

The Mau Mountain Forest Complex, supporting millions of people in the Rift Valley and Western Kenya

(continues from p. 1)

...aims to support the rehabilitation of the Mau forest ecosystem and to create a sustainable basis for its long-term conservation and management. The estimated potential hydropower generation in the Mau Forests Complex catchments is around 508 megawatts, representing 41 per cent of

the total installed electricity generation capacity in Kenya. Over the last two decades, the Mau Complex has lost around 107,000 hectares - approximately 25% - of its forest cover due to irregular and unplanned settlements, illegal resources extraction, in particular logging and charcoal burning, the change of land use from forest to unsustainable agriculture and change

in ownership from public to private. Excised areas include critical upper water catchments for the rivers and the lakes fed by the Mau. Continued destruction of the forests may inevitably lead to a water crisis of national and regional proportions that extend far beyond the Kenyan borders.

VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE



ISSUE

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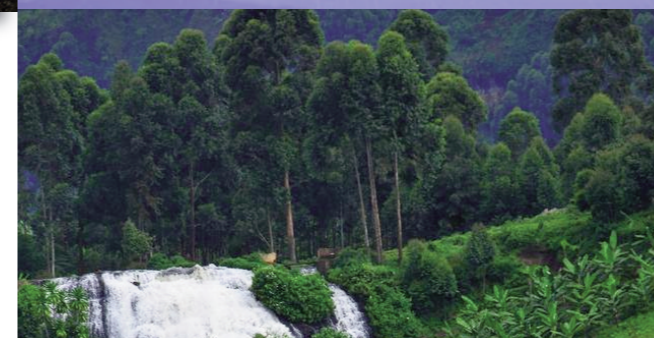
MONTH 2
YEAR 2012

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF
THE MOUNTAIN
PARTNERSHIP

Peak to Peak

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MOUNTAINS and FORESTS

THE MAU FOREST

Home to a minority group of indigenous forest dwellers, the Ogie, the Mau Forests Complex supports the livelihoods of millions of people in the Rift Valley and Western Kenya. In the tea sector alone, approx. 35,000 jobs and the livelihoods of 50,000 small farmers, supporting both together some 430,000 dependants, benefit from the ecological services provided by the Mau Forests Complex.

MARKET VALUE

The market value of goods and services generated in the tea, tourism and energy sectors alone to which the Mau Forests Complex have contributed, is in excess of Kshs 20 billion a year. This does not reflect provisional services such as water supply to urban areas or support to rural livelihoods.

UNEP to implement EUR 2.3 million project Rehabilitating the water towers of Kenya



A new three-year intervention to rehabilitate the Northern Mau Forest at the cost of EUR 2.3 million is set to deliver multiple benefits for Kenya and the region

The Mau Forest isn't just the largest mountain forest in Kenya. It is the largest in all of Eastern Africa. In Kenya, it is also the largest water catchment area, meaning it is the habit that collects the most rainwater. The strategic importance of the Mau Forest lies in the ecosystem services it provides to Kenya and the

region, including river flow regulation, flood mitigation, water storage, reduced soil erosion, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, carbon reservoir and microclimate regulation.

It forms the largest closed-canopy forest ecosystem and covers over 400,000 hectares.

The project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Kenyan Government and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),

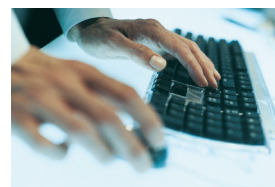
Postcard from the mountains



The documentary "One day in the mountains" was produced under the regional project "Sensitizing Central Asia public to Rio+20 processes". Click to watch!



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**The World Bank's
Climate Investment
Fund**

At present, resources managed under the **Climate Investment Fund**, are piloted in mountain countries all over the world, such as **Bolivia** (PPCR – Pilot Program for Climate Resilience), **Tajikistan** (PPCR), **Nepal** (PPCR, SREP – Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Program), **Peru** (FIP – Forest Investment Program), **Mexico** (CTF – Clean Technology Fund, FIP), **Colombia** (CTF), **Ethiopia** (SREP), and **Morocco** (CTF).



UNEP's Report

In a recent report, UNEP discusses the **possible impacts of black carbon on glacier melt** and changes in monsoon seasons in the Himalaya region. In **Africa**, it has been speculated for a long time that **black carbon emitted from forest fires and inefficient cookstoves** could be key driver for **accelerated melt** of the fascinating – and economically important – snow cap of **Kilimanjaro**.



**SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT
FROM JOHANNESBURG TO RIO**

The UN General Assembly approved the draft resolution on sustainable mountain development (SMD) at the end of 2011. Take a look at key elements to be considered in SMD

Climate change "Mountains provide sensitive indications of climate change through phenomena such as modifications of biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers and changes in seasonal runoff that are having an impact on major sources of freshwater in the world"

Natural disasters "The number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, (...) have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in mountain regions, especially those in developing countries"

Indigenous cultures "Indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy, programmes and planning in mountain regions, and (...) the importance of

promoting the full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them"

Funding "Funding for sustainable mountain development has become increasingly important, especially in view of the greater

recognition of the global importance of mountains and the high levels of extreme poverty, food insecurity and hardship that mountain communities face"

Agriculture "Sustainable agriculture in mountain regions is important for the protection of the mountain environment and the promotion of the local economy, and appreciates the important role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the United Nations system in promoting sustainable agricultural development and forestry and its beneficial impact on sustainable mountain development through its field programme, normative activities and support to international processes"

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Participants in Mountain Day (held at the UNFCCC climate conference in Durban at the end of 2011) observing the effects of ice melting



Sustainable tourism "The growing contribution of sustainable tourism initiatives in mountain regions as a way to enhance environmental protection and socio-economic benefits to local communities and the fact that consumer demand is increasingly moving towards responsible and sustainable tourism"

Economic benefits "Public awareness needs to be raised with respect to the positive and unaccounted economic benefits that mountains provide not only to highland communities, but also to a large portion of the world's population living in lowland areas"

Capacity building "The importance of building capacity, strengthening institutions and enhancing higher and continuing education on mountain issues in

order to expand opportunities and encourage the retention of skilled people, including youth, in mountain areas"

International Mountain Day "(...) importance of promoting educational and advocacy programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels, to enhance awareness of sustainable development issues in mountain regions and of the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas and to take full advantage of the opportunities provided annually by International Mountain Day on 11 December in this regard"

SECOND DRAFT
RESOLUTION ON SMD



**THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP CAMPAIGN
MOUNTAINS IN RIO+20**

Read our revised para 94 of the "Zero Draft". Shining a light on mountain regions and their number one asset for human survival: water

We recognize that mountain regions and populations provide essential goods and services for human survival. Mountains are the water towers of the world, storing water



also to a large portion of the world's lowland population including urbanized areas. We recognize the need to create global, regional, national and local mechanisms that justly support

mountain communities in providing essential resources and services for human well-being. We underline the importance of supporting green and low-carbon economic activities in mountain regions through capacity building and development of suitable technologies, as well as innovative means of financing for sustainable development and conservation of mountain regions. We stress the pivotal role of regional centres of competence in research and development to achieve solutions which take into account the specificities of mountain areas.

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(click on the icon to read the whole revised paragraph 94)

THE MOUNTAIN
PARTNERSHIP CAMPAIGN



**UCA
Central Asia
Regional report
From Rio 1992 to
Rio+20 and beyond**

The University of Central Asia, in its capacity as Mountain Partnership Secretariat Hub, is planning to finalise, print and publicly launch the Central Asia Rio+20 Regional Report, in collaboration with Zoi Network. Events in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are in the pipeline. The aim is to galvanize regional political support for a global mountain agenda.



**MRD: Global Change
and the World's
Mountains**

Mountain Research and Development is pleased to announce the publication of a Supplement Issue containing keynote papers, a synthesis paper and policy papers that emerged from the 2010 "Global Change and the World's Mountains" conference, which took place in Perth, Scotland, from 26 to 30 September 2011. The two policy papers present an overview of past and present attempts to bring mountains into international processes such as the Rio conferences, and discuss future actions.

