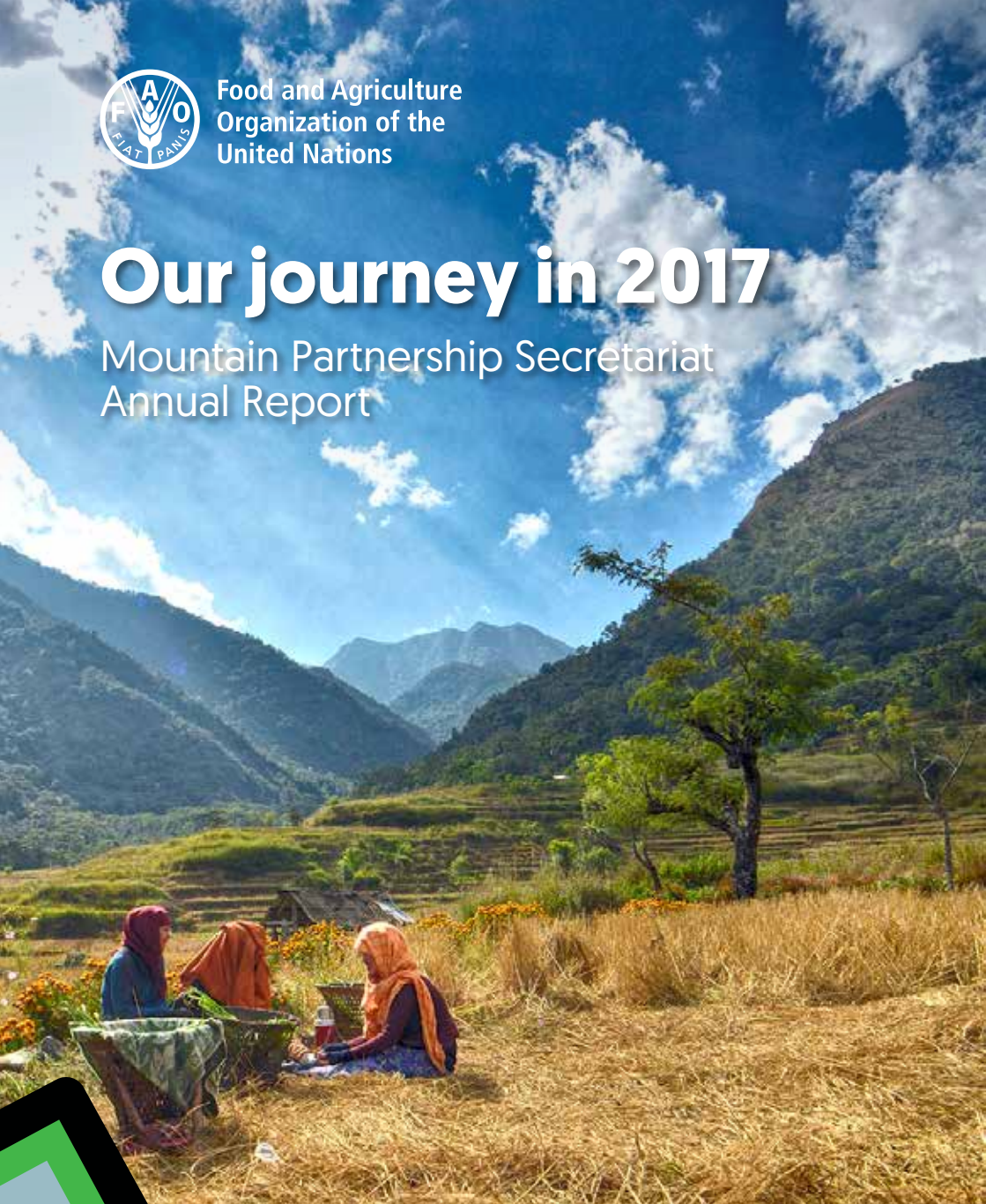




Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Our journey in 2017

Mountain Partnership Secretariat  
Annual Report



Mountain Partnership



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Annual Report

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Rome, 2018

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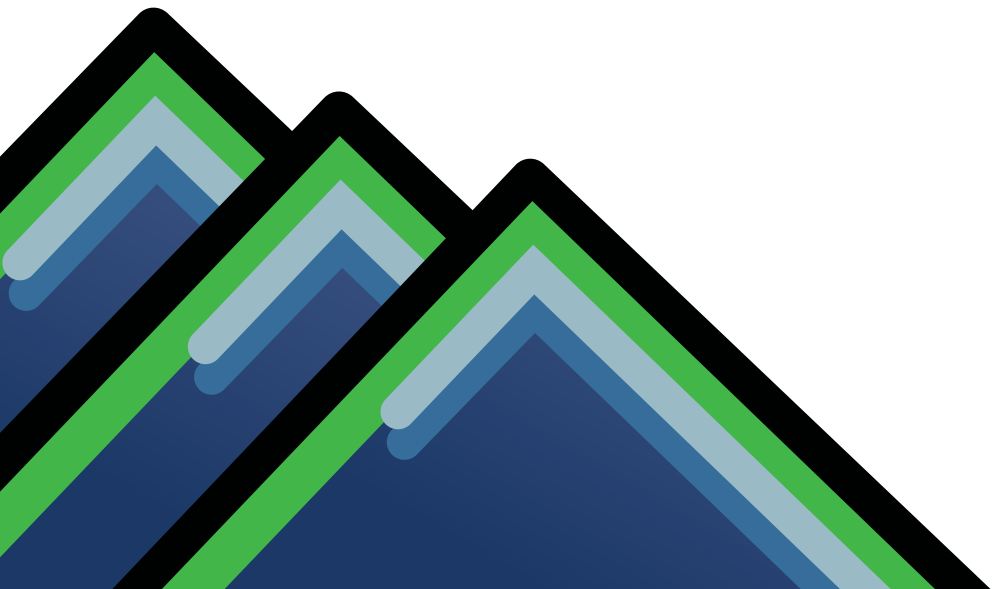
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# What is the Mountain Partnership?

A United Nations voluntary alliance, the Mountain Partnership [MP] is dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. Founded in 2002, the MP promotes the sharing of resources, knowledge, information and expertise to carry out its mission.

At the end of 2017, the MP had 318 members: 59 governments, 7 subnational authorities, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 236 major groups (e.g. civil society, NGOs and the private sector).

The MP is supported by a Secretariat, which is hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO] in Rome, Italy, and is guided by a 16-member Steering Committee.



# A message from the Mountain Partnership Secretariat Coordinator



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*The year 2017 was pivotal for the Mountain Partnership (MP). Not only did it mark 15 years since its launch in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, but it concluded with a hugely successful Fifth Global Meeting at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy, attended by over 220 participants.*

*The Global Meeting was a chance to appreciate the work done by members across the world and also to agree on firm commitments and plans for pushing the Mountain Agenda forward. It generated huge momentum, which will act as a driving force as members set out to tackle the priorities and main areas of work identified.*

*We know, however, that we still have a lot of work to do.*

*We need to continue raising the flag for mountains and mountain peoples, but we need to reach further, communicating globally to those audiences, including policy-makers, for whom the global importance of mountains and the linkages between upland and lowland areas are still invisible.*

*We need to ensure that mountains are not a forgotten ecosystem in the major multilateral environmental agreements and to continue our advocacy actions at global, regional and national level.*

*We need to support countries in their endeavour to pay particular attention to mountains in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and I believe that the Framework for Action, launched at the Global Meeting in Rome, is the appropriate main mechanism through which we can operate for a more equitable and sustainable future in mountains.*

*We need to continue building alliances with other fragile ecosystems, such as the Global Island Partnership, and to raise awareness about the urgency of action, especially in the face of climate change.*

*We need to empower mountain peoples to lift them out of the cycle of poverty through establishing multi-donor facilities, building on private-sector investments, exploring innovative funding schemes and giving them a voice in decision-making.*

*As I step down from my position as Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), I would like to thank all the MP members and the staff of the MPS for the hard work and unwavering commitment given to the mountain cause. It has been an honour and a privilege working with all of you. I welcome the new coordinator, Yuka Makino and wish her the very best in taking this legacy forward and to new heights. To do so, she will need the support of all of you, who in your diversity bring a formidable strength to this alliance.*

**Thomas Hofer,**  
Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat

## Advocacy

The Mountain Partnership (MP), supported by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), advocates for global attention to achieve sustainable mountain development by raising awareness of the unique pressures threatening mountain communities and ecosystems. Its work focuses on promoting and participating in international campaigns and events, and ensuring that sustainable mountain development is included in global, national and regional negotiations.

The main advocacy activity of the MPS in 2017 was the organization of the Fifth Global Meeting of the MP, held from 11 to 13 December 2017 at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy. Under the theme, “Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger and migration”, the Global Meeting put the spotlight on how climate change is affecting food security and migration patterns in mountain areas. A Framework for Action for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Mountains was launched and endorsed by the over 220 participating representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society, along with the coalition for fragile ecosystems together with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA).

In the lead-up to the Global Meeting, the MPS supported the Government of Italy in organizing three meetings – in September, October and November – with FAO-based diplomats of mountain governments to negotiate the text of the Framework for Action.

In addition, throughout 2017, the MPS supported MP members' efforts to campaign for mountains at United Nations (UN) level through the following actions:

- An oral statement, drafted by MP members, The Mountain Institute and the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, with support from the MPS, was presented on 7 February during the 55th Commission for Social Development.
- The Russian Academy of Natural Sciences submitted a written statement, drafted with support from the MPS and focusing on eradicating poverty in mountains, to the 2017 UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment on 8–10 May.



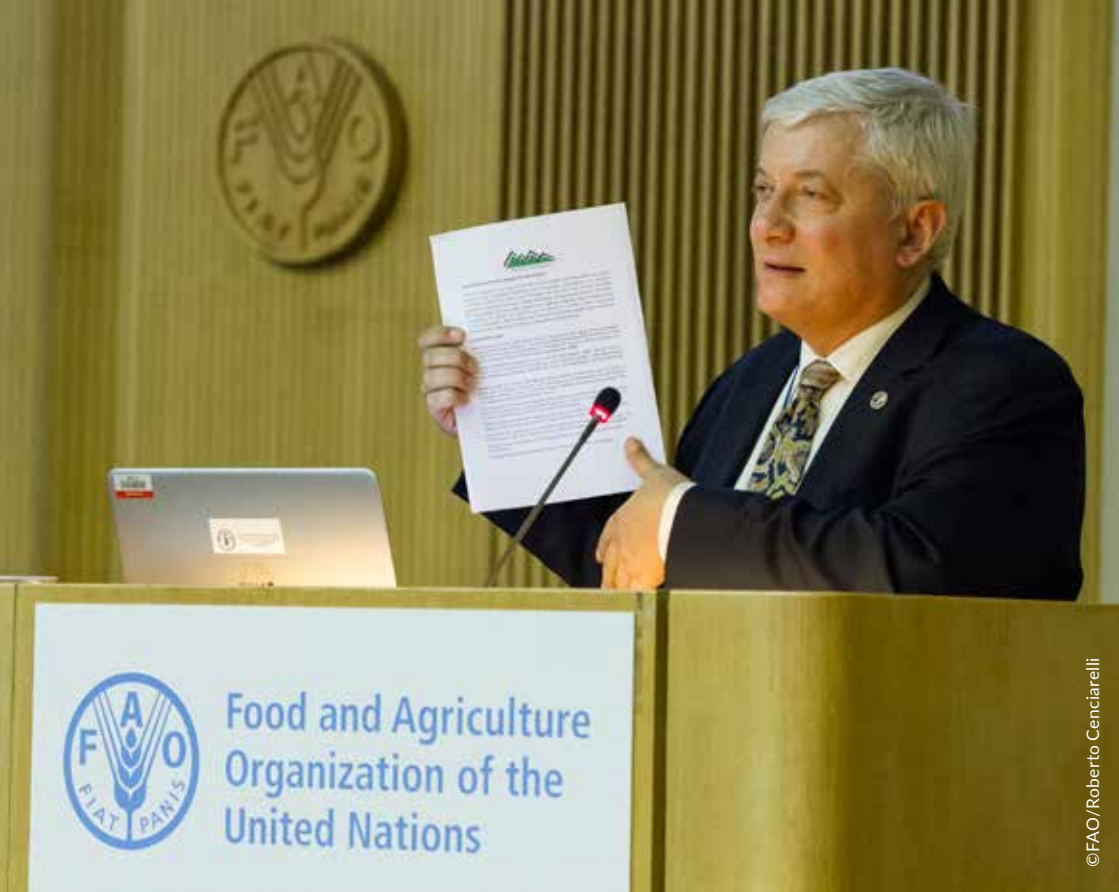


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- The Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and The Mountain Institute, together with the Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands and Development and Commerce, provided a written statement that was accepted by the UN Secretariat in December for presentation during the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

In September, to ensure the inclusion of mountains in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, the MPS circulated a call by the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) for submissions on climate change adaptation and resilience to MP members. Submissions were received from the Environmental Research Centre of Khazar University, Azerbaijan; FAO Philippines; Global Mountain Action; the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development; The Mountain Institute; and the MPS. The MPS also contributed to FAO's submission to the NWP.

At regional level, the first-ever West African Mountain Forum was held on 5–8 October in Kpalimé, Togo, organized within the framework of the MP. The theme was “Mountains’ contributions to economic development and climate change adaptation”. The MPS participated in the event and also supported the Plateforme des Organisations de la Société Civile pour la Sauvegarde des Montagnes (an MP member and the forum organizer) in developing the programme and communications materials for the forum.



## Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Mountains: a Framework for Action

Through a participatory process with governments, a Framework for Action was drafted to: (a) support concrete actions; (b) put in place long-lasting processes; and (c) establish policies that strengthen the resilience of mountain peoples and environments in the face of rising climate change, hunger and migration. It was launched on the first day of the Fifth Global Meeting of the MP. By endorsing the Framework, the members of the MP pledged that, by 2030:

- Governments will review and update their development policies to integrate appropriate strategies for sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation.
- Governments, intergovernmental organizations and donors will review and update their international development cooperation policies to make sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation an integral part of these policies.
- Major groups from civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector will raise awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation in all relevant international forums.

## Fifth Global Meeting of the MP

Coinciding with IMD and the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the MP, the Global Meeting raised awareness of the need to place mountain ecosystems and peoples at the centre of international negotiations, policies and investments. Participants heard high-level statements by founding members of the MP, including the governments of Italy and Switzerland, FAO and UN Environment. Members discussed and endorsed a revised Governance Paper, Advocacy Strategy and Communication Strategy, and a new Steering Committee was elected.

Six side events, covering topics ranging from the role of education in sustainable mountain development to the value of science and research in evidence-informed policy and action, were held at the meeting, along with a dynamic “speed geeking” session, during which participants presented their mountain-related projects.

At the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP23) in Bonn, Germany, the MPS organized two side events:

- “Implementing the 2030 Agenda & Paris Agreement in mountains: building a Framework for Action” (14 November) was convened together with the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation. The session focused on exploring common challenges and solutions for addressing climate change impacts in mountains and establishing policies that strengthen the resilience of mountain peoples and environments.
- “Mountains and islands: building a coalition for vulnerable ecosystems” (16 November) was convened together with the Government of Jamaica and The Mountain Institute. The session explored issues related to climate change adaptation and management as well as sharing experiences between the MP and GLISPA, alliances that address the effects of climate change on vulnerable ecosystems.

In addition to these initiatives, and the promotion of International Mountain Day (IMD) (see page 10), advocacy activities supported by the MPS in 2017 included:

- presenting the work of the MP and the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative at the third World Tourism Organization Euro-Asian Mountain Resorts Conference in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 3–7 April;

- participating in a meeting between FAO and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus on 5–8 April in Rome;
- attending the International Congress of Paramos and Mountain Ecosystems in Bogotá, Colombia, and presenting the work of the MP on 12–14 July;
- contributing a presentation on the MP for the International Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Forum, a high-level event on conservation of the endangered snow leopard held in August in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; and
- delivering a presentation on “The MP and resilient mountains for a sustainable world” at a G7 Expert Meeting on Climate Change and Fragility, held at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome on 26 October.

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## The MP's Goodwill Ambassadors

To encourage goodwill towards improving the quality of life and sustaining healthy environments in the world's mountain regions, the MP nominates well-known personalities to champion the cause of sustainable mountain development. In 2017, Arjun Gupta, the founder of TeleSoft Partners, was granted the title of MP Goodwill Ambassador, and Massimiliano Ossini, Italian television presenter, Linea Bianca, and Lino Zani, Host, Linea Bianca, were granted the title of Italian MP ambassadors for their achievements and their dedication to raising awareness of the mountain agenda. To date, the MP has six Goodwill Ambassadors: the others are mountaineer and author, Reinhold Messner; mountaineer, filmmaker and photographer, Jake Norton; and the Buddhist leader, His Holiness Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang.

## Communication and outreach

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) widely disseminates news about sustainable mountain development – about its own advocacy and technical work as well as the work of Mountain Partnership (MP) members. Knowledge and experiences are collected and shared to recognize achievements and inspire further actions on mountain issues globally, regionally, nationally and locally.



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In 2017 the MPS carried out a number of communication and outreach activities. Databases, publications, newsletters and reports were produced to increase awareness and inspire action on sustainable mountain development.

The MPS finalized the baseline data for SDG Indicator 15.4.2, the Mountain Green Cover Index. Storyline and data were sent to UN Statistics to contribute to the Global SDG indicator database and the 2017 SDG Report. The MPS also provided information on the Mountain Green Cover Index to a publication presenting the three forest-related indicators for which FAO is the custodian agency.

Ahead of and during the Global Meeting, eight video interviews were produced by the MPS together with FAO Forestry and published on Twitter. The interviews were with Thomas Hofer, MPS Coordinator; Dominique Kohli, Assistant Director-General of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture; Davide Bradanini,

Alternate Permanent Representative of Italy to FAO; Jake Norton, His Holiness Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang and Arjun Gupta, MP Goodwill Ambassadors; and International Mountain Day (IMD) video contest winners Jaya Setiawan Gulo (general category) and Nurlan Anarbaev (professional category).

The publication *15 years of Mountain Partnership*, which celebrates members' achievements, profiles key players and donors and includes success stories from around the world, was also launched in December at the Global Meeting.

Press coverage of the Global Meeting was extensive, with major national and international news wires like Reuters, EFE (Spain), Prensa Latina (Cuba), PanaPress (Senegal), Azteca (Mexico), Ansa (Italy), Anadolu (Turkey), WAM (United Arab Emirates), Inter Press Service and Associated Press of Pakistan publishing articles. The MPS furthermore generated press coverage in the form of radio and TV interviews in English, Italian and Spanish.

Knowledge management efforts in 2017 additionally included:

- gathering information for two new online databases on indigenous mountain peoples and declarations related to mountains, to be launched in 2018;
- contributing a platform statement on FAO's work in sustainable mountain development and watershed management to the May 2017 edition of *Mountain Research and Development*;
- contributing a specific chapter on mountains to an e-book on the social detriments of health to be published by the World Health Organization in 2018;
- producing fact sheets and posters in the six UN languages for IMD (see page 24–27 for a list of communication materials produced); and
- sharing members' news and publications on the website and in the monthly newsletter.

The months of November and December largely focused on liaising with MP members and mountain stakeholders globally for information about IMD. The MPS, in collaboration with FAO,

launched a video contest for IMD and also implemented the IMD 2017 social media campaign, providing tweets and Facebook posts in English, French and Spanish. The IMD fact sheets and posters were distributed to partners around the world.

Throughout 2017, the MPS worked on developing a new study aimed at expanding the work of the 2015 study, *Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity*, to understand the root causes of mountain food insecurity and identify the main stressors.

The MPS's achievements in communication in 2017 are demonstrated by the following figures:

- attracting an annual number of approximately 22 000 visitors to its website, an increase of 9 percent from 2016;
- publishing 120 news items and 54 event announcements on the MP website;
- increasing its Facebook following by 587 new followers and making Facebook the number-one source of referral traffic to the website;
- adding 1 831 pictures of mountains and mountain-related meetings and events to its Flickr account; and
- disseminating numerous targeted messages to its three electronic mailing lists.

## Exhibiting mountains and mountain products

Two photographic exhibitions in the FAO Atrium opened on IMD on the sidelines of the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting and continued to 20 December. One showcased work by photographer, climber and philanthropist Jake Norton of MountainWorld Productions, while the other exhibit, "High in the Mountains", by the Russian Geographical Society, featured award-winning photographs of mountains in Russia.



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The exhibitions were accompanied by a display of 14 Mountain Partnership Products – ranging from chamomile tea, pink rice and purple rice to golden berry jam, blueberry jam, maca Andina flour, silk and felt scarves, and coffee – all grown and developed in mountain regions around the world. The products are part of a joint initiative implemented by the MPS and Slow Food.

## International Mountain Day

Over 180 events in 35 countries around the world marked International Mountain Day (IMD) on 11 December 2017, when mountain lovers, mountaineers, governments and civil society groups came together to celebrate mountain environments and inhabitants.

As the lead coordinating UN agency for this annual celebration, FAO worked in close coordination with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) to mobilize decentralized offices, governments and civil society organizations to support awareness-raising events that show the importance of mountains to sustainable development.

This year's theme, "Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger and migration", was the focus of many Mountain Partnership (MP) members' seminars and conferences as well as the Fifth Global Meeting of the MP. IMD 2017 was an occasion to highlight how climate, hunger and migration are affecting highlands and, as a consequence, lowlands, and to ensure that the goals defined by the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement are achieved in mountain areas.

## MP members celebrate mountains at national level

- The National Committee for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions of Argentina organized a visit to the mountain shelters of Pino Hachado, a mountain pass through the Andes, on 14 December. During the visit, the Committee presented a report that highlighted the importance of the MP and IMD.
- The sixth edition of Algeria's National Mountain Festival, hosted by the Association Assirem Gouraya ("Earth Team"), was held on 7–15 December in Bejaia, Algeria. Through an orienteering competition, national hike, mountain clean-up and more, the festival raised awareness about the importance of protecting mountains and forests and the richness of local cultures.
- The Government of Madagascar observed IMD and World Soil Day simultaneously at the Nantsa Watershed in the Itasy Region. Restoration activities were conducted in collaboration with local communities and authorities, including the reforestation of acacia and eucalyptus, the establishment of an anti-erosion vein chain, and the planting of fruit trees.





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Taking the form of conferences, exhibitions, hikes, workshops, contests and readings, events were held in Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

United Nations headquarters in New York also hosted an IMD celebration, organized by the Permanent Missions of Austria, Kyrgyzstan and Peru to the UN with participation by the United Nations Development Programme, the Alpine Convention, the Center for Research on Environmental Decisions and the FAO Liaison Office in New York. The event highlighted the results achieved in mountain regions over the last 15 years; identified ways to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement from

a mountain perspective; and shared experiences at regional, national and international level in solving challenges while involving all relevant stakeholders and building on existing partnerships. The MPS provided speaking points for the FAO Liaison Office.

On the web and social media, IMD was a hot topic on 11 December as people across the globe shared photos and messages in celebration of the day. Visitors to the IMD website reached nearly 3 900 on the day, an increase of about 2 000 visitors from 2016. Dedicated posts on the MP Facebook page averaged 48 likes and 28 shares a day and reached more than 8 000 followers. On Twitter, MP members and non-members used the official hashtag #MountainsMatter to show their alignment with the mountain agenda.

Global media coverage of the day was also very extensive, with more than 100 related articles published by major national and international news wires and web portals. The press in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Italy, Pakistan and Spain, among others, carried news articles.

## **#MountainsMatter: a video contest for IMD**

In the run-up to IMD 2017, FAO launched the #MountainsMatter video contest – the MPS was responsible for managing the operational tasks. Participants were asked to create a one-minute video drawing attention to how climate change is affecting food security and migration patterns in mountain areas. Over 40 fantastic videos from filmmakers in 22 countries were entered in the contest, and winners were chosen in two categories: professional and general.

Jaya Setiawan Gulo's video interview with a young girl living in a tent after her community was forced to move when the Mount Sinabung volcano in Indonesia erupted won the general category by attracting more YouTube views (22 073) than any other entry. In the professional category, a FAO jury selected Nurlan Anarbaev's video for its relevance to the mountain theme as well as its aesthetic and technical excellence. Anarbaev used a drone to record the stunning mountain landscapes of Kyrgyzstan and draw attention to the impact that climate change is having there. The winners received a trip to Rome to see their videos shown at the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting that opened on IMD.

## Joint action

The Mountain Partnership (MP) promotes networking, information sharing and joint action among members. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) facilitates initiatives at international, regional and national level in favour of mountain peoples and environments.

In 2017, members came together to work on a number of projects, sharing experiences and launching initiatives.

The MPS and the Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern, Switzerland, initiated a study following up on the 2015 FAO study, *Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity*. It will build on the data collected as a baseline for the Mountain Green Cover Index, the official indicator monitoring progress towards the achievement of SDG Target 15.4 of the 2030 Agenda, adopting the Collect Earth methodology. The aim is to explore the nexus among land degradation, food insecurity and migration in mountain areas.



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The MPS also held a number of bilateral meetings to discuss potential or renewed collaborations. In particular, the MPS:

- discussed future collaboration with Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs;
- assessed the renewal of joint work with the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation;
- explored possible synergies and areas of cooperation on mountain migration trends with new contacts established with the International Organization for Migration;
- brainstormed areas of collaboration with the European Centre for Development Policy Management;
- reviewed possible joint activities with Muhammad Ibrahim, Director General, Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center, to discuss joint activities;



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- discussed collaboration for the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development with the United Nations Development Programme; and
- examined potential synergies and membership with Seth Shames, Director of EcoAgriculture Partners.

The MPS is also coordinating with Crescente Fértil regarding the organization of the second International Conference on Research for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (ICRSDMR), scheduled to take place in Nova Friburgo, Brazil, in December 2018.

In June, the MPS disseminated a call to MP members involved in sustainable mountain tourism to submit a case study for the World Tourism Organization report on sustainable tourism for development. The case study submitted by MP member the Global Himalayan Expedition was selected for the report, which will be published in 2018.

The MPS provided administrative, technical and communication support for the implementation of the linked project entitled “Climate change and mountain forests”, with particular reference to the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative and the Biodiversity for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+) initiatives for mountains and islands. In particular:

- In Bolivia, the MPS, through Slow Food and in collaboration with MP member Fundación Participación y Sostenibilidad, conducted a training in March for producers of black amaranth involved in the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative. The first successful harvest of black amaranth in Bolivia was analysed in the Slow Food laboratory in Italy. The producers kept 50 percent of the harvest for their own consumption and 10 percent for seed storage, while 40 percent was sold.
- In collaboration with Slow Food and FAO Cuba, the MPS carried out a mapping and value chain analysis of three identified products in the Escambray Mountains, Cuba, with the aim of including them in the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative. Slow Food organized a series of meetings with local institutions and schools to raise awareness about the Initiative with more than 250 participants.
- In India, the MPS provided support for the production of two indigenous rice varieties, including advice on production techniques, agrobiodiversity and sustainable food systems, as well as group management and leadership, accounting, storage and marketing.
- The MPS led a mission to Kyrgyzstan in October to participate in the annual Congress of Producers of Organic and Natural Products, organized by MP member, the Federation of Organic Development Bio-KG, to promote the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative and monitor field activities in Batken, Kyrgyzstan.
- The MPS started a collaboration with new MP member, the Government of the Philippines, which had expressed an interest in participating in the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative. In November and December, the MPS met with two representatives of the Philippine Department of Tourism responsible for the Cordillera region of North Luzon Island: they discussed developing a new pilot project

on food and tourism to promote links between high-quality mountain products and ecotourism services in collaboration with Slow Food.

The MPS initiated a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between FAO and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM – Organics International) related to exploring synergies between the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative and Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). The MoU also includes IFOAM – Organics International as a partner for the masterclass on agrobiodiversity and climate change, which is being developed jointly by the MPS and the University of Rome Sapienza.

## Showcasing sustainable mountain food systems

The 2017 Forum “Origin, Diversity and Territories” (ODT) celebrated mountains under the theme, “Designing sustainable mountain food systems”. Held in parallel to the Salon Goûts et Terroirs 2017, at which FAO was the guest of honour, the MPS supported the organization of and participated in the Forum ODT on 1 December in Bulle, Switzerland. The Mountain Partnership Products Initiative was showcased during the event as a best practice, with mountain products on sale and a live cooking demonstration conducted by Anita and Kalyan Paul of the Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation. The MPS also facilitated the participation of representatives from MP member organizations, the Agency for Development Initiatives (Kyrgyzstan), the Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation (India) and the Red de Agroindustria Rural del Perú (Peru) in the learning session before the Forum ODT.





## The Mountain Partnership Products Initiative – purple and pink rice

Purple and pink rice are two indigenous rice varieties grown by tribal families using traditional methods without the use of chemical fertilizers. The heirloom varieties are grown in small quantities in the Indian Himalayas for local consumption during festivals. Purple and pink rice are rarely sold on the market as they cannot compete with the price of white rice because: (a) the yield per unit of land of purple and pink rice is significantly lower compared to other rice varieties, and (b) the production process is entirely manual, making the production cost much higher.

The Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation received a small grant from the MPS to explore sustainable markets for small-scale farming families in the state of Meghalaya, India, and provide training for the rice producers. The grant also covered redesigning the product packaging and hosting exhibitions and events in New Delhi to place the product in appropriate niche markets.

In the project's pilot phase, four plots of rice (for a total weight of 1 078 kg) were aggregated among small rice growers and transported 2 000 km to New Delhi and Ranikhet for packaging, distribution and marketing. So far, the feedback from customers, retailers and hoteliers has been extremely positive.

© Kalyan Paul





## Capacity development

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) facilitates capacity development initiatives that strengthen members' ability to promote sustainable development of mountain areas. In 2017, the MPS produced and shared sustainable mountain development education tools and materials. Workshops, training sessions, databases and networks are some of the ways in which the MPS carried out these initiatives.

## 10 years of IPROMO

The 2017 International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO) marked the tenth anniversary of the summer school set up by the MPS jointly with the University of Turin, Italy. The first course was held in July 2008, and since then, over 250 officers and experts have taken part in the annual training programme.

The tenth IPROMO on “Environmental and economic issues to enhance mountain sustainability” was attended by 32 professionals from 23 countries: Afghanistan, Argentina, Cambodia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uganda.

Key challenges and opportunities related to mountains were discussed during the course – ranging from watershed, natural resources and soils management to disaster risk reduction, climate change, economic development, mountain forestry, governance and communication – to provide an overview of the main issues related to sustainable mountain development. Working groups were also formed, allowing participants to share their knowledge and build a network of experts.





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Held on 5–19 July, the tenth IPROMO course took place in Ormea and Pieve Tesino, Italy, and was jointly organized and funded by the MPS, the University of Turin and, for the first time in 2017, also by the University of Tuscia, Italy. IPROMO has the high patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with financial support from the City of Ormea, FAO and the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN).

### **Greening the mountains to achieve the SDGs**

Over 55 Mountain Partnership members, from countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Chile, Malawi, Tajikistan and Turkey, attended the workshop on the SDG Indicator 15.4.2 (the Mountain Green Cover Index), held on the sidelines of the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting. The training, organized by FAO and the MPS, illustrated the possible application of the Collect Earth system to results-based monitoring, where the outputs can be visually assessed through high and very high-resolution satellite images and can derive products such as vegetation trends. Case studies on the assessment of the Mountain Green Cover Index in agriculture, forestry and land use from past applications were used to provide greater detail and reference. The training comprised a review of Collect Earth functionalities and context, hands-on assessment of case studies, data analysis and discussion.

### **Mountain education portal**

In March, the MPS launched the mountain education database to assist members and students find courses and degree programmes on mountain issues offered by universities and organizations around the world. Listing courses in over 23 countries and constantly updated, the database allows users to find and compare courses in the fields of biology, geography, geology and the social sciences, among others.

## Resource mobilization

To achieve sustainable mountain development, it is essential to receive greater public- and private-sector attention, commitment, engagement and investment.

Although the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) does not provide direct funding for members' activities, it recognizes that the need to identify financial resources to support initiatives is crucial. Throughout the year, several bilateral meetings were organized to signal to donors the need to address mountain challenges. These included meetings with the governments of Austria, Japan and Turkey, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center and the Aga Khan Foundation to discuss potential collaborations.

The MPS provides members with information about the availability of funds for mountain activities from all possible sources on an ongoing basis. It stands ready to broker any resource mobilization request or proposal, facilitating contacts between countries and institutions and creating the conditions for partnerships.

During 2017, members were supported with materials for pitches to the private sector. The MPS prepared a paper on possible contributions from Alpine Clubs to support mountain development activities.

The MPS continued to draw up proposals for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). In particular, a concept note for an inter-regional GCF project was submitted for comment to the GCF Secretariat and has now been redrafted as a concept note for Costa Rica and another one for Morocco and Tunisia. The MPS also provided support to the FAO Lesotho Office for discussion with the Government of Lesotho regarding a GCF Africa proposal, and to FAO Peru for a Global Environment Facility proposal on mountain areas in Peru.

The second phase of the "Climate change and mountain forests" project was approved by the Italian Development Cooperation

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project has three components: the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative, Biodiversity for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+) and the coalition for fragile ecosystems with the Global Island Partnership.

Throughout 2017, the MPS regularly updated its online funding database, a resource mobilization tool on the Mountain Partnership website to assist members locate funds for their projects on sustainable mountain development, with new grants, contests and other opportunities. New entries were promoted on social media.

The Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture (FOAG) continues to sponsor the MPS with an Associate Programme Officer, who is largely working on the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative.

Funding for the MPS in 2017 was provided by the Italian Development Cooperation, the FOAG and FAO.

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## Events and meetings

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat organized and participated in a number of events in 2017 to promote the sustainable mountain development agenda, including:

### **Third UNWTO Euro-Asian Mountain Resorts Conference**

Tbilisi, Georgia; 4–7 April

### **IPROMO course: “Environmental and economic issues to enhance mountain sustainability”**

Ormea and Pieve Tesino, Italy; 8–18 July

### **International Congress of Highlands and Mountain Ecosystems**

Bogotá, Colombia; 12–14 July

### **International Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Forum**

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; 24–25 August

### **Negotiating the text of the Framework for Action – meeting with Permanent Representations to FAO**

Rome, Italy; 20 September

### **West African Mountain Forum**

Kpalimé, Togo; 5–8 October

### **Negotiating the text of the Framework for Action – meeting with Permanent Representations to FAO**

Rome, Italy; 25 October

### **Side event at UNFCCC COP23: “Implementing the 2030 Agenda & Paris Agreement in mountains – building a Framework for Action”**

Bonn, Germany; 14 November

### **Side event at UNFCCC COP23: “Mountains and islands – building a coalition for vulnerable ecosystems”**

Bonn, Germany; 16 November



©UNWTO

**Negotiating the text of the Framework for Action – meeting with Permanent Representations to FAO**  
Rome, Italy; 28 November

**Forum “Origin, Diversity and Territories”**  
Bulle, Switzerland; 1 December

**Fifth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership**  
Rome, Italy; 11–13 December

**Mountain Partnership Steering Committee meeting**  
Rome, Italy; 13 December

**Training workshop on the Mountain Green Cover Index**  
Rome, Italy; 14–15 December

## Communication materials

Communication materials are key to disseminating new and emerging scientific knowledge that can be used to develop mountains sustainably. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) produces a number of useful tools – publications, videos, reports, brochures and fact sheets – and makes them readily available to equip policy-makers, local communities and project coordinators with the latest information.

In 2017, in addition to the items listed above, the MPS produced donor reports, financial reports, progress reports, work plans and leaflets.

### Publications

#### ***Our journey in 2015: Mountain Partnership Secretariat Annual Report***

The MPS outlines its key achievements in promoting sustainable mountain development (SMD) in its 2015 annual report.



©FAO/Mountain Partnership

#### ***15 years of Mountain Partnership***

This publication celebrates the work of the Mountain Partnership (MP) – the only UN alliance dedicated to improving the lives of mountain communities and their ecosystems – over 15 years.

#### ***2030 Agenda for Mountains – Framework for Action***

English, French, Russian, Spanish

A Framework for Action to support concrete actions, put in place long-lasting processes and establish policies that strengthen the resilience of mountain peoples and the environment was drafted by the MPS together with governments.

#### ***Stepping up for mountains: Mountain Partnership Secretariat Annual Report 2016***

The MPS outlines its key achievements in promoting sustainable mountain development in its 2016 annual report.

#### ***FAO's work in sustainable mountain development and watershed management - a 2017 update***

The FAO/MPS provides an update on its activities related to sustainable mountain development and watershed management in Volume 37, Issue 2, of *Mountain Research and Development*.

### ***Keeping an eye on SDG 15***

The MPS contributed information on the Mountain Green Cover Index to a publication presenting the three forest-related SDG indicators for which FAO is the custodian agency.

## **Videos**

### **#MountainsMatter video contest teaser**

English, Italian, Spanish

The FAO/MPS invites filmmakers around the world to create a one-minute video drawing attention to how climate change is affecting food security and migration patterns in mountain areas on the occasion of International Mountain Day (IMD) 2018.



©FAO/video interview

### **Why is the Mountain Partnership important?**

English

In this interview, Thomas Hofer, Coordinator of the MPS, explains why the MP is an important global alliance.

### **2030 Agenda on Mountains: Framework for Action**

English

In this interview, Davide Bradanini, Alternate Permanent Representative of Italy to FAO, explains why the Framework for Action on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Mountains is relevant and what Italy will do to support it.

### **Supporting sustainable mountain development in the context of the 2030 Agenda**

English

In this interview, Dominique Kohli, Assistant Director-General of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, explains how the MP can support sustainable mountain development in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

### **What is a Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador?**

English

In this interview, Arjun Gupta, philanthropist and founder of TeleSoft Partners, explains what a MP Goodwill Ambassador is and how the private sector can support and promote sustainable mountain development.



## **The role of mountains for the planet**

English

In this interview, His Holiness Drikung Kyabgön Chetsan explains the role of mountains for the planet and what a MP Goodwill Ambassador can do to increase the visibility of the importance of mountains for sustainable development.

## **What the world can learn from mountains**

English

In this interview, Jake Norton, climber, photographer, filmmaker, philanthropist and inspirational speaker, explains what everyone can learn from mountains and how MP Goodwill Ambassadors can help mountain communities.

## **#MountainsMatter International Mountain Day 2017 video contest winner, general category**

English

The MPS interviews Jaya Setiawan Gulo of Indonesia, whose video won the general category of the IMD video contest for having the most views on YouTube.

## **#MountainsMatter International Mountain Day 2017 video contest winner, professional category**

English

The MPS interviews Nurlan Anarbaev of Kyrgyzstan, whose video won the professional category of the contest. He used a drone to film the mountainous landscapes of Kyrgyzstan and bring attention to the effects that climate change is having there.

## **Radio and TV interviews**

### **Rai Tre, Linea Bianca**

Italian

Massimiliano Ossini, Lino Zani and Thomas Hofer report from the Global Meeting of the MP.

### **AccuWeather**

English

Thomas Hofer of the MPS discusses the theme of IMD 2018 and the Global Meeting of the MP.



## Radio Televisión Española

Spanish

Rosalaura Romeo of the MPS discusses climate change, food security and migration in mountain areas ahead of IMD.

## Economia Cristiana

Italian

Rosalaura Romeo of the MPS discusses climate change, food security and migration in mountain areas ahead of IMD.

## Geo, RaiPlay

Italian

Giorgio Grussu of the MPS elaborates on the project "Biodiversity and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+)" in Papua New Guinea.

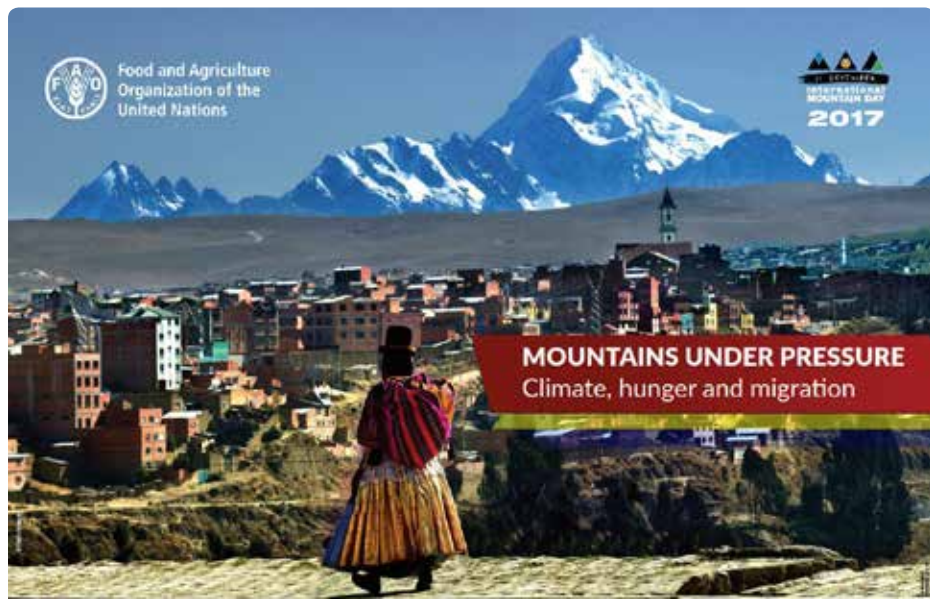
## Fact sheet and poster

### International Mountain Day fact sheet – Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger and migration

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

### International Mountain Day poster – Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger and migration

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish



# List of members

At the end of December 2017, the following 318 governments and organizations were members of the Mountain Partnership:

## Governments

### Asia and the Pacific

Afghanistan	Indonesia	Philippines
Bangladesh	Kyrgyzstan	Sri Lanka
Bhutan	Nepal	
India	Pakistan	

### Europe

Andorra	Liechtenstein	Spain
Armenia	Monaco	Switzerland
Austria	Romania	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
France	Serbia	Turkey
Georgia	Slovakia	Ukraine
Italy	Slovenia	

### Middle East and North Africa

Algeria	Jordan	Yemen
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Morocco	
	Tunisia	

### North and Central America and the Caribbean

Costa Rica	Dominican Republic	Jamaica
Cuba	Guatemala	Mexico

### South America

Argentina	Chile	Peru
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Colombia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
	Ecuador	

## Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi	Ghana	Malawi
Cameroon	Guinea	Swaziland
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kenya	Togo
Ethiopia	Lesotho	Uganda
	Madagascar	

## Subnational Authorities

### Asia and the Pacific

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#### Philippines

Province of Negros Occidental

#### Russian Federation

Altai Republic

### Europe

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#### Spain

Municipality of Campoo de Yuso

Municipality of Dénia

### North and Central America and the Caribbean

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#### United States of America

City of Aspen

City of Basalt

City of Orem

## Intergovernmental Organizations

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

Carpathian Convention

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)  
Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
United Nations University (UNU)  
World Bank (WB)  
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

## Major Groups

### Asia and the Pacific

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#### Australia

CarbonLab, University of Queensland  
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Queensland

#### Bangladesh

Bangladesh Mountaineering Federation (BMF)  
Kothowain

#### China

Guizhou University of Finance and Economics (GUFU)  
*Journal of Mountain Science*  
Pendeba Society  
Plateau Perspectives

#### India

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)  
Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA)  
Central Himalayan Institute for Nature and Applied Research (CHINAR)  
Centre for Environment Education (CEE Himalaya)  
Council for Green Revolution (CGR)  
Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE)  
Go Green & Go Organic  
Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE)  
Institute for Sustainable Development and Research (ISDR)  
Integrated Mountain Initiative (former Indian Mountain Initiative)  
Nilgiri Documentation Centre  
Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation  
Prakriti  
Society for Conserving Planet and Life (COPAL)  
Society for Natural Resource Management and Community Development (SNRMCD)  
Switch ON – Onergy

## Kazakhstan

Avalon Historico-Geographical Society

Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

## Kyrgyzstan

Agency of Development Initiatives (ADI)

AgroLead Public Association

Aigine Cultural Research Center

Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA)

Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan (AFLU Kyrgyzstan)

"Bio Service" Public Foundation

BIOM Ecological Movement

CAMP Alatau

Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development (CREEED)

Central-Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences (CAIAG)

EIEco Youth Environmental Movement

EKOIS

Farmer Cooperative Alysh Dan

Federation of Organic Development Bio-KG

Global and Local Information Partnership (GLIP)

Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund (ISDS)

Kyrgyz Association of Fruit Growers

Mountain Societies Development Support Programme

Muras Bashaty

Public Foundation "Ergene"

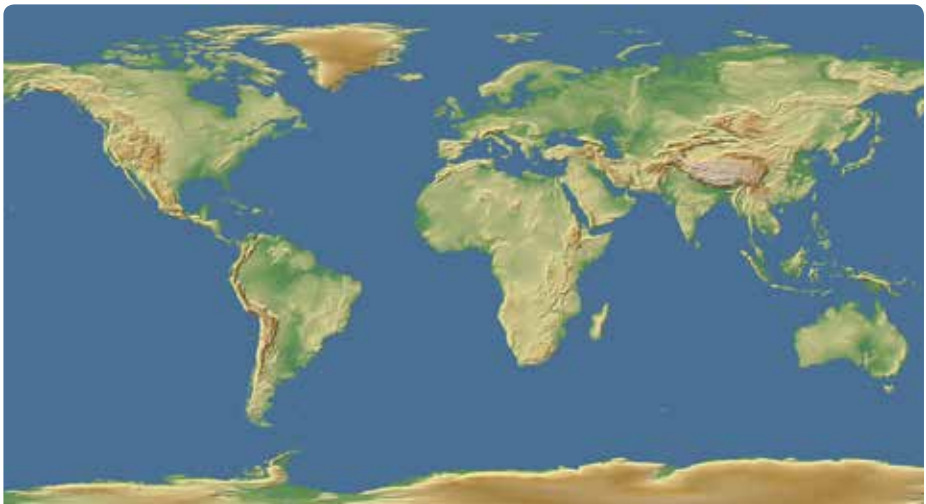
Rural Development Fund

"Topchu" Art Group

UNISON

University of Central Asia (UCA)

Yrystan Public Foundation for Sustainable Community Development



## **Mongolia**

Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation

## **Nepal**

3 Sisters Adventure Trekking

Dalit Welfare Association (DWA)

EcoHimal Nepal

ForestAction Nepal

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement Nepal

Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC)

Organic World and Fair Future Pvt Ltd. (OWF)

Pragya Seeds Nepal (PGSI)

Resources Himalaya Foundation

## **New Zealand**

New Zealand Alpine Club

## **Pakistan**

Development Communications Network (DEVCOM-Pakistan)

Focus Humanitarian Assistance Pakistan

Mountain Areas Conservation and Development Services

Mountains & People

National Integrated Development Association (NIDA-Pakistan)

New World Hope Organization (NWHO)

Swat Youth Front

## **Philippines**

Broad Initiatives for Negros Development (BIND)

Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (TEBTEBBA)

## **Russian Federation**

Foundation for Sustainable Development of Altai (FSDA)

Mountain Territories of Dagestan

Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (RANS)

Russian Geographical Society (RGS)

Sustainable Development of Mountain Territories "Mountains" (IISTC "Mountains")

## **Tajikistan**

CAMP Kuhiston

Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Reduction (CCDR)

Little Earth

Public Organization "Kuhhoi Pomir"

Tajik Social and Ecological Union

## **Thailand**

Highland Research and Development Institute (HRDI)

## Europe

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### Albania

- AlbaForest
- Albanian Alps Alliance

### Armenia

- Convivium Ararat

### Austria

- Federal Institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas (BABF)
- Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research (IGF)

### Azerbaijan

- Environmental Research Center of the Khazar University (ERCKU)

### Belgium

- Euromontana
- European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas (AEM)

### Bulgaria

- Association for Development of Mountain Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADMMRB)
- Bulgarian Association for Development of Mountain Regions (BulMontana)

### France

- Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM)
- European Mountain Forum (EMF)
- Mountain Wilderness
- PlaNet Finance
- Tignes Développement
- World Mountain People Association (WMPA)

### Georgia

- Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus

### Germany

- Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE)

### Greece

- Kavala Institute of Technology (KavTech)
- Metsovion Interdisciplinary Research Center (M.I.R.C.)
- UNESCO Club of Serres
- University of the Mountains (Greece)

### Hungary

- International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

### Italy

- Association Ardito Desio
- Council for Agricultural Research and Agricultural Economics Analysis (CREA)

Earth Day Italia Onlus  
European Academy (EURAC)  
Ev-K2-CNR Committee  
Fondazione Courmayeur Mont Blanc  
International Alliance for Mountain Film  
Museo Nazionale della Montagna “Duca degli Abruzzi”  
National Organization of Mountain Municipalities, Communities and Bodies (UNCENM)  
Slow Food  
Sports Medicine School  
Trento Film Festival  
University of Milan – GE.S.DI.MONT.  
University of Rome Sapienza – Department of Environmental Biology  
University of Turin – Department of Agricultural, Forest & Food Sciences (DISAFA)

### **Liechtenstein**

International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA)

### **Norway**

Norwegian Mountain Research Network

### **Poland**

Association of the Mountain Cheese Trail “Szlak Oscypkowy”  
Tatra Agency for Development Promotion and Culture  
Wojtowice – Back to the Future

### **Portugal**

Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO)  
MiratecArts

### **Romania**

Romanian Mountain Forum  
ROMONTANA – National Association for Mountains Rural Development

### **Russian Federation**

MAB-6 Center

### **Spain**

gvSIG Association

### **Switzerland**

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)  
Foundation for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (FDDM)  
Global Mountain Action  
Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment  
International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA)  
International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR)  
Mountain Research and Development  
Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)  
ProMONT-BLANC



World Economic Forum  
World Wildlife Fund International (WWF-International)

#### **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Association for the Development of Mountain Regions in the Republic of Macedonia (MAKMONTANA)  
Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development (BFSD)

#### **Turkey**

Association for Sustainability and Governance of Mountainous Areas  
Bingol University  
Kastamonu University  
Turkish Geographical Society

#### **United Kingdom**

Active Remedy Ltd.  
African Conservation Foundation (ACF)  
AleeVee8  
Centre for Mountain Studies (CMS)  
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

### **Middle East and North Africa**

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#### **Egypt**

Deraya University

#### **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

Mountain Damavand Conservation Society  
Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)  
University of Tehran

#### **Lebanon**

Lebanon Mountain Trail Association

#### **Morocco**

Migration and Development

#### **Oman**

Sultan Qaboos University

### **North and Central America and the Caribbean**

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#### **Canada**

International Amenity Migration Centre (IAMC)  
The Rockies Institute (TRI)

#### **Costa Rica**

Centro Científico Tropical (Tropical Science Center)  
Coopedota

Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Cordillera Volcánica Central (FUNDECOR)  
National Meteorological Institute of Costa Rica

## **Panama**

Fundación CoMunidad

## **United States of America**

Altai Assistance Project, Inc.  
American Councils for International Education (ACTR/ACCELS)  
Arctic and Mountain Regions Development Institute (AMRDI)  
Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF)  
BioRegions International  
Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company  
Gruppan International Violin Institute  
Millennium Institute  
Mountain Studies Institute (MSI)  
MountainWorld Productions  
Snow Leopard Conservancy  
Tatra Mountains Cultural Foundation  
Telluride Institute  
The Mountain Institute (TMI)  
University of Denver – Western Colorado Master of Social Work Programme  
Utah Valley University (UVU) and Utah-Russia Institute  
Vista 360°  
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and NRM (WOCAN)

## **South America**

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### **Argentina**

Argentinean Environmental Centre (CAMBIAR)  
Association for Social Development (ADESO)  
Fundación Agreste  
Fundación EcoAndina  
Fundación ProYungas  
Mountain Duck  
VICAM: Vicuñas, Camélidos y Ambiente

### **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**

Bolivian Mountain Institute  
Flor de Leche  
Fundación Participación y Sostenibilidad (PASOS)  
Irupana Andean Organic Food S.A.

## **Brazil**

Confederação Brasileira de Montanhismo e Escalada (CBME)  
Crescente Fértil

## **Chile**

Fundación Sendero de Chile

## **Colombia**

Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM)  
Fundación para el Desarrollo Sostenible de las Zonas de Páramo y sus Áreas de Influencia  
Fundación Ecohabitats  
Fundación Estación Biológica Guayacanal  
Fundación Pangea

## **Ecuador**

Fundación Cordillera Tropical

## **Peru**

Asociación Oikos  
Association for Nature and Sustainable Development (ANDES)  
Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)  
HimalAndes Initiative  
Huayhuash Peru  
International Potato Center (CIP)  
Red de Agroindustria Rural del Perú (REDAR Perú)  
Yachay Wasi

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

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### **Benin**

Centre de Recherche pour la Gestion de la Biodiversité (CRGB)

### **Burundi**

Association pour la Protection des Montagnes du Burundi (APMB)

### **Cameroon**

Cameroon National Network of Associations and NGOs of the Mountain Partnership (RENAASONGCAM)  
Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)  
Save Your Future Association (SYFA)

### **Ethiopia**

Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society

### **Ghana**

Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS)

**Kenya**

International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)  
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)  
Mara Expeditions Community Based Organization  
Mount Kenya Trust  
Volunteers for Africa/ECODECO Partnership

**Lesotho**

Rural Self Help Development Association (RSDA)

**Malawi**

Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD)  
Total LandCare

**Nigeria**

Environment and Tourism Support (EATS)

**South Africa**

Sunrise On Africa's Peaks

**Togo**

Les Compagnons Ruraux  
Plateforme des Organisations de la Société Civile pour la Sauvegarde des Montagnes (PSM)

**Uganda**

Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)  
Makerere University  
SORAINE Uganda

**Zimbabwe**

School of Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation, Chinhoyi University of Technology

# Financial report

In 2016, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) was financed by the Italian Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which also hosts the MPS.

The MPS budget was in line with the 2016 workplan approved by the MP Steering Committee in 2015. Its functional areas are defined by the 2014–2017 Governance and Strategy document that was approved at the Fourth Global Meeting in Erzurum, Turkey, in September 2013.

Resource Partners				
	Switzerland	Italy	FAO	Total
Contributions (USD)	250 000	400 000	350 000	1 000 000
%	25	40	35	100

Functions						
	Operational	Advocacy	Knowledge Management and Communication	Capacity Development and Technology Transfer	Joint Action	Total
USD	180 000	290 000	230 000	180 000	120 000	1 000 000
%	18	29	23	18	12	100



## Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the Mountain Partnership (MP) provides programmatic orientation to the MP and oversees the preparation of a four-year strategy and a two-year work plan. The 16-member body monitors the work of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), the implementation of the “Mountain Agenda” and the achievements and impacts of their respective electoral groups.

Steering Committee members are elected to four-year terms to represent the various membership categories and regions. They meet annually and select a Chair and Vice Chair, who serve for two years.

At the end of 2017, a new Steering Committee was elected during the Global Meeting of the MP and held its first meeting after the Global meeting closed. The new members will serve on the 2018–2021 Steering Committee.

The following governments and organizations were on the 2014–2017 Steering Committee:



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### **Governments**

Argentina, Cameroon (Vice Chair), Mexico, Nepal, Tunisia, Turkey

### **Major Groups**

Albertine Rift Conservation Society, Aspen International Mountain Foundation, Euromontana, Fundación Agreste, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Mountain Environment Protection Society, The Mountain Institute (Chair)

### **Intergovernmental Organization**

United Nations Environment Programme

### **Donor Organization to the MPS**

Italy (Vice Chair)

### **Host Institution of the MPS**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



## A vista of the regions

### Asia and the Pacific

In 2017 the civil society members of the Asia and the Pacific region carried out an array of initiatives at different levels in support of sustainable mountain development in the region.

The **Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC)**, jointly with the **Ministry of Population and Environment of Nepal**, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and Nepalese Civil Society Mountain Initiative, organized a national conference on climate change, food security and freshwater, held on 15–16 October in Jumla, Nepal. The theme was “Tackling constraints and nurturing opportunities in mountain regions”. Participants discussed how mountains are under increasing pressure, and Nepal was recognized as the world’s fourth most vulnerable country to climate change, despite producing only 0.025 percent of global carbon emissions.

The urgent need for collaborative and effective action at all levels to protect fragile mountain ecosystems from the impacts of climate change, address mountain peoples’ vulnerability to food insecurity, and protect and promote the rights of poor and marginalized mountain communities was acknowledged. A Call for Action was drafted to bring mountains to the forefront of local, regional and international agendas.

*Report by KIRDARC, Vice Chair of the Mountain Partnership (MP) Steering Committee representing civil society organizations in Asia and the Pacific*



## Central Asia

In 2017 the MP Central Asia Mountain Hub (CAMH), which is hosted by the **University of Central Asia**, continued supporting the Central Asian members of the MP in advancing the mountain agenda and facilitating members' inclusion in policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and capacity building on sustainable mountain development issues.

One of the major achievements in 2017 was the creation of a Central Asia electoral group as a new constituency of the MP and its inclusion in the Steering Committee. The decision was taken by a vote of all members present during the Fifth Global Meeting of the MP. Anara Alymkulova, head of the **Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund**, was elected to represent the region on the 2018–2020 Steering Committee.

A continuing success of 2017 was the *Aiyl Demi* newspaper (a monthly Kyrgyz-language publication produced for remote mountain communities) being awarded the Energy Globe prize, a prestigious international award for projects related to sustainability.

The CAMH together with other MP members, including the **Yrystan Public Foundation for Sustainable Community Development**, the **Rural Development Fund**, the **Aigine Cultural Research Center** and the **Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA)**, successfully completed several local initiatives that resulted in a series of publications about traditional knowledge and adaptation practices in the region. The publications were produced with the support of the CAMH.

*Report by the MP CAMH*



## Europe

During 2017, MP members in Europe were active in promoting advocacy, research and the understanding of sustainable mountain development.

A key activity that involved several MP members – namely, the **University of Milan, University of Turin, University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), Euromontana, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO), Centre for Mountain Studies (CMS) and Norwegian Mountain Research Network** – was the establishment of the **Network for European Mountain Research (NEMOR)**. This network has been built upon the strategic research agenda, “Mountains for Europe’s future”, which was established in Brussels, Belgium, in April 2016. NEMOR’s principal activity was developing a set of priorities for mountain research to be proposed for inclusion in the European Commission’s next Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP9).

The **Federal Institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas (BABF), Euromontana, CMS, UHI, European Academy (EURAC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and CIMO** have been working together on three multi-year projects funded by the European Commission:

- “Public Ecosystem Goods and Services from land management – Unlocking the Synergies” (PEGASUS) and “Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas” (SIMRA), both funded through the Horizon 2020 Programme; and
- “CLimate-smart forestry in MOUNTain Regions” (CLIMO), a COST Action.



In November, the **Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research (IGF)**, in cooperation with the **International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR)**, organized the sixth International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas, which was attended by researchers from across Europe.

In the Alps, after 20 years of intensive lobbying by **ProMONT-BLANC**, a process started to nominate Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain, as a World Heritage Site. Other MP members, including **Mountain Wilderness International**, **CIPRA International**, the **International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA)** and the **Foundation for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (FDDM)**, are also involved in this initiative. The process will be long, but there is hope that the 40 municipalities forming part of the group "Espace Mont-Blanc" will agree on a joint management plan and on other measures for a more sustainable development of the massif and the surrounding valleys.

In the Carpathians, a report on the adoption and implementation of the strategy for sustainable tourism development of the Carpathians was published by **Ecological Tourism in Europe** together with the **Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention**.

Four issues of the journal *Mountain Research and Development* were published by the **International Mountain Society**, a scientific research society that brings together several MP members. Another key publication produced in 2017 was *Safer lives and livelihoods in mountains: making the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction work for sustainable mountain development*, a report edited by the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and other organizations, and published by CDE and Bern Open Publishing. The report was funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Austrian Development Cooperation.

*Report by Euromontana, MP Steering Committee member representing civil society organizations in Europe*

## Middle East and North Africa

In 2017 the **Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)** and the **Mount Damavand Conservation Society (MDCS)** conducted several mountain-related activities:

- Many International Mountain Day celebrations took place in Iran (Islamic Republic of). MEPS and the Alpine Club of Iran organized two events in Tehran. The Tehran Mountaineering Council organized a photo contest and a photo exhibition as well as gatherings in Hashtgerd and Lavasan.
- MDCS hosts the largest environmental event of the country every July in a village at the foot of Mount Damavand, the highest peak in Iran. A few thousand participants travelled from across Iran to attend the 2017 meeting. MDCS also continued lobbying for making Mount Damavand as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.
- MEPS supported the establishment of a National Mountain Committee within the Department of Environment of Iran.
- Throughout 2017, MEPS members and representatives attended several conferences, advocating for sustainable mountain development.
- As a member of the MP since its foundation, MEPS shared the MP's news on its website and encouraged other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to join the Partnership.
- MEPS produced a one-minute documentary, entitled *The Lock*, for the professional category of FAO's International Mountain Day video contest.

The Iranian Mountaineering Federation, which has a Mountain Protection Committee, was active in educating mountaineers about mountain environments. The committee trains mountaineers to educate others on Iran's mountain environments and the conservation of their landscapes.

*Report by MEPS, MP Steering Committee member representing civil society organizations in the Middle East and North Africa*





## North and Central America and the Caribbean

In 2017 the **Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF)** was elected to represent the North and Central America and Caribbean region for civil society on the MP Steering Committee. The members from this constituency have worked diligently as advocates of the need to place mountain ecosystems and peoples at the centre of international negotiations, policies and investments.

In 2017 the **City of Aspen**, United States of America, sourced 100 percent of its energy from renewable sources, including wind, hydroelectric and landfill gas, for the second consecutive year. Aspen also initiated sustainable transportation and affordable housing programmes in a major effort to build a regional community of mountain stakeholders.

At Western State University in Colorado, United States of America, the Mountain Resilience Coalition was established to complement the university's innovative "Masters in Environmental Management" advanced degree programme.

In 2017 Colorado Mountain College (CMC), in partnership with AIMF, created a fellowship programme offering an advanced forestry and mountain survival curriculum, tailored to high-level Bhutanese rangers. The CMC faculty visited the Kingdom of Bhutan and are confident that their own students will also learn much from Bhutan, the world's only carbon negative country, with over 60 percent of its land covered by forests, as mandated by the constitution.

Utah Valley University (UVU) has significantly grown its student club, the Utah International Mountain Forum. The students and faculty involved actively promote sustainable mountain development and the implementation of the three Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) mountain targets at local, regional and global levels. As in every year since 2010, UVU hosted a creative and significant International Mountain Day event, raising awareness of mountain issues in the state of Utah, United States of America.

Other highlights and activities from the North and Central America and Caribbean region in 2017 include:

- The Rockies Institute in Canada continued working with the Kainai First Nation, the largest indigenous tribe in Canada, on building their climate resilience. The institute is setting up focus groups and workshops in mountain communities in the Canadian Rockies to learn more about the Kainai's beliefs on climate change, and their needs regarding mitigation and adaptation education.
- The Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Cordillera Volcánica Central (FUNDECOR), in Costa Rica, started working on a development model in the country's central volcanic mountain range conservation area to show how conservation and economic growth can coexist harmoniously.
- Fundación CoMunidad in Panama continued focusing on how the health of mountain soils supports essential ecosystem functions and food security.
- BioRegions International, in the United States of America, joined the MP. It participates with traditional mountain and rangeland, rural and remote, semi-nomadic communities in conversations about contemporary issues of grazing, land use, economic models and tourism, and their impacts and potential opportunities. It is primarily working in the Altai Sayan region of northern Mongolia.
- The Telluride Institute in the Colorado Southern Rockies, United States of America, continued working with communities to form coalitions between municipalities, non-profits, businesses and educational institutions on a wide variety of projects: energy audits, energy conservation



schemes, carbon sequestration, cropland and forest health, river health and restoration, local organic agriculture, and watershed education for children and community members.

*Report by AIMF, MP Steering Committee member representing civil society organizations in North and Central America and the Caribbean*

## South America

In 2017 MP members in South America carried out a range of initiatives in support of sustainable mountain development in the region. The following are some highlights.

### Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña – CEAM (Peru)

- Joined a decision-making process supported by several organizations and institutions, including the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, to develop management plans for the protection of 18 mountain animals.
- Participated in the “Declaration of the Conservation and Connectivity Corridor: Andes – Orinoquía – Amazonas”, during which the Colombian Andes were identified as ecosystems of high biodiversity and endemism but also fragile and threatened.
- On 14–15 September, participated in an expert group discussion on pollinators and national policies.



## Confederação Brasileira de Montanhismo e Escalada – CMBE (Brazil)

- Organized the third Mountain Parks Meeting to discuss visitor management with the federal, state and municipal environmental agencies, universities, climbers, hikers and the legal sector.
- Together with Access PanAm and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)–Brazil, published the *Climbing management manual*, which compiles climbing management practices, strategies and case studies. The manual was distributed to protected area agencies, park officials, and climbing and hiking clubs in Brazil.
- Throughout 2017, led a group of organizations involved in protected areas to influence public policy by emphasizing the long-term benefits of tourism in natural areas and integrating leisure as a right and a conservation tool. The results were a manifesto signed by seven organizations and an exhibition linking conservation, visitation and education.

## Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion – CONDESAN (Peru)

- In Ecuador, supported the restoration and establishment of sustainable land management practices, which allowed for the recovery of carbon stocks, the restoration of 2 350 hectares (ha) of paramos and the establishment of sustainable livestock practices on a further 2 126 ha.
- In Ecuador and Peru, trained decision-makers, technicians and practitioners in sustainable land management practices and supported the governments in developing public policies in the field of ecosystem management and restoration.





- In Colombia, together with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, co-organized the International Congress of Paramos and Mountain Ecosystems (whose theme was “Towards a Regional Vision of the Andean Mountains”). The congress was attended by more than 800 participants from 34 countries.

### **Crescente Fértil (Brazil)**

- Supported the project “Mosaico de Áreas Protegidas de Serra da Mantiqueira” [Mosaics of conservation units of the Serra da Mantiqueira].
- Prepared a legal proposal concerning mountain environments of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- As part of the event-organizing team, launched the “Mountains 2018” event at the Fifth Global Meeting of the MP.

### **Fundación Agreste (Argentina)**

- Continued developing the MyLand Initiative, a financial and technical support tool for small-scale projects in the framework of the Target Setting Programme for Land Degradation Neutrality, which promotes investment for sustainable development in fragile ecosystems.

### **Fundación ProYungas (Argentina)**

- Made progress with the implementation of the Protected Productive Landscape Programme (PPP). At present, three PPPs are under implementation, totalling 182 500 ha, of which 104 528 ha are forested land.
- Continued developing the Yungas Product Certification, which certifies products and services developed in a sustainable manner in the Yungas region.
- Provided support for the management of public and private protected areas.

### **HimalAndes Initiative (Peru)**

- Participated in the International Mountain Day 2017 event, “Carnival of the Mountains”, by giving a presentation on agroecosystems and pastoral practices in the Andes and the Himalayas.

- Sent a report on the status of llamas in the Peruvian Andes to the magazine *Caratas*.
- Helped prepare an exhibition about the history of Andean agriculture at the cultural centre of the National Agrarian University La Molina in Lima, Peru.

### **Bolivian Mountain Institute (Bolivia, Plurinational State of)**

- Raised awareness about the effects of climate change in Bolivia (Plurinational State of).
- Published the study *Escenarios sociopolíticos frente al cambio climático en el Altiplano boliviano* [Socio-political scenarios to combat climate change in the Bolivian Plateau] by Dirk Hoffman and Cecilia Requena.
- Participated in several national and international events on climate change and mountains, including the Fifth Global Meeting of the MP and the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP23) to the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

### **International Potato Center – CIP (Peru)**

- Produced a pilot study that developed a methodology for mapping, developing, testing and characterizing agrofood systems' vulnerability on the plateau. This methodology can be used to monitor the impact of food and nutrition security interventions.
- Managed several research and development projects to strengthen innovation and improve food and nutrition security and the resilience of potato producers in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador and Peru.
- Developed a new partnership with the Ministry of Development and Social Integration in Peru and other partners in order to reduce anaemia in the high Andes.

### **Red de Agroindustria Rural del Perú – REDAR Perú (Peru)**

- Organized various meetings to recognize and strengthen the traditional knowledge systems of Andean and Amazonian communities that are threatened by recent economic development and rural–urban migration patterns.
- The Agro-business Centre for Rural Youth (Huari, Peru) organized courses on agribusiness for 200 rural youth. The centre, which

is run by adolescents, produces 12 mountain products, including two with the Mountain Partnership Products label.

### Vicuñas, Camélidos y Ambiente – VICAM (Argentina)

- Conducted research on the ecology of the high plateau in Santa Catalina, Jujuy, Argentina. Meetings have been held with local pastors on this issue as well as on climate change and drought.
- Participated in several national and international events by giving presentations, organizing conferences and hosting workshops.
- Held an environmental education workshop in which students prepared materials about the importance of mountains. These materials were shared with the MP in celebration of International Mountain Day.

*Report by CONDESAN, MP Steering Committee member representing civil society organizations in South America*

### Sub-Saharan Africa

As part of the Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC) programme, which is coordinated by the **Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)** in Africa and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, ARCOS undertook several activities aimed at promoting and supporting sustainable mountain development at all levels. Among its key activities, ARCOS:

- Published the seventh edition of its newsletter, *African Mountains Echo*.
- Kick-started the process of institutionalizing the Africa Regional Mountain Forum by developing content for the governance document.
- Organized a community-to-community exchange meeting in Rwanda on 27–30 November, gathering more than 60 participants.
- Wrote a platform statement that was published in the MRD Journal.
- Attended the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting, in particular, facilitating the session entitled, “The Mountain

Partnership looks ahead: setting priorities and identifying the main areas of work for the next biennium”.

Bob Nakileza, Coordinator of the Mountain Resource Centre of **Makerere University** in Uganda, and partners, published *Rural-urban dynamics in the East African mountains*. The book presents the main results of the research programme, “Cooperation for university and scientific research (CORUS): mountains and small and medium cities in East Africa – environmental management, flows of people and resources”, funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and supported by the French Institute for Research in Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. Makerere University also created a highly specialized course on highland and mountain resource management, currently offered in the Mountain Resource Centre jointly within the Department of Geography and Environmental Management.

The **Government of Malawi**, under the Land Resources Conservation Office of the Department of Land Resources Conservation, set up a national committee on mountains. The committee is composed of key stakeholders from both government and non-governmental organizations in Malawi and is expected to

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guide the country's sustainable mountain development process. The Department also started the process of developing a sustainable mountain development strategy for Malawi. The strategy aims to define mountains in Malawi, highlight priority mountain issues and concerns, and provide strategies and interventions for achieving sustainable mountain development in the country.

The **Plateforme des Organisations de la Société Civile pour la Sauvegarde des Montagnes (PSM)**, in partnership with the **Togolese Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources** and within the framework of the MP, organized the first West African Mountain Forum on 5–8 October, on the theme, "Mountains' contributions to economic development and climate change adaptation". The main goal of the forum was to promote sustainability and environmental justice by urging governments, local decision-makers, traditional leaders and non-governmental organizations dealing with environmental protection to include the sustainable management of mountain ecosystems in their national development policies and action plans.

AfroMont, the African chapter of the international **Mountain Research Initiative**, and partners, organized the Mount Kilimanjaro Mountain Research Conference in Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania, on 22–26 February, on the theme, "African mountain ecosystems under global change: linking biodiversity, biotic interactions and biogeochemical ecosystem processes". The conference gathered 35 delegates from the German-funded KiLi project, and from Europe, Kenya, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. Presentations ranged from long-term vegetation change on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro to lichens and mountain dung beetles, changes in the Pangani River Basin and a genetic study of the ancient lineages of endemic *Lobelias* in the mountains of East Africa. Participants concluded that, while it is encouraging that good research is being done on African mountains, there is a need for greater collaboration and increased funding for African mountain research.

*Report by ARCOS, MP Steering Committee member representing civil society organizations in sub-Saharan Africa*

## Global Civil Society Organizations

The MP's Global Civil Society Organizations electoral group comprises non-governmental entities and associations, international research and network organizations, the private sector, and others, working in many regions around the world and contributing diverse actions and inputs for sustainable mountain development.

In 2017 **Global Mountain Action** raised awareness of the importance of mushrooms and other fungi for ecosystem functionality, nutrition, medicinal uses and livelihoods. Its work included documenting diversity, monitoring consumption, recovering traditional knowledge and increasing the understanding of threats. It also produced three documentaries on the collection of macro-fungi, mushroom diversity, and environmental issues that threaten mountain functionality in the Andes. Between 25 and 28 August, Global Mountain Action presented a preliminary analysis of the first baseline survey of macro-fungal diversity from the northern to the southern Peruvian Andes at the ninth Congreso Latinoamericano de Micología [Latin American Congress of Mycology], held in Lima, Peru. The congress brought together over 500 mycologists. During the conference, Global Mountain Action also organized the first symposium on ethnomycology in South America.

The **Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)**, a global research coordination and network organization, continued to convene some of the world's top scientists specializing in mountain systems to address research questions of large-scale concern. Funded through the Swiss Academy of Sciences, MRI welcomed a new Executive Director, Carolina Adler, along with a new team in communications, research and project management at its coordination office in Bern, Switzerland.

An important activity initiated by MRI in 2017 was the coordination of scientific input for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s upcoming *Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* (SROCC). The report will include a specific chapter devoted to the assessment of evidence





on climate change in high mountain regions across the globe: this will provide an update on the state of observed and projected consequences of climate change for glaciers, snow and permafrost and its effects on adaptation, resilience and sustainable mountain development.

MRI also began coordinating input for the IPCC's *Sixth Assessment Report* (AR6), as well as concluding pilot studies on the feasibility and scientific basis of the SDGs as a framework for the monitoring and reporting of sustainable mountain development. Another achievement was the launch of the Global Mountain Explorer, presented last October by the United States Geological Survey at the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Plenary in Washington DC. This was a key milestone in the development and implementation of GEO's Global Network for Observations and Information in Mountain Environments (GEO-GNOME), coordinated via MRI.

**The Mountain Institute (TMI)**, a non-governmental organization working with mountain communities on natural resources management and sustainability, concluded its "Securing Mountain Water and Livelihoods" project, implemented in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This initiative helps mountain communities adapt to decreasing freshwater availability, increased risk of glacial lake outburst floods, changing precipitation patterns, increasing temperatures and other climate hazards.

In the United States of America, TMI continued its partnership with the Nuwavi People (Southern Paiute) and other tribes in the Western Cordillera. This included supporting the annual "Gathering for Our Mountains" event, which brings together multiple generations of Native Americans on their ancestral lands to renew familial and tribal ties, as well as traditional connections to nature.

Also in 2017, TMI and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) launched the Upscaling Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Mountains programme, which builds on past work by the United Nations Environment Programme, United



Nations Development Programme and IUCN. It is funded by the German International Climate Initiative and supports work with national governments in Bhutan, Colombia, Kenya, Nepal, Peru and Uganda.

**The International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA)** implemented its Strategic Plan 2017–2020, which focuses on the three pillars of the federation: safety, sport and sustainability. The year 2017 was significant for the UIAA's activities in sustainability, led by its Mountain Protection Commission. Its two core projects in this area continued to flourish. The Mountain Protection Award, running for its fifth year, welcomed a record 26 projects from 15 countries. (The winning project was the Mount Everest Biogas Project.) The Respect the Mountains Series ran for a second year, with a total of nine events in seven countries, including the first-ever event outside Europe. As well as organizing direct clean-up operations, the series is focusing increasingly on educational aspects.

The UIAA was accepted as an official partner of the World Tourism Organization's Sustainable Tourism for Development Programme, a 10-year programme that will see the UIAA lead efforts to promote sustainable mountain tourism and recreation. The UIAA continues to participate in international forums, such as its side event at the UNFCCC COP23 in November, in Bonn, Germany. Also in November, the UIAA took part in a panel discussion at Sport Accord's International Federation Forum in Lausanne, Switzerland, discussing the relationship between sport and biodiversity and the role of the sporting community.

Finally, at the Fifth Global Meeting of the MP in December, MRI was appointed as the new MP Steering Committee member representing the Global Civil Society Organizations in the period 2018–2021, with TMI appointed as the alternate contact. We take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Andrew Taber, Executive Director at TMI, for his work as Steering Committee member for the electoral group during the past four years, as well as serving as its Chair.

# Powering the Mountain Partnership Secretariat



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