



Mountain Partnership Steering Committee
Extraordinary meeting to discuss the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022
Summary report
13 January 2022 – Zoom meeting

Agenda

Chair: Roberto Natali (Italian Government)

1. 15:30-15:35 Introduction by the Chair

2. 15:35-16:15 Opportunities and the role of the Mountain Partnership

- Engagement of members and non-member governments that sponsored the Resolution
- Role of FAO
- Resource mobilization plan
- Open-ended Scientific Committee
- Events planning (current and new)

3. 16:15-16:45 Presentation of proposed logos and slogans for the International Year

4. 16:45-17:00 Other matters, discussion and conclusions



Section 1: Introduction by the Chair

Mountain Partnership (MP) Steering Committee (SC) Chair Roberto Natali, Government of Italy, opened the meeting, wishing the members of the SC a happy new year. The agenda was adopted without change. The Chair proceeded by providing a brief overview of [resolution A/76/L.28](#) on the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development¹ 2022 (IYM2022) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which was promoted by Kyrgyzstan and sponsored by 94 countries. The resolution explicitly “[invites] the Mountain Partnership, in collaboration with all relevant organizations, to facilitate the observance of the International Year, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67.” Underlining the SC’s responsibility to mobilize their respective electoral groups, the Chair opened the floor for proposals of how to build on the opportunity of this Year.

François Pythoud, Government of Switzerland, suggested that the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) send a formal letter to the UNGA accepting the invitation to facilitate the observance of the IYM2022. Underlining the excellent opportunity presented by an International Year devoted to mountains, he also stressed the lack of time for the necessary preparatory work for celebrating the Year. He suggested building on the experience of those colleagues that participated in the animation and coordination unit of the International Year of Mountains 2002, as well as on the strategies and plans developed for 2002. Carolina Adler, the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), supported Switzerland’s suggestion.

Decision:

- i. **The Chair will send a formal letter to the UNGA accepting the invitation to facilitate the observance of the year.**

Section 2: Opportunities and the role of the Mountain Partnership

Engagement of members and non-member governments that sponsored the Resolution

The Chair noted how several of the 94 governments that supported the resolution are not yet MP members, highlighting how this could be a good opportunity to reach out to key countries to engage them. He underlined the role of governments through their MP focal points to engage members in observing this International Year.

Switzerland reiterated that the resolution invites the entire Mountain Partnership and not only the Secretariat to support facilitation of the IYM2022. He also suggested that the MPS develop a timeline as soon as possible for the actions and steps of the International Year.

Recalling that ahead of the International Year of Mountains 2002, a coordination unit was established, Switzerland asked what the SC’s role would be in the observance of the IYM2022. The Chair suggested that the SC work together with the MPS.

¹ For the translation of the name of the International Year in the six United Nations languages, see Annex 2.



Simao Pinho, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) and Euromontana, highlighted the need to define the objectives and expected outputs. Noticing that the Government of Portugal did not officially support the resolution, he asked what he could do to engage his government. Switzerland clarified that governments can still observe the year even if they did not co-sponsor the resolution.

Anara Alymkulova, Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund (ISDS), highlighted how resource mobilization may be difficult at this time due to the pandemic. She proposed the idea of organizing regional events, highlighting how there are many members in Central Asia and that an event could be organized online not only to discuss issues of mountain development but also to celebrate members' achievements. She said the MPS could apply for funding and that the ISDS could also devote some funding and conduct fundraising.

Rosalaura Romeo, MPS, emphasized the extremely high number of governments that supported the resolution. She underlined the importance of building a strong alliance between the MPS and SC, with the SC in the driver's seat, for the IYM2022 to be successful. She noted the importance of national-level observances, recalling how a major legacy of the previous International Year of Mountains 2002 was 74 countries creating national mountain committees, many of which still exist today. Rosalaura reiterated the importance of resources to be able to translate outreach materials for the Year, and acknowledged that the MPS is developing a communication strategy to clarify the objectives and outputs for the year.

Decision:

- i. **The MPS will develop an IYM2022 communication plan with the timeline of actions for the Year.**

Role of FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the lead agency within the United Nations system for mountains, which is why it led the previous International Year of Mountains in 2002 and why it hosts the MPS. The Chair reminded the SC that FAO has its own rules for supporting International Years, including the approval of the FAO Council. He also said that, if the MPS does not promote the IYM2022 by creating a website and engaging partners, then no one will. He expressed that he would like to send a letter in his capacity as Chair to the FAO Director-General requesting FAO's support for the MPS to be able to proceed with facilitating observance of the year, if the SC would be in agreement.

Rosalaura Romeo added that, in principle, FAO prefers not to support two International Years in any one year and that the organization is already supporting the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. She underlined the urgency of developing a website and visual identity for the IYM2022 but also identifying how to engage members and non-members. She proposed hosting an opening ceremony, inviting all diplomats accredited to FAO and all MP members to open the Year and share its objectives.

Decision:

- i. **The Chair will send a letter to the FAO DG requesting that the MPS facilitate the observance of the Year.**



Resource mobilization plan

The Chair introduced this agenda item stating how the IYM2022 could be a great opportunity to mobilize resources for mountains. He highlighted how Kyrgyzstan is developing a five-year plan to ensure that more investments be devoted to mountains. Meanwhile, the Chair suggested that the IYM2022 could be a framework to invite large climate funds such as the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund as well as others to devote resources towards mountain projects, and governments in particular will have a role to play in this through their focal points in these funds.

Furthermore, the Chair reminded the SC of the pressing need to mobilize resources to support the observance of the IYM2022. He expressed that both in cash and in kind support to the MPS to translate documents, promote events, etc. would be welcome.

Switzerland underlined the need to distinguish between mobilizing resources for the IYM2022 and mobilizing resources for general sustainable mountain development, underlining the need for immediate resources for the MPS to launch the process and be able to engage actors for the International Year. He suggested the MPS develop a budget.

Harald Egerer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), reminded the SC of UNEP's involvement in the International Year of Mountains 2002 as well as in the founding of the MP together with Italy, Switzerland and FAO. He noted the need to identify a key deliverable/outcome for the year and suggested that, along with Kyrgyzstan's five-year plan and the renewal of the MP's strategy documents this year at the MP Global Meeting, the IYM2022 could lead to a Bishkek+25 Summit in five years.

Open-ended Scientific Committee

The MRI provided a brief presentation of the proposed Open-ended Scientific Committee (OESC) to support the IYM2022. Carolina Adler of the MRI raised a number of key questions and discussion points to the SC to request their guidance, namely:

- Endorsement and support for establishing the OESC, supporting the SC in its priorities around the observance of the Year
- Preferred ways of engaging/exchanging between the SC and the OESC
- Key overarching message(s) that will support the central theme of the Year (sustainable mountain development)
- Key events, milestones, deliverables
- Draft ToRs for the OESC (i.e. role, expectations, membership, etc.)
- Role beyond 2022

A first meeting of the OESC is scheduled for 25 January 2022. A list of the institutions invited to participate was shared. Karinjo DeVore, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF), asked whether institutions from North America could be included in the OESC. It was also suggested to invite Stefan Mayr of the University of Innsbruck as the President of the Scientific Committee of the International Mountain Conference 2022.



The MRI observed the need to identify opportunities for the non-scientific community (i.e. civil society groups, Indigenous peoples, etc.) to have a voice and engage in dialogue. María Argüello, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN), volunteered to support the involvement of civil society organizations in South America.

UNEP maintained the need for strong linkages between the SC and the OESC and the importance of the SC in coordinating and providing structure to the OESC's work. He reiterated the idea of the MPS developing a timeline for 2022 while also considering how the IYM2022 connects to the MP's broader strategy for 2022-2026, noting the importance of this year's Global Meeting in Aspen to be the flagship event.

The MRI inquired to what extent the timeline for supporting the International Year merges with the MPS' own work plan for 2022. She repeated that the OESC requires key points to be defined in order for the Committee to know what is expected of it.

Rosalaura Romeo emphasized that due to a lack of time for planning compared to the previous International Year of Mountains 2002, there is a need to work differently, creatively and quickly.

Mariano Goicoechea, Government of Argentina, stated that his country supports the OESC.

Events planning (current and new)

The Chair expressed that the Government of Kyrgyzstan is not planning on organizing events dedicated to the IYM2022, hence the Global Meeting in September will possibly be the key event. The Chair opened the floor for proposals of other mountain events that can be rebranded as observances of the Year.

Rosalaura Romeo shared that she was contacted by the Italian Ministry of Environment regarding an event they are organizing together with the Alpine Convention. She was also contacted by the Alpine Corps about celebrating their 150th anniversary together with the MP in the framework of the IYM2022.

Switzerland suggested that International Mountain Day (IMD) on 11 December could be envisaged as the closing of the Year. He mentioned that the proposed theme on mountain women is in line with the Year's celebrations.

The AIMF, who is co-hosting the Global Meeting, encouraged the SC to help consider how to integrate all of these elements into the Global Meeting to streamline events that would normally happen at the meeting.

Geeta Pandey, Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC), informed the SC of the upcoming Mountain Advocacy Summit 2022 that KIRDARC is organizing in March during the International Year.

Section 3: Presentation of proposed logos and slogans for the International Year

The Chair invited the MPS to present the logo options it had commissioned pro bono for the IYM2022 as well suggestions of slogans. He stated that the SC was requested to provide feedback and that a final decision on the logo would be taken by FAO and MPS communication experts.



Sara Manuelli, MPS, pre-empted her presentation of the logos by clarifying the role of a logo. She explained that the MPS had decided to shorten the name in the logo to “International Year of Mountains 2022” for communication’s sake. She then presented the logos that had been designed by one FAO graphic designer, one private Italian designer, and one Andorran agency.

Following the presentation of the logos and slogans, Switzerland expressed his concern for changing/shortening the name of the International Year in the logo and using an acronym. He suggested to use the Year’s full name: International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development. UNEP and the MRI supported this motion. Switzerland suggested to discuss the issue with UNGA Secretariat.

FAO communication expert Maria De Cristofaro explained that, from a communication point of view, it would be better to have a shorter name as it is easier to remember. She confirmed that an acronym of the Year’s name will be used in communication materials.

Regarding the matter of a slogan, UNEP inquired whether the slogan for the IYM2022 would be the same as the slogan for IMD 2022, suggesting the idea of a logo that captures the year and IMD and relates to the Global Meeting. The AIMF appreciated this inquiry, highlighting how they have already put a lot of work into developing the logo and promotional materials for the Global Meeting.

A quick poll was conducted to gauge the SC’s logo preference of the four presented. The results were as follows:



Decision:

- i. **The MPS will ask the designer of the selected logo to re-develop the logo with the full name of the International Year and to provide examples of the logo in various UN languages. Visual identity guidelines will be developed as well as a communication strategy.**

Section 4: Other matters, discussion and conclusions

Switzerland proposed that the SC could convene another meeting in two weeks’ time, if this would be beneficial to the MPS.



Rosalaura Romeo suggested a Working Group could be established within the SC to support the OESC. The MRI agreed.

Switzerland recalled the need for a decision on the theme of IMD 2022 and expressed his support for the suggested theme “Women move mountains”.

Decision:

- i. **The SC will meet again in 20 days’ time to discuss further.**
- ii. **The MPS will communicate the theme of IMD 2022 by the end of January 2022.**



Annex 1: Participants' list

Steering Committee members

Donor Organizations

François Pythoud, Switzerland

Governments

Asia and the Pacific – Nadine Morales, Philippines

Europe – Roberto Natali, Italy (Chair)

Near East and North Africa – Mohamed Boufaroua, Tunisia

South America – Mariano Goicoechea, Maria Lidia Testani, Abelardo Losa, Argentina

Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Ewald Rametsteiner, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Rikiya Konishi, Food and
Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations (FAO)

Intergovernmental Organizations

Harald Egerer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Global Civil Society Organizations

Carolina Adler, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)

Major Group Organizations

Asia and the Pacific – Geeta Pandey, Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) (Vice Chair)

Central Asia – Anara Alymkulova, Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund (ISDS)

Europe – Simao Pinho, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) and Euromontana

Near East and North Africa – Abdollah Ashtari Nakhaei, Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)

North & Central America and the Caribbean – Karinjo DeVore, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF) (Vice Chair)

South America – María Argüello, Karen Price, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)

Observers

Aspen International Mountain Foundation



Eric Smith

Absent Steering Committee Members:

Governments

North & Central America and the Caribbean – Dominican Republic

Sub-Saharan Africa – Uganda

Major Group Organizations

Sub-Saharan Africa – Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Samantha Abear

Allison Bozzi

Giorgio Grussu

Sara Manuelli

Fabio Parisi

Patricia Quillacq

Rosalaura Romeo

Laura Russo

Antonella Sorrentino

**Annex 2: Translations of the name of the
International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development in the six UN languages**

Arabic: للجبال المستدامة للتنمية الدولية السنة

Chinese: 山区可持续发展国际年

English: International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development

French: Année internationale du développement durable dans les régions montagneuses

Russian: Международный год устойчивого горного развития

Spanish: Año Internacional del Desarrollo Sostenible de las Montañas