



The Mountain Partnership

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Building Resilience through Innovative International
Collaborations and Inclusive Engagements

Why mountains matter





Mountains & their resources

- Mountains provide between 60-80% of the world's freshwater.
- Some of the world's largest cities, including New York, Nairobi and Tokyo are totally dependent on freshwater from mountains.
- Mountains play a key role in providing renewable energy like hydropower, solar power, wind power and biogas.
- Over 40% of mountains are covered by forests.

The Mountain Partnership

423 members:

The only United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments around the world

60 Governments

8 Subnational Authorities

18 IGOs

25 Global Major Groups

312 Civil Society Organizations

Secretariat hosted by

FAO,

supported by

**Andorra,
Italy &
Switzerland**

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Pillars of work

- Advocacy
- Capacity development
- Knowledge sharing and communications
- Joint action at global level





Farming in mountains

- Smallholder mountain farmers have a key role in preserving mountain biodiversity.
- Mountain farming is family farming.
- Sustainable mountain products and tourism are key for the resilience of local people and supporting local economies.
- Globalization offers opportunities for mountain producers to market their high quality mountain products, such as coffee, cocoa, honey, herbs, spices and handicrafts.

Mountain Partnership Products Initiative

10 000
FARMERS SUPPORTED



6 000
WOMEN



20
PRODUCTS



12
COUNTRIES

16
PRODUCER
ORGANIZATIONS



49%
SALES INCREASE



40%
PRODUCTION INCREASE



25%
PRICE INCREASE

Food security in mountains

- In 2017, 346 million rural mountain people were vulnerable to food insecurity.
- Between 2000 and 2017, vulnerability to food insecurity constantly increased in rural mountain areas.
- In Africa, almost 7 rural mountain people out of 10 are at risk of hunger and malnutrition.





Drivers of vulnerability in mountains

- Out of **516 million** people living in rural mountain areas affected by past natural hazards, **275 million** are vulnerable to food insecurity.
- Out of **212 million people** living in rural mountain areas affected by conflict, **128 million** are vulnerable to food insecurity.
- 442 million rural mountain people live in areas with limited service availability.
- 311 million rural mountain people are exposed to progressive land degradation.

Climate change in mountains

- Mountains are large but not so mighty - they are extremely sensitive to changes in climate.
- Melting glaciers are linked to landslides, infrastructure destruction and loss of water resources, affecting agriculture and people both upstream and downstream.
- Climate extremes are threatening to erode and reverse the gains made in ending hunger and malnutrition.





Private sector supporting mountains

- Collaboration with the private sector should be enhanced.
- Key partnerships:
 - NEW: Stella Jean & Kyrgyz mountain women create sustainable fashion collection
 - Mountain Partnership Products Initiative & NaturaSì (Italian organic retailer) improve livelihoods of producers



International Mountain Day

- The UN General Assembly designated 11 December “International Mountain Day”. As of 2003, it has been observed every year to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life and build alliances to create positive change.
- 2021 Theme: Mountain Tourism
- 2020 Theme: Biodiversity
- 2019 Theme: Youth for Mountains
- Global photo and video contests
- Informational materials in six languages

Join the #MountainsMatter Movement



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The Mountain Partnership

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