Lucerne World Mountain Conference

Moving Mountains toward Global Sustainable Development

Lucerne, Switzerland, 11 & 12 October 2011

Why this conference?

The Conference will present and discuss regional and global experience in mountain development since Rio 1992. It will identify challenges and opportunities for the future of global sustainable mountain development. The results of the Conference will produce insights that will feed into initiatives and events such as the UN Secretary General's high-level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP), the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) Rio+20, the CSD biennial cycle 20/21 in 2013 and 2014, where mountains will be one of the five priority themes, and other global sustainable development processes. Among the themes debated will be the role, in mountains, of green economy and institutional frameworks for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

The world's mountains were put on the global development agenda at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 by introducing Chapter 13, on mountains as fragile ecosystems, into Agenda 21. Twenty years later, sustainable mountain development (SMD) matters more than ever, reaching far beyond mountain regions in today's globalised world. The aims of the Lucerne Conference are thus to:

- take stock of what has and has not been achieved in sustainable mountain development (SMD) since 1992 in different mountain regions of the world,
- learn what has worked, what has not and why,
- identify current and future challenges and explore how these can be addressed,
- propose a 'Plan of Action' that secures renewed political commitment for SMD, and
- identify and discuss the role of different stakeholders in such a 'Plan of Action'.

What are the themes?

The Conference will address key themes and issues relevant to SMD such as:

- Global change in mountains with a particular focus on climate change, economic globalisation, migration, and urbanisation;
- Mountain vulnerabilities with a special attention to food insecurity, hazards, and risks;
- Global importance of mountain ecosystem services and goods such as water, green energy, biodiversity, and recreation (ecotourism).

Moreover, the Conference will focus on the two Rio 2012 key themes and the additional topics identified at the PreCom2:

- Green Economy in the context of Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development
- Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Development;
- Agriculture, forests, biodiversity, and urban settlements.

What will be the programme?

In the months before the Conference, expert groups will draft regional reports and a report on global aspects of SMD. The Conference will present, discuss, and revise these reports by drawing on participants' experiences and their views on challenges relating to SMD. The Conference will produce a range of products meant to feed into various efforts and processes that promote global sustainable development.

Specifically, the Conference will:

- present, discuss, and improve the regional reports presented on major mountain regions of the world,
- present, discuss, and improve a global synthesis report, including key findings of the regional reports,
- present and appraise strategies, policies, instruments, and programmes by mountain communities, governments, civil society organisations, academia, and the private sector for promoting SMD worldwide,
- identify emerging issues and challenges relating to SMD in different mountain regions of the world,
- learn from successful new approaches and initiatives, and discuss ways forward for enhancing SMD at global, regional, and national levels, and
- identify the roles of different actors and stakeholders in SMD

The Conference will feature plenary sessions, breakout group work organised around thematic and regional foci, and panel discussions.

Who will participate?

Up to 200 participants are expected to attend the conference. Attendance will be on invitation only in order to target official government representatives involved in the GSP, UNCSD Rio+20 in 2012, the CSD, and other global sustainable development processes.

Those with a strong institutional and/or personal interest, and extensive experience and involvement in sustainable mountain development (SMD) may nevertheless apply to SDC for an invitation. Expressions of interest should be submitted to mountains_lucerne2011@deza.admin.ch by 30 July 2011 at the latest. Decisions regarding invitations will be made solely by SDC and will be final.

SDC shall provide funding support for the participation of least developed countries (LDCs), especially SDC's mountainous partner countries. Other bilateral and multilateral donors are encouraged to attend and engage in funding additional participants.

Where and when will it take place?

The Lucerne World Mountain Conference will be held in Lucerne, Switzerland, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 and 12 October 2011.

On Monday, 10 October 2011, at the same location, the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) will hold its 22nd Forum on Sustainable Development in cooperation with the cantons and municipal authorities on linkages between cities, rural areas, and mountains in Switzerland. In the evening a first panel will address sustainable development issues in the European Alps. This panel will be organized within the framework of the Alpine Convention, which will hold its 47th Permanent Committee meeting under the Swiss Presidency on Tuesday, 11 October 2011, back to back with the regional discussions of the Lucerne World Mountain Conference.

For the evening of Tuesday, 11 October 2011, the Lucerne World Mountain Conference has organized another high-level panel on promoting global SMD through multistakeholder partnerships. This panel will gather representatives from business, politics, civil society, academia, INGOs and the UN system.

Participants are encouraged to attend these various events.

Who are the Conference organisers and supporters?

The Conference was initiated and is being co-organised by the

• Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and
• Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE)

The event is being prepared within the framework of the Mountain Partnership with support from the Mountain Partnership Consortium members and UNESCO. Other institutional supporters are welcome to join and co-sponsor the event.

For further information: mountains_lucerne2011@deza.admin.ch