



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Youth call to action

for the Five Years of Action for the  
Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027







# Background

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The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** is the lead agency for sustainable mountain development within the United Nations (UN) system. FAO led the first International Year of Mountains in 2002, the main outcome of which was the founding of a UN alliance dedicated to working together for mountain people and environments: the **Mountain Partnership (MP)**. To date, FAO hosts the MP Secretariat, prepares the triennial UN Secretary-General report on mountains, and coordinates the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 15.4.2, the Mountain Green Cover Index.

Twenty years after the first International Year of Mountains, the UN General Assembly declared 2022 the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development. The MP was invited to promote the observance of the Year. The main outcome was the declaration of 2023–2027 as **Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions**.





# Noting that:

Participants from IPROMO 2023  
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Benefits derived from mountain regions are essential for sustainable development. Mountain ecosystems play a crucial role in providing services to a large portion of the world's population. When protected and properly managed, mountains fulfil multiple functions, such as provision of water, biodiversity, food, energy and other resources essential for human well-being, the global economy and sustainable development.

Mountain ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the increasing adverse impacts of climate change, extreme weather events, deforestation, forest and land degradation, land-use changes and natural disasters, from which they recover slowly. Mountain areas in developing countries are particularly exposed to said threats.

People worldwide rely on mountain ecosystems for their livelihoods. Sustainable forest and land management in mountains are essential to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of disasters and increase the resilience of communities living in and around mountain areas.



A young man with a bright smile, wearing an orange and red patterned shirt, stands in front of a vast mountain range with snow-capped peaks under a clear sky. The text 'Call to action' is overlaid in large white letters on the left side of the image.

# Call to action

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The youth representatives from 26 countries who participated in the **IPROMO 2023 Summer School**, held in Italy on 10–25 July 2023 under the theme “Youth and the future of Mountain Forests”, call for greater efforts by relevant local and national stakeholders and the international community towards the restoration and conservation of mountain ecosystems.

We call on the relevant stakeholders to take action on **advocacy, capacity development, communications and joint action** by:

- Supporting the global, regional and national mountain agenda, in particular in the framework of the MP and the UN Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027.
- Supporting the participation of young leaders, particularly local ambassadors, in relevant fora.
- Organizing events that convene mountain stakeholders from all regions to exchange on the challenges and initiatives in mountain areas, strengthening the rural-urban connections within highland and lowland areas
- Establishing national campaigns and platforms that disseminate and present youth-driven mountain initiatives.
- Creating spaces to disseminate available knowledge on mountains at the local level through collaboration and communication with community-based organizations and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC).
- Supporting education and capacity-building programmes for youth, especially among local mountain communities and other relevant stakeholders.
- Conducting educational events and trainings that focus on intergenerational knowledge transfer and intra-regional exchange.
- Preparing and translating educational and training materials on sustainable mountain development from and to local languages and dialects.
- Making materials open access and available to all interested parties.
- Promoting and financing participatory research with local communities, schools, universities and research centers.

- Supporting youth as content creators to disseminate accessible and inclusive information on mountain development.
- Integrating mountain ecosystems and their sustainable management into education curricula.
- Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for commitments taken by relevant stakeholders to support sustainable mountain development to ensure accountability.
- Improving local stakeholders' access to and participation in resource mobilization, and advocating for the creation of mountain-specific funding mechanisms.
- Enhancing community-based programs and green economy investments in mountain youth programs.
- Expanding the MP's member base and reactivating existing members, prioritizing women and youth networks in mountain areas.
- Establishing Youth Hubs for Mountain Action and Youth Goodwill Ambassadors, supported by the MP.

This call to action was collectively prepared and endorsed by the following signatories:



## Relevant documents

- [International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 \(A/RES/76/129\)](#)
- [Mountains: The water towers of our world – Children's call to action to protect mountain areas against the impacts of climate change](#)
- [Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027 \(A/RES/77/172\)](#)





# IPROMO

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON RESEARCH  
& TRAINING ON SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT  
OF MOUNTAIN AREAS

## #MountainsMatter



[www.fao.org/mountain-partnership](http://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership)



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Five Years of Action  
for the Development of  
Mountain Regions