

MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP NARRATIVE REPORT 2014

This report, compiled by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), describes how the six thematic functions were carried out by the Mountain Partnership (MP) in 2014. In addition to the six functions included in the 2014-2015 workplan, an 'operational' function has been added, referring to the running of both the MP and the MPS.

The activities carried out by the MPS are listed and, where provided by Steering Committee members, those carried out by MP members themselves are also listed. For more detailed information regarding the MP members' activities, the original reports are available for consultation. Peak to Peak and the news section of the MP website can also be consulted for further information about the activities of members.

For the table of outputs achieved and output indicators as well as those that were not achieved, please see the attached revised MP workplan.

Operational Function: Running the MP and the MPS

The Mountain Partnership is aligned with the Governance and Strategy 2014-2017

Communication activities

The MPS published the Mountain Partnership Governance and Strategy 2014-2017 document that was approved at the Fourth Global Meeting in September 2013 on the website and shared it with all members with a dedicated message. A new section on membership criteria was created to serve as the reference point for communication with both existing and new members.

Updating the membership list

The MPS contacted, together with the Steering Committee (SC) representatives of Europe, North America and South America, all the inactive members of the Partnership to verify their interest in continuing to be part of the Mountain Partnership. Where relevant, their contact details have been updated or their membership removed. As a result of this delicate, ongoing exercise, five inactive members have been removed thus far; more may be removed in the coming months. Meanwhile, the MPS has approved 21 new requests to join and has processed them according to the MP rules and procedures. The MPS and a number of MP members are also actively encouraging more governments of mountainous countries to become members as requested by the Fourth Global Meeting.

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat effectively and proactively supports its constituency and promotes sustainable mountain development (SMD)

Communication activities

The MPS has disseminated news about the activities carried out by MP members widely through various media, such as the monthly newsletter, Peak to Peak, Facebook posts (an average of two a day), the Flickr Gallery and by posting videos on the YouTube channel. Efforts to provide balanced geographical and thematic coverage are made.

External media coverage includes about ten international radio and TV interviews on SMD issues granted by Thomas Hofer, MPS Coordinator, and Rosalaura Romeo, MPS Programme Officer.

Membership activities

In 2014, the MPS received approximately 30 requests from members for inputs for conferences and events, documents, outcome declarations, UN reports, papers, selection of speakers, preparation of communication tools, such as presentations and speeches, connection among members.

Function Advocacy

Awareness of SMD raised and tangible commitments made by the international community toward achieving and mainstreaming SMD into policies

Advocacy Strategy

The MPS drafted a four-year advocacy strategy and related calendar of events. This will be submitted for comments to the Task Force group formed in Erzurum.

Advocacy events and communication

Since September 2013, the MPS, in collaboration with Mountain Partnership members, has organized six events in New York to promote the inclusion of mountains in the Post-2015 development agenda. These events have been held in conjunction with the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals sessions and have involved a vast number of MP member governments and civil society members mainly from North America. They have been instrumental in ensuring adequate political support. The MPS, in collaboration with UNEP, the Swiss and Austrian Cooperation and FAO, produced five SDG-related issues briefs, all of them translated into French and Spanish and two also in Arabic and Russian. It has also contributed to speeches by MP Governments and to speeches by FAO at the Open Working Group sessions. Communication has been through news items on the MP website and through tailored messaging to members about the outcomes of the SDG advocacy events. [Read here for a full list and news announcements.](#)

As a result of these joint efforts, mountains have been included in the final report of the UN Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals submitted to the General Assembly. Moreover, mountains are mentioned once in proposed goal 6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”(target 6.6) and twice in proposed goal 15 “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”(target 15.1 and target 15.4).

Other advocacy activities and events organized and/or attended by the MPS and MP members include:

- A seminar, co-organized by FAO, Earth Day Italia and the MPS, held on Environment Day, called "Intelligent territories: opportunities for future investment - social, environmental and financial innovation." (5/6/14, Rome, FAO, with a presentation by the MPS)
- In collaboration with the Permanent Representation of Peru in Rome, a lunch was organized to present the Mountain Partnership and sustainable mountain development issues as well as to explore potential new partnerships with the Heads of the FAO Regional Groups (21 July 2014, Rome, FAO).
- Participation at Euromontana conference in Bilbao and presentation by the MPS about Mountain Family Farming (22-24 October 2014, Bilbao, Spain).
- For UNFCCC COP20, the MPS worked with the Governments of Switzerland, Bhutan, Argentina, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, FAO and the Mountain Institute to organize a high-level side event on Mountains and Climate Change – from understanding to action. (11 December 2014, Lima, Peru).
- The MPS has produced communication material on the IMD theme Mountain Family Farming in the six UN languages, disseminated members' planned IMD activities on the IMD website, produced a video and drafted a social media strategy and guide, including key messages, that was shared with a number of communication experts, both MP members and non. An issue of Peak to Peak in early 2015 will be dedicated to reporting IMD celebrations.
- Mountains were celebrated at the United Nations in New York, USA, with an event co-organized for IMD by the Permanent Mission of Argentina, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS). Panellists included Argentina, Italy, Switzerland and the Utah Valley University. A Mountain Focus group was also held in the afternoon. (12 December 2014, New York).
- Interdisciplinary Mountain Research – Austrian Academy of Science has collaborated with EURAC on the Working Group of Demography and Employment of the Alpine Convention.

The MPS also provides input on mountain issues and promotes the Mountain Agenda at UN Conferences and Conventions, such as the Carpathian Convention and the Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and regularly drafts mountain-related briefing points for FAO's Director General in his bilateral meetings with mountain Member States.

Mountain Ambassadors

The MPS has drafted a list of potential goodwill ambassadors to represent mountains, which was shared with the North American constituency alongside the UN Guidelines for Goodwill Ambassadors. It is part of the annex of the advocacy strategy. Climber, filmmaker and philanthropist Jake Norton has been invited to become an ambassador for this year's International Mountain Day and invited to the observance event at the United Nations in December 2014 in New York.

Function Joint Action

Joint projects which have impact on the ground have been fostered, and collaborative action among MP members and others on themes of relevance to sustainable mountain development facilitated

Events and actions

- A meeting was organized by the Argentinean Mountain Committee and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) and attended by government officials representing Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Colombia as well as an MP NGO member, to build on the results of a project promoted by the MPS-FAO, whose main outputs were the creation of a regional governmental mechanism to promote the development of the Andes and the setting up or strengthening of national mountain committees in six Andean countries (7-9 May 2014, San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina).
- The MPS helped organize and attended the International Symposium on Mountain Economy, which focused on the interrelated social, environmental and economic components that together make up the framework for sustainable mountain development (6-8 May 2014, Guiyang, China).
- The MPS supported the organization of the World Mountain Forum in Cusco that was organized by CONDESAN, Mountain Forum, COSUDE (Switzerland Cooperation), University of Central Asia, FDDM, ICIMOD, University of Bern, ARCOS, University of Zurich and attended by many of the Mountain Partnership (MP) members as speakers and panelists, including the Government of Peru, the Government of Kyrgyzstan, the Government of Uganda, the Government of Bhutan, the Government of Switzerland, FAO and representatives of major groups organizations from South Africa, Asia, Europa and South America. (23-24 June 2014, Cusco, Peru).
- At the request of Italian MP members', a meeting was organized by the MPS with the FAO unit working on EXPO 2015. A list of proposed events as well as a list of possible speakers were submitted to the Italian Development Cooperation.
- The World African Mountains Forum (22-24 October 2014, Arusha, Tanzania) was organized by Mountain Partnership members ARCOS and the Africa Mountain Partnership Champions Committee, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the three-day forum saw the participation of numerous Mountain Partnership member institutions. The Arusha Outcomes Declaration with contributions from the MPS sets forth the SMD agenda for the region.
- Five members of the Mountain Partnership (MP) held the Ninth Negros Island Organic Farmers' Festival the capital of the Negros Occidental province of The Philippines with the theme 'One Negros, One Green Economy'. The MPS assisted the organization by liaising with the Philippines FAO Representation and providing background communication material on mountain family farming (19-23 November 2014, Bacólod City, Negros Occidental, the Philippines).
- During the IUCN World Park Congress Ev-K2-CNR, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and FAO launched a Federation of Mountain Protected Areas (FMPA), which is open to Mountain Partnership members who would like to participate. The Federation will use an online tool that aims to support mountain protected areas around the world by

facilitating the flow of information; the exchange of good practices, knowledge and experiences; the implementation of instructions and directives and the sharing of successful management guidelines (13 November 2014, Sydney, Australia).

- The Geoinformatics team of the Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern and the FAO Statistics Division, with the support of MPS are collaborating on a study that analyses the causes behind the vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition of mountain communities and develops a new set of indicators to assess them with the aim of quantifying the number of vulnerable people living in mountain areas. The study is intended to inform policy makers and provide sound data for mobilizing support and political commitment for mountain issues (Ongoing, expected release date: early 2015).
- Interdisciplinary Mountain Research –Austrian Academy of science has collaborated with several MP members on CH-AT alliance on mountain research. It also continues its collaboration with the GLORIA network with the goal of monitoring of climate change effects on high mountain ecotones.
- The Environmental Research Center of the Khazar University, Azerbaijan, has collaborated with the Turkish Government on two studies about mountains.
- Two Kyrgyz mountain communities, involved in Mountain Partnership (MP) members' projects, met on 23 June 2014 to exchange experiences and build their respective capacities to harvest mushrooms and grow medicinal plants.
- A number of MP members, namely: CDE (University of Berne), ARCOS (Albertine Rift Conservation Society), CONDESAN (Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion), FDDM (Fondation pour le développement durable des régions de montagne), ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development), UCA (University of Central Asia) and also WGMS (University of Zurich) are part of a consortium launched by Swiss Development Cooperation SDC under the acronym SMD4GC (sustainable mountain development for global change) which aims to contribute to SMD under uncertain changes in climatic, environmental and socio-economic conditions, focusing on poverty and risk reduction..
- The Ecohabitats Foundation in partnership with the University of Innsbruck and the support of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, is developing the White Paper Biosphere Reserves Colombia, as a strategy to promote national awareness for the conservation of these areas.
- An informal MP Steering Committee Meeting with some of the MP members present for the UNFCCC was held in the FAO office of Lima to discuss advocacy, financial and workplan issues. It was agreed to update the discussion with the 2015 Steering Committee to be held in February 2015.
- The MPS held a meeting at FAO with the Focal Point the Global Mechanism UNCCD to discuss possible collaborations and synergies. A concept note is being developed for a joint event to be held on June 17 2015 (World Day to combat Desertification).
- Several activities have been implemented by MP members during the 20th session of the Conference of Parties (COP20) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). From 1-12 December 2014 there was a pavilion for mountains and water located at the Jockey Club del Peru, space called “Voices for the Climate”. The pavilion was a space for discussions, exhibits and videos on four different topics namely: water, glaciers and basins; ecosystems, biodiversity and food security; integrated climate risk management; goods and services and sustainable investments. The pavilion was

organized by the Ministry of Environment of Peru, Swiss Development Cooperation, CONDESAN, Belgium Technical Cooperation, Inter-American Development Bank, National Water Authority, SERNANP, International Potato Center and CARE.

Function Knowledge Management and Communication

SMD knowledge and experiences, including traditional, indigenous, scientific and technical, has been generated, validated and shared to support decision-making that leads to actions that foster SMD

Useful information effectively communicated about SMD-related activities, events, projects, reports, etc.; key messages disseminated to target audiences (general public, policy makers, media, private sector, scientists) who can advance the mountain agenda and the promote SMD

Knowledge management activities

- The Interdisciplinary Mountain Research–Austrian Academy of Science is involved in several information and communication platforms including GALPIS database, the DIAMONT database and WIKIALPS with the aim to foster innovation, technology transfer and capacity development, resource mobilization.
- VICAM has worked with varied stakeholders (indigenous community, province and academia) to raise awareness and exchange information relating to the conservation and sustainable use possibilities of vicuña in their territory. Bibiana Vila, Principal Researcher of Argentina’s National Research Council (CONICET) and Director of Vicuñas, Camelids and Environment (VICAM) was awarded the 2014 Midori prize in September for her achievements in the conservation and sustainable use of vicuñas.

Communication Activities

- The MPS drafted a four-year communication strategy for the MP and submitted it for comments to a task force of communication experts composed by one expert per region involved in the Erzurum meeting working group on communication. It has also requested and received regional communication plans from these MP members for inclusion. The draft is now ready for comments and approval by the SC.
- The Knowledge management task force has not yet been set up – an email was sent by the MPS to those members who had expressed interest in participating in Erzurum but no replies have been received.
- Several activities have been implemented by MP members during the 20th session of the Conference of Parties (COP20) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). From 1-12 December 2014 there was a pavilion for mountains and water located at the Jockey Club del Peru, space called “Voices for the Climate”. The pavilion was a space for discussions, exhibits and videos on four different topics namely: water, glaciers and basins; ecosystems, biodiversity and food security; integrated climate risk management; goods and services and sustainable investments. The pavilion was organized by the Ministry of Environment of Peru, Swiss Development Cooperation,

CONDESAN, Belgium Technical Cooperation, Inter-American Development Bank, National Water Authority, SERNANP, International Potato Center and CARE.

- The University of the Mountains organized about 20 events and workshops to raise awareness about mountain areas, highlighting the economy, agriculture, environment and art/culture.

Communication products

- A brochure (English, French, Spanish and Russian) was produced by the MPS in June 2014 to reflect the MP's new work plan and achievements.
- The MP website was redesigned and launched in November 2014.
- The International Mountain Day website is managed in three languages (English, French, Spanish) and regularly updated with members news and communication products.
- The MPS also uses three email lists: one for MP members as a whole or by specific category who are regularly sent targeted messages that pertain to them or are not intended for the general public, one for 'Friends' and IPROMO alumni.
- Five videos have been produced in English; the IMD 2014 video was translated into Spanish. Several photo galleries on MP projects as well as videos have been collated for submission to EXPO 2015. If accepted they will showcase SMD at the exhibition.
- Presentations and speeches – two Power Point presentations have been created by the MPS and can be requested and adapted by MP members according to need and audience. Speeches are produced and tailored for specific events by the MPS.
- MP partners CDE, SDC and UNEP produced a publication on [Tourism in Mountain Regions](#). FDDM contributed with an article.
- MP partners CDE, SDC and UNEP produced a publication Mountains and Climate Change. The MPS contributed with a chapter on food security in mountains.

Web analytics

More than 15.000 pictures – most of which feature mountains -appear on the MP Flickr account. An average of two posts are published per day on FB with a reach of roughly 1 500. Newsletter open rate runs about 28% for the members' list and 20% for the friends' list, both of which are sit above the industry standard of 19%. The MP website is updated almost daily with news and events; its performance is steady and the average number of new visitors per month is 1.600 and has grown since January 2014. Facebook is now the third source of referral traffic, reflecting the effectiveness of the integrated social media/web communication approach that was introduced in late 2013. The IMD site's analytics show an average of 347 new visitors per month since January 2014.

Function Capacity Development and Technology Transfer

Developing, increasing and sharing the capacity of MP members, mountain communities, mountain people and institutions; mechanisms such as South-South Cooperation fostered aimed at transferring technology that can assist other MP members, mountain communities, mountain dwellers and institutions to achieve SMD

Capacity development activities

- Twenty-four mountain development practitioners and researchers from 21 countries learned about promoting sustainable farming in mountain regions from 8 to 18 July 2014 in Ormea, Italy. The ten-day course, called the International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO), was organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the University of Turin, and FAO.
- A new course is being developed by the MPS and the University in Turin to be held in July 2015. The course will have close links with the EXPO 2015.
- The three-month, online training course called, "Sustainable Mountain Development in Kyrgyzstan," concluded with 25 school-aged participants in its final webinar on 11 March 2014. The certificate course was organized by Ekois with support from the Central Asia Mountain Partnership Hub.
- A sustainable mountain development course is being developed in Costa Rica by CATIE and Mountain Partnership member Fundecor and Proal-sur. The course should take place in 2015.
- To address the lack of knowledge and capacity development on adaptation to climate change in the mountains, Fundación Ecohabitats has focused its efforts on participatory design for the analysis of vulnerability and adaptation to climate variability at farm, districts and municipalities level. Also it has developed field schools adaptation and validation mechanism. The result is the Managing Climate from Vereda training of trainers manual.
- Fundación Cordillera Tropical is working with cattle ranchers to promote training in silvopastoral practices in existing grass pastures located between 2.400 and 2.900 m.a.s.l. The immediate goal of this project is to develop cost-effective methods to propagate, plant, manage, and harvest protein-rich fodder from trees for cattle consumption contributing to the sound management of resources in mountain areas.

Capacity development tools

The MPS manages the content of the IPROMO Pages, which include the power point presentations given during the courses. An IPROMO Alumni network is facilitated to ensure long-term communication and experience exchanges.

Function Innovation

A platform to inform and inspire dialogue, particularly in the face of emerging challenges, so that new ideas can evolve, priorities can be better identified and innovative solutions can be found and fostered

Depending on the availability of financial resources, the MPS would like to organize a workshop to kickstart a discussion about MP members' needs in the area of innovation, both at global and regional level. The tools and products could be developed to respond to these needs. It would also be useful to share good practices, build on synergies and proven or promising initiatives that work on innovation for SMD.

Function Resource Mobilization

Critical funding needs, gaps and opportunities related to the mission of the MP and the larger goal of SMD identified, strategic advice provided and potential resource partners such as member countries, donor agencies, private foundations and corporations for financial and in-kind resources actively engaged.

RM activities and products

- The MPS has developed a strategy and guide for approval by the SC. It intends to provide a framework for action as well as a guide to members on how to engage with resource partners. Once the strategy is approved, MP members will be invited to be part of the task force.
- The MPS has also drafted several proposals including one for the MP Facility which has been presented to resource partners, one on a vulnerability study and one for the running of the MPS.
- The MPS has developed a new funding database for members due to be launched in early 2015.
- The MPS has requested to Turkey the secondment of a junior consultant to promote the mountain agenda and strengthen the Mountain Partnership in Central Asia and the Middle East and North Africa region.
- The MPS continues the identification of new possible resource partners and has engaged with a few of them in a series of informal meetings and electronic communication (during COFO, in Washington, at FAO through the liaison officers, at events, etc). In collaboration with the University of Queensland the MPS has developed a six month project for mobilizing resources for climate change adaptation activities.
- A new project linked to the Mountain Partnership has been approved and funded by the Italian Government. The project will focus on promoting biodiversity activities linked to REDD in Papua New Guinea, on mountain products in Bolivia and Ecuador and in building closer ties between the MP and the Global Island Partnership.
- The MPS has consolidated contacts with CBD and UNCCD and strengthened the links with the UNFCCC. Over the next months it will continue to engage in meetings so to strategically ensure the presence of the MP in the global and regional mountain relevant events and meetings.
- The MPS has identified a number of private sector companies and is engaging with them also through the support of the Government of Italy.

Regional Activities

Asia Pacific

Members in Central Asia have worked on the following climate change projects:

- In collaboration with the MP member Agency of Development Initiatives (ADI), a network of women self-help groups and Mountain Partnership Central Asia Hub a project works with more than 5.000 households in rural areas, and facilitates their

access to different ways to improve agricultural production, eradicate poverty, strengthen food security and adapt to climate change.

- The initiative Climate Change Dialogue Platform of Kyrgyzstan (CCDP-Kg) was kicked off with a meeting hosted by the Central Asia Mountain Partnership Hub at the University of Central Asia in Bishkek. Organized by a group led by the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF), the meeting was attended by 35 participants representing government ministries, civil society groups, academia and development partners who are active on climate change issues.
- In Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 47 climate change practitioners, scientists and researchers met with government and non-governmental organization representatives on 25 February 2014, to discuss institutional and political frameworks for coping and adapting to changing climate in the mountainous Central Asian country. The event was organized by the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), Climate Change Coordination Commission of Kyrgyz Republic (CCCCKR) and the Climate Network of Kyrgyzstan (CNK) with support from the Central Asia Mountain Partnership Hub.
- Residents of Midenshor Village in the remote western Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan will soon have access to drinking water thanks to the Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA), a Mountain Partnership member. AGOCA, supported by the Mountain Partnership Hub at the University of Central Asia, has worked with the local Water User Association. It was funded by the Christensen Fund, a Californian organization active in Central Asian mountain countries.

Other activities include:

- In India, the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) had meet in New Delhi, India on 10-11 December 2014. The MoMS takes place every year and serves as a forum for advocacy, especially with regards to mountain issues in the fields of policy making and mountain migration issues. This year's meeting focused on the International Mountain Day's theme of mountain family farming. A FAO representative participated on behalf of the MPS and efforts are being undertaken so that India can become an MP member.
- In the Philippines Five members of the Mountain Partnership (MP) held the Ninth Negros Island Organic Farmers' Festival the capital of the Negros Occidental province with the theme 'One Negros, One Green Economy'. A FAO representative participated on behalf of the MPS.

Europe

- MAB -6 Russia has provided several recommendations for the sustainable development of mountain regions with the Gunib declaration "Mountain areas of Northern Caucasus: development through integration of culture, economy and ecology" and an analyses of the Law of Local Government and its impact on sustainable development of mountain communities of the Northern Caucasus. Establishment of North Caucasian Scientific Cooperation and North Caucasian expedition.
- The Municipality of Dénia organized for the IMD 2014 celebrations 10 raising awareness communication activities including a photo context and a marathon, produced a video in English and Spanish. www.agenda21denia.org and www.welovemountains.org

- With the support of the MP member Romanian Mountain Forum, the government of Romania approved the creation of the National Agency of Mountain Areas that includes the Training and Innovation Center for Development in the Carpathians - "CEFIDEC" Vatra-Dornei. The Romanian Mountain Forum organized several activities to mark the celebration of the International Mountain Day and is finalizing the set up of the Center of Mountain Economy of the Romanian Academy. The also launched the "Mountain Magazine" in both Romanian and English.

Near East and North Africa

At the request of MP government members of the NENA region and Turkey, an interregional MPSFAO technical cooperation project is being developed to address the sustainable mountain development in the area. The project will foster the set up of national mountain committees for promoting sustainable mountain development in a multi-stakeholder perspective and to create a regional platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned.

North and Central America and the Caribbean

- The North American hub has contributed to many of the advocacy activities carried out during the SDG process and TMI has been actively involved in the UNFCCC high level side event in Lima and the UTAH Valley University in the IMD celebrations.
- A new Italian funded project with the Global Island Partnership will allow the MP a closer collaboration with this partnership.
- AIMF (representing the MP's North American, Central American, and Caribbean region) contributed to the advocacy activities carried out during the SDG process at the UN in New York.
- AIMF in partnership with the Telluride has established VERTEX to represent the region and developed a website to promote communication, exchanges, and reporting among its members. Go to: savethemountains.org. This involved a proactive outreach with members.
- TMI also contributed to the SDG advocacy process and was actively involved in the UNFCCC high level side event in Lima
- Utah Valley University organized/participated the International Mountain Day celebrations
- AIMF initiated a collaborative exchange with the Kingdom of Bhutan to promote the Bhutan Trust for Environmental Conservation (BTSEC).

South America

- The MPS-FAO TCP project strengthened and expanded the institutional capacity of the six Andean countries to promote sustainable mountain development in the region. It also aimed to improve the participatory management of natural resources in the Andes by strengthening national institutions, increasing political attention and training, and sharing knowledge about mountain ecosystems. Regional governmental dialogue and

- transboundary cooperation on mountain issues are called for, also to identify the activities, strategies and policies for the Andean mountain region at local, national and regional levels. "The Andes, an opportunity for integration and development in South America", is a 126-page publication, which covers the main aspects of the project.
- The Chilean Mountain Committee was created on 12 September 2014. Seven ministers and seven service chiefs signed a decree forming a working group, which will aim to advise diverse state institutions on strategies for the sustainable use of these ecosystems in [Chile](#).
 - REDAR Peru took part in the National Committee on Family Agriculture (NCFA) held with FAO, the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture, The Peruvian Ministry of Social Inclusion and Development the Program for Rural Agrarian Development (AGRORURAL) and CONDESAN. Together they elaborating a National Strategy to promote policies that provide better life conditions for rural communities in terms of Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Food Security and Integrated Climate Risk Management. REDAR also was part of the communication Committee of the NCFA whose objective is to raise awareness on the effects of the climate change on the mountain communities. It held a National meeting between rural communities, academics, politicians and NGOs which took place in the Peruvian Congress on October the 15th. During this event, panel members presented their research on rural development, and climate change. Rural leaders also took part of the presentation of successful rural development experiences. REDAR also co hosted a Fair and Exhibition of the products of the small agrarian producers throughout the 16th and 18th of October.

Sub Saharan Africa

- International plans to coordinate Africa's mountain agenda were discussed in Arusha, Tanzania, on 22-24 October 2014 when more than 100 participants gathered for the First African Mountains Regional Forum. The African Mountain Partnership Champions committee also met in October 2014. [The Arusha outcome document](#) calls for governments to develop and implement mountain-specific policies, laws and programmes as well as mainstream SMD in their national development agenda; national and sub-regional economic communities make cooperative arrangements for the management of transboundary mountain ecosystems; and governments and other stakeholders enhance their climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and measures to ensure the sustainable flow of mountain goods and services. As a result of their participation, several African governments are in the process of finalizing their MP membership.
- The MP focal point for Madagascar wrote a document on « Mise en cohérence du développement durable des régions de montagne avec les orientations environnementales de la politique générale de l'Etat » in collaboration with another MP member, ARCOS. This document will be presented at the national authorities and will be the basis for a discussion on the mountain situation of Madagascar.
- The African Mountain Partnership side meeting was held in Arusha during the African Mountains Regional Forum (Tanzania 23 October 2014). The meeting provided an update of what is happening in Africa including the Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC) programme funded by SDC whose first phase ends on 31st December 2017. The SMD4GC project's overall goal is to provide an essential contribution to the sustainable development in mountainous areas under uncertain

changes in climatic, environmental and socio-economic conditions, focusing on poverty and risk reduction. In Uganda, the MP focal point Paul convened a National stakeholder's consultative meeting to enhance the understanding of sustainable mountain development and that the main outcome of the meeting that was attended by a total of 25 people from Government Ministries, Authorities, Local Government, None Governmental Organizations, Research Institutions and members of the private sector was the formation of an interim Sustainable Mountain Development committee. The Mountain Resource Centre at Makerere University is currently going through a review which will see the introduction of a course on Mountain Resource Development with effect from 2016. ARCOS and the Ministry of Water and Environment announced that they will host the World Mountain Forum in 2016 in Uganda.