

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2021

PLASTIC WASTE IN MOUNTAINS

10 DECEMBER 2021 | 11:00 CET

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INVITATION

You are cordially invited to the **Plastic Waste in Mountains** session of the Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues, addressing the plastic crisis and supporting coordinated approaches leading to more efficient decision making.

While much attention in recent years has focused on the impacts of plastic waste on the world's oceans, pollution in mountain regions has rarely made the headlines. Meanwhile, plastic is the most common type of waste found in mountains. The rapid increase of plastic waste in these region is drive, to a large extent, by tourism. While tourism is an important source of income especially for developing countries, its plastic waste footprint tends to far exceed that of local populations, thus becoming high priority for those countries. Adding to the plastic waste burden that mountains are already shouldering, is the spread of microplastics, which travel long distances and often end up on mountains like the Tibetan Plateau, the Alps or the Rockies.

Meanwhile, mountainous regions face specific challenges in addressing plastic waste due to their remoteness, limited access to human and financial resources, lack of economies of scale, and challenging natural conditions. Many mountainous regions, especially in developing countries, have limited capacity and infrastructure to prevent the generation of plastic waste and ensure its environmentally sound management. This often leads to open burning and dumping.

Yet, success stories and innovative approaches exist and are already being implemented across the world, including the remotest mountains: Garbage declaration and clearance systems for mountain expeditions, community-run collection centers, recycling of bottles into ponchillas, engaging mountaineers in cleanup operations, and full-cycle infrastructure for waste-sorting and management in national parks.

Ahead of the International Mountain Day, celebrated on 11 December, this dialogue provides an opportunity to put mountains in the spotlight of the global efforts to address plastic pollution. It will serve as an opportunity to present the key conclusions of a draft report being finalized under the project *Plastic Waste in Remote and Mountainous Areas* (financed by the Governments of Norway and France), captivating findings of the *2021 Global Mountain Waste Survey*, *10 steps to be a Mountain Hero* and compelling insights of mountaineers.

More information at tiny.cc/GEN10DecMountains

REGISTRATION

The event will take place online, kindly register directly on the Webex platform at tiny.cc/RegGEN10Dec

SPEAKERS



Damaris CARNAL



Switzerland's Focal Point for United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | Moderator



Leif Inge MAGNUSSEN



President, Environmental and Sustainable Access Commission, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations (IFMGA)



Carolina ADLER



President, Mountain Protection Commission, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) | Executive Director, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)



Björn ALFTHAN



Senior Expert, GRID-Arendal



Matthias JUREK



Programme Management Officer, Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Europe Office, UNEP



Lesya NIKOLAYEVA

International Environmental Expert



Patrick UMUHOZA



Multilateral Cooperation Officer, Advocacy and MEA Monitoring Unit, Rwanda Environment Management Authority



Jost DITTKRIST



Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

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