FASHION
FOR FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS
Fashion for Fragile Ecosystems aims to improve the livelihoods of mountain and island communities around the world, while ensuring the protection of their environments by linking cultural heritage and traditional design with ethical, contemporary fashion.
Mountains and islands experience similar challenges of being very fragile ecosystems with very vulnerable populations, highly impacted by climate change, natural disasters, economic shocks and marginalization.

Small communities of artisans in the remotest mountain areas and the smallest islands around the world are often custodians of naturally circular economies with the highest quality and the lowest environmental impact.

However, often their legacy risks to be lost as their isolation and the long value chains with many intermediaries do not favour fair compensation to the primary producers.
Fashion for Fragile Ecosystems brings together artists and artisans from the remotest regions of the world with international fashion brands to create positive, long-lasting change through equal exchange of skills, traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. An international fashion designer works hand in hand with a group of local artists and artisans and co-designs a contemporary collection inspired by their local traditions, knowledge and culture.

Technical training and financial support is provided to local producers to improve their value chains and innovate their products, and the results are showcased through dedicated events and communication campaigns.

Each collection is presented to the international market and produced by the fashion brand involved. The intellectual property rights are then granted free of charge to the artisans, to enable them to keep producing and selling the garments through their own channels.
Fall/Winter 2021 - Kyrgyzstan
- Milan Fashion Week, February 2021.
- Capsule collection designed by Italian-Haitian fashion designer and Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador Stella Jean in collaboration with Topchu, a collective of women artisans from Kyrgyzstan.

The collection features the traditional Shyrdak design, typically used for carpets, transformed into a pattern for contemporary clothing. The felt designs made with sheep’s wool from Issyk-Kul, a remote mountain region, added onto cotton to create everyday wear.

Fall/Winter 2022 - Peru
- Capsule collection designed by Stella Jean in collaboration with Ilariy Threads4dreams, a women’s association of alpaqueras from the Peruvian Andes.

The collection features a series of hand-knitted collars made with multicolour alpaca fleece from a remote mountain village at 4800 metres above sea level in the Puna ecosystem, bridging knowledge of Italian design with the cultural legacy of mountain women.

Fall/Winter 2023: to be announced
Spring/Summer 2024: to be announced
PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS

Video in Peru (2022) available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

Video in Kyrgyzstan (2021) available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

PHOTOS 📸

View the 2021 photo album here  View the 2022 photo album here  View the fashion show photo album here

SOCIAL MEDIA

Food and Agriculture Organization 🌍 May 18, 2021
Fashion designer Stella Jean has joined forces with FAO Women’s Committee, @impressioni & women in Kyrgyzstan to create a collection that brings to life the traditional designs & techniques from the Kyrgyz mountains.

Food and Agriculture Organization 🌍 May 8, 2021
Fashion designer Stella Jean has joined forces with FAO Women’s Committee, @impressioni & women in Kyrgyzstan to create a collection that brings to life the traditional designs & techniques from the Kyrgyz mountains.

Food and Agriculture Organization 🌍 Mar 17, 2021
Bringing their heritage.
OUTREACH

PRESS

Vogue (2021)

Vogue (2022)

Women's Wear Daily

La Repubblica

El País

FAO
JOIN THE FASHION FOR FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS MOVEMENT

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