



## **Open-ended Scientific Committee (OESC) for the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 (IYM2022)**

Summary report  
25 January 2022 – 14:30-16:00 CET – Zoom meeting

### **AGENDA**

- 1. 14:30-14:35** Opening, introduction by the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) and adoption of the agenda, MRI
- 2. 14:35-14:40** Welcome message from the Chair of the Mountain Partnership (MP) Steering Committee, Roberto Natali
- 3. 14:40-14:55** Tour de table – quick round of introductions by participants
- 4. 14:55-15:10** Background and objectives of the IYM2022, MP Secretariat
- 5. 15:10-15:30** Outcomes of the last MP Steering Committee meeting and their support for the OESC and discussion, MP Secretariat
- 6. 15:30-15:40** Objectives and proposed role of this committee within the IYM2022, MRI
- 7. 15:40-15:55** Questions, suggestions and other matters
- 8. 15:55-16:00** Next steps and conclusion



### **Agenda item 1: Opening, introduction by the Mountain Research Initiative and adoption of the agenda**

Carolina Adler, Executive Director of the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) and a member of the Mountain Partnership (MP) Steering Committee, opened the meeting. She welcomed the participants of the first meeting of the Open-ended Scientific Committee (OESC) for the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 (IYM2022), to discuss the purpose and objectives of the OESC.

The meeting agenda was adopted without change.

### **Agenda item 2: Welcome message from the Chair of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee, Roberto Natali**

Roberto Natali, Chair of the MP Steering Committee, welcomed the participants of the OESC to the first meeting and expressed his gratitude for contributing their knowledge and expertise. He underlined how the resolution for the IYM2022, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 2021, was sponsored by 94 governments. He furthermore highlighted how the resolution explicitly invites the MP to facilitate the observance of the Year, in collaboration with all relevant organizations. The IYM2022, he said, also marks the twentieth anniversary since the first International Year of Mountains 2002. Mr Natali noted the IYM2022 is a unique opportunity to catalyse action and investments and to build resilience, and that there is a need for sound, coherent scientific messaging, which the OESC can support. He closed underscoring the importance of the autonomy of the OESC.

### **Agenda item 3: Tour de table – quick round of introductions by participants**

The participants introduced themselves and the governments and institutions they represent. See the list of participants and observers in Annex 1.

### **Agenda item 4: Background and objectives of the IYM2022**

Rosalaura Romeo, MP Secretariat, presented the background of the IYM2022 (Annex 2). She explained that this International Year (IY) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 16 December 2021. While International Years are typically announced years in advance, the number of governments that sponsored the IYM2022 resolution reveals the relevance of this topic and the support for this decision. The MP is the only organization named in the resolution to facilitate the observance of the IYM2022, and it will rely on the support and engagement of its membership in the observance. This is why the OESC was proposed to help gather and share information about this IY and engage scientists and UN Officers in supporting it. Furthermore, she shared that Kyrgyzstan is developing a Five-Year Action Plan as the main outcome of the Year. This plan calls for more investments in mountains and includes a road map of activities, such as an event at the 2022 United Nations General Assembly in September 2022 and a 25-year anniversary celebration of the Bishkek Summit in 2027.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.



Anil Mishra, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), noted that the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2021 unanimously adopted a resolution on strengthening mountain glacier monitoring and research, also submitted by Kyrgyzstan ([read more](#)). He recalled UNESCO's project for Central Asia countries on Glacial Lake Outburst Floods focused on adaptation, capacity building and knowledge generation, and another project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on snow, glaciers and water resources in Central Asia. Mr Mishra also recalled that Tajikistan has expressed its intention to submit a resolution for an International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers 2025 ([read more](#)), which was also mentioned at a high-level segment event titled "Snow and ice in climate change", held at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow and organized by the Government of Tajikistan, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and UNESCO. Noting the number of activities going on at the international level he called for a key outcome to be identified for the IYM2022.

### **Agenda item 5: Outcomes of the last MP Steering Committee meeting and their support for the OESC and discussion**

Ms Romeo noted that after the meeting of the MP Steering Committee to discuss the IYM2022, held on 13 January 2022, the Chair of the MP Steering Committee wrote a letter to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which is the lead agency for mountain issues, soliciting his support, as well as a letter to the UNGA President to accept the invitation to the MP to help facilitate the IYM2022.

Ms Romeo recommended keeping the structure of the OESC as simple as possible and reminded participants that "open-ended" means people can join the committee at any time, inviting all to share information about the OESC in their networks.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

Andrey Kushlin, Russian expert, noted the importance of identifying the main outcome and deliverable of the Year.

Harald Egerer, United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP), who was involved in the International Year of Mountains 2002, expressed that the IYM2022 should be a starting point for future initiatives. He highlighted the ongoing revision of the MP's three strategy documents and Kyrgyzstan's Five-Year Plan as opportunities to promote sustainable mountain development. He also stressed the need to clarify on the coordination process for the OESC, and its relationship vis-à-vis the MP Steering Committee and MP members, more generally.

Carolina Adler, MRI, added that considerations regarding the coordination of and support for (and from within) the OESC were also discussed at the MP Steering Committee meeting and needed clarification going forward.



## **Section 6: Objectives and proposed role of this committee within the IYM2022 and Section 7: Questions, suggestions and other matters**

Ms Adler presented the proposed short-, medium- and long-term objectives of the OESC within the IYM2022 (Annex 3). A basic document outlining the communication strategy for the IYM2022 has been prepared by the MP Secretariat that contains several key messages, which the OESC could support with their scientific endorsement and inputs to update key facts and figures. The OESC is also encouraged to help promote the IYM2022 within their own networks, which was highlighted a relatively straightforward action to support the IY's observance. In the medium-term, the OESC could support the production/endorsement of thematic policy briefs. In the long-term, the OESC could assist to engage in a science-policy dialogue in support of sustainable mountain development, including by identifying research gaps and priorities. She suggested that some compilation and synthesis of existing information, for example from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other global and regional assessments underway, as well as global policy frameworks being defined, could be done for mountains as an input to help identify these strategic research priorities.

In the ensuing discussion, participants expressed their overall support for the OESC and for the proposed set of objectives.

Ms Romeo suggested to co-brand events and activities already scheduled for 2022 as contributions to the IYM2022 and to support any new proposed activity to the extent possible. She provided examples of initiatives and communication materials, including policy briefs that the MPS has produced in close collaboration with several members, such as UNEP, the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA), the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), among others.

Sara Manuelli, MP Secretariat, informed participants that the draft communication plan for IYM2022 will include a slogan and a logo, which are being developed in the six United Nations languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

Björn Alfthan, GRID-Arendal, suggested that the OESC could consider having a measurable target, and Davnah Urbach, GMBA, expressed how having a more specific impact vision, goals and measurable outcomes could help ensure effective progress.

Regarding the outcomes of the IYM2022, Mr Kushlin suggested that the Five-Year Plan by Kyrgyzstan could be one deliverable. François Pythoud, MP Focal Point for Switzerland, noted that Kyrgyzstan seems open to discussing the content of the Five-Year Plan and that this could be turned into a Five-Year Action Plan for Mountains. He recalled another upcoming opportunity, the triennial United Nations Secretary-General report on sustainable mountain development. He suggested considering linkages to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in developing messaging for the IYM2022.

Stefan Schneiderbauer, United Nations University (UNU) and Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS), proposed to identify a flagship output as impactful as that of the International Year of Mountain 2002, which was the establishment of the Mountain Partnership. The Global Meeting of the MP in September 2022 could be a good possibility to discuss ideas.



Joerg Szarzynski, UNU-GLOMOS, proposed to refurbish and modernize Agenda 21's Chapter 13, "Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development".

Ms Adler recalled that a launch event for the IYM2022 is planned as an opportunity to present a first deliverable, for instance a revised compilation of key messages as a first policy brief from which other more specific and/or themed policy briefs could be produced during the course of the year.

Mônica Amorim, Universidade Federal do Ceará, noted that one of the first and essential accomplishment of the IYM2022 is to share experience and ideas, in addition to creating an opportunity to join hands to promote mountain sustainability.

Several participants highlighted ongoing programmes and projects that could contribute to the IYM2022.

Mr Egerer noted that there will be many deliverables planned by all MP members, which can be co-branded for the IYM2022 as well, and one function of the OESC could be to support the MP Steering Committee in this.

Otto Simonett, Zoë Environment Network, noted that that OESC should consider how to frame and brand all that they do as part of the OESC as contributing to the IYM2022.

Mariana Melnykovich, Bern University of Applied Sciences, highlighted two events that could be branded as contributions to the Year: the [Interdisciplinary Winter School 2022](#) and the Forum Carpaticum in 2023.

Sandra Carvao, UNWTO, noted the opportunity to capitalize on the content of the recently released [study on mountain tourism](#) for sharing in the framework of the IYM2022. The UNWTO is also conducting a study on measuring tourism in mountains with the MP Secretariat that could be a concrete outcome of the Year. Furthermore, the upcoming [Congress on Snow and Mountain Tourism](#) in Andorra could be branded as an IYM2022 event.

Luis Daniel Llambi, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN), suggested making use of each organization's communication team to promote the Year. He recalled the work done with MRI under the Adaptation at Altitude Programme in hosting regional consultations and bringing policy-makers and researchers together to identify research gaps, specifically on data and information gaps to address in future.

Laurie Vasily, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), shared that ICIMOD is planning a science-policy forum and a mountain ministerial summit in late 2022. She informed that ICIMOD also undertook a broadly consultative process in 2018 to map out mountain-specific priorities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which were validated in country consultations across the eight countries of the Hindu Kush Himalaya ([read the HKH Call to Action](#)). She inquired how the OESC could leverage the IYM2022 to direct climate funding towards mountain areas.

Participants also discussed relevant aspects related to the content of the messaging and policy briefs for the IYM2022, underscoring the need to clearly identify the target audiences for them, and the opportune instances and/or events at which to present them.



Monique Dubé, Canadian Mountain Network, highlighted the need to emphasize the relationship between people and mountains, especially extreme weather events and the dependence of mountain people on mountain environments.

Bibiana Vilá, National Council for Scientific and Technical Research of Argentina and VICAM, suggested preparing a synthesis paper for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on nature's contributions to people (NCPs) in mountains.

Ms Adler noted the importance of the connection between mountains and lowlands, as connected systems.

Ms Urbach noted the possibility of considering the science-funding interface in addition to the science-policy discussion.

Rodica Nitu, WMO, suggested to include sustainability and capacity building as key items. She highlighted the number of activities taking place simultaneously within different regions and the need to build linkages between these that would add value by integrating results from other projects and creating an inventory. She proposed that the OESC consider what change they want to see and what could be done differently to ensure long-term benefit to mountain communities.

Robert Marchant, University of York, proposed to the OESC to consider how they could have impact in terms of science to practice.

Nina Shatberashvili, Caucasus Network for Sustainable Development of Mountain Region, suggested the Committee should support exchange of information among scientists and between regions, underlined the importance of building mountain communities' capacity to promote and protect their cultural heritage.

## **Section 8: Next steps and conclusions**

A next meeting of the OESC will be convened in late-February 2022 to consider the Committee's terms of reference, and review the timeline proposed for events and key milestones proposed for the IYM2022.



## Annex 1: Participants' list

Last name	First name	Affiliation	Country
Adler	Carolina	Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)	Switzerland
Alfthan	Björn	GRID-Arendal	Norway
Amorim	Mônica	Universidade Federal do Ceará	Brazil
Attorre	Fabio	University of Rome Sapienza - Department of Environmental Biology	Italy
Ávila	Bárbara	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	France
Badenkov	Yuri	Russian Academy of Sciences	Russia
Cardenas	María Rosa	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	France
Carvao	Sandra	World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Spain
Cianciullo	Silvio	University of Rome Sapienza	Italy
Dubé	Monique	Canadian Mountain Network	Canada
Egerer	Harald	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Austria
Fouinat	Laurent	GRID-Arendal	Norway
Freppaz	Michele	University of Turin - Department of Agricultural, Forest & Food Sciences (DISAFA)	Italy
Gaido	Maria Soledad	World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Spain
Goldstein	Sofia Maia	World Bank	USA
Jurek	Matthias	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Austria
Kanyamibwa	Sam	Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)	Uganda
Kaufmann	Manfred	Adaptation at Altitude (SDC)	Switzerland
Kushlin	Andrey	Mountain expert	Russia
Llambi	Luis Daniel	Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)	Ecuador
Mackey	Alex	Zoï Environment Network	Switzerland
Marchant	Robert	University of York	United Kingdom
Mathez-Stiefel	Sarah-Lan	Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) - University of Bern	Switzerland
Melnykovych	Mariana	Bern University Applied Science, Carpathian	Switzerland
Mishra	Anil	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	France
Natali	Roberto	Government of Italy; Chair, MP Steering Committee	Italy
Nitu	Rodica	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Switzerland
Olivier	Nicole	Canadian Mountain Network	Canada
Price	Karen	Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)	Peru



Pythoud	François	Federal Office for Agriculture	Switzerland
Rudaz	Gilles	University of Geneva	Switzerland
Scarascia-Mugnozza	Giuseppe	University of Tuscia - Department Biological AgroFood and Forest Systems (DIBAF)	Italy
Schneiderbauer	Stefan	United Nations University (UNU) and Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS)	Italy
Schoolmeester	Tina	GRID-Arendal	Norway
Shatberashvili	Nina	Sustainable Caucasus & Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt)	Georgia
Shresta	Basanta	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Nepal
Simonett	Otto	Zoï Environment Network	Switzerland
Stanchi	Silvia	University of Turin - Department of Agricultural, Forest & Food Sciences (DISAFA)	Italy
Szarzynski	Joerg	United Nations University (UNU) and Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS)	Germany
Urbach	Davnah	Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA)	Switzerland
Vasily	Laurie	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Nepal
Vilá	Bibiana	University of Lujan - National Council for Scientific and Technical Research - VICAM	Argentina
Viviroli	Daniel	University of Zurich	Switzerland

**MP Secretariat staff:**

Samantha Abear  
Eric Chavez  
Sara Manuelli  
Fabio Parisi  
Patricia Quillacq  
Rosalaura Romeo  
Laura Russo





**Annex 2: Background of the IYM2022, presented by Rosalaura Romeo**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT  
2022**



- Proclaimed by UNGA on 16 December 2021 at the proposal of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Sponsored by 94 governments
- Mountain Partnership invited to facilitate observance of the Year
- Specifies that costs of all activities are to be met through voluntary contributions
- Kyrgyzstan proposes a five-year action plan for the development of mountain regions

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT  
2022**



ARMENIA	AFGHANISTAN	GREECE	REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN	ALBANIA	GUATEMALA	MOLDOVA
BOLIVIA	ALGERIA	GUINEA	ROMANIA
(PLURINATIONAL STATE	ANDORRA	HAITI	RUSSIAN FEDERATION
OF)	ANTIGUA AND	ICELAND	RWANDA
BURKINA FASO	BARBUDA	INDIA	SAINT LUCIA
DJIBOUTI	ARGENTINA	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE
ECUADOR	AUSTRIA	IRAN (ISLAMIC	SLOVENIA
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	BANGLADESH	REPUBLIC OF)	SOUTH SUDAN
FIJI	BELARUS	IRELAND	SPAIN
HONDURAS	BHUTAN	ITALY	SUDAN
HUNGARY	BOTSWANA	JAPAN	SWEDEN
ISRAEL	BRAZIL	KAZAKHSTAN	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
KYRGYZSTAN	CAMEROON	KENYA	TAJIKISTAN
MALAWI	CANADA	LAO PEOPLE'S	TOGO
MAURITANIA	CHAD	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	TONGA
NEPAL	CHILE	LEBANON	TRINIDAD AND
NICARAGUA	CHINA	LIECHTENSTEIN	TOBAGO
PAKISTAN	COLOMBIA	MADAGASCAR	TURKMENISTAN
PERU	COMOROS	MALDIVES	UGANDA
PHILIPPINES	COSTA RICA	MONGOLIA	UNITED STATES OF
THAILAND	CUBA	MOROCCO	AMERICA
TURKEY	CYPRUS	NORWAY	
UZBEKISTAN	DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S	PALAU	
VIET NAM	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	PANAMA	
	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	
	FRANCE	POLAND	
	GEORGIA	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	
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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT  
2022



The members of the Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries are *Afghanistan, Andorra, Austria, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Canada, Georgia, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Morocco, Nepal, Norway, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkey and Switzerland.*

### Annex 3: Proposed short-, medium- and long-term objectives of the OESC within the IYM2022, presented by Carolina Adler as discussion points

## Key proposed objectives for this OESC

- 1. Short term results** (from now until the end of 2022)
  - Endorse and help substantiate key messages in support of the IYM2022
  - Promote visibility for the IYM2022 within their networks
- 2. Medium term results** (starting in 2-3 months and until end of 2022/mid 2023)
  - Produce/endorse thematic policy briefs on relevant issues (ad hoc working groups (thematic/geographic) could be set up). We have several examples of these collaborations coordinated in the past done by the MPS with many partners
- 3. Long term results** (during 2022 and beyond):
  - Jointly support and engage in the science/policy dialogue in support of SMD
  - Identify research gaps, promote data and information collection priorities, and research projects ideas