



**Mountain Partnership
Steering Committee meeting
Summary report
25 June & 13 July 2020 - Zoom meetings**

Section 1: Participants List

25 June Meeting Participants:

Donor Organizations

François Pythoud, Switzerland

Governments

Europe – Andrea Macchioni, Italy (Chair)

North & Central America and the Caribbean – Julia Vicioso, Dominican Republic

South America – Reina Sotillo, Manrique Altavista, Carolina Rotolo, Argentina

Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Hiroto Mitsugi, Ewald Rametsteiner, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Intergovernmental Organizations

Musonda Mumba, United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)

Global Civil Society Organizations

Carolina Adler, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)

Major Group Organizations

Asia and the Pacific – Gobinda Bahadur Shahi, Karnali Integrated Rural Development And Research Centre (KIRDARC) (Vice Chair)

Central Asia – Alma Uzbekova, Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund (ISDS)

Europe – Simao Pinho, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) and Euromontana

Middle East and North Africa – Abdollah Ashtari Nakhaei, Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)

North & Central America and the Caribbean – Karinjo DeVore, Eric Smith, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF)

South America – Maria Arguello, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN); Marisa Young, Fundación Agreste (Alternate)

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Yuka Makino

Rosalaura Romeo

Laura Russo

Giorgio Grussu

Sara Manuelli

Patricia Quillacq

Antonella Sorrentino

Lindsey Hook

Fabio Parisi

Miranda Mullings

Absent Steering Committee Members:

Governments

Asia and the Pacific – Philippines
Middle East and North Africa – Tunisia
Sub-Saharan Africa – Uganda

Major Group Organizations

Sub-Saharan Africa – Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)

13 July Meeting Participants:

Governments

Europe – Andrea Macchioni, Italy (Chair)
North & Central America and the Caribbean – Julia Vicioso, Dominican Republic
South America – Manrique Altavista, Carolina Rotolo, Argentina

Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Hiroto Mitsugi, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Intergovernmental Organizations

Musonda Mumba, United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)

Global Civil Society Organizations

Carolina Adler, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)

Major Group Organizations

Asia and the Pacific – Gobinda Bahadur Shahi, Karnali Integrated Rural Development And Research Centre (KIRDARC) (Vice Chair)
Central Asia – Anara Alymkulova, Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund (ISDS)
Europe – Simao Pinho, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) and Euromontana
North & Central America and the Caribbean – Karinjo DeVore, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF) (Vice Chair)
South America – Maria Arguello, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN); Marisa Young, Fundación Agreste (Alternate)
Sub-Saharan Africa – Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)

Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Yuka Makino
Rosaura Romeo
Laura Russo
Giorgio Grussu
Sara Manuelli
Patricia Quillacq
Antonella Sorrentino
Lindsey Hook
Fabio Parisi
Giacomo Pontara
Miranda Mullings

Absent Steering Committee Members:**Donor Organizations**

Switzerland

Governments

Asia and the Pacific – Philippines

Middle East and North Africa – Tunisia

Sub-Saharan Africa – Uganda

Major Group Organizations

Middle East and North Africa – Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)

Section 2: Overview

The Mountain Partnership Steering Committee (SC) met virtually on Zoom on 25 June 2020 and 13 July 2020. This two-part meeting was the fourth meeting of the SC since its election in December 2017. In part one (25 June), the MPS presented an update and vision for 2020. Participants elected the new SC chair (Italy) and Vice Chairs (KIRDARC and AIMF) as foreseen by the MP Governance and Strategy document. The MPS presented highlights of the 2020 work plan. Planning ahead, the SC members reflected on how to move forward with the Mountain Agenda while accounting for the effects of COVID-19, both worldwide and on mountain communities, and discussed issues of advocacy, communication and governance for 2020-2021. A strong focus was on how to include mountains in the main United Nations processes, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Summit on Food Systems.

Part two (13 July) discussed the reporting of the three working groups (Local Governance, Resource Mobilization and Advocacy and Communications). It approved to postpone the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting (GM) from 2021 to 2022 and discussed a shortlist of themes for the forthcoming International Mountain Day. It was decided that the next Steering Committee would meet again virtually in autumn 2020.

Section 3: Introductions

Opening and introductory remarks

On 25 June, Andrea Macchioni, Italy, opened the meeting and reaffirmed Italy's commitment to sustainable mountain development and support for the MP.

Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director General Forestry Department, FAO, emphasized the need to focus on the biodiversity decade and the role of biodiversity in mountain environments.

Tour de table – Introductions

On 25 June, the members of the SC raised challenges and opportunities facing the various constituencies of the Partnership. Below are some highlights from the introductions.

Vice Chair Musonda Mumba (UNEP): She noted the success of last year's UNFCCC COP25 three side events held by the MP members and mentioned the importance of conserving mountains, their traditions, their indigenous people and the ecosystem services they continue to provide.

Vice Chair Gobinda Shahi (KIRDARC): He emphasized regional advocacy in Nepal and the need to focus on mountain economies and people living there. Gobinda also mentioned the creation of a forum in collaboration with the government in Nepal to discuss sustainable mountain development, which has been postponed because of COVID-19.

Julia Vicioso – Dominican Republic (DR): She highlighted the importance of balance between ecosystems food systems and population in DR and the need to involve further local authorities.

Alma Uzbekova – (ISDS): She joined to represent her colleague Amara at the meeting and stated she would take notes and share with regional members.

Simao Pinho – (CIMO and Euromontana): Newly appointed he took an observer role to understand better the MP.

Carolina Adler – (MRI): She stated that she also represents the International Climbing And Mountaineering Federation of engaged mountaineers and climbers with a stake in the health of mountains. She also stated that she is part of an electoral group that includes big influential global players and emphasized the importance of collaborating with them.

Abdollah Ashtari Nakhaei – (MEPS): He underlined how MEPS is active and continuing its work in conservation.

Karinjo DeVore – (AIMF): She mentioned collaborations with other colleagues in the region, in particular the University of Colorado Western University and The Telluride Institute. AIMF aims to work with local government and nearby mountain states.

Maria Arguello – (CONDESAN): She stated that her organization is currently trying to work together more with their members and have created webinars to try and do this during COVID-19.

Francois Pythoud – (Switzerland): He stated his role in representing Switzerland in the Steering Committee.

Unfortunately, representatives from Argentina were not able to connect at this point due to internet issues.

After the presentation by Yuka Makino, MPS Coordinator, on 25 June, the SC discussed the MP's main advocacy events for 2020-2021 (High-level Political Forum [HLPF], CBD and UNFCCC processes, Terra Madre, Forum, Origin, Diversity and Territories (ODT), International Mountain Day 2020 and Summit on Sustainable Food Systems). How to include the post-COVID-19 rebuilding process as a narrative for promoting the wellbeing of mountains and mountain communities was also discussed.

Section 4: Election of Chairs

Election of the SC Chair and Vice Chairs

- i. Italy was confirmed as continuing chair of the SC for the next two-year period; KIRDARC will remain a Vice Chair, and AIMF was elected as the other Vice Chair.
- ii. The SC thanked the outgoing Vice Chair Musonda Mumba (UNEP) for her engagement during the past two years.

Section 5: Work plan

Highlights from the 2020 work plan and decision on leads (HLPF, IMD, CBD and UNFCCC processes, the UN Summit on Food Systems and discussion)

- Both on 25 June and 13 July, the SC discussed how to include mountains in the main United Nations processes, particularly the CBD and UNFCCC and the UN Summit on Food Systems. The issues considered were the scaling up of advocacy events – from side events to a presence in the plenary in the COPs. The

Secretariat requested the need for government champions to lead the way in the upcoming COPs for UNFCCC and UNCBD. In this regard, on 13 July, the identification of MP partners for the implementation of the MPS 2020 work plan was raised as a point.

- Key activities and meetings, including Malawi's proposal from the HLPF 2020 side event to create a new International Year of Mountains, were discussed.
- The CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework process was specifically discussed with a view of highlighting mountains. On 25 June, Switzerland and MRI suggested that the MPS could draft a policy paper presenting mountain biodiversity from a socio-economic perspective by gathering input from its diverse membership while focusing on the private sector, NGOs and Protected Areas Managers' points of view. The CBD open request for review comments on draft documents was highlighted as a potential entry point for MP members. The need to coordinate with other major actors already engaged in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was emphasized, particularly in terms of contributing to the peer review of the three main documents. The MP's next steps will be targeted towards promoting the inclusion of mountain-specific language in relevant targets and indicators with the aim of contributing to the final version of the 2030 mission document. The MPS will support governments and other stakeholders in this process.

Decisions:

- i. Self-selected MP member governments/accredited organizations should take the lead to ensure that mountains are included in the plenary discussion at UNFCCC COP26.**
- ii. The MPS will send a message to all MP members in the coming week with the template to send direct contributions to the CBD Secretariat.**
- iii. The MPS will circulate a possible outline and timeline for the mountain biodiversity policy paper for comments to the SC by the end of September 2020.**

Section 6: Overview of Working Groups Presentations

Working Groups (WGs) presentation of their meetings and discussion on WG strategy and work plan

Presentations were given on 13 July by members of the Local Governance, Resource Mobilization, and Advocacy and Communications WGs.

- **The Local Governance WG** discussed the importance of involving more government representatives in the WG. The aim is to compile a handbook of good practices and case studies on local governance and mountain community relationships. The WG also presented the idea of identifying sources of information and funding related to the WG and establish a repository for MP members.
- **The Resource Mobilization WG** highlighted the difficult situation of an ongoing and post-pandemic world, where donors' priorities are changing and resource mobilization has to be a priority particularly in relation to emerging work for the MPS and to diversify funding sources. Four main options for funding were mentioned: support to the MPS, staffing/loaned experts to the MPS, specific project proposals and contributions to the Mountain Facility.
 - The SC Chair called for SC members to join this WG to supplement the two current members – UNEP and Switzerland.

- **The Advocacy and Communications WG**, referring to the revision of the current 2018-2021 Strategies, stressed the need for specifying the roles of each stakeholder in the MP according to their terms of reference and to define more specific advocacy-related goals. The group proposed five key advocacy events to focus on (SMD and Framework for Action, UNSG report, UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, post-2020 process of CBD and the UN Food Systems Summit). The WG recommended that the MPS work on a monitoring and reporting system for progress made by MP members under the Framework for Action.

Decisions:

- All WGs will present a draft strategy and work plan to the next SC meeting.**
- The Local Governance WG will define a mandate, identify a co-leader, continue working on the work plan, involve more sub-national governments in the WG and confirm interest of current government WG members.**
- The Resource Mobilization WG will have more WG meetings to consider future resources.**
- The Advocacy and Communications WG will work towards a timeline for the revision of the post 2021 MP Advocacy and Communication strategies, including the consideration on how the SC can effectively engage their respective constituencies in the process of the strategy revision.**

Section 7: Governance

Governance

On 25 June, the SC discussed the upcoming MP Global Meeting – including location, host and composition of the organizing committee. Switzerland reported that it is exploring the possibility to host the meeting, possibly with other MP members (to be identified). On 13 July, the SC completed the discussion on this item.

Decisions:

- The SC decided to postpone the MP Global Meeting to 2022. The MPS will reach out to all members to explore their availability to host and/or support the GM.**
- All responses will be gathered by the end of September 2020. A partnership between a government and an organization would be welcomed.**

Section 8: International Mountain Day

Definition of the 2021 and 2022 International Mountain Day (IMD) themes

IMD themes were discussed, in light of current pandemic and how to influence or respond to current events. Five options were identified: sustainable mountain tourism, “women move mountains”, mountain food systems, water and land degradation. Argentina highlighted that it is important to address risk groups of Covid-19 virus that include people older than 60 in poor mountain communities who need immediate assistance.

Decisions:

- The MPS will send a doodle to all SC members to identify a shortlist of 2-3 themes, which will then go out to whole membership for a decision on one theme for 2021.**
- The theme for 2022 will be decided at a later date.**

Section 9: Steering Committee meeting matters

Date of the next Mountain Partnership Steering Committee meeting

The SC will meet virtually again in autumn 2020 at a date to be decided in early September through a doodle survey.

Allowing MP members to participate in the meetings of the SC

On July 13, the SC Chair, noting the request made by some MP members to attend the SC virtual meeting as observers, suggested that allowing observers to join SC meetings will be considered on a case-by-case basis, provided that sufficient notice and reasonable justification is given.

Decision:

- i. **The SC agreed that requests by MP members wishing to attend the SC meetings as observers will be decided by the SC by consensus on a case-by-case basis, provided that sufficient notice and reasonable justification is given.**