



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2018**





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Food And Agriculture Organization Of The United Nations

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Andean woman hand embroiders  
local design on linen fabric  
©FAO/Esteban Tapella

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT COORDINATOR



Yuka Makino,  
@FAO/Roberto Cenciarelli

**T**he year 2018 was one of action for the Mountain Partnership. From working with communities, engaging with policy-makers, producing knowledge and building capacities, Mountain Partnership members applied themselves energetically to creating positive change, building partnerships and raising the visibility of mountains worldwide.

The Annual Report shows the diversity of the Mountain Partnership members' work, which during the year ranged from introducing a national law for organic agriculture in Kyrgyzstan to safeguarding indigenous food systems in mountains, and training young guides in the mountainous Swat region of Pakistan.

In 2018, the Mountain Partnership's constituency grew to 353 members, with 60 governments, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 277 major group organizations committed to working together with the common goal of achieving sustainable mountain development around the world.

The Mountain Partnership called for action on targeted investments, sustainable production and diversification of food systems, strengthening skills and value chains and mountain related policies.

Thanks to the efforts of our members, more than 100 events in 35 countries were held during International Mountain Day, with over 13 000 tweets using the hashtag #MountainsMatter.

The Mountain Partnership is made up of all of us, and as I conclude my first year as Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, I see a strong community with diverse backgrounds, perspectives and experiences.

For the next years, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's vision is to strengthen the engagement and ownership of the Partnership for all members. To this end, the Secretariat is working with members to conduct outreach beyond

the traditional constituency, forge strategic alliances and connect with friends of mountains who can convey key messages into new arenas.

With this aim, over the past year the Secretariat has launched the #MountainsMatter campaign, a social media movement that can rally support for mountains and mountain peoples, engage a greater and more diverse global audience, and speak to policy-makers.

Advocacy at global, regional and local levels continues to be one of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's great strengths. Together with member governments, in 2018 the Secretariat worked on implementing the Framework for Action to mainstream mountains in the 2030 Agenda, with events at the High-Level Political Forum in New York, USA and at the World Mountain Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The Secretariat organized courses on sustainable mountain development and agrobiodiversity, and held a workshop on the Mountain Green Cover Index to strengthen members' expertise. Communications activities ensured that the Mountain Partnership made the headlines in major national and international news outlets around the world, and that our members' stories received wide visibility.

The year 2019 will be a crucial one for highlighting climate change action, and mountains need to be part of the discussion. In July, the High-Level Political Forum reviewed, among others, Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action and in September, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will convene a summit to advance action for this agenda. Importantly, the Secretary General will present a report on sustainable mountain development at the upcoming session of the General Assembly – a chance for all our members to highlight what has been achieved and provide recommendations to countries.

Moving forward, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat will continue to support members' work at local and global levels in an effort to build resilient mountain communities and environments through targeted actions.

**Yuka Makino**

Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership  
Secretariat



# Mainstreaming mountains

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) promoted advocacy and awareness-raising activities at the global, regional and national level in 2018 to ensure that mountains and their peoples were kept high on the international agenda.

Progress was achieved in reporting on Sustainable Development Goal 15 through a session on mountains at an expert group meeting organized in New York in May by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and through a side event at the High-Level Political Forum held in New York in July.

The Secretariat took part in many events to increase the visibility of mountains around the world. It pressed for national policies that target sustainable mountain development at the Global Mountain Safeguard Research Conference in Bolzano, Italy in October.

In November, during the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development's International Consultative Workshop, the MPS advocated for

sound statistical global data for mountains to inform policy-makers.

Targeted interventions on mitigation and adaptation to climate change in mountains were highlighted at several side events during the Katowice Climate Change Conference – the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – in December 2018.

The MPS provided key messages on strengthening value chains as an entry point for economic development in mountains at an event organized by the Swiss Centre for Mountain regions in Berne, Switzerland during International Mountain Day (11 December).

During 2018, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat also supported the work of transboundary mechanisms for mountains, such as the Andean Mountain Initiative.

Together with members, the Secretariat provided input to documents such as the Kigali Outcomes - Second African Regional Mountains Forum, A Call for Mountains from the World Mountain Forum in Bishkek, and the Nova Friburgo Charter.

## Mountains in the spotlight for the 2030 Agenda

High priority was given to the Framework for Action for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Mountains, which members agreed upon in 2017. Currently, two regional processes in Asia and Latin America are being promoted to ensure the commitment of Mountain Partnership (MP) countries in mainstreaming mountain issues through workshops, a review of national laws, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) monitoring, and support to the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews.

One important step towards increasing the visibility of mountain issues in national processes linked to the 2030 Agenda came in July 2018 with the Leading Sustainable Mountain Development event, which was held on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York. This event was hosted by the Principality of Andorra, and co-organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme and the Governments of Argentina, Chile, Italy and Switzerland. Commitments were made to promote dialogue between mountain communities and governments to enable effective interventions, and to build a coalition of key mountain governments within the Mountain Partnership.





## The Mountain Green Cover Index



The Mountain Partnership Secretariat is the custodian agency of Sustainable Development Goal Target 15.4 – the only target that is entirely dedicated to conserving mountain ecosystems: *By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity.*

The Mountain Green Cover Index (MGCI) is designed to measure changes of green vegetation in mountain areas, such as agricultural areas, pastures, forests, shrubs and trees.

As part of efforts to monitor progress, the MPS has developed the Mountain Green Cover Index, a tool to show how mountain ecosystems evolve, and to assess their state of conservation and health.

A baseline was built in 2017 with a global accuracy of 99 percent. Since December 2017, all countries have been requested to validate their data and improve the accuracy of the indicator at the national level.

In November 2018, a second workshop held at FAO headquarters in Rome introduced participants from 17 countries to the MGCI, and trained them to use Collect Earth, an open source software

developed by FAO and Google to monitor global land use and cover.

Of those 17 countries, four validated the indicator (Brazil, Costa Rica, Serbia and Turkey), while five more are currently undergoing the validation process. In addition, a guide explaining in detail how the indicator was calculated, as well as how to use Collect Earth, was presented at the workshop. The guide is available on the MP website.

Throughout the year, remote assistance was provided to all countries that requested it. In collaboration with FAO technical experts, the MPS is working on a data validation process using Collect Earth Online.

## A new coalition for fragile ecosystems

This year laid the foundation for a new global alliance bringing together vulnerable communities living in fragile ecosystems such as mountains and islands, to ensure the protection of their environments. A 2018-2020 strategy paper for the Coalition for Fragile Ecosystems, developed by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and Global Island Partnership, defined the Coalition as a mechanism to speed up progress on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda by adopting a common approach to raising global attention supported by tangible commitments.

## Youth highlight mountain issues



A delegation from the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) committed to encouraging sustainable mountain development helped to raise global awareness of issues affecting mountain women at the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62), held at the United Nations Headquarters in March 2018. The group highlighted issues affecting mountain women, who are among the poorest in the world and the most vulnerable to challenges such as climate change and outmigration.

In the run-up to the same session, a joint written statement by the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and The Mountain Institute, together with the Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands and Development and Commerce, was accepted by the UN Secretariat for presentation during the event. The statement focused on the international community's lack of attention to the challenges faced by mountain women, and on the crucial role of the Mountain Partnership in achieving the three mountain targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Student delegates of Utah Valley University at the UN, New York

©FAO/UIMF/Carlos Alarco

## Declarations and Calls for Actions for Mountains in 2018

- At the Second Africa Regional Mountains Forum, held in Kigali, Rwanda in September 2018, the participants pledged to support sustainable mountain development initiatives. The “Kigali outcomes” document charters the way forward for sustainable mountain development in Africa.
- Participants at the World Mountain Forum held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in October 2018 published a Call for Mountains, a declaration with a series of recommendations to promote sustainable mountain development.
- Participants attending Mountains 2018, as part of International Mountain Day celebrations in Nova Friburgo, Brazil held in December 2018, issued a charter, with recommendations to conserve mountain ecosystems facing challenges as a result of climate change, mass tourism and unsustainable economic activities.
- Also at Mountains 2018, an agreement was reached to launch the Network for Research on Mountain Environments of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat committed to provide support, including communication, engaging with other organizations and raising funds.



The World Mountain Forum 2018  
©UCA/Alma Uzbekova



## Kyrgyzstan Parliament to pass organic agriculture law

Thanks to the lobbying efforts of BIO-KG Federation of Organic Development-Kyrgyzstan, an organic law has been promoted and is currently going through parliament in Kyrgyzstan. The written draft states that farmers should not use any agrochemicals, pesticides (toxic chemicals), synthetic substances, hormones, growth regulators, feed additives, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics or other additives, and only use organic certified products for plant protection and fertilizer. The law proposes certification procedures and keeping a register of organic producers.

Mountain products of Central Asia

©Agency of Development Initiatives &The Federation of Organic Development "Bio-KG"







## Andean countries support mechanism for sustainable mountain development

With the help of the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN), UN Environment and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), seven countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Colombia and Venezuela), promote the development of sustainable activities. The Andean Mountain Initiative (AMI) carries out projects that target vulnerable Andes ecosystems impacted by climate change, such as the sustainable management of forests and water resources. The work of the AMI has been based on the Regional Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of Mountains (Plan de Tucuman) that is being implemented with a focus on climate change through the Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Andes. Projects also include the EcoAndes initiative, which helps to protect critical High-Andean ecosystems by multiplying environmental and carbon benefits. The Andean Initiative has evolved into a fully-fledged mechanism for transboundary cooperation – where this diverse collaboration allows strategies and policies to be implemented at national, regional and international levels.

## A committee for sustainable mountain development in Argentina

The Committee for the Sustainable Development of Mountainous Regions in Argentina acts as an institutional mechanism for dialogue and multilevel coordination for the sustainable management of mountain ecosystems. The committee aims contribute to the institutional strengthening of actors involved in mountains through the dissemination of information and the creation of networks. In particular, trainings were conducted for experts in the provinces of NOA (Jujuy La Rioja and Catamarca) using mapping software and satellite images as a tool in sustainable mountain research and biodiversity conservation. Mountain schools in the province of Mendoza, through the FAO TeleFood project, set up school gardens to increase the knowledge and valuation of local biodiversity in mountain regions.

Andean-Peruvian women wait for beginning of sustainable mountain discussion on agrobiodiversity

©FAO/ Lizet\_Aguilar



## **Euromontana looks at solutions in mountains across Europe**

Mountain Partnership member Euromontana has collaborated with the European Commission and the European Parliament to bring mountains to the forefront. Euromontana and its members participated actively in negotiations in the reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP), mainly in topics related to rural development and shed light on the importance of the sustainable development of mountains in Europe.

The year 2018 marked Euromontana's 20 years of bringing together various actors from the mountain areas in Europe through the European Mountain Convention. Social cohesion was the theme of the 2018 event "Cultural Heritage as an Engine for Creativity, Innovation and Socioeconomic Development of Mountain areas" which took place in Romania.

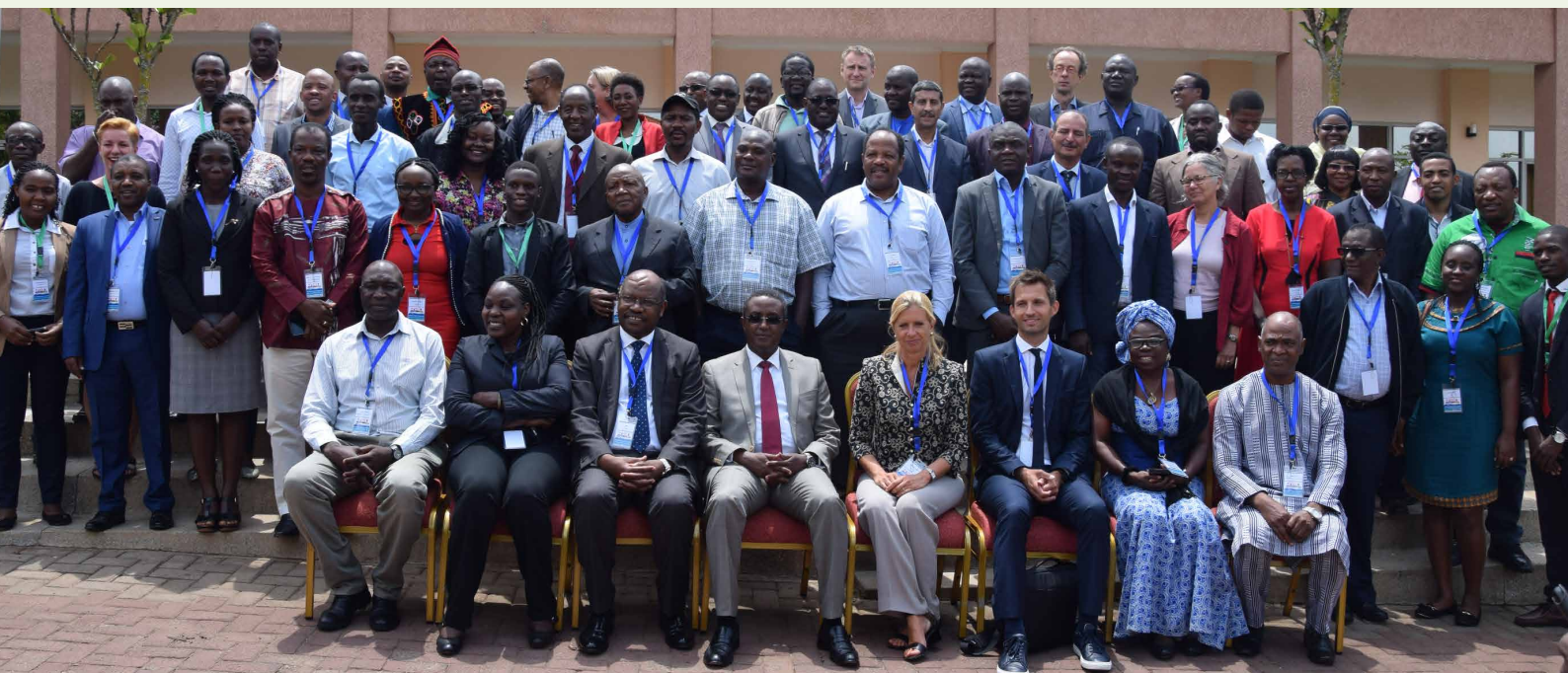
# Africa Regional Mountains Forum promotes plan for sustainable mountain development

The Africa Regional Mountains Forum (ARMF) has implemented a programme called the Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC) in Africa, coordinated by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The Forum was launched in September 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, and a Secretariat was created through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Uganda. ARMF is

a voluntary partnership that involves governments, civil society organizations, academics and the private sector who share commitment to sustainable management, use and conservation of mountain ecosystems and the increased wellbeing of mountain people. A main output of the forum was the Kigali Outcomes document, in which ARMF members endorsed and adopted a constitution and a three-year implementation strategy for sustainable mountain development.

Left: "Glen Roy", United Kingdom ©FAO/Tomek Kozlowski

Bottom: African Regional Mountains Forum group photo in Kigali, Rwanda ©ARMF-2018



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# Sharing knowledge and solutions

In 2018, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat promoted and supported collaboration, innovative approaches and promising practices among members to create and share knowledge, in particular on indigenous issues, mountain agriculture and climate change.

## Indigenous peoples and local communities

Most of the world's mountain chains are home to indigenous peoples and local communities whose livelihood strategies, food systems and cultural identities are closely linked to their mountain environments. These peoples are the custodians of the

Woman basket weaver displaying final bamboo product in Nepal  
©FAO/Abadia Céline



mountain chains where they live, but they are also the first to be affected by climate change, unsustainable development and other destructive processes that are transforming mountains and watersheds around the globe.

## Mapping indigenous mountain peoples

In 2018, the MPS launched a map of indigenous peoples and local communities living in mountain areas, to provide greater visibility to mountain peoples, charting the world's mountain chains, but also the cultures and food systems of the people who live there. Connected to a database, the map serves as a live repository of shared knowledge and best practices for indigenous communities living in mountain areas around the world. The two most important sources of information for developing this tool have been the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment Mountain Portal, which provides the polygons defining the world's mountain chains, and LandMark, which offers a large volume of reliable information on the location of indigenous territories. The FAO Indigenous Peoples Team and a

range of indigenous organizations have supplied valuable information regarding the environmental and sociocultural significance of specific mountains and mountain chains.

## Safeguarding indigenous food systems

A Mountain Partnership session held during the High-Level Expert Seminar on Indigenous Food Systems organized in November 2018 at FAO headquarters produced a series of recommendations aimed at conserving and promoting the foods of indigenous peoples, many of whom live in mountain areas. The panel called for implementation of traditional knowledge in the education system, the need for community organization in mountain regions to overcome limited production and ensure product quality, and the importance of labelling products to improve their sales. Also highlighted was the need for a specific marketing strategy for mountain products, and the importance of conserving forests in mountains – since these are the foundation for mountain food systems.



High-Level Expert Seminar on Indigenous Food Systems  
©FAO/Alessia\_Pierdomenic



Kurut snowballs made from dried yogurt in Kyrgyzstan  
©FAO/Alma\_Uzbekova

## Mountain agriculture

Mountain agriculture is an essential building block for sustainable development, poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition. It is often highly biodiverse, based on family farming, small-scale and inherently green. By sharing expertise and innovation in 2018, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat called for sustainable production and diversification of food systems, and ensured that the potential of mountain agriculture in improving local economies was flagged at key events, fairs and workshops.

An International Workshop and Regional Expert Consultation on mountain agriculture and food security and nutrition governance, held 30 October-1 November 2018 in Beijing, and organized by FAO, the Mountain Partnership and partners, resulted in the forging of strong partnerships to move the mountain agriculture agenda forward through a sustainable food system approach. The event, known as the Mountain Consultation, shared success stories on mountain agriculture and food systems, including production, post-harvest management, marketing, consumption and governance, and identified solutions for addressing common challenges. A session on Promoting Integrated Value Chain and Market Access for Mountain Products presented the Mountain Partnership Products initiative, which taps into the niche market for high-quality mountain products. At the close of the Mountain Consultation, a set of recommendations on sustainable

mountain agriculture was drafted, based on discussions between the panel of experts.

## The International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers

MP member Organic World and Fair Future was among 540 participants at this FAO-organized symposium and innovation fair, which showcased case studies of agricultural innovation by family farmers around the world. Through the brokering of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, production of Nepali Jumla mixed beans – a Mountain Partnership Product – was selected as one of 20 success stories of agricultural innovation from the fair booklet, which highlights how innovation in agriculture can play a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Climate change

Mountains are under threat from climate change, with far-reaching and often devastating consequences. Declines in the volume of mountain glaciers and shifts in their seasonal melting patterns have an impact on water resources in lowland areas, affecting food production, irrigation and drinking supplies. Mountain people, already among the hungriest on the planet, are facing increasing hardships, often migrating in

Hand threshing  
purple rice in the  
Ri-Bhoi watershed,  
Meghalaya  
©FAO/Kalyan\_Paul



search of a better life. The Mountain Partnership seeks to build the resilience of mountain communities by strengthening skills and value chains, protecting agrobiodiversity, ensuring targeted investments and promoting mountain related policies.

In 2018, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme launched a joint initiative to promote mountain products with the aim of improving the lives of mountain peoples and conserving mountain environments in the context of climate change. The programme was announced during celebrations for International Mountain Day 2018 at an event focusing on the theme, Tackling Climate Change and Building Resilience for Mountain and Rural Communities, cohosted by the Permanent Missions of Andorra, Austria, Canada and Kyrgyzstan together with FAO and UNDP. December 2018 also saw the launch of a new pilot project between the MPS, the Ministry of Tourism of the Philippines and Slow Food to build the resilience of vulnerable smallholder farmer communities by connecting them with tourism service providers.

## Combating climate change with cultural heritage tourism

The climate is changing, on the spectacular rice terraces that have provided livelihoods to the mountain dwelling Ifugao ethnic group for as long as anyone can remember. Here in the northern Philippines, typhoons are becoming alarmingly frequent, damaging the heirloom rice variety called tinawon, a rare aromatic variety that can only be planted and harvested once a year.

Soil fertility is also declining, threatening food security, and many families are turning to imported rice varieties, which are easier to grow, or are abandoning their rice paddies altogether, moving to the cities to find work.



Appo Limmat touring her rice paddies in Ifugao, Philippines

©FAO/Michelle\_Geringer

Anna, an elderly rice farmer whose children have moved away, is being helped to stay on in the place where she has lived all her life by becoming involved in an unusual blend of food and tourism. A pilot, designed by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, together with Slow Food International and the Philippines' Department of Tourism-Cordillera Administrative Region, is bringing visitors to this remote mountain area, drawn by the dramatic landscapes and the ancient rice variety that grows here.

Taking tourists to see the rice terraces now provides Anna, real name Appo Limmat, with a valuable supplement to her income. The visitors can also stay overnight and eat the traditional rice dishes in family homes or local restaurants.

This **Food & Tourism for Mountain Development** initiative, aimed at promoting linkages between high-value mountain products and ecotourism services, is having a real impact on the lives of the Ifugao community and the rich local agrobiodiversity. While preserving ancient varieties, such as tinawon, the pilot seeks to support innovative producers and uncover potential new products, creating and improving local livelihoods and promoting rural development in the process.

For Anna, and those around her, that means a chance to stay on despite climate change, benefitting from the strong potential that sustainably managed tourism can offer in mountain regions. As well as boosting the local economy, this brand of cultural heritage tourism also encourages mountain communities to place a premium on their unique biodiversity, such as the heirloom tinawon rice that visitors now travel so far to see and taste.



Top and bottom:  
Appo Limmat touring  
her rice paddies in the  
Philippines

©FAO/Michelle\_Geringer



# Spotlight on climate change: #VanishingGlaciers campaign

## MOUNTAIN GLACIERS: VANISHING SOURCES OF WATER AND LIFE

Mountain glaciers are among the most visible and emblematic indicators of climate change. Worldwide, glaciers are losing mass at unprecedented rates – a process that has accelerated in recent decades, with record losses in the 21st century. As an effect of widespread glacier shrinkage, the high mountains of the world are currently experiencing a historically unparalleled, large-scale environmental transformation, with profound and far-reaching impacts for landscapes, ecosystems, and people.

Glaciers provide important ecosystem services. In the tropical Andes, for instance, glacier meltwater offers critical support to sensitive ecosystems such as high-mountain wetlands. Ongoing glacier retreat therefore gives rise to ecosystem changes, and the eventual disappearance of glaciers in future will ultimately disrupt these ecosystems and their service functions. Glacier retreat also impacts water provision for people and economies downstream. Central Asia, several regions in South Asia, and the tropical Andes are global hotspots in this regard; small-scale and large-scale agriculture, hydropower production, rural communities, and urban centers crucially depend upon glacier meltwater during the annual dry season. Moreover, for many people – and indigenous people in particular – the continuous retreat of glaciers represents a significant cultural loss because they maintain a close relationship to mountains and glaciers as a part of their lives.

Continuous glacier retreat also leads to extreme events and new and evolving disaster risks for downstream populations and vulnerable transport and energy infrastructure, such as massive glacier lake outburst floods or enhanced sediment flux. Countries and people are facing evolving and insufficiently recognized challenges and risks that urgently require adaptation solutions.

New studies now demonstrate that the difference in impact between low and high greenhouse gas emission pathways on 21st century glacier retreat and its related effects is enormous. In the Andes, as one example of an important region affected by glacier retreat, low-emission pathways could safeguard 50 percent of present glacier areas. High-emission pathways, meanwhile, would result in an almost complete disappearance of glaciers by the end of this century – with dramatic consequences. The glaciated mountains of the world are therefore not only icons of climate change, but are also tangibly showcasing the tremendous importance of both climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

### SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT FOR GLOBAL CHANGE (SMD4GC)

The objective of SMD4GC is to contribute to sustainable development in mountain regions and to increase the resilience of vulnerable mountain people who are increasingly exposed to the impacts of global change. The programme works through partner organizations in the Andes, Africa, the Hindu Kush Himalaya, Central Asia, and Switzerland. Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the programme was initiated in 2014 and draws on Switzerland's long tradition of supporting sustainable development in mountains.



#VanishingGlaciers was an evidence-based communications campaign that ran on social media during the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) in 2018 to highlight the large-scale environmental transformation occurring in the world's mountains as glaciers melt – and to call for tougher action on emissions to mitigate their loss.

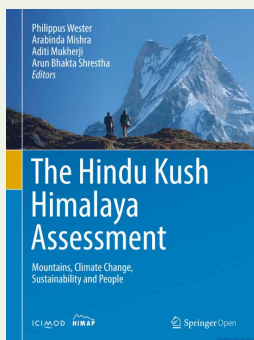
The #VanishingGlaciers campaign brought together the mountain research community involved in the Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC) programme, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, condensing research into the campaign's 10 key messages: which are also being addressed as part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, and its Sixth Assessment Report.

These key messages were used to design social media cards, with striking images selected to illustrate the text. The cards were then posted across the social media channels of SMD4GC partners. Each post used the hashtag #VanishingGlaciers, and directed the audience to a dedicated web page ([www.blogs-mri.org/mountain-glaciers-vanishing-sources-of-water-life](http://www.blogs-mri.org/mountain-glaciers-vanishing-sources-of-water-life)), containing further information, references and a downloadable flyer. The campaign was widely shared on social media and was featured in the COP24 media coverage.

Vanishing glaciers  
campaign  
©Mountain Research  
Initiative (MRI)

# The Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme

Mountain Partnership member International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has developed a platform that promotes long-term collaboration and coordination among a diverse group of researchers, practitioners and policy specialists working in the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH). Under the Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme, experts from the region have come together to develop the first HKH Assessment, published in early 2019 by Springer, as the first in a series of monitoring and assessment reports. The assessment addresses the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable mountain development and will serve as a basis for evidence-based decision-making to safeguard the environment and advance people's wellbeing.



The Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment

©ICIMOD/Springer-2019



## Mountain Resilience Coalition in North America

The Aspen International Mountain Foundation, Telluride Institute and Western State Colorado University's (Western) School of Environment & Sustainability have formed the Mountain Resilience Coalition (MRC). Through advocacy activities such as conferences, documentaries and university courses, MRC provides voices to all communities in the region, and models of positive change. By combining expertise from the field and academic commitments, the coalition offers communications networks, expert research and collaboration across cultures.

Left: Changing flags before the storm, India ©FAO/Felipe Custer  
Bottom: Grizzly bear ©RMO

## Traditional knowledge helps conserve grizzly bear populations

In Banff National Park, Canada, increased tourism and human development in mountain areas has put pressure on wildlife, grizzly bear populations in particular. Mountain Partnership member the Canadian Mountain Network has promoted wildlife conservation initiatives by incorporating the traditional ecological knowledge of indigenous mountain peoples. These mountain communities have shared their rich experience on grizzly bear management with scientists seeking to implement cultural monitoring. This is an approach that integrates traditional knowledge to assess the environment, and better strategize conservation and natural resource management.



# The mountain story

In order to flag the challenges faced by mountains and mountain communities, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat carried out a number of outreach activities in 2018.

Databases, publications, brochures, newsletters, videos and reports were produced to increase awareness and inspire concrete policy action on sustainable mountain development.

The MPS provided visibility to Mountain Partnership members by connecting them to relevant fora or promoting their stories and best practices to the media through the Mountain Partnership website, the Peak to Peak newsletter and digital storytelling.

In 2018, the MPS launched the #MountainsMatter global campaign to rally support for mountains and mountain peoples. By using the

hashtag #MountainsMatter and joining the movement on social media, people can show their support for mountains and urge politicians to address the plight of mountains and mountain peoples. In the lead up to International Mountain Day (IMD), 13 000 tweets with the hashtag #MountainsMatter were delivered to more than 115 million timelines.

The monthly Peak to Peak newsletter is published by the MPS to share its work and that of Mountain Partnership members, as well as events and publications with the MP family at large. Peak to Peak currently has more than 2 000 subscribers.

The Mountain Partnership website is managed by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, and centres on the news, events, priorities, activities, needs and contact details of MP members, featuring editorial contributions from

many of them. It aims to build its public outreach and disseminate mountain related news even further. In 2018, the website received 90 000 annual visits – 85 percent of which were from new visitors. The MPS also manages the web pages for the International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management (IPROMO), and the website for International Mountain Day, available in the six UN languages, where activities, messages and informational materials are posted.

MP Ambassador Jake Norton at the Youth Mountain Forum  
©UCA/Alma Uzbekova



# Mountain Partnership by numbers



## Mountain Partnership website

**22 000**  
Total Users in **2018**

Most Visited Pages in **2018**  
**Homepage, IPROMO Page**  
**List of MP Members**

## MP twitter

Total Impressions earned in **2018**

**491 000**

## @MountainPartnership

**4 299** Jan 2018 followers

**5 147** Dec 2018 followers

**+20%** Increase in followers

**2 000** Average users reached per post

## International Mountain Day (IMD) website

**16 000** Total Users in **2018**

**3 600** on the actual day of **11 December**

## International Mountain Day

As the lead coordinating agency for the celebration of International Mountain Day on 11 December, FAO worked with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat to mobilize FAO decentralized offices, governments and civil society to support awareness-raising events showing the importance of mountains to sustainable mountain development. The MPS produced fact sheets and posters in six languages,

social media cards and tweets in six languages, infographics, banners for events, a trilingual video and managed a trilingual website. More than 100 articles were published in the run up to the day, as well as editorials in El Pais, Thomas Reuters Foundation, La Repubblica and La Razón, and a FAO press release.

International Mountain Day 2018 saw more than 100 celebrations taking place in over 35 countries, marking the day with conferences, treks, film festivals and poetry readings. At the global level, the day



IMD 2018 winner photo. Celebrations for Nowruz in Iran  
© FAO/Salar Arkan

was an opportunity to make strong calls for action. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat co-organized international events with Mountain Partnership members at four venues, including at the United Nations headquarters in New York, USA, in Nova Friburgo, Brazil during Mountains 2018, in Berne, Switzerland, for Swiss Centre for Mountain Regions' 75th anniversary, and in Rome, Italy, where the International Institute for Sustainable Mountain Development held an event on sustainable mountain development.

In collaboration with FAO, the MPS held the International Mountain Day photo contest to encourage people from all over the world to share images depicting why mountains matter to them and their communities. More than 138 entries were received from 45 countries. Salar Arkan was the 2018 winner with the entry 'Torches' — depicting a ceremonial torch lighting in a mountainous region of Iran during Nowruz, or New Year, a festival that is held at the time of the northern hemisphere's spring equinox.

## Databases

As a service to members, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat maintains a wide range of databases to provide the latest information, knowledge and data on the world's mountain peoples, as well as learning opportunities and funding for sustainable mountain development.

**Mountain Education Database:** Tailored to the needs of mountain communities, mountain experts, scientists, researchers and mountain entrepreneurs, the database

offers a wide range of learning opportunities, from free online courses to bachelor's and master's degrees. Some of the courses listed are from Mountain Partnership member institutions located in mountainous regions, while others are from major universities that offer relevant courses as part of a broader selection.

**Resource Mobilization Database:** The Mountain Partnership Secretariat recognizes the importance of identifying financial resources to support members' activities. This database provides members with information about the availability of funds for mountain activities, though responsibility for accessing funds and raising funds lies with members themselves.

**Mountain Partnership Products Database:** This provides an overview of products in the Mountain Partnership Products initiative, a participatory certification and labelling scheme for small-scale mountain producers from developing countries, launched by the Mountain Partnership and Slow Food. With this map and database, users can see the variety of quality, high-value foods, beverages and handicrafts originating from mountain areas all over the world, which are produced and transformed by smallholder producers.

**Indigenous Mountain Peoples Database:** This platform offers a global database and an interactive map, which connects indigenous mountain communities and the mountain range they inhabit. It also provides details of the communities' main food systems, as well as their cultural traits and the organizations working with them.

GHE coordinator explains solar technology to village youth

©GHE/Paras Loomba





## Sustainable tourism brings clean energy to remote mountain communities

The Mountain Partnership has supported one of its members, the Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE), in showcasing an award-winning model to provide remote Himalayan communities with electricity.

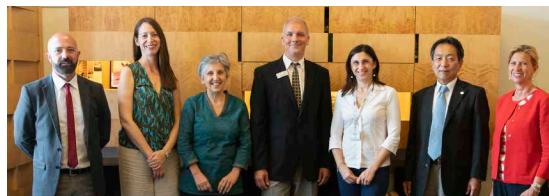
Founded by Paras Loomba, the GHE social impact initiative involves taking tourists and volunteers to isolated villages and setting up renewable energy sources that are cleaner and more efficient than the kerosene lamps they relied on before.

To date, the Global Himalayan Expedition has conducted 37 expeditions, which have provided more than 80 villages with access to electricity, improving the lives of at least 35 000 people by supplying them with solar micro-grids and livelihood opportunities through sustainable tourism.

The villages are being promoted as unexplored tourist destinations on [www.mountainhomestays.com](http://www.mountainhomestays.com), attracting visitors to stay in guesthouses run by village women.

The Global Himalayan Expedition was presented with the 2018 honoree award at the World Travel Market (WTM) London, in recognition of its commitment toward sustainable development of mountain communities.

It also won the 2018 **World Travel and Tourism Council's Community Award**. The sustainable initiative was recognized for keeping communities at the heart of its impact tourism model, ensuring empowerment of local people and actively engaging in preservation of their cultural heritage.



IFOAM- OI and FAO  
signing Memorandum of  
Understanding for improving  
the livelihoods of rural people  
©FAO/Roberto Cenciarelli

Through the brokerage of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the GHE was twice featured by the World Tourism Organization – in its flagship report on **Tourism For Development** as a successful case study in sustainable tourism, and on its **Tourism for SDGs** platform. It was also featured as the MP's first Instagram post.

## Joining forces for mountains

In 2018, the MPS teamed up with farmers, cooperatives, governments, research centres and the private sector on a number of joint projects and initiatives to promote action on the ground. The Secretariat continued its collaboration with Slow Food, as well as joining forces with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM-Organics International) on mountain products.

An agreement was signed with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to develop a study on the main drivers for food insecurity in mountains, building on the previous publication *Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity*. In September, during the *Terra Madre Salone del Gusto* in Turin, members from Bolivia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Panama and Peru met with the MPS to discuss the second phase of

the Mountain Partnership Products initiative. Moderated by MP Steering Committee Chair Grammenos Mastrojeni, they participated in the event “Mountain producers: Preserving tradition, promoting innovation”, which explored how the promotion of mountain products can improve the lives of mountain communities.

The MPS disseminated calls for papers and posters among the MP network, and participated in the four-day Mountain Futures 2018 conference to discuss inspiration and innovation from the world's highlands. The conference, organized by the World Agroforestry Centre, the Kunming Institute of Botany and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was an occasion for more than 200 mountain experts from around the world to discuss and present transformative solutions to chart a way forward for mountain regions.



## Empowering mountain producers

On 1 June 2018, IFOAM-Organics International and FAO signed an agreement in Rome to improve the livelihoods of rural peoples, including mountain smallholders, by strengthening market access and value chains for small-scale producers, enhancing the conservation and use of biodiversity and reducing food loss and waste.

The agreement was signed at FAO headquarters by FAO Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department, Hiroto Mitsugi, and the Head of Global Policy at IFOAM-Organics International, Gábor Figeczky. The agreement centred on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) – locally focused quality assurance systems that certify producers based on the active participation of stakeholders and built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange. The Mountain Partnership Products initiative will adopt PGS-certified products in order to simplify the assessment and monitoring phases of its labelling scheme. This will strengthen the sustainability of the label granting system, while increasing the autonomy of mountain communities.

IFOAM-Organics International will also contribute its expertise on organic development to the newly designed masterclass at the Sapienza University of Rome on agrobiodiversity in a changing climate.



Explaining details of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) in Ranikhet, India

©FAO/Michelle\_Geringer

## Added value for mountain products

Some 10 000 farmers in seven countries, of whom **6 000 are women**, have so far benefited from the Mountain Partnership Product (MPP) initiative, a voluntary labelling scheme for mountain products, including black amaranth in Bolivia and purple and pink rice grown in the Indian Himalaya. Developed by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat with the support of Slow Food International, the initiative has in some cases led to a **25 percent increase in the selling price**, and a rise of **40 percent in the production** of a range of **mountain products**.

The scheme includes actions to improve the entire value chain, with a specific focus on marketing strategies, the design of a Mountain Partnership Product label for accredited products, and the development of capacity in communities, while helping to safeguard their traditional knowledge and protect mountain biodiversity.

The MPP initiative is now expanding to new countries, and partnerships with the private sector are being negotiated to boost distribution channels and ensure fairer compensation for mountain producers. Unveiled in December 2018, a new phase involves an alliance with the United Nations Development Programme through its GEF Small Grants Programme, to roll out the initiative to Guatemala, Lesotho, Rwanda and Papua New Guinea. As part of this upscaling strategy, 'trainings of trainers' will be developed to



create an innovative mountain-specific Participatory Guarantee System in collaboration with IFOAM-Organics International.



## Lalita's story

Cultivated at 2 300 metres above sea level on the slopes of Nepal's remote Sinja Valley, production of Jumla mixed beans and their transport to market is a laborious process. It takes three days to make the 800 km journey with these indigenous black, red, yellow and spotted beans to the capital city of Kathmandu. Closely linked to local culture and religious festivals, the beans are entirely produced without mechanical inputs or pesticides. As a result, they are top quality, but until recently they were unfamiliar to consumers, and earned little for the mountain communities who grow them.

Lalita Rokaya, a 25-year-old farmer, was brought up in a marginalized family that faced food insecurity, illiteracy and health problems due to the poor income from the Jumla mixed beans, which local households have grown for generations as their main crop. Since the beans were selected for the Mountain Partnership Product label, her fortune has changed. The narrative label, which tells the story of the pulses, has led to increased sales of this indigenous Nepalese mountain product, and greater profits for small-scale farmers. Consumers have been attracted by descriptions of

the beans' origins and cultivation techniques, as well as details of processing, preservation and their rich nutritional properties.

For Lalita and others in the community, the impact has been significant. As well as being able to afford more and better food and pay for medical expenses, families can educate their children. Lalita herself, who dropped out of school several times, has resumed her studies. Now firmly committed to sustainable farming techniques, she has mobilized young people in the community to become involved in commercializing local products through the Sinja Valley Group, an agricultural cooperative dedicated to improving the livelihoods of its members.

The Jumla mixed beans are now being sold in a large supermarket chain, production has doubled and prices have risen by 25 percent, much of the increase going directly into the pockets of the producers. Like Lalita, other young women now see the potential of a career in farming. As a result of the benefits offered by the label, bean cultivation has attracted a 17 percent increase in women farmers.

Mountain Farmer displays Jumla Mixed beans

©OWF/Umesh\_Lama

## Lifeline for women farmers and processors: Chamomile tea

In the headwaters of the Ganges river basin, 1 500 metres up in India's Kumaon Himalayas, chamomile production is helping to improve incomes for the growing number of women-headed households in Uttarakhand State. In this predominantly rural area, the village of Malla Satinaugaon is typical in the challenges it faces of male outmigration and poor food security, caused by the degradation of fragile ecosystems.

Although not a traditional product in this area, chamomile was introduced to women farmers in 2015 by the Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation as a climate resilient crop that could generate additional income during winter.

The chamomile is grown and hand-picked by village women before being passed on to the women-run Mahila Umang Producers Company (Umang) to be sun-dried and processed into herbal tea. All these women belong to local Participatory Guarantee System groups, which ensure the organic qualities of the product. Chamomile tea has been granted the Mountain Partnership Products label, bringing benefits to both women farmers and small-scale processors.

In 2018, 178 women farmers in 24 villages produced more than 299 kg of chamomile tea, and sales increased by 35 percent. The market reach looks set to expand further following the launch of the tea at the opening of a large organic food restaurant in New Delhi, India, owned by the Hyatt Group, where it is now on sale. The chamomile tea has also been showcased at weekly farmers markets in New Delhi, as well as in Umang stores in Himachal Pradesh, New Delhi and Uttarakhand, where it is actively promoted among regular customers.

**Chamomile producers in Ranikhet, India**

©FAO/AIDA\_Jamangulova



# Resource mobilization

One of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's main priorities for 2018 was to create a resource mobilization strategy to attract contributions from new donors. With the support of FAO, the MPS produced a Champion's communication pack outlining different options for both financial and non-financial support. Throughout the year, 23 letters were sent and several bilateral meetings organized to signal to donors the need to address mountain challenges. These included talks with the Governments of Andorra, Canada, Japan and Korea. To broaden the portfolio and attract more resource partners, a new multi donor programme will be opened later in the year for contributions to the Mountain Partnership.

A proposal for sustainable mountain development was introduced in FAO's corporate business development portfolio, and the MPS is now identifying key FAO country offices for collaborations that focus on sustainable mountain development.

The MPS provides members with information about the availability of funds for mountain activities on an ongoing basis, both through the online funding database and with targeted messaging on funding calls.



Champion's pack: ©FAO/Mountain Partnership

The Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture (FOAG) continues to sponsor the MPS with an Associate Programme Officer, who is largely working on the Mountain Partnership Product initiative.

Funding for the Mountain Partnership Secretariat in 2018 was provided by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FOAG and FAO.



# Creating communities of excellence

Promoting skills, strengthening knowledge and creating communities of sustainable mountain development practitioners around the world are the main goals of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's capacity development courses. This year saw the Mountain Partnership Secretariat organize the IPROMO course, a workshop on the Mountain Green Cover Index, masterclasses on mainstreaming biodiversity, and a course on agrobiodiversity to provide specific pro-mountain solutions for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## IPROMO for sustainable mountain management

This year marked the 11th gathering of government officials, international organizations and NGO staff from all over the world for the International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of

Mountain Areas (IPROMO). The two-week course, held in Trentino and Piedmont, Italy, discussed the bioeconomy of the world's mountains and was attended by 37 technical officers and researchers from more than 20 countries.

To date, more than 330 experts have received training, forming a virtual network of IPROMO alumni to continue sharing mountain related knowledge and information. The Mountain Partnership's main partners in this initiative are the University of Turin and the University of Tuscia, Italy and the city of Ormea.

“ The IPROMO course gave me an intensive experience of friendship and knowledge, based on a mutual interest in mountains, and a chance to meet a wonderful group of people, eager to share their culture and expertise. I engaged with participants from more than 15 countries in four continents, exploring perspectives that have helped us to identify and understand our own problems and potential solutions in terms of mountain issues. ”

*Hugo Mantilla-Meluk, Colombia*

Top: IPROMO 2018 group hike  
in Piedmont Region  
©FAO/Sunder Subramanian

Right: Hugo Mantilla-Meluk  
©Erika\_Kristen

Bottom: Diploma ceremony at  
IPROMO 2018  
©Sunder Subramanian





## IPROMO sparks international collaboration

The International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO) inspired collaboration between IPROMO Chairman Danilo Godone and Godfrey Mfiti, a former IPROMO participant from Malawi and current Executive Director of the Institute of Development (ISD). An initiative for wildlife conservation management in Malawi was launched as a result, helping to protect vulnerable mountain ecosystems by creating an anti-poaching programme in Lengwe National Park and the Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve. Godone facilitated a partnership between Italian non-profit organization Associazione Italiana Esperti Africa (AIEA) and the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife to organize ranger-training missions in Malawi Protected Areas. The programme has been approved and is now planning its first mission.



## Promoting agrobiodiversity and agribusiness

Launched in 2018, “Agrobiodiversity in a changing climate - Sustainable production, fragile ecosystems, and resilience to global changes” is an annual higher education course that focuses on the importance of biodiversity in agriculture. It aims to equip participants with knowledge and tools to improve resilience and adaptability of cropping and farming systems to climate change, while enhancing productivity and marketing strategies, particularly in fragile ecosystems such as mountains. Organized together with Sapienza University of Rome and Bioersity International, the 2018 summer school took place at FAO headquarters in Rome. Sponsors and partners include the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the Italian Development Cooperation, NaturaSi, Slow Food, the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, IFOAM-Organics International and the University of Turin.

“ The practical tools learned at the Summer School will help me in my work at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in Mongolia. ”

*Tuvshinjargal Ganbaatar, Mongolia, participant at 2018 Summer School*

## Mountain Biodiversity for REDD+

In an initiative of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, technical and scientific support is being provided to the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority (PNGFA) in implementing a methodology for mainstreaming biodiversity over the 33 million hectares of tropical forest covered by the country’s National Forest Inventory, as part of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) activities. After developing the sampling methodology and supporting the field sampling, the Biodiversity for REDD+ masterclass trained 20 PNGFA staff in interpreting and using the biodiversity data.







## Eco-mountain guiding course in Pakistan

The first course of the Swat Project was held in September 2018, with instructors from NGO Mountain Wilderness International travelling to Pakistan to run an eco-compatible mountaineering course for local young people in the mountainous Swat region. The project's ultimate goal is to establish a national park to protect this spectacular mountain area and promote sustainable tourism. The two-week course trained 21 students and set up two base camps, for practice in rock climbing and negotiating ice and snow.

Support was provided by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the International Association of Mediterranean and Oriental Studies, the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, the Italian Academic Alpine Club, the Rome Chapter of the Club Alpino Italiano and several private donors.



Top: The Swat Project, Pakistan,

©The\_SWAT\_Project

Bottom-left: Summer school

©FAO/Roberto Cenciarelli



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# Advocacy for mountains

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat organized and participated in a number of events in 2018 to raise the flag for sustainable mountain development:

**Mundus Urbano – promoting food security and nutrition in an urbanizing world** (Rome, Italy; 5-8 February 2018)

**Mountain Partnership Steering Committee meeting** (Rome, Italy; 23-24 April 2018)

**Green Economy in the Apennine region** (Camerino, Italy; 22-23 May 2018)

**Forgotten fruits and agrobiodiversity: resources worth saving** (FICO Eataly World, Bologna, Italy; 22 May 2018)

**IPROMO 2018 Summer School: Bioeconomy in mountain areas** (Ormea and Pieve Tesino, Italy; 18 June - 2 July 2018)

**Mountain Futures 2018** (Kunming, China; 4 - 8 June 2018)

**Leading Sustainable Mountain Development at the High-Level Political Forum** (New York, USA; 16 July 2018)

**Forum to highlight mountains in Africa** (Kigali, Rwanda, 12-14 September 2018)

**Terra Madre Mountain Producers** (Turin, Italy; 21 September 2018)

**Agrobiodiversity in a Changing Climate Summer School** (Rome, Italy; 24 September - 5 October 2018)

**The World Mountain Forum 2018** (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; 23-26 October 2018)

**The High Level Expert Seminar on Indigenous Food Systems** (Rome, Italy; 7-9 November 2018)

**Mountain agriculture, key to achieving zero hunger in Asia** (Beijing, China; 31 October-1 November)

**Workshop on mountain transboundary cooperation** (Brussels, Belgium; 9 November 2018)

**Mountain Green Cover Index workshop** (Rome, Italy; 26-29 November 2018)

**Mountains highlighted in Switzerland** (Berne, Switzerland; 11 December 2018)

**Mountains 2018** (Nova Friburgo, Brasil; 11 December 2018)

**International Mountain Day celebrations** (New York, USA; 11 December 2018)

# Engaging content

## Publications

### **Annual Report 2017** (English)

The MPS outlines its key achievements in promoting sustainable mountain development (SMD) in its 2017 annual report.

### **Moving Forward 2018 -Selected achievements of the FAO Forestry Programme in 2016-2017** (English)

This edition of Moving Forward presents highlights of FAO's work in forestry in 2016 and 2017 to put the organization's strategic objectives into action. MPS contributed to this edition by discussing the accomplishments of the Mountain Partnership products initiative from its inception in 2015.

### **FAO + Italy Partnering for Food Security and Prosperity** (English)

Outlining the accomplishments of FAO and the Italian Government in relation to food security and human wellness,

this publication examines the Mountain Partnerships' contributions to sustainable development, environmental protection and indigenous people's advocacy.

### **The International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers:** (English)

A collection of 20 stories highlighting the work of FAO around the world, which features a producer from the MP products initiative. The piece outlines their success, challenges and impact from working with the MPS.

### **FAO'S Work on Agroecology, A pathway to Achieving the SDGs** (English)

A framework of MPS involvement and advocacy for small-shareholder farmers in mountainous regions. Specifically, how the MP products initiative was able to produce more income, more nutritious food, and more resilient environments, with less land.

### **Mountain Partnership Steering Committee Summary Report 2018** (English)

The Mountain Partnership Steering Committee held its annual meeting on 23-24 April 2018 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

### **Montagna magazine** (French)

The January edition of Montagna magazine features an article on the importance of International Mountain Day by Yuka Makino.

### **IMD Editorial 2018** (English, Italian, Spanish)

Released in anticipation of International Mountain Day, this editorial outlines the challenges facing rural mountain communities, the connection between mountains and low-land urban life and the need for alleviation of climate change to safeguard mountain environments. Published in Thomas Reuters Foundation, El País, La Repubblica and La Razón.

## FAO press release: Slow Food and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat

(English, French, Italian, Spanish)

New project promotes indigenous food and sustainable tourism in the Philippines.

## Videos

### Video Message from FAO's Director-General José Graziano da Silva

FAO's Director-General José Graziano da Silva broadcasted a video to celebrate the world's most spectacular landscapes: mountains.

### International Mountain Day 2018 video: #MountainsMatter

Mountains cover 22 percent of the world's land surface and are home to roughly 13 percent of the world's population. We



International Mountain Day 2018 video

©FAO/MPS-2018



IMD poster 2018

©FAO/MPS-2018

all depend on mountains for freshwater, agrobiodiversity, clean energy, timber and medicinal plants. Yet mountains are under threat from climate change an unprecedented way.

### MountainsMatter: International Mountain Day 2018 Photo Contest

To celebrate International Mountain Day and announce 2018's theme, #MountainsMatter, a photo contest was announced and a video was produced which the public was asked to submit photos of why mountains matter to them.

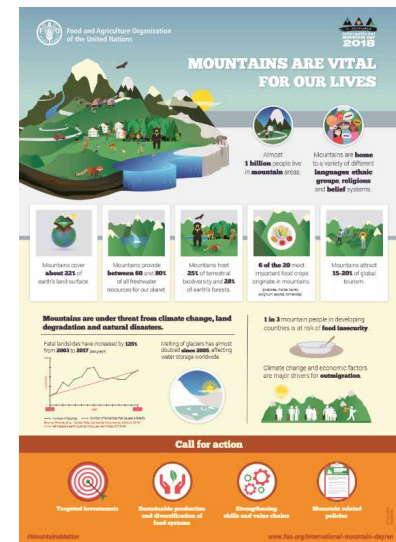
### Italian TV Video programme featuring Rosalaura Romeo on IPROMO RAI 1 TV

Rosalaura Romeo appeared on Mattina Rai1 to discuss the Mountain Partnership and the IPROMO course along with Massimiliano Ossini.

## Factsheet and poster

**Mountains are Vital for Our Lives poster** (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish)

**IMD factsheet 2018** (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish)



IMD factsheet 2018

©FAO/MPS-2018

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# The Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

**T**he Steering Committee of the Mountain Partnership provides programmatic orientation to the Mountain Partnership, oversees the preparation of a four-year strategy and a two-year workplan. The 17-member body monitors the work of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the implementation of the 'Mountain Agenda' and the achievements and impacts of their respective electoral groups.

Steering Committee members are elected to four-year terms by the various membership categories and regions. They meet annually and select a Chair and Vice Chairs.

The following governments and organizations are serving on the 2017-2020 Steering Committee:

## **Donor Organization to the MPS**

- Switzerland

## **Governments**

- Asia and the Pacific: Philippines, Nepal (Alternate)
- Europe: Italy (Chair), Turkey (Alternate)
- Middle East and North Africa: Tunisia
- North and Central America and the Caribbean: Dominican Republic, Guatemala (Alternate)
- South America: Argentina, Chile (Alternate)
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Uganda, Cameroon (Alternate)

## **Host Institution of the MPS**

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

## **Intergovernmental Organization**

- United Nations Environment Programme (Vice Chair), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (Alternate)





### Major Group Organizations

- Asia and the Pacific: Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (Vice Chair), Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation (Alternate)
- Central Asia: Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund, Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation (Alternate)
- Europe: Centro de Investigação de Montanha and Euromontana
- Global Civil Society Organization: Mountain Research Initiative, The Mountain Institute (Alternate)
- Middle East and North Africa: Mountain Environment Protection Society
- North and Central America and the Caribbean: Aspen International Mountain Foundation, Fundación CoMunidad (Alternate)
- South America: Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion, Fundación Agreste (Alternate)
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Foundation for Environment and Development, Les Compagnons Ruraux (Alternate)



Top: Grammenos Mastrojeni, Coordinator for the Environment at the Italian Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

©FAO/Roberto Cenciarelli

Bottom: MP Steering Committee 2018

©FAO/Roberto Cenciarelli

## NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN

6 GOVERNMENTS: COSTA RICA / CUBA / DOMINICAN REPUBLIC / GUATEMALA / JAMAICA / MEXICO + 29 NGOs + 3 SUBNATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

## MIDDLE EAST and NORTH AFRICA

6 GOVERNMENTS: ALGERIA / IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) / JORDAN / MOROCCO / TUNISIA / YEMEN + 8 NGOs.

## EUROPE

17 GOVERNMENTS: ANDORRA / ARMENIA / AUSTRIA / FRANCE / GEORGIA / ITALY / LIECHTENSTEIN / MONACO / ROMANIA / SERBIA / SLOVAKIA / SLOVENIA / SPAIN / SWITZERLAND / THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\* / TURKEY / UKRAINE + 87 NGOs + 2 SUBNATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

## ASIA and the PACIFIC

11 GOVERNMENTS: AFGHANISTAN / BANGLADESH / BHUTAN / INDIA / INDONESIA / KYRGYZSTAN / NEPAL / PAKISTAN / PAPUA NEW GUINEA / PHILIPPINES / SRI LANKA + 87 NGOs + 2 SUBNATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

## GLOBAL

16 INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

## SOUTH AMERICA

7 GOVERNMENTS: ARGENTINA / BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) / CHILE / COLOMBIA / ECUADOR / PERU / VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) + 31 NGOs.

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

13 GOVERNMENTS: BURUNDI / CAMEROON / DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO / ETHIOPIA / GHANA / GUINEA / KENYA / LESOTHO / MADAGASCAR / MALAWI / SWAZILAND / TOGO / UGANDA + 27 NGOs + 1 SUBNATIONAL AUTHORITY.

\* SINCE 2019 NORTH MACEDONIA



# Mountain Partnership Members

At the end of December 2018, the following **353 governments and organizations** were members of the Mountain Partnership:



The **MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP** - founded in 2002 - is the only United Nations voluntary alliance mandated to promote sustainable mountain development globally.



Membership: **353** - 60 governments, 16 IGOs, 269 major groups (NGOs, civil society and private sector), 8 subnational authorities.



Mandate: **IMPROVING THE LIVES** of mountain peoples and **PROTECTING MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENTS** around the world. The Secretariat is hosted by FAO.

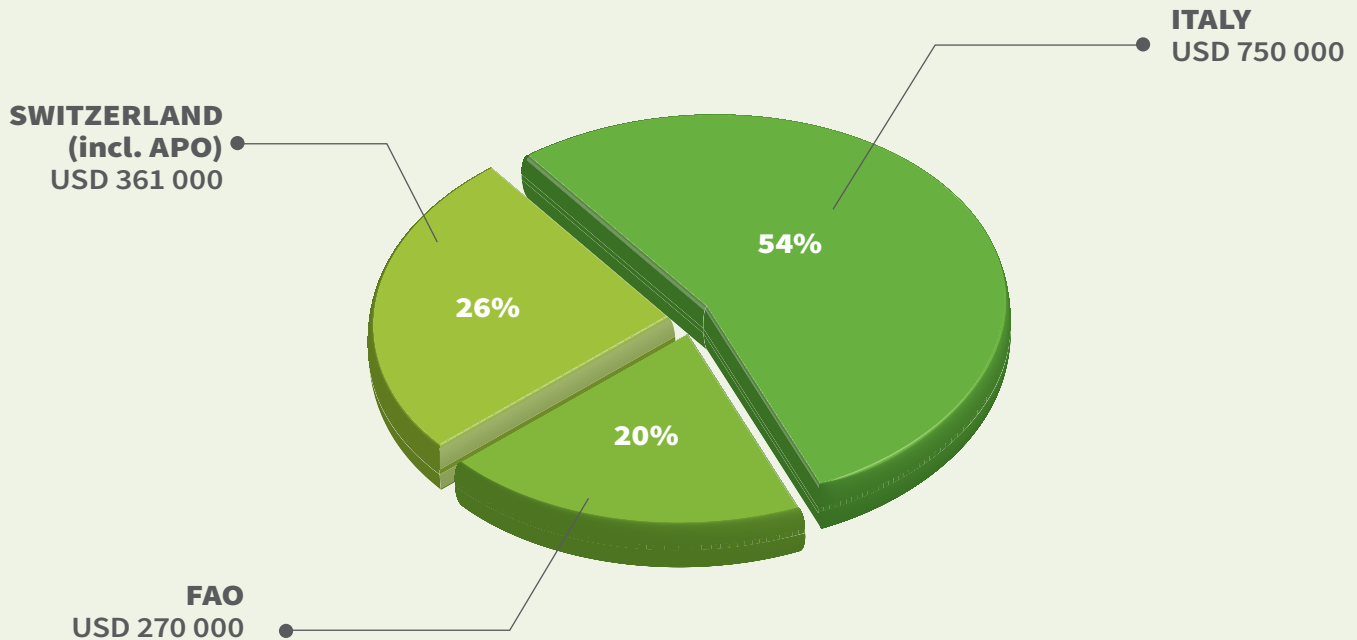


The Mountain Partnership builds on the **DIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE** of its members.



The **FOUR MAIN PILLARS** of the Mountain Partnership's work are: advocacy, joint action, capacity development and communications.

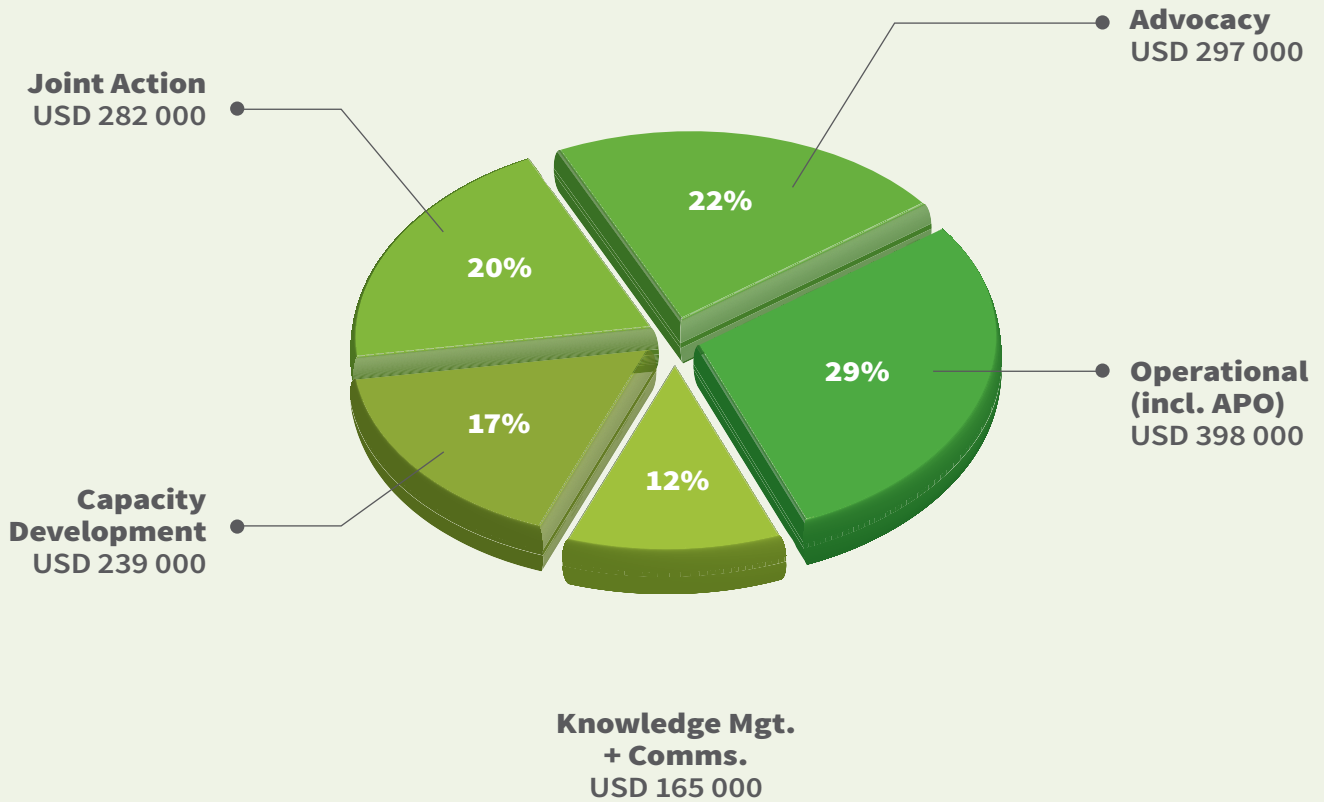
# MPS financial overview



**Resource partners**  
Italy, Switzerland,  
FAO

 **Total (100%):**  
USD 1 381 000

# Functions





# The Mountain Partnership Secretariat

The Mountain Partnership is supported by a Secretariat hosted at FAO and is financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture and FAO.

**Yuka Makino**

Coordinator of the MPS

**Rosalaura Romeo**

Programme Officer

**Giorgio Grussu**

Project Coordinator

**Sara Manuelli**

Advocacy and Outreach Officer

**Michelle Geringer**

Associate Professional Officer

**Antonella Sorrentino**

Administrative Assistant

**Laura Russo**

Senior Consultant

**Mahnoor Malik**

Junior Consultant

**Silvio Ciancullo**

Junior Consultant

**Fabio Parisi**

Junior Consultant





Girls on their way to school in Northern Pakistan  
©FAO/Dr. Zia\_Ur\_Rahm\_Farooqi

## Call for action



**Targeted investments**



**Sustainable production  
and diversification of  
food systems**



**Strengthening  
skills and value chains**



**Mountain related  
policies**





Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER

**Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG**

Mount Erciyes, Turkey  
©Unsplash/Mahir Uysal

#### Mountain Partnership Secretariat

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