



this issue

Mountains, from “water towers” to towers of life **P.1**

Shaping the natural world **P.2**

Mountains for the future **P.3**

The water-energy-food nexus: why mountains matter **P.4**

MOUNTAINS and WATER

>50%

OF HUMANITY

receives fresh water
produced by mountains

783

MILLION PEOPLE

still lack access to clean
water

40%

OF THE FOOD

is irrigated, half of that uses
groundwater

1 kilo

OF BEEF

consumes 15,000 litres
of water

1 kilo

OF WHEAT

'drinks up' 1,500 litres

World Water Day underscores key role of mountains From “water towers” to towers of life

It's our planet's most precious resource and our cities are powered by it: it's water! And water comes from mountains

On 22 March 2012, the globe celebrated World Water Day. But how often do we really think about this marvel called water? Life without water is impossible. A truism so often used that its significance is perhaps lost. We cannot create water, yet we can manage it better. And the sustainable management of water is one of the most important priorities for all mountain regions.

Water is a true mountain good and many services depend on it. Several major rivers rise in mountain regions, providing about 50 percent of all freshwater to downstream users. That is why mountains are rightly called “water towers”. In fact, they are a lot more – they are Towers of Life. Our food and energy production depends on water. (Therefore, income generation and employment.) Our biodiversity thrives on it. Our cities are thirsty for it. Lack of access to



water challenges poverty reduction goals (especially health, education and food production). Water is part of what Executive Coordinator for Rio+20 Brice Lalonde has defined as the “mountain package”. We need to act together, so that mountains can be living solutions for the “future we want”.

OLMAN SERRANO

MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT COORDINATOR

Rio+20 negotiations
Major groups' comments
on section III through V
of the "Zero Draft"

Recognizing the importance of civil society, the Rio+20 Bureau's co-chair Ambassador Kim invited Major Groups to submit their amendments to the Rio+20 "Zero draft" outcome at the Bureau meeting with Major groups on 27 January 2012.

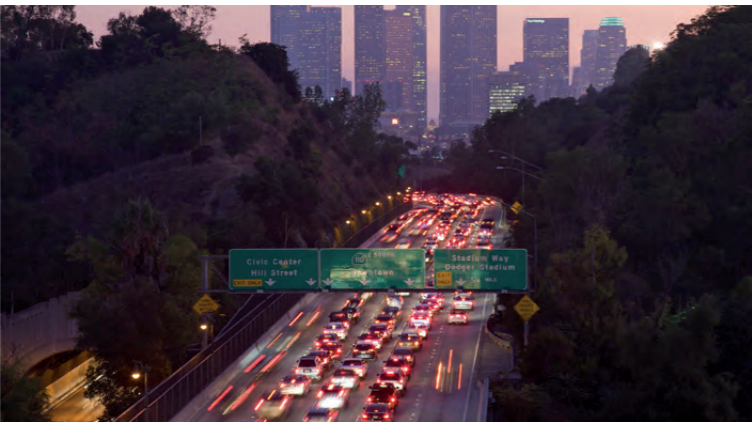
A series of e-consultations has been promoted by the **Mountain Partnership Secretariat** on a global scale. Your active contribution is now reflected in the amendments to paragraph 94 of the "Zero Draft", as compiled by the Rio+20 Secretariat in one single document, available online **at this page**.

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat thanks each of you for your valuable inputs to the "Zero Draft". Your active collaboration and engagement at the upcoming rounds of negotiations are still required!



**MOUNTAINS, WATER AND CITIES
SHAPING THE NATURAL WORLD**

**THE NEWLY PRODUCED NORTH AMERICAN REPORT
FEATURES THE TIGHT HIGHLAND-LOWLAND RELATIONSHIP.
FOLLOWING THE COURSE OF THE COLORADO RIVER**



Over 30 million people depend on the waters of the Colorado River. Winding its way down from the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of California in Mexico, the Colorado River is the principal source of freshwater for the driest area of the United States. It crosses seven south-west states (Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and California), and metropolises such as Los Angeles and Las Vegas are thirsty for its water. This and other interesting facts underscoring the tight link between mountains and cities are covered in the North American Report produced by the **Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF)** and the **Telluride Institute (TI)**, active members of the Mountain Partnership. According to AIMF President KarinjoDeVore, AIMF has been fundraising and otherwise organizing Aspen's push to become the Mountain Partnership's North American hub.

"This report is something that the hub would do — mobilize information and resources," said Rebecca Wallace, AIMF Secretary and a management and administration consultant who works with large federal agencies. Wallace, with the help of researchers throughout the U.S. and Canada who responded to extensive email queries, led the effort to put together the 89-page report that will be presented in Rio. The report highlights water, glaciers, minerals, biodiversity, climate change, the wildland-urban interface, conservation, recreation, mountain events, mineral extraction and wealth/poverty issues, as they pertain to North American mountains. There are sections on mountaintop removal mining, the impact of dams on river systems and receding glaciers. It also includes examples of efforts to promote sustainable practices in North American mountain ecosystems.

NORTH AMERICAN REPORT



Above: The Colorado River Delta in the Gulf of California, Mexico. In the XX century, the river reached the ocean. *Photo (c) Peter McBride*

Below: The famous "horseshoe bend" of the Colorado River in the Canyonlands National Park. *Photo (c) Al HikesAZ / Flickr*



1 RIVER, 7 STATES

>2,334 km

The length of the Colorado River from the Rocky Mountains all the way down to the Gulf of California, Mexico

>30 million

People depend on it

90%

The irrigation quota is the most thirsty consumer of the Colorado River, to flood fields and feed livestock

**THIRD GLOBAL MEETING
MOUNTAINS FOR THE FUTURE**

**MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SHAPE THE STRATEGIC FUTURE
OF THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP. VIA E-CONSULTATIONS
AND ONE MAJOR GLOBAL MEETING IN RIO**



The third Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership will take place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) on Monday, 18 June 2012, on the sidelines of the UNCSO Rio+20 summit.

**The future we want:
Mountains as living solutions
for development**

The third Global Meeting will be a unique chance for Members to be involved in the new five-year strategy of the Mountain Partnership. In addition to the Global Meeting, side events and "mountain dialogues" with key international personalities will be held. A Global Mountain Pavilion will showcase the "mountain package", its assets and the positive collaborative work that mountains can trigger across sectors, to successfully contribute to green growth and sustainable development.

**E-consultations before
the Third Global Meeting**

Before Rio, electronic consultations via e-forum will be open to all Members on our new website. We will look at key issues to be included in our "mountains for development" strategy. In order to coordinate and maximize our actions towards the future we want beyond Rio+20, we will also discuss options on how to make the way we work together as Mountain Partnership more effective in response to the needs of a fast-paced world.

Get involved!

Confirm your participation in the Mountain Partnership Third Global Meeting and make suggestions on how to contribute to:
info@mountainpartnership.org

**THE THIRD GLOBAL
MEETING OF THE
MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP**



Rio+20 negotiations
Paragraph 94 on
Mountains

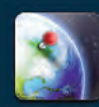
"a model for others"

At the recent UNCSO Informal consultations, delegates continued their first reading of Section V of the "Zero Draft" (Framework for Action and Follow-up). Below is IISD's press coverage on the discussions on paragraph 94 on Mountains (Thursday, 22 March 2012):

Mountains: SWITZERLAND

proposed text on, inter alia, integration of mountain-specific strategies in national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction plans and programmes. The **US** said this section was a model for others. The **US** suggested moving references to payment for ecosystem services into a cross-cutting provision on the subject, while the **G-77/CHINA** proposed deleting them. **NEW ZEALAND, CANADA**, the **EU** and **SWITZERLAND** proposed moving a **G-77/China** call for support from developed countries to the MOI section, which the **G-77/CHINA** opposed.

The US concluded his statement saying he thought this section could be fairly easily negotiated. This type of statement has not accompanied the discussion on any other section, from any delegation.



MRD
Mountain Research and Development
Volume 32, Issue 1
available online and open access

MRD 32.1 (February 2012)
focuses on water resources in the Upper Indus Basin and beyond.

It complements the August 2011 issue (MRD 31.3), which featured 3 articles focusing on the Indus Basin and (trans-boundary) water management. In this new issue of MRD, 3 further papers discuss the linkages between climate, precipitation, glaciology, and river runoff

in the Upper Indus Basin.



Peak to Peak Issue 50 Month 3 Year 2012

The Water-Energy-Food nexus: why mountains matter in a post Rio+20 world

Together with the Government of Nepal and ICIMOD, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat has organized a side event on "The water-energy-food nexus: why mountains matter". The side event took place on Monday 26 March 2012 at the United Nations headquarters in New York, back to back with the 3rd Intersessional meeting.

As Chair of the meeting, Ambassador **Gyan Chandra Acharya**, Permanent



Representative of Nepal to the UN, emphasized the need to take up the issue of mountains in a holistic manner from the perspectives of the people living there. High-level representatives from **Switzerland, Italy, Peru** and **Kyrgyzstan** intervened on the various benefits of what Executive Coordinator for Rio+20 Brice Lalonde defined as "the mountain package".

ICIMOD's Director General **Dr David Molden** underscored the need for

transboundary cooperation and international partnership for mountains as a global resource. In his closing remarks, **Olman Serrano**, Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, presented communication materials aiming to support the process of having mountains included in the Rio+20 outcome.

ISD PRESS COVERAGE



Postcard from the mountains



The toolkit "**Communicating mountains in Rio+20**" is aimed at providing crisp, up-to-date messages on the benefits the "mountain package" provides for "the future we want". Click!



Share with us:



Mountain Partnership Secretariat
FAO, Forestry Department
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
info@mountainpartnership.org
www.mountainpartnership.org