



Africa Regional Mountains Forum 2018

"African Mountains & Sustainable Development Agenda"

Kigali, Rwanda, 12 - 14 September 2018

@AfricaMountains

http://events.arcosnetwork.org/ARMF_2018

#ARMF_2018

AFRICA REGIONAL MOUNTAINS FORUM 2018



EVENT REPORT

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1. Executive Summary

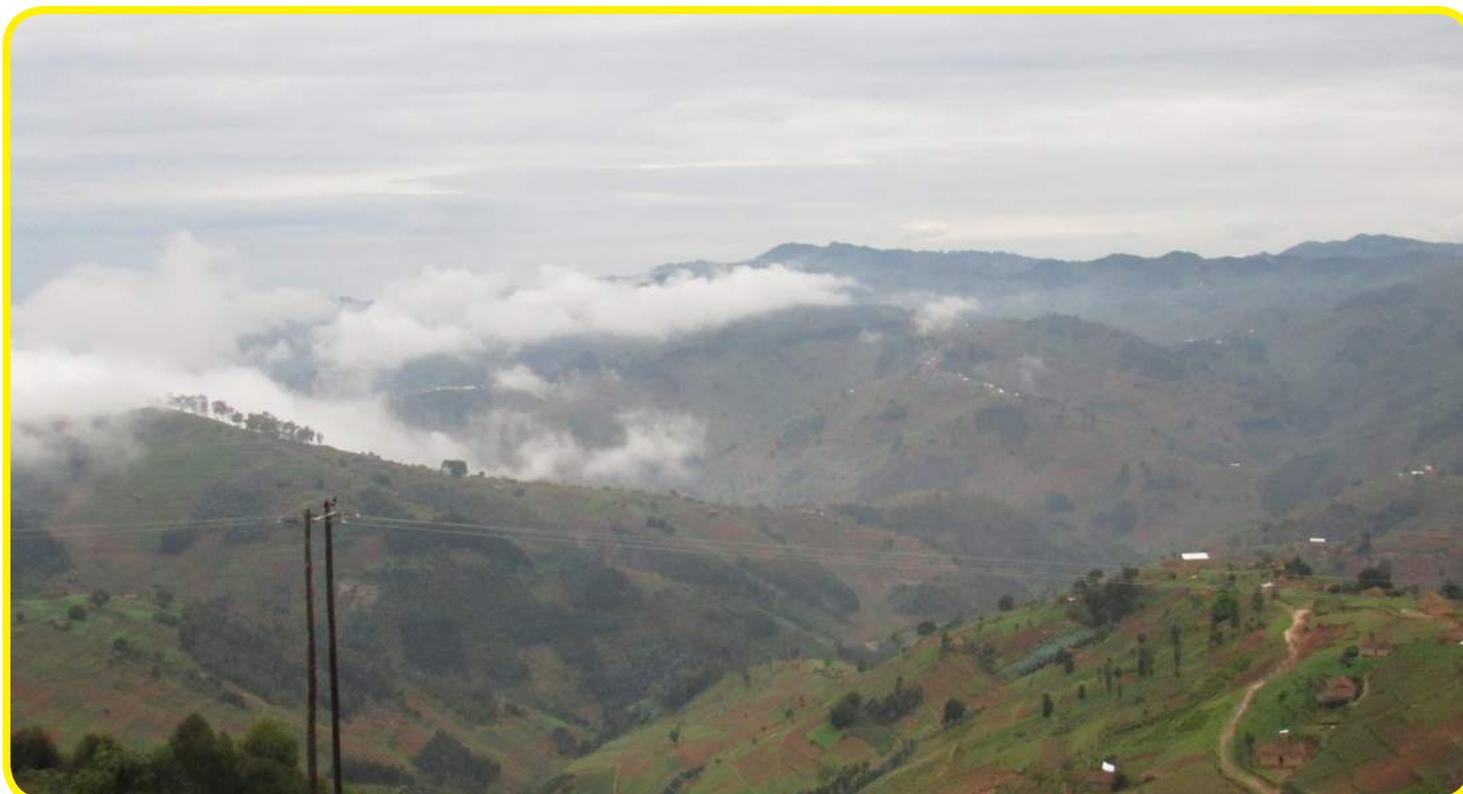
The Second Africa Regional Mountains Forum (#ARMF_2018) took place in Kigali, Rwanda at Lemigo Hotel on 12-14 September 2018. It was organized by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) and the Rwanda's Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Secretariat of the East African Community, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UN-Environment, Water for Growth Rwanda- W4GR (an initiative of Rwanda and Netherlands Governments), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Mountain Partnership. #ARMF_2018 was organized under the main theme "Mountains and Sustainable Development Agenda".

#ARMF_2018 gathered 120 participants from 22 countries (Annex 2).

The event provided opportunity for the participants to share updates, experiences and lessons learnt on the implementation of sustainable mountain development in different parts of Africa, and a special session focused on the governance and operationalization of the Africa Regional Mountain Forum. The Forum covered four sub-themes namely Mountains and Water-Energy-Food Security, Mountains and Climate

Change, Sustainable Financing in Mountain Areas, and Mountain Communities and Socio-Ecological Systems (see Programme, Annex 1).

The outcomes of the #ARMF_2018 or "Kigali Outcomes" are available in both English and French (See Section 7) and include among others the endorsement and adoption of the constitution of Africa Regional Mountain Forum. A Governing Council was elected, and Dr Vincent Onguso Oeba from the African Forest Forum (AFF), Kenya and Ms Margaret Chukwu from Environment and Tourism Support (ETS), Nigeria were elected as Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of ARMF Governing Council respectively. Among other action points regarding the ARMF operationalization, included the establishment of the ARMF Secretariat at the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Uganda. The members of the ARMF Governing Council approved with immediate effect the interim appointment of Dr Sam Kanyamibwa as the Regional Coordinator of the ARMF to undertake the functions of such an office as prescribed in the ARMF Constitution.





2. Introduction

The African mountains provide vital goods and services, indispensable for human wellbeing and national, regional and global economic growth. Their invaluable importance as water towers and engine for agriculture, energy, biodiversity hotspots, indicators of climate change and hubs of traditional indigenous knowledge, offer a strategic opportunity to ensure sustainable development of African countries. However, the African mountains are facing multiple challenges, mainly driven by fast growing population, unsustainable natural resources use which are worsened by climate change. This threatens the ability of mountain ecosystems to provide their essential goods and services and undermines the livelihoods of mountain communities while drastically affecting the economic development of African countries. Thus, Sustainable Mountain Development in Africa is a key requirement for achieving sustainable development goals.

To address these challenges, the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) and partners are co-implementing a global program called Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC) with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The main goal of this program is to contribute to Sustainable Mountain Development under uncertain changes in climatic, environmental and socio-economic conditions, focusing on poverty and risk reduction.

It is in this framework that ARCOS Network and partners organized the first Africa Regional Mountains Forum (ARMF-2014), held in Arusha, Tanzania in October 2014, under the main theme: “Towards a shared mountain agenda for Africa”. The first ARMF offered an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss better ways to integrate mountains in ongoing development agenda at national and regional levels, and to enhance collaboration for sustainable mountain development in Africa. The resolutions of the ARMF-2014 were recognized by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) during its session of 4-6 March 2015 (**Cairo Declaration**) as follows:

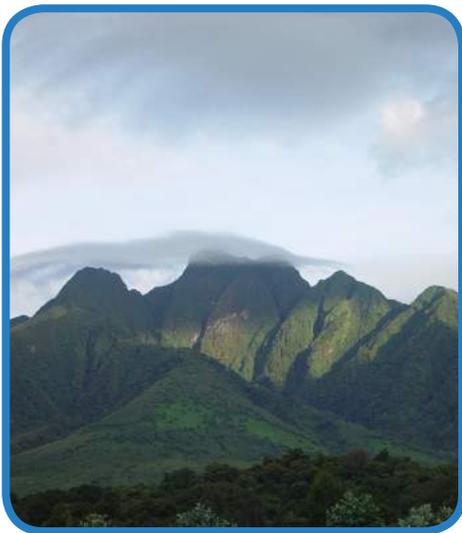
- a) To call upon member States to develop and implement a shared mountain agenda and strategy for Africa involving all relevant stakeholders;*
- b) To establish and strengthen institutional arrangements for sustainable mountain development, including centres of excellence, and to strengthen the Africa Regional Mountains Forum as a forum of knowledge, information exchange and policy dialogue.*

It is in the same framework that the second Africa Regional Mountains Forum (#ARMF_2018) was organized under the main theme “Mountains and Sustainable Development Agenda”.

The second Africa Regional Mountains Forum (#ARMF_2018) was organized by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) and the Rwanda’s Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Secretariat of the East-African Community, , the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UN-Environment, Water for Growth Rwanda (an initiative of Rwanda and Netherlands Governments), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Mountain Partnership.

The second ARMF (#ARMF_2018) gathered more than 120 people from 22 countries, interested in sustainable mountain development agenda in Africa. Those included representatives from mountain community groups, governments, international organizations, civil society, science, academia and private sector. See the *list of participants in Annex 2*

It took place from 12th to 14th September 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, the country of thousand hills, at Lemigo Hotel.



3. Pre-event on East Africa Mountains Agenda



On 11th September 2018, a Sub-Regional stakeholders meeting on “Regional Sustainable Mountain Development in East Africa” was organized by UN Environment - through its Regional Europe Office (Vienna Programme Office) with funding from the Government of Austria and in collaboration with ARCOS Network and East African Community and back to back with the Second Africa Regional Mountains Forum. This workshop was held in Kigali, Rwanda at Lemigo Hotel. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss possible options to mainstream the findings of a report on “sustainable mountain development in East Africa in a changing climate”. The report was produced by UN Environment in collaboration with ARCOS Network , EAC and GRID-Arendal with the participation of all East African countries. The side meeting to the #ARMF_2018.

The purpose of this regional meeting was to explore possible areas and future joint collaborations to catalyse concrete project ideas that would drive forward the Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) process at East-African level. The meeting sought to explore how to anchor the elements of the mountain agenda into the EAC processes and different work streams (climate change, biodiversity, etc.) in order to obtain more political support for the East African mountain agenda.

Official opening statements were uttered by Dr Sam Kanyamibwa (ARCOS Network) and Matthias Jurek (UN Environment) as well as of the EAC Secretariat and the Rwanda’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The technical session consisted of two presentations which concluded that mountain ecosystems are especially important for the region in terms of tourism, water supply and food security. Therefore, mountain specific actions and policies in the development agenda need to be mainstreamed in all development sectors, resulting in intersectoral and also transboundary collaborations. Moreover, economic valuation (TEV) and economic development e.g. enhanced value chains, public-private partnership, in those regions as well as integrated and participatory planning of interventions are key.

The following plenary discussion highlighted existing effort i.e. from the Ugandan Government, transboundary initiatives like Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC) and Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA), and agreed that water supply was one of the main concerns; therefore, the regional SMD agenda should integrate elements such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes.

The working groups at the end of the meeting discussed the raised issues and underscored once more the importance of practical action e.g. engagement of member countries, awareness raising; output production e.g. policy brief on SMD in East-Africa; conveying of a key message e.g. EAC to fast track implementation of this agenda and the streams to be influenced.

Concluding, the participants urged for more collaboration, especially in the inclusion of a SMD Agenda in public policies.

4. Proceedings

4.1. Opening Remarks



Dr Sam Kanyamibwa, ED, ARCOS Network

In his opening remarks, Dr Sam Kanyamibwa, Executive Director of ARCOS Network described the background of the ARMF and the journey that was taken to reach the present state of affairs. He explained the importance of African mountains and the need to protect these fragile ecosystems and empower the people that live and depend on them. He outlined the different themes of focus to be discussed during the meeting (1. Mountains and Water-Energy-Food Security, 2. Mountains and Climate Change, 3. Sustainable Financing in Mountain Areas, 4. Mountain Communities and Socio-Ecological Systems) and the expected outcome from these discussions. He closed his remarks by expressing his heartfelt appreciation to the government of Rwanda represented by Hon. Minister Biruta Vincent, to have accepted to host the 2nd ARMF meeting and extended this appreciation to all participants and speakers who will present on their different experiences in the promotion of SMD in Africa and worldwide.



Ms Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Speaking on behalf of the Mountain Partnership, Ms Rosalaura Romeo also reiterated the importance of mountains and how mountain people are amongst the hungriest in the world despite the mountain areas being among the most fertile lands. She however explained that Mountain people have traditional knowledge that can help resolve issues in mountain areas and underlined the need to ensure that this traditional knowledge is mainstreamed in the policy setting and agenda development processes. She deplored the disappearance of mountain issues in the final SDGs document despite the big advocacy and lobbying enterprise that the community had undertaken during the development of the SDGs. She however urged everybody not to be discouraged and keep raising awareness of the decision-makers on the importance of mountains and how to incorporate SMD in overall national and regional development agenda. She closed her remarks by calling everyone to work together to develop a solid mountain agenda for African continent.



Hon. Vincent Biruta, Minister of Environment

Opening the conference, Hon. Vincent Biruta, the Minister of Environment (Rwanda) wished a warm welcome to everyone and expressed his appreciation to the organizers of the forum. He explained that Rwanda is endowed with impressive mountains including the volcanoes that host mountain gorillas and that these mountains are sources to key resources for Rwanda's economy including water, electricity, etc. He recognized that ensuring SMD for our mountain areas is a responsibility for everybody and that SMD fits well with the on-going national effort to implement SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change. He therefore pledged to work with other policy makers in Rwanda to mainstream SMD agenda into Rwanda's national development agenda, to develop specific policy instruments that consider the uniqueness and opportunities of mountains for national development and promised to make Rwanda a leader and a model for SMD promotion in Africa.

Why mountains matter for Africa?

- Around 50% of the countries in Africa have mountains
- About 10% (± 3 million Km²) of Africa's surface area is classified as highland, mountain or steep sloping land, headwaters of most of the large African rivers such as the Nile and Tana Rivers
- Lesotho (98,33%), Rwanda (90,29%) and Swaziland (73,03%) are in the top 20 countries in the world with the highest percentage of mountainous territories
- According to the Global Hunger Index 2011 (GHI), of the 59 countries with serious, alarming and extremely alarming GHI scores, around 14 are African countries with mountainous territory

The sustainability of mountain ecosystem services in Africa is at great risk. Poverty and environmental degradation threaten the integrity of mountain ecosystems and this is aggravated by population growth, land-use conflicts and political insecurity. In addition, the effects of climate change are most noticeable in mountains, requiring local populations to adapt to new conditions (UNEP, 2012).

Read more about [why mountains matter for Africa here](#)

4.2. ARMF Journey since 2014



Mrs Salome Alweny, Mountains Programme Manager at ARCOS Network

As part of the Agenda 21 adopted by the world leaders in 1992, Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) has since become part of the global development agenda and different policy documents have always included mountains as one category of very important ecosystems that need special attention for the good of the economies and the mountain communities.

It is in this framework that since 2012, the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) developed an Africa-wide programme to promote SMD as part of the global effort of the Mountain Partnership. The programme aimed at, among others, facilitating stakeholders' engagement for increased SMD action, advocating for integration of SMD into national and regional policy frameworks, and piloting on-ground action to address key issues affecting mountain people and ecosystems.

In 2013, ARCOS Network hosted the Africa regional meeting of the Mountain Partnership which resulted in the establishment of the Africa Mountain Partnership Champions Committee (AMPCC) to work in close cooperation with the entire Mountain Partnership (MP) constituency in Africa and other relevant players to promote an SMD agenda on the continent. The AMPCC developed and adopted a five-year work programme which focused on key strategic objectives, namely: Knowledge enhancement and sharing, capacity building, policy and advocacy, and on-ground innovative actions.

In 2014, ARCOS Network joined the Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC) programme, a global initiative supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) which seeks to promote SMD under uncertain changes in climatic, environmental and socio-economic conditions, focusing on poverty and risk reduction.

Some of the roles of ARCOS Network as the African Hub of the SMD4GC programme is to provide regional backstop and facilitation of SMD

related activities in Africa, including development and maintaining good working relationships with Mountain Partnership members, governments, regional and continent-wide bodies such as the East African Community, the African Union, and others. ARCOS also coordinates the collection, compilation, analysis, and dissemination of information on SMD in Africa with global outreach and with focus on climate change issues in Africa. Furthermore, ARCOS encourages the participation of African delegates and their inputs to international programmes advancing SMD. Furthermore, ARCOS facilitates dialogue among Africa SMD stakeholders to advance collaboration mechanisms that can spur SMD action in Africa through development of synergies and establishment of adequate frameworks of action under a common regional agenda.

Finally, ARCOS supported on-ground actions to empower mountain communities in their efforts to promote their livelihoods and sustainable mountain development.

As part of this programme, ARCOS Network co-organized the first Africa Regional Mountain Forum (ARMF) in Arusha, Tanzania in 2014. The meeting’s resolutions included the institutionalization of the ARMF as platform for collaboration to promote SMD in Africa. This outcome was adopted by the 15th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in Cairo, Egypt in 2015. Temporarily, the Secretariat of the ARMF was hosted by ARCOS and the latter was tasked to develop governing structures for the ARMF to fulfil its mandate.

So far, draft governance documents have been developed and it was the prerogative of the Second ARMF conference to adopt these documents and elect office-holders for the different organs of the platform.

Learn more about [Sustainable Mountain Development Hub for Africa here](#)



ARCOS Network and partners organized World Mountain Forum 2016. Panel discussion during Africa Side Event

4.3. Thematic sessions

a) Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus in Mountains

This session was facilitated by *Mrs Margaret Chukwu* from Nigeria. It included the key note presentation by *Rob Nieuwenhuis* (Water Management Specialist, Water for Growth, Rwanda (W4GR)) and two case studies by *Farmer Tantoh*, (Ashoke Associate, Save Your Future Association, Cameroon) and *Joseph Anania* (Project Manager, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rwanda). After the presentations a World Café exercise was held to discuss the status, challenges and solutions in regard to Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus in mountain areas of Africa.

Rob Nieuwenhuis, from Water for Growth, Rwanda presented a keynote on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus including Ecosystems (WEF Nexus) and elaborated on how to move from only understanding to managing them. He explained how WEF Nexus is about managing securities: Food security, water security, energy security, but also ecosystem security (Hence WEFE). He went on to explain how W4GR uses different specialised tools to study and examine trends in the said securities (Water Evaluation and Planning Long Range (WEAP) for water security, Energy Alternative Planning (LEAP) for energy security). Such studies are important for integrated planning either at catchment level or basin level. He has also highlighted the possibility of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) as an instrument. After introducing the mechanisms involved relating to degradation i.e. nationals and local drivers and PES interventions, he pointed out that there is a great way to influence behaviour either formally (such as permits, fees, subsidies etc.) or informally (e.g. perception, awareness etc). However, challenges are geographical, but also related to realistic targets and the involvement of actors, as the government cannot achieve 100% on its own, but the Private Sector and its agents (i.e. producers and consumers) need to be involved.

In his case study presentation *Nforba Dieudonne Tantoh* from Cameroon, highlighted the importance of water spring catchments using the example of Western Cameroon, and pointed to the problems such as population pressure, and the pollution of spring water through the use of chemical fertilizers. He expressed his confidence to the success if all stakeholders concerned and communities are involved in the process and underlined the resources mobilization for grassroots to provide organic manure, biogas cooking systems, water systems etc as key to lasting success.

Joseph Anania Bizimana, FAO Rwanda, shared with participants the work FAO, IUCN and the Ministry of Agriculture have been doing in the Yanze catchment in Rwanda regarding Forest and Landscape Restoration, drawing attention to problems such as over-cultivation and soil erosion. Suggested solutions include agroforestry, integrated soil fertility management, sustainable water management, capacity building and energy saving. The involvement of communities through farmer field school has proven to be an effective tool.

From the seven aspirations of the African Union's vision and agenda 2063, a prosperous Africa is based upon inclusive growth and sustainable development will rise from a sustained agricultural transformation and energy transition. The intensification and transformation of agriculture sector requires mechanized approaches and irrigation systems that consume energy and water. More than 90% of energy resources in Africa are generated from hydropower plants supplied mainly with water of rivers originating from mountains. The Water-Energy-Food security (WEF) Nexus is a modern framework of planning interventions that require synergies between these three sectors that are crucial for the development of Africa. We need to find ways to integrate the WEF nexus in sustainable mountain development and all new investments and planned programmes should incorporate this aspect. The topics discussed under this session includes Efficient utilization of Africa Mountains' freshwater resources, Integration and coordination of Water-Energy-Food security nexus in policies, plans and implementation strategies, Innovations for reducing water pollution and meet the green energy demand in Africa mountainous areas, Experiences on efficient food systems that promote resilient agriculture, maintenance of ecosystems' integrity, and empowerment of local community.

World Café

This session was very dynamic and engaged all participants to give ideas about status, challenges and proposed solutions for Africa to overcome the challenges regarding Water-Energy-Food Security by 2030. The group work session was conducted in a form of a world café whereby participants contributed in each of the three groups namely water, energy and food security. The synthesis of participant's views revealed that the consideration of the interlinkage of the three sectors is very key to the achievement of the agenda 2030 for sustainable development in Africa. The views were presented in a nexus loop as follows:

Status (food, energy, water) in both up and down stream areas of Africa mountains.

There is limited production capacity and technologies in almost all African countries as when linked to continuous population increase, the demand is higher than the supply capacity for both water, energy and food. Although participants appreciated Africa Mountains as water towers and being at the centre of development through considering their integral contribution to agricultural and energy production and provision of water for domestic and industrial use, participants highlighted a high competition for water resources in lowland areas, inefficient planning and distribution in mountains (upstream) areas. In addition, there is poor exploitation of renewable energy resources and loss of biodiversity due to increased terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems degradation.

Main Challenges (food, energy, water) in both up and down stream areas of Africa mountains

The main challenges identified by participants were summarised in six categories and include

- 1) climate change translated into extreme weather and climate variability that lead to prolonged droughts mainly severe in lowland areas putting much pressures on land, water, crops and finally on energy production, as well as severe floods and landslides that destroy infrastructures and claim people's lives;
- 2) Lack or limited access to post harvesting facilities and market;
- 3) Uncoordinated or unintegrated planning and budgeting among relevant governments' institutions and other private stakeholders;
- 4) Lack of required infrastructures for energy and water treatment and production and
- 5) Low level of education awareness and accessibility to finance among African mountain farmers and
- 6) population pressure on natural resources.

Solutions proposed to overcome the challenges mentioned above by 2030

- Different solutions were proposed and include
- 1) enhancement of low technology development and transfer and building the capacity of local communities;
 - 2) putting in place integrated policies and plans at regional, National and local level that recognise the participation (in planning and implementation) of all stakeholders mainly local communities;
 - 3) regularise the issue of land tenure and distribution rights;
 - 4) adopting the technologies that allow the exploitation of renewable energy (solar and biogas);
 - 5) enhancing integrated landscape restoration considering a diversity of ecosystems with much attention to mountains;
 - 6) exploiting the climate financing options to meet the financial requirements;
 - 7) promoting a diversity of schemes for sharing the costs and benefits between up and down stream communities,
 - 8) enhancing women empowerment, value addition and application of low carbon technologies.



Participants discussing ideas about status, challenges and proposed solutions for Africa to overcome issues regarding Water-Energy-Food Security

B) Mountains and Climate Change

Matthias Jurek, UN Environment, delivered a keynote talk on climate change in mountainous regions in Africa. He highlighted the impact and disruption of climate change in those regions and the challenges African countries are facing, but also natural ecosystems and biodiversity. However, he emphasized some economic opportunities as well. He noted the importance to support mountainous developing countries to integrate Climate Change adaptation in mountains into relevant development policies /plans /strategies.

Posted questions were related to climate change adaption, particularly in mountain regions and how it would look like. Matthias underscored in all his answers, that mountains are a biodiversity hotspot and are one of the most sensitive ecosystems, having an influence on numerous other regions and people e.g. playing a significant role in carbon storage. In addition he stressed, that UN Environment published a big report on mountain wastes and pollutions, with suitable solutions and urges that advocacy should also focus on governments, making them include mountains in their agenda. Concluding, mountains can also pose a good opportunity for investments e.g. energy solutions.

Mr Mabari Lebamang, Ministry of Tourism Environment and Culture, provided an example from Lesotho in climate change adaptation. The rehabilitation of gullies to reduce sedimentation has been proved a good tool for the survival of those vital landscapes. He also underlined collaboration in tackling climate change issues in mountain areas as equally important.

The Panel Discussion evolved around the topic of climate change, research, the impact for mountain ecosystems and the challenge of resilience and adaptation.

It was recognized, that it is important to exploit benefits derived from mountain ecosystems that can be (in)tangible e.g. fresh waters, energy supply, biodiversity, products etc. However challenges such as population growth, poverty, conflict etc. need to be recognized. Here is where research can tap in, turning these challenges into opportunities, educating societies and governments, raising awareness and function as frameworks for public policy development.

Another challenge that emerged during the discussion is the lack of institutional coordination. A more inclusive and participatory approach should be chosen. It has again been pointed out, that mountains are a biodiversity hotspot and function as water towers, therefore having a big potential. However numerous actions need to be taken to exploit it appropriately e.g. investment in total economic valuation of mountain ecosystems, building and developing a clear policy framework as well as social and legal.

There is a dual relationship between sustainable development and climate change. On one hand, climate change influences key natural and human living conditions hence the basis for social and economic development, while on the other hand, society's priorities on sustainable development influences both the Green House Gas emissions that are causing climate change and the vulnerability (IPCC,2017). Mountains are among the most sensitive ecosystems to climate change globally. Warming and extreme temperatures are expected to increase and isolated habitats like mountains are specifically endangered as their potential for adaptation is very low (IPCC, 2014). Impacts of climate change are being increasingly observed in African mountains; e.g. there is considerable change in Mount Elgon region due to global warming, with resident communities reporting higher temperatures and more erratic, variable and intense rainfall accompanied by changes in the onset and cessation of rainy seasons and the distribution of rains within the season (Daniel et. al., 2015). In the past years there has been tremendous effort amongst stakeholders at all levels and countries world over, to find sustainable solutions to climate change and ensure Sustainable Development. Among others, such efforts include development of innovative approaches like Ecosystem Based Adaptation, which are being applied in mountain areas with the main purpose of strengthening community resilience to climate change impacts and ratification of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, intended to guide decision making. African countries domesticated SDGs and the Paris Agreement through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and country specific National Development plans and strategies. However, mountains and mountain communities are not taken much into consideration in these plans. Achieving sustainable development under a changing climate in mountains is a tremendous challenge that can only be addressed if every player is actively involved. During this session of the #ARMF_2018, issues like the impact of climate change to mountain ecosystems and people, integration of climate change in country development agenda, Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in Africa mountains, and implementation of NDCs in African Mountains was discussed.

Some of the comments during the discussion related to the need to involve and engage mountain communities in particular as effort are more successful then, as experience shows. Moreover, mountains need to be protected under law and with specific policies.



Mt Kilimanjaro 1993-2000

C) Sustainable Financing in Mountain Areas

Fidele Ruzigandekwe from Rwanda held a presentation on sustainable financing in mountain areas. Focusing on challenges and opportunities of ecosystem services, he highlighted the importance of the involvement of all actors e.g. government, but also the private sector. However, it is essential to show long term benefits of investment, mechanism for lobbying and an assessment to determine potential of such projects and investments.

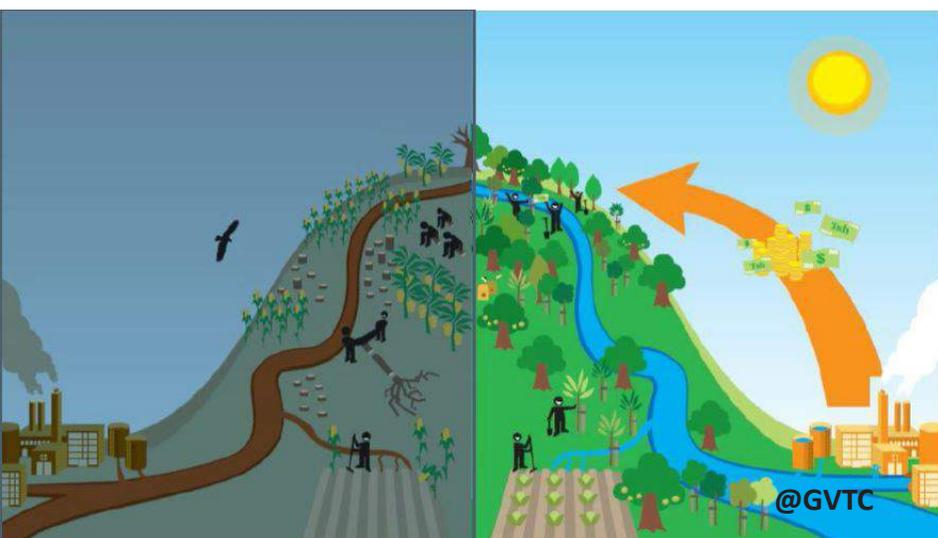
Carl Bruessow from Malawi, presented a case on the work of Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust, Malawi in Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve, which is now with endowment of over \$7 million. As government involvement is low, corruption high, misuse of public land and the communities impoverished, the trust led to many improvements around; e.g. donor involvement, community livelihoods and commercial relationship to local economies. Furthermore, he gave examples of how to establish such a trust fund and depicted the needed commitment.

The panel discussions were moderated by *Francis M. Nkako* and involved 3 panelists: *Dr. Willy Kakuru*, *Mr. Sabiti Fred* and *Mrs Rosalaura Romeo* who gave their view ahead of a planned topic entitled “Sustainable Financing in Mountain Areas”. The moderator engaged the panelists using questions related to the topic. The participants were also given time to ask questions or complement on what panelists said.

Rosalaura Romeo started by mentioning that PES in mountains is needed to sustain the precious ecosystem services provided by them and strong alliance with mountain local communities is needed while investing in mountain development.

She further mentioned the need for national and global commitments in supporting mountain development agenda. Moreover, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) representative emphasized the use of existing

In a world where water, food and energy crises are affecting all the continents, sustainable mountain development is a global priority. African mountain systems are essential building blocks for sustainable global development, poverty alleviation and the transition to a green economy for millions of people living in mountainous areas and those that depend on goods and services provided by mountains. There is a need for sustainable investment mechanisms and opportunities that involve the use of mountain resources today to create productive and reproductive capabilities aimed at securing production and consumption of mountain goods and services. Key topics discussed under this session included leveraging finances on sustainable investments in mountain areas, private finance mobilization for mountain development agenda, lessons and experiences in investing in mountain communities, innovative financial mechanisms and approaches that improve the economic situation of mountain communities.



funding mechanism like Green Climate Fund (GCF) to mobilize resources that can support projects in mountain areas. She finalized her speech by calling upon involvement of youth and gender from all countries to promote mountain development agenda.

Mr. SABITI Fred: Mr. Sabiti Fred started with thanking the organizers of ARMF for their commitments and appreciated the facts that the #ARMF_2018 is the first forum organized in Rwanda that is specific to mountains. He went on to mention that conservation should go hand in hand with economic values of the African mountains in order to seek government funds and to show the Business As Usual (BAU) and optimistic scenario should be emphasized to convince government to support African mountain agenda.

“The legal policy and institutions frameworks on mountains are needed to be able to access fund from government, and a very clear Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the implementation of the set plans, policy and strategies is crucial to be able to gain government voice,” noted the Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning on Environment and climate change mainstreaming. He finalized his remarks by saying that more awareness on mountain ecosystem conservation is needed and involvement of everyone including private sector and civil society organizations is needed to support mountain resilience to the current degradation and changing climate.

Dr. Willy Kakuru: In his remarks on how mountain communities can be incentivized to benefit from their resources, Dr. Willy Kakuru who is a lecturer at Makerere University-Uganda stated that financing from international donors like the World Bank, United Nations and many more should be effectively used and projects for mountain communities development should benefit them other than most of the money ending up in some individuals pockets. He also mentioned that PES on mountain ecosystems should be used to incentivize communities that conserve the mountains. Mr. Kakuru concluded by saying that mechanisms for sustainable financing to support mountain communities should be one of the meeting resolutions.

After panelists’ discussion on the topic, the moderator then invited short comments and questions from each of the discussant: A representative from Uganda reacted that money from mountain ecosystems that are protected areas should benefit communities around and they should be the ones owning it and deciding on how it should be used depending on their needs.

Mohamed DDICH from Morocco also highlighted the need for governments support in addressing problems that affect mountain communities. Mr Macpherson Nthara from Malawi also mentioned the need for the management plans on mountain ecosystems to support sustainability and improve livelihoods of mountain communities. *Dr. Andrew Seguya* from GVTC highlighted the importance of revenues from National Parks especially those located in mountains to support surrounding communities who are not allowed to enter the parks yet they support in their conservation and protection.

Mwanahamisi Salimu Singano from Tanzania asked the reason why mountain communities were considered projects. In response to her, Dr. Willy Kakuru said that it is not taking them as projects but it’s a way of incentivizing them for the land they forgo for conservation and the efforts they make in conserving mountains for sustainable provision of required ecosystem services. Mrs Laetitia Busokeye, the Director of Research at Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) highlighted the need to take advantage of current funds like Green Climate Fund for sustainable mountains financing. She called upon joint efforts of different organizations and private sector with the governments to develop convincing projects as it is very difficult for an organization to do it by itself.

D) Mountain Communities and Socio-Ecological Systems



This session started with mountain communities exhibition

The session started with a Mountain Communities Exhibition where mountain Communities presented their products, initiatives that aim at environmental resilience and improved livelihoods in mountains. The exhibitors included representative of 32 Nature Based Community Enterprises partner of ARCOS Network (operating in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda). The technical part of this session was comprised by one key note speech, presentation of two case studies and a plenary that gave also included mountain communities to share their experience and stories.

The key note speech was given by *Mr Jean Paul Kubwimana* from the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network). His key note summarized the following key points: Economic, Social, and Mountains' Ecological Integrity against the agenda 2030 with reference to the mountain community's livelihoods and climate change. Mr Kubwimana underlined the role that mountains play for national, regional and global economic development and people's wellbeing. Among other roles he underlined the fact that mountains are water towers that provide clean energy (hydropower), water for domestic and industrial use as well as for irrigation. He also mentioned mountains importance in terms of tourism development and in international trade due to their precious minerals, oil and natural gas. However, he expressed the concern on how African mountain lands are continuously being degraded and mountains communities are the poorest and dispose poor infrastructures. At the top of that they are most vulnerable to climate change. He expressed his optimism for the enormous opportunities in mountain ecosystems to support sustainable economic growth if stakeholders adopt a programmatic approach whereby mountain communities become the center for investment. As a solution he

As a source of a multitude of services and resources, Africa mountains can greatly contribute to a sustainable future of the continent. However, a variety of diverging pressures and conflicting interests continue to degrade socio-ecological systems in African mountains. Mountain people in Africa are among the poorest, and they are highly vulnerable to external forces from globalisation and natural disasters. On the other hand, these communities have gained traditional knowledge, cultural values, languages and experience, and can offer solutions to climate adaptation and how to deal with the condition associated with living in harsh environments. In order to create the enabling environment to promote sustainable development in Africa, there is a need to invest in sustainable and innovative local solutions and build resilient socio-ecological systems that learn, adjust and use multiple forms of knowledge, experience and technologies to cope with the challenges that mountains face.

This session discussed the main issues that face mountain communities including among others, poverty alleviation, social protection, food security, employment, infrastructure and investment, empowerment, equity and inclusiveness in socio-ecological capital, building sustainable community institutions and ownership toward sustainable mountain development agenda, innovative solutions to sustain mountain community livelihoods in a changing climate.



called all stakeholders to adopt the integrated and innovative approaches such as ARCOS Network’s BEST Approach (an integrated approach developed by ARCOS Network with four pillars: (B) Building leadership and sustainable community institutions, (E) Enhancing environmental resilience, (S) Sustainable business solutions, (T) Transforming and Inspiring others) for on-ground interventions that aim to restore mountain ecosystems. [See BEST Approach here.](#)

He recommended the following to tackle challenges that face mountain communities:

- Sensitization and building the capacity of mountains’ Nature-Based Community enterprises (NBCEs)
- joining forces to support accessibility to financial services
- Support the initiative that aim to develop specific mountain development policies, programs and plans.

The first case study was presented by *Dr Zewdu Eshetu*, from Ethiopia. The case highlights the key elements on how the change in vegetation dynamics infers to influence of ancient civilizations on the evolution of mountain landscape in the highlands of Ethiopia. Dr Zewdu noted that understanding the past trend of environmental changes in mountains may suggest solutions to present problems and may indicate future trends. He gave an example of a study done in Ethiopia where human-environmental history have been inferred from Pollen analysis, Stable Carbon isotopes, Legends and oral history, Archaeological artefacts, Charcoal gully sediments. He called scientist to link environmental studies with archaeological findings. However, the materials and Well-equipped laboratory are still needed in many African countries to carry out such kind of research.

The second case study was presented by *Mr Jules Adjima*, from Togo. He presented a case study on how Analog Forestry can be a key driver for improved livelihoods for Mountain Communities. In Togo, mountains comprise 1/3 of its surface area. As in other Africa Mountains, Mr Adjima observed the large-scale degradation in Togo Mountains for the search of agricultural land and habitation. He underlined the consequences of this degradation including large scale erosion, landslides, decrease in soil fertility and decrease in agricultural production which greatly affected the local economy.

Mr Adjima explained what “Analog Forestry” is and why it should be a solution to improving community livelihoods. He went on defining it as an approach to ecological restoration which uses natural forests as guides to create ecologically stable and socio-economically productive landscapes. See [more about Analog Forestry here.](#) Mr Adjima presented some achievements of their Analog Forestry initiative in Togo and presented some challenges they faced during the implementation. Among those, he included the legal framework on the protection of the environment which does not consider enough mountain ecosystems, agricultural policy that promotes the use of chemical fertilizers, lack of incentives among communities, climate change, political influence in natural resource management. Mr Adjima recommended all restoration actors to consider Analog Forestry as a good approach for sustainable restoration of ecological integrity. He also noted that the actors of land degradation should also take a clear role in restoration of mountain ecosystems.

Experience sharing/Story-telling

Mr Joseph (Jijuka Group, Uganda) gave an overview on the history of Echuya Forest in Western Uganda. He presented some issues that inspired the neighbouring communities to gate together to save the important mountainous natural forest. Among the issues that led to the degradation of the forest, he underlined high population growth and dependence of communities on natural resources, mismanagement of Echuya forest by government officials. Communities around Echuya Forest got together and formed a cooperative to tackle the issues related to the degradation of their only source of live sustaining services. They organized themselves into community management groups to manage the forest and the approach is very successful. Mr Joseph told the participants that, their interventions were coupled with supporting communities around to diversify their income generating activities. He noted that when communities are well integrated and involved in natural resources management, the results are tremendous and called all managers to consider that aspect in every step and mountain ecosystems management and restoration. However, he mentioned the scarcity of manure and pointed increasing livestock among the communities would be a good solution to the issue.

Mohammed Sghir Taleb, Morocco: In his experience sharing note, Mr Mohammed underlined the need to increase campaigns on improving livelihoods of mountain communities and educate them on what they can do to reverse the degradation. He expressed his concern about how Mountains are excluded from development plans and how only priority is given to urban areas while neglecting the services mountains provide to sustain lives nation-wide. From the experience working in mountains, Justice and Equity for Mountains (JEM) was established and that is when, for the first time mountain issues started getting attention in Morocco. The establishment of JEM was followed by the empowerment of communities. He informed the participants that a Civil Society Coalition for Mountains (CSCM) was established and invited all institutions present to join.

Among the most questions asked during this session are: questions to understand more how ARCOS network's Integrated Approach (named BEST Approach) presented works and how the community needs are selected and prioritized. Another question was if there is a specific instrument to mainstream Analog Forestry, how the governments are engaged, if there are some success stories packaged to inspire other actors. Mr Jean Paul explained again the steps taken to start implement the approach. Those include a feasibility study done together with communities and identifies the needs and prioritize those according to the urgency and resources. He promised to share the summary of the approach with all participants and guaranteed support to any institution willing to adopt the approach.

On Mainstreaming Analogue Forestry, Mr Adjima brought knowledge to the participants that they created a platform for Analog Forestry and engage government before any restoration work starts. He added that tthey also carry out baseline surveying to know what was there before and use the knowledge of elderly to better understand the situation and how they used to live in harmony with natural resources.



Representative of Nature Based Community Enterprises (NBCEs) from Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda posing before the exhibition at #ARMF_2018



Local communities play a key role in landscape restoration. Farmers in Northern Rwanda



Community groups exhibited their products and presented their initiative with participants of #ARMF_2018



Mr Joseph, Uganda sharing stories with participants



Mountain communities also entertained the participants through cultural exchange and traditional dance

5. Partners' Slot



This session gave an opportunity to some sponsors and partners to the organization of the second Africa Regional Mountains Forum to presents their work and achievements in regard to mountain of Africa.

Mountain Partnership

Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership, presented facts on why “Mountains Matter” for Africa e.g. one in three mountain people in developing countries is facing hunger and malnutrition. She introduced the mountain partnership and its work with over 340 partners and presented their framework of action e.g. certifying mountain products, therefore enabling producers to ask for a higher price. Lastly, she emphasized the importance of a global communication campaign, statistical survey and monitoring system as well as multiregional programmes.

The Mountain Partnership is a United Nations alliance devoted to promoting sustainable mountain development. It includes more than 340 partners (governments and civil society organizations) . It was founded in 2002 to address the environmental and socio-economic challenges of mountain regions and promote the wellbeing of mountain peoples.



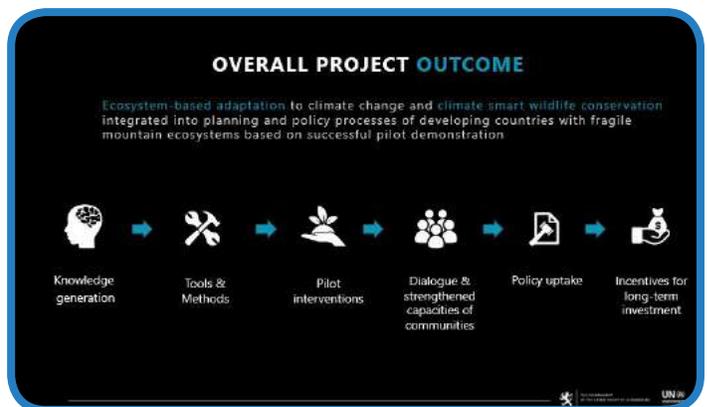
Label for high value mountain products

Among other achievements of MP, we can highlight:

- Members increased to more than 340 (Civil society increased from 54 in 2003 to 284 in 2018)
- MP framework for action Launched during the Fifth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership (December 2017) and adopted by all members
- A voluntary labelling scheme for high value Mountain products from developing countries launched to support smallholder mountain producers in maintaining sustainable production processes and better ensure fair compensation for their products.
- International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO): As of 2018, eleven courses have been organized and over 300 officers and experts from all over the world have been trained

UN - Environment

Matthias Jurek, UN - Environment, presented the “[Vanishing Treasures](#)” initiative, which tries to protect endangered mountain animals, in this case Snow Leopards, Bengal Tigers and Mountain Gorillas. He concludes that the protection of these animals is linked with mountain regions and its development and will also benefit other humans and animals. He explained this by showing the facts why mountains do matter linking that to overall development of humans. He highlighted different facts why the mentioned species need to be protected and their vulnerability to climate change and the different adaptive capacities and finally presented the project desired outcomes, targeted countries and



partners.

IUCN Rwanda and Uganda

Dr Alain Ndoli, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Rwanda, introduced the current activities undertaken by IUCN in Rwanda under the Investment Package through Forest Landscape Restoration. The approach is mapping out opportunities and is searching for the best locations. A key for success is the involvement of communities, the engagement of different institutions to create a policy dialogue incl. bilateral and south-south partnerships, and to increase public investments, as well as engage the private sector.

Harriet Drani, IUCN Uganda, presented the implemented EbA project in Mount Elgon National Park in Uganda, where the purpose is to ensure access and management of the protected area and enable peaceful co-existence. Again, here the involvement of all stakeholder especially the communities has been underscored as essential for

success.

Water for Growth Rwanda

James Blignaut and Rob Niuewenhuis, Water for Growth Rwanda, elaborated on the possible implementation sphere of PES in Rwanda and gave a successful example from Costa Rica, where a government Greenhouse Fund is working as a mitigation gear. They demonstrated that Rwanda has the potential to follow Costa Rica's steps. The solution they offer is based on Risk mitigation, where a risk-based credit is sold to a buyer e.g. NGO's or private partner, which is based on health and movement of soil.

Water for Growth Rwanda is a platform to promote improved management of Rwanda's water resources. It is a Rwanda-Netherlands initiative led by the Rwanda Water and Forestry Authority (RWFA).

Below are some achievements of IUCN, Rwanda, among others:

- 12,000 Ha restored through Agroforestry (within last 2 years)
- 442 Ha Woodlots planted
- Increased public investment (from \$1,411,765 in 2014 to \$2,941,176 in 2017)
- 56.600 people benefited through restoration activities
- Developed District Forest Management Plans (DFMPs) and National Forestry Plan (NFP)
- Over 3.5 Million trees planted of which 15% are indigenous
- Climate Smart Lending Platform being established
- Community Environmental Conservation Fund established
- Rehabilitation of 32 Tree Seed Stands
- National Tree Seed Strategy Developed

W4GR key achievements:

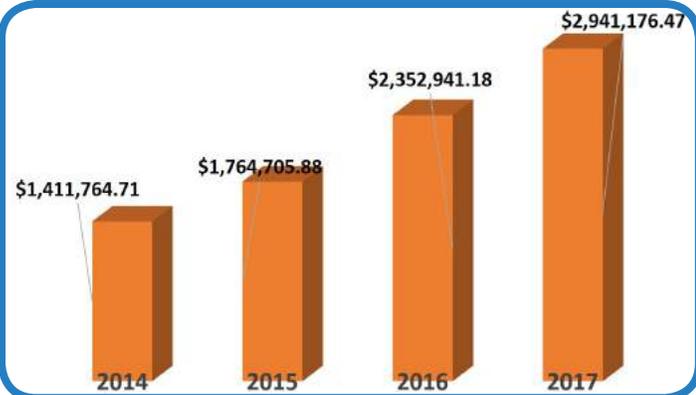
- Micro-catchment Action planning (2018) with implementation planned for year 2019-2020)
- Established Public-Private Partnership window in IWRM investment (2 mln Euro)
- Established and operational research fund (five research projects on-going including monitoring sediments from mines)
- PES scoping study conducted for Rwanda
- PES pilot under implementation in upper Nyabarongo Catchment (Rwanda)



Monitoring sediments from mines



Community involvement in mountain restoration was underlined by almost all speakers



Investment in FLR has increased

6. ARMF Programme of Work and Operational Matters



Elected members of ARMF Governing Council posing with ARCOS staff in charge of Mountain Programme and ARCOS' Executive Director

The presentation on the ARMF Programme of Work and Operational Matters was made by Ms Salome Alweny, from ARCOS Network, in charge of the ARCOS Network's Mountain Programme.

Salome's presentation focused on the different articles of the ARMF draft Constitution including the Background and History of the ARMF, Name and Establishment, Vision, Mission and Objectives of the ARMF, Membership and Governance, the ARMF Coordinator and the article on amendments.

a) ARMF Governance

Under Governance, Salome informed participants that the Secretariat of ARMF is currently hosted by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Uganda and that ARCOS is legally registered in Uganda under the provisions of the Non-Governmental Organizations Registration Act, Cap. 113. She also mentioned that the governance organs of ARMF are: *The General Assembly, The Governing Council, and The Secretariat.*

Following her presentations, a couple of comments were received, edits made, and the draft document

was adopted at Kigali, Rwanda on 13th day of September 2018. (See next page for more about ARMF constitution)

The participants elected new members of Governing Council in accordance with the requirements of the constitution. The participants elected 20 individuals comprising the ARMF Governing Council. Among the elected members, the Chair and Vice Chairpersons were elected namely Dr Vincent Onguso Oeba from the African Forest Forum in Kenya and Ms Margaret Chukwu from EATS, in Nigeria respectively. See the list of **ARMF Governing Council members on the next page**

Participants also welcomed and approved ARCOS Network as the host institution for the ARMF and endorsed the development of an MoU between ARCOS Network and ARMF on hosting arrangements and implementation of the activities.

Participants further approved ARCOS Network staff as interim members of the ARMF Secretariat until further notice and also approved with immediate effect, the interim appointment of Dr Sam Kanyamibwa as the Regional Coordinator of the ARMF to undertake the functions of the office as prescribed in the ARMF Constitution.

b) Insights about the ARMF Constitution

BRIEF ABOUT ARMF

The organisation is known as the Africa Regional Mountains Forum (hereinafter abbreviated as “ARMF”).

ARMF is a voluntary partnership of governments, civil society organizations and professional associations, private sector as well as individuals (as Affiliate members), who share the pursuit and commitment to the sustainable management, use and conservation of mountain ecosystems for the betterment of the socio-economic wellbeing of its people, for the stability and improvement of its environment.

Reflecting the spirit of a Type II Partnership¹, ARMF is a non-political, objective, independent and not-for-profit international organisation. ARMF is autonomous and enjoys professional, administrative and financial independence in the discharge of its functions.

The Secretariat of ARMF is hosted by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Uganda. ARCOS Network is legally registered in Uganda under the provisions of The Non-Governmental Organizations Registration Act, Cap. 113.

VISION

An Africa with inclusive engagement in Sustainable Mountain Development.

MISSION

The mission of the ARMF is to promote Sustainable Mountain Development in Africa through capacity building, knowledge generation, information exchange, collective action and policy dialogue.

1 Type-II Partnership concept was developed at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002 as mechanism to facilitate the inclusion of government, civil society and private sector actors in the implementation of sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES

- Generate knowledge, mobilize resources and increase understanding on Sustainable Mountain Development in Africa;
- Facilitate sharing of SMD-related Information amongst Stakeholders and partners in Africa;
- Build a multi stakeholder advocacy network for promoting SMD through national, regional and global processes;
- Support capacity building, development and south-south cooperation for improved SMD in Africa;
- Promote innovative actions, sustainable practices and traditional knowledge in African mountain areas and;

HOW TO BE A MEMBER

Membership to the ARMF is open to African governments, inter-governmental, civil society and private organizations and individuals (as Affiliate members) that are actively engaged in Sustainable Mountain Development, are interested in helping the Forum achieve its objectives and are willing to abide by the rules of the ARMF. Membership to the ARMF is acquired upon application submitted to the ARMF Secretariat for approval by the Governing Council. Membership to the ARMF is for a period of four years subject to renewal, based on evidence of engagement and commitment in implementing the mission of the ARMF.

GOVERNANCE

The governance organs of ARMF are: The General Assembly, The Governing Council and The Secretariat.

Table 1: ARMF Governing Council (ARMF GC): Members

#	Names	Position at ARMG G.C	Institution	Country
1	Dr. Vincent O. Oeba	Chair	AFF Kenya	Kenya
2	Mrs. Margaret Chukwu	Vice-Chair	Environment and Tourism Support Initiative (ETS) Focal Point-Mountain Partnership	Nigeria
3	Mr. Stephen David Mugabi	Member	Ministry of Water and Environment	Uganda
4	Mr. Moussa Conde	Member	MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DES EAUX ET FORETS	Guinea
5	Mrs. Nwanhamisi Singano	Member	ARCOS Associate	Tanzania
6	Dr Zewdu Eshetu	Member	Climate Science Centre Addis Ababa University	Ethiopia
7	Mr. Patrick Shawa	Member	Wildlife & Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia	Zambia
8	Mr. Macpherson Nthara	Member	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development	Malawi
9	Ms. Harriet Drani	Member	IUCN UGANDA	Uganda
10	Mr. Joseph Munyarukaza	Member	New Forest Company	Rwanda
11	Dr Willy Kakuru	Member	Makerere University	Uganda
12	Mr. Mohamed Ddich	Member	Civil Coalition for the Mountain	Morocco
13	Mr Jean Paul Lubula	Member	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development/MP Focal Person	DRC
14	Mr Tantoh Farmer	Member	Save Your Future Association	Cameroon
15	Mr. Nchunu Justice Sama	Member	Foundation for Environment & Development (FEDEV)	Cameroon
16	Mr Harerimana Emmanuel	Member representing Mountain Local Communities	Muhisimbi Cooperative	Rwanda
17	Dr Sam Kanyamibwa	Regional Coordinator	ARCOS Network	UK/Rwanda
Honorary/Observers				
18	UN Environment			
19	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation			
20	Mountain Partnership			

7. Meeting Conclusions and Recommendations

KIGALI OUTCOMES

We, representatives from governments, international and intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia and private sector and communities, met in Kigali – Rwanda, from 12th to 14th September 2018 for the 2nd Africa Regional Mountains Forum (#ARMF_2018).

The forum was organised by the Government of Rwanda and the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the East African Community (EAC) as well as the Mountain Partnership (MP) and with technical and financial contribution from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the UN Environment, the Kingdom of the Netherlands through the Water for Growth Rwanda Programme, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through its Kigali Forest Landscape Restoration hub.

The goal of the 2nd Africa Regional Mountains Forum was to advance the African Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) agenda in the context of overall sustainable development context for Africa and to provide an opportunity for SMD stakeholders in Africa to strengthen the ARMF through the establishment of its governance mechanisms.

The members of the Africa Regional Mountains Forum,

ACKNOWLEDGING the decision of the 1st Africa Regional Mountains Forum as laid out in the Arusha Outcomes document which established the Africa Regional Mountains Forum as a platform to promote Sustainable Mountain Development in Africa through capacity building, knowledge generation, and information exchange and policy dialogue;

RECALLING the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to endorse the Arusha Outcomes Document especially recognising the Africa Regional Mountains Forum and the Albertine Rift Conservation Society as Host of the Secretariat of the Africa Regional Mountains Forum;

RECOGNIZING the SDG 15.4 which targets to ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, are conserved in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development;

NOTING the need for the development and adoption of a shared agenda for Sustainable Mountain Development in Africa in the interest of the present and future generations;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of the International Mountains Day (IMD) established by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002 as a platform for awareness raising and sensitization of the large public on Sustainable Mountain Development issues and commemorated annually on 11th December;

CONCERNED that climate change, population growth, and changing consumption patterns continue to pose a critical threat to mountain ecosystems and communities;

BEING AWARE that the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus needs to be widely adopted as the most appropriate approach to address the food security, water security, and energy security in mountain areas;

The highlights of #ARMF_2018 conclusions and recommendations was compiled in a document named “*Kigali Outcomes.*” The highlights were presented by Mr Faustin Gashakamba from ARCOS Network. You can find the versions of Kigali Outcomes here: [English](#) , [French](#)

#ARMF_2018 also concluded with the endorsement of new elected Governing Council and the new Africa regional Mountains Forum Constitution. Dr Vincent Onguso Oeba from the African Forest Forum in Kenya and Ms Margaret Chukwu from EATS, in Nigeria were elected as Chair and Vice Chairpersons of ARMF Governing Council, respectively.

RECOGNIZING the fact that mountain people in Africa are amongst the most poverty-stricken yet hold the key to development problems in African mountain areas due to their traditional knowledge about life in mountains and their highly adapted living styles;

REAFFIRMING the resolve of Africa SMD stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in the implementation of the African mountain agenda to contribute to sustainable development on the continent;

We welcome the willingness of the Ministry of Environment of Rwanda to champion the development of national mountain-specific policies and other instruments that will help Rwanda become a leader in promoting SMD for Africa;

We recognize some African countries that have developed SMD policies and strategies. We therefore encourage other African governments to develop relevant legal instruments for sustainable mountain development;

We appreciate the initiative of the East Africa Community to develop and pursue a sub-regional mountain agenda and call upon other sub-regions to develop similar agendas;

We invite all governments of African mountain countries and other stakeholders to join the Mountain Partnership as an effective way to raise voice on mountain-specific development matters in the international policy making arenas;

We request African governments to take advantage of the Green Climate Fund, GEF, and other financial mechanisms to requests projects focused on promoting SMD; and to ensure that mountain language is included in the “Voluntary National Reviews” for the High-Level Political Forum;

We recommend innovative solutions for SMD that are being piloted by different stakeholders and we propose the development of a guide to capture all of these methods and approaches for community development in African mountain areas;

We call upon governments and stakeholders working in mountain areas in Africa to support mountains communities to apply their traditional knowledge in adapting to climate change and to promote mountain products as one of the paths to achieve Sustainable Mountain Development;

We call upon all Sustainable Mountain Development stakeholders in Africa to organise events to celebrate the International Mountain Day as way of raising awareness on Sustainable Mountain Development;

We request all stakeholders who undertake new initiatives on SMD in Africa to recognize and build upon what has been achieved by the ARMF and partners;

We endorse and adopt the constitution of the ARMF and hereby establish its secretariat at the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Uganda;

We welcome the first ARMF Governing Council elected by ARMF Members during the 2nd ARMF and new leadership of elected Chair and Vice-Chair

We appreciate both technical and financial support from co-organizers of this 2nd Africa Regional Mountains Forum namely: the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network), the Government of Rwanda, the East African Community (EAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN-E), the Mountain Partnership (MP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Kingdom of the Netherlands through its Water for Growth Rwanda (W4GR) programme, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC);

We appreciate the warm welcome we received from the government of Rwanda as the host of this 2nd Africa Regional Mountains Forum;

Done at Kigali, 14 September 2018

8. Closing Remarks



From left, Margaret Chukwu, Marshal Banamwana, Vincent Oeba, Sam Kanyamibwa

The closing session was chaired by Marshal Banamwana, Biodiversity Specialist at Rwanda's Ministry of Environment on behalf of the Minister. During this session, the closing remarks were delivered by organizers, sponsors and elected chair and vice-chair of Africa regional Mountains Forum.

Remarks by *Dr Sam Kanyamibwa*: In his closing remarks, Dr Sam Kanyamibwa, Executive Director of ARCOS Network (organisers of the event) thanked Marshal, the representative of the Ministry of Environment, Rwanda and asked him to send his note of appreciation to the Minister. He also thanked representative of mountain community groups who also attended the forum and all participants. He expressed his satisfaction to the outcomes of the forum and in the name of ARCOS Network staff and board pledged to keep the momentum in driving ahead the Sustainable Mountain Development Agenda for Africa. He then requested the members of ARMF to keep in touch and welcomed their advice.

Closing Remarks by *Margaret Chukwu* (Vice-chair of ARMF Governing Council): With a very summarized note, Margaret thanked all the participants and pointed out the need to work as family and team to achieve our targets for Sustainable Mountain Development.

Closing remarks by *Dr Vincent Oeba* (Chair of ARMF Governing Council): Vincent thanked all members and pledged to become a gear for ARMF Governance council.

He expressed his confidence in the available knowledge and skills among members to drive SMD Agenda for Africa ahead. He also thanked ARCOS Network for proving leadership in realization of the Second Africa Regional Mountains Forum and thanked sponsors and partners naming the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network), the East African Community (EAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN-E), the Mountain Partnership (MP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Kingdom of the Netherlands through its Water for Growth Rwanda (W4GR) programme, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

He congratulated everybody for the new ARMF constitution developed during the forum and acknowledged the government of Rwanda for good hospitality and thanked mountain community groups to be present and actively participating. He then reminded that we have to work our talk on issues discussed during the forum and to leave the venue with a spirit to champion actions in regard to solving SMD issues in Africa. He called upon everybody to be evangelist for the sustainable management of our mountain ecosystems.

He then concluded his remarks wishing the best to everybody. Before his closing remarks, Marshal the chair of this session, invited also the forum partners and sponsors to give few remarks.

Remarks by *Rosalaura Romeo*, Programme Officer, Mountain Partnership: She expressed her appreciation and happiness to the hospitality of Rwanda government and she interested to come back again as she felt at home all along her stay.

Alain Tchadie, UNEP, Kenya: He thanked ARCOS Network for investing energy, effort and for providing technical support in organization of #ARMF_2018. He particularly thanked Yvonne Bigengimana, Event Manager, ARCOS Network. He then congratulated the new elected ARMF Governing Council members as he closes his remarks.

Rob A Nieuwenhuis, Water for Growth, Rwanda: He thanked everybody and wished all a safe travel back home.

Closing by *Marshal Banamwana*: Closing officially the Second Africa Regional Mountains Forum, Mr Marshal, on behalf of the Government of Rwanda, the host for #ARMF_2018 thanked ARCOS Network for driving energy to make the event a success. He called people to take back the knowledge got from the forum to drive

change in mountains in their respective countries. He reiterated the topics discussed during the forum (Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus in Mountains, Mountains and Climate Change, Sustainable Financing in Mountain Areas, Mountain Communities and Socio-Ecological Systems) and discussed how important they are for sustainable development and requested participants not leave what was learned and agreed on in the meeting hall. He then reminded the responsibilities to new elected ARMF Governing Council and requested them to keep the SMD agenda alive. In local language (Kinyarwanda) he asked the representative of mountain community groups present to inquire at any time they did not understand welll any particular topic and requested actors in mountains to involve them in the implementation of the recommendations of the forum. He requested ARCOS Network to translate the outcomes in the language the community groups present understand most. He then declared the Africa Regional Mountains Forum 2018 officially closed.

Farewell and Field Visit

During the evening of 13th September 2018, participants enjoyed a farewell party organized by #ARMF_organizers to create a space for networking and sharing more each other's experience.

On 14th September 2018, participants held a field visit where three sites were selected including Mountainous area in Northern part of Rwanda in Rulindo District, Kigali Genocide Memorial site and Kandt House Museum and Kisoro where Mountain Communities who attended ARMF visited and exchange knowledge and experience with their fellows from Kisoro District, Uganda.

The participants registered for field excursion in Rulindo District, visited Muyanza site which is one of the areas where the district with support from World Bank invested many efforts in establishing a sustainable integrated system that includes radical terraces on the whole catchment coupled with hillside irrigation on 1100 hectares which allow farmers to alternate crops through the year, as well as a model village for people who were relocated where the irrigation dam was constructed.

They also visited different other facilities to support farmers in post harvesting such as cold room for horticulture. They also visited Ikirenga Cultural Center

(also known as Ruganzu's Footprint) which is built on a historical site that shows some of the exploits of King Ruganzu II Ndoli, one of Rwanda's most famous kings who reigned in the 16th century. They learned about Rwanda's traditions, values and religion before colonialization.

The team that visited Kigali Genocide Memorial got an opportunity to learn about the history of genocidal violence against the Tutsi and to honor the memory of more than one million Rwandans killed in 1994. After the Genocide Memorial site, they also visited the Kandt House Museum and there they learned about Rwandan lifestyle before and after colonial period. At the same place, they also learnt about interrelation between nature and history through visiting a part of the museum with exhibition of live reptiles (snakes, turtle and baby crocodile).



Participants at a cultural centre in Rulindo, Northern Rwanda



Participants visited an initiative by Rulindo District to restore lands and improve community livelihoods



Drum players welcoming the participants at the cultural center



Rulindo is a food basket for Kigali, capital of Rwanda. Participants also visited the cold room facilities for horticulture farmers

Africa Regional Mountains Forum

Organised by ARCOS Network in collaboration with

the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Rwanda

12 -14 September 2018 – Kigali, Rwanda

“African Mountains and Sustainable Development Agenda”

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Session	Time	Details, Facilitator and Speaker
Pre-Event Meeting	All Day	UNEP/EAC/ARCOS: Eastern Africa Mountains Agenda
Day 1: 12/09/2018		
Session1	08:30-10:30	Facilitator: MoE or REMA
Opening Session and ARMF Journey since ARMF-2014		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Dance & Introductions (20') Welcome Remarks by ARCOS: Dr Sam Kanyamibwa, Executive Director (10') Remarks by Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO-Rome: Ms Rosalura Romeo, Programme Officer (10') Official Opening by Hon. Dr Biruta Vincent, Minister of Environment, Republic of Rwanda (20') ARMF Journey by ARMF Secretariat: Ms Salome Alweny, African Mountain Programme Manager, ARCOS Network (30') Group photo (10')
Coffee Break	10:30-11:00	
Session 2	11:00-13:00	Facilitator: West Africa Representative
Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus in Mountains		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote presentation + Q/A (40') - Water for Growth Rwanda Case Study 1 + Q/A (20') - Cameroon Case Study 2 + Q/A (20') – FAO <p>World Café: Status, challenges and solutions with Water-Energy- Food Security Nexus in mountain areas</p>
Lunch Break	13:00-14:00	
Session 3	14:00-15:30	Facilitator: East African Community Representative
Mountains and Climate Change		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote presentation + Q/A (40') – UNEP Case Study 1 + Q/A (20') - Lesotho <p>Plenary: Experience sharing on climate change and extreme impacts in African mountains: and related actions</p>
Coffee Break	15:30-16:00	
Session 4	16:00-17:30	Facilitator: Northern Africa Representative
Sustainable Financing in Mountain Areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote presentation + Q/A (40') – GVTC Case Study 1 + Q/A (20') - Malawi <p>Plenary: Experience sharing/Panel Discussion (40')</p>

Day 2: 13/09/2018		
Session 5	08:30-10:30	Facilitator: Southern Africa Representative
Mountain Communities and Socio-Ecological Systems		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote presentation + Q/A (40') – ARCOS • Case Study 1 + Q/A (20') – Ethiopia • Case Study 2 + Q/A (20') - Togo Plenary: Experience sharing/Story-telling (40')
Coffee Break	10:30-11:00	
Session 6	11:00-13:00	Central Africa Rep. / MP Steering Committee (CSO Representative)
ARMF Programme of Work and Operational Matters		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARMF Plan of Action 2018-2022 (60') • Establishing Governance Structures of the ARMF (60')
Lunch Break	13:00-14:00	
Session 7	14:00-15:30	Facilitator: MP Steering Committee (Government Representative)
Partners' Slot, Meeting Conclusions and Recommendations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners Ongoing Activities (60') – MP, UNEP, IUCN, W4GR • Highlights of Meeting Conclusions (15') • Highlights of Meeting Recommendations (15')
Coffee Break	15:30-16:00	
Session 8		Facilitator: ARCOS Representative
Closing Remarks	16:00-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Dance (10') • Remarks by ARCOS (10') • Remarks by SDC (10') • Remarks by MP (10') • Official Closing: Ministry of Environment (10') • Group Dance (10')
Farewell	17:30	Farewell Drinks and Departures

Day 3: 14/09/2018

FIELD VISIT:

Group 1: Rulindo Mountain Landscapes

Group 2: Kigali Mountain City

Annex 2: List of participants

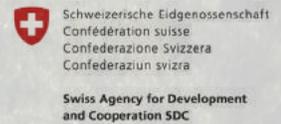
#	Country	Institution	Names
1	Rwanda	Ministry of Environment	Dr Hon. Vincent Biruta
2	Rwanda	Ministry of Environment	Marshall Banamwana
3	Rwanda	Ministry of Environment	Dr Omar Munyaneza
4	Rwanda	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community	John MURINZI
5	Rwanda	MINILAF	Emmanuel Uwizeyimana
6		MINECOFIN	Fred Sabiti
7	Rwanda	REMA	Laetitia Busokeye
8	Rwanda	REMA	Sylvia Kawera
9	Rwanda	REMA	Ngombwa James
10	Rwanda	RWFA	Felix Rurangwa
11	Rwanda	RWFA	Augustin Mihigo
12	Rwanda	RDB	Eugene Mutangana
13	Rwanda	Rulindo district	Mulindwa Prosper
14	Rwanda	ARCO Rwandanziza	Nsengimana Jean Claude
15	Rwanda	RECOR	John Gakwavu
16	Rwanda	ARCOS Associate	Gilbert Rwandekwe
17	Rwanda	New Forest Company	Joseph Munyarukaza
18	Rwanda	UR/CoEB	Beth Kaplin
19	Rwanda	UR/Department of Biology	Myriam Mujawamariya
20	Rwanda	TV1	Raymond Gakayire
21	Rwanda	VOA	P.Clever Niyonkuru
22	Rwanda	Umuseke	
23	Rwanda	Dispatch Rwanda	Baryamwisaki George
24	Rwanda	Freelance Photographer	Turyasuma Fred
25	Rwanda	W4GR	Eliot Taylor
26	Rwanda	W4GR	Rob A Nieuwenhuis
27	Rwanda	SNV	Uzamukunda Assumpta
28	Rwanda	FAO-Kigali	Joseph Anania Bizimana
29	Rwanda	IUCN Kigali	Alain Ndoli
30	Rwanda	GVTC Kigali	Dr Andrew Seguya
31	Rwanda	GVTC Kigali	Fidele Ruzigandekwe
32	Rwanda	CEPF/BirdLife	Maaike Manten
33	Rwanda	RTI International/ Africa Representative	Paul Orengh
34	Rwanda	CEPF/BirdLife	Providence Akayezu
35	Burundi	MP Focal Point	Jerome Nishishikare
36	Burundi	Community Representative	Maria Nduwimana
37	Burundi	Community Representative	Jean Bagenza
38	Ethiopia	Climate Science Centre Addis Ababa University	Zewdu Eshetu
39	Ethiopia	Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS)	Mengistu Wondafrash

40	Kenya	MP Focal Person	Francis M. Nkako
41	Kenya	IUCN ESARO	John Owino
42	Kenya	AFF Kenya	Dr Vincent Oeba
43	Tanzania	EAC Secretariat	Dismas Laurean Mwikila
44	Tanzania	EAC Secretariat	Simon Wathgo Kiarie
45	Tanzania	Environment Associate	John Salehe
46	Tanzania	Consultant	Wivine Ntamubano
47	Tanzania	ARCOS Associate	Mwanahamisi Salimu Singano
48	Uganda	Ministry of Water and Environment	Stephen Mugabi
49	Uganda	NEMA Uganda	Dr. Jerome Sebadduka Lugumira
50	Uganda	Ministry Of East African Community Affairs	Namanya Naboth
51	Uganda	Ministry of Water and Environment	Paul Mafabi
52	Uganda	Makerere University	Dr Willy Kakuru
53	Uganda	SORAINÉ Uganda	David Baganda
54	Uganda	ARCOS Network	Philbert Nsengiyumva
55	Uganda	ARCOS Network	Salome Alweny
56	Uganda	IUCN UGANDA	Harriet Drani
57	Uganda	ESIPPS INTERNATIONAL LTD	Dr Jane Bemigisha
58	Cameroon	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development	Francis Matip Nounga
59	Cameroon	FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENT& DEVELOPMENT (FEDEV)	JUSTICE SAMA Nchunu
60	Cameroon	Farmer	Nforba Dieudonne Tantoh
61	DRC	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development/MP Focal Person	Jean PAUL LUBULA BULAMBO
62	Lesotho	MP Focal Person/Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture	Clement Mabari Labamang
63	Madagascar	Ministry of Environment Ecology and Forest	RANDRIANARIVELO Fidiniaina Rowelly
64	Malawi	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development	Macpherson Nthara
65	Malawi	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development	John Mussa
66	Malawi	INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Goffrey Mfiti
67	Malawi	Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust	Carl Bruessow
68	Swaziland	Swaziland Environment Authority	Mbongeni Cyril Hlophe
69	Zambia	Wildlife & Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia	Patrick Shawa
70	Zimbabwe	Chinhoyi University of Technology	Beaven Utete
71	Morocco	Scientific Institute, Mohammed 5 University in Rabat	Mohammed Sghir Taleb
72	Morocco	Civil Coalition for the Mountain	Mohamed DDICH
73	Guinea	MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DES EAUX ET FORETS	Moussa Conde
74	Nigeria	Environment and Tourism Support Initiative (ETS) Focal Point-Mountain Partnership	Margaret Chukwu

75	Togo	Plateforme des Organisations de la Société Civile pour la Sauvegarde des Montagnes (PSM)	Yawo Kouma Jules ADJIMA
76	Rwanda/UK	ARCOS Network	Sam Kanyamibwa
77	Austria	UN Environment, Vienna	Matthias Jurek
78	Kenya	UN Environment, Nairobi	Alain Tchadie
79	Italy	FAO-Rome	Rosalaura Romeo
80	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Bigengimana Yvonne
81	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Faustin Gashakamba
82	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Camilla Schynoll
83	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Gilbert Muvunankiko
84	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Jean Ndamage
85	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Jean Paul Kubwimana
86	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Brigitte Kanyamugenge
87	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Jacqueline Ntukamazina
88	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Beatrice Mukansoro
89	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Nshimyumuremyi Theodore
90	Rwanda	ARCOS Network	Jeanvier Hitimana
Community Groups Representatives			
91	Uganda	BUDWALE	Kadool Abdul Nagwere
92	Uganda	BUSHIKA	Marthius Levi Kigai
93	Uganda	NECF	Thembo Sargeon
94	Uganda	KEFA	Philip Cherukot
95	Uganda	JIJUKA	Kampire Jane
96	Burundi	DUKINGIRIKIBIRA	Nduwimana Marie
97	Rwanda	CITMK	Mpazihose Theoneste
98	Rwanda	COAKAKI	Katarihwa Augustin
99	Rwanda	KOAUKI	Ruhamiliza Bernard
100	Rwanda	COMUFLEKI	Rutagarama Jean Bosco
101	Rwanda	KOAAMI	Mutabazi Vincent
102	Burundi	TUBEHONKABANDI	Barangenza John
103	Rwanda	KABONYA	Musafili Francois
104	Rwanda	KAKIKA	Kamariza Asinathe
105	Rwanda	COPAKIKA	Nyirasafari Myriam
106	Rwanda	KOTEREM	Niyonteze Donat
107	Rwanda	KABAMU	Ayingwe Emmanuel
108	Rwanda	KOIMIZANYA	Murenzi Jean Bosco
109	Rwanda	KOSUMU	Buregeya Jean Pierre
110	Rwanda	TWIGIREMUHINZI-Rusebeya	Nkundabagenzi Elias
111	Rwanda	COABA	Ndagijimana Felicien
112	Rwanda	MUTUBEHAFI	Sesiha Faustin
113	Rwanda	PNPT-Banda	Hagenimana Antoine
114	Rwanda	ABATERANINKUNGA BA SHOLI	Mukakarangwa Maritha
115	Rwanda	JYAMBERE MUNYARWANDA	Niyibarema Oliva

116	Rwanda	ASSOPTHE	Mukantabana Dorothee
117	Rwanda	ABIZERANA	Giramata Laurentine
118	Rwanda	CAE	Mutabaruka Jean Baptiste
119	Uganda	KADECA	RUBIBI
120	Uganda	KIZIBA	Mugarura Geoffrey
121	Uganda	BUDWALE	Kadool Abdul Nagwere
122	Rwanda	MUHISIMBI	Harerimana Emmanuel





WATER
for GROWTH
RWANDA



Kingdom of the Netherlands

