

# Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter



## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Countdown to the Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership**

Final preparations are under way for the Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Erzurum, Turkey, 17-20 September. So far around 150 delegates have confirmed their participation in the meeting, which will focus on adopting a four-year strategy and approving a new governance system. It will also

provide members from across the world a chance to meet, network, present interesting initiatives and promote collaborative action in sustainable mountain development. We look forward to seeing many of you in Erzurum. Download a [draft programme](#) or [read more](#)

## NEW MEMBERS

Applications for membership have been temporarily put on hold until after the Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Erzurum.

As of August 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

### Pre-order material for International Mountain Day 2013

Preparations have begun for International Mountain Day (11 December), the theme of which this year is 'Mountains - Key to a Sustainable Future'. Anyone interested in receiving a few hard copies of International Mountain Day 2013 material (poster and fact sheet) should email [alessia.vita@fao.org](mailto:alessia.vita@fao.org) by Monday 30 September, specifying the number of copies they require and whether these should be in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic or Russian. The material will also be posted online and can be downloaded for printing. As for every year, we encourage members to communicate to us their planned 2013 celebrations.



## NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### ASIA PACIFIC

#### Indigenous knowledge star of Himalayan video

[CEE Himalaya](#) has produced a short video that highlights the importance of indigenous medicine, a waning tradition in the Johar Valley in the Himalaya where other healthcare is not readily available. The eight-minute video is part of the project, "Developing communication strategy and tools," supported by the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in the Himalayan State of Uttarakhand on the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. Ukha Devi of the Bhotiya tribe, the main character in "Ukha Devi: Who After Her?", speaks of how she learned many years ago to use plants to treat people's ailments in the rugged and remote area. But what will happen when she is gone? [Watch](#)

#### Study to examine the impact of glacier lake outburst floods in northern Pakistan

The government of [Pakistan](#) is implementing a project to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities from glacier lake outburst floods (GLOF), which endanger the livelihood of mountain communities and significantly impact biodiversity and mountain ecosystems. To support the project, "Reducing Risks and Vulnerabilities from Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) in Northern Pakistan," a study is being conducted on the impact of GLOFs and climate change in two northern Pakistan valleys that are particularly at risk. Funded by the Adaptation Fund and [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP), the project aims to enable vulnerable communities in Northern Pakistan to better understand and respond to GLOF risks and thereby adapt to growing climate change pressures. [Read more](#)

### CENTRAL ASIA

#### ADI steps up Kyrgyzstan herb project

The [Agency of Development Initiatives](#) (ADI) is stepping up a private partnership project working with women's self-help groups to supply organic valerian from Kyrgyzstan to Europe. ADI is looking to diversify its activities so that women can become not only growers but also producers of organic products. Inspired by the first results of the valerian sales, women are developing a 'Mountain Eco Product' initiative to produce herbal teas for export and are receiving training on organic farming from the Bio Kg foundation. [Read more](#)

### EUROPE

#### Alfred the Yeti explains mountain climate change

The [Ev-K2-CNR Committee](#) has recruited a yeti to help explain climate change in mountains to a wide audience. So far six video episodes have been released on YouTube showing Alfred the Yeti coming to terms with climate change, and a further two episodes will be released before October. In each episode the abominable snowman is faced with an aspect of climate change disrupting his daily life, from glacier melting



and black carbon to landslides. [Read more](#)

### **Cairngorms National Park celebrates tenth anniversary**

2013 marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Cairngorms National Park, the largest in the UK. Its mountain massif contains five of the UK's six highest mountains, its highest being Ben Macdhui at 4,296 feet. The park attracts some 1.4 million visitors annually with its villages and winter sports facilities, which include a mountain railway and numerous ski lifts. The Cairngorms has recently been put on National Geographic's List of the World's 50 Last Great places. [Read more](#)  
(From Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE No 79)

### **Video on sustainable building in mountain cities**

The team behind the MountEE sustainable public building project has released a video showcasing how attractive and ecologically sound architecture can be created in the mountain areas of Europe. Mountain towns from Sweden to the Pyrenees and the Alps that are pioneers in this domain feature in the 14-minute video. [CIPRA](#) is the lead partner of the MountEE project, which is supporting municipalities in the planning and financing of renovation and building projects. Watch the video in [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#) and [Swedish](#)

### **Cleaning up the mountains in France**

[Mountain Wilderness](#) has organized three initiatives this summer to remove old equipment abandoned in the French Alps, the third of which will be held in mid September. Volunteers from France and Italy will clean up the mountains in the Briançonnais area of Ecrins National Park, who, along with European Natura 2000 network, is supporting the 14-15 September event. In August a similar event was held in the Oisans area of Ecrins National Park. The first of the three initiatives took place in the Bonette Pass, in the Ubaye and High Tinée areas of Mercantour National Park, in July. [Read more](#)

## **LATIN AMERICA**

### **Video on early warning system alert in Peru**

InfoAndina, a web TV programme produced and broadcast by the [Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion \(CONDESAN\)](#), is featuring a six-minute video that explains how an early warning system in Peru works. The system monitors threats of natural disaster and, when necessary, alerts the local population to improve their preparedness and response. The video (in Spanish) was shot at the foot of Mount Hualcán, in the city of Carhuaz in the Ancash region. [Watch](#)

### **Bolivian blog covers climate change**

With a blog called '[Climate Change Bolivia](#),' the [Bolivian Mountain Institute \(BMI\)](#) is continuing its coverage of scientific and political climate change issues in Bolivia, the Andean region and beyond. The blog is aimed at political and economic decision-makers, leaders of social movements, NGO personnel, the scientific community, public administration officials, journalists and anyone interested in the topic of climate change. The *Klimablog* was started in 2011 and posts entries (in Spanish) every Monday.

### **NORTH AMERICA**

#### **Passing of an advocate for mountains**

Dr Jane Pratt, a staunch advocate for mountain communities and environments, passed away on 12 August 2013 at home in Virginia, USA. Pratt's 35-year career in the field of sustainable development and environmental stewardship included eight years as the president and CEO of [The Mountain Institute](#) (TMI), an international NGO dedicated to the conservation of mountain ecosystems and sustainable development for mountain people. Under Pratt's leadership, TMI, jointly with other international partners, founded The Mountain Forum, a global information network of individuals and organizations concerned with the well being of mountain people, their environments and cultures. To read more about her many accomplishments, see The Mountain Institute website [memorial](#).





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Water: The present and future of food security and nutrition in the context of climate change**

Pisac, Peru

3-6 September

This international meeting will analyze Andean experiences on water management and climate change adaptation measures in agriculture, their impacts on food security and nutrition, and public policy advocacy. [Read more](#)

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### **Regional Conference on African Mountain Ecosystems as Impacted by Climate Change: Post Rio+20 Actions**

Nairobi, Kenya

09-10 Sept

Organized by UNESCO and UNEP in cooperation with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), the workshop will bring together experts, stakeholders and decision-makers to promoting sustainable mountain development in Africa through strengthened cooperative actions. The workshop will result in recommendations being made for policy and decision-makers both at the national and regional levels for actions that will promote adaptation to climate change in Africa. [Read more](#)

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### **Integrated Development in an Era of Multidimensional Crisis**

Metsovo, Greece

12-15 September

This inter-university conference organized by the [Metsovion Interdisciplinary Research Centre](#) will address 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](#)

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

Ohrid, Macedonia

12-15 September

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 programmes. [Read more](#)



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## **Fourth Central Asian Leadership Programme for Sustainable Development**

Almaty, Kazakhstan

16-24 September

The Fourth Asian Leadership Programme, organized by the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) in cooperation with UNEP, the government of Norway and OSCE Center in Astana, is aimed at representatives of the government, private sector and civil society of Central Asia. The programme will be of interest to mountain specialists as particular attention will be given to climate change, rational water use, access to drinking water, green development and sustainable energy. [Read more](#)

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## **Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership**

Erzurum, Turkey

17-20 September

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](#)

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## **Alpine-Arctic Conference**

Bergün, Switzerland

17-25 September

The Alpine-Arctic Conference will be held by the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research. The event will encompass 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). [Read more](#)

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## **The Municipality as Constructor: Towards carbon neutral buildings**

Gap, France

19 September

The focus of this workshop organized by the Alpine Town of the Year Association will be on municipalities as clients for construction projects. The building sector is key to helping solve the climate problem as private households in the Alps are responsible for over one third of final energy consumption. [Read more](#)





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### **Third Sustainable Mountain Development Summit 2013**

Kohima, India  
25-27 September

The Sustainable Mountain Development Summit, a platform of the Indian Mountain Initiative, offers an opportunity for Indian Himalayan states to share experiences, discuss priority development issues and find ways to influence national and state policies. This year's meeting will focus on water, agriculture and forests. [Read more](#)

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### **International meeting on the Andean rural people's knowledge and practices**

Lima, Peru  
30 September - 4 October

This event, organized by [Red de Agroindustria Rural del Perú \(REDAR\)](#) and supported by CONDESAN, will focus on family farming, food security and agroecology in preparation for 2014, the International Year of Family Farming. The meeting will offer farmers and rural people a chance to share their family farming experiences, knowledge, strategies, challenges and needs. [Read more](#)

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### **International Snow Science Workshop**

Grenoble, France  
7-11 October 2013

The purpose of this week-long conference is to promote interaction between practitioners and researchers in the fields of snow and avalanches. Participants will have the chance to join a field trip to visit the Chamonix Mont-Blanc valley for a closer look at the French avalanche programmes. Presentations will be available in English, French, Italian and German and there will also be a social agenda. [Read more](#)



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### **CIPRA Annual Special Conference/Symposium: "The Alps as a Water Trough"**

Bolzano, Italy  
10-12 October

This year's conference will investigate the question of responsibility in the Alps' role in providing water to 170 million people to coincide with the International Year of Water Cooperation. The conference will look at how municipalities co-operate in water management, how society will deal with the causes and consequences of climate change and what is needed to make politicians and citizens take sustainable action. [Read more](#)

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### **Utah Valley University International Mountain Day Celebration**

Utah, USA  
6 December

[Utah Valley University](#) will host its fourth special event dedicated to International Mountain Day (IMD) in

December 2013. The goal for the gathering is to contribute to the mission of the Mountain Partnership and to continue to raise awareness in the Rocky Mountains region about the need to contribute more to the improvement of livelihoods of the mountain communities around the world and to advocate the sustainable mountain development agenda. [Read more](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Sustainable Mountain Development: Getting the Facts Right**

The Himalayan Association for the Advancement of Science is publishing a book by Jack D. Ives this month. Tracking the story of the recognition of the importance of mountain regions and their indigenous people from the 1960s to today, the book will be available in electronic version from Amazon and in hard copy in major bookstores in Nepal. [Contact](#)

### **Sustainable Land Use and Rural Development in Southeast Asia: Innovations and Policies for Mountainous Areas**

Based on the findings of a 2000-2014 interdisciplinary research project of the University of Hohenheim in collaboration with several universities in Thailand and Vietnam, this publication by Holger L. Fröhlich, Pepijn Schreinemachers, Karl Stahr and Gerhard Clemens gives an interdisciplinary account of the drivers, consequences and challenges of changes taking place in the mountainous areas of Southeast Asia. It also describes how innovative processes can contribute to addressing these challenges and how support for changes in policies and institutions can assist in sustainably developing mountain areas and people's livelihoods. [Download free](#)



## 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.