



Sixth meeting of the Open-ended Scientific Committee (OESC) for the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 (IYM2022)

Summary report
18 January 2023, 15.30-17.00 – Zoom meeting

Agenda

15.30 – 15.35 Opening, introduction, and adoption of the agenda

15.35 – 15.55 Updates from policy brief authors

15.55 – 16.10 Update on the IYM closing ceremony and launch of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027

16.10 – 16.40 Discussion on the Independent Advisory Body and working group:

- Participants
- Role and ToRs
- First meeting – date to be decided

16.40 – 16.55 Other issues

16.55 – 17.00 Conclusions

Opening, introduction, and adoption of the agenda

The sixth meeting of the Open-ended Scientific Committee (OESC) for the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 (IYM2022) was co-chaired by Gobinda Bahadur Shahi Executive Director, Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC), and Hugo Mantilla-Meluk, General Coordinator, Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM), Universidad del Quindío.

The newest members of the OESC briefly introduced themselves. Introductions included Morgan Seag, International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI), who recently joined the Mountain Partnership (MP) in 2022; Patricia Breuer Moreno, Co-Founder of Mujeres a la Cumbre and Mountain Researcher at the Center for Technologies for Society, Faculty of Engineering, University of Desarrollo in Chile; and Andrea Cararo (joining on behalf of Jost Dittkrist) from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS). See the full participants list in Annex 1.

The agenda was adopted without change.

Updates from policy brief authors

Fabio Parisi, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, reported on updates of five policy briefs from September to December 2022.

Two policy briefs of the OESC were launched at the Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership:

- [Inclusive and resilient mountain food systems: Opportunities and best practices](#)
 - Authors: ICIMOD, MPS
- [Keeping our mountains plastic waste free](#)
 - Authors: GRID-Arendal; Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, MRI, UIAA, UNEP, MPS

A third policy brief was launched in October 2022:

- [Mountain observations: Monitoring, data, and information for science, policy and society](#)
 - Authors: MRI, Adaptation at Altitude, SDC, MPS

Two additional policy briefs were launched at the CBD COP15 in Montreal:

- [Ecosystem restoration in the mountains](#)
 - Authors: ICIMOD, MPS
- [Mountains and heritage-making](#)
 - Authors: University of Geneva, MPS

Upcoming policy briefs include:

- Towards systemic disaster risk reduction in mountain social-ecological systems
- Sustainable tourism in mountains
- Mountain wetlands and peatlands
- Sustainable management of mountain soils

Carolina Adler highlighted that the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)-led brief on climate change policy that was due to be launched after the UNFCCC COP27 is still in the pipeline and there is still time for members to contribute. This policy brief will propose recommendations for the next five years based on the outcomes of COP27. Those interested should add their contact information to the [policy brief table](#) and express the concrete contribution they wish to contribute as soon as possible.

Maria Rosa Cardenas from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) outlined that their policy brief [Harnessing the socio-ecological potential of mountain biosphere reserves for biodiversity conservation](#) was launched at the end of 2022, in joint effort with the MP and MRI, as part of the IYM2022, but the content layout will be edited in the first quarter of 2023.

Paola Fontanella Pisa, UNU/EURAC Research Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS) Programme, thanked those that contributed to the disaster risk reduction policy brief and assured the OESC that GLOMOS is working on it, although no deadline has been set to finalize the brief.

Maria Nuutinen, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), confirmed that the brief on peatlands is underway. She reminded the OESC of the recent publication of the [Global Peatlands Assessment](#).

Ansgar Fellendork, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), added that there has been no substantial momentum on the mountain governance policy brief. He shared that the University of Geneva and UNEP have published a lot of information on mountain range governance at www.mountains-connect.org and recommend the OESC to use this space and to share it widely.

Tomas Greene, Deutsche Schule Chicureo, Chile, shared with the OESC that the World Economic Forum recently released its [Global Risks Report 2023](#) as well as governments' recent commitments at CBD COP15 and suggested members use this document as a framework when fundraising.

Those interested in learning more about the upcoming policy briefs may send an email to Fabio.Parisi@fao.org at the Mountain Partnership Secretariat.

Update on the IYM2022 closing ceremony and launch of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027

Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, reported on the success of the IYM2022 and the proposal of a closing ceremony in 2023. She outlined plans for an online or hybrid event around the end of March or April 2023 (TBD), as the IYM2022 was officially launched on 28 April 2022.

The main objectives of the event will be to reflect on the achievements of the Year and to discuss how the future mountain agenda can be shaped and enhanced further. It will be an opportunity to strategize and build on the momentum that this Year has created, including the launch of Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027 that was recently approved as part of the United Nations General Assembly triennial resolution on sustainable mountain development ([A/RES/77/172](#)).

The closing ceremony will also provide a collective focus and open opportunities for:

- attracting grant assistance and investments for mountains;
- developing a “green” economy and technologies;
- creating mechanisms to strengthen cooperation between mountainous countries; and
- developing science and education in the field of sustainable mountain development.

Members suggested that hosting the event in April 2023 is amenable and proposed to provide a space to present the policy briefs to the wider community involved in sustainable mountain development.

Thomas Hofer, FAO, highlighted that the members of the OESC have an opportunity and responsibility to build on this International Year to bring attention and action for mountains to a different scale of urgency.

Upcoming International Years for consideration/attention

- [2024 has been proclaimed the International Year of the Camelids](#), and since many camelids live in the mountains, project plans can be made that include both issues.
- 2025 has been proclaimed by the UNGA (on 15 December 2022) as the [International Year for Glaciers' Preservation](#).

Five Year Action Plan

The Government of Kyrgyzstan is currently preparing the details of the 2023–2027 Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions. Members of the OESC asked whether it would be possible to see and contribute to the finalizing of the plan. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat clarified that further information would be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Discussion on the Independent Advisory Body and Working Group

Sara Manuelli, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, reported on the status of establishing a new scientific independent advisory body, as requested by some MP members during the sixth Global Meeting of the MP in 2022, to support the MP Steering Committee and MP members more generally in their advocacy efforts. This OESC was created for supporting the IYM2022 and, having proven to be a great asset for the MP and the mountain agenda, it has been proposed to transform it into a long-term body. This new body will contribute to the science-policy dialogue and build evidence and be composed by individuals (open to both MP and non-MP members).

Next steps (suggested):

A working group comprised of OESC members will be established to:

- define the main role and functions of the body;
- draft the Terms of Reference of the body; and
- define the name of the body.

Additional OESC members volunteered to join the working group (see Table I). Anyone else that is interested is welcome to join. The working group will report back to the MP Steering Committee, and the Steering Committee will offer its comments and endorse the documents drafted by the working group. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat stands ready to support.

The work plan and the agenda of the new body should be drafted by the working group. There is not a conflict of interest if MP Steering Committee members are also interested to join this working group. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat proposed the first meeting date Tuesday, 31 January at 15.30-17.00

(CET); however, given some working group members having conflicts with this date, the Secretariat offered to circulate a poll to decide the most convenient date for all.

Table I. Current working group volunteers

Organization	Name of Individual	Country
Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH)	Representative TBD	Switzerland
Andorra Research and Innovation	Marc Pons	Andorra
Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM)	Hugo Mantilla-Meluk	Colombia
Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO)	Simao Pinho	Portugal
FAO	Thomas Hofer	Italy
International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI)	Morgan Seag	United States of America
Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)	Carolina Adler	Switzerland
Mujeres a la Cumbre / University of Desarrollo	Patricia Breuer Moreno	Chile
Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Jost Dittkrist	Switzerland
Sustainable Caucasus & Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt)	Nina Shatberashvili	Georgia
UNEP	Matthias Jurek	Austria
UNESCO	Maria Rosa Cardenas	France
University of York	Robert Marchant	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Vicuñas, Camélidos y Ambiente (VICAM)	Bibiana Vilá	Argentina

Other issues and conclusions

The next meeting of the OESC will be held in March 2023. Volunteers to co-chair this meeting should email fabio.parisi@fao.org.

The OESC expressed its condolences for the families, friends and colleagues of those that perished in the recent plane crash in Nepal.

Hugo and Gobinda thanked all those who attended for participated in this meeting and thanked the Mountain Partnership Secretariat for supporting the meeting.

Annex 1: Meeting participants

Last name	First name	Affiliation	Country
Adler	Carolina	Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)	Switzerland
Attorre	Fabio	Sapienza University of Rome	Italy
Badenkov	Yuri	Russian Academy of Science	Russian Federation
Bernbaum	Edwin	University of California, Berkeley	United States of America
Breuer Moreno	Patricia	Mujeres a la Cumbre / University of Desarrollo	Chile
Cararo	Andrea	Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS)	Switzerland
Cardenas	Maria Rosa	UNESCO	France
Fellendorf	Ansgar	UNEP	Austria
Flores	Patricia	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) – Organics International	Peru
Fontanella Pisa	Paola	UNU/EURAC Research Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS) Programme	Italy
Fouinat	Laurent	GRID-Arendal	Norway
Freppaz	Michele	University of Turin	Italy
Greene	Tomas	Deutsche Schule Chicureo	Chile
Gunya	Alexey	Russian Academy of Sciences	Russian Federation
Hofer	Thomas	FAO	Italy
Hussain	Abid	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Nepal
Jurek	Matthias	UNEP	Austria
Llambi	Luis Daniel	Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Mackey	Alex	Zoï Environment Network	Switzerland
Mantilla-Meluk	Hugo	Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM)	Colombia
Marchant	Robert	University of York	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Nasab	Nusrat	Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH)	Pakistan
Nitu	Rodica	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Switzerland

Nuutinen	Maria	FAO	Italy
Olivier	Nicole	Canadian Mountain Network (CMN)	Canada
PancorboOlivera	Marggiori	FAO	Italy
Pons	Marc	Andorra Research and Innovation	Andorra
Quenta	Estefania	UNEP	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Rudaz	Giles	University of Geneva	Switzerland
Saeg	Morgan	International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI)	United States of America
Schmoeker	Genevieve	UNEP	Austria
Shahi	Gobinda	Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC)	Nepal
Shatberashvili	Nina	Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Region (Sustainable Caucasus)	Georgia
Tribaldos	Theresa	University of Bern	Switzerland
Vilá	Bibiana	Vicuñas, Camélidos y Ambiente (VICAM)	Argentina
Zwahlen	Johanna	Zoï Environment Network	Switzerland

Mountain Partnership Secretariat staff:

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