

December 2012



HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY

Our new issue of the Peak to Peak newsletter is launched on International Mountain Day 2012, a day in which we celebrate and raise awareness about mountains worldwide. Ten years after the International Year of Mountains, the focus of this year's International Mountain Day is to celebrate mountain life and sustainable mountain development, drawing attention to the function of mountains at global level and to the goods and services they provide for all humankind.

Click [here](#) to watch Thomas Hofer, Interim Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), give a video message for this year's event, and [here](#) to watch an animated video produced by FAO/MPS with financial support from the World Bank about the effects of climate change on mountains.

The Food and Agriculture Organization has launched a revamped tri-lingual website (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/internationalmountainday/en/>) where you will find all information including a poster, four information fact sheets and the IMD logo in all UN languages. Don't forget to send us reports about the celebrations of the Day in your country or institution – please contact sara.manuelli@fao.org.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who have joined since May 2012 – please feel free to contact them for possible collaborative projects and ideas:

- [Carbon Lab, University of Queensland](#) (Australia)
- [Foundation for Sustainable Development of Altai](#) (Altai Republic of the Russian Federation)
- [Fundación Cordillera Tropical](#) (Ecuador)
- [Fundacion CoMunidad](#) (Panama)
- [International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology](#) (Kenya)
- [Kavala Institute of Technology](#) (Greece)
- [Mountain Territories of Dagestan](#) (Russian Federation)
- [Red de Agroindustria Rural del Peru](#) (Peru)
- [SORAINE Uganda](#) (Uganda)

As of December 2012, there are 197 members of the Mountain Partnership: 50 countries, 16 IGOs and 131 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 web site at <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/members/en/>.

UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Task Force Meeting of the Mountain Partnership



A Task Force Meeting of the Mountain Partnership (MP) took place in Rome on 29-31 October with the aim of elaborating the main building blocks for the future strategy and governance of the Partnership.

Ten years after the MP was created, the need was felt within the Partnership to revisit its governance system and strategy in order to strengthen its position in dealing with current challenges. Over three days, the Task Force discussed a number of strategic issues related to the Mountain Partnership including vision, mission and functions, governance, and strategy.

The 26 members who took part were selected for a balanced representation of the MP's membership as a whole

A draft strategy and governance documents are currently being developed based on the results of the deliberations during the Task Force Meeting. They will be further refined through consultations with the Task Force and all MP members before being endorsed in the context of the 4th Global Mountain Partnership meeting to be held during the first half of 2013.

Read the executive summary at <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/publications/publication-detail/en/c/165715/>. Presentations from the meeting are available at <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/news/list-of-presentations-of-the-mp-task-force-meeting/en/>.

Mountain Day 2

The second Mountain Day was held in Doha, Qatar on 3 December on the sidelines of the 2012 UN Climate Change Conference. The strong negative impact of climate change on the life of mountain communities, the role of mountains as water towers of the world and how they are being threatened by the melting of glaciers, and the need to globally support mountain communities through political action, capacity building and scientific research were highlighted.

Plenary session discussions included climate change stories from the various mountain regions; integrated management of mountain water resources; the role of mountains in food security and livelihoods and the relevance of implementing the mountain agenda in post Rio+20 scenarios. The closing high-level round-table session focused on the key messages to be conveyed to climate change negotiators.

The event is organized each year to bring attention to the vulnerability of mountain ecosystems and people to the impacts of climate change and offer solutions to UNFCCC negotiators on adaptation and mitigation actions.



For a full press release see http://www.mountainpartnership.org/news/news-detail/en/?dyna_feffuid=163207.

Changes to the Secretariat

Thomas Hofer assumed the role of Interim Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat as of 1 August 2012, taking over from Olman Serrano. Thomas is also Team Leader of the Food and Agriculture Organization's Watershed Management and Mountains Programme. For a full list of secretariat staff, see <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/about>



IPROMO 2012

Around 30 participants from all over the world took part in the 2012 IPROMO Mountain Training Programme organized in July by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the University of Turin. Since 2008 IPROMO has been contributing to enhancing knowledge on mountain conservation and development issues, encouraging cross-regional cooperation among high level technicians and decision makers involved in promoting sustainable mountain development in their own regions. The fifth edition of the course was entitled 'Understanding and Adapting to Climate Change in Mountain Areas' and was held in Ormea, Italy, where participants, who were mainly members of national delegations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), learned about climate change effects, vulnerability and carbon emission negotiations, and their implications for mountain regions. For more info see <http://www.ipromo-school.it/en/course.html>

Bhutan+10

Some 170 policy makers, researchers and development practitioners from 27 countries came together in October for the [government of Bhutan's](#) international conference on gender and sustainable mountain development, organized by [ICIMOD](#). The conference, Bhutan+10: Gender and Sustainable Mountain Development in a Changing World, came a decade after Bhutan organized a global event entitled Celebrating Mountain Women to focus attention on women in the context of sustainable mountain development during the 2002 International Year of Mountains. Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) Central Asia officer Zaya Batjargal was present and made a presentation on gender issues in the Central Asia Mountains. The conference comprised six plenaries and 18 parallel sessions, with events including panels on the different impacts of disaster on women and men, the role of gender and women in rangeland management, and gender, land tenure and grabs. The Conference was co-funded by the MPS thanks to financial support received from the World Bank. For a full press release, visit <http://www.icimod.org/?q=8864>.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

GLOBAL

FAO, UNEP and UNESCO in Rio+20 follow-up

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are officially charged with following up on the three mountain paragraphs that were included in the Rio+20 final outcome document, The Future We Want, largely thanks to cooperation by Mountain Partnership members. Read more about the follow-up framework at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/followupbyunsystem.html>, and see the mountain paragraphs at http://www.mountainpartnership.org/fileadmin/user_upload/mountain_partnership/docs/Rio-41.pdf.

AFRICA

Climate and insect pests in Eastern Africa

A four-year research and development project on the impacts of climate change on insect pests in eastern African mountains is underway in Kenya, coordinated by the [International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology](http://chiesa.icipe.org). The Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystem Services and Food Security in Eastern Africa (CHIESA) Project 2011–2015 targets the Afromontane ecosystems for studying eco-physiological and reproductive responses of the key insect pests associated with maize, coffee, avocado and crucifer. The results of the study will be used to develop integrated pest management for local farmers. For more information visit <http://chiesa.icipe.org>.



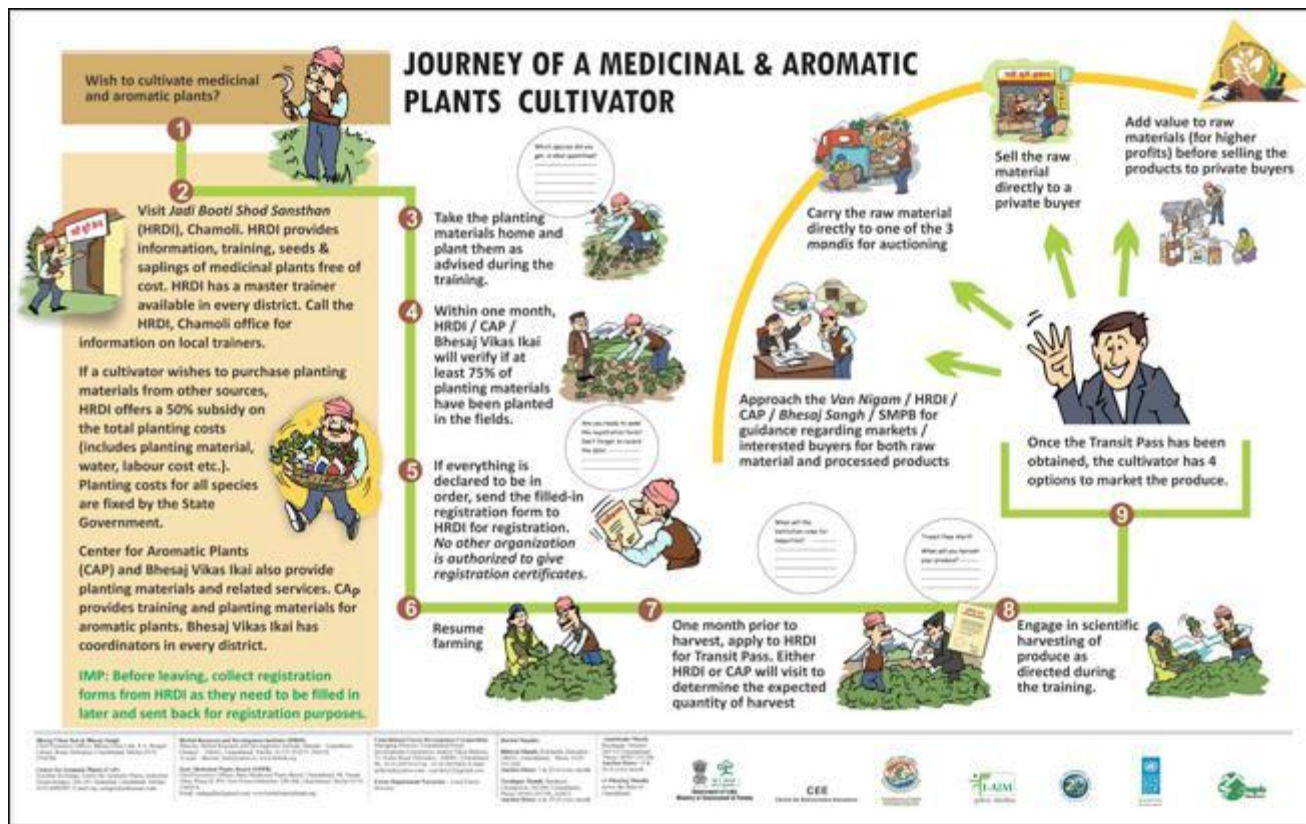
ASIA PACIFIC

Climate Himalaya wins award

[Prakriti](http://prakriti.org)'s Climate Himalaya initiative has won India's prestigious Manthan eNGO Challenge Award 2012 for its knowledge networking outreach on climate adaptation and mountain development issues in Himalayan region. The eNGO Challenge Awards recognize NGOs who are using information communication technology and digital media for good governance practices benefiting societies and communities at large. Prakriti started Climate Himalaya to share knowledge on climate adaptation across Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan. Its knowledge portal www.chimalaya.org contains some 4800 articles, research and publications on climate and mountain issues. Read more at <http://chimalaya.org/2012/12/03/climate-himalaya-wins-prestigious-manthan-engo-challenge-award-2012/>.



CEE Himalaya medicinal plant project



[CEE Himalaya](http://www.ceehimalaya.org/) is working to strengthen livelihoods through the sustainable use of medicinal plants as part of a UNDP-GEF funded project in Uttarakhand, India. Working in three medicinal plant conservation sites, the organization is raising awareness about threatened endemic species in the Indian Himalayan region through a multi-stakeholder communication strategy including publications, documentaries, field activities, and training and awareness projects. It is also trying to establish an efficient market chain for cultivators of medicinal plants as part of the project's broader aim to help relieve pressure on wild species while improving livelihoods. Read more about CEE Himalaya at <http://www.ceehimalaya.org/>.

CENTRAL ASIA

CAMP Forum

The three-day CAMP forum on sustainable mountain development in Central Asia took place in October in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Entitled 'Sustainable Land Management – up-scaling benefits for rural communities', the forum facilitated knowledge exchange and experience sharing among different stakeholders working at various levels, from local to global. A special session of the Mountain Partnership regional members brought together 20 member organizations from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Dagestan and Altai Republic, Russian Federation. The forum was organized by [CAMP Kuhiston](http://www.mountainpartnership.org/regions-in-action/regionsinactiondetail/en/c/162140/). For more information see <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/regions-in-action/regionsinactiondetail/en/c/162140/>

Central-Asia networking

[The Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities \(AGOCA\)](#) was among 15 Kyrgyz-based Mountain Partnership member organizations who attended a networking meeting to link the members to major donors and the FAO and GIZ regional programme in November. The meeting was organized by MPS hub the [University of Central Asia](#). Participants were updated on upcoming opportunities and pipeline projects and were able to tell of their own activities. AGOCA expressed its thanks for the good work of the MPS hub, which is also arranging shared learning sessions and a calendar of MP member activities. For more information on AGOCA see <http://camp.kg/>

Eco-Forum of Uzbekistan

The [Eco-Forum](#) of Uzbekistan is implementing a targeted program for public participation in the integrated development of mountain areas. This year it carried out projects to create a sustainable mechanism for educating women on adaptation to climate change, to develop environmental tourism in the Ugam Chatkal National Park, and to set up a network of environmental journalists in Uzbekistan. It also won a government grant for a project to promote family environmental safety, the implementation of which is planned this month. Read more at <http://www.ecoforum.uz/>.



EUROPE

Swiss-Austrian Alliance for Mountain Research

The Swiss-Austrian Alliance for Mountain Research has been launched under a joint initiative by the Swiss and Austrian governments. The aims of the Alliance include strengthening and developing bilateral activities in the field of mountain research and promoting scientific networks. For more information, and to find out about the Alliance's Swiss-Austrian Mountain Days event on 11-13 June 2013 in Mittesill, Austria, see www.chat-mountainalliance.eu

Alpine Convention confirms Rio+20 commitment



The Alpine Convention held its 12th Alpine Conference in September, during which it confirmed its commitment to the implementation of the guidelines of the final Rio+20 document *The Future We Want*. A full press release is available at http://www.alpconv.org/en/newsevents/alpine/ACXII/Documents/Presse_EN.pdf. The Convention's Permanent Committee has meanwhile adopted the fourth report on sustainable tourism in the Alps, which presents an overview of the situation and gives options to meet the specific challenges of one of the oldest and largest tourist regions worldwide. Further information is available at www.alpconv.org.

Active Remedy on Clinton

[Active Remedy](#) would like to bring to the attention of Mountain Partnership members the statement made by United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during a roundtable on Water Security in New York in September in the context of mountains and global freshwater security. For Clinton's full speech, see <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/09/198179.htm>.

LATIN AMERICA

Bolivian Mountain Workshop

The [Bolivian Mountain Institute](#) in conjunction with the Institute of Socio-Economic Research of the Bolivian Catholic University organized a workshop over the summer on climate change and sustainable mountain development in the Bolivian Andes. The workshop presented evidence of climate change impacts and discussed adaptation and mitigation strategies for mountain regions as well as research projects. Read more at http://www.cambioclimatico-bolivia.org/index-cc.php?cod_aporte=79#79. The workshop report is available from: bmi@bolivian-mountains.org.

Sustainable mountain development stars in new web TV show

The [Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion \(CONDESAN\)](#) is producing and broadcasting *InfoAndina TV*, a weekly web TV program which airs on Thursdays at 7pm (GMT-5) through the Peruvian La Mula website. *InfoAndina TV* aims to highlight topics related to the sustainable management of resources in mountain ecosystems and reports on what's happening in the Andean region. *InfoAndina TV* is aimed at a young audience as well as actors in sustainable development and opinion leaders of the Andean countries. Full editions of *InfoAndina TV* are available at: <http://www.infoandina.org/infoandinatv>.

Regional workshop on Andean region post-Rio+20

The [Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion \(CONDESAN\)](#) held a regional workshop entitled 'Sustainable Mountain Development: Building the Future We Need' in Lima, Peru, in November. The aim of the workshop was to promote dialogue between key actors of sustainable mountain development in the Andes as well as activities required to implement the Rio +20 outcomes. Representatives from governments, research institutes, NGOs and the private sector from eight countries attended the workshop, which also included a meeting of the Andean region Mountain Partnership members held on the sidelines of the event by the [Ministry of Environment of Peru](#). Read more at: <http://www.condesan.org/postrio20/>. CONDESAN has also produced an interactive multimedia project, 'The Andes and the future we need', containing key information and policy recommendations for the region: <http://especiales.infoandina.org/nuestrosandes/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MENA Climate Change and Mountain regional meeting

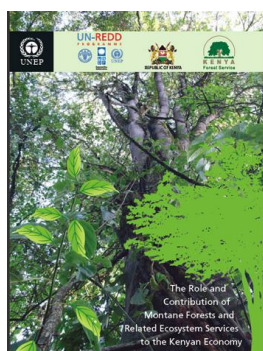
A regional meeting on Climate Change and Mountains in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region will take place in Marrakech 16-18 December. The meeting is the fourth in a series organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) in the context of the World Bank Project Strategic Initiative on Mountains and Climate Change (SIMCC). Similar workshops have taken place in Central Asia, Latin America and Africa. The Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is partnering with the MPS for the event, which will analyze climate change impacts, adaptation and development in the region's mountain ecosystems. Participants will include members of the national delegations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), officers from various ministries dealing with mountain issues and Mountain Partnership focal points. Read more about the Strategic Initiative on Mountains and Climate Change at <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/our-work/strategic/en/>.

PUBLICATIONS

MRD: Call for papers

Mountain Research and Development (MRD) is calling for papers for an issue entitled 'Land Acquisition in Mountains: Implications for Sustainable Development'. The issue will explore whether the recent trend of large-scale land acquisition by private and public investors has any relevance to sustainable mountain development and if so, how to tackle the challenges involved and learn from good practices. The deadline for submission of full papers is 15 February 2013. Download the full call for papers at http://www.mrd-journal.org/pdf/MRD_call_Land_Acquisition.pdf. The editorial team can be contacted at mrd-journal@cde.unibe.ch.

UNEP publication on Kenyan Montane Forests



[UNEP](#) and partners have published a new report, 'The Role and Contribution of Montane Forests and Related Ecosystem Services to the Kenyan Economy'. The montane forests of Kenya produce direct economic value for its citizens, not only from the production of various timber- and non-timber forest products, but also from a range of regulating ecosystem services that provide an insurance value to several key economic sectors. This report estimates these economic values, by means of best international analytical practices and environmental and economic evidence from Kenya, and shows that montane forests have consistently been undervalued in conventional national accounting. Download the report at http://www.unep.org/pdf/Montane_Forests.pdf

Nepalese tourism and climate change study

[ICIMOD](#), together with researchers and local stakeholders in the Kailash Sacred Landscape region in north-western Nepal, have carried out an interdisciplinary rapid assessment study to explore sustainable tourism as an adaptation strategy to climate change and measure to alleviating poverty. 'The role of tourism in a changing climate for conservation and development: A problem-oriented study in the Kailash Sacred Landscape, Nepal' is published in the journal *Policy Sciences* and discusses key policy considerations for the development of tourism as a strategy for complementing and diversifying livelihoods and looks at the intricately complex interrelations between policy objectives. Read the full abstract at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11077-012-9168-4>.

CONDESAN launches five new publications

The Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN) has launched five new publications: Indicators to evaluate and monitor the state of biodiversity in the Tropical Andes in the context of climate change; Biodiversity and Climate Change in the Tropical Andes; Bridges across the heights: Synthesis of the Andean Paramo Project in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru; Good practices for Paramos management: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru; and Andean Panorama of the Climate Change: Vulnerability and adaptation in the Tropical Andes. All can be downloaded (in Spanish) at <http://www.condesan.org/portal/publicaciones>.

CALL FOR NEWS

Please send information you would like included in the next Peak to Peak to fiona.winward@fao.org.

