

Currently limited the platform of the Partnership should be used to improve and strengthen it. The AIMF offers to promote enhanced regional coordination and communication (e.g. a web page without duplicating the Mountain Forum and the website of the MP). It is also needed to look for new MP members; this has also to be considered in order to fill geographic and thematic gaps. Communication campaigns on mountains are needed to raise awareness of "target audiences" within the region.

A large number of organizations in the United States of America and Canada, and also from Central America have identified the AIMF as the regional representative for coordinating and promoting the MP within the region, and building a strategic agenda on mountains in the region. This has a great potential to increase the influence and the impact of our region in the MP. At the same time, these networking and communication actions could be replicated to liaise also with other regions of the world.

Diversity: The cultural and linguistic diversity in rural areas creates an obstacle to the involvement of local communities, the gathering of traditional knowledge, the exchange of lessons learned, and knowledge sharing.

The North & Central America and the Caribbean region is an area characterized by a high environmental, cultural and economic richness and diversity, which constitutes a serious challenge. A more intense exchange of experience, information, etc., is envisaged, not only between MP organizations working in the region, but also with members from other regions.

In order for the region to be more effective, its membership basis should be extended so to include more representatives from the civil society, promote the participation of more mountainous countries, and cover a wider range of issues relevant to sustainable mountain development (e.g. education, health, etc.)

Despite the good level of the scientific knowledge on relevant topics, more research is needed; however, a big challenge is represented by the translation and the communication of information (integrating traditional knowledge about rural, indigenous, gender issues, and so on) in such a way which is appropriate to share information and improve both policies and practice in the field.

More commitment from the private sector is needed; to promote its involvement it is important to develop more effective incentives, related among others to the themes of green economy, product certification, social responsibility, and payment for environmental services.

More commitment from local governments is needed as well as ensuring that the decentralization of powers is bundled to capacity building activities.

b) Governments

Experience sharing: There is no feedback mechanism established among countries to share experiences and policy instruments applied by each country to solve specific problems. For example, the North & Central America and the Caribbean region could exchange through the MP

the lessons learned on financial management of environmental services, land tenure and natural resource rights, equitable distribution of benefits among the communities/administrations in those areas where services were delivered.

It does not exist any policy or process specific to the mountain ecosystem (an area which requires different interventions according to the ecosystem specificities), both in Jamaica or Mexico. It is important to consider that such an approach can be shared with the members of the region and the Mountain Partnership.

Decision taken:

It is important to note that through the Mountain Partnership, governments can share those experiences that due to their competence nor civil society organizations nor communities can have – since it is the responsibility of governments to formulate and implement public policies. In addition, governments should support and/or enable civil society and communities in the realization of their activities.

Support expected from the MPS

The MPS should act as a broker to improve the communication of the members of the region with those belonging to the other regions.

The MPS should act as a broker to share information about the lessons learned by countries with respect to sustainable mountain development.

The MPS should promote the dialogue with "GLISPA" (Global Island Partnership), by building appropriate communication mechanisms and promoting an optimal use of resources for the development/conservation challenges which are common to island and mountains, acting as a bridge between these two historically separated realities. Also, the MPS should help raising awareness of the island countries and communities not only on the lessons learned by their mountain continental counterparts of which they might take advantage, but also on potential policy responses that continental countries could gather and implement considering the experiences of island countries as pilot projects systematically integrating SMD. Jamaica and Cuba should join GLISPA to strengthen their experiences.

Follow up action:

- To develop coordination mechanisms to strengthen the communication and a network to exchange experiences, knowledge and projects.
- To foster the engagement in the MP of other Governments and civil society organizations.