



Forestry Information & Fact Sheet

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Director's Note:

International Mountain Day: Since 2003, the United Nations has designated December 11th as “International Mountain Day” to call attention to the world about the importance of mountains to life. This day was created to raise awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development, and to build alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and environments around the world. The theme for this year’s celebration is “Sustainable Mountain Tourism”, sustainable tourism in mountains can help create additional and alternative livelihood options and promote poverty alleviation, social inclusion, as well as landscape and biodiversity conservation.

It is a way to preserve the natural, cultural and spiritual heritage, to promote local crafts and high value products, and celebrate many traditional practices such as local festivals. Mountain tourism attracts around 15 to 20 percent of global tourism. Tourism, however, is one of the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting economies, livelihoods, public services and opportunities on all continents. In mountains, the restrictions of the pandemic have further compounded the vulnerabilities of mountain communities.

This crisis can be seen as an opportunity to rethink mountain tourism and its impact on natural resources and livelihood, to manage it better and to harness it towards a more resilient, green and inclusive future. While “Sustainable Mountain Tourism” is the suggested theme for 2021, countries, communities and organizations are welcome to celebrate International Mountain Day through a theme that is more relevant to them.

Natural jewels we should treasure.

Mountains are home to 15% of the world’s population and host about half of the world’s biodiversity hotspots. They provide freshwater for everyday life to half of humanity. Their conservation is a key factor for sustainable development and is part of the sustainable development goals.

Unfortunately, mountains are under threat from climate change and overexploitation. As the global climate continues to warm, mountain people some of the world’s poorest face even greater struggles to survive. The rising temperature also mean that mountain glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates, affecting freshwater supplies downstream for millions of people. This problem affects us all, we must reduce our carbon footprints and take care of these natural treasures.

The increasing attention to the importance of mountains led the UN to declare 2002 the UN International Year of Mountains. The first international day was celebrated for the first time the following year 2003.



There are multiple ways in which mountains can be preserved, some of such ways include:

- ◆ **Be prepared:** Proper planning goes a long way, always be mindful of and prepare for potential dangers in the outdoors so you won't have to compromise the mountain for the sake of safety.
- ◆ **Pack it in, Pack it out:** It is every climber's responsibility to make sure that the mountains will be as clean as before they arrived. Pack out all trash, including leftover food. Biodegradable trash is still trash, we must never leave behind anything which does not belong to the mountains.
- ◆ **Plant a Tree:** To encourage a healthier environment and to replenish oxygen within the atmosphere and get rid of poisonous carbon dioxide the best suitable action is to plant a tree, this action is used to combat the effects of deforestation as well as pollution.
- ◆ **Keep climbing:** The very presence of hikers on a trail is many times enough to keep illegal loggers from visiting, by climbing mountains, we are able to deter many activities that are harmful to the environment. Moreover, locals realize the importance of beauty of their own forests and peaks, sometimes it's difficult to see the beauty of one's own place.

Mountain: A large natural elevation of the earth's surface rising abruptly from the surrounding level.

A mountain differs from a plateau in having a limited summit area, and is larger than a hill, typically rising at least 300 metres above the surrounding land.

