11th December, 2020

International

Mountain

Day

Theme- Mountain biodiversity

This day is to create 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.

Threats to Mountains

| Climate Change | Water Scarcity | Environmental Degradation | Food Insecurity | Poverty | Natural Disasters |

Mountain biodiversity

Mountains loom large in some of the world's most spectacular landscapes. Their unique topography, compressed climatic zones and isolation have created the conditions for a wide spectrum of life forms. Mountains host about half of the world's biodiversity hotspots and 30 percent of all Key Biodiversity Areas.

Mountain peoples

Mountains are home to 15 percent of the world's population.
Ninety percent of the world's mountain dwellers live in developing countries, where a vast majority live below the poverty line and 1 out of 2 faces the threat of food insecurity.

Mountain products

Mountain products and services have great potential to improve livelihoods and boost local economies.
Worldwide demand is on the rise for quality, high-value foods and beverages produced in mountain areas, such as coffee, honey, herbs and spices, as well as handicrafts, cosmetics and medicines.

Mountains and water

Mountains provide 60-80 percent of the world's freshwater - without which sustainable development that aims to eliminate poverty and hunger would not be possible. Fresh water from mountains is fundamental for achieving global food security, as it is used by farmers to irrigate crops in many lowland agricultural regions.

Mountains and energy

Mountains have a key role to play in providing renewable energy, especially through hydropower, solar power, wind power and biogas. Hydropower currently provides around a fifth of all electricity worldwide, and some countries rely almost exclusively on mountain regions for hydropower generation.