

MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP PRODUCTS INITIATIVE RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 8 COUNTRIES

The main outcome of the [International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022](#) was the declaration of 2023–2027 as Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions. Activities planned for the period aim to enhance the international community's awareness of issues affecting mountain countries and to give new impetus to efforts aimed at addressing their challenges. Proclamation of the Five Years of Action was proposed by the Government of Kyrgyzstan; it was included in the final draft of the triennial [resolution on sustainable mountain development](#) which was approved by the United Nations General Assembly on 22 November 2022 and co-sponsored by 110 governments. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat is coordinating a task force and working group that have been established to define a global action plan for the Five Years of Action.

The [Mountain Partnership Products \(MPP\) initiative](#) is one of the main activities ongoing in the framework of the 5 years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions to strengthen the resilience of mountain peoples, their economies and their ecosystems. It is a certification and labelling scheme based on environmentally and ethically sound value chain approaches, which promotes short, domestic value chains while ensuring transparency and trust between producers and consumers, fair compensation for the primary producers, conservation of agrobiodiversity and preservation of ancient techniques.

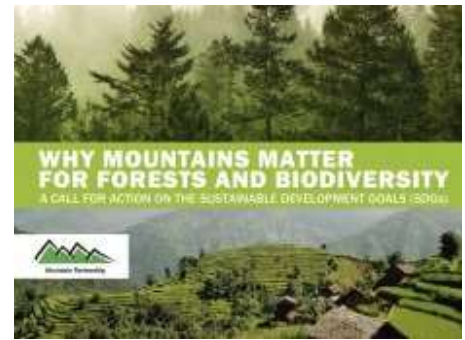
Established at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in Johannesburg, the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions was created with the support from the Governments of Italy and Switzerland, the UNEP Programme and FAO, as a transnational umbrella alliance of mountain actors (governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and private sector organizations) committed to collaborating to advance mountain-specific goals. The FAO was tasked with hosting a secretariat to support the MP.

The Mountain Partnership envisions by 2030 a world with empowered mountain communities and increased public and private sector investment in sustainable mountain development to address the climate and biodiversity crises in mountains and ensure social and economic livelihood and well-being of mountain people leaving no one behind as well as the conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems and resources, for the benefit of people and planet.

The MP website presents the following Key Facts underlining the impact of the mountain development in the SDGs:



- Mountains cover about 27 percent of the earth's land area and are home to 1.1 billion people – 15 percent of the world's population (*SDG 15*).
- Ninety percent of mountain people live in developing countries (*SDG 1*).
- Mountains host 25 out of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots and 30 percent of all Key Biodiversity Areas, as well as vital genetic resources for locally adapted crops and livestock (*SDG 15*).
- Mountain ecosystems provide important ecosystem services to billions of people living downstream, such as stabilizing slopes, regulating climate, regulating hydrological cycles, and supporting livelihoods (*SDG 13*).
- Women are vital to environmental action in mountain ecosystems. They contribute to resource management, biodiversity conservation, water and food security (*SDG 5*).
- Mountains are of paramount importance as water towers, both for mountain people and for around 2 billion people living in connected lowland areas (*SDG 3*).
- Two-thirds of irrigated agriculture globally depend on runoff contributions from mountains (*SDG 2*).
- Sustainable agrifood systems are drivers of sustainable mountain development due to their potential for small- and medium-sized enterprises, and their links with tourism and niche markets (*SDGs 1, 2, 8, 12*).
- Mountains have a key role to play in providing renewable energy, especially through hydropower, solar power and wind power (*SDG 7*).
- In 2018, 39 percent of all the global mountain area was covered in forests (*SDG 15*).
- Mountain destinations attract about 15-20 percent of global tourism (*SDG 8*).



The resolution titled "International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, 2022" (document A/76/L.28) invited Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international stakeholders, including civil society, private sector and academia, to observe the International Year to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development and the conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems.

In the framework of MP, the [Mountain Partnership Products \(MPP\) initiative](#) provides technical and financial support to small-holder mountain producers from developing countries to create enterprises, enhance their marketing skills and boost their livelihoods by improving the value chains of mountain products such as organic food, textiles and tourism services. Goods marketed under the MPP label include a stingless bee honey from the Bolivian Andes and pink and purple rice cultivated by farmers in India's Himalayas, as well as tea, coffee, pulses, and textiles.

- The Key Facts presented by the MPP website unedirline that already in the initiative:
- 45 products were granted the MPP narrative label.
- 8 countries are involved: Bolivia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Peru and the Philippines, preserving their mountain agrobiodiversity and ancient varieties.
- 18 000 farmers are involved (60 percent women).
- 35 producers organizations are partnering in the MPP initiative.
- New market opportunities for Indigenous Peoples' crop varieties are developed thought new capacity production techniques, training on entrepreneurship and marketing.

In 2019, to further support smallholder farmers in establishing quality assurance systems for their organic products valid for domestic markets, the MPP initiative created the first-ever international network of [mountain Participatory Guarantee System PGS](#), specifically designed for smallholder farmers in mountain regions. "PGS are locally focused quality assurance systems that certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange."



With the publication of the "[Ranikhet Declaration for a Global Mountain PGS Network](#)" in 2019, which is a commitment of the MPP partners, the MPP initiative started a transition towards a PGS that will certify farming systems as ethical, fair and organic. The main issue of the MPP initiative is the effective management of a complex network of smallholder producers from all over the world, while aiming to promote the specificity of every single product. Therefore, PGS have been identified as appropriate and effective systems for their specific characteristics. A PGS is a quality assurance scheme for agricultural products, internationally recognized as a low-cost certification suitable for smallholder farmers and local/national markets. It is based on the active participation of farmers, consumers, and other relevant stakeholders, who come together to make decisions, visit farms, support one another and make sure that the production chain is carried out according to organic standards.



Over the 20 years of existence of the MP (2002-2022), its membership [has grown to over 470 members](#), including 60 national governments, 18 inter-governmental organizations, 9 subnational authorities, 24 global major groups organizations and 326 civil society and other organizations of great diversity in every respect. Many actions have been accomplished at all levels, from global – such as the inclusion of mountains in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – to local. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) has played an important role in creating an enabling environment for key actors to work together towards joint goals.



The MP Initiative invites all interested actors to join the activities in progress in the different countries and participate in particular in the [Mountain Partnership Products \(MPP\) initiative](#) supporting the production and marketing of the mountain products.



To know more

[Mountain Partnership: Mountain Partnership Products Initiative \(fao.org\)](#)

[Mountain Partnership Secretariat - Annual Report 2022](#)

[Mountain Partnership: Members \(fao.org\)](#)

[Mountain-partnership-products-database/en/](#)

[Mountain-partnership/our-work/focusareas/biodiversity/en/](#)

[Mountain Partnership: Mountain Partnership Products Producer Stories \(fao.org\)](#)

[Ranikhet Declaration for a Global PGS Network](#)

[To endorse the Declaration](#)

[International Mountain Day website](#)

