



Report on the MP member survey 2019

Background

At its meeting in April 2018, the MP Steering Committee “decided that the MPS should circulate a survey asking MP members what they expect from the MP, considering its five pillars of work.”

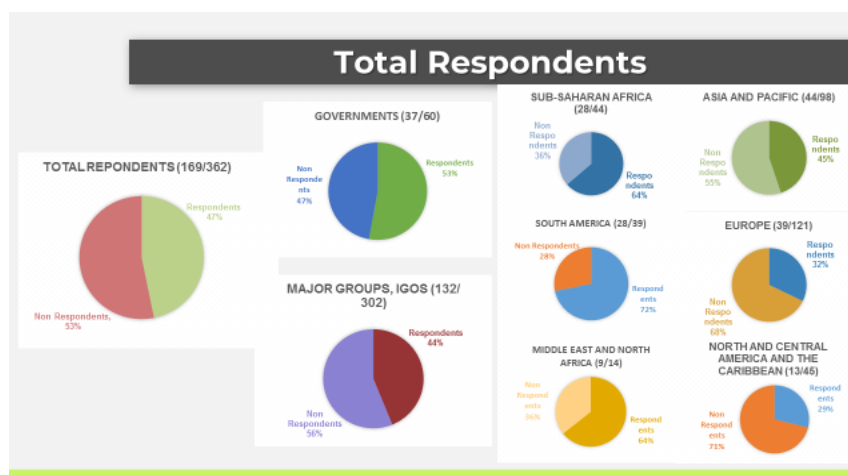
The Secretariat circulated a survey to all the MP member focal points. The survey was open from 13 February to 8 March 2019 and available in English, French, Spanish and Russian. The original survey questions are reported in the Annex. The complete survey results can be accessed at the following [link](#)

The survey consisted of 13 questions. Questions 1-3 asked respondents to indicate to which category they belonged (government or organization), to which region they reside and to how long they have been part of the MP. Questions 4-9 aimed at assessing the experience of members with the Partnership (overall experience, benefits of being a member, usefulness of programmes, services and activities of the Partnership, and any particular activity initiated as a result of being a member of the Partnership). Questions 10-13 asked members to provide inputs regarding future directions of the MP and its work.

Results

The total response rate to the survey was 47% (169 respondents out of 362). In Sub-saharan Africa, South America, and Middle East and North Africa the response rate was higher than 50% while in Asia and Pacific,¹ Europe, and North and Central America and the Caribbean the response rate was less than 50%².

Major groups were more responsive than governments (response rates of 64% and 53% respectively), with the exception of International organizations that showed a very low rate of participation in the survey (12%).



¹ Due to the low rate of responses from Central Asia, the results were merged under the Asia Pacific region

² More precisely, the regional breakdown is as follows: South America – 72%; Sub-Saharan Africa – 64%; Middle East and North Africa - 64%; Asia and Pacific – 45%; Europe – 32%; North and Central America and the Caribbean - 29%



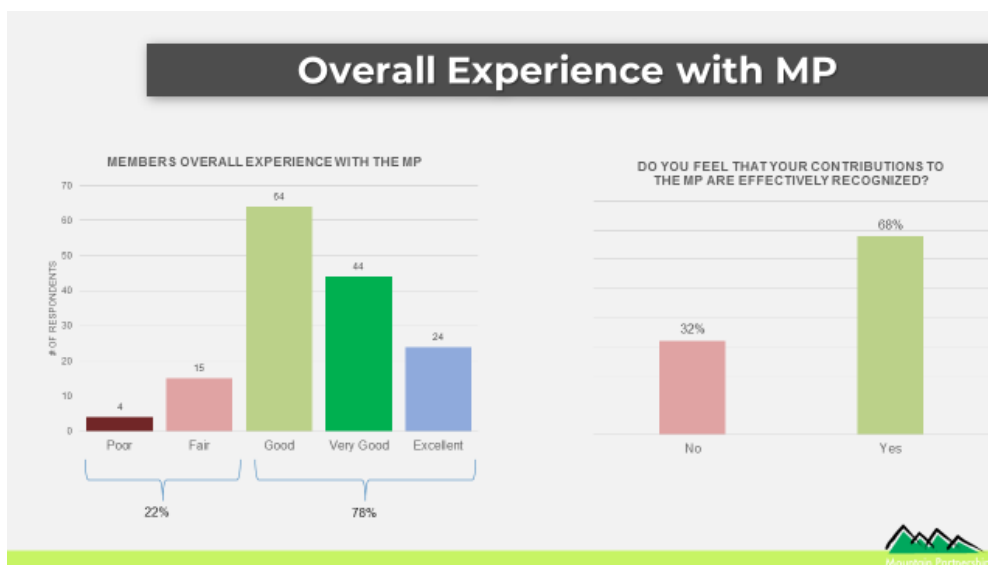
Overall experience with the Mountain Partnership

Two of the thirteen questions aimed at understanding how respondents felt about their general experience with the Partnership and specifically whether their contributions to it are recognized. Almost 80% of the respondents rated their experience with the MP from good to excellent.

Two thirds felt that their contribution to the Partnership is effectively recognized. Of the remaining third that answered negatively, only 22 provided comments. In the comments, half of the respondents related their perceived lack of recognition to the fact that they have not been active members for reasons such as being new members or unfavourable conditions in the countries.

Questions 4 and 8:

- 4. How would your organization/government rate the overall experience with the Mountain Partnership?
 - 8. Do you feel that your contributions to the MP are effectively recognized? If No, please provide specify
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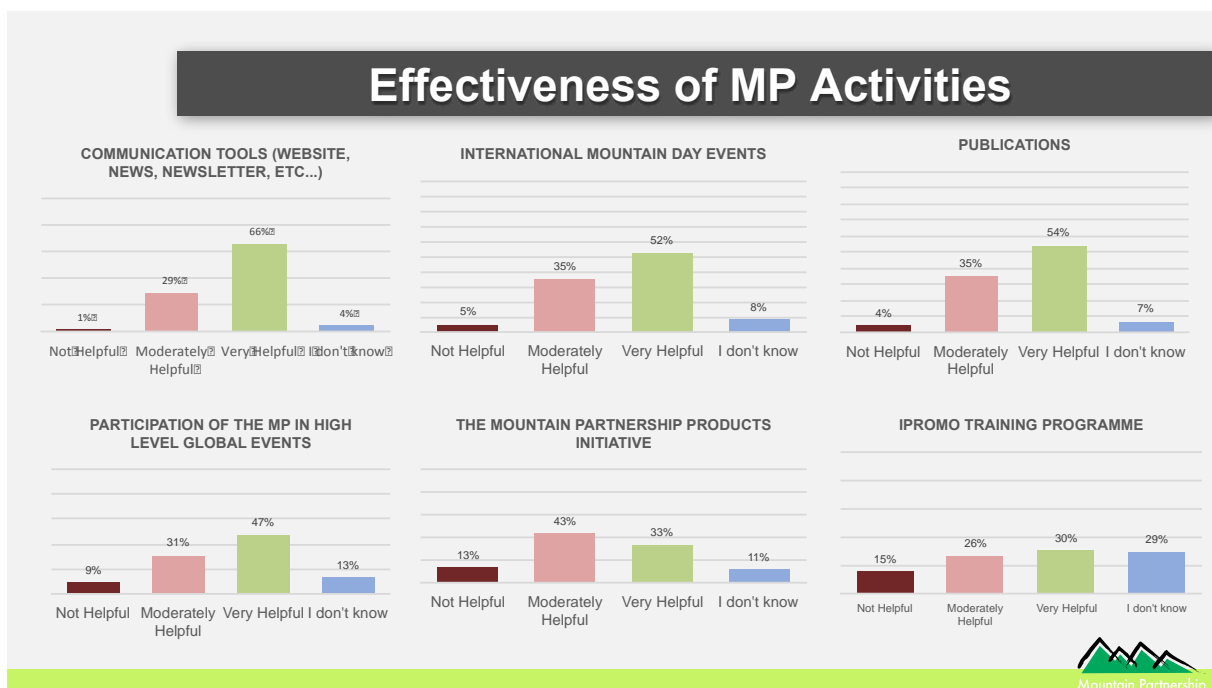
Effectiveness of MP activities

One question asked about the perceived helpfulness of six major MP programmes, activities and services and the results show that activities/programmes related to communication and advocacy are considered very helpful by the majority of members. Activities under this category include: communication tools, website, news, newsletter, events for the International Mountain Day, and MP publications.

Participation of the MP in high-level global events was considered very helpful by 47% of the respondents. The MP Products initiative was considered very helpful by 33% and moderately helpful by 43%. IPROMO, the capacity building course of the MP, was considered very helpful by 30% of respondents, almost the same percentage as those who did not know about it.

Question 6:

6. How helpful have the following programmes, services and activities been for your organization/government?





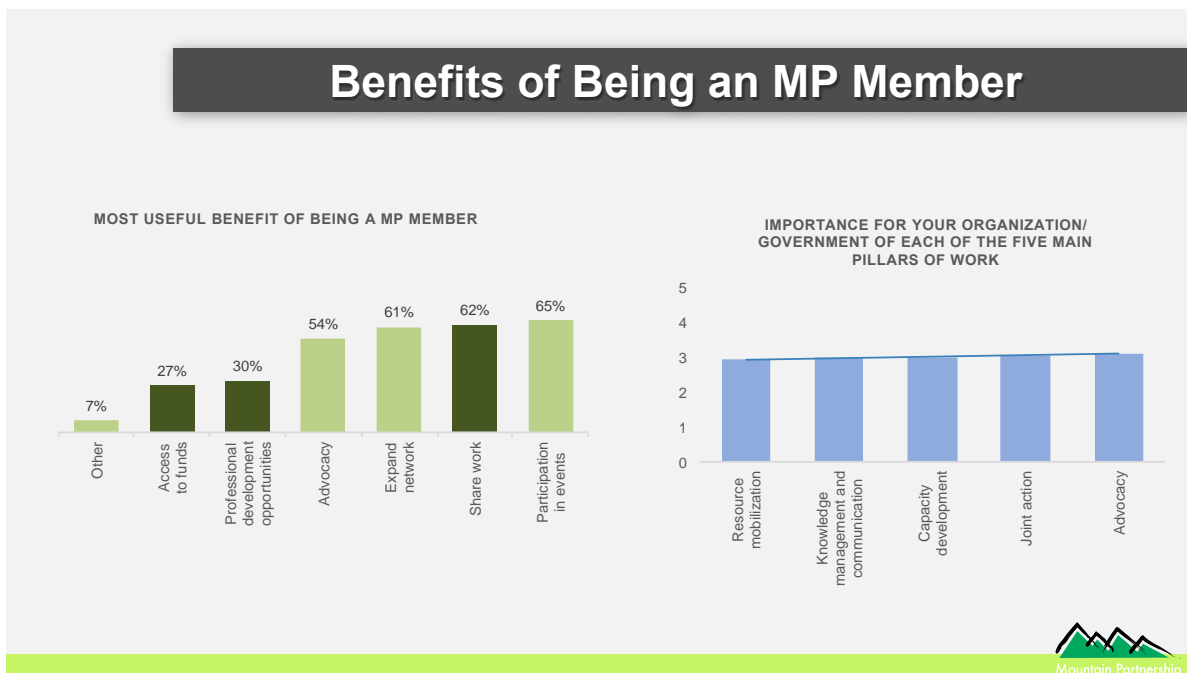
Benefits of being an MP member

Results to the question on the perceived benefits of belonging to the MP indicate that respondents value most the opportunity offered by the MP for participating in mountain-related events, sharing their work with others and expanding their network.

As for the question on the importance of the five pillars of the MP (Advocacy, Communications, Capacity building, Joint action, and Resource mobilization) for the work of their organization/government, respondents ranked them almost at the same level of importance³. This result shows that each of the five pillar is equally relevant for MP members.

Questions 5 and 9:

- 5. What does your organization/government consider the most useful benefit of being a member of the Mountain Partnership?
- 9. Please rank the importance for your organization/government of each of the five main pillars of work above (1 being the least important and 5 being the most important)



³ The variance among the five pillar was minimal: the highest ranked pillar was ‘Advocacy’ with an average of 3.1 and the lowest ranked pillar was ‘Resource Mobilization’ with an average of 2.91



The added value of the MP

An open-ended question asked to describe one or more activities that the respondent's organization/government has initiated or participated in as a result of being part of the Mountain Partnership.

The response rate to this question was 72% (123 out of 169 respondents). Some of the most common responses were:

- Set up several locally/national based initiatives (~ 70% of all comments) notably national strategies and policies (sustainable mountain development, sustainable tourism);
- Creation of mountain-related institutions (including the national mountain committees and regional collaboration);
- Participation in International Mountain Day (IMD) (awareness raising and advocacy) and in the MP Products Initiative were also mentioned (17% and 13% of responses respectively).

Question 7:

7. Could you describe one or more activities that your organization/government has initiated or participated in as a result of being part of the Mountain Partnership?



Future direction for the MP

For more than 85% of the respondents, the MP should maintain its current pillars of work and strengthen them rather than cover new areas of work (15% of responses).

Resource mobilization was indicated as the area of work that should be strengthened the most⁴. Joint action came second as two-thirds of respondents indicated it as a pillar that needs to be strengthened. Less than 50% of respondents answered that ‘Advocacy’ and ‘Knowledge management and communication’ should be further reinforced.

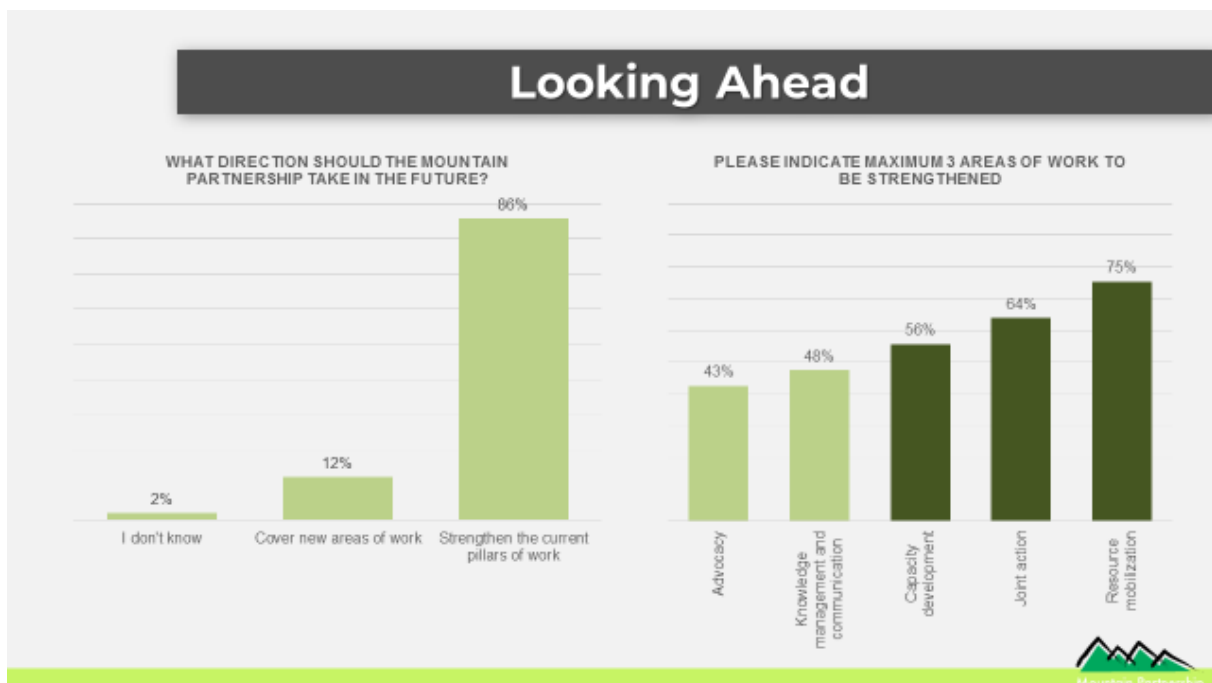
It is interesting to highlight that these results are in line with the answers received on Q5⁵ were respondents answered that ‘Funding of mountain-related activities’ and ‘Professional development opportunities’ were the areas in which they received the least benefits.

Of the 12% (18 answers) who suggested that the MP should cover new areas of work, 17 provided comments. These suggestions, however, besides being very few compared to the total number of responses, do no point to significantly different areas of work for the MP.

Questions 10 and 11:

10. What direction should the Mountain Partnership take in the future?

11. Please indicate maximum 3 areas of work to be strengthened



⁴ 75% of respondents indicated the ‘Resource Mobilization’ pillar as one that needs to be strengthened.

⁵ Q5: What does your organization/government consider the most useful benefit of being a member of the Mountain Partnership?



On the other hand, several suggestions were made by respondents on the question asking which new activities could be started or improved by the MP⁶.

- Advocacy: outreach outside the MP community, clearer membership identity on websites and other media, more proactive with governments for fair, mountain specific policies, more advocacy on indigenous people
- Knowledge sharing and communications: support development of national mountain strategies, guidelines, status report on mountains, more collaboration with science
- Joint action: involving young people, promote transboundary mountain cooperation
- Capacity building: regional capacity development
- Resources mobilization: fund raising events, start small grant programs for local organizations, annual investment forums.

Question 12:

12. Could your organization/government indicate up to five new activities that should be started/improved by the Mountain Partnership?

⁶ Q12: Could your organization/government indicate up to five new activities that should be started/improved by the Mountain Partnership?



Analysis

The rate of responses to the survey was fairly high indicating that there is a substantial half of the total membership which is responsive and committed to the MP across regions and categories. However, although part of the unresponsive 53% can be imputed to difficulties in communication and indifference to surveys as a tool for participation, the reasons for the non-responses of 190 members would need to be understood and investigated. More regular checks about the participation and satisfaction of MP members could be promoted. Tailored surveys could be conducted in order to understand better the needs and suggestions of the MP members on topics such as capacity development and resource mobilization. However, surveys can lead to survey fatigue.

As explained above, the 30% of respondent who felt that their contributions to the MP is not effectively recognised should be read together with the specific comments to the question provided by the respondents themselves. These comments point by and large to the inability of members themselves of being active rather than to the failure of the MP to effectively engage and represent them. However, a responsive and active membership is the essence of a thriving Partnership and this result could be a basis for a reflection by the Steering Committee and the Secretariat on possible efforts for correcting the situation.

The perceived relative helpfulness of the MP programmes, services and activities resulting from the responses might be linked to their scope and reach – those with a wide scope (communication, advocacy) are the one most known, and therefore most appreciated, by the MP members as a whole, while specific programmes such as IPROMO or the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative have a narrower scope and are effectively less known and appreciated by members. These programmes might be boosted by being extended to more participants/members.

Respondents have indicated that they value the opportunity offered by the Partnership for expanding their network of contacts, sharing their own work and being present in national and international events. This points to the perception that the MP is effectively responding to the needs of individual countries and organisations for joining and remaining in a global platform such as the MP.

The two lowest ranking perceived benefits, ‘Funding mountain-related activities’ (27%) and ‘Professional Development’ (30%)⁷, should be read in conjunction with the responses suggesting that the MP pillars of work to be strengthened are “Resource mobilization” and “Joint action”. This feedback from the members could be the basis for more efforts by all members, the Steering Committee and Secretariat in these two areas of work.

The responses to the survey also provide evidence of the spin offs for individual members of belonging to the MP and of the effects of the MP progressive growth and influence since 2002 in individual countries and at the global level, with concrete examples of local and national level achievements and global impact.

⁷ Advocacy, Expand Network, Share work, Participation in events all received 50+%.



Finally, the great majority of respondents felt that the MP should not venture into new areas of work but reinforce its five current pillars, reflecting the continued relevance of the MP original goals to its current members.

Conclusions

The complete results of the survey will be posted on the MP website, for everyone to access and make personalized searches.

The Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, should make efforts to follow up on unresponsive members and on specific recommendations and suggestions made by respondents with the aim to increase the ownership by and relevance of the MP to its members and to guide future its activities.



Annex:

- Q1:** To which category does your organization/government belong?
- Q2:** To which region does your organization/government belong?
- Q3:** How long has your organization/government been a Mountain Partnership member?
- Q4:** How would your organization/government rate the overall experience with the Mountain Partnership?
- Q5:** What does your organization/government consider the most useful benefit of being a member of the Mountain Partnership?
- Q6:** How helpful have the following programmes, services and activities been for your organization/government?
- Q7:** Could you describe one or more activities that your organization/government has initiated or participated in as a result of being part of the Mountain Partnership?
- Q8:** Do you feel that your contributions to the MP are effectively recognized?
- Q9:** Please rank the importance for your organization/government of each of the five main pillars of work above (1 being the least important and 5 being the most important)
- Q10:** What direction should the Mountain Partnership take in the future?
- Q11:** Please indicate maximum 3 areas of work to be strengthened
- Q12:** Could your organization/government indicate up to five new activities that should be started/improved by the Mountain Partnership?
- Q13:** Please share any other comments on your organization/government experience and expectations regarding the Mountain Partnership