



Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter



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HIGHLIGHTS

Turkish mountain city chosen for Global Meeting

The Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership will take place in the city of Erzurum in eastern Turkey, 17-20 September 2013. The city (pictured above) is situated 1757 meters above sea level and lies just 6 km from the Palandöken Mountain. The global meeting will be key to endorsing the new strategy and governance of the Mountain Partnership and to initiate work on its implementation. Members are encouraged to present their ongoing or upcoming activities at a formal Partnership Fair with the aim of forging new collaborations and to launch joint initiatives. Members interested in attending the event are asked to kindly fill in an expression of interest form, which they have received by email, no later than **Friday 7**

June. [Read more](#)

NEW MEMBERS

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

[Aiqine Cultural Research Center](#) (Kyrgyzstan)
[Mountain Wilderness](#) (France)
[aleeVee8](#) (UK)

As of May 2013, there were 212 members of the Mountain Partnership: 50 governments, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 146 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

First regional workshop for Andes technical cooperation project

Government representatives from six Andean countries met in Quito, Ecuador in May for the first workshop of the regional technical cooperation project "Fortalecimiento de la gestión participativa para el desarrollo sostenible de los Andes", which aims to strengthen and expand institutional capacity for promoting sustainable mountain development in the region. Funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and implemented by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat in close cooperation with FAO's Regional Office for Latin America, the project seeks to improve the participatory management of natural resources in the Andes by strengthening national institutions, increasing political attention and training, and increasing knowledge about mountain ecosystems. A key output of the project will be a regional mechanism for promoting exchange, dialogue and action on mountain issues among the six governments involved. During the workshop, representatives from Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia presented national assessments of their respective mountain areas. [Download the full report](#) of the meeting and [read more](#).

Scientific Journalism Seminar on high mountains

More than 300 journalists, government officials, environmental researchers and students came together for the Seventh Scientific Journalism Seminar in Loja, Ecuador, 16-17 May, organized by the Foundation for Integration and Development of Latin America (FIDAL). The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization were among sponsors of the event, which this year focused on high mountains. MPS Programme Officer Rosalaura Romeo gave a presentation on the work of the Mountain Partnership and on the key role played by communication in the alliance since its launch in 2002. [Read more](#).



Regions section launched on Mountain Partnership website

The Mountain Partnership website now includes a new regions section, providing the latest news and events from each geographical area as well as relevant publications and a list of Partnership members in the region. [Visit the section](#) or choose a region from [Africa](#), [Asia](#)

[and the Pacific](#), [Central Asia](#), [Europe and North America](#), [Latin America](#), and [Middle East and North Africa](#). Please help keep your region's section up to date by [sending us info](#) about your news and events.

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 by **Sunday 30 June**, 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

GLOBAL

Active Remedy contributes to UN Harmony with Nature Interactive Dialogues

Active Remedy contributed a statement to the UN General Assembly Harmony with Nature Interactive Dialogues, underlining the importance of mountains to the world's fresh water supply. The interactive dialogues are held each year to commemorate International Mother Earth Day on 22 April. [Read the statement](#) or visit the [UN Harmony with Nature](#) website.

EUROPE

Mountain Wilderness promotes water and energy

New member [Mountain Wilderness](#) organized two events in Munich, Germany, in April aimed at protecting mountain water resources and the sustainable use of energy sources. The first event focused on power plants, while the second round table event concentrated on mountain reservoirs and the need to balance renewable energy with the impact of reservoirs on landscapes and biodiversity. [Read more](#)

AleeVee8 calls for white papers on mountain regions

UK charity [aleeVee8](#), which promotes ecotourism as a means to alleviate poverty and create cultural change, is soon to release a new in-depth study on the Ghoroka region of Nepal and its people, and has also recently launched a new [website](#). The charity is also looking for white papers on mountainous regions, environment and eco-tourism for a database that will be open to the public. [Read](#) more about aleeVee8's eco-tourism model and [get in touch](#)

University of the Mountains brings ancient craft to schools

Greece's [University of the Mountains](#) is implementing several projects in Crete's primary and secondary schools to teach children about their cultural heritage. Seventeen schools recently participated in a project on the art of weaving, a tradition practiced in the small highland villages of the island. The project was implemented by the University's Penelope Gandhi mission with the support of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and the University of Crete. [Read more](#)

CIPRA launches 2012 annual report

The [International Commission for the Protection of the Alps](#) (CIPRA) has released its 2012 annual report in five languages. The commission celebrated its 60th anniversary last year and has dedicated the annual report to the “million steps for the Alps” taken over the last few decades by people committed to the sustainable development of the mountains. [Read the report](#)

LATIN AMERICA

GLORIA Andes Network meets in Quito



The Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments ([GLORIA](#)) Andes Network met in Quito, Ecuador, in May to add new monitoring sites to GLORIA’s global database. The purpose of GLORIA is to establish a global observation network for the long-term study of trends in biodiversity and climate change in high mountains, with data subsequently used to assess and predict species loss and other threats to fragile alpine ecosystems. The GLORIA Andes Network consists of 17 monitoring sites from Venezuela to Argentina, and the five-day meeting delved into the technical aspects of interpreting results at regional and global level. The workshop was organized by the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion ([CONDESAN](#)), the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador, the General Secretary of the Andean Community and the

Environment Ministry of [Ecuador](#), with the financial support of the Swiss Cooperation and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). [Read more](#)

Comité de Montañas launches newsletter

The Committee for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions of Argentina (Comité para el Desarrollo Sustentable de las Regiones Montañosas) has launched a bimonthly digital newsletter for 2013 with news and events relevant to the various agencies and organizations of its Advisory Board members. [Download the first issue](#)

Condesan brings mountain agenda to Meeting of the Americas

The Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion ([CONDESAN](#)) brought the mountain agenda to the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Meeting of the Americas in Cancun, Mexico in May, with researchers presenting papers on the monitoring network of Andean forests and [accessible hydrological monitoring](#). The consortium was also represented at a Climate Change: A Mountain of Challenges event at the Bolivian Catholic University in La Paz, Bolivia, with a paper on the [management of water ecosystem services](#) in the context of climate change. Read more about the meetings in [Mexico](#) and [Bolivia](#)

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Project aims to alleviate poverty in Moroccan mountains

A project by the Moroccan government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to develop agricultural commodities in the mountain areas of Al Haouz, Morocco, is moving into its second phase this year. The project will directly benefit approximately 33,000 people – including smallholder farmers and livestock producers, women, young people and landless farmers – whose livelihoods depend on olive, apple and lamb-meat production. The second phase of the project, which will focus on product marketing, is due to run to 2017, and stakeholders attended a start-up workshop in Marrakech in May. [Read more](#)

NORTH AMERICA

Mountain Institute's DG stars in mountain and climate change video

The director-general of the [Mountain Institute](#), Andrew Taber, has given a video interview about the work of the Institute and the mountain agenda. Taber discusses working to alleviate climate change and poverty internationally throughout mountain regions in the interview for mOppenheim.TV, which specializes in the production of video interviews with non-profit leaders. [Watch the full video](#) or see the [one-minute version](#). Taber was among Mountain Partnership members who participated in the Food and Agriculture Organization's International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition in May. [Watch the session](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Workshop on International Mountain Cooperation

6-7 June 2013
Budoia, Italy

The Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention is organizing a workshop focusing on the sub-national and local levels of mountain cooperation. Seven working sessions will concentrate on the Alps, the Carpathians, the Dinaric Alps, the Caucasus, South America, Central Asia and Asia-Pacific. [Read more](#)

Inspiring programming for living European mountains by 2020

6-7 June 2013
Rome, Italy

The aim of this conference organized by Euromontana and the Italian Rural Network is to debate and find solutions for ensuring an integrated approach to the sustainable development of European mountains through innovative programmes for the period 2014-2020. [Read more](#)

National Scientific Conference: The Importance of Mountain Areas in Europe 2020 Strategy

7 June 2013
Wroclaw, Poland

Organized by the Committee on Management of Mountain Regions of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the conference will assess the scale and scope of the influence of Europe 2020 strategy on upland and mountainous areas. [Read more](#)

Mountain Days 2013

11-13 June 2013
Mittersill, Austria

The Mountain Days event, organized by the Swiss-Austrian Alliance for Mountain Research, encourages an exchange of information on ongoing and planned research activities in Switzerland and Austria and fosters new research partnerships. [Read more](#)

Alpine Summer School: Climate Change and the Mountain Environment

18-28 June 2013
Valsavarenche, Italy

Climate Change and the Mountain Environment is the topic of this year's Italian-French Alpine Summer School on Fundamental Processes in Geophysical Fluid Dynamics and the Climate System. The summer school is organized by the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate - CNR (Italy) and the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (France). [Read more](#)

The Third Pole Environment under Global Changes

24-28 June 2013
Brisbane, Australia

The Third Pole Environment Program (TPE), the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research (ITP) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) are holding a session entitled The Third Pole Environment under Global Changes at the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society Annual Meeting. [Read more](#)

International Training Course on Building Resilient Communities: Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction

16-25 June 2013
Kathmandu, Nepal

Organized by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction and Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), this course focuses on building people's capacities to prevent and mitigate the impact of hazards of communities at risk of disasters. The course is geared towards South Asian country participants. Contact [Seema Luitel](#) or [Charles Pradhan](#)

Third International High Mountain Glacial Watershed Conference

8-21 July 2013
Huaraz, Peru

This conference will bring together scientists, practitioners, decision makers, and other stakeholders from the Andes, Asia, and the rest of the world to experience the "living laboratory" of the Peruvian Andes. Hosted by the Mountain Institute's High Mountain Glacial Watershed Program, the event will focus on learning through a series of hands-on training modules led by expert practitioners with extensive experience in the Andes. [Read more](#)



Mountain Research Initiative Key Contact Workshop

3 August 2013
Minneapolis, USA

This workshop brings together researchers from around the world working on change in mountain regions to present overviews of their work, comment on that of their peers and discover opportunities for new interdisciplinary research collaborations. The workshop is being held ahead of the Ecological Society of America annual meeting in the same city.

Deadline for workshop registration is 24 June. [Read more](#)

The Central Asian Mountain Program (CAMP) Forum

27-29 August 2013

Kalmak Ashu, Kyrgyzstan

The CAMP network unites four agencies working for the sustainable development of mountain villages in Central Asia: CAMP Alatau in Kyrgyzstan, CAMP Kuhiston in Tajikistan, the Mountain Villages Partnership and Development Foundation (MVPDF), and the Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA). The topic of this year's forum will be Energy - Efficiency - Future: Access and innovation for Mountain Communities. For more info contact forum@camp.elcat.kg

PUBLICATIONS

Biodiversity and Climate Change in the Tropical Andes

The Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments ([GLORIA](#)) Andes Network has issued a publication entitled 'Biodiversity and Climate Change in the Tropical Andes: Forming a research network to monitor impacts and adaptation actions outline'. In addition to providing baseline information on composition and community structure of mountain flora and climate information, the publication summarizes the formation of the GLORIA Andes Network, which aims to contribute a consolidated regional monitoring system for the comparative study of climate change impacts on biodiversity in the region's high mountains through long-term observation. [Read more](#)

Snowpack decline in the Rocky Mountains examined

A new study from the U.S. Geological Survey has revealed that warmer spring temperatures since 1980 are causing an estimated 20 percent loss of snow cover across the Rocky Mountains of western North America. Snowpack variations were also evaluated through evidence from tree-rings, allowing the scientists to compare recent observations to measurements from the past 800 years. [Read more](#)

Dice snake expansion in Pakistan



The recent rediscovery of a dice snake in the Karakoram mountains of north-central Pakistan has prompted a study on the snake's distribution in the region, published in the Pakistan Journal of Zoology. The snake's range seems limited to a few mountain valleys, and the paper discusses several plausible expansion routes from northern Afghanistan through the Hindu Kush mountain range into Pakistan and the western Karakoram. [Read more](#)

Anthropogenic pressures on willow-leaved sea buckthorn in the Central Himalayas

The natural habitat of *Hippophae salicifolia*, or willow-leaved sea buckthorn, in the Central Himalayas continues to be degraded due to habitat destruction and harvesting for fuelwood, fodder and fruits. This paper presents a detailed analysis of the relationship between density, demographic structure, and harvesting of *H. salicifolia* in the five major valleys of Uttarakhand, India. [Read more](#)

JOB VACANCIES

[Vice-Secretary General, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention](#) (deadline 15 July 2013)

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.