



Advocacy Strategy of the Mountain Partnership 2018-2021

This advocacy strategy has been drafted by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) for the period 2017-2020 building on the previous Advocacy Strategy document approved at the previous Global Meeting in 2013. Its overall aim is to assist Mountain Partnership (MP) members in their advocacy and lobbying efforts to promote global attention and awareness about sustainable mountain development (SMD) in policy processes as stated by [the MP Governance](#) and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Mountain Partnership has a large constituency of governments, civil society and intergovernmental organizations that can advocate for mountains in several fora. As acknowledged by its Steering Committee, it is time for the Partnership to step up and build a stronger political coalition advocating for mountain issues to be considered as a priority within the relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). It is suggested that the priorities on which the MP can focus for the next four years are on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

There are five specific goals that will be undertaken in the 2018-2021 period mainly by MP members with the support of the MPS, where relevant and at global level, and these are:

- 1) Ensure that mountain regions are fully integrated in national and international efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda;
- 2) Mainstream mountain issues in the main international processes such as the Paris Agreement and other MEAs;
- 3) Build on synergies with other coalitions and create a coalition of vulnerable ecosystems;
- 4) Ensure visibility of mountains in relevant international, regional and national activities;
- 5) Raise visibility of the MP's work in SMD through communication activities and outreach;
- 6) Attract increased financial support for and investment in SMD.

This strategy calls for the combined advocacy efforts of all MP members to encourage governments, civil society, influential individuals, UN Conventions and processes, institutions and organizations, through various activities, to adopt specific approaches (investments, programmes of work, declarations, etc.) to ensure proactive solutions for change.

This strategy aims to tap into the advocacy strengths of the individuals and groups within the MP, take into account sub-regional/regional needs and requirements and provide a timeline (calendar) for members' participation. The advocacy efforts should strategically build upon members' comparative advantages and access to particular processes such as the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention, the UN Rio Conventions, the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), and encourage the building of strategic alliances to support the SMD cause. For



example, it will build on the close collaboration of the MP with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), also supported by Italy.

The strategy should also take into account and work, where relevant, with existing advocacy documents (including events) from different members.

Further, it should benefit from the services of the MPS in assisting members, facilitating UN-related processes and producing advocacy material.

The main advocacy activity of the MPS throughout 2017 is the organization of the Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership, to be held on 11-13 December 2017 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. This is meant to put a spotlight on mountains and launch the Framework for Action for integrating SMD into the 2030 Agenda.

A calendar of relevant events (appendix) for 2018 that will help with the implementation of the strategy will be made available and presented to the Steering Committee.

The implementation of the strategy will be subject to the availability of funds.

Target audiences:

- Policy makers;
- UN Convention negotiators;
- MP members;
- Governments;
- Civil society ;
- Media;
- Donors; and
- Beneficiaries, e.g. the mountain community.

The strategic outcomes of the strategy are:

- Policy-makers influenced;
- Mountain issues included in key international and regional processes and dialogues;
- SMD agenda becomes a priority in UN conventions and programmes of work;
- Increased funding from climate funding and other sources for mountain projects and activities;
- Sense of ownership of the mountain agenda developed by MP members; and
- Increased information and awareness on mountain issues.

1) Mainstreaming SMD principles in the main international processes

To ensure that SMD principles are included in global multilateral environmental agreements, the MP and the MPS aim to facilitate the following:

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- On the occasion of its forthcoming Global Meeting, the MP will have the chance to put a spotlight on mountains and advocate for greater attention in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement;
- The aim is to develop a Framework for Action, endorsed by participating governments and committing leaders, to establish policies that can truly build the resilience of mountain environments and peoples. This will be launched at the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting on 11 December 2017. Preparatory meetings to finalise the text of the Global Framework for action will be held by countries and supported by the MPS prior to the Global Meeting;
- Support and provide guidelines on how to inform and influence relevant actors who deal with sustainable development issues;
- Facilitate dialogue and exchange through the FAO official channels (permanent representations such as in the Rome and NY offices, FAO representatives, etc.);
- Organize side events during the conferences of the parties (COP) of relevant UN Conventions and other key fora at the request of MP members;
- Support the drafting of target messages;
- Support members' regional initiatives;
- Contribute to the drafting of the UNGA Report on SMD and assist when relevant to the drafting of the UN General Assembly Secretary-General Resolution;
- Make available on the MP website a calendar of relevant activities and events; and
- Engage with UN Convention Secretariat focal points.

2) Heighten visibility and political support for mountains through engaging in UNFCCC processes

With the aim to specifically increase the voice of mountains in the climate change negotiations and to support countries in their efforts to integrate mountains in their climate actions, the Strategy will engage with the UNFCCC as a priority area for the advocacy work of the MP and the MPS in the coming years. In this regard, the following actions could be considered:

- Use the outreach opportunities provided by the UNFCCC COPs and SBSTA sessions (Nov/Dec and June respectively) to heighten awareness of mountain ecosystems' and communities' contributions to climate change adaptation and mitigation and of the benefits of investing in them for climate results and for sustainable development more generally. In particular encourage all MP members to organize side-events both at the official COP or SBSTA premises, and at the civil society pavilions at COPs so to target all categories of stakeholders attending the meetings: members of delegations NGOs, academia and other civil society interest groups;
- Use the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) technical and scientific reports to better inform UNFCCC of the importance of mountains to climate action;
- Identify the relevant entry points for mountains and mountain people in UNFCCC negotiations (e.g. Nairobi Work Programme), technical work and work programmes and engage in these processes through preparing submissions to UNFCCC;

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- Prior to each relevant submission to UNFCCC, prepare a briefing note for negotiators on key points on mountains that may be considered for inclusion in the country's official positions;
- Improve visibility and branding of mountains through IISD by setting up a Mountain-L List.
- Consider hosting events at the Global Landscape Forum or other similar fora, which are generally held annually in conjunction with COPs; and
- Further engage with civil society to raise visibility of mountains and mountain peoples, including with representatives of indigenous peoples' and build on their successful experience in UNFCCC-related negotiations (e.g. REDD+ process).

2b) Support countries' efforts to integrate mountains in their climate action

- Assist countries' to integrate mountains adequately in their climate change plans, including in their: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); National Adaptation Plans; National Climate Change Strategies; and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs);
- Engage in discussion the MP countries that have included mountains in their NDCs, particularly members of the MP through their focal points, to assess their need for technical and financial support. Follow up with assisting them develop project proposals and with securing financing; and
- Prepare a short briefing paper / publication on how to integrate mountains into climate change planning documents.

3) Supporting a coalition for vulnerable ecosystems:

As part of the upscaling process in advocating for change, the MPS will also facilitate the collaboration launched with GLISPA in 2012 at the Rio+20 Conference under the auspices of the Italian government, which resulted in collaboration within the ongoing project "*Climate Change and Mountain Forests*". The *Coalition for Fragile Ecosystems* will bring together the MP and GLISPA with the aim of strengthening the international relevance of the two partnerships and their capacity to focus attention toward fragile ecosystems and leverage supplementary funding to support a joint programme of work.

The capacity development activities held by the MP are crucial for creating a large network of active practitioners of SMD globally that can ensure that mountain issues are properly addressed in the 2030 Agenda and that funding is provided to support such process, as well as to the wider coalition for fragile ecosystems.

3) MP participation in international and national processes.

The MPS can assist in identifying needs, supporting initiatives and meetings and facilitate joint action between members to ensure effectiveness, as well as produce documents on mountain issues to foster their mainstreaming in national (especially sectorial) policies.

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- Liaise with national governments;
- Support the establishment and the activities of National Mountain Committees and regional mechanisms;
- Strengthen and expand institutional capacity to promote SMD at a global/regional level (through IPROMO courses, workshops etc);
- Promote thematic workshops (and follow-up action) on identified priorities;
- Disseminate lessons learned at national and regional level;
- Promote regional mechanisms for advocacy (Andean Mechanism, the African Champion Committee etc); and
- Disseminate policy briefs and guidelines useful to partners for engaging in this process at national level.

4) Raise visibility of the MP's work in SMD through communication activities and outreach.

The MPS continually produces communications products to rally support for SMD. The knowledge arm of the MP should also take a lead role in producing and sharing messages, documents and tools relating to SMD and the 2030 Agenda. This should be an ongoing advocacy activity rather than a time-bound one and should aim for a larger target audience, including target groups not currently involved in the MP (e.g. business groups, civil society organizations with other human-centred focus). This campaign is closely related to the current communication strategy and activities of the MP and MPS.

- Launching and dissemination of *Mountains under Pressure* study assessing the nexus between climate change, hunger and migration in the mountains of the world;
- Participation of Mountain Partnership Goodwill ambassadors in specific events, championing the cause of SMD through a social media campaign (videos, spots, calls for action, petitions), delivering tailored speeches and conveying main messages. A programme of activities both at global and regional level will be proposed and managed by the MPS;
- Production of issues/policy briefs;
- Production of targeted national or regional briefs;
- Dissemination of materials related to the Mountain Green Cover index including the outcomes and any training material produced for the workshops (to be held 14-15 Dec 2017);
- Dissemination of the materials produced on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGS (publication, video, etc);
- Dissemination of mountain specific outcome documents and declarations related to international symposia and conferences;
- Production and dissemination of videos (such as those produced for IMD);
- Production of communication materials in six UN languages for IMD;
- Production of publications; and
- Production of a tool kit to better engage with the media.



5) Attract increased financial support for and investment in SMD

Actively explore possibilities for heightened financial support for mountains from climate and environmental funds and through linking with other major initiatives.

- Engage with the secretariats of financial instruments for climate change, including Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund for support for mountains, inviting them to MP major events;
- Urge country members of the MP to see that an effective case for mountain support is made to their nationally designated entities and authorities for GEF and the GCF through the appropriate channels;
- Actively pursue Green Climate Fund opportunities for mountain climate change projects, focussing inter alia on Environmentally-based Approaches (EbA) and people-centred approaches;
- Continue to pursue GEF and the International Climate Initiative (IKI) for mountains climate financing; and
- Discuss with the managers of other major initiatives, including the Forest and Landscape Restoration Partnership and the FLR Mechanism, the Forest and Farm Facility, EbA Partnership, etc. how to include mountain areas as target sites for their activities, thus leveraging financial and technical support to mountains through these initiatives.