

Thematic Report on Mountain Ecosystems

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

In 1999 the Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning of Slovenian government designated 17 thematic working groups included "Mountain Ecosystems". The work in the group was coordinated by outside professional expert and national coordinator.

First and the main task of the working group was to prepare the report about biodiversity in the Slovenian mountain ecosystems. A number of different professionals from different institutions dealing with mountains were involved. We discussed about draft report at two important workshops at national level and we specially combined the results with those of the groups for forest ecosystems and grasslands.

These results were used in the process of preparing " Biological and Landscape Diversity in Slovenia, An Overview" and "Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Slovenia". All the mentioned documents, and in addition, checking new acts, and activities were background for preparing this report.

Mountain Ecosystems

1. What is the relative priority your country accords to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?							
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
2. How does your country assess the resources available for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems, both domestic and international?							
a) Good		b) Adequate	X	c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
3. Has your country requested financial assistance from GEF for funding the activities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?							
a) no						X	
b) yes, please provide details							

Assessment, Identification and Monitoring

4. Has your country undertaken any assessment of direct and underlying causes of degradation and loss of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify major threats and their relative importance, as well as gaps	air pollution, loss of traditional land use (pasturing), natural encroachment of the grasslands, economic exploitation of screes, gravel and sand deposits, tourism, erosion
c) If yes, please specify the measures your country has taken to control the causes of loss of mountain biodiversity	meteorological monitoring, forest decline analyses, subventions for maintaining grasslands, environmental friendly farming programs, <i>in situ</i> protection within protected areas
5. Has your country identified taxonomic needs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify	protection of rare and endangered animal and plant species, habitat protection through Natura 2000 network
6. Has your country made any assessment of the vulnerability or fragility of the mountains in your country?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify the results and observed impacts on mountain biodiversity	The assessment has been done only fragmentary in some areas or on certain species and ecosystems. We can make a quite good assessment of the vulnerability for plant species, less for animal species and ecosystems with an exception of mountain lakes and some forest areas

7. Has your country made any assessment important for conservation of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels? (You may wish to use the Annex I of the Convention for categories of biodiversity important for conservation)	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, some assessments or monitoring undertaken (please specify)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitoring of the glaciers (remains of the glaciers) - wildlife monitoring (eagle, chamois, ibex, grouses...) - Red Data List of the threatened plants - Red Data List of the threatened animals - monitoring of the mountain lakes - habitat mapping - dwarf pine surfaces inventory - geomorfological inventory
c) yes, comprehensive assessments or monitoring programmes undertaken (please specify where results can be found, and opportunities and obstacles, if any)	

Regulatory and Information System and Action Plan

8. Has your country developed regulations, policies and programs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environment Protection Law - 1993 - National Environmental Action Programme - 1998 - Nature Conservation Law - 1999 - Biodiversity Conservation Strategy - 2002 - Forestry Law - 1993 - National Forest Development Programme - Agri-environmental Programmes - 2001 - Water Law - 2002

9. Has your country applied the ecosystem approach (adopted at COP 5) in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide some cases or examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natura 2000 mapping in mountain protected areas - Red Data List of threatened plants - Red Data List of threatened animals - The list of natural values (natural heritage) of the state importance
10. Does your national biodiversity strategy and action plan cover mountain biological diversity?	
a) no, please specify why	
b) yes, please give some information on the strategy and plan, in particular on mountain biodiversity	The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Slovenia does not address mountain ecosystems directly. But many goals concerning conservation of ecosystems, landscape diversity and species are directly connected with mountain biodiversity conservation goals.
11. Has your country disseminated the relevant information concerning management practices, plans and programmes for conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide details where information can be retrieved concerning management practices, plans and programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Slovenia (published in Slovenian and English) - Other information available at the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy.

Cooperation

12. Has your country undertaken any collaboration with other Parties for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems at the regional level or within a range of mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the objectives of this collaboration and achievements	<p>Alpine Convention: One essential cornerstone in efforts to protect fragile mountainous ecosystems was achieved with the “Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention)”, a legally binding framework convention especially by its Implementing Protocols. The Alpine Convention provides an institutional structure for co-operation among the Alpine States, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Switzerland, and the European Community (EC) and defines goals to be achieved through this co-operation, as for instance soil conservation, mountain agriculture, mountain forests. The main objective of the Alpine Convention is the protection and preservation of the Alps taking into account the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle and the principle of co-operation and giving due regard to the interests of all Parties to the Convention and their Alpine regions as well as using the available resources prudently and in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CIPRA – Commission Internationale pour la Protection des Alpes: Improvement of flow of information within alpine countries.</p> <p>Alpine protected areas network Some mountain protected areas are included in a big network of the Alpine parks. Ecosystem protection is considered the main goal in the national and nature parks. This means that biodiversity conservation in these parks is the most important task in their programmes of work.</p>

13. Has your country signed or ratified any regional or international treaty concerning mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify which treaty and provide as much as possible a report on the progress in the implementation of the treaties, including any major constraints in the implementation of the treaties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNESCO - World Heritage Convention - Alpine Convention - Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy - Ramsar Convention - Bonn Convention - CBD - Bern Convention

Relevant thematic areas and cross-cutting issues

14. Has your country taken account of mountain ecosystems while implementing thematic programmes of work on agricultural; inland waters; forest; and dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes – but in only one or two thematic programmes of work	Yes
c) yes, included in all programmes of work	
d) if yes, please specify details	<p>Implementation of the relevant CBD-thematic work programmes is in process; Mountain Ecosystems are specifically taken into account in the context within the implementation of Natura 2000, National Forest Development programmes, Agri-environmental programmes;</p>
15. Has your country taken any measures to ensure that the tourism in mountains is sustainable?	
a) no , please specify why	
b) yes, but in early stages of development (please specify the reasons)	<p>In 2002, the Slovenian Government accepted a new National Tourism Strategy, which partly includes measures to ensure sustainable tourism development.</p> <p>Year 2002 was declared as International Year of Mountains and International Year of Ecotourism. To fulfil the objectives of these events many activities (workshops, publications, environmental sanitation of mountain huts...) were carried out.</p>
c) in advanced stages of development (please specify the reasons)	
d) relatively comprehensive measures being implemented (please specify the reasons)	

16. Has your country taken any measures to protect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes, but in early stages of policy or programme development	In Slovenia we have no comprehensive programme so far to protect the traditional knowledge of local communities. However, the traditional knowledge is used to help biodiversity conservation, particularly in protected areas there are many examples, but there is a lack of a systematic approach.
d) yes, in advanced stages of development	
e) some programmes being implemented	
f) comprehensive programmes being implemented	
17. Has your country developed any programmes for the protection of natural and cultural heritages in the mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide some information in the programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of big protected mountainous landscapes - Triglav National Park, establishing Natura 2000 sites... - The list of natural values (natural heritage) of the state importance - The list of the most important cultural heritage of Slovenia (Julian Alps as culture landscape is the biggest unit in the list).
18. Has your country established protected areas in mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the percentage of mountains under protected areas out of total mountain areas in your country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Triglav National Park - covers 4 % of the whole Slovenian surface. - Many "landscape parks" (V. IUCN category) in mountains - the detail data about surface only for mountains does not exist. - National and forest reserves in mountains (I. IUCN category) - the detail data about surface only for mountains does not exist. - Nature monuments in mountains (III. IUCN category) - the detail data about surface only for mountains does not exist.

19. Has your country undertaken any activities to celebrate the International Year of Mountains and Eco-tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information leaflet and poster - Film revue on "Life in the Alps" - The campaign "Geotrip 2002" - Do we know our geological heritage? - Postage stamps with mountaineering themes - Children for the Alps - drawings on the theme of the Alps - International Festival of the mountainous films - Young ranger project in Triglav national park - Exhibition of the Alpine protected areas network - Reviving traditional production in the mountainous village of Čadrg - Research project of the sustainable development of Slovenians alpine area

Case-studies

Please provide case-studies made by your country in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brancelj A.: High-Mountain Lakes in the Eastern Part of the Julian Alps, ZRC Sazu, Ljubljana, 2002 - Šolar M.: Principles of harmonization of recreation use in protected area - case study of Triglav national park, Biotechnical Faculty - University of Ljubljana, Masters thesis, Ljubljana 2002 - Verša D.: Nature Conservation as creator for employment possibilities - Case study of Triglav national park, University of Ljubljana, Masters thesis, Ljubljana 2002 -
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Further comments


