



Mountain Partnership
Steering Committee meeting
Summary report
29 April 2021 - Zoom meeting

Agenda

Chair: Andrea Macchioni (Italian Government)

1. 15:00-15:20 Opening and update

- Opening and adoption of agenda by Chair
- Update on the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's work, Yuka Makino
- Discussion

2. 15:20-15:50 Working groups to present work plans and updates – for information

- Advocacy and Communications work plan (incl. IMD 2021)
- Local Governance work plan
- Resource Mobilization work plan

3. 15:50-16:15 Mountain Partnership Secretariat work plan updates 2021

- Presentation of MPS work plan and planning calendar, MPS (for approval)
- Update on CBD process, MPS (for information)
- Update on SFS Process, MPS (for information)
- Update on UNFCCC process, MPS (for information)
- Discussion

4. 16:15-17:00 Mountain Partnership Global Meeting updates – for decision

- Update on process, MPS
- Presentations of proposals from members (4)
- Discussion, Q&A and decision

5. 17:00-17:15 Definition of the process for the revision of key Mountain Partnership documents in view of the Global Meeting – for discussion

- Timeline, MPS
- Consultation process with constituencies for the revision of key MP documents:
 - Governance strategy
 - Communication strategy
 - Advocacy strategy Item

6. 17:15-17:30 Other matters, discussion and conclusions



Overview

The Mountain Partnership (MP) Steering Committee (SC) met virtually on Zoom on 29 April 2021. This meeting was the sixth meeting of the SC since its election in December 2017 and the first MP SC meeting of 2021. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) presented its accomplishments since the last SC meeting in November 2020 along with its work plan for the remainder of 2021, for discussion and approval by the SC. Brief updates were given from the three SC working groups. The SC then heard from the four MP members who presented proposals to host the sixth Global Meeting of the MP in 2022, followed by a question and answer session. The SC then discussed the process and timeline for revising the key strategy documents of the MP in the lead up to the Global Meeting.

Section 1: Opening and update

Opening

Steering Committee Chair Andrea Macchioni, Italy, opened the meeting and invited the MPS to share an update on its work since the last SC meeting.

Update on the MPS' work

The MPS reported on its accomplishments during the period of November 2020 – April 2021 according to its four pillars of work: communication, advocacy, capacity development and joint action. It provided an overview of the outcomes of International Mountain Day (IMD) 2020, including a successful communication campaign, the launch of [Vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity: updated data and analysis of drivers](#) and the addition of the MP's first-ever female Goodwill Ambassador. The MPS furthermore shared a list of events at which one of its staff members participated and spoke and then provided an update on the Mountain Partnership Products (MPP) Initiative, including involving five additional countries, offering trainings on Participatory Guarantee Systems and launching a collaboration between a group of Kyrgyz women artisans and the Haitian-Italian fashion designer Stella Jean. Yuka Makino announced that she has accepted a position as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representative in Myanmar and thanked the SC for the opportunity to work with them at the MPS.

Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with the change proposed by the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) to allow more time for the discussions on the organization of the Global Meeting and the review of the MP governance.



Section 2: Working groups' work plans and updates

Advocacy and Communications

MRI noted the working group had not met since the previous SC meeting and suggested concentrating on the five processes that the working group had previously identified as critical for the MP: 1) sustainable mountain development and the regular reporting on the Framework for Action for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Mountains, including the High-level Political Forum (HLPF); 2) United Nations Secretary-General report on sustainable mountain development; 3) the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement; 4) Post-2020 process of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), focusing on NGOs and private sector; and 5) 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. Switzerland proposed the launch of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as an additional opportunity to consider how mountains could be incorporated. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO – co-leads of the Decade – supported this idea, and FAO invited SC members to share material, especially in local languages, on how to restore mountain ecosystems.

Local Governance

The Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF) reported that this working group had not met during the period since the previous SC meeting. She suggested looking into the relation between the sacred Living Chapel gardens that have been created by members and the linkages to local governments.

Resource Mobilization

No report was given on behalf of the Resource Mobilization working group.

The SC Chair suggested acknowledging that the working groups are not delivering as expected and asked the SC to consider whether they are still needed. He noted that the online SC meetings are convenient and allow for more frequent discussions/gatherings. He suggested maintaining a hybrid format in the future, ideally with one meeting in presence and 2-3 virtual meetings per year. The themes and tasks under the responsibilities of the working groups would then be addressed by the entire SC. His proposal was endorsed by the SC.

Section 3: Mountain Partnership Secretariat work plan updates 2021

The MPS provided a brief overview of its work plan for 2021, noting that the SC had previously received the work plan document and event calendar. The MPS highlighted four publications planned for 2021 on agroecology in mountains, sustainable mountain soil management, the 2020 MP annual report, and sustainable mountain tourism. The MPS will offer three training programmes in 2021 – IPROMO in July, and GROW in September – and with CONDESAN the first-ever IPROMO in Spanish, to be held in May. Side events and workshops are being planned with partners in the sidelines of several high-level events:

- **HLPF:** The MPS is requesting a side event on sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 in mountains, to contribute to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 17.



- **EXPO Dubai:** The MPS is a co-curator, along with Italy and the Aga Khan Development Network, of a full-day sustainable development workshop on 7 October. The MPP Initiative will furthermore be on display at the Best Practices Exhibition from 2 December to 2 January.
- **International Mountain Day 2021:** The MPS is co-authoring a publication with the World Tourism Organization on sustainable mountain tourism, to be launched on 11 December. An infosheet in six languages will also be produced and a communication plan rolled out.
- **UNFCCC Pre-COP and COP 26:** MP member EvK2Minoprio will convene a summit on mountain and climate change on 24-25 September ahead of the Pre-COP, at which the MPS will participate. The MPS has already submitted three proposals for events during the COP and is waiting for the online registration system to open this summer to submit official side event requests.
- **CBD COP 15:** The MPS developed a policy note on mountains and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – set to complement the briefs developed by UNEP, GRID-Arendal, Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment and MRI – which recommends reactivating the CBD Programme of Work on Mountains. The MPS highlighted that there is still time to add to the discussion on which indicators must be included in the monitoring framework.
- **UN Food Systems Summit:** By request of the SC, the MPS developed an info sheet on sustainable food systems and mountains together with Centre for Development and Environment for the Summit that was shared with all MP members, who were encouraged to use the info sheet and participate in the process leading to the Summit. The MPS will also host an independent dialogue on sustainable mountain food systems on 18 May and is exploring the possibility of organizing an event at the Pre-Summit in Rome in July.

UNEP mentioned the close collaboration with the MPS on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and added that they are analysing the headline indicators to identify whether these could be used for monitoring mountain ecosystems.

The MPS stressed that it relies on the support of governments for the organization of the side events and to have mountain discussed in plenary meetings, especially in the UNFCCC COP 26.

MRI inquired on proposed events for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. The Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) stated that the European Committee of the Regions' Commission for Natural Resources is organizing the [online conference](#) "Pastoralism: A crucial tool to tackle with sustainability challenges in EU and beyond" on 14 June. The MPS will look into participating in the International Year.

Decision:

- The SC approved the MPS' work plan and calendar and requested the MPS to note the feedback provided by the SC on the UNFCCC COP 26, CBD COP 15 and Food Systems Summit.**



Section 4: Mountain Partnership Global Meeting updates – for decision

The Chair welcomed the representatives of the candidacies to host the next Global Meeting of the MP. He stressed the importance of the next Global Meeting, marking 20 years since the launch of the MP and of the International Year of Mountains in 2002.

Presentations were then given by four MP member organizations:

- Aspen International Mountain Foundation
- Canadian Mountain Network
- Eurac Research
- National Agency for Mountain Areas of Romania

After the presentations, the SC discussed:

- the requirement for the host country to be a MP member. The MPS clarified that while being a MP member is not a requirement according to the governance, it is advisable to have government support to ensure a smooth visa process given the global scope of the membership. The MPS added that invitations historically have been sent at ministerial level to ensure high-level participation. AIMF and the Canadian Mountain Network reported the federal interest in both the United States and Canada to become MP members;
- a matrix or summary table to allow for better comparison of the four proposals;
- the need for gathering funds and supporters for this event and for a financially stronger MP; and
- avoiding conflicting dates with other planned events in 2022 such as of the World Forestry Congress (2-6 May) and the European Mountain Convention (12-13 October).

Decision:

- i. **By Tuesday, 4 May, the SC and Global Meeting host candidates will send their proposals for the summary table to the MPS.**
- ii. **By Thursday, 6 May, the MPS will send the table to the SC.**
- iii. **By Monday, 10 May, the SC will agree on the final table, which the MPS will share with the four candidates.**
- iv. **By Sunday, 23 May, the candidates will complete and return the table to the MPS, which the MPS will then share with the SC.**
- v. **By Monday, 7 June, the SC will inform the MPS of their decision, which the MPS will then communicate to the candidates and membership.**



Section 5: Definition of the Process for the Revision of key Mountain Partnership documents in view of the Global Meeting – for discussion

The Chair reminded the SC that there are three MP strategy documents to be revised ahead of the next Global Meeting: 1) Governance; 2) Communications; and 3) Advocacy.

The MPS shared a tentative timeline for the revision of the documents, explaining that the revision process typically takes 10 months.

The SC discussed options for the revision of the documents highlighting the important role of the MPS in this process, the need to start the revision of the strategy documents as soon as possible, taking a forward-looking approach and seizing the opportunity offered by the Global Meeting to reaffirm a successful MP for the next 10 years.

The SC Chair stated that, given the exceptional times the world is passing through, it is important to consider a different future for which the MP must fit in.

Decision:

- i. By the end of May, the MPS will prepare a first draft of the revised documents.**
- ii. The SC will have three weeks to make comments,**
- iii. After these three weeks, an updated draft would be shared with the MP members for consultation. To facilitate the revision, drafts will be shared as PDFs with numbered lines of text, and members will be given a pre-made form to provide their brief comments. Comments will be collected from their constituencies by the corresponding SC member.**
- iv. The final documents will be given to the MP members at least six weeks in advance of the Global Meeting.**

Section 6: Other matters, discussion and conclusions

The SC expressed their heartfelt thanks to Yuka Makino for her contributions to the Mountain Partnership and shared their well wishes to her in her new position in Myanmar.



Annex 1: Participants' list

Steering Committee members

Donor Organizations

François Pythoud, Switzerland

Governments

Asia and the Pacific – Jem Micaiah Turla, Philippines

Europe – Andrea Macchioni, Italy (Chair)

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

South America – Carolina Rotolo, Argentina

Sub-Saharan Africa – Maureen Anino, Uganda

Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Ewald Rametsteiner, Mette Wilkie, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Intergovernmental Organizations

Harald Egerer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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 – Simao Pinho, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) and Euromontana

North & Central America and the Caribbean – Karinjo DeVore, Eric Smith, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF) (Vice Chair)

South America – María Argüello, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN); Marisa Young, Fundación Agreste (Alternate)

Presenters for hosting next Mountain Partnership Global Meeting:

Aspen International Mountain Foundation, AIMF – Karinjo Devore, Margi Levitt

Canadian Mountain Network – Matthew Berry, Monique Dube, Nicole Olivier

EURAC – Paola Fontanella, Stefan Schneiderbauer, Jörg Szarynski

National Agency for Mountain Areas, Romania – Veronica Baciu, Danut Ungureanu

Observers

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Samantha Abear

Valeria Barchiesi

Allison Bozzi

Yuka Makino

Sara Manuelli

Fabio Parisi



Patricia Quillacq
Rosaura Romeo
Laura Russo
Antonella Sorrentino

Absent Steering Committee Members:

Governments

Middle East and North Africa – Tunisia

Major Group Organizations

Middle East and North Africa – Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)

Sub-Saharan Africa – Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)