



COP14 SIDE EVENT

Estimating the impacts of land degradation and climate variability on vulnerability to food insecurity in mountain areas

Day and Time: 12 September 2019, 18:00-20:00

Venue: MET-15

Co-Hosts: Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO and GM/UNCCD Secretariat

Description

Mountains cover approximately 27 percent of the world's land surface and are home to almost 1.1 billion people. Although fragile, mountain ecosystems provide 60 to 80 percent of the global fresh water, support one quarter of terrestrial biodiversity and include 32 percent of protected areas.

Land degradation, climate change and increasing human-induced pressures such as population growth and unsustainable agricultural management practices are affecting the health of mountain ecosystems, their agricultural productivity and natural resources, with disastrous effects on local peoples' livelihoods. In many mountain areas of developing countries, rates of vulnerability to food insecurity are high, underscoring the challenge of achieving the Zero Hunger Target by 2030.

The ability to identify these critical conditions and to analyze the impact of the main mountain stressors on vulnerability to food insecurity is the basis for policies and interventions that can build the resilience of mountain peoples.

In this context, UNCCD and MPS/FAO have combined resources and expertise to estimate changes in vulnerability to food security in mountains between 2012 and 2017 by analyzing the impact of land degradation, climatic variability and other mountain stressors on food production and availability in rural areas. This analysis is tightly linked to a previous study made by FAO in 2015 on the same subject, which estimated vulnerability based on food production. The new study extends the 2015 approach by analyzing the impact of key stressors of environmental and livelihood vulnerability in mountains.

The event will present the methodology, key findings and conclusions of the analysis. The emphasis will be on how available data (e.g. satellite remote sensing) and ongoing programmes, such as the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), help defining methodologies and procedures to effectively detect where environmental degradation is so intense to jeopardize the livelihood of local mountain populations.

Representatives of UNCCD and MPS/FAO will provide an overview of the analytical framework and approach of the study, explaining how the considered mountain stressors (i.e. climate variability, land degradation, natural and artificial disasters, distance to food markets and areas with different levels of development) may affect vulnerability to food insecurity and where these stressors appear to be more intense. They will also depict the linkages of these study with the scope and objectives of the SDG

indicators 15.3.1 and 15.4.2 and will provide recommendations on how the results may assist countries in prioritizing actions and interventions to achieve LDN and support local populations.

This study focuses on analyzing the interaction between the increase/decrease of vulnerability to food insecurity in mountain areas and its underlying causes to understand their dynamics and impact. The project aims to provide sound evidence and policy advice to support governments prioritize actions and develop policies to control land degradation (in line with the national action plans to achieve land degradation neutrality - LDN), preserve mountain ecosystems and lift mountain peoples out of hunger and poverty, while “leaving no one behind”.

Representatives of four mountain countries and of ICIMOD will give details of pressing issues affecting mountain peoples and ecosystems in their respective country contexts and how the information generated by this study may help understanding and addressing these problems.

Finally, the participants will be divided in two discussion groups to provide inputs and recommendation on the following subjects:

- **National scenario:** Provide indications on the key institutional setup, data requirements and accessibility and analytical framework (e.g. what needs to be added/modified to the current methodology and approach) to implement the study at national level.
- **Regional scenario:** Provide indications on the collaboration framework, institution involvement, data type and standardization and system interoperability to coordinate a regional effort to implement the vulnerability approach at regional level.

Panelists: GM/UNCCD, Mountain Partnership Secretariat (FAO), ICIMOD and NFPs/country reps

Format: presentation + panel discussion

Language: The event will be held in English

Schedule

Opening Session 18:00 – 18:20	Opening Remarks by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Juan Carlos Mendoza, Managing Director of the Global Mechanism of UNCCD</i> • <i>Ms Vera Boerger, Land & Water Officer, FAO</i> • <i>Ms Christina Blank, Programme Officer Global Programme Food Security, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) / Swiss UNCCD Focal Point</i> • Italy (tbc)
Presentation of the vulnerability study 18:20 – 18:35	Vulnerability to Food Insecurity in Mountain Regions – Land Degradation and other Stressors Presentation of the purpose and approach of the vulnerability study, overview of the analytical framework, description of the methodology and the results. <i>Mr Fabio Grita, MPS / UNCCD Senior Geospatial Analyst</i>
ICIMOD experience 18:35 – 18:40	ICIMOD Experience (title to be communicated) <i>Mr Dhrupad Choudhary, Programme Manager, Adaptation to Change, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)</i>
Sharing country experiences on the issues affecting mountain people and ecosystems and how the study could address these problems 18:40 – 19:00	Bhutan <i>Ms Karma Dema Dorji, Programme Director at National Soil Services Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF), Bhutan</i> Papua New Guinea <i>Mr Carmel Jonduo, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Papua New Guinea</i> Uganda <i>Mr Stephen Muwaya, Senior Range Ecologist, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda</i> India <i>Mr Sushil Ramola, President, Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), India</i>
Questions & answers 19:00 – 19:10	
Discussion groups 19:10 – 19:35	Discussion groups on the national and regional scenarios described above and facilitated by MPS/FAO and UNCCD/LDN
Outcomes of the discussion groups 19:35 – 19:40	Group leaders will summarize the key points of the discussion groups
General Discussion 19:40- 19:55	Open discussion/Q&A session moderated by UNCCDD/MPS
Wrap up and closing 19:55- 20:00	MPS/FAO and UNCCD/LDN to close session