

Ministerial Conference: Nature Protection in the Caucasus
Promoting Transboundary Cooperation for CBD Implementation
9-11 March 2006, Berlin – Germany



**Outcomes of the Workshop on Sharing the Experience :
Capacity Building on Legal Instruments for the Protection and Sustainable
Development of Mountain Regions in the Caucasus**

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MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO

OUTCOMES

of the Workshop on Sharing the Experience: Capacity Building on Legal Instruments for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions in the Caucasus

Bolzano, Italy, 15 December 2005

We, the participants from the Caucasus eco-region: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Russia and Turkey¹, of the Meeting on Sharing the Experience: Capacity building on legal instruments for the protection and sustainable development of mountain regions in Caucasus, held in Bolzano, Italy on 14 -15 December 2005 at the initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Ministry of Environment and Territorial Planning of Italy:

AWARE that the Caucasus, which is one of the unique mountainous ecosystems of Earth, rich with biological and landscape diversity, is one of the ancient centres of civilization, constitutes a source of diverse ecosystems, species and genetic resources and is threatened by substantial anthropogenic pressure,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the different economic, social and environmental conditions in the countries;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the principle of integrity of the Caucasian eco-region in terms of its geographical, environmental, economic and social dimensions;

AIMING at improving social and economic conditions and quality of life for inhabitants of the eco-region, taking into account the strong linkages between the mountain regions and the lowlands;

STRESSING the need for encouraging public participation in initiatives the Caucasus eco-region;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT relevant multilateral environmental treaties to which our Governments are parties, and of relevant non-legally binding instruments;

AIMING at involvement of all Caucasian countries, other interested countries and international organizations in cooperation processes for development of a legal instrument on

¹ Armenia was unable to attend because of technical problems





sustainable development, with special emphasis on sustainable land use, and protection of the Caucasian mountainous ecosystems;

1. Emphasize the desirability to promote sustainable development of the eco-region by improving dialogue and cooperation, including through, developing a legal instrument for the protection and sustainable development of the mountain regions of the Caucasus, taking into account generally recognized principles and norms of international law, in particular territorial integrity of states and inviolability of internationally recognized state borders,
2. Appreciate UNEP, the Ministry of Environment and Territorial Planning of Italy and EURAC for their efforts to organize this workshop, and Alpine and Carpathian countries and other mountain systems of the world for sharing their experiences,
3. Appreciate work done by UNEP for supporting the development of legal instruments for the protection of the Caucasus eco-region under the “European Mountain Initiative” and recommends UNEP to support relevant initiatives by the countries of the Caucasian eco-region,
4. Request ENVSEC partner organizations to include in their activities the issues related to the protection of the Caucasus Mountains,
5. Express the need and desirability for enhancing cooperation for sustainable development of the Caucasus eco-region,
6. Encourage the involvement of Mountain Partnership, European Academy for Research (EURAC) and other relevant organizations,
7. Appeal to Alpine and other involved countries, international organizations, foundations and civil society organizations to support initiatives in the Caucasus eco-region,
8. Welcome REC Caucasus activities in promoting integrated transboundary cooperation and strategies for sustainable development in the Caucasus eco-region,
9. Call on the RECs to provide a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue, act as a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development of the Caucasus eco-region, and to support partnership development towards this end.

