

# Mountain Forum Annual Report 2009



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ISSN 1815-2139

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Published by the Mountain Forum Global Node

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# About Mountain Forum

Mountain Forum is a global network of individuals and organizations concerned with the wellbeing of mountain people, their environments and cultures. Its mission is to promote global action toward equitable and ecologically sustainable mountain development and conservation through information sharing, mutual support and advocacy.

MF seeks to share the knowledge, lessons and experiences related to SMD among a wide and diverse global community of researchers, field practitioners, policymakers, civil society groups and other mountain stakeholders. All together, it tries to bring key issues into policy discussions at national and international levels.

Mountain Forum is composed of Regional Networks in the Asia Pacific, Europe, Africa, Latin America and North America and is coordinated by the Mountain Forum Global Node, based in Peru.

## Information Sharing

The Mountain Forum facilitates exchange and sharing of information, experiences, good practices and lessons learnt using a mix of modern and traditional means. A collection of online mountain-related information, documents, experts, organizations and events is available through the Mountain Forum's website ([www.mtnforum.org](http://www.mtnforum.org)). Interaction is fostered via global, regional and thematic e-discussions and e-conferences. In addition, information is disseminated in the form of publications and emails. Enhancing access to information and promoting two-way interactions of mountain communities are the key activities. The Mountain Forum aims to become the primary clearing house mechanism for information on sustainable mountain development.

## Mutual Support

The Mountain Forum allows users to share information and experiences and support each other's work through its information and communication systems and tools. The Mountain Forum fosters interaction and strategic alliances between key players in sustainable mountain development.

The Mountain Forum Global Node (MFGN) supports the work of the regional nodes by maintaining a global-level set of services, and by helping to coordinate and manage initiatives and relationships around the world. Regional and thematic networks are catalyzed in mobilizing information and knowledge and providing inputs to strategic policy dialogues such as the CBD-COP process, UN General Assembly Resolution on SMD and the Bishkek Mountain Platform.

## Advocacy and Policy Support

The Mountain Forum provides advocacy and policy support for

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## About Mountain Forum

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sustainable mountain development. This is done by mobilising collective knowledge from users and partners, facilitating information exchange between experts and practitioners and raising awareness about critical and emerging mountain issues. Regional and thematic networks are catalysed in mobilising information and knowledge and providing inputs to strategic policy dialogues such as the CBD-COP process, UN General Assembly Resolution on SMD and the Bishkek Mountain Platform.



*Theth, Albania by Onuzi Kujtim.*

# Acronyms

3C	Climate Change Coalition	MRI	Mountain Research Initiative
AEM	European Association of Elected representative from Mountain Regions	NEFEJ	Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa	NGO	Non government organization
AHI	Animal Health Institute	OLL	On-Line Library
AIT	Asia Institute of Technology	PES	Payment of Ecosystem Services
AMCEN	African Ministerial Council on Environment	SANDEE	South-Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics
AMF	African Mountain Forum	SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
APMN	Asia-Pacific Mountain Network	SEN	Small Earth Nepal
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa	SMD	Sustainable Mountain Development
ASCOL	Amrit Science College	STEP	Society Towards Environment Protection
AU	African Union	SUDEMAA	Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas of Asia
BoD	Board of Directors	TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
CAN	Andean Community	UN	United Nations
CAS-EF	College of Applied Sciences-EF	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	USHAA	USHAA Foundation (Ushaa is Nepali for “early morning”)
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research	WWG	Wildlife Watch Group
CONDESAN	Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Eco-region	YATRA	Journey in Nepali (in this report a Nepali organization of that name)
CoP	Conference of the Parties	YES	Youth Encounter on Sustainability
CSIR	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research	YONSED	Youth Network for Social & Environmental Development
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations		
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU		
EFN	Eco-Friends Nepal		
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations		
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa		
GMBA	Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment		
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development		
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre		
IDRC	International Development Research Centre		
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategy		
IKM	Information Knowledge Management		
IMMODI	Implementing Politics to Overcome the Digital gap in Mountain Regions		
IT+C	Information Technology and Communications		
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature		
IYM2002	International Year of Mountains 2002		
KMSD	Knowledge Management for Sustainable Development		
MFOL	Mountain Forum Online Library		
MIREN	Mountain Invasion Research Network		
MP	Mountain Partnership		
MPS-APDH	Asia Pacific Decentralised Hub of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat		



*Cotopaxi volcano, Ecuador, by Robert Hofstede.*

Dear Reader,

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2009 Annual Report of the Mountain Forum. The past year has been a very intensive one for our global network because of the enormous global challenges and the thorough institutional change process.

More than ever before, in 2009 the world was worried about the effects of climate change and this attention was concentrated at the Copenhagen Conference of Parties in December. During the whole year, as well as at the Copenhagen conference itself, Mountain Forum, together with our sister networks and organizations, made the case for the specific effects of climate change on mountain environments and their human communities. 2010 has been declared the "International Year of Biodiversity". Mountain Forum has chosen the topic of mountain biodiversity as one of the key themes for policy and advocacy support. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requested in 2009 support from the Mountain Forum for its activities in the area of mountain biodiversity and therefore much work was done on this theme. Among others, Mountain Forum is actively evaluating the Mountain Biodiversity Programme of Work for the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity-meetings. Also, in early 2009 a compelling and high quality Mountain Bulletin was developed on mountain biodiversity.

The Mountain Forum is at present a very broad and diversified network, with users in all continents. Nevertheless, we are stronger in certain parts of the world and there is underrepresentation of some very key regions in Mountain Forum. Particularly in Africa the Mountain Forum lacks a highly dynamic presence and in Central Asia and Oceania we are almost absent. During 2009 activities were taken up to engage with our existing partners in Africa and with new partners in other regions, specifically Central Asia, Australia and New Zealand. With them, options are explored for strengthening the network. This revitalization and new



network development was done as a joint effort between the Mountain Forum Board, the Secretariat, its regional MF networks and in full collaboration with our sister networks, especially the Mountain Partnership.

In 2009, Mountain Forum celebrated its 15th birthday. That was a good moment to evaluate strengths, opportunities and challenges. Based on that, the Mountain Forum Board of Directors has decided that restructuring should be initiated to optimize the effectiveness of the network. The regional networks will be empowered with more responsibilities to contribute to global goals as well. A global node will remain with the sole function of coordinating and supporting the work of the regional nodes. One of the important decisions in this process was to shift global coordination from the Mountain Forum Secretariat at ICIMOD in Kathmandu to CONDESAN in Lima. During the second half of 2009, much of the energy and time of staff working in Kathmandu and in Lima was dedicated to this transfer process. I am glad to conclude that the transfer was a success. On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate both teams for their good collaboration. I especially want to thank the outgoing staff of the Mountain Forum Secretariat in Nepal for their dedication, professionalism and passion for the Mountain Agenda. A special thanks to ICIMOD for hosting the MFS for almost eight years, to CONDESAN for accepting the future hosting arrangement and to the Swiss Development Cooperation for their continued financial support.

Finally, in 2009 Mountain Forum sought a more effective collaboration with the different networks working on Sustainable Mountain Development. The Mountain Forum and the Mountain Partnership (hosted by FAO) are sister networks that share the same vision and have complementary missions. During this year, both governance bodies decided that the two networks should increase their collaboration and eventually have joint workplans and regional coordination. The staff of both, the Mountain Forum Secretariats as well as the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, has been actively engaged in designing this strategic collaboration, which is now in principle being accepted by the Board of Directors of MF as well as by the Advisory Committee of MP, and will become effective during 2010.

Thanks to the hard work of many people during 2009, Mountain Forum was on the frontline of the discussions on many global issues while also preparing a change process that enhances its effectiveness in the future, creates greater synergies with like-minded organizations and assures larger impact from the local to the global level. On behalf of the Board, the Mountain Forum Secretariat and the regional networks of the Mountain Forum, I would like to thank all the individuals, organizations and partners for their support in 2009.

I trust that everybody is ready and motivated to continue to collaborate among our global mountain family and together constitute a strong network that supports mountain people and mountain environments around the world!



Robert Hofstede  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Mountain Forum

# Highlights of the Year

## African Mountain Forum (AMF)

- A mission to meet different organizations involved with Sustainable Mountain Development with the purpose of revitalizing the AMF was carried out in collaboration with the Mountain Partnership.
- Four types of organizations were selected: (i) network organizations that could have an instrumental role in the revitalization of AMF, (ii) CGIAR institutions that traditionally had an active participation in MF, (iii) UN Organizations, which should be instrumental for the regional and continental policy setting of MF/MP, and (iv) national organizations.
- The current level of knowledge on the Mountain Forum and Mountain Partnership is low in Africa. MF and MP are only known among the organizations that have been directly involved in these networks and within these organizations
- The most likely option for revitalization consists of an AMF based on sub-regional nodes with possibly a light continental coordination.

## Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN)

- Successfully organized eight e-discussions, including three on 'Mountain Climate Change' in the context of CoP 15 in Copenhagen and one on 'Youth in mountain Development'.
- Conceptualized and formally launched activities to engage young people and the media in the sustainable mountain development process.
- Started issuing thematic knowledge digests, organizing Brown Bag Seminars, and documenting conference presentations as new services from APMN.
- Helped over two dozen network users to attend trainings on the 'Basics of Advocacy' and 'Climate Change and Multimedia Communications'.
- Formalized use of social networks to promote network activities as well as to attract new users through the alternative windows.



*Oetztaler Alps, Austria by Hans Maier.*



## European Mountain Forum (EMF)

- EMF started a pilot for the first general trans-European mountain news channel.
- EMF took over communication tasks in the Interreg IVC project IMMODI dedicated to overcoming the digital divide in mountain regions.

## Latin American Mountain Forum (InfoAndina)

- Co-organized and hosted five new electronic forums regarding Andean paramos, innovation in agricultural systems, rural territory development and regulation of natural resources, among others.
- Presented InfoAndina in a training course in repository of agricultural and environmental information held in Hungary.
- A special platform was created to permit electronic forums.
- Supported development organizations to better manage their information through the creation of decentralized and dynamic websites.
- Collaborated with the elaboration of various publications on paramos, food security, and PES in the Andean Region.
- Constructed a new information portal with the purpose of launching a social network (web 2.0) and a repository of semantic data (web 3.0) - soon to be launched.

## North American Mountain Forum (NAMF)

- As always, the NAMF contributed regularly to the Mountain Forum Online Library, Mountain Calendar and the North American email discussion list. This core work - moderating discussion lists, soliciting events for the mountain calendar, and acquiring documents for the online library - helped build interest in the Mountain Forum and connections between node managers and members.
- Through our community web portal, the Bow Valley Mountain Forum, we facilitated communication among local community groups, and encourage residents and frequent visitors to engage in local mountain sustainability issues.
- During 2009, the North American node distributed Mountain Forum marketing materials to the media and hospitality room at the Banff Mountain Festivals.
- Ending the year, the Banff Centre took the decision to eliminate the Mountain Culture and Environment department; even so the North America Mountain Forum. The centre has decided it is no longer a strategic partner with respect to the mountain agenda.

## Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS)

- A MF system and tools review workshop was held in January 2009 with inputs from the regional networks and partners. The participants discussed the findings and conclusions of the assessment study undertaken by InfoBridge and proposed a way forward.



*Andean women in Bolivia by Joachim Voss.*

## Highlights of the Year



*Oca, andean tuber by Joachim Voss.*

- New partnerships were explored with thematic and technical partners such as Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA), InfoBridge, One World Asia, the World Bank, IFAD and the CBD-Secretariat.
- Advocacy and policy support received additional attention with emphasis on key thematic issues at the international level. Mountain biodiversity was selected as a priority topic. The support to the CBD-COP10 process was elaborated with partners.
- The January and July editions of the Mountain Forum Bulletin on the respective themes of “mountain agriculture for better lives” and “mountain biodiversity: lifeline for the future” were launched, with mostly referenced articles, pictures and events. The Bulletins were sent to 800 registered users of the MF services with low bandwidth and also put online in downloadable PDF format.
- Organized the Board and the Regional Network Managers’ Meeting in Cusco, Peru, in June 2009 with the participation of around 25 people from the Board and the regions.
- The Board decided to close the MFS office in Nepal and create a much smaller Global Node in Peru. It decided to decentralize or regionalize as much as possible the global functions of Mountain Forum. This represents a new challenge for the Mountain Forum.

# African Mountain Forum

## Mountain Forum and Mountain Partnership in Africa

A process of developing scenarios for revitalizing the African Node of the Mountain Forum in collaboration with the Mountain Partnership, was initiated.

### Goals and methodology

Mr. Robert Hofstede, in his role as Chair of the Board of Mountain Forum and accompanied by Sani Karami, a former program officer from the MFS, undertook a fact-finding mission to several countries in Western and Eastern Africa, meeting different organizations involved in Sustainable Mountain Development. In meeting these organizations, we explored the existing knowledge of the Mountain Forum, the demand from the region for revitalization of AMF and the potential role or contribution of these organizations to the revitalization process. After the decisions made during the Advisory Committee meeting of the Mountain Partnership (September 2009, Rome) we were also commissioned to explore opportunities to include the MP mission within the MF revitalization in the region, so as to develop MP in close coordination with MF activities.

Given the constraints of time, the concentration of potential partners and travel itineraries, we chose to visit Ghana and Guinea in Western Africa and Kenya and Uganda in Eastern Africa. Unfortunately, because of the critical safety situation, we had to cancel the visit to Guinea and followed up with Guinean stakeholders through other means.

During the preparation, we consulted several resource persons within the MF/MP network for the selection of the organizations they could visit. Especially important information was obtained from Jeremias Mowo (ICRAF, coordinator of the African Highlands Initiative) and Moses Duku (CSIR, Ghana, Elected BoD member for Africa), who were also our hosts during the mission. In general, we visited four types of organizations: (i) network organizations that could have an instrumental role in the revitalization of AMF, (ii) CGIAR institutions that traditionally had an active participation in MF, (iii) UN Organizations (UNEP and FAO), which should be instrumental for the regional and continental policy setting of MF/MP, and (iv) national (governmental and nongovernmental) organizations from the MF/MP institutional affiliation list, which can be considered as principal beneficiaries of MF/MP and who are key to identifying the national demand for AMF revitalization.



*Africa by Manfred Finckh.*

## African Mountain Forum

During the visit to these organizations, we explained the goal of the mission and concentrated the conversation on (a) their knowledge of the Mountain agenda/SMD efforts, (b) the relationship of their work with the SMD, (c) their expectations of/demand for a network such as MF, eventually in combination with MP and (d) their potential contribution to the revitalization process. The direct visits were complemented by telephone calls and website analysis of other organizations that could not be visited.

### Why Mountain Forum and Mountain Partnership has less development in Africa than other regions

- The first reason is the fact that in Africa, mountains are less prominent on the political and development agenda than in other parts of the world. This has been the reason for less existing knowledge and institutional activity on SMD and provided a weak institutional basis for AMF in the past.
- The diversity of the African continent, with differences in main languages, general culture, and socioeconomic characteristics between different countries has resulted in a difficult continental-wide institutional collaboration effort. This is not specific for AMF; in general there are few continent-wide institutional platforms.
- A third reason for the low current institutional basis for AMF is that mountains in Africa are scattered and, unlike the Alps, the Himalayas and the Andes, do not form a clear trans-border massif, directly connecting a considerable number of countries. Therefore, there is no single sub-regional body or institution that specifically works on mountain issues. Moreover, and besides linguistic and cultural differences, the massifs have very different environmental and economic characteristics (Mediterranean in the Atlas, dry-cool in the Sahel-Sahara, High plateau in Guinea and Ethiopia, Isolated Mountains with important national parks in Ruwenzori, Kilimanjaro, Kenya, Tropical Forest in Cameroun, etc.). Therefore, there is limited applicability from lessons learnt from one range to the other and a less clear niche for continental collaboration and information exchange.
- The final reason for weak development of AMF is the institutional history. This was a combination of the historical decisions, challenges for the host organization (African Highlands Initiative, ICRAF, ASARECA), institutional commitment, funding and staffing issues.

Mountain Partnership in Africa has started and some activities were underway, but there is no decentralized hub, unlike in other regions. The membership of MP in Africa is nevertheless quite similar to other regions. Ten countries are members of MP: Algeria, Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea,

Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco and Uganda. There is a clustered group of countries in Eastern Africa (Ke, Ug and Et) and North Africa (Al, Ma). The other countries are scattered across the continent. It is a good list of member countries, and they include many of the countries with major mountain ranges in Africa. The list of international members of MP in the region is limited but includes the high profile African Ministerial Council on Environment (AMCEN). The 12 NGOs members of MP, is a good mix of regional organizations (African Conservation Foundation, African Mountain Association, Volunteers for Africa, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), a governmental organization (Ghana Wildlife Division) and local/nationally based organizations with specific expertise, from Ghana, Uganda, Cameroon, Nigeria. Finally, there are two Canadian organizations working in Africa (IDRC and Nile Basin Society). Although these partners form a good bases to establish the national committees and local work, there are no organizations included that could lead a revitalization process. Some partners visited during the mission (Ghana Wildlife Division, Akwapim Mountain Women's Forum) were aware of their membership but were disengaged to relatively low activity. There is nevertheless a clear willingness to be more actively engaged.

### Existing knowledge of the Mountain agenda/SMD efforts

Among all the partners in the region, the issue of Sustainable Mountain Development, Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and the UN Resolution on SMD are not very well known. Mountains in Africa are generally scattered and, with a few exceptions, not very inhabited. Therefore, there does not seem to be a long tradition of (political, agricultural, development) work in mountain issues. Exceptions are some countries in Eastern Africa, particularly Ethiopia, Uganda, and Rwanda. Also in some other countries, namely Lesotho, Morocco, Cameroon, Guinea and South Africa, mountains are to some degree on the political agenda. In spite of not having a privileged position on the regional and national agendas, there are many priorities of that agenda that are directly linked to mountains. Examples are water and watershed management (all West Africa depends on the water originating from the Fouta Djallon Massif), agricultural development (in Eastern Africa, important cash crops like tea and coffee are mountain products), the prevention of desertification (Sahel and Saharan Mountain Regions in Niger, Nigeria, Mali and Chad), and even armed conflicts (the Darfur conflict in Sudan is directly related to the Jebel Marra mountains. The challenge will be to visibly link SMD with these high-priority issues and in that way, raise the priority of SMD on national and regional agendas.

With the exception of a few organizations, mountain issues are not specifically included in institutional programmes.



Grounding coffee, by Robert Hofstede.



Africa is culturally diverse by Sani Karami.

## African Mountain Forum

Of course, FAO (being the UN agency tasked with Chapter 13) does have some mountain programmes and so do some CG institutions (ICRAF, CIP - until recently) and universities (Makarere). Although all important regional organizations like UNEP, IUCN, FARA; AGRA etc. are working with watershed management, cash crops, poverty reduction etc., none has specifically included SMD themes in their institutional programme. This is partly because in general, there seem to be less landscape-tailored programmes in Africa than in other regions of the world. Although there is a Nile Basin Initiative, a Green Wall for the Sahara initiative, an Eastern Arc Initiative, there is no initiative directly related to Mountains. The two clear exceptions are the African Highlands Initiative of CGIAR-ASARECA and the Fouta Djallon Programme of AU-FAO. Some other, smaller initiatives are executed at national level in Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, etc. but in general they are only a few and are not coordinated.

The current level of knowledge on Mountain Forum and Mountain Partnership is low in Africa. MF and MP are only known among the organizations that have been directly involved in these networks and within these organizations, mostly among the persons that have been directly coordinating mountain efforts. During the mission, we repeatedly had to present the basics about the Mountain Forum and Mountain Partnership, including to staff of organizations that were actively involved in the establishment or coordination of AMF in the past. Among the people that have a basic understanding of MF/MP, there is confusion between these and the Mountain Research Initiative, Global Mountain Programme etc. Among the main target groups of MF/MP, there is a very limited knowledge on both initiatives and, again, only among those organizations and people that have been directly involved.

### The interest and potential relationship of institutions with Sustainable Mountain Development

In spite of the low visibility of Mountain Issues in Africa, there is a clear niche for SMD work. Many institutions we interviewed emphasized the need to give a higher priority to specific mountain issues and recognize their importance. Most organizations would take positive advantage of a higher visibility of mountain issues and SMD-related work, generally because of their interest in three particular areas (1) trans-border/sub-regional collaboration around specific mountain massifs, (2) watershed management and upland-lowland relationships (3) specific agricultural development in highlands, (4) conservation of mountain biodiversity and forests. Apart from that, other reasons that different institutions provided for their interest in SMD were, among others, desertification in mountain areas, mountain regions and social/armed conflicts, poverty issues specifically related to mountains, mountain tourism. The activities that

organizations would/could do for SMD include the full range from investigation and field projects to policy development and advocacy. This list should give enough elements to create an institutional basis for MF/MP in Africa.

### Expectation/demand of institutions for a network such as MF, eventually in combination with MP

The different institutions, networks, organizations and persons we visited during the mission came with a clearly defined demand for a network such as MF and eventually in combination with MP. In general, they concentrated on three distinct types of activities (i) international communication and awareness creation for mountain issues, (ii) international networking and advocacy, and (iii) field based institutional support at local/national level.

At the level of international communication, institutions feel that MF is best positioned to highlight the importance of mountains and SMD and to create awareness among the public in general, development and nature conservation organizations. In this communication effort, the global experience of MF was highlighted and it was expected that



*Washing coffee, by Robert Hofstede.*

Africa could benefit a lot from south-to-south and global exchanges of experiences. There is a specific demand to connect MRI initiatives (knowledge generation, analysis, interpretation and dissemination) to this group of activities.

International networking and advocacy should be focused on the coordination among different organizations and networks that are (directly or indirectly) related to SMD, in order to jointly advocate for SMD, complementary to the different institutions' interest. This means that, for instance, an agricultural research network would like MF to advocate for specific mountain agriculture related issues that complement their own general mission. The goal is to bring SMD issues to the attention of decision makers at continental, regional and national levels in order to assure that SMD is on the different policy agendas. This can be done through publications, policy briefs, presence at conventions, etc.

The work should be done through existing continental and sub-regional bodies and particularly focused on international conventions. Also, it should clearly be a complementary effort to existing efforts by the institutions. It was noted that in general, networks in Africa are facing the same difficulties as AMF in recent years, and many networks seem to be dormant. Therefore MF, with a good track record in other continents, could share its successful experiences with African networks.



MF could also bring in non-African stakeholders and networks to the African setting.

Different people mentioned the need to start at local and national level, given that there is a broad lack of awareness of SMD. The best strategy is to create local networks and achieve tangible results, which can be systematized, disseminated, up-scaled etc. This includes both field experiences as networking experience and involvement of local and national governments. Much of this demand fits with the mission of Mountain Partnership (MP). In some countries (e.g. Ghana) there was a strong activity around IYM2002, but there is a need to follow up on this momentum. In this area, there are various demands for training and capacity building, specifically on knowledge management, integrated approaches, international activities etc. Joint fundraising was mentioned by many organizations.

There definitely is a generalized recommendation to constitute a bottom-up approach. Strengthen local/national networks and committees, create a sub-regional forum and, based on this, create a continent-wide process. Local activities could concentrate on communication, institutional strengthening/networking and training. In many cases there was mention of the weak internet access in Africa which means that at local levels, there should be offline communication techniques and strategies.

## Option for revitalization and proposed next steps

The most likely option for revitalization consists of an African Mountain Forum based on sub-regional nodes (starting in Eastern and Western Africa but engaging with Southern, Central and Northern Africa soon) with possibly a light continental coordination. A bottom-up approach should include in-country networks/workgroups and activities. This scenario has been discussed with several members of the MF board and was generally accepted as a potential scenario to develop. We still have to develop, with the main stakeholders in the region, different ways to give substance to this scenario, including the institutional setting.

A feasible and relatively smooth way to move forward consists of a two-step approach. It is proposed that for Western Africa, the contact with the Fouta Djallon Programme (AU-FAO-UNEP) is solid and contacts are fluent. MF and the FDP can develop a work plan and before mid 2010 select a host institution for implementation of the work according to the 2010 workplan. Meanwhile, the MF and MP secretariat will assure that this will be a joint effort and that MP activities will be synchronized with MF activities. MF/MP will also assure together with FDP that in-country, bottom-up development takes place in several countries, within the FDP focus and others (Ghana,

## African Mountain Forum

among others). For Eastern Africa and continent-wide, the process should be different. Because of the history of AMF in the region and because of the scattered institutions and interests, any proposal for revitalization should be consulted more widely with stakeholders. Therefore, a suitable option is to organize a meeting in mid-2010, in the Eastern African region, and invite key stakeholders from both Eastern Africa, some institutions from other sub-regions as well as continent-wide organizations. During this meeting, the best options for revitalization of AMF both in Eastern Africa and Africa-wide can be defined, as well as the most appropriate host institutions, which countries are most suitable to start in-country groups/activities, how to work from national to sub-regional and continent level and how to best engage both MF and MP in the region.

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*Sani Karami (MFS) and Moses Duku (MF BoD member) at a local market in Ghana, by Robert Hofstede.*



# Asia-Pacific Mountain Network

Asia-Pacific Mountain Network (APMN), the Asia-Pacific node of Mountain Forum (MF), is a knowledge-sharing platform connecting mountain regions and communities through dialogue and networking. APMN captures, enriches and disseminates information on mountain development issues in and for the Asia-Pacific region. APMN has shared resources including a dedicated webpage, experts database, e-dialogue platform, thematic and geographic discussion lists, online library, calendar of events, survey and e-election tool. APMN also publishes the biannual Asia Pacific Mountain Courier, occasional e-dialogue synthesis reports, mountain development briefs and publicity materials. APMN, in its present phase, is generously supported by a small grant from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and is managed by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

## Objectives

APMN's mission is to promote sustainable mountain development in the Asia-Pacific region. It provides a regional forum (with international linkages) for discussions of critical and emerging mountain issues falling under (but not limited to) the following themes recommended by the Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas of Asia (SUDEMAA) Conference of 1994, an Asian response to Agenda 21 Chapter 13:

- Poverty alleviation and economic development;
- Sustainable management of natural resources;
- Gender-balanced decision-making in environment and development policies and programs;
- Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage;
- Reducing vulnerability to mountain disasters.

APMN has the following strategies to achieve the above objectives:

- Promoting linkages and networking among various stakeholders concerned with the management of mountain environments and improving the living standards of mountain people at all levels;
- Sensitizing policy-makers and the general public about the role of sustainable mountain development and its problems and challenges.



*Girls playing in Nagarkot, Kathmandu - Nepal by, Olga Farina.*

## Membership Update

The APMN network continues to grow, showing a clear need for information on mountain development issues in the wider Asia-Pacific region. The communication channels of APMN (e-conferences, e-discussions, member-to-member networking, and the AP Mountain Courier) are proving effective channels for dialogue. As of 31 December 2009, the APMN community has 263 organizational users from 25 countries and 1,867 individual users from 40 countries against 209 organizational and 1,500 individual users in December 2008, a net increase of 25% in one year. New members register through our website on an almost daily basis.

## A summary of activities performed during this period

### Improved information sharing, community engagement and user contributed content generation

- APMN facilitated a series of e-discussions in its [mf-asiapacific] list, including 'The Young Can Do! Let's Protect Forests with Our Hands' (April-May), 'Solar energy' (June), 'Mountain Tourism Graduate Course' (August), 'Views of Mountain Forum Community on Inclusion of 'Mountain Agenda' in New Constitution of Nepal' (August), 'Decrease in Apple Production in Mustang, Nepal' (September), and 'Climate Change in Mountain Areas of Asia: What Are Our Priority Issues for the Copenhagen Meeting (CoP 15)?' (September-October)'. Syntheses of selected e-discussions are published in the Tiempo Climate Newswatch.

- From September APMN Started issuing a thematic digest on various issues including 'climate change', 'biodiversity and forest', 'water and hazards' and 'mountain livelihood and technology' (two issues on each theme every month). This is an improved form of thematic information sharing on SMD, in response to good feedback from users on weekly news updates. Three special digests were issued on 'gender and climate change' in October.

- Organized e-discussion on 'Climate Change in the Himalayas: The Gender Perspective' together with Gender and Governance Division of ICIMOD (October). This e-discussion was intended to provide input for CoP15 on climate change in Copenhagen. More information is available at <http://www.icimod.org/?page=609>. Now APMN has its own system to facilitate e-discussions/conferences, prepared with the help of IT+C Division of ICIMOD.

- APMN supported the ICIMOD IKM team to organize 16 brownbag seminars in 2009. The presenters were from the Global Carbon Project, Japan, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the South-Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategy

(IGES), Japan; academics from Penn State University, USA, the University of Guelph, Canada, University of New Mexico, USA, and Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; and ICIMOD staff and consultants. A summary of selected seminars is available from APMN on request and will shortly appear on the APMN website.

- Weekly news update on the APMN website kept the site fresh and attractive.

### Network and user capacity-building

- Mr. Tek Jung Mahat, APMN Manager, attended 'InfoVision-the Knowledge Summit 2009' in Bangalore, India (22-23 January). More at <http://www.infovision.org.in/2009/speakers.html>.

- Twelve APMN users received an 'Online Training Course on Basics of Advocacy' as part of an agreement with Asia Pacific Decentralized Hub of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS-APDH) in early 2009. Some other 'shared members' of APMN and MPS-APDH also received the training.

- Mr. Mahat attended the 'Youth Encounter on Sustainability-YES Japan 2009' course in Tokyo, Japan from 25 March to 9 April 2009.

- Fifteen users of the network, together with Mr. Mahat attended the PANOS South Asia organized 'Climate Change and Multimedia Communications Workshop' held in Kathmandu, from 17 to 24 August 2009.

### Support activities and contribution to policy advocacy

- Established list serves for MPS-APDH and ICIMOD's Payment of Ecosystem Services (PES) project.

- Technical support provided to the 'Online Training Course on Basics of Advocacy' organized by MPS-APDH (January-February).

- APMN together with ICIMOD IKM team prepared daily briefs of the four-day Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium 2009, held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 4-7 May 2009. (Reports available at <http://www.innovation-asia-pacific.net/>)

- Started in June 2009, APMN is publishing three issues of AP Mountain Courier on a 'mountain biodiversity' theme, aiming to provide input from the APMN community to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 10) on 'biodiversity' in Nagoya, Japan from 18 to 29 October 2010.

- APMN prepared an event report of the BRAHMATWINN International Symposium, 8-9 November 2009, organized by ICIMOD and University Jena, Germany together with 19 partners from Europe and South Asia. (More at <http://www.brahmatwinn.uni-jena.de/index.php?id=5314&L=2>)



*Nepalese mountain village in Chisapani, by Tek Jung Mahat.*



*The Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium, by Sania Shan.*

# Asia-Pacific Mountain Network

- Supporting ICIMOD to manage its internal knowledge sharing system, iDNA.

## Engaging YOUTH in sustainable mountain development (Y4SMD)

- On 12 August 2009, APMN released a synthesis report of e-discussion on 'The Young Can Do! Let's Protect Forests with Our Hands' to mark International Youth Day (IYD). This was a first step towards a series of activities planned by APMN to engage youth in the SMD process. The e-discussion took place in April and May.

- Cosponsored and provided technical support to organize 'South Asian Youth Summit on Climate Change 2009', 3-6 September. The event was attended by over 100 participants representing all South Asian countries and some international participants from Europe and America and the outcome of the event was shared at CoP 15 in Copenhagen. (More at <http://nyca.net.np/saysocc09/>)

- Cosponsored 'Youth in Climate Action' (1-14 December 2009), organized by the Eco-Friends Nepal (EFN), Climate Change Coalition (3C) and College of Applied Sciences-EF (CAS-EF) among others. The event was organized to mark the International Mountain Day (IMD, 11 December) and the Global Day of Action: International Demonstrations on Climate Change on 12 December. The 14-day campaign-cum-capacity-building programme targeted school and college students, civil society and development organizations. The campaign included awareness rallies, workshops in schools and colleges and drama shows/role play and a training.

- Reaching the Youth: Tek Jung Mahat, APMN Node Manager gave a youth-focused presentation on 'Climate Change in Mountain Areas of Asia' in various local events including;

- An interaction-cum-welcome programme organized by the Amrit Eco-Club, Amrit Science College (ASCOL), Tribhuvan University, on 10 February 2009.

- An interaction programme organized by the NawaYuva monthly magazine in September. The report is featured in the October issue of the Magazine.

- A seminar-cum-training on climate change for Nepalese youth, organized by Small Earth Nepal (SEN, an APMN user) as part of the International Climate Champions programme of the British Council (27 October).

- An interaction program on "Climate change and its impact in Nepal" held in Kathmandu, Nepal, organized by STEP Nepal, a Kathmandu based youth alliance (28 November).

- A one-day capacity-building training (college-oriented),

organized by EFN, 3C and CAS-EF. The training was attended by about 40 participants coming from different backgrounds including the environment, engineering management and water resources management (1 December).

- Offered knowledge support to other youth organizations, including Youth Network for Social & Environmental Development (YONSED), USHAA, and YATRA etc.

## Engaging media in sustainable mountain development (M4SMD)/ publications

- APMN makes extensive use of social networks such as Facebook, Bing and Twitter (the latter two are in the early stages of development) to expand the network, disseminate information and promote planned activities. Please join us on Facebook:

- APMN Facebook Community

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=26268588716>

- Environmentalists Without Borders

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=171967553141>

- Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD): Agenda 21, Chapter 13



Working with the young, Tek Jung Mahat with the former Environment Minister of Nepal

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=252226318840>

- APMN offered support to organize first ever Media Reports on Climate Change in the Himalayas: ICIMOD Competition for Journalists in Oct-Dec 2009 in the context of CoP 15 in Copenhagen. More at <http://www.icimod.org/?page=607> .
- APMN has initiated discussion with Panos South Asia (PANOS), Nepal Forum of Environmental journalists (NEFEJ) among others on media engagement in SMD process.
- APMN Contributed publications: Available from <http://books.icimod.org/>
- Synthesis report of the e-conference on 'Culture and Risk: Understanding the Sociocultural Settings that Influence Risk from Natural Hazards' .
- Synthesis report of the e-discussion on 'Climate Change in the Himalayas: the Gender Perspective' .
- APMN in other medias:
  - Tiempo Climate NewsWatch
    - Gender and Climate Change in the Himalayas <http://www.tiempocyberclimate.org/newswatch/>

<report091218.htm>

- Can Disasters Help to Improve a County's Economy? <http://www.tiempocyberclimate.org/newswatch/report090220.htm>
- Building the Resilience of Mountain Communities to Climate Change <http://www.tiempocyberclimate.org/newswatch/report080704.htm>
- Revista Virtual
  - Building the Resilience of Mountain Communities to Climate Change <http://revistavirtual.redesma.org/vol5/articulo4.php?id=c1>
- I4D magazine special issue on 'Climate Change and ICTs'
  - Synopsis of the Global Carbon Budget Brown Bag by Dr. S. Dhakal <http://www.i4donline.net/March08/index.asp>

#### International observations and other outreach activities

- World Water Day (22 March 2009):  
APMN, together with ICIMOD, celebrated World Water Day 2009 on 22 March 2009. This year the slogan was 'Shared Water - Shared Opportunities' and ICIMOD focused on trans-boundary waters, highlighting the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. (More information at <http://www.icimod.org/?page=367>)
- World Wetlands Day (2 February 2009):  
APMN, together with ICIMOD, celebrated this year's World Wetlands Day on the theme of 'Upstream-Downstream: Wetlands connect us all'. Mr Bijay Bagale, APMN intern, prepared an information sheet in consultation with ICIMOD wetlands experts (download from <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/downloads/publication/579>)
- World Environment Day (5 June):  
APMN, together with ICIMOD, celebrated this year's WED on the theme of 'Your Planet Needs You-UNite to Combat Climate Change'. A special info sheet was prepared by APMN volunteer Ms. Saniaa Shah.
- International Youth Day (12 August):  
APMN, together with ICIMOD, celebrated this year's IYD. A synthesis report of e-discussion on 'The Young Can Do! Let's Protect Forests with Our Hands' was released.
- Mr. Mahat made presentations on the following occasions:
  - KM Lecture for students of Kathmandu University, Nepal, on 7 December at ICIMOD.



and youth campaigners, by APMN.

## Asia-Pacific Mountain Network

- Presentation on 'Promoting Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Using Virtual Platforms - lessons learned' at the AIT International Conference on Knowledge Management for Sustainable Development (KMSD), organized by the Asia Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok and AIT Alumni Association in Nepal (10-12 December 2009).



Harvesting the high desert, Tibet by Jutta U. Kern.

### Lessons learned

Despite some important changes in the MF network in 2009, APMN continues to grow through our enriched knowledge base, diversified information-sharing base, increased outreach activities, more focused programmes targeting youth and media, extensive use of social networking tools and improved web presence and introduction of additional knowledge-capture techniques. Staff continuity and knowledge acquired over the years was the biggest asset of the network, which is necessary to further build on the existing foundation. It is also noteworthy that the support APMN has given to the start-up of a sub-node of the APMN in New Zealand primarily focusing on the issues of mountains in New Zealand. New approaches need to be developed and tested to bring policymakers and grassroots communities to the same table. Engagement of CSOs in the network activity and its expansion beyond HKH has to be secured in effective ways.

### Outlook for the future

The year 2009 was a period of transformation and strategic improvement within the MF global network and its regional networks. The MF Board meeting in June nominated Mr. Robert Hofstede and Mr. Daan Boos as its new Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The board also decided to establish the MF Global Node at CONDESAN, transferring the global node function from Kathmandu to Lima, and recommended a further decentralization or strengthening of the functions and the capacity of the regional network in lieu of tasks done previously by MF on global level. It means that the capacity at APMN will be expanded to contribute to MF's global services. As a result, from January 2010 APMN will oversee four additional lists mf-geography, mf-global, mf-summary, mf-women and mf-Africa, and take charge of the Mountain Forum Online Library (MFOL), managed earlier by the global secretariat.

We intend to facilitate in 2010 the Internet broadcast of the ICIMOD series of knowledge seminars. With regard to information-sharing activities we will continue synthesizing and disseminating newsworthy subjects, seminar presentations, supporting capacity-building of its users by making information available on its website and usage of e-discussion. Youth and media-focused activities will be further improved in the coming years and special focus will be given to maintain the



Mountain Fuji and the Japanese Alps, by Tek Jung Mahat.

regional balance of APMN membership and establishment of sub-regional contacts (sub-nodes) across the Asia-Pacific.

## Staff changes at APMN

Ms. Leena Bajracharya joined APMN in June 2009 as an intern replacing Mr. Bijay Bagale. Leena, a postgraduate in environmental science, is a Nepalese national, who brings over three years of experience working with the IUCN and the Wildlife Watch Group (WWG). Similarly, Ms. Saniaa Shah, a media undergraduate at the Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication, Pune, India, spent six weeks at APMN as part of her internship with the development organizations.

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## Staff and Contact Details

Tek Jung Mahat, Node Manager  
Daan Boom, Coordinator  
Saniaa Shah (intern)  
Leena Bajracharya, Intern (incoming)  
Bijay Bagale (intern, outgoing)

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*Nagarkot, Kathmandu - Nepal, by Olga Farina.*

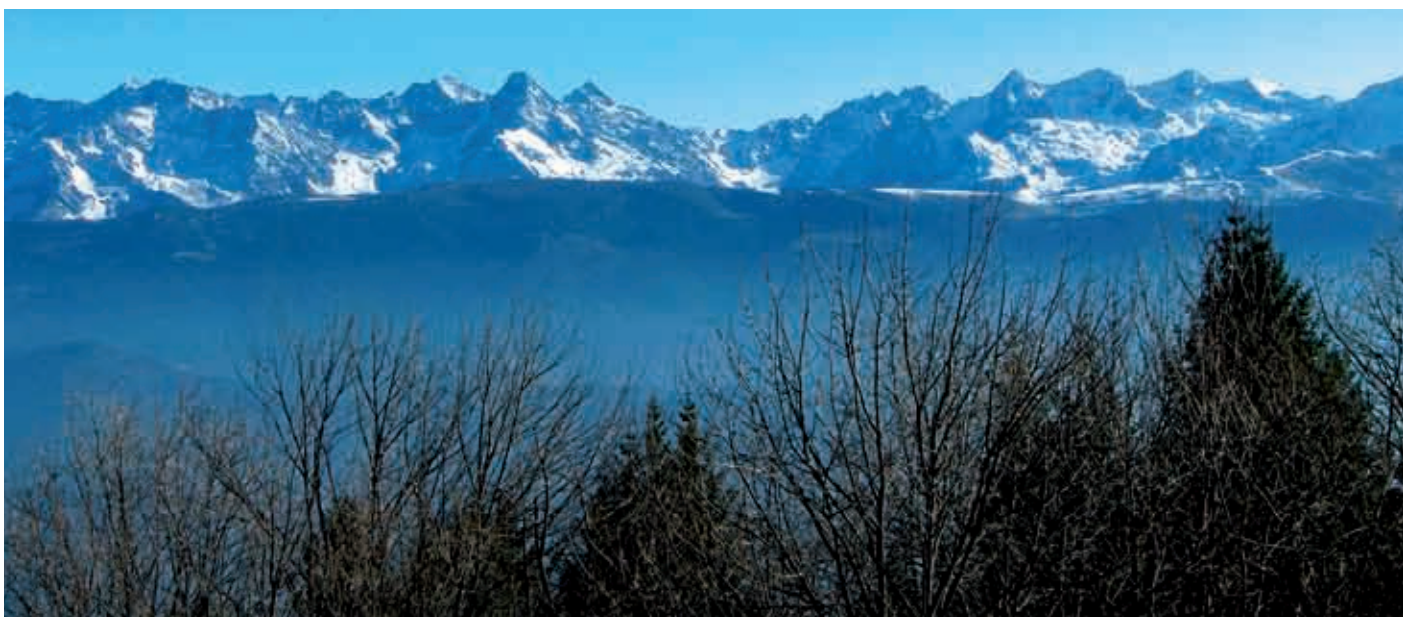
## European Mountain Forum

Due to the restructuring process of the global Mountain Forum, the focus of the European Mountain Forum for 2009 was the establishment of a platform for the information on European mountain-related topics. Throughout the year vital administration activities such as maintenance of the website, webpage design, implementation of further developments and communication functions and the management and regular updating of the database of more than 700 individual and more than 100 organizational members has been assured by the webmaster, based and funded through a contract with the Mountain Forum Secretariat.

The identification, adaptation and dissemination of mountain-relevant information has been started, identified in individual meetings as a major need for mountain stakeholders and launched with the support of other European Mountain-related networks, such as AEM, Alparc, Euromontana and Cipro-International. The main target of the first phase was the identification of the basic information needs of mountain stakeholders, the identification of relevant and reliable mountain-related information sources (input) from most European mountain ranges and the definition of the workflow for the dissemination of this information (output). Products for dissemination were the regularly-updated mountain-forum news webpage and a monthly newsletter to all mountain forum members.

A peer review by mountain stakeholders of the first editions of the newsletter could produce valuable feedback on the selection, as well as on the presentation of information. An assessment of the workflow has helped to identify bottlenecks (notably concerning the search for mountain-relevant information from several European mountain areas, the translation from other European languages to English as the main working language and the adaptation from local or specific sources to a European, generally mountain-related platform) and weaknesses of the current tools used by EMF. These weaknesses have been eliminated immediately wherever possible. In other cases (e.g. the organization of the webpage, the transfer of information from the webpage to the newsletter, comments on news and interactivity among Mountain Forum members), the scope of the problem is being assessed, in order to implement tailored solutions.

Since this pilot was started at the end of the year, more than 130 news stories have been selected, revised, translated, adapted and published as short articles on the EMF platform, including with links to the original source or other sources offering relevant information. In order to further promote the benefit of EMF for mountain stakeholders, a theme based publication channel is now being planned, at the disposal of organizations and stakeholders in order to explain



*Belledonne near Grenoble - France. by Maria Krislova.*



and discuss their positions and ideas concerning the future development of European mountains, the impact of European policies on the mountain environment and the contributions of mountain regions to European development.

It is also important to actively promote the benefits of the EMF network among other mountain-related networks. Thus EMF has joined IMMODI (Implementing Politics to overcome the Digital gap in Mountain regions), a partnership project lead by the Italian NGO of local authorities TECLA, based in Rome in the framework of the European Interreg program for transnational cooperation. The project is dedicated to the implementation of strategies in order to reduce the cultural and human gap characterizing the less accessible areas, helping to reduce the isolation of mountain/rural areas through the use of innovative technological tools and spreading the use of ICTs and innovative contents through the implementation of new public services and opportunities. EMF will be responsible for the communication and the development of some of the dissemination channels. IMMODI is starting in January 2010 and will last two years.

After the withdrawal of the Swiss Development Agency from funding the activities of the business plan adopted in 2008 for three years, based on an agreement of understanding for the funding of further activities with DATAR (Délégation interministérielle à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'attractivité régionale), AEM has provided the minimum resources required to develop the above mentioned activities of the European node manager.

## Staff and Contact Details

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Andrei Vasile, Webmaster

European Mountain Forum

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One of the 130 short articles on the European mountain news platform. The headline gives information on the concerned massif (here Baetic Cordillera in Spain), the content of the news and the languages it is published. Under the news there is a link to the source database. The news section is fully searchable.



Tomori Massif - Albania, by Maria Krislova.

## Latin American Mountain Forum

InfoAndina is a program of the Consortium for a Sustainable Development in the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN) and works from 1996 as a Latin-American node for the Mountains Forum. InfoAndina is a platform to broadcast information and support the management of knowledge regarding sustainable development in the mountains of the Andean Region.

### Activities and Achievements of 2009

#### Electronic forums (in Spanish)

- InfoAndina created a special platform for electronic forums. Thanks to such a platform, participants in the forums now have a fixed space to search for information and materials (such as messages and papers).

Last year InfoAndina co-organized and hosted five new forums.

#### Co-organization:

- Innovation experiences in agricultural systems in the Andean region. Along with CONDESAN.
- Territorial rural development and regulation of natural resources: reflections in the Andes. Along with CONDESAN, Mountain Partnership Andean Initiative, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture and Andean Community General Secretariat.
- Best practices in the Andean paramos: context and territory. Along with CONDESAN and Paramo Andino Project.

#### Accommodations:

- Planning systems, follow up and evaluation in sustainable rural development and the environment. Lessons learned regarding success and failure factors. Organized by ASOCAM and Preval.
- International Seminar on Financial crisis and agricultural and rural financing in Latin America. Organized by FAO and Instituto de Estudios Peruanos.



*Milkman in Acomayo, Cusco - Peru, by Musuq Briceño.*

### Publications

InfoAndina collaborated in the development of new newsletters on the subjects of Andean paramos, promotional material for the Mountain Partnership Andean Initiative and preparation of the book on Food crisis: challenges and opportunities in the Andes (in Spanish), published by CONDESAN, Swiss Cooperation, Andean Community General Secretariat, Mountain Partnership and FAO.

### Sharing InfoAndina with others

InfoAndina was invited to the Technical Course "Federation of Learning Repositories for Agriculture, Food & Environment (AgLRs)" in Hungary where made a presentation about InfoAndina and the work we do. This course was organized by the FAO, Edunet and ASPECT Best Practice Network and was attended by experts on information systems from many parts of the world.

### New tools

- A new module was developed based on Action Applications for the internal search of contents.
- New modules were developed in Drupal:
  - <http://drupal.org/project/dokeos>
  - [http://drupal.org/project/firebug\\_lite](http://drupal.org/project/firebug_lite)
  - [http://drupal.org/project/google\\_picasa](http://drupal.org/project/google_picasa)
  - [http://drupal.org/project/nr\\_popup](http://drupal.org/project/nr_popup)
  - <http://drupal.org/project/cddeploy>

### Distribution of more information and new forms of information

In 2009, InfoAndina distributed new information resources not only through the portal and distribution lists but also through social networks such as Facebook and Twitter in

order to reach a wider audience interested in the sustainable development of mountains.

Follow us on these social networks:

- Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/yhddhet>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/infoandina>

During 2009:

- 346 recent news articles, commonly known as infonotas
- 528 new resources included
- 445 new users registered
- 64 new projects and institutions

Considering that InfoAndina users do not always have time to attend all conferences and workshops, we have placed at their disposal information and papers presented in relevant events developed in the region. InfoAndina also covered the World Forestry Congress and other events about desertification and climate change for rural areas; mountains, forests and development; application of space technology to the sustainable development of Andean mountains areas; and agrarian and environmental information.

### Support for other organizations

This year, InfoAndina also continued its support for other development organizations through the implementation of dynamic and decentralized web spaces. Web projects performed by PREVAL, and Intranet ASOCAM (<http://www.asocam.org>), and also the Mecanismo de Información de Páramos (Paramo Information Mechanism) and the Map of Andean Ecosystems (in process).

### Support for the Mountain Forum Secretariat



MF 2009 Annual Meeting. Field trip in Acomayo, Cusco - Peru, by Musuq Briceño.

## Latin American Mountain Forum

The Mountain Forum Board and the regional nodes met in Cusco, Peru, for their annual meeting. InfoAndina hosted this reunion at which important decisions were taken. They also visited an ICT Project in rural areas.

Also we helped MF to allocate articles on payments for environmental services in the Andean Region for the latest MF bulletin (January 2010). Read this articles at <http://tinyurl.com/yab63g>

### New portal

Throughout 2009, we were working on a new information system. From the middle of the year onward we organized several workshops to discuss the new communication and information features of the portal. As a result, we were able to agree on a new proposal presenting InfoAndina as a social network (web 2.0) and a repository for metadata (web 3.0) and we chose CMS Drupal as the tool to be used for this new stage.

Among the key issues of the new information system we included:

- A better presentation for a collective and individual display of contents.
- A better structure of every type of content, not only where the data will be stored but also the storing of metadata.
- Spaces for interaction with portal users.
- Regarding other information networks, it could work as a data and/or services provider.

We will also be providing in-depth journalistic material

covering different genres (chronicles, special features, opinion articles), and also multimedia resources, calendars of events regarding sustainable mountain development and as usual, our news, information resources and the directory of institutions and projects on many subjects.

### Forecast results for 2010

InfoAndina is currently facing larger challenges:

- Turning into an important provider of data and services among all information networks working on sustainable development.
- Developing services to provide information management for organizations working on sustainable mountain development.
- Raising awareness regarding the fragility of ecosystems in the mountains (especially the Andes)
- In a second stage, we want our portal to promote expert communities regarding sustainable development in the Andes (on subjects such such as biodiversity, for example).

### Staff and Contact Details

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Adam Sanchez, Responsible for web development

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Website: <http://www.infoandina.org>



Orange saleswoman in Bolivia, by Joachim Voss.

# North America Mountain Forum

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The North American Mountain Forum (NAMF) is a network of people and organizations that exchange information and knowledge in support of North American mountain environments, communities and sustainable development.

The North American Mountain Forum (NAMF) has been hosted by Mountain Culture at the Banff Centre since December 1, 2002. It is the regional network of Mountain Forum in North America. NAMF is a community of people and organizations that share information and assist one another in support of North American mountain environments, communities and sustainable development. Over the past seven years it has been a great pleasure to share and exchange information with like-minded individuals and organizations throughout North America.

As of November 30, 2009, Mountain Culture at the Banff Centre has been in the unfortunate position of having to cease our role as the host for the North American Mountain Forum due to funding shortfalls.

The Bow Valley Mountain Forum website is down and users have been redirected to The Banff Centre page. Also, the Homepage, Calendar and Contact Us pages have been showing a message explaining that the site no longer exists and there would no more moderation or new content. The former NAMF team has informed community stakeholders and regular contributors to the site about this new situation. Any further inquiries about the site should be directed to the Director of Communications Debra Hornsby: [debra\\_hornsby@banffcentre.ca](mailto:debra_hornsby@banffcentre.ca).

The website about the North American Mountain Forum (NAMF) in Banff is online at <http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/mtnforum/>, but this page will be removed and archived. If you have questions, contact to Debra Hornsby at [debra\\_hornsby@banffcentre.ca](mailto:debra_hornsby@banffcentre.ca).

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## Contact Details

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c/o Mountain Forum Global Node  
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Web: <http://www.mtnforum.org>



*Mountains near Banff, Alberta - Canada, by NAMF.*

# Mountain Forum Secretariat

The Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS), hosted by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Nepal, was responsible for the global activities of the Mountain Forum. It fosters information sharing on sustainable mountain development between users and partners. The Mountain Forum Secretariat supports the regional networks in partnership-building, fundraising, advocacy and governance. It actively promotes sustainable mountain development and represents the Mountain Forum network at the international level.

The MFS supports the achievement of the Mountain Forum objectives for 2008-2011 by focusing on four main areas of work:

- Information sharing
- Mutual support to users and partners
- Advocacy and policy support
- Network facilitation

## Activities and Achievements

### Assessment of MF System and Tools

The Mountain Forum system and tools have been extensively used for communication, sharing information and dialogue. The overhaul of the system began in 2008 with a review of present and future needs. Revamping was scheduled after the workshop in early 2009 with the involvement of the MF regional nodes and key partners such as InfoBridge and One World South Asia.

### Mountain Forum Bulletins

MFS published the Mountain Forum Bulletin on Mountain Biodiversity together with the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) and Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) in July 2009. The PDF version of the Bulletin has been downloaded over 1800 times at the time of writing: [www.mtnforum.org/rs/mfnews.cfm?newsid=52](http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/mfnews.cfm?newsid=52)

Similarly, MFS worked on a January 2010 Bulletin on Payments for Environmental Services with experts from the World Bank, IUCN, ICRAF and ICIMOD, integrating inputs from the various networks. It proved to be a productive and rewarding exercise. The Bulletin can



*Banff in Alberta - Canada, by NAME.*

now be accessed online at: [www.mtnforum.org/rs/mfnews.cfm?newsid=57](http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/mfnews.cfm?newsid=57)

### Steady increase of registered users

The number of people subscribed to MF services steadily rose in 2009 to over 5,100 individuals and 540 organizations. This represents an increase of more than 20% over the previous year.

### Increased web-usage, including Online Library

The number of website visitors including to the Online Library (OLL) rose to 290,000 in 2009, or 40,000 users per month. The number of documents in the online library contributed by the registered users of the MF rose in 2009 and now includes over 3,300 full-text documents and articles on sustainable mountain development, with over 40,000 downloads per month.

### Working papers on Mountain Agenda

The 2008 strategic working papers on Europe, Africa, Central Asia and Latin America, prepared by the MF Secretariat and regional networks as part of the collaboration with the Mountain Partnership, are now on-line.

### MF Board Meeting 2009 Highlights

The June 2009 meeting of the Mountain Forum Board of Directors in Cusco, Peru, was held against the backdrop of a changing external environment and new insights on network organization. The main outcomes of the meeting were:

- In 2010, a three-person Global Node will operate from Peru and the Mountain Forum Secretariat at ICIMOD in Nepal was due to close at the end of December 2009. The emphasis of the work on the Mountain Agenda should be in the regions, which reduces the need for global support, hence, the need to decentralize or regionalize global functions of Mountain Forum.
- Interaction and complementarity between the Mountain Forum and the Mountain Partnership was reviewed and further streamlining was suggested in 2009 and 2010.
- There is both interest in and an opportunity for the Mountain Forum to play a more active role in Central Asia. However, the initiative needs to come from local champions.
- Mr. Robert Hofstede, elected representative for Latin America was elected as new Board Chair, replacing Mr. Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD. Mr. Daan Boom of ICIMOD was elected as Vice Chair. Mr. Moses Duku's term as elected representative for the Africa Mountain Forum was extended until 2010.

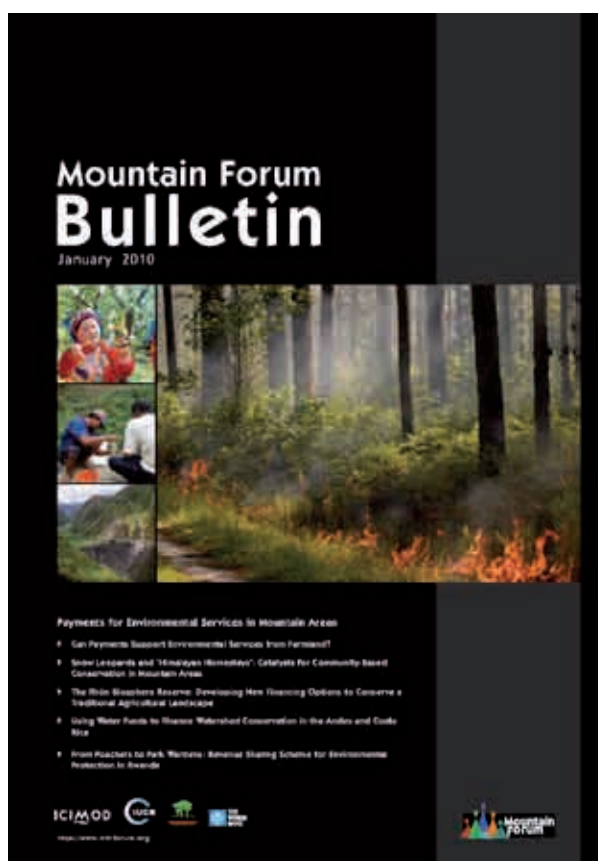
### Policy and Advocacy Support

Interaction took place on mountain biodiversity with key

networks such as GMBA, MRI, the Mountain Invasion Research Network (MIREN) and the CBD Secretariat. In preparation for COP-10 in Nagoya-Japan in 2010, MF members were asked to provide inputs through questionnaires relating to progress, and the challenges and constraints of implementing the CBD-Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity.

### Changes in Staff Personnel

MFS completed its team as laid out in the 2008/11 Strategy in early 2009. After global advertising in January 2009, qualified individuals were recruited from among 250 candidates. New staff members in 2009 are Laura Keenan for Information Production and Management, supported by Prabin Gurung, Sunita Chaudhary for Policy and Advocacy Support and Iñigo Ballester for Information and Communication Technology. As of March 2009 Junu Shrestha joined as an intern for management of the OLL. In view of the Board decisions, measures for repositioning staff were carried out.



*The MF Bulletin on Payments for Environmental Services (January 2010).*

# Financial Reports

## Asian Pacific Mountain Network

<b>Cash revenues (US\$)</b>	
SDC fund for 2009	55,435.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,435.00</b>
<b>In kind support (US\$)</b>	
ICIMOD (10% of coordinator's time plus others)	2,700.50
<b>Total in-kind support</b>	<b>2,700.50</b>
<b>Expenses (US\$)</b>	
Node Manager	8,453.04
Administrative expenses	-
APMN Bulletin	1,275.29
Travel	-
Consultant	3,946.68
Office Operation cost (including equipment)	3,825.76
Overhead	-
<b>Total estimated expenses</b>	<b>17,500.77</b>
<b>Carryover to 2010</b>	<b>37,934.17</b>

## Mountain Forum Secretariat

<b>Cash revenues (US\$)</b>	
SDC fund for 2009	1,469,813.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,469,813.00</b>
<b>Expenses (US\$)</b>	
Human Resources	417,906.94
MFS Operation Costs	50,101.30
System, on-line SMD Content, Publications	3,615.76
Info Dissemination and Local Access	4,146.86
Core SMD Policy & Advocacy Support	4,626.62
Global Network Facilitation	47,427.87
ICIMOD overhead	26,391.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>554,216.62</b>
<b>Carryover to 2010</b>	<b>915,596.38</b>

## European Mountain Forum

<b>Cash revenues (US\$)</b>	
SDC fund (carryover from 2008)	11,093.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,093.00</b>
<b>In kind support (US\$)</b>	
AEM	3,465.48
<b>Total in-kind support</b>	<b>3,465.48</b>
<b>Expenses (US\$)</b>	
Node Manager (40% position)	12,000.00
Travel	620.63
Office Operation cost (including equipment)	1,937.85
<b>Total estimated expenses</b>	<b>14,558.48</b>

## Latin American Mountain Forum (InfoAndina)

<b>Cash revenues (US\$)</b>	
SDC fund for 2009	55,566.00
ASOCAM	2,000.00
International Development Research Centre	2,000.00
The Global Environment Facility	3,075.00
Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo	10,000.00
Mountain Partnerships Secretariat	15,000.00
SDC Peru	2,500.00
World Bank	10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,141.00</b>
<b>Expenses (US\$)</b>	
Human Resources	58,731.00
Capital	4,989.00
Activities	17,711.00
Overhead International Potato Centre	14,815.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,246.00</b>
<b>Carryover to 2010</b>	<b>3,895.00</b>



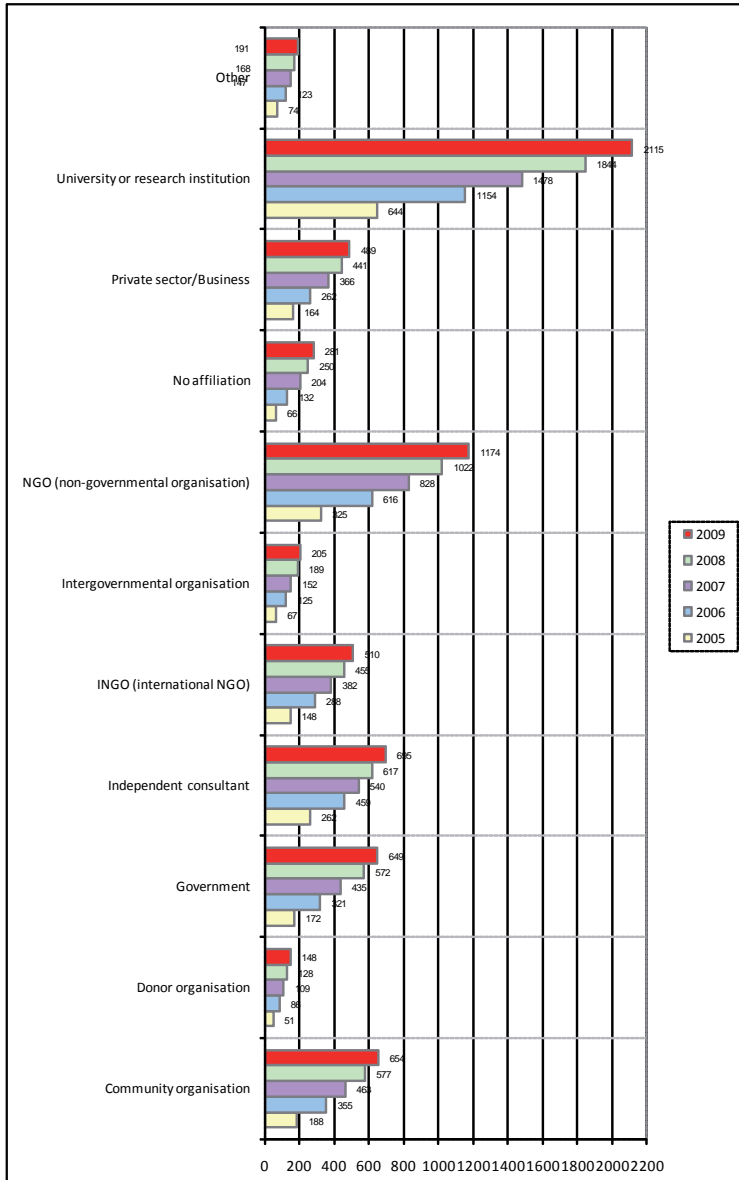


Anden woman, by Joachim Voss.

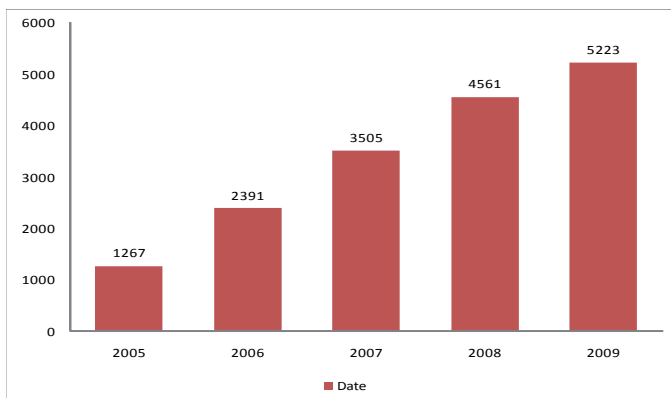


Tupe, Yauyos - Perú. by Sergio León.

## Mountain Forum Individuals Members



Organisations individual membered are affiliated to by type .

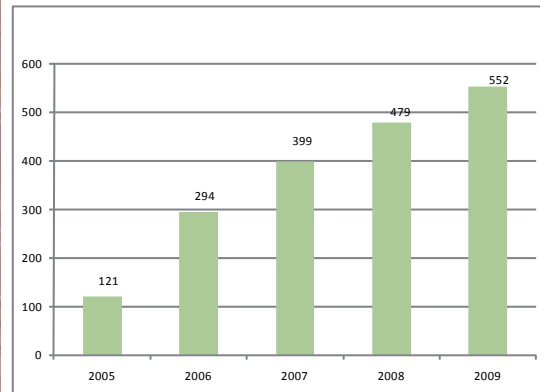


Growth MF membership - individuals.

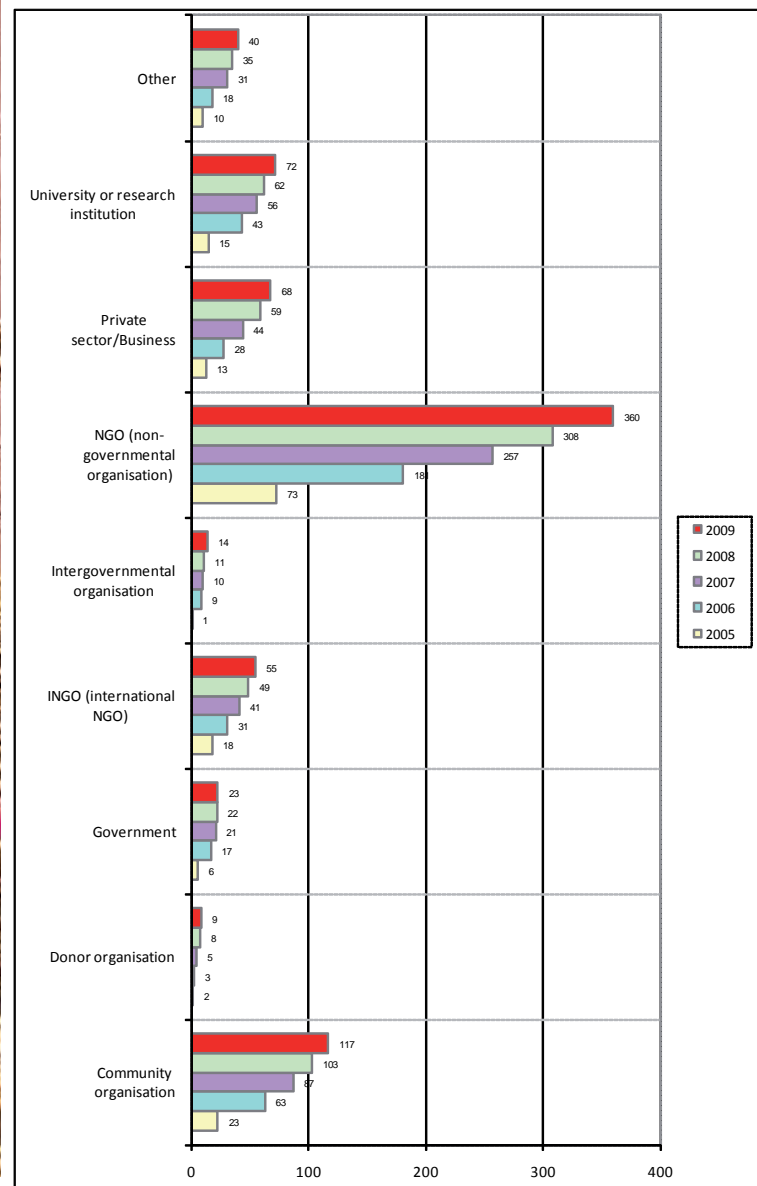


Valle del Urubamba, Cusco - Peru, by Liliana Lizárraga.

## Mountain Forum Organizational Members



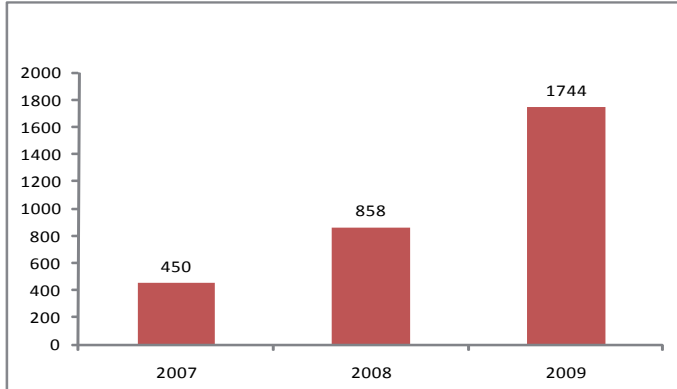
MF membership growth- organisations.



MF membership organisations by type.

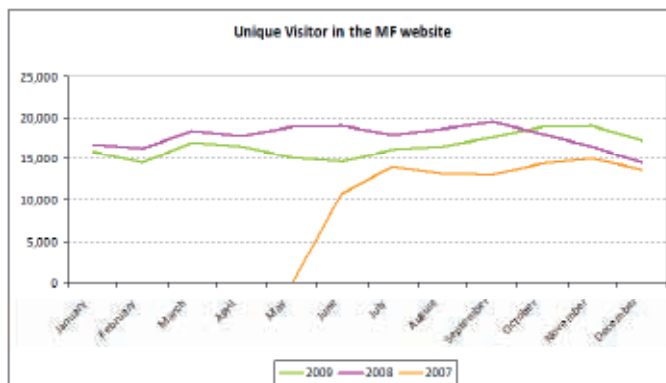
# Statistics Reports

## OnLine Library



OnLine Library - Documents added

## Unique visitors in the Mountain Forum website (www.mtnforum.org)



Teenagers in San Juan de Pasto - Colombia, by Musuq Briceño.

# Mountain Forum Network



Mountain Forum Node Managers Meeting 2009, Lima. MF.

## Asia-Pacific

c/o ICIMOD  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Email: [apmn@mtnforum.org](mailto:apmn@mtnforum.org)  
Web: [www.icimod.org/apmn](http://www.icimod.org/apmn)

## European Mountain Forum

c/o Maison des Parcs et de la Montagne  
Chambéry, France  
Email: [emf@mtnforum.org](mailto:emf@mtnforum.org)  
Web: [www.mtnforum.org/europe](http://www.mtnforum.org/europe)

## North America Mountain Forum

c/o Mountain Forum Global Node  
CONDESAN, Lima, Peru  
Email: [namf@mtnforum.org](mailto:namf@mtnforum.org)  
Web: [www.mtnforum.org](http://www.mtnforum.org)

## Africa Mountain Forum

c/o Mountain Forum Global Node  
CONDESAN, Lima, Peru  
Email: [mtnforum@mtnforum.org](mailto:mtnforum@mtnforum.org)  
Web: [www.mtnforum.org](http://www.mtnforum.org)

## Latin America Mountain Forum (Infoandina)

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Web: [www.infoandina.org](http://www.infoandina.org)

## MF Global Node

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Web: [www.mtnforum.org](http://www.mtnforum.org)

# Supporting Institutions



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Robert Hofstede.



Consortio para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Ecorregión Andina



European Mountain Forum



Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment



International Center for Integrated Mountain Development



Mountain Research and Development



Mountain Research Initiative



The Banff Centre



The Mountain Institute



Mountain Partnership



Association Européenne des Elus de Montagne

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Mr. Franciscus Neuman Executive Secretary, Mountain Forum Secretariat, Nepal



*Theth, Albania by Onuzi Kujtim.*



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