

Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter



[NEW MEMBERS](#) [UPDATE ON MOUNTAIN](#) [NEWS FROM MEMBERS](#) [EVENTS](#) [PUBLICATIONS](#) [NEWSLETTERS](#) [JOB VACANCIES](#) [CALL FOR NEWS](#)

Highlights

International Year of Quinoa and International Day of Forests



21 March
International Day of Forests

The International Year of Quinoa was [launched at UN headquarters](#) last month, with top officials underlining how the 'superfood' that originated in the Andes has huge potential to help in the fight against hunger. Bolivian president Evo Morales described the crop as an "ancestral gift of the Andean people". Meanwhile, the Food and Agriculture Organization is leading celebrations for the first **International Day of Forests** on 21 March. People are encouraged to organize their own local tree-planting events and initiatives to celebrate the importance of forests to all life on Earth.

[Watch the video](#) and [find out more](#).

NEW MEMBERS

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

[Ecological Movement "BIOM"](#) (Kyrgyz Republic)

[Lebanon Mountain Trail Association](#) (Lebanon)

[Tatra Agency for Development Promotion and Culture](#) (Poland)

As of February 2013, there were 205 members of the Mountain Partnership: 50 governments, 16 IGOs and 139 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

Mountain Partnership African Champions Committee launched

African members of the Mountain Partnership have agreed to create a new African Champions Committee to move the region's agenda forward. At a regional meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Kigali, Rwanda, on 20 February, members reiterated their commitment to promoting sustainable mountain development in Africa, building on the results of the last regional meeting that took place in [Mbale](#), Uganda, in 2011. The committee is open to facilitate the addition of new members and its next steps will be to define and implement a work plan. An Africa Water Towers Initiative was also launched during the meeting, which was organized by the [Albertine Rift Conservation Society](#) (ARCOS) jointly with The Mountain Partnership Secretariat. [Read more](#).

Applications open for IPROMO Understanding Upland Watershed Management course

Applications are open until 30 March for the sixth International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO), which will take place 12-22 July in Ormea, Italy. Jointly organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat at the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Turin, the theme of this year's course is Understanding Upland Watershed Management. A limited number of scholarships are available for participants from developing countries. [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

GLOBAL

UNESCO launches Spanish version of mountain education kit

[UNESCO](#) has launched a Spanish version of its environmental education kit for mountain countries. The kit, which was launched in English and French last year, is intended for secondary and late primary school teachers and their pupils and is designed to arouse pupils' curiosity. Free online versions are available in English, French and Spanish. [Read more](#)

AFRICA

\$9.8-million investment in Eastern Afromontane Hotspot

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has launched a \$9.8 million five-year conservation strategy for the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot, which comprises mountainous areas stretching from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique. The hotspot contains more than 10,000 species, around one third of which are endemic. [Yemen's](#) Ministry of Environment and the Saudi Wildlife Authority helped guide the investment strategy. [Read more](#)

EUROPE

CIPRA launches Alpine biodiversity film

[The International Commission for the Protection of the Alps](#) (CIPRA) has produced a short film targeted at municipal officials in the Alps explaining how they can contribute to maintaining the valuable diversity of plants and animals in the region. Entitled 'For hermits and fire salamanders - How municipalities connect habitats in the Alps', the 15-minute film is available in English, French, German, Italian and Slovenian as a free DVD or internet download. [Watch and read more](#)

Active Remedy contributes to EC consultation

[Active Remedy Ltd](#) has contributed to the European Commission's public consultation "Towards a post-2015 development framework", in which it underlined the need to give the global fresh water cycle top priority and to recognize the role of wetlands, mountains and forests in the cycle. Active Remedy's input and a summary report of the consultation are now available online. [Read more](#)

Metsovion Interdisciplinary Research Centre documentary contest

[The Metsovion Interdisciplinary Research Centre](#) has issued a call for submissions for its second Documentary Competition for the Environment and Integrated Development of Mountainous Areas. The four best short documentary films will be recognized at an awards ceremony in Greece. Submissions are open until 10 October. [Read more](#)

European mountains in final GEOSPECS report

[The Centre for Mountain Studies](#) at Perth College has been coordinating the work on mountain areas in the GEOSPECS (Geographic Specificities and Development Potentials in Europe) project, commissioned by the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion. The project's final report has now been published, using data from all 125,049 municipalities across Europe to analyse social and economic structures and trends in areas with geographic specificities and formulate policy options. [Read more](#)

NORTH AMERICA

Park City inspires citizens to go solar

[Park City](#), a mountain community in Utah, has been working with a local non-profit organization to train citizen volunteers on solar energy with the aim of increasing local interest in clean energy and installing solar panels in homes. The project, Summit Community Solar, involves a bulk-purchasing approach that will lower many barriers to installing solar panels including upfront cost, contractor selection, and lack of technical knowledge. [Read more](#)

LATIN AMERICA

Soluciones Prácticas creates online camelid farming portal



[Soluciones Prácticas](#) has created the largest digital repository of information on camelid farming in Latin America - a sector that involves more than 150,000 families in Peru and Bolivia. Currently the portal contains 300 documents on themes including feeding, breeding, care, technology, processing and marketing. Portal services include news, events, statistics, a specialist directory, announcements, publications and videos. [Visit the site](#)

Global Mountain Action makes progress on fungi in Peru



[Global Mountain Action](#) has made substantial progress in its third year documenting the diversity of macro-fungi in the southern Peruvian Andes, and ran a recent seminar on efforts to recover the 'forgotten' mushrooms of Peru in Cusco. It has also issued a brochure entitled [Fungi and Mountains: Critical and Neglected](#) (see also [Publications below](#)). The group is now looking for external funding for two new initiatives: Revitalization of Mountain Agriculture (2013-2018) and a project to recover and promote the use of Andean herbs for food rather than for medicinal purposes. [Read more](#)

CENTRAL ASIA

Mountain Societies Development Support Program on disaster preparedness

[The Mountain Societies Development Support Program](#) has been conducting hazard and social vulnerability risk assessments in 20 villages in the Chong-Alai and Alai districts of the Kyrgyz Republic as part of the [Poverty Alleviation by Mitigation of Integrated High Mountain Risk](#) (PAMIR) project. Since November, the Program has also organized 17 training sessions on disaster preparedness attended by a total of almost 500 people from the area, during which practical evacuation exercises were carried out in villages for the first time ever. The training sessions were conducted in cooperation with district specialists of the Ministry for Emergency Situations in Kyrgyzstan and local authorities. [Read more](#)

AGOCA makes progress with mountain newspaper

[The Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities](#) (AGOCA) has continued to coordinate Ayil Demi, a local newspaper issued once per month in Kyrgyz language and serve as an information provider for the mountain rural communities living in remote villages of the Kyrgyz Republic. The goal of the paper is to reach ever single Kyrgyz village with useful info responding to the needs of farmers, veterinarians, pasture committees, water user associations and others. [Browse issues](#) and [read more](#)

CAMP Alatau launches new pasture resource management conflict study

A [CAMP Alatau](#) multidisciplinary team has begun a new community-based study in the southern Kyrgyz Republic to understand the causes of conflicts in pasture resource management, the dispute-settling mechanisms in place and resolution processes. The results of the study will be made publicly available in June. CAMP Alatau is also working on a new practical guidebook on the identification of pasture plant species, jointly with the NCCR North-South and the University of Central Asia. The guidebook should be printed in the second quarter of 2013. [Read more](#)

Mountains through the eyes of children



Mountain Partnership member [Mountain Territories of Dagestan](#) organized a drawing competition for International Mountain Day 2012. More than 300 drawings were received from the children, demonstrating different aspects of life in the highlands of Dagestan, and the best ones were selected for the exhibition in a public library in the republic's capital, Makhachkala. [See the full gallery](#)

ASIA PACIFIC

Guinness World Record for female Everest climber

[The International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation](#) (UIAA) has presented Chhurim Sherpa of Taplejung with the Guinness World Record for being the first female climber to have reached the summit of Mt Everest twice in a single climbing season. Having never climbed to the top of Everest before, Sherpa reached the summit on May 12 2011, and a week later on May 19, when she was 27 years old. Sherpa received her World Record award at a ceremony organized by the Nepal Mountaineering Association in Kathmandu on 25 February. [Read more](#)

Applications open for Himalayan Glaciology programme

Applications are now open for a four-week training programme on capacity building in Himalayan glaciology organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, under the auspices of the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem. The programme takes place 1-27 April and aims to increase the human and institutional capacities of Indian students and researchers. Deadline for applications is 10 March. [Read more](#)

Indian NGO brings Dutch business model to apple farmers

Indian NGO Shri Jagdamba Samiti has been working with a Dutch company and foundation to bring their expertise to small farmers in the apple belt region of Uttarakhand. The project established a cold storage facility and encourages farmers to join a cooperative through which they can process and sell their produce jointly at better prices. [Read more](#)

Glacier Trust announces scholarships

The Glacier Trust, a small British NGO committed to enabling Himalayan communities to adapt to climate change, has recently announced two fieldwork scholarships to investigate the relationship of climate change to Himalayan peri-glacial processes and the socio-ecological consequences for the upland pastures in the Khumbu district of Nepal. [Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Role of Women in Agricultural Reform

March 28, 2013

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

This conference organized by CAMP Kuhiston with the support of Oxfam will address the status and role of women in agriculture, with the aim of collectively advocating for gender equity in the process of agricultural reform. For more info contact project assistant [Jurabek Rahimov](#).

Fifth Regional Meeting on Mountain Forests - First Symposium of Las Yungas Biosphere Reserve

30-31 May 2013

San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina

Partly organized by Mountain Partnership member Foundation ProYungas, this meeting aims to bring together researchers from various disciplines working in the areas of mountain jungles and/or Las Yungas Biosphere Reserve to exchange knowledge and to identify possible research projects. Deadline for abstracts is 15 March. [Read more](#)

Climate Change and Migration in Mountain Areas Workshop

28-29 May 2013

Neuchatel, Switzerland

This workshop at the University of Neuchatel aims to bring together scholars with a strong interest in migration and climate change in mountain areas, including major mountain ranges such as the Himalayas, the Andes and the Alps. For more information contact [Raoul Kaenzig](#) and [visit the website](#)

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

7 June 2013

Wroclaw, Poland

This conference organized by the Committee on Management of Mountain Regions of the Polish Academy of Sciences will focus on assessing the scale of influence of Europe 2020 strategy on upland and mountainous areas. Deadline for abstracts is 19 April. For an application form, contact conference secretary [Tomasz Szuk](#).



Symposium of the Macedonian Geographical Society: Problems and Perspectives of Hilly Mountain Areas

12-15 September 2013

Ohrid, Macedonia

Topics at this symposium will include natural resources and land use in hilly mountain areas, demographic problems, economic and regional development policy, infrastructure, hazards and European policies and programs. Deadline for abstracts is 30 April and for registration deadline 30 June. [Read more](#)

Integrated Development in an Era of Multidimensional Crisis

12-15 September 2013

Metsovo, Greece

This interuniversity conference organized by the [Metsovion Interdisciplinary Research Centre](#) addresses the issues of technology, development, monitoring and protection of mountainous environments among other topics with contributions from scientists, graduate engineers and teaching and research staff from Greek universities. [Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

International Year of Quinoa and International Day of Forests

Members and friends of the Mountain Partnership have informed us of the following publications. [Tell us about yours.](#)

Why Invest in Sustainable Mountain Development?

The Food and Agriculture Organization's *Why Invest in Sustainable Mountain Development?* is now available in French and Spanish as well as English. Download directly from the web ([French](#) – [Spanish](#) – [English](#)) or [email](#) the number of hard copies you would like sent to you.

Mushrooms in Peru

Peter Trutmann of Global Mountain Action has published two books tracing evidence of the extensive use of mushrooms in pre-Hispanic Peru via vivid images found on ceramics, metal objects and textiles: [The Forgotten Mushrooms of Ancient Peru](#) and, in Spanish, [Los hongos olvidados del Perú: un resumen](#).

Climate Change and mountains in Nepal

British NGO The Glacier Trust has issued a free e-book entitled *Climate change and development in the mountains of Nepal*. [Download](#)

Intersectorial socioeconomic diagnosis of the Pyrenean region

The Pyrenean Assembly of Mountain Economy (APEM) has published an inter-sectorial socioeconomic diagnosis of the Pyrenean region containing strategic recommendations for the integrated and sustainable development of the massif for the years 2014-2020. [Download](#)

Mountain economy development in Guizhou, China

The Guizhou University of Finance and Economics has published 'Path Selection of the Development of Mountain Economy in Guizhou' on the limitations and advantages of mountain economic development in the province in the Journal of Anhui Agricultural Science. [Read more](#)

Landscape change in Nepal

Rodney Garrard, PhD student at the University of Bern, has published two papers on his work on landscape transformation in Nepal: 'An Ever-Changing Place: interpreting landscape change in Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal' and 'Depicting community perspectives: repeat photography and participatory research as tools for assessing environmental services in Sagarmatha National Park'. [Download](#)

NEWSLETTERS

The Mountain Institute

The latest newsletter from The Mountain Institute (Jan 2013) includes updates on senior staff member Alton Byers being named Explorer of the Week by National Geographic's Explorers Journal blog, challenges facing small NGOs, and a new online teacher-training workshop on water quality from the Chesapeake Bay watershed. [Read more](#)

JOB VACANCIES

ICIMOD: [Foundation Executive Secretary](#) (Deadline 10 March)

ICIMOD: [Programme Director, SANDEE](#) (Deadline 10 March)

ICIMOD: [Communications Specialist](#) (Deadline 12 March)

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.