World Congress on Snow and Mountain Tourism
Andorra

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Why #MountainsMatter

- 27% of the earth land surface
- 15% of the global population (±1.1 billion)
- 60-80% of global freshwater
- 40% of mountains are covered by forests
- 15-20% of global tourism
Mountains under pressure

- Mountains are under pressure for climate changes, hunger, poverty, migration, etc.
- Mountain peoples are among the poorest and most malnourished in the world
- Since 2000, vulnerability to food insecurity has constantly increased in rural mountain areas
- In developing countries, a great majority lives below the poverty line, and more than 1 in 2 rural mountain people faces food insecurity (±350 million)
- COVID-19 has compounded the vulnerabilities of mountain communities, disrupting mountain livelihoods based on agriculture, tourism and remittances
The Mountain Partnership (MP)

Founded in 2002, the MP is the only United Nations alliance of governments and civil society organizations dedicated to protecting mountain environments around the world.

451 members in 98 countries

- **60** Governments
- **18** Intergovernmental Organizations
- **363** Major Groups & Organizations
- **10** Subnational authorities

*Secretariat hosted by FAO, supported by Andorra, Italy and Switzerland*
Pillars of Work

**Advocacy** - raise awareness through events about sustainable mountain development

**Capacity Development** - courses on sustainable mountain development and agrobiodiversity

**Knowledge sharing and communications** - produce and share publications, articles, videos, newsletter, social media, databases

**Joint action at the global level** - supporting collaboration among Mountain Partnership members
Opportunities for sustainable mountain tourism

• Mountain destinations attract around 15-20 percent of global tourism.

• Mountain tourism, particularly when linked to nature and rural tourism, can promote sustainable food systems and value local products.

• Tourism can play a key role in valuing and protecting the natural and spiritual heritage of mountains, and the cultural diversity and traditional practices of mountain peoples.

• Low-impact tourism can help limit threats to mountain ecosystems and their biodiversity.

• Since COVID-19, visits to open air, less crowded destinations have increased, opening new opportunities for mountain destinations to rethink their products and services.
• 2022 Theme: “Women move mountains”

• Women play a key role in environmental protection and social and economic development in mountain areas

• Raise awareness of mountains on 11 December by organizing presentations and events, art competitions, group hikes, etc.
International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022

- Proclaimed by UNGA on 16 December 2021 at the proposal of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Opportunity to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development and the conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems
- Mountain Partnership invited to facilitate observance of the Year
- Open invitation to co-brand events as contributions to the IYM – contact the Mountain Partnership for the logo
Join our alliance – Partner for mountains

• Mountain Partnership is a “Type II” United Nations alliance, meaning all members (governments, IGOs, private sector) are equal

• Membership is free, application is available on the Mountain Partnership website

• Be connected to other mountain-conscious, like-minded organizations and institutions

• Collaborate on global, regional, national and local level initiatives and events for mountains
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