



# **MOUNTAINS 2022**

International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Open-ended Scientific Committee in support of the observance of the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 (IYM2022)**

On 16 December 2021, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development (IYM2022) at the proposal of the Kyrgyz Government. The resolution was sponsored by 94 governments and invites the Mountain Partnership (MP), in collaboration with all relevant organizations, to facilitate the observance of the Year.

The observance of IYM2022 is a unique opportunity to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development and the conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Resolution notes that “despite the progress made in promoting the sustainable development of mountain regions and the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, the prevalence of poverty, food insecurity, social exclusion, environmental degradation and exposure to the risk of disasters is still increasing, particularly in developing countries, and access to safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation as well as to sustainable modern energy services continues to be limited”.

The IYM2022 is a chance to catalyse action and investments to build the resilience of mountain communities and ecosystems in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda: leave no one behind. This International Year also marks the twentieth anniversary since the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of the International Year of Mountains 2002 and the establishment of the Mountain Partnership.

At the extraordinary meeting of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee in January 2022, the establishment of an ad hoc independent Scientific Committee to support the observance of the Year was discussed and welcomed.

The Open-ended Scientific Committee (OESC) is an independent informal body of representatives of research and academic institutions, intergovernmental organizations, other international organizations and individual scientists, interested in sustainable mountain development.

Participation in the OESC is open and voluntary.

The meetings of the OESC are facilitated by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and are, if possible, co-chaired by a member of the OESC and a member of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee.

The overall objective of the OESC is to ensure the dissemination of science and knowledge in support of the IYM goal of increasing awareness of the importance of mountain development and the conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems.

**Members of the Scientific Committee will:**

- promote the IYM2022 within the institutions’ network;
- collect and share relevant mountain-related science and knowledge in support of the IYM2022; and
- contribute to the science-policy dialogue in support of sustainable mountain development, including by identifying research gaps and priorities beyond 2022.

**In particular, the Scientific Committee will:**

- support fact-checking and substantiate key messages about sustainable mountain development for the IYM2022 to be presented at events or included in communication materials;
- propose relevant mountain-related global issues as themes for policy briefs for IYM 2022, support the provision and compilation of data, information, or key references for their production, and develop selected policy briefs;
- support the organization of side events at the meetings of the Conference of Parties of UNCCD, CBD, and UNFCCC;
- support the organization of a Mountain Science Day during the MP Global Meeting in September 2022 or in other appropriate venues; and
- engage in a process to identify key research priorities as part of an action plan that could arise as an outcome of the IYM2022.

**Tentative timeline for the work of the Scientific Committee, to be adjusted according to the event calendar:**

WHAT	WHEN
Supporting fact-checking and substantiate key messages about sustainable mountain development for the IYM2022 to be presented at events on included in communication materials	Until December 2022
Proposing relevant mountain-related global issues as themes for policy briefs for IYM 2022, supporting the provision and compilation of data, information, or key	Until December 2022

references for their production, and developing policy briefs	
Supporting the organization of side events at the meetings of the Conference of Parties of UNCCD, CBD, and UNFCCC	Until the dates of the COPs
Supporting the organization of a mountain Science Day during the MP Global Meeting in September 2022	Until October 2022 (26 September-1 October; 6th Global Meeting of the MP in Aspen, Colorado, US)
Engage in a process to identify key research priorities as part of an action plan that could arise as an outcome of the IYM2022	Until December 2022
Prepare a synthesis paper on mountains, their values, risks, and contributions to people	Until December 2022