



Global framework for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain  
Regions 2023–2027

## Table of contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Global framework .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pathway 1: SCALE-UP NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE CLIMATE RISKS AND PROMOTE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION IN MOUNTAINS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Pathway 2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Pathway 3: ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, SECURITY AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Pathway 4: EMPOWER MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES, WITH A PRIORITY FOCUS ON WOMEN, YOUTH, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES and local communities .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Next steps – Role of governments and other stakeholders.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Annex I: Theory of change .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Annex II: Composition of the Task Force for the development of the Global Framework.....</b>	<b>31</b>

## Introduction

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution [77/172](#) proclaimed the period 2023–2027 as Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions to enhance the international community’s awareness of the problems faced by mountain countries and to give new impetus to international efforts to address these challenges.

At the initiative of the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations established a Task Force<sup>1</sup> to draft the global framework for the Five Years of Action. The Task Force agreed that the global framework should be grounded in the recommendations to Members States contained in the 2022 report of the UN Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development ([A/77/217](#)) and in the UNGA 2022 sustainable mountain development resolution ([A/RES/77/172](#)), and that it should propose possible pathways for actions by all stakeholders.

From the above documents, the Task Force identified the vision, impacts, outcomes and main areas of actions for the framework through a logic of change<sup>2</sup>.

The Task Force has drafted the global and regional components of the framework<sup>3</sup>. More specific regional and national plans will be developed by governments, jointly with UN agencies based in the countries and other relevant stakeholders.

The global framework is intended to be a living document and regularly reviewed, updated and utilized by all stakeholders to enhance existing efforts and initiate new ones, aimed at improving the resilience and sustainable development of mountain regions across the world and engaging in impactful advocacy for mountains at the global level. Mountain communities, and especially women, youth and Indigenous Peoples, are the key stakeholders to be involved in the implementation of the global framework.

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<sup>1</sup> The composition of the Task Force is presented in Annex II.

<sup>2</sup> More information on the Theory of Change is found in Annex I.

<sup>3</sup> The Task Force has drafted the global and regional initiatives which can be found below in the document.

## Global framework

The framework aims to contribute to three interconnected, long-term impacts:

1. Mountain ecosystems are conserved and restored for productive, protective and sociocultural purposes, and biodiversity is sustainably protected and used for the continued provision of global ecosystem services.
2. Mountain peoples' resilience to climate change and disasters is increased.
3. Quality of life<sup>4</sup> in mountain areas is improved.

Achieving these impacts requires a broad set of interrelated outcomes or preconditions, ranging from changes in the way natural resources are used, to changes in gender and generational dynamics in mountain societies, changes in the availability of opportunities for mountain people, and changes in the global recognition of the importance of mountains for the planet. It requires actions by all stakeholders in the areas of policy, governance, institutions, research, innovation, advocacy, public participation, awareness-raising and sustainable investment. Continued political will by governments and continued support by a global multistakeholder movement, particularly by the [members](#) of the Mountain Partnership,<sup>5</sup> are the main assumptions for the implementation of the framework.

The global framework proposes four interlinked global pathways to encourage all stakeholders to contribute to the Five Years of Action with initiatives that will lead to the desired impacts above.

Pathways:

1. Scale-up nature-based solutions<sup>6</sup> to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains.
2. Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructure.
3. Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions.
4. Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Five areas for action towards the achievement of the long-term impacts are identified for increased collective efforts during the Five Years of Action.

Areas for action:

1. Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development;
2. Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions;
3. Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection;
4. Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions; and

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<sup>4</sup> This notion of human welfare (well-being) measured by social indicators rather than by quantitative measures of income and production. It includes relevant social and economic aspects, such as health services, education, ways to earn a living.

<sup>5</sup> The Mountain Partnership is the UN alliance dedicated to mountain peoples and environments.

<sup>6</sup> The UNEA resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022 formally adopted the definition of nature-based solutions as 'actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.'

## 5. Increase sustainable public and private investment.

The framework currently contains global- and regional-level activities that have been proposed by consulted UN agencies and other international and regional organizations based on their respective mandates and areas of expertise.

This document provides an overall summary of the key activities and initiatives that the organizations are planning to promote to observe and support the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions. Most of the proposed implementation initiatives contribute to more than one pathway in addition to the specific one to which they are assigned.

This global framework and the list of activities and initiatives are not exhaustive and are intended to be regularly reviewed and updated as new initiatives take form and more partners join the Five Years of Action. All initiatives are hyperlinked to their respective implementation template document which contains the following information: title of the initiative, to which “impact” the initiative will contribute, a brief description of the initiative, a tentative timeline and planned activities, to which “outcomes” the initiative will contribute, and under which “Action Areas” the initiative is included.

An excel summarizing the main information of all the initiatives is available [here](#).

## Pathway 1: SCALE-UP NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE CLIMATE RISKS AND PROMOTE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION IN MOUNTAINS

The current pace and scope of adaptation are insufficient to address ecosystem degradation and future climate risks in mountain regions. This pathway aims to stimulate urgent action that will result in the assessment and scaling up of nature-based solutions, as well as adaptation and mitigation measures that offer practical prospects for restoring ecosystems, reducing climate risks and vulnerabilities, and building on diverse knowledge systems, including indigenous and local traditional knowledge. Expected results under this pathway include, *inter alia*, integrated approaches for biodiversity conservation, land use, forestry and water management that consider upstream-downstream linkages; the inventory and monitoring of ecosystem services; the nomination and extension of new protected areas and closer transboundary collaboration<sup>7</sup>; the adoption of sustainable silvopastoral methods; mountain ecosystem conservation and restoration; the promotion of sustainable agrifood systems; sustainable tourism; and priority given to mountain related issues in development and revisions of national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) as well as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

### INITIATIVES

Title of initiative	Main Action Area	Other Pathways	Co-leads
<a href="#"><u>Acción Andina: Restoring and protecting one million hectares of high Andean forest ecosystems and ensuring water security by 2045</u></a>	Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Global Forest Generation (GFG)</li> <li>○ Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN)</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Adaptation at Altitude: Taking action in the mountains (Andes)</u></a>	Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)</li> <li>○ Andean Mountain Initiative</li> <li>○ Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)</li> <li>○ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> <li>○ Zoï Environment Network</li> <li>○ Stockholm Institute for the Environment</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> in line with the CBD COP15 target to designate 30% of landmass under legal protected status by 2030

<p><a href="#"><u>Assessment of local level mid and end of century climate change and impact scenarios for selected mountain districts in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan, to inform community-level adaptation and climate action</u></a></p>	<p>Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Aga Khan Agency For Habitat (AKAH)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Climate change adaptation solutions in mountains are identified, disseminated and transferred across regions for increased resilience of mountain ecosystems and communities</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> <li>o Zoi Environment Network</li> <li>o International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)</li> <li>o Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)</li> <li>o Sustainable Caucasus</li> <li>o Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)</li> <li>o University of Geneva</li> <li>o Stockholm Environment Institute</li> <li>o GRID-Arendal</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Climate resilient transformation of rice-based farming and food systems in Eastern Terai, Nepal (CRAFT Nepal)</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a focus priority on women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> <li>o Global environment facility (GEF)</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>Climate resilient water resources management and enhanced adaptive capacity in the Drangmechhu river basin</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<p>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</p>	<p>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO) o Royal Government of Bhutan - National Designated Authority: Department of Macro-Fiscal and Development Finance (DMDF) o Royal Government of Bhutan - Ministry of Finance</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Conservation and resilient management of high Andean ecosystems (HAME)</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>		<p>o Consortium conformed by General Secretary of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) o University of Zurich o Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Creation of a scientific center based on the institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan and an educational center</u></a></p>	<p>Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection</p>	<p>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</p>	<p>o United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - Kyrgyz Republic</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Enhance global recognition, response, and outreach of mountain and the HKH concerns</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<p>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</p>	<p>o International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)</p>



<p><a href="#"><u>Joint UNU-EHS &amp; Eurac Research programme: Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS)</u></a></p>	<p>Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eurac Research</li> <li>○ United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Furthering the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2.0 of the Alpine Convention</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alpine Convention</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Mainstreaming forest biodiversity in mountain regions</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> <li>○ Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)</li> <li>○ The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR/ICRAF)</li> <li>○ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Mountain land restoration programme in Hindu Kush Himalaya region (TBC) Restoring /regenerating range land in Himalayan Hindu Kush region (TBC)</u></a></p>	<p>Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</li> <li>○ International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>MRI Flagship Activity – the global network on observations and information in mountain environments (GEO Mountains)</u></a></p>	<p>Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>MRI Working Groups – Elevation dependent climate change, mountain observatories, mountain resilience, mountain governance, and mountain social-ecological futures</u></a></p>	<p>Promote inclusive research, innovation, and data collection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Natural infrastructure for water security (Perú)</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forest Trends</li> <li>○ Peruvian Society of Environmental Law</li> <li>○ Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)</li> <li>○ Descosur</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Productive and sustainable food systems in Bhutan for environmental benefits and gross national happiness</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> <li>○ Global environment facility (GEF)</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>Promoting transformative and climate resilient agriculture for sustainable livelihoods and food security in Nepal (CRAN)</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<p>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</p>	<p>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO) o Green Climate Fund (GCF)</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Saving the world's water towers</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<p>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</p>	<p>o Zero Water Day Partnership</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Scale up engagement of partners for enhanced cooperation and advocacy for African mountain ecosystem restoration</u></a></p>	<p>Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development</p>	<p>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</p>	<p>o Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) o Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) o United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Setting land degradation of neutrality targets and restoring degraded landscapes in the Western Andes</u></a></p>	<p>Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development</p>	<p>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</p>	<p>o Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN) o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</p>

<p><a href="#"><u>Southern African Mountains – Improving transboundary cooperation for sustainable futures under global change</u></a></p>	<p>Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructure</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Afromontane Research Unit (ARU)</li> <li>○ United Nations University Global Mountain Safeguard Programme (UNU-GLOMOS)</li> <li>○ African Mountain Research Foundation (AMRF)</li> <li>○ The Peaks Foundation NPO</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Strengthening the resilience of Central Asian countries by enabling regional cooperation to assess glacio-nival systems to develop integrated methods for sustainable development and adaptation to climate change</u></a></p>	<p>Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</li> <li>○ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in the Latin America and the Caribbean region</b></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO) - Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLAC)</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>Targeted support for mountain ecosystem restoration within context of overall UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and flagship initiative</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> <li>○ Carpathian Convention</li> <li>○ Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> <li>○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and a new era of action for mountain biodiversity</u></a></p>	<p>Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> <li>○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> <li>○ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</li> <li>○ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> <li>○ Carpathian Convention</li> <li>○ Alpine Convention</li> <li>○ International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)</li> <li>○ Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)</li> <li>○ Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>The resilient landscapes in Central Asia Program (RESILAND CA+)</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Central Asia Water and Energy Program (CAWEP)</li> <li>○ Global Partnership for Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes (PROGREEN) Trust Fund</li> <li>○ The Program on Forests (PROFOR) Trust Fund</li> <li>○ Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) Trust Fund</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Translation of the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework in the Alpine context</u></a></p>	<p>Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alpine Convention</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>World congress on snow and mountain tourism</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)</li> <li>o Andorra Government - Ministry of Tourism and Telecommunications</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>World network of mountain biosphere reserves (WNMBR)</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNMBR)</li> <li>o United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) -Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB)</li> <li>o Valles de Omaña y Luna Biosphere Reserve</li> <li>o Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences</li> </ul>

## Pathway 2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

Isolation, distance from markets and insufficient access to services limit livelihood opportunities as well as the capacity of mountain people to cope with shocks and stresses (e.g. droughts, floods, earthquakes and conflicts) and are at the root of their vulnerability. The uncontrolled development of climatically and seismically unfit infrastructure, together with construction resulting from a lack of land-use planning, intensify risks for people in mountain areas.

The aim of this pathway is to inspire interventions that will result in the improvement of service availability for mountain communities such as: inclusive digital access; the incorporation of risk-sensitive and climate-adapted planning in infrastructure development; the improvement of early warning systems for disaster risk reduction and risk communication; the strengthening of infrastructure for environmentally-sound waste management; and support for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions.

### INITIATIVES

Title of initiative	Main Action Area	Other Pathways	Co-leads
<a href="#"><u>Advance inclusive, risk-informed, urban and rural habitat planning to drive safer, greener development in 100 mountain settlements across Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.</u></a>	Increase sustainable public and private investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aga Khan Agency For Habitat (AKAH)</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Capacity-building/training activities planned under the UNESCO-Adaptation Fund project on Glacier Lake Outburst Floods in Central Asia (GLOFCA), notably those related to Early Warning Systems and preparedness of local communities</u></a>	Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - Kyrgyz Republic</li> </ul>

<p><u><a href="#">Enhance emergency preparedness and disaster resilience of 2,000 vulnerable mountain communities against climate induced hazards.</a></u></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aga Khan Agency For Habitat (AKAH)</li> </ul>
<p><u><a href="#">Plastic waste in remote and mountainous areas</a></u></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS Secretariat)</li> </ul>
<p><u><a href="#">Promoting the inclusion of internal migrants in green renovation in Kyrgyzstan</a></u></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ International Organization for Migration (IOM)</li> <li>○ International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Kyrgyz Republic</li> </ul>
<p><u><a href="#">Reducing vulnerabilities of populations in the Central Asia region from glacier lake outburst floods in a changing climate (GLOFCA)</a></u></p>	<p>Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</li> </ul>



### Pathway 3: ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, SECURITY AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS

Instability and security risks in mountain regions are linked to socioeconomic factors such as population dynamics (including human mobility) and unequal economic development. In these contexts, climate change acts as a risk multiplier, and while it does not directly cause conflict, it interacts with other pressures to influence the security of landscapes and will impact many mountain regions’ environments, economies, and societies in complex ways, also increasing stress on political systems.

This pathway focuses on generating evidence on human mobility in the context of climate change in the mountain areas. The evidence will help to better understand this nexus in the mountain areas and on increasing dialogue, collaboration and trust among mountain communities and countries that share common mountain ranges.

#### INITIATIVES

Title of initiative	Main Action Area	Other Pathways	Co-leads
<a href="#"><u>Cooperation on climate resilient mountain development in Central Asia for enhanced security and stability</u></a>	Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Generating evidence on human mobility in the context of climate change with a special focus on mountain areas in Kyrgyzstan.</u></a>	Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o International Organization for Migration (IOM)</li> <li>o International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Kyrgyz Republic</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Mountains CONNECT: Interregional exchange and action learning for strengthening regional and transboundary governance and collaboration</u></a>	Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> <li>o Adaptation at Altitude</li> <li>o Alpine Convention</li> <li>o Carpathian Convention</li> <li>o East African Community</li> <li>o Andean Mountain Initiative</li> <li>o Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions</li> <li>o University of Geneva</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>Regional and cross-regional dialogue on sustainable and climate-resilient development of mountain regions in the OSCE area</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Strengthening co-operation to address climate-related security risks in the Shar/Šara Mountains and Korab Massif Area</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</li> <li>o Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> </ul>

## Pathway 4: EMPOWER MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES, WITH A PRIORITY FOCUS ON WOMEN, YOUTH, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

People in mountain areas are among the world’s poorest and most marginalized, particularly Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable sectors of the society. Rural mountain communities share challenges faced by many rural regions, including loss of population and skills. Labour migration is a traditional livelihood practice in mountain areas. There is evidence that migration contributes to well-being and creates opportunities for mountain households when enabling conditions are present. This also includes adapting to environmental and climatic hazards. For example, remittances provide additional income during lean periods and in the aftermath of disasters, helping families afford adaptation measures. Migration could also create risks for migrants and their families. Due to male outmigration, women are often left alone to take care of families, farms and businesses. Discriminatory social norms and practices, including limited access for women to productive resources, assets, services and economic and decision-making opportunities, perpetuate gender inequalities and deny girls and women full rights and opportunities.

Activities under this pathway should lead to protecting traditional and indigenous food systems, strengthening producers’ marketing and entrepreneurial capacities; strengthening mountain products’ value chains; securing land and tenure rights; increasing the participation of mountain women in the labour market; enabling a shift from subsistence farming to more market-oriented agriculture; expanding social protection for local communities and Indigenous Peoples in mountain areas; safeguarding and enhancing youth and women’s employment opportunities; and improving health governance in mountains.

### INITIATIVES

Title of initiative	Main Action Area	Other Pathways	Co-leads
<a href="#">Accelerating progress toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (RWEE) phase II</a>	Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> <li>o International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</li> <li>o UN Women</li> <li>o World Food Programme (WFP)</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Building a resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN)</a>	Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> <li>o Nepal Government - Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE)</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>Enabling a good quality of life for the people in the Alps</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Alpine Convention</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Establishment of the Global Mountain University for joint research into the life of mountain communities</u></a></p>	<p>Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o United Nations University (UNU)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Fashion for fragile ecosystems</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> <li>o Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>GEF Small Grants Programme</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Holding a "Symposium of the science, culture, and education"</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> <li>o Mountain Partnership (MP)</li> <li>o The United Nations Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries</li> <li>o United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u> Holding an "Exhibition of technologies for the infrastructure of mountain regions".</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> <li>o Mountain Partnership (MP)</li> <li>o The United Nations Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u> Holding an international conference "Socioeconomic aspects of sustainable development of mountain regions"</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o United Nations in Kyrgyz Republic</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u> Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration initiative to support people's livelihoods and mountain ecosystem regeneration.</u></a></p>	<p>Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u> Promotion of rangeland development policy in Himalayan Regions of India, Nepal and Bhutan by capacity building of village institutions / communities</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Regional International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026 - IYRP Support Group (RISG)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u> Promoting sustainable mountain development in the global agenda</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>Second Global Bishkek Mountain Summit “Bishkek+25”</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>○ Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ United Nations in Kyrgyz Republic</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Strengthening the mountain areas governance for collective action in the Andes</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>○ Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Andean Mountain Initiative</li> <li>○ Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Support at least 30 000 producers in mountain areas through small grants and technical support</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> <li>○ Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Support at least 360 nature based community enterprises across transboundary mountain regions in East Africa</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>○ Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> <li>○ Reforest Action</li> <li>○ Alinea International</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>Sustainable rangeland, forest management and community livelihood improvement</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Enhance cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o JASIL Environment and Development Association</li> <li>o Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>The cultural and spiritual significance of nature in protecting mountain environments and strengthening mountain cultures</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas (CSVPA)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Voices from the Roof of the World environmental documentary film series</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Aga Khan Agency For Habitat (AKAH)</li> </ul>

## Next steps – Role of governments and other stakeholders

The UNGA 2022 resolution on sustainable mountain development ([A/RES/77/172](#)) invites Member States and relevant UN agencies, within their mandates, to further enhance support to sustainable mountain development, including through participation in the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (see paragraph 36 of the resolution).

The resolution, *inter alia*, encourages Member States to: adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches including by incorporating mountain-specific policies into national sustainable development strategies; mainstream a gender perspective in mountain development activities, programmes and projects towards the achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment; consider, as appropriate, mountain-related issues in the processes of the UN conventions and other relevant global forums; and to promote ecosystem-based adaptation. It also encourages greater efforts by Member States towards the enhancement of the well-being of their local populations, taking into account the increased economic social and environmental costs that inaction might represent for countries and societies.

The resolution also “calls upon mountain countries, the UN systems and other relevant stakeholders such as academia, the private sector and investors, to improve international cooperation, including by furthering financial mechanisms between mountain countries and attracting investments”. This document is currently only considering the global and regional initiatives being promoted within the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions. Governments are encouraged to use this framework for intensifying action in the above domains or other domains that are priority for them with the aim of promoting sustainable mountain development at national and local level in accordance with their respective national frameworks.

As requested in resolution A/RES/77/172 (paragraph 39), the Secretary-General will report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the implementation of the resolution, including on the Five Years of Action.

The stocktaking of current and planned initiatives conducted for the Framework has highlighted domains where specific efforts will be needed to support the implementation of the Five Years of Action. Reaching out to more partners, and in particular, involving the private sector and mobilizing additional resources for the implementation of activities will be of great importance.

Taking forward the Framework at the global, regional, national and local levels will require the continued involvement by the organizations participating in the Task Force to support their member countries in all of the five “Areas for Action” identified in this Framework.

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat will continue to support interagency cooperation through the Task Force and to facilitate its work. Organizations participating in the Task Force, as appropriate, will be focal points to co-lead specific topics, with the critical support of all other relevant organizations, to advance implementation in key domains of the Resolution and of the Five Years of Action.

Action	UN Focal Points
<b>Increase sustainable public and private investment</b>	World Bank, UNDP
Further financial mechanisms between mountain countries to attract investments	World Bank, UNDP



Promote investment in infrastructure in mountain areas	World Bank, UNDP
Promote innovative solutions and entrepreneurship within local mountain communities, as appropriate to end poverty and hunger	World Bank, UNDP, FAO
<b>Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development</b>	UNEP, MPS
Consider mountain-related issues in the processes of the UN conventions and other relevant global forums	UNEP, MPS
Promote ecosystem-based adaptation	UNEP, FAO, MPS
<b>Strengthen pro-mountain policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</b>	FAO, MPS (FAO as UN lead agency for mountains)
Strengthen disaster risk governance and improve disaster risk strategies	(UNDRR)
Mainstream a gender perspective in mountain development activities	(UN Women) FAO
Support education, culture and extension and strengthen the role of youth through education and training on sustainable mountain development	UNESCO
<b>Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection</b>	UNESCO
Collect disaggregated scientific data and strengthen cooperation between scientific institutions	UNESCO, WMO, UNEP
<b>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</b>	MPS
Continue to increase public awareness including through the commemoration of the IMD	MPS
Report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the implementation of the resolution, including on the Five Years of Action	(UN DESA), FAO, MPS

## Annex I: Theory of change

### Context

Covering around one quarter of the Earth's land surface, mountains are key ecosystems that provide humanity with essential goods and services such as water, food, biodiversity and energy. However, mountain ecosystems are severely and increasingly affected by biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation. Mountains are home to about 1.1 billion people. People in mountain areas are among the world's poorest and half of rural mountain dwellers living in developing countries face food insecurity. Access to services and infrastructure is lower in mountains than in other areas. Mountain communities are highly dependent on predominantly small-scale and family-based agriculture. In the mountains, exposure to natural hazards, lack of key services and impacts of crises and conflicts are factors contributing to the high vulnerability of populations. The COVID-19 pandemic further disrupted life in mountains and compounded the vulnerabilities of mountain communities. The human health crisis has aggravated the unfolding and interconnected emergencies associated with climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and pollution in mountains. Identifying new and sustainable livelihood opportunities and adopting practices that combat land degradation and promote climate change adaptation and resilient agrifood systems are urgent requirements to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and reduce outmigration trends. Mountain stakeholders have implemented actions at all levels to build the resilience of mountain communities, promote sustainable food systems and increase the conservation and restoration of mountain resources, with the goal of leaving no one behind.

Within this context, the theory of change developed for the Five Years of Action is based on the recognition that behavioural changes and institutional leadership are needed to address the root causes of the vulnerability of mountain peoples and ecosystems.

These changes are described in the 2022 report of the UN Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development ([A/77/217](#)) and in the UNGA 2022 resolution on sustainable mountain development ([A/RES/77/172](#)). The global consensus on pathways of action expressed by the resolution is the foundation for the activities presented in the global framework for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027.

### Vision to 2030

A world with empowered mountain communities living sustainably and peacefully, whose social, cultural and economic well-being is thriving, and with mountain ecosystems that are resilient and safeguarded against the impacts of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss for the benefit of the entire planet.

This vision implies ending marginalization, poverty, gender discrimination and inequality; halting ecosystem degradation and the unsustainable use of natural resources; extending legal protection of natural areas; and boosting cooperation and joint initiatives among mountain communities and countries globally to promote the sustainable development of mountain areas for the benefit of people, planet, peace and prosperity.

## Impacts

1. Mountain ecosystems are conserved and restored for production and protection purposes, and biodiversity is sustainably protected and used for the continued provision of global ecosystem services.
2. Mountain peoples' resilience to climate change and disasters is increased.
3. Quality of life in mountain areas is improved.

## Outcomes

The implementation of this global framework should result in the following key interlinked outcomes and will contribute to the desired impacts above. The outcomes are based on the recommendations to Members States contained in the 2022 report of the UN Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development ([A/77/217](#)) and in the UNGA 2022 resolution on sustainable mountain development ([A/RES/77/172](#)), and have been complemented by inputs from the Task Force.

1. Adaptation options that offer practical prospects for reducing climate risks and build on diverse knowledge systems, including indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, are assessed and scaled up;
2. Institutions and mountain governance mechanisms for climate adaptation in mountains are strengthened;
3. Capacity of local staff to promote sustainable landscape approaches is increased;
4. Nomination and extension of new mountain protected areas, notably transboundary sites, by Member States is supported;
5. Collaboration and networking between mountain protected areas, communities of experts and policymakers is facilitated;
6. Risk-sensitive and climate-adapted planning is incorporated in infrastructure development in mountain regions, including educational and health facilities, seismically and climatically-adapted housing, and sustainably built infrastructure;
7. Early warning systems for disaster risk reduction and risk communication are improved;
8. Nature-based solutions are implemented;
9. Sustainable silvopastoralism in mountain areas is promoted;
10. Sustainable forest management is implemented;
11. Integrated approaches for land use, forestry and water management are promoted, and upstream-downstream linkages are considered;
12. Infrastructure for environmentally sound waste management is strengthened;
13. Mountain ecosystem restoration is promoted as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030;
14. Affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions for mountain communities are supported;
15. Land and tenure rights are secured;
16. Sustainable agrifood systems and resilient livelihoods, especially for women and young people are promoted;
17. Traditional and indigenous food systems are protected
18. Mountain products' value chains are improved;

19. Sustainable tourism in mountains is fostered through innovation, investment in the digitalization of services, empowerment of communities, capacity-building, access to financing and strengthened multilevel governance, while ensuring regular monitoring and assessment of the impact of tourism on mountains;
20. Producers' marketing and entrepreneurial capacities are strengthened;
21. Gender inequalities are reduced;
22. Participation of women who are living in mountains in the labour market is increased, enabling a shift from subsistence farming to more market-oriented agriculture;
23. Social protection for local communities and Indigenous Peoples in mountain areas is expanded;
24. Youth and women's employment opportunities are safeguarded and enhanced;
25. Stability and security in mountain areas are enhanced through increased dialogue, collaboration and trust among mountain communities and countries;
26. Mountains are highlighted and prioritized in national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions;
27. Mountain communities are empowered, especially Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups;
28. Inclusive access to digitalization is enhanced; and
29. Health governance in mountains is improved.

## **Action Areas**

### **Action Area 1: Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development**

#### ***Recommended actions:***

- Include a mountain perspective in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF);
- Implement the Programme of Work on mountain biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Advocate and support provision for Global Mountain Assessment report to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) through the CBD;
- Mainstream mountain issues in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including in the global stock take;
- Enhance partnerships and regional and transboundary collaboration,<sup>8</sup>
- Highlight mountains in voluntary national reviews (VNR) by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF);
- Build on the Mountain Partnership's advocacy activities and on the opportunities provided by UN Days and Decades to mobilize more resources and promote investments;
- Incorporate the outcomes of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit for the development of sustainable food systems in mountains;

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<sup>8</sup> Including through the Convention on the Protection of the Alps, the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, the Andean Initiative for mountains, the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region and the Caucasus Mountain Forum, the African Mountains Regional Forum, the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region and the Zurich process, the Hindu Kush Himalayan Partnership for Sustainable Mountain Development, the Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the International Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Forum, the fourth World Nomad Games, and the Pyrenean Climate Change Observatory.

- Continue reporting on target 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Mainstream mountain issues in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) Objective 2 and Objective 5; and
- Consider the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Displacement of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage of the UNFCCC in the mountain areas.

## **Action Area 2: Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions**

### ***Recommended actions***

- Promote multistakeholder engagement;
- Support technical assistance, capacity-building, and policy advice and communication;
- Strengthen regional and transboundary cooperation; and
- Strengthen health governance.

## **Action Area 3: Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection**

### ***Recommended actions***

- Foster collaboration between scientific institutions, including through common research protocols to look for system approaches at larger landscapes;
- Increase the collection and dissemination of disaggregated data on mountain-related issues for policy advice at the local, national and regional levels;
- Support scientific and participatory processes to generate relevant local level data on climate and disaster risk;
- Incorporate traditional knowledge in research and innovation;
- National policies and plans recognize traditional and indigenous practices;
- Increase evidence on human mobility in the context of climate change with a special focus on mountains; and
- Assess the migration-environment-climate change nexus in mountains.

## **Action Area 4: Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions**

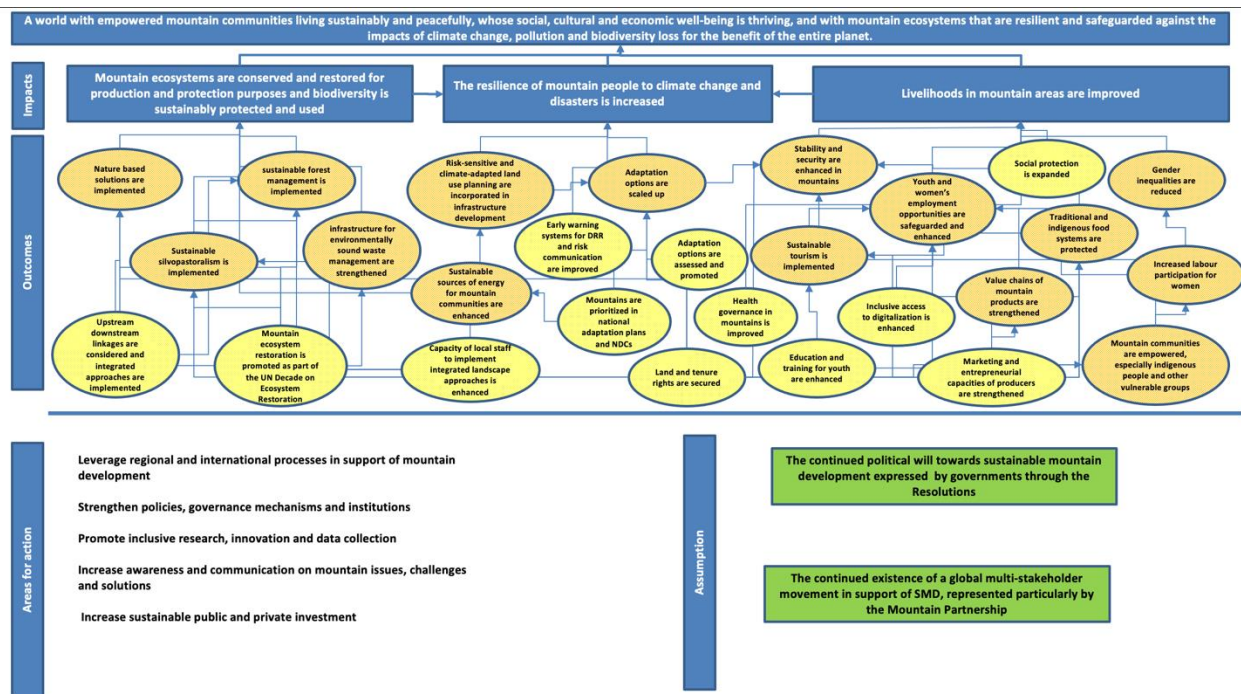
- Utilize International Mountain Day and other relevant UN Days;
- Support popularization of mountain science and partnerships with science communicators;
- Facilitate school networks in mountain communities;
- Publish periodic Op-Eds, media briefs, audio-visual materials, social media, documentaries, technical publications, general interest communication products; and
- Participate in seminars and conferences, mountain fairs, and exchange visits.

## **Action Area 5: Increase sustainable public and private investment**

- Encourage adaptation finance and the inclusion of private sector investment in adaptation finance;
- Promote GEF and GCF projects in mountains;
- Improve basic infrastructure in mountains; and
- Encourage investments for biodiversity conservation and socioecological resilience.

**Assumptions:** The main assumptions underpinning the implementation of the global framework is the continued political will towards sustainable mountain development expressed by governments through the above resolutions and the continued existence of and support by a global multistakeholder movement in support of sustainable mountain development, represented by the [Mountain Partnership](#), whose membership comprises governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups and subnational authorities, and engaged in the promotion of sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in mountain regions. In September 2022, the members of Mountain Partnership endorsed the [Aspen Declaration](#). The declaration promotes cooperation among mountain countries to address topics related to mountain environments, to support mountain communities, and to promote sustainable mountain development while highlighting mountains’ vulnerabilities.

**Figure 1: Vision, impacts, outcomes, areas of actions, and assumptions<sup>9</sup>**



<sup>9</sup> Based on the recommendations to Members States contained in the Report of the UN Secretary-General on Sustainable Mountain Development (A/77/217) and on the Sustainable Mountain Development Resolution (A/Res/77/172), complemented with inputs by the Task Force

## Annex II: Composition of the Task Force for the development of the Global Framework

Name	Surname	Organization
Wolfger	Mayrhofer	Alpine Convention
Laura	Wittkopp	Alpine Convention
Sam	Kanyamibwa	ARCOS
Jamal	Annagylyjova	CBD Secretariat
Maria	Arguello	CONDESAN
Karen	Price	CONDESAN
Cholpon	Alibakieva	FAO
Thomas	Hofer	FAO
Rosalaura	Romeo	FAO-MPS
Stephanie	Aurellano	Global Forest Generation
Udayan	Mishra	ICIMOD
Deepshikha	Sharma	ICIMOD
Pem	Kandel	ICIMOD
Bolotnel	Orokov	ILO
Salavat	Baktybek Kyzy	International Organization for Migration (IOM), Kyrgyz Republic
Aijan	Azizova	Kyrgyz Government
Ermek	Isakov	Kyrgyz Government
Nurlan	Aitmurzaev	Kyrgyz Government
Esra	Buttanri	OSCE
Patrizia	Albrecht	OSCE
Kateryna	Robul	OSCE
Antje Kristin	Grawe	UN Kyrgyz Republic
Roza (Nuria)	Choibaeva	UN Kyrgyz Republic
Patrick	Goettner	UNCTAD
Ekaterina	Perfilyeva	UNDP
Bipin	Pokharel	UNDP
Tim	Scott	UNDP
Dario	Vespertino	UNDP
Yoko	Watanabe	UNDP
Lira	Zholdubaeva	UNDP
Harald	Egerer	UNEP
Matthias Georg	Jurek	UNEP
Melissa	De Kock	UNEP

Amir	Piric	UNESCO
Elzat	Nasyrova	UNFPA
Stefan	Schneiderbauer	UNU
Sandra	Carvao	UNWTO
Alessandra	Priante	UNWTO
Davronbek	Tokhtiev	UNWTO
Chloe	Bougeard	UNWTO
Maria Soledad	Gaido	UNWTO
Hilke	David	WFP
Alina	Altymysheva	WHO
Rodica	Nitu	WMO
Stefan	Uhlenbrook	WMO
Detlef	Stammer	WMO
Paola	Agostini	World Bank