



Mountain Partnership
Steering Committee meeting
Summary report
17 November 2020 - Zoom meeting

Agenda

Chair Andrea Macchioni (Italian Government)

- **14:30-14:45**
 - Opening, Andrea Macchioni
 - Adoption of agenda
- **14:45-15:00** Framework for action – presentation of the survey by MPS (Laura/Fabio) – for information
- **15:00-15:15** MPS Work plan updates (Yuka) – for decision
- **15:15-15:30** IMD 2020 update – IMD themes (Sara) – for decision
- **15:30-16:00** Working groups to present strategies and updates – for decision
 - Advocacy Communications
 - Local Governance
 - Resource Mobilization
- **16:00-16:20** Mountain Partnership Global Meeting updates: (Rosaura) – for information and decision
 - Options
 - Preparatory steps for discussion:
 - Governance and Strategy revision (timeline and working group)
 - Election of Steering Committee Members
- **16:20-16:30** Mountain Facility modus operandi – for information
- **16:30-17:00** Other matters
- **17:00-17:30** Discussion and conclusions



Overview

The Mountain Partnership (MP) Steering Committee (SC) met virtually on Zoom on 17 November 2020. This meeting was the fifth meeting of the SC since its election in December 2017. It was the second MP SC meeting for 2020. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) presented the preliminary results of a survey to monitor the implementation of the Framework for Action. Reflecting on 2020 and planning for 2021, the MPS provided an overview of its achievements from the past year and an initial work plan of the events that would be relevant to advocate for mountains next year, with a focus on UNFCCC, CBD COPs and the UN Food Systems Summit 2021. An update on the activities for International Mountain Day 2020 was presented, and SC members finalized the choice for the theme for International Mountain Day 2021. The SC considered setting up a process for the revision of the MP Governance and Strategy, including the ToRs of the MP bodies (Global Meeting, SC, MPS). Strategies and updates were presented by the Working Groups. The MPS provided updates on the MP Global Meeting and shared the operational modalities of the Mountain Facility.

Section 1: Opening and Adoption of Agenda

Opening and introductory remarks

Andrea Macchioni, Italy, opened the meeting and underlined the need to address how COVID-19 has compounded the vulnerabilities of mountain communities and to include a recovery plan that builds resilience in mountains in the MP's work.

Tour de table – Introductions

The Chair introduced the meeting participants (see Annex 1). The agenda was adopted.

Section 2: Framework for action – presentation of the survey by MPS (Laura/Fabio) – for information

Italy recalled that during the last MP Global Meeting in December 2017, the Framework for Action for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Mountains was adopted by the MP after a participatory consultative process. The MPS conducted a survey to monitor its implementation, and Fabio Parisi, MPS, reported the results of the survey to the SC. Open between 22 October and 13 November 2020, the survey had a response rate of 28.5 percent. Four of the 18 governments that responded to the survey reported updates in policy towards sustainable mountain development. Intergovernmental organizations also reported having updated their international policy to make sustainable mountain development an integral part, but the issue of implementation remained funding. Major group organizations largely requested support from their focal points for implementation and highlighted funding as an issue.



Switzerland suggested the MPS prepare and share a more complete report detailing all responses to the survey. It also suggested involving the governments and organizations that reported having updated their policies to include sustainable mountain development more actively in MP activities. Switzerland furthermore suggested that the MPS, in close collaboration with MP members, develop infosheets on sustainable mountain development issues in view of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021.

MRI asked whether the survey would be repeated on a regular basis and how the SC should incorporate the results into the revision of its work plan. It suggested that the results of the monitoring of the Framework for Action could be part of the regular reporting to the UN Secretary General on sustainable mountain development.

Decisions:

- i. **The MPS will share an analysis of the survey results with the SC (see Annex 2), who will then provide their comments.**

Section 3: MPS Work plan updates (Yuka) – for decision

Highlights from the MPS 2020-21 work plan and inputs from the SC

- The MPS reported how it is actively continuing to promote sustainable mountain development in 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic, completing several publications and articles and participating in international events. It has also received funds from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for a project on mountain products and agricultural resilience in mountains, focusing on the Philippines and Peru.
- The MPS' initial planning for 2021 includes: the first-ever IPROMO course conducted in Spanish, in collaboration with CONDESAN; events and processes leading to CBD COP15, UNFCCC COP26 and UN Food Systems Summit 2021; IPROMO (English); GROW summer school; EXPO Dubai; and International Mountain Day 2021.
- The MPS underlined that the goal for the UNFCCC and CBD COPs is to have mountains as an agenda item of the plenary session. The MPS reminded the SC that MRI had suggested at the previous SC meeting in June that the MPS develop a policy paper ahead of the CBD COP and requested guidance and confirmation from the SC on whether to continue pursuing this action.
- Switzerland affirmed the importance of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and suggested that the MPS take the lead on developing policy briefs for governments and major groups to help MP members be active in raising awareness about mountains and include them in the discussion, and support governments in major processes (CBD, UNFCCC, etc.) as well as the UN Food Systems Summit. These policy briefs – or info sheets, would be short (1-2 pages), provide a summary of the current situation and what type of action is needed in the short-, middle- and long-term, and include infographics. Switzerland also welcomed the importance and visibility acquired by the Mountain Partnership Products (MPP) initiative. On the new funding from Japan, Switzerland requested clarification regarding the designations of the MPS' activities as pertaining to MP programmes and mountain programmes under FAO.
- MRI reiterated that UNEP is developing a science-based policy brief as well for 2021 and suggested the MPS coordinate with UNEP so that the briefs complement each other and do not overlap.



- KIRDARC underlined the necessity to focus on mountain peoples in the MPS' advocacy work considering the emerging global agenda as a result of COVID-19.
- CONDESAN requested whether activities regarding the financing of local initiatives was foreseen in the MPS work plan and whether the activating of the mountain facility would be possible. Yuka Makino, MPS Coordinator, noted that the Resource Mobilization Working Group has taken the responsibility to discuss resources mobilization for the MP.

Decisions:

- The MPS will develop infosheets and devise a timeline and a content list in collaboration with key members.**
- The MPS will provide the SC with a proposed 2021 work plan at the beginning of 2021 for their clearance.**

Section 4: IMD 2020 update – IMD themes (Sara) – for decision

With less than one month to International Mountain Day (IMD), Italy invited the MPS to provide an update on its activities and for the SC to select the theme for IMD 2021.

Sara Manuelli, MPS, provided an overview of the communication campaign for IMD 2020, which includes an information kit, media, public calls, the announcing of a new MP Goodwill Ambassador, advocacy and two events coordinated by the MPS. The MPS at the time of the SC was already aware of at least 30 events being planning by governments, intergovernmental organizations and major groups around the world. The MPS reminded the SC and their constituencies to share their planned activities with the MPS for promoting.

While a poll had been circulated to the SC five weeks in advance of the meeting to vote on the theme for IMD 2021, due to a lack of responses, a final poll was conducted during the meeting. The theme chosen for 2021 by 55 percent of the SC was “Sustainable Mountain Tourism”.

- Switzerland requested that the information kit for IMD be shared with the MP as soon as possible. While affirming its full support of the MPS' recent nominations of Ambassadors, it requested clarification as to the process for identifying and nominating new ambassadors and, supported by MRI, suggested that the full MP membership be involved in this process in the future.
- Switzerland furthermore suggested that future choosing of the IMD theme be done in consultation with the entire Partnership and not only the SC. Italy noted that although structuring the process for nominations is a good idea, it should be as light as possible and that criteria for consultation of the full membership should be agreed with the SC. No other SC member intervened on the nomination of MP Goodwill Ambassadors.
- MRI reported that its constituency highlighted water and food systems as potential themes for IMD 2021
- AIMF requested clarification as to whether the high-level virtual event the MPS was organizing would be open to the public, which the MPS confirmed that it would be.



Decisions:

- i. **The MPS will share the IMD 2020 information kit with the membership as soon as possible.**
- ii. **The SC approved the IMD 2021 theme of Sustainable Mountain Tourism.**
- iii. **The MPS will prepare and share ToRs for appointing new ambassadors (see Annex 3).**
- iv. **The 2022 IMD theme consultation will be shared with the whole MP constituency.**

Section 5: Working groups to present strategies and updates – for decision (Advocacy & Communications, Local Governance, Resource Mobilization)

Working Groups (WGs) presentations of their strategies and updates

Presentations were given on 17 November by members of the Advocacy and Communications WG.

- MRI reported that the WG had a brief discussion about the Global Meeting. Many of the advocacy efforts the WG would like to strengthen and support depend on who will take responsibility, therefore they are focused on the redefining and realigning of the Terms of Reference of the MP bodies (Global Meeting, Steering Committee and Secretariat).
- AIMF was delighted to announce that one of its constituency members, the Telluride Institute, would like to allocate part of its funding toward having a continuation of the Partnership's communication strategy revised by renowned communication expert Richard Lowenberg. AIMF invites all members to review the proposal, which will be circulated. The WG reiterates the need mentioned by other SC members during the meeting to get more Mountain Partnership members involved and included and increase their efforts. Regarding the WG, AIMF highlighted the need for a mechanism to have the subgroups meet more regularly.

The other WGs did not report.

Section 6: Mountain Partnership Global Meeting updates (Rosalaura) – for information and decision

Results of the July call for interest to identify members interested in hosting the next Global Meeting, which has been postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19



The MPS received six preliminary expressions of interest, of which only the one from the Canadian Mountain Network was officially submitted. The Canadian Mountain Network's proposal included a 1.5-day meeting and field trip, to be held in the scenic Banff, Canada, in May 2022, which would take place ahead of a major international event on biodiversity. The MPS presented a set of pros and cons of hosting the Global Meeting in Banff versus Rome, including higher flight costs and longer travel times (Banff), repetition of Global Meeting venues (Rome), better support from host governments for participation and visa issues (Rome), and the length of the meeting (1.5 days deemed too short). The MPS requested suggestions from the SC on how to proceed.

- Italy acknowledged the potential cons of the Canadian Mountain Network's proposal but encouraged the MPS to deepen the offer further, especially in relation with the support by the Canadian Government. Simultaneously, Italy recommended the MPS send out another call for interest from the membership, with a shorter deadline, making it clear that there is already a confirmed interest and that the SC wants to have a second round of consultation with the membership. Switzerland agreed with this recommendation.
- The MPS noted that it takes at least nine months to prepare for and organize a Global Meeting and reminded the SC that the Canadian Mountain Network suggested May 2022 as this would coincide with a major global conference in Canada.
- CIMO asked whether, according to the MP governance, it was necessary to change the region in which the global meeting was hosted every four years to increase participation from different regions.
- Switzerland agreed with the MPS that the minimum meeting time required for a global meeting of the Mountain Partnership is 2.5 days and suggested this be a condition for a potential host.

Preparatory steps: Governance and Strategy revision

- Switzerland introduced this agenda item underlining the importance of starting as soon as possible on the revision of the MP's governance and strategy, to be discussed and adopted at the next Global Meeting. The MP will celebrate 20 years in 2022. It will be a critical moment to assess the experiences of the past 20 years and identify the position of the MP for the future. Switzerland proposed to focus on the expectations of the members and of the Secretariat in driving the Partnership.
- MRI asked whether an external review should be in place or whether this is simply an opportunity to define a new strategic plan and in parallel identify the roles of the different constituencies to implement it.
- The MPS welcomed the revisiting of the governance strategy and reminded the SC of the importance of the WGs for mobilizing and activate members and sharing this responsibility with the MPS.
- CONDESAN underlined the need for reviewing, analyzing and rethinking the scheme of the MP.
- MEPS suggested this process and the agenda of the Global Meeting be a discussion item for the next SC meeting.

Decisions:

- i. **The MPS will continue discussions with the Canadian Mountain Network.**



- ii. **The MPS will develop new criteria for a second call with the MP members, to be circulated with a deadline of the end of January 2021 for reply. The SC will then make a decision on where to conduct the next Global Meeting.**
- iii. **The SC will continue to exchange ideas and proposals for the revision of the MP governance and strategy in view of the next Global Meeting, to be discussed further.**

Section 7: Mountain Facility modus operandi (Patricia) – for information

An update on the current status of the mountain facility and how it would work

Patricia Quillacq, MPS, explained that the Mountain Facility is part of the FAO umbrella programme on sustainable mountain development. It is designed to rapidly respond to member's requests with grants and needs in six areas, which may be adjusted when appropriate. Its operational modalities will be in accordance with FAO's procedures and regulations.

- AIMF inquired whether the MPS envisioned FAO funding the Mountain Facility, to which the MPS responded that the idea is to diversify funds and consider all possibilities also beyond state and non-state actors.
- Switzerland acknowledged that given the current pandemic, it could be difficult to find donors and therefore may not be the correct moment to activate the Facility. The hosting of the facility by FAO could limit its ability to attract donors.
- FAO highlighted its many successful similar facilities, such as the Forest and Farm Facility.
- MRI questioned whether it could be useful instead to support members with their funding proposals instead of channeling those proposals through the MPS and FAO for funding. The MPS responded that the Facility has already been set up and launched as a funding facility specific to mountain communities rather than a mechanism to help members access funding
- CONDESAN inquired whether it was envisioned to have a SC member on the selection committee of the Facility, to which the MPS responded that the SC will have a key role in defining the priority areas and the selection criteria. The selection committee will be composed by FAO and non-FAO technical experts, therefore SC members could request to join.

Section 8: Other matters

The newly appointed focal point of the Government of the Philippines thanked the SC for welcoming him at the meeting and confirmed the Philippines' interest in identifying how it can contribute further to the MP's programmes and activities.



Annex 1: Participants' list

Steering Committee members

Donor Organizations

François Pythoud, Switzerland

Governments

Asia and the Pacific – Alex Macatuno, Jem Micaiah Turla, Wennie Berganio, Philippines

Europe – Andrea Macchioni, Italy (Chair)

North & Central America and the Caribbean – Julia Vicioso, María Laureano, Patricia Rodriguez, Dominican Republic

South America – Manrique Altavista, Alejandro Mitri, Carolina Rotolo, Argentina

Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

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

Global Civil Society Organizations

Carolina Adler, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)

Major Group Organizations

Asia and the Pacific – Gobinda Bahadur Shahi, 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

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

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

South America – María Argüello, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN); Marisa Young, Fundación Agreste (Alternate)

Observers

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Yuka Makino

Antonella Sorrentino

Fabio Parisi

Giacomo Pontara

Giorgio Grussu

Laura Russo

Lindsey Hook

Patricia Quillacq

Rosalaura Romeo

Sara Manuelli

Samantha Abear

Valeria Barchiesi



Absent Steering Committee Members:

Governments

Middle East and North Africa – Tunisia

Sub-Saharan Africa – Uganda

Intergovernmental Organization

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Major Group Organizations

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

Annex 2: Report on the MP Framework for Action survey 2020

See report document provided separately.