



## **First meeting of the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee of the Mountain Partnership**

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

### **Agenda**

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

**15.35 – 15.40** Tour de table

**15.40 – 15.55** Update from the Working Group – Name, ToRs of the SKAC

**15.55 – 16.10** Update on the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027

**16.10 – 16.30** Update on policy briefs from the authors

**16.30 – 16.40** Update on upcoming publication: Manual on mountain soils

**16.40 – 16.55** Other issues

**16.55 – 17.00** Conclusions

### **Opening, introduction, adoption of the agenda and tour de table**

Rosalaura Romeo of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) thanked participants for joining for the first meeting of the new Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee (SKAC) of the Mountain Partnership (MP). She briefly explained the background of the Committee, which was requested by MP members to create a long-term advisory body to support the MP's advocacy goals and to build on the momentum generated by the Open-ended Scientific Committee of the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022.

The agenda was adopted without change. Rosalaura passed the floor to Hugo Mantilla-Meluk of the Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM) to chair the meeting.

New participants briefly introduced themselves – see the full list of participants in Annex 1.

## Update from the Working Group – Name, ToRs of the SKAC

Nina Shatberashvili of the Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Region shared an update from the working group of the Open-ended Scientific Committee. The working group met twice in the first quarter of 2023 to define the main role and functions, Terms of Reference, and name of the long-term advisory committee (i.e. the SKAC). The next steps of the SKAC are to finalize the policy briefs started during the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, provide scientific support to the MP's upcoming activities, and elect a chair.

The need to elect a chair was raised, as was the importance of the independence of the SKAC to ensure the credibility of the advice it will provide to the MP. The MPS clarified that the chair will be elected at the next SKAC meeting and agreed with the need for the SKAC to be independent. A doodle will be circulated to identify the date of the next SKAC meeting to ensure a high level of participation. The MPS will also provide details on the voting modality before that time.

## Update on the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027

Hugo Mantilla reminded participants that the main outcome of the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 was the United Nations General Assembly's declaration of Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027, at the proposal of the Government of Kyrgyzstan, as part of the triennial resolution on sustainable mountain development ([A/RES/77/172](#)). He invited Laura Russo of the MPS to present on the status of the global plan for the Five Years of Action.

Laura explained that the Five Years of Action are an opportunity to engage the international community to address the challenges mountain peoples and environments face. At the request of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan, the MPS facilitated the establishment of a task force comprised United Nations agencies and regional and international organizations, to draft the global action framework. About 60 inputs were received from 36 organizations, including SKAC members. The plan will be presented during the High-level Political Forum in July 2023 in New York.

There were no questions or comments from the SKAC on this agenda item.

## Update on policy briefs from the authors

Hugo invited the authors of the unpublished policy briefs that had been proposed during the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 to update the SKAC on their briefs.

Carolina Adler, MRI, shared that the climate change policy brief aims to be published in time for the UNFCCC COP 28. She invited interested co-authors to add their names in the [Google Doc](#) to contribute to the brief.

Julian Fisher of the Zero Water Day Partnership is developing two policy briefs on giving children a voice for sustainable development, especially in mountains, and on mountain guides as climate change educators. He invited interested partners to contribute to the briefs.

Joerg Szarzynski of the United Nations University Global Mountain Safeguard Research programme is finalizing the layout of the brief on disaster risk reduction. He thanked those who contributed.

The MPS presented a new proposal for two studies: one on the environmental impact of small-scale, organic agriculture, and one comparing the commercial strategies of local markets versus export markets and the profitability for mountain farmers as well as the environmental impact. The MPS asked the SKAC members that are interested in joining forces to produce these studies to contact the MPS.

Shodmon Hojibekov of the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat shared that his organization is collecting a large amount of data on disaster risk reduction and climate change in mountains and offered to share this data if it would help for the production of these studies.

### **Update on upcoming publication: Manual on mountain soils**

The MPS shared that they are working on a manual on mountain soils, together with the Global Soil Partnership Secretariat and the University of Turin. They are currently invited case studies to contribute to the publication.

Nina Shatberashvili added that the second Caucasus environmental outlook is currently in development and her colleagues might have information to share for the manual.

Hugo Mantilla of CEAM shared that his organization is researching soil pathogens which could be relevant. He also highlighted that a new network in South America is working on a way to measure the ecosystem services provided by soils.

Thomas Hofer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) noted that it would be good for the SKAC to review the publication once ready to provide a scientific underpinning, in line with the purpose of the SKAC.

### **Other issues and conclusions**

The next meeting of the SKAC will be held in the second half of September 2023. A doodle will be circulated ahead of time to identify the exact date. In the meanwhile, SKAC members may submit their inputs for contributing to the manual on mountain soils via email to Fabio Parisi of the MPS at [fabio.parisi@fao.org](mailto:fabio.parisi@fao.org).

## Annex 1: Meeting participants

Last name	First name	Affiliation	Country
Adler	Carolina	Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)	Switzerland
Azodi	Mehrnoosh	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention	Switzerland
Bernbaum	Edwin	University of California, Berkeley	United States of America
Breuer Moreno	Patricia	Mujeres a la Cumbre / University of Desarrollo	Chile
Chavez	Eric	Asociación OIKOS	Peru
Corradino	Guillaume	Euromontana	Belgium
Fellendorf	Ansgar	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Austria
Fisher	Julian	Zero Water Day Partnership	Germany
Fouinat	Laurent	GRID-Arendal	Norway
Greene	Tomas	Deutsche Schule Chicureo	Chile
Gunya	Alexey	Russian Academy of Sciences	Russian Federation
Hofer	Thomas	FAO	Italy
Hojibekov	Shodmon	Aga Khan Agency for Habitat	Tajikistan
Leucci	Cristiana	National Institute for Research on Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems (INAIGEM)	Peru
Mackey	Alex	Zoï Environment Network	Switzerland
Mantilla-Meluk	Hugo	Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM)	Colombia
Nguma	Ruth	UNESCO	Kenya
Olivier	Nicole	Canadian Mountain Network (CMN)	Canada
PancorboOlivera	Marggiori	FAO	Italy
Pons	Marc	Andorra Research and Innovation	Andorra
Quenta	Estefania	UNEP / FAO	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Schmoeker	Genevieve	UNEP	Austria
Shatberashvili	Nina	Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Region (Sustainable Caucasus)	Georgia
Simonett	Otto	Zoï Environment Network	Switzerland

Stanchi	Silvia	University of Turin	Italy
Szarzynski	Joerg	UNU-GLOMOS	Germany
Velasco Gil	Gregorio	FAO	Italy
Vilá	Bibiana	Vicuñas, Camélidos y Ambiente (VICAM)	Argentina
Vivien	Luc	UNESCO MAB	France

**Mountain Partnership Secretariat staff:**

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