



Summary report

26–27 March 2019 – FAO headquarters – Rome, Italy

Participants:

Donor Organizations:

François Pythoud, Switzerland

Governments

Europe - Grammenos Mastrojeni, Italy (Chair)

Middle East and North Africa - Samir Ben Haj Salah, Tunisia

North & Central America and the Caribbean - Julia Vicioso, Dominican Republic

South America - Renato Morales, Argentina

Sub-Saharan Africa - Siragi Wakaabu, Uganda

Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Hiroto Mitsugi, Mette Wilkie, Tiina Vahanen, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Intergovernmental Organizations

Musonda Mumba, United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) (Vice Chair)

Global Civil Society Organizations

Carolina Adler, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)

Major group organizations

Asia and the Pacific - Gobinda Bahadur Shahi, Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) (Vice Chair)

Central Asia - Anara Alymkulova, Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund (ISDS)

Europe - João Azevedo, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) and Euromontana

North & Central America and the Caribbean - Karinjo DeVore, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF); Eric Smith, (AIMF)

South America - Marisa Young for the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN) (via Skype)

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Yuka Makino, Coordinator

Rosalaura Romeo, Programme Officer

Michelle Geringer, Associate Professional Officer

Laura Russo, Senior Consultant

Giorgio Grussu, Project Coordinator

Sara Manuelli, Programme and Communications Officer

Mahnoor Malik, Junior Consultant

Fabio Parisi, Junior Consultant

Antonella Sorrentino, Administrative Assistant

Overview:

This was the third meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) since its election in December 2017. The SC members reflected on how to ensure that mountains are fully included in the 2030 Agenda, by addressing issues related to advocacy and governance, and exchanged views on regional perspectives. They discussed how to operationalize the priorities of the MP including resource mobilization, and addressed raising visibility of the MP, including communication and outreach, as well as the 2019 - 2020 event planning calendar. The SC members also discussed how to engage MP members as well as organizations and governments which are not part of the MP, endorsed the proposal of joint projects and events with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), took a decision over the IMD themes for 2019 and 2020, reviewed the results of the membership survey, the MP voting system, and agreed on the revision of the MP Governance and Strategy. The 2019 work plan of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and members' responsibilities were also reviewed. Moreover, the SC discussed ways to enhance the work of the working groups which were formed during last year's SC meeting.

I. Welcome, introductory remarks and reporting from the MP

The SC chair, Grammenos Mastrojeni, Italy, welcomed the SC members and observers and highlighted that mountains are moving into a new phase and are receiving increased attention globally. Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director General Forestry Department, FAO, provided initial remarks. He underlined how 2019 will be an ambitious year with several events such as the High Level Political Forum in July and the Climate Action Summit in September in New York to which the Mountain Partnership can contribute. He also mentioned the UN Decade of Family Farming, the process to develop the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework and the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration as relevant occasions for flagging sustainable mountain development. He raised the importance of focusing on mountain watershed management, mountain cultures, outreach, and youth as the custodians of mountains.

Tiina Vahanen, FAO, reiterated the critical role that the MP can play in advocating and communicating the mountain agenda and promoting sustainable mountain development. She also underlined how resource mobilization is a critical issue not to be left to a few donor countries but a collective effort by each of the MP members

The absence of three SC members, Marie Venus Q. Tan representing the governments of Asia and the Pacific, Abdollah Ashtari Nakhaei of Mountain Environment Protection Society, representing Major groups of Middle East and North Africa and Nchunu Justice Sama Esq of the Foundation for Environment and Development, representing Major Groups of sub-Saharan Africa was noted. Marie Venus Q. Tan had informed the MPS that due to government request she had to cancel her trip to Rome.

The SC adopted the agenda without changes.

Yuka Makino, MPS Coordinator, presented the vision for MPS highlighting the importance of increasing the ownership of the MP by its members and expanding the reach of the MP beyond present members and resource partners.

II. Accelerating progress in the 2030 Agenda

The SC chair noted that increased global awareness on the interlinkages among development objectives is a big opportunity for mountains that the MP must take advantage of. He emphasized the strengths of the multi-stakeholder constituency of the Partnership and underlined that MP members, must work together to achieve the common goal and each member can amplify the work of the Mountain Partnership within their respective countries. The SC should take its responsibility beyond just a decision-making body, but a body that “makes things happen” and the MPS exists to support the MP achieve it.

A. Report from the working group on advocacy

Members of the **advocacy working group reported** that there has been very little communication among themselves. SC vice chair Gobinda Bahadur Shahi, KIRDARC, emphasized the importance of the planning process for the working group.

Shahi also shared the challenges of sustainable mountain development and advocacy in Nepal (see annex). Karinjo DeVore, AIMF, shared her involvement as a key note speaker in the international Sister Cities conference and the San Francisco Global Climate Summit (see annex).

Decisions:

- The advocacy Working Group will select co-leads, draft a mandate and a coherent action plan for the Working Group to be agreed upon by the Steering committee. Interaction among members needs to be improved before the next SC so that there can be a consolidated report on the actions undertaken as a working group.
- AIMF and Switzerland will discuss possible next steps to advocate for mountains at the World Forum in Davos.

B. Progress on the SDGs: the Mountain Green Cover Index (MGCI)

Rosalaura Romeo, MPS, presented the Mountain Green Cover Index (MGCI), the indicator that has been developed by the MPS and FAO to monitor progress of the SDG target 15.4.2. She highlighted the role that MP members (both governments and non-governments) can play in promoting the validation of the indicator and in collecting more sampling points – a necessity in order to increase the accuracy of the MGCI estimates at national level.

Carolina Adler, MRI, suggested that a position paper could be published from the findings of the measuring and monitoring of the MGCI and be validated within the scientific community and proposed to take the lead. Renato Morales requested a regional training on the MGCI in Argentina with the participation of other Andean countries.

C. Report on the Framework for Action

Laura Russo, MPS, reported on the implementation of the Framework for Action and the work that is underway in the Asia Pacific region including preparations for a one-day event at the Asia Pacific Forest Week (taking place in the Republic of Korea from 17 to 21 June 2019) and encouraged SC

members to support the ongoing work within their constituencies. Moreover, she presented the work being done by the senior consultant, Surendra Shrestha in the Asia and Pacific region to ensure the inclusion of mountains in the Voluntary National Reviews submitted to the High Level Political Forum each year by self-selected countries. Shrestha will also be responsible for activating the MP focal points in the region to ensure a full participation of the MP Asia Pacific members.

D. CBD Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

François Pythoud, Switzerland, reported on the CBD Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and referred to the launch of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture Report by the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. He mentioned the importance of using the MP network to develop a new strategy for the MP, as mountains represent an opportunity to break barriers between ecosystem services and agriculture. He highlighted the CBD Conference of the Parties in 2020 to be held in Beijing as a unique opportunity for bringing China in the MP.

Sara Manuelli, MPS, presented the **UNSG report on Sustainable Mountain Development** and encouraged inputs from SC members (both governments and non-governments) and their respective constituencies. Sara highlighted that past UNSG reports have been useful for national and subnational authorities, as well as for mountain organizations, to raise awareness on the challenges faced by mountains and negotiate for greater investments and political attention.

Giorgio Grussu, MPS, discussed the **Coalition for Fragile Ecosystems**, a joint initiative between the MP and the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA). Giorgio encouraged either political or financial pledges from interested members.

João Azevedo, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) and Euromontana, proposed the government of Cape Verde as one possible member of the Coalition, in the framework of the planned Mountains 2020 event in Cape Verde.

Karinjo DeVore offered to contact both the Governments of Bhutan and Lesotho and encourage them to join the Coalition for Fragile Ecosystems.

Decisions:

- The SC selected biodiversity as an important focus area of advocacy for the MP and of possible interactions between conservation measures and mountain environments and peoples.
- The Secretariat will look into possible collaboration with the GIAHS programme including the donors of the programme, in particular the Government of China.

III. Governance

A. Report from the working group on local governance

João Azevedo emphasized the need to organize the working group more efficiently.

Azevedo presented in his report two good examples of local governance – Aspen and Kyrgyzstan, emphasizing that the success of advocating for sustainable mountain development at the local level in Kyrgyzstan – can serve as an example for the whole Central Asia region.

He noted that in South America, initiatives in Chile, Peru, and Brazil and webinars on sustainable mountain development will be organized and that Euromontana has been working with various initiatives in Europe. He stressed that good governance is key to achieve sustainable mountain development.

Renato Morales, Argentina, reported on the Andean initiative and mentioned that adaptation to climate change in mountain areas is now included in the work plan of Argentina.

Decisions:

- As with the other SC Working Groups, the Governance Working Group will select co-leads, draft a mandate and a coherent action plan for the Working Group to be agreed upon by the Steering committee.

IV. Reporting from the electoral groups

Karinjo DeVore, reporting on North and Central America and the Caribbean, mentioned the lack of contact with the Government of Mexico. DeVore also mentioned that alternate SC member Alberto Pascual from Fundacion Comunidad has been reaching out to other Spanish speaking countries in the region. She noted the active participation from Canada and the US in working with indigenous people and traditional knowledge.

Eric Smith, AIMF, expanded on the work conducted by AIMF in the United States in adapting SDG indicators into mountain indicators.

As a representation for Europe, João Azevedo mentioned past activities including Euromontana's Convention in Romania and the role of European organizations in supporting the Conference Mountains 2018 that was held in Brazil.

Anara Alymkulova, ISDS, representing Central Asia, highlighted the World Mountain Forum event that took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and the success with the involvement of youth in a special event.

Gobinda Bahadur Shahi reported that members' initiatives in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and the Philippines are focusing on the implementation of SDG 15 and emphasized the dialogue with the Nepali government and several initiatives focusing on mountain agriculture and products.

Musonda Mumba, UN Environment, reported a high turnover in the focal points of the international organizations. She mentioned that the last special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment enquired on follow-up to the Africa Mountain Atlas and that UN Environment might work on Afromontane environments. She mentioned advocacy activities on Mount Kenya as well as the recently approved UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Tunisia did not present.

Marisa Young, representing the Latin America region, highlighted as the 32 MP civil society members are in general committed and engaged.

Julia Vicioso, Dominican Republic, presented a statement by the national focal point, Ramiro Espino (see annex).

Decisions:

- The SC members will focus on promoting intergovernmental collaboration and strengthen collaboration between MP members in their respective countries.
- The Secretariat and SC should follow up with unresponsive members and update contact information
- Shahi will follow up with the Government of Nepal regarding the new appointment of the MP Focal point.

V. Operationalizing the priorities of the Mountain Partnership

A. Report from the working group on resource mobilization

François Pythoud noted that the Mountain Facility requires a clearer vision for attracting potential investors, and that funding should be tailored to the interest of the partners and that a flagship programme would be needed to bring investors, including private ones. A clear understanding of the goals of the Mountain Partnership and definition of the role of FAO in the Partnership is essential in developing an effective Mountain Facility. He also mentioned that financing is increasingly gearing towards blended financing schemes and that this should be taken into account.

Tiina Vahanen clarified that FAO has developed a strategy for partnering with the private sector and provided inputs regarding FAO. She mentioned that, despite some challenges, there are successful examples, such as the collaboration with IKEA. She observed that funding from traditional donors is diminishing and that guidance would be needed from SC members on this issue, noting for instance that UN Environment has considerable experience with the private sector and the MPS would benefit from their guidance on this issue.

Decisions:

- As with the other SC Working Groups, the Resource Mobilization Working Group will select co-leads, draft a mandate and a coherent action plan for the Working Group to be agreed upon by the Steering committee.

B. Financial overview and Resource mobilization efforts by MPS/FAO

Yuka Makino presented the resource mobilization efforts of the MPS. Giorgio Grussu discussed the financial overview – and the possibility of SC members in becoming involved in resource mobilization efforts.

Carolina Adler, MRI, requested to review the champions pack.

Several SC members brought up issues about the use of FAO logo, noting that they prefer to circulate the champions pack in their own constituency without the FAO logo.

Decisions:

- The MPS will circulate the Champions Pack to all SC members for inputs and comments and it will then be revised and circulated to SC members without the FAO logo.

VI. Raising the visibility of the Partnership

A. Report from the working group on communication

Carolina Adler shared some inputs from Susan Braatz on the Coalition. She noted that terms of reference for the Working Group on Communication should be developed by the members.

Decisions:

- Establish only one working group for both communication and advocacy
- As with the other SC Working Groups, the Communications and Advocacy Working Group will select co-leads, draft a mandate and a coherent action plan for the Working Group to be agreed upon by the Steering committee.

B. Communication and outreach and IMD 2019 and 2020 theme

Sara Manuelli presented the Secretariat's communication, outreach activities, and IMD activities. The launch of the Mountain Partnership's new Instagram account, @unmountainmatter was announced.

Decisions:

- In order to engage MP constituency, the Secretariat will send periodical emails as a reminder on how to use the MP logo for events (branding guidelines) as well as create a communications tool box that MP members can use.
- Members should be provided with a simple basic story line on mountains so they can build their local communication outreach.
- SC members requested the Secretariat to share disaggregated social media analytics by region to analyze areas of engagement.
- The working group on communications will work on revising the communication strategy and elaborating suggestions for the Secretariat.
- The SC decided the theme for IMD 2019 will be Youth. Moreover, it was decided to keep the hashtag #MountainsMatter (#Mountainsmatter for the Youth)
- It was agreed that the theme for IMD 2020 will be on biodiversity (#Mountainsmatter for Biodiversity)

C. Priorities and calendar in 2019-2020

Rosalaura Romeo, MPS, presented the 2019-2020 calendar and clarified that the SC should indicate to the Secretariat which events the SC committee members will participate in. The SC chair suggested the SC members remind MP members to speak on the existence and relevance of the MP when given an opportunity to present at events and to always carry with them some key messages and MP information materials.

Karinjo DeVore mentioned the outdoor industry and sports events as key opportunities to highlight mountains to a different constituency.

Decisions:

- The SC members requested that the Secretariat attend the HLPF and/or the Climate Action Summit and the UNFCCC and/or CCD COPs to carry out MP's advocacy activities. Italy and Switzerland, in their capacity as donors to the MPS and members of the Steering Committee, requested to be informed if the Secretariat is not allowed to participate in these or in other meetings included in the approved calendar of events due to FAO's current travel policy. The Steering Committee further requested FAO to allow the members of the MPS to travel to key events to effectively support the outreach activities of the MP.
- The Secretariat should circulate a list of revised events where the MPS and members of the SC will attend.
- The following list of events was suggested to be added in the events calendar:
 - Mountains 2020 in Cape Verde
 - The Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) in Beijing, China
 - 14th session of the UN Forum on Forests in New York City, USA
 - Euro-Asian Mountain Tourism Conference in Andorra
 - Ibero-American summit in Andorra

VII. Engaging members

A. Results of survey

An overview of the survey results was given by Yuka Makino. The response rate was approximately 169 members out of 362 (47% response rate). Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and South America were the regions which had a response rate higher than 60%; while Asia and Pacific, Europe, North and Central and the Caribbean had a response rate lower than 50%. 132 respondents (78%) valued their overall experience with the partnership positively and 93 respondents (68%) answered that they felt that the Partnership valued their contributions. The MP activities considered the most helpful by the members were the ones related to Communication and Advocacy (communication tools, IMD events, publications). The 5 pillars of work were considered equally important for the work of the Partnership, and when asked what direction the MP should take in the future, 125 respondents (86%) answered that it should

strengthen the current pillars of work. MP members specified that Resource Mobilization, Joint Action and Capacity Development are the three pillars that needs to be strengthened the most.

The discussion that followed the MP survey results presentation focused on:

- Acknowledging the need to follow up on unresponsive members and perhaps see if there is a trend in the response rate
- Emphasizing which MP programs should be brought to the forefront, in terms of which programs that participants felt did not meet their requirements

Adler noted that capacity building is a priority and that MRI has a database, which facilitates education and capacity building. She also requested the MPS to keep updating the education database and it was suggested that a connection between the two databases should be explored.

Renato Morales mentioned the need to boost the MPP programme as with survey analysis.

João Azevedo mentioned the importance of further information on how each region answered the survey, that way each electoral group can see which areas to improve.

Carolina Adler and François Pythoud suggested a survey which asks MP members on how the Resource Mobilization pillar can be strengthened.

Decisions:

- The Secretariat will share the survey results with the SC and the whole MP membership. And prepare a more detailed follow-up survey which can provide guidance on action points for each of the SC Working Groups.
- The Secretariat should explore the importance of following up on members that are unresponsive.
- The MP should continue to make capacity building a priority.

B. Voting system

Fabio Parisi presented the options for selecting and voting for SC members (see annex). The presentation was followed by a discussion about the possible options.

Decisions:

SC members agreed to decide on behalf of their constituency to implement the amended voting system before the up-coming Global Meeting.

The following voting system has been agreed by the SC for adoption by the MP:

- 1) The new nomination process was approved by the SC – nominations have to be presented in advance. The deadline for presenting the candidacy is going to be set one month before the starting date of the MP Global Meeting. Nominations will be published on the MP website.

- 2) A Proxy system will be adopted. MP members can delegate their vote to another member of their electoral group up until the day before the GM starts. Members voting on behalf of their proxy will have a free mandate to vote for any other countries.
- 3) The elections will be held during the global meeting and a written open ballot system will be adopted.
- 4) As for by-election of SC seats left vacant, the alternate will stand in, without need of a new election procedure. If no alternate is present, then the seat will remain vacant up until new elections will be held within the constituency.

C. Governance and strategy revision

Carolina Adler noted that after changes in the voting system have been decided, the governance and strategy document should be revised and suggested that SC members review the paper.

The SC decided to establish two seats for Central Asia: one for the governments and one for the Major Groups. As Kyrgyzstan (the only government representing Central Asia) did not present its candidacy as an SC member, the SC seat for “Governments Central Asia” will remain vacant.

Anara Alymkulova highlighted the importance of including Central Asia and advocating for the membership of other governments in Central Asia.

Decisions:

- The Secretariat will distribute the governance and strategy document to each SC member, who will then provide feedback and decisions on a road map for updating.
- The SC members agreed to keep the SC seat for “Government Central Asia”. The government of Kyrgyzstan - who is the only government part of the MP from the Region - will be informed of the decision. In the meantime, MP members should continue advocating for another government member from Central Asia to join the Partnership.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA
26-27 March 2019
FAO HQ – Rome, Italy
Espace Gabon (Building A – ground floor)

26 March 2019

08.30 – 09.00 Welcome coffee

09.00 – 09.30 Introductory remarks (FAO ADG and MP Steering Committee Chair) and adoption of agenda

09.30 – 10.30 Reporting from the Mountain Partnership

- Tour de table - introductions
- Considerations from the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chairs (Mastrojeni, Mumba, Shahi)
- A vision for the MPS by the MPS Coordinator (Makino)

10.30 – 12.30 Accelerating progress in the 2030 Agenda

Advocacy:

- Report from the Working Group on advocacy (members: DeVore, Tan, Shahi)
- Progress on the SDGs – the Mountain Green Cover Index (Romeo)
- Report on the Framework for Action (Russo)
- CBD Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Pythoud)
- UNSG Report on Sustainable Mountain Development (Manuelli)
- The Coalition for Fragile Ecosystems – Item#1 (Grussu)
- Discussion

Governance:

- Report from the Working Group on local governance (members: Arguello, Alymkulova, Azevedo, DeVore, Tan, Trigui)
- Other regional and national processes (Andean Initiative, national laws, etc.)
- Discussion

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.00 Reporting from the electoral groups

- Regional perspectives and considerations from the electoral groups – presentations by Steering Committee members
- Discussion

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 16.30 Operationalizing the priorities of the Mountain Partnership

- Report from the Working group on resource mobilization (members: Pythoud, Mumba)
- Financial overview and Resource mobilization efforts by MPS/FAO (Grussu, Makino)
- Discussion

16.30 – 17.30 Conclusions of day one

19.30 Group dinner

27 March 2019

08.30 – 09.00 Welcome coffee

09.00 – 09.15 Introduction to day two

09.15 – 10.30 Raising the visibility of the partnership

- Report from the Working Group on communication (members: Adler, Mastrojeni, Pythoud, Trigui)
- Communication and outreach (Manuelli)
- IMD 2019 and 2020 theme (Manuelli)
- Priorities and calendar of events in 2019-2020 – Item#2 (Romeo)
- Discussion

10.30 – 11.30 Engaging members

- Results of the survey (Makino)
- Voting system – Item#3 (Parisi)
- Governance and Strategy revision – Item#4 (Adler)
- Discussion

11.30 – 12.30 Presentation of the 2019 MPS' work plan and discussion of members' responsibilities (Romeo)

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 14.30 Other matters

14.30 – 15.30 General discussion and conclusions (FOA Director and MP SC Chair)