INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2021

PLASTIC WASTE IN MOUNTAINS

10 DECEMBER 2021 | 11:00 CET

>>> tiny.cc/GEN10DecMountains
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
• Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
• Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
• Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhoro, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
• Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
• Trends, Challenges and Policy Recommendations to Address Plastic Waste in the Mountains | Jost Dittkrist, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention
• Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
• The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
• Success Stories from around the World in Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains | Lesya Nikolayeva, International Environmental Expert
• Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains - From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhzo, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alfrman, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhozwa, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Bjørn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
Damaris Carnal
Switzerland's Focal Point for United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | Moderator
SPEAKERS

Damaris CARNAL
Switzerland’s Focal Point for United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | Moderator

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

Björn ALFTHAN
Senior Expert, GRID-Arendal

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

Leif Inge MAGNUSSSEN
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)

Lesya NIKOLAYEVA
International Environmental Expert

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

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhuza, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Bjørn Alfthan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhroza, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif IngeMagnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
Patrick UMUHOZA
Multilateral Cooperation Officer, Advocacy and MEA Monitoring Unit, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umhuoza, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Bjørn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhzo, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alfhman, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
The 2021 Global Mountain Waste Survey

Björn Alftan (Senior Expert) & Laurent Fouinat (Mountain Expert)
Polar and Climate Programme
GRID-Arendal
The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey
1753 respondents from 74 nationalities

Participation rate by country:
0 19%

Gender balance:
Male 64%
Female 35%
Prefer not to indicate 1%

Age group:
18-45 yrs 59%
45-65 yrs 35%
65+ 4%

Member of alpine club:
Yes 63%
No 37%

Sources: The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey, Countries boundaries from Natural Earth 4.1.0.
Partners: UNEP, MRI, IFMSA, UIAA; Kilian Jornet Foundation, UIMLA, Secretariat of BRS Conventions
GRID Arendal (2021)
Types of waste seen in the mountains
Percentage of the total number of respondents having seen such waste

- Hard plastics: 88%
- Soft plastics: 87%
- Organic waste: 72%
- Paper/Cardboard: 68%
- Human waste: 60%
- Glass: 56%
- Metal: 40%
- Synthetic fabrics: 39%
- Other: 12%
- Electronics: 11%
- Hazardous waste: 6%
- None: 0.3%

Sources: The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey, icons from Vectorly.com
Partners: UNEP, WRI, IFUA, UMA, Kilimanjaro Foundation, UMA, Secretariat of GRID Conventions

GRID-Arendal (2021)
Where is waste seen on mountains?
Percentage of survey respondents having seen waste in such places:
- Summit (46%)
- Top pocket (46%)
- Half of the rucksack (26%)
- A full rucksack (9%)
- Several rucksacks (9%)

Sources: The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey, UNEP, MIWPA, UAAA, Kitt Peak Foundation, UMEH, Secretariat of BES Conventions

How much waste is seen during a typical mountain trip?
Percentage of respondents seeing enough waste to fill parts of a 60L rucksack:
- Not specified (6%)
- Little to none (9%)

Sources: The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey, UNEP, MIWPA, UAAA, Kitt Peak Foundation, UMEH, Secretariat of BES Conventions
Causes of littering

- Illegal waste dumps
- Littering or negligence by mountain users
- Poor waste management in resting areas (e.g., huts, camp sites, picnic sites, remote villages)
- Waste transported by wind (including microplastics)
- Loss of equipment from previous expeditions
- Unintentional loss of general waste from packaging, food, clothes from mountain users
The easiest is not to litter, but it’s not enough - one should research on more sustainable packaging materials, and materials from which our mountain gear, clothes, shoes etc. are made - those materials should be less harmful to the environment.” Respondent from Bavaria, Germany.

Read more at https://news.grida.no/plastic-on-the-peak

Or contact Björn or Laurent
Bjorn.alfthan@grida.no
Laurent.fouinat@grida.no
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhhoza, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhiza, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
Jost Dittkrist
Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
Plastic waste in mountains:
Trends, challenges and opportunities

Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues & International Mountain Day 2021
10 December 2021
Drivers for plastic pollution in mountains

- Plastic waste footprint of tourism
- Economic growth, increasing consumption
- Atmospheric transport of microplastics

(Photo: ©Jason Sheldrake)  
(Photo: ©Vladimir Komissarov)  
(Photo: ©Jason Sheldrake)
Plastic waste management in mountains

- Inherent challenges of mountainous regions: remoteness, limited resources etc. …

- …lead to insufficient legal and institutional frameworks, monitoring, financing etc. …

- …resulting in a lack of awareness, incentives and infrastructure for ESM of plastic waste.

(Photos: ©Jason Sheldrake, Stepen J. Taylor)
Atmospheric transport

Limited access to resources + infrastructure
No economies of scale
Difficult natural conditions
Remoteness and transport costs

Increasing tourism
Increasing consumption

Increasing plastic waste in mountains

Open burning + illegal dumping
Releases

Lack of infrastructure for environmentally sound management
Lack of awareness and incentives

High costs + lack of financing mechanisms
Insufficient legal + institutional frameworks
Lack of monitoring and information

Adverse effects on mountain ecosystems and human health

Increasing consumption
Increasing tourism

Increasing plastic waste in mountains
Open burning + illegal dumping
Releases
Addressing plastic waste in mountains ... and beyond

Action is needed - and being taken - at all levels:

- **Local**: municipalities, park administrations, mountain guides, individuals etc.
- **National**: legal and institutional frameworks, provision of resources etc.
- **Regional**: cross-border cooperation, regional instruments etc.
- **Global**: international initiatives, partnerships, agreements, frameworks etc.

Photo: © Jacqueline Elbing-Omania, Germany

The Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership

Palais des Nations illuminated in Basel Convention green
Thank you for your attention!

Website:
http://www.brsmeas.org/
http://www.basel.int/

Contact:
jost.dittkrist@un.org
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
• Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
• Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
• Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhozo, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
• Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
• Trends, Challenges and Policy Recommendations to Address Plastic Waste in the Mountains | Jost Dittkrist, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention
• Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
• The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
• Success Stories from around the World in Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains | Lesya Nikolayeva, International Environmental Expert
• Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhzo, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
Leif Inge Magnussen
President, Environmental and Sustainable Access Commission, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations (IFMGA)
Mountain guides as ambassadors of mountain protection
Cities, regions are in critical need. The #IFMGA has signed a commitment to implement the principles enshrined in the Sports for #ClimateAction Framework and to communicate this intention to our member associations and the general public, reporting publicly on progress.
The IFMGA Code of Conduct clarifies that "The mountain guide should respect the conservation of nature". Following up on this pathway the IFMGA Environmental and Access Committee recommends that the IFMGA Member Associations adopt the following into their guide training schemes:

1. Guides are **responsible for protecting the mountain environment**
2. Guides **educate their clients on care and respect for nature**
3. Guides plan their excursions **to reduce impacts to the environment**
4. Guides are **responsible for removing waste from their excursions**
5. Guides are advocates of the **history and culture of mountain life**
6. Guides **minimize impact on flora and fauna**, including wildlife
7. Guides **respect local traditions** and ethics in all mountain regions
Mountain guides lead by example!
The Stetind Declaration*

We have gradually come to realise: That our way of life has fateful consequences for nature and humankind, and thus for all life on Earth. The challenges we face as individuals and as a community are not merely of an economical and technological nature. They concern our basic values and our fundamental conception of what it means to be human.
The IFMGA joined the UN-Sports for Climate Action Initiative will commit to adhere to the following five principles

Principle 1: Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility

Principle 2: Reduce overall climate impact;

Principle 3: Educate for climate action

Principle 4: Promote sustainable and responsible consumption;

Principle 5: Advocate for climate action through communication.
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country's Perspective | Patrick Umuhaza, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhzo, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alfthan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
Carolina Adler
President, Mountain Protection Commission, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) | Executive Director, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)
The role of mountaineers as mountain stewards

Dr Carolina Adler
President - UIAA Mountain Protection Commission
Executive Director – Mountain Research Initiative

Event: Plastic Waste in Mountains
Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues & International Mountain Day 2021

Friday, 10 December 2021
• Founded in 1932, federating 90 member associations and federations in 67 countries.

• Mountain sustainability is a core commitment for the UIAA, establishing its Mountain Protection Commission in 1969

• Key activities such as Mountain Protection Award, in partnership with sponsors
UIAA Mountain Protection Award

http://theuiaa.org/mountain-protection-award
A total of 24 projects in more than 30 countries and on six continents have been nominated for the 2020-2021 UIAA Mountain Protection Award. The three winning projects are:

[https://www.theuiaa.org/mountain-protection-award/](https://www.theuiaa.org/mountain-protection-award/)
Giroparchi Nature Trail - 2020-2021 UIAA Mountain Protection Award Winner
• Fostering a community of mountain stewards means supporting a shift in mindsets and values towards mountain protection – as part of our mountaineering practices.

• Working collectively, we raise awareness about the importance and fragile nature of mountains, for people and the ecosystems that depend on them, worldwide – whilst rewarding exemplars of mountain protection.

THANK YOU!

carolina.adler@theuiaa.org
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhzo, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
  - The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhoro, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Bjørn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnusen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
Lesya Nikolayeva
International Environmental Expert
Success stories in addressing plastic waste in the mountains

Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva
International Environmental Expert
lesya.nikolayeva@zoinet.org

10 December 2021
Garbage declaration and clearance system in Khumbu
Policy initiative

• Location: Nepal
• Challenge: Plastic pollution in high mountain areas and camps
• Intervention: Introduction of a system whereby every expedition/climber is required to register at the local office, declare their equipment and food before and after the expedition and get a clearance certificate
• Result: The waste generated by climbers is partly incinerated at waste facilities in Khumbu, partly transported to Kathmandu for further treatment at recycling centers. Staff at alpine camps are mobilized for monitoring of the system

Source: Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee
Collection and separation of solid waste in the Ile-Alatau National Park
Infrastructure initiative

• **Location:** Kazakhstan

• **Challenge:** The amount of (plastic) waste has been increasing due to an increase of visitors to the Ile-Alatau National Park

• **Intervention:** The park administration introduced new two-section garage trucks designed and equipped with a pressing system. Secondary raw materials and food waste were collected. 2 trucks; 225 containers were installed at 30 different sites

• **Result:** Ile-Alatau became the first Kazakh national nature park to organize a full-cycle infrastructure for waste management aiming to reach 85% of waste sorting level by 2030. The collected waste is transported to a waste sorting complex in Almaty

Source: Press-centre of the EPR Operator
Incentivising mountaineers to clean up Peak Lenin
Financial initiative

- **Location:** Kyrgyzstan

- **Challenge:** Accumulated rubbish (including plastic waste) as a result of climbing expeditions is polluting the Pamir mountains

- **Intervention:** The incentive-based system for mountaineers (one-point reward for every kilogram of (plastic) waste collected) “Keep Snow Clear” was introduced to remove the accumulated waste from the mountains

- **Results:** The “Keep Snow Clear” campaign demonstrated a high interest of climbers to remove litter from the Peak Lenin glacier to lower camps. Participants receive a t-shirt and presents. Incentives were offered to tourist companies to participate and advertise

(c) Vladimir Comissarov
Clean-up tours in the Alps
Clean-up and awareness raising initiative

• **Location:** Switzerland/Italy/France/Germany

• **Challenge:** Mass tourism and bad behaviours (littering) are the two main issues in the mountains

• **Intervention:** 30 clean up events in mountainous areas and around ski resorts simultaneously; engagement and education of volunteers, locals as well as others about the impact of litter on wildlife and habitats; awareness campaign runs on social media and via media interviews

• **Results:** The Clean-Up Tour is being active since 2001. In 2019: 6'300 kg, 19 operations and 1'125 participants; (ii) 2020: 2’730 kg, 20 operations and 660 participants and (iii) 2021 (ongoing): 917 kg, 5 operations and 258 participants

Source: [www.cleantour.ch](http://www.cleantour.ch)
Conclusions and policy insights for preventing, minimizing and ensuring the environmentally sound management of plastic waste in mountainous areas:

- Develop/improve policies, including local plans on (plastic) waste management
- Investigate and support local solutions
- Use financial mechanisms and incentive schemes to support municipalities
- Organize tailor-made and targeted awareness-raising events and education initiatives
- Organize visible clean-up activities as an education action
- Many initiatives in protected areas demonstrate how plastic waste can be addressed
Happy International Mountain Day!

Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva
International Environmental Expert
lesya.nikolayeva@zoinet.org
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhoro, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhzo, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Bjørn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation

- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
Easy steps how you can protect the summits!

Acting individually and collectively to address plastic pollution in the mountains

Matthias Jurek
United Nations Environment Programme
Programme Management Officer
10 December 2021
UNEP benefits from the power of influential ‘Mountain Heroes’ to reach out to their established networks of communities, brands, and sponsors to advocate for campaigns and engage supporters.
The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021 – 2030)

Aims:

• halt the degradation of and restore ecosystems
• achieve global goals linked with triple planetary crisis
• enhance people’s livelihoods

Restoration of mountain ecosystem to safeguard and enhance their capacity to

• provide ecosystem services, e.g. freshwater, timber, and soil
• harbour unique biodiversity
• enable recreation + outdoor sports
• decrease the risk of natural hazards
Examples of mountain ecosystem restoration

- **Carpathians**
  - UNESCO World Heritage Site - Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests
  - Identification, protection and restoration of old growth forests through Carpathian-wide inventory
  - Protection and maintenance of ecological corridors

- **Rwanda**
  - Landscape Approach to Forest Restoration and Conservation
  - 603 ha of Gishwati-Mukura National Park buffer zone restored, 32 ha of illegal mining sites repaired, 446 ha of farmland now silvo-pastoralism

- **Bhutan**
  - Community-based mountain forest restoration
  - Increase resilience to climate change and reduce conflicts of communities with tigers

- **Azerbaijan**
  - Community-based approach to tackle erosion
  - Planting trees and orchards
  - Building wooden check dams
  - Empowering the Ehen village

-> UNEP and GRID-A Mountain Adaptation Solutions Booklets launch in March 2022
Get Active!
10 Steps to be a Mountain Hero

• On **International Mountain Day**, the International Olympic Committee together with UNEP and sports federations launch **10 simple steps to be a mountain hero**

• Offer useful tips & tricks how to reduce our environmental footprint and protect mountains

• Get inspired & protect the places you love!
Thank you for your attention!

matthias.jurek@un.org
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Welcome and Introduction | Diana Rizzolio, Geneva Environment Network
- Broader Context and Objectives of this Session | Damaris Carnal, Switzerland’s Focal Point for UNEP

Plastic Waste in Mountains – From Challenges to Solutions
- Addressing Plastic Waste in the Mountains – a Developing Country’s Perspective | Patrick Umuhzo, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Bjørn Alftan, Grid-Arendal
- Mountain Guides as Ambassadors of Mountain Protection | Leif Inge Magnussen, International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations
- The Role of Mountaineers as Mountain Stewards | Carolina Adler, International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
- Acting Individually and Collectively to Address Plastic Pollution in the Mountains | Matthias Jurek, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Q&A and Closing
THANK YOU!

Damaris CARNAL
Switzerland’s Focal Point for United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | Moderator

Björn ALFTHAN
Senior Expert, GRID-Arendal

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

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

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

Lesya NIKOLAYEVA
International Environmental Expert

Matthias JUREK
Programme Management Officer, Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Europe Office, UNEP
WHAT'S NEXT?

JOIN TODAY ➤➤

GENEVA
BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES
SECOND SERIES
August 2021 to February 2022
www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org
WHAT'S NEXT?  tiny.cc/GENBeatPlasticPollution

EVENT | VIRTUAL
UN System Response to Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution | Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues
13 JAN 2022 14:00 - 15:30
Online | Webex
GEN, UN EMG

EVENT | VIRTUAL
Basis for Financial Cooperation and Technical Assistance in a New Plastic Agreement | Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues
18 JAN 2022 14:00 - 15:30
Online | Webex
GEN

EVENT | VIRTUAL
01 FEB 2022 14:00 - 15:30
Online | Webex
GEN
WHAT'S NEXT?

ON THE ROAD TO UNEA 5.2
Establishing a Science-Policy Panel (SPP) for Chemicals, Waste and Pollution
14 December 2021 14:00 - 15:30
Online | Webex
Albania, Mali, North Macedonia, Switzerland, Uruguay, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, GEN

EVENT | VIRTUAL
On the Road To UNEA 5.2 | Establishing a Science-Policy Panel (SPP) for Chemicals, Waste and Pollution
14 DEC 2021 14:00 - 15:30
Online | Webex
Albania, Mali, North Macedonia, Switzerland, Uruguay, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, GEN

Cities & COP26 Negotiations | City Diplomacy Series
16 DEC 2021 16:00 - 17:00
Villa Rigot & Online | Zoom Geneva Cities Hub

EVENT | CONFERENCE

SDG3 | SDG12
Chemicals and Pollution

Climate
SDG11 | SDG13

genevaenvironmentnetwork.org