



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

Summary report
14 March 2023, 15.30-17.00 – Zoom meeting

Background, opening and introductions

The working group of the Open-ended Scientific Committee (OESC) for the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 (IYM2022) met to review the draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee of the Mountain Partnership that was drafted by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS).

Members of the MPS joined the meeting as resource persons. Hugo Mantilla-Meluk of the Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM) chaired the meeting. See the list of meeting participants in Annex 1.

Discussion on the draft Terms of Reference

Working group members underlined that the ToRs should define and provide a foundation for the scope of work of the new body. Prior to the meeting, working group members provided contributions for the ToRs which were then reviewed and integrated by the MPS. The working members agreed that this document should outline the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee's commitment to providing knowledge and science expertise in an inclusive and transdisciplinary manner that also includes the social sciences.

Discussion on the thematic areas and modality of work

Working group members expressed the need for more inclusive “Thematic Areas of Work” that reflect the expertise available among group members and encompass all the cross-cutting issues related to mountain development, specifically cultural heritage and social sciences. The following considerations were proposed to better define the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee’s role and its relation to the thematic areas of work:

- Distinguish between the areas of work and the modalities and provide a paragraph that describes the Committee’s flexible nature and its availability to support, with the relevant expertise, the global mountain agenda and all issues related to mountain development without creating an extensive list of themes and remaining on a broader scale.
- Contribute to support the work of Mountain Partnership and the mountain global agenda by acting as a scientific reference point.

- Contribute to define the “Thematic Areas of Work” as pillars, or general areas, that guide the future work of the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee within the framework of the main international frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the “Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions”.
- Include a list of key mountain documents and frameworks to guide the Committee’s future work, such as the Aspen Declaration.
- Leverage the Mountain Partnership’s broader network to mobilize participation in the Committee through its channels (e.g. Peak to Peak newsletter) and ensure MP Steering Committee and mountain agenda requests and requirements are met.

Next steps:

- The MPS together with the working group member Nina Shatberashvili will outline the main roles and responsibilities of the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee’s commitment to use science-based dialogue to advocate for sustainable mountain development and to be inclusive and transdisciplinary.
- The MPS will include a paragraph on the role and scope of the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee that refers to documents and frameworks guiding the Committee’s work.

Conclusions and next steps

In conclusion, working group members posed the following reflections for future discussion in moving forward:

- How can we use the cross-cutting knowledge and expertise of the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee to benefit the Mountain Partnership’s advocacy efforts?
- How will the work of the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee complement the work of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee?

It is important to solidify a concrete foundation for the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee to move onto the next phase and begin the operational work.

Next steps:

- The MPS will circulate a new draft of the ToRs with the above-mentioned suggestions.
- The MPS will inform the MP Steering Committee about the draft ToRs at the next meeting.

Annex 1: Meeting participants

First name	Last name	Affiliation	Country
Patricia	Breuer Moreno	Mujeres a la Cumbre / University of Desarrollo	Chile
Andrea	Cararo	BRS Secretariat	Switzerland
Nakul	Chettri	ICIMOD	Nepal
Thomas	Hofer	FAO	Italy
Hugo	Mantilla-Meluk	Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM)	Colombia
Simão	Pinho	Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO)	Portugal
Morgan	Seag	International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI)	United States of America
Nina	Shatberashvili	Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Region (Sustainable Caucasus)	Georgia
Bibiana	Vilá	Vicuñas, Camélidos y Ambiente (VICAM)	Argentina

Mountain Partnership Secretariat staff:

Samantha Abear
Stefania Corrado
Yuna Lee
Sara Manuelli
Fabio Parisi
Rosaura Romeo