



# Africa Regional Mountains Forum 2018

*"African Mountains & Sustainable Development Agenda"*

Kigali, Rwanda, 12 - 14 September 2018

@AfricaMountains

[http://events.arcosnetwork.org/ARMF\\_2018](http://events.arcosnetwork.org/ARMF_2018)

#ARMF\_2018

## KIGALI OUTCOMES

### Preamble

We, representatives from governments, international and intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia and private sector and communities, met in Kigali – Rwanda, from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Regional Mountains Forum (#ARMF\_2018).

The forum was organised by the Government of Rwanda and the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the East African Community (EAC) as well as the Mountain Partnership (MP) and with technical and financial contribution from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the UN Environment, the Kingdom of the Netherlands through the Water for Growth Rwanda Programme, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through its Kigali Forest Landscape Restoration hub.

The goal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Regional Mountains Forum is to advance the African Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) agenda in the context of overall sustainable development context for Africa and to provide an opportunity for SMD stakeholders in Africa to strengthen the ARMF through the establishment of its governance mechanisms.

The members of the Africa Regional Mountains Forum,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the decision of the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Regional Mountains Forum as laid out in the Arusha Outcomes document which established the Africa Regional Mountains Forum as a platform to promote Sustainable Mountain Development in Africa through capacity building, knowledge generation, and information exchange and policy dialogue;

**RECALLING** the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to endorse the ARUSHA Outcomes Document especially recognising the Africa Regional Mountains Forum and the Albertine Rift Conservation Society as Host of the Secretariat of the Africa Regional Mountains Forum;

**RECOGNIZING** the SDG 15.4 which targets to ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, are conserved in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development;

**NOTING** the need for the development and adoption of a shared agenda for Sustainable Mountain Development in Africa in the interest of the present and future generations;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of the International Mountains Day (IMD) established by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002 as a platform for awareness raising and sensitization of the large public on Sustainable Mountain Development issues and commemorated annually on 11<sup>th</sup> December;

**CONCERNED** that climate change, population growth, and changing consumption patterns continue to pose a critical threat to mountain ecosystems and communities;

**BEING AWARE** that the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus needs to be widely adopted as the most appropriate approach to address the food security, water security, and energy security in mountain areas;

**RECOGNIZING** the fact that mountain people in Africa are amongst the most poverty-stricken yet hold the key to development problems in African mountain areas due to their traditional knowledge about life in mountains and their highly adapted living styles;

**REAFFIRMING** the resolve of Africa SMD stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in the implementation of the African mountain agenda to contribute to sustainable development on the continent;

**We welcome** the willingness of the Ministry of Environment of Rwanda to champion the development of national mountain-specific policies and other instruments that will help Rwanda become a leader in promoting SMD for Africa;

**We recognize** some African countries that have developed SMD policies and strategies. We therefore encourage other African governments to develop relevant legal instruments for sustainable mountain development;

**We appreciate** the initiative of the East Africa Community to develop and pursue a sub-regional mountain agenda and call upon other sub-regions to develop similar agendas;

**We invite** all governments of African mountain countries and other stakeholders to join the Mountain Partnership as an effective way to raise voice on mountain-specific development matters in the international policy making arenas;

**We request** African governments to take advantage of the Green Climate Fund, GEF, and other financial mechanisms to requests projects focused on promoting SMD; and to ensure that mountain language is included in the “Voluntary National Reviews” for the High-Level Political Forum;

**We recommend** innovative solutions for SMD that are being piloted by different stakeholders and we propose the development of a guide to capture all of these methods and approaches for community development in African mountain areas;

**We call upon** governments and stakeholders working in mountain areas in Africa to support mountains communities to apply their traditional knowledge in adapting to climate change and to promote mountain products as one of the paths to achieve Sustainable Mountain Development;

**We call upon** all Sustainable Mountain Development stakeholders in Africa to organise events to celebrate the International Mountain Day as way of raising awareness on Sustainable Mountain Development;

**We request** all stakeholders who undertake new initiatives on SMD in Africa to recognize and build upon what has been achieved by the ARMF and partners;

**We endorse and adopt** the constitution of the ARMF and hereby establish its secretariat at the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Uganda;

**We welcome** the first ARMF Governing Council elected by ARMF Members during the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARMF and new leadership of elected Chair and Vice-Chair

**We appreciate** both technical and financial support from co-organizers of this 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Regional Mountains Forum namely: the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network), the Government of Rwanda, the East African Community (EAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN-E), the Mountain Partnership (MP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Kingdom of the Netherlands through its Water for Growth Rwanda (W4GR) programme, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC);

**We appreciate** the warm welcome we received from the government of Rwanda as the host of this 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Regional Mountains Forum;

**Done at Kigali, 14 September 2018**