

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions

Expected date of initiation: September 2002

Expected date of completion: September 2012

Partners Involved (confirmed commitments as of 14 August 2002):

Governments: Austria, Bhutan, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao Republic, Monaco, Peru, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, USA, Venezuela

Intergovernmental organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations University (UNU), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Potato Center (CIP), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), African Ministers Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, International Development Research Centre (IDRC-Canada)

Major groups: Mountain Forum, Banff Centre for Mountain Culture, IUCN, World Mountain People Association, UNCEM, Euromontana, International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR). WWF-International, European Observatory of Mountain Forests (EOMF), International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA).

Other:

Leading Partners:

FAO

Name of the contact person/focal point: **Douglas McGuire, Head, International Year of Mountains Coordination Unit - FAO**

Address: **Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy**

Phone: **+39 06 5705 3275**

Fax: **+39 06 5705 5137**

E-mail: **douglas.mcguire@fao.org**

UNEP

Name of the contact person/focal point: **Andrei Iatsenia, Coordinator, UNEP Mountain Programme**

Address: **UNEP Geneva, 15, Chemin des Anemones -1219, Chatelaine**

Phone: **+41229178273**

Fax: **+41229178004**

E-mail: **Andrei.Iatsenia@UNEP.ch**

Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

The main objective of the partnership is to *improve, strengthen and promote greater cooperation* between Major Groups, all mountain stakeholders, such as donors, implementing agencies, NGOs, private sector, mountain communities, academia and other field practitioners. The International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions will be guided by clearly agreed goals, its operations will be based on commitments made by partners and implementation will be supported through better linkages between institutions and improved monitoring systems.

This would require countries, the international community and other relevant partners to focus on the effective implementation of prioritized actions to manage mountain ecosystems through sustainable development, and to address chronic poverty in mountain regions through concrete programs and projects with sufficient support from all stakeholders. Regional, mountain-range specific and national partnerships and agendas would be the driving force in determining priority areas for action and the building blocks of partnerships at the international level. The International Partnership for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions will provide an instrument to implement the proposed WSSD Plan of Implementation as agreed in paragraph 40 on Mountains with actions at all levels to:

- (a) Develop and promote programs, policies and approaches that integrate environmental, economic and social components of sustainable mountain development and strengthen international cooperation for its positive impacts on poverty eradication programmes, especially in developing countries;
- (b) Implement programs to address, where appropriate, deforestation, erosion, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, disruption of water flows and retreat of glaciers;
- (c) Develop and implement, where appropriate, gender sensitive policies and programs, including public and private investments, that help eliminate inequities facing mountain communities;
- (d) Implement programs to promote diversification and traditional mountain economies, sustainable livelihoods and small scale production systems, including specific training programmes and better access to national and international markets, and strengthen markets, communications and transport planning, taking into account the particular sensitivity of mountains;
- (e) Promote full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and integrate indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;
- (f) Mobilize national and international support for applied research and capacity building, provide financial and technical assistance for the effective implementation of sustainable development of mountain ecosystems in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and address the poverty among people living in mountains through concrete plans, projects and programmes, with sufficient support from all stakeholders, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of the Mountain 2002.”

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

The proposed partnership is intended as a way to further implement Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and the negotiated outcome document of WSSD, taking into account the growing involvement of global actors such as civil society, including private sector, NGOs and the academic and research community. The partnership represents a type two outcome of WSSD. This partnership will serve as the umbrella partnership for some regional sub-partnership, such as, for example, the new one for the Carpathian mountains, undertaken by Ukraine, Italy and facilitated by UNEP (see separate WSSD document) and thematic sub-partnerships. It is also closely linked to Chapter 14 and the SARD in Mountains initiative.

Expected results:

Please provide a brief description:

The international partnership is conceived as an umbrella alliance under which all partners could enter into specific sub-partnerships according to their interest, competence and willingness. Such sub-partnerships could be organized around thematic areas of action (e.g., biodiversity conservation, food security and poverty alleviation, etc.), geographic regions, or institutional concerns (e.g., mountain policy and law).

Strengthening and widening of the international efforts under way since 1992 in order to foster sustainable development in mountain regions is an expected result.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and time frame for their achievement:

Every partner contributes to the goals of the partnership according to its own priorities and is fully responsible for its own actions. The partnership would not coordinate the action of the members or assign specific tasks and responsibilities but would link existing activities and create synergies and complementarities to achieve greater coherence and benefits.

Specific targets and time tables will be determined by relevant stakeholders as sub-partnerships develop.

All actions under the present partnership should relate directly to Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and to the relevant section of the WSSD negotiated Plan of Implementation. Actions can be at local, national, sub-regional, regional and global levels and should be demand driven.

Effective and collaborative implementation of sustainable mountain development should build

on the existing and emerging partnerships and stakeholder dialogues and will need a common, easily accessible networking point. Existing networks, in particular the Mountain Forum, need to be supported in order to provide effective communication and related information services.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

The Inter-agency Group on Mountains has played an important role in promoting the Mountain Agenda. On a regular basis this group should be convened with all interested partners.

At the country level, coordination is the responsibility of the national government with the support of international organizations and in close cooperation with civil society groups.

At all levels appropriate and collaborative institutional mechanisms will need to be strengthened or established to ensure effective follow-up action.

In addition, at the global level a small task force may be required to ensure that the major thematic, geographic and institutional concerns of the mountain agenda are adequately covered as the partnership evolves and becomes increasingly operational.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

Arrangements for funding will be made in a decentralized manner for specific sub-partnerships through all possible sources.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

Arrangements for capacity building will be made for specific sub-partnerships

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

Arrangements for technology transfer will be made for specific sub-partnerships**Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)**

Please provide a brief description:

Strengthening and widening of existing efforts, in particular of activities undertaken during the International Year of Mountains.

Given the transboundary character of mountainous regions, regional cooperation is an important instrument for implementing the goals of sustainable mountain development as been demonstrated by the Alpine Convention. Linkages with existing multilateral instruments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and other relevant instruments should be enhanced, taking as an example, the special focus on mountain ecosystems at the COP 7 of the CBD.

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:

(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)

Due to the wide variety and diversity of issues and actors, no overall monitoring of the partnership is envisaged during its inception stage. However, it is essential that each sub-partnership establish its own monitoring modalities. Monitoring arrangements should focus on specific actions and could include assessment of changes in mountain environments and the well-being of people (e.g. poverty levels). Full transparency should be a driving principle. All specific assessments should be made public. Peer reviews of progress and results could be organized and disseminated. Building capacity within regions and countries to carry out effective monitoring will be important, given the emphasis on regional, national and sub-national levels in setting agendas and implementing mountain development strategies and programs.

Eventually, an overall partnership monitoring mechanism should be developed which links to the general monitoring of the WSSD follow-up.

Other relevant information:

Web-site (if available):

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

1.

Name: Jean-François Giovannini

Position: Ambassador, Delegation of Switzerland WSSD

Address: Gutenbergstrasse 44 CH 3011 Berne

Phone: 41 31 381 36 44

Fax:

E-mail: jfmgiovanni@mydiar.ch

2.

Name: Douglas McGuire

Position: Head, International Year of Mountains Coordination Unit - FAO

Address: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

Phone: +39-06-570-53275

Fax: +39-06-570-55137

E-mail: douglas.mcguire@fao.org