



International Mountain Day

Debate on the importance of mountains in our lives

International Mountain Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in order to draw the attention on problems related to development of mountain regions of the planet, which impresses with their beauty, but not through the generosity of the earth.

Celebrated for the first time on December 11, 2003, the International Mountain Day aims to raise awareness of the relevance of mountain forests and their role in the green economy, and also adaptation to climate changes.

With this occasion, in Romania was organized an event, on 12.12.2011, to the Putna-Vrancea Natural Park. The topic of discussions was the importance of mountains in our lives. Putna-Vrancea Natural Park was selected as the pilot area because it is one of the most vulnerable areas in Romania.

The invitees to this event were key people from Vrancea area forest districts, heads of community in the area, teachers and students from Vrancea County, employers from "Putna-Vrancea National Park" and the "Institute for Forest Research and Management", Focsani. The event was promoted on the local press and broadcasted on the local TV station.

The topics of discussions during the meeting were:

1. International Mountain Day - the importance of mountains in our lives
2. Project Monitor II – a necessity for communities in the mountain area
3. Aspects of the projects and objectives of Putna Vrancea Natural Park (education, tourism, wildlife protection, sustainable management of protected areas, voluntary, nature, etc.)
4. Opportunities and constraints in the development of mountain areas.

This meeting was intended to be a moment of constructive dialogue about the serious problems of this area (poverty, isolation), but also about its advantages (tourism opportunities, healthy, environment).