

Working together for mountain peoples and environments

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Photo: Alma Uzbekova

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Photo: Alma Uzbekova

WHO WE ARE

The Mountain Partnership is a United Nations voluntary alliance that brings members together to work towards a common goal: improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world.

The Mountain Partnership has over 200 members from governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

For a full list of members, visit www.mountainpartnership.org/members

Mountain Partnership members share a vision: a world in which sustainable mountain development receives greater public and private sector attention, commitment, engagement and investments.

OUR VISION



Photo: FAO/Johan Spanner



WHY DO MOUNTAINS MATTER?

Mountains in numbers

- cover about 22 percent of the earth's land area
- are home to 14 percent of the world's population
- provide about 70 percent of the world's freshwater resources for domestic, agricultural and industrial consumption
- host approximately 25 percent of terrestrial biodiversity as well as vital genetic resources for locally adapted crops and livestock
- house almost 60 percent of all Biosphere Reserves and 30 percent of all World Heritage Sites
- attract about 15-20 percent of global tourism

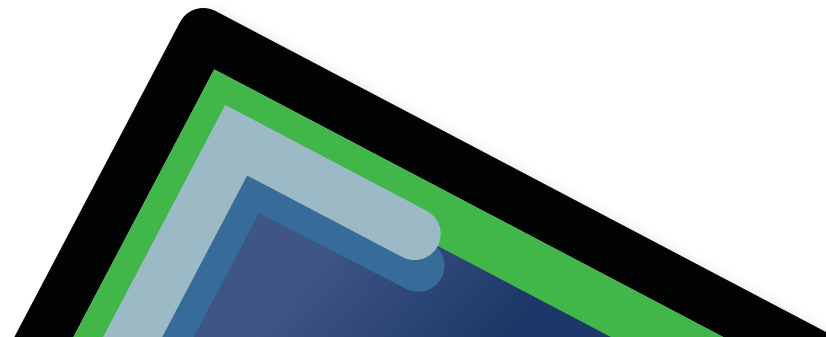
Key challenges

Mountain peoples are among the world's poorest and hungriest: in developing countries, a vast majority live below the poverty line and are food insecure.

Deforestation, ill-managed mining and tourism, unsustainable farming practices and population growth can endanger livelihoods, increase desertification, threaten biodiversity and trigger disasters such as floods and landslides.

Mountain ecosystems are extremely vulnerable to climate change – and consequences, such as rapid glacier melting, are far-reaching and potentially devastating.

Local communities possess traditional knowledge about best practices in managing and enhancing the resilience of fragile mountain ecosystems but their voices often go unheard.



WHAT WE DO

The Mountain Partnership is a platform for joint action and programmes. Members join forces to promote, facilitate and implement initiatives at national, regional and international levels and to raise awareness about the challenges faced by mountain peoples and environments.

Advocate for global attention

- promoting sustainable mountain development in global negotiations
- organizing events at United Nations conferences
- drafting policy and issues briefs, key messages and UN Reports

Promote joint projects

- connecting countries and institutions
- creating an enabling environment for partnerships
- brokering initiatives

Share knowledge

- producing technical publications, brochures, videos and newsletters
- maintaining a website and social media channels
- fostering communication among members

Strengthen capacity

- annual IPROMO course on management of mountain areas
- technology transfer among members
- workshops and training sessions



THE PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

Post-2015 development agenda

Recognizing the importance of keeping mountains on the international development agenda beyond 2015, the Mountain Partnership members are working together through a series of awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing events to ensure that mountains are included in the sustainable development goals.

Working together in the Andes

Six Andean governments - Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru - are working together to strengthen and expand institutional capacity for promoting sustainable mountain development in the region. Promoting exchanges, dialogue and action on mountain issues among the region's governments tops the newly formed regional group's agenda.

The Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership

Members renewed their commitment to preserve mountain environments and improve the livelihoods of mountain peoples while also empowering them. A four-year Governance and Strategy and a two-year work plan to start in 2014 were endorsed.

Mountain champions in Africa

The Mountain Partnership African Champions Committee comprising governments and NGOs, is tasked with moving the region's sustainable mountain development agenda forward, and is sharing information and organizing Mountain Partnership activities in Africa.

Central Asia focuses on climate change

The Central Asia Mountain Partnership Hub supports policy dialogue on climate change issues in the region through a series of thematic panel discussions in Kyrgyzstan. Led by Mountain Partnership members, the panel discussions create a platform in which climate change practitioners, scientists and researchers meet regularly with the government to discuss institutional and political frameworks for coping with and adapting to a changing climate.

