



Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter



HIGHLIGHTS

Africa Mountain Partnership Champions Committee goes online

[The Albertine Rift Conservation Society](#) (ARCOS) has launched an online forum for members of the Africa Mountain Partnership Champions Committee. The online bulletin board runs on the website of ARCOS, which is currently the lead

organization for the champion's committee. To join the forum, members can register via the ARCOS website and then start new threads or reply to others' posts. African members of the Mountain Partnership agreed to create a new champions committee to move the region's sustainable mountain development agenda forward at a regional meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, on 20 February 2013. [Visit the forum](#) or read more about the [Africa Mountain partnership Champions Committee](#)

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members. Please feel free to contact them for possible collaborative projects and ideas.

[The Government of Madagascar](#) (Madagascar)
[Association pour la Protection des Montagnes du Burundi](#) (Burundi)

As of July 2013, there were 212 members of the Mountain Partnership: 51 governments, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 145 major group organizations (e.g. civil society, NGOs and the private sector). For information on their activities and contact details, and to update your own details, visit the [members section](#) of the Mountain Partnership website.

UPDATE ON MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Participants complete IPROMO Mountain Training Programme

Thirty-two participants completed the sixth edition of the IPROMO Mountain Training Programme organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the University of Turin which took place in Ormea, Italy, in July. Participants, who came from 30 different countries with a balance throughout the regions, said they greatly appreciated the course and enjoyed a good mix of instructors from the academic world, UN systems and political authorities. Technical lessons were complemented by social presentations, practical exercises and group work on the course, which this year was themed Understanding Upland Watershed Management. All the presentations and results of group activities will be posted on the [IPROMO website](#) shortly. The participants and instructors of the 2013 course have been added to the IPROMO alumni family. [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

GLOBAL

Call for papers on mountain family farming

Mountain Research and Development (MRD) has issued a call for papers on "Family Farming in Mountains: Institutional and Organizational Arrangements in the Face of Globalization" to coincide with the UN International Year of Family Farming 2014. The Swiss-based quarterly journal is seeking policy- and practice-oriented insights into effective arrangements for advancing and enhancing family farms. MRD is also calling for sound analyses of organizational aspects of family farming in the political, economic, and environmental mountain context. Abstracts are due by 15 August 2013, invited full papers by 31 January 2014. [Read more](#)

AFRICA

FAO at Zambia watershed management workshop

The [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) provided technical support to an information-sharing workshop on watershed management organized by Irish NGO [Gorta](#) in Chipata, Zambia, in June. FAO is working with Gorta to support the implementation of the new generation of watershed management in Africa by introducing the new approach to the NGO's partners in East Africa and the Gambia. The project aims to scale up partners' existing work in upland watershed management, harmonize their approaches at regional level and develop replicable models of best practice. The workshop was attended by 63 participants from 15 countries. [Watch the presentations](#)

Eastern Highlands Initiative launched in southern Africa

Possibly the largest multi-disciplinary montane research effort to date in southern Africa has been launched. The Eastern Highlands Initiative (EHI) came into being earlier this year through a series of meetings with key research institutions and individuals in Zimbabwe in April 2013. The aim of the EHI is focused research on the endemic-rich and economically important Eastern Highlands in Zimbabwe and adjacent Mozambique through a variety of scientific projects focusing on topics such as biodiversity gaps, the Eastern Highlands in Afrotropical biogeography, and the historical and current impact of human activities in the Eastern Highlands. [Read more](#) and see the full list of the [initiative's stakeholders](#).

ASIA PACIFIC

Tirgan and Mount Damavand National Day Celebration



More than 5,000 mountaineers, environmentalists and members of the public participated in the Tirgan and Mount Damavand National Day celebration held by Rineh Payamnoor University in Iran in July. Austrian mountaineer Peter Habeler participated in the celebrations at the invitation of the [Suldoz Kouhyaran Institute](#). Mount Damavand is a dormant volcano which, at 18,406 feet, is also the highest peak in Iran and the Middle East. [Read more](#)

EUROPE

Alpine Convention welcomes new secretary general



The [Alpine Convention](#) has welcomed a new Secretary General, [Markus Reiterer](#), who took up his new role at the start of July. The 45-year-old lawyer and diplomat is the first Austrian secretary general in the 21-year history of the Convention. On his first day, Markus thanked the outgoing Secretary General Marco Onida for his outstanding work and achievements during his tenure. Meanwhile, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention has published the Fourth Report on the State of the Alps on the topic of Sustainable Tourism (see Publications below).

KavTech starts Black Sea region fire control project

The [Kavala Institute of Technology](#) has begun a new European Union-funded project focused on using stream waters in the suppression of forest fires with the help of new technologies. Five other institutions from the Black Sea region are also involved in the project and were present at the first project meeting held in Braila, Romania, in April. The purpose of the project is to develop a holistic approach for fire suppression for the Black Sea region and to demonstrate implementation in six pilot areas – mostly mountainous – throughout the region. [Read more](#)

LATIN AMERICA

InfoAndina TV special on tropical glaciers

The [Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion \(CONDESAN\)](#) broadcast an InfoAndina TV special on tropical glaciers and climate change for the International Glacier Forum that was held in Huaraz, Peru, in July. The aim of the forum was to identify strategies for adaptation and risk management in mountain ecosystems. [Watch the ten-minute report](#) (in Spanish) and learn more about [InfoAndina TV](#).

NORTH AMERICA

Dean's Beans receives second major award this year



[Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company](#) has received a major international award for its innovative development work in mountain coffee communities throughout Asia, Africa and the Americas. Founder and CEO Dean Cycon picked up an Oslo Business for Peace Award 2013 in June, presented to winners for creating a better understanding of the relationship between ethical business practices and peace. Cycon was one of five award winners who were chosen among 80 nominees from 50 countries. This is the second major award won by the American fair trade company in 2013. In March Cycon was presented with a [Leadership Award](#) in Community Engagement by Women's Empowerment Principles – a partnership between UN Women and UN Global Compact. [Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fourth European Fair of Regional Products

10-15 August

Zakopane, Poland

The [Tatra Agency for Development, Promotion and Culture](#) is organizing this fair, which is aimed at promoting and protecting quality food products and targets tourists visiting the Tatra Mountains as well as the people of the Tatra region themselves.

[Read more](#)

CAMP Forum 2013: Energy - Efficiency – Future

27-29 August

Kalmak Ashu, Kyrgyzstan

The topic of this year's CAMP forum is Energy - Efficiency - Future: Access and innovation for Mountain Communities. The CAMP network unites four agencies working for sustainable development of mountain villages in Central Asia: [CAMP Alatoo](#) in Kyrgyzstan, [CAMP Kuhiston](#) in Tajikistan, the [Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities](#) (AGOCA) and the Mountain Villages Partnership and Development Foundation (MVPDF). [Read more](#)

Water and Forest - Cooperating for Mitigation and Adaptation

3 September
Stockholm, Sweden

The Food and Agriculture Organization is co-organizing this session at World Water Week 2013 with the Stockholm Water Institute. The session will focus on how the facilitation of afforestation in the context of climate change mitigation can impact water use and availability. [Read more](#)

Integrated Development in an Era of Multidimensional Crisis

12-15 September
Metsovo, Greece

This interuniversity conference organized by the [Metsovion Interdisciplinary Research Centre](#) addresses the issues of technology, development, monitoring and protection of mountainous environments among other topics with contributions from scientists, graduate engineers and teaching and research staff from Greek universities. [Read more](#)

Symposium of the Macedonian Geographical Society: Problems and Perspectives of Hilly Mountain Areas

12-15 September
Ohrid, Macedonia

Topics at this event, held by the Macedonian Geographical Society, will include natural resources and land use in hilly mountain areas, demographic problems, economic and regional development policy, infrastructure, hazards and European policies and programs. [Read more](#)

Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership

17-20 September
Erzurum, Turkey

The Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership will be key to endorsing the new four-year strategy and governance of the Mountain Partnership and to initiate work on its implementation. It will also provide a unique opportunity for members from across the world a chance to meet, network, present interesting initiatives and promote collaborative action in sustainable mountain development. All Mountain Partnership members have been invited to the event. [Read more](#)

Alpine-Arctic Conference

17-25 September
Bergün, Switzerland

The Alpine-Arctic Conference is being held by the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research. The event encompasses two different conferences: International Tundra Experiment ITEX – More than 20 years of tundra vegetation change research (17-20 September) and Faster, Higher, More? Past, Present and Future Dynamics of Alpine and Arctic Flora under Climate Change (22-25 September). Deadline for registration is 15 August. [Read more](#)

The Municipality as Constructor: Towards carbon neutral buildings

19 September
Gap, France

Private households in the Alps are responsible for over one third of final energy consumption in the mountain region, and one key to helping to solve the climate problem can be found in the building sector. The focus of this workshop organized by the Alpine Town of the Year Association is on municipalities as clients for construction projects. Deadline for registration is 8 September. [Read more](#)

High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation

20-22 September
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

The main objective of this conference is to contribute to improvement of water cooperation through advocating for successful policies and best practices, wider public participation, and encouragement of policy makers to promote water cooperation at all levels. The conference is organized by the government of Tajikistan jointly with UN institutions. [Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Toward Carbon Neutral Alps – a Guideline

[CIPRA International](#), through the Alpstar project, has developed a guideline publication on strategies for carbon neutrality for municipalities and regions in the Alps. The publication also provides examples of good practices, obstacles and successes as well as short interviews with key actors from different regions. The guideline is available in English, French, Italian and German. Alpstar is co-financed by the EU-Alpine Space Program and runs from 2011 to 2014. [Read more](#)

Fourth Report on the State of the Alps

The Permanent Secretariat of the [Alpine Convention](#) has published the Fourth Report on the State of the Alps on the topic of Sustainable Tourism. The report builds on the need for greater harmony between tourism and the environment, as recognised in the Alpine Convention and its Protocol on Tourism. It also seeks to address the challenges of sustainable tourism regardless of the political and administrative borders in the Alps to encourage economic development in the region. [Read more](#)

Lairds, Land and Sustainability: Scottish Perspectives on Upland Management



In recent decades, the Scottish uplands have increasingly been the arena for passionate debates over large-scale land management issues. Although private ownership remains a distinctive characteristic of Scotland's uplands, increasing numbers of estates are now owned by environmental NGOs and local communities. This wide-ranging study investigates how different landownership models deliver sustainability in Scotland's upland areas and is the outcome of a four-year research project at the [Centre for Mountain Studies](#). [Read more](#)

Proposal for an Environmental Governance Model for Napo Province, Ecuador

[CONDESAN](#), [Ecuador's](#) Ministry of Environment and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) are among the joint publishers of a proposal for an environmental governance model in Ecuador's Napo province. The model seeks to strengthen the legitimacy of sustainable resource management processes, prioritizing effective and equitable sharing mechanisms between public sector actors and civil society. [Read more](#)

Die Anden. Ein geographisches Porträt

This richly illustrated study of the Andes by Axel Borsdorf of the University of Innsbruck and Christoph Stadel of the Universities of Salzburg and Manitoba examines the challenges that Andean countries face in making better use of their natural and cultural resources sustainably in order to overcome economic disparities and create social coherence in the region. [Read more](#) and see more [recent publications](#) by Axel Borsdorf.

NEWSLETTERS

New Comité de Montañas newsletter online

The second edition of the bimonthly digital newsletter of the Committee for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions of Argentina (Comité para el Desarrollo Sustentable de las Regiones Montañosas) is now online. The June newsletter contains news and events relevant to the various agencies and organizations of its Advisory Board members. [Download](#)

CALL FOR NEWS

Keep other Mountain Partnership members informed about your activities! Please [send us info](#) about new projects and programmes, initiatives, events, publications, newsletters, vacancies and calls for papers for inclusion in next month's Peak to Peak.

