



Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee of the Mountain Partnership

Meeting summary report

Tuesday, 26 March 2024, 15.30–17.00 CET, Zoom meeting

Agenda

- Opening, introduction and adoption of the agenda
- Tour de table
- Update on the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025
- Planning the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee (SKA Committee) involvement with upcoming UNFCCC SBSTA and COP 29
 - Update on upcoming activities taking place at UNFCCC
 - Discussion on how the SKA Committee can support and participate in these activities
- International Mountain Day 2024 and SKAC involvement/support
- Update on policy briefs and publications
- Other issues, discussion and conclusions

Opening, introduction and adoption of the agenda

Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), welcomed the participants and facilitated the meeting as Hugo Mantilla, the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee (SKA Committee) Chair could not join.

Nakul Chettri, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), was welcomed as the Vice Chair of the SKA Committee. He expressed his gratitude and is looking forward to collaborating.

The proposed agenda was adopted.

Tour de table

New participants briefly introduced themselves – see the full list of participants in Annex 1.

Update on the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025

Anil Mishra, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), presented a background on the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (IYGP) 2025 and the four task forces that were created to support coordination of the Year. There are upcoming opportunities to collaborate.

Those interested in contributing to the Task Forces are invited to complete the Expression of Interest form: <https://forms.office.com/e/CFZps1e511?origin=lprLink>

Sara Manuelli, MPS, is Task Lead together with Samantha Abear for the IYGP Task Force 1 “Global Campaign for International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation 2025” and Miriam Jackson, ICIMOD, is Deputy Lead. Sara highlighted some of Task Force 1’s key activities, underlining areas where the SKA Committee’s contribution and support would be welcome. These include preparing an outreach strategy for the Year and developing communication, education, and policy materials.

Planning SKAC’s involvement with upcoming UNFCCC SBSTA and COP 29

Adrià Verges Aleix, MPS, shared the main outcomes for mountains from the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28), including: five mentions of mountains in the outcome of the first global stocktake, the approval of a dialogue on mountains; and the declaration of mountains, high-latitude areas, and the cryosphere as a priority thematic work area for 2024 of the Nairobi Work Programme. The Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change will be held at the 60th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 60) in June 2024 in Bonn, Germany. Mountains will play a central role in the work of the Nairobi World Programme during 2024.

It was clarified that UNFCCC accreditation is necessary to participate, in person and online.

It was also explained that the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI), MRI, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) contributed to the coordination of the Nairobi Work Programme focal point forum on mountains at UNFCCC COP 28.

The MPS clarified that it contacted the UNFCCC Secretariat regarding the organization of the mountain dialogue and is awaiting a reply. The MPS will share an update with the SKA Committee when available.

International Mountain Day 2024 and SKAC involvement/support

Sara Manuelli, MPS, shared that the theme for International Mountain Day (IMD) 2024 will be “Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation, youth and beyond.” The SKA Committee will soon be asked to provide their input and feedback on the proposed key messages, as they did for IMD 2023.

Update on policy briefs and publications

Soumyadeep Banerjee, International Organization for Migration (IOM UN Migration), announced that IOM is developing a policy brief with the MPS on migration and climate change.

It was proposed that an outreach strategy on how to promote the briefs be developed. The SKA Committee is encouraged to develop this and build on all relevant occasions (UN days, years, Decades and events at UN Conventions).

Eric Chavez, FAO, provided updates on an upcoming brief for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026. The publication will highlight the importance of grazing animals in mountain areas.

Hanspeter Liniger, Centre for Development and Environment at the University of Bern, informed the SKA Committee that he is preparing a two-page policy brief on pastoralists and suggested another that looks specifically at mountain areas.

The shared document of proposed, publish and ongoing policy briefs is available [here](#). The SKA Committee is encouraged to keep the document updated.

Other issues, discussion and conclusions

The MPS will organize a meeting when more information concerning SBSTA 60 and the mountain dialogue is available. Tentatively, the next meeting will take place in May, ahead of SBSTA 60.

Annex 1: Participant list

Last name	First name	Affiliation	Country
Adler	Carolina	Mountains Research Initiative	Switzerland
Ansen	Melissa	University of the Free State	South Africa
Avila	Barbara	UNESCO	France
Badenkov	Yuri	Russian Academy of Science	Russia
Banerjee	Soumyadeep	International Organization for Migration	Austria
Bernbaum	Edwin	International Union for Conservation of Nature	United States of America
Bianchini	Flaviano	Source International	Italy
Breuer Moreno	Patricia	Mujeres a la Cumbre	Chile
Caprez	Riccarda	Adaptation at Altitude (SDC)	Switzerland
Cárdenas	Maria Rosa	UNESCO	France
Chavez	Eric	Asociacion Oikos	Peru
Chettri	Nakul	ICIMOD	Nepal
Drenkhan	Fabian	Pontifical Catholic University of Peru	Peru
England	Matthew Innis	FAO	Italy
Fellendorf	Ansgar	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Austria
Freppaz	Michele	University of Turin – Department of Agricultural, Forest & Food Sciences (DISAFA)	Italy
Greene	Tomás	Deutsche Schule Chicureo	Chile
Gunya	Alexey	Russian Academy of Science	Russia
Gurung	Deo Raj	Aga Khan	Switzerland
Kirkham	James	International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI)	United States of America
Leucci	Cristiana	INAIGEM	Peru
Liniger	Hanspeter	University of Bern – CDE	Switzerland
Llambi	Luis Daniel	Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)	Peru
Marchant	Robert	University of York	United Kingdom
McDowell	Graham	University of Calgary	Canada
Mishra	Anil	UNESCO	France
Nguma	Ruth	UNESCO	France
Pancorbo Olivera	Marggiori	FAO	Italy
Pearson	Pam	ICCI	United States of America
Pinho	Simao	CIMO	Portugal
Pisa	Paola Fontanella	United Nations University (UNU)	Italy

Pons	Marc	University of Saskatchewan (Canada) – Computational Ecology Group & Center for Hydrology	Andorra
Quenta Herrera	Estafania	Instituto de Ecología of the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés	Bolivia
Robert	Pauline	Mountain Research Initiative	Switzerland
Rolinski	Susanne	Postdam Institute for Climate Impact Research	Germany
Stanchi	Silvia	University of Turin – Department of Agricultural, Forest & Food Sciences (DISAFA)	Italy
Tribaldos	Theresa	University of Bern – CDE	Switzerland
Urbach	Davnah	Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment	Switzerland
Verre	Filippo	AB AQUA	Italy
Zwahlen	Johanna	Zoï Environment Network	Switzerland

Mountain Partnership Secretariat staff

Samantha Abear

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