

Mobilizing resources for mountain peoples and environments





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Mountains cover over a quarter of the earth's land area and are home to almost a billion people. Providing between 60 and 80 percent of the world's freshwater, mountains are also a source for food, biodiversity and energy that are vital for the whole of humanity.

Yet the vast majority of people residing in mountainous areas in developing countries lives below the poverty line and many are food insecure. Agriculture, their main source of livelihood, is challenged by harsh environments, isolation, natural hazards and the effects of climate change that disrupt infrastructures and hamper productivity and access to markets. Lack of capacity further hinders their development.

Increasing investments to address mountain issues at global level, promoting innovative natural resource management practices, sharing climate change adaptation approaches and strengthening institutions and partnerships will help ensure that mountains provide crucial goods and ecosystem services of global importance in the future.

Improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world is a global necessity but this goal can only be achieved with the support of resource partners.

Working together

The Mountain Partnership (MP) is a United Nations voluntary alliance of partners (governments, inter-governmental organizations and civil society) dedicated to working together to improve the lives of mountain peoples and protect mountain environments around the world. Members join forces to undertake initiatives at national, regional and international level and help mountain communities overcome development challenges locally.

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was established to serve the members' needs and advocate for sustainable mountain development worldwide.



The Secretariat seeks support – financial or in-kind – for its work, which is organized on four main pillars:

Joint action



The MPS connects partners with similar interests and promotes cooperation on the ground - knowledge exchange and technology transfer in areas such as climate change adaptation and the sustainable management of natural resources. The Secretariat benefits from its access to technical experts at FAO, where it is hosted.

Capacity development



Every year, the MPS trains mid-level government and NGO staff to better understand mountain development issues on a different theme through the International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO). The virtual alumni network continues to share mountain-related knowledge and information.

Knowledge



Critical information about sustainable mountain development activities, events, projects and reports is collected and shared by the MPS. Communication activities include producing publications and videos, managing social media channels, raising awareness about International Mountain Day and sharing mountain news and events via the Mountain Partnership website and Peak to Peak, the monthly newsletter.



Advocacy



The MPS advocates for the wellbeing of mountain communities and environments at global and regional level and promotes the inclusion of mountains at strategically chosen events. Engaging with United Nations convention secretariats and participating in global processes.

To implement its work plan, the Mountain Partnership is seeking resources for initiatives regarding:

- **Creating a Mountain Facility** that will provide grants to strengthen the capacity of mountain communities to adapt to climate change by managing natural resources, building resilience, farming sustainably as well as supporting decision makers at all levels.
- **Strengthening the understanding of climate change adaptation** in mountain areas through awareness-raising, sharing climate change adaptation techniques and promoting sustainable mountain development activities that are carbon mitigating.
- **Establishing a global mountain product label and improving market access** by promoting equitable value chains and fair enterprise development in mountain regions for high quality, high value mountain products.
- **Running the Mountain Partnership Secretariat:** additional resources are required to respond to the requests from an increasing membership and to ensure that the Secretariat can continue to facilitate activities, promote awareness and advocate for mountain communities as well as broker joint initiatives.
- **Mapping mountains** by conducting a global study to analyse mountain communities' vulnerability to chronic hunger. The disaggregated statistics on mountain peoples and ecosystems acquired with the help of FAO's statistics division, will support policy makers and encourage investments.



- **Developing capacity** by continuing training activities on mountain development, such as the annual two-week IPROMO-courses through which 200 people have been trained so far. Many members have requested to organize similar courses in Latin America and Central Asia to improve their outreach.
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Success stories

Strengthening mountain institutions

National mountain committees are developing strategic plans, creating fair policies and laws and implementing sustainable development projects, thanks to years of support from the MPS. These committees, having evolved from those created for the International Year of Mountains in 2002, are starting to collaborate at regional level. An MPS/FAO project has led Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to establish a regional mechanism to address mountain issues in the Andes.

Post-2015 development agenda

The MPS has proven to be an effective mechanism to keep mountains high on the list of world priorities. The MPS and Mountain Partnership members are working together on a series of events to promote the recognition of mountains in the Post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, in particular. As a result of their active collaboration in the past, the benefits derived from mountains were deemed 'essential' to sustainable development by Rio+20 and three full paragraphs are dedicated to mountains in *The Future We Want*.

Raising awareness on climate change at regional level

Through four regional meetings funded by the World Bank– in Latin America, Central Asia, Africa and the Near East – the MPS developed the capacity of national policy makers to argue the case of mountains in negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Building on the outcome of these workshops, MP members in the Middle East and Northern Africa, where water scarcity is a critical issue, have requested an initiative to promote a regional mechanism for knowledge sharing and lessons learned.



Partnering for mountains is a global priority towards a more sustainable and equitable world.



Mountains provide between 60 and 80 percent of the world's freshwater



Mountains host 25 percent of biodiversity as well as agro biodiversity that is crucial for food security



At least one billion people live in mountains



Climate change is melting glaciers and threatening mountain communities and environments

