



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY CELEBRATIONS

Mountain Partnership members across the globe came out in force on 11 December to celebrate International Mountain Day 2013 (IMD). An impressive array of events and initiatives -- from children's art competitions to conferences, festivals, round tables, public video messages, reforestation activities, photographic exhibitions, TV panels and a handicraft exhibition -- helped raise awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development across every continent.

Here are the highlights of what some MP members and friends did to mark this important UN occasion.

For a full listing of the activities worldwide see the [IMD website](#).

Global

Municipality of Dénia (Spain) - Ccorca (Peru)

As a result of the interaction between the Municipality of Denia and Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN) at the Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Erzurum, Turkey, the two Mountain Partnership members organized a twin celebration of IMD with an awareness-raising focus involving school children from the two regions. The event connected local authorities in Dénia with their counterparts in Ccorca. Video message from [Dénia to Ccorca](#) and from [Ccorca to Dénia](#).

Regions

ASIA and PACIFIC

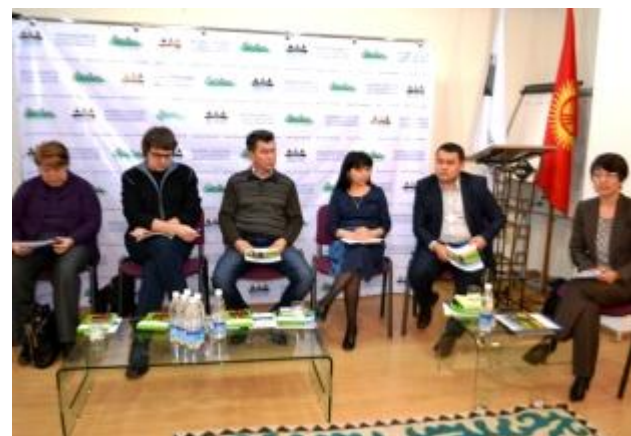
Altai Republic of the Russian Federation

The Interregional Conference "Mountains - Key to Sustainable Future", held on 11 December in the Altai Republic of the Russian Federation, was co-organized by the Government and the MP member "Foundation for Sustainable Development of Altai" (FSDA). Alexandr Alchubaev, Minister of Economic Development and Investments of the Altai Republic, discussed the national, regional and local programmes related to SMD. The representatives of Bourges Nature Park from France and the Altai Ministry of Tourism and Entrepreneurship suggested the creation of the first Geopark in the Altai Republic and Russia. [Read more](#)



Kyrgyzstan

IMD observance in Kyrgyzstan was committed to exploring an in-country process for joining the SDGs reinstating the MDGs. A panel discussion was organized by MP member Rural Development Fund, under the support of the MP Central Asia Hub at MSRI/UCA. Participants discussed the country's progress on sustainability and integrating mountains into the development processes with five guest panelists representing different backgrounds - farming, research, NGO, environment and education. A Partnership Fair on SMD and a Mountain Product Fair were also organized. [Read more](#)



China

In order to celebrate IMD, the secretariat of CNICIMOD and Yangtze River Research Branch of GSC jointly organized a workshop in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China on 10 - 14 December, 2013. The event was also an opportunity to create a platform for exchanging knowledge on mountain development in the Yangtze River basin and summarize the work of CNICIMOD. Around 60 experts from ICIMOD, domestic research institutes and universities discussed several mountain development issues. [Read more](#)



India

CEE Himalaya celebrated IMD 2013 with students and teachers in Uttarkashi, a small Himalayan town. More than 500 students and 32 teachers from 17 schools along with 46 other participants gathered at a local school to celebrate the day. Children were provided with the message that mountains can be preserved through enhancing green cover, taking care of water sources and rivers, valuing local plants, food and culture which is unique and sustainable. Some of the activities in which the students participated enthusiastically were storytelling, slogan writing, group discussion, chart making as well as a quiz structured around the theme of IMD 2013. [Read more](#)



Pakistan

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in collaboration with the Mountain & Glacier Protection Organization (MGPO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) organized a one day "Mountain Festival" at National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad, Pakistan attended by a number of organizations and youth groups, and academia working in mountainous regions in Pakistan. [Read more](#)



EUROPE

Austria

Innsbruck

“Crossing borders and pushing limits” was the theme chosen by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention for an event organized at the Alpenverein-Museum in Hofburg, Innsbruck. Vanessa Francois, who became a paraplegic after a mountain accident, talked about how she managed, just three years after her accident, to climb a big wall at El Capitan, Yosemite National Park using only her arms. The topics of the panel focused on different subjects such as the difference between growth and development. [Read more](#)



Vienna

The Federal Institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas, Vienna, Austria, celebrated IMD with an event on mountain products. The keynote presentation by Michael Groier from the Federal Institute analyzed the current situation of labeling mountain products and provided examples of products in Austria as well as the future benefits that designated mountain products can bring. [Read more](#)



Italy

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Deputy Director -General for Natural Resources, Ms Maria Helena Semedo, delivered a video message to mark IMD 2013. In her message, she called to action mountain countries, organizations and communities to help ensure that mountains are included in the post 2015 Development Agenda, and specifically in the Sustainable Development Goals. See the whole video [here](#).



Greece

To promote and raise awareness of the importance of Greece's mountains, the Metsovian Interdisciplinary Research Center (M.I.R.C) of the National Technical University of Athens in collaboration with the Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO), held the initiative “Greece from the Top” which encouraged the sharing of mountain images via social media networks. [Read more](#) [Press release](#).



Spain

Mountain lovers and climbers were invited to climb their favourite mountain and take a snap of themselves with the IMD flag. The pictures were then shared on Facebook, Whatsapp or Instagram with the hashtag #welovemountains followed by the name of the mountain. All the images collected were included in a contest and published on <https://www.facebook.com/lovingmountains> and added to the "2013 United Mountains Map". [Read more](#)



Turkey

The Bingöl University Geographical Information System and Remote Sensing Centre celebrated IMD with an event for academic staff and students. The Focal Point of the Mountain Partnership (MP), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alaaddin YÜKSEL, delivered a speech emphasizing the meaning and significance of the day and underlining the scenic characteristics of the Bingöl mountain province such as the sunrise event, the Floating Islands and the Bingöl Plateau. A flute recital and videos concluded the event. [Read more](#)



MIDDLE EAST and NORTH AFRICA

Algeria

The second Mountain festival, a weeklong of celebrations, organized by the Association Assirem Gouraya and Forest Conservation Bejawas held in Tizi N'Berber, a town in northern Algeria. The festival, aimed to raise awareness among local and national authorities about the need to protect mountain environments, develop sustainable mountain tourism, educate students to reforestation practices and create sustainable employment by training local mountain guides. Over 300 participants attended the festival and activities, such as the reforestation of over 300 shrubs, was covered by the local media. [Read more](#)



Iran

The conference "The Rights and Policies for Mountains" was held by the Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS) in Tehran on 16 December 2013 to celebrate IMD and the 20th anniversary of MEPS. Several high ranking officials, Parliament members, academia, mountain environment experts, NGO representatives and mountain lovers attended the conference including key speaker Prof. Bruno Messerli, Former Director of Institute of Geography, University of Bern, Switzerland. At the end of the conference a "Mountain Declaration" was issued with suggestions for the creation of mountain legal structure in Iran. [Read more](#)



NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA and CARIBBEAN

Costa Rica

Costa Rica's National Meteorological Institute from the Ministry of the Environment and Energy hosted an event attended both by public and private sector to celebrate IMD. The aim of the event was promote and share a message of mutual responsibility on mountain conservation and sustainable development. The FAO representative in Costa Rica, José Emilio Suadi, highlighted how one tenth of humanity receives its sustenance directly from mountains. [Read more](#)



New York

The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations, together with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) and FAO, celebrated IMD with an event in New York, USA, on 11 December 2013. Speakers included representatives of Argentina, Italy, Kenya, Peru, Spain, Turkey, the Director of the FAO-LONY office and a representative of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat. [Read more](#)



Orem, Utah

North American Mountain Partnership members came together to celebrate the day at Utah Valley University and to commemorate Dr. Jane Pratt, former CEO of the Mountain Institute. Discussions on how to include mountain activities in the UN post-2015 development agenda, and the hosting of a trunk show of handicrafts from Kyrgyzstan in Salt Lake City were also held. [Read more](#)



SOUTH AMERICA

Andean Region

Many Andean countries came out in force to celebrate the day with a diverse variety of events, which have been collected by CONDESAN. These included: a seminar on solar power in mountains in Argentina, an open visit to the National Park Nevado de Tres Cruces in Chile, a photographic exhibition on mountains at the Bogotá University in Colombia, a series of children activities at the Museum of History in Quito, Ecuador and an event on climate change in the Andes in Peru. [Read more](#)



Bolivia

In the evening of 11 December, the Bolivian Mountain Institute organized a round of expert talks “Seven facets of sustainable mountain development in Bolivia”. Topics included climate change and glaciers, biodiversity, mountain peasants, migration and basic concepts of sustainable mountain development. Following the event, participants stayed to exchange information and network, enjoying refreshments sponsored by the organizers, thanks to the financial support of Germany’s “Climate Fund”, operated through the Embassy in La Paz. [Read more](#)



Brazil

To celebrate the IMD 2013, Montanha Brazil has launched a survey on the perception of and interest in Brazilian mountains. The survey is accessible through the following [link](#) and [more info](#).



Chile

The IMD celebrations in Chile featured the participation of Waldemar Coutts, Director of the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and MP focal point for Chile, Rodrigo Gijón, from the Protected Areas Department of the Ministry of Environment and Hivy Ortiz, from FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, among others. On the occasion of IMD, FAO highlighted the importance and strategic value of the Andes for the countries they encompasses.

[Read more](#)



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Cameroon

Mountain Partnership member RENASONGCAM coordinated the celebrations and awareness raising efforts in Cameroon, which included an article in local paper La Météo drawing attention to the history of IMD, a conference for local partners presenting the results of the Erzurum Global Meeting and three field visits. [Read more](#)



Guinea

To commemorate IMD in the Republic of Guinea, the mountain team of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests and the Focal Point of the Mountain Partnership held a roundtable with civil society on Wednesday 11 December 2013 in Conakry under the theme: "Mountains, key to a sustainable future." Emphasis was placed on the importance of mountain ecosystems for the survival of man on the planet and involvement of mountain municipalities, civil society and the private sector. A schedule of meetings with stakeholders will be established during the year 2014 and will be completed by the establishment of a National Committee for the Sustainable Development of Mountains of the Republic of Guinea. [Read more](#)



Kenya

The Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystem Services and Food Security in Eastern Africa (CHIESA) Project celebrated IMD with an exhibition of artwork by students who took part in an art competition aptly themed 'My Mountain, My Home'. The competition inspired 269 submissions of artwork from 10 primary and secondary schools in Taita Hills, Kenya and Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, from which 35 drawings were chosen as winning entries. Out of the remaining pool of art, a further three drawings from each school will be selected for auction at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) Kenya in February 2014, and proceeds used to purchase indigenous tree saplings for planting at participating schools. [Read more](#)



Madagascar

Madagascar celebrated its first IMD with the support of FAO Madagascar. The Prime Minister and the Interim Minister of Environment and Forests delivered key messages to the national media as well as spot on mountains in Malagasy. The 15 minutes spot was produced in collaboration with the "Association de la Population de Montagne à Madagascar" and focuses on good practices in mountain areas. [Read more](#)



Uganda

Uganda joined the global community to celebrate IMD with an event organized by the Ministry of Water and Environment, in partnership with the District Local governments that make up the Mount Elgon Ecosystem, FAO, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Chief Guest at the occasion was Honourable Flavia Nabugere Munaaba, Minister of State for Environment, representing the Minister of Water and Environment. In her speech, the Minister emphasized Uganda's commitment to addressing problems of hilly and mountainous areas in the country, to ensure sustainability of the resources for the present and future generations. The FAO Representative, Alhaji M. Jallow, used the occasion to remind participants of the challenges faced by mountain people. The day event was concluded with a panel discussion at the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Television Network, which highlighted the challenges, opportunities and solutions for the Mountain areas. [Read more](#)

