



Mountain Partnership Steering Committee meeting
Summary report
16 November 2021 – Zoom meeting

Agenda

Chair: Roberto Natali (Italian Government)

- 1. 15:00-15:15 Opening and adoption of agenda**
- 2. 15:15-15:35 Work planning**
 - Update on the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's work in 2021
 - Updates from working groups
 - Initial discussion on work plan 2022
 - Discussion
- 3. 15:35-15:55 International Mountain Day**
 - IMD update
 - 2022 theme proposals
 - Discussion
- 4. 15:55-16:10 6th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership**
 - Update by Aspen International Mountain Foundation
 - Discussion
- 5. 16:10-16:25 Process for the revision of key Mountain Partnership documents**
- 6. 16:45-17:00 Other matters, discussion and conclusions**



Overview

The Mountain Partnership (MP) Steering Committee (SC) met virtually on Zoom on 16 November 2021. This meeting was the seventh meeting of the SC since its election in December 2017 and the second MP SC meeting of 2021. New focal point of the Government of Italy and Chair of the Steering Committee Roberto Natali introduced himself to the SC. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) presented its accomplishments since the last SC meeting in April 2021 along with a preliminary work plan for 2022, for discussion and review by the SC. The MPS also provided an update on its activities for the celebration of International Mountain Day (IMD) 2021 and requested the SC's inputs on the possible theme of IMD 2022. The Aspen International Mountain Forum (AIMF) presented a brief update on the organization of the sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership, to be held in Aspen, Colorado, United States of America in September 2022. The MPS then presented a proposed timeline for the revision of the key MP documents ahead of the Global Meeting, followed by a discussion and review by the SC.

Section 1: Opening and adoption of agenda

Opening

Steering Committee Chair Roberto Natali, Government of Italy, opened the meeting and introduced himself to the SC. Born in the mountains, Natali is a career diplomat with working experience in Ecuador, Finland, Morocco, Spain and the United States of America. He currently serves in the Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy.

Mette Wilkie, MP focal point of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), shared a brief statement. She thanked the SC for their dedication to the MP and the mountain agenda, and expressed FAO's continued delight to host the MPS.

Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without change.

Section 2: Work planning

Update on the MPS' work in 2021

The MPS reported on its accomplishments during the period of 30 April 2021 – 16 November 2021 according to its four pillars of work: communication, advocacy, capacity development and joint action. It highlighted activities organized in relation to the United Nations Food Systems Summit, Expo 2020 Dubai and the United Nations Climate Change Conference. The MPS furthermore shared a list of events to which it provided support and then gave an update on its ongoing projects: the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative supported by the Italian Development Cooperation, and “Enhancing community resilience to climate change in mountain watersheds” supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. The MPS described ongoing collaborations with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).



Updates from the working groups

Karinjo DeVore, AIMF, reported that, while the Local Governance Working Group has not been working as a group, her organization has been working closely with the local government regarding the organization of the next Global Meeting. She encouraged the other SC members to also consider working more closely with their local governments.

No other working group reported.

Initial discussion on work plan 2022

The MPS briefly outlined the major events relevant for mountains scheduled in 2022. It described the anticipated publications tabled for the next year. It also shared a timeline for the preparation of the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) report on sustainable mountain development, which is due in 2022. Lastly, the MPS shared with the SC that the Government of Kyrgyzstan will propose to the United Nations General Assembly an International Year of Mountains 2022. François Pythoud, Government of Switzerland, noted: "We support the proposal of having an International Year for the reasons put forward by the Government of Kyrgyzstan. Indeed, we have some concern with the proposal of having it already in 2022 as this will not allow for proper organization. While we underline that this very short notice, we also appreciate that this is nevertheless an opportunity to raise attention toward the many challenges confronting mountain peoples."

During the discussion that followed, Switzerland and Carolina Adler, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), suggested that the MPS begin to collect inputs for the UNSG report on sustainable mountain development as soon as possible to better engage the membership. The MPS acknowledged their feedback and underlined how the format and process for feedback for the report, however, is dictated by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

The MRI expressed that it would gladly mobilize the mountain scientific community for the MPS' planned publications and highlighted the need for a science-policy platform constituency group. It also noted the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2023* as a strategic publication to provide input on mountains to and requested to know how the MP plans to engage with the Sendai Framework in 2022.

Julia Vicioso, Government of the Dominican Republic, thanked the MPS for their hard work as demonstrated in their presentations. She agreed with Switzerland and the MRI on the need to have members more involved and suggested reorganizing the working groups.

Decision:

i. **The MPS will begin working as soon as possible on the preparations of the UNSG report:**

- By end of January 2022: Formally request MP members for inputs, as well as non-MP mountain governments, other UN entities, relevant stakeholders
- By mid-April 2022: First draft
- May-June 2022: Input from UNDESA and FAO Liaison Office in New York
- July-August 2002: Official translations
- September 2022: Final report to be presented at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly



Section 3: International Mountain Day

IMD update

The MPS provided an overview of the communication campaign for IMD 2021 on "Sustainable mountain tourism", which includes a joint publication with UNWTO, a poster in the six UN languages, social media cards in six languages, a social media campaign on "I love mountains", a photo contest, the appointment of a new MP Goodwill Ambassador, advocacy and two events coordinated by the MPS. The MPS reminded the SC and their constituencies to share their planned activities with the MPS for promoting.

2022 theme proposals

The MPS presented the SC with past themes that had been proposed for IMD as well as a list of the International Decades that will be ongoing on 2022. The MPS asked the SC to express their preference for the 2022 theme through a poll.

Decision:

- i. **The MPS will share the 2022 IMD theme options with the SC, who will consult their constituencies and report their findings to the MPS.**
- ii. **The MPS will share an option for a MP Youth Goodwill Ambassador for review and clearance by the SC.**

Section 4: 6th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership

Update by AIMF

The AIMF shared its developments on the organization of the sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership. It has reserved the entire Aspen Institute/Meadows campus for the meeting, to be held on 26-28 September 2022. The AIMF proposes the mornings to be dedicated to MP work and the afternoons to focus on interactions with private sector. The Aspen Institute will also co-host a high level symposium for delegates and the public on critical mountain environmental topics. The AIMF has been engaging local government for fundraising as well as private donors to keep participation and lodging costs for MP members to a minimum. A field trip will be offered in collaboration with the Telluride Institute, highlighting the regional indigenous tribes. The AIMF is preparing for the meeting to be conducted in a hybrid format as necessary. The AIMF looks forward to this meeting as a way to activate and engage MP members in North and Central America and the Caribbean and the private sector. The SC responded positively to the AIMF's proposed theme of the meeting, "Ideas to Action: Building alliances for resilient mountains".



Section 5: Process for the revision of key Mountain Partnership documents

The MPS presented a brief timeline for the revision of the MP's three key documents – the Advocacy Strategy, the Communication Strategy, and the Governance Paper – which is compiled regularly ahead of the Global Meeting where the updated documents are endorsed by the membership.

Switzerland agreed with the timeline presented but proposed that the MPS collect members' comments directly instead of the SC members collating comments and sharing with the MPS. The United Nations Environment Programme and the MRI seconded this suggestion.

Switzerland and the MRI also supported having additional consultation with the SC, prior to the finalization of the documents. The agreed timeline and process for the revisions or the documents are:

- **26 November 2021:** SC members send comments and revisions to MPS
- **15 January 2022:** The MPS consolidates revisions and, in consultation with the SC Chair, prepares the drafts to be shared with all MP members
- **20 January to 15 April 2022:** Comments are gathered by the MPS from all MP members
- **15 July 2022:** MPS finalizes the drafts, in consultation with the SC
- **23 July 2022:** MP members receive final drafts at least six weeks in advance of the Global Meeting

The MRI requested clarification on how the final documents are endorsed, which the MPS clarified is done by acclamation at the Global Meeting.

Decision:

- i. **The MPS will conduct the consultations for the revision of the 2022-2025 Advocacy Strategy, Communication Strategy and Governance Paper according to the agreed timeline. Consultation with the SC will be ensured prior to the finalization of the documents.**

Section 6: Other matters, discussion and conclusions

Mette Wilkie shared with the SC that she is retiring and that the position of Team Leader and Coordinator of the MPS is about to be advertised. Ewald Rametsteiner continues to serve as the interim Team Leader for the MPS.



Annex 1: Participants' list

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Donor Organizations

François Pythoud, Switzerland

Governments

Europe – Roberto Natali, Italy (Chair)

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

Sub-Saharan Africa – Maureen Anino, Uganda

Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Ewald Rametsteiner, Mette Wilkie, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Intergovernmental Organizations

Harald Egerer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Global Civil Society Organizations

Carolina Adler, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)

Major Group Organizations

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 – Marisa Young, Fundación Agreste (Alternate)

OBSERVERS

Aspen International Mountain Foundation

Margi Levitt

Eric Smith

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Samantha Abear

Valeria Barchiesi

Allison Bozzi

Giorgio Grussu

Rikiya Konishi

Sara Manuelli

Fabio Parisi

Patricia Quillacq

Rosalaura Romeo

Laura Russo

Antonella Sorrentino



ABSENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Governments

Asia and the Pacific – Philippines
Middle East and North Africa – Tunisia
South America – Argentina

Major Group Organizations

Asia and the Pacific – Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC)
Central Asia – Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund (ISDS)
Middle East and North Africa – Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)
Sub-Saharan Africa – Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)