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## The Mountain Forum



*'A global network of networks  
for  
sustainable mountain development'*



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## Mission.....

*..promote equitable and ecologically sustainable mountain development and conservation..*

Established in 1996 to follow up Agenda 21- Chapter 13

Need for bringing mountain initiatives together to:

- Use existing information and knowledge within and across mountain regions
- create synergies in activities of members
- support processes to include SMD aspects and best practices into policy agendas

Through (*strategic Plan/ Workplan 2008/2011*)

- sharing and exchanging Information and lessons learnt
- Networking and mutual support of members
- supporting policy and advocacy activities of members



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# Mountain Forum Structure

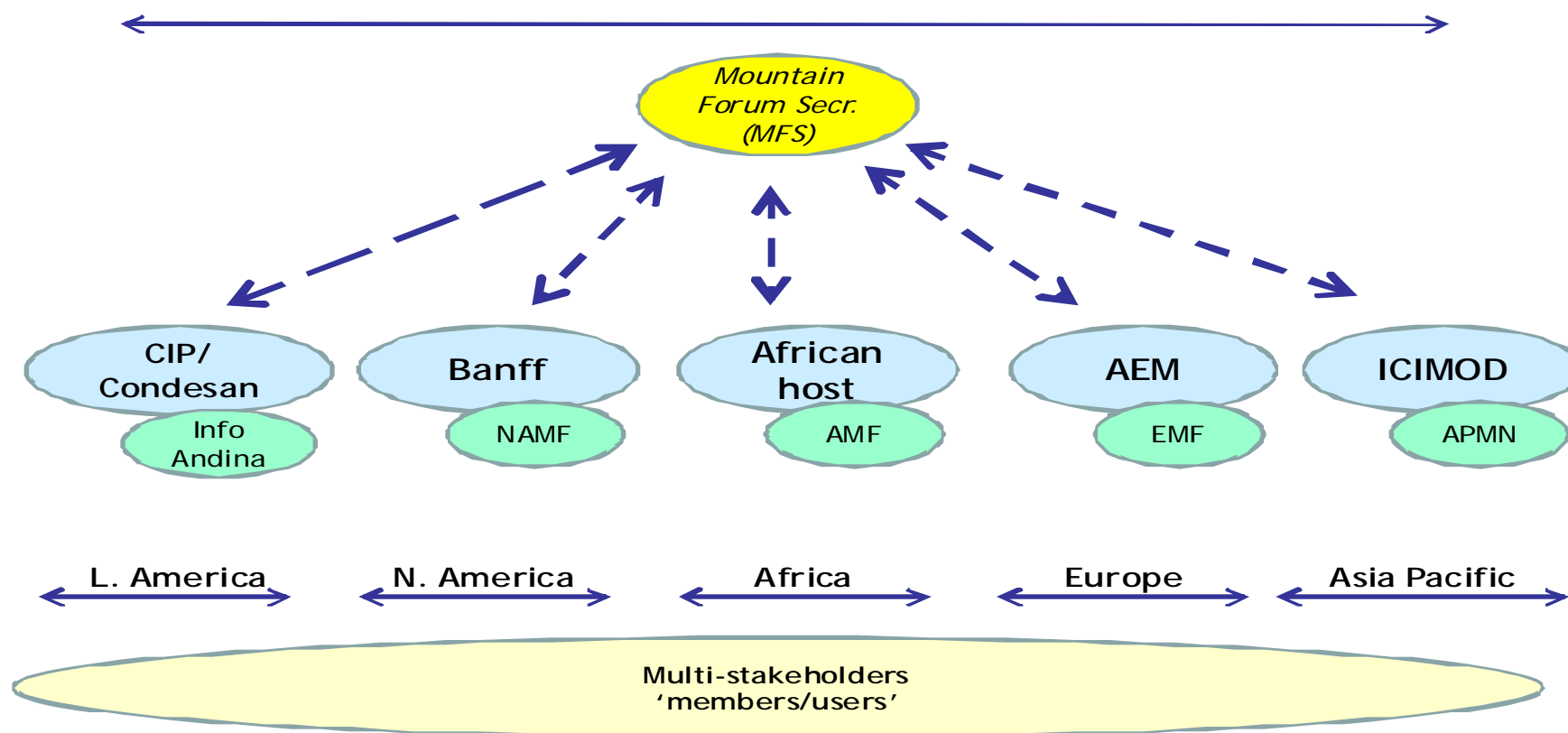
The Mountain Forum consists of

- 5 regional Networks hosted by renowned institutions :
  - ✓ African Mountain Forum - World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Uganda
  - ✓ Asia-Pacific Mountain Forum (APMN) - ICIMOD, Nepal
  - ✓ European Mountain Forum - AEM, Chambery, France
  - ✓ InfoAndina (Latin American Mountain Forum) - International Potato Center (CIP), Peru
  - ✓ North American Mountain Forum - Mountain Culture at the Banff Centre, Canada
- Mountain Forum Secretariat
- International (elected) Board of Directors



# Mountain Forum Structure

## Mountain Forum Global/ interregional linkages





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## Asia Pacific Mountain Forum (APMN)

- Asia-Pacific Mountain Forum (APMN) – hosted and arm of ICIMOD, Nepal
- Follow-up ‘SUDEEMA Call to Action’, 1994 by 20 Asian countries and 10 international agencies
- Network of individuals and organizations working for sustainable mountain development
- Purpose:
  - to promote linkages and networking
  - to sensitize policy-makers and the general public about the role of sustainable mountain development and its problems and challenges.



# Observations

1. Information scattered / not accessible
2. Research gaps on knowledge - white spots
3. Parallel research and development initiatives:
  - Development activities not underpinned by science
  - Lessons learnt in development not captured- local knowledge not brought in
  - No mechanism to capture HKH research and development activities, agendas, lessons learnt
4. No follow-up
5. Need for action
  1. Efficiency
  2. Real issues on the ground





## Ingredients for success

1. Critical mass of key organisations present
2. Jointly - rich knowledge resource + some resources
3. Willingness to work together- learn
4. Potential to attract funding – influence agendas and streamline work

But need for

1. Longer term approach - not ad-hoc
2. Anchoring
3. Partnering
4. dedicated light facilitation for
  - bringing information and expertise together
  - Synthesising (State of MB in HKH ..)
  - Repackaging information



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## Mountain Forum MB Initiative

### **1. Strengthen regional networks in Mountain Biodiversity (MB)**

- Knowledge base (policies, experts, projects etc)
- Facilitation and synthesis function for policy and advocacy (COPs, e-Conferences, workshops, State of MB)

### **2. Link with global initiatives/ programs**

### **3. Outputs :**

- Support CBD-COP process
- Support research agenda setting
- Guide investments
- Serve as a reference point for implementers
- Base for policy and advocacy
- inputs for partners as Mountain Partnership





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# Proposed steps Mountain Forum

## -Mechanism

Link to global efforts

HKH facilitation

Partners at various levels in HKH

Broad R&D expertise pool:  
Community of Practice

HKH Regional mechanism  
Key MB actors

## -Outputs

### Policy support:

- overview of policies
- Synthesis R&D
- Building blocks

### Research:

- Overview activities
- results
- Gaps/ research agenda

### Development :

- Overview activities
- Lessons learnt



# Proposed steps Mountain Forum

## -Mechanism

MF Global facilitation

Global key MB actors :  
GMBA, MRI, WCPA, IUCN, FAO,..

APMN Regional network & facilitation

HKH Regional mechanism  
Key MB actors

Community of Practice

MF and partner members at various levels

## -Outputs

### Policy support:

- overview of policies
- Synthesis R&D
- Building blocks

### Research:

- Overview activities
- results
- Gaps/ research agenda

### Development :

- Overview activities
- Lessons learnt

## -MF/ APMN

### -with Partners

### Knowledge Base:

#### Access:

- Policy documents
- R&D projects
- lessons learnt

### Facilitation and exchange:

- Dialogue COP
- targeted e- confer.
- mutual support/ synergies

### Policy & Advocacy

- Messages
- state of the MB HKH



## Next steps

For the last session....

1. If agreeable --) Capture the intention to work towards such a mechanism '*Declaration of Kathmandu*'
  2. *Have a small working group elaborate options for modalities; MF/APMN can support this*
  3. *Circulate this among (present and other) key partners*
  4. *Decide on options/ program (workshop or e-conference)*
- As of today:
1. *Complete list of HKH expertise--> COP; join Mountain Forum as member/ MB expert*
  2. *start sharing info and news; MF/APMN support*



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## **More information:**

**Global Mountain Forum Secretariat.**

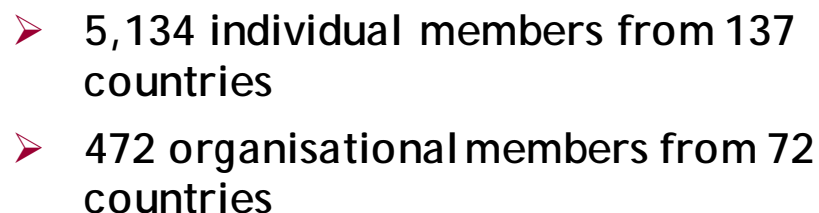
**Web:** [www.mtnforum.org](http://www.mtnforum.org)

**Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN)**

**Web:** [apmn.icimod.org](http://apmn.icimod.org)

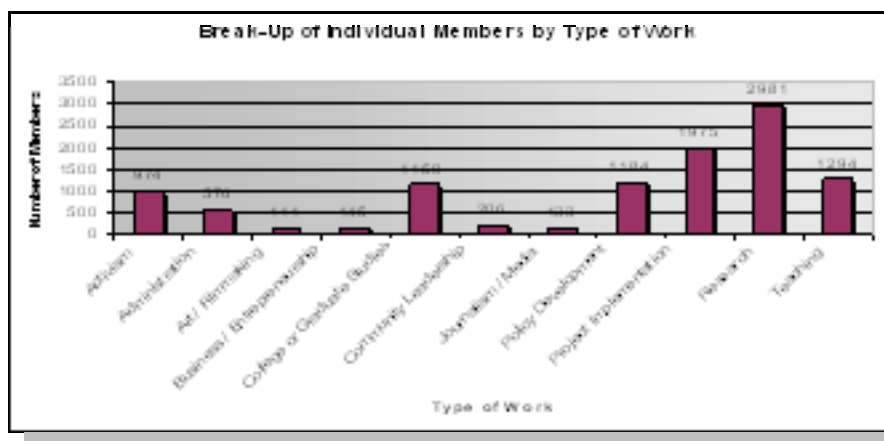


# Membership Database



*What is it used for?*

- Contact individuals and organisations working in the same field
- Identify funding sources
- Initiate joint projects
- Share experience/learnings



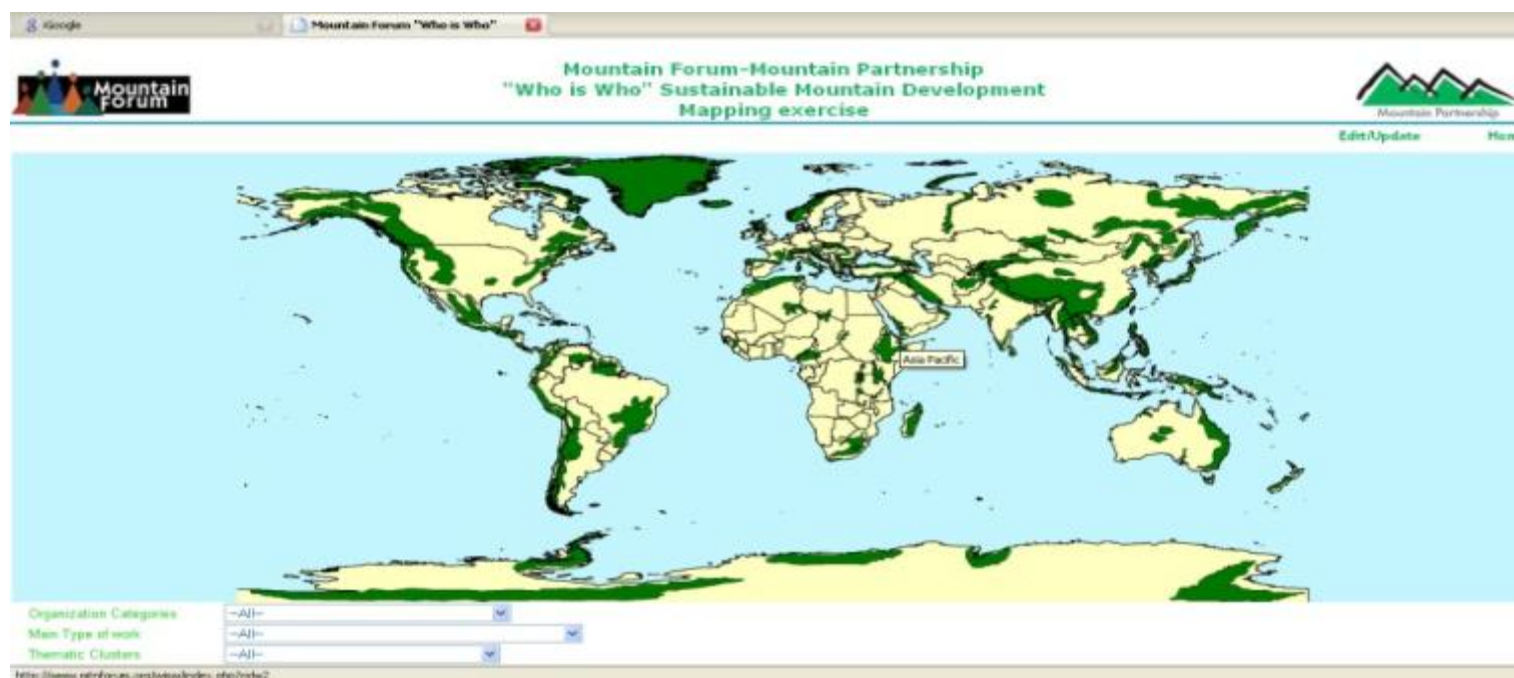




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## *"Who is Who" in SMD*



- To enhance synergy in SMD by knowing who is who and who is doing what and where?
- Content: Over 800 organisations from government, international, civil society and private sector



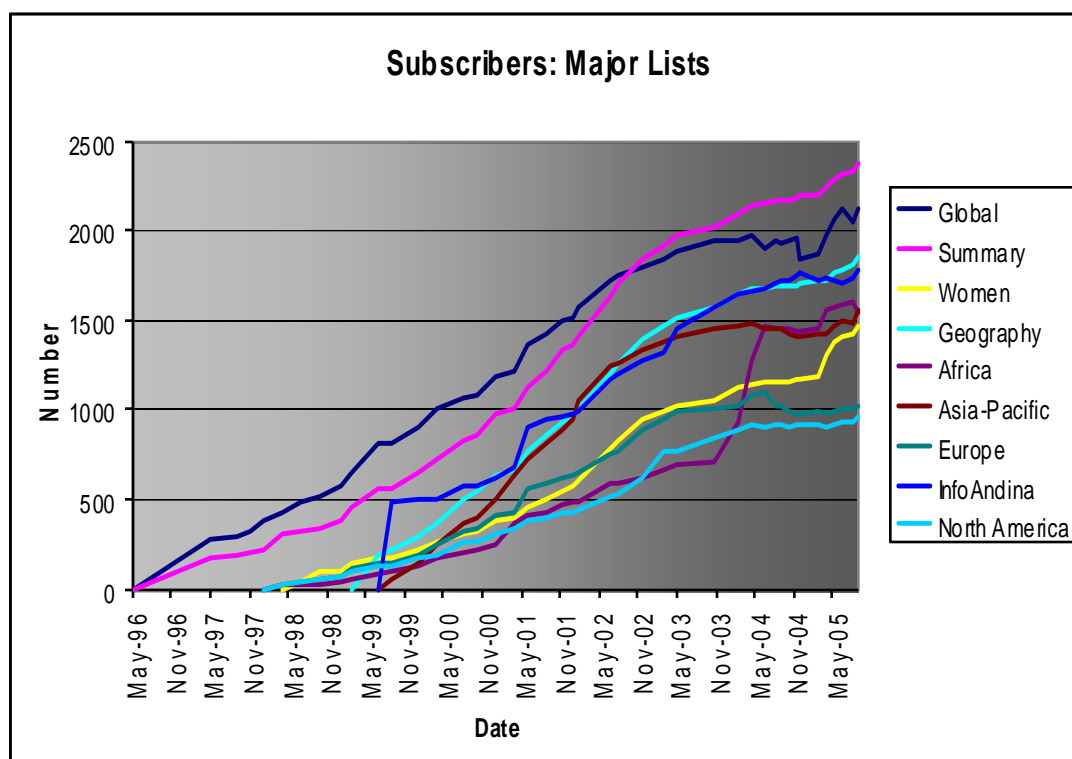


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# E-dialogues

- 12 moderated global & regional & thematic lists
- More than 17,664 total subscriptions



## *What are they used for?*

- Share information
- Ask questions
- Learn more about each others' work
- Debate issues
- Form consensus
- Formulate collective strategies
- Make announcements and appeals

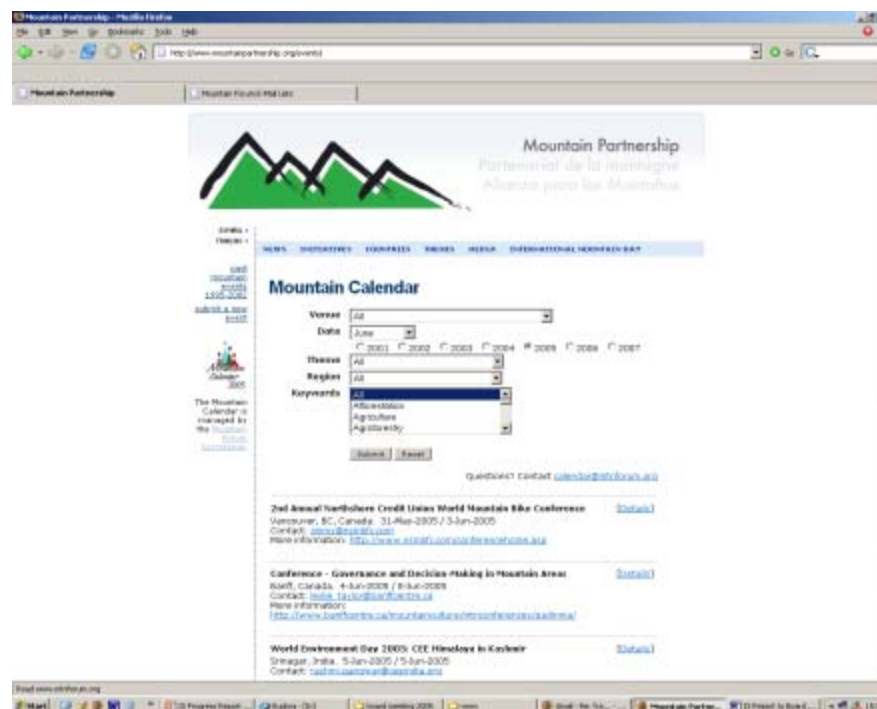


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# Mountain Calendar

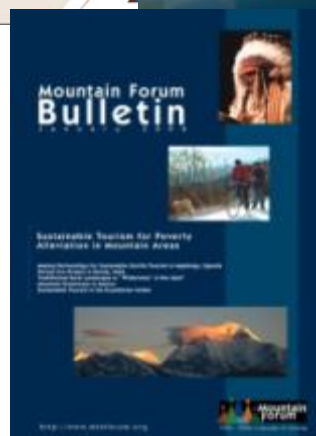
- Jointly with the Mountain Partnership, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Searchable events related to mountains across the world





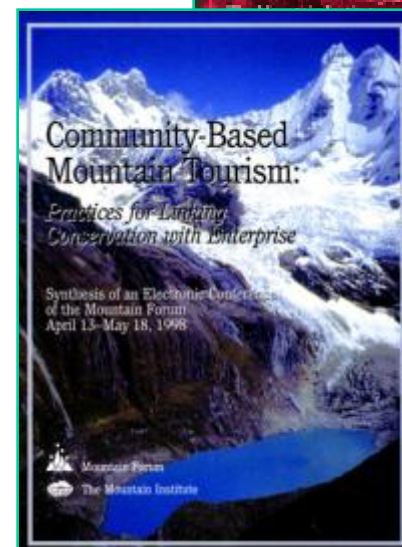
# Publications

➤ Annual Reports



➤ Bi-annual bulletin with thematic focus (re-launched in June 2004)

➤ E-conference & workshop reports





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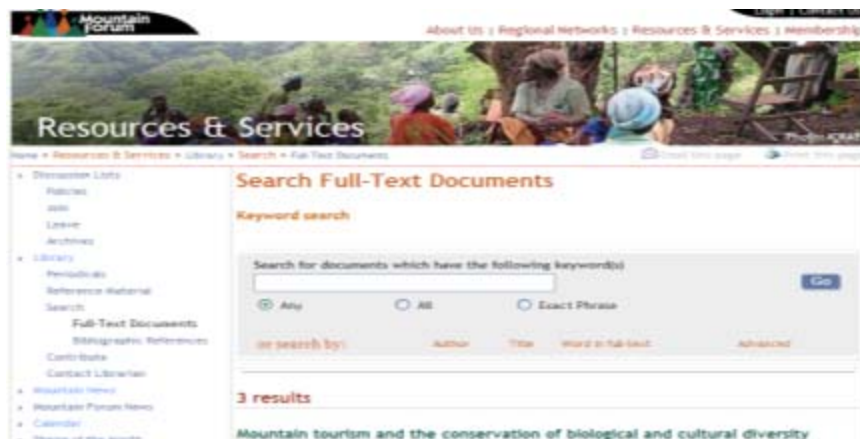


# Online Library

- Membership-driven knowledge database
- 3 languages (English, Spanish, French)
- Thousands of digital resources on SMD including:
  - Key documents related to the Mountain Agenda
  - Bibliographic references
  - Full-text articles
  - Images

## *What is it used for?*

- Find/share material on SMD
- Showcase work
- Solicit peer reviews
- Share project findings





## Enhancing local access

Support local access to information and  
giving local communities a voice



- Combined use of internet, radio and other media
- Establish 2-way communication channels between the literate, "connected", MF online community and the illiterate, "unconnected", mountain communities
- e.g. **Radio Sagarmatha Pilot Radio Project** (2004-2005) 9 programs produced & aired in hill village areas of KTM valley; Results posted on MF dedicated web-link for online discussions





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## Possible Synergies

### 1. Sharing Information- making it accessible

**Outcome:**

Information for sustainable mountain development for Himalaya Forum members accessible

- 1. bringing info together via decentralized services: projects/ programs; mapping organisations; documents on-line library (OLL), experts on-line**
- 2. generate lessons learnt ; access to mountain expertise in other continents**
- 3. display and search High Himalayan and expertise other continents**
- 4. calendar of events for region/ thematic area**
- 5. Increase access of grassroots communities; Combine different media: radio, off-line, and online media**





## Possible synergies

### 2. Support and interaction in Himalaya

Outcome: members supported in their work and aware about SMD information;  
effective networking

1. **joint institutional development & capacity development**
2. National chapters, community of practice etc. Sub hub of Mountain Forum regional network?
3. **use e-dialogue and e-conference tools for membership interaction**
4. **use expertise for learning in the Forum network**
5. **Address questions of members – announcements etc**
6. Enhanced regional collaboration with Mountain stakeholders



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## Possible Synergies

### 3. Advocacy and policy support

Outcome: increased attention for SMD at policy agenda's;  
supportive knowledge base in place

1. **Bring together thematic expertise via Communities of Practice (COPs) on key themes as water management, climate change, biodiversity; cross regional interaction**
2. **inputs for awareness raising and inputs key policy processes CBD-**



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## E-conferences

➤ A specialized service for organizational members and key partners

- Mountain Partnership (WSSD, Cusco Action Plan, HKH, SARD-M)
- UNEP (Bishkek Mountain Platform) - series of consultation
- Italian Committee IYM2002- High Summit 2002
- The Mountain Institute
- Center for International Environmental Law
- Culture and Risk
- Mountain GIS
- biodiversity conservation

(Himalayas, Andes),

- sustainable agriculture
- global change research (Africa)

### *What are they used for?*

- Share information and experiences
- Identify lessons learned and promising strategies, specific to mountain environments
- Build linkages, capacity, and support for action within the mountain community
- Catalyze community and grassroots level action
- Support advocacy
- Provide recommendations and case study summaries to field practitioners and policy-makers



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# Information Products & Services

Information and communication products & services

1. Website
2. Membership Database
3. "Who is Who" system
4. Online Library
5. Discussion Lists
6. Mountain Calendar
7. E-conferences (Global & Regional)\*
8. Publications



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## Mountain Forum activities

1. Information and knowledge sharing
2. Foster learning between members
3. Advocacy and policy support

*.....for sustainable mountain development....*

### Thematic areas:

- **Natural resources management** incl. reducing water management, biodiversity, land-use and communal resource management
- **Climate change:** best practices of mitigation and adaptation by communities; hazards and risks; changes in various regions
- **Livelihoods :** agriculture, ecotourism, local access/connectivity,
- **Cross cutting issues:** incl. transboundary conflicts, gender