



## Global framework for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions

Outline

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## Background

Covering around one quarter of the Earth's surface, mountains are key ecosystems that provide humanity with essential goods and services such as water, food, biodiversity and energy. However, mountain ecosystems are severely and increasingly affected by biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation. Mountains are home to about 1.1 billion people. People in mountain areas are among the world's poorest and half of rural mountain dwellers living in developing countries face food insecurity. Access to services and infrastructure is lower in mountains than in other areas. Mountain communities are highly dependent on predominantly small-scale and family-based agriculture. In the mountains, exposure to natural hazards, lack of key services and impacts of crises and conflicts are factors contributing to the high vulnerability of populations. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has further disrupted life in mountains and compounded the vulnerabilities of mountain communities. The human health crisis is aggravating the unfolding and interconnected emergencies associated with climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and pollution in mountains. Identifying new and sustainable livelihood opportunities and adopting practices that combat land degradation and promote climate change adaptation and resilient agrifood systems are urgent requirements for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and reducing outmigration trends.

Mountain stakeholders have implemented actions at all levels to build the resilience of mountain communities, promote sustainable food systems and increase the conservation and restoration of mountain resources, with the goal of leaving no one behind. With less than seven years remaining to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an acceleration of efforts is needed.

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/172 proclaimed the period 2023–2027 as Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions in order to enhance the awareness of the international community of the problems of mountain countries and to give new impetus to the international community's efforts to address the challenges and problems of mountain countries.

This document aims at providing a general framework to be adapted by governments and other stakeholders for stepping up their efforts towards the common goal of advancing the global mountain agenda during the five-year period 2023-2027. Mountain communities and especially women, youth and indigenous people are the key stakeholders to be involved in the implementation of the framework.

## Theory of change

### Vision to 2030

A world with empowered mountain communities living sustainably and peacefully, whose social, cultural and economic well-being is thriving, and with mountain ecosystems that are resilient and safeguarded against the impacts of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss for the benefit of the entire planet.

This vision implies ending marginalization, poverty, gender discrimination and inequality, halting ecosystem degradation and the unsustainable use of natural resources and boosting cooperation and joint initiatives among mountain communities and countries and globally for the sustainable development of mountain areas for the benefit of people, planet, peace and prosperity.

### Impacts

1. The resilience of mountain people to climate change and disasters is increased.
2. 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.
3. Livelihoods in mountain areas are improved.

## 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 Force<sup>1</sup>.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

27. Health governance in mountains is improved.

## 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.

### **Action Area 1: Leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development**

#### ***Recommended actions:***

- Include a mountain perspective in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF);
- Implement the Programme of Work on mountain biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Advocate and support provision for Global Mountain Assessment report to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services IPBES through the CBD;
- Mainstream mountain issues in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including in the Global Stocktake;
- Enhance partnerships and regional and transboundary collaboration <sup>2</sup>;
- Highlight mountains in voluntary national reviews (VNR) by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF);
- Build on the Mountain Partnership (MP), on United Nations Days and United Nations Decades to mobilize resources;
- Incorporate the outcomes of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) for the development of sustainable food systems in mountains;
- Continue reporting on target 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- Mainstream mountain issues in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) Objective 2 and Objective 5.

### **Action Area 2: Strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions**

#### ***Recommended actions***

- Promote multistakeholder engagement;
- Strengthen regional and transboundary cooperation; and
- Strengthen health governance.

### **Action Area 3: Promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection**

#### ***Recommended actions***

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<sup>2</sup> Including through the Convention on the Protection of the Alps, the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, the Andean Initiative for mountains, the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region and the Caucasus Mountain Forum, the African Mountains Regional Forum, the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region and the Zurich process, the Hindu Kush Himalayan Partnership for Sustainable Mountain Development, the Hindu Kush Himalayan Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the International Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Forum, the fourth World Nomad Games, and the Pyrenean Climate Change Observatory.

- Foster collaboration between scientific institutions, including through common research protocols to look for system approaches at larger landscapes;
- Increase the collection and dissemination of disaggregated data on mountain-related issues for policy advice at the local, national and regional levels;
- Support scientific and participatory processes to generate relevant local level data on climate and disaster risk;
- Incorporate traditional knowledge in research and innovation;
- National policies and plans recognize traditional and indigenous practices;
- Increase evidence on human mobility in the context of climate change with a special focus on mountains; and
- Assess the migration-environment- climate change nexus in mountains.

#### **Action Area 4: Increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions**

- International Mountain Day (IMD) and other relevant United Nations days; and
- Periodic Op-Eds, Media Briefs, Audio-visual materials, Documentaries, Seminars and conferences, mountain fairs, exchange visits.

#### **Action Area 5: Increase sustainable public and private investment**

- Encourage adaptation finance;
- Encourage inclusion of private sector investment in adaptation finance;
- Promote GEF, GCF in mountains;
- Improve basic infrastructure; and
- Encourage investments for biodiversity conservation and socio-ecological resilience.

## **Implementation**

This section presents the key initiatives proposed by international and regional organizations to be delivered during 2023-2027, that will contribute to the desired impacts and outcomes.

## Annex

Composition of the Task Force for the development of the Global Plan of Action:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Wolfger	Mayrhofer	<b>Alpine Convention</b>
Laura	Wittkop	<b>Alpine Convention</b>
Sam	Kanyamibwa	<b>ARCOS</b>
Maria	Arguello	<b>CONDESAN</b>
Karen	Price	<b>CONDESAN</b>
Cholpon	Alibakieva	<b>FAO</b>
Thomas	Hofer	<b>FAO</b>
Rosalaura	Romeo	<b>FAO-MPS</b>
Udayan	Mishra	<b>ICIMOD</b>
Deepshikha	Sharma	<b>ICIMOD</b>
Pem	Kandel	<b>ICIMOD</b>
Bolotnel	Orokov	<b>ILO</b>
Salavat	Baktybek Kyzy	<b>International Organization for Migration (IOM), Kyrgyzstan</b>
Aijan	Azizova	<b>Kyrgyz Gov</b>
Ermek	Isakov	<b>Kyrgyz Gov</b>
Nurlan	Aitmurzaev	<b>Kyrgyz Gov</b>
Esra	Buttanri	<b>OSCE</b>
Patrizia	Albrecht	<b>OSCE</b>
Kateryna	Robul	<b>OSCE</b>
Antje Kristin	Grawe	<b>UN Kyrgyz Republic</b>
Roza (Nuria)	Choibaeva	<b>UN Kyrgyz Republic</b>
Patrick	Goettner	<b>UNCTAD</b>
Ekaterina	Perfilyeva	<b>UNDP</b>
Bipin	Pokharel	<b>UNDP</b>
Tim	Scott	<b>UNDP</b>
Dario	Vespertino	<b>UNDP</b>
Yoko	Watanabe	<b>UNDP</b>
Lira	Zholdubaeva	<b>UNDP</b>
Harald	Egerer	<b>UNEP</b>
Matthias Georg	Jurek	<b>UNEP</b>
Melissa	De Kock	<b>UNEP</b>
Magnus	Magnusson	<b>UNESCO</b>

Elzat	Nasyrova	<b>UNFPA</b>
Sandra	Carvao	<b>UNWTO</b>
Alessandra	Priante	<b>UNWTO</b>
Davronbek	Tokhtiev	<b>UNWTO</b>
Chloe	Bougeard	<b>UNWTO</b>
Maria Soledad	Gaido	<b>UNWTO</b>
Hilke	David	<b>WFP</b>
Alina	Altymysheva	<b>WHO</b>
Rodica	Nitu	<b>WMO</b>
Stefan	Uhlenbrook	<b>WMO</b>
Detlef	Stammer	<b>WMO</b>
Paola	Agostini	<b>World Bank</b>