



Africa Regional Mountains Forum

“African Mountains & Sustainable Development Agenda”

Date: 12-14 September 2018

Kigali, Rwanda

Sustainable
Development
Goals



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



1. Background

African mountains provide vital goods and services, indispensable for human wellbeing and national, regional and global economic growth. Their invaluable importance as water towers and engine for agriculture, energy, biodiversity hotspots, indicators of climate change and hubs of traditional indigenous knowledge offer a strategic opportunity to ensure sustainable development of African countries. However, African mountains are facing multiple challenges, mainly driven by fast growing population, unsustainable natural resources use which are worsened by climate change. This threatens the ability of mountain ecosystems to provide their essential goods and services and undermine livelihoods of mountain communities while affecting drastically the economic development of African countries. Sustainable mountain development in Africa is thus a key requirement for achieving sustainable development goals.

To address the challenges, the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) and partners are co-implementing a global program called Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC) with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The main goal of this program is to contribute to Sustainable Mountain Development under uncertain changes in climatic, environmental and socio-economic conditions, focusing on poverty and risk reduction.

It is in this framework that ARCOS Network and partners organized the first Africa Regional Mountains Forum (ARMF) held in Arusha, Tanzania in October 2014, under the theme: "Towards a shared mountain agenda for Africa". The first ARMF offered an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss better ways to integrate mountains in ongoing development agenda at national and regional levels, and to enhance collaboration for sustainable mountain development in Africa. The resolutions of the ARMF-2014 were recognized by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) during its session of February 2015 (Cairo Declaration) as follows: a) *To call upon member States to develop and implement a shared mountain agenda and strategy for Africa involving all relevant stakeholders;* b) *To establish and strengthen*

institutional arrangements for sustainable mountain development, including centres of excellence, and to strengthen the Africa Regional Mountains Forum as a forum of knowledge, information exchange and policy dialogue.

Under the same context, ARCOS Network in collaboration with Rwanda's Ministry of Environment and Partners are organizing the second Africa Regional Mountains Forum (ARMF-2018) to take place from 12th to 14th September 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, the country of thousand hills.

2. Objectives and Themes

The ARMF-2018 will mainly focus on the progress in the implementation of sustainable mountain development agenda by different stakeholders and share their experiences on how mountains are contributing to the sustainable development agenda in Africa and discuss how to harness their potential for the well-being of present and future generations.

It is expected that the ARMF-18 deliberations will provide recommendations for advancing the African Mountain Agenda in the context of Africa's sustainable development. ARMF-2018 will be held under the main theme "**African Mountains and Sustainable Development Agenda**", and the sessions will focus on following sub-themes:

Sub-themes

1. Mountain Communities and Socio-Ecological Systems

2. Mountains and Climate Change

3. Sustainable Financing in Mountain Areas

4. Mountains and Water-Energy-Food Security

3. Participants

The ARMF-2018 will bring together around 100 participants from around African continent, members of the **Mountain Partnership** and other stakeholders interested in sustainable mountain development agenda in Africa as members of the Africa Regional Mountains Forum. Those will include representatives from governments, international organizations, civil society, science, academia and private sector.

4. Partners

ARMF-2018 will be held in Kigali, Rwanda and organized in joint-collaboration with different partners including: The Ministry of Environment, Republic of Rwanda; the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network); the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), SMD4GC Partners, the Mountain Partnership and others still to be determined.



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