



Mountain Partnership Steering Committee meeting

18 February 2025

15.00-16.30 CET

Agenda

14.30 – 14.35 Opening and adoption of agenda

14.35 – 14.55 Update on the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's work in 2024 (for information)

- Update on UNFCCC COP29 and UNCCD COP16
- Update on International Mountain Day 2024
- Update on Science and Knowledge Committee

14.55 – 15.10 Work planning 2025 – priorities and challenges

- Main advocacy processes (Five Years of Action, UNFCCC, IYGP 2025, National Dialogues) (for information)
- MPS work plan 2025 Main Highlights (for information and approval)

15.10 – 16.00 Presentations for the proposals for the Seventh Mountain Partnership Global Meeting in 2026 (for discussion/decision)

1. Andorra Government
 2. Chinese Academy of Science/CIFOR/ Mountain Futures - China
 3. Eurac Research/Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS)/United Nations University (UNU) - Italy
 4. Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center (KIRDARC) - Nepal
 5. MountMed Institute - Cyprus
 6. Research Center in Technologies for Society, School of Engineering, Universidad del Desarrollo - Chile
 7. Saudi Geographical Society - Saudi Arabia
- Discussion

16.00 – 16.30 Other matters, discussion and conclusions

Opening

Francesco Serpi, Mountain Partnership (MP) focal point of the Government of Italy and Chair of the MP Steering Committee (SC) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the SC meeting (see the participants' list in Annex 1).

The agenda was adopted without changes.

Update on the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's work in 2024

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) provided updates on the Secretariat's main activities since the last Steering Committee meeting, held on 26 September 2024.

Adrià Verges Aleix, MPS, gave an update on the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) COP29, which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, noting the MP's active participation in high-level events. Kyrgyzstan and Nepal were acknowledged for organizing two major high-level events on mountains. Adrià also reported on the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) COP16, which took place in Cali, Colombia, mentioning a high-level event on mountains that aimed to strengthen cooperation among global and regional mountain platforms. Lastly, the MPS activities were highlighted at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP16 in Riyadh, where Rosalaura Romeo, MPS, participated in an event on the role of mountains and mountain communities in dryland areas.

Sara Manuelli, MPS, reported that the International Mountain Day (IMD) 2024 was dedicated to the theme of adaptation, innovation, and youth. She noted that a publication was launched in collaboration with MP members, titled 'Promoting innovation and tradition: Solutions for climate change adaptation in mountains'. An extensive outreach campaign led to over 150 articles published worldwide on IMD. The first-ever Mountain Future Award received 840 submissions from 75 countries, with winners announced during the IMD celebration.

Fabio Parisi, MPS, provided an update on the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee (SKAC) of the Mountain Partnership. He noted that several committee members participated in the 60th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 60) and the first Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change. He also referenced the policy brief titled 'Human mobility in mountain areas in a changing climate', produced in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The SKAC agreed to outline a work plan for 2025, reaffirmed its commitment to the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, continued its support for the Five Years of Action for Sustainable Mountain Development, and will collaborate with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat on the United Nations Secretary-General Report on Sustainable Mountain Development.

Discussion

- Hugo Mantilla-Meluk, Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña – CEAM, Colombia, reiterated the importance of a committee dedicated to technical advice, which connects advocacy and research to unify and amplify the voice for mountains and increase visibility of the mountain agenda in high-level events.
- César Aréstegui, Government of Peru, commended the MPS on their work in 2024, especially the event organized during COP 16 in Cali. He noted that the event highlighted synergies between the biological convention and the climate change framework and further collaboration between regional and international mounting platforms.
- Macpherson Nthara, Government of Malawi, highlighted the success of the Africa Regional Mountains Forum 2024 in Rwanda. He reiterated that International Mountain Day is raising the profile of mountains and bringing people together to focus on mountains.
- Dinara Kemelova, Government of Kyrgyzstan, thanked the MPS for their support and highlighted key achievements, including the first expert dialogue on mountains and climate change and efforts to integrate the mountain agenda into the UNFCCC framework. She reaffirmed Kyrgyzstan's commitment to follow up on declarations for climate change, mountains, and glaciers, and announced an upcoming Global Mountain Dialogue for Sustainable Development (24–25 April) to discuss and gather proposals for a resolution. She also introduced the Bishkek 25 Summit in 2027, marking 25 years since the first Global Mountain Summit, and requested the MPS' support in promoting these events and coordinating invitations.

Work planning 2025 – priorities and challenges

Sara Manuelli, MPS, presented the highlights of the MPS work for the year ahead, as well as a list of the main events that will take place throughout the year. The operational functions of the MPS include supporting the SC, the Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee, and the Mountain Youth Hub.

Sara outlined the advocacy processes for the year, such as coordinating the preparation of the United Nations Secretary-General Report on Sustainable Mountain Development, prepared in collaboration with MP members. She noted that the MPS will continue to support in the production of policy briefs, mentioning a brief on mountain populations. The MPS will also support members in relevant events and coordinate the observance of International Mountain Day 2025, for which the theme is glaciers' preservation, aligning with the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025.

Sara discussed the capacity development within the MPS, noting the 8th edition of the summer school GROW - Agrobiodiversity in a Changing Climate and the 18th IPROMO training programme. The 3rd edition of the IPROMO Latin America, in collaboration with MP member CONDESAN, will also take place in 2025.

Sara highlighted work among members and joint action initiatives, noting that the MPS is supporting two FAO technical cooperation projects in Bhutan and Nepal on value chains and ethical fashion. The MPS is also supporting FAO in the celebration of its 80th anniversary with content for the FAO Museum.

Discussion

- Maheshwar Dhakal, Government of Nepal, emphasized the necessity for international collaboration and synergy, particularly in engaging youth and local communities on climate action. He highlighted the importance of climate science and livelihood opportunities for marginalized mountain populations.
- Nchunu Justices Sama, Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV), mentioned that the foundation is involved in the global plastic city negotiation, pushing for the inclusion of the mountain agenda as one of the impacted communities in the treaty.
- Following these discussions, the 2025 work plan of the Secretariat was approved.

Presentations for the proposals for the Seventh Mountain Partnership Global Meeting in 2026

The Chair welcomed representatives of the seven Mountain Partnership members who had submitted their candidacies to host the next global meeting.

Every four years, members of the Mountain Partnership gather for a global meeting to strategize for the future direction of the partnership through the adoption of a four-year strategy for advocacy and communication and of the revised governance document.

Adrià Verges Aleix, MPS, provided a brief update on the decision process for the global meeting, which had started in November with countries expressing their interest. Individual applicant meetings were held to discuss the process and key elements. Candidates submitted summary tables with relevant information, which, along with the presentations, would be used by the SC members to select the host.

Each candidate had five minutes to present their proposal in alphabetical order. The presentations were from the following members: Andorra Government; Chinese Academy of Science, CIFOR and Mountain Futures; Eurac Research, Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS) and United Nations University (UNU); Karnali Integrated Rural Development and

Research Center (KIRDARC); MountMed Institute; Research Center in Technologies for Society, School of Engineering, Universidad del Desarrollo; and Saudi Geographical Society.

The SC members agreed to have a secondary meeting to shortlist candidates. The meeting will take place online on Thursday, 27 February.

The Secretariat was tasked with preparing the summary of the SC meeting and then sharing the supporting documentation pertaining with the next MP Global Meeting.

Other matters, discussion, and conclusions

Rosalaura Romeo, MPS, informed the SC that she is retiring at the end of February. SC members expressed appreciation for Rosalaura's work and thanked her for the work she has been doing over so many years.

In conclusion, Francesco Serpi thanked the MPS and the SC.

Annex 1: Participants' list

Steering Committee members

Donor Organization to the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Francesco Serpi, Italy (**Chair**)

Governments

Asia and the Pacific – Maheshwar Dhakal, Nepal

Central Asia – Dinara Kemelova, Kyrgyzstan

Europe – Jeroni Estopiñán and Silvia Ferrer, Andorra

North & Central America and the Caribbean – Julia Vicioso, Dominican Republic (**Vice Chair**)

South America – Geanlu Walter Reyes Vera, César Aréstegui and Oriana Suárez, Peru

Sub-Saharan Africa – Macpherson Nthara and Boniface Chimwaza, Malawi

Host Institution of the MPS

Ewald Rametsteiner, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Intergovernmental Organizations

Harald Egerer, United Nations Environment Programme

Major Group Organizations

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

Central Asia – Anvar J Buzurukov and Vohid Safarov, Tajik Social and Ecological Union

Europe – Guillaume Corradino, Euromontana; Matt Reed, Aga Khan Foundation (alternate)

North & Central America and the Caribbean – Karinjo Devore and Margi Levitt, Aspen International Mountain Foundation

South America – Hugo Mantilla-Meluk, Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña

Sub-Saharan Africa – Nchunu Justices Sama, Foundation for Environment and Development

Absent Steering Committee members

Governments

Near East and North Africa – Yemen

Major Group Organizations

Global Civil Society Organizations – Laurent Fouinat, GRID-Arendal

Observers

Candidates for Global Meeting

Andorra Government – Jeroni Estopiñán and Silvia Ferrer

Chinese Academy of Science/CIFOR/ Mountain Futures – Jianchu Xu

Eurac Research/Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS)/United Nations University (UNU) – Paola Fontanella Pisa

Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center (KIRDARC) – Gobinda Bahadur Shahi and Geeta Pandey

MountMed Institute – George Lakkotrypis and Stavros Kazamis

Research Center in Technologies for Society, School of Engineering, Universidad del Desarrollo – Patricia Breuer

Saudi Geographical Society – Ali Aldosari

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Arianna Bartolozzi

Ciara Burke

Stefania Corrado

Francesca Ferroni

Giorgio Grussu

Ritikaa Gupta

Sara Manuelli

Federico Mattei

Fabio Parisi

Rosalaura Romeo

Laura Russo

Antonella Sorrentino

Charlotte Wayaffe