



Report on the MP Framework for Action survey 2020

Background

At the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting held in December 2017, all members of the Mountain Partnership committed to increase efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, aiming to secure the contribution of resilient mountain ecosystems and communities to a sustainable world by endorsing the MP [Framework for Action](#).

The Framework for Action (FFA) is anchored to the Agenda 2030 (and particularly to target 15.1, 15.4 and 6.6) and to other relevant UN processes such as Chapter 13 of Agenda 21, “Managing Fragile Ecosystems; Sustainable Mountain Development” and the UNGA Resolution A/RES/71/234 on Sustainable mountain development. The Framework recognizes the importance of specifically addressing challenges in mountain regions for accomplishing many other targets of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Under the Framework for Action, by 2030 MP members pledged to:

- Governments: review and update their development policies, as applicable, with the aim to integrate appropriate strategies for “sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation”;
- Governments, Intergovernmental organizations and donor agencies: review and update their international development cooperation policy, as applicable, with the aim to make “sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation” an integral part of it;
- Major Groups: raise awareness on the importance of sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation in all relevant international conferences and summits and work towards the inclusion of mountain-related language in outcome documents, resolutions and strategies

MP members called upon the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) to report on a regular basis on the achievement of their commitments.

At its meetings held in June and July 2020, the MP Steering Committee, particularly the Advocacy and Communication Working Group, *“recommended that the MPS work on a monitoring and reporting system for progress made by MP members under the Framework for Action”*

To address this request and the obligation taken under the MP Framework for Action, the Secretariat circulated a survey to all the MP member focal points. The survey was open from 22 October to 13 November 2020 and available in English, French and Spanish. The original survey questions are reported in the Annex. The complete survey results can be accessed at the following links ([EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#)).

The survey consisted of three different sets of questions addressed to the three categories of members (Government, Intergovernmental Organizations and Major Group Organizations), aiming at monitoring the progress made related to their respective pledges, The first two questions were



common to all categories and were used for identifying respondents. Governments and IGOs were asked about how their international cooperation policy addressed sustainable mountain development or mountain ecosystem conservation. Major Group Organizations instead were asked about the major outcomes achieved towards sustainable mountain development. All respondents had one question concerning the major challenges faced to implement the Framework for Action and one on the kind of support they would like to receive from the MPS.

The total response rate to the survey was 29% (117 respondents out of 411 MP members).



Governments

MP Governments were very active and had a response rate higher than 50% - 32 out of 60 MP governments answered the survey.

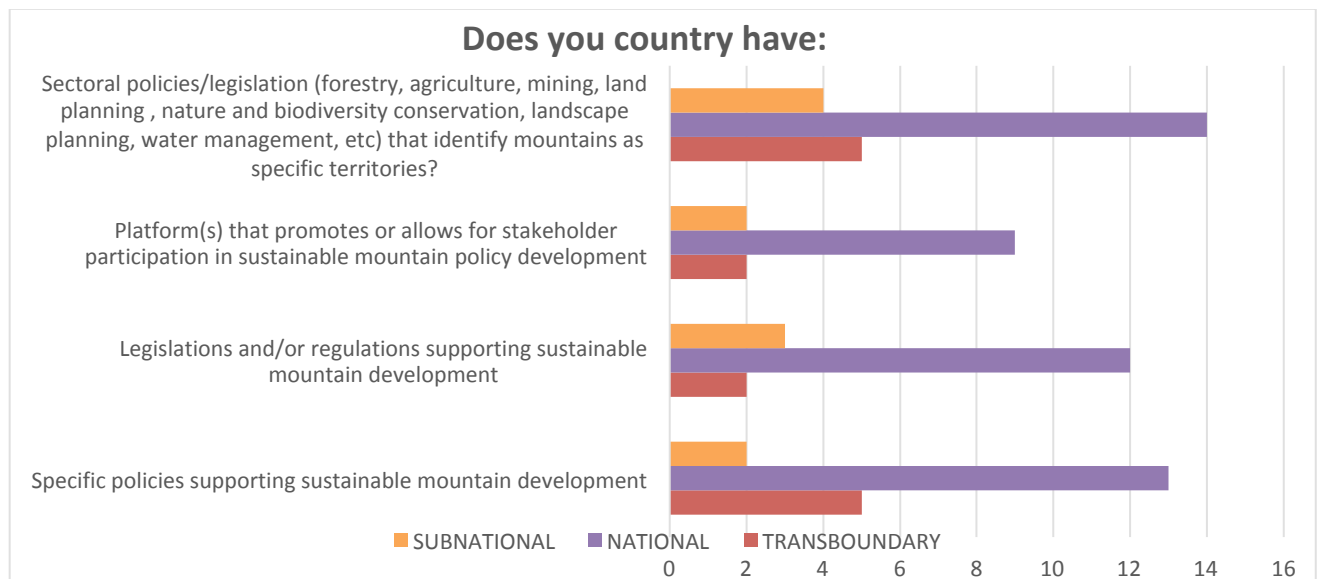
International Cooperation Policy

Two of the four questions addressed to governments aimed at understanding if countries have reviewed or updated their international cooperation policy between 2018 and 2020 and which kind of policies, legislations, regulations and platforms on Sustainable Mountain Development are available at national, subnational and transboundary level.

Only 4 out of 18 Governments answered that their international cooperation policy has been updated or reviewed. However, most respondents showed that policies, legislations, regulations and platforms on Sustainable Mountain Development are present at country level while they are lacking at subnational and transboundary level (questions 3 and 4).

In the comments, 9 governments provided information on their Sustainable Mountain Development policies (Uganda, Georgia, Switzerland, Lesotho, Venezuela, Argentina, Peru, Guinea, Algeria, Burundi). All comments can be accessed at the PDF containing all survey responses (available at the following [link](#)).

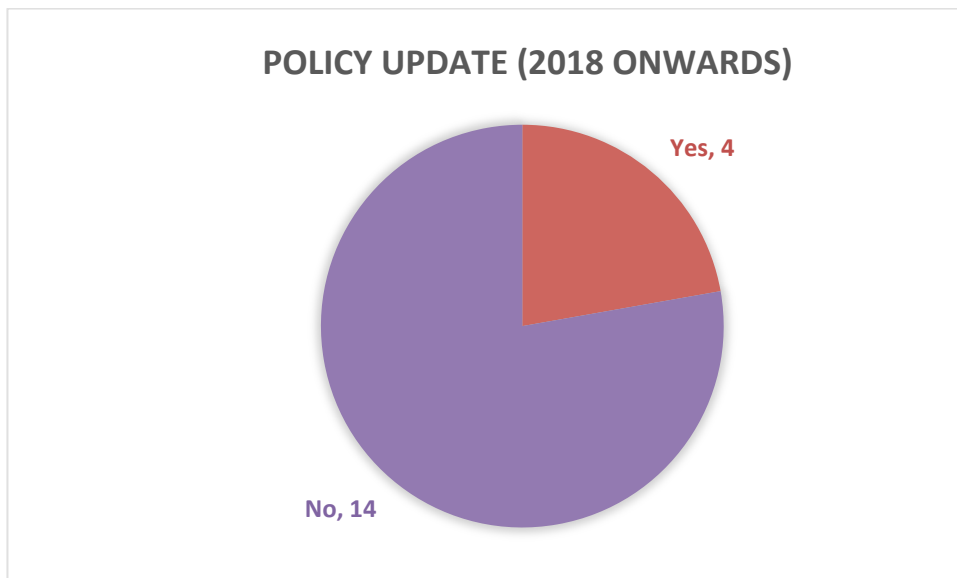
Question 3:
3. Does your country have?





Question 4:

4. Since January 2018, has your country reviewed or updated, its international cooperation policy to make sustainable mountain development or mountain ecosystem conservation an integral part of it??





Main Challenges

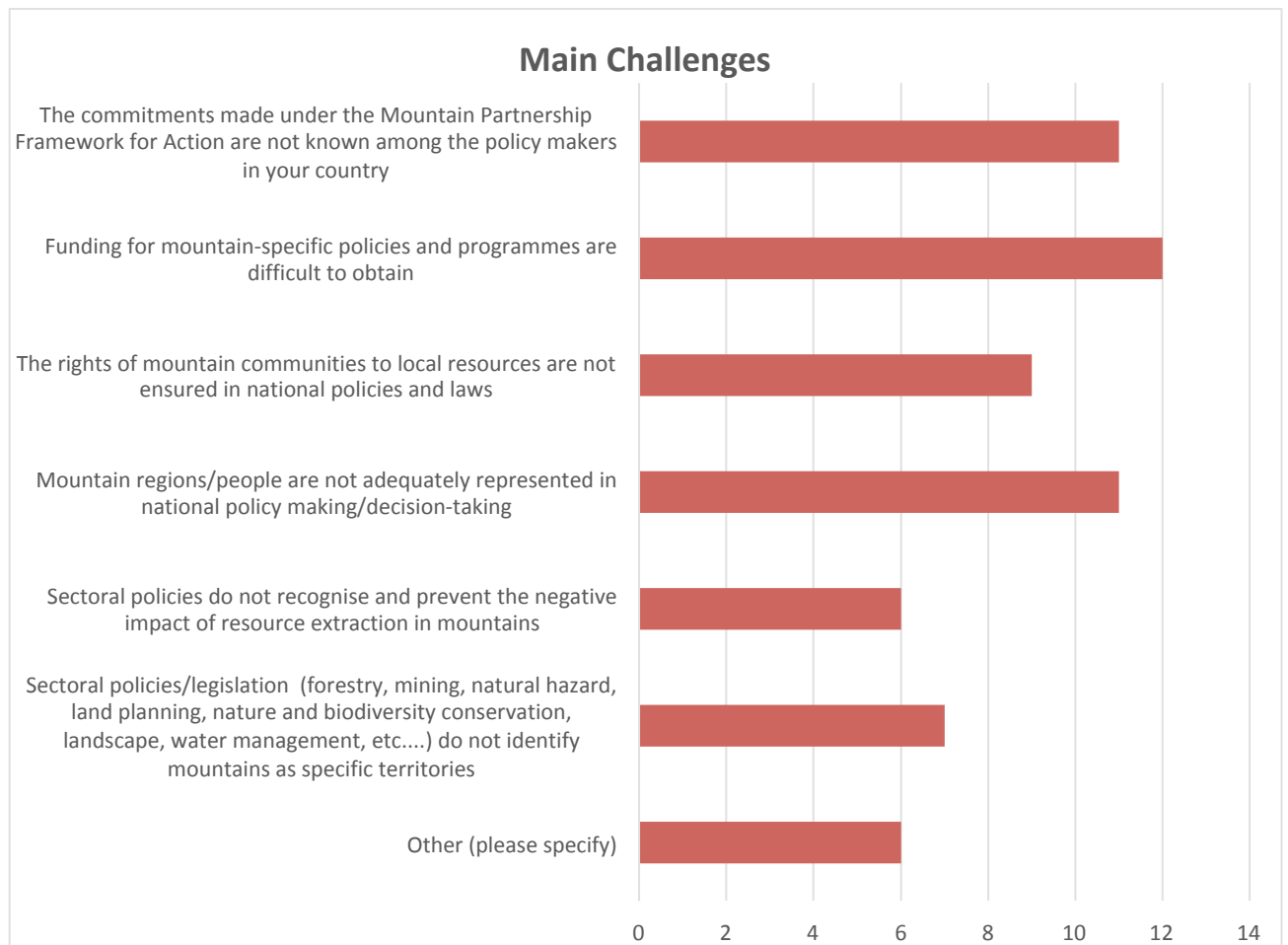
One question asked about the main challenges faced by MP governments to implement the Framework for Action and to increase efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Mountains.

Out of the 7 suggested answers, three received most votes: ‘Funding for mountain-specific policies and programmes are difficult to obtain’, ‘Mountain regions/people are not adequately represented in national policy making/decision-taking’ and ‘The commitments made under the Mountain Partnership Framework for Action are not known among the policy makers in your country’.

Peru mentioned in the comments that often the issue is that environmental policies and discussions focus on forests but they rarely do focus on mountains.

Question 5:

5. What are the main challenges faced by your government related to increasing efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for mountains?





Support from the MPS

The last question asked governments about how could the MPS support them to increase their efforts for implementing the FFA and the 2030 Agenda for mountains. Respondents were asked to rank each suggested answer in order of importance (from 1 to 4).

All four suggested answers were considered relevant by respondents, however at different level of priority depending on the countries. The option “Facilitate the contact between the Mountain Partnership national focal points and government institutions responsible for sectoral policies having an impact on mountains” is the one that received most priority 1 and 2. For the remaining options, approximately half of the respondents considered them as higher priority and half as lower priority.

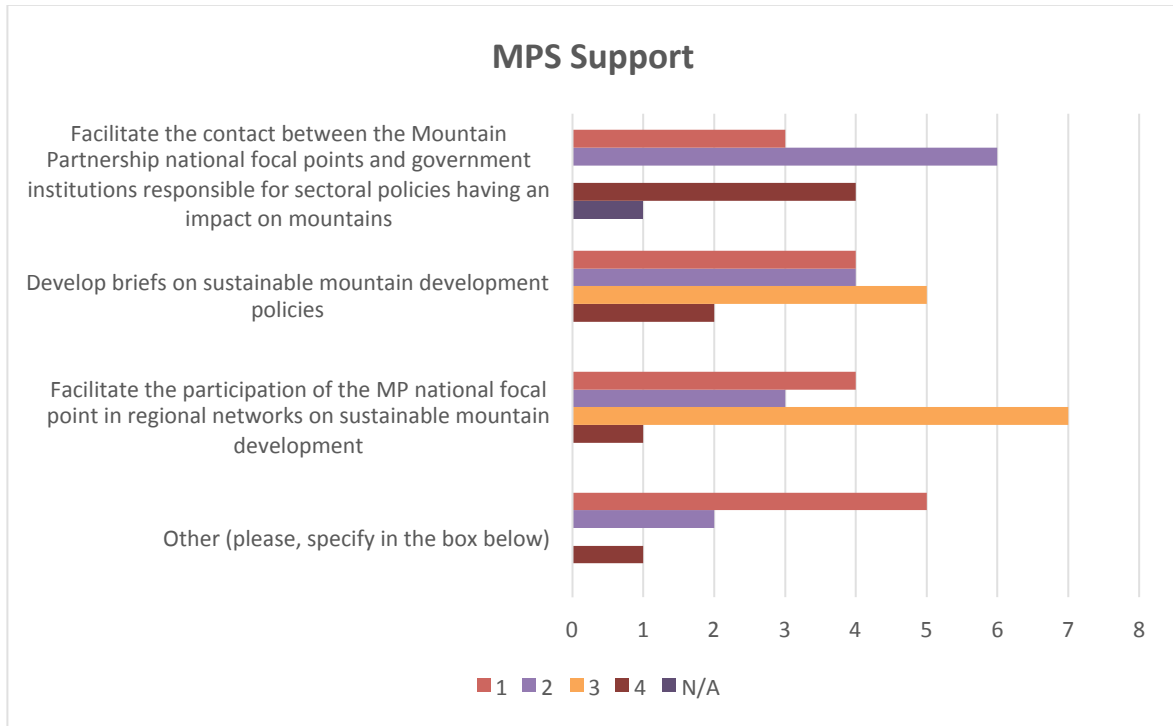
Several governments provided further feedback on the issue:

- Uganda would like the MPS to support them in preparation of project proposals;
- Switzerland would like the MPS to develop a system to track and report regularly on progresses achieved towards the FFA while also focusing more on possible concrete actions that MP members could take, and then develop advocacy/communication strategy and policy briefs to support these actions;
- Venezuela would like more financial support on activities related to developing and implementing policies and regulations
- Argentina would like the MPS to support scientific research in mountains by establishing scholarships or awards
- Peru would like the MPS to create and enhance spaces where a constructive dialogue among MP focal points and national policy makers working on sustainable mountain development can be had
- Algeria would like the MPS to support countries to find funds



Question 6:

5. What could the MPS do to support governments increase their efforts for implementing the FFA and the 2030 Agenda for mountains? Please rank the following actions from 1 to 4, where 1 is the highest priority and 4 the lowest. Please note that each column can be selected only once.





Intergovernmental Organizations

IGOs response rate is difficult to assess. 23 respondents answered to be Intergovernmental Organizations, however only 18 Intergovernmental Organizations are part of the Mountain Partnership, showing that some members either answered more than once or answered wrongly to the first question ('Please, select your member category'). While these issues are probably recurrent among all answers and member's type, it is particularly relevant for Intergovernmental Organizations due to the small sample size.

International Cooperation Policy

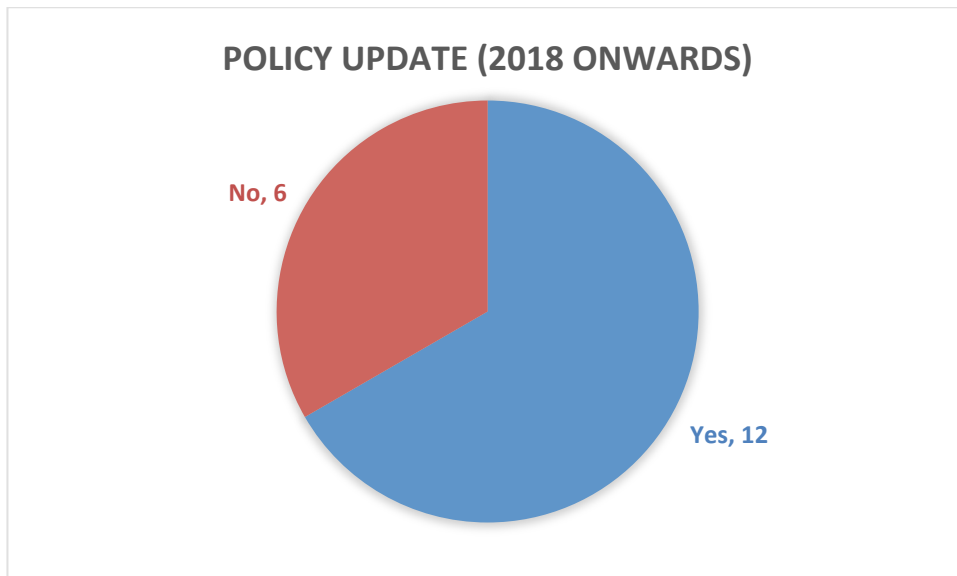
One of the three questions addressed to IGOs aimed at understanding if they have reviewed or updated their international cooperation policy between 2018 and 2020.

The answers show an opposite trend compared to a similar question posed to government (Question 3) – Out of 18 respondents, 12 IGOs said that they have updated and/or reviewed their international cooperation policy over the last three years.

Moreover, 7 IGOs provided specific reference to their international cooperation policy documents. All comments can be accessed at the PDF containing all survey responses (available at the following [link](#)).

Question 7:

7. Since January 2018, has your organization reviewed or updated its international cooperation policy as to make sustainable mountain development or mountain ecosystem conservation an integral part of it?





Main Challenges

One question asked about the main challenges faced by IGOs to implement the Framework for Action and to increase efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Mountains.

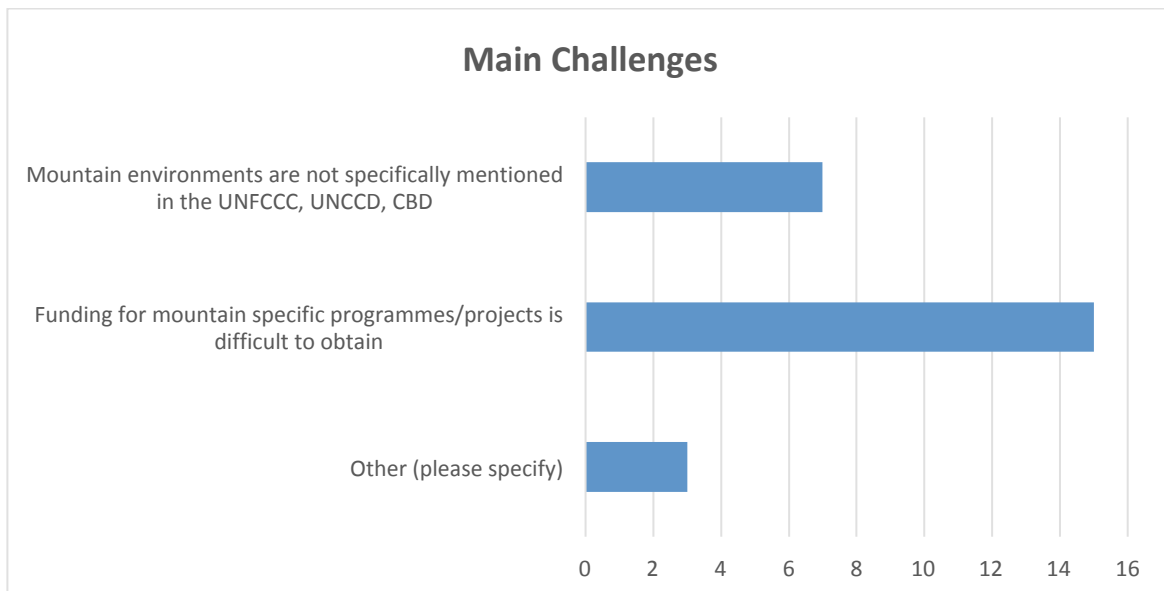
Out of 3 suggested answers, ‘Funding for mountain specific programmes/projects is difficult to obtain’ was the one receiving the vast majority of the votes, showing how lack of funds is perceived as the biggest challenge towards the achievement of this goal.

In the comments:

- WMO highlighted how a weak link between science and policy makers is often leading to negative impacts in high mountain regions as well as lowlands.
- ICIMOD highlighted the challenges they are facing in the Hind Kush Himalaya region, where in general mountain areas and issues are marginal to central government concerns.

Question 8:

8. What are the main challenges you face related to increasing efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for mountains?





Support from the MPS

The last question asked IGOs about how could the MPS support them to increase their efforts for implementing the FFA and the 2030 Agenda for mountains. Respondents were asked to rank in order of importance (from 1 to 3) each possible answer.

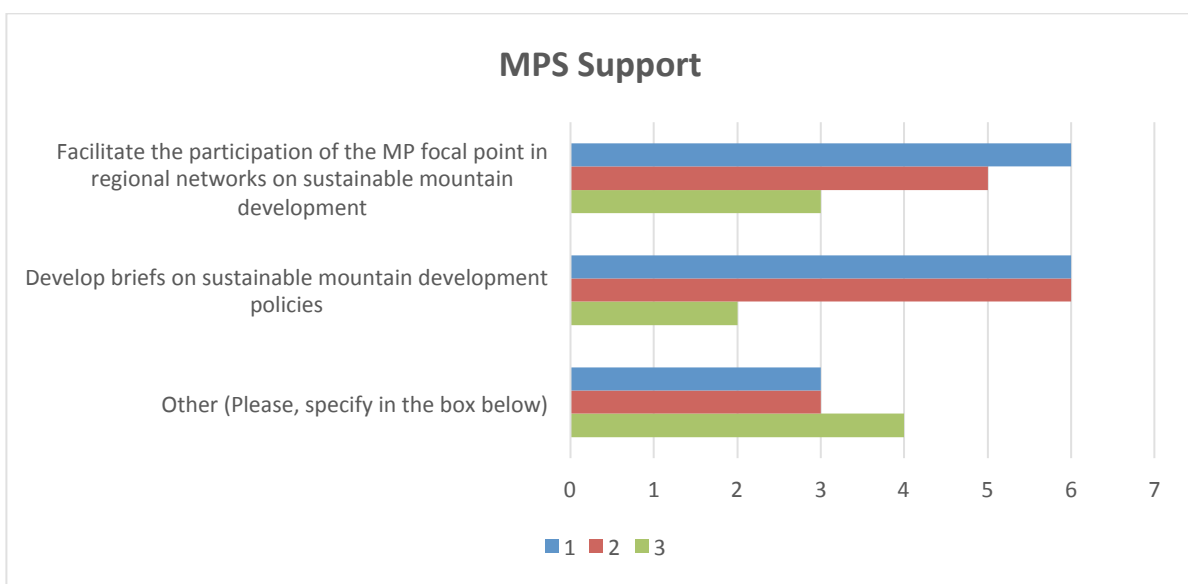
Out of the three suggested answers, ‘Develop briefs on sustainable mountain development’ and ‘Facilitate the participation of the MP focal point in regional networks on sustainable mountain development’ were considered most important.

Several general comments were made:

- facilitate the participation of MP focal points not only in regional networks but also in international networks;
- create working groups by mountain range (Andes, Himalayas, Caucasus, etc...).
- WMO would like sustained collaborative engagements with other organizations to reach different levels of policy making mechanisms and different influencers and
- ICIMOD would like the MP to be enhanced internally through more interactive and easily accessible knowledge management platform that could facilitate more information sharing which in turn could help enhance external communications through more effective partners amplification of shared messages and activities.

Question 9:

9. What could the MPS do to support international organizations in increasing their efforts for implementing the FFA and the 2030 Agenda for mountains? Please rank the following actions from 1 to 3, where 1 is the highest priority and 3 the lowest. Please note that each column can be selected only once.





Major Group Organizations

Major Group Organizations were the member's type with the lowest response rate – only 62 out of 325 NGOs (19% response rate) answered the survey. This could be linked to the perception that the FFA is less relevant for major group organizations

Major Outcomes

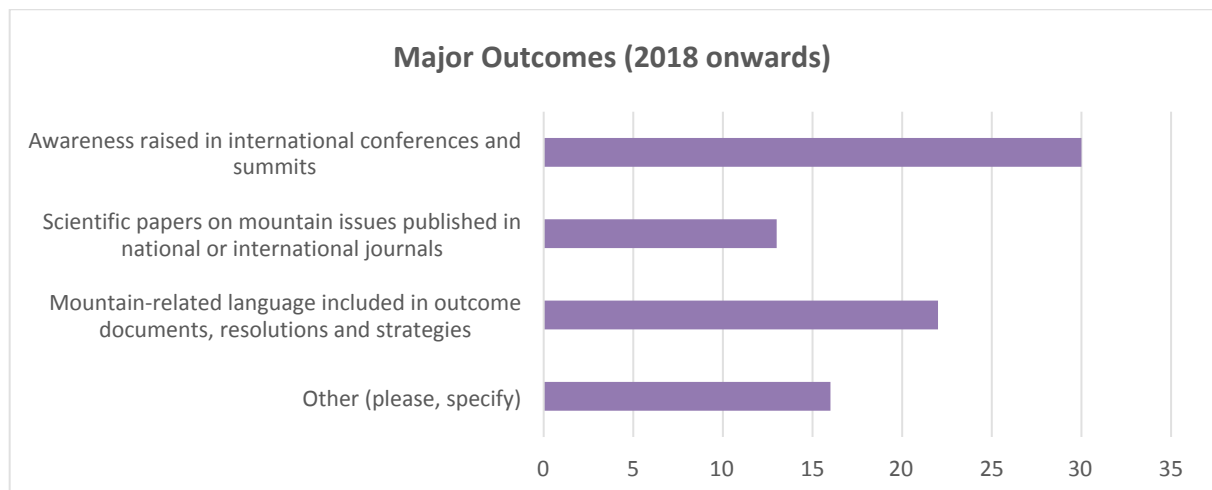
The first question addressed to Major Groups Organizations aimed at understanding the major outcomes achieved between 2018 and 2020 related to raising awareness of sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation.

Among the four suggested options, the answer receiving most votes was 'Awareness raised in international conferences and summits' followed by 'Mountain-related language included in outcome documents, resolutions and strategies'. These results show that most of the NGO's achievements were made in advocating for mountains.

Many NGOs provided detailed information about the strategic documents and publications produced, the international conferences attended and overall, their work done over the course of three years. All comments can be accessed at the PDF containing all survey responses (available at the following [link](#)).

Question 10:

10. Please indicate up to 5 major outcomes of your work since January 2018 related to raising awareness of sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation in relevant international conferences and summits and on including mountain-related language in outcome documents, resolutions and strategies





Main Challenges

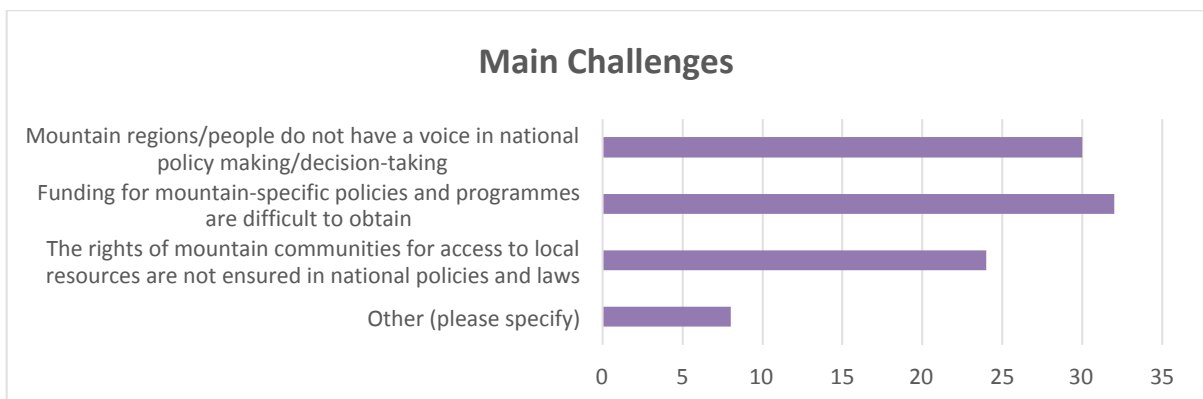
One question asked about the main challenges faced by NGOs to implement the Framework for Action and to increase efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Mountains.

Among the four suggested options, two answers received most votes: ‘Funding for mountain-specific policies and programmes are difficult to obtain’ and ‘Mountain regions/people do not have a voice in national policy making/decision-taking’.

An organization mentioned that a major challenge is that citizens do not value/realize the contribution of mountain communities in sustainable development and the economy of the countries. Another organization mentioned the lack of concrete focus on the critical link between mountain regions, their ecosystems and the global hydrological cycle and climate.

Question 11:

11. What are the main challenges for Major Groups Organizations related to increasing efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for mountains?





Support from the MPS

The last question asked NGOs about how could the MPS support them to increase their efforts for implementing the FFA and the 2030 Agenda for mountains. Respondents were asked to rank in order of importance (from 1 to 4) each suggested answer.

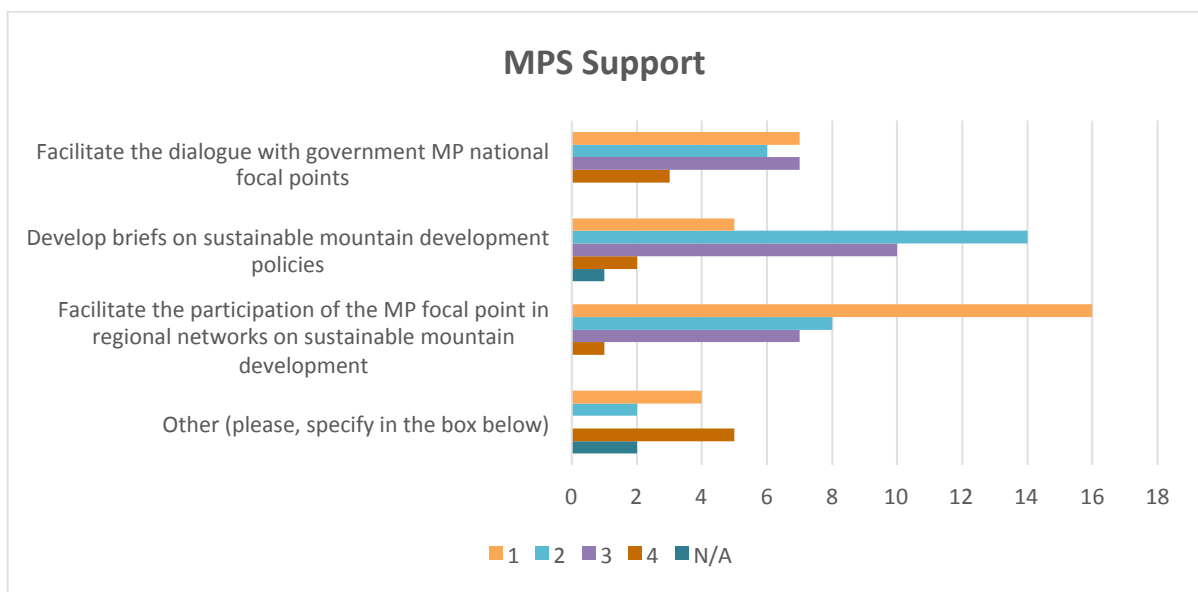
Among the four suggested answers, ‘Facilitate the participation of the MP focal point in regional networks on sustainable mountain development’ was the one receiving the vast majority of first priority.

In the comments, several other suggestions for MPS activities in support of the members were presented:

- create a connection between donors and focal points, another would like the MPS to establish interlinked EBA projects on a global scale,
- create a connection between NGOs and the private sector interested in funding projects,
- financial support for sustainable mountain development projects,
- to focus on the networking dimension and across the multiple levels of stakeholders embedded in the MP membership
- increase its educational activities (such as the IPROMO summer school).

Question 12:

12. What could the MPS do to support Major Groups Organizations in increasing their efforts for implementing the FFA and the 2030 Agenda for mountains? Please rank the following actions from 1 to 4, where 1 is the highest priority and 4 the lowest. Please note that each column can be selected only once.





Analysis

The rate of responses varied among members. Governments and IGOs showed great interest in the survey, while NGOs had a low response rate. The reasons for the few responses from Major Groups would need to be better investigated, but a possible explanation could be that the 2030 Agenda and the Framework for Action itself are more relevant for government and international organizations than for the NGOs, especially the small ones that operate at local level and that make up most of the MP membership .

Most respondents among all member types identified lack of financial resources as their biggest challenge towards the implementation of the FFA and to increase their efforts towards the Agenda 2030 for mountains. This issue was already raised by MP members in previous surveys, proving to be the most relevant challenge towards Sustainable Mountain Development. Consequently, it was also the form of support most frequently requested to the MPS.

All members reported also how a lack of attention on mountains and on mountain issues at national and international levels needs to be addressed. Specifically, both ICIMOD and Peru reported how this issue has a direct impact on national and regional policies – since governments do not perceive or do not understand the importance of mountains, mountain peoples and environments are often neglected by policy and decision makers. As mentioned in some comments, the Mountain Partnership should play an active role in this matter by using its international network and status as a UN alliance to further advocate for mountains and make them relevant at national, regional and international levels.

Only few respondents provided comments on challenges other than those suggested by the questionnaire, a sign that probably these are indeed the most relevant.

Several specific comments were made on what the MPS could do to further support MP members, and this is a sign of the trust of members in the role of the MPS.

An example is the importance given by IGOs and governments to the MPS work on policy brief. Indeed, the MPS was often requested to provide support in developing briefs on sustainable mountain development.

The MP Steering Committee, through its working groups, could look in further detail at the suggestions made by the MP members to rank the most important and/or urgent activities and decide which, among the selected activities, should be carried out by the MPS and which should be instead carried out by the Steering Committee and the MP members represented.

Conclusions

The complete survey results can be accessed at the following links ([EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#)) and all survey responses can be accessed at the PDF available at the following links ([GOVTs](#); [IGOs](#); [NGOs](#)).

This survey was a first step towards monitoring the implementation of the Framework for Action. Further efforts will be put by the MPS and because the survey proved to be an effective and efficient



tool it could be used again in the future to compare results and progress achieved by MP members towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Mountains.

The Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, should make efforts to follow up on unresponsive members and on specific comments made by respondents with the aim to increase the ownership by and relevance of the MP to its members and to guide future activities.



Annex:

Q1: Please, Select your member category:

- Government
- Intergovernmental organization
- Major Group

Q2: Does your country have (govts.):

- Specific policies supporting sustainable mountain development
- Legislations and/or regulations supporting sustainable mountain development
- Platform(s) that promotes or allows for stakeholder participation in sustainable mountain policy development
- Sectoral policies/legislation (forestry, agriculture, mining, land planning , nature and biodiversity conservation, landscape planning, water management, etc) that identify mountains as specific territories?

Please provide reference to any policy documents mentioned (title, date) and if possible share them via e-mail with the following e-mail address: fabio.parisi@fao.org

Q3: Since January 2018, has your country reviewed or updated, its international cooperation policy to make sustainable mountain development or mountain ecosystem conservation an integral part of it? (govts.)

- Yes
- No

Please provide reference to any policy documents mentioned (title, date) and if possible share them via e-mail with the following e-mail address: fabio.parisi@fao.org

Q4: What are the main challenges faced by your government related to increasing efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for mountains? (govts.)

- The commitments made under the Mountain Partnership Framework for Action are not known among the policy makers in your country
- Sectoral policies/legislation (forestry, mining, natural hazard, land planning, nature and biodiversity conservation, landscape, water management, etc....) do not identify mountains as specific territories
- Sectoral policies do not recognise and prevent the negative impact of resource extraction in mountains
- Mountain regions/people are not adequately represented in national policy making/decision-taking
- The rights of mountain communities to local resources are not ensured in national policies and laws
- Funding for mountain-specific policies and programmes are difficult to obtain
- Other (please specify)



Q5: What could the MPS do to support governments increase their efforts for implementing the FFA and the 2030 Agenda for mountains? Please rank the following actions from 1 to 4, where 1 is the highest priority and 4 the lowest. Please note that each column can be selected only once. (govts.)

- Facilitate the contact between the Mountain Partnership national focal points and government institutions responsible for sectoral policies having an impact on mountains
- Facilitate the participation of the MP national focal point in regional networks on sustainable mountain development
- Develop briefs on sustainable mountain development policies
- Other (please, specify in the box below)

Q6: Since January 2018, has your organization reviewed or updated its international cooperation policy as to make sustainable mountain development or mountain ecosystem conservation an integral part of it? (IGOs)

- Yes
- No

Please provide reference to any policy documents mentioned (title, date) and if possible share them via e-mail with the following e-mail address: fabio.parisi@fao.org

Q7: What are the main challenges you face related to increasing efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for mountains? (IGOs)

- Mountain environments are not specifically mentioned in the UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD
- Funding for mountain specific programmes/projects is difficult to obtain
- Other (please, specify)

Q8: What could the MPS do to support international organizations in increasing their efforts for implementing the FFA and the 2030 Agenda for mountains? Please rank the following actions from 1 to 3, where 1 is the highest priority and 3 the lowest. Please note that each column can be selected only once. (IGOs)

- Facilitate the participation of the MP focal point in regional networks on sustainable mountain development
- Develop briefs on sustainable mountain development policies
- Other (Please, specify in the box below)

Q9: Please indicate up to 5 major outcomes of your work since January 2018 related to raising awareness of sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation in relevant international conferences and summits and on including mountain-related language in outcome documents, resolutions and strategies. (NGOs)

- Awareness raised in international conferences and summits
- Mountain-related language included in outcome documents, resolutions and strategies
- Scientific papers on mountain issues published in national or international journals
- Other (please, specify)



Q10: What are the main challenges for Major Groups Organizations related to increasing efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for mountains? (NGOs)

- Mountain regions/people do not have a voice in national policy making/decision-taking
- The rights of mountain communities for access to local resources are not ensured in national policies and laws
- Funding for mountain-specific policies and programmes are difficult to obtain
- Other (please, specify)

Q11: What could the MPS do to support Major Groups Organizations in increasing their efforts for implementing the FFA and the 2030 Agenda for mountains? Please rank the following actions from 1 to 4, where 1 is the highest priority and 4 the lowest. Please note that each column can be selected only once. (NGOs)

- Facilitate the dialogue with government MP national focal points
- Facilitate the participation of the MP focal point in regional networks on sustainable mountain development
- Develop briefs on sustainable mountain development policies
- Other (please, specify in the box below)