

# SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2009

# Introduction

The present report was prepared in July 2009 by FAO in response to the General Assembly resolution 62/196

The report describes:

- The rich variety of sustainable mountain development activities at the national and international levels
- An analysis of the challenges that lie ahead
- Provides suggestions for consideration by the Assembly as to how to continue to promote and effectively sustain development in mountain regions around the world within the existing policy context

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# Background

At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/24, in which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains

The resolution encouraged Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year in order to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development

The International Year of Mountains acted as a catalyst for long-term, effective action to implement chapter 13 of Agenda 21

Since IYD in 2002, FAO has initiated a regular reporting process in accordance to General Assembly resolutions

# Methodology

- The present report was prepared by FAO and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat in collaboration with Governments, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other organizations
- As advised by several Governments, the document reports on progress made with respect to key recommendations found in UNGA resolution 62/196
- FAO contacted many key informants throughout the world to ensure an adequate overview of the results, impacts and positive changes achieved since 2007
- There was a high response rate and sense of ownership triggered by this process: over 60 countries, organizations and NGOs answered for a total of 87 initiatives

# Challenges

Despite increased recognition of mountain issues and tangible results the report highlights significant constraints to attaining SMD

Mountain communities and their environments are still vulnerable to:

- Growing demands for water and other natural resources
- Expanding tourism
- Climate change effects
- Increase of incidence of natural disasters
- Greater rates of out-migration
- Conflicts
- The pressures of industry mining and agriculture
- Food insecurity

# Approaches needed

There is a need for higher levels of funding and investment in mountain areas

Enhanced coordination and collaboration

A stronger enabling environment with more supportive laws, policies and institutions

# National Action

Highlights in the Report include examples of actions taken at the national level for the sustainable development of mountain regions

Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America

# International Action

- Biodiversity conservation and mountain ecosystem-e.g CBD
- Climate Change - e.g. UNEP
- Mountain Water - e.g. Fifth World Water Forum
- Watershed Management - e.g. ICIMOD
- Disaster Risk Management - e.g. World Landslide Forum
- Indigenous issues - e.g. Indigenous People's Summit on CC
- Gender - e.g. network on gender and SMD
- PES and quality products - e.g. Mountain Products Programme

# International Action (cont.)

- Tourism – e.g. World Tourism Organization
- Policy and law – e.g. SARD-M
- Education – e.g. IPROMO
- Research – e.g. GLOCHAMORE
- Communication and networking- e.g. IMD 2008
- Partnership and mechanisms –e.g. The Mountain Partnership
- Transboundary cooperation – e.g. Caucasus Process
- Funding mechanisms – e.g. World Bank

# Recommendations to GA

- Encourage continuation of existing and further establishment of **new national committees** or similar institutional arrangements for SMD
- Assist developing countries to implement national strategies and programmes for SMD through **bilateral, multilateral, South-South or decentralized cooperation**
- Promote establishment of **regional mechanisms for coordinated transboundary cooperation** for SMD and strengthen existing mechanisms and well as learning lessons from them
- Encourage greater engagement by **civil society and the private sector** in the development and implementation of SMD programmes

# Recommendations (cont.)

- Support the collaborative efforts of **the Mountain Partnership** and encourage the involvement of governments, civil society and private sector
- Support the continued development and implementation of **communication and advocacy SMD programmes**
- Support **education, extension and capacity building** programmes among local mountain communities
- Accelerate efforts to enhance awareness about **the effects of climate change, as well as develop adaptation measures**, approaches and policies to mitigate and manage impacts
- Support better **coordinated research and data collection on global change in mountains**

# Recommendations (cont.)

- Foster the strengthening of **mountain women's role** in planning and decision making
- Increase level of funding and investment for SMD through **innovative financial mechanisms such as PES and microfinance opportunities**
- Promote the development of **high quality products** as a means to improve mountain livelihoods
- Ensure that **indigenous cultures** are fully recognized and included in development policy and planning in mountain regions

# Recommendations (cont.)

- Encourage multi-stakeholder cooperation for more effective implementation of the **Programme of Work on mountain biological of the Convention on Biological Diversity**
- Support **better integration of mountain issues** in intergovernmental discussions on climate change and combating desertification in the **context of UNFCCC and UNCCD**
- Renew efforts to ensure that mountain issues receive high priority in **development agendas and processes dealing with poverty reduction, food security, climate change**