BioOne COMPLETE

Panos Oral Testimony Mountains Project

Author: Bennett, Olivia

Source: Mountain Research and Development, 20(1) : 97

Published By: International Mountain Society

URL: https://doi.org/10.1659/0276-4741(2000)020[0097:POTMP]2.0.CO;2

BioOne Complete (complete.BioOne.org) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/terms-of-use.

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

Downloaded From: https://bioone.org/journals/Mountain-Research-and-Development on 28 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://bioone.org/terms-of-use

Report on the Sixth Ad Hoc Interagency Meeting on Follow-Up to Chapter 13, Cuzco, Peru, 2 October 1999

The Interagency Group on Mountains was established by FAO in 1994 to serve as an advisory group to the Organization in carrying out its task manager role in the implementation of Chapter 13 of Agenda 21—the mountain chapter—and as a means to foster partnership and collaboration among a wide variety of organizations in promoting and implementing sustainable mountain development.

FAO convened the sixth meeting of this group on 2 October 1999 in Cuzco, Peru, in order to discuss progress in the preparations for the International Year of Mountains (IYM). Twenty-six people attended this Interagency Meeting, which was held back-to-back with the Mountain Forum Council meeting in Urubamba, Peru, 27 September 1999–1 October 1999.

In brief, the Sixth Ad Hoc Interagency Meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the following:

1. Progress in member organizations on Chapter 13 implementation and IYM preparations: Representatives attending the meeting reported on progress in their respective organizations since the last Interagency Meeting, which was held in Rome in March 1999. In addition to the reports provided by those regular members of the interagency group who were able to attend the meeting, information was also provided by other organizations on items such as the new format of the journal *Mountain Research and Development* and the latest developments on IYM preparation in Italy, with the recent establishment of the Italian national IYM committee.
2. Outcome of Mountain Forum Council meeting: A brief report was given on the outcome of the Mountain Forum Council meeting, describing the transition process toward a new and more permanent secretariat structure for the Mountain Forum, with eventual establishment of the organization as a legal entity.
3. IYM concept paper and trust fund proposal: FAO introduced a draft concept paper and trust fund proposal meant to inform a wide audience about the IYM and to lay the foundation for activities and fund raising for observance of the year. The ensuing discussion led to many useful comments on how to improve the document prior to its distribution.
4. General progress toward preparations for IYM: The group discussed the current status related to awareness-raising activities; new proposals, ideas, and activities (since the last IA meeting); and fund raising issues.

The full report of the Interagency Meeting is available on the web sites of both FAO and the Mountain Forum at www.fao.org and www2.mtnforum.org, respectively. Requests can also be made to FAO to obtain the report in hardcopy.

Douglas McGuire
Senior Forestry Officer, Forest Conservation, Research and Education Service (FAO), Vialle delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy.
Douglas.McGuire@fao.org

The African Node of the Mountain Forum is Born: Report on a Meeting at ICRAF, Nairobi, 24–26 August 1999

The Mountain Forum (MF) is an innovative and integrative network involving individuals and diverse governmental, nongovernmental, and private organizations working for or interested in mountain cultures, environment, and sustainable development. The MF was established in 1995 as a global network to foster mutual support and exchange of ideas, experiences, and information and to promote mountain development issues through advocacy and awareness building. The operations of the MF are organized through the activities of a central global node and a number of regional nodes. The global node is based at The Mountain Institute (TMI) in West Virginia, USA, while the regional nodes are based in the major mountain regions of the world. Until recently, the only regional nodes that had been formed were the Asia-Pacific Node, the Latin American Node, and the European Node. Ongoing efforts have been made to form nodes for the North American and African regions.

The process of forming the African Node

The first event aimed at the formation of the African Node was the African Intergovernmental Consultation on Sustainable Mountain

Downloaded From: https://bioone.org/journals/Mountain-Research-and-Development on 28 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://bioone.org/terms-of-use

Development, which was held at International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June 1996. The consultation was organized by the FAO in its role as task manager for Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and was cosponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the ILRI, and the African Mountains Association (AMA). It was attended by representatives of various countries from the mountain regions of Africa. This consultation made a number of specific recommendations in support of sustainable mountain development and called for the creation of an African information network devoted to this theme.

In November 1997, the Mountain Forum's Interim Facilitating Committee meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal, renewed the call for the establishment of an African Node in the Mountain Forum in order to enhance advocacy and information exchange among African mountain regions as well as with other mountain regions of the world. African participants at this meeting resolved to move forward on this issue. The FAO and the Global Node of the Mountain Forum, together with ICRAF and ILRI, were given the responsibility of facilitating the formation of this node.

Under the leadership of FAO, an inaugural meeting for the creation of the African Node of the MF was held 24 August 1999–26 August 1999, hosted by ICRAF at its headquarters in Nairobi. The meeting was attended by 25 participants, with country representations coming from Guinea, Kenya, Uganda, and Lesotho. South Africa and Cameroon sent written reports. A number of international governmental and nongovernmental organizations including FAO, ICRAF, ILRI, The Mountain Institute, UNEP, the Environment Liaison Center International (ELCI), the African Academy of Sciences, AMA, IDRC, SDC, and USAID also attended the meeting.

The meeting essentially organized its work around the following three issues:

1. Sharing of information relating to implementation of the mountain agenda at the international and regional levels in relation to Chapter 13 of Agenda 21;
2. Discussion and decision on establishment of an African Mountain Networking Forum; and
3. Introduction and discussions on the International Year of Mountains (2002), and the role of the African Node in this event.

A node is born

The meeting unanimously endorsed the creation of the African Node of the Mountain Forum (ANMF) and went on to formulate aims and an operational structure for the node.

The aim of the African Node is to promote awareness and support for sustainable development of African mountain communities and environments. This will be done through promotion of partnerships and cooperation among communities and other stakeholders and also through advocacy and development and exchange of information about sustainable mountain development on the continent.

ICRAF was asked and agreed to host the African Node for an initial 2-year establishment period. A management committee (task force) for the development and implementation of the programs of the node during the first 2-year phase was constituted. This committee consists of Dr Kwesi Atta-Krah (ICRAF), Dr Francis Gichuki (Nairobi University/African Mountain Association), Dr Mohamed Saleem (ILRI), and Dr Barbara Gemmill (Environment Liaison Center International). A full steering committee will be constituted at a later date to provide management and policy guidance to the African Node.

The African Node will be affiliated with the Global Mountain Forum and will establish links with other regional nodes of the MF. The node will also be affiliated with the FAO in its capacity as task manager for Chapter 13 of Agenda 21. Finally, the African Node will seek linkages with the OAU and its scientific and development organizations as well as with other bodies dealing with sustainable mountain development.

Proposal for first phase of the African Node of Mountain Forum

A proposal for funding and operation of the ANMF has been developed for the first 4-year phase, 2000–2003. The planned outputs for this phase include the following:

1. Establishment of an African Node secretariat and a mechanism for networking;
2. Membership and partnership development and enhancement of mutual support;
3. Synthesis and analysis of information and experiences with regard to sustainable mountain development. This will lead to identification of gaps and commissioning of strategic studies for filling these gaps;
4. Establishment of mechanisms for information sharing and advocacy development.

The proposal also provides for annual conferences to be organized by the ANMF in support of information sharing, awareness promotion, and advocacy. The conferences planned are as follows:

1. September 2000: ANMF stakeholders meeting for the formal inauguration of the African Node and development of implementation plans;
2. March 2001: Mountain communities workshops facilitated in various mountain regions;
3. September 2002: Intergovernmental conference on sustainable mountain development. This will be organized in the context of the International Year of Mountains;

Downloaded From: https://bioone.org/journals/Mountain-Research-and-Development on 28 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://bioone.org/terms-of-use

4. September 2003: Scientific conference on sustainable mountain development to share information on progress in research and development and identify future directions.

This proposal is being submitted to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and other donors for funding.

It is believed that the emergence of the African Node of the Mountain Forum will help create an effective mechanism for networking on mountain issues among stakeholders in Africa and that this will contribute to the development of enhanced support for and awareness of sustainable mountain development on the continent.

Kwesi Atta-Krah
Regional Coordinator, ICRAF/AFRENA-ECA program, PO Box 30977, Nairobi, Kenya.
k.atta-krah@cgiar.org

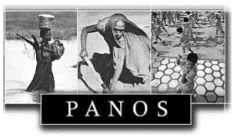
Panos Oral Testimony Mountains Project

Panos is an independent information organization working with journalists, media, and community groups in Africa, Asia, and South America to generate, publish, and disseminate information on development issues. A constant theme that emerges from all our information activities is that, for development to be sustainable, it must reflect more closely the values and priorities of the people it is designed to serve.

The Oral Testimony (OT) Program is designed to gather, publish, and amplify the voices and opinions of the beneficiaries of development—people who want to speak for themselves and not be heard through the medium of outsiders, journalists, or experts. Oral testimonies are the result of free-ranging interviews on a series of topics, drawing on direct personal memory and experience. Vivid, human, and direct, they challenge the generalizations of development literature, and they can enlighten planners and policymakers about the realities of development.

The OT Mountains project is working with local groups to explore the changing environment, culture, and history of mountain regions through the direct testimony of those who live there. Each collection is but a snapshot and does not claim to be representative of entire mountain groups. But the range of individual voices does provide a vivid picture of highland societies, their changing physical and social environments, and their concerns for the future. Collections are being/have been gathered with communities in the Central Andes (Peru), Mount Elgon (Kenya), the highlands of Ethiopia and Lesotho, southwest and northeast China, the Himalaya (India and Nepal), Sierra Norte in Mexico, and southwest Poland. We train local people to carry out interviews, which are recorded and transcribed in local languages and also translated into English. Our partners use the testimonies to develop information activities for local and national audiences such as booklets, exhibitions, educational and advocacy materials, and round-table meetings.

Panos works with the English translations of the linked collections of testimonies and disseminates them internationally. Activities include contributions to journals, seminars, and conferences and a series of booklets, one for each country collection, to be produced in 2000–2002. We are also designing a web site for the Mountains OT archive, which will contain background information on each collection, an overview of the key themes and issues covered, plus quotes and summaries of every interview (which can be accessed by theme or region). Access to the original interview transcripts will require contacting Panos so that we and our partners can monitor usage. A pilot version of this should be up and running early this year (2000), accessible via the Mountain Forum and Panos web site.



Information and communication for sustainable development

To find out more about Panos, its publications, and the Oral Testimony Program, you can visit http://www.oneworld.org/panos/. If you have any initial views on how useful the web site might be to you, which perhaps we could reflect in its design, please contact us by e-mail (siobhanw@panoslondon.org.uk) or post at Oral Testimony Program, Panos Institute, 9 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD, UK.

Olivia Bennett
Panos Oral Testimony Program, Panos Institute, 9 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD, UK.
oliviab@panoslondon.org.uk

Downloaded From: https://bioone.org/journals/Mountain-Research-and-Development on 28 Mar 2024
Terms of Use: https://bioone.org/terms-of-use