



Summary report

23–24 April 2018 – FAO headquarters – Rome, Italy

Participants:

Donor Organizations

François Pythoud, Switzerland

Governments

Asia and the Pacific - Marie Venus Q Tan and Jovy Ganongan, Philippines

Europe - Grammenos Mastrojeni, Italy (Chair)

Middle East and North Africa - Salem Trigui, Tunisia

North & Central America and the Caribbean - Julia Vicioso, Dominican Republic

South America - Guillermo Valentín Rodolico, Argentina; Margarita Vigneaux, Chile (alternate)

Sub-Saharan Africa - Francis Dany Matip Nougá, Cameroon (alternate)

Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Hiroto Mitsugi, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Intergovernmental Organizations

Musonda Mumba, United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) (Vice Chair)

Global Civil Society Organizations

Carolina Adler, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)

Major group organizations

Asia and the Pacific - Gobinda Bahadur Shahi, Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) (Vice Chair);

Central Asia - Anara Alymkulova, Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund (ISDS)

Europe - João Azevedo, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) and Euromontana

Middle East and North Africa - Abdollah Ashtari Nakhaei, Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)

North & Central America and the Caribbean - Karinjo DeVore, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF); John Lifton-Zoline, Telluride Institute (observer)

South America - María Argüello, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)

Observers/Resource Persons

Shukri Ahmed, Deputy Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience, FAO

Anne Brunel, Consultant, Indigenous Peoples Team, FAO

Sameer Karki, Technical Officer (Natural Resources), GEF Coordination Unit, FAO

Yuka Makino, World Bank

Valeria Poggi, Programme Specialist, Indigenous Peoples Team, FAO

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Samantha Abear, Junior Consultant

Michelle Geringer, Associate Professional Officer

Fabio Grita, Senior Consultant



Giorgio Grussu, Project Coordinator
Andrey Kushlin, Deputy Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division, Interim Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat
Sara Manuelli, Programme and Communication Officer
Fabio Parisi, Junior Consultant
Rosaura Romeo, Programme Officer
Laura Russo, Senior Consultant
Antonella Sorrentino, Administrative Assistant

Overview:

This was the second meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) after the short meeting that took place following the SC's election at the 5th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership (MP). The SC members reflected on the way forward following the Global Meeting, discussed how to operationalize the priorities of the MP including implementing the Framework for Action, reviewed the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's 2018 workplan as well as the 2018–2019 event planning calendar, and addressed issues of governance, resource mobilization, communication and advocacy.

The participants delegated the Mountain Partnership Secretariat several follow-up tasks to complete before the next SC meeting.

Welcome, introductory remarks and adoption of agenda

The SC chair, Grammenos Mastrojeni, Government of Italy, welcomed the SC members and observers. On behalf of FAO, Hiroto Mitsugi welcomed the SC members and observers to Rome and introduced Ms Yuka Makino, who will be assuming the role of Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat on 5 June 2018. The absence of one SC member, Nchunu Justice Sama Esq of the Foundation for Environment and Development, representing Major Groups of sub-Saharan Africa, due to health reasons was noted.

The SC members adopted the agenda.

Looking forward from the Global Meeting: Outcomes, lessons learned and the tasks ahead

Considerations from the MP SC chair and vice chairs

The SC chair underlined his strong belief that together MP members can change the situation of mountains. Vice chair Gobinda Shahi, KIRDARC, displayed the Call for Action developed at Nepal's national conference on climate change, food security and freshwater held in 2017 and stated that we must raise our voices together for mountains. Vice chair Musonda Mumba, UN Environment, highlighted how the Global Meeting in December 2017 demonstrated the need for sustainable mountain development to be better articulated.

Regional perspectives and considerations from the electoral groups – presentations by SC members

The SC chair invited the SC members to present the opinions, issues, ideas and suggestions of their constituencies:



Donor organizations

François Pythoud, Switzerland, underlined the priority to ensure long-term funding for the Secretariat, which is currently funded only by Italy and Switzerland. He expressed Switzerland's desire for a greater emphasis on mountain agriculture and announced that 2018 is the Swiss Centre for Mountains' 75th anniversary, therefore the government will be organizing a series of events throughout the year in celebration thereof.

Governments

Asia and the Pacific: Marie Venus Q Tan, Philippines, announced that the Philippine Department of Tourism has developed a position paper on the divide between federal and local government looking at possible legislation that could move local governments towards more sustainable practices.

South America: Guillermo Valentín Rodolico, Argentina, explained how the Andean Mountain Initiative is proceeding in South America. The governments of the Andean countries adopted in Colombia, in July 2017, the Strategic Agenda on Climate Change Adaptation in the Andes, which is a document that sets ten objectives to achieve changes in the Andes. Countries in South America are tending towards having mountain committees within their governments. Chile is working on finalizing a public mountain policy, and Venezuela is also making positive advances towards sustainable mountain development. The committees established (or soon to be established) in the region for sustainable mountain development have a very inclusive approach and tend to cover a wide-scope of agencies directly or indirectly related to mountains. As an example, it was mentioned that Argentina is looking into how satellites could help protect mountains. He suggested that the Secretariat look into how to strengthen the MP's presence in Latin America.

North Africa and the Middle East: Salem Trigui, Tunisia, underlined how desertification is the greatest threat facing the region. Tunisia is working on developing a policy to keep youth in rural mountain areas from migrating to Europe.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Francis Dany Matip Nougba, Cameroon, expressed how governments in the region are unable to take action on sustainable mountain development at international level due to the war and conflict in many countries. Nevertheless, governments and civil society are collaborating and there is a lot of ongoing research on African mountains. Cameroon launched a project to identify and protect medicinal plants and encourage local populations to invest in cultivating them as a livelihood improvement strategy.

Intergovernmental organizations

Musonda Mumba, UN Environment, described the difficulty of maintaining connections with the member intergovernmental organizations due to the high staff turnover rate that is typical of these organizations. She suggested that the Secretariat push for greater institutional commitment from the intergovernmental organizations.

Major groups

Central Asia: Anara Alymkulova, ISDS, discussed the upcoming World Mountain Forum, to be hosted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek in October 2018. It is expected that Central Asian MP members will organize and participate in side events within the Forum. The newly created electoral group is working to develop a regional vision and strategy and



regularly holds meetings with active involvement of Central Asian MP members (both off- and online).

Europe: João Azevedo, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) and Euromontana, described the current strong recognition of the importance of heritage, ecosystem services and tradition. He said the European Union (EU) is more open now to discussing mountain issues than it was before. Although Europe is very diverse, mountain issues are becoming part of local, national and regional agendas. Mountain research is also becoming increasingly recognized across Europe with the recent establishment of new networks at the European and regional levels and the increasing national and EU funding.

North Africa and the Middle East: Abdollah Ashtari Nakhaei, MEPS, expressed the difficulties the electoral group is having with a decrease in the number of active members and the lack of new members joining from the region. Concerning the role of governments in the advancement of the MP's goals, he called on the Mountain Partnership Secretariat to try to encourage governments such as China to become a member of the MP and governments such as India to have a more active role in the MP. He also gave a short report on the activities implemented in Iran during 2017 mainly by the NGOs involved in mountain issues.

North and Central America and the Caribbean: Karinjo DeVore, AIMF, shared how, as a result of the Global Meeting, it created the Mountain Resilience Coalition (MRC) together with the Telluride Institute and the Western State Colorado University of School of Environment and Sustainability. Working with graduate students and mountain communities, the coalition is developing guidelines for mountain sustainability. Alternate Alberto Pasqual of Fundación CoMunidad is supporting this initiative by liaising with the Central American and Caribbean region and providing Spanish translations to engage the Spanish-speaking part of this electoral group.

South America: María Argüello, CONDESAN, spoke positively of the increasing size of the constituency in South America and suggested the MP be more aggressive with its South American campaign in order to raise more awareness of the importance of mountains in the region, which will favour the mobilization of resources by governments and cooperation towards sustainable mountain development. She called on the Mountain Partnership Secretariat to promote greater linkages between governments and civil society in the region, to work with young people to prevent them from leaving mountains and migrating, and also to include indigenous peoples' organizations in the MP.

Global Civil Society Organizations

Carolina Adler, MRI, reported via email prior to the SC meeting that the MP's Global Civil Society Organizations electoral group currently comprises a mix of non-governmental entities and associations, international research and network organizations, the private sector, and others, working in multiple regions around the world and contributing with diverse actions and inputs for sustainable mountain development. Of the 21 entities listed under this group, four responded to MRI's call for contributions and updates for the MP Secretariat's 2017 Annual Report. More consultation is required with this group to identify key advocacy interests and specific member needs, as well as how best to represent this group given the diversity of foci and types of entities represented here.

General discussion



The SC discussed ways the MP could channel their strengths into global action. The following suggestions were made:

- Governments need to work together more and become more engaged with the MP.
- The MP should empower a few countries to champion issues for mountain countries at UN level.
- The MP should serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, sharing experiences and good practices.
- Local and national governments must develop legislation to ensure long-term commitment to sustainable mountain development, and local governments should be involved from the beginning of the policy development process.
- There needs to be greater institutional commitment from member governments, intergovernmental organizations and major groups. The connection to the work of the MP cannot rely on a single focal point.

Decisions:

The Secretariat will work together with Musonda Mumba, UN Environment, to engage the member intergovernmental agencies to achieve greater institutional commitment and engagement from them.

João Azevedo, CIMO/Euromontana, proposed to host a workshop for local governance administrators during the upcoming or the following European Mountain Convention.

Anara Alymkulova, María Argüello, João Azevedo, Karinjo DeVore, Salem Trigui and Marie Venus Q. Tan volunteered to be part of a group to work on addressing mountain issues at local governance level. The group will be self-activating and self-funded and develop a set of ToRs.

Operationalizing the priorities of the Mountain Partnership

Vice chair Musonda Mumba coordinated the session.

Implementing the Framework for Action

Giorgio Grussu, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, delivered a presentation on the Framework for Action, which was launched and endorsed during the 5th Global Meeting. The Secretariat explained that they are encouraging countries that are part of the MP to incorporate mountains in their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) ahead of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in July 2018 during which a side event has been requested. A suggestion was made to provide governments with a simple message that they could voice at the HLPF.

Promoting a global communication campaign

Sara Manuelli, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, presented the Secretariat's communication and outreach activities and announced the global communication campaign the Secretariat is launching together with the SC chair, which includes the @MPChair Twitter account.



Decisions:

The SC decided the theme of IMD 2018 would be “#MountainsMatter”. This is an overarching theme that can cover a wide range of mountain issues based on local and national priorities.

The Secretariat will decide the theme each year of IMD well in advance, ideally 12 months in advance.

SC members with Twitter accounts will retweet the MPChair account, use the hashtag #MountainsMatter when relevant, and encourage their constituencies to follow and retweet the MPChair Twitter.

Likewise, the MPChair and MP will acknowledge, cite and retweet MP SC members own communications related to MP matters and disseminate and share information that supports the campaign.

How to advance the advocacy, communications and resource mobilization of the MP (creating working groups by building on the SC’s members’ strengths)

The SC members discussed the importance of communicating to people and organizations outside of the mountain community. Social media and mountain champions were discussed as ways to engage new groups.

Shukri Ahmed, Deputy Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience, FAO, gave a presentation on resilience and disaster risk reduction.

Decisions:

SC members proposed themselves to partake in the following working groups:

- Advocacy: KIRDARC, Philippines, AIMF
- Communications: Italy, Switzerland, MRI, Tunisia
- Resource mobilization: UN Environment, Switzerland

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat will circulate a doodle for SC members and MP members to sign up to the working groups.

Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the Mountain Green Cover Index

As the custodian agency of SDG Indicator 15.4.2, the Mountain Green Cover Index, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat gave a presentation on the indicator and its baseline data.

The SC members acknowledged how the Paris Agreement, the SDGs and the Sendai Framework are important and relative frameworks for sustainable mountain development.

Other priorities and key events in 2018 and 2019 calendar



In introducing the event planning calendar, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat clarified that the SC should indicate to the Secretariat at which events the MPS should participate or whom from the SC should participate.

The SC chair suggested the SC members remind MP members to speak on the existence and relevance of the MP when given an opportunity to present at events and to always carry with them some key messages and MP information materials.

Decisions:

The four main non-mountain meetings to focus on in 2018 are the UNFCCC and CBD CoPs, the HLPF and the Dushanbe high-level water conference.

It was also agreed that the 2018 World Mountain Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan is a strategically important event in which the implementation of the MP Framework for Action should be explicitly promoted by MP members and in the preparation of which the MPS should be directly involved.

Presentation of the 2018 MPS workplan and discussion of responsibilities

At the start of the session, Yuka Makino, the incoming Team Leader for the FAO Forestry Department's Water and Mountains Team, introduced herself. The SC endorsed her as the new Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat.

Sara Manuelli presented the Secretariat's 2018 workplan, followed by a presentation by Valeria Poggi of FAO's Indigenous Team on indigenous food systems in mountain areas.

The discussion that followed the presentations by the Secretariat and FAO focused on:

- Clarifying the differences between the work of FAO and the work of the MP and also differentiating between resource mobilization for the functions of the Secretariat and for projects;
- Acknowledging the issue of knowledge protection and agreed upon protocols regarding the sharing of information about indigenous peoples;
- Emphasizing sustainable mountain agriculture more clearly in the work of the Secretariat, as without sustainable agriculture, there is no sustainable mountain development.

Decisions:

The SC requested that the Secretariat better represent the agricultural dimension of sustainable mountain development in the updated communication materials related to the mission and mandate of the MP.

The Secretariat through the SC chair should work to gain new and more active members from among the intergovernmental organizations, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Governance issues, roles and responsibilities of the SC members, engagement of MP members, etc.



On the second day the discussion of governance issues, roles and responsibilities of SC members and the engagement of MP members focused on:

- why the new electoral group “Major Groups of Central Asia” was not yet reflected in the members list. The Secretariat clarified this was due to the open question of whether there will also be an electoral group for the Governments of Central Asia created, as this point was not discussed during the Global Meeting;
- the elections of SC members and absent/inactive members not being able to vote;
- not being able to reach members who do not reply to emails or phone calls;
- updating the process of accepting new members to involve the SC member of that respective electoral group;
- when and where the next SC meeting will take place and whether occasional virtual, informal or *ad hoc* SC meetings should be organized.

It was suggested that the Secretariat continue to consult the SC member of that respective electoral group when a membership application is received before accepting the application.

It was suggested that the Secretariat delete the statement in the Governance Paper “If members are inactive more than 1 year, MPS can request SC rep to inform member of cancellation” or rephrase it to “...at the discretion of the SC member”.

Decisions:

The Secretariat will establish a mailing list with a digest function for the SC.

The Secretariat will draft a letter from the chair on behalf of the SC, circulate it for approval of the SC members, and send it to the Government of Kyrgyzstan asking them to consider their participation on the SC as well as to encourage governments of other countries in Central Asia to join the MP during the World Mountain Forum in Bishkek.

The Secretariat will develop an options paper to be presented to the SC before the next SC meeting of alternative options for electing and voting for SC members.

The SC decided that the Secretariat should circulate a survey asking MP members what they expect from the MP, considering its five pillars of work. The Secretariat will share a draft of the survey with the chair before circulating.

A ‘governance’ SC working group (in addition to Advocacy, Communications, and Resource Mobilization) was also recommended to oversee and guide procedural governance matters regarding MP membership.

Update on resource mobilization / funding proposals

On the issue of resource mobilization, Sameer Karki of FAO’s GEF Team gave a presentation on GEF7. The Secretariat circulated copies of the draft GEF programmatic framework concept it prepared. The following points on GEF 7 were made:

- The SC applauded the MSP work in disseminating this opportunity and drafting the GEF programmatic framework concept.



- To access funds it is essential to get countries' buy in. Mr Karki suggested reviewing the concept note. He furthermore suggested contacting GEF Official Focal Points and lobbying with them.
- Within the possible programmatic framework, there will not be a singular programme on mountains but rather programmes where mountain aspects are considered.
- Focal ministries of the MP should be involved, and it is very important to understand how the process works in the countries involved.

Financial report

Giorgio Grussu, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, presented a financial overview of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's budget and spending in 2017. The following points were made by the SC:

- The MP needs to work on its pitch and approach to the private sector.
 - The Secretariat noted that collaboration between FAO and the private sector has to follow strict rules and each company must be reviewed by an FAO committee.
- The topic of establishing membership fees was again discussed. The Secretariat explained that they had not yet received a reply from FAO as to whether FAO can host fee-based Partnerships.¹ The SC members discussed the additional administrative costs that would be involved should a membership fee be introduced. Some thought introducing a fee would create an unfair obstacle that would prohibit poor members from participating in the activities of the MP.

The SC chair encouraged SC members to discuss with their governments the possibility of supporting funding the MP, as only Italy, Switzerland and FAO are funding it at this time and it is felt that this should be a collective endeavor.

Decisions:

A resource mobilization working group will be set up to look at how to capture funds in an innovative way and it will be open to participation by all who are interested. Communication and advocacy will be combined into one working group. The Secretariat will circulate a doodle poll by which those who are interested may subscribe to the working group(s) of their choice.

¹ Since the meeting, the Secretariat has received a reply, confirming that FAO can and does host fee-based partnerships, such as the World Banana Forum.



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT AGENDA
23–24 April 2018
FAO HQ – Rome, Italy Room Queen Juliana

23 April 2018

08.30 - 09.00 Welcome coffee

09.00 - 09.30 Welcome, introductory remarks and adoption of agenda

09.30 - 11.00 Looking forward from the Global Meeting: Outcomes, lessons learned and the tasks ahead

- Considerations from the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chairs
- Regional perspectives and considerations from the electoral groups – presentations by Steering Committee members
- General discussion

11.00 - 12.30 Operationalizing the priorities of the Mountain Partnership

- Implementing the Framework for Action (Item #1)
- Promoting a global communication campaign
- How to advance the advocacy, communications and resource mobilization of the MP (creating working groups by building on the SC's members' strengths)
- Progress on the SDGs –the Mountain Green Cover Index

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.00 Operationalizing the priorities of the Mountain Partnership (Contd.)

- Other priorities and key events in 2018 and 2019 calendar (Item #2)

15.00 – 16.30 Presentation of the 2018 MPS workplan and discussion of responsibilities (Item #3)

- Presentation from the Indigenous Team at FAO on indigenous food systems



16.30 - 17.30 Conclusions of day one

20.00 Group dinner

24 April 2017

08.30 - 09.00 Welcome coffee

09.00 - 09.15 Introduction to day two

09.15 - 10.15 Governance issues (Item #4), roles and responsibilities of the SC members, engagement of MP members, etc.

10.15 - 11.00 Financial report

11.00 - 12.00 Update on resource mobilization / funding proposals – Presentation by Samir Karki of the GEF team at FAO.

12.00 - 13.00 Other matters, general discussion and conclusions



**TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
OF MOUNTAIN RESORT COMMUNITIES**
Policy Recommendations of the Philippines to the MP

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE

Mountain regions encompass nearly 24% of the total land surface of the earth and are home to approximately 12% of the world's population. Considered as fragile ecosystems of global importance, mountains are the source of most of the Earth's freshwater, repositories of rich biological diversity, popular destinations for recreation and tourism and areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage.

The role of tourism cannot be overemphasized in planning for the future of mountain communities. Over the years, mountains have been host to varied tourism activities such as swimming, walking, visiting towns and national parks, skiing, snowboarding, spelunking/caving, bird-watching, diving, and a number of new extreme trend sports that have developed in the last few years such as bungee jumping, hang-gliding, paragliding, river rafting, and mountaineering. Precious mountain assets have made mountains valuable destinations for a category of tourists increasingly seeking transformative experiences, alternative activities, connections with nature and an authentic cultural experience.

Tourism in mountain communities has these comparative advantages:

- Remarkable and unique landscapes, both natural and manmade, composed of mountains and hill formations, caves, water bodies, and a wide array of flora and fauna.

- A rich cultural and natural heritage created over the centuries by mountain communities and maintained through diverse human activities, where indigenous traditions and practices persist.



- Existence of traditional and high-quality food products and crafts, and many other cultural traditions;
- A generally peaceful and quiet natural environment with pure air and cool climate that is very appealing for people experiencing the pressures of urban life and higher temperatures in both the lowlands and coastal areas;
- Unique environment for health, wellness and spiritual renewal , where physical features are conducive to health and wellness activities (such as forest bathing or *shirin yuko*) that could be integrated with indigenous and traditional healing practices.
- A year-round choice of diverse recreational activities, in the forests, on the water, in the air, on the slopes.

Tourism as an all-inclusive industry offers some of the greatest economic and development opportunities for mountain areas in the world, and this sector can contribute to increasing the income opportunities of mountain people while giving value to precious mountain assets. Tourism has greatly improved access, communication and infrastructure, and levels of education in previously remote, resource poor areas plagued by problems of survival and out-migration

However, the development of the mountain tourism sector faces a number of challenges:

- Climate change, which increases the risks of natural disasters, affecting transport infrastructure and settlements; and will result in changes to water regimes and the attractiveness of the landscapes on which many aspects of tourism depend;
- Development of unsustainable forms of tourism in mountain areas which, whilst making a vital contribution to the economy, endanger the environment and need to become more efficient in terms of



resource use, taking into account the preservation of landscapes and real community authenticity;

➤ Rapid, unplanned, and unregulated urban growth making the mountain areas more susceptible to natural risks under the impact of changing climatic conditions and urban problems such as rapid population growth, uncontrolled migration, informal settlements and slums, poorly managed land use and allocation, heavy traffic, soil erosion, immense garbage and waste, flooding and pollution.

➤ Lack of physical accessibility to the many remote areas within mountains, which, though their natural and cultural heritage are rich, cannot be easily accessed using clean collective transport.

➤ Still insufficient access to the latest information and communication technologies, preventing mountain people from developing indispensable services for tourists.

➤ Increased competition from cheaper and more accessible forms of tourism offered to consumers in a globalized economy.

These challenges endanger the capacity of mountain actors to take full benefit of territories which include today many of the most valuable tourism destinations in the world. Hence, we consider that the development of sustainable forms of tourism in mountain areas is not only essential for the long-term viability of this economic sector but is also the way to meet new demands and achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for mountain communities.

FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

In 2002, one of the background papers for the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) outlined four major principles focusing specifically on tourism in mountain areas. These could be used as a starting point in the definition of sustainable tourism principles in mountain areas:



- tourism should be one, and not the only, means of livelihood and economic development in diversified mountain economies;
- the benefits and opportunities arising from mountain tourism must flow consistently and in adequate proportions to mountain people;
- the impacts of tourism on biodiversity and cultural diversity must be well-documented, minimized, and managed, and a portion of tourism revenue reinvested in conservation and restoration of bio-resources, cultural heritage and sacred sites and a sustainable urban land use working framework;
- mountain people must play an active and responsible role in planning and carrying out mountain tourism, supported by other stakeholders and networks, by government policies and will, and by technical and capacity building.

The principles of sustainable tourism development are composed of environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects. In order to be successful in the long-term, a sustainable balance must be established between these three dimensions. This leads the management of all resources in such a way that economic, social, and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, important ecological balance processes, biological diversity, and life support systems.

On the concept of sustainability, the key elements of a definition of sustainable tourism as it applies to mountain areas, are the following:

- Generation of income and employment on a long-term basis, distributing this income to mountain people in a fair trade and ensuring that mountain communities receive a just proportion of the profits ;



- Preservation, conservation and promotion of environmental and cultural heritage, ensuring functioning ecosystems and securing the long-term viability of tourism activities;
- Educating business operators as well as tourists on the economic, environmental and sociocultural impacts of their respective actions and tourism choices;
- Providing a framework for the participation of local actors as well as cooperation between stakeholders, businesses, authorities and tourists to ensure that the benefits of tourism support other aspects of sustainable development in mountain areas, such as creative economic activities.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

In consideration of the above, we recommend that UNFAO and UNWTO:

- Allocate resources to fund high-impact projects on the sustainable development of mountain areas especially in developing countries around the world.
- Establish a commonly agreed definition of sustainable tourism and of a set of indicators to quantify the performance of each tourism destination;
- Encourage national governments of member countries, businesses and stakeholders to legislate ordinance and laws premised on the following:
 - Harmonize approaches to sustainable tourism, to include guidelines or incentives for tourism operators or awareness-raising commitments.



- Formulate policies which encourage progress in the field of sustainability, support and provide incentives to destinations which are the most committed in that respect.
- Providing businesses and authorities with tools to organize pilot projects on the sustainability performance of destinations.
- Encourage, in negotiations regarding the establishment of the Investment and Partnership contract, the Member States to adopt targeted strategies for mountain sustainable tourism that would bring substantial financial support for development of innovative, resource efficient and integrated measures for sustainable tourism development in mountain areas.
- Minimize legislative and regulatory constraints, which, if they are too severe, can slow down the creation or development of businesses, especially small and medium enterprises involved in sustainable tourism;
- Strengthen initiatives for network cooperation and transnational cooperation between member countries: the many mountain areas that are cross-border and transnational mountain destinations' need to share the best practices they have developed to address common problems and, sometimes, require common strategies.
- Elaborate strategies and program content in partnership with local and regional authorities, business representatives and all different types of stakeholders involved in the implementation of strategies. These strategies should cover economic, environmental and socio-cultural dimensions of sustainable mountain partnerships.
- Raise their awareness and the awareness of tourists regarding the environmental and social benefits and as well as the disadvantages of their actions