

Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter



Mountain Partnership
working together for mountain people and environments

HIGHLIGHTS

Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership



More than 100 Mountain Partnership (MP) members gathered in Erzurum, Turkey, for the Fourth Global Meeting on 17-20 September 2013. Participants representing governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups and academic institutions approved the four-year strategy and governance document (2014-2017), developed the building blocks of a two-year workplan and selected a 16-member Steering Committee.

The meeting included plenary sessions on topics such as ensuring that mountains are included in the Post-2015 development agenda, the sharing of regional mechanisms and a knowledge platform for sustainable mountain development (SMD). Key note speeches by Bruno Messerli of the University of Bern, Switzerland and Sam Kanyambwa of the Albertine Rift Conservation Society highlighted why mountains matter and reconciling mountain ecosystem conservation with development, respectively. On the third day, governments and organizations selected to serve on the Steering Committee were announced and the assembly agreed on the Erzurum Conclusions.

Parallel meetings offered a chance for regions to establish priorities and plan how to coordinate their SMD efforts while a second set of parallel meetings substantiated the functions established in the four-year strategy. Working groups discussed the outputs and activities in the areas of advocacy, joint action, knowledge management and communication, capacity development and technology transfer, innovation and resource mobilization, and provided the foundation for a two-year workplan.

The gathering also provided networking and exchange opportunities for members from around the world. For instance, Members' projects and ongoing work were showcased during the Members' Fair and 13 side-events. The fourth and final day featured a field trip to Camliyamac Village, Ulubag Hamlet and Tortum Falls. [Read more](#)

NEW MEMBERS

New applications for membership are now being processed. As of October 2013, there were 212 members of the Mountain Partnership: 51 governments, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 145 major group organizations (e.g. civil society, NGOs and the private sector). For information on their activities and contact details, and to update your own details, visit the [members section](#) of the Mountain Partnership website.

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UPDATE ON MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

New Steering Committee holds its first meeting

After the Global Meeting proceedings drew to a close on 19 September 2013, the new Mountain Partnership Steering Committee (SC) convened in Erzurum, Turkey. Having been selected to guide the collaborative work of the MP members and that of the MP Secretariat, the 16 members, representing their electoral groups, discussed their future work and began planning the development and monitoring of a two-year workplan for the MP.

"This is a turning point for the MP which has consolidated institutionally and matured globally as a beacon for the sustainable development of the vast mountain zones of the planet," says Baldomero Casillo of the Government of Argentina, which was elected Steering Committee Chair. The SC selected Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) as its Vice Chair while Thomas Hofer was confirmed as Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat. See the [list of SC members](#)

Pre-order material for International Mountain Day 2013

Preparations have begun for International Mountain Day (11 December), the theme of which this year is 'Mountains Key to a Sustainable Future'. Anyone interested in receiving a few hard copies of International Mountain Day 2013 material (poster and fact sheet available in all UN languages) should email alessia.vita@fao.org by Monday 28 October, specifying the number of copies and language they require. The material will also be posted [online](#) and can be downloaded for printing. As for every year, we encourage members to communicate to us their planned 2013 celebrations



NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

ASIA and PACIFIC

UN grants consultative status to Ecoforum

Mountain Partnership Member [Ecoforum](#) is among the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to be granted special consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its Substantive Session of July 2013. Consultative status enables an organization to actively engage with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies as well as with the United Nations Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies in a number of ways, which, in this case, is expected to better promote the interests of mountains. [Read more](#)

Your chance to partner with the Third Pakistan Mountain Festival

Development Communications Network (DEVCOM), an NGO in Pakistan, is seeking partners for its Third Pakistan Mountain Festival. About 150 000 to 200 000 visitors are expected between 11 and 15 December 2013 at the Art & Craft Village in Islamabad. The five-day advocacy and public awareness festival will focus mainly on women and children, and activities will include speeches, art and music, round-table workshops and seminars. [Read more](#)

EUROPE

FAO and Edmund Mach Foundation to collaborate on world mountain forests

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is joining forces with the Edmund Mach Foundation (FEM), a non-profit organization based in Italy specialized in agricultural, nutritional and environmental research, to elevate the position of mountain forests on the European and international agenda. The two organizations will work together to strengthen knowledge sharing and capacity building, improve the sharing of good practices, assist in project formulation and implementation and support technical consultations and awareness-raising events at the international level. [Read more](#)



Fifty-one good practices for greener mobility in the mountain areas

Move on Green (MOG), a project that promotes sustainable transport in European rural and mountain areas, has produced a good practice guide assembling 51 practices that have successfully improved mobility in rural areas. MOG, which is co-financed by the Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC and European Union Regional Development Fund, will develop policy recommendations for decision-makers of rural and mountain areas. The recommendations will focus on both environmental protection and access to services for rural and mountain populations through sustainable transport. The results will be integrated into the regional policies of the 12 partner regions. [Read more](#)

Shaping policy to promote transnational ecological networking in the Alps

The greenAlps Project, promoted by the [International Commission for the Protection of the Alps](#) (CIPRA), aims to bring what many studies have confirmed - that ecological networking is crucial to maintaining species diversity and the quality of life in the Alps. The Alpine Network of Protected Areas, Alparc, several other

protected areas, research institutes and NGOs have initiated the project to develop the basis for a European-wide environmental policy for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Alps. Co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the Alpine Space Programme, the project will run until November 2014. [Read more](#)



(c)Dr. Stephan Barth/pixelio.de

The idea of the CH-AT Alliance is catching interest

Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia and South Tyrol (Italy) signed a letter of intent on 'The Enhancement of Multilateral Research Cooperation in Sustainable Use of Resources in Mountain Areas' in late summer 2013. The countries will coordinate on research, including that in the field of natural resource management, the development of thematic networks and bridging the science-practice gap. The letter of intent serves to open up the [CH-AT Alliance](#), which is jointly managed by the [Mountain Research Initiative](#) (MRI) and the [Interdisciplinary Mountain Research](#) (IGF), to neighbouring countries. [Read more](#)

NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN

Call for applications: Professional Master's programme in land and water systems

The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, is calling for applications for its graduate programme focused on understanding land and water systems to better address global issues, such as food security, water quality, restoration of degraded lands and more. The 12-month programme, supervised by Professor Hans Schreier, one of the 2013 International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO) course instructors, is ideal for both returning students and recent graduates from a baccalaureate programme. Apply by 31 December 2013 to start in September 2014. [Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fourth International Mountain Forum of the Tatra Agency of Development, Promotion and Culture

Zakopane, Poland
23-25 October 2013

The [Tatra Agency for Development, Promotion and Culture](#) is holding the Fourth International Mountain Forum to reinforce cooperation in mountain regions through joint promotional actions, both within the European Union and in the international arena. This year the conference will be dedicated to the international cultural project Carpathian Sheep Transhumance 2013. [Read more](#)

Take advantage from land use change for improving connectivity

Brig, Switzerland
11-12 November 2013

This workshop, organized by the Continuum Initiative and the Platform Ecological Networks of the Alpine Convention, will focus on topics raised in the publication, "The 50 most important questions related to the maintenance and creation of ecological networks in the Alps" (2013). [Read more](#)

International conference on balancing renewable energy and nature in the Alps

Brig, Switzerland
12-13 November 2013

With demand for renewable energy growing across Europe, the partners of the international project recharge.green are working to reconcile using renewable energy sources, preserving nature and ecosystem service provisioning and keeping conflicts to a minimum. Experts and representatives from sectors, such as energy production, policy, nature protection, Alpine towns and tourism will discuss the project. [Read more](#)

Global Landscapes Forum

Warsaw, Poland
16-17 November 2013

On the sidelines of the 19th session of the Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), this global platform will highlight for world leaders, policymakers, scientists, civil society, the private sector, indigenous and community groups, the role sustainable landscapes can play in providing food, shelter and income. On 16 November, a two-hour session will be dedicated to the significance of mountains especially looking at climate change impacts and the constraints in building resilience in mountain landscapes. [Read more](#)



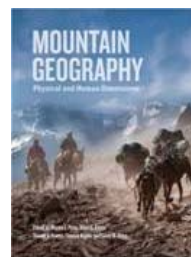
(c)FAO/H. Batuhan Gunsen

PUBLICATIONS

Mountain Geography: Physical and Human Dimensions

This comprehensive text book by an international team of authors, led by Martin Price of the [University of](#)

[the Highlands and Islands](#), was recently published by University of California Press. The book provides an in-depth understanding of the geographical processes occurring in the world's mountains and the overall impact of these regions on culture and society as a whole. It starts with how mountains are defined and their physical geography, then delves into the human geography of mountains: attitudes toward mountains, people living in mountain regions and their livelihoods and interactions within dynamic environments, the diverse types of mountain agriculture and the challenges of sustainable mountain development. [Read more](#)



Mountains: Our Life, Our Future - Progress and perspectives on sustainable mountain development

This publication examines the environmental and social issues at stake in the world's mountains over the last twenty years. Based on ten regional reports prepared for the Rio+20 conference, the global report explains why mountains matter. Written by Clara Ariza, Daniel Maselli and Thomas Kohler and published by the Mountain Partnership, the University of Bern Centre for Development and the Environment and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, it gives an overview of the issues concerning mountain populations and includes a road map with policy principles and recommended actions to help secure the role of mountain environments and their people. [Download](#)

Mountain Research and Development, Volume 33, Issue 3 on Water Governance in Mountains

The focus of this issue of Mountain Research and Development contributes to the International Year of Water Cooperation. Papers examine access to water, collaborative trans-boundary water management, effective trans-disciplinary knowledge production processes, governance of different irrigation systems and other topics relevant to sustainable mountain development. [Download](#)

Sacred Sites of the Southern Kyrgyzstan: Nature, Manas, Islam

Published by the [Aigine Cultural Research Center](#), this book delves into the natural sacred sites - lakes, caves, mountains, springs, rocks and trees of Southern Kyrgyzstan - from the standpoint of the local practitioners and folk experts themselves. The narratives, from custodians of traditional knowledge, include stories about stars that help people to sow and harvest crops; plants and animals that help overcome illnesses and difficulties; the lunar calendar, which Kyrgyz nomads used to move from one place to another; traditional nutrition to ensure healthiness and longevity; miraculous healing and sacred sites strengthening people and improving their health. [Read more](#)



Climate Change Adaptation Key Messages in Still and Moving Images

As part of the C3-Alps project, an Interreg Alpine Space project designed to translate scientific findings on adaptation to climate change into practical measures, a publication shows how using still and moving images can better communicate the complex phenomena of climate change. The publication by [CIPRA](#) shows how the subject be relayed more powerfully this way than with words, and is aimed at media people, NGOs and others in and beyond the Alps. [Download](#)

Youth and the Mountains

[Utah Valley University \(UVU\)](#) published a volume of student papers on issues related to sustainable mountain development (SMD), such as conflict in mountainous regions, alternative energy production, political arrangements and the importance of women in mountain communities. Papers included in the volume were written by students - members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU, as well as the winners of the three annual Utah high-schools essay contests and workshops. [Download](#)

Ecological Agriculture and Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change in the Río Piedras Basin

This publication in Spanish by Axel Borsdorf, Carla Marchant and Martin Mergili, published by Editorial Fundación Ecohábitats covers the results of field studies in the Cinturón Andino Biosphere Reserve. Email: axel.borsdorf@oeaw.ac.at for a free copy.



Axel Borsdorf, Carla Marchant & Martin Mergili (Editores)
Agricultura Ecológica y Estrategias de Adaptación al Cambio Climático en la Cuenca del Río Piedras

Colombia: A Country between Neoliberalism and Sustainability - Strategies of regional development under global change conditions with selected examples on the Caribbean Coast

This book in German by Axel Borsdorf and Carla Marchant, published by Geographic Institute of the University of Innsbruck, discusses the results of field practice in protected mountain and coastal areas. [Download](#)

NEWSLETTERS

New Comité de Montañas newsletter online

The third edition of the bimonthly digital newsletter of the Committee for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions of Argentina

(Comité para el Desarrollo Sustentable de las Regiones Montañosas) is now online. The August newsletter contains news and events relevant to the various agencies and organizations of its Advisory Board members. [Read more](#)

CALL FOR NEWS

Keep other Mountain Partnership members informed about your activities! Please [send us](#) info about new projects and programmes, initiatives, events, publications, newsletters, vacancies and calls for papers for inclusion in next month's Peak to Peak.