

IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR MOUNTAINS

Mountain ecosystems are under threat from climate change, land degradation and natural disasters, with potentially devastating and far-reaching consequences for mountain communities and the rest of the world. Mountains are essential to the survival of the global ecosystem as vital sources of water, energy, biodiversity, and agricultural products. This is why the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly recognizes their importance and vulnerability. This global commitment must be reflected in concrete actions, long-lasting processes and policies that strengthen the resilience of mountain peoples and environments and ensure that “nobody is left behind” as required by the 2030 Agenda.

Framework for Action

Making reference to the 2030 Agenda, para 33, focussing on the impact of the sustainable management of natural resources on social and economic development and therefore the vital need for the conservation and sustainable use of freshwater resources, forests, mountains and drylands, and the protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife.

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal 15 of the 2030 Agenda, which sets the need to “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”.

Recalling target 15.1 of the 2030 Agenda, which explicitly mentions the need, by 2020, to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

Recalling target 15.4 of the 2030 Agenda, which requires, by 2030, to ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

Recalling target 6.6 of the 2030 Agenda, which requires, by 2020, to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

Recognizing the importance of specifically addressing challenges in mountain regions for accomplishing many other targets of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Recalling Chapter 13 of Agenda 21, “Managing Fragile Ecosystems; Sustainable Mountain Development”.

Recalling UNGA Resolution A/RES/71/234 on “Sustainable mountain development”.

All of the members of the Mountain Partnership commit to increase efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, aiming to secure the contribution of resilient mountain ecosystems and communities to a sustainable world. In particular:

By 2030 they pledge to:

- Governments: review and update their development policies, as applicable, with the aim to integrate appropriate strategies for “sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation”;
- Governments, Intergovernmental organizations and donor agencies: review and update their international development cooperation policy, as applicable, with the aim to make “sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation” an integral part of it; and
- Major Groups: raise awareness on the importance of sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation in all relevant international conferences and summits and work towards the inclusion of mountain-related language in outcome documents, resolutions and strategies

In order to support such commitment, the members of the Mountain Partnership call upon the Mountain Partnership Secretariat to:

- Report on a regular basis on the achievement of the above commitments and develop a methodology to analyse and monitor their long-term social, economic and environmental impacts at global, regional and national level;
- Coordinate and support the international policy advocacy process for mountains, fully engaging Mountain Partnership members where appropriate and necessary.
- Take stock, by 2025, of the impact and the results achieved, by providing recommendations to its members; and
- Increase efforts to establish a Liaison Office to support the Mountain Partnership’s efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Mountains, subject to the availability of funding in major mountainous regions of the world, including but not limited to: 1. North & Central America and the Caribbean; 2. South America; 3. Europe; 4. Asia and Pacific; 5. Sub-Saharan Africa; 6. Middle East and North Africa.