

SUMMARY REPORT

FIRST MEETING OF THE MOUNTAIN FORUM COUNCIL URUBAMBA, PERU

28TH SEPTEMBER – 1ST OCTOBER, 1999

At the kind invitation of the International Potato Centre (CIP), the first meeting of the Mountain Forum Council took place in Urubamba, Peru from 28 September to 1 October, 1999. All 22 members of the Council, who had been nominated by their respective regional/global nodes, FAO and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) attended as well as 20 special invitees, observers and node managers. The Council discussed major aspects of the Mountain Forum: 1) Governance and Administration; 2) International Year of Mountains and 3) Work plans and budgets for the period 2000-2003. A detailed report of the meeting is under preparation.

The major outcome of the meeting can be summarized as follows:

A. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1. The present Council and Secretariat will be merged into a Board of Directors, representing all the 5 regions and the global constituency, which will be constituted by late 2000.
2. In the meantime, an interim Board of Directors has been constituted of representatives of each of the present nodes management institutions.
3. For both the new Board and the interim Board, FAO has been invited to participate as a Member or Observer.
4. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been invited to participate as an Observer.
5. The chairmanship of the Board will rotate every two years.
6. An Executive Secretariat will be established in a host institution to be determined by the Interim Board.
7. A General Assembly of all interested members of the Mountain Forum will be held every 3-4 years.
8. The Mountain Forum should obtain independent legal status as soon as possible.
9. Primary responsibility for the activities within each region including fund raising shall remain within each region.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NODES

10. Detailed arrangements have been made for the establishment of the African Node of the MF, which is expected to be formalised in 2000. ICRAF in Kenya will be the focal point during this period.
11. Similarly, a North American Node of the MF is likely to be established in the near future, for which the Banff Centre in Canada will take the lead.

C. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MOUNTAINS 2002

12. All participants considered the International Year of Mountains a unique opportunity to draw attention of a wide range of audiences to mountain related problems, issues and opportunities.
13. More than 50 suggestions were made for IYM related activities at global regional, national and local levels.

D. WORK PLANS AND BUDGETS

14. All regional nodes and Global Information Server Node presented broad outlines for their work plans and budgets for the next 2-4 years.

E. RESPONSES FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DONOR COMMUNITY

15. Representatives of 10 international organisations and donor institutions indicated their keen interest in a strong association with the MF and/or indicated possibilities of likely support.

F. OTHERS

16. Presentations were given on Communications Policy and Strategy, including the journal Mountain Research and Development, and on Fundraising and Financial Sustainability which were considered very useful in developing MF's global and regional programmes.
17. The Council reconfirmed that the MF's major mission would continue to be that of:
 - Information sharing
 - Mutual support
 - Advocacy
18. The Council requested the Interim Board of Directors to report back on a regular basis to the Council on progress made with the implementation of the various decisions made by the Council.