

UN representative praises Cuban mountain ecosystems preservation

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The draft of landscape approach to conservation in Cuba of mountain ecosystems contributes to the preservation of the environment and sustainable development, said today in this city Myrta Kaulard, representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The official stressed that this is a novel and challenging perspective that includes not only the cooperation of several sectors of the country, but also the participation of man as the core to the care of flora and fauna when speaking at a meeting at Comodoro hotel.

She emphasized that the initiative is in line with UNDP's global strategy for biodiversity and ecosystems in the period 2012 - 2020 and responds to the Guidelines of the Economic and Social Policy of the Party and the Revolution.

Maira Fernandez Zequeira, director of the Institute of Ecology and Systematics, entity boosting the investigation, told ACN that the study will cover sensitive areas belonging to Guaniguanico, Bamburanao, Guamuhaya and Nipe-Sagua-Baracoa, which total about 13 percent of the country.

She clarified that these areas are home to a significant number of biological diversity, but sometimes is threatened by actions caused by man, which include forest fires, inadequate farming practices and opencast mining.

She added that there are initiatives to reverse this situation, so the landscape approach

proposes a new paradigm for safeguarding the environment, since it integrates man as part of that context.

Around 900 000 people live in the mountain ranges, which account for eight percent of the Cuban population and they are located in six watersheds of national interest.

A panel of specialists and managers of several institutions and agencies, who assessed national and sectoral strategies related to that project. also met at Comodoro hotel.

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