

INTRODUCTION

About the Mountain Forum

The Mountain Forum was set up in 1995 by The Mountain Institute (TMI), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and International Potato Center (CIP) with the support of the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) as initiating donor, to promote action on a worldwide scale towards development in mountain regions – development that is both equitable and ecologically sustainable. The Mountain Forum uses both modern and traditional means of communication to achieve this, actively supporting networking and capacity building. It encourages members to be proactive in their support of conservation and the sustainable development of mountain regions. At the heart of the Mountain Forum is an electronic network of members, set up in collaboration with non-governmental organisations, universities, governments, multilateral agencies, and private sector institutions from all over the globe. In fact, having successfully built upon existing networks, the Mountain Forum can be aptly described as a ‘network of networks’. It is in a prime position to connect and empower mountain supporters and communities throughout the world.

Members, Subscribers and Visitors

Since its inception, this global network has grown in membership at a rapid pace. Membership is free of charge and open to individuals and organisations: members can join by simply filling out a form. Although most of the services provided are electronic, members do not need connectivity to either e-mail or the Internet to join the forum. Every effort is made to bridge the digital divide, especially in the more marginalised and developing mountain regions of the world. The membership growth chart shown in Annex 1 shows that since 1996 over 2000 members have joined the forum and its regional networks.

There are also many ‘visitors’ and subscribers to our various electronic services. The number of subscribers to our 14 discussion lists increased from 4002 in January 2000 to 6712 at the end of December 2000.

The Global Information Server Node (GISN) in West Virginia, USA, maintains the Mountain Forum membership database centrally. We are grateful to the Lyris Bellanet service (funded by the International Development Research Centre [IDRC] Canada) for its technical support in maintaining the various electronic lists. Annexes 2 and 3 provide an analysis of the membership by subject and/or mountain interest as well as by region.

How the Mountain Forum is Organised

The global activities of the Mountain Forum are shared by the Secretariat in Kathmandu and the Global Information Server Node located in West Virginia, USA. In Africa, the membership services and activities of each regional node are managed as projects under the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), Kenya. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the network functions as a project of CONDESAN/InfoAndina at the International Potato Center (CIP), Peru. The North American region has yet to establish itself as an independent node, and is currently administered as an Interim Contact at The Mountain Institute, West Virginia (TMI). In Europe, the European Mountain Forum (EMF) works from the IUCN offices in Switzerland, but is registered as a charity. The Asia Pacific Mountain Network is administered as a project by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Nepal.

Each regional node sends a representative to the Board of Directors of the Mountain Forum, thus ensuring close cooperation and participation in the governance of the network. The day-to-day administration is carried out electronically in a coordinated manner via a closed-group e-mail list.

The Annual Report

In this first annual report, we are pleased to share our efforts in 2000 with you, along with numerous ideas to be pursued in the coming two years and beyond. We present details of the global activities in 2000 and report on the regional networks, presented in alphabetical order. We also report on preparations for the International Year of Mountains 2002 – a key event that brings hope and opportunity to further the mission of the Mountain Forum.

At the end of the report, we present extracts of the audited financial reports of the MF Secretariat and MF-GISN activities (Annex 4). Both operated as projects within host institutions, and have been independently audited. We hope that as MF moves towards establishing itself as a legal identity, we will have a complete audited report for presentation in the forthcoming years.

From the Professionals

“I like your work, and see right away that you fail to fall into two common traps of non-profits: (1) organisations that don't experiment because they are intimidated by the web, and (2) organisations with bigger budgets that get jazzed about the web, pay enormous amounts of money for a flashy web site, and then expect the world to change. Rather, the Mountain Forum seems to have done a lot with a small budget. It got its hands dirty and is seeing results.”

Sam Tucker, Manager, Business Development & Strategy
RealImpact, a division of RealNetworks, Inc.

MOUNTAIN FORUM INTERIM SECRETARIAT — A YEAR OF TRANSITION TO A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

The Mountain Forum Interim Secretariat continued as a project at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) throughout the year 2000 while the Interim Board was deciding on the Secretariat's final location. The Interim Secretariat was set up at ICIMOD in October 1999 after the First Interim Board Meeting at Urubamba, Peru. It took on global responsibility for the coordination of Mountain Forum activities on 1 January 2000.

The heart of the Mountain Forum's activities for the year 2000 continued to be information sharing, mutual support, and advocacy for equitable and sustainable mountain development. The first task at hand was to open a global bidding process to decide the location of the Secretariat and establish a Permanent Board of Directors. The Interim Secretariat was also given the responsibility of coordinating the recruitment of the Executive Secretary and setting up at least two meetings of the Interim Board, in addition to arranging the annual Node Managers' Meeting.

Information sharing activities are managed at global level are by the Global Information Server Node (GISN) hosted by TMI, West Virginia, USA. At regional level, information sharing is managed by the regional nodes. Activities were managed in an efficient way through close cooperation between nodes and through global activities being managed via the internal discussion list 'MF-admin'.

Preparations for the International Year of Mountains generated a high level of enthusiasm and support for the electronic services of the National Committees wherever they were formed, as well as at the Food and Agriculture Organization which is the lead agency for the celebrations of IYM.

ICIMOD prepared a project proposal listing the objectives for the Interim Secretariat as laid down by the Interim Board of Directors. They envisaged that the Interim Secretariat should be able to carry out the following.

- Oversee and give management support regarding the Mountain Forum's governance
- Convene the Secretariat and coordinate Interim Board Meetings
- Establish criteria and a process for selecting the 'host' institution for the permanent Secretariat of the Mountain Forum
- Prepare Terms of Reference for the future Executive Secretary, who would head the permanent Mountain Forum Secretariat
- Prepare guidelines and documentation soliciting proposals from institutions around the world who would like to host the permanent Secretariat of the Mountain Forum
- Raise additional funds when needed and prepare a project proposal for multi-donor fundraising to MF and GISN
- Continue to hold primary responsibility for MF Coordination including, but not limited to:
 - providing administrative support to MF
 - overall monitoring and evaluation of MF
 - establishing an inventory or clearing house of project proposals submitted for funding by all focal points or nodes
 - representing MF in international fora
 - implementing any special studies that may be required
 - preparing coordinated programmes of work and budgeting for MF's core programmes, for example, the Secretariat and the Global Information Server Node

This proposal was approved by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) with a total of USD 77,050. An additional sum of USD 60,000 was provided in September 2000 to allow the Executive Secretary to be brought on board by October 2000. This sum represented critical support and ensured the continuation of the Mountain Forum. The annual audited report of the MF Interim Secretariat and the Global Information Server Node is given in Annex 4.

Hosts of the Permanent Secretariat

The global bidding process was won by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), based in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Mountain Forum Secretariat was established at ICIMOD late in the year 2000. Initial priorities included registering Mountain Forum as an international non-government organisation and the implementation of an overall fundraising strategy to support regional nodes and strengthen advocacy for the Mountain Agenda, as set out in Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 at the 1992 Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development). Planning for the 2002 celebrations of the UN-declared International Year of Mountains continued to be a major activity.

Governance Support

Three Interim Board Meetings were held in 2000. The first meeting was held in January 2000 in Oxford, UK. This meeting focused on choosing the host institution. At the second meeting held in May 2000 in Gland, Switzerland, the selection of the Executive Secretary and the process for setting up the Permanent Board of Directors was finalised. The third meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland. It was the first of the Permanent Secretariat and was facilitated by the Executive Secretary. Three elected Board members and three representatives of the host institution attended. The transition to a permanent Secretariat in charge of global operations under the supervision of the Executive Secretary and with the guidance of the Board of Directors took place in November 2000.

Personnel

The Chair of the Interim Board of Directors, Dr. Martin Price, guided the Interim Secretariat, with the Director General of ICIMOD overseeing the project. Ms. C.P. Jayalakshmi was Assistant Coordinator of the project until October 2000, when Dr. Alejandro Camino joined the Secretariat as the First Executive Secretary of the Mountain Forum, supported by the Assistant Coordinator.

Services

The Mountain Forum Interim Secretariat,

- provided overall coordination of governance to the Mountain Forum
- supported the Mountain Forum Interim Board
- prepared work programmes and budgets for the Mountain Forum's core bodies
- promoted and coordinated inter-regional activities
- acted as a clearing house for project proposals submitted by the Mountain Forum Secretariat, all nodes, and of prospective donors
- prepared draft documents on the Mountain Forum's legal status for the approval of the Board through the legal consultant, Robert Auger
- actively promoted awareness and activities related to the International Year of Mountains 2002 through participation in Inter-Agency planning meetings of the IYM Coordination Unit at the FAO, Rome, Italy

GLOBAL INFORMATION SERVER NODE

The Mountain Institute (TMI) serves as the Global Information Server Node (GISN) of the Mountain Forum network. 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 to promote the well-being of mountain communities, environments and sustainable development.

Advocate the Mountain Agenda in the international and inter-regional arenas.

Membership

Global membership grew by 53 per cent to 2010 members from 99 countries, and a new category of organisational membership was added, with 51 new registrants. The structure of the membership database was revised and upgraded to better meet the needs of regional networks.

Electronic Networking Services

The electronic networking services of the Mountain Forum continued to grow at a rapid rate. Thirteen e-mail lists — global, regional, thematic, and summary — served over 6700 subscribers. The Mountain Forum web site grew to contain over 7000 documents including an on-line mountain library, a calendar of events, interactive membership services, discussion list archives, and other reference material. The web site was moved to a server closer to the backbone of the Internet to allow faster access to all users.

Additional services added to the site included expanded search features, a “frequently asked questions” page, an on-line order form to purchase publications, and an expanded web page in support of the International Year of Mountains 2002. The Mountain Forum's successful electronic conferencing model was the theme of numerous mentoring relationships with sustainable development partners in 2000.

Network Publications

New publications were distributed to members, partners, and delegates to the United Nations in support of critical mountain issues. Two issues of the Mountain Forum Bulletin were distributed to the large community of mountain stakeholders who do not have access to the Internet. The membership database was distributed on CD-ROM to members in Africa, where Internet access is often expensive or unavailable.

Two Mountain Forum e-conference reports were published and disseminated:

- *Mountain People, Forests, and Trees: Strategies for Balancing Local Management and Outside Interests*
- *Mountain Laws and Peoples: Moving Towards Sustainable Development and Recognition of Community-Based Property Rights. A General Overview of Mountain Laws and Policies with Insights from the Mountain Forum's Electronic Conference on Mountain Policy and Law.*

A Powerpoint presentation giving an overview of the Mountain Forum was placed on the web site for downloading and use by regional nodes.

GISN staff worked with the University of California Press to avoid destruction of the back issues of the journal *Mountain Research and Development*. A donation programme was coordinated by GISN which placed 48 sets of back issues at a cost equivalent of \$48,100 in developing country institutions.

Media Outreach

Public awareness of critical mountain issues was increased through popular media articles on the Mountain Forum's work published in *Atlantic Unbound* (the on-line version of *Atlantic Monthly*) and in *Americas* magazine.

Mountain Agenda Advocacy

GISN staff worked with the Swiss and Kyrgyz delegations to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development to effect policy change at the global level. As a result of outreach to UN delegates, which included meetings, speeches, and distribution of Mountain Forum publications, the commission adopted new language during its 2000 session that includes the specific policy needs of mountain regions.

GISN provided continued assistance to the FAO in developing the content of the official International Year of Mountains web site and in the development of a logo for the year. GISN was represented at the seventh inter-agency ad hoc working group on the International Year of Mountains, and subsequently mailed information packets to all participants of this working group.

Inter-regional Cooperation

GISN provided inter-regional facilitation and training throughout the year. This included,

- providing e-conference training materials and consultations to the Asia Pacific and Latin American nodes, and participating in the planning committee for the Asia Pacific e-conference
- updating internal administration web pages and e-mail addresses, including internal document download services and use of the 'mtnforum' domain by all regions
- giving technical support and training for regional web pages and e-mail lists in Europe, Asia Pacific, and Africa
- continuing interim support for North America, including membership and networking services, contact with US government officials responsible for IYM, outreach at the National Mountain Conference in Colorado, reporting on North American activities, and support to the new North American board member

Mountain Forum Governance

With regard to the Mountain Forum's governance, D. Jane Pratt served on the Board of Directors while GISN staff set up a web- and e-mail-based election process to assist the North American and Asia Pacific nodes in electing representatives to the Mountain Forum Board of Directors. GISN continued to recruit highly skilled volunteer assistance and in-kind donations to the network's core activities.

Personnel

Elizabeth Byers, Jason Espie, Doug Wandersee

What Members Have to Say

"I am already enjoying the fruits of joining Mountain Forum. It is a unique organisation ...and aptly fits my interests. I hope that Mountain Forum will be my voice in the future."

"This message is to express my deepest gratitude to all the people that have so spontaneously reacted to my question...about the restoration of tropical montane cloud forests. I was greatly impressed by all the tips, names and addresses which have been very helpful."

"I have found the list extraordinarily useful to me for my teaching over the last two years. Thank you for organising such a vital and interesting e-mail discussion list."

"This gesture will go a long way to inspire me...in my efforts to serve the mountains."

AFRICAN NODE OF THE MOUNTAIN FORUM

Introduction

The Mountain Forum-Africa was still in its formative stage in the year 2000 and was administered by an Interim Steering Committee with a Secretariat hosted by the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF). Its activities included a membership drive; partnership building; people, projects, and institutions database development; information sharing; governance and institutional relationships; and laying foundations for the International Year of Mountains (IYM).

Membership Drive

A membership drive was undertaken through the formal and informal contacts of Interim Steering Committee members, through a newsletter announcement, and during the African Mountains Association Conference held in Lesotho, in October 2000. At the beginning of the year, the official record showed that there were 42 Mountain Forum members living and working in Africa. At the close of the year, 332 individuals (residents and/or those working in Africa) had requested registration forms and were on the mailing list. A further 220 Mountain Forum members from other regions had expressed an interest in African mountain issues.

Partnership Building

MFA recognised the importance of working with existing institutions and networks in order to minimise duplication of efforts and provide mutual support. During the year, initial discussions on partnerships were held with the African Highlands Initiative (AHI), the Mountain Protected Area — Africa (MPA), the Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI), the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), the African Mountains Associations (AMA), the East African Wildlife Societies (EAWS), the Manor House Agricultural Center (MHAC), the Lesotho Mountains Research Group (LMRG), and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) Africa programme. Representatives from these institutions

expressed a willingness to collaborate in information generation and sharing as well as in advocacy and mutual support. Partnerships will be finalised in 2001 through a memorandum of understanding.

People, Projects and Institutions Database Development

Database structures were developed for information on a 'Who's Who' of on-going projects and institutions working in the mountain areas of Africa. Data collection and entry was started and by the end of the year there were 450 entries in the 'people' database, 35 entries in the 'projects' database, and 40 entries in the 'institutions' databases.

Information Sharing

MFA produced a newsletter and brochure that were distributed to over 1200 people. The role of the MFA in information sharing was discussed during the African Mountains Associations meeting in Lesotho where the complementary role of the MFA was endorsed and encouraged. Preliminary discussions on an information sharing programme for 2001 were held to identify key issues, available information and information gaps, modalities, and the timing of various contributions.

Governance and Institutional Relations

The Interim Steering Committee held two meetings in May and October to approve the proposed work plan and budget and to address governance issues. Dr. Kwesi Atta-Krah and Dr. Francis Gichuki were requested to continue serving as Chairman and Secretary of the Interim Steering Committee. Dr. Francis Gichuki was elected as the Mountain Forum Board member from Africa.

Laying the Foundation for IYM2002

The following MFA activities for IYM were endorsed and supported.

- A joint conference co-organised by MFA and AMA to be held in Tanzania (Moshi/Arusha regions) in 2002. The meeting will contribute to raising awareness of the importance of mountains as water catchments, biodiverse ecosystems, tourism, and cultural values and will identify the journey towards sustainable mountain development in Africa
- Comparative studies on Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro focusing on the highland-lowland interaction.

ASIA PACIFIC MOUNTAIN NETWORK (APMN)

The year 2000 saw the **Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN)** — the Asia/Pacific node of the Mountain Forum — conduct more than a dozen activities. Highlights include the Mountain Forum Board Election, a 'Mountain and Media' workshop to help prepare for IYM 2002, an APMN/ICIMOD e-conference, and the Central Asia project.

Mountain Forum Board Election in Asia/Pacific

As part of its commitment to the Mountain Forum Interim Board's decision, the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) held a web- and e-mail-based election from September 19 to October 30, 2000. The election was publicised through the MF-Asia Discussion List, other MF-lists, and through circulars — with voting forms attached — to offline MF/APMN members. The Nominees' Criteria, Nomination Process, Voters' Eligibility Criteria, and the Election Process were clearly outlined in the publicity material.

Three candidates were nominated by members to stand for the post of Asia/Pacific representative on the Mountain Forum Board of Directors. Out of the 450 MF members

from the Asia/Pacific region, 63 (15%) voted. Dr. Tej Pratap, the former Head of the Mountain Farming System Division at ICIMOD, was elected and will be our representative for the years 2000 to 2003.

Mountains and Media Workshop

In anticipation of the International Year of Mountains, APMN and PANOS South Asia organised a workshop in Kathmandu from 13-16 November 2000 for 15 journalists from all over the Asia/Pacific region.

Given that the International Year of Mountains is coming ever closer, media reporting on mountains and sustainable development issues should gain a new urgency. This workshop aimed to increase awareness among journalists about mountain issues and mountain people and encourage high-quality and timely coverage in the regional and national media in order to foster informed debate in the community at large. It was envisaged that each journalist should write two features for their respective publications. A journalist will also be commissioned to write an essay, addressing the various issues relating to sustainable development in mountain environments. In addition, this individual will be asked to suggest useful sources of reference such as documents, journals, web sites, institutions, and libraries which will be 'field tested' by the workshop participants and finalised after incorporating participants' feedback.

Journalists from India, Bhutan, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Malaysia took part in the workshop.

APMN/ICIMOD E-Conference

APMN and ICIMOD planned to organise an e-conference on the broad topic '*The Intervention of Technology in Mountain Areas: Strategies for Developing Fresh Approaches and Mainstreaming of Local Innovations in the Asia Pacific Region*' through the MF-Asia Discussion List from February 5 to March 6, 2001. Discussions with the moderator, Dr. Sudhirendar Sharma, based in New Delhi, India, were held in 2000.

The broad objective of the e-conference was to contribute to the ongoing debate on the impact of technology in mountain areas, showcase innovative approaches that helped reduce or reverse the negative impacts of technology intervention, recognise which local innovations can be mainstreamed, and identify areas of research.

Central Asia Project

APMN implemented the Central Asia Capacity-Building Project on 'Web-Publishing and Internet Technologies'. It held a two-week training workshop in Bishkek in September 2000, in collaboration with the International University of Kyrgyzstan (IUK), for participants from five Central Asian Republics. The participants were trained in the basics of the Internet, e-mail, graphics manipulation, and web designing and publishing so they could, in turn, train others within their own institutions.

The purpose of this project, which ended in June 2001, was to strengthen the IT-capabilities of Central Asian institutions involved in mountain development work or research.

Others

The APMN Bulletin (September 2000 issue) was published; the APMN homepage was revised; discussions were held on the idea of creating a national chapter of the APMN in India, discussions on glacial lake outbursts ensued on the Mf-Asia discussion list; and six proposed projects were funded under Round II of the APMN Small Grants' Programme (2000-2001).

Looking Ahead

The challenges ahead for APMN include

- how to reach out to the grassroots at minimal cost
- how to increase membership so that the different mountain countries are more proportionately represented in MF/APMN
- whether, and how to decentralise MF/APMN (if at all)
- how best to address mountain concerns which have not hitherto been properly addressed, such as the state of mountain children in the region

However, the biggest challenge for the APMN is to ensure the long-term sustainability of its programme.

EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN FORUM

The goals of the European Mountain Forum are defined in its registered statutes as:

- promoting sustainable development and management of European mountains and their environment;
- facilitating exchange between all parties involved; and
- encouraging education, training, public awareness, and technical assistance in all aspects with regard to the objectives above.

Membership

In 2000, about 600 individual members and 30 organisations were registered.

Governance

In 2000, the European Mountain Forum was governed by a board of eight members, five from the founding organisations and three node representatives for the Caucasus, the Mediterranean mountains, and the middle mountains of Western and Central Europe. Mr Martin Price, IUCN representative, was Chairman of the Board, and Mr Miquel Rifa, Fundacio Territori y Paisatge, Treasurer.

A general assembly with more than 40 European participants was held in Laissey, France, in May, followed by an electronic board meeting in November. A specific working group to discuss the statutes has also been created.

Françoise Mees is the Administrator of the Coordination Centre based in Switzerland. One volunteer, Laure Soubrier, joined her for eight months starting in October 2000.

Activities

More than 150 messages were posted on the 'mf-europe' discussion list in 2000.

The Mountain Forum was represented by the European Mountain Forum at the steering committee of the Chambéry World Mountain Forum organised by ANEM under UNESCO and FAO patronage in June 2000, and at the World Mountain Forum itself.

The European Mountain Forum has participated in several European congresses and conferences (Initiative Transport Europe 7th European Congress —March, 2nd European Mountain Conference of Trento —March, Mountain Convention Seminar of the Council of Europe — April, Europarc Seminar Slovenia — July, CIPRA General Assembly, Italy — October, Euromontana EEC Seminar, Brussels — October) as well as others on a national or regional basis (Visegrad network in Bratislava, Slovakia; Mountain Law conference in Cracow, Poland; Satatbiro in Tbilisi, Georgia).

Networking

A new mountain agro-pastoralism network was set up in cooperation with Swiss, French and Italian pastoralist NGOs.

The European Mountain Forum participated in Euromontana's summer training of South East European NGOs in preparation for the creation of a mountain network in the Balkan region. This will be followed in 2001 by the creation of a new EMF node in the region. Bulgarian, Bosnian, Serbian, Albanian, Macedonian, and Croatian participants were involved.

Projects Initiated in 2000

The European Mountain Forum successfully prepared the following projects in 2000.

- **2001 to 2003: TOPAS Training of Protected Areas Staff.** This is a Leonardo European Programme, funded by the European Commission, to establish a common training curriculum for existing staff. Seventeen different partners are involved and EMF is responsible for the programme's mountain and sustainable development issues, as well as for the overall use of new technologies of communication.
- **2001 to 2003: CAUCASUS mountain development.** In collaboration with IFAD and SAB/Euromontana, the European Mountain Forum will participate in this important development programme for Georgia and Azerbaidjan, by using new networking technologies to link the various stakeholders and build awareness in the civil society of both countries.
- **2001: Creation of a Balkan node.** Through the Reconstruction Pact, the European Mountain Forum will collaborate with Euromontana to create an efficient node in this region.

Mountain Forum Activities

The European Mountain Forum welcomed the two Mountain Forum Boards to Europe in May and November 2000. The Fundacio Territori y Paisatge, Barcelona, acting as Mediterranean Node of the European Mountain Forum, invited and hosted the Node Managers' Meeting for one week in November in Ferrera, Spain.

INFOANDINA, THE LATIN AMERICAN NODE OF THE MOUNTAIN FORUM

Background and History of the Relationship to the Mountain Forum

InfoAndina, an electronic network, was established by the International Potato Center (CIP) and CONDESAN as partners in 1993. By the year 2000, most Andean cities were connected at a reasonable price to the Internet and e-mail. At this time InfoAndina had over 850 subscribers in the region.

In 1995, an even more ambitious initiative was launched as a result of a meeting held in Lima. This was the Mountain Forum, an extensive information network connecting mountain regions throughout the world. In 1996, InfoAndina was invited to serve as the Latin American Node for the global forum funded by SDC during its first and second phases (I: 1996 to 1997, II: 1998 to 2000). In 2001, a new phase will start for InfoAndina, with partial support from SDC for 2001 to 2003. By 2001, InfoAndina will offer information services (e-conferences) to partner institutions in the Andean region in order to ensure its future sustainability.

In 1998, the United Nations declared the year 2002 as the International Year of Mountains and Ecotourism. This has become a unique opportunity to raise awareness in Andean countries about the sustainable development of mountain regions.

Report for 2000

In the Andes, the InfoAndina/Mountain Forum strategy to create greater mountain awareness is four-fold.

- **Increasing connectivity in mountain areas.** Mobile workshops are being taken to a number of smaller Andean cities to increase rural participation in the network. Since January 2000, 14 successful workshops have been organised in the secondary

Success Story

InfoAndina: Leading the Andean IYM2002 Initiatives at the National and Regional Level

The high Andes have been traditionally forgotten and isolated regions in Latin America, despite the fact that they represent the source of water and energy for 70 per cent of the urban population. The United Nations declaration of an International Year of the Mountains raised interest in mountain conservation issues at global, regional, and national levels, and brought the opportunity to highlight the value of the Andes as a source of water for the arid coastal regions of Latin America, and a most important source of agro-biodiversity for the rest of the world.

Early in 2000, a small group of Peruvian institutions from diverse sectors — private, public, national and international, research and academic — who were deeply concerned with mountain development and conservation issues in the Peruvian Andes decided to establish a National Mountain Working Group (GNTP). This group developed a national agenda for the conservation of the Peruvian Andes in the frame of IYM preparatory activities. The initial group of 18 institutions decided to organise two main events in order to enlarge the contribution from the national and international community to the Peruvian mountain agenda. The First National Workshop on Mountain Ecosystems was held in Lima, Perú (December 13 to 15, 2000), and the International Workshop on Mountain Ecosystems was planned for Cusco (25 to 27 April, 2001) with international support from SDC, the Netherlands, Spain, BID, CIP/CONDESAN, TMI and other partners.

As a result of the first National Workshop on Mountain Ecosystems in Peru, the participants developed an agenda with specific actions and mechanisms to share experiences. They developed a series of workshops for 2002, focusing on forestry, lakes, mountain biological diversity, and watershed management experiences. The participants discussed the creation of a special fund to promote local initiatives, and several innovations aimed at motivating the private sector in the national mountain agenda. Finally, they also promoted a campaign to promote IYM through the extensive communication media.

Since early 2000, InfoAndina, the Mountain Forum regional node in Latin America, has been facilitating communication among the National Working Group members, and created a dedicated e-discussion list (peruaim2002@topica.com). In July 2000, this model was replicated to support the National Working Group in Bolivia, led by FAO-Bolivia. The Bolivian group was larger, but more decentralised due to the country's political situation. To facilitate the interaction among the working group participants, InfoAndina created the bolivia_aim2002@topica.com list, moderated by FAO-Bolivia. Both lists are being used as a communication platform among national actors. InfoAndina also circulates announcements about relevant global events on both lists, such as the World Mountain Forum Congress, and FAO announcements.

cities of Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia. As a result of these workshops, 140 new members subscribed to the Mountain Forum from these locations.

- **Building national and regional Year of Mountains networks.** Small working groups have been established in Peru (peruaim2002@topica.com) and Bolivia (boliviaaim2002@topica.com) to work on national IYM preparations. In November 2000, a 'network of networks' made up of 18 leading Latin American networks for sustainable development was also established in Santiago de Chile (redinf@topica.com). This group reaches over 10,000 specialised users in Latin America, and its first order of business will be to promote awareness via newsletters and web sites about the International Year of Mountains.
- **Understanding and publicising several of the major links between urban dwellers and the Andes Mountains.** With the help of CONDESAN partners, InfoAndina and Mountain Forum are developing a campaign to attract attention (television shows, videos, and fairs) to urban food, water, and recreational systems that depend on mountain resources.
- **Building pride in the mountains.** InfoAndina/Mountain Forum is urging its members to develop local cultural and educational activities that will highlight the rich diversity and importance of their Andean patrimony (such as virtual trade fairs promoting Andean products and magazine inserts in local newsletters).
- **Personnel:** Ana Maria Ponce, Musuq Briceno

NORTH AMERICAN MOUNTAIN FORUM (INTERIM)

The Mountain Institute (TMI) served as interim coordinator of the North American Mountain Forum in the absence of a funded regional node. Interim support has included membership and networking services, fund-raising, outreach, and reporting.

Network Activities

- North American individual membership grew to 509 individuals, or 25 per cent of the total membership. Ten organisations registered for membership.
- The 'MF-Namerica' e-mail list, with 300 subscribers, was moderated by The Mountain Institute.
- The North American Mountain Forum regional web page was updated to include the North American report to the Mountain Forum, the North American Mountain Agenda report from the Banff planning meeting, and a Powerpoint presentation on the North American Mountain Agenda.
- The 'MF-Geography' e-mail list, with 630 subscribers, was moderated jointly by the Mountain Specialty Group within the American Association of Geographers and by The Mountain Institute.
- A memorandum of understanding to pursue North American mountain agenda activities was signed by the Keystone Center and The Mountain Institute.
- Contributions to the North American section of the FAO's IYM web page were provided by North American Mountain Forum members, the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture, and The Mountain Institute.
- Government contacts for the International Year of Mountains were made in the USA by The Mountain Institute, and in Canada by the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture.
- The *National Mountain Conference: Stewardship and Human Powered Recreation for the New Century* was held in September in Golden, Colorado. The Mountain Forum hosted a display table and was highlighted during the presentations.

Mountain Forum Governance

The Mountain Institute and the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture set up a democratic process to allow the North American membership to elect a representative to the Mountain Forum Board of Directors. Robert Rhoades of the University of Georgia is the newly

elected Mountain Forum Board member from North America. He replaces Leslie Taylor of the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture, who held the seat for the first half of 2000.

Funding

Proposals have been prepared to establish a North American regional coordination centre, but have not yet been successfully funded. Submitted proposals in 2000 included the following.

- *Engaging Mountain Communities: Social action through the use of communications technology in poorly connected regions of North America.* Submitted to the Markle Foundation by The Mountain Institute.
- *Investing in North American Mountain Areas: Green Trade and Green Tourism.* Submitted to the North American Fund for Environmental Conservation by The Mountain Institute, in partnership with the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture and the Mexican Indigenous Association for Sustainable Development.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE MOUNTAINS 2002

Action Plan: IYM 2002

The Mountain Forum and its regional node networks are actively involved in preparation for IYM 2002, disseminating information, and working for advocacy and support through special partnerships with the FAO, the designated Task Manager for IYM celebrations. The Mountain Forum also works with the Mountain Research and Development Journal (MRD) as well as other key media players. The Mountain Forum is negotiating with the FAO to manage the official IYM calendar of events besides providing ongoing support to the development of the official web page and database.

Activities

The Mountain Forum was actively involved in global planning meetings related to IYM celebrations and completed the survey questionnaire prepared and collated by the FAO's Ad-hoc Inter Agency Team, at Barcelona during the Node Managers' Meeting and at the 7th Inter Agency meeting in Geneva in October/November 2000.

Several direct support initiatives by regional nodes for the National Committees and their activities have already been initiated, notably in Peru, Bolivia, and Italy. The following are some of the many ideas that have been put forward to celebrate IYM.

Media

- Roster of travelling exhibits and speakers
- Highlight mountain issues in news headlines

Youth

- Children's art contest and conferences
- 365 daily questions (with photos) on the web and published book
- Downloadable mountain music
- Volunteer opportunities for young people, such as mountain clean-up projects
- Outreach to youth clubs and schools

Partnerships

- Projects of other organisations to be promoted and other events to be co-sponsored
- Virtual trade fair for mountain products and technologies
- FAO and other partners to be supported with emphasis on information exchange
- MRD: continue to provide information, write articles, archives
- Promotion of decentralised renewable energy options for mountain regions

Women

- E-conference, and support for ICIMOD's Global Women's Meeting

Coordination

- Compile resources: exhibits, lectures, training, curricula
- Advice to organisations on scheduling events
- Advice on how to implement events
- Volunteer matching service
- Matching energy and ideas with implementers
- Coordinate mountain film festivals, centres, courses, museum events, and other events

Other Outreach

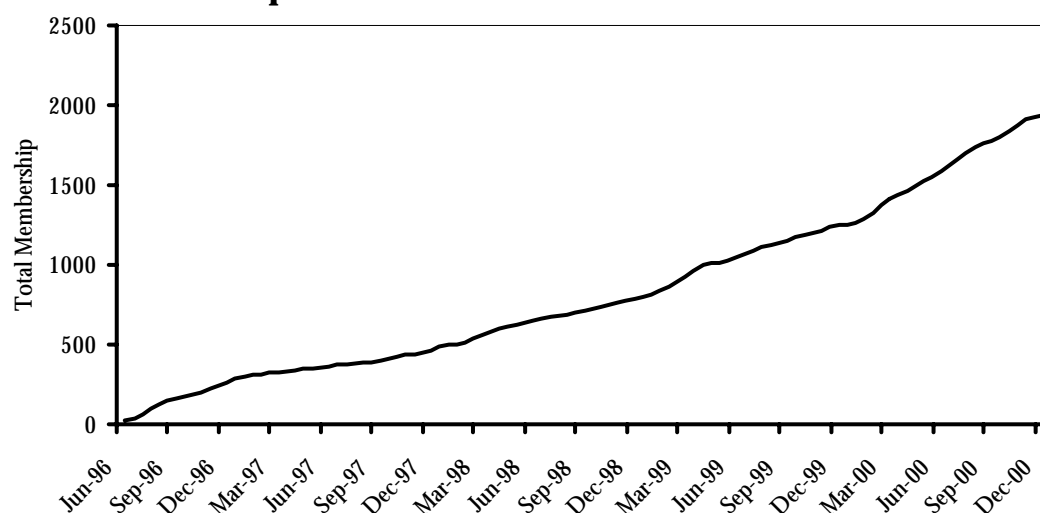
- Announce IYM to a far larger contact list (beyond membership)
- Downloadable PowerPoint presentation
- E-conferences with global relevance
- Put mountains and IYM on the agenda of other groups, festivals, and events
- Help organise simultaneous events downloadable on the web

Archive

- 'Memory' of IYM and long-term continuation

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: Membership Growth



ANNEX 2: Mountain Forum Membership Statistics as of December 30, 2000

Produced by MF GISN - The Mountain Institute

	Count	Per cent
Relation to Mountains:		
Mountain inhabitant	495	25.5%
Professional working in mountains or on mountain issues	1316	67.7%
Visitor or user of mountains	549	28.3%
Principal Type of Work:		
Activism	303	15.6%
Administration	208	10.7%
College or graduate studies	342	17.6%
Policy development	522	26.9%
Project implementation	760	39.1%
Research	1173	60.4%
Teaching	481	24.8%
Other	207	10.7%
Institutional Affiliation:		
Donor organization	70	3.6%
Government	240	12.4%
Intergovernmental organisation	88	4.5%
No affiliation (private member)	224	11.5%
Non-government organization (NGOs)	452	23.3%
International non-government organisation (INGO)	165	8.5%
University or research	744	38.3%
Other	143	7.4%
Access to Internet:		
Pay to receive e-mail	210	10.8%
Do not pay to receive e-mail	1394	71.7%
E-mail discussion list experience	498	25.6%
How Members Learned of the Forum:		
Internet	419	21.6%
Printed material or publication	406	20.9%
Professional colleague or friend	750	38.6%
Other	175	9.0%
Contributions Offered:		
Database searches for participants with limited access	386	19.9%
Help in locating technical support for local/regional members	463	23.8%
Contributing case studies, documents, references, or reports	926	47.7%
Moderating or helping to moderate a discussion list	298	15.3%
Other	53	2.7%

ANNEX 3: Mountain Forum Membership Statistics for Each Region as of December 30, 2000

Produced by MF GISN and The Mountain Institute

Mountain Forum Members' Geographic Location

The statistics for the main geographic regions are determined by sorting the "MRegion" field of the membership database. MRegion is for global distributions to all Mountain Forum members. Each member can have ONLY ONE MRegion, determined by the geographic location of their mailing address. The MRegion field is for administrative purposes only, and does not reflect regional network membership, only geographic proximity to a regional node.

MRegion	Count	
Africa	73	4%
Asia	566	29%
Europe	541	28%
Lamer	293	15%
Namer	470	24%
Total	1943	100%

Mountain Forum Regional Networks (Member's Interest By Region)

The statistics below reflect members interested in a region, or the size of regional networks. Members may have multiple regions of interest, as their work and interest may extend to more than one area. Members indicating an 'interest' in a region should receive all distributions of information from the appropriate region, such as regional newsletters. All persons indicating their interest in a region represent the membership of that region's network.

Region	Count	
Asia	1090	56%
Latin America	692	36%
Africa	293	15%
Europe	717	37%
N. America	545	28%
Global	743	38%

ANNEX 4: Audited Financial Statements for the Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS) and Global Information Server Node (GISN)

We are pleased to present to the Mountain Forum Annual Report extracts from the audit reports of both the global programmes of the Mountain Forum. They have been operating in the past year as the projects of two separate host institutions.

The Mountain Forum Interim Secretariat operated in 2000 as a project of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu, Nepal. ICIMOD's appointed auditors, M/s Price Waterhouse Coopers of India, have conducted an independent audit of the MF Secretariat Project.

The Global Information Server Node of the Mountain Forum operated as a project of The Mountain Institute in West Virginia, USA. TMI's appointed auditors, are M/s BDO Seidman, LLP, Washington DC, USA who have conducted an independent audit of the Mountain Forum's GISN Project.

We are pleased to provide the relevant text extracts from the audit reports, and full financial reports of both projects respectively. The hosting institutions can be contacted for further clarification.

M/s Price Water House Coopers, India, Report to **Director General of ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal, on Statement of Income and Expenditure relating to Coordination and Convenorship of Mountain Forum Program (Account Number: 215051)**

We have examined the attached Statement of Income and Expenditure relating to Coordination and Convenorship of Mountain Forum Program (Account Number: 215051) of ICIMOD (hereinafter referred to as Mountain Forum Program II), funded in terms of agreement referred to in Note 1 thereon for the period from 1st January 2000 to 15 February 2001, signed by us under reference to this report, with the related books and records of the Centre and the information and the explanations given ... Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. On the basis of such examination and the information and explanations obtained, as required, we confirm that the expenditure reflected in the aforesaid statement of income and expenditure are expedient and conforming to the Mountain Forum Program II and also the aforesaid Statement of Income and Expenditure, read with the notes thereon, fairly presents the deficit for the period form 1 January 2000 to 15 February 2001 of the Mountain Forum Program.”

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
Statement of Income and Expenditure relating to Coordination and Convenorship of Mountain Forum Program II (Account Number : 215051)
for the period from 1 January 2000 to 15 February 2001

	Budget (Refer Note 3) US Dollars	Actual US Dollars
Income		
Contribution from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	137,050	130,000
Total	137,050	130,000
Expenditure		
1. Coordination		
Executive Secretary		
Appointment Travel/Relocation	15,000	14,505
Remuneration	20,000	26,581
Assistant Coordinator		
Remuneration	25,000	26,804
Secretarial Assistance		
2. Legal Status of Mountain Forum (FM)		
Studies/Logo and Statutes Registration	5,000	5,000
3. Meetings of Interim Board of Directors	35,000	33,094
4. MF Node Manager's Meeting/Fund Raising, Board of Directors	5,000	2,828
5. Recruitment of Executive Secretary	14,000	11,960
6. Travel	2,000	1,494
7. Communications, Stationery and Contingency	3,000	2,047
Sub Total	124,000	124,313
8. Overhead	13,050	12,737
Total	137,050	137,050
Deficit for the period being excess of expenditure over income (Note 3)		(7,050)
(detailed Notes continued in another page, not included in this report)		

“Independent Auditors’ Report

To the Board of Trustees of **The Mountain Institute, Inc.**, Harrisonburg, Virginia

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of **The Mountain Institute, Inc.** (the Institute) as of December 31, 2000 and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended. ... We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. ... In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Institute as of December 31, 2000, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. March 30, 2001”.

The Mountain Institute, Inc

Schedule of Support and Expenses on the Mountain Forum

<i>For the year ended December 31, 2000</i>	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Andes-Himal	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Mountain Policy	SDC- CSD	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization	United Nations FAO Contracts IYM	Unrestricted Donations & Other Contracts	Total
Cash balances, January 1, 2000	\$ -	\$11,216	\$5,286	-	\$6,000	\$3,403	\$1,215	\$27,120
Cash received in 2000	150,000	-	-	2,926	3,000	2,000	1,975	159,901
Funds available	150,000	11,216	5,286	2,926	9,000	5,403	3,190	187,021
Expenses								
Salaries	84,852	1,615	-	-	-	-	-	86,467
Fringe benefits	11,402	189	-	-	-	-	-	11,591
Consultants and contractors	14,654	3,856	-	2,926	-	160	-	21,596
Travel meals and lodging	7,336	4,418	-	-	-	1,124	1,245	14,123
Program supplies – other direct	1,685	63	-	-	-	-	42	1,790
Printing and publications	4,286	-	5,286	-	5,177	1,328	-	16,077
Telecommunications	4,499	33	-	-	-	-	-	4,532
Shipping and postage	4,260	-	-	-	3,823	2,116	-	10,199
Office supplies	2,278	34	-	-	-	-	-	2,312
Equipment and software	3,937	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,937
Training and workshops	353	807	-	-	-	675	-	1,835
Sub-grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and bank fees	134	137	-	-	-	-	-	271
Indirect expenses	24,403	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	25,403
Total expenses	164,079	12,152	5,286	2,926	9,000	5,403	1,287	200,133
Cash balance or (deficit)	\$ (14,079)	\$ (936)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,903	\$ (13,112)

Note: Page 17 of Audit Report of The Mountain Institute

FOREWORD

This is the first Annual Report of the Mountain Forum for 2000. As such, it is appropriate to recognise the founding members of the Forum — TMI, ICIMOD and CIP, and the support of SDC as initiating donor. It is thanks to them and to the support of mountain people everywhere that the Mountain Forum is securely established as a global network. And it is thanks to all the staff, members and supporters of the Mountain Forum that we now have several services and activities that we are able to report on.

We are pleased to have a fully functional Secretariat, headed by Alejandro Camino, the Executive Secretary. The year 2000 has been a year of transition for the Mountain Forum. The Interim Secretariat in Kathmandu, under the guidance of the Interim Board of Directors, was charged with finding a permanent host for the Secretariat, and with conducting the search for the Executive Secretary. Finally, the Mountain Forum Secretariat in Kathmandu and the Global Information Server Node in West Virginia combined forces to submit a joint fundraising proposal for all the global activities of the Mountain Forum.

Alejandro Camino joined in October 2000 to take charge of the day-to-day operations of the new Secretariat. This year the first fully constituted Board was appointed. It achieved the desired balance between elected representatives and those representing the hosting institutions of the nodes.

In the past year, activities have focused on institutional strengthening of the Mountain Forum and its regional nodes. This year we aim to provide MF with a legal status and enable this rapidly growing network to raise funds to fulfill its mission and objectives.

As has been the focus of its constituent regional networks, the Mountain Forum's mission is information sharing, mutual support and advocacy. The coming year will bring many activities geared to the year 2002, the United Nations-declared International Year of Mountains. This offers unique opportunities for the Mountain Forum to raise the mountain agenda at the local, national, regional and international level. The networking, information and communication work of the Mountain Forum will no doubt contribute greatly to this celebration of mountains.

Let us all make a commitment to work together to nurture and strengthen this exciting network.

Dr. Hubert Zandstra
Chair, Board of Directors
Mountain Forum

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Mountain Forum Interim Secretariat	2
Global Information Server Node	4
African Node of the Mountain Forum	6
Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN)	7
European Mountain Forum	9
InfoAndina, the Latin American Node of the Mountain Forum	10
North American Mountain Forum (Interim)	12
International Year of the Mountains 2002	13
Annex 1: Membership Growth	15
Annex 2: Mountain Forum Membership Statistics	15
Annex 3: Mountain Forum Membership Statistics for Each Region	16
Annex 4: Audited Financial Statements for the Mountain Forum Secretariat (MFS) and Global Information Server Node (GISN)	16