

Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter



Mountain Partnership
working together for mountain people and environments

HIGHLIGHTS



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Our new issue of the Peak to Peak newsletter is launched on International Mountain Day (IMD) 2013, a day in which we celebrate and raise awareness about mountains worldwide. This year's theme - Mountains: Key to a sustainable future - intends to highlight how mountains can play a critical role in moving the world towards sustainable economic growth by providing water, food and energy worldwide.

Click [here](#) to watch Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General for Natural Resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), give a video message for this year's event, and [here](#) to watch an animated video produced by FAO and Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) with financial support from the World Bank on how mountains matter for all.

FAO has a trilingual [website](#) where you will find all information including a poster, an information fact sheet and the IMD logo in all UN languages. Please send [us](#) reports about the celebrations of the Day in your country or institution so we can share them.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who have joined since November 2013 -please feel free to contact them for possible collaborative projects and ideas:

[Federation of Organic Development "Bio-KG"](#) (Kyrgyz republic)

[Kastamonu University](#) (Turkey)

[Government of Malawi](#)

[Turkish Geographical Society](#) (Turkey)

[Government of Swaziland](#)

As of November 2013, there were 224 members of the Mountain Partnership: 53 governments, 13 IGOs and 158 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.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

GLOBAL

The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations to celebrate International Mountain Day

The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations together with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) will celebrate International Mountain Day (IMD) at the headquarters of the United Nations. In the run up to the start of the International Year of Family Farming in January 2014, the event will include the launch of a publication, 'Mountain Farming is Family Farming,' which is the result of a collaborative effort undertaken by several

MP members from around the world. At the event, Ambassador María Cristina Perceval of Argentina and Rosalaura Romeo of the MPS will highlight for MP members and the international community why mountains matter to us all. [Read more](#)



Global Landscapes Forum addresses mountains

Local community empowerment is essential to building climate change resilience in mountains, concluded the panelists and participants at a session moderated by Thomas Hofer, Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, at the Global Landscapes Forum in Warsaw, Poland, on 16 November 2013. The session, called “Building Climate Change Resilience in Mountains,” looked at the need to address glacial melt caused by climate change and its far-reaching impacts on the water cycle and the livelihoods of mountain and lowland communities. [Read more](#)



ASIA and PACIFIC

Participatory resource management for the mountain forest areas of Kyrgyzstan

The [Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan](#) (AFLU) held a National Forum with its members in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 22 November 2013. Grown from ten in 2010 to 110 user groups with 7 000 individuals nationwide, the association is supported by the Norwegian Forestry Group. The National Forum, used as a platform for reporting on the progress of their work of the past three years and collaboratively deciding on directions of future work, has marked another milestone in AFLU's institutional development, the start of a new phase in its activities. Since its establishment, the Association has implemented numerous activities jointly with the Kyrgyz Government and donor communities for introducing participatory management into the forestry sector. [Read more](#)



The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) marks 30 years

ICIMOD kicked off its year-long celebration of three decades dedicated to mountains and people in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 5 December 2013. Thirty years ago, the governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, India, Nepal and Pakistan came together to create an organization to work on issues relevant to the people and environment of the Hindu Kush Himalayas. Today, ICIMOD has taken large strides to support mountain people and ecosystems in the region adapt to change and carved out a niche role in promoting regional cooperation to address common issues. The organization is now taking stock of its achievements and reflecting on the challenges it faces in its efforts to make the future of mountain people more secure and meaningful. [Read more](#)

Scholars discuss Himalayan research in India

A two-day workshop on “Mountain Specific Research in the Context of Himalaya” was held at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in New Delhi, India, on 19-20 November 2013 and was attended by over 70 scholars. The workshop, with an objective to strengthen research in Indian Himalayan Region, was jointly organized by INSA, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Govind Ballabh Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED). The workshop stressed the need for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary work and coordination among institutions and long-term monitoring to improve the quality of research in the Himalayas. [Read more](#)



EUROPE

Balancing Alpine energy and nature

The project recharge.green is to develop a decision support tool for stakeholders, as called for by an international conference in Brig, Switzerland, on 12-13 November 2013. The tool will help identify regions that are suitable for energy production and which should be protected. Representatives of the pilot regions of the project explained the case studies and experiences of their regions during a world café and a poster session at the conference. [Read more](#) [See the blog](#)



A talk proposing a stand-alone sustainable development goal on water

Stella Joy and Tara Joy, on behalf of Active Remedy Ltd, a UK-based non-profit organization engaged in protecting the global freshwater cycle, gave a talk at the UN Women UK National Committee Corporate Advisory Group Meeting in London, England, on 13 November 2013, underscoring the potential for a stand-alone sustainable development goal for water within the Post-2015 development agenda. They urged policies that protect and restore the environments, upon which the hydrological cycle is dependent, which include mountains, mixed mountain forests, rainforests and wetlands. [Read more](#)

SOUTH AMERICA

Francisco Mendoza of FAO and Iván Favereau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chile present the Mountain Partnership during Expo Andes 2013

[Expo Andes](#) is the most important event focused on mountain development in South America. Both a trade fair and a symposium, the [2013 edition of Expo Andes](#), which took place 23 - 25 October 2013 in Santiago de Chile, brought together over 50 speakers from 16 countries and exhibited over 100 brands. During the opening seminar "Mountain Policies and Institutions," Francisco Mendoza of FAO presented the importance of the Andes and related challenges for the region, while Iván Favereau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile spoke about Chile's efforts to create a national office of the Mountain Partnership. Both Mendoza's and Favereau's presentations can be found on the [Expo Andes website](#). Video interviews of both can be seen on the [Expo Andes TV channel](#).



Climate change adaptation strategy discussed in Ecuador

The [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#) (UNESCO), Andean Climate Change Interamerican Observatory Network (ACCIÓN) and [Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion \(CONDESAN\)](#) organized the Andean Workshop on Science and Policy "Impacts from Climate Change in the Snow, Glacier and Water in Andes: Policy Recommendations and Strategies to Adaptation" on 20-21 November 2013. The workshop brought together the scientific community, civil society, policy makers and developers to agree on policy recommendations, research agendas and climate change and mitigation adaptation measures. [Read more](#)



Video on mountaineering and glaciers

Mountaineers possess important knowledge. This [video](#) (in Spanish), which aired on InfoAndina TV, a web TV programme produced and broadcast by the [Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion](#) (CONDESAN), shows how some organizations revamp and promote scientific activities to research ecosystems, the relationship between human activities and the effects of climate change.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Towards an EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

17 December 2013

Brussels, Belgium

The Initiatives of the Alpine regions and states, the [Alpine Convention](#) and the European Territorial Cooperation programme Alpine Space are organizing a conference to discuss a macro-regional strategy for the Alpine Region and for Europe as a whole at the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union (EU). [Read more](#)



Dance Theater of Nepal Sweet 16th Year

21 December 2013

New York, USA

This anniversary and reunion concert will highlight the performing arts traditions of Himalayan Nepal. The mountainous area is home to a rich variety of regional groups, each with its own language, customs, religious festivals and art forms. [Read more](#)

Call for abstracts for a global fair and workshop on mountain observatories

Abstracts for expositions, sessions, presentations and ateliers for the Global Fair and Workshop on Long-Term Observatories of Mountain Social-Ecological Systems, may be submitted. The conference, organized by the [Mountain Research Initiative](#) (MRI) and the University of Nevada, will take place in Reno (NV), USA, on 16-19 July 2014. [Read more](#)

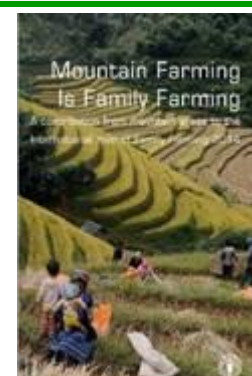
Call for abstracts on challenges affecting the Carpathian eco-region

Extended abstracts for oral presentations and poster abstracts on the theme of the 3rd Forum Carpathicum - Local Responses to Global Challenges - may be submitted until 28 February 2014. The conference, focusing on major challenges affecting the Carpathian eco-region, will be held in Lviv, Ukraine, on 16-19 September 2014. [Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

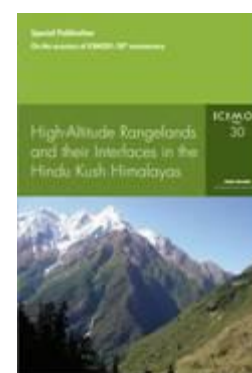
Mountain Farming is Family Farming

This publication gives an overview of the global changes affecting mountain farming and the strategies that mountain communities have developed to cope. A series of case studies present lessons and recommendations, meant to inform and benefit mountain communities, policy-makers, development experts and academics who work to support mountain farmers and to protect mountains. Published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern and the Centre for Development Research of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna. [Download](#)



High-Altitude Rangelands and their Interfaces in the Hindu Kush Himalayas

This publication, issued on the 30th anniversary of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), contains a collection of papers and scholarly articles by ecologists, natural resource managers, and other professionals working on the high-altitude rangelands of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. [Download](#)



The "sowing of concrete": Peri-urban smallholder perceptions of rural-urban land change in the Central Peruvian Andes

This journal article, written by Andreas Haller as part of the 'Rapid Urban Growth in the Andes' project, is about the perception of peri-urban Andean smallholders toward the urbanization of the Quechua region's valley floor in Huancayo, Peru. The results show that the agriculturalists especially fear food and income insecurity and adapt to the urbanization-driven loss of arable land by intensifying land use on the hinterlands steep slopes and high plains. [Read more](#)

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.