

Invitation for contributions: Mountain Forum/GMBA/ MRI Bulletin, July 2009 on Mountain Biodiversity

Dear Member of the Mountain Forum, GMBA and MRI network,

We would like to invite your contribution to the July 2009 special edition of the Mountain Forum Bulletin focusing on **mountain biodiversity**. It is a unique co- production of the Mountain Forum (MF), Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) of DIVERSITAS, and the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI).

Mountains are hotspots of biodiversity and provide livelihood opportunities for a substantial number of poor people. Biodiversity in mountains however is threatened by effects of climate change and adverse land-use patterns. Biodiversity plays an important role in maintaining viable ecosystems which provide services such as fresh water, soil stability and genetic buffers for climate and human-induced changes. Effective conservation measures are essential to conserve mountain biodiversity, and this issue of the Mountain Forum Bulletin will help to create general awareness, and give input into policy.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the main policy instrument for protecting biodiversity and ensuring equitable and sustainable access to and benefits of genetic resources. A specific Programme of Work for Mountain Biodiversity was adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2004 (see: <http://www.cbd.int/mountain/>), to be implemented by almost all countries of the world. The programme will be reviewed and improved in Oct 2010, and we can now provide input to this process. In addition, the UN General Assembly declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity.

The joint Mountain Forum Bulletin will provide an introduction to mountain biodiversity at the global level and include highlights from all major mountain regions.

Articles are invited that focus on:

- the importance of mountain biodiversity (for e.g. crop production, food security, slope stabilization);
- changes in biodiversity in your mountain region; and how they relate to *drivers of change* in biodiversity such climate change, land-use;
- research, development , policy and capacity development activities undertaken to protect or enhance biodiversity, including results and what can be learned or improved;

In particular information is solicited from biodiversity 'hotspots' such as the Himalayas, Andes, Sierra Nevada, USA, East Africa, the Mediterranean basin and South East Asia.

Organizations involved in mountain biodiversity activities are especially welcome to provide information about their work, as a feature article or a shorter 'Member Initiative' update.

All contributions are highly appreciated as they can serve as a direct input for the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity and for regional networking via the Mountain Forum's on-line repository, available to the wider global community.

The requirements for the articles are as below:

- 1) Feature article(s) (1000 - 1200 words), including max. 5 citations with 2 or 3 high resolution digital pictures (1 to 2 Mb), along with captions and credits to support the article;
- 2) Updates (600-800 words) on your organisation, projects or initiatives for the 'Member Initiative' section;
- 3) Upcoming events focusing on sustainable mountain development (until January 2010);
- 4) Book reviews (400 words): review a book on a topic related to mountain biodiversity (please include a digital image of the front cover of the book reviewed, if possible).

Please send the articles to Marianne Heredge at the Mountain Forum Secretariat, bulletin@mtnforum.org by Friday **27 March 2009**.

On behalf of the Bulletin Team of the Mountain Forum, GMBA and MRI, we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



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