



## REACHING FOR THE STARS: SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Leave No One Behind –  
Social Development Track

### EVENT DETAILS

<b>TITLE</b>	Reaching for the Stars: Sustainable and Climate Resilient Mountain Development
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday, 7 October 2021
<b>TIME:</b>	10:30 – 18:00
<b>VENUE:</b>	The Nexus for People and Planet
<b>IN ASSOCIATION WITH</b>	UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment, DP World
<b>CO-CURATE PARTNERS</b>	Italy, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, Aga Khan Development Network



## EVENT SUMMARY

Now more than ever, as the climate crisis progresses, there is a dire need to empower vulnerable mountain communities who are often left behind in policymaking and agenda-setting. This day-long event will be one of its kind, bringing together mountain practitioners, policymakers, scientists, the private sector, and grassroots actors to share local knowledge and best practices in enhancing the resilience of mountain communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems. Hear speakers engage on how mountains make life possible; the unique fragility of mountains; mountain people and their livelihoods; and the policies we need action on. Be transported to the Andes, Hindu Kush, Alps and Pamirs through voices that shed light on the innovative work being undertaken to tackle the impact of climate change. Take away ideas on how leaders, experts and communities can work in unison for sustainable and climate resilient mountain development. Learn and be a part of the change —because #MountainsMatter.

## AGENDA

Reaching for the Stars: Sustainable and Climate Resilient Mountain Development

7 October 2021, 10:30 – 18:00

The Nexus for People and Planet

### TIME

### ACTIVITY

**10:30 – 11:00**

#### **Registration**

Start the day with an informal opportunity to meet and connect with other attendees.

**11:00 – 11:10**

#### **Introduction**

This session will introduce everyone, joining in person and virtually, to the day's focus — sustainable and climate resilient mountain development. It will highlight various activities, panel discussions, demonstrations of best practices, and stories featuring mountain communities' perspectives, which will feature during the day.

**11:15 – 11:15**

#### **#MountainsMatter - Setting the stage**

Did you know that mountains are one of the most fragile ecosystems on our planet? Climate change is threatening mountain ecosystems, livelihoods, and cultures around the world. Why is this a cause for concern? Because mountains make life possible — they are an indispensable source of water, renewable energy, timber, and biological diversity.

**Minister Mariastella Gelmini's** (Minister of Regional Affairs and Autonomies, Italy) will set the context on why mountains matter, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and vision of inclusive growth including mountain communities.

**11:15 – 12:15**

## **Reaching last mile communities: Promoting livelihoods and economies in the face of climate change**

Already facing increased poverty and malnutrition, mountain people are one of the most marginalised and poorest populations in the world. To make matters worse, climate change is reshaping agricultural practices that mountain people have relied on, for years, affecting the economies of communities and the livelihood options available. Through this session, let's focus on solutions centered around sustainable food systems in mountains, promotion of mountain agriculture, tech-based solutions and high-value mountain products, and diversification of livelihoods.

On this panel, hear from our esteemed experts and ask them questions at the end of the session. Join the thought-provoking conversation with:

- **Maurizio Martina**, Assistant Director General, FAO
- **Paolo di Croce**, General Secretary, Slow Food International
- **Mario Cerutti**, Chief Institutional Relations and Sustainability Officer, Lavazza,
- **Anita Paul**, Director, Pan Himalayan Grassroots Foundation
- **Giorgio Grussu**, Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Products Initiative (Moderator)

**12:15 – 12:40**

The audience will have the opportunity to select from two exciting sessions featuring inspiring champions.

## **Young leaders: Sustainable-mountain development for future generations**

Listen in to young agents of change who are mobilising to act on climate change mitigation and adaptation — to secure their future. Across the world, their voices are garnering attention and inspiring movements such as 'Friday's for Future'.

Three young speakers, belonging to different parts of the world and diverse walks of life – (Founder, Mountain Resiliency Project, Nepal) **Tsechu Dolma Tea Hoxha** (Youth representative, Italy) and **Stefano Sala**, (Youth representative, Italy) – will dive into the significance of youth participation and set the stage for the Youth Forum, which is being organised in the Italian Pavilion, on the following day (8 October). The session will be moderated by **Lorenzo Micheli**, Education Programme Officer, Commissariat General of Italy for Expo 2020 Dubai.

### Partnerships for livelihoods

To realise sustainability, we need to open all doors of opportunities and be innovative in our approaches.

**Stella Jean**, a renowned fashion designer from Italy, will walk audiences through her journey of building a business model that focuses on promoting the economic autonomy of mountain women producers in Kyrgyzstan.

Be inspired as Ms. Jean speaks about her projects, which unite multiculturalism and sustainable development and watch a video screening that gives you a deeper understanding on how fashion can be a tool for cooperative international development. **Giorgio Grussu** (Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Products Initiative) will moderate the session.

**12:40 – 13:40**

The audience will have the opportunity to select from two exciting sessions featuring inspiring champions.

### Creating Resilient Mountain Habitats

The power of mountain rural planning is often overlooked. Its absence leads to uncontrolled, climatically, and seismically unfit construction, transforming mountain villages into peri-urban concrete extensions, devoid of identity and sustainable resources. These challenges are intensified by climate change and hazards: from earthquakes to rock falls, through to uncontrolled glacial, river and lake outbursts. Seismically resilient, climatically suited buildings coupled with sustainable, risk-sensitive land-use planning is not only critical to long-term sustainability of the environment but is also the crux of safety and sustainability.

This session will showcase how resilient planning can be scaled through rural mountain planning methods, integrating community engagement, data-driven decision-making, and spatial design. The discussion will touch upon the intersection of climate-change, hazard mitigation, the implications of long-term development interventions and mechanisms to leverage innovations at scale.

Dive into this important topic with the following experts:

- **Yodgor Doyorovich Fayzov**, Governor of Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast
- **Karim Khoja**, Chief Executive Officer, Industrial Promotion Services, Asia Region (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan)
- **Roy Sidle**, University of Central Asia and Mountain Society Research Institute (MSRI), Director and Mountain Society Research Institute (MSRI)
- **Kira Intrator**, Lead, Habitat Planning and Innovation, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat

## Plenary #2: Sustainable mountain tourism

Every year, the world observes International Mountain Day (December 11) to promote awareness around mountain ecosystems and communities. This year, this milestone celebrates sustainable mountain tourism, a theme that comes against the backdrop of a pandemic that has suspended tourism activities around the world.

**Mira Rai** (Mountain Partnership Ambassador) will provide a glimpse of the majestic Himalayas, through a video message from Nepal, to call for the need to preserve them through sustainable mountain tourism. **Jake Norton**, a climber and filmmaker, will narrate his adventures and describe how mountains have evolved with the progression of climate change, as well as moderate the session.

The discussion between experts from distant communities will cover the following topics:

- concept of sustainable mountain development
- way forward for sustainable mountain tourism, citing examples from the ground
- importance of partnerships and collaboration for the same

Join the dialogue with **Constantino Aucca**, President of Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN), **Sandra Carvao**, Chief of Tourism Market Intelligence and Competitiveness, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and **Atty. Maria Anthonette Velasco Allones** Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Promotions Board, Philippines.

**13:40 – 14:40**

**Lunch break**

**14:40 – 15:40**

**Transforming disruptions to resilience: unlocking climate partnerships and scaling up innovations**

With climate change increasing disruptions to mountain livelihoods and ecosystems, communities and grassroots organisations are relying on the reservoir of indigenous solutions and innovations to build resilience and accelerate adaptation efforts. However, scaling and sustaining such initiatives requires resources. **Ambassador Massimo Baggi**, (Ambassador of Switzerland to the UAE and Bahrain), will highlight the significance of long-term partnerships between key actors and sectors for creating innovative strategies and mechanisms.

The panel will convene diverse voices — private sector players, donors, and development agencies — who will share their recommendations on strategic partnerships and arrive at shared goals that can be adopted by stakeholder groups that are key for climate collaborations. The audience will have the opportunity to ask their questions via the live platform.

The speakers who will participate in this thought-provoking discussion include:

- **Adriana Apollonio**, Counsellor, Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- **David Davies**, CEO, AgUnity
- **Onno Ruhl**, General Manager, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
- **Fausto Jori**, CEO, NaturaSi
- **Rosalaura Romeo**, Mountain Partnership Secretariat

## 15:40 – 16:15

The audience will have the opportunity to select from two exciting sessions featuring inspiring speakers.

Communities have been building adaptive capacities and responses to reduce the burden of climate change on their lives. Hear from those who are on-the-ground, making a difference and impact through solutions anchored in partnerships and innovation.

### **Resilience across regions: Case studies on Himalayas and Alps and Apennines**

These talks, moderated by **Rosalaura Romeo**, will feature stories, from the Himalayan, Alps and Apennines regions, on how local initiatives are driving positive change.

Hear **Umesh Lama** (Organic World and Fair Future (OWF), Nepal; Producer in the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative, spotlight the success of local efforts and innovations to improve marketing of agricultural produce and handicrafts) in Nepal. **Anna Giorgi** (Delegate of the Rector of the University of Milan to the promotion of teaching, research and third mission activities for the valorisation of mountain areas – UNIMONT, University of Milan) will further highlight the positive influence of the educational alliances for sustainable mountain development.

### **Resilience across regions: Case studies on Andes and Central Asia**

These talks will feature stories, from the Himalayan, Andes and Central Asia regions, on how local initiatives are driving positive change.

Hear **Sonia Salas Dominguez** (President, REDAR Peru) through a video message, spotlight an initiative in Peru, REDAR, and its impact on rural and mountain communities. **Hadi Husani** (CEO AKAH, Tajikistan) and **Dilsodbegim Khisravova** (Volunteer, CERT, Tajikistan) will highlight the role of culturally aware and community-based volunteers in disaster responses through their case study.

**16:15-16:45**

## **Coffe Break**

An opportunity for speakers and participants to take the discussion beyond the room.

**16:45 – 17:45**

## **The way forward: Fostering resilient mountain landscapes and communities**

Even though mountain people contribute faintly to climate change, they bear the brunt of its impact. Yet, mountain communities lie on the fringes of policy- and decision-making.

This discussion will bring together high-level policy- and decision-makers from regions that are experiencing the impact of climate change. Key speakers include:

- **Khalid Khurshid**, Chief Minister, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan
- **Yodgor Doyorovich Fayzov**, Governor of Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, Tajikistan
- **Alessandro Panza**, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Member of the Regional Development Commission of the European Parliament - Delegate of RUMRA (The European Parliament Intergroup on Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas & Smart Villages)
- **Elena Manaenkova**, Deputy Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization

Key thematic areas of discussion will include:

- Policy dialogues on priority issues that mountain regions face in view of the looming COP26
- Innovative policy approaches being applied at local, national, and international levels, which can be strengthened and replicated across nations
- Policy actions required to address barriers to resilience such as connectivity, infrastructure, and job opportunities
- Collaborations and agreements

**17:45 – 17:50**

**A brighter tomorrow: Message by FAO Director General**

Hear **Qu Dongyu's** (FAO Director General) message on the urgent need to prioritise mountain ecosystems and people so that their economies, livelihoods, resources, health and happiness, can be protected from the risks of climate change.

**17:50 – 18:00**

**Vote of thanks and closing remarks**

A summary of the day's activities led by **Rosalaura Romeo**, followed by the chance to learn about the Youth Forum, which will take place in the Italian Pavilion the next day. Leave the day with greater knowledge, stronger networks, and invigorated passion for sustainable and climate-resilient mountain development.