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# African Mountains Regional Forum

## Towards a Shared Mountain Agenda for Africa

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### Tanzania set to join the Mountain Partnership

The Government of the Republic of Tanzania has expressed interest in joining the global Mountain Partnership.

In his statement during the opening of the Africa Mountains Regional Forum in Arusha yesterday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014, Hon. Nyelembe Deus Munasa – the Meru District Commissioner - speaking on behalf of the Arusha Regional Commissioner said: *“Tanzania is endowed with number of midrange mountains ideal for walking and hiking. It is also endowed with some very high constituting popular climbing destinations such as the majestic Kilimanjaro and many other mountains however it is not among the Mountain Partnership member countries”*.

The United Republic of Tanzania already has some policy and legal instruments in place for sustainable mountain development such as the National Environmental Policy (1997), the Environmental Management Act (2004), the land Act and a number of Regulations, however, there is a perceivable gap for a specific framework to drive the sustainable mountain development agenda in the country. *“Tanzania will continue to support Sustainable Mountain Development initiatives beginning with the formulation of a specific national mountain policy. I also wish to state that we are interested in joining the Mountain Partnership”* Hon. Nyerembe added; *“...there is need for vision, inspiration and momentum for sustainable mountain development and this forum is a good start for this kind of leadership”* he concluded.

While welcoming participants to the forum, Hon. Jessica Eriyo, the Deputy Secretary General of the East African Community reminded participants of the steps that the East-African Community has already made to better manage mountains ecosystems in the eastern Africa region. Among those Eriyo mentioned the establishment of various legal frameworks that are needed to conserve, develop and sustainably use mountain ecosystems and benefits emanating from mountain systems as well as some initiatives and projects that have been undertaken or are under development such as the establishment of East African Climate Change fund.

The African Mountains Regional Forum, Edition 2014 (AMRF 2014) has been organized by ARCOS and the Africa Mountain Partnership Champions Committee in partnership with the East African Community (EAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The three-day event aims at enhancing collaboration and framing a regional agenda for sustainable mountain development in African mountains. It brings together senior officials from African government institutions, researchers, civil society actors and private sector members from both the continent and beyond.

*Follow progress of the forum through the ARCOS' Event's Website <http://events.arcosnetwork.org/> and for more information, please don't hesitate to contact the ARCOS Information Manager at the address below. You can also follow us on Facebook at [@ARCOS Network](#) and on Twitter at [@arcosnetwork](#).*

*The Mountain Partnership is a voluntary trans-national alliance between governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and private organizations who collaborate to meet specific goals related to mountains globally. Currently, there are 14 African governments in the Mountain Partnership including Uganda and Kenya, all working towards promoting the mountains agenda in Africa. See details through the link: <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/members/en/>*

*Gashakamba Faustin  
Regional Information Systems Manager, ARCOS  
Email: [fgashakamba@arcosnetwork.org](mailto:fgashakamba@arcosnetwork.org)  
Skype: fgashakamba*