



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Our journey in 2015

Mountain Partnership Secretariat  
Annual Report



Mountain Partnership

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# **Our journey in 2015**

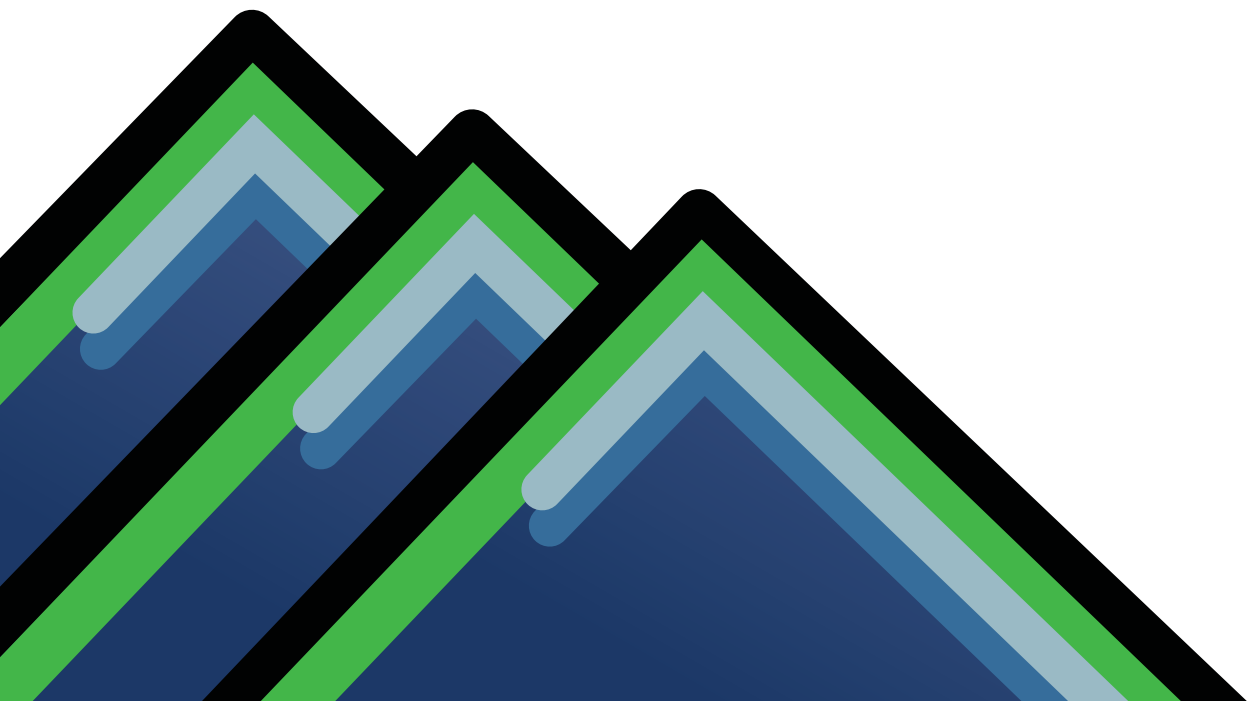
Mountain Partnership Secretariat  
Annual Report

## 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 2015, the Partnership had 266 members: 56 governments, 14 inter-governmental organizations, 191 major groups (e.g. civil society, NGOs and the private sector) and 5 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.



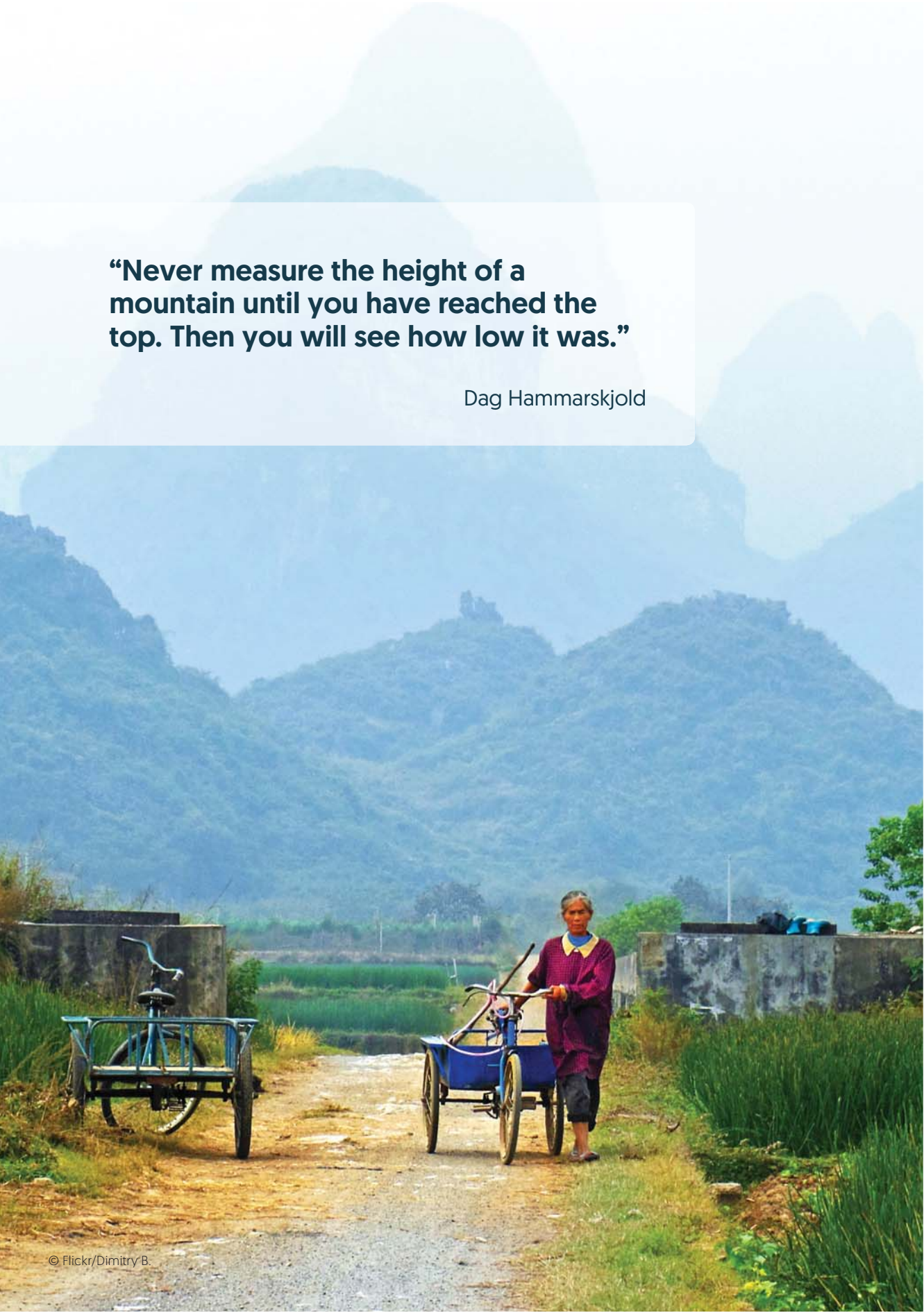
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**“Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was.”**

Dag Hammarskjöld



## A message from the MPS Coordinator



*Our journey in 2015 was a pivotal one. The Millennium Development Goals came to an end and a new era in development was dawning. Our efforts over the past few years to see mountains included in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda paid off. We are pleased to note that our joint advocacy efforts contributed to the decision of the United Nations in September 2015 to include three mountain-related targets under 2 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.*

*With the support of 6 283 people from 127 countries who signed our petition, we made strides in bringing attention to the impact that climate change has on mountains at international fora, such as the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).*

*The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) had the honour of celebrating International Mountain Day with several partners at three venues (New Delhi, Paris and Rome). On that momentous 11 December, we launched a publication, "Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity", that shows that hunger has risen in the mountain regions of developing countries since 2000. The release of this study is one of our many achievements last year in the areas of advocacy, capacity development, communication and knowledge management, innovation, joint action and resource mobilization. This report is a chance to reflect on some important milestones.*

*As we shift our focus from defining the '2030 Agenda' to implementing the new global plan for sustainable development, the Mountain Partnership (MP) will continue to strive to speak with one voice, join forces to raise political attention and promote investments for mountain areas and for the particular challenges mountain ecosystems face. In view of the universally important resources mountain ecosystems provide, such as fresh water, biodiversity and food, sustainable mountain development is a corporate responsibility of humanity and a contribution to peace-making in the world. Mountains still deserve more attention than they have received at international and national level. Harmony and dedication have been key characteristics of our year-long adventure, so I welcome all MP members to continue in this direction. As we traverse the route that 2016 sets forth, I am optimistic that together we will begin to see the crest.*

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

## Elevating peaks

The Mountain Partnership, coordinated by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat [MPS], has been instrumental in advocating for mountain ecosystems and peoples since its establishment in 2002. Mountains have been included in international agreements and mountain-specific policies and laws are now integrated into the national development plans of many countries. Regional mechanisms have been created to respond to the trans-boundary needs and priorities of mountain areas.

In accordance with the **Mountain Partnership Advocacy Strategy** [2014-2017] and calendar of events approved by the MP Steering Committee, the MPS carried out advocacy campaigns at global, regional and national level in 2015. Promoting the 'Mountain Agenda' at a number of UN conferences, the Secretariat regularly provided input on mountain issues and wrote mountain-related briefing points for high-level meetings with diplomats and government officials.



© TMI/Jesse Bruschini

Its nearly two-year campaign to promote the inclusion of mountains in the Post-2015 development agenda culminated in September 2015, when the UN General Assembly adopted three mountain-related targets under two of the Sustainable Development Goals. The MPS:

- led efforts to keep the three mountain-related targets [6.6, 15.1 and 15.4] during the negotiations of the UN Sustainable Development Goals [January-September]; and
- developed, in close collaboration with FAO Statistics Division, an indicator, called the "Green Cover Index", to monitor progress of the three mountain-related SDG targets [January-March].

In the last few months of the year, the MPS shifted its focus to climate change to bring the attention of the 21st Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC] to mountains by:

- launching and gathering support for an online Petition and



Declaration, calling for action on climate change in mountain areas ahead of UNFCCC COP 21 [Global, September-December];

- taking part in the March for the Earth, promoted by Earth Day Italia, with a large group carrying the Mountain Partnership banner and disseminating information [Italy, November]; and
- organizing, in collaboration with members, two side events and a photo exhibition during UNFCCC COP21 [France, December].



© FAO/Giorgio Grusso

In addition to these and promoting International Mountain Day [\[see page 8\]](#), advocacy activities organized by the MPS in 2015 included:

- ensuring the presentation of sustainable mountain development [SMD] success stories and issues at EXPO Milan by contributing to the organization of Mountain Week together with the Italian Ministry of Environment and several MP members [Italy, June];
- participating in “The Value Chain of Andean Grains”, a meeting at EXPO Milan organized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs [Italy, September];
- naming His Holiness the Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang ‘Mountain Ambassador’ [USA, May] and liaising with him as well as previously named Mountain Ambassadors, Jake Norton and Reinhold Messner, throughout the year to support their efforts to promote SMD [January-December];
- participating in international events, such as the 7th World Water Forum [Republic of Korea, April]; the Dushanbe Forum of Mountain Countries [Tajikistan, June], the 4th International Women of the Mountains Conference [USA, October] and UNCCD COP 12 [Turkey, October]; and
- providing support to Peru to form a Technical Group on Mountains whose aim is to improve and strengthen mountain ecosystem management, also in light of national and international mountain-related commitments [Peru, May].

### Three mountain-related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals:

#### Target 6.6

By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

#### Target 15.1

By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

#### Target 15.4

By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

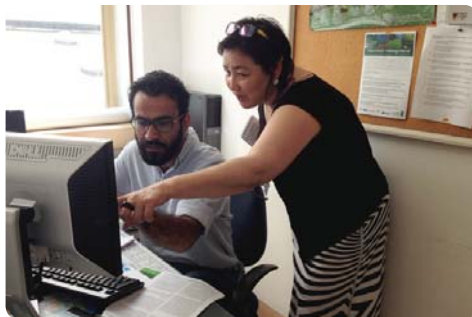
## Communicating the progress



© FAO/Samantha Abear

As the Mountain Partnership Governance and Strategy [2014-2017] prescribes, the Partnership is “an active and critically important platform for advancing the global agenda on sustainable mountain development”. As such, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat [MPS] carries out knowledge management and communication activities to widely disseminate information about sustainable mountain development [SMD].

In accordance with the **Communication Strategy of the Mountain Partnership** [2014-2017], the MPS Knowledge Management efforts in 2015 consisted of contributing to and producing publications on SMD, sharing those produced by MP members as well as widely disseminating the MP’s experiences at seminars, conferences and special events. Partnering with various members, the MPS drafted publications, brochures and reports to increase awareness, deepen understanding and inspire concrete policy action on SMD. It also produced the International Mountain Day fact sheets and posters in the six UN languages. [\[See page 23 for a list of knowledge materials produced\]](#).



© FAO/Mia Rowan



© FAO/Mia Rowan

During the course of the year, the MPS carried out communication activities – from speaking points and presentations to resource mobilization tools and video messages. The MPS supported Mountain Partnership [MP] members with the information they needed to communicate and advocate for mountains at global, regional and local level. The MPS regularly encouraged and received contributions for its communication channels from members in all six geographical regions on an array of themes.

The Secretariat's achievements in communications in 2015 are demonstrated by the following figures:

- increasing by 21 percent the number of visitors to its website, which was updated almost daily with news and events;
- expanding its Facebook followers by 56 percent;
- adding 3 700 pictures of mountains to its Flickr account;







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- maintaining a 28-percent rate of readers who open the monthly newsletter, which is several points above industry standard;
- growing the number of newsletter subscribers to more than 2 000; and
- disseminating numerous targeted messages to its three electronic mailing lists.

Compared to 2014, the only social media channel with a downturn was YouTube, owing to the reduced resources available to produce videos. Nonetheless, the MPS produced a video about the Partnership, which was shown at various MP events. It also recorded two video messages for conferences, when MPS attendance was not possible.

The communication team continued its integrated social media/web communication approach that was introduced in late 2013. The MPS also generated external press coverage and twelve media interviews on SMD issues were granted by Thomas Hofer, MPS Coordinator; Rosalaura Romeo, MPS Programme Officer; Sara Manuelli, MPS Programme and Communication Officer and Mia Rowan, MPS Communication and Advocacy Officer.



## Flying the flag

For International Mountain Day (IMD), 67 events in 40 countries were organized in which mountaineers, mountain lovers, governments and institutions gathered on 11 December 2015 to celebrate mountain environments and inhabitants.

This year's theme, "Promoting mountain products for better livelihoods," was the focus of many Mountain Partnership members' seminars and conferences. Globalization offers opportunities for mountain producers to market their high quality mountain products, such as coffee, cocoa, honey, herbs, spices and handicrafts as well as tourism-related services such as skiing, climbing, cultural heritage tours or nature walks at the national, regional and international levels. IMD 2015 was an occasion to highlight how mountain communities are protecting biodiversity by producing a large variety of local products.



## MPS highlights mountains at international level

In Paris, France, alongside the UN climate change conference, the MPS worked with a number of mountain institutions and organizations (such as the governments of **Italy, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, Switzerland** and **Tajikistan** as well as **Colorado State University, IUCN, FAO, Oikos** and **The Mountain Institute**) to bring delegates' attention to the severe impact climate change is having on mountains dwellers and areas.

In New Delhi, India, the **MPS**, the **FAO** Representation Office in India and the **Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation**

organized a mountain products exhibition, in line with the 2015 theme, for producers to give further visibility to their high quality products and boost livelihoods.

In Rome, Italy, FAO and the MPS launched "**Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity**", a report that shows an increase in hunger in mountains, while opening a photo exhibit during an event coordinated with the Permanent Representations of **Bolivia** to FAO, **Italy** and **Switzerland** and the **Museo Nazionale della Montagna "Duca degli Abruzzi"** and the **Ministry of Environment of Italy**.



© Flickr/Trym Asserson

As the lead coordinating UN agency of this annual celebration, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** decentralized offices and headquarters partnered with governments and civil society organizations to hold awareness-raising events showing the importance of mountains to sustainable development. IMD also brought about governmental action and heightened cooperation at national and regional level.

Taking the form of conferences, seminars, exhibitions, hikes, climbs, workshops, dinners and readings, festivities were held in Algeria, Altai Republic of Russia, Andorra, Austria, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Mali, Mali, Morocco, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Togo, Turkey, United States, Ukraine and Venezuela.

IMD was also featured virtually – a big hit on the web and social media. **The IMD website** reached new heights, especially during the month of December when it registered over 9 000 users, culminating on 11 December with 4 500 users, the highest peak of the year. Facebook has grown as a platform for the visibility of IMD, in fact, during the period of December 2015,

the Mountain Partnership Facebook page received an average of 18 likes and 6 shares per post, reaching 815 readers each time, and on 11 December it reached almost 4 000 people with one post. Tweets using the hashtag #InternationalMountain-Day reached almost 500 000 people while #WeLoveMountains reached 189 000 and #MountainsMatter reached 34 000.

The news media in Ecuador, India, Italy, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Spain and Tajikistan, among others, covered IMD – making this year's celebration a great success.





## Trekking together

The Mountain Partnership [MP] serves as a platform for governments and organizations to work together on projects that have impact on the ground. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat [MPS] facilitates collaborative action among members and others on sustainable mountain development.

In 2015, the MPS engaged with members to undertake joint initiatives and events, such as:

- Facilitating the inception workshop of a GEF project, Kyrgyzstan: Sustainable management of mountainous forest and land resources under climate change conditions, involving the **Kyrgyz State Agency for Environmental**



**Protection and Forestry**, the Ministry of Agriculture and others. [Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic; 29-30 January]

- Presenting the MP sustainable mountain development efforts at the 'Charter on emblematic Mediterranean mountains' workshop. [Sofia, Bulgaria; 21-23 April]
- Undertaking a Mountain Products Initiative to create a voluntary certification scheme for mountain products. Funded by the Italian Development Cooperation, the initiative has involved more than 20 organizations in holding two workshops and a fair and conducting surveys. [Rome, Italy; 20-21 May and New Delhi, India; 18 December]
- Convening a meeting with 15 MP members at the Dushanbe Forum of Mountain Countries 2015: Water and Mountains to discuss mountain issues in Central Asia. [Dushanbe, Tajikistan; 10 June]
- Meeting with Nepal-based MP members to better coordinate rehabilitation efforts in the mountains during the aftermath of the 25 April earthquake. **3 Sisters Adventure**, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development [ICIMOD], **Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement Nepal**, **Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre** [KIRDARC], **Pragya**

## Andean Initiative—A regional mechanism for mountain development

To achieve effective sustainable development in the Andes and the wellbeing of their populations, six South American governments have furthered their efforts to realize a co-ordination mechanism for action in the Andean region within the Mountain Partnership. In 2015, they held two important meetings:

1. A video conference of the governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela was convened on 30 June. The discussion focused on how to continue the process building on the consensus reached at the Second Meeting of the Andean Initiative held in the City of San Carlos de Bariloche in September 2014, and also on the Plan of Action adopted at the First Meeting of the Andean Initiative in 2007. The option of setting up a Regional Technical Secretariat for the Andean Initiative was discussed as were pos-



**Seeds Nepal, Practical Action** and The Mountain Institute. [Kathmandu, Nepal; 12 June]

- Holding a meeting of MP members at the Women of the Mountains Conference to step up coordination among US-based major groups. **The Mountain Institute, City of Orem, Gruppman International Violin Institute, Tatra Mountain Cultural Foundation, Utah Valley University** and **Vista 360**. [Orem, Utah, USA; 4 October]
- Exploring a network for Mediterranean mountains to address climate change, landscape and biodiversity issues, in particular. **Italian Ministry of the Environment**, Italian Delegation to the **Alpine Convention**, **UNEP** Vienna-Secretariat of the **Carpathian Convention**. [Ventimiglia, Italy; 12-13 November]
- Providing support for the founding of the Mountain Museum Alliance [Chamonix, France; 11 July; and Rome, Italy; 11 December] led by the Museo Nazionale della Montagna "Duca degli Abruzzi".

Members also met with each other, without MPS facilitation, in various parts of the world throughout 2015 to work on projects, share experiences and launch initiatives. Please also see the regional section with brief summaries by Steering Committee members.

sible funding sources. How to advance the mountain international agenda while contributing to the global development agenda was another key topic.

2. On 16-18 September the Third Meeting of the Andean Initiative was held in Lima. The Ministry of Environment of Peru, together with the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CONDESAN, hosted the meeting whose main objective was the institutional strengthening of the Initiative. Delegates reviewed national progress on sustainable mountain development and noted that some countries still do not have clear focal points for mountain issues and have to set up Committees Mountain. This meeting also looked at various projects, involving some or all of the countries in the region, to strengthen the sustainable development of these regions and provide for the welfare of the people living there. Detailed minutes of the meeting were kept.

*Report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina*

## Training for the climb

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

In 2015, the MPS produced and shared sustainable mountain development (SMD) educational tools and materials. In addition to holding its annual training course, called IPROMO, the MPS contributed to learning platforms and educational campaigns and provided support to members, who have capacity development programmes.

### IPROMO

Ormea and Edolo, Italy; 23 June-3 July



The annual International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas, better known as IPROMO, is offered by the MPS, the University of Turin, the University of Milan, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Town of Ormea to national government officials, tech-

nicians and experts working in mountain regions. Every year the two-week course, held since 2008, has a different thematic focus but is always aimed at improving participants' understanding of the challenges that mountain peoples and environments encounter.

In 2015, 24 professionals from 22 countries on three continents took part in the course, which zeroed in on food security, looking at the prevailing mountain economic systems, the impact of global changes, the role of soils and water, gender, governance and land tenure issues. The closing ceremony took place at EXPO Milan.

“

IPROMO was intense – I had the opportunity to share and learn from mountain experiences from about 20 countries! The effervescence of ideas, discussions and proposals motivated us to develop proposals with the other participants and keep working on mountains and for mountain peoples.

”

*Eric Chavez Betancourt,  
Asociación Oikos (Peru)*

## IPROMO Alumni network

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



© Alma Karsymbek

## Mountain Ecosystems: Towards a Multidisciplinary and Sustainable Land Management

San José, Costa Rica; 17-28 August

The MPS provided support to Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza [CATIE], Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Cordillera Volcánica Central [Fundecor] and ProalSUR, to develop the curricula for an 11-day sustainable mountain development course for professionals in the public sector and non-governmental organizations working on sustainable mountain development in Latin America. Among the topics discussed were: an introduction to a multi-sectoral approach in the management of mountain ecosystems; integration and land management; effective, democratic and inclusive governance; climate variability and mitigation, adaptation and sustainability in mountain ecosystems.

## Papua New Guinea's National Forest Inventory: Biodiversity Survey Training

Madang Region, Papua New Guinea; 20-30 July

As part of an FAO project, a biodiversity survey training workshop, linked to the MPS, was organized. Coordinated by the Binatang Research Centre, this ten-day training session was attended by 24 trainees, who will join the Forest Authority team in collecting data for the National Forest Inventory, which will be a key component of the monitoring system used for climate change purposes. The training activities included elements of theory, practical exercises and the application of the survey methodologies. The First National Forest Inventory and Biodiversity Survey serves as a key instrument in developing sound government policies to sustainably manage the nation's biodiverse forest heritage, on which most of its population depends.

## Beyond the peaks

The Mountain Partnership (MP) fosters the generation and sharing of new ideas while valuing traditional knowledge and practices that improve the livelihoods of mountain communities while also ensuring environmental sustainability. It encourages informed and inspiring dialogue that leads to better defined priorities and innovative solutions.

In line with the decision made by the Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in 2013, innovation was a principle of the activities led by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) in 2015. The MPS facilitated and shared innovative and traditional techniques to promote exchanges within and across mountain regions. By disseminating knowledge and encouraging members to engage with one another directly, the MPS helped create and link informed and inspiring dialogues.

In 2015, the MPS prepared informative materials using new or creative approaches to reach new audiences as well as to consolidate those already existing by:

- leading MP members in an international climate change campaign to bring the attention of UNFCCC COP 21 to mountains, which included the promotion of a petition that received 6 283 signatures from residents of 127 countries;
- providing support for the Italian-funded project, Mountain Forests and Climate Change and its component on mountain products, which will develop a global voluntary certification scheme for mountain products;





- appealing to new audiences by working with the three MP Ambassadors, Jake Norton, Reinhold Messner, His Holiness Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang, to disseminate sustainable mountain development messages;
- sending video messages for two conferences when travel was not possible;
- expanding its social media reach beyond the traditional media by running three extensive campaigns [SDGs, climate change and IMD];
- providing support to FAO for an IMD Twitter quiz, LED wall exhibit and infographic;
- creating two photo stories – one on ecosystem-based adaptation with UNDP and the other to promote a publication on mountain soils during the International Year of Soils; and
- collaborating with other networks, such as the Global Soil Partnership and Global Island Partnership, to strengthen linkages and build synergies.



## Propelling the expedition

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) engages with resource partners, seeks financial support for sustainable mountain development (SMD) initiatives and facilitates partnerships among members, bilateral aid agencies as well as foundations and the private sector to ensure focused and tangible impacts on SMD issues. In addition to financial resources, the MPS also welcomes in-kind support, goods and services to promote SMD.

In 2015, the MPS implemented the resource mobilization strategy approved by the Steering Committee on mobilizing further resources for the Mountain Partnership and exploring potential new donors, such as the private sector. Funding opportunities, calls for grant proposals and potential new resource partners were shared with MP members on a regular basis. The online funding database, available to members on the Mountain Partnership website was also regularly updated.

Throughout the year, the MPS reinforced efforts in fundraising by organizing several bilateral and multilateral meetings with representatives of donor countries. It facilitated a meeting co-hosted by the Permanent Representatives of **Argentina** and **Italy** to increase support for the MPS in May 2015, attended by diplomats from over 30 countries. During the discussion, delegates representing Brazil, the EU, Iceland, Indonesia, Montenegro, Philippines, Spain, Turkey and Uganda expressed concern for the





mountain areas in their countries, interest in how the MP works and acknowledgement of the need to do more at national level. The MPS also presented its areas of work to the FAO group of Near East countries who expressed a strong interest in the dry-lands and water issues.

Funding for the MPS in 2015 was provided by the Italian Development Cooperation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and FAO. Mid-way through the year, a decision was made for the Swiss contribution to come from the Federal Office of Agriculture of Switzerland, rather than from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, who continues to fund sustainable mountain development at regional level.

At its annual meeting in October, the Steering Committee agreed to work towards making the Mountain Facility concept a reality. The Facility is meant to provide grants to mountain communities to better adapt to climate change, manage natural resources, build resilience, farm sustainably as well as support decision makers at all levels.

# Mountains top meeting agendas

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) organized and participated at events to promote the sustainable mountain development agenda in 2015, including:

**GEF project inception/workshop: Kyrgyzstan: sustainable management of mountainous forest and land resources under climate change conditions**

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic; 27-31 January

**Mountain Partnership Steering Committee annual meeting (postponed from 2014)**

Rome, Italy; 17-18 February

**Side event at the World Water Forum: Mountains – The Water Towers Facing Climate Change**

Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea; 13 April

**Workshop: Charter on Emblematic Mediterranean Mountains**

Sofia, Bulgaria; 21-23 April

**Resource partners meeting: Building Support for the MPS**

Rome, Italy; 19 May

**Workshop: Towards the Creation of a Global Mountain Label**

Rome, Italy; 20-21 May

**Mountain Week at EXPO Milan**

Milan, Italy; 4-11 June

**Forum of Mountain Countries 2015: Water and Mountains**

Dushanbe, Tajikistan; 8 June

**UN High Level Conference on the Implementation of the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life', 2005-2015**

Dushanbe, Tajikistan; 9-11 June

**Nepal-based MP members post-earthquake meeting**

Kathmandu, Nepal; 12 June

**Publication launch: Understanding mountain soils**

Rome, Italy; 22 June

**IPROMO course: Food Security in Mountain Areas EXtraordinary POTential**

Ormea and Edolo, Italy; 23 June-3 July

**Parliament seminar: Mountain Specificities in Training and Research for a Viable and Sustainable Development**

Rome, Italy; 2 July

**Signing ceremony: iAlp agreement**

Chamonix, France; 11 July

**Papua New Guinea's National Forest Inventory: Biodiversity Survey Training**

Madang Region, Papua New Guinea; 20-30 July

**Training course: Mountain Ecosystems - Toward Multidisciplinary and Sustainable Land Management**

San José, Costa Rica; 17-28 August

**Special event at EXPO Milan: The Role of Andean Grains**

Milan, Italy; 7 September

**Video message: Interski Congress 2015**

Ushuaia, Argentina; 9 September

**Perth III Conference: Mountains of Our Future Earth**

Perth, Scotland; 4-8 October

**The 4th International Women of the Mountains Conference (WOMC)**

Orem, Utah, USA; 7-9 October

**Mountain Partnership Steering Committee annual meeting (2015)**

Turin, Italy; 14-15 October

**Panel discussion at the Third World Local Economic Development Forum: Promoting Innovation While Ensuring Environmental Sustainability in Islands and Mountain Regions**

Turin, Italy; 16 October

**Side event at UNCCD COP12: Mountains – A Resource for the Resilience in Dryland Areas**

Ankara, Turkey; 20 October

**Special event at EXPO Milan: Mountains: Emotion and Governance**

Milan, Italy; 21-22 October

**The 100th Congress of the Italian Alpine Club**

Florence, Italy; 31 October

**March for the Earth**

Rome, Italy; 8 November

**Video message: The International Mountains and Climate Congress**

Grenoble, France; 11 November

**Press conference at the Italian Chambers of Deputies to raise the mountain agenda in COP 21**

Rome, Italy; 12 November

**Common Visions and Projects for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas in the Mediterranean Region**

Ventimiglia, Italy; 12-13 November

**Photo exhibit at UNFCCC COP21: Time Matters, Mountains Matter**

Paris, France; 30 November-11 December

**Side event at UNFCCC COP21: Adapting to Climate Change - Success Stories and Challenges from across Mountain Ranges**

Paris, France; 10 December

**Side event at UNFCCC COP21: Celebrating International Mountain Day 2015: Building Resilience to Climate Change in Mountain Communities**

Paris, France; 11 December

**Signing ceremony: Mountain Museum Alliance**

Rome, Italy; 11 December

**International Mountain Day (IMD) 2015 celebration with publication launch: Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity**

Rome, Italy; 11 December

**Mountain High! Festival of Peoples and Products**

New Delhi, India; 17-28 December

**Mountain Products Initiative Workshop II**

New Delhi, India; 18 December



## 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 and makes a number of tools available – publications, videos, reports, brochures and infographics.

In addition to the items listed here, the MPS produced donor reports, financial reports, progress reports, workplans and leaflets in 2015.

## Publications and reports

### **Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity**

With concrete figures, updating those of the year 2000, this publication gives voice to the plight of mountain populations – 39 percent of whom are facing hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. 66 pages

### **Understanding mountain soils**

This publication presents the main features of mountain soil systems – their environmental, economic and social values, their exposure to degradation and the effects of climate change – to promote sustainable practices. 157 pages

### **A year-long ascent – Mountain Partnership Secretariat Annual Report 2014**

This outline of the Secretariat's main achievements and initiatives in 2014 provides insight on the Partnership's sustainable mountain development efforts. 36 pages

### **FAO's Work in Sustainable Mountain Development and Watershed Management—A 2015 Update**

The Food and Agriculture Organization's Mountain and Watershed Team, of which the MPS is part, wrote this article summarizing its current work to promote sustainable mountain development, published in Mountain Research and Development, Volume 35. 7 pages

## Videos

### **Partnering for Mountains**

This video describes the Mountain Partnership's efforts to promote improving the lives of mountain communities and protecting mountainous environments since its establishment in 2002. 4 minutes

### **Papua New Guinea: First National Forest Inventory and Biodiversity Survey**

Co-produced by FAO, this video shows that the First National Forest Inventory and Biodiversity Survey is a key instrument for the sustainable management of the nation's biodiverse forests on which most of the country depends. 9 minutes

### **Mountain vulnerability report**

In this interview, produced by FAO, MPS Coordinator Thomas Hofer reveals that the number of people potentially food insecure and vulnerable in the mountains has risen to 329 million, a 30-percent increase since 2000. 3.5 minutes

### **Message à la Conférence Internationale Montagne et Climat**

Thomas Hofer tells the International Mountains and Climate Congress that urgent action is needed to address climate change in mountains in this video message in French. 3 minutes

### **Un messaggio per Licia Colò il mondo insieme**

Produced for a television programme broadcast in Italy, this recording features Thomas Hofer, Diletta De Leonardis and Leticia Pina calling for climate action in mountains in Italian. 2 minutes

### **MPS video message to Interski Congress 2015**

Thomas Hofer delivers a welcome message to the delegates to the Interski Congress 2015 that was held in Argentina. 2 minutes

## **Brochures**

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

### **Towards the creation of a mountain label**

## **Factsheet, poster and infographic**

### **Promoting mountain products for better livelihoods factsheet**

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

### **International Mountain Day poster**

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

### **Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity infographic**

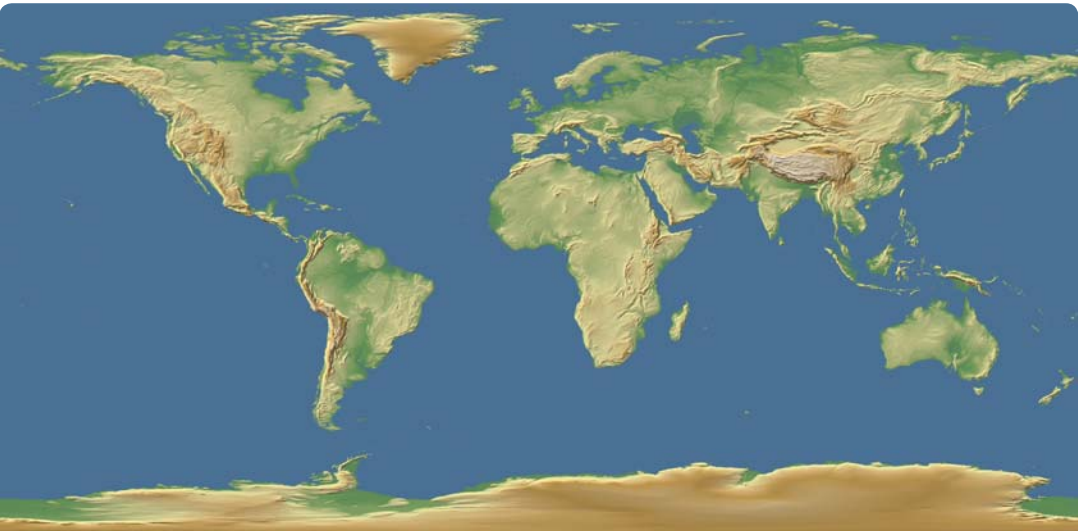
Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

# List of members

At the end of December 2015, the following 266 governments and organizations belonged to the Mountain Partnership:

## Governments

Afghanistan	Algeria	France	Nepal
Altai Republic of the Russian Federation		Georgia	Pakistan
Andorra		Ghana	Peru
Argentina		Guatemala	Romania
Armenia		Guinea	Serbia
Austria		Indonesia	Slovakia
Bangladesh		Iran	Slovenia
Bhutan		Italy	Spain
Bolivia		Jamaica	Sri Lanka
Burundi		Jordan	Swaziland
Cameroon		Kenya	Switzerland
Chile		Kyrgyz Republic	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Colombia		Lesotho	Tunisia
Costa Rica		Liechtenstein	Turkey
Cuba		Madagascar	Uganda
Democratic Republic of Congo		Malawi	Ukraine
Ecuador		Mexico	Venezuela
Ethiopia		Monaco	Yemen
		Morocco	



## Intergovernmental Organizations

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)  
Alpine Convention  
Carpathian Convention  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)  
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)  
Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)  
Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (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

3 Sisters Adventure Trekking  
Active Remedy Ltd.  
African Conservation Foundation (ACF)  
Agency of Development Initiatives (ADI)  
Agrarian Platform  
AgroLead Public Association  
Agriculture Research Council of Italy- Department of Agronomy,  
Forestry and Land Use (CRA-DAF)  
Aigine Cultural Research Centre (Aigine CRC)  
AlbaForest  
Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)  
AleeVee8  
Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA)  
Altai Assistance Project, Inc. (AAP)  
American Councils for International Education (ACTR/ACCELS)  
Arctic and Mountain Regions Development Institute (AMRDI)  
Argentinean Environmental Centre (CAMBIAR)  
Asociación Oikos  
Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF)  
Association Ardito Desio  
Association for Development of Mountain Municipalities in the Republic of  
Bulgaria (ADMMRB)  
Association for Social Development (ADESO)  
Association for the Development of Mountain Regions in the Republic of  
Macedonia (MAKMONTANA)  
Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan (AFLU Kyrgyzstan)  
Association of Forest and Land Users of Tajikistan (AFLU Tajikistan)  
Association pour la Protection des Montagnes du Burundi (APMB)  
Avalon Historico-Geographical Society

Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development (BFSD)  
 Bingol University  
 BIOM Ecological Movement  
 Bolivian Mountain Institute  
 Broad Initiatives for Negros Development (BIND)  
 Bulgarian Association for Development of Mountain Regions (BulMontana)  
 Cameroon National Network of Associations and NGOs of the Mountain Partnership (RENAASONGCAM)  
 CAMP Alatoo  
 CAMP Kuhiston  
 CarbonLab, University of Queensland  
 Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development (CREEED)  
 Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA)  
 Central-Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences (CAIAG)  
 Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Reduction (CCDR)  
 Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)  
 Centre for Environment Education (CEE Himalaya)  
 Centre for Mountain Studies (CMS)  
 Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM)  
 Centro Científico Tropical (Tropical Science Center)  
 Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO)  
 Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)  
 Crescente Fértil  
 Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company  
 Deraya University  
 Earth Day Italia Onlus  
 Ecoforum  
 Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE)  
 EKOIS  
 ElEco Youth Environmental Movement  
 Environment and Tourism Support (EATS)  
 Environmental Research Center of the Khazar University (ERCKU)  
 "Ergene" Public Foundation  
 Euromontana  
 European Academy (EURAC)  
 European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas (AEM)  
 European Mountain Forum (EMF)  
 Ev-K2-CNR Committee  
 Federal Institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas (BABF)  
 Federation of Organic Development Bio-KG  
 Focus Humanitarian Assistance Pakistan  
 Fondazione Courmayeur Mont Blanc  
 ForestAction Nepal  
 Foundation Ecohabitats  
 Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)  
 Foundation for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (FDDM)  
 Foundation for Sustainable Development of Altai (FSDA)  
 Foundation Pangea



Fundación Agreste  
 Fundación Cordillera Tropical  
 Fundación EcoAndina  
 Fundación Estación Biológica Guayacanal  
 Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Cordillera Volcánica Central [FUNDECOR]  
 Fundación para el Desarrollo Sostenible de las Zonas de Páramo y sus Áreas de Influencia [FUNDEPARAMOS]  
 Fundación ProYungas  
 Fundación Sendero de Chile  
 Fundacion CoMunidad [Panama]  
 Ghana Wildlife Society [GWS]  
 Global Himalayan Expedition [GHE]  
 Global Mountain Action  
 Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment [GMBA]  
 Go Green & Go Organic  
 Gruppman International Violin Institute  
 Guizhou University of Finance and Economics [GUFE]  
 gvSIG Association - GISMAP  
 Highland Research and Development Institute [HRDI]  
 HimalAndes Initiative  
 Huayhuash Peru  
 Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education [TEBTEBBA]  
 Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research [IGF]  
 Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund [ISDS]  
 Integrated Mountain Initiative [former Indian Mountain Initiative]  
 International Alliance for Mountain Film [IAMF]  
 International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology [ICIPE]  
 International Commission for the Protection of the Alps [CIPRA]  
 International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation [CIC]  
 International Livestock Research Institute [ILRI]  
 International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation [UIAA]  
 International Potato Centre [CIP]  
 International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps [ISCAR]  
 International Union for the Conservation of Nature [IUCN]  
 Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement Nepal [JVE-NEPAL]  
 Journal of Mountain Science  
 Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre [KIRDARC]  
 Kastamonu University  
 Kavala Institute of Technology [KavTech]  
 Lebanon Mountain Trail Association [LMT]  
 Les Compagnons Ruraux  
 MAB-6 Center  
 Makerere University  
 Metsvion Interdisciplinary Research Center [MIRC]  
 Migration and Development  
 Millennium Institute  
 MiratecArts  
 Mountain Areas Conservation and Development Services [MACDS]  
 Mountain Duck

Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)  
 Mountain Forum  
 Mountain Research and Development (MRD)  
 Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)  
 Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP)  
 Mountain Studies Institute (MSI)  
 Mountain Territories of Dagestan  
 Mountain Wilderness  
 Mountains & People  
 Muras Bashaty  
 Museo Nazionale della Montagna “Duca degli Abruzzi”  
 National Association for Mountains Rural Development of Romania (ROMONTANA)  
 National Integrated Development Association of Pakistan (NIDA)  
 National Meteorological Institute of Costa Rica (IMN)  
 National Organization of Mountain Municipalities, Communities and Bodies of Italy (UNCMI)  
 New World Hope Organization (NWHO)  
 New Zealand Alpine Club  
 Nilgiri Documentation Centre (NDC)  
 Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation (PHGDF)  
 Pendeba Society  
 PlaNet Finance  
 Practical Action  
 Pragma Seeds Nepal  
 Prakriti  
 ProMONT-BLANC  
 Public Foundation Kyrgyzstan Mountain Societies  
 Red de Agroindustria Rural del Perú (REDAR)  
 Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)  
 Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus)  
 Resources Himalaya Foundation  
 Romanian Mountain Forum  
 Rural Development Fund (RDF)  
 School of Wildlife, Ecology & Conservation  
 Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation (SLCF)  
 Society for Conserving Planet and Life (COPAL)  
 SORAINA Uganda  
 Sports Medicine School  
 Suldoz Kouhyaran Institute  
 Sultan Qaboos University (SQU)  
 Sunrise On Africa's Peaks (SOAP)  
 Sustainable Development of Mountain Territories (IISTC “Mountains”)  
 Swat Youth Front (SYF)  
 Switch ON - ONergy  
 Tajik Social and Ecological Union  
 Tatra Agency for Development Promotion and Culture (TADPC)  
 Tatra Mountains Cultural Foundation  
 Telluride Institute  
 The Association for Sustainability and Governance of Mountainous Areas (ASGMA)

The Mountain Institute (TMI)  
Trento Film Festival  
Turkish Geographical Society  
UNESCO Club of Serres  
UNISON Civic Environmental Foundation  
University of Milan - GE.S.DI.MONT.  
University of Central Asia  
University of Denver - Western Colorado Master Social Work (DU MSW)  
University of Rome Sapienza - Department of Environmental Biology  
University of the Mountains (Greece)  
University of Turin - Department of Agricultural, Forest & Food Sciences (DISAFA)  
Utah Valley University and Utah-Russia Institute  
VICAM: Vicuñas, Camélidos y Ambiente  
Vista 360°  
Volunteers for Africa / ECODECO Partnership  
Wojtowice - Back to the Future  
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and NRM (WOCAN)  
World Economic Forum  
World Mountain People Association (WMPA)  
World Wildlife Fund International (WWF-International)  
Yachay Wasi  
Yrystan Public Foundation for Sustainable Community Development

## **Subnational Authorities**

Aspen (City of USA)  
Basalt (City of USA)  
Dénia (Municipality of Spain)  
Orem (City of USA)  
Province of Negros Occidental (Philippines)

## Financial report

In 2015, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) was financed by the Italian Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which also hosts the MPS.

The MPS budget was in line with the workplan approved by the MP Steering Committee for the 2014-2015 biennium. 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	Savings from 2014	Total
USD	60,000	385,000	184,000	97,342	726,342
%	8	53	25	14	100

FUNCTIONS						
	Operational	Advocacy	Knowledge Management and Communication	Capacity Development and Technology Transfer	Joint Action	Total
USD	155,196	203,619	174,253	80,839	112,436	726,342
%	21	28	24	12	15	100



## Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

The Steering Committee (SC) provides programmatic orientation to the Mountain Partnership, 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 (MPS), the implementation of the 'Mountain Agenda' and the achievements and impacts of their respective electoral groups.

SC members are elected to four-year terms to represent the various membership categories and regions. They meet annually and select a Chair and Vice Chair, who serve for two years.

In 2015, the SC met twice – in Rome in February for its 2014 annual meeting, which had been postponed, and in Turin in October for its regular 2015 meeting during which a new Chair and two Co-Chairs were elected for 2015-2017.



The following governments and organizations are on the 2014-2017 Steering Committee:

### **Governments**

Argentina (Chair, 2013-2015), Cameroon (Vice Co-Chair, 2015-2017), Mexico, Nepal, Tunisia, Turkey

### **Major Group Organizations**

Albertine Rift Conservation Society (Vice Chair, 2013-2015), Aspen International Mountain Foundation, Euromontana, Fundación Agreste, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Mountain Environment Protection Society, The Mountain Institute (Chair, 2015-2017)

### **Intergovernmental Organization**

United Nations Environment Programme

### **Donor Organization to the MPS**

Italy (Vice Co-Chair, 2015-2017)

### **Host Institution of the MPS**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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## A vista of the regions

### Central Asia

The year 2015 was rich with high-profile international events for highlighting the role of mountains and the ecosystem goods and services they provide. Through close collaboration with the Tajik Government, two major international events were held: the Regional Mountain Forum 2015 and a parallel session titled, “Global Challenges from Water Perspectives” for the UN High Level Conference ‘Water for Life’ in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. During the events, knowledge fairs were organized, using the photo exhibition on Mountain Snow, Ice and Glaciers in the High Alps kindly provided by FDSMR [Switzerland]. Attended by 170 participants from 20 countries, both events not only helped to highlight water and mountain linkages and integrate them into the UN conference agenda and proceedings, but also to expand the geographic outreach and cooperation of the Mountain Partnership Central Asia Hub.

Thematically, climate change remained as a top priority in Central Asia, where work was carried out at multiple levels. At local level it was done through the **Center for Climate Change and Disaster Reduction**/Tajikistan [CCCCDR] and the **Alliance of Mountain villages of Central Asia** [AGOCA] by piloting a new initiative to support the adaptation capacity of eight mountain villages in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. At the central government level, work with policy makers continued through the Climate Change Dialogue





Platform, a multi-stakeholder consultation forum encouraging inclusive climate governance. At international level, support was provided to the Tajik and **Kyrgyz** delegations, Tajik Parliament members, CCCDR and the **Fund for Sustainable Development of Altai Republic** (FSDA) for their participation at UNFCCC COP 21 and the Perth III Conference.

Throughout the year, the Hub encouraged the climate change adaptation capacity assessment approach be complemented with the impacts approach and that existing structures, such as AGOCA mountain villages network, be used for cost effectiveness and greater synergies.

As for policy work, the Hub, jointly with Tajik Parliamentarians, supported local consultations in Murghab and Gorno-Badakhshan region for a new legislative bill on mountain territories.

Dissemination of scientific content for mountain stakeholders is one of main directions of the Hub's work, and part of year was spent preparing the soon-to-be released publication, "Farmer Pocket Manual on Low-Cost Technologies for Water & Soil Conservation Technologies in Highland Tajikistan". The printing of 500 more copies of the Sustainable Mountain Development Webinar training CDs was supported for Yrstan's dissemination in mountain village schools.

Joint action with other mountain regions and groups included taking part in the activities of the Mountain Product Initiative, a project closely linked to the Mountain Partnership Secretariat. The



Hub raised USD 23 000 to enable 16 producers from Kyrgyzstan, 2 from Tajikistan, 2 from Altai republic, 1 from Mongolia and 1 from Kazakhstan to take part in “Mountain High! Festival of Peoples and Products” in India. Several mountain producers made contact with business groups, leading to deals for six products from four countries and expressions of interest in further cooperation.

The year closed with a voluntary stakeholder assessment of the Hub’s endeavours, especially looking into sustainability, which will help define a common vision and guide future work.

*Report by the Mountain Partnership Central Asia Hub*

## Europe

Within the Mountain Partnership (MP), Europe is notable for the existence of two inter-governmental conventions on sustainable development – the **Alpine Convention** and **Carpathian Convention** – both of which are members of the MP and have Parties (national governments) that are also members. During 2015, a key activity of the Alpine Convention was the preparation and publication of the Fifth Report on the State of the Alps, “Demographic changes in the Alps: population, employment, education and services”.

In October, the international conference “Perth III: Mountains of Our Future Earth” took place in Perth, Scotland [UK]. This was organized by three MP members: the **Centre for Mountain**



**Studies**, Perth College, University of the Highlands and Islands, the **Mountain Research Initiative** [MRI] and the **Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment** [GMBA]. Other MP members [**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation** and **IUCN**] provided funding. A total of 400 scientists and practitioners from 52 countries participated, many from MP member organizations around the world. They had the opportunity to present their research in 46 parallel sessions, 7 roundtables and a poster session, as well as to hear keynote presentations from 7 global experts. The title of the conference indicates its aim to contribute to the new global 'Future Earth' programme, a 10-year international research initiative that will develop the knowledge to respond effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change and support transformation towards global sustainability. This was the topic of the final panel discussion at the conference, bringing together scientists and research funders from around the world, many from MP members [**ARCOS, CDE, IUCN, UNESCO**]. The abstracts of all the presentations at the conference are available from the CMS. Keynote presentations and blogs about the parallel sessions can be found on the MRI website.

A special issue of 'Mountain Research and Development' in 2016 will include an analysis of all the presentations and a number of papers presented at the conference. Immediately following the conference, **MRI** and **IGF** held a workshop, as part of a process to prepare a Strategic Research Agenda, "Mountains for Europe's Future", to encourage the inclusion of mountain topics in the 2018-20 Work Programmes of the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme. This process has also involved other MP members, including **BABF, CDE, CMS** and **Euromontana**.

At global level, at UNFCCC COP21, the Government of Switzerland proposed that the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] publish a special report on mountains, building on previous work with CDE to prepare a report on mountains and climate change, presented at COP 20 at the end of 2014.

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

## North & Central America and the Caribbean

In 2015, 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)

- Launched a web forum to engage regional members [www.savethemountains.org](http://www.savethemountains.org)
- Participated in the Mountain Science and Ecological Observatory Network to develop a training programme.
- Represented the region all year and at MP Steering Committee Meetings.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation.
- Assisted with MP COP21 side events.

### The Mountain Institute (TMI)

- Continued its programmes with Nuwuvi and Newe Nations, the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. Opened four visitor centres, Nevada.
- Completed a Public Use Site Plan for the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge, Nevada.
- Worked with students and teachers on programmes to cultivate appreciation for mountains and ecosystems.

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

- AMRDI, founded in 2015, worked to further its mission to assist in building more climate change resilient, healthy and sustainable Arctic and mountain region communities.
- Conducted/published original research in journals/policy reports.
- Attended the Perth III Conference and led a summer course on mountain sustainable development at the University of Denver.

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### **University of Denver, Western Colorado Masters in Social Work (MSW)**

- Sought to build the rural workforce infrastructure in social work across the region, including fostering careers in sustainability-based and environmental justice social work.
- Continued to support local and regional environmental justice organizations through field education placements.
- Supported awareness campaigns, including LiveWell Colorado and the Garfield County Sewing Works.

### **Utah Valley University (UVU)**

- The Utah International Mountain Forum hosted the Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference on 7-9 October; international officials, scholars and experts focused on gender and sustainable mountain development issues.
- Students mobilized support for the MP petition calling for climate action in mountains
- Held an International Mountain Day celebration.

### **City of Aspen**

- The City of Aspen had a monumental year in 2015 with actions and policies to help reduce impacts on climate change.
- Most significantly, Aspen became the third US City utility to be powered by 100% renewable energy.
- Mayor Skadron participated in a MP COP21 side event.

### **Tatra Mountains Cultural Foundation**

- Attended the Women of the Mountains conference in Orem, Utah – serving on the panels of two sessions,



“Women, Culture and the Transmission of Family Values” and “Mountain Partnership and the mountain-related targets in the Post-2015 development agenda”.

- The Foundation engaged in community outreach on International Mountain Day, presenting films from various mountain regions.

### **Telluride Institute (TI)**

- Continued to deepen and expand its Watershed Education programme for elementary, middle and high schools.
- TI’s annual Mushroom Festival, now in its 32nd year, continued to explore the scientific, medicinal and bio-remedial qualities of mushrooms.
- TI’s poetry and literature programmes met with a great deal of enthusiasm and connected many regional partners.

*Report by Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF), MP Steering Committee member representing civil society organizations in North & Central America and the Caribbean*

## **South America**

In 2015, civil society members\* carried out a range of initiatives in support of sustainable mountain development in the region. Here are some highlights:

### **The Bolivian Mountain Institute (Bolivia)**

- Organized, with funding from the German Embassy, the photo exhibition, “Glaciers of Bolivia: 12 witnesses of Climate Change”, covering glacial retreat in Bolivia.
- Conducted, as part of the Mountain Products Initiative task force, a nationwide consumer survey on mountain products, presented at a workshop in Delhi, India.

### **Crescente Fértil (Brazil)**

- Started the second stage of the Sesmaria River Project, now called Sesmaria River Project-PSA Water.

\* For South American government members’ activities, see page 12

## **Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion - CONDESAN** [South America]

- Developed six infographics to promote Andean Forests Programme.
- Supported Interclima 2015 and Inkafest and three professionals from the Andean region to attend IPROMO.
- Presented at LatinAmerica Water Week in Chile, contributed to “Climate Change and vulnerable watersheds in the Andes” seminar and conducted two virtual forums and a workshop.
- Served as the technical adviser to the Peruvian Ministry of Environment at UNFCCC COP21 and co-organized events for IMD.
- Published a policy brief, “Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity of Ecuador: Implications for the National System of Protected Areas”.

## **Fundación Agreste** [Argentina]

- Continued a socio-economic and biophysical assessment and monitoring of the Paso Grande Pilot Site of the National Observatory of Land Degradation and Desertification, including workshops with communities and national projects.

## **Fundación Cordillera Tropical** [Ecuador]

- Presented a paper about the Mazar River Project at the 2015 American Geophysical Union Conference in California.
- Awarded the National “Energy Globe 2015” for its commitment to sustainable livelihoods in the southern Andes of Ecuador.

## **Fundeparamos** [Colombia]

- Presented papers at the “International Conference on Wetland Conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean” in Pica, Chile.
- Developed an environmental awareness and education programme in Los Estoraques Unique Natural Area and a restoration programme.



©REDAR/Diana Chaman

### **Fundación Pangea (Colombia)**

- Co- developed the project “Productive Eco-efficient Practices in the High Basin of the Guacaica River”, analysed bird conservation in mountain regions and developed the “Sustainability of Rural Water Supply” project in the city of Manizales.
- Developed “Ecological Clubs” in two schools to promote conservation of natural resources in Paramo ecosystems of high basin of the Chinchina River.
- Carried out conservation of strategic ecosystems such as wetlands, streams and forest remnants.

### **HimalAndes (Peru)**

- Established a partnership with experts in textile industry of Nepal and Bhutan with the aim of technology transfer.

### **Asociación OIKOS (Peru)**

- Co-organized a UNFCCC COP21 side event and photo exhibition, “Time Matters, Mountains Matter”.
- Organized the round table on “Renewable Energy and Rural Development” and the seminar “Mountains and Climate Change” with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of San Marcos.

### **The Mountain Institute (Peru)**

- Strengthened local capacities to adapt to climate change.

- Completed a Ecosystem Based Adaptation project in the highlands of Lima and Junin regions, under the International Climate Initiative (IKI/IUCN-UNDP-UNEP), restoring pre-Hispanic irrigation techniques to form wetlands to secure water for animals.
- Concluded a project to support rural communities protect their ecosystem and develop business opportunities, connected to medicinal and aromatic plants in the Paramo region of Piura.

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

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

In 2015, members carried out a range of initiatives in support of sustainable mountain development [SMD] in the region. Here are a few key highlights:

### **Albertine Rift Conservation Society**

ARCOS is implementing a programme, “Promoting Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change”, with a financial contribution from the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation [SDC], which focuses on poverty and risk reduction in the mountains under changes in climatic, environmental and socio-economic conditions. At international level, ARCOS participated at UNFCCC COP21 and the Perth III Conference. At regional level, ARCOS succeeded in urging the 15th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment [AMCEN] to recognize mountains in its outcome document. It worked with AfroMont on the Regional Mountain Research Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in June.

### **Guinea**

The Government of Guinea participated in the International High Level Conference on the Implementation of the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’, 2005-2015 in Tajikistan. Among the topics discussed were the relationship between mountains and water resources. Guinea also launched a census of mountain ecosystems, taking stock of the number, status of mountains in the country and measures to be taken in addressing the impacts of climate change in mountain ecosystems.







## **Madagascar**

The Ministry of Environment, Ecology, Forest and Sea identified sites for 39 watershed projects in six mountain regions; launched a sustainable agriculture project using the landscape approach and carried out field work and socio-economic analysis on three mountain regions to identify suitable areas for a project. The team developed partnerships with a company and a cooperative, to work on a landscape approach project. A member of the MP Mountain Product Initiative task force, Madagascar is now proposing certification of silk products from the Tapia forest.

## **Malawi**

The Government of Malawi participated in the regional training workshop on emerging issues affecting mountain ecosystems and SMD in Africa, organized by ARCOS in Kigali, Rwanda on 24-25 August and became a member of the group known as “African Mountains Champions” to promote the SMD agenda in Africa. Malawi commemorated International Mountain Day with activities, including an article “Why Mountains Matter”, published by the Malawi Daily Times. The Mountain Partnership Focal Point also held inter-ministerial consultations to form a Committee on Mountains and so far four institutions have representatives to the committee.

## **Uganda**

ARCOS and Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE), with a financial contribution from SDC, developed the National Sustainable Mountain Development Strategy Framework for the country, with the participation of Mountain Partnership members and stakeholders in the country. The main goal of the strategy framework is to maintain provision of environmental goods and services from the country's mountains to sustain biodiversity as well as socio-economic and livelihood needs. Uganda is the second country (preceded by Madagascar) supported by ARCOS to develop a national mountain strategy. ARCOS and MoWE began preparing for the World Mountain Forum to take place in Uganda in October 2016.

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

# Powering the Mountain Partnership Secretariat



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**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



**Italian Development  
Cooperation**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

In 2015, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) was financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

©FAO photo



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