



# Annual Report 2001



Credit: © International Potato Center, photo by A. Balaguer

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

# Mountain Forum Mission

The Mountain Forum promotes global action toward equitable and ecologically sustainable mountain development. This is achieved through information sharing, mutual support and advocacy. In order to achieve these objectives the Mountain Forum uses modern and traditional communications, supports networking and capacity building, and encourages members to be proactive in advocating sustainable development of mountain areas.

## Membership

Membership of the Mountain Forum is open to individuals and organizations concerned with sustainable mountain development and conservation. No fees are necessary to become a member of the Mountain Forum, nor does a member need full Internet connectivity or e-mail.

The Mountain Forum's electronic information services include global, regional and thematic e-mail discussion lists, focused electronic conferencing, a calendar of events, and a rapidly growing on-line library of mountain resources. Currently, over 7000 documents are hosted on its website.

<http://www.mtnforum.org>

Members receive the Mountain Forum Bulletin, as well as other relevant publications such as e- conference proceedings. This helps ensure that those without e-mail can still receive information, contribute, and participate.

## Information Sharing/ Mutual Support

Through improved communications and information exchange, the Mountain Forum seeks to empower and strengthen its members by sharing experiences and lessons learned. Members may contribute in the following ways:

- Share knowledge, information and experiences with the mountain community and interested parties
- Request for and provide support, advice, and information useful for and relevant to improving livelihoods of mountain communities
- Collect and disseminate relevant and important information to those Mountain Forum members who do not have Internet access;
- Identify potential members and involve them in Mountain Forum activities.

## Awareness Raising

The Mountain Forum seeks to raise mountain issues on the agendas of local and national decision makers, donor agencies, and international organizations. Members are encouraged to take action! Here are some ways to get involved.

- Facilitate dialogue and improve communications between mountain communities and decision makers.
- Convene local, regional, and global workshops and task forces around important mountain relevant issues
- Inform decision makers and the public through workshops, briefings, and the media.
- Encourage the formation of a mountain caucus of stakeholders and decision makers.
- Plan and implement activities that are directly related to the Earth Summit's Agenda 21, Chapter 13 "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development".
- Work with other members to form alliances, partnerships, and joint research activities at the local, regional and global levels..



Preparing for ...



His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal greets Mountain Forum Executive Secretary, Alejandro Camino.  
Credit: Memory Concern, Kathmandu

# Foreword

The year 2001 has been a full year of preparations for the International Year of Mountains 2002, so declared by the UN General Assembly in November 1998. The progress of activities and impacts of Mountain Forum and its constituent nodes have been put together in this second Annual Report of the Mountain Forum for the year 2001.



For the first time, the Board of Directors met back to back with the Node Managers, the people working hard and mostly behind the scenes, to make this a unique and wonderful Forum. It is my pleasure to be involved right from the formation of the informal network up to now.

The Global Activities of the Mountain Forum are coordinated by the Secretariat located in Kathmandu and supported by the Global Information Server Node in West Virginia. The groups have worked together and cooperated closely, using the power of Internet for internal communications system developed for day to day administration of this program.

In the past year, the activities have focused on improving the communications channels and advocating the mountain issues at various international meetings and conferences. The Mountain Forum and its constituent regional networks have used innovative means to further the mission of information sharing, mutual support and advocacy.

We are very grateful to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for being a lead donor. Several new partners and supporters in the last year enabled the global operations to access further support through very creative backing of MF activities.

As the organization is putting its energies in this years' celebratory events, it is also important to improve communications at the grassroots level. This is possible with the support of all members and other organizations that continue to link up at various levels and are already reaching out to the grassroots in the local languages. Please feel free to access information or use the MF postings with due credit to the authors, and do let us know when you are using the materials. This is one way of knowing that we have served the people, where they utmost need and value the information.

Let us all commit to work together to nurture and strengthen this very exciting network.

Dr. Hubert Zandstra  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Mountain Forum

## Table of Contents

### Mountain Forum Global Activities Report

- Mountain Forum Secretariat 4
- Global Information Server Node 6

### Mountain Forum Regional Node Activities Reports

- Mountain Forum Africa 8
- Asia Pacific Mountain Network 10
- European Mountain Forum 12
- InfoAndina, the Latin American Node of the Mountain Forum 14
- North American Mountain Forum (Interim) 16

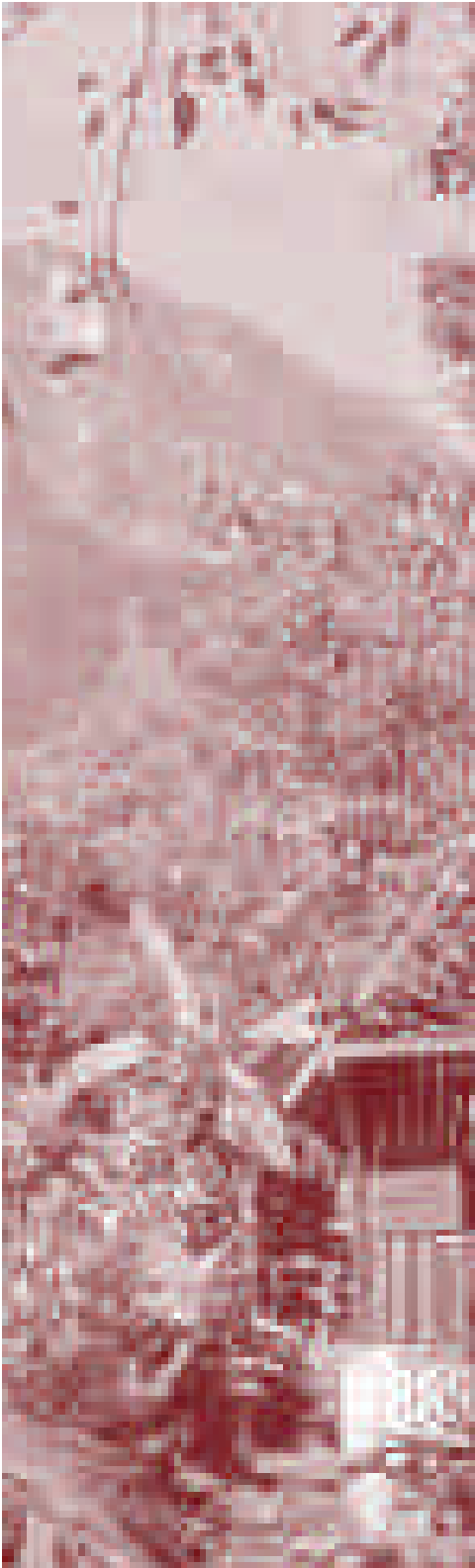
**Innovative Achievements** 17

**Financial Report** 18

### Publication Coordinating Team

Alejandro Camino  
C.P. Jayalakshmi  
Anju Rana  
Nanu Rajbhandari  
Robin Contino

**ISBN: 99933-413-0-4**



Credit: Allessandra Carvalho, Marumbi, Brazil

# Mountain Forum Global Activities Report

*The global activities of the Mountain Forum are managed in two segments. The coordination, governance, fund raising, partnership building, and advocacy responsibilities are managed by the Secretariat located in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Global Information Server Node located at The Mountain Institute, in the USA, manages the primary information management services, capacity building, advocacy and support to nodes.*

*Five regional node offices operating in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America work diligently to put the Mountain Forum mission into action.*

## Mountain Forum Secretariat

The Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS) functions as the global coordinating and facilitating unit of this unique and creative network of networks. MFS is an autonomous unit managed by the Executive Secretary and hosted by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu, Nepal.

### Objectives

The objectives of the Mountain Forum Secretariat include:

- *Fundraising*
- *Coordination and Mutual Support*
- *Fostering Relations and Partnerships*
- *Governance*
- *Ensuring Sustainability*
- *Advocacy*

### Activities & Achievements

#### Fundraising

- **Secured Funds for 3 Years:**

A substantial part of the work during 2001 focused on securing MF's financial future. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation supported a joint MFS-GISN multi-donor proposal for a three-year total of USD 624,000.

- **Strategy and Fundraising Plan:**

A comprehensive effort aimed at identifying potential core donors was launched with donor exploration, databasing, profiling and initiation of dialogue in the first part of the year. Based on this initial experience, an innovative strategy and fund raising plan for 2002-2003 was prepared and presented to the Board.

- ❖ The design and implementation of MF projects as a mechanism to enhance the ongoing work.
- ❖ The provision of electronic communication platforms to serve partner

organizations and thus increase their outreach.

### **Coordination and Mutual Support**

#### **• Coordination:**

The Secretariat prioritized the design and implementation of joint projects, where cooperation between the nodes yielded an organic integration, and thus helped in making MF a truly global organization.

#### **• Support of the Regional Nodes:**

MFS supported the activities of the regional nodes as a member driven organization in response to the demands emerging from the subscribers.

- ❖ MFS promoted associated networks and its potential services, and acted as a facilitator.

### **Fostering Relations and Partnerships**

#### **• Strengthening Partnerships:**

The MFS identified institutional partners whose work in mountain regions was enriched by providing them with proactive communication platforms. The Secretariat tasked itself to make its work of added value to its partners in a rapidly expanding network.

### **Governance**

#### **• The Development of an Institutional Framework:**

Facilitating institutional processes to make Mountain Forum an integrated global institution continues to be a challenge since the network of networks functions fairly autonomously. Towards this goal, the MFS engaged itself in drafting baseline documents to outline the institutional work frame. Clarifying key governance issues and the roles and functional relations between each one of its institutional components was aimed at building consensus. ICIMOD provided effective administrative services to the MF Secretariat.

#### **• The Establishment of the Board of Directors:**

The Board of Directors of the Mountain Forum, to whom the Secretariat reports, was in the process of formalizing itself. It gradually began moving towards becoming a truly representative body. Formal electronic elections of the Board representatives were held through their regional constituencies. The 2001 Board was a fair balance of institutional representatives and elected members in the governance of the Mountain Forum.

- *“MF’s e-communications activities to the vast array of mountain stakeholders have become a key advocacy platform for mountain environments and their inhabitants,”* Dr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on behalf of the U.N. Secretary General, specially highlighted the significant global role of Mountain Forum in the United Nations at the IYM launch in New York on December 11, 2001.

### **Ensuring Sustainability**

- Project development by the MFS was based on the recognition of priority areas in conservation and sustainable mountain development. With innovative ideas, identification of funding opportunities and potential partnerships, concept papers were prepared in consultation with nodes and with MF members as the first step in this direction.

### **Advocacy**

- The advocacy objective was addressed by projecting MF as a key platform to voice the concern of mountain people and their threatened environments.
- MFS, GISN, and the regional nodes were intensely involved with the World Mountain Symposium held in Interlaken, Switzerland.
- MFS responded dynamically to the commitments and demands for increased participation of the network in several planned activities for the upcoming International Year of Mountains in 2002.
  - ❖ MF agreed with FAO to fully manage the IYM Calendar of Events.
  - ❖ The Executive Secretary participated in all of the planning meetings as part of the International Advisory Board of the Global Mountain Bishkek Summit, the main closing event for IYM to take place in Kyrgyzstan next October.
  - ❖ MFS nearly finalized an agreement with UNEP to conduct a global electronic consultation process for each one of the ten thematic papers being prepared for the Bishkek Summit as well as other global events.
  - ❖ MF agreed to provide its electronic communication support to enhance the success of the Global High Summit coordinated by the Italian IYM Committee.



Credit: PROMIC, Bolivia, Peasant boy in Cochabamba

# Global Information Server Node

The Mountain Forum Global Information Server Node (GISN), hosted by The Mountain Institute, provides the network's central Internet services, training, and technical support to mountain networks around the world. GISN also provides direct networking services to members with global interests, and members whose regions do not yet have a fully functioning Mountain Forum node.

The goal of the GISN is to create, implement, coordinate and support demand-driven communication services to effectively facilitate exchange of information and best practices among members, in order to promote the well-being of mountain communities, environments and sustainable development. GISN also assists in advocating the Mountain Agenda in international and inter-regional arenas.

## Objectives

- *Information Sharing*
- *Mutual Support*
- *Advocacy*

## Activities & Achievements

### Information Sharing

- **Expanded outreach** by way of membership and e-mail discussion lists. Global membership grew thirty-three percent to 2700 individuals and 180 organizations from one hundred countries. Subscribers to the Mountain Forum's e-mail lists grew by thirty-five percent to 9000 participants.
- **Provided core Internet services** to the Mountain Forum network, including the on-line membership database, on-line library, and the official calendar of the events for the International Year of Mountains 2002. The website expanded to incorporate a new, more attractive graphical look for the more than 7,000 pages.

### Mutual Support

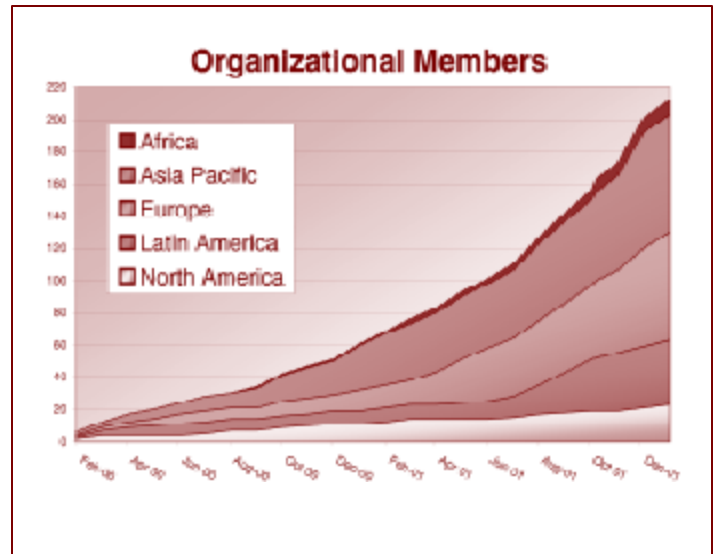
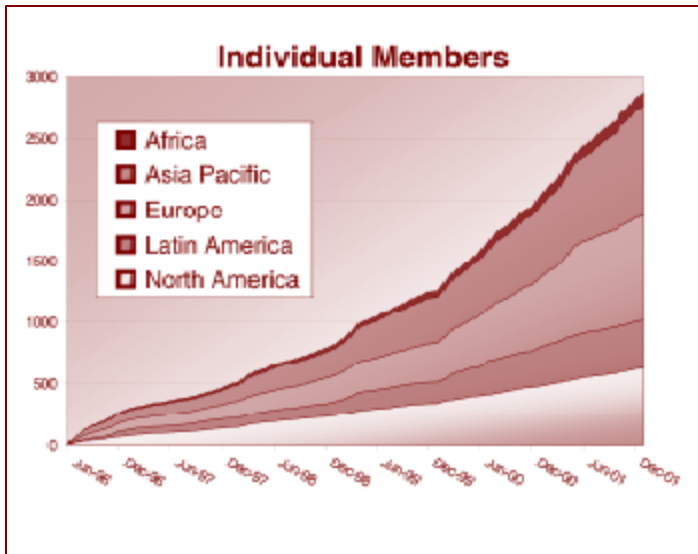
- **Provided training** and technical support to mountain networks around the world, helping them set up their own e-mail lists, create web pages, and moderate thematic electronic conferences.
- **Five new Mountain Forum training manuals were developed and distributed** on CD-ROM to regional network partners.
- **Provided interim regional services** to members in North America and Africa, where regional networks were not yet fully staffed.
- **Moderated** discussions and **facilitated** information exchange on the global and thematic e-mail lists of the Mountain Forum. Some of the themes highlighted during the year include (a) impact of ski resorts on mountain communities, (b) environmental issues associated with road construction in mountain regions, (c) climate change and melting mountain glaciers, (d) mountains and sustainability,

(e) mining and tourism in the mountains, (f) conflict and mountain peoples, (h) events related to the International Year of Mountains. In particular, the global “Celebrating Mountain Women” initiative was supported on the Mountain Women e-mail list.

- **Edited and distributed** the printed Mountain Forum Bulletin to members, partners, and the United Nations in support of critical mountain issues.

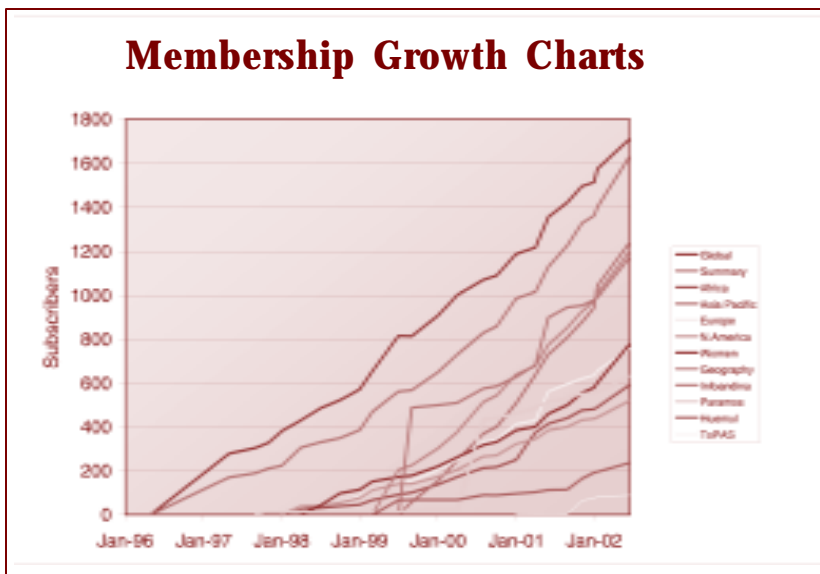
**Advocacy**

- **Collaborated with the Swiss Delegation to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development** to effect policy change at the global level. As a result of outreach to UN delegates the Commission adopted new language that includes the specific policy needs of mountain regions during its 2001 session.



**Individual membership growth by region, 1996-2001**

**Organizational membership growth by region, 2000-2001**



**E-mail subscribers, growth from 1996 to 2002**

(cumulative total of a 9308 subscribers’ base in 12 electronic discussion lists)

**Contact Address**

**Global Information Server Node and Interim Contact for North America**

The Mountain Institute  
 245 Newman Avenue  
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801 USA  
 Tel: +1 540 437 0468  
 Fax: +1 540 437 0494  
 E-mail: [info@mtnforum.org](mailto:info@mtnforum.org)  
 Web: [www.mtnforum.org](http://www.mtnforum.org)

**Personnel**

Elizabeth Byers, Jason Espie and Douglas Wandersee

# Mountain Forum Regional Nodes Activities Reports

## Mountain Forum Africa

Mountain Forum Africa (MFA), the newest node in operation, has evolved into an active Pan-African network of networks focusing on poverty and land use change issues, particularly those associated with the degradation of the mountain eco-systems. An Interim Steering Committee administered the African node with a secretariat hosted by the International Center for Research in Agro Forestry (ICRAF).

### Objectives

- *Building partnerships and cooperation among communities, practitioners and development agencies.*
- *Exchanging knowledge, information, ideas and experiences.*
- *Awareness raising and advocacy towards creating and enabling social, economic and political environments for sustainable mountain area development.*

### Activities & Achievements

#### Building Partnerships and Cooperation

- **Expanding Membership:**  
An eight-fold increase in membership resulted in 332 members at the end of the year. A further 220 Mountain Forum members from other regions were interested in African mountains issues.
- **Partnerships:**  
The strength of the MFA node was its ability to enhance its outreach and potential through partnerships with a variety of institutions. Formal MoU's were signed with many institutions.
- **Linking Mountain Communities:**  
The case studies on successful interventions are expected to lead to exchange visits of mountain communities to share experiences. By the end of the year, discussions with mountain communities and the UNDP Compact Project on how experiences of Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro mountain communities can be shared were at an advanced stage.

#### Exchanging Knowledge, Information, Ideas and Experiences

- **Mountain Information Database System:**  
The sub-nodes undertook a relational database collection and several entries were added to this unique collection. Figures in brackets show the number of entries delineated by: countries (52), mountain areas (300), people (450), projects (35) and institutions (40).

Credit: Carine Saque, CIRAD, La Reunion Island, Africa

- **Building Up a Web-based Information System:**

Mountain Forum Africa information was packaged in two levels: continental and national. At the continental level only issues of continental importance were presented. These included issues on cross-boundary mountains, crosscutting themes such as deforestation, continental level initiatives and was aimed at identifying areas for regional and continental cooperation. At the country level, an overview of physical, socio-cultural and economic attributes was compiled. These attributes were then further classified and the database collection procedure solicited detailed characteristics of the highlands and mountains, its peoples, projects and activities.

- **Information Sharing:**

MF-Africa's e-discussion list focused on information sharing on 'land use change and intensification'. Further the list supported the National Committees for IYM.

MFA assisted 30 countries on issues related to setting up their National Committee for IYM. By the end of the year contacts were made in 16 countries that had already identified their focal point and/or set up their National Committee. MFA responded to numerous requests from the national committee on:

1. The role of the National Committee.
2. How to ensure that IYM events and activities were well coordinated and effective.
3. How to ensure that sustainable mountain development remains high on the countries' agenda long after IYM has come to an end.

National Committees requested technical information on various aspects of mountain area development that lead to further development of the African Mountain Information System.

### Awareness Raising and Advocacy

- **Awareness Raising:**

MFA participated in 4 meetings aimed at raising awareness of the impacts of converting forestland into crop/settlement land.

- **Advocacy:**

Kenyan mountain communities and environmentalists were working together under the leadership of the Kenya Forestry Working Group to stop the excision of gazetted forests. MFA responded by requesting its members to contribute to this worthwhile initiative. This led to the development of draft material on "how to enhance advocacy".

- **Preparations for IYM:**

Several interesting activities were planned for the 2002 celebrations in collaboration with various partners. An electronic version of six posters was developed. Copies can be requested to the MFA for exhibition and as learning tools.

### Contact Address

#### **Mountain Forum-Africa**

C/o ICRAF Headquarters  
P.O. Box 30677, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254-2-524507 (direct); 524500/  
524000  
Fax: +254-2-524501/524001  
E-mail: [info@anmf.mtnforum.org](mailto:info@anmf.mtnforum.org)  
Web: <http://www.mtnforum.org/anmf>

#### **Personnel**

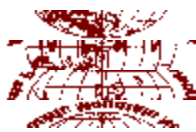
Francis Gichuki

Mountain Forum Board and network managers at a meeting in Rolle Switzerland, September 2001: Douglas McGuire, Laure Soubrier, Alejandro Camino, Hubert Zandstra, Greta Rana, Martin Price, Ana Maria Ponce, Jane Pratt, Hana Petrikova, Sitting/Kneeling: C.P. Jayalakshmi, Elizabeth Byers, Ujol Sherchan, Francis Gichuki





Credit: Drift Nepal Private Limited, Marsyangdi River, Nepal



## Asia Pacific Mountain Network

APMN, hosted by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), is a network for generating, sharing and disseminating information on or about sustainable development in upland or mountainous areas of the Asia-Pacific region.

### Objective

Its main objective is to focus on *information sharing and exchange* on the issues recommended by the Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas of Asia (SUDEMAA) Conference, viz.,

- *Poverty eradication and economic development,*
- *Sustainable management of natural resources,*
- *Gender-balanced decision-making in environment and development policies and programs,*
- *Preservation of cultural heritage, and*
- *Reducing the vulnerability to mountain disasters.*

### Activities & Achievements

#### Information Sharing and Exchange

- **MF-Asia Discussion List** was a very active zone for the exchange of ideas, queries, and information sharing. A total of 709 messages were posted in 2001, averaging about 2 postings per day.
- **Training Workshops in “Internet Technologies and Web Publishing”:** In the beginning of the year, APMN organized a training workshop on ‘Advanced Web Publishing’ for three participants from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in Kathmandu, Nepal. This was followed-up by an On-site Training-cum-Assessment held in Kyrgyzstan in April. This training of trainers was an effective tool for capacity building in the Central Asian countries.
- **The APMN E-Conferences–A Major Success:**

The APMN and ICIMOD jointly organized a regional e-conference on ‘*The Intervention of Technology in Mountain Areas: Strategies for Developing Fresh Approaches and Mainstreaming of Local Innovations in the Asia/Pacific Region*’. The conference lasted a month and was run on the MF-Asia Discussion List (February 4 to March 6, 2001). The broad objective of the e-conference was to contribute to the ongoing debate on the impact of technology intervention in mountain areas, to showcase innovative approaches that helped reduce or reverse negative impact, to identify local innovations that can be mainstreamed, and to identify areas of research. Some two hundred participants from all corners of the world registered. All in all, 650 people ‘attended’ the e-conference. A total of 141 contributions were made during the e-conference, plus a dozen more that were not posted because they did not address that week’s theme or they were sent in

after March 6, 2001, the last day of the e-conference. The general consensus gleaned from the evaluation survey was that the e-conference was successful in that the whole interaction experience was rich in content and superbly moderated. The synthesis of the e-conference is accessible at <http://www.mtnforum.org/apmn/SynthesisReport1.htm>

The APMN organized its second e-conference on the topic 'Renewable Energy Technologies for Mountain Areas', Nov 17-Dec 19, 2001, and was moderated by well-recognized energy specialists of Nepal. The discussions on 'Micro Hydro' were moderated by Mr. Girish Kharel, on 'Solar Energy' by Mr. Gyani Ratna Shakya, on 'Biogas' by Mr. Govinda Prasad Devkota, on 'Improved Cooking Stoves' by Mr. Rajan Thapa, and on 'Institutions and Policies' by Mr. Bikash Pandey. 115 people from all over the world registered for this e-conference. Equally important to mention are the 830-plus subscribers who received the postings although they did not register. The e-conference web pages are maintained at [www.mtnforum.org/apmn/RETs.htm](http://www.mtnforum.org/apmn/RETs.htm)

- **The APMN Bulletin:**

The May 2001 issue of the APMN Bulletin (Vol 6, No. 1) was published and distributed to APMN members. The December 2001 issue of APMN Bulletin (Vol 6, No. 2) was also published. A process is underway to get the official ISSN number for the online version of the APMN Bulletin, after which the December Bulletin will be published on the APMN website. In addition, APMN/ICOD has decided to disseminate the Bulletin via e-mail (attachment) or the website (pdf file & HTML file) to online APMN members. Hardcopies will only be disseminated to offline APMN members from now on. In the future the APMN Bulletin will come out in the months of June and December instead of April and September..

- **The APMN Team Visits Switzerland:**

The APMN team comprising of Ms. Greta Rana, Coordinator, and Mr. Ujol Sherchan, Node Manager, represented Asia Pacific Mountain Network at the Mountain Forum Node Managers' Meeting in Rolle, Switzerland, Sept 26-28, 2001. At the MF Board meeting, Sept 28-29, 2001, Mr. Sherchan made a presentation of APMN's progress-to-date to the Board. Ms. Rana outlined her vision for APMN for IYM 2002 and beyond. Dr. Tej Partap raised concerns about sustainability of APMN. Between Sept 31-Oct 4, 2001, the APMN team attended the World Mountain Symposium, where Mr. Sherchan presented a paper on 'The

State of Mountain Children in Nepal', which was warmly received. The team met with donors, networked with potential partners and made contributions at the various sessions and discussions.

- **The Central Asia Mountain Information Network (CAMIN) Team Visits APMN/ICIMOD:**

The Director of Central Asia Mountain Information Network (CAMIN), Mr. Andrey Fesenko, and his CAMIN colleague, Dr. Alexander Sorokin, visited ICIMOD, Nov 27-Dec 3, 2001 at the invitation of APMN to discuss their partnership for sustainable development in Central Asia and Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR, P.R. of China). APMN will help support CAMIN's initiatives in website development, networking strategy, membership database development, and will provide guidance on e-consultation on the 'Regional Strategy an Action Plan' paper of Central Asia and XUAR (P.R. of China) – subject to SDC's approval of the Central Asia Project extension.

### **Contact Address**

#### **Asia Pacific Mountain Network**

C/o ICIMOD, G.P.O. Box 3226

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977 1 525 313

Fax: +977 1 524 509

E-mail: [apmn@mtforum.org](mailto:apmn@mtforum.org)

Web: <http://www.mtnforum.org/apmn>

### **Personnel**

Greta Rana and Ujol Sherchan



## European Mountain Forum

The European Mountain Forum (EMF) is a network of individuals and organizations offering tools of communication and information to promote sustainable development in mountain regions of Europe.

### Objectives

Its objectives are to:

- *Facilitate the exchanges between the actors of sustainable development in mountain regions and,*
- *Build capacity of education and training in the sub-regions.*

### Activities & Achievements

#### Facilitating Exchange

- **2001 Witnessed a Steady Growth in Membership:**

The individual membership reached 804 on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2001. 47 organizational members either joined EMF or were integrated from the database in 2001.

- **The MF-Europe Discussion List:**

Published on a daily basis and disseminated over 730 announcements (“postings”) to over a thousand readers.

- **WOMEN:** EMF prepared the preliminary regional European meeting of the global event “Celebrating Mountain Women (CMW)” supported by FAO & UNIFEM by involving the City of Chambéry (France). EMF coordinator is a member of the global steering committee of CMW.

- **Carpathians:** EMF co-organized with UNEP and the Carpathian Foundation the Kosice meeting in September. Membership (individuals and organizations) significantly increased due to the fieldwork of EMF. UNEP and WWF asked EMF to disseminate drafts and comments on their projects for a future Carpathian Convention and for the Eco-regional Carpathian Initiative. EMF implemented specific Carpathian WebPages on its website. EMF answered a call for a proposal from the EU Access program.

- **Caucasus:** EMF organized the first mountain NGO’s Forum in the Caucasus in September 2001- the Caucasus Summit. More than 60 participants brought their expertise from 3 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and major international organizations (The World Bank, UNEP, USAID) attended. EMF launched this Summit with the IFAD Mountain Programme communication activities in the Caucasus. EMF created Caucasus web pages on its site.

- **Middle Mountains of Western and Central Europe:** Youth exchanges between the French Franche Comté and the region of Wojtowiec in the

Polish Sudetes were organized directly by the local node of EMF. To sustain the effort of development of EMF in that region, the Polish NGO Zdanie Klub and EMF jointly answered a call for a proposal of the EU Access Program in July 2001.

- **South East of Europe:** EMF organized 2 meetings of mountain NGOs in Pamporovo (Bulgaria- April 2001) and Bajina Basta (Yugoslavia – October 2001) with more than 30 participants for each session. EMF provided and moderated a specific discussion list: mf-semnet to the partners and participants of the initiative of the SEMNET network. EMF created specific WebPages for the South East of Europe and organized the e-dissemination of the NGO-training brochure created by the SEMNET network.
- **Preparation for the International Year of Mountains:** EMF represented the Mountain Forum at 2 UN Inter-Agency meetings in Geneva and Brussels. EMF coordinated information and action with the European National Committees of Italy, Austria, Germany, France, Liechtenstein and actively participated in the European coordination meeting held in Brussels on the request of FAO. EMF was invited to become a founding member of Montanea (France) and Montagne 2002 (Switzerland), both event-related NGOs for IYM 2002. EMF presented IYM 2002 at the Romanian Summit “Green Light for Europe” in Bucharest – (May 2001) and to the UNEP Media training in Vienna (September 2001).
- **Links with the Mountain Forum’s Network:**

EMF facilitated and provided logistical support for the Annual Global Node Managers Meeting in Rolle, Switzerland in September 2001. Further, since the Board Meetings of MF were held in Geneva and Rolle, in spring and September respectively, EMF provided technical support. EMF provided legal information for the registration process of the Mountain Forum to the Mountain Forum Secretariat. EMF made a joint proposal with the Mountain Forum Secretariat, the Italian Committee of IYM 2002 and the Styrian Chamber of Commerce (Austria) to the World Bank Infodev program concerning the Mountain E-Fair concept.

### **Building Capacity**

- **Réseau Alpestre Francophone :** At the request of the 2 French Pastoralism organizations, EMF built capacity of the network grouping 11 international funding partners from France, Italy and Switzerland. A specific mf-raf discussion list was created and moderated for the different partners.
- **Training of Protected Area Staff (TOPAS):** EMF was the communication expert for TOPAS, which was financed by the European Union and grouped 19 partners from 10 countries. In 2001, EMF provided Internet expertise and e-training to the partners, created and hosted the TOPAS website, and launched and moderated 2 discussion lists (one internal and one public: mf-topas@mtnforum.org).

## **EMF’s Governance**

EMF’s Chair, Dr Martin Price, represented EMF in the Mountain Forum’s governance. As legally required by the founding statutes, a modification of the statutes was voted in the General Assembly held in September 2001 in Gudauri, Georgia. These modifications guaranteed the democratic governance of EMF by the election of a board of 8 members: 4 individuals (2 of regional scope, 2 of European scope) and 4 organizations (2 of regional scope, and 2 of European scope). New elections were planned for spring 2002. The node was redefined as a simple provider of services to EMF. The rules of cooperation between the nodes and EMF were fixed through MoU’s and/or contractual agreements with the EMF. The administrator of the Coordination Centre acted as the Secretary to the Board. The Board elected a Chair, a Vice Chair and a Treasurer. The European Mountain Forum is a non-profit British registered company.

### **Contact Address**

#### **European Mountain Forum**

28 Rue Mauverney

CH 1196 Gland, Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 999 01 24

Fax: +41 22 999 00 10

E-mail: [europa@mtnforum.org](mailto:europa@mtnforum.org)

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

### **Personnel**

Ms. Françoise Mees, Anne Pellier, Laure Soubrier, Hana Petrikova, Andrei Vasile, Ivan Vashakmadze



## **InfoAndina: The Latin American Node of the Mountain Forum**

InfoAndina, hosted by the Consortium for the Sustainable Development of Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN) network, is a programme of the International Potato Centre, and has been in operation since 1997. In January 2001, InfoAndina started its third phase of activities.

### **Objectives**

- *Increase participation of Latin American partners in the Mountain Forum, and apply low-cost communication protocols allowing participation of partners with restricted access.*
- *Develop capacity through specialized training activities.*
- *Facilitate “virtual space” for debates on regional issues related to sustainable development.*
- *During IYM 2002, capture, synthesize and disseminate the activities at the national, regional and global levels.*
- *Develop strategies to ensure sustainability of InfoAndina.*

### **Activities & Achievements**

#### **Increasing Participation**

- **InfoAndina Membership Growth in the Mountain Forum Database:**  
Registered individual members grew from over 280 in the beginning of the year to 364 at the end of 2001. The organizational membership grew nearly five fold in the year rising to 34 at the close of the year. The list subscribers' base increased two fold, reaching nearly 900 at the end of the year.

#### **Developing Capacity through Specialized Training Activities**

- **InfoAndina organized 5 traveling workshops** in secondary Andean cities of Peru and Colombia with participation of local NGOs, Universities, and local governments (municipalities). This provided a hands-on demonstration of Mountain Forum's resources and promotion of IYM 2002 in the region. ([www.condesan.org/infoandina/talleres2.htm](http://www.condesan.org/infoandina/talleres2.htm)) InfoAndina presented its progress reports to the CONDESAN Board and the Mountain Forum Board.

#### **Facilitating “virtual space” for Debates/Discussions on Regional Issues Related to Sustainable Development**

- **Specialized Regional E-Discussion Groups Held:**  
Paramos regional network (400 participants)  
Paramos-Peru (20 participants)  
CT-CONDESAN (24 participants)
- **In Situ 2001 E-Conference:**

Dr. Miguel Holle, CIP-CONDESAN expert in Andean Tuber & Root Crops programs, moderated the highly successful bilingual e-conference held from November to December. 131 specialists participated in this conference, with over a quarter coming from Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and the rest from Latin America (72%).

• **II Meeting of Regional Information Networks for Sustainable Development, Organized by CONDESAN-InfoAndina in the Frame of the IV International Symposium (Nov 25 – Dec 2, 2001):**

With in-kind support of the CIAT Information Unit and other partners, the Merida (Venezuela) meeting addressed issues of specialized networks, information systems, virtual libraries, communication strategies, the role of the networks in IYM, telecentres and distance education initiatives.

**IYM 2002**

• **Promoting IYM Activities in the Region:**

During 2001, InfoAndina managed the discussion list of 40 members for the National IYM 2002 Committee of Peru (PERUAIM2002). The list facilitated agenda coordination. InfoAndina established contacts with High Summit organizers in Mendoza, resulting in the preparation of over 80 papers from Latin America for that meeting. In the frame of the 4<sup>th</sup> Andean Mountain Associations Meeting in Venezuela, InfoAndina organized a dedicated session on the

role of information networks and the IYM 2002.

**Developing Strategies to Ensure Sustainability of InfoAndina**

• **Alliance Contributions:**

InfoAndina started developing strategic alliances with regional networks to improve the marketing of services to regional audiences. A total of 18 networks joined this initiative called “REDISAL: Network of Networks”. CIAT-REDECO contributed a total of USD 4,000 as an in-kind contribution for the organization of the “II Meeting of Information Network” in Merida, Venezuela. A web page and brochure was also designed for REDISAL to promote our services: ([www.redisal.net](http://www.redisal.net)).

• **Information Services “sold” by InfoAndina during 2001:**

- ❖ **Virtual Bookstore:** A section dedicated to sell CONDESAN publications on the website.
- ❖ **Web Page Design:** Designed for the National IYM 2002 Committee. <http://www.condesan.org/peruAIM2002/indexEng.htm>
- ❖ **E-Conferences:** During 2001, InfoAndina was hired by the MOS-Andes project to organize an e-conference in 2002.



Credit: Nathalie Maisonneure  
AEDES, Peru  
Cotahuasi peasants, Peru

**Contact Address**

Latin America  
CIP/CONDESAN/  
InfoAndina  
Apartado Postal 1558  
Lima 100 Peru  
Tel: +51 1 349 6017  
Fax: +51 1 317 5326  
E-mail: [info@alc.mtnforum.org](mailto:info@alc.mtnforum.org)  
Web: [www.mtnforum.org/alc](http://www.mtnforum.org/alc)

**Personnel**

Ana Maria Ponce



## North American Mountain Forum (Interim)

The Mountain Institute (TMI), acting as the interim regional node for North America until the North American Mountain Forum is established, manages the Mountain Forum membership for people from the region.

### Objectives

- *Establish a North American Mountain Forum Node.*
- *Provide membership services.*

### Achievements & Activities

#### Node Establishment

- Dr. Robert Rhoades, board member for North America, collaborated with The Mountain Institute to lead a participatory process to establish a North American node of the Mountain Forum. The outcome of this process was a winning proposal from the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture, which will host the North American Mountain Forum beginning in mid-2002.

#### North American Mountain Forum Networking Services

- **Membership Growth:** There was significant growth of the North American Mountain Forum membership. There were 623 individual members who stated their affiliation with the North American node. This represented 22% of the total membership of the Mountain Forum, and increased 29% during the last year. Also, 23 North American organizations registered for membership.
- **Increased E-mail Subscriber List:** The mf-america e-mail list continues to be moderated by TMI. In the last year, 143 subscribers were added, for a total list of 438 subscribers.
- **Input and Consultation:** North American inputs were provided for all network-wide publications by TMI in consultation with Dr. Robert Rhoades.

#### Contact Address (Starting 2002)

Mountain Culture at the Banff Centre  
107 Tunnel Mountain Drive  
Box 1020, Banff Alberta Canada T 1L 1H5  
Tel: 403-762-6215  
Fax: 403-762-6277  
Web: [banffcentre.ca/mountainculture](http://banffcentre.ca/mountainculture)

#### Personnel

Leslie Taylor

## **Innovative Achievements in Information Sharing, Mutual Support and Advocacy**

### **E-Discussion lists**

- MF-Africa: Assisted 30 countries set up their National Committees for IYM.
- MF- Asia Pacific: Posted 709 messages.
- MF-Europe: Disseminated over 730 announcements to over 1000 readers. Moderated and launched at least 4 regional discussions lists.
- InfoAndina: Offered 3 specialized e-discussion groups with over 440 participants.

### **Advocacy, E-Conferences & Workshops**

#### **Africa**

- Participated in 4 meetings raising awareness on the impacts of converting forestland into crop/settlement land.
- Worked with the Kenya Forestry Working Group to stop excision of gazetted forests and developed material on 'how to enhance advocacy'.

#### **Asia Pacific**

- "The Intervention of Technology in Mountain Areas E-Conference had over 650 attendants.
- "Renewable Energy Technologies for Mountain Areas" E- Conference had an audience of over 900 people.
- Provided a series of workshops for trainers on " Internet Technologies and Web Publishing" with participants from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

#### **Europe**

- Provided Internet expertise and e-training to over 19 groups from 10 countries (TOPAS).
- Organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Mountain NGO's Forum in the Caucasus: The Caucasus Summit.
- Prepared the preliminary regional European meeting of the global event "Celebrating Mountain Women".
- Organized 2 meetings of mountain NGO's in Pamporovo.
- Organized youth exchanges in the Polish Sudetes.
- Co-organized with UNEP and the Carpathian Foundation the Kosice Meeting.

#### **GISN**

- Provided training and technical support to mountain networks around the world.
- Developed and distributed 5 new MF Training Manuals.
- Effected policy change at the global level in collaboration with the Swiss Delegation to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

#### **InfoAndina**

- In Situ 2000 was a successful bilingual e-conference in which over 131 specialists worldwide participated.
- Organized 5 traveling workshops in Peru and Columbia.

# Financial Report

## Core Operation

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation supported a joint MFS-GISN multi-donor proposal for a three-year total of USD 624,000, which comprises the core of our funding scenario. Other sources will be generated through identification and securing of additional sources for core funding, donor groups, in-kind contributions and income generation efforts of the Mountain Forum network.

## Combined MFS & GISN Financial Status Report (un-audited)

<b>2001</b>	
<b>Cash revenues</b>	
<b>(GISN) SDC</b>	\$151,956
Swiss Mission	\$2,401
FAO	\$4,000
IYM launch (FAO)	\$8,331
Sale of publications, etc.	\$992
<b>(MFS) SDC</b>	\$150,000
<b>In-kind revenues</b>	
<b>(GISN) Bellanet<sup>1</sup></b>	\$4,000
Gifts-in-kind <sup>2</sup>	\$2,000
Edit type <sup>3</sup>	\$1,320
TMI <sup>4</sup>	\$10,000
<b>(MFS) In-kind contributions<sup>5</sup></b>	<u>\$76,000</u>
<b>Total revenues 2001</b>	<b>\$411,000</b>

<b>Non-audited expenses</b>	
<b>(GISN) Personnel</b>	\$135,000
Travel	\$8,000
Supplies	\$8,000
Publications	\$9,000
Communications	\$8,000
Overhead	\$17,000
<b>(MFS) Personnel</b>	\$112,989
Meetings(NMM/Board)	\$15,001
Publications*	\$(318)
Operation Office Cost	\$2,978
Travel	\$8,944
IYM Related Activities	\$524
Overhead	\$7,006
<b>Estimated expenses 2001</b>	<b>\$332,442</b>
* on cost recovery + 318 received	

<sup>1</sup> (e-mail list hosting)

<sup>2</sup> (software and hardware donations)

<sup>3</sup> (graphic upgrade to website)

<sup>4</sup> (senior staff and management inputs)

<sup>5</sup> (Travel reimbursements by ICIMOD, FAO, UNEP, SDC Nepal Mission, FAO-Peru Mission, cash donations by individuals, editorial services, networking support, cost recovery for publicity materials)

## Mountain Forum Partners and Supporters List



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)



International Development Research Centre (IDRC) – Bellanet



United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

## Host and Supporting Institutions



International Potato Centre (CIP)



The World Conservation Union (IUCN)



International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)



International Centre for Research in Agro Forestry (ICRAF)



The Mountain  
Institute

The Mountain Institute (TMI)



## **The Board of Directors:**

### Members:

Dr. Francis Gichuki (Africa)  
Dr. Tej Partap (Asia Pacific)  
Dr. Martin Price (Europe)  
Dr. Hubert Zandstra, (Latin America and Caribbean), Chair  
Dr. Robert Rhoades (North America)  
Dr. D. Jane Pratt (GISN)

### Observers:

Dr. Ulrich Lutz (SDC)  
Dr. Douglas McGuire (FAO)

Published by the Mountain Forum Secretariat in cooperation with the regional nodes in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America and the Global Information Server Node of Mountain Forum

**ISBN: 99933-413-0-4**

Printed at Hill Side Press, Kathmandu

## **Mountain Forum Secretariat**

C/o ICIMOD, GPO Box 3226  
4/80 Jawalakhel, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: +977-1-525313; Fax: +977-1-524509  
email: [secretariat@mtnforum.org](mailto:secretariat@mtnforum.org)

