



World Mountain Forum

Mountains for our future

Mbale, Uganda, 17-20 October 2016



World Mountain Forum 2016, 17-20th October 2016 Mbale, Uganda

“Mountains for our Future”

General Information

The World Mountain Forum 2016, will take place on 17th to 20th October 2016 in Uganda at Mbale district, under the general theme “Mountains for our Future”. The Forum is jointly organized by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) and the Government of Uganda, with financial and technical support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and other partners. For more details, visit <http://wmf.mtnforum.org>.

1. Venue and Accommodation



The Forum will be hosted at Mbale Resort Hotel, a deluxe five-star hotel located at the heart of Mbale town at 215 Km or approximately 131 miles from Kampala (<http://www.mbaleresorthotel.com>). All sessions will take place at Mbale Resort hotel as the main venue for the World Mountain Forum 2016. As the Hotel can't accommodate all delegates who will attend the Forum, the secretariat booked separate hotels in Mbale to accommodate all delegates.

The secretariat shall furnish sponsored delegates, with the name of the hotel that will accommodate them. Delegates who will cover their accommodation and who need assistance in booking are requested to contact the secretariat to get more clarification and guidance. Ms Josephine Bbaale, jbbaale@arcosnetwork.org, is the focal person to contact for any matter regarding accommodation and hotels booking.

As Mbale district is far from Kampala (4 hours driving), a transit hotel, Ridar Hotel (<http://www.ridarhotel.co.ug>), has been booked in Kampala for the nights of 16th and 20th October 2016. Delegates will be transported from Ridar hotel on 17th early morning and come back on 20th in the afternoon.

2. Travel information and Visa

We recommend the participants to arrive in Uganda on 16th evening and leave on 20th late night or 21st October 2016 morning. Each participant has to ensure that the secretariat is informed about his/her arrival and departure dates (and hours). On arrival participants will find a welcome desk with WMF mountain forum responsible staff at Entebbe airport. Transfer from/to the airport to the hotel has been arranged for all delegates.

NB: Please note that the Forum will NOT cover any local transport cost in home country. Participants are expected to meet their local transport and other costs from their home to/from the airport. The forum will not also cover visa fees. All participants who will need visas to enter Uganda are expected to pay the visa fee (USD50) at Entebbe International Airport on arrival or at Uganda Embassy in home country. For any further information on visa application, please contact Ms Eunice Engola at eeengola@hotmail.com (Tel: +256 772 552 418).

3. Health Insurance

Participants are required to hold valid health insurance. Yellow fever vaccination card is required in Uganda; each participant will be asked to show the yellow fever vaccination card on arrival at the airport. The vaccination service is also available at Entebbe airport but the traveller will have to pay USD40.00. **Participants who have particular diet should communicate to the secretariat in advance.**

4. Registration Fees

The registration fees to the World Mountain Forum is USD 50 and obligatory for each participant. Participants can pay the registration fees online (PayPal), or Bank transfer (see bank account in annex), or on arrival at the venue of the forum.

5. DSA

The World Mountain Forum organizers will NOT pay DSA for participants, only accommodation and meals will be covered for sponsored participants.

6. Exhibitions

The exhibition space will be located at Mbale Resort Hotel and will be open daily from 16th October 2016 to the end of the Forum. All exhibitors, except the sponsors of the event, are expected to pay exhibition fees as follows: USD 200 per each booth for the private sector, USD 100 per booth for government institutions and non-profit organizations and USD 25 per booth for mountain community groups. Expression of interest is done through filling the registration form found at the following address: <http://goo.gl/forms/s59tAgu8c9f0LiZW2>.

When registering, applicants are asked information on the background of the exhibitor, their activities and how they relate to SMD, the list of products/materials that will be exhibited, and the number of booths that will be needed.

7. Field trip

A field excursion is organised on 20th October in morning hours. Three sites have been identified (see below) and delegates are invited to select their destination. The contribution by participant is US10.00

7.1. Wanale

Wanale is located 20km south east of Mbale town. It is an impressive mountain complete with escarpments, deep valleys, water streaked cliffs, caves and rocks. Standing at a height of 6,864 ft, Mt Wanale for example can be viewed from all areas in Mbale and neighbouring districts.



It covers a huge portion of Bugisu's land surface. Mbale town literally lies at its foot. Participants who will subscribe to this location will have the opportunity to see the: Livelihood plantation supported by MERECP; Sustainable use zone managed by the communities in collaboration with UWA (Uganda Wildlife Authority); Community woodlot plantation in Budwale sub county; Udwale Honey enhancement and development project; Restored new afforested forest in Wanale area; Khauka cave cultural and historical site; etc.

7.2. Bududa Landslide Area:



Mountain Communities in the Mount Elgon area are grappling with challenges including climate change manifesting itself in form of heavy rains and resultant landslides. To get familiar with the challenges that mountain people in Africa especially Uganda are facing, you will be taken to Bududa district, 45Km south of Mbale. Herein, participants will be taken to: Nametsi Parish where landslide claimed 300 lives on 10th March 2010. Other areas affected were Bumwalukani, Bukimuma and Busai areas.

7.3. Kapkwai Exploration Center and Sipi Falls



After a sumptuous breakfast, subscribers to this group will be taken Kapkwai Forest Exploration

Centre and taken through the: Conservation education programmes which target pupils, students and communities; the resource use off take by neighbouring communities; collaborative Boundary management programme; Research activities by researchers from high institutions of learning. The group will also have a nature walk at the beautiful Chebonet water falls. Along the way, to the falls, the group can view the diversity of beautiful mount Elgon birds. Sipi Falls, is a series of three waterfalls in the neighboring Kapchorwa district. It is a starting point for many hikes up to Mt Elgon. The most popular route starts in Budadiri and follows the Sasa trail to the summit, descending down the Sipi trail back into Sipi Falls. Hikes around the falls offer a stunning view of the Karamoja plains, Lake Kyoga, and the slopes of Mt. Elgon. Subscribers to this group will particularly visit: Sipi water falls; The cultural caves; The rocks and; Cultural site for performing Sabinu rituals



General information about Uganda

The local time in Uganda is the East African Time (UTC +3). About the weather, please note that October is normally a rainy season in Uganda especially in Mbale. The temperature ranges between 10 and 28 degrees Celsius with an average around 18 degrees.

There are different local languages in Uganda but most of the services and businesses use English as well.

The local currency is Uganda Shilling (UGX). 1.00 USD=3,340 UGX (www.oanda.com/currency/converter/) .

The hotel would help you to change your money in case of emergency.

INTERNET FACILITIES

There is wireless internet at the venue. You are asked to check with the hotel staff on the right network to use and the login procedure and credentials. Please remember to pack your plug adapters since the AC power plug type used in your country might differ from the 13A plug used in Uganda.

Annex: Bank account

Beneficiary Name: ALBERTINE RIFT CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Beneficiary's Address: PLOT 1329 Nsambya Road; P.O. Box 9146 Kampala Uganda
Account No: 0111086105522801
SWIFT Code: CODE: ECOCUGKA
Beneficiary's bank: Ecobank Uganda Ltd
Bank's street address: Plot 4 Parliament Avenue
Transfer Reference: CDE- WMF
Confirm transference to: jbbaale@arcosnetwork.org / skanyamibwa@arcosnetwork.org

Contact:

Email: mountains@arcosnetwork.org **Event website:** wmf.mtnforum.org

Event hashtag: #WMF_2016, **Event Facebook Page:** @mtforum