

Five Years Global Action Plan for the development of mountain regions 2023 - 2027
Template for providing inputs on section 'Implementation'

Please provide details of ongoing or new initiatives that your organization proposes as a contribution to the Global Action Plan. Only one Initiative should be included for each form. Please list up to five initiatives.

Title of the initiative:

Support at least 30,000 producers in mountain areas through small grants and technical support

Please indicate to which desired "Impact" the initiative will contribute (can be more than one)¹:

- Mountain ecosystems are conserved and restored for production and protection purposes and biodiversity is sustainably protected and used for the continued provision of global ecosystem services.
- The resilience of mountain people to climate change and disasters is increased.
- Livelihoods in mountain areas are improved.

Brief description of the initiative:

Mountain communities are among the worst hit by climate change, suffering from high rates of poverty and hunger and struggling to cope with natural disasters.

Through this initiative, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), commits to support producer organizations in mountain areas through small grants and technical support.

The overarching goal of this initiative is to increase mountain and island communities' resilience by supporting innovative entrepreneurship in agricultural and textile value chains through the provision of grants, technical assistance and capacity development. Moreover, by supporting producer organizations that work in a sustainable manner, this initiative will also contribute to the restoration and preservation of mountain environments.

This initiative is based on the "[Business Incubator and Accelerator \(BIA\) for Mountains and Islands](#)", launched in May 2023 by the MPS in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). BIA is currently being implemented in the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines and Uganda and will support around 6000 producers.

As a contribution to the Five Years Global Action Plan, the initiative aims to scale up BIA's commitments and objectives. Concrete actions will include:

¹ Please mark the checkbox(es) to which the initiative contributes to.

- Set up of an innovative platform for the management of small grants programmes;
- During the five years, open multiple rounds of call for applications;
- During the incubation phase, shortlisted applicants will benefit from technical support for the development of business plans;
- During the acceleration phase, applicants that will receive grants, will also be supported with capacity development trainings.
- Grants will range from USD 15 000 to USD 50 000 per project.

This initiative will target producer organizations with a social business approach, that promote the conservation of mountain biodiversity and agrobiodiversity, and that promote value chains that generate positive externalities for mountain environments.

Tentative timeline and planned activities (2023 – 2027)²:

- **May 2023:** Open first round of application process (ongoing);
- **Jun – Nov 2023:** Incubation phase (planned);
- **Nov 2023:** Grant awarding (planned);
- **Dec 2023 – Dec 2024:** Acceleration phase (planned);
- **Dec 2024 – Dec 2025:** Raising funds and scaling up of activities for second phase (forecasted);
- **Jan – Apr 2026:** Analyze lessons learned and key takeaways for next phase of the initiative (forecasted);
- **May 2026:** Open second round of the application process (forecasted);
- **Jun – Nov 2026:** Incubation phase (forecasted);
- **Nov 2026:** Grant awarding (forecasted);
- **Dec 2026 – Dec 2027:** Acceleration phase (forecasted).

Please indicate to which “Outcomes” the initiative will contribute (can be more than one)³:

1. Sustainable agrifood systems and resilient livelihoods, especially for women and young people are promoted;
2. Value chains of mountain products are improved;
3. Marketing and entrepreneurial capacities of producers are strengthened;
4. Gender inequalities are reduced;
5. Labour participation for women living in mountains is increased and a shift from subsistence to more market-oriented farming is enabled; and
6. Youth and women’s employment opportunities are safeguarded and enhanced.

Please indicate under which “Action Areas” the initiative is included (please indicate only one)⁴:

Action Area 5: Increase sustainable public and private investment.

² Please mention (in brackets) whether the activity is currently ongoing or is it going to be started in the future

³ Please refer to the annex below.

⁴ Please refer to the annex below.

(Co)lead organization(s):

- The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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Outcomes

This section presents 27 key interlinked outcomes that will result from the implementation of the Framework and that will contribute to the desired impacts above. The outcomes are based on the recommendations to Members States contained in the Report of the UN Secretary-General on Sustainable Mountain Development (A/77/217) and on the Sustainable mountain development Resolution (A/Res/77/172), and have been complemented by inputs from the Task Force⁵.

1. Adaptation options that offer practical prospects for reducing climate risks and build on diverse knowledge systems, including indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, are assessed and scaled up;
2. Institutions and mountain governance mechanisms for climate adaptation in mountains are strengthened;
3. Capacity of local staff to promote sustainable landscape approaches is increased;
4. Risk-sensitive and climate-adapted planning is incorporated in infrastructure development in mountain regions, including educational and health facilities, seismically and climatically adapted housing, and sustainably built infrastructure;
5. Early warning systems for DRR and risk communication are improved;
6. Nature-based solutions are implemented;
7. Sustainable silvopastoralism in mountain areas is promoted;
8. Sustainable forest management is implemented;
9. Integrated approaches for land use, forestry and water management are promoted and upstream-downstream linkages are considered;
10. Infrastructure for environmentally sound waste management is strengthened;
11. Mountain ecosystem restoration is promoted as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
12. Affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions for mountain communities are supported;
13. Land and tenure rights are secured;
14. Sustainable agrifood systems and resilient livelihoods, especially for women and young people are promoted;
15. Traditional and indigenous food systems are protected
16. Value chains of mountain products are improved;
17. Sustainable tourism in mountains is fostered through innovation, investment in the digitalization of services, empowerment of communities, capacity-building, access to financing and strengthened multilevel governance, while ensuring regular monitoring and assessment of the impact of tourism on mountains;
18. Marketing and entrepreneurial capacities of producers are strengthened;
19. Gender inequalities are reduced;
20. Labour participation for women living in mountains is increased and a shift from subsistence to more market-oriented farming is enabled;
21. Social protection coverage for local communities and indigenous peoples in mountain areas is expanded;
22. Youth and women's employment opportunities are safeguarded and enhanced;
23. Stability and security in mountain areas are enhanced through increased dialogue, collaboration and trust among mountain communities and countries;
24. Mountains are highlighted and prioritized in national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions;
25. Mountain communities are empowered, especially indigenous people and other vulnerable groups;
26. Inclusive access to digitalization is enhanced; and
27. Health governance in mountains is improved.

⁵ At the invitation of the UN Resident Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat has facilitated the establishment and work of the Task Force for the development of a first draft of this Global Plan of Action. The current composition of the Task Force is presented in the Annex of the outline

Areas for actions

Five key general areas of actions are identified and considered necessary to contribute to all of the outcomes. The recommended actions under each action area are based on those contained in the Report of the UN Secretary-General on Sustainable Mountain Development (A/77/217) and on the Sustainable mountain development Resolution (A/Res/77/172), and have been complemented by inputs from the Task Force.

1. **Action Area 1:** Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development;
2. **Action Area 2:** Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions;
3. **Action Area 3:** Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection;
4. **Action Area 4:** Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions; and
5. **Action Area 5:** Increase sustainable public and private investment.