



ARCOS POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Albertine Rift ecosystems are among the most important areas for biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods. Albertine Rift is one of the Ice Age Refuges for Biodiversity (2.4 to 10,000 million years ago).

Unfortunately, these fragile ecosystems are prone to several threats resulting increasingly from climate change as observed in most mountain ecosystems around the world. Modern deforestation/degradation patterns do not take into account forest history or biodiversity, and both forest refuges and more recent forests are being destroyed equally. As a result, climate change is taking advantage of this situation and its impact has significant implications particularly for mountain environments as well as the people that depend on them.

ARCOS perspectives on climate change in the Albertine Rift are articulated around three pillars: 1) understand the status of climate change impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, 2) inform, build capacity of and promote networking with stakeholders in the region, and 3) promote and catalyse collaborative actions.

ARCOS calls upon the governments in the Albertine Rift region and international negotiations on climate change to reach a concrete deal in order to save fragile ecosystems such as the Albertine Rift and millions of peoples who depend on them for their livelihoods.

ARCOS priorities in climate change negotiations are:

1. ARCOS urges governments to recognise the importance of ecosystem approach as this is crucial for maintaining connectivity of ecosystems including protected areas and corridors in production landscapes.
2. ARCOS calls for special support for capacity building for research, community adaptation strategies and landscape management in fragile ecosystems.
3. ARCOS support the conservation incentive to reward countries that have invested significant resources for the conservation of remaining montane ecosystems of global importance.
4. Urge northern countries to make resource available to support the poor and research involving a full range of stakeholders and governance arrangements to ensure continued supply of ecosystem services