



Mountain Partnership
working together for mountain people and environments

Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS

February 2014



Mountains and forests make headlines at the United Nations

Emphatic calls were made for mountains and forests to be prominently featured in the Post-2015 development agenda during a 5 February 2014 event at UN headquarters in New York as the 8th session of the UN's Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) wrapped up its 'stocktaking' phase. Co-organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the governments of [Bhutan](#), [Peru](#) and [Romania](#), the side-event showcased the social, economic and environmental contributions of mountains and forests. Panelists representing Bhutan, Peru and Romania outlined efforts in their respective nations to develop mountains and manage forests sustainably for the well-being and livelihoods of their citizens while moderator Thomas Gass, UN Assistant Secretary-General, noted the issues also need addressing at global level. [Read more](#)

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who have joined since February 2014 - please feel free to contact them for possible collaborative projects and ideas:

- [VICAM: Vicuñas, Camélidos y Ambiente](#)
- [Sunrise On Africa's Peaks](#)
- [The Association for Sustainability and Governance of Mountainous Areas](#)
- [Millennium Institute](#)

As of February 2014, there were 228 members of the Mountain Partnership: 53 governments, 13 IGOs and 162 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.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Global



Peru holds brainstorming session with 20 countries on including mountains in the Post-2015 development agenda

Diplomats from twenty countries convened at the Permanent Mission of [Peru](#) to the United Nations in New York, USA, on 6 February 2014 to discuss how to integrate mountains in the Post-2015 development agenda. Almost all of the countries in attendance belong to the Mountain Partnership and also serve on the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group tasked with drafting the sustainable development goals. In the midst of the Open Working Group's eighth and final 'stock-taking' session, the 'working lunch' conversation revolved around several documents prepared by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), who, alongside the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), provided support for the lunch-hour meeting.

Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra of Peru highlighted the importance of having targets that can best be mainstreamed in the SDGs in an integrative manner. In this regard, he mentioned that the purpose of the working lunch was to start that thinking and, if at all possible, to come up with a number of targets that can be supported by the group during the next phase of the Open Working Group on SDGs.

Ambassador Csaba Körösi of Hungary sparked a discussion on universality, which led to the conclusion that although mountains cover 25 percent of the earth's land surface, they have universal importance because of the essential goods and services - such as water, biodiversity and energy - that they provide to all humanity. [Read more](#)

Science synthesis policy workshop

The [UN Educational Scientific Cultural Organization's](#) International Hydrological Programme (IHP) hosted on 23-24 January 2014 in Paris, France, the last workshop of the series 'Climate Change Impacts in Major Mountainous Regions of the World'. The final workshop gathered policy makers, experts and stakeholders to review the recommendations from the regional workshops. They deliberated and refined key recommendations to governments for effective climate change policy in mountainous regions, such as: greater recognition of mountain specificities in policy at both local and regional levels; improved trans-boundary cooperation and enhanced science-policy platforms; better feedback mechanisms to monitor and evaluate policy impacts. [Read more](#)



Regional

ASIA and PACIFIC

Tajikistan mountain villages supported in coping with climate change

Residents of Midenshor Village in the remote western Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan will soon have access to drinking water thanks to the work of the [Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities](#) (AGOCA). [Read more](#)



Lab-to-land approach to start in the Central Himalayas

The G.B.Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), an autonomous

institute under India's Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), has initiated implementation of the lab-to-land approach to develop capacities by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the [Central Himalayan Environment Association](#) (CHEA), an organization working on environment and livelihood issues since 1981. [Read more](#)



India workshop recommends new Indian Mountain Partnership chapter

Among the recommendations of the 'All India Workshop on Sustainable and Inclusive Mountain Development' is setting up the Indian Mountain Partnership - Western Ghats Chapter (IMP-WG). The meeting, which was held in late December 2013, proposed forming the group to bring together government and non-governmental organizations, international organizations, civil society, foundations, private sector entities and academic institutions from the six states through which the mountains run. [Read more](#)



EUROPE

Top Spanish chef to promote mountain product cuisine

Three-Michelin-star chef Quique Dacosta and Mountain Partnership Secretariat Coordinator Thomas Hofer discussed in Dénia, Spain, on 15 February 2014, a project proposed by the Agenda 21 group of the [Municipality of Dénia](#) to feature high quality traditional mountain products enhanced by gourmet cooking. [Read more](#)



Scholarship available for online degree in sustainable mountain development

A scholarship towards the costs of participating in the part-time online Master's of Science (MSc) in Sustainable Mountain Development offered by the [University of the Highlands and Islands](#), Scotland, is available for one student starting in September 2014. The deadline for applications is 10 April 2014. [Read more](#)



Enhancing the protection of mountainous areas from wildfires in Eastern Europe

A series of workshops and conferences is being held to improve wildfire suppression in protected areas in Armenia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine, as the threat posed by fires in the Black Sea region is on the rise. [Read more](#)



Exhibition on sustainable building in the Alps

An exhibition, showcasing 30 sustainable architecture projects that were entered in the “Constructive Alps” competition, can now be seen in Innsbruck, Austria, until 7 March 2014. The competition focused on sustainable building and renovating in the Alps and was designated as a concrete example of implementing the Climate Action Plan of the [Alpine Convention](#). [Read more](#)



SOUTH AMERICA

Water and mountains on the Katoomba Meeting agenda

The [Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Region](#) (CONDESAN) will organize the session on water and mountains to take place on 22-23 April 2014 in Lima, Peru, at the 20th Katoomba Meeting: Climate, Forests, and Water: A Vision for Alignment in Tropical America. The Katoomba Group, the Ministry of Environment of Peru, the National Water Authority of Peru and Forest Trends are convening global experts and leaders to promote and improve capacity related to markets and payments for ecosystem services. [Read more](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Symposium on Mountain Economy

Guiyang, China
6-8 May, 2014

The symposium, organized by [Guizhou University of Finance and Economics](#) (GUFE) will focus on approaches and methods for promoting development in mountainous areas particularly on environment and land use systems at global level. It will also look at the linkages with culture, environmental management, food security and improving livelihoods and economic activities in the mountainous areas. [Read more](#)



Second International Conference on Cryosphere of the Hindu Kush Himalaya: State of the Knowledge and Hindu Kush Himalayan Cryosphere Data Sharing Policy Workshop
Kathmandu, Nepal
13-16 May 2014

The [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development](#) (ICIMOD) is organizing this conference of scientists from across the world to share latest knowledge on cryosphere monitoring. In addition to the conference, a workshop is being organized to facilitate the development of a policy framework for data sharing in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. [Read more](#)



Second International Congress on Terraced Landscapes

Cusco, Peru
14-22 May, 2014

This international congress seeks to reassess the importance of terraces/platforms as a mechanism for

climate change adaptation that contribute to improving rural life, food security , environment and society in general. The congress will provide an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences on a variety of themes ranging from soil conservation to the role of terraces on improving food security.

[Read more](#)

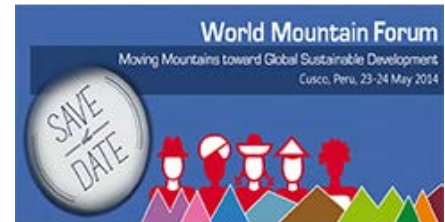


World Mountain Forum

Cusco, Peru

23 -24 May, 2014

This international event will provide an opportunity for dialogue among stakeholders to promote sustainable mountain development, to share learning experiences and to reach an agreement on policy recommendations for land management. It will also provide a platform to discuss ways to include mountains in national policies in the region, in advance of the 20th session of the Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP20), which will take place in Lima, Peru, in December 2014. [Read more](#)



PUBLICATIONS

Issues briefs on mountains and the sustainable development goals

In a joint effort, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat together with the Alpine Convention, Austrian Development Cooperation, Carpathian Convention, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Region, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, GRID Arendal, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Swiss Development Cooperation, UN Environment Programme, University of Bern Centre for Development and Environment and University of Central Asia produced four policy briefs calling for the inclusion of mountains in the sustainable development goals. [Read more](#)



VIDEOS

International Day of Forests

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) produced a video for the International Day of Forests, which is celebrated on 21 March. The one-minute spot available in eight languages was made to raise awareness about how forests and trees, including those in mountain regions, sustain and protect us - providing clean air and water, safeguarding biodiversity and acting as a buffer against climate change. [Watch](#)



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. We would like to receive and share your pictures and videos of mountain communities and environments - please send them to: mountains.mps@gmail.com