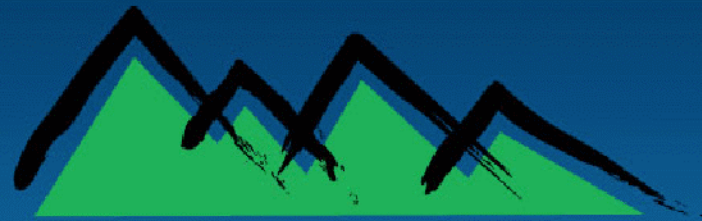


IPROMO

Understanding Upland Watershed Management



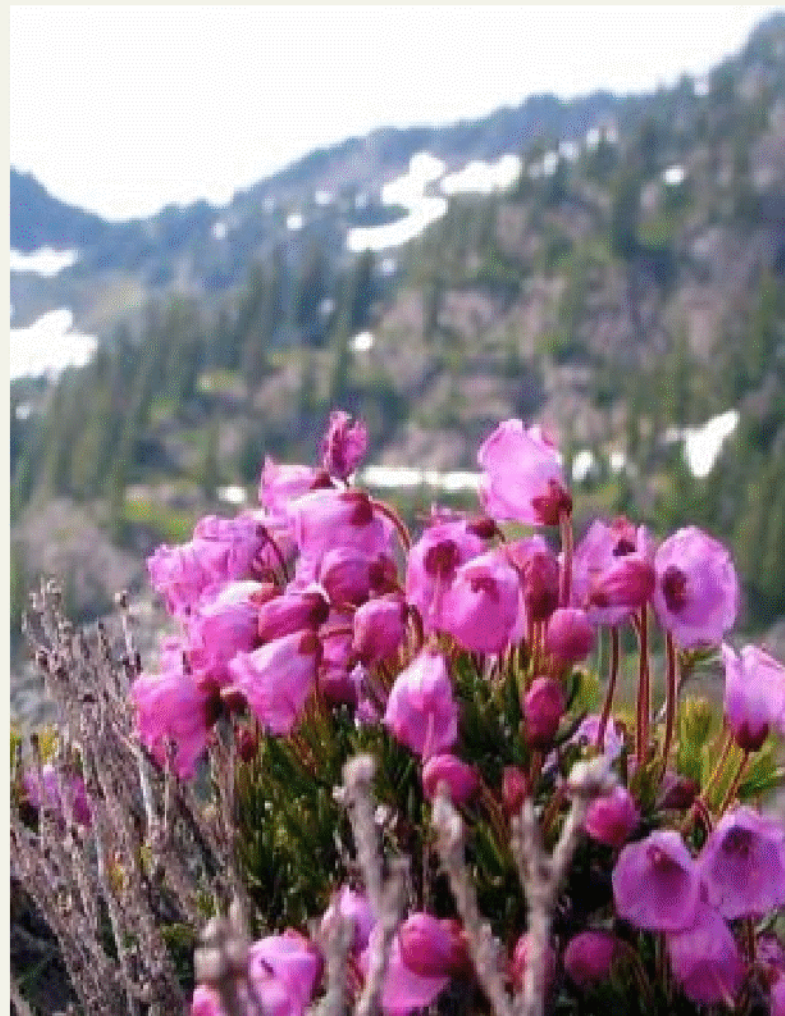
Mountain Partnership

Ormea – 12 July 2013

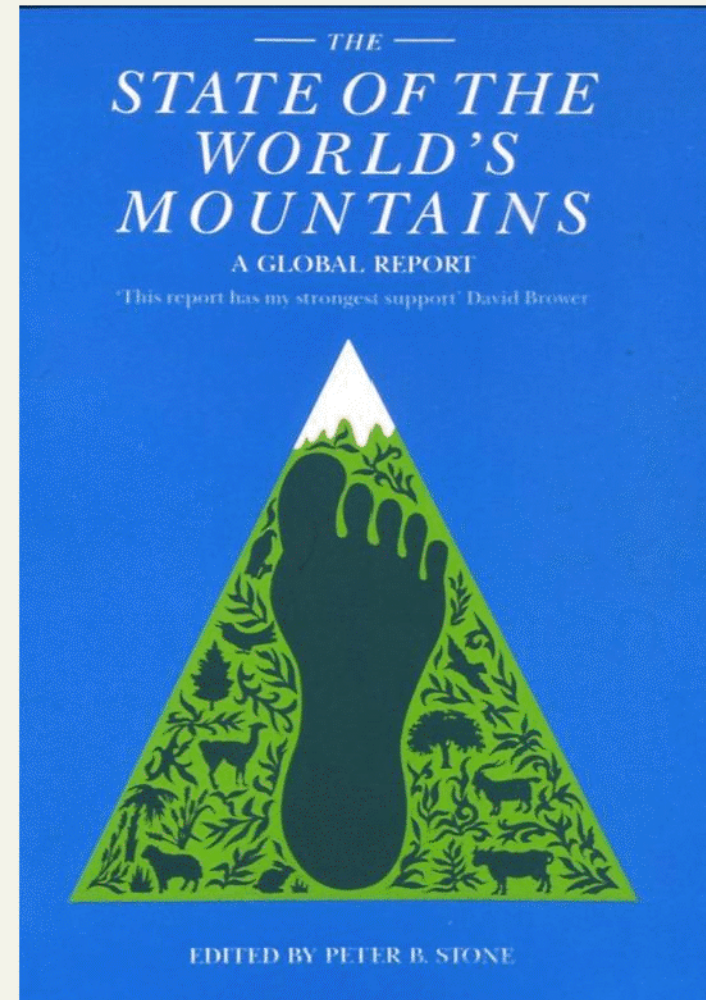
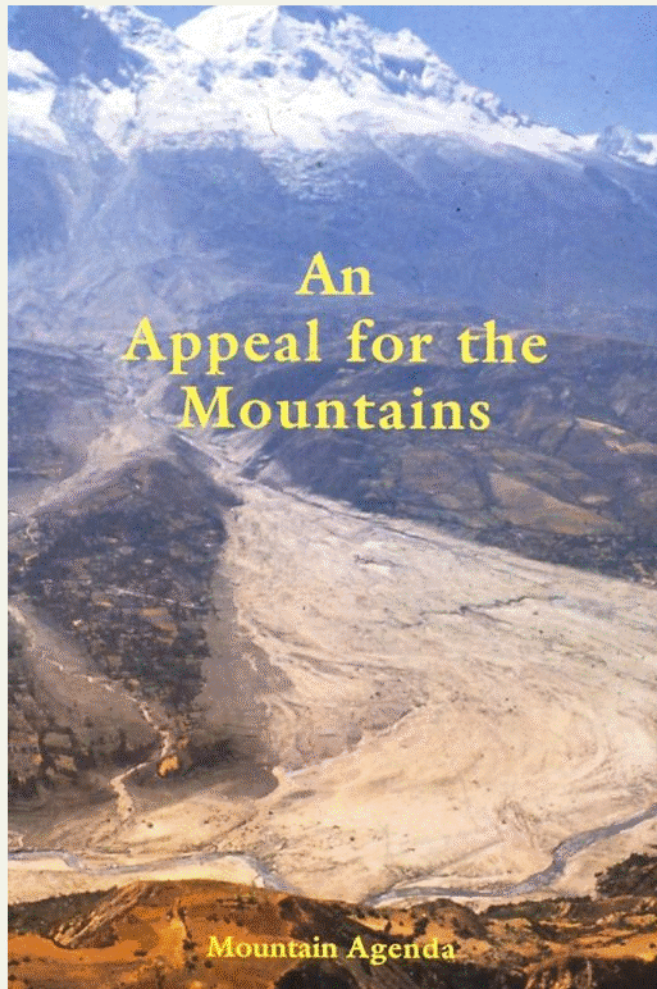


In this presentation:

- **The Mountain Agenda since 1992 and why mountains matter**
- **What is the Mountain Partnership**
- **Why this topic was selected for IPROMO '13**
- **What is the role of participants following the course**



1992: Documents for Rio



1992: Rio Earth Summit

- **Mountains & upland areas cover some 20% of the surface of the earth (now 24%)**
- **10 % (now up to 50%) of the world's population depends on mountain resources**



1992: Rio Earth Summit

13 Managing fragile ecosystems: Sustainable mountain development

INTRODUCTION

13.1 Mountains are an important source of water, energy and biological diversity. Furthermore, they are a source of such key resources as minerals, forest products and agricultural products and of recreation. As a major ecosystem representing the complex and interrelated ecology of our planet, mountain environments are essential to the survival of the global ecosystem. Mountain ecosystems are, however, rapidly changing. They are susceptible to accelerated soil erosion, landslides and rapid loss of habitat and genetic diversity. On the human side, there is widespread poverty among mountain inhabitants and loss of indigenous knowledge. As a result, most global mountain areas are experiencing environmental degradation. Hence, the proper management of mountain resources, and socio-economic development of the people deserves immediate action.

13.2 About 10 per cent of the world's population depends directly on mountain resources. A much larger percentage draws on mountain resources, including and especially water. Mountains are a storehouse of biological diversity and endangered species.

13.3 Two programme areas are included in this chapter to further elaborate the problem of fragile ecosystems with regard to all mountains of the world. These are:

- (a) Generating and strengthening knowledge about the ecology and sustainable development of mountain ecosystems;
- (b) Promoting integrated watershed development and alternative livelihood opportunities.

PROGRAMME AREAS

A) GENERATING AND STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS

BASIS FOR ACTION

13.4 Mountains are highly vulnerable to human and natural ecological imbalances. Mountains are the areas most sensitive to all climatic changes in the atmosphere. Specific information on ecology, natural resource potential and socio-economic activities is essential. Mountain and hillside areas hold a rich variety of ecological systems. Because of their vertical dimensions, mountains create gradients of temperature, precipitation and insolation. A given mountain slope may include several climatic systems — such as tropical, subtropical, temperate and alpine — each of which represents a microcosm of a larger habitat diversity. There is, however, a lack of knowledge of mountain ecosystems. The creation of a global mountain database is therefore vital for launching programmes that contribute to the sustainable development of mountain ecosystems.

OBJECTIVES

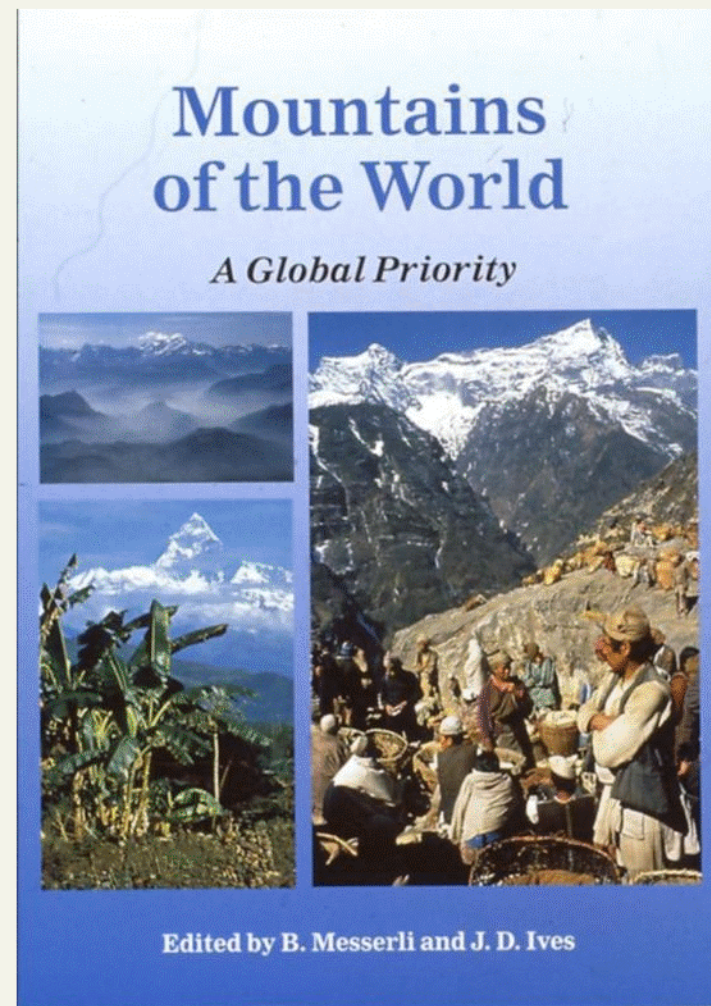
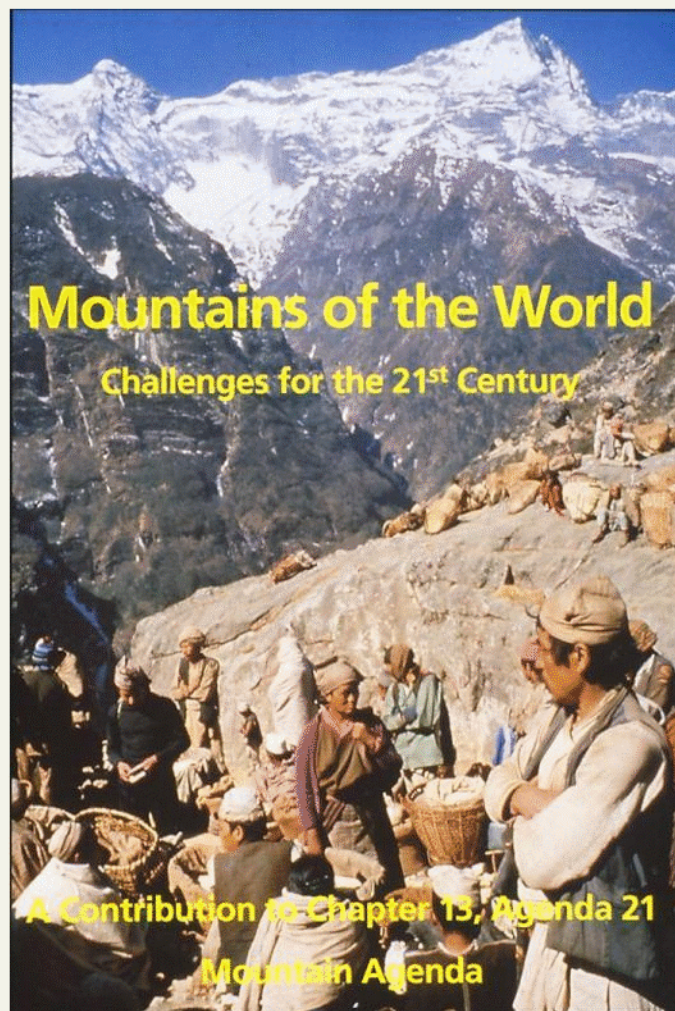
13.5 The objectives of this programme area are:

- (a) To undertake a survey of the different forms of soils, forest, water use, crop, plant and animal resources of mountain ecosystems, taking into account the work of existing international and regional organizations;
- (b) To maintain and generate database and information systems to facilitate the integrated management and environmental assessment of mountain ecosystems, taking into account the work of existing international and re-

109



1997: Rio + 5



1998: UN General Assembly

Resolution for an International Year of Mountains

- **Sponsored by**
- **130 countries**



2002



International Year of
MOUNTAINS

We are all mountain people

www.mountains2002.org

- **78 countries with national committees**
- **National and regional events & initiatives**
- **Many global meetings**



2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10)



**The Mountain Partnership launched
by Italy, Switzerland, FAO and
UNEP**



MP: adding mountain language to the Outcome Document of Rio+20



- **Reports on SMD prepared for almost all regions with support from the Swiss Cooperation**
- **International Conference organized by the Swiss Government in October 2011 to promote SMD in the Rio+20 process.**



RIO OUTCOME - The future we want

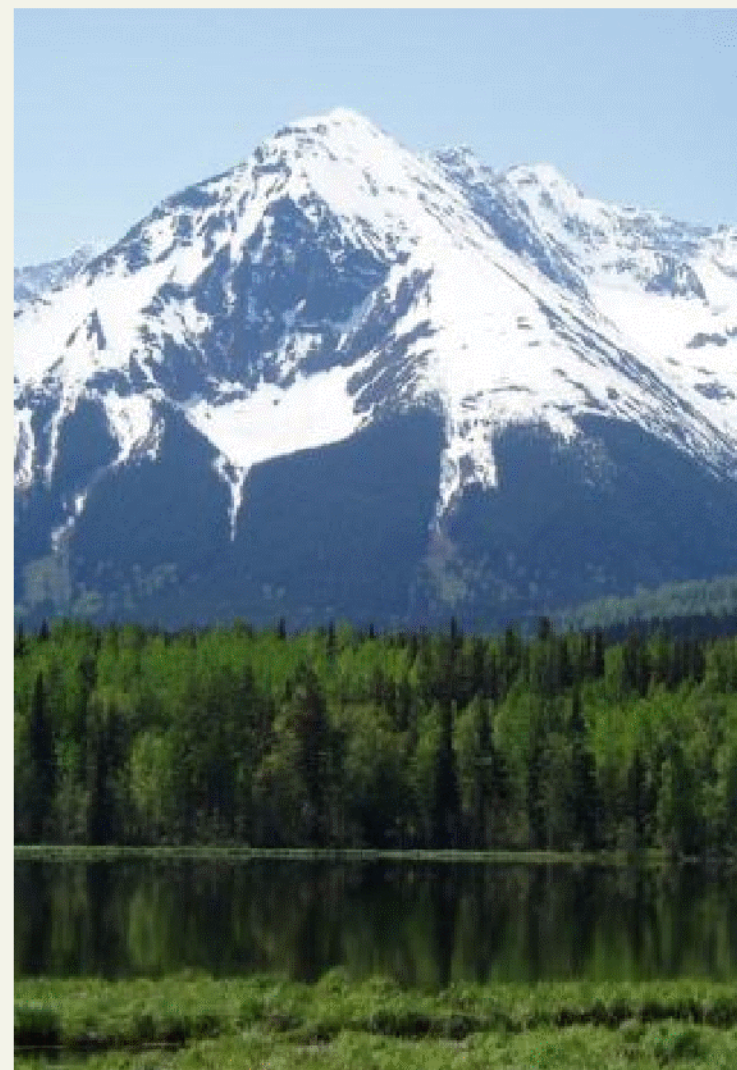
Mountains

210. We recognize that the **benefits derived from mountain regions are essential for sustainable development**. Mountain ecosystems play a crucial role in providing **water resources to a large portion of the world's population**; fragile mountain ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the **adverse impacts of climate change, deforestation and forest degradation, land use change, land degradation and natural disasters**; and **mountain glaciers around the world are retreating** and getting thinner, with increasing impacts on the environment and human well-being.
211. We further recognize that mountains are often **home to communities, including indigenous peoples and local communities**, who have developed sustainable uses of mountain resources. These communities are, however, often marginalized, and we therefore stress that continued effort will be required to address **poverty, food security and nutrition, social exclusion and environmental degradation** in these areas. We invite States to strengthen cooperative action with effective involvement and sharing of experience of all relevant stakeholders, by strengthening existing arrangements, agreements and centres of excellence for sustainable mountain development, as well as exploring new arrangements and agreements, as appropriate.
212. We call for greater efforts towards the **conservation of mountain ecosystems**, including their **biodiversity**. We encourage States to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches, including through incorporating **mountain-specific policies into national sustainable development strategies**, which could include, inter alia, **poverty reduction plans** and programmes for mountain areas, particularly in developing countries. **In this regard, we call for international support for sustainable mountain development in developing countries.**



UN Conventions and CSD

- **CBD - has a programme of work on mountain biodiversity**
- **UNCCD - has recently published jointly with the MPS a booklet on Highlands and Drylands - Mountains, a source of resilience in arid regions**
- **UNFCCC - mountain ecosystems are mentioned in the text of the Convention as particularly affected by CC**
- **CSD - the MPS has organized regular meetings during the CSD since its establishment**



Cover 1/4 of Earth's surface





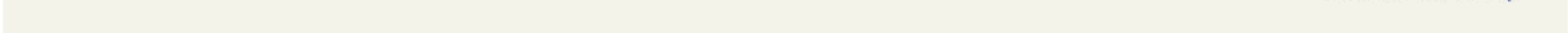
Home to 1 in 10

Provide more than 60% of freshwater





Rich in biodiversity





Energy



Recreation and tourism



Verticality, steep slopes



**Harsh climate,
extreme weather events**



Natural disasters

Fragility, sensitivity to change



Urbanization





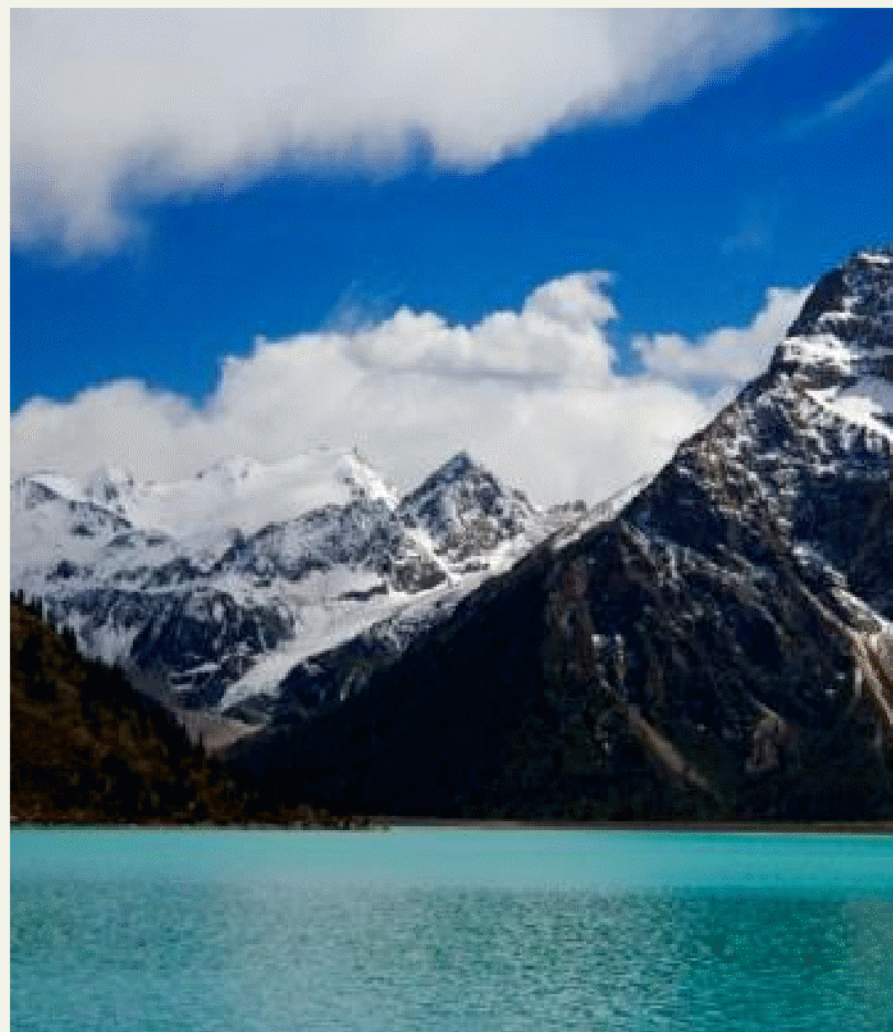
**Difficult livelihood conditions,
migration**



Many poor and hungry

In this presentation:

- **The Mountain Agenda since 1992**
- **What is the Mountain Partnership**
- **Why this topic was selected for IPROMO '12**
- **What is the role of participants following the course**



The Mountain Partnership

A new approach to development...

- **Johannesburg – 2002**
- **Alliance that is voluntary and inclusive** (Governments, IGOs, NGOs, Private Sector)
- **Type 2 – Governments, IGOs and NGOs working together**



Membership

213 members:

51 Countries

6 Subnational authorities

16 IGOs

140 Major Groups



Enhances collaboration and action through ...

All about ACTION:

- **Advocacy**
- **Knowledge sharing**
- **Capacity building**
- **Communications**



Supported by a Secretariat

- **UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome (FAO)**
- **Central Asia (UCA, Kyrgyzstan)**
- **UNEP responsible for environmental concerns**
- **Cooperation with the Mountain Forum for information dissemination**



Communication Tools

- E-mail distribution lists
- Website
- Newsletters
- Databases
- Collaborative workspaces
- E-consultations



In this presentation:

- **The Mountain Agenda since 1992**
- **What is the Mountain Partnership**
- **Why this topic was selected for IPROMO '12**
- **What is the role of participants following the course**



Watershed Management

- **key tool to address SMD**
- **integrated approach to development**
- **closed geographical area**
- **upstream-downstream linkages**



In this presentation:

- **The Mountain Agenda since 1992**
- **What is the Mountain Partnership**
- **Why this topic was selected for IPROMO '12**
- **What is the role of participants following the course**



IPROMO ALUMNI

- **Alumni network**
- **You are an agent for change**
- **Presentations all on line**
- **Join the community – stay in touch**



Mountain Partnership

Thank you!

Rosalaura Romeo

Mountain Partnership

Programme Officer

rosalaura.romeo@fao.org

www.mountainpartnership.org

