

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 Umuhoza, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
- Results of the 2021 Global Waste in the Mountains Survey | Björn Alfthan, 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

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GENEVA
BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION
DIALOGUES



Damaris Carnal

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



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Forum on Trade,
Environment and the SDGs



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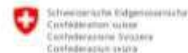


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SPEAKERS

**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 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)**Lesya NIKOLAYEVA**

International Environmental Expert

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

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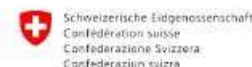


Björn Alfthan

Senior Expert, GRID-Arendal



Permanent Mission of Norway
Geneva





The 2021 Global Mountain Waste Survey

Björn Alfthan (Senior Expert) & Laurent Fouinat (Mountain Expert)

Polar and Climate Programme
GRID-Arendal



UIAA

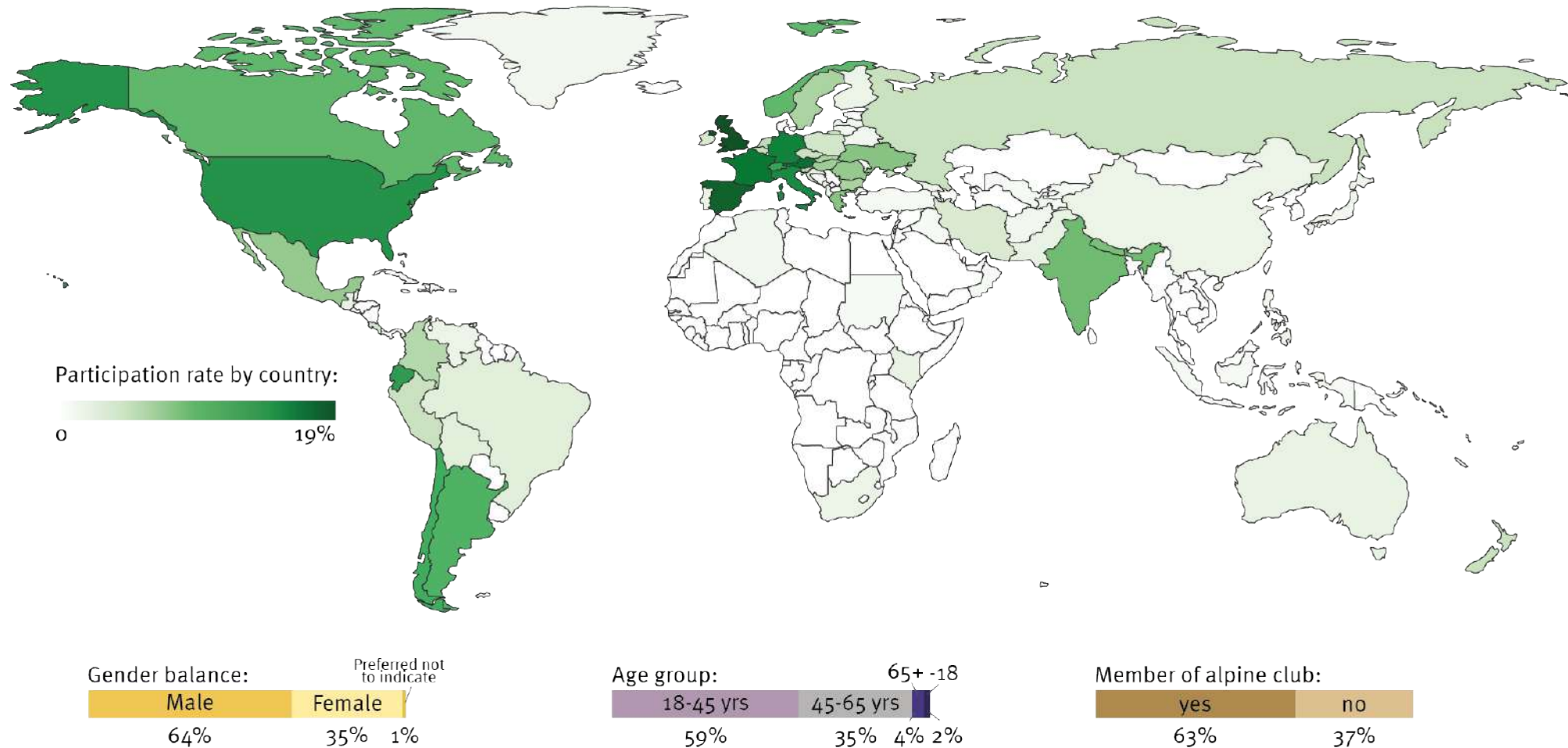


**KILIAN
JORNET
FOUNDATION**



The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey

1753 respondents from 74 nationalities



Sources: The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey; Countries boundaries from Natural Earth 4.1.0.

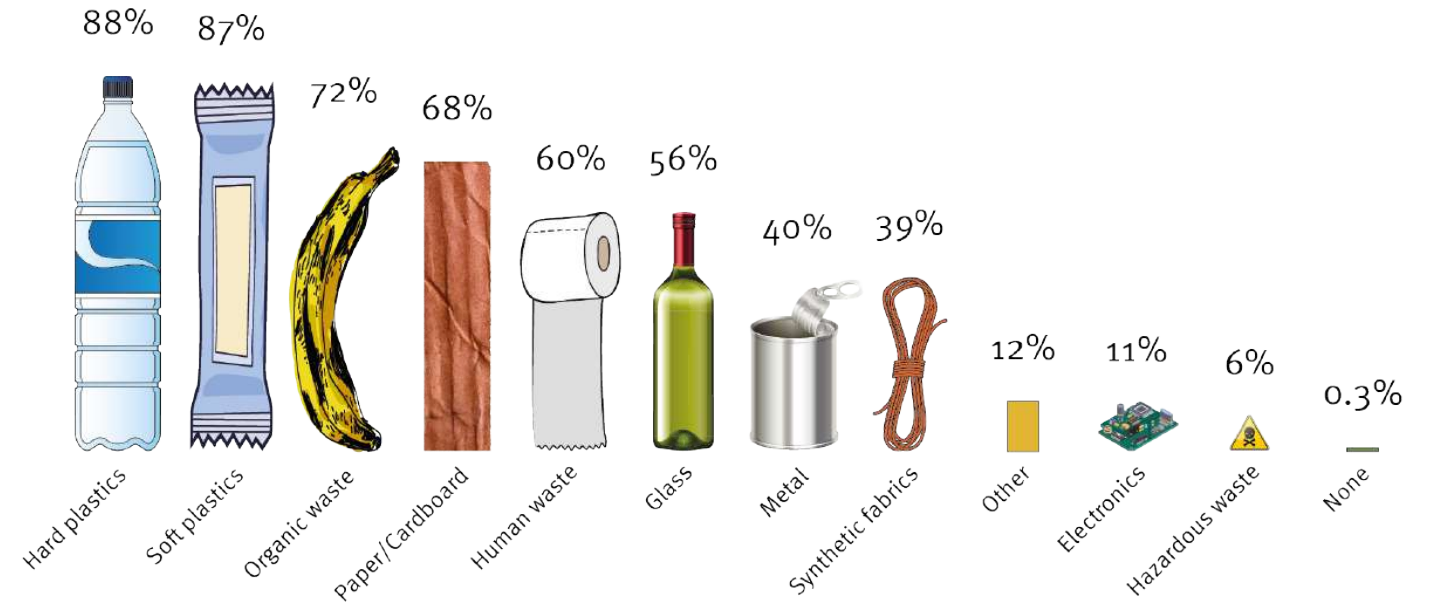
Partners: UNEP, MRI, IFMGA, UIAA; Kilian Jornet Foundation, UIMLA, Secretariat of BRS Conventions

GRID-Arendal (2021)



Types of waste seen in the mountains

Percentage of the total number of respondent having seen such waste

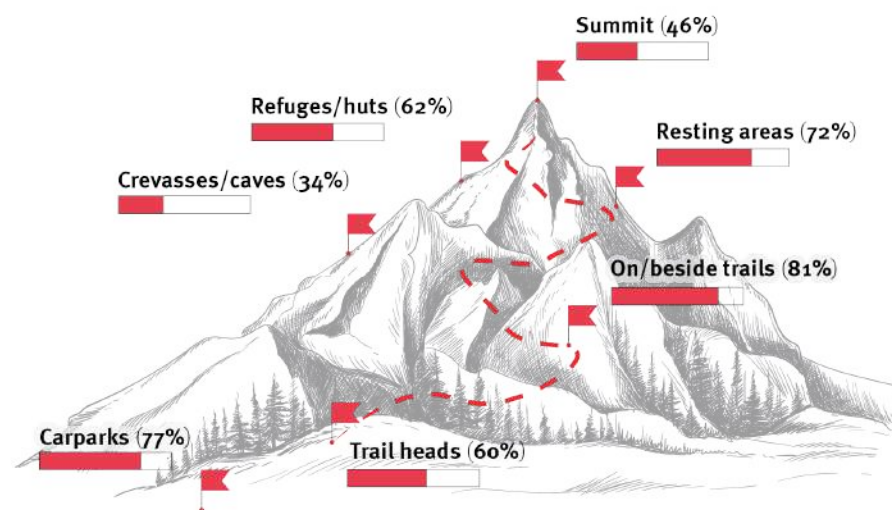


Sources: The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey; icons from Vecteezy.com
Partners: UNEP, MRI, IFMGA, UIAA, Kilian Jornet Foundation, UIMLA, Secretariat of BRS Conventions

GRID-Arendal (2021)

Where is waste seen on mountains?

Percentage of survey respondents having seen waste in such places

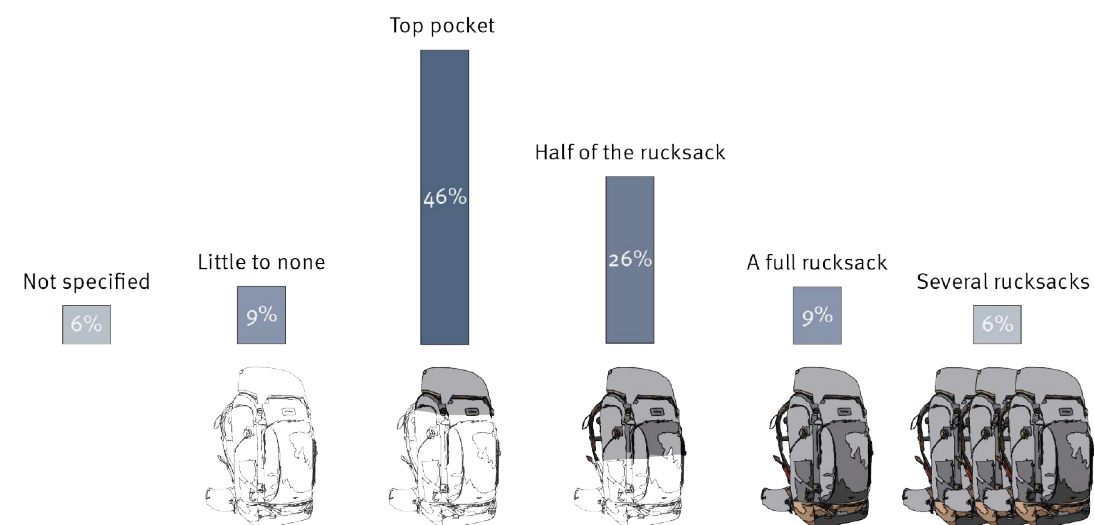


Sources: The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey; Mountain drawing Harryarts/Freeplik
Partners: UNEP, MRI, IFMGA, UIAA; Kilian Jornet Foundation, UIMLA, Secretariat of BRS Conventions

GRID-Arendal (2021)

How much waste is seen during a typical mountain trip?

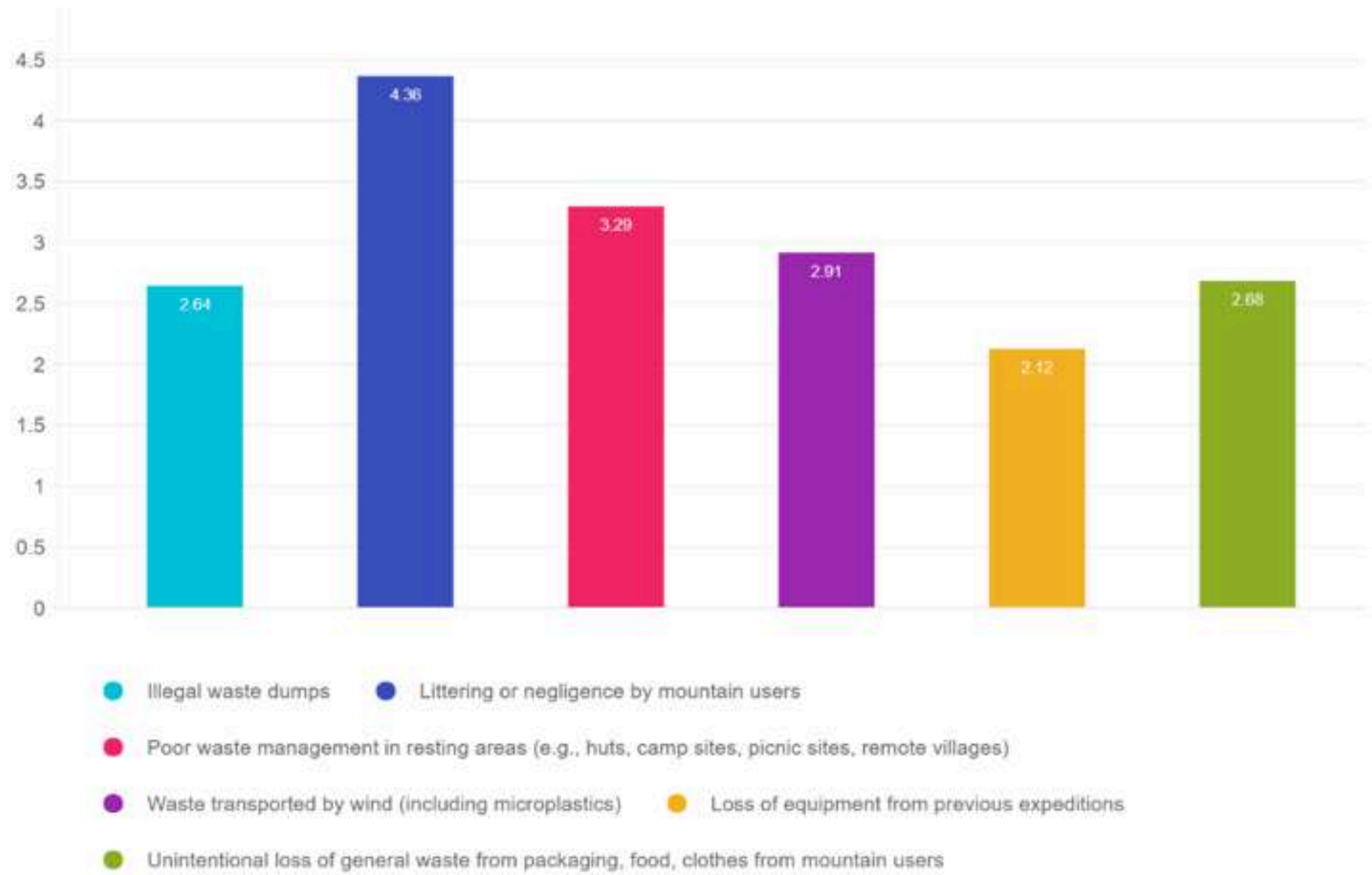
Percentage of respondents seeing enough waste to fill parts of a 60L rucksack:



Source: The 2021 Mountain Waste Survey
Partners: UNEP, MRI, IFMGA, UIAA; Kilian Jornet Foundation, UIMLA, Secretariat of BRS Conventions

GRID-Arendal (2021)

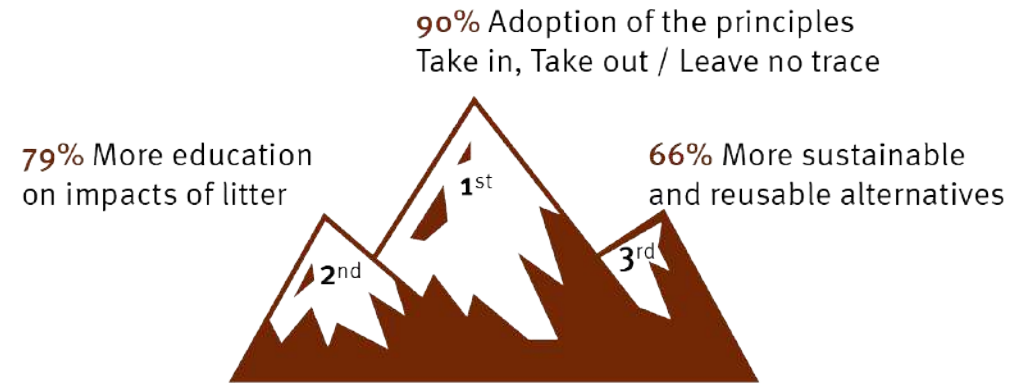
Causes of littering



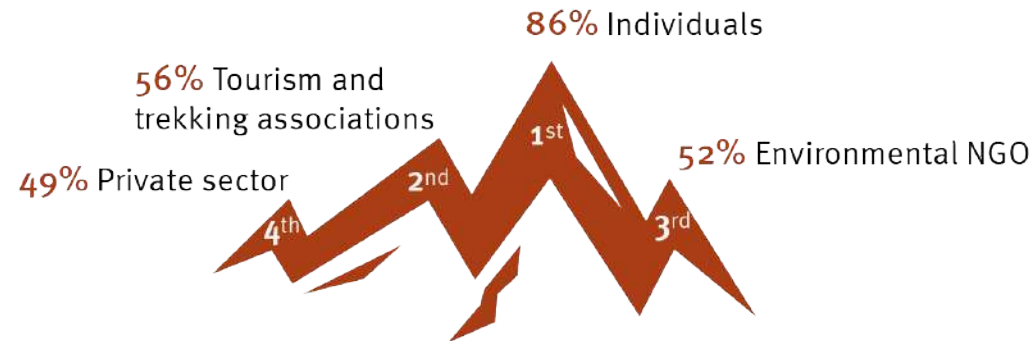
Solutions to the waste issue in mountains

Percentage of the total number of respondents

How can we reduce or eliminate waste in the mountains ?



Who should be responsible for mountain clean-up activities ?



“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

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Jost Dittkrist

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



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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)



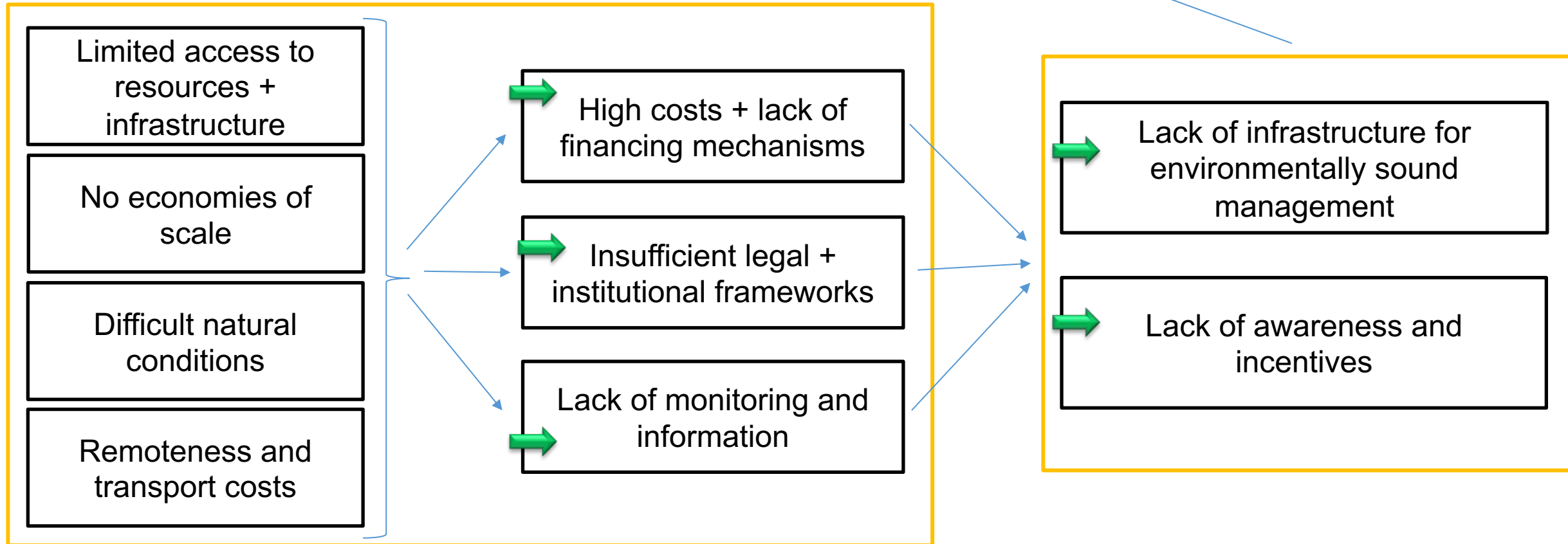
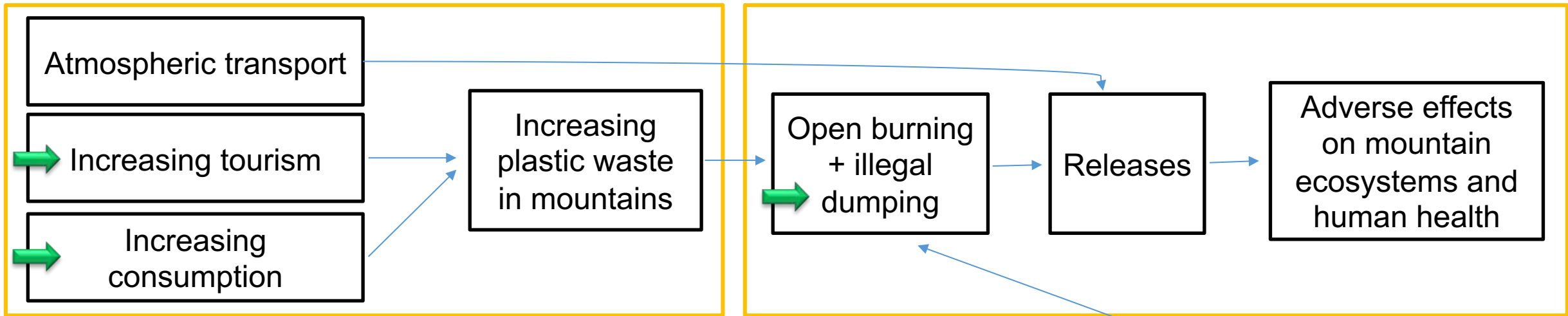
(Photo: ©Jason Sheldrake)

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, Stephen J. Taylor)



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.



The Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership



Photo: © Jacqueline Elbing-Omania, Germany



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



Secretariat of the Basel Convention
International Environment House I
11-15 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
www.basel.int

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Leif Inge Magnussen

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



Mountain guides as ambassadors of mountain protection



The IFMGA Environmental and Sustainable Access Committee

Leif Inge Magnussen
(President/NORTIND/Norway)

Angela Hawse (AMGA/USA)

Juliana Garcia (ASEGUIM/Ecuador)

Mark Charlton (BMC/United Kingdom)

Mark Diggins (BMC/United Kingdom)

Carl Lundberg (SBO/Sweden)



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.

Platform:

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 [i]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!

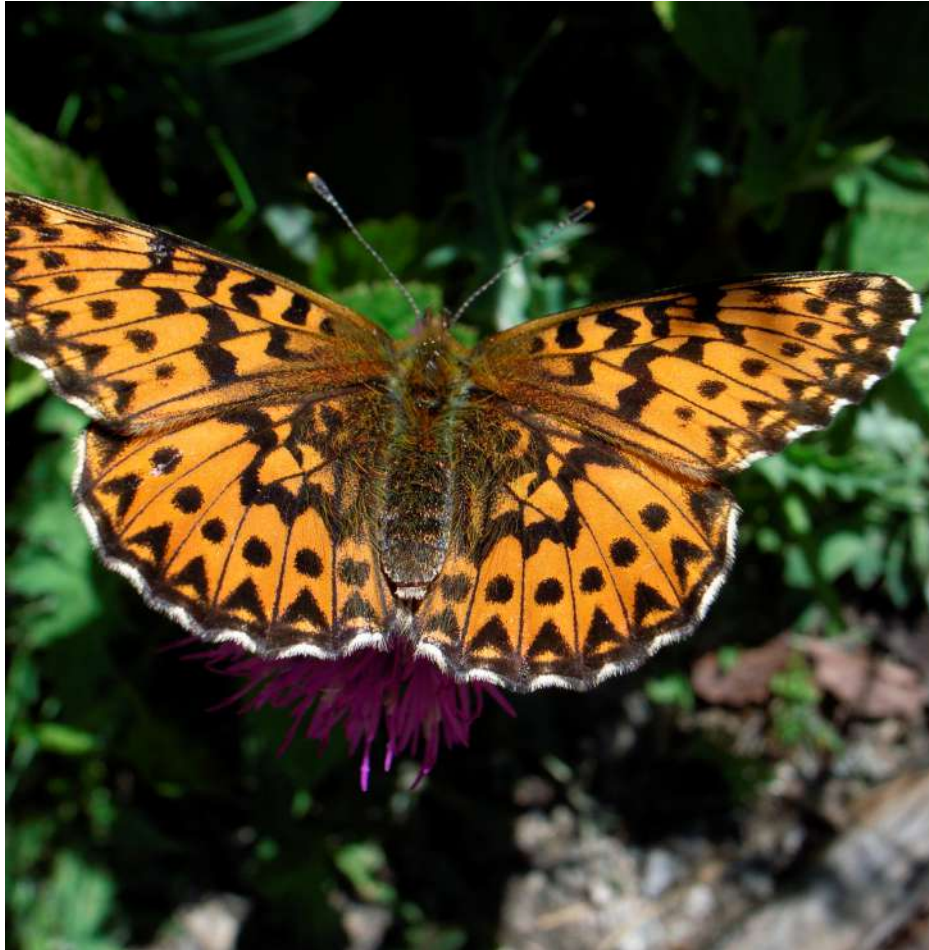


The Stetind Declaration*

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.

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Carolina Adler



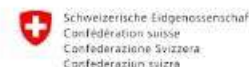
UIAA



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



Permanent Mission of Norway
Geneva



FOR THE CLIMBERS. FOR THE WORLD.

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



UIAA

International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME



- 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



www.theuiaa.org/mountain-protection



UIAA

International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

UIAA Mountain Protection Award



<http://theuiaa.org/mountain-protection-award>



UIAA

International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME



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/>



UIAA

International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
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Giroparchi Nature Trail - 2020-2021 UIAA Mountain Protection Award Winner



UIAA

International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

FOR THE CLIMBERS. FOR THE WORLD.

- **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

Photo credits: UIAA | UIAA Mountain Protection Award | iStock | David Birn | David Schweizer | Monica



UIAA

International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

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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 Umuhoza, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
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Q&A and Closing

INTERNATIONAL
MOUNTAIN DAY 2021

PLASTIC WASTE IN MOUNTAINS

10 DECEMBER 2021 | 11:00 CET

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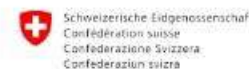
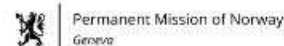
GENEVA

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES



Lesya Nikolayeva

International Environmental Expert





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Success stories in addressing plastic waste in the mountains



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

Plastic Waste in Mountains | Geneva Beat Plastic
Pollution Dialogue & International Mountain Day 2021
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

<https://www.spcc.org.np/waste-management-in-the-mountains/ourwork>



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
<https://recycle.kz/razdelnyj-sbor-v-natsionalnom-parke-ile-alatau/> (in Russian)



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

Source: http://asian-alpine-e-news.com/asian_alpine_e-new_issue_no46.pdf



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.cleanuptour.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



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Happy International Mountain Day!

Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva

International Environmental Expert

lesya.nikolayeva@zoinet.org

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Matthias Jurek



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



Permanent Mission of Norway
Geneva



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Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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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 Mountain Advocate S

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)



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

Aims:

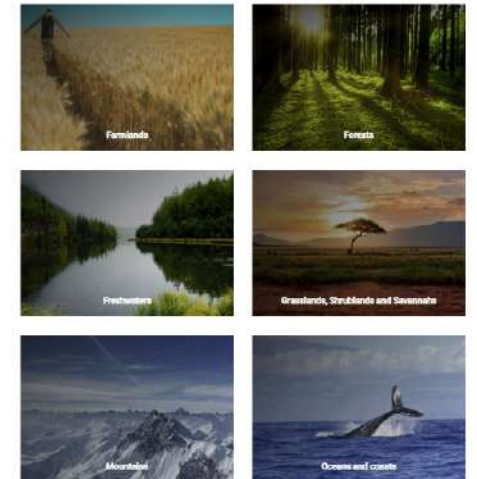
- halt the degradation of and restore ecosystems
- achieve global goals linked with triple planetary crisis
- enhance people's livelihoods

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

TYPES OF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

From forests and farmlands to freshwater, oceans and coasts, the vitality and diversity of Earth's ecosystems are the basis of human prosperity and well-being. Yet we are degrading these precious resources in alarming ways. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is an opportunity to help turn the tide and give people and nature a sustainable future. On this page, you can learn about different categories of ecosystem, their main components, current status and major threats, as well as the benefits of restoring them.



Examples of mountain ecosystem restoration



- Identification, protection and restoration of old growth forests through Carpathian-wide inventory
- Protection and maintenance of ecological corridors



- 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



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



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

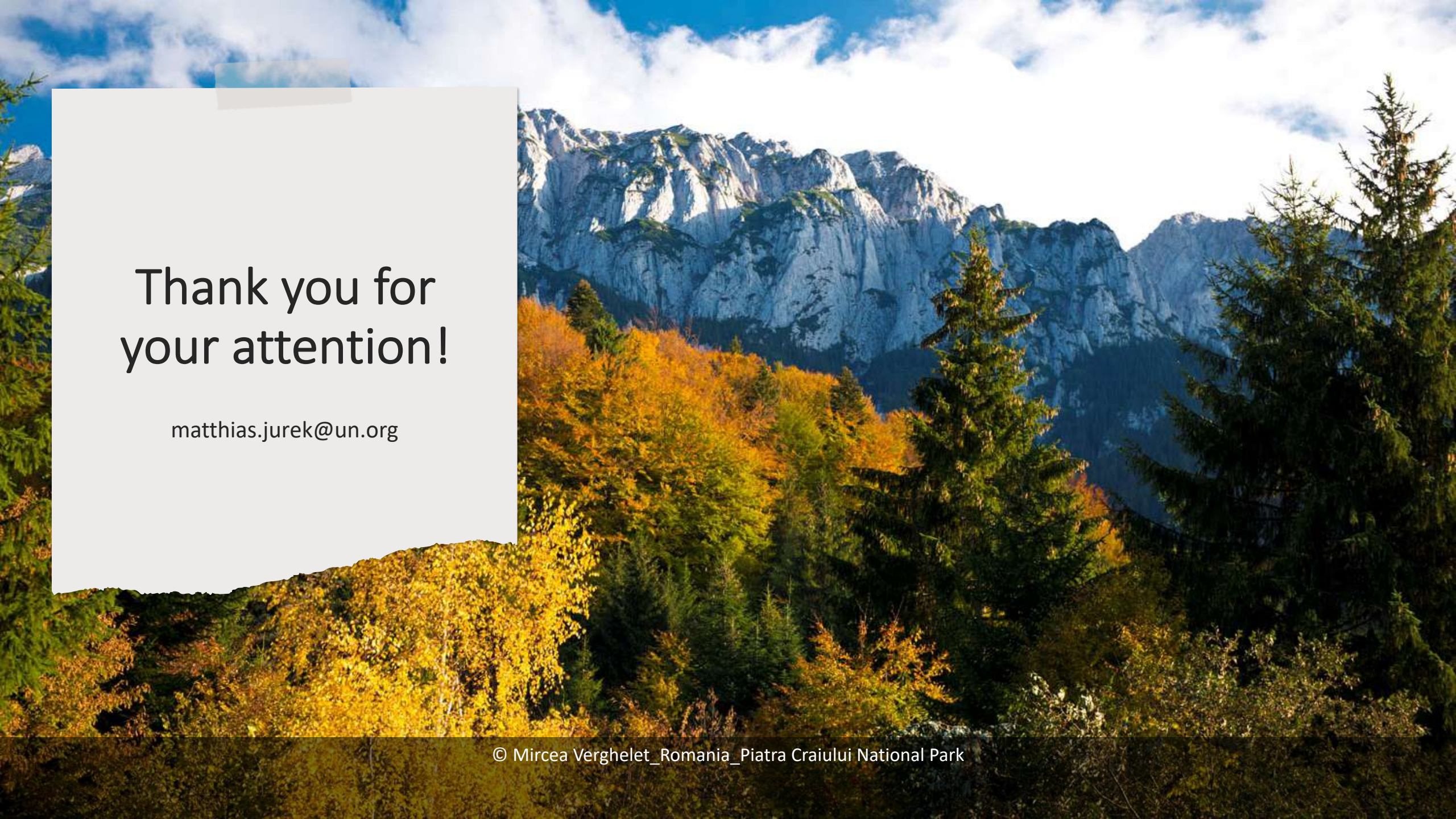
-> UNEP and GRID-A Mountain Adaptation Solutions Booklets launch in March 2022

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

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BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

DIALOGUES

OPEN DISCUSSION



Permanent Mission of Norway
Genève



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

GENEVA

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

DIALOGUES

CLOSING REMARKS



Permanent Mission of Norway
Geneva

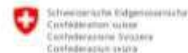


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THANK YOU!

**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 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)**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 >>>

www.ipu.org/event/climate-change-and-forced-migration-in-mountain-areas-what-are-solutions



EVENT | VIRTUAL

Climate change and forced migration in mountain areas: What are the solutions?

10 DEC 2021 14:00 - 15:15

Online

IPU, Adaptation at Altitude, Zoï
Environment Network, UNIGE

Climate | Human Rights and Environment |
Eco-Humanitarian

SDG10 | SDG13



GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES

SECOND SERIES
August 2021 to February 2022

www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org



BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM
CONVENTIONS



CENTRE for INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



TESS

Forum on Trade,
Environment and the SDGs



Permanent Mission of Norway
Geneva




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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

🕒 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics
🌐 SDG3 | SDG12 | SDG17



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

🕒 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics
🌐 SDG17 | SDG3 | SDG12



EVENT | VIRTUAL

UNEA-5.2 High Level Dialogue on a Global Instrument on Plastic Pollution | Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues

01 FEB 2022 14:00 – 15:30
Online | Webex
GEN

🕒 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics
🌐 SDG3 | SDG12

WHAT'S NEXT?

>>> genevaenvironmentnetwork.org

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 CET
>>> tiny.cc/GEN14Dec

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

🕒 Chemicals and Pollution
🌱 SDG3 | SDG12

GENEVA CITIES HUB

HYBRID EVENT

City Diplomacy Series - Cities & COP26 negotiations

16 December 2021 | 16:00 - 17:00 CET
Villa Rigot, Geneva

EVENT | CONFERENCE

Cities & COP26 Negotiations | City Diplomacy Series

16 DEC 2021 16:00 - 17:00
Villa Rigot & Online | Zoom
Geneva Cities Hub

🕒 Climate
🌱 SDG11 | SDG13

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2021

PLASTIC WASTE IN MOUNTAINS

10 DECEMBER 2021 | 11:00 CET

>>> tiny.cc/GEN10DecMountains