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Five Years of Action  
for the Development of  
Mountain Regions



**Global Action Plan on Mountain Region Development**  
**Supporting the implementation of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions**  
**2023–2027**

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## Background

Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2022 (A/RES/77/172),<sup>1</sup> the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027 (Five Years of Action) is an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges faced by mountain ecosystems and peoples – including food insecurity, climate change, land degradation and socioeconomic inequalities – as well as the consequences of climate change impacts on mountains for the entire planet. The Five Years of Action is intended to encourage Member States of the United Nations (UN) to:

- adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches, which include incorporating mountain-specific policies into national sustainable development strategies;
- mainstream a gender perspective in mountain development activities; and
- promote greater efforts by Member States towards enhancing the well-being of their local populations, taking into account the increased economic, social and environmental costs that inaction might represent for countries and societies.

The Five Years of Action is also an opportunity for the UN system and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. academia, the private sector and investors) to improve international cooperation, which includes furthering financial mechanisms between mountain countries and attracting investments.

The UNGA resolution 77/172 invites Member States and relevant UN agencies, within their mandates, to further enhance support to sustainable mountain development, including through participation in the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027 (see paragraph 36).

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the lead UN agency on sustainable mountain development. As such, it continues to advocate for a resilient and sustainable future in mountains. FAO also hosts the Secretariat of the Mountain Partnership,<sup>2</sup> the UN alliance dedicated to mountain people and environments. In 2023, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat facilitated the process<sup>3</sup> for developing the Global Framework for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027 (Global Framework) (Annex 2),<sup>4</sup> a voluntary framework to support the quinquennium's implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution [A/RES/77/172](#)

<sup>2</sup> [The Mountain Partnership](#)

<sup>3</sup> In April 2023, a task force for the implementation of the 2023–2027 as Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions was formed. Currently, the following organizations are members of it: Alpine Convention, Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Forest Generation, Government of Kyrgyzstan, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations in Kyrgyz Republic, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations University (UNU), World Bank (WB), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and UN Tourism (formerly known as the World Tourism Organization, UNWTO).

<sup>4</sup> [Global framework for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027](#)

The Global Framework focuses on global and regional initiatives. Governments are encouraged to use it for intensifying action in domains that are priority for them, with the aim of promoting sustainable mountain development at national and local level, in accordance with their respective national frameworks.

At its 74th session, the FAO Council took note of the Global Framework and called for the development of a Global Action Plan on Mountain Regions' Development for the Five Years of Action 2023-2027 (Global Action Plan).<sup>5</sup> Member countries also recommended that FAO – in its capacity as the lead UN agency on mountains – support governments, subject to available extra-budgetary resources, with tools, methodologies and capacity-building activities to strengthen their capacity to scale-up sustainable mountain development initiatives with specific reference to the Five Years of Action.

## Purpose

The Global Action Plan is intended to guide the programming of activities through 2027 to support countries in accelerating actions towards sustainable mountain development in the implementation of the Five Years of Action. The Global Action Plan allows for flexibility to reflect progress, new challenges and available resources, and to respond to Members' priorities and requests.

Participation in the Global Action Plan at the national level is voluntary.

The Global Action Plan will also serve for the preparation, led by FAO, of the UN Secretary-General report to the General Assembly at its 80th session on the implementation of the resolution, including on the Five Years of Action as requested in resolution A/RES/77/172 (see paragraph 39).

## Alignment and synergies

This Global Action Plan adopts the vision, impacts, pathways and areas for action of the Global Framework.

The Global Action Plan contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) principle "leave no one behind". Mountain communities are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, and mountain environments are particularly susceptible to climate change.

The Global Action Plan aims to contribute to progress on international instruments, and processes such as the UNFCCC, the UN CBD, the UNCCD, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The Global Action Plan aligns with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031<sup>6</sup> and is intended to guide FAO's action towards achieving its four betters in mountain areas, with a focus on better environment and better life. The Global Action Plan seeks synergies and interlinkages with other FAO strategic documents, such as the FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020–2030,<sup>7</sup> FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming

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<sup>5</sup> Report of the Council of FAO [CL 174/REP](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Strategic Framework 2022-2031](#)

<sup>7</sup> [FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020–2030](#)

Biodiversity across Agricultural Sector,<sup>8</sup> FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031,<sup>9</sup> and FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021–2025.<sup>10</sup>

## Structure of the Global Action Plan

Taking an action-oriented approach, the Global Action Plan identifies a matrix of key outputs and activities for achieving the vision and goals of the Global Framework based on five action areas. The key activities are intended to guide national implementation of the Five Years of Action and will be amended as needed to reflect progress, new challenges and available resources. Participation at national level in the activities indicated is voluntary.

These activities will be implemented in close collaboration and coordination with partner organizations at global, regional and country level.

The Global Action Plan takes into account the ongoing work that FAO is conducting with its partners that contributes to the Global Framework. Initiatives are organized around the four pathways of the Global Framework and are related to the five action areas (Annex 1).

## Matrix of action areas, outputs and activities

Action area 1: leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development	
Outputs	Activities
<p>Output 1.1</p> <p>Mountain issues are mainstreamed and prioritized in international processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote mountain ecosystem restoration as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030;</li> <li>• advocate for the inclusion of a mountain perspective in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF);</li> <li>• support the implementation of the Programme of Work on mountain biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);</li> <li>• advocate and support provision for Global Mountain Assessment report to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) through the CBD;</li> <li>• prioritize mountain issues in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including in the Global Stocktake, in National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions;</li> <li>• support the Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change at SBSTA 60, ensuring its inclusion in the COP 29 resolution and advocate institutionalization of this dialogue as an annual event in subsequent UNFCCC COPs;</li> <li>• consider the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Displacement of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage of the UNFCCC in mountain areas;</li> <li>• support Members to highlight mountains in voluntary national reviews (VNR) by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF);</li> <li>• mainstream the agrifood systems approach in mountains and the outcomes of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit;</li> <li>• continue reporting on target 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> [FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sector](#)

<sup>9</sup> [FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031](#)

<sup>10</sup> [FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021–2025](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote cooperation among regional organizations and UN agencies to mainstream mountain issues in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) Objective 2 and Objective 5.</li> </ul>
<p>Output 1.2</p> <p>Partnerships, regional and transboundary collaboration, and stability and security in mountain areas are enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase and continue to promote dialogue, collaboration and trust among mountain communities and countries through the Mountain Partnership and other relevant mechanisms and networks<sup>11</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Action area 2: strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions in support of sustainable mountain development</b></p>	
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<p>Output 2.1</p> <p>National policies, programmes and practices are developed and implemented that take into account the specificities of mountain regions, reduce gender inequalities, safeguard youth and women’s employment opportunities, and promote multistakeholder engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in mountains;</li> <li>• support the recognition of traditional and Indigenous Peoples’ practices and knowledge systems in national policies, plans and programmes;</li> <li>• support sustainable tourism in mountains through innovation and digitalization of services, while ensuring regular monitoring and assessment of the impact of tourism on mountains;</li> <li>• continue to support the expansion of social protection for Indigenous Peoples and for local communities in mountain areas;</li> <li>• support increased participation in the labour market for women living in mountain areas;</li> <li>• improve health governance in mountains; and</li> <li>• support nomination and extension of new protected areas, notably transboundary sites.<sup>12</sup></li> </ul>
<p>Output 2.2</p> <p>The capacity of national institutions and local staff to promote resilient integrated approaches for biodiversity conservation, land use, pastoralism, forestry and water management is enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conduct training of local staff to improve monitoring of land degradation in mountain areas;</li> <li>• enhance early warning systems for disaster risk reduction and risk communication; and</li> <li>• enhance government capacities, with a specific emphasis on increasing their ability to report within the new UNFCCC Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).</li> </ul>

<sup>11</sup> Including through the Group of Friends of the Mountains, the Convention on the Protection of the Alps, the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, the Andean Initiative for mountains, the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region and the Caucasus Mountain Forum, the African Mountains Regional Forum, the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region and the Zurich process, the Hindu Kush Himalayan Partnership for Sustainable Mountain Development, the Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the International Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Forum, the fourth World Nomad Games, and the Pyrenean Climate Change Observatory.

<sup>12</sup> in line with the CBD COP15 target to designate 30% of landmass under legal protected status by 2030

<p>Output 2.3</p> <p>Mountain communities are empowered, especially Indigenous Peoples and other groups brought into situations of vulnerability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve mountain products' value chains to protect traditional and Indigenous Peoples' food systems;</li> <li>• strengthen producers' marketing and entrepreneurial capacities through grants and business incubators and accelerators;</li> <li>• enhance education and training for youth; and</li> <li>• facilitate school networks in mountain communities.</li> </ul>
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**Action area 3: promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection**

Outputs	Activities
<p>Output 3.1</p> <p>Collaboration and scientific partnerships on mountain-related research are enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue to support partnership with academia, private sector and other innovators, including through networks of the Mountain Partnership such as the Science-Knowledge Advisory Committee (SKAC) to facilitate collaboration between communities of experts and policy makers;</li> <li>• incorporate traditional knowledge in research and innovation; and</li> <li>• promote common research protocols to look for system approaches at larger landscapes.</li> </ul>
<p>Output 3.2</p> <p>Evidence on mountain-specific issues is increased for policy advice and decision making at the local, national and regional levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support scientific and participatory processes to generate relevant local level data on climate and disaster risk;</li> <li>• increase the collection and dissemination of disaggregated data on mountain-related issues;</li> <li>• increase evidence on human mobility in the context of climate change with a special focus on mountains; and</li> <li>• assess the migration-environment-climate change nexus in mountains.</li> </ul>

**Action area 4: increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions**

Outputs	Activities
<p>Output 4.1</p> <p>Visibility and political support for mountains are heightened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support popularization of mountain science and partnerships with science communicators;</li> <li>• organize mountain-related conferences and events, capitalizing on major global processes such as the UN Rio Conventions, the Five Years of Action, International Mountain Day, the High-Level Political Forum, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and other relevant UN Decades and events;</li> <li>• prepare negotiated texts and declarations and contribute to the preparation of the United Nations Secretary-General's triennial report to the General Assembly on mountains, through the Mountain Partnership;</li> <li>• support the Mountain Youth Hub in its advocacy activities;</li> <li>• promote communication campaigns with the publications of op-eds, media briefs, audio-visual materials, social media, documentaries, technical publications, key messages and general interest communication products; and</li> <li>• inspire goodwill toward improving the quality of life and sustaining healthy environments in the world's mountain regions through the Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassadors.</li> </ul>
<p>Output 4.2</p> <p>Mountain-specific good practices and innovation are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue to facilitate the exchange of good practices, policies, innovations and lessons learned among stakeholders through technical publications;</li> <li>• support popularization of mountain science and partnerships with science communicators; and</li> <li>• participate in seminars and conferences, UN side events, mountain fairs and exchange visits.</li> </ul>

exchanged and popularized	
<b>Action area 5: increase sustainable public and private investment</b>	
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Output 5.1 Climate and other finance are increased for climate adaptation and mitigation and for biodiversity conservation in mountain areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote GEF and GCF projects in mountains;</li> <li>• promote the use of GEF Small Grants Programme funds to support local development in mountain areas;</li> <li>• encourage the inclusion of private sector investment in adaptation finance;</li> <li>• promote innovative funding schemes for mountain communities in collaboration with financing institutions;</li> <li>• harness established innovative financing mechanisms, such as the Mountain Facility, to direct funds toward projects promoting sustainable mountain development;</li> <li>• establish donor roundtables for leveraging funds for sustainable mountain development projects; and</li> <li>• encourage investments for biodiversity conservation and socioecological resilience.</li> </ul>
Output 5.2 Availability of basic services and infrastructure in mountains is improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhance inclusive access to digitalization;</li> <li>• increase investment for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions for mountain communities;</li> <li>• increase investment for risk-sensitive and climate-adapted planning and infrastructure development; and</li> <li>• strengthen investment for environmentally sound waste management.</li> </ul>

## Partners for the implementation of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027 and the Global Action Plan

In line with paragraph 36 of UNGA resolution 77/172 and with the Global Framework, the Global Action Plan calls for the participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

The Mountain Partnership is the global platform for coordinating and taking forward efforts for the Global Action Plan at global, regional, national and local levels.

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat hosted by FAO will continue to support interagency cooperation and to facilitate the work of the Task Force for the Five Years of Action.

Several key stakeholders will be focal points to co-lead specific topics, with the critical support of all other relevant organizations, to advance implementation in key domains of the Five Years of Action.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Main UN partners</b>
<b>Increase sustainable public and private investment</b>	World Bank, UNDP
Further financial mechanisms between mountain countries to attract investments	World Bank, UNDP



Promote investment in infrastructure in mountain areas	World Bank, UNDP
Promote innovative solutions and entrepreneurship within local mountain communities, as appropriate to end poverty and hunger	World Bank, UNDP,
<b>Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development</b>	UNEP
Consider mountain-related issues in the processes of the UN conventions and other relevant global forums	UNEP
Promote ecosystem-based adaptation	UNEP
<b>Strengthen pro-mountain policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</b>	UNDP, UNEP
Strengthen disaster risk governance and improve disaster risk strategies	UNDRR
Mainstream a gender perspective in mountain development activities	UN Women
Support education, culture and extension, and strengthen the role of youth through education and training on sustainable mountain development	UNESCO
<b>Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection</b>	UNESCO
Collect disaggregated scientific data and strengthen cooperation between scientific institutions	UNESCO, WMO, UNEP
<b>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</b>	All
Continue to increase public awareness including through the commemoration of International Mountain Day (IMD)	All
Report to the General Assembly at its 80th session on the implementation of the resolution, including on the Five Years of Action	UN DESA

## Annex 1

### FAO's initiatives under the Global Action Plan

The initiatives included in the tables below are not exhaustive and are intended to be regularly reviewed and updated as new ones take form.

#### Pathway 1: SCALE-UP NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE CLIMATE RISKS AND PROMOTE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION IN MOUNTAINS

The current pace and scope of adaptation are insufficient to address ecosystem degradation and future climate risks in mountain regions. This pathway aims to stimulate urgent action that will result in the assessment and scaling up of nature-based solutions, as well as adaptation and mitigation measures that offer practical prospects for restoring ecosystems, reducing climate risks, vulnerabilities and drivers to vulnerability, and building on diverse knowledge systems, including local and Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge.

Expected results under this pathway include, *inter alia*, integrated approaches for biodiversity conservation, land use, forestry and water management that consider upstream-downstream linkages; closer transboundary collaboration<sup>13</sup>; the adoption of sustainable silvopastoral methods; mountain ecosystem conservation and restoration; the promotion of sustainable agrifood systems; sustainable tourism; and priority given to mountain related issues in development and revisions of national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) as well as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

Title of initiative	Main action area	Other pathways	Co-leads
<a href="#">Climate resilient transformation of rice-based farming and food systems in Eastern Terai, Nepal (CRAFT Nepal)</a>	Increase sustainable public and private investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a focus priority on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and community-based populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>○ Global environment facility (GEF)</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Climate resilient water resources management and enhanced adaptive capacity in the Drangmechhu river basin</a>	Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO)</li> <li>○ Royal Government of Bhutan - National Designated Authority: Department of Macro-Fiscal and Development Finance (DMDF)</li> <li>○ Royal Government of</li> </ul>

<sup>13</sup> in line with the CBD COP15 target to designate 30% of landmass under legal protected status by 2030

			Bhutan - Ministry of Finance
<a href="#"><u>Mainstreaming forest biodiversity in mountain regions</u></a>	Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and community-based populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>o Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)</li> <li>o The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR/ICRAF)</li> <li>o Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Scale up engagement of partners for enhanced cooperation and advocacy for African mountain ecosystem restoration</u></a>	Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and community-based populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)</li> <li>o Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> <li>o United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Setting land degradation of neutrality targets and restoring degraded landscapes in the Western Andes</u></a>	Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and community-based populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)</li> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>Targeted support for mountain ecosystem restoration within context of overall UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and flagship initiative</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and community-based populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> <li>○ Carpathian Convention</li> <li>○ Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> <li>○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and a new era of action for mountain biodiversity</u></a></p>	<p>Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> <li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and community-based populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> <li>○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>○ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</li> <li>○ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> <li>○ Carpathian Convention</li> <li>○ Alpine Convention</li> <li>○ International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)</li> <li>○ Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)</li> <li>○ Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Sustainable management of natural resources in mountain areas</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>○ University of Kabul</li> <li>○ Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment (Albania)</li> <li>○ Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (Kyrgyzstan)</li> <li>○ Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development (Montenegro)</li> <li>○ Ministry of Climate Change (Pakistan)</li> </ul>

## Pathway 2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

Limited arable land, low agricultural productivity, land degradation, climate change, isolation, distance from markets and insufficient access to services contribute to food insecurity, poverty and inequality in mountains. These drivers limit livelihood opportunities as well as the capacity of mountain people to cope with food shortages, shocks and stresses (e.g. droughts, floods, earthquakes and conflicts) and are at the root of their vulnerability. The uncontrolled development of climatically and seismically unfit infrastructure, together with construction resulting from a lack of land-use planning, intensify risks for people in mountain areas.

The aim of this pathway is to inspire interventions that will result in the strengthening of agrifood systems, economic development, and service availability for mountain communities such as: training for producers, business incubation and acceleration models, and inclusive digital access; the incorporation of risk-sensitive and climate-adapted planning in infrastructure development; the improvement of early warning systems for disaster risk reduction and risk communication; the strengthening of infrastructure for environmentally-sound waste management; and support for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions.

### INITIATIVES

Title of initiative	Main action area	Other pathways	Co-leads
<a href="#"><u>Productive and sustainable food systems in Bhutan for environmental benefits and gross national happiness</u></a>	Increase sustainable public and private investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>o Global environment facility (GEF)</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Promoting transformative and climate resilient agriculture for sustainable livelihoods and food security in Nepal (CRAN)</u></a>	Increase sustainable public and private investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>o Green Climate Fund (GCF)</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Support at least 30 000 producers in mountain areas through small grants and technical support</u></a>	Increase sustainable public and private investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> <li>o Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</li> </ul>
<b>Support to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in the Latin America and the Caribbean region</b>	Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLAC)</li> </ul>

		<p>multi-level governance in mountain regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and community-based populations</li></ul>	
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### Pathway 3: ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, SECURITY AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS

Instability and security risks in mountain regions are linked to socioeconomic factors such as population dynamics (including human mobility) and unequal economic development. In these contexts, climate change acts as a risk multiplier, and while it does not directly cause conflict, it interacts with other pressures to influence the security of landscapes and will impact many mountain regions’ environments, economies and societies in complex ways, also increasing stress on political systems.

This pathway focuses on generating evidence on human mobility in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss in mountain areas. The evidence will help to better understand this nexus in the mountain areas and on increasing dialogue, collaboration and trust among mountain communities and countries that share common mountain ranges.

Title of initiative	Main action area	Other Pathways	Co-leads
<a href="#"><u>Strengthening co-operation to address climate-related security risks in the Shar/Sara Mountains and Korab Massif Area</u></a>	Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and community-based populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</li> <li>o Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> </ul>

## Pathway 4: EMPOWER MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES, WITH A PRIORITY FOCUS ON WOMEN, YOUTH, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND COMMUNITY-BASED POPULATIONS

People in mountain areas are among the world’s poorest and most marginalized, particularly Indigenous Peoples and other groups of society brought into situations of vulnerability. Rural mountain communities share challenges faced by many rural regions, including loss of population and skills. Labour migration is a traditional livelihood practice in mountain areas. There is evidence that migration contributes to well-being and creates opportunities for mountain households when enabling conditions are present. This also includes adapting to environmental and climatic hazards. For example, remittances provide additional income during lean periods and in the aftermath of disasters, helping families afford adaptation measures.

Migration could also create risks for migrants and their families. Due to male outmigration, women are often left alone to take care of families, farms and businesses. Discriminatory social norms and practices, including limited access for women to productive resources, assets, services and economic and decision-making opportunities, perpetuate gender inequalities and deny girls and women full rights and opportunities.

Activities under this pathway should lead to protecting traditional and Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems, strengthening producers’ marketing and entrepreneurial capacities; strengthening mountain products’ value chains; securing land and tenure rights; increasing the participation of mountain women in the labour market; enabling a shift from subsistence farming to more market-oriented agriculture; expanding social protection for Indigenous Peoples in mountain areas, as well as community-based populations; safeguarding and enhancing youth and women’s employment opportunities; and improving health governance in mountains.

Title of initiative	Main action area	Other pathways	Co-leads
<a href="#">Accelerating progress toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (RWEE) phase II</a>	Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>o International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</li> <li>o UN Women</li> <li>o World Food Programme (WFP)</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Building a resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN)</a>	Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>o Nepal Government - Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE)</li> </ul>



<p><a href="#"><u>Fashion for fragile ecosystems</u></a></p>	<p>Increase sustainable public and private investment</p>	<p>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</p>	<p>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) o Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Holding a "Symposium of the science, culture, and education"</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>		<p>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) o Mountain Partnership (MP) o The United Nations Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries o United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Holding an "Exhibition of technologies for the infrastructure of mountain regions".</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>		<p>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) o Mountain Partnership (MP) o The United Nations Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration initiative to support people's livelihoods and mountain ecosystem regeneration.</u></a></p>	<p>Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development</p>	<p>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</p>	<p>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Promotion of rangeland development policy in Himalayan Regions of India, Nepal and Bhutan by capacity building of village institutions / communities</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<p>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</p>	<p>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) o The Regional International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026 - IYRP Support Group (RISG)</p>

<p><a href="#"><u>Promoting sustainable mountain development in the global agenda</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Second Global Bishkek Mountain Summit “Bishkek+25”</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o United Nations in Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>o Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Global Land Observatory</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>o International Land Coalition (ILC)</li> <li>o Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD)</li> <li>o World Food Programme (WFP)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Un Decade of Family Farming 2019 – 2028 (UNFFF)</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities’ access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>o International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Harvesting Hunger: How Climate Shocks Worsen Child Malnutrition in Rural Nepal</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#"><u>Promoting Indigenous Peoples' collective rights over lands, territories and natural resources in mountainous areas</u></a></p>	<p>Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>o Indigenous Peoples' Organizations</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Indigenous Youth global campaign, "My Food Vision Is..." and UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum</u></a></p>	<p>Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains</li> <li>o Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructures</li> <li>o Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>o Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC)</li> <li>o Mountain Partnership (MP)</li> </ul>

## Annex 2

### Vision, impacts, pathways and areas for action of the Global framework for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027

#### Vision

The Global Framework envisions a world with empowered mountain communities living sustainably and peacefully, whose social, cultural and economic well-being are thriving, and with mountain ecosystems that are resilient and safeguarded against the impacts of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss for the benefit of the entire planet.

This vision implies ending marginalization, poverty, gender discrimination and inequality; halting ecosystem degradation and the unsustainable use of natural resources; extending legal protection of natural areas; and boosting cooperation and joint initiatives among mountain communities and countries globally, to promote the sustainable development of mountain areas for the benefit of people, planet, peace and prosperity.

#### Impacts

1. Mountain ecosystems are conserved and restored for production and protection purposes, and biodiversity is sustainably protected and used for the continued provision of global ecosystem services.
2. Mountain peoples' resilience to climate change and disasters is increased.
3. Quality of life in mountain areas is improved.

Achieving these impacts requires a broad set of interrelated outcomes or preconditions. These range from changes in the way natural resources are used, to changes in gender and generational dynamics in mountain societies, the availability of opportunities for mountain people, and the global recognition of the importance of mountains for the planet. Achieving these impacts requires actions by all stakeholders and rights and knowledge holders in the areas of policy, governance, institutions, research, innovation, advocacy, public participation, awareness-raising and sustainable investment. The continued political will of governments and the continued support of a global multistakeholder movement, particularly by the [members](#) of the Mountain Partnership, are the main assumptions for the implementation of the framework.

The Global Framework proposes four interlinked global pathways to encourage all stakeholders to contribute to the Five Years of Action with initiatives that will lead to the desired impacts above.

#### Pathways

1. Scale up nature-based solutions<sup>14</sup> to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains.

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<sup>14</sup> The UNEA resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022 formally adopted the definition of nature-based solutions as 'actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.'

2. Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructure.
3. Enhance international cooperation, security and multilevel governance in mountain regions.
4. Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and community-based populations.

Five areas for action towards the achievement of the long-term impacts are identified for increased collective efforts during the Five Years of Action.

#### **Areas for action**

1. Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development;
2. Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions;
3. Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection;
4. Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions; and
5. Increase sustainable public and private investment.