



Strengthening Networking for Sustainable Mountain Development in Asia and Pacific

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Photo: Celine Curi



Asia Pacific Mountain Network

What is APMN?

- ▶ **Regional node of Mountain Forum**
- ▶ **Network** (on-line and off-line) of individuals and organisations working for sustainable mountain development
- ▶ **Purpose**
 - to promote linkages and networking among stakeholders concerned with the management of mountain environments and improving the living standards of mountain people at all levels
 - to sensitize policy-makers and the general public about the role of sustainable mountain development and its problems and challenges.
- ▶ Funded by **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)** since 1995

Background

Global Context: Rio Summit and Agenda 21 Chapter 13 Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development

- ▶ **Inclusion of sustainable mountain development as a priority**
- ▶ **Mountains**
 - important source of water, energy and biological diversity
 - 10% of world population depends directly on mountain resources and a much larger percentage indirectly
- ▶ **Programme Areas**
 - Generating and strengthening knowledge about the ecology and sustainable development of mountain ecosystems
 - Promoting integrated watershed development and alternative livelihood opportunities

Regional response to Agenda 21 Chapter 13

SUDEEMA Call to Action

- ▶ Kathmandu gathering: December 13-15, 1994
- ▶ 78 participants from 20 Asian countries and 10 international agencies

Priority themes

- ▶ Poverty eradication and economic development
- ▶ Sustainable management of natural resources
- ▶ Gender-balanced decision-making in environment and development policies and programmes
- ▶ Preservation of cultural heritage
- ▶ Reducing vulnerability to mountain disasters

APMN and MF

- ▶ 1995 – APMN established in response to SUDEEMA Call to Action
- ▶ 1996 – Mountain Forum (MF) established as a global network of networks with APMN as the Asia-Pacific Node

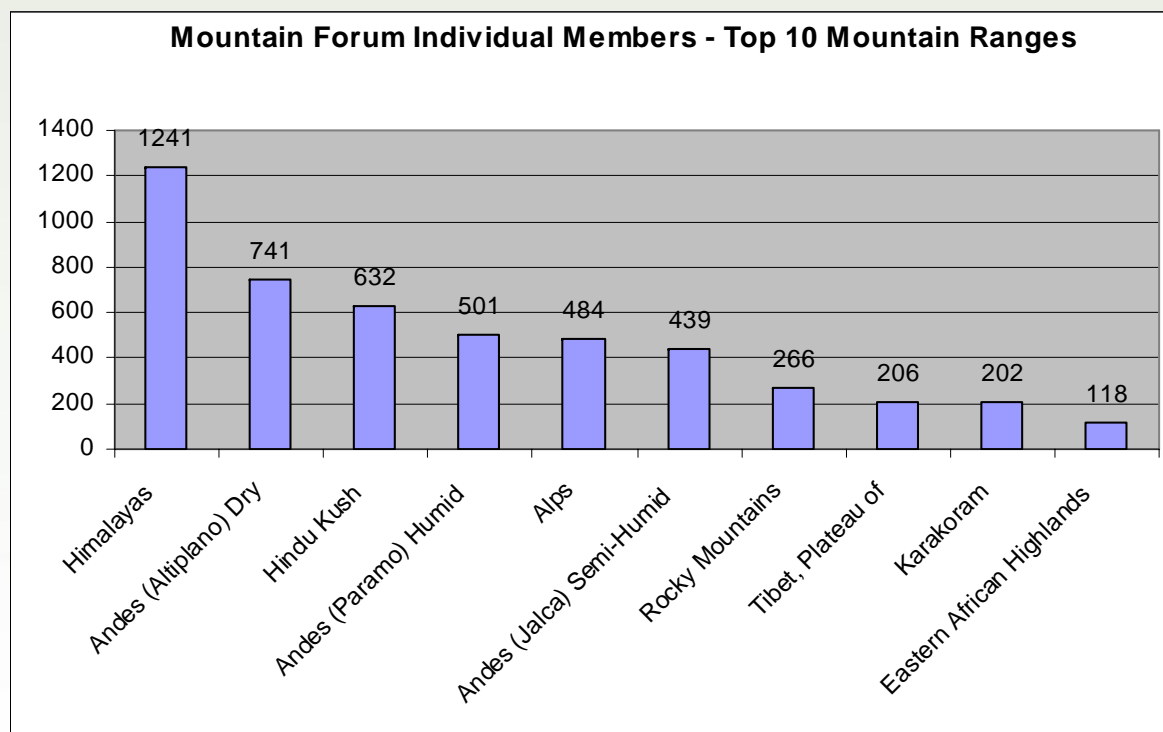
Tasks

- ▶ Information and knowledge sharing on sustainable mountain development
- ▶ Supporting dialogue
- ▶ Advocacy for the “Mountain Agenda”



Membership network

- ▶ Mountain Forum - 394 organisational members from 67 countries; 3405 individual members from 112 countries
- ▶ APMN - 172 organisational members from 23 countries; 1164 individual members from 37 countries



Mountain Forum/APMN Services...

Discussion Lists

- 4 global and thematic – Global, Women, Geography, Summary
- 8 geographic – Africa, Asiapacific, Carpathians, Centralasia, Europe, Infoandina, NAmerica, Paramos

E-conferences

- E-conference management tool supports dialogue among stakeholders; translation, parallel e-consultations
- Global multilingual e-conferences have fostered debate on:
 - o biodiversity conservation (Himalayas, Andes),
 - o sustainable agriculture for mountains (SARD-M)
 - o global change research (Africa)
 - o Mountain Partnership organisational framework (Cusco Framework for Action)

Mountain Forum/APMN Services...

Mountain Forum website <<http://www.mtnforum.org>>

APMN Website <<http://apmn.icimod.org/>>

Online Library

- Over 2070 full-text documents and more than 1370 bibliographic references
- 49 periodicals
- 222 related links, 65 reference items
- User friendly search options, emailing systems for documents

Mountain Forum/APMN Services...

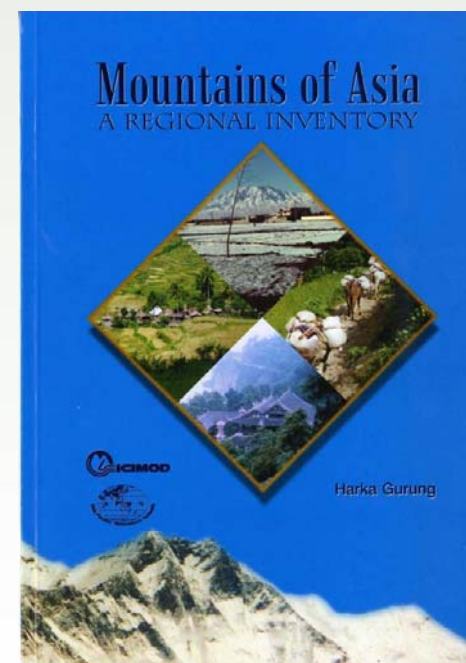
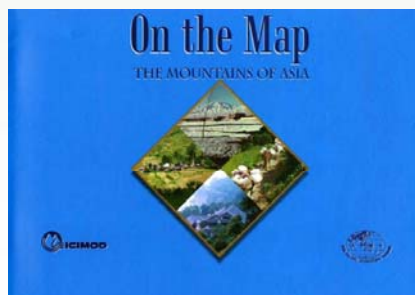
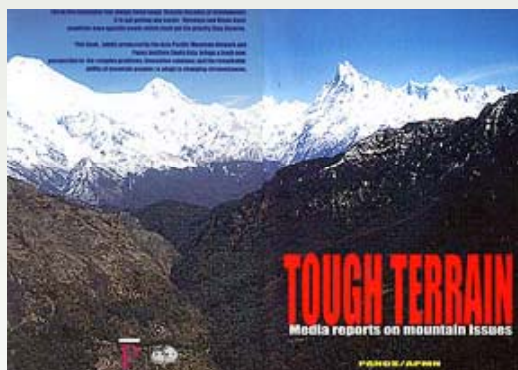
Mountain Calendar

- Joint initiative of Mountain Forum and Mountain Partnership
- Up-to-date listing of mountain focused events at global regional and national level
- Cross-linked with Mountain Partnership Website
- Upcoming SMD-related events highlighted
- Linked to the “Theme of the month”

Mountain Forum/APMN Services...

Publications

- APMN bulletin (biannual), Mountain Forum Bulletin (biannual) and MF Annual Report , other inventory and thematic reports.



Other APMN Activities



Photo: Billi Bierling

- Dialogue with the grassroots; a joint project by APMN and Radio Sagarmatha - finalists at the Stockholm Challenge in 2006
- Mission Swabhiman: APMN is member of Rural Telecentres promotion network in Nepal



Together with Mountain Partnership

- **“Strategies for Improving Livelihood through Income-Generating Activities in Mountain Regions” mountain products research (2003-04)**
- **Broadband connectivity study in Nepalese Mountains (with FIT Nepal, in 2007)**
- **Communications needs assessment in Central Asia (2007)**
- **Support information exchange and activities in the development of the Biodiversity Initiative (2007-2008)**
- **Sustainable Mountain Development: Who is who mapping (upcoming)**

Mountain Partnership Secretariat is jointly funded by
FAO/UNEP/SDC/Italian Government

Outlook

- **Convergence of communication technologies supports knowledge sharing, decision making and joint action**
- **Addressing emerging issues (climate change, tourism, CBNRM, sustainable livelihoods...)**
- **Developing synergy: Mountain Partnership Secretariat / MF Secretariat and APMN / Programmes and projects on sustainable mountain development**
- **Improving geographic representation**
- **Developing focused discussion groups**
- **Developing resources (e-conferences, web services, discussion lists)**
- **Diversifying the funding base and multiplying the impacts**



Photo: Sanjay Madhani