

Annex 3

Definition of a Mountain

The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre developed a definition for mountain classes based on altitude and slope to represent the key components of mountain environments (Kapos et al. 2000). Six mountain classes were empirically derived:

Class 1: Elevation > 4500 m

Class 2: Elevation 3500 – 4500 m

Class 3: Elevation 2500 – 3500 m

Class 4: Elevation 1500 – 2500 m and slope > 2°

Class 5: Elevation 1000 – 1500 m and slope > 5° km or local elevation range (7 radius) > 300 m

Class 6: Elevation 300 – 1000 m and local elevation range (7 km radius) > 300m

A seventh class was introduced in 2002: isolated inner basins and plateaus less than 25 km² in extent that are surrounded by mountains but do not themselves meet criteria 1–6.