



Dear friends,

On the occasion of the IUCN World Park Congress, to be held in Sydney on 12-19 November 2014, we - Ev-K2-CNR and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat - are planning to launch a Federation of Mountain Protected Areas as an initiative within the Mountain Partnership.

This Federation aims to support the mountain protected areas around the world by facilitating the flow of information; the exchange of good practices, knowledge and experiences; the implementation of instructions and directives and the sharing of successful management guidelines. The Federation will provide direct assistance to participating institutions on protected areas' organizational and management issues. It will also contribute to the promotion of new projects and programmes and ultimately a more sustainable use of natural resources.

Moreover, the Federation will promote research, outreach and environmental education activities, while always taking into consideration the cultural and social aspects of each territory and environment.

This new Federation of Mountain Protected Areas will be:

- officially presented at the IUCN World Park Congress by Ev-K2-CNR during a side event: "*Mountain Protected Areas: a Worldwide Heritage*" (13 November 2014 at 17.30 – 19.00 in Hub Room 2); and
- discussed during the session: "*Watershed management – modern approach to parks and protected area management*" (18 November 2014 at 8.30 – 10.00 in Playfair Room 1) led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and supported by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat.

A more detailed concept including background, objectives and targets of this initiative is enclosed in this email.

If your organization would like to join this Federation, and share good practices for mountain protected areas management through this platform, please send us an endorsement communication at evk2cnr@evk2cnr.org, preferably before 5 November 2014, and feel free to share this message with the community of mountain protected areas.

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting at our events in Sydney.

Warmest regards,

Handwritten signature of Thomas Hofer in black ink.

Thomas Hofer
Coordinator
Mountain Partnership

Handwritten signature of Agostino Da Polenza in black ink.

Agostino Da Polenza
President
Ev-K2-CNR Association

Concept Proposal

Federation of Mountain Protected Areas



Background

Mountains are ecosystems rich in endemic and endangered species, directly linked to downstream and human activities. Local communities strongly depend on natural resources, but mountains also play an important role by providing essential water resources and ecosystem services not only for downstream societies but also at global level. Mountain regions are also highly sensitive to climate and environmental changes which can impact natural resources and consequently the well-being and economic growth of these areas.

The management of Mountain Protected Areas plays a fundamental role in ensuring the preservation of these fragile ecosystems, which requires a holistic and synergistic approach involving scientific, cultural and social considerations. This can be achieved by treating Mountain Protected Areas as valuable laboratories for on-the-ground interdisciplinary research and favouring long-term nature conservation and human well-being through the promotion of sustainable resource use.

The importance of the sustainable management of these ecosystems has been recognized by the international community: the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals included three targets on mountains in its final report (see: Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss).

Hence, the need to share approaches, research, methodologies and results among different geographic and social realities in order to assure a sustainable Mountain Protected Areas management.



What is the Federation of Mountain Protected Areas?

The FMPA is a tool openly accessible on the internet that can be used by park staff, institutional and local community managers and others engaged in the management of Mountain Protected Areas.

This platform will allow for the sharing of best practices and experiences by MPAs. It will also support a network that collaborates to identify actions and solutions as well as experts working in the field management of different areas linked to the MPAs.

Main Objectives

- ❖ Provide updated findings and best practices on MPAs and related management
- ❖ Provide a network of experts operating in MPA management for the different environmental and socioeconomic sectors to contact
- ❖ Provide forums on different topics to share experiences and to collaborate on common projects
- ❖ Provide information on key management documents and publications
- ❖ Provide information on key events on MPAs
- ❖ Provide information on funding opportunities for MPAs activities
- ❖ Provide a lobbying platform to support common necessities of MPAs at institutional level

Who is proposing the Federation of Mountain Protected Areas?

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat, which supports the Mountain Partnership, a United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world

and

Ev-K2-CNR Association, a non-profit association expert in the management of scientific and cooperation projects in worldwide mountain regions.