

Marrakech – 17 December 2012

**MENA Regional Meeting on Climate Change Impacts,
Adaptation, and Development in Mountain Regions**



Mountain Partnership



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The Mountain Partnership

A United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environment around the world

The Mountain Partnership



Building on Chapter 13 and on the IYM2002

The Mountain Partnership was launched in

Johannesburg (WSSD 2002) as United

Nations Type II Alliance

It started with about 40 members

Membership

197 members:

50 Governments

16 IGOs

132 Major Groups



MENA Membership

GOVERNMENTS

- **Afghanistan**
- **Algeria**
- **Jordan**
- **Iran**
- **Morocco**
- **Tunisia**
- **Turkey**
- **Yemen**

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- **Mountain Environment Protection Society (Iran)**
- **Migration and Development (Morocco)**
- **Sultan Qaboos University (Oman)**

Mountain Partnership Secretariat



- **Central Hub: Forestry Dpt - FAO**
- **Latin America (CONDESAN, Peru)**
- **Central Asia (UCA, Kyrgyzstan)**
- **UNEP responsible for environmental concerns**

MPS Resource Partners



- **Italian cooperation**
funds the Secretariat at FAO



- **Swiss cooperation**
funds the secretariat at FAO and the decentralized hubs



- **FAO**
funds the coordinator post and TCPs



- **World Bank**
grant for project on CC in mountain areas

Activities

- 1. Advocacy:** events at main meetings, policy dialogue, Rio Process, Mountain Day at UNFCCC CoP (DOHA)
- 2. Capacity development:** IPROMO, WB project on Climate change in Mountains
- 3. Resource mobilization:** TCPs, WB grant, decentralised cooperation, GEF, support to members
- 4. Communications:** new website, newsletter, two main e-lists, publications, social media tools

Impact

- Active engagements of many MP members in **advocacy, policy dialogue, awareness raising activities**
- Increased **attention** on mountains in the main **international processes (COPs)**
- Mountains are included in the **political agenda** of many countries – national committees established
- Increased recognition of the **impact of CC in mountain areas**
- Strengthening of **regional mountain mechanisms**

The Mountain Agenda

1992: Rio Earth Summit

13 Managing fragile ecosystems: Sustainable mountain development

INTRODUCTION

13.1 Mountains are an important source of water, energy and biological diversity. Furthermore, they are a source of such key resources as minerals, forest products and agricultural products and of recreation. As a major ecosystem representing the complex and interrelated ecology of our planet, mountain environments are essential to the survival of the global ecosystem. Mountain ecosystems are, however, rapidly changing. They are susceptible to accelerated soil erosion, landslides and rapid loss of habitat and genetic diversity. On the human side, there is widespread poverty among mountain inhabitants and loss of indigenous knowledge. As a result, most global mountain areas are experiencing environmental degradation. Hence, the proper management of mountain resources, and socio-economic development of the people deserves immediate action.

13.2 About 10 per cent of the world's population depends directly on mountain resources. A much larger percentage draws on mountain resources, including and especially water. Mountains are a storehouse of biological diversity and endangered species.

13.3 Two programme areas are included in this chapter to further elaborate the problem of fragile ecosystems with regard to all mountains of the world. These are:

- (a) Generating and strengthening knowledge about the ecology and sustainable development of mountain ecosystems;
- (b) Promoting integrated watershed development and alternative livelihood opportunities.

PROGRAMME AREAS

A) GENERATING AND STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS

BASIS FOR ACTION

13.4 Mountains are highly vulnerable to human and natural ecological imbalance. Mountains are the areas most sensitive to all climatic changes in the atmosphere. Specific information on ecology, natural resource potential and socio-economic activities is essential. Mountain and hillside areas hold a rich variety of ecological systems. Because of their vertical dimensions, mountains create gradients of temperature, precipitation and insolation. A given mountain slope may include several climatic systems — such as tropical, subtropical, temperate and alpine — each of which represents a microcosm of a larger habitat diversity. There is, however, a lack of knowledge of mountain ecosystems. The creation of a global mountain database is therefore vital for launching programmes that contribute to the sustainable development of mountain ecosystems.

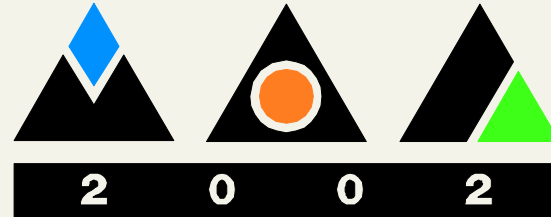
OBJECTIVES

13.5 The objectives of this programme area are:

- (a) To undertake a survey of the different forms of soils, forest, water use, crop, plant and animal resources of mountain ecosystems, taking into account the work of existing international and regional organizations;
- (b) To maintain and generate database and information systems to facilitate the integrated management and environmental assessment of mountain ecosystems, taking into account the work of existing international and re-



2002



International Year of
MOUNTAINS

We are all mountain people

www.mountains2002.org

- **78 countries with national committees**
- **National and regional events & initiatives**
- **Many global meetings**

RIO +20 Process

- **Campaign** launched in September 2011 to have mountains included in the Rio+20 zero draft
- **Three paragraphs** (210-2) on mountains included in the final outcome
- **Mountain Pavillion** at Rio +20
- **Third global meeting** of the Mountain Partnership during Rio+20 Summit

Climate Change & Mountains

Three meetings in 2011:

Latin America, Africa, Central Asia

- **Improve knowledge of mountains and climate change issues among participants**
- **Identify more adequate options to convey attention for mountains**

Climate Change & Mountains

Expected Meeting outcomes:

- **Promote discussions among the countries with mountain territories**
- **Strengthen the Mountain Partnership constituency in the MENA Region**
- **Promote a regional Mountain agenda and joint activities**
- **Place Mountains in the UNFCCC agenda**

Next Steps

- **Mainstream and implement Rio+20 - FAO, UNEP and UNESCO tasked by the UN**
- **CC in mountain areas – continue policy dialogue and raise awareness within UNFCCC**
- **Consolidate the funding resource base**
- **Finalise MP governance and strategy**
- **4th global meeting planned for early 2013**

Many thanks!

www.mountainpartnership.org