



**World Mountain Forum - 18-20 October 2016, Mbale, Uganda**

*“Mountains for our Future”*

# WME

# 2016



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

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

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

## 2. Background

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

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

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

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

## 3. Themes

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

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

## 4. The Venue of the WMF 2016

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

## 5. WMF's week at a glance

The WMF2016 will be held from 18th to 20th October 2016, back to back with the Global Mountain Partnership General Assembly. Below is the WMF16 at a glance:

Date	Activity
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Arrival of participants at Entebbe/Kampala
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Transfer to Mbale
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Field visit to pre-selected sites in and around Mount Elgon
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Official Opening and Plenary Sessions
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	High level segment and closing ceremony
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	Delegates depart for their respective countries
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	The Mountain Partnership General Assembly
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2016	Mountain Partnership General Assembly delegates departure



## 6. Key Dates

- First announcement: **1<sup>st</sup> October 2015**
- Deadline for submission of abstracts for presentations and posters: **28<sup>th</sup> February 2016**
- Announcement of selected presentations and posters: **1<sup>st</sup> May 2016**
- Registration deadline: **30<sup>th</sup> June 2016**
- Deadline for final versions of presentations and posters: **31<sup>st</sup> July 2016**
- Starting of the WMF 2016: **18<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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**Government of Uganda**

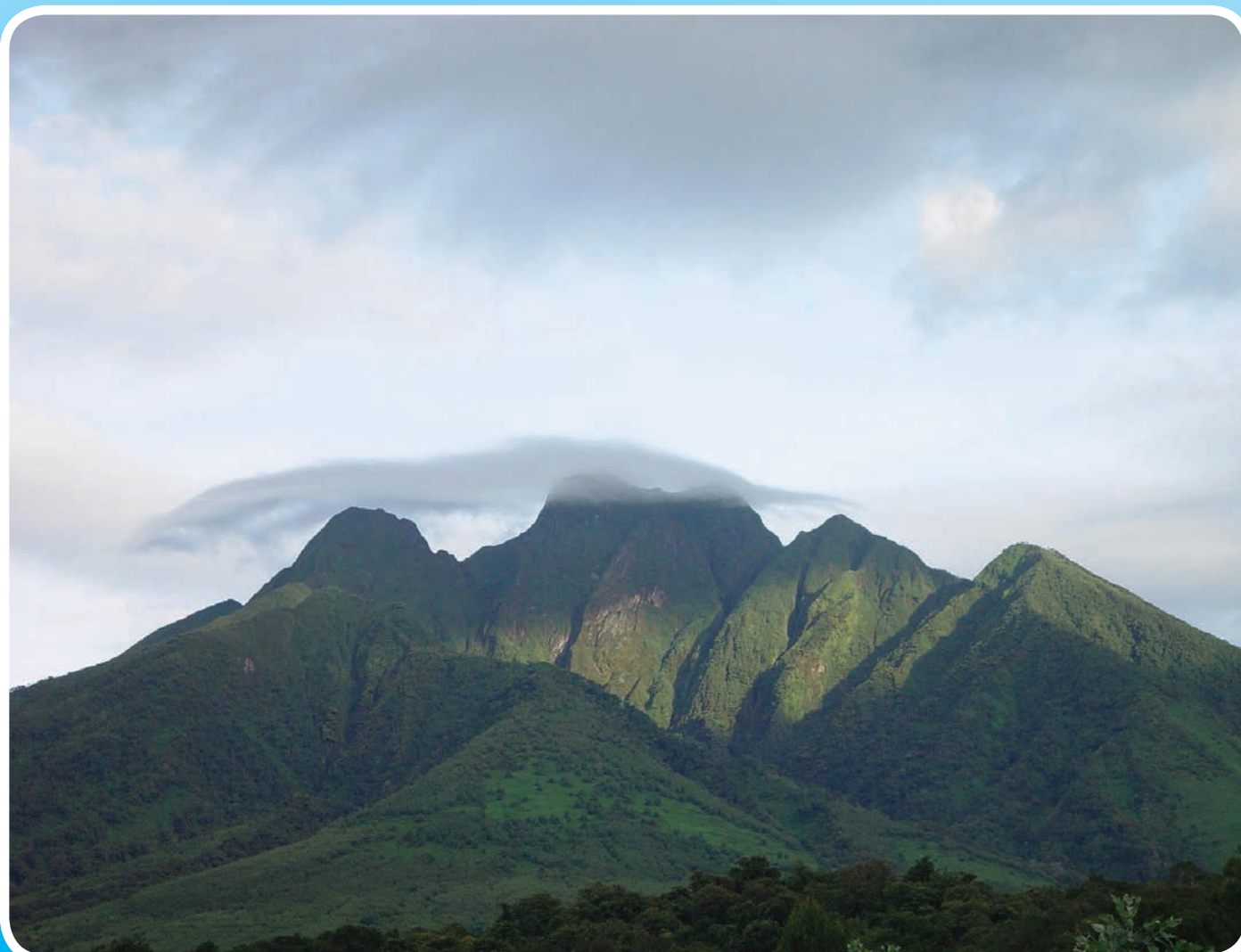
Mr Paul Mafabi

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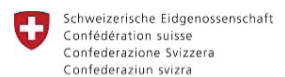
## 7. Partners

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



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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



CONDESAN  
Consejo para el Desarrollo Sostenible  
de la Ecorregión Andina



Association pour le développement  
des régions de montagne



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