

MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP

Draft Cusco Plan of Action

Purpose

The overall purpose of this Plan of Action is to:

- Provide a framework with clear objectives and priorities for effective collaboration among members in sustainable mountain development.
- Strengthen members engagement by defining their roles, contributions and inputs with respect to the Partnership Initiatives they have joined, as well as in other mountain activities they are developing or implementing within their country or organization.
- Re-affirm commitment, support and political will for the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Mountain Partnership

OVERALL CONTEXT OF MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP

Vision

The Mountain Partnership envisages the improved well-being, livelihoods and opportunities of mountain people and the protection and stewardship of mountain environments around the world.

Mission

The Mountain Partnership is a voluntary alliance of parties working together with the common goal of achieving sustainable mountain development around the world. The Mountain Partnership addresses the opportunities and challenges of mountain regions, by tapping the wealth and diversity of resources, knowledge (including traditional and indigenous), information and expertise, from and through its members, in order to stimulate concrete initiatives at all levels that will ensure the improved quality of life and environments in the world's mountain regions.

Goals

The Mountain Partnership stimulates long-term action in sustainable mountain development by facilitating and promoting concrete thematic, geographic and institutional initiatives. A key element in this process is to maximize the use of relevant existing networks, groups and institutions working in mountain and mountain-related issues around the world.

The Mountain Partnership creates awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development, and its members are determined to share knowledge, exchange experience, foster mutual assistance and cooperation to achieve lasting development in mountain regions around the world. It will be essential to link local, national, regional and global efforts for long-term sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CUSCO PLAN OF ACTION

The Mountain Partnership, through the work of its members, is working to improve the lives of mountain people and protect mountain environments around the world. In view of this vision and recognizing that the full and equal participation of all members (countries, intergovernmental organizations, major groups), is essential for achieving common goals, the following key objectives have been identified for the Cusco Plan of Action:

- Provide a framework with clear objectives and priorities for effective collaboration among members to achieve sustainable mountain development.
- Stimulate the active involvement of all members in the development of existing and the creation of new initiatives, on thematic and geographic issues, that will lead to sustainable development in mountain communities.
- Strengthen members' engagement by defining the roles, responsibilities, actions and inputs with respect to the Partnership Initiatives they have joined, as well as in other mountain activities they are developing or implementing within their country or organization.
- Empower mountain people, policymakers, NGOs and other interested parties to enable their full involvement in activities of the Mountain Partnership.
- Establish simple but effective need-based tools and mechanisms for the collection, management and exchange of information and knowledge on mountain issues, for the Mountain Partnership as a whole and for each of its Initiatives.
- Create or strengthen mechanisms for improved linkages, synergies and cooperation among members and for more effective networking at all levels.
- Determine the need for financial and technical support for the effective and timely implementation of workplans developed for specific thematic or regional Initiatives and identify potential sources of support.
- Ensure that action undertaken by members in the context of sustainable mountain development should be harmonized, to the

extent possible, with the mandate and activities of the Mountain Partnership as a whole.

- Promote partnerships to obtain financial, marketing, information and technical assistance services to be provided to rural mountain communities
- Identify successful experiences, best practices and lessons learnt in mountain areas to adapt and apply these methods and approaches to other mountain regions where appropriate
- Implement development-oriented projects in selected sites in mountain areas in order to generate experiences that could be extended to other areas with similar needs and conditions
- Reaffirm the commitment, support and political will for the achievement of the goals of the Mountain Partnership.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION – *THE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES*

The dynamic core of the Mountain Partnership is action and initiatives on the ground. This is guided by the recommendations of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD, Johannesburg, 2002). A first set of Partnership Initiatives has been launched in several major areas of mountain development where priority action is needed, based on interest expressed by members of the Mountain Partnership¹. These Partnership Initiatives focus on the following thematic and geographic areas:

- **Education**
- **Gender**
- **Policy and Law**
- **Research**
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountains (SARD-M)**
- **Sustainable Livelihoods**
- **Watershed Management**
- **Andes**
- **Central Asia**
- **East Africa**
- **Europe**
- **Hindu Kush Himalaya**

Members would commit themselves to identifying opportunities and challenges in the above identified Initiatives (or those in the process of being defined), in order to develop time-bound workplans and strategies for their implementation.

¹ Other Partnership Initiatives will be identified as the Mountain Partnership evolves and networking and information exchange allow new areas of collaboration and focus to develop.

Specific workplans for each Partnership Initiative will be developed by interested members and will comprise an integral part of this Plan of Action, on an on-going basis.

OPERATIONAL FOCI FOR ACTION

In order to be an effective operational tool for the Mountain Partnership, this Plan of Action should include details about specific on-going initiatives, as well as those in the process of being defined, and highlight how these initiatives will work. The workplans for each Initiative, as they become more fully developed, may want to address and integrate the following considerations, from an operational perspective:

Institutional synergies

- promote activities to ensure empowerment at all levels (policymakers, communities, NGOs and others) to be reflected in a common understanding of sustainable mountain development.
- create or strengthen mechanisms for improved linkages, synergies and cooperation among members and for more effective networking at all levels.

Capacity-building (training, education, extension)

- identify successful experiences in mountain areas to adapt and apply their methods and approaches to the different regions
- identify technical support for the effective and timely implementation of workplans.

Collaboration, advocacy and awareness-raising

- support initiatives at country, regional and sub-regional level, to promote sustainable development in mountain communities.

Information and knowledge

- establish effective need-based tools and mechanisms for the collection, management and exchange of information and knowledge on mountain issues.

Financing

- identify financial support for the effective and timely implementation of workplans

More detailed examples of these operational foci are provided in Annex 1.

MECHANISMS AND TOOLS FOR ACTION²

In accordance with previously agreed guiding principles, the development of the Partnership Initiatives -- and overall action within the Mountain Partnership as a whole -- will involve the use of effective mechanisms and tools.

The workplans for each Initiative, as they evolve and describe working arrangements in more detail, may wish to include consideration of the following key mechanisms and tools, to be used by members and/or provided as services by the Secretariat for the Mountain Partnership, in close collaboration with the Mountain Forum:

- 1. Networking**
- 2. Information** (collection, analysis, dissemination and exchange)
- 3. Awareness raising and advocacy**
- 4. Fundraising and the promotion of investments**

The Secretariat for the Mountain Partnership will also provide brokerage and related services in order to match technical expertise and financial resources with the needs of members and their Initiatives.

ROLE OF MEMBERS

The effectiveness of the Mountain Partnership and the success of its Initiatives will depend largely on the level of involvement and the various inputs provided by its members. Members will derive mutual benefit from the sharing of knowledge and information about each others' perspectives, approaches and activities in sustainable mountain development.

The Mountain Partnership can also serve to facilitate a more coherent approach within its membership so that each member's activities in mountain development (e.g. policies, programmes and projects) are consistent with, and fully reflect, the agreed principles and values of the Mountain Partnership.

This Plan of Action therefore addresses the need for each member of the Mountain Partnership to assume a leading role in the collection, exchange and dissemination of relevant data and information regarding the policies, approaches and activities of their country or organization in mountain areas.

This Plan of Action also serves to define each member's specific contributions and their level of involvement in the Partnership Initiatives. This information will be captured in the detailed workplans being developed for each Initiative which will be annexed to, and comprise, an integral part of this Plan of Action on an on-going basis.

² Note: this part of the Plan of Action could be a focus for discussion during the proposed e-consultation.

ANNEX 1

(Please note that these are examples only which would need to be tailored to specific initiatives)

Institutional synergies

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Activities/actions and recommendations</i>	<i>Time-frames</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Responsible agency</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
1) Create synergies and cooperation between all Members, involving particularly National Authorities and relevant stakeholders	(i) Identify National Focal Points in particular those at governmental level	Before 2005	NFPs identified and communicated to the Secretariat	Members in coordination with the Secretariat	Establishment of a Network of members with clear commitment at governmental level
	(ii) A series of national and regional meetings of NFPs and relevant stakeholders to identify main constraints to address sustainability in mountain regions	At least once in a year	Countries NFP have held at least one coordinating meeting per year	NFPs and Secretariat	National and regional reports
2) Identify and facilitate mechanisms for technical cooperation	(i) Exchange specialists for the main thematic areas within the region	Ongoing	At least one case in each country member per year	Members in coordination with the Secretariat	Reports on meetings held and strategic alliances formed

Objectives	Activities/actions and recommendations	Time-frames	Indicators	Responsible agency	Outputs
	(ii) organize meetings for those supplying and demanding technology	Ongoing	At least one meeting each two years	Members in coordination with the Secretariat and different technology supplying agencies	Reports on meetings held and strategic alliances formed

Capacity-building (training, education, extension)

Objectives	Activities/actions/Recommendations	Time-frames	Indicators	Responsible agency (national/regional level)	Outputs
1) Create necessary human resources required for the adequate identification, management, adaptation and application of suitable methods and technologies	<p>i) Support and promotion in the national academic sector by starting human resource training programmes</p> <p>ii) Training in use of databases, information and new information technologies</p> <p>(iii) Organizing courses, workshops, etc.</p>	Ongoing, first workshop held during this year	All members hold regular courses, workshops, etc.	National and regional members (universities through alliance with foreign institutions, organizations, etc.)	Trained professionals
2) Information management	Establish pool of individuals able to carry out these tasks	Ongoing	All countries to hold regular courses, workshops, etc. within the identified timeframe	National and regional members (universities through alliance with foreign institutions, organizations, etc.)	Trained professionals

Collaboration, advocacy and awareness-raising

Objectives	Activities/actions and recommendations	Time-frames	Indicators	Responsible agency	Outputs
1) Ensure the effective implementation and functioning of the Action Plan by creating appropriate collaboration and commitment between all stakeholders	i) Develop and disseminate information on specific mountain challenges/constraints, such as social-economic, environmental and political issues	1 year	Documents and reports published and disseminated	Members in coordination with the Secretariat	Increased collaboration, knowledge and understanding amongst general population, principal stakeholders, and particularly all members of Mountain Partnership
	ii) Strengthen capacities to respond and act according to the needs and particularities at community, regional and national level	Ongoing	Alliances and MOUs in place		
	iii) Development and participation on an active information systems	2 years (depending on level of development)	Existence of these information systems and web pages	NFPs in cooperation with national or international institutions as appropriate	All members have appropriate access to information. All members would be able to communicate

Information and knowledge

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Activities/actions and recommendations</i>	<i>Time-frames</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Responsible agency</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
1) Build the capacity for countries to manage information and intellectual property rights, as appropriate	Provide training to enable countries to manage information and intellectual property rights	Continuing	All countries be well informed with regard to managing information and intellectual property rights	Members working with their respective intellectual property rights	Technicians with training in management of information and intellectual property rights

Objectives	Activities/actions and recommendations	Time-frames	Indicators	Responsible agency	Outputs
2) Establishment of national, subregional and regional databases that identify and fill existing information gaps	Develop projects at the national, regional and sub-regional level to allow the creation of specific databases such as information on unique and fragile ecosystems	By 2005	(i) Region has a number of databases covering information gaps (ii) operational mechanisms in place to identify information gaps	Members and institutions responsible for national, regional and subregional projects	Updated databases
3) Gain and share experience from, and catalogue, lessons learned at sub-regional and regional levels.	(i) Making catalogue of experiences (ii) develop workshops for exchange of experiences	ongoing	(i) Catalogue prepared (ii) Workshops have been conducted	Members, regional and sub-regional organizations	Benefiting from the experiences of others and preventing duplication of efforts

Financing

Objectives	Activities/actions and recommendations	Time-frames	Indicators	Responsible agency	Outputs
1) Ensure financial viability and sustainability of activities to implement The Action Plan and develop specific Work Plans	<p>(i) Request funding organizations, and others, to support national, sub-regional and regional projects</p> <p>(ii) Create awareness and political support for continuous funding from national governments</p>	<p>Continuing activity</p> <p>Continuing activity</p>	<p>National, sub-regional and regional work plans developed and implemented</p> <p>Incorporate activities in national budgets</p>	<p>Advisory Group, The Secretariat, using global, Regional, sub-regional and multilateral initiatives</p> <p>Implementing agencies, national institutions</p>	<p>Support from implementing agencies</p> <p>National budgets include financial allocations</p>