

Annual Report 2015



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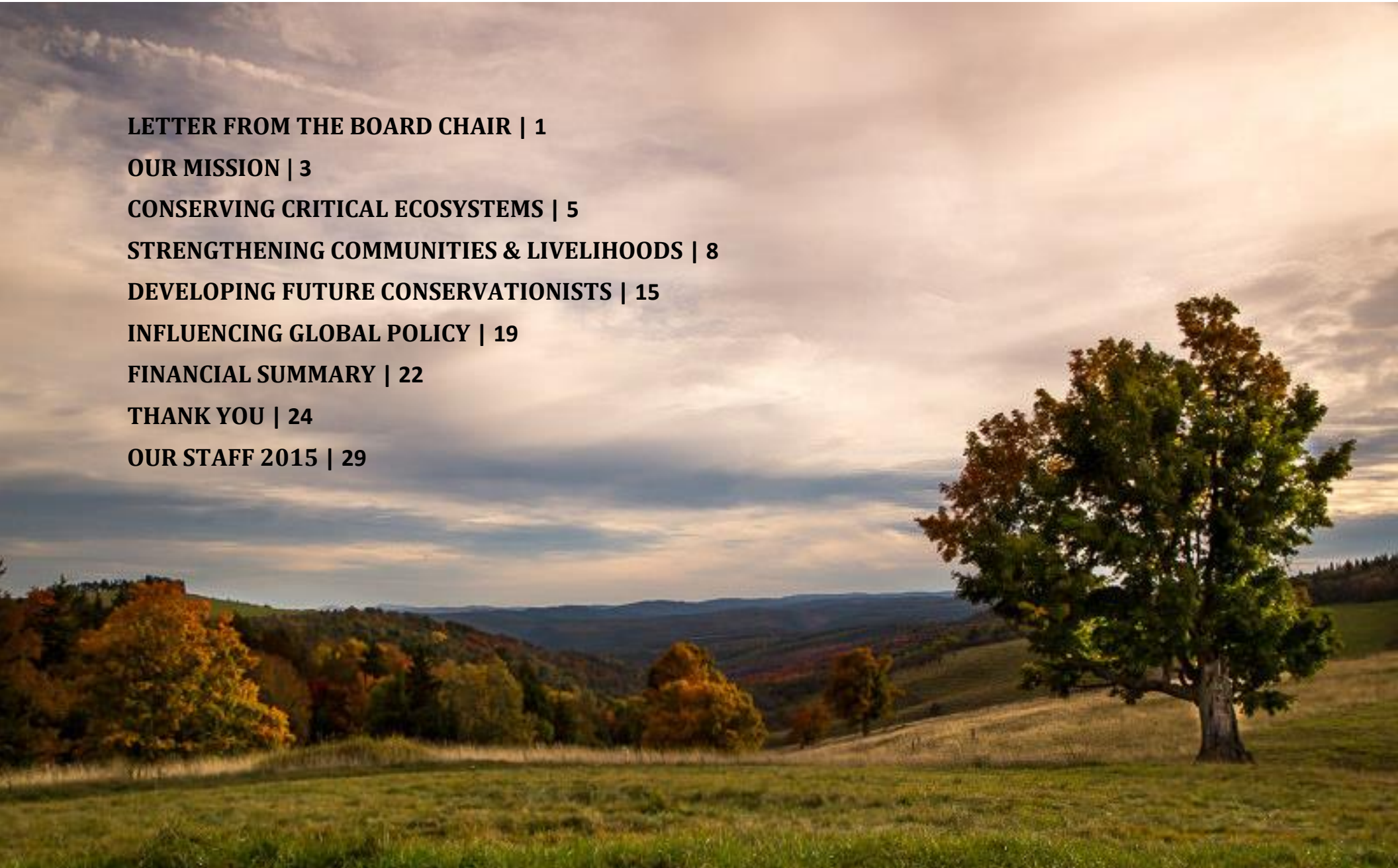
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The mountains are calling and I must go.

—John Muir

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

I have often heard The Mountain Institute described as the “world’s best NGO that no one’s ever heard of.”

As chair of TMI, I certainly agree with the first part of that statement. It’s hard to find any organization that does more with its resources to improve the lives of the people it serves. In fact, The Mountain Institute is the *only* international NGO that focuses exclusively on the challenges faced by remote mountain communities and their environments. Despite our size, we’re making a real difference people’s lives in some of the most remote and threatened places on the planet.

And we’ve been doing so for more than 40 years. Whether it’s helping impoverished women in Nepal support their families by learning to cultivate medicinal and aromatic plants, providing Andean communities with resources and know-how for adapting to climate change, educating Appalachian school children in STEM, or supporting the efforts of indigenous people in the American Southwest to preserve their tribal land and heritage, TMI designs solutions *in partnership with local communities* to meet their unique needs.

But if there’s some truth to the second part of the statement—that we’re not as well known as we should be—that is changing fast. This past year, TMI significantly increased its leadership role as a global advocate for mountains. TMI’s executive director, Dr. Andrew Taber, was elected chairman of the United Nation’s Mountain Partnership, an alliance of more than 250

nations, NGOs, inter-governmental organizations, and others dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments. This prestigious podium has given The Mountain Institute an even stronger voice for championing mountain issues in such high-visibility fora as the Paris Climate Change Meeting (COP-21), previous and upcoming APEC summits, and regional meetings including last fall’s Mountains of Future Earth conference in Perth, Scotland.

As I write, The Mountain Institute is driving forward an ambitious new initiative called “Securing Mountains for People and Nature,” developed in conjunction with IUCN, UNEP, and ARCOS under the auspices of the Mountain Partnership. This proposed ten-year program aims to raise the profile of mountains as nature’s water towers, generating broad support for conserving critical ecosystems that far too often go unappreciated and undervalued. And when one considers the importance of mountains—22% of the world’s land mass, nearly one billion people, the source of fresh water for nearly



half of humanity, home to a third of terrestrial biodiversity—there's no time to lose.

Despite their size and reputation for permanence, mountains are increasingly fragile and threatened by climate change, unsustainable land use, and the crippling impact of human poverty. The Mountain Institute is making great strides in helping the world understand how we ignore this reality at our own peril. We are also spreading lessons and best practices to benefit mountain people wherever they are.

I look forward to the day when I hear The Mountain Institute referred to as the “world’s best NGO *known and respected for its service to mountain communities and environments.*” We’re just about there.



Bill Beddow
Chair, Board of Trustees
The Mountain Institute



OUR MISSION

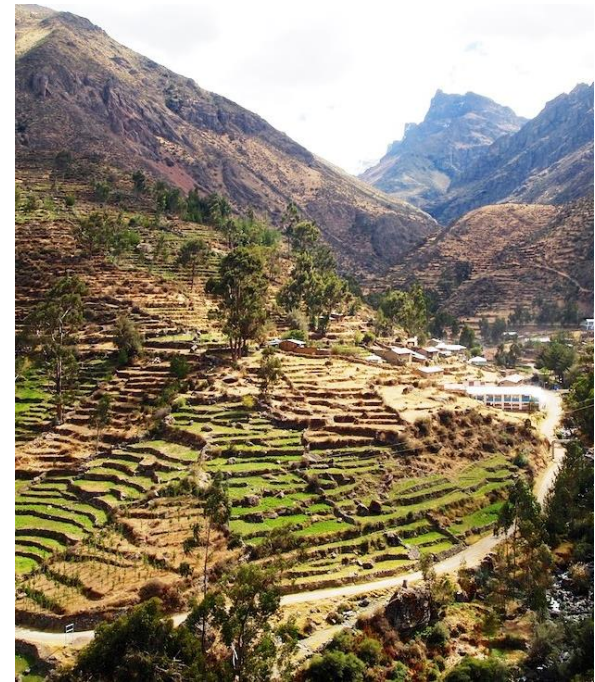
The Mountain Institute (TMI) works to conserve mountain environments, safeguard mountain cultures, and sustainably develop rural economies in the Himalayas, Andes, and Appalachians. Founded in 1972, TMI is headquartered in Washington, DC, with locally staffed offices in Nepal, Peru, and West Virginia. By conserving mountain ecosystems and empowering mountain people, TMI protects resources—natural, cultural, and spiritual—that are crucial to maintaining a healthy planet.

Mountains are vital to our survival. They cover 25% of our planet's land surface and are home to nearly one billion people with diverse and ancient cultures.

Mountain environments produce food and water and provide key environmental services, such as flood and drought control. They are important in regulating the global climate and vital to the water cycle and other ecological cycles of the planet.

All of Earth's major rivers begin in the mountains and more than half of us rely on mountains to provide water for our daily needs. Twenty-five of the world's 34 "biodiversity hotspots" are in mountain regions, where high altitudes support innumerable wildlife species, plants, and other organisms, many with unique ecological niches.

Mountains are also critical for economic development: agriculture depends on mountain water sources for irrigation; billions of people rely on electricity from mountain hydropower;



economically important industries, from tourism to mineral extraction, are often mountain-based; and mountains continue to be a source for new foods that regularly enter global markets.

Mountains are threatened. Despite their importance, mountain ecosystems and people—most who live in developing countries—are under a barrage of threats. Millions live in extreme poverty and are chronically hungry. Migration is eroding cultures and fraying the fabric of communities. People and ecosystems alike are vulnerable to changing climate and extreme weather and natural disasters.

Although mountains figure prominently as places of worship and meditation, they are also plagued by political insecurity and conflict over rights to natural resources and marginalization of the poor and certain ethnic groups.

The Mountain Institute protects critical mountain ecosystems and promotes prosperous livelihoods for thriving mountain communities. TMI works closely with mountain communities, combining local and indigenous knowledge with the latest science to develop practical conservation and development solutions. With non-profit, government, academic, and private-sector partners, our programs promote natural resource conservation, sustainable economic development, climate change adaptation and resilience, and cultural preservation.

Our Fundamental Principles

1. We integrate environmental conservation, sustainable economic development, and cultural preservation.
2. We forge long-term commitments to the people and regions we serve.
3. We collaborate and work as a team within The Mountain Institute and with our partners.
4. We strive to be culturally fluent and sensitive everywhere we work.
5. We are accountable for measurable results in all our projects.

CONSERVING CRITICAL ECOSYSTEMS

APPALACHIA

The Mountain Institute's Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitors (AWSM) is a citizen-science program that trains teachers and students to monitor water quality in their local streams.

In the summer of 2015, TMI hosted a three-day professional development workshop to help teachers, watershed organizers, and concerned citizens learn West Virginia *Save Our Streams* water quality monitoring methodologies and how to integrate stream and watershed monitoring into their schools' science and social studies curricula.

In the fall, more than 700 West Virginia public school teachers and students traveled to TMI's beautiful Spruce Knob Mountain Center for a two-day immersion course in watershed monitoring. Students made meaningful connections between science, technology, and community by investigating

stream health and land condition in Spruce Knob's protected watersheds.

A team of TMI instructors followed teachers and students back to their communities, helping them apply their monitoring skills to streams in their own neighborhoods and then compare and contrast conditions at Spruce Knob's headwaters with those at the local streams. The stream data they collected was uploaded to a database hosted by the WV Department of Environmental Protection that allows state watershed planners to learn from citizen science.

ANDES

Last year, TMI and Peru's Agrarian University –La Molina developed protocols to assess the environmental health and ecological service contributions of high-altitude wetlands. This year, TMI worked with the Ministry of Economy to train a cadre of 28 professionals to apply these protocols to the development of green public investment projects that

protect or enhance water-regulating “natural infrastructure.” Design of seven projects worth approximately \$10 million is underway; projects will be ready to implement in early 2016.

TMI cooperated with local communities, national agencies, and local governments in Ancash to improve ecosystem management and green measures for climate change adaptation. In 2015, TMI provided technical assistance to 16 of these organizations, trained 157 people in the technical aspects of climate change, and leveraged \$1.25 million dollars in funds from the Government of Peru to invest in adaptation in Ancash.

TMI also conducted activities to raise the general public’s awareness, reaching 1,127 people with messages on the importance of conservation.

By December 2015, had TMI completed a three-year cycle of support to mountain communities located in the highlands of Piura, Lima, and Junín. In Piura, the local government of Pacaipampa signed an



agreement with community conservation groups to continue supporting their activities. These conservation groups implemented livelihood projects with goals such as reducing the clear-cutting of cloud forests for agriculture expansion or controlling extensive grazing of cattle in the páramo alpine grasslands. Their projects included, for instance, fish farming and cultivating medicinal and aromatic plants.

In Lima and Junín, TMI collaborated with Nor Yauyos Cocha Landscape Reserve, to restore abandoned pre-Hispanic irrigation

technology that was traditionally used to increase water infiltration in alpine hills and thereby replenish groundwater stores. After restoring these ancient structures, TMI

assessed their hydrologic impact technologies and conducted a cost-benefit analysis of various investments for maintaining wetlands.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES & LIVELIHOODS

HIMALAYAS

In 2015, The Mountain Institute continued working with farmers on the cultivation and marketing of medicinal and aromatic plants in the remote mountain districts of Rasuwa, Dhading, and Gorkha in Central Nepal and Sankhuwasabha district in Eastern Nepal. In each district, programs have been conducted in partnership with local organizations.

The Mountain Institute has demonstrated that cultivating medicinal and aromatic

plants not only contributes to higher and more diversified household incomes, but also reduces pressure on fragile habitats and wild medicinal and aromatic plant species.

Our activities were severely disrupted by the April 2015 earthquake, but since then activities for building resilient livelihoods and ecosystems have been reinitiated, even as we undertook complementary activities



for rebuilding rural infrastructure and generating income.

In the high northern belts of Rasuwa, Dhading, and Gorkha, 589 new farmers, al-



most half of them women, were trained in techniques for cultivating medicinal and aromatic plants on private and degraded land, which has reduced harvesting pressure on wild plants. These farmers are using approximately 120 hectares of degraded land to grow their *Swertia chirata* seeds, thus improving ground cover and helping to restore ecological function. An additional 299 farmers who had received basic training in previous years attended advanced training this year. Sales of cultivated medicinal and aromatic plants in 2014 allowed 79 households to diversify their incomes and

earn a total of US\$ 43,187, with additional gains from sales of Chirata seeds.

In the eastern district of Sankhuwasabha, 533 farmers (41% women) from the Upper Arun Valley attended basic training in medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation and conservation. Each farmer received 200 grams of Chirata seeds and developed a cultivation plan, including a calendar for cultivation and harvesting. These farmers used 130 hectares of land for medicinal and aromatic plant production. An additional 990 farmers received advanced training in



cultivation techniques. Farmers from 242 households sold mature plants and Chirata seeds to earn US\$ 52,790 in 2014. For some households, sales from medicinal and aromatic plants as much as doubled their annual cash income.

In the Ilam and Panchthar districts of eastern Nepal, where the medicinal and aromatic plants program was born in the early 2000s, TMI coordinated with our local partners and medicinal and aromatic plants cooperatives to collect annual production and sales data. The data revealed that, in 2014, 2,288 households involved in cultivating these plants and other non-timber forest products earned a cumulative US\$ 630,406.

To strengthen the medicinal and aromatic plant cooperatives, TMI also organized orientations on legal issues and forest policies, and their implications for medicinal and aromatic plant marketing.

Working with the Himalayan Stoves Project, TMI also distributed 195 sets of improved cook stoves to single women, elderly, Dalits (a socially marginalized caste group), Female Community Health Volunteers, and conservation organizations in the area. Compared to the traditional open fire pits, these stoves burn less wood and reduce indoor smoke, which is a major health hazard, especially for women.



THE 2015 EARTHQUAKES IN THE HIMALAYAS

A violent 7.6-magnitude earthquake shook the Himalayas on April 25, 2015, followed by more than 450 strong aftershocks. The earthquakes killed 9,000 people, injured more than 22,000, and destroyed nearly 900,000 public buildings and private homes.

In the following days, the Association of International NGOs in Nepal mapped its members' activities—an exercise that revealed that TMI was one of only a few NGOs operating in the highest and most remote northern Village Development Committees. In fact, TMI has worked in three of the worst affected areas of Rasuwa, Dhading, and Gorkha since 2009.

This realization galvanized our commitment to these communities. The Mountain Institute's trustees, as well as foundations and individuals around the globe, generously supported our relief and rebuilding efforts, which began with small-scale, targeted relief to high-need communities and then an assessment of the loss of lives and destruction of property and of the critical needs of survivors. Over the next four months, we delivered critical supplies, such as solar batteries, boxes of tools, temporary toilet pans, sanitary packages for women, nutritious baby food, and recreational and school materials. We funded "Quick Relief" activities, such as rebuilding trails, wooden bridges, and drinking water systems, and we paid to transport donated food and other items to several villages.

Though the Government of Nepal had begun reconstruction and recovery, political turmoil following the September 2015 promulgation of the Constitution stifled national relief efforts. Protests by ethnic groups seeking greater representation unofficially closed the border with India for five months, limiting the flow of essentials such as petrol, diesel, kerosene, cooking gas, food, and medicines.

Meanwhile, the earthquake survivors endured both the monsoon and a harsh winter under tarps, tents, and temporary shelters, with the blockade putting more pressure on mountain ecosystems to provide essential goods for food and warmth.

Despite these hurdles, TMI has continued its support. We have launched a new, two-year project called Pragatishil Pahad (the "progressive mountains"). This project will assist 2,000 households in the most remote mountain communities of Rasuwa, Dhading, Gorkha, and Sankhuwasabha districts in rebuilding their lives and livelihoods through small-scale rural micro enterprises that improve resilience to future shocks.



ANDES

New studies are revealing unforeseen impacts of climate change in the Andes. For example, acidification of water as glaciers melt and flow over newly exposed mineral rock is significantly affecting water quality. In the mineral rich Andes, this type of “natural” water contamination is far more common than the general public and even residents of the region know, yet hundreds of rural Andean families in this high-poverty region depend on surface water for household use and irrigation. Acidic water is responsible for sharp declines in crop yields, and those who drink surface water are falling ill.

In 2015, The Mountain Institute completed a successful bio-remediation project to restore water quality in Canrey Chico, a community with naturally contaminated water in Peru’s Ancash region. The project uses a “hybrid science” approach, linking local knowledge of water management to external science and technologies. With TMI’s support, and in cooperation with the Laboratory of



Ecotoxicology at Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia and partners in the Ancash public university UNASAM (Universidad Santiago Antunez de Mayolo), the community of Canrey built a low-cost bio-remediation system that has restored the quality of water to meet national standards for farming and



grazing. This experience was selected in December 2015 by the Ministry of Environment of Peru as one of the best 20 examples of adaptation in rural Peru and was featured in a publication of *Somos*, a national magazine published by Peru's newspaper *El Comercio*.

TMI is testing many other ways to help communities adapt to change in high-altitude

areas. One promising technology is a low-cost, zero-energy system for warming the homes of herders living in remote alpine areas where the nights are extremely cold. This simple system uses underground pipes to channel heat captured in the ground to raise indoor nighttime temperatures.

In Piura, a community trained by TMI in 2014 in techniques to produce “true

potato seeds” competed for and won a government grant to scale up their production model. The community employs techniques to harvest seeds from potato fruits that form in flowers, rather than from the tubers, which could otherwise be sold or eaten. Farmers using seeds from potato flowers would avoid a number of challenges associated with maintaining tubers from one planting season to the next. Remarkably, this community is one of few in Peru capable of producing true potato seed for the market.



GENDER AND MOUNTAIN LEADERS IN THE ANDES

During 2015, women elected as district representatives in rural municipal councils and women leading community grassroots organizations were invited to participate in an exciting program to learn to create local development plans, recognize impacts of climate change, and identify potential solutions. Through this training, women leaders improved their public speaking skills, deepened their knowledge of municipal procedures, and increased their self-perceptions of effectiveness.

DEVELOPING FUTURE CONSERVATIONISTS

APPALACHIA

For more than 40 years, experiential learning trips have been the backbone of TMI's educational program in Appalachia. In 2015, more than 800 teachers and students visited the Spruce Knob Mountain Center, where they participated in field courses that integrate academic subjects such as geology



and forest ecology with team building activities like orienteering. Students are challenged to communicate and collaborate to solve problems in outdoor settings. These

courses take learning beyond the classroom, providing opportunities to develop character as well as observation and investigation skills. Through these field experiences, students also develop skills and knowledge for critical thinking, scientific and creative writing, art, history, and local culture.

In 2015, TMI exported its model of experiential learning to schools throughout West Virginia and to the streams and mountains of the mid-Atlantic region. In this way, TMI was able to connect with an additional 470 students and teachers to

pedal, paddle, climb, explore, and investigate the nature around them. Like the courses offered at the Spruce Knob Mountain Center, these courses emphasize academic learning and community building activities.

Through professional development workshops at the Spruce Knob Mountain Center, The Mountain Institute also provided innovative, hands-on learning to 20 teachers and non-formal educators, ultimately benefiting approximately 3,000 students throughout West Virginia. These workshops provided meaningful curriculum connections from the stream to the science classroom, offering teachers the opportunity to get their hands wet and their feet dirty while using the outdoors as a tool for teaching. Each workshop, regardless of the topic, emphasized alignment with current science standards, best practices in project-based learning and science education, and the integration of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.



HIMALAYAS

In 2015, The Himalayan Program initiated collaboration with the Habeli Outdoor Learning Centre in the outskirts of Kathmandu Valley. The Center aims to create a curriculum that integrates the region's rich natural, cultural, and historical heritage and resources. Children have the opportunity to experience nature and create meaningful connections to their classroom learning, building the foundations for environmental stewardship.



A Memorandum of Understanding between the Habeli Outdoor Learning Center and TMI's Appalachian and Himalayan Programs has been signed to formalize our collaboration and to share the successful conservation education approaches and curricula used in the Appalachian Program.

In association with Habeli, the Himalayan Program supplied a TMI intern to four Nepali public school students who participated in a global challenge program focusing on water, launched by the Global STEM Alliance of New York Academy of Science. Students had an opportunity to learn about issues related to water access and use, and to conduct scientific research and design solutions to current and future water challenges in their own communities. The challenge connected participating students from United States, Brazil, Ghana, and Nepal via a virtual learning space, allowing students to exchange experiences and learn about water issues in other parts of the world.

In Sankhuwasabha, The Mountain Institute, local NGO partners, and the local communities, in cooperation with the Makalu Barun Buffer Zone User Committee, set up a Biodiversity Learning Center to teach students about plant biodiversity in the buffer zone and to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation. The Biodiversity Learning Center contributes books and learning materials on biodiversity and maintains a demonstration plot with native plant and tree species and medicinal and aromatic plants on the premises of the Learning Center.

ANDES

TMI has continued its cooperation with the public university UNASAM. Initiated in 2014, this program creates opportunities for 12 students to participate in internships related to adaptation to climate change. In 2015, interns contributed high-quality technical information relating to climate change and

adaptation to local governments and wrote proposals for national public investment projects. Interns were also involved in piloting a virtual training program designed by TMI for college students who are interested in professional careers in climate change adaptation. The training will allow TMI to scale up the impacts of the internship program as well as provide educational materials for current and future students.





LEARNING FROM ANDEAN CULTURE & TRADITIONS

TMI Andes completed a study of the ancestral technologies used in the Reserva Paisajística Nor Yauyos Cochas during pre-Inca times to manage high-altitude ecosystems. This study contributes to our understanding of the ways in which ancient cultures managed the land and water. The study was conducted by a team of

archeologists led by Dr. Alexander Herrera, professor at Universidad de los Andes in Colombia. A summary of this study will be published in 2016 to disseminate knowledge of ancestral technologies that have great potential to be restored to support adaptation to climate change and help affirm traditional knowledge and cultural identity.

INFLUENCING GLOBAL POLICY

Global attention to the unique challenges facing mountain communities and environments remains grossly insufficient. TMI has continued to champion efforts and policies that promote a sustainable mountain development agenda. In 2015, TMI organized and presented at a number of international policy forums to promote mountain conservation and sustainable development for mountain communities.

The 2015 UNFCCC Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) convened many

government, NGO, civil society, and private sector organizations interested in addressing the many issues relating to climate change. The conference was a unique opportunity to create awareness of the importance of mountains and the need for global-level policy that promotes solutions in these characteristically underserved places. TMI



staff moderated and presented in six official side events, touching on themes of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in mountains. TMI also presented at the APEC: Poverty Forum in the Philippines in August 2015. TMI has since contributed to two white papers addressing rural poverty in APEC countries. In 2016, the Government of Peru will be leading APEC, which will present new opportunities to draw attention to mountains.

In February 2015, TMI participated in the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee Meeting in Rome, Italy. The Mountain Institute is a member of the Mountain Partnership, which is a United Nations



voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of local people and protecting mountain environments around the world. The Mountain Institute represents Global Civil Society on the Mountain Partnership's Steering Committee. At the meeting, TMI was selected to chair the Mountain Partnership through 2018. TMI arranged to have His Holiness Chetsang Kyabgon named as a Mountain Partnership Ambassador and organized a symposium at the Stimson Center in Washington, DC, featuring His Holiness Drikung, who spoke on *Greening the World's Highest Mountain Valleys*. TMI continues to support His Holiness in his ambassadorship.

In 2015, in an effort led by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, TMI and other member organizations successfully advocated for the inclusion of mountains in the newly formulated United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, Target 6, the importance of mountain ecosystems is specifically recognized for

water availability and sustainable water management. In SDG 15, Targets 1 and 4, mountains are explicitly mentioned among the important ecosystems to be protected, restored, and sustainably used.

Finally, The Mountain Institute has met with several government missions, including



Myanmar/Burma, Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan, Switzerland, and Lesotho to identify global policy partners and set the stage for TMI's expansion into new countries. In addition, TMI has grown our network, adding many institutions and professional communities with which we can promote shared approaches and future partnerships for addressing mountain challenges. New and continuing relationships include:

- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- UN Environment Programme
- Engineers Without Borders
- World Resources Institute
- Smithsonian Institution
- WWC Engineering
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Oikos

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of Financial Position

September 30, 2015

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	167,256.00
Grants and contributions receivable	216,942.00
Accounts and other receivables	86,590.00
Prepaid expenses	3,624.00
Investments	113,569.00
Endowment investments	387,312.00
Property and equipment, net	329,750.00
Total assets	1,305,043.00

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	135,356.00
Deferred revenue	379,996.00
Lines of credit	571,480.00
Total liabilities	1,086,832.00

Net assets

Unrestricted	(468,979.00)
Temporarily restricted	299,878.00
Permanently restricted	387,312.00
Total net assets	218,211.00
Total liabilities and net assets	1,305,043.00



Statement of Activities	Year Ended September 30, 2015			Total (\$)
	Unrestricted (\$)	Temporarily Restricted (\$)	Permanently Restricted (\$)	
Revenue and support				
Grants and contributions:				
Government grants		999,198		999,198
Multilateral organizations	-	469,050	-	469,050
Private foundations		152,938	-	152,938
Other organizations		38,501	-	38,501
Consultants and contracts	246,676		-	246,676
Tuition and fees	368,644		-	368,644
Individual donations	159,755	160,497	-	320,252
Other income	64,153		-	64,153
Investment income	888	970	-	1,858
Net assets released from restriction	1,782,773	(1,782,773)	-	-
Total revenue and support	2,622,889	38,381		2,661,270
Expense				
Program services				
South America	1,255,474	-	-	1,255,474
North America	570,443	-	-	570,443
Global	135,663	-	-	135,663
Asia	186,673	-	-	186,673
Total program services	2,148,253	-	-	2,148,253
Supporting services				
Management and general	404,607	-	-	404,607
Development and fundraising	53,809	-	-	53,809
Total supporting services	458,416	-	-	458,416
Total expense	2,606,669	-	-	2,606,669
Change in net assets before appropriation	16,220	38,381	-	54,601
Appropriation of endowments net assets	166,091	(166,091)		-
Change in net assets after appropriation	182,311	(127,710)	-	54,601
Net assets, beginning of year	(651,290)	427,588	387,312	163,610
Net assets, end of year	(468,979)	299,878	387,312	218,211

This information has been excerpted from our financial statements which have been audited by Tate & Tryon, Certified Public Accountants, LLP. Copies of our annual audits and 990s are available on our website at <http://www.mountain.org/financial-statements-annual-reports>.

THANK YOU

GIFTS FROM INDIVIDUALS

\$5,000 and above

Tony & Gay Barclay

William Beddow

Richard Boucher & Carolyn Brehm

Susan Braatz

Gabriel Campbell & Lynn Bennett

Jake & Donna Carpenter

Yvon Chouinard

Michael Gill & Barbara Butterworth

Volker Heiden & Luis Gonzalez

Rand & Dana Jack

Augusta Molnar & Kent Lupberger

Nikunj Shah

John Shilling

Joseph Teplitz

Ashton Wilson

\$1,000-\$4,999

Ruth & Joseph Bell

Martha Bennett

Bill Carmean & Nancy Ross

Jane Farmer

Alexander Gardner

Gina Harman

Lynn Harman & Philip Coltoff

Paul & Nicole Harman

Douglas Hartwick

Jane & Steven Hoch

Lisina Hoch

Jack Kunkel

Caroline & Rodney Pelton

Megan Quitkin & Scott Landau

Rachel Quitkin & Dan Smulian

Sidney Schuler

Jane & King Seegar

David Sloan

Daniel Taylor

Ganesh Thapa

Thomas & Elisa

Pamela Thye

Andrew Wallerstein & Mary Sloane

Phillip Wherry

\$500-\$999

Walter Arensberg



A Fallen Star

In the spring of 2015, we said goodbye to a dear friend. Phil Wherry served as a member of our Appalachian Program Advisory Committee since its inception. He understood the importance of our mission and dedicated his time, energy, and expertise to building a stronger program. As the President of the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club, he had a unique vision for the relationship between his organization and the Spruce Knob Mountain Center. Now in its twelfth year, the Almost Heaven Star Party has become a premier event for amateur astronomers.

Phil's wife Holly chose to honor his life by asking friends and family to donate to the Appalachian Program. We are grateful for the outpouring of support we received and humbled by the many lives Phil clearly touched.

Thank you for your generous gifts in Phil's memory.

James & Renee Bayes	Robert & Ellen Alter	Mary Clark	Trevor Gunn
Elaine Chapnik	Christopher & Mary Anderson	Jennifer Coffman	John Harris
Evan Cowles & Brie Quinby	James Sr. & Jane Anderson	Eugene Colon	Colin Hart
Bob Davis	Felicity Arengo	Kathleen Conforti	Joe & Beth Hestick
Alfred Fauver	Edward Armbrrecht, Jr.	Foster De La Houssaye	Jim Hoadley
Deborah Garrett	Josiah & Valer Austin	Linda Dempsey	JF Hornbeck
Lucile Hamlin	Carole Bagin	Kathy DeShazor	Robert Jack
Tom & Robin Hines	Brent Bailey & Liz Cohen	Pamela Desmidt	Rodney Jackson & Darla Hillard
Susan Martin	Susan Bender	Clark & Ora Dixon	Jean Janicke
Euro Micelli	Elizabeth Bennett	George Doschek	Amy Johannesen
Ray Motonaga	Marcie & Ryan Bidwell	Wendy Dotson	Robert Jones
Robin & Mary Murphy	The Bishop/King Family	George & Sue Driesen	Albert Jordan
Ward Paine MD, PLLC	The Boback Family	Alice Eastman	Kalala Family
Ellen Gill Pastore	Beth Bodensteiner	Thomas Eastman	Michell Kawaja
Nina Peyton	Louis & Anita Brooks	John Eckman	Christine & Edward Kimmich
Neela Shrestha	Sheila Brown	Marylou Ferrara	Robert Kimmich
James Skeen	Jerry & Virginia Brownfield	Thomas Finkenbinder	Richard Duval Kinder
Michael Yermakov	Kendall Bullen	Eve Firor	Kevin Kirby
\$100-\$499	Pamela Byrne & John Huerta	Ann Fornaro	David Kremer & Marla Miller
Adina Renee Adler	Alfreda Campbell	Diana Gaviria	Kukura Family
Donald Akers	Kevin Carter	Ryan George	Maxine Kunkel
Robert Allingham	Gina & Steve Chastain	Bill Golike	Ledlie & Roxana Laughlin
	Erin Chrest	Leslie Griffin	Chris Lee

Howard Liebman	Arlen Raasch	Catherine Vial	Cynthia Benitz
Jun Li	Andy Rankin	Elizabeth Wallace	Edwin & Ruth Ann Berry
Claudio Lilienfeld	Dr. Bonnie Raphael	Jeanie Ward-Waller	David Bohigian
Alice & Andrew Lindsay	Tina Rhoades	Monica Whaley	Marty Bordelon
Florizelle Liser	Stacy & Trish Rhodes	Barbara Whitehead	John & Sue Brandimarte
Thomas Lobred	Constance & Glen Rokicki	Nathalie Williams	Amy Britt
Ellie Long	Ana & Matthew Rosefsky	Jean & Janney Wilson	Bradley M Brown
Luck Family	Richard Rossow	Gail Wippelhauser & Robert McIntire	William Burton
Brita Lundberg	George & Kay Schaller	Tom Witte	Alton Byers
Cathryn Marsh	JV Schwan	Laura Wray	Maria Cameron
Marsha McAllister	Kathryn Scott	Michael & Barbara Yates	Nancy Caplow
Erin Mewhirter	Ronald Somers	Ute Zimmerman	Karen Carmean
Kristine Mills & Family	Steve Spiel	Up to \$99	Ian Clements
Patrick Murphy	Steketee Family	Yasushi Akahoshi	Diane Cogorno
Scott & Claudia Nease	Robert Tarakan	Jonathan Andelson	Molly Costa
Alexander Notopoulos	John C Taylor	Gordon Arata	Jennifer Davis
Steven Okun	Linda Tietjen	Amy Arnold	Jed Diamond
Elizabeth Orr	Daniel Tompkins	Rich Bagin	Deniz Dinler
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