



Steering Committee Meeting

Summary Report

14-15 October 2015

Palazzo dal Pozzo della Cisterna – Turin (Italy)

Participants:

1. Fabiana Loguzzo, Argentina – Governments of South America (Chair);
2. Francis Dany Matip Nouga, Cameroon – Governments of Sub-Saharan Africa
3. Grammenos Mastrojeni, Italy – Donor Organizations to the MP Secretariat
4. Simone Borelli, FAO – Host institution of the MP Secretariat
5. Musonda Mumba, UNEP – Intergovernmental Organizations
6. Andrew Taber, TMI – Global Major Groups Organizations
7. Abdollah Ashtari Nakhaei, MEPS – Civil Society of Middle East and North Africa
8. Karinjo DeVore, AIMF – Civil Society of North & Central America and the Caribbean
9. Anja Moller Rasmussen, ICIMOD – Civil Society of Asia and the Pacific
10. Elena di Bella, Euromontana - Civil Society of Europe
11. Marisa Young, Fundación Agreste – Civil Society of South America

Observers:

1. Thomas Hofer, MPS
2. Rosalaura Romeo, MPS
3. Giorgio Grussu, MPS
4. Sara Manuelli, MPS
5. Antonella Sorrentino, MPS

Overview:

This was the second formal meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) after its election at the Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership (MP). Items discussed included: the MPS activities from February to September 2015, the outreach of the communication efforts, themes around which to strategically position the Partnership for the next 10 years, workplan priorities for 2016, key events and resource mobilization. The SC provided support in guiding the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) in its work and priority setting and in its advocacy efforts to champion the mountain agenda both globally at key UN events, especially those relating to climate change and the second stage of the post 2015 development agenda, as well as at regional level. Resource mobilization in particular was discussed, focusing on updates and efforts undertaken since February and on the news that Switzerland will now rejoin as a resource partner from the Federal Office of Agriculture. A new chair and two vice-chairs were elected.



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Welcome remarks

Fabiana Loguzzo and Grammenos Mastrojeni welcomed the Steering Committee (SC) members. Ms Loguzzo noted the achievement of the three mountain targets in the Sustainable Development Goals and underlined the future main challenges including the UNCCD in Ankara and UNFCCC meeting in Paris. She updated the SC on the meeting that was held in Rome with the Permanent Representatives at FAO to highlight the mountain agenda and reiterated Argentina's commitment to the MP.

All meeting participants introduced themselves.

Discussion of core documents

The MPS presented the February - September 2015 report; the outreach of the communication tools; the vision for mountains in 2025 and the priorities for the remaining part of 2015. The SC members made the following decisions and recommendations.

- The UNFCCC should be attended by the MPS with two events, possibly one more technical one and one more global during which the vulnerability study can be launched and the International Mountain Day observed. The petition will be presented in plenary by the Italian Government on behalf of the Mountain Partnership. The MPS was asked to circulate a *note verbale* to the MP governments asking for support in a formal way. SC members also confirmed their commitment to further circulate the petition. The MPS also will send an e-mail to all MP members soliciting their input on mountain related events they are organizing so that it can send out to members a consolidated list of mountain events during UNFCCC.
- Sharing and promoting capacity development courses such as IPROMO or others should consider the economic implications for participants and funds should be mobilized to the extent possible. Other regional, national or online courses should be promoted.
- The vision paper drafted by the MPS Coordinator should incorporate the findings of the SC and be circulated and updated as required
- There is a need to continue discussing how to adapt and moving forward the structure of Partnership to create added value.
- The vulnerability study findings should be shared with the SC members before wide dissemination, linkages with UNEP's vulnerability impact studies should be made.
- The Mountain Products initiative is defined as a voluntary process which may include the creation of a simple logo, and that will not involve any kind of standard setting. It is a process which ultimately improves the perception and provides added value to mountain products and aims at benefitting the mountain communities.
- Regional activities such as the Andean Initiative which have been promoted by the MPS and have benefited from the catalyst financial support of the FAO technical Cooperation Programme should continue and take ownership while keeping the MPS fully informed.
- The activities connected to the celebration of International Mountain Day are a task assigned to FAO by the United Nations; given its comparative advantage, some of these activities are outsourced to the MPS.
- Communication activities should be more geared towards a general public. Mountains need a clearer identity, rebranding and increase their outreach. Youth should be more involved. TED-type talks on mountain-related topics could be envisaged. Make more use of Mountain



Ambassadors as well as of Goodwill Ambassadors of partners. A campaign for UNFCCC with videos should be undertaken. Exchange of experiences with ICIMOD is encouraged.

- The MP website should include all the possible links to MP members and regional initiatives. It should be a repository of all that the Partnership produces.
- The MP to produce a document on the state of the world's mountains every five or six years similar to the regional studies conducted in view of Rio+20. Harmonize this with the UNSG report which has now to be prepared every three years.

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Work planning 2016

- The MPS proposal to launch a platform for linking university and education consortia on sustainable mountain development is highly appreciated. A concept note to be developed by the MPS and shared with MP Academic members. The development of a repository / database on ongoing training and capacity development activities on SMD would be useful.
- Members' mountain activities such as side event at COPs should be more coordinated and be held under the MP brand to the extent possible.
- All members to be encouraged to use the MP logo to attract a wider spectrum of audiences.
- Ensure that MP side events are meaningful and strategic and focus on attracting specific individuals
- A task force for promoting and raising funds for the mountain facility should be set up.
- The Green cover index will be eventually approved in March 2016 and its application will require some work by the MP.
- The SC members should add their activities to the 2016 workplan.
- The Calendar 2016 should be updated by the MPS and then circulated to SC for approval.
- The MPS to produce a two page note to be used for promoting awareness in Ministries and other institutions on solutions and results that would have not been achieved without the MP, such as the three mountain related targets in the SDGs and the vulnerability study.
- The preparation for the 5th global meeting, which will also include the review of the Strategy Document, needs to be included in the work plan.

Resource mobilization

- The MPS presented the budget for 2015 and also listed the resource mobilization efforts undertaken since February.
- Switzerland will now rejoin as a resource partner from the Federal Office of Agriculture while SDC will continue supporting regional activities.
- It was mentioned that a proportional membership fee could be a way to improve engagement. For governments in particular, it was mentioned that a fee could be very helpful: this would result in a specific budget line which would facilitate the governments representatives participation in the MP.
- However, the SC members felt that requesting a membership fee could be a very administratively cumbersome task for the MPS and it was decided to postpone this decision to the next Global Meeting.
- It was requested that the MPS produce a note with a financial update once the situation will be clearer.
- The SC appreciated the fact that resource mobilization is a corporate responsibility of the SC.



Engagement of members and the relations within the electoral groups:

- SC members reviewed their responsibilities in representing electoral groups.
- While some progress is being made, many SC members expressed their continuing difficulty in receiving feedback from the members.
- Since this is an activity conducted on a voluntary basis there is only so much that the SC members can do.
- Also often the focal points change and this is not notified to the SC members nor to the MPS.
- There is a need to improve members' engagement and reporting mechanism as well as to investigate why the reasons of some member's non engagement.

Central Asia representation

Since nobody representing Central Asia could be present at the SC it was agreed to address the issue at the next Steering Committee.

Election of chair and vice chair

The SC elected Andrew Taber, TMI representative of Global Major Groups Organizations, as chair of the SC, and Grammenos Mastrojeni, Italy, representative of the Donor Organization to the MP Secretariat and Francis Matip, Cameroon, representative of the Governments of Sub-Saharan Africa both as vice-chair. This arrangement will seek endorsement by the members at the next General Assembly.

Steering Committee matters

- The date and venue of the fifth Global Meeting was agreed for the 21-22 October and the SC will be held on the 23-24 October, in Mbale, Uganda. Both meetings will be held back-to-back with the Global Mountain Forum 2016.
- There is a need to reinforce the participation of Governments in the SC as this time only two governments attended plus Italy as representative of the MP donors.
- It was proposed to have alternate focal points for SC members to ensure higher participation.
- A skype SC meeting should be held before the General Assembly and consequential Steering Committee in Uganda in October 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 18:00.



Steering Committee Meeting

Draft Agenda

14-15 October 2015

Palazzo dal Pozzo della Cisterna – Turin

14 October 2015

09.00-09.30 Welcome, introductory remarks and adoption of agenda

09.30-11.00 Stocktaking:

- MPS report February – September 2015 (Item #1)
- Issues and updates on the electoral groups

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 -11.30 Stocktaking:

- Communication and knowledge management, advocacy and joint action issues
- General discussion

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-16.30 Positioning strategically the Partnership: Mountains in 2025 and the MP (Item #2 paper by the MPS Coordinator)

- Thematic priorities and key events in 2015
- Thematic priorities and key events in 2016

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

- Regional perspectives and issues – presentations by SC members

16.30-17.00 Conclusions of day one

19.30 Group dinner



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09.00-09.30 Introduction to day two

09.30-11.00 implementing the MP's strategic vision:

- 2016 Workplan and discussion of responsibilities (Item #3) and 2016 calendar (Item #4)

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 Financial update report:

- Resource mobilization/funding proposals

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.30 Governance issues (Item #5):

- Engagement of members and the relations within the electoral groups
- Central Asia representation
- Dates and venue of the fifth Global Meeting
- Election of chair and vice chair, SC matters

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-16.30 Other matters and general discussion

16.30-17.00 Conclusions of the meeting and next steps