

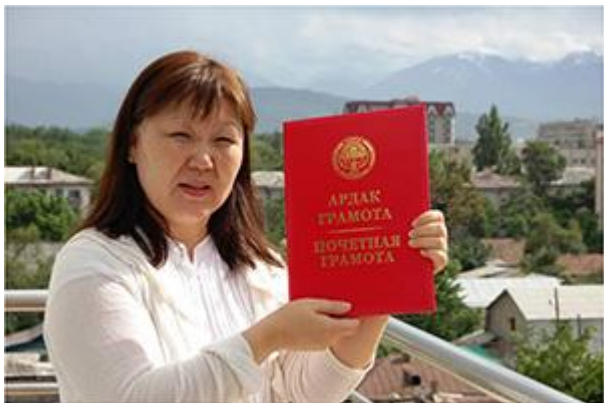
Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter



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HIGHLIGHTS



University of Central Asia staffer receives government award

Elbegzaya (Zaya) Batjargal, programme officer for the Mountain Partnership in Central Asia, has been awarded an honorary diploma by the Kyrgyz Government. Receiving the award during a joint celebration of World Environment Day and the 25th anniversary of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, Zaya said: "I would like to express thanks and say *Chon Rakhmat* for recognition of the modest work we do in Kyrgyzstan. Personally I take this as an award for the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and our compact team with Alma [Karsymbek Uzbekova], our communication officer, and the University of Central Asia who hosts us in Bishkek. For an environmentalist like me, it is flattering to be awarded on this special day." Honorary diplomas were also awarded to agency workers and representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, FAO and UNDP country offices.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome [Makerere University](#) (Uganda) as a new member. Please feel free to contact them for possible collaborative projects and ideas.

As of June 2013, there were 212 members of the Mountain Partnership: 50 governments, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 147 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

Participants gear up for IPROMO course

About 35 participants have been selected to take part in the sixth edition of the IPROMO Mountain Training Programme organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the University of Turin which will take place in Ormea, Italy, this month. More than 250 candidates from all over world applied for this year's course, the theme of which is Understanding Upland Watershed Management. The aim of this year's course is to share with participants key facts about the importance of upland watershed management and the approaches and methods for promoting a new generation of watershed management. [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

AFRICA

Kenya Forest Service wins award for montane forest project

The Kenya Forest Service has won a [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO) award for its implementation of a sustainable livelihood development project in the country's largest montane forest. The service received the Edouard Saouma Award for its work in the Mau Forest, which stretches over the hills between the Rift Valley and Lake Victoria. FAO and the Kenya Forest Service have worked together to create sustainable livelihoods through the establishment of Farmer Field Schools among other initiatives. [Read more](#)

ASIA PACIFIC

EvK2CNR starts permafrost study

[EvK2Cnr](#) has begun its first scientific mission to study permafrost in the Karakorum mountain range, where its estimates suggest that the permanently frozen soil occupies an area double the size of the range's glaciers. The expedition, which is part of the SHARE (Stations at High Altitude for Research on Environment) project for climate and environmental monitoring, will install two monitoring stations to check on the estimates. [Read more](#)

ICIMOD enters partnership for medicinal plants

The [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development](#) (ICIMOD) has entered into a five-year partnership with a leading Indian consumer goods company to promote herbal medicinal and aromatic plants from the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. The project will involve establishing a herbal garden at the ICIMOD Knowledge Park at Godavari, Nepal, which will facilitate research and development and act as a learning centre with demonstrations, hands-on training, and information sharing. [Read more](#)

Nilgiri Documentation Centre celebrates hill station founder

[Nilgiri Documentation Centre](#) celebrated the 225th anniversary of the birth of Englishman John Sullivan, who is known for leading an early expedition to the Nilgiri mountains in Southern India. The Centre led a historical trek to retrace the original path taken by Sullivan in 1819. Sullivan is also credited with founding India's first hill station, Ootacamund or Ooty, which now attracts 2.5 million visitors annually. Sullivan introduced English vegetables, flowers and fruits to the hills which survive to this day. The celebrations focused on the sustainable and inclusive nature of Sullivan's contribution to the area. [Read more](#)

EUROPE

Big Foot closing workshop held in Rome

The [European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas](#) (AEM) organized the closing workshop of the Big Foot project in Rome on 25 June together with its Italian partners. This European Union-funded project aims to tackle the marginalization of European rural mountain areas and their ageing populations by focusing on increasing recognition for the elderly population, traditional knowledge and specific local culture. The Big Foot approach is being implemented in three rural municipalities: Berkovitsa, Bulgaria; Trikala, Greece; and Gubbio, Italy. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat was invited to give a presentation on international processes related to mountains and the activities taking place at a global level to protect mountain traditions. [Read more](#)

CIPRA gets commuters cycling



The [International Commission for the Protection of the Alps](#) (CIPRA) has launched a pilot project to encourage commuters to use more environmentally friendly modes of transport to get to work in the Alpine Rhine Valley. More than half of all employees in Liechtenstein commute there from Switzerland, Austria or Germany and despite living close to the border use cars instead of cycling or using public transport, according to CIPRA. The commission is working with one of the largest employers in the country to persuade staff to use bikes or take buses. The initiative is part of the Alpine Space Project ALPSTAR, which is working towards making the Alps a carbon-neutral region by 2050. [Read more](#)

Researchers gather for Swiss-Austrian Mountain Days

The Swiss-Austrian Alliance brought together 142 researchers for its Mountain Days 2013 event in Mittersill, Austria, in June. The researchers discussed future partnerships, projects and new networks in the fields of climate change, natural hazards, water, vegetation, tourism, and regional development. Mountain Days was jointly organized by the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI-Europe), the Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research (IGF) and the Interacademic Commission for Alpine Studies (ICAS). [Read more](#)

CENTRAL ASIA

ADI develops mountain nutrition materials



The [Agency of Development Initiatives](#) (ADI) is developing educational materials on nutrition and food processing for women in vulnerable households, with support from the University of Central Asia. Entitled 'My green basket', the first issue will be out in July, and will include useful information on a balanced diet in high mountain environments as well as recipes for dishes using locally available healthy products. A network bringing together women's self help groups working on community development, ADI has been working with the World Food Programme to implement a food and agriculture assistance programme. [Contact](#)

Proposal to replicate mountain newspaper in Tajikistan

A project proposal has been submitted to replicate in Tajikistan the success of a local newspaper for rural communities living in remote mountain villages of the Kyrgyz Republic. Coordinated by the [Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities](#) (AGOCA), Ayil Demi currently reaches 480 village administrations and provides useful information and good practices in sustainable mountain development for farmers, veterinarians, pasture committees and water user associations (see cover photo above). Mountain Partnership members in Kyrgyzstan including the [University of Central Asia](#) (UCA) and [Public Foundation Ergene](#) collaborate on the paper. UCA is now trying to raise funds to launch a similar newspaper in the Tajik language in collaboration with Tajikistan's Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Reduction. [Browse issues](#) and [read more](#)

Tianshan mountains in China become World Heritage Site

The Xinjiang Tianshan mountain range in China has been declared a natural World Heritage Site. The [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN) recommended the Central Asian mountain range for its outstanding scenic values, natural features and associated mountain ecosystems. The Xinjiang Tianshan mountain range is located in the eastern part of the Tianshan mountain range, which crosses China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. [Read more](#)

Irrigation canals rehabilitated in the Kyrgyz Republic

The [Mountain Societies Development Support Programme](#) (MSDSP KG) has supported the rehabilitation of seven kilometres of two canals and the construction of two canal water distribution regulation gates in Naryn oblast, Kyrgyz Republic. This effort improved irrigation and water use efficiency on over 1,600 hectares important for grain, fodder, and vegetable production, benefiting 346 farming households who anticipate a 20-30 percent increase in crop yields. The work was carried out under the "Empowering Youth in Kyrgyzstan through Employment, Entrepreneurship and Education" project funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation. MSDSP KG, an initiative of the Aga Khan Foundation, works to improve livelihoods of remote mountain districts of Kyrgyzstan. [Read more](#)

LATIN AMERICA

EcoSalud presents climate change programme

EcoSalud, a member of the Committee for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions of Argentina, in June presented a new programme on climate change. "Measures of Adaptation to Climate Change: Local Sustainability Strategies for Mountain Communities" aims to lay the foundation for sustainable management which is low in the production of carbon and greenhouse gases, supported by the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development and the National University of Tucumán. [Read more](#)

Fundacion CoMunidad creates new coffee brand



[Fundacion CoMunidad](#) is working with local populations in the mountains of Panama to create a new brand of coffee. Coffee Cucua is traditionally grown by communities that retain a unique cultural heritage in the country and have worked sustainably with natural resources for hundreds of years. [Read more](#)

NORTH AMERICA

High Mountain Glacial Watershed Program launches site

The High Mountain Glacial Watershed Program (HMGWP), a community of practice led by [The Mountain Institute](#), has launched a new website. The HMGWP merges science and local knowledge to increase global awareness of the critical importance of high mountain watersheds, particularly in the context of climate change, highland-lowland interactions, and ecosystem services. Visit the site at www.highmountains.org

Last call for Mountain Research Initiative Key Contact Workshop

The [Mountain Research Initiative](#) has issued a last call for registration for its Key Contact Workshop, which will be held in Minneapolis, USA, on 3 August 2013. Held ahead of the Ecological Society of America annual meeting in the same city, the workshop brings together researchers on change in mountain regions from around the world to present overviews of their work, comment on that of their peers and discover opportunities for new interdisciplinary research collaborations. Deadline for registration is 18 July. [Read more](#)

First Nepalese American Festival

The Dance Theater of Nepal Inc. NY was involved in the first ever Nepalese American Festival in New York in June. The theatre, now in its 16th year, is a non-profit world arts organization highlighting the unique performing arts traditions of Himalayan Nepal. [See the photos](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Third International High Mountain Glacial Watershed Conference

8-21 July 2013

Huaraz, Peru

Organized by The Mountain Institute's High Mountain Glacial Watershed Program, 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. This year's event will focus on learning through a series of hands-on training modules and will focus on the threat of climate change in tropical and temperate high mountain glacial watersheds. [Read more](#)

Mountain Research Initiative Key Contact Workshop

3 August 2013

Minneapolis, USA

See North America news, above. The workshop is being held ahead of the Ecological Society of America annual meeting in the same city. Deadline for workshop registration is 18 July. [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

European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

Montgenèvre, France

3-5 September 2013

The main topic under discussion at the 29th session of the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds will be natural disaster risk management in mountain areas. The meeting is being jointly organized by the Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agro-alimentaire et de la forêt, the Office national des forêts, and the Food and Agriculture Organization. All member countries of the European Forests Commission have been invited. [Read more](#)

CIPRA Annual Special Conference

10-12 October 2013

Bolzano, Italy

The title of this year's International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) annual conference is 'The Alps as Water Trough'. The 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. [Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

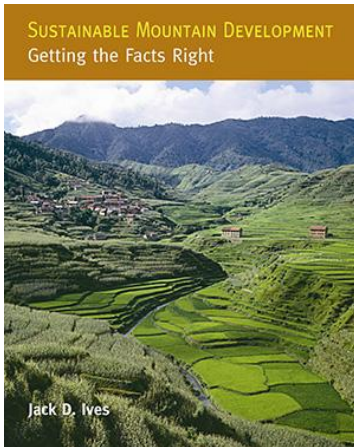
New Mountain Research and Development online

The latest issue of Mountain Research and Development is now online, including papers on the complexity of climate change projections in the Hindu Kush–Himalayas, social perceptions and people's preferences for forest management and policies in the Italian Alps; and burning as an effective method to restore meadows in Bhutan. [Read more](#)

ICIMOD releases annual report

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has released its Annual Report 2012. The report gives a brief overview of the centre's activities over the past year, including the development of a new strategic framework and five-year plan, and shares results on core programmes including work with capacity building on glacier monitoring and value chains and beekeeping. [Download](#)

Sustainable Mountain Development: Getting the Facts Right



The Himalayan Association for the Advancement of Science is publishing Sustainable Mountain Development: Getting the Facts Right 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](#)

JOB VACANCIES

Senior Gender Specialist, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) (deadline 31 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.