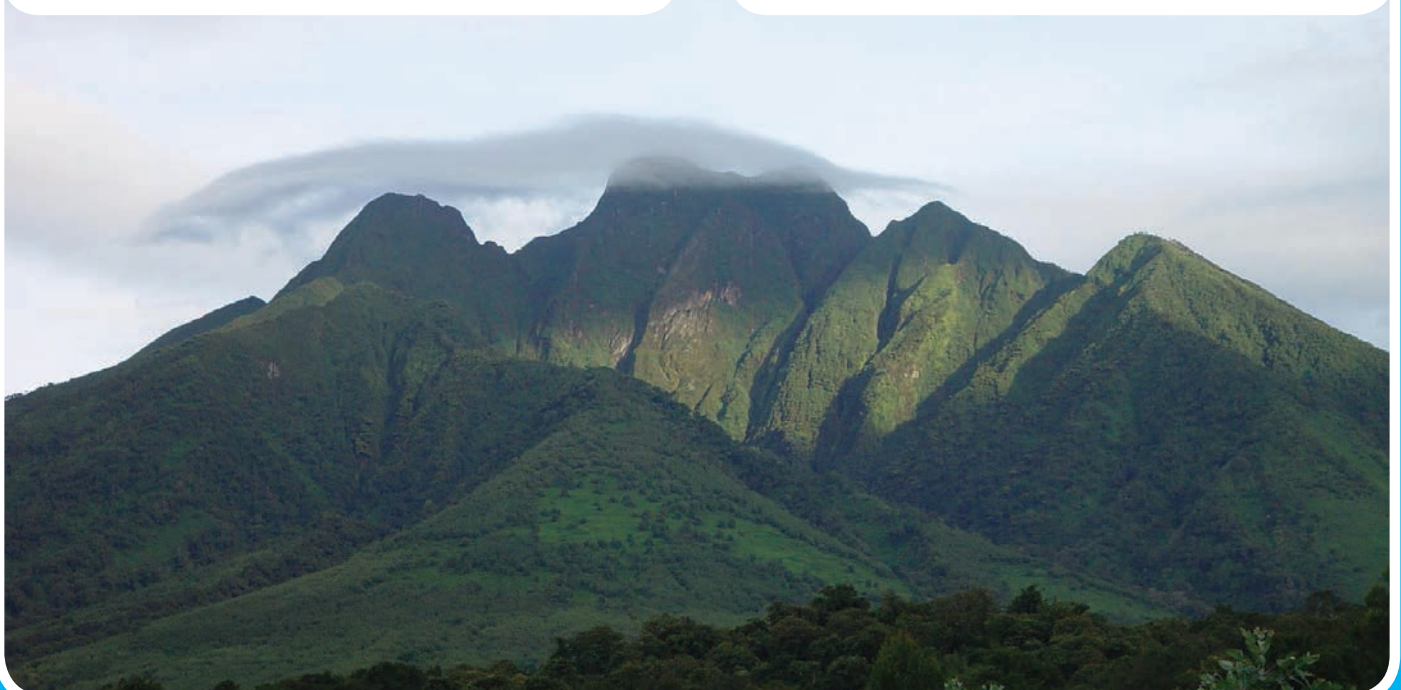
The 2016 WMF is jointly organised by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society and the Government of Uganda with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It is also technically supported by Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC) partners all over the world including CONDESAN from Latin America, ICIMOD from Asia, University of Central Asia, Department of Geography at Zurich University, The Centre for Development and Environment, University of Berne, Fondation pour le Développement Durable des régions de Montagne; as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Africa Mountains Partnership Champions Committee, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and East African Community. Other Partnerships are being explored.

### Contact information:

**Government of Uganda**  
Mr Paul Mafabi  
Director for Environmental Affairs in Ministry of Water and Environment  
Email: [pamfabi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pamfabi@yahoo.co.uk)

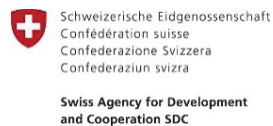
### Contact information:

**Albertine Rift Conservation Society(ARCOS)**  
Dr Sam Kanyamibwa  
Executive Director  
Email: [skanyamibwa@arcosnetwork.org](mailto:skanyamibwa@arcosnetwork.org)



# WMF

## 2016



ICIMOD

Initiative pour le développement des régions de montagne



In collaboration with:

