



# Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter



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## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Fourth Mountain Partnership Global Meeting**

The Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership will take place in Turkey, 17-20 September 2013. The global meeting will be key to endorsing the new four-year strategy and governance of the Mountain Partnership and to initiate work on its implementation. It will also provide a unique opportunity for members from across the world to meet, network, present interesting initiatives and promote collaborative action in sustainable mountain development. More details such as the exact location and the tentative agenda will follow in the coming weeks but in the meantime please save the date.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

[Municipality of Dénia](#) (Spain)

[National Meteorological institute of Costa Rica](#) (Costa Rica)

[Nilgiri Documentation Centre](#) (India)

As of March 2013, there were 208 members of the Mountain Partnership: 50 governments, 16 IGOs and 142 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.

## MP ACTIVITIES

### **Mountain family farming publication planned**

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) are planning a publication on mountain family farming to coincide with the 2014 UN International Year of Family Farming, in partnership with other key institutions. The preparation of the publication is being coordinated by Thomas Kohler of the Centre for Development and Environment at the University of Bern, Switzerland, and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat at FAO. A call for case studies was sent out in March and members who are selected to contribute are providing their case studies this month. [Read more](#)

### **Summary for the Africa Mountain Partnership members meeting online**

A summary of the meeting of the Africa Mountain Partnership Members Meeting that took place in Kigali, Rwanda, on 20 February is now available online. The summary includes information on the newly created Mountain Partnership African Champions Committee. [Read more](#)

### **High Mountains theme of Scientific Journalism Seminar**

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization are among the sponsors of the 7th Scientific Journalism Seminar taking place in Loja, Ecuador, 16-17 May 2013. The theme of this year's meeting is High Mountains: the economic, social and environmental importance of the Andes. Participants at the seminar will come from Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico and Spain among other countries. [Read More](#)

### **Kyrgyz Republic mountain forest project gets under way**

The first workshop in the preparation of a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on "Sustainable management of mountain forests and land resources of the Kyrgyz Republic under climate change conditions" took place in Bishkek on 18 March. All 18 Mountain Partnership members in the country were invited to the meeting, which also included representatives of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry and several ministries. The University of Central Asia also hosted a meeting of the project's national and international consultants and Mountain Partnership members to share information about what members are doing to support sustainable mountain development in the country and better understand how they can contribute to the project's implementation. [Read more](#)

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### GLOBAL

#### Global mountain stewardship award open for applications

The [International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation](#) (UIAA) is accepting nominations for its global stewardship award, the UIAA Mountain Protection Award. The award aims to highlight tourism activities that promote conservation of mountain ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods for local people. Nominations close on 31 October and winners receive a cash grant. [Read more](#)

#### Call for papers on Gender and Sustainable Development in Mountains

[Mountain Research and Development](#) (MRD) and the [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development](#) (ICIMOD) have issued a call for papers on initiating gender-positive transformation in mountain environments. Possible topics include gender-positive transformation and sustainable natural resource management, gender and adaptation to climate change, gender-responsive governance and gender-equitable compensation and benefit-sharing mechanisms. Abstracts (250 words in length) are due by 15 April 2013, full papers by 1 September 2013. [Read more](#)



#### Mountains feature on new ecosystem-based adaptation site

The Ecosystem-based Adaptation Partnership Programme – a joint effort between [UNEP](#), [UNDP](#) and [IUCN](#) – has unveiled a new website that includes information about its work in mountains. The website focuses on the three mountain regions where pilots are being carried out: Nor Yauyos Cochas in Peru, where water supplies for agriculture are threatened by changing rainfall patterns; Mt Elgon in Uganda, where communities farming on mountain slopes are vulnerable to landslides; and Panchase in Nepal, where communities face winter droughts and summer landslides. [Read more](#)

### AFRICA

#### 'Vulture restaurants' among Maloti Drakensberg conservation efforts



Highly endangered Bearded Vultures are dining out at special 'vulture restaurants' as part of conservation efforts in the Maloti and Drakensberg mountains. The restaurants, which provide safe meat for the birds, forms part of the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme, a transboundary initiative between [Lesotho](#) and South Africa to sustainably manage the natural and cultural heritage of the Maloti and Drakensberg mountains, which straddle the two countries' borders. [Read more](#)

#### Results online from African mountain scientists meeting

African scientists involved in research relating to African mountains came together for a mountain conference in Dschang, Cameroon, 21-25 January. AfroMont and the [Mountain Research Initiative](#) were among organizers of the conference, which was attended by participants from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Guinea, South Africa and Cameroon. The results of the meeting, which are now online, included a basis for wider collaboration for scientists in southern Africa in order to garner

support for a collaborative Africa-wide research initiative. [Read more](#)

## EUROPE

### Alpine Space stakeholder conference digest online

The digest of the Alpine Space Stakeholder Conference that took place in Milan, Italy, on 21 February is now online. The conference attracted more than 300 participants from Alpine countries who debated the results of a stakeholder dialogue, a vision for the future of the Alps and the role the Alpine Space Programme could take in Alpine governance. [Read more](#)

## NORTH AMERICA

### UN award for fair trade coffee company



Mountain Partnership member [Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company](#) has received a United Nations award for empowering coffee-growers, primarily women, to improve their lives and their children's futures. The American fair trade company and founder and CEO Dean Cycon were recognized with a Women's Empowerment Principles Leadership Award in Community Engagement for a record of innovative social and market-based approaches to realizing gender equity in coffee-growing regions. [Read more](#)

### Rocky Mountain-Central Asia exchange

As part of the partnership in sustainable mountain development between the Rocky Mountains and Central Asia, [Utah Valley University](#) (UVU) hosted Kyrgyz parliamentarian Kurmanbek Dyikanbayev and Bishkek city court adviser Sultangazy Kasymov for a week in March. The guests agreed to cooperate with the University of Utah on genetic research, water management and utilization of uranium tailing wastes in addition to continuing legislative, educational and trade exchanges through UVU. [Read more](#)

### Dance Theatre of Nepal founder honoured

The co-founder and producer of New York's Dance Theatre of Nepal Inc, Sherry Onna Handlin, has received an International Career Achievement Award from the Pratt Institute. The Dance Theatre of Nepal is a nonprofit organization devoted to the instruction, presentation and preservation of Nepali performing arts in America and abroad. Members or friends interested in funding a partnership project or offering artist residency opportunities can [contact the theatre](#).

## LATIN AMERICA

### Potatoes for food security in the Andes

A project to improve food security among vulnerable rural groups coordinated by Mountain Partnership member the [International Potato Centre](#) (CIP) is underway in four Latin American countries. The project, which is operational in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, seeks to improve the potato's contribution to nutrition and health in areas where chronic malnutrition in children under three years still persists. [Read more](#)

### Andean wetland research project launch in Bolivia

The [Bolivian Mountain Institute](#) (BMI) is participating in BIO-THAW, an international project to model biodiversity and land use

interactions under changing glacial water availability in the tropical high Andean wetlands of Bolivia. The interdisciplinary project involves a broad community of scientists and stakeholders, from anthropologists, sociologists, glaciologists and ecologists to agent-based modellers, resource managers, and farmer communities. [Read more](#)

## **Agroclimatic early warning system pilots in the Andean region**

The Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Andean Region of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) has launched two pilot projects to develop early agroclimatic warning systems to prevent risks brought about by climate change in the Andes. The pilots, in the Cauca region of Colombia and the Huancavelica region of Peru, work directly with local actors and technical groups. [Read more](#)

## **CENTRAL ASIA**

### **Mountain children draw for the International Day of Forests**

The [Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan](#) organized a competition of children's drawings in the remote mountainous village of Kochkorka for International Forest Day 2013. The drawings were on show during a meeting of Mountain Partnership members based in Kyrgyzstan on March 19 in Bishkek. [See the drawings](#)

### **Kindergartens and greenhouses in Kyrgyzstan**

The [Public Foundation Mountain Societies Development Support Programme](#) (MSDSP KG) is working on two projects in Kyrgyzstan. The first has opened 18 community-based kindergartens in villages of Osh province to support local authorities in providing 1,620 children aged 4-6 with access to pre-school education in 2013. The second project supports 10 farmers in 10 villages to construct cold-climate, Chinese-style greenhouses, which can function without additional heating and significantly reduce farmers' expenses. [Read more](#)

## **ASIA PACIFIC**

### **Commitment from Asian mountain experts on climate change**

Experts from Asian mountains committed themselves to working together for social and ecological resilience to climate change at a regional workshop on climate change impacts in Asian mountains in Kathmandu, Nepal, 13-15 March. The workshop was organized by the [UNESCO](#) and the [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development](#) (ICIMOD). [Read more](#)

### **ICIMOD and SKODA team up for Nepal air quality**

The [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development](#) (ICIMOD) and the ŠKODA Division of MAW Enterprises Private Limited have entered into a partnership to improve air quality in Nepal and raise awareness of the source of black carbon and its negative health and environmental impacts. As part of the one-year partnership, complementing ICIMOD's work on atmospheric issues in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, 300 smoke-free cook stoves will be bought for households in Makwanpur District. [Read more](#)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Scientific Journalism Seminar**

16-17 May 2013

Loja, Ecuador

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization are among the sponsors of this seminar, the theme of which this year is High Mountains: the economic, social and environmental importance of the Andes. [Read More](#)

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### **Mountain Days 2013**

11-13 June 2013  
Mittersill, Austria

Stimulated by the renewed commitment of Switzerland and Austria to foster mountain research, an overwhelming number of scientists responded to the first call of the Swiss-Austrian Alliance for the Mountain Days conference in June. This interdisciplinary event is currently taking shape and registration is now open. [Read more](#)

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### **Fourth European Fair of Regional Products**

10-15 August 2013  
Zakopane, Poland

The [Tatra Agency for Development, Promotion and Culture](#) is organizing this fair, which aims to promote quality food products among tourists visiting the Tatra Mountains as well as the people of the Tatra region. [Read more](#)

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### **Symposium on Mountain Economy**

16-18 September 2013  
Guiyang, China

[Guizhou University of Finance and Economics](#) (GUFE) is organizing this symposium on mountain economy with support from the Guizhou provincial government. The symposium, which will be held in English, will focus in particular on environment and land use systems at global level. To participate in the symposium, email [Molody Wang](#) or [Cai Chengzhi](#), attaching a CV, by 30 April 2013.

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### **International Commission for the Protection for the Alps (CIPRA) Annual Conference**

10-12 October 2013  
Brescia, Italy

Among topics of discussion at the [CIPRA](#) annual conference will be responsibility for the sustainable management of water in the Alps and the impact of climate change on water resources in the region. [Read more](#)

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### **Fourth International Mountain Forum**

23-25 October 2013  
Zakopane, Poland

The [Tatra Agency for Development, Promotion and Culture](#) is organizing this forum to reinforce cooperation in mountain regions through joint promotional actions, both within the European Union and in the international arena. The main theme of this year's forum is Carpathian sheep transhumance. [Read more](#)



## PUBLICATIONS

### **Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Tropical Andes**

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research has carried out a two-year assessment of the interactions between climate change and biodiversity in the tropical Andes, and of the region's capacities to address issues of research, mitigation and adaptation. The resulting book, co-produced with the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) is the first comprehensive state-of-the-art appraisal for the region. [Read more](#)

### **New Mountain Research and Development issue online**

A new issue of [Mountain Research and Development](#) is now available online. Volume 33, Issue 1 examines topics including adaptive capacity in hill farming, institutional and ecological aspects of rangeland management, geospatial selection of reforestation areas, effects of air pollution and other abiotic conditions on mountain forests, improved vegetation classification, downscaling of climate projections, land surface temperature assessment, and effects of weather on glacial debris flows. [Read more](#)

### **Bolivia in a four-degree warmer world**

The [Bolivian Mountain Institute](#) (BMI) announces the Spanish-language publication of *Bolivia en un mundo 4 grados más caliente. Escenarios sociopolíticos ante el cambio climático para los años 2030 y 2060 en el altiplano norte* (Bolivia in a four-degree warmer world. Sociopolitical scenarios under conditions of climate change for the years 2030 and 2060 in the Northern Altiplano). [Download](#)

### **Toward Mountains 2020**

The [European Association for Cooperation and Development of Mountain Areas](#) (Euromontana) has launched its first publication on the 'Toward Mountains 2020' process, investigating how mountains can contribute to EU 2020 Goals and how investment in mountain areas can lead to successful achievement of the 11 common strategic framework priorities. [Download](#)

### **Two new publications from ICIMOD**

The [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development](#) (ICIMOD) has released two new publications: [Case Studies on Flash Flood Risk Management in the Himalayas: In support of support of specific flash flood policies](#) and [Access and Benefit Sharing from Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge](#). Click on the titles for more information and to download.

### **FAO launches two publications for International Forest Day**

The [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) released two new publications on the occasion of the first International Day of Forests on 21 March. [Forests and Water: International Momentum and Action](#) synthesizes experiences ranging from research to project implementation worldwide and provides recommendations for the way forward to maximize the wide range of forest benefits without detriment to water resources and ecosystem function. The [State of Mediterranean Forests 2013](#) is a new report to assess changes and communicate objective and reliable data to stakeholders involved in the management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems. Mountain forests are also included in the report.

## 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.

