



Peak to Peak

Newsletter

02/2013



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HIGHLIGHTS



International Mountain Day celebrations

Mountain Partnership members across the globe came out in force on 11 December to celebrate the tenth anniversary of International Mountain Day. An impressive array of ideas from conferences, symposia, festivals, round tables, public video messages, art exhibitions, photo galleries, mountain climbing events, a web TV show, a silent auction fundraiser and a mini-marathon helped raise awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development across every continent. See details of what members – and non-members – got up to in this full [round-up of celebrations](#).

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members – including our first ever member from China – who have joined since December 2012. Please feel free to contact them for possible collaborative projects and ideas.

- [Guizhou University of Finance and Economics](#) (China)
- [Metsovion Interdisciplinary Research Center](#) (Greece)
- [Public Foundation Ergene](#) (Kyrgyz Republic)
- [Suldoz Kouhyaran Institute](#) (Iran)

As of January 2013, there were 202 members of the Mountain Partnership: 50 countries, 16 IGOs and 136 major group organizations (e.g. civil society, NGOs and the private sector). For information on their activities and contact details, and to update your own details, visit the [members section](#) of the Mountain Partnership website.

UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

New Regional Initiative for Mountains agreed for the MENA region

Over 15 representatives from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region have agreed to form a Regional Initiative for Mountains in the MENA Region within the context of the Mountain Partnership. The initiative is the result of a regional meeting held 16-18 December in Marrakech, Morocco, which was organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization in partnership with the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in the context of the Strategic Initiative for Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Development in Mountain Regions funded by the World Bank. [Read more](#)



North American hub created

The [Aspen International Mountain Foundation](#) and the [Telluride Institute](#) have created a Mountain Partnership regional hub for North America. The aim of the hub is to fill a void in representation for the region and to become a strong partner within the Mountain Partnership global community. A fundraising campaign is underway to establish an operating fund as well as an endowment to support ongoing efforts of the North American hub towards mountain sustainable development and communication. [Read more](#)

IPROMO 2013 coming soon

The sixth edition of the IPROMO Mountain Training Programme organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the University of Turin will take place in Ormea, Italy, 12-22 July. This year's theme will be Understanding Upland Watershed Management. Watch this space for further details and for more info on past programmes visit the [website](#).

Mountain Partnership on Facebook

The Mountain Partnership now has a Facebook page where we are posting daily, reaching out to a wider audience on the importance of sustainable mountain development and keeping followers up-to-date with Mountain Partnership member news and activities. Please feel free to share, comment, and post news and photos about your own organization's activities on the page:

www.facebook.com/mountainpartnership

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

AFRICA

ICIPE supports Water Resources Management course

The Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystem Services and Food Security in Eastern Africa Project, coordinated by the [International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology](#), supported a five-day training course in Moshi, Tanzania in January. The course brought together stakeholders from the water management and distribution sector in Tanzania, including members of water user associations, managers and engineers from farm and crop institutions, and commercial bottlers and distributors of drinking water. Participants took part in a field trip to the currently unprotected Miwaleni Springs, which are recharged by rainfall and glacial melt from Mount Kilimanjaro. [Read more](#)

New 'GeoPortal' for Fouta Djallon Highlands

The Fouta Djallon Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Management Project, implemented jointly by the African Union (AU), the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) (UNEP) and the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) (FAO), held a regional conference and training workshop in Dakar, Senegal from 10 to 16 December 2012. Results of land cover mapping and change detection for the region were presented along with the new GeoPortal, a geospatial portal for data dissemination and sharing. More than 50 participants from seven countries representing governments, research institutes, NGOs and the three regional River Basin Commissions attended the one-day conference, and 20 technical experts were subsequently trained. [Visit the GeoPortal](#) and [learn more](#)

ASIA PACIFIC

Mountain Voice Project: Looking For Partner

[Climate Himalaya](#) is looking for a partner for its Mountain Voice multimedia information series. Mountain Voice was launched in May 2012 to capture on video the voices of mountain people, practitioners, policy makers and researchers to generate awareness about the current situation of climate-linked issues in the Himalayan region and advocate for better climate adaptation strategies. The videos can be seen on the Mountain Voice [portal](#) and [YouTube channel](#). Climate Himalaya is now looking for a credible partner

to support the initiative and help take it at next level. If you'd like to help or to find our more, email mountainvoice@chimalaya.org.

CENTRAL ASIA

Mountains and Climate Conference

The International University of Kyrgyzstan organized an international conference on Mountains and Climate in Bishkek on 11 December to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Mountains. Supported by the [United Nations Development Program](#) and the government of [Kyrgyzstan](#), the conference brought together governmental officials, experts and scholars including a number of Mountain Partnership members from Central Asia and North America including [Utah Valley University](#) and the [Aspen International Mountain Foundation](#). [Read the conference resolution](#).

EUROPE



EU regulation protects mountain products

[Euromontana](#), the European multi-sectoral association for cooperation and development of mountain areas, is celebrating a new European Union regulation that protects mountain products. [Regulation 1151/2012](#) was officially published on 14 December 2012 and entered into force on 3 January 2013. In article 31 it introduces the optional quality term "mountain product" and recognizes the necessity of specific labeling. [Read more](#)

CIPRA supports sustainable public buildings project

The [International Commission for the Protection of the Alps](#) (CIPRA) is working on the MountEE sustainable public buildings project, helping municipalities in three European mountain areas – Sweden, the Alps and the Pyrenees – to achieve the European Union's 'nearly-zero energy' requirements for all new constructions and major building renovations by 2018. In six regions, 25 public buildings will be built or renovated sustainably and energy-efficiently. [Read more](#)

CIPRA is also involved in the 'recharge.green' project to explore how the demand for renewable energy in the Alpine region can be met while ensuring sustainable land use and helping preserve biodiversity. [Read more](#)

MOUNTFOR mountain forest centre to open in Italy

The European Forest Institute and the Edmund Mach Foundation have announced a new mountain forest project centre in northern Italy. The MOUNTFOR Consortium will be located in San Michele all'Adige, Italy, and will aim to provide a scientific basis for the sustainable management of mountain forests. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat and a number of Mountain

Partnership members have already expressed interest in supporting the initiative. [Read more](#)

LATIN AMERICA

Andean Forest Network

The Andean Forest Network, coordinated by [CONDESAN](#), is bringing together scientists and policy-makers interested in research, management and conservation of the Andean forest. The goals of the network include stimulating scientific research in Andean forest ecosystems by promoting collaboration among scientists, and serving as a platform to facilitate applied research and communication between scientists and policy makers. Current members of the network include scientists from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Peru and USA, and representatives of ministries of environment and national climate change adaptation programs in Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Please contact [Selene Báez](#) for more information or if you are interested in becoming part of the network.

Soluciones Prácticas starts work on Apolobamba project

[Soluciones Prácticas \(Practical Action\)](#) has signed an agreement with Asociación Integral San Antonio de Qutapiqiña to work on a project to strengthen local economic development and natural resource management in the Apolobamba Integrated Management Natural Area of the Bolivian Andes. Supported by the European Union, the project will last 42 months and aims to increase the income of the 1,185 vicuña-farming families living in the area. Soluciones Prácticas also sponsored a workshop to reinforce the legal power of the Natural Area's rangers in December. [Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mountains under Watch 2013 (MUW13)

20-21 February 2013

Forte di Bard, Aosta, Italy

This interdisciplinary conference brings together scientists and experts working in climate change studies in mountain areas around the world to share experiences, methods and strategies for long-term observations and monitoring of the climate change effects on different alpine environments, ranging from the cryosphere to the biosphere. Registration is now closed. See the [full programme](#)

Regional Great Lakes Stakeholders Forum

21-22 February 2013

Kigali, Rwanda

The theme of this regional stakeholders forum organized by the [Albertine Rift Conservation Society](#) (ARCOS) is 'Addressing the

drivers of change in the Freshwater Systems of the Great Lakes Region'. During the meeting, mechanisms will be established for an Eastern Africa Water Towers Initiative in the context of the Mountain Partnership. [Read more](#)

International Day of Forests

21 March 2013

Global



International Day of Forests

The United Nations General assembly has proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests. From 2013, the day will be observed each year to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of forests and trees to all life on earth. The day aims to maintain the momentum generated by the International Year of Forests 2011 and encourage countries to promote the sustainable management, development and conservation of all types of forests. [Read more](#)

Fifth Regional Meeting on Mountain Forests - First Symposium of Las Yungas Biosphere Reserve

30-31 May 2013

San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina

Partly organized by Mountain Partnership member [Foundation ProYungas](#), this meeting aims to bring together researchers from various disciplines working in the areas of mountain jungles and/or Las Yungas Biosphere Reserve to exchange knowledge and to identify possible research projects. Deadline for abstracts is 15 March. [Read more](#)

Alpine Summer School: Climate Change and the Mountain Environment

18-28 June 2013

Valsavarenche, Italy

This Alpine Summer School for students and researchers organized by the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate - CNR (Italy) and the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (France) will focus on how the mountain environment is changing in response to climate variability, with specific emphasis on monitoring current conditions, reconstructing past variability and developing projections for future decades. Deadline for applications is 12 May. [Read more](#)

Third International High Mountain Glacial Watershed Conference

8-21 July 2013

Huaraz, Peru

This conference will bring together scientists, practitioners, decision makers and other stakeholders from the Andes, Asia and the rest of the world to experience the 'living laboratory' of the Peruvian Andes. This year's event will focus on learning through a series of hands-on training modules and will focus on the threat of climate change in tropical and temperate high mountain glacial watersheds. For more information, please contact [Kate Voss](#).

International Snow Science Workshop

7-11 October 2013



Grenoble, France

The goal of this week-long conference is to promote interaction between practitioners and researchers in the fields of snow and avalanches. Participants will have the chance to join a field trip to visit the Chamonix Mont-Blanc valley for a closer look at the French avalanche programs. Presentations will be available in English, French, Italian and German and there will be a full social agenda to complement the week. The call for papers is currently open and registration begins in April. [Read more](#)

[See more mountain events on the Mountain Partnership website.](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Diálogo Regional de la Amazonía Andina por el Agua 2012

As part of its Andean Proposals series, [CONDESAN](#) has issued Diálogo Regional de la Amazonía Andina por el Agua 2012, which contains the results of a symposium held in May 2012 in the city of Iquitos, Peru. Government officials and practitioners from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru met for the symposium to discuss the use of economic incentives in ecosystem conservation relevant to water cycle regulation in the Andean Amazon. [Download in Spanish](#)

Rapid Urban Growth in the Andes

The Rapid Urban Growth in the Andes project, financed by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), has issued two publications on peri-urban development in the Andean mountain valleys of Peru. Download [Huancayo Metropolitano](#) and [Vivid valleys, pallid peaks? Hypsometric variations and rural-urban land change in the Central Peruvian Andes](#), or [read more](#) about the project.

Fouta Djallon project launches document series

The first two publications in a project document series by the Fouta Djallon Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Management Project are now available. The first study, Trends in the hydrology of small watersheds in the Fouta Djallon Highlands, investigates reasons for the seasonal dry out of small rivers reported in recent years. The second paper, Integration of climate change dimensions in the project activities, provides entry points and links to climate change issues in the region and highlights the project's potential to build resilience to climate variability and to ensure that field activities are climate-smart.

[Download in English or French](#)

NEWSLETTERS

Mountain Research Initiative

The latest newsletter from the [Mountain Research Initiative](#) (7/2012) contains 60 pages on mountain research around the globe spanning subjects from cultural landscapes in the Andes and the Pyrenees to snowline processes in the Southern Sierra Nevada.

[Download](#)

CALL FOR NEWS

Keep other Mountain Partnership members informed about your activities! Please [send us info](#) about new projects and programmes, initiatives, events, publications, newsletters, vacancies and calls for papers for inclusion in next month's Peak to Peak.