



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Stepping up for mountains

Mountain Partnership Secretariat  
Annual Report 2016



Mountain Partnership

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# **Stepping up for mountains**

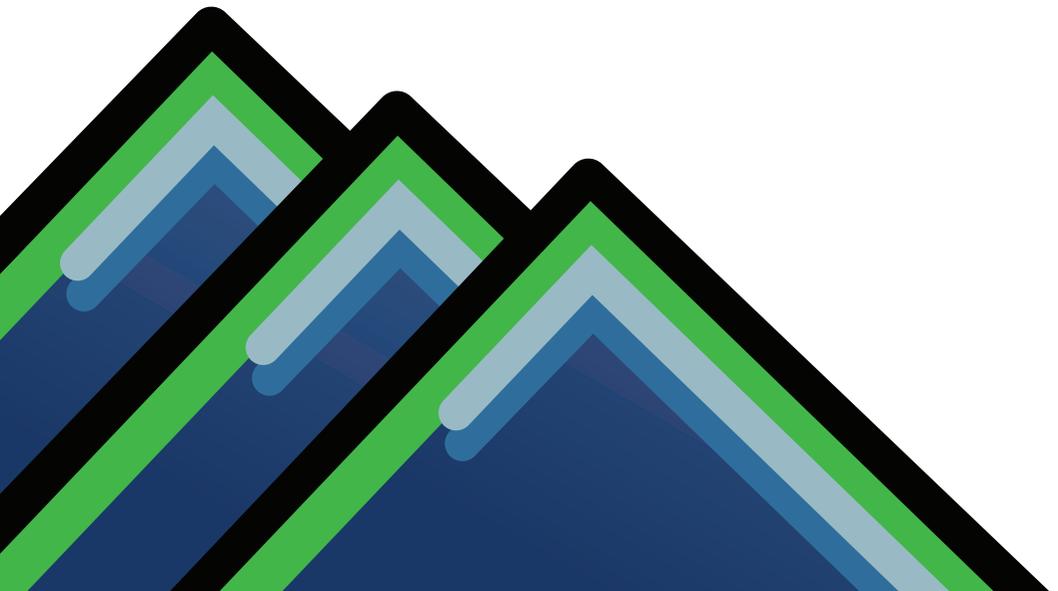
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## What is the Mountain Partnership?

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 Mountain Partnership promotes the sharing of resources, knowledge, information and expertise to carry out its mission.

At the end of 2016, the Partnership had 288 members: 56 governments, 14 inter-governmental organizations, 212 major groups (e.g. civil society, NGOs and the private sector) and 6 subnational authorities.

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.



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# A message from the Mountain Partnership Secretariat Coordinator



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*The year 2017 marks 15 years of the Mountain Partnership. Created in 2002 during the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Partnership was founded on a common vision: improve the lives of mountain peoples and protect mountain environments around the world.*

*Today, that same vision still guides our work. The Mountain Partnership has proven to be an effective alliance in increasing the international attention dedicated to mountain ecosystems and peoples. Throughout 2016, we widely disseminated the results of the study “Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity”, the only comprehensive global overview on the subject after more than a decade. The study shines a spotlight on the rising level of food insecurity in the world’s mountain regions, and it is now being used to promote more investments in mountains and as a basis for policy advice.*

*Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and in collaboration with governments, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and civil society, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat drafted the United Nations Secretary-General’s Report on Sustainable Mountain Development, which was presented at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. The Report effectively provided a background for the Sustainable Mountain Development Resolution, which 46 countries submitted to the United Nations in November 2016.*

*Thanks to the tireless efforts of our members, over 200 events in 44 countries were held during International Mountain Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the diversity and the richness of cultures and traditions of mountain peoples.*

*This annual report, compiled by the Secretariat, intends to provide an overview of the Mountain Partnership’s efforts in the world. Although this is not a comprehensive report of all our members’ activities, it is a chance for us to celebrate and appreciate the many national, regional and international collaborations, institutional strengthening, capacity development initiatives, thematic conferences and scientific reports that have happened within the framework of the Mountain Partnership in 2016.*

*It is also an occasion to showcase the variety of the Mountain Partnership’s work, whether it be the establishing of a national sustainable mountain development strategy in Uganda, promoting mountain products through equitable value chains or supporting countries in the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal target 15.4.2 on mountains through the Mountain Green Cover Index.*

*Yet there is still more work to do. Considering the Paris Agreement and the commitments of the 2030 Agenda that “no one be left behind”, I believe now is the time to step up the level of attention that mountains receive and ensure that they are always included in relevant international negotiations.*

*As we look back at our accomplishments, I invite our members to keep flying the mountain flag high, building on our knowledge, rich diversity and commitment.*

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

## Elevating peaks

The Mountain Partnership, supported by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), advocates for global attention to the unique challenges facing mountain communities and ecosystems through promoting and participating in international campaigns and events, by drafting policy and issues briefs, key messages and UN reports and ensuring that sustainable mountain development is included in global, national and regional negotiations and policies.

In 2016, the MPS focused on disseminating the results of the study “Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity” with the following events:

- On 24 February, the MPS presented the findings of the report during an event at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy. Moderated by René Castro Salazar, FAO Forestry Assistant Director-General, the meeting was an opportunity for FAO colleagues to discuss ways of addressing the rise in hunger and malnutrition in the mountainous regions of developing countries;
- On 8 March, the MPS organized a meeting at the Italian Parliament in Rome to present the findings of the report and discuss the food security crisis in mountain areas. The event was attended by Italian Members of Parliament, diplomats, the media and FAO colleagues;
- On 22 April, during an event hosted by the Permanent Representations of Costa Rica, Italy, Switzerland and Uganda to FAO for UN-based diplomats, a Mountain Facility was launched to address the rise in the number of mountain dwellers who face the threat of hunger in developing countries. This event was held on the occasion of Earth Day, during which a tree was planted by FAO’s Director-General;
- On 3 May, during a meeting organized by the FAO Liaison Office for North America in Washington, DC, USA, the MPS discussed with representatives of The Mountain Institute, Aspen International Mountain Foundation, the Colorado State Senate, Interaction International, Catholic Relief Services, The Hunger Project and Terra Global Capital the main challenges facing mountain environments and peoples;



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- On 6 May, the MPS, in collaboration with the Permanent Missions to the UN of Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi and Peru and the FAO Liaison Office in New York, USA, facilitated a meeting in New York, during which more efforts were called for to address the rising rate of food insecurity in the mountainous areas of developing countries and to meet the goals defined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



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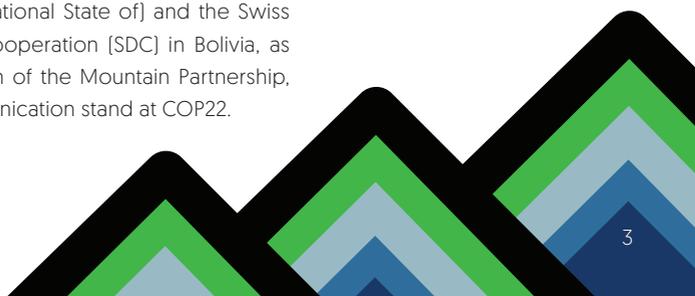
Mountain Partnership [MP] members campaigned for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in mountain areas, ahead of and during the United Nations High-level Political Forum [HLPF] on Sustainable Development on 18-20 July in New York, USA. As part of the 2016 United Nations Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC] High-Level Segment for NGOs, two MP members with ECOSOC consultative status – The Mountain Institute [TMI] and the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences – submitted written statements on mountain issues.

The topic of mountains and climate change was addressed during the Bonn Climate Change Conference [18 May], where the Swiss Government and the MPS supported the organization of a working dinner and participated at the event with several countries.

At the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC COP22], the MPS organized two side events:

- “Mapping and understanding mountains to achieve the 2030 Agenda” [11 November]. The session focused on assessing the well-being of mountain communities and ecosystems globally in the context of climate change and reviewing ways to measure progress;
- “The impact of climate change in mountain areas: a priority for a global action” [14 November]. The session reviewed the needs and mechanisms for addressing the impacts of climate change in mountains globally.

The MPS also facilitated the presence of MP speakers at a third event held by FAO Bolivia [Plurinational State of] and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation [SDC] in Bolivia, as well as contributing to the design of the Mountain Partnership, Asociación Oikos and TMI communication stand at COP22.



In December, the MPS promoted attention towards mountain biodiversity by liaising with MP members present at the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP13) in Cancun, Mexico. It also contributed with text on the Mountain Partnership for the high-level segment of the CBD COP13 Cancun Declaration.

In addition to these initiatives and promoting International Mountain Day [see page 10], advocacy activities supported by the MPS in 2016 included:

- Presenting the MP and Sustainable Mountain Development issues at the Ninth World Congress on Snow and Mountain Tourism in Andorra (March);
- Contacting 57 MP governments to request support for an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Mountains and Climate Change (May);
- Relaying an update on MP activities in 2014-2016 in a presentation to the 23rd session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (June);
- Analysing 160 countries' Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to find that 48 countries, or 29 percent, mentioned mountains (August);
- Contributing to FAO's analysis of the INDCs and proposing entries with text on mountains and agriculture (September).

## **United Nations Secretary-General's Sustainable Mountain Development Report and Resolution**

FAO and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, in collaboration with governments, relevant agencies of the UN system and NGOs, drafted the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG)'s Report on Sustainable Mountain Development, which was presented as the sustainable development agenda item at the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2016. The Report highlighted specific thematic areas of focus, provided an overall analysis of sustainable mountain development, including challenges and progress achieved, and included recommendations based on the analysis of the report on how to achieve sustainable development in mountain regions more effectively.

Italy and Peru drafted the subsequent resolution on sustainable mountain development and co-facilitated informal consultations. The draft resolution was adopted on 18 November and 46 countries agreed to co-sponsor it - a positive development, considering that in the 68th session of the General Assembly there were 37 co-sponsors. It was agreed that the resolution will be reviewed again in three years time, during the 74th UNGA session in 2019.

## Monitoring progress on mountains in the SDGs

As the custodian agency of Sustainable Development Goal target 15.4.2, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat at FAO has developed the official indicator – the “Mountain Green Cover Index” – for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the target. The Mountain Green Cover Index is designed to measure changes of the green vegetation in mountain areas (i.e. forests, shrubs and trees). It builds on the recognition of a direct correlation between green coverage of mountain areas and their state of health and capacity to fulfil their ecosystem roles. In particular, the Index can provide information on the tree and shrub cover. Its reduction will be generally linked to forest exploitation, timber extraction, fuel-wood collection and fire. Its increase will be due to vegetation growth, possibly linked to reforestation or afforestation programmes.

FAO Collect Earth and the 2015 global map of mountains produced by FAO/MPS are the data sources for the Mountain Green Cover Index. Resulting from an innovative collaboration between FAO and Google, Collect Earth is the most modern technology available for global land use and land cover monitoring. Each country will be responsible for validating its national data.



## Communicating the progress



The Mountain Partnership [MP] raises awareness about the challenges faced by mountain peoples and environments and highlights mountain issues globally, nationally, regionally and locally.

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat [MPS] carries out communication and knowledge management activities to ensure members of the Partnership can deliver consistent messages, data and recommendations to communicate and advocate for mountains.

In order to strategically utilize and share the latest information available about the state of the world's mountain peoples and ecosystems, the MPS carried out a number of outreach activities in 2016. Databases, publications, brochures, newsletters, issues briefs and reports were produced to increase awareness, deepen understanding and inspire concrete policy action on sustainable mountain development [SMD].

On the communications front, the MPS was active in spreading the news of the MP members and widely disseminating the



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MP's experiences at seminars, workshops, conferences and special events in 2016. In April and May, MPS Coordinator Thomas Hofer pitched press interviews to coincide with MP events held in New York and Washington DC, USA (see pages 2-3 for details of the meetings). In September, the MPS provided support to the development of communication materials for the third World Mountain Forum, held in Mbale, Uganda in October.

A video was written and directed by the MPS about the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative, a joint project with Slow Food International, and produced in English, Italian and Spanish. A template Mountain Partnership Products label was designed and is now being produced (copywriting and design) for promoting 15 mountain products. The Mountain Partnership Products Initiative also received wide international press coverage with articles in *The New York Times* and *Reuters*.

The MPS also generated external press coverage in the form of radio interviews in English, French and Spanish.



Knowledge management efforts in 2016 included:

- Sharing the key data and figures from the 2015 FAO study “Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity” on the MP website and through targeted presentations;
- Gathering information for two new online databases on mountain products and university courses related to mountains, to be launched in 2017;
- Writing a paper on the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative related to the MP presentation delivered at the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Food Systems in June;
- Contributing with information about the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative to various interviews and articles, including an article in the Italian Development Cooperation magazine and an FAO publication on biodiversity;
- Producing fact sheets and posters in the six UN languages for International Mountain Day (IMD) as well as launching a new IMD website in four languages (see page 22 for a list of knowledge materials produced);
- Sharing members’ news and publications on the website.

In June, the MPS produced a new brochure in English, French, Russian and Spanish, updated with the current list of members and the most up-to-date information about mountains as presented in “Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity”.



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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 photo contest for IMD and also created content for an IMD social media advisory [tweets and Facebook posts, including graphics] in three languages. The IMD fact sheets and posters were distributed to over 30 offices, including FAO decentralized offices, around the world.

The Secretariat's achievements in communications in 2016 are demonstrated by the following figures:

- Maintaining an annual number of approximately 20 000 visitors to its website;
- Updating its website almost daily, for a total of 194 news items and 53 event announcements published;
- Expanding its Facebook followers by 34 percent, reaching 3 600 followers and making it the first source of referral traffic to the website;
- Adding 2 268 pictures of mountains to its Flickr account;
- Generating external press coverage for Mountain Partnership projects for a total of 28 external press articles published;
- Maintaining a 28-percent rate of MP member readers who open the monthly newsletter, and increasing the opening rate of non-MP member readers by 4 percent;
- Disseminating numerous targeted messages to its three electronic mailing lists.

## Flying the flag

To mark International Mountain Day (IMD) on 11 December 2016, around 215 events in 44 countries were held, in which mountaineers, mountain lovers, governments and civil society groups gathered to celebrate mountain environments and inhabitants.

As the lead coordinating UN agency for this annual celebration, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) worked with the MPS to mobilize decentralized offices, governments and civil society organizations to support awareness-raising events showing the importance of mountains to sustainable development.

This year's theme, "Mountain Cultures: celebrating diversity and strengthening identity", was the focus of many Mountain Partnership members' seminars and conferences. IMD 2016 was an occasion to highlight the variety and richness of mountain cultures, promote the vast array of mountain identities and ensure that indigenous rights are recognized and traditional ways endure.

Taking the form of conferences, exhibitions, hikes, workshops, essay contests and readings, festivities were held in Algeria, Altai Republic of the Russian Federation, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh,



## Mountain Partnership members highlight mountains at national level

- The National Mountain Committee of Argentina celebrated IMD at its 79th meeting. In her presentation on mountain cultures, María Pia Falchi of the National Institute of Anthropology and Latin American Thought noted how ancient inhabitants of South America considered mountains fundamental parts of a landscape;
- The Alpine Convention launched the Reading Mountains Festival 2016. Between 5 and 11 December, 134 events took place in ten countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Switzerland), eight languages and countless dialects;
- The FAO Representation Office in Iran (Islamic Republic of), in collaboration with the Alpine Club of Iran and the Mountain Environment Protection Society, organized an event at which they established a United Nations Mountaineering Club;
- Madagascar celebrated IMD and World Soil Day together at national level. The event was an opportunity for stakeholders in Madagascar to further their understanding of the importance of mountains and soil to life.



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Bolivia [Plurinational State of], Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Guadalupe, India, Indonesia, Iran [Islamic Republic of], Italy, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

IMD was also a great success on the web and social media. The IMD website, which had an average of 1 185 users per month in 2016, reached new heights in December when it registered over 6 000 users, culminating on 11 December with 1 879 users in a single day - the highest peak of the year. Facebook has grown as a platform for the visibility of IMD. In fact, during the period of December 2016, the Mountain Partnership Facebook page acquired 34 new followers and had a total reach of 10 609 users during the week of IMD. On Twitter, over 2 400 tweets with the hashtag #MountainsMatter were sent between 8-14 December and reached over 60.7 million accounts. Among influential accounts who tweeted about the campaign were the main @UN account, @UN\_News\_Centre, @UNGeneva, @GlobalGoalsUN and various FAO corporate and regional accounts.

Global media coverage of the day was also very extensive, with the press in Bolivia [Plurinational State of], Costa Rica, Honduras, Italy and Spain, among others, featuring news articles.



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## Mountain cultures in action: a photo contest for IMD

In the run-up to International Mountain Day 2016, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched the Mountain Cultures Photo Contest, of which the Mountain Partnership Secretariat was responsible for managing the operational tasks. People were asked to send photos of mountain cultures in action to help promote the vast array of mountain identities and raise awareness of their traditions and rituals.

Over 340 photos from photographers in 57 countries were submitted for the contest. An FAO jury chose six finalists, whose photos were then published on the FAO Facebook page where the public voted for their favourite. After receiving over half of the 800 votes, Maryam Farzami of Afghanistan won the photo contest with her photo of an Afghan mother holding her infant daughter in a remote mountain village in Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan. She was awarded a one-year subscription to National Geographic magazine.

## Trekking together

The Mountain Partnership (MP) serves as a platform for joint action and programmes. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) supports members in joining forces and implementing initiatives at national, regional and international level.

In 2016, members came together to work on a number of projects, sharing experiences and launching initiatives:

- The MPS supported a call for MP members interested in sustainable energy in the mountains to form a group, to be led by the Global Himalayan Expedition;
- The MPS and several Central Asia MP members, including the Federation of Organic Development Bio-KG and Farmer Cooperative Alysh Dan, participated in an international seminar on "Organic farming with orientation on biological pesticides and resistant varieties of crops" and presented the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative;
- The MPS participated in a field mission in Kyrgyzstan for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) mountain forest project and the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative. This mission was followed up by collaborating with several Kyrgyz members to begin analysing the mountain product value chains of selected high-value products;
- The MPS and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) participated in a field mission in Costa Rica and Panama to develop a new programme in the context of climate change adaptation in the Dry Corridor of Central America for the Green Climate Fund;
- The MPS participated in a field mission in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Cuba in the framework of the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative and began work with Slow Food in Bolivia and in Cuba on agricultural mountain products;
- Members met for consultation on 4 September during the World Conservation Congress, hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Hawaii, USA. Led by The Mountain Institute (TMI), the event reviewed the MP's recent activities, progress and challenges in advancing the mountain conservation and sustainable development agendas globally;



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- The MPS and Slow Food launched the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative at Terra Madre Salone del Gusto, during the session “Living in the mountains”, in Turin, Italy on 24 September. The participants, including MP members from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), India, the Italian Development Cooperation and the National Organization of Mountain Municipalities, Communities and Councils (UNCCEM), discussed strategies for sustainable development in mountain regions and for promoting youth employment;
- Members participated at the 2016 World Mountain Forum (WMF) in Mbale, Uganda in October, and the MPS contributed to the “Mbale Call for Scaling Up Action”, a call on governments and mountain stakeholders to galvanize work on the ground and guide mountain-related interventions in international policy processes, especially in light of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. The WMF was jointly organized by MP members the Albertine Rift Conservation Society and Uganda’s Ministry of Water and Environment with financial and technical support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety through the UN Environment Programme, the UN Development Programme and others;
- The MPS signed a letter of agreement with the University of Bern’s Centre for Development and Environment to follow up on the “Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity” study. The study will build on the data collected as a baseline for the Mountain Green Cover

## Mountain Partnership Products Initiative

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat, in collaboration with Slow Food, launched a voluntary label for mountain products to promote access to markets for small mountain producers in developing countries – in the framework of a project supported by the Italian Development Cooperation.

Each Mountain Partnership Product label tells the story of a specific product and highlights what makes it unique, complementing the information that is already included in a typical commercial label. It aims to enable consumers to make a more informed purchase and allow producers to obtain fair compensation for their products, underlining the high value from a social, environmental and economic perspective.

Products must comply with four criteria – altitude, small scale, environmental sustainability and equity – which are verified through a participatory process. During the pilot phase, about fifteen products from seven different countries applied to obtain the label, ranging from black amaranth from the Bolivian Andes to purple rice from the Indian Himalayas.



Index, which monitors the SDG mountain target 15.4.2 of the 2030 Agenda. The aim is to explore the nexus among land degradation, food insecurity and migration in mountain areas;

- In collaboration with the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion and the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture, Red de Agroindustria Rural del Perú organized the International Meeting of Andean Rural Populations to share their ancestral knowledge in Andahuaylas, Peru on 14-18 June;
- Invited by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the HimalAndes Initiative travelled to Kathmandu, Nepal to give a talk on Andean textiles and their benefits for mountain communities;
- In collaboration with the MP Central Asia Hub, the MPS distributed scarves and felt ornaments for sale in the FAO Brand Shop from mountain producers in Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. The sales generated a total profit of €2 678, which was entirely returned to the producers;
- The MPS presented the first data of the work on the Mountain Green Cover Index at the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Meeting at FAO and at the WebEx audio conference on SDG Reports 2017.

## Training for the climb

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) aims to strengthen the capacity development of Mountain Partnership (MP) members, mountain communities and experts, development workers and institutions to help create an enabling environment for sustainable mountain development.

In 2016, the MPS produced and shared sustainable mountain development educational tools and materials. Training courses, databases, networks and workshops are some of the ways the MPS carries out capacity development and technology transfer activities.

### IPROMO

Ormea, Italy; 8-18 July



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The International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas, better known as IPROMO, offers annual short courses on the management of mountain areas and is organized by the MPS and the University of Turin, Italy. Every year, a different topic linked to sustainable mountain development is selected. The full-immersion two-week course takes place every year during the summer and is available to professionals working in mountain-related fields.

The final objective of IPROMO is the training of experts, researchers and technicians for the management of mountain areas that have a high ecological, social and economic complexity. Additionally, the programme aims to provide scientific knowledge and to enhance the ability of participants to assess potential ecological and social impacts of different management policies.

IPROMO takes place in Ormea, a small town in the Italian Alps, and is financially supported by a number of local authorities and private sector partners.

In 2016, 25 professionals from 16 countries on three continents took part in the course, which focused on managing mountain resources and diversities and the role of protected areas, looking at several aspects such as sustainable environment conservation, governance rights, income generation and food security. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of a participatory approach where local communities and authorities closely cooperate to jointly manage protected areas.

## **IPROMO Alumni network**

Facilitated by the MPS, the growing network continues participants' communication and experience exchanges beyond the course. The network keeps in touch via an email list and a Facebook page.

## **Impact assessment of IPROMO**

In 2016, in order to assess the impact IPROMO has had on its participants' career development and networking and to improve the programme for the next courses, the MPS circulated a survey to all past IPROMO participants. The results showed that 92 percent said their careers benefitted from attending IPROMO, 94 percent shared knowledge gained at IPROMO with other colleagues and 84 percent are still in contact with other IPROMO participants.

On a scale from one to five, the average rating assigned to the relevance of the knowledge acquired at IPROMO to individuals' work was 4.2. Respondents explained that because a large majority of them already worked in sustainable mountain development, not only was the course directly related to their work, but it helped them gain a more global perspective on mountain peoples and ecosystems.

Although 73 percent responded that they had not implemented any professional joint activity with other IPROMO alumni, the 27 percent that had implemented joint activity provided details regarding the projects and initiatives they had gone on to develop with other participants.

Regarding ways in which past IPROMO participants thought the course could be improved, a majority requested that IPROMO be offered in other regions and languages. Others requested that the course include more fieldwork, and a few proposed developing a project by the end of each course that participants could decide to jointly implement.

## **Papua New Guinea's Non-Tree Plant Diversity assessment training**

The Non-Tree Plant Diversity (NTPD) assessment training of Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Forest Authority staff took place in the Madang Province of PNG on 8-13 February 2016, as part of the activities for the integration of a biodiversity assessment methodology in PNG's first Multipurpose National Forest Inventory. The NTPD survey methodology and relevant training programme were developed by the University of Rome Sapienza, Italy. Other participants in the training programme included the Binatang Research Centre, the FAO Representation of PNG and the University of Queensland, Australia.

## **Mountain Education Portal**

Tailored for mountain communities, mountain experts, students, scientists, researchers and mountain entrepreneurs, the new database offers information on a wide range of learning opportunities, from free online courses to bachelor's and master's degrees. Listing 84 mountain courses from 23 countries, the database allows users to compare vastly different course offerings from the fields of geography, geology, biology and the social sciences, among others.

## Propelling the expedition

Improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments is at the heart of all of the Mountain Partnership's efforts, but this can only be achieved with the support of partners.



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Resource mobilization is therefore the lifeblood of the Mountain Partnership, as it allows sustainable mountain development initiatives to be implemented and the Secretariat to continue its role of coordinating and promoting activities in advocacy, communications and capacity development.

In February 2016, following the event at FAO headquarters to present the findings of the report "Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity", the MPS was requested to develop an interregional initiative on food insecurity in mountain areas that was subsequently drafted and submitted to FAO management.

In April, to better respond to needs of the members, the MPS/FAO launched the Mountain Facility, a special funding-and-planning mechanism to ensure sustainable development and food security in highland regions, home to some 329 million people at high risk of hunger. The structure of the Facility has been developed and should become operational during 2017.

During the month of May, the MPS Coordinator Thomas Hofer attended a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings in the USA with representatives of the World Bank, USAID, the GEF Secretariat, EcoAgriculture Partners and the US Forest Service, among others. Communication materials were produced for the different meetings, presenting the various activities and programmes of the MPS that require resources.

In June, the MPS, in collaboration with MP members, coordinated the submission of the following project proposals for the International Climate Initiative [IKI]:

1. "Building mountain resilience by protecting agro-biodiversity: a Mountain Partnership project" – compiled with the support of the Governments of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Morocco and Kyrgyzstan and with the NGOs Instituto de Ecología [Bolivia]; Sociedad Boliviana para el Desarrollo Rural, Pro-Rural [Bolivia]; Agency of Development Initiatives [Kyrgyzstan]; the University of Central Asia [Kyrgyzstan]; Migrations & Développement [Morocco] and Slow Food International.

2. "Mountain communities build resilience to food insecurity under climate change conditions - a Mountain Partnership project" – compiled with the support of the Governments of Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Lesotho, Madagascar and Malawi and with the NGOs the Cuban Technical Association for Agro Forestry (Cuba), the Asociación de Cooperación para el Desarrollo Rural de Occidente (Guatemala), GROW (Lesotho), the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (Uganda), the Association de la Population de Montagne du Monde (Madagascar), Total LandCare (Malawi) and the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion.

At the request of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) team in FAO, the MPS drafted a concept note on mountains for the attention of the GEF Secretariat for the GEF-7 cycle.

Tapping into the current climate-funding scenario, the Secretariat prepared three concepts for large interregional projects for the Green Climate Fund. The concerned countries have been informed and the required no-objection letters are under preparation. The three concepts were:

1. "African programme for mountain areas to increase resilience and reduce emissions" – The programme, which will have a phase approach, foresees the following countries: Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Morocco, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda.
2. "AdaptAndes - increasing the resilience of Andean mountain communities and ecosystems to the effects of climate change" – Countries included are: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.
3. "Promote adaptation, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and green economy through inclusive alliances to enhance rural livelihoods in mountainous regions" – Countries included are: Costa Rica, Cuba and Morocco.

In September, the Federal Office of Agriculture of Switzerland sponsored the Secretariat with an Associate Programme Officer for two years. She is working largely on the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative.

Throughout 2016, the MPS updated its online funding database, which was launched in July 2015. To date, the database contains information about over 250 funding sources that members can easily sort through to efficiently locate funds based on geographical scope and thematic focus.

Funding for the MPS was provided by the Italian Development Cooperation, the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture and FAO.

## **Mountains top meeting agendas**

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) organized and participated in a number of events in 2016 to promote the sustainable mountain development agenda, including:

### **Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity - sharing the results of the study with FAO colleagues**

Rome, Italy; 24 February

### **Ninth World Congress on Snow and Mountain Tourism**

Sant Julià de Lòria, Andorra; 2-4 March

### **Organic Agriculture Workshop with Special Reference to Biological Pesticides and Resistant Varieties**

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; 14-16 March

### **Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity - FAO and MPS launch a Mountain Facility to address the rising threat of hunger in the mountain areas of developing countries**

Rome, Italy; 22 April

### **Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity - sharing the results of the study at a roundtable of USA-based organizations and government officials**

Washington, D.C., United States of America; 3 May

### **Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity - sharing the results of the study with Permanent Missions to the United Nations**

New York, United States of America; 6 May

### **Bonn Climate Change Conference - a working dinner on mountains and climate change held in the margins of the UNFCCC SBSTA 44**

Bonn, Germany; 18 May

### **Presentation of the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative at the Workshop on Sustainable Value Chains for Sustainable Food Systems**

Rome, Italy; 8-9 June



**IPROMO course: Managing mountain resources and diversities - the role of protected areas**

Ormea, Italy; 8-18 July

**Mountain Partnership briefing at the IUCN World Conservation Congress**

Hawaii, United States of America; 4 September

**Mountain Partnership Products Initiative at Slow Food's "Terra Madre"**

Turin, Italy; 24 September

**Third edition of the World Mountain Forum**

Mbale, Uganda; 17-20 October

**Mountain Partnership Steering Committee annual meeting**

Mbale, Uganda; 21-22 October

**Side event at UNFCCC COP22: Mapping and understanding mountains to achieve the 2030 Agenda**

Marrakech, Morocco; 11 November

**Side event at UNFCCC COP22: The impact of climate change in mountain areas – a priority for global action**

Marrakech, Morocco; 14 November

**Presenting the Mountain Green Cover Index at the Collaborative Partnership on Forests meeting**

Rome, Italy; 29 November

## Equipment and gear

To equip policy makers, local communities and project coordinators with 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.

In addition to the items listed here, the MPS produced donor reports, financial reports, progress reports, workplans and leaflets in 2016.

### 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.

#### **Paper: Mountain Partnership Products Initiative**

The MPS contributed a paper to the workshop report “Sustainable value chains for sustainable food systems: a workshop of the FAO/UNEP Programme on Sustainable Food Systems”.

#### **Mountain Partnership: L’etichetta per i produttori di montagna**

The October 2016 edition of the Italian Development Cooperation’s newsletter “La Cooperazione Italiana Informa” featured a one-page article about mountain products by Giorgio Grusso of the MPS.

#### **Mountain Partnership Steering Committee Summary Report**

The Mountain Partnership Steering Committee held its annual meeting on 21-22 October 2016 in Mbale, Uganda.

### UN Documents

#### **United Nations General Assembly Report: Sustainable mountain development**

The United Nation Secretary-General issued a report on SMD. Prepared by FAO and the MPS in collaboration with governments, UN agencies and other organizations, the report describes the status and progress made in promoting SMD at national and international level since July 2013.

### Videos

#### **Mountain Partnership Products Initiative**, English, Italian, Spanish.

The Mountain Partnership Product Initiative aims to communicate the added values of a mountain product, enabling consumers to make a

more informed purchase and small mountain producers from developing countries to sell at a premium price.

### **Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity**, English.

On Earth Day, 22 April, governments - led by the Permanent Missions to the UN of Costa Rica, Italy, Uganda and Switzerland - called for concerted action to end hunger in the mountains at a meeting in Rome.



©FAO/Mountain Products video

### **A spotlight on mountains**, English.

Responding to the study “Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity”, the ambassadors of Italy, Bolivia [Plurinational State of] and Switzerland to FAO talk about the needs and contributions of mountain communities.

## **Radio interviews**

### **New label for mountain products puts premium on biological and cultural diversity**, English, French, Spanish.

Giorgio Grusso, Thomas Hofer and Rosalaura Romeo of the MPS elaborate on the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative.

## **Brochure**

### **Working together for mountain peoples and environments.**

English, French, Russian, Spanish.

## **Fact sheet and poster**

### **International Mountain Day poster. Mountain Cultures: celebrating diversity and strengthening identity**

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.

### **International Mountain Day fact sheet. Mountain Cultures: celebrating diversity and strengthening identity**

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.

## List of members

At the end of December 2016, the following 288 governments and organizations belonged to the Mountain Partnership:

### Governments

#### Asia and the Pacific

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Afghanistan	India	Nepal
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Pakistan
Bhutan	Kyrgyzstan	Sri Lanka

#### Europe

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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

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Algeria	Jordan	Yemen
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Morocco	
	Tunisia	

#### North and Central America and the Caribbean

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Costa Rica	Guatemala	Mexico
Cuba	Jamaica	

#### South America

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

## Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Cameroon

Democratic Republic of  
the Congo

Ethiopia

Ghana

Guinea

Kenya

Lesotho

Madagascar

Malawi

Swaziland

Uganda

## 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 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)

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)

## Major Groups

### Asia and the Pacific

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#### Australia

CarbonLab, University of Queensland

#### China

Guizhou University of Finance and Economics (GUFE)  
Journal of Mountain Science  
Pendebea Society  
Plateau Perspectives

#### India

Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA)  
Centre for Environment Education (CEE Himalaya)  
Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE)  
Go Green & Go Organic  
Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE)  
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

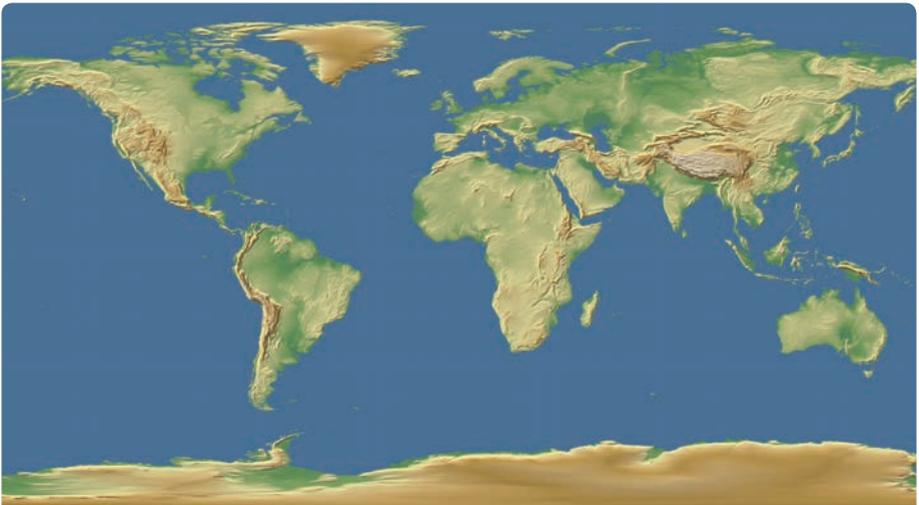
Avalon Historico-Geographical Society  
Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

## 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 Alatoo  
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  
UNISON  
University of Central Asia (UCA)  
Yrystan Public Foundation for Sustainable Community Development

## Mongolia

Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation



## **Nepal**

3 Sisters Adventure Trekking  
ForestAction Nepal  
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement Nepal  
Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre [KIRDARC]  
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]  
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

### 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 (ADM MRB)

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

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 [UNCEM]  
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**

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)  
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  
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 (BFSM)

## **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)  
Practical Action

## **Middle East and North Africa**

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### **Egypt**

Deraya University

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

Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)

Suldoz Kouhyaran Institute

### **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)

### **Costa Rica**

Centro Científico Tropical (Tropical Science Center)

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)

Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company

Gruppman International Violin Institute

Millennium Institute

Mountain Studies Institute (MSI)

Tatra Mountains Cultural Foundation  
Telluride Institute  
The Mountain Institute [TMI]  
University of Denver - Western Colorado Master Social Work  
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**

Fundación Ecohabitats  
Fundación Estación Biológica Guaya canal  
Fundación para el Desarrollo Sostenible de las Zonas de Páramo y sus Áreas de Influencia  
Fundación Pangea

## **Ecuador**

Fundación Cordillera Tropical

## **Peru**

Asociacion Oikos

Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion [CONDESAN]

HimalAndes Initiative

Huayhuash Peru

International Potato Center [CIP]

Mountain Forum

Red de Agroindustria Rural del Perú [REDAR Perú]

Yachay Wasi

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

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### **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]

### **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

### **Malawi**

Institute of Sustainable Development [ISD]

Total LandCare



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**Nigeria**

Environment and Tourism Support (EATS)

**South Africa**

Sunrise On Africa's Peaks

**Togo**

Les Compagnons Ruraux

**Uganda**

Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)  
Makerere University  
SORAINE Uganda

**Zimbabwe**

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

## 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	315,000	965,000
%	26%	41%	33%	100%

FUNCTIONS						
	Operational	Advocacy	Knowledge Management and Communication	Capacity Development and Technology Transfer	Joint Action	Total
USD	193,000	241,250	212,300	173,700	144,750	965,000
%	20%	25%	22%	18%	15%	100%

# Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

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The Steering Committee of the Mountain Partnership provides programmatic orientation to the Mountain Partnership and oversees the preparation of a four-year strategy and a two-year workplan. The 16-member body monitors the work of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, 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 Chairs, who serve for two years.

In 2016, the Steering Committee held its annual meeting in Mbale, Uganda in October following the World Mountain Forum.

The following governments and organizations are on the 2015-2017 Steering Committee:

## **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 2016, the civil society members of the Asia and the Pacific region realized an array of initiatives at different levels in support of sustainable mountain development in the region:

#### **ForestAction Nepal (Nepal)**

- Conducted research on post-disaster resilience and agro-ecological transition in Nepal;
- Produced special issues of the following journals: Livelihood and Community Forestry Governance; and Protected Areas and People.

#### **Global Himalayan Expedition - GHE (India)**

- Deployed solar microgrids in 15 remote villages in the Ladakh region of the Himalayas that had no access to the power grid, in partnership with IEEE Smart Village.

#### **Mountains & People (Pakistan)**

- Promoted community-based mountain tourism in Pakistan in association with the Mountain Area Support Organization.

#### **Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education - TEBTEBBA (Philippines)**

- Launched the FCPF Capacity Building on REDD+ for Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples in East Asia and the Pacific [EAP] and South Asia Region [SAR], in partnership with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility [FCPF] of the World Bank.



### **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development - ICIMOD**

ICIMOD is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH) — Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan — and is based in Kathmandu, Nepal. In 2016, ICIMOD, together with its partners, contributed to sustainable mountain development in multiple facets of policy input and uptake, knowledge generation and sharing, and capacity development:

- ICIMOD brought senior government officials and regional experts from three ICIMOD regional member countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India) to the World Mountain Forum, who contributed to the discourse that took place during the “High Level Segment – Mountains and Development Agenda”, to provide a regional perspective from the HKH region;
- In partnership with the Ministry of Population and Environment of Nepal and the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education [ICFRE], ICIMOD participated in and organized various events at the UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco during 7-18 November 2016;
- ICIMOD organized side events and an exhibit at the World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden from 28 August to 2 September 2016. At the Week, ICIMOD convened a special seminar on “Mountains, glaciers and hydropower in a changing climate”;
- To mobilize support and commitment to regional cooperation for sustainable mountain development, the HKH Partnership for Sustainable Mountain Development was endorsed by ministers and high-level government representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan and delegates from the United Nations Environment Assembly and ICIMOD;

- The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Bangladesh has considered ICIMOD's strategic framework for sustainable development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh;
- ICIMOD is coordinating the publication of "HKH Monitoring and Assessment Programme (HIMAP): Action to Sustain Global Asset", which will address the critical data gap identified in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report in 2007 and provide a comprehensive evaluation of the current state of knowledge in the HKH region;
- ICIMOD organized the Asia Pacific Youth Forum 2016, "Youth and Mountains in the Sustainable Development Goals", on 27-30 September in Kathmandu, Nepal;
- ICIMOD shared weekly Thematic Digests on water, climate change and biodiversity in mountain areas in the HKH and Asia-Pacific region.

*Report by ICIMOD, MP Steering Committee member representing civil society organizations in Asia and the Pacific*

## **Central Asia**

In 2016, the mountain stakeholders of Central Asia mobilized and facilitated policy advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building for sustainable mountain development (SMD). SMD-Policy Advocacy work was undertaken at national and sub-national levels as well as at global and international levels.

Initiatives at the national and sub-national levels involved working with decision makers to sensitize them to the SMD agenda, including:

- Supporting the country consultation process for the Law on Mountain Territories in Tajikistan;



- Promoting regional experiences for the integration of mountain concerns into development processes in the Altai Republic of the Russian Federation; and
- Coaching and supporting policy makers in Kyrgyzstan for highlighting the mountain agenda in their policy work.

The Central Asia Regional Consultation Meeting was held in September 2016 to discuss “Evidence-based decision making: policy and practice interaction on the integration of mountain concerns into development processes”. The Mountain Partnership **Central Asia Mountain Hub (CAMH)**, the Mountain Societies Research Centre of the **University of Central Asia**, the **Government of Tajikistan** and **CAMP Kuhiston** participated, showcasing regional experiences of integrating mountain concerns into development processes. This event was part of an ongoing, multi-level consultation process supported by the CAMH for public discussion of the draft Law on Mountain Territories, the latest legislative initiative by the Government of Tajikistan.

Global events, including the Mountain Futures Conference in Kunming, China (March 2016) and the World Mountain Forum in Mbale, Uganda (October 2016), saw active engagement and contributions by Central Asian governments and civil society. These events included a number of bilateral talks, side meetings and networking opportunities that encouraged knowledge exchange and experience sharing.

The **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation’s** Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change [SMD4GC] programme has made many efforts to bring the Central Asian governments together as equal players on SMD. This started yielding results in 2016: both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are willing to position themselves as lead actors for the mountain agenda.

As a result of bilateral talks with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the **Government of Kyrgyzstan** has agreed to initiate the formation of a mountain countries group/alliance within the UN system. This and other important initiatives and ambitious goals by these countries require close cooperation and further support for national and local capacity building under the SMD4GC programme.

## Europe

During 2016, MP members in Europe were active in promoting advocacy, research and understanding of sustainable mountain development.

In March, the **Centre for Development and Environment [CDE]** of the University of Bern, Switzerland, published "Investing in Sustainable Mountain Development: Opportunities, Resources and Benefits". The publication presents 19 case studies from mountain regions around the world, covering efforts by diverse public and private actors and ranging from classic examples of development investments to innovative financing mechanisms specifically tailored to the local context and conditions. It was produced by CDE in collaboration with the University of Innsbruck, Austria, **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and **ICIMOD**, and was financed by the Austrian Development Agency and the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**.

In April, a strategic research agenda for Europe's mountains was launched in Brussels, Belgium. This was developed through a series of workshops and online discussions by a multi-national, interdisciplinary team coordinated by the Swiss-Austrian Alliance and involving many MP members. The process resulted in the publication "Mountains for Europe's Future", which outlines why mountains are important at the European scale, provides recommendations for activities on mountain topics within Horizon 2020 [a European Union Research and Innovation programme] and presents six sets of proposals for interdisciplinary research on mountains to be included in future Horizon 2020 calls.

In October, Mountains 2016 took place in Bragança, Portugal. This included two events: the tenth European Mountain Convention, organized by **Euromontana**, and the first International Conference on Research for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions [ICRSDMR], organized by the **Centro de Investigação de Montanha**, at the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, together with the **Centre for Mountain Studies**, the **Mountain Research Initiative** and many other

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organizations. The conference included 191 presentations. Conference abstracts were published in the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança's digital library, and special issues of three journals are being prepared based on conference sessions. LuMont, the Lusophony mountain research network, was also launched. This was a key outcome of Mountains 2016 because Portuguese-speaking countries, such as Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Mozambique and Portugal, have not previously been involved in international initiatives on mountain research. The second ICRSDMR will take place in Brazil in 2018.

Mountain Research and Development published four issues during 2016: three regular issues [vol. 36.1-36.3] and a special issue on the 2015 Perth Conference "Mountains of our Future Earth" [vol 36.4]. This includes a number of papers presented at the conference, many from MP members, and three syntheses on: data gaps in mountain climate observatories, integrating social science paradigms for a global network of mountain observatories, and all the presentations at the Perth Conference, linking to proposals for future research.

On International Mountain Day, the **MiratecArts** organization, located on the mountain island of Pico, Azores, Portugal, announced the programme of its Montanha Pico Festival, which was held during the entire month of January. Invited MP members this year were the **Tatra Agency for Development Promotion and Culture** and **Active Remedy Ltd**. The festival included films from around the planet, presentations by performance and visual artists working on mountain-themed art, products and environmental issues.

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



## Middle East

The following is a summary of the projects, events and activities that the **Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)** carried out in 2016 or was involved in the implementation or organization of:

- To promote an enabling environment for mountains in Iran (Islamic Republic of), MEPS held several meetings with concerned authorities as well as the vice president of the Department of Environment (DOE), which led to the preparation of a document for setting up a National Mountain Committee within the DOE;
- During 2016, MEPS continued its educational activities on several occasions by organizing training programmes and presentations for mountaineers and other concerned groups;
- As the environmental adviser of Tehran's Mountaineering Council, Abdollah Ashtari, Director of MEPS, attended meetings and sessions related to the environmental activities of the Council, which is attempting to promote environmental awareness among the mountaineers in the Tehran Province;
- The number of ceremonies and gatherings in celebration of International Mountain Day (IMD) has increased in recent years across Iran. These celebrations are mainly organized by mountaineers and NGOs. Important IMD 2016 events were the following:
  - Interviews were conducted with different daily papers and radio channels about the importance of mountains and sustainable mountain development for Iran;
  - A conference on sustainable mountain development was organized in Tehran, Iran by the Alpine Club of Iran in collaboration with MEPS, the FAO Representation in Iran and Tehran's Mountaineering Council, where a few hundred people attended;

- A similar conference was held in Hashtgerd, Alborz Province, where local authorities and mountain lovers attended and local customs and traditions were celebrated;
- In a gathering organized by MEPS in Tehran, Nima Farid Mojtahedi, a member of MEPS and the author of several mountain books, gave a presentation on his 15 years of research on spiritual sites in the Alborz Mountains, revealing the spiritual importance of these sites.
- MEPS supported the translation of C. David Whiteman's publication "Mountain Meteorology: Fundamentals and Applications", translated by Nima Farid Mojtahedi from English into Farsi.

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

## North America

In 2016, civil society members realized a range of initiatives in support of sustainable mountain development in the region. Here are some highlights:

### Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF)

- Hosted Bhutan's Minister of Agriculture and Forestry as well as the Chief Financial Officer of the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation to establish training, education and internship exchanges;
- Authored an official government proclamation for International Mountain Day, presented by Aspen Mayor Steve Skadron and attended by Chief Ah-Tave of the Ute Mountain Tribe;
- Represented the region all year and at the MP Steering Committee meeting in Uganda.

### City of Aspen

- Published a sustainability report encouraging dialogue and action;
- Competed in a two-year national energy efficiency competition for the Georgetown University Energy Prize;
- Sourced 100 percent of its energy from renewable resources, including wind, hydroelectric and landfill gas.



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### **Town of Basalt**

- Retrofitted all streetlights with LED fixtures;
- Adopted the 2015 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code and passed an ordinance to address waste reduction by requiring recycling services and a “pay as you throw” system.

### **Mountain Studies Institute (MSI)**

- Assessed ground water/surface water interactions and monitored macroinvertebrate populations to address draining mines;
- Developed an intern programme for students across the San Juan Mountain Region.

### **Telluride Institute**

- Building on previous successful efforts, convened a conversation on “Housing our Mountain Community” in response to a lack of affordable housing, endemic throughout ski country.

### **Utah Valley University (UVU) and Utah-Russia Institute**

- Attended the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, advocating for addressing the critical issues facing women and children, the sustainability challenges in mountainous areas and the importance of eliminating gender inequality;
- Hosted a series of International Mountain Day events during autumn 2016.



## **Millennium Institute**

- Offered a medium- and long-term planning tool to meet Sustainable Development Goal targets;
- Developed collaborative actions with the MP to assure successful implementation of targets 6.6, 15.1 and 15.4.

## **Arctic and Mountain Regions Development Institute (AMRDI)**

- Launched the #CoffeeLives project with partners in Nicaragua;
- Launched a research project on ski region sustainability;
- Hosted an International Mountain Day fundraising event with special guest Eric Larsen, presenting on the threat of climate change.

## **Tatra Mountains Cultural Foundation**

- Showcased Tatra Mountain culture through various festivals, such as the Trailing of the Sheep Festival in Ketchum, Idaho.

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

## **South America**

In 2016, members carried out a range of initiatives in support of sustainable mountain development in the region. Here are some highlights:

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

- Continued monitoring of glaciers Huayna Potosi South and Wila Llojeta in the Cordillera Real, Bolivia;
- Participated in the Working Group on Andean Forests;
- Followed up on the activities of the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative in Bolivia.

### **Confederação Brasileira de Montanhismo e Escalada - CBME (Brazil)**

- Negotiated with stakeholders to improve management programmes of mountain parks in Brazil;

- Supported and participated in the revision of management plans of São Joaquim National Park, Pedra Selada State Park and Dois Irmãos Natural Park;
- Organized “Clean Mountain Day” in September 2016 to clean up areas used for sports activities and leisure.

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



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- Established five new conservation areas, covering 32 968 hectares of Andean forests and 20 525 of paramos, punas and wetlands in Ecuador and Peru, through the EcoAndes Project;
- Supported the restoration of 8 105 hectares of Andean ecosystems in Ecuador and the construction of methodological guidelines for the monitoring of restoration activities in mountain ecosystems in Peru;
- Supported the inclusion of themes of conservation and sustainable management of Andean ecosystems in several normative instruments and of planning and land management in seven subnational governments, such as development plans and territorial planning;
- Disseminated knowledge through publications and via presentations at the International Forum on Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems (Cusco, Peru), the International Congress of Restoration (Loja, Ecuador), the Mountain Futures Conference (Kunming, China) and the World Habitat III Conference (Quito, Ecuador).

### **Crescente Fértil (Brazil)**

- Supported operations of the Mosaic of Conservation Units of the Serra da Mantiqueira;
- Participated in the Organizing Committee of the first International Conference on Research for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions in Bragança, Portugal.

### **Fundación Agreste (Argentina)**

- Continued a socio-economic and biophysical assessment of land degradation at the pilot site in San Luis, Argentina by organizing workshops with communities and national projects;

- Participated in the Latin American Summit of Investments in Forest and Landscape Restoration on 2 June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;
- Participated in the Expanded Board of the Argentine Cabinet on Climate Change to review INDCs presented at COP22.

### **Fundación Ecohabitats (Colombia)**

- Designed the “Handbook for the Formulation of Adaptation Plans”;
- Implemented the Sustainable Territory Adapted to Climate [TeSAC] project in Popayán, Colombia.

### **Fundación Estación Biológica Guayaacanal (Colombia)**

- Modified and updated the environmental component in the technical document supporting zonal planning north of the city of Bogotá;
- Launched a study to formulate a compensation plan for biodiversity loss due to the hydroelectric project in the Samaná River, Antioquia;
- Planted 1 130 trees in La Ceiba, Los Santos, contributing to the reforestation of the area with native species to promote conservation, biodiversity and social development.

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

- Created the Protected Productive Landscape Programme with producers in the Yungas region;
- Implemented the “ProductoYungas” (Yungas Product) label, which certifies products and services that are developed sustainably, with environmental and social responsibility, in the Yungas region;
- Supported the management of public and private protected areas in the Yungas region.



©Fundación ProYungas

### **Fundación para el Desarrollo Sostenible de las Zonas de Páramo y sus Áreas de Influencia - FUNDEPARAMOS (Colombia)**

- Conducted a case analysis, “Administrative corruption, international cooperation and its involvement in high mountain ecosystems in Colombia”, for the Network of Citizen Verification of Colombia;
- Designed the programme “Implementation of social currencies as a survival strategy for the poorest communities in the Colombian Andean highlands”;

- Performed a critical analysis of the Government of Colombia's delimitation of the Andean paramos and its ecological and social impact.

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

- Visited the Tibetan Art Centre in Jawalakhel, Nepal and held meetings with specialists in textiles and Tibetan carpets to exchange knowledge about traditional techniques of Tibetan and Andean textile art;
- Imported a Tibetan loom to Peru, which was replicated and used to train textile artisans from high-Andean communities.

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

- Produced a video about CIP's approach to integrating nutrition into agricultural research and development interventions in Andean potato-based systems;
- Developed a systemic approach to climate-smart agriculture to strengthen the resilience of Andean smallholders;
- Managed research and development projects to strengthen innovation and improve the incomes, food security and resilience of potato producers in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador and Peru.

### **Asociación Oikos (Peru)**

- Developed national and regional maps of alpaca and vicuña populations in the Peruvian Andes;
- Implemented the fifth edition of the "Biodiversity Management" postgraduate diploma, together with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the National University of San Marcos.

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

- Participated in the Multisector Commission for the Development of Family Agriculture, led by the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru;
- Developed the agribusiness capacities of 400 rural youth to generate self-employment and income through local products and traditional knowledge.

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

The following is a sampling of initiatives and events carried out by governments in South America in 2016 in support of sustainable mountain development.

The Committee for Sustainable Development in Argentina's Mountainous Regions realized an array of actions at national, provincial and local levels:

- A strategic plan for long-term land management efforts was formulated, taking into consideration the current needs of production activities as well as their sustainability, without compromising the biodiversity of mountain regions or the goods and services they provide;
- A framework for inter-institutional collaboration was created to assess the strength of each institutional member of the Committee, focusing on the role each institution plays in mountain areas, the knowledge and information products they produce, the projects they implement and other factors;
- During the Committee's 77th meeting on 5-6 October in the city of San Rafael, Mendoza Province, a proposal emerged for the formalization of a regional committee for Mendoza;
- The Technicians for Renewable Energy in Rural Markets (PERMER) project established contacts in the Catamarca Province. In Catamarca, the locality of Peñón does not have access to electricity, except for a few hours per day, operated by gas-powered generator;
- Three issues of the Committee's digital newsletter were distributed, containing information about activities carried out by the Committee's members as well as a cultural section with legends, poems and photography;
- Committee members Flor de Muñáñan, Red Puna and MNCI carried out a TELEFOOD project "Improving the diet and livelihoods of indigenous peasant families living in the Valley of Humahuaca, Province of Jujuy". The project was completed in July 2016 and will be monitored by the Committee until 2018;
- On 15 November 2016, technicians of the National Geographic Institute presented the project Spatial Data Infrastructure Program of the Argentine Republic (IDERA), in Buenos Aires. Participants included the National Geographic Institute, the





National Institute of Census and Statistics, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of the Interior, Public Works and Housing, the Project for Renewable Energy in Rural Areas, the Mining and Geological Survey of Argentina and the National Agri-Food Quality and Health Services.

In Peru, the Technical Group for Mountain Ecosystems of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs developed guidelines for the management of fragile ecosystems, highlighting the importance of policies that focus on ecosystems rather than resources. These guidelines seek to be a guiding tool for achieving the goals established in the National Environmental Plan, which calls for the sustainable, integrated management of ecosystems.

On 10-13 August 2016, the International Mountain Forum was held in Huaraz, Ancash, Peru and had over 1 000 attendees, including 80 researchers. The results from the Forum will be used to formulate policies regarding glaciers and mountain ecosystems. From 2017, the National Institute for Research on Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems [INAIGEM] of Peru's Ministry of Environment will assume the management of the Technical Group for Mountain Ecosystems. INAIGEM was created in 2014 and is in charge of planning, knowledge management, cooperation and implementation of strategies for the management of mountain ecosystems.

*Report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, MP Steering Committee member representing governments in South America*

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Throughout 2016, the **Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)** implemented the Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change [SMD4GC] programme, with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation [SDC], which focuses on poverty and risk reduction in the mountains under changing climatic, environmental and socio-economic conditions.

At international level, ARCOS and the **Government of Uganda**, with financial and technical support from the SDC, UNEP and other partners, jointly organized the third World Mountain Forum [WMF]

on 17-20 October 2016 in Mbale, Uganda on the theme "Mountains for our Future". The main outcome of the WMF was the "Mbale Call for Scaling Up Action".

On 10-16 April 2016, ARCOS was invited to the Africa Meeting on Investments in Watershed Services in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. The meeting was part of the SDC-funded Scaling up Investments for Watershed Services project. It offered ARCOS an opportunity to share experiences, learn from key experts from the continent and work together to explore potential collaboration for future work on investments in watershed services in Africa.

ARCOS also participated in the policy consultation and the South-South exchange workshop "Landscape approaches for mountain community sustainable development in a time of climate change", held in Lijiang and Stone Village, China on 19-22 May 2016, organized by the **International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** with support from the Global Environment Facility [GEF] and the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP]. The workshop explored and promoted community-led landscape approaches as critical tools for sustainable development, climate adaptation and poverty alleviation with a particular focus on mountain regions.

At regional level, the East African Community [EAC], UNEP, GRID-Arendal, Government of Austria and ARCOS implemented an inter-regional project "Climate change action in developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems from a sub-regional approach". The result of this project was the joint report "Mountain Adaptation Outlook Series: Sustainable Mountain Development in East Africa in a Changing Climate", part of a series of mountain adaptation outlooks that gather the latest evidence on adaptation measures while identifying gaps and assessing key risks linked to climate change.

## Uganda

ARCOS and the Ministry of Water and Environment [MoWE] of Uganda, with a financial contribution from the SDC, developed and launched the National Sustainable Mountain Development Strategy for Uganda, with the participation of Mountain Partnership members and stakeholders in the country. The main goal of the strategic



framework is to maintain the provision of environmental goods and services from the country's mountains while sustaining biodiversity as well as socio-economic and livelihood needs. Uganda is the second country [preceded by Madagascar] supported by ARCOS to develop such a strategy.

### **Madagascar**

In 2016, the General Direction of Ecology, Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forests launched a project for the sustainable management of Tapia forests, which aims at, *inter alia*, conserving the remnant highland forests which include Tapia forests that are endemic to the highlands of Madagascar; developing forest resources such as edible mushrooms, fruits, "landibe" larvae, cocoons for silk weaving and herbaceous plants used for dyeing silk; and protecting watersheds through the densification of Tapia forests upstream. The General Direction of Ecology, Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forests further mobilized communities to undertake reforestation under the framework of the High-density of Workforce system.

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



## Intergovernmental Organizations

The intergovernmental organizations that are members of the MP highlight some of their main activities and projects on sustainable mountain development carried out in 2016.

The Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Mountain Project, which was a partnership between the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, successfully came to an end in December 2016. This project, implemented in the mountain countries of Nepal, Peru and Uganda, brought together communities, adaptation practitioners, scientists and governments. The results on the ground have contributed positively towards enhancing the resilience of the communities against climate-associated changes.

A significant achievement and off-shoot of this project is the setting up of Friends of EbA (FEBA), which is a global network of international organizations, stakeholders and UN agencies involved in EbA-related work. The network aims at promoting EbA as an effective approach for enhancing human climate resilience through knowledge sharing and influencing policies in a collaborative manner.

In December 2016, UNEP, in collaboration with several partners, launched the publication "Waste Management Outlook for Mountain Regions: Sources and Solutions". This report highlights both the challenges and the solutions for good waste management in mountain regions.

The **Alpine Convention** organized the 14th biannual Alpine Conference on 13 October 2016 in Grassau, Germany. Ministers and high-level representatives of the Alpine countries – Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Switzerland – gathered to discuss the main Alpine topics and approve the Alpine Convention institutions' reports, including the sixth Report on the State of the Alps and the new Multiannual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference. Following the Alpine Conference, the weeklong event "AlpWeek", organized and carried out by Alpine stakeholders, provided a forum for a broad and diversified dialogue on the



relationships between the Alps and the people who live and work there or who come to visit.

To highlight the significance of climate change for the Alps, the “Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck”, a joint initiative of the Alpine Convention, the University of Innsbruck, Austria, the alpS-Research Center and the French Institute in Austria, continued in 2016, focusing on the topics of Climate Change and Health, and Climate Change and Agriculture. The tour “We are Alps” was organized at the end of June, touring 15 journalists from Innsbruck, Austria to Gorizia, Italy to show them projects and good practice examples on the topic of Green Economy in the Alps.

Added impetus for effective implementation of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** programme of work on mountain biodiversity [POWMB] was provided by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] in 2015 and the Paris Agreement entering into force in 2016. The POWMB aims to reduce the loss of mountain biological diversity as a contribution to poverty reduction and to benefit both upland and lowland dwellers, including indigenous and local communities dependent on mountains. As such, implementing the POWMB will yield great impacts to multiple SDGs, including SDG 1 to end poverty; SDG 2 to end hunger; SDG 3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being; SDG 6 on water availability; SDG 10 to reduce inequality; SDG 15 to protect, restore and sustainably use terrestrial ecosystems; and in addition, the Mountain Partnership is in a position to make contributions towards SDG 17 to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

*Report by UNEP, the Alpine Convention and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

# Powering the Mountain Partnership Secretariat



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