

The Mountain Institute

2007
ANNUAL REPORT



**“Protecting Mountains and Mountain Communities
in a Rapidly Changing World”**

Pease Note Our New Address:

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“Five years on from the International Year of Mountains, the challenges remain. Mountain communities and their environments are still vulnerable to growing demands for water and other natural resources, expanding tourism, greater rates of out-migration, disproportionate incidences of conflict, and the pressures of industry, mining and agriculture in an increasingly globalized world. At the same time, the threats and consequences of global Climate Change are providing new challenges for mountains and mountain people that require urgent attention and concerted efforts to resolve. There is a clear need for higher levels of funding and investment in mountain areas, enhanced coordination and collaboration, and a stronger enabling environment with more supportive laws, policies, and institutions.”

Ban Ki Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations, 2007



Dr. Alton Byers and a Community Group in Peru

The Mountain Institute (TMI)

The only global organization solely dedicated to the wellbeing of mountains and mountain communities, The Mountain Institute recognizes the unique promise and peril of the world's mountains and works actively with community partners and global leaders to create locally appropriate programs that address mountain priorities. For more than 35 years, the Institute has developed the specific expertise for conservation and sustainable and equitable development within diverse, changing, and challenging environments.

Dear Friends of TMI,

Recently a mountain farmer described how climate change was affecting his valley. He told us that snows that came five years ago and lasted for two to three months now disappear in three to five days. The snow used to melt slowly, he said, releasing water into the fields where he planted winter wheat. Now without water, the plants dry up. By the time the spring winds come, his plants are dead and the wind carries away the topsoil. His family and neighbors are experiencing food shortages for the first time in his memory.

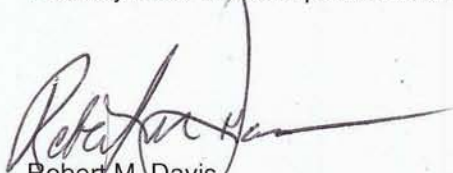
The Mountain Institute is responding to this farmer's plight by bringing immediate relief through food aid to his area. We are working on longer term solutions with communities above him on reforesting the highland hillsides so that water is retained for longer and released more slowly. We are also working on water catchments schemes to conserve the water he has while helping him diversify economically and develop alternative sources of revenue. In other words, we are helping him adapt and build his resilience to the unprecedented changes being seen in many parts of the mountain world.

We know that Climate Change is real and has the potential to create dramatic changes in the natural order of life on our planet. We also know that Globalization is causing major economic shifts and increasing the poverty in the remote areas where we work. It is hard not to sound alarmist when one is, in fact, alarmed, but at The Mountain Institute we are transforming this concern into action by intensifying our responses through our multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional programs.

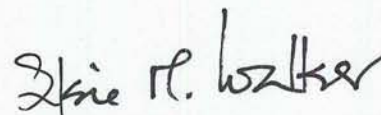
Humankind depends on mountains, and, simply put, mountains now have to depend on us for their protection and care. Mountain communities, in developed as well as developing countries, need to better understand the forces of Globalization and the laws and unique properties of mountains in the context of Climate Change and find new and sustainable ways of adapting to their changing circumstances.

Although awareness of the global importance of mountains is growing, mountain issues still tend to be diminished because, to the average person, the mountains themselves seem deceptively strong. They are not. They are extremely vulnerable. Much more can also be done to engage large downstream populations, organizations, and governments to conserve and understand their dependence on their highland resources. We must all work together now to develop the policies, investments, and participatory approaches to enable mountain people, and *the billions affected downstream*, to understand, harness and manage the interrelated and complex issues confronting the world's mountains in the 21st century.

Please join us in this important effort!



Robert M. Davis
CEO



Elsie Walker
President

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Why Mountains?

Mountains are the world's protectors and suppliers of life itself, providing more than 75 percent of humanity's supply of fresh water for drinking, irrigation, industry, transportation, and daily use. Mountains are found in three out of every four of the world's nations and occupy 20 percent of the world's land surface. They are refuges for bio and crop diversity, storehouses of energy and minerals, retreats from the hectic pace of daily life and majestic places of physical challenge and spiritual renewal. They are also the bell-weather or "canary in the coal mine" for Climate Change, providing early indications of what will eventually happen downstream.

Because all the major rivers of the world have their headwaters in the mountains, downstream communities and their larger population centers are affected by what happens in mountains in significant ways. The UN tells us that one billion Chinese, Indians and Bangladeshis, 250 million people in Africa, and the entire population of California are among the 3 billion people who rely on the continuous flow of fresh water from mountains.

Given their profound generosity, mountains are sacred to more than two billion people worldwide. Mount Kailash in Tibet has been a holy site for nearly a billion Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and followers of the Bon religion for many centuries. Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya are revered across the entire African continent. The Rocky and Appalachian mountains epitomize values basic to American society, embodying what is believed to be the original and unsullied spirit of this country. The Japanese reverence the beauty in nature, which is an integral aspect of Japanese religious observances, has bestowed on Mt. Fuji a symbolic meaning for the nation of Japan.

Many unique and ancient cultures make their home in mountains. The range includes the highland Swiss and Tyroleans of Europe, the Montagnards of Vietnam, the Quechua and Aymara peoples of Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru; the Naxi and Yi peoples of Yunnan Province, China; the Kyrgyz and Tajik peoples of the Tien Shan, Altai, and Pamir mountains in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; Chaggas, Maasai, and Kikuyu peoples of Kenya and Tanzania; the Rais and Sherpas of the eastern Himalaya and Mount Everest regions; and the Hopi, Navajo and Cherokee Nations in the United States, and so many more.

Mountain people, often removed from the modern world, are the stewards of some of our planet's most precious resources. It is they who understand best that mountains are fragile, vulnerable, exploited, and in dire need of the world's attention and active concern.

Global Trends: Climate Change and Globalization

Climate Change

Mountains are the "first responders" to Climate Change, and mountain people, such as the farmer mentioned in our introduction, have been experiencing increasingly dramatic impacts for many years. In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the comprehensive and authoritative international study of Climate Change, verified what the people in many of the world's mountains have long understood, namely that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal." The general conclusions of the IPCC and the observations of mountain dwellers are confirmed by scientific study and observation in mountains around the world. We know for example that:

In Asia:

- Climate Change is causing the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas. In the short term, this means increased risk of flooding, erosion, mudslides and glacial lake floods in Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and north India during the wet season. Because the melting of snow coincides with the summer monsoon season, any intensification of the monsoon and/or increase in melting is likely to contribute to flood disasters in Himalayan catchments. In the longer term, Climate Change could lead to a rise in the snowline and disappearance of many glaciers, causing serious impacts on the populations relying on the seven main rivers in Asia fed by melt water from the Himalayas. Throughout Asia one billion people could face water shortages leading to drought and land degradation by the 2050s.
- In Tajikistan in Central Asia, the Tien Shan Mountains have lost nearly 27 per cent of their glacial mass since the 1930s.

- Grasslands of the Tibetan Plateau store an estimate 25% of China's soil carbon stocks, and vegetation cover provides sandstorm abatement affecting more than one billion inhabitants in Chinese East Asian cities.

In Europe:

- Glaciers in eight of Europe's nine glacial regions are in retreat, and are at their lowest levels for 5,000 years. In the glaciers of the Spanish Pyrenees 85 percent of the total surface area has disappeared in the last 100 years, 52 percent of this has occurred in the last 20 years, and 30 percent between 1991 and 2001.
- Europe is warming faster than the global average. The temperature in Europe has risen by an average of 0.95 °C in the last hundred years and is projected to climb by a further 2.0-6.3 °C this century as emissions of greenhouse gases continue building up.
- Agriculture in most parts of Europe, particularly the mid latitudes and northern Europe, could potentially benefit from a limited temperature rise. But while Europe's cultivated area may expand northwards, in some parts of southern Europe agriculture could be threatened by water shortages. And more frequent extreme weather, especially heat waves, could mean more bad harvests. Whether positive impacts occur will greatly depend on agriculture's capacity to adapt to climate change. The annual growing season for plants, including agricultural crops, lengthened by an average of 10 days between 1962 and 1995 and is projected to continue getting longer.

In South America:

- El Alto and its sister city of La Paz, the world's highest capital, depend on glaciers for at least a third of their water — more than any other urban sprawl. And those glaciers are rapidly melting because of global warming. Scientists predict that all the glaciers in the tropical Andes will disappear by mid-century.
- The Andes region of Peru is one of the most biologically diverse areas on the planet. According to new research by Florida Institute of Technology Paleo-Ecologist Mark Bush, the new century may bring hundreds or even thousands of plant and animal extinctions to this richly endowed area.
- In Peru, the Cordillera Blanca lost 25% percent of its glacial ice in the last 30 years. Over 70% of the population lives in the coastal desert and depends entirely on mountain water. This Andean country is the third most vulnerable country in the world to extreme weather, following Honduras and Bangladesh.

In Africa:

- "Considering the continent's negligible contribution to global greenhouse-gas emissions, it is a terrible irony that Africa, according to current predictions, will be most affected by climate change," Richard Taylor, University College London
- In Tanzania, Mount Kilimanjaro lost 82% of its ice cap since 1912, the first year that its ice was measured. Uganda's Rwenzori's glaciers are in massive retreat, receding tens of meters each year. A century ago they covered nearly 6.5 km² of the mountains. Now less than 1 km² remains. If the trend continues these glaciers will disappear within the next two decades.
- By 2020 between 75 and 250 million people in Africa will be facing increased water shortages.

North America:

- In Glacier National Park, recent projections indicate that there will be no remaining glaciers in the park within the next 15 years.
- Warming in the western US has been greater than in the world as a whole. Recent reports tell us that 11 states were 1.7 degrees warmer than the 20th century's average. That is 70% more than the global average measured the same way. The most pronounced increase is in the Colorado River Basin with effect that put at risk a major water supply for more than 30 million people from Denver to Los Angeles. Warming in western mountains is projected to cause decreased snow pack, more winter flooding, and reduced summer flows, exacerbating competition for over-allocated water resources.
- In Yosemite National Park, 14 out of the 50 studied species can no longer be found in the lower-elevation areas they inhabited in the last century.
- Early fieldwork in a soil research project at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory demonstrated that forest ecosystems in the southern Appalachian Mountains contain relatively large stocks of labile soil C, both in the forest floor and as particulate organic matter in the mineral soil. Modeling of soil C dynamics, based partly on field measurements, indicated that regional warming in the southeastern US, as a part of global climate change, could result in substantial losses of soil C from both low- and high-elevation forest ecosystems.

Thus we know that throughout the world's mountain regions, there are widespread changes in snow, ice and frozen ground, which have increased glacial lakes and ground instability in permafrost areas and in Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems. Hydrological systems have also been affected by increased runoff and earlier spring peak discharge in many glacier- and snow-fed rivers. This in turn affects the water quality of warming rivers and lakes. Mountain biodiversity is also greatly affected because of the earlier timing of spring events and the upward shifts in plant and animal ranges due to Climate Change. The IPCC report states: "Of the more than 29,000 observational data series, from 75 studies, that show significant change in many physical and biological systems, more than 89% are consistent with the direction of change expected as a response to warming. **However, there is a notable lack of geographic balance in data and literature on observed changes, with marked scarcity in developing countries.**" Helping to provide such information is an area where The Mountain Institute can make a significant contribution.



A work crew taking a break on constructing an irrigation channel in Jumla, mid West Nepal. These channels provide water for the fields, increase agricultural productivity, improve food availability and reduce vulnerability to climate change such as unpredictable rainfall. They are a practical and applied way to increase the resilience of a community to Climate Change. (The World Bank estimates 65% of donor investment in Nepal could be undermined with climate change)

Globalization

The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization refers to "globalization" as the "exponential growth in the exchange of goods, ideas, institutions, and people" that is part of a "long term historical process." While many mountain countries were centers of world civilizations in the past, the growing dominance of lowland societies during the last few centuries has resulted in the increased marginalization of mountain communities. This dominance of lowland societies is directly related to and resulted from Globalization trends beginning with the discovery of the New World continuing through periods of mercantilist trading and colonization, and proceeding at an accelerating rate today.

Although one can't overlook the good news that between 1999 and 2004, some 135 million people emerged from poverty and there are now twice as many countries with fast growing economies as in 1980, the situation for many people, especially those in mountains, is complex, dire and worsening. Of the world's 840 million chronically undernourished, a disproportionate number live in mountains. Indeed, according to a recent FAO study on vulnerability in mountains, as many as 245 million rural mountain people in developing and transition countries are at risk of, or are actually experiencing, hunger and food insecurity.

Some illustrative facts from a recent UN Year of the Mountains report tell us that:

- More than two out of three Andean people live in extreme poverty – six million in the Central Andes alone.
- India's mountainous state of Himachal Pradesh achieves less than half the average gross national product achieved in the rest of India.
- The great majority of the 80 million people living below China's poverty line live in mountains.
- The Appalachian mountain region is called the "least developed nation" within one of the world's most advanced industrialized nations.
- Although tourism in mountain areas generates an estimated \$70–\$90 billion annually, mountain communities earn little benefit from it and remain in a poverty trap where typical earnings can be as low as \$100–\$500 per capita per year.

However, change inevitably brings with it opportunities, and today mountain people are presented by Globalization with opportunities their forbearers even a generation ago could not have imagined. Intrepid adventure travelers are now trekking to distant corners of the Andes. In India downstream populations are beginning to understand that their fate is dependent on the mountains to their north and west. The same is true in Peru and in Colorado. This linkage of upstream and downstream populations carries with it interesting economic linkages. In all cases, however, mountain people have to understand these changes and take advantage of them when they can. This takes education, training and a willingness to move onto unfamiliar economic territory. The intensification and acceleration of Globalization is having, and will continue to have, a variety of profound positive and negative impacts and consequences for mountain environments and mountain communities.

Potential **Positive** Impacts include:

- Easier access to mountain areas.
- Easier and cheaper communication
- Greater availability of information for mountain communities
- Improved access to education, health care, and other social services for mountain communities.
- Greater opportunities for economic development and sustainable livelihoods.
- Greater opportunities for mountain communities to participate in policy and decision making due to increased contact with Development and other Strategic Partners

Potential **Negative** Impacts include:

- Increasing opportunities for exploitation of natural resources.
- Increasing opportunities for environmental degradation.
- Increasing threats to cultural preservation due to out-migration, conflict, and increased contact with tourists, businesses, and media from the lowlands and "the West."
- Increasing threats to agriculture, animal husbandry, and other livelihoods due to population pressures as urbanization spreads, populations move to higher altitudes, and environmental degradation intensifies.
- Increasing conflicts over water and other natural resources.
- Increasing feminization of poverty.



Making Tea in Nepal

Conclusions for TMI: Adaptation

It is clear that both Climate Change and Globalization in mountains are intensifying a variety of levels, (e.g. water resources, ecosystems, biodiversity, agriculture and food security, health, livelihoods, conflicts, out-migration, cultural preservation). For the foreseeable future, mountain environments will continue to deteriorate and mountain communities will continue to suffer and struggle to adapt to the environmental changes around them. Downstream populations will also be directly and seriously impacted, particularly with respect to issues relating to the melting of mountain glaciers, the lessening of mountain snowfalls, deforestation, and erosion.

Additional data and research are required from developing countries to measure more accurately and more continuously the status and impact of Climate Change in these countries as well as our own. Working strategically in a variety of partnerships TMI is willing and able to play a significant role in designing effective adaptation programs for mountain areas. The first and major priority is reliable information and relevant experience. Any local efforts must also be guided and supported by national policies and strategies. Hence, TMI's "pilot to policy" approach wherein large ideas are tested in smaller pilot programs and, if successful, become adopted by government policy and practice. For the development community as a whole to design effective adaptation strategies, the Pew Foundation has succinctly summarized what following is needed. TMI is committed to playing a significant role in each of these areas.

- **Information:** the best available data on the nature and severity of likely impacts over different timeframes in given locales and on the cost and efficacy of possible response measures.
- **Capacity:** strengthening capacities in the technical and planning disciplines most relevant to understanding potential climate impacts and devising response strategies.
- **Financial Resources:** resources to improve capacity, undertake specific adaptation measures, and cope with impacts as they occur."
- **Institutions:** focal points...at the national and international levels to garner expertise, develop and coordinate comprehensive strategies, and advocate for broad-based planning and action.
- **Technology:** technologies suited to the specific needs and circumstances of different countries



Community Alpine Conservation Team in the Khumbu Valley, Nepal

The Mountain Institute: Who We Are

Our Mission

Mountains sustain life on earth. In a world facing unprecedented change, The Mountain Institute is committed to protecting its mountains. Through empowering mountain communities and conserving mountain eco-systems, TMI ensures that mountains will continue to provide the essential resources -- natural, cultural and inspirational --- needed for mankind's survival on a healthy planet.

We Value

- The integration of economic development, environmental stewardship, and cultural sustainability
- The forging of long-term commitments to the people and regions we serve
- Teamwork and collaboration within TMI and with our partners
- Cultural sensitivity and fluency in the regions where we work, and
- Measurable accountability and concrete results in all of our projects

Our History and Structure

TMI was established in 1972 in West Virginia, where its work focused on experiential and leadership education for West Virginia's youth. This work was based at a 400-acre nature preserve on the slopes of West Virginia's highest mountain, Spruce Knob. TMI formally expanded into an international organization in 1987, when it assisted in the establishment of two new protected areas in Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, (Tibet). Regional TMI offices were established in Nepal and Peru a few years later.

Our mission broadened in 1993 to include economic development and support for traditional cultures, as well as the conservation of natural resources in the world's longest, oldest and highest mountain ranges—the Andes, Appalachians, and Himalayas. Additional program offices now exist in Beijing, China and Sikkim, India. New programs are also underway in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and planned in Mongolia and Tanzania. TMI's original home, the Spruce Knob Mountain Learning Center, continues operations as an education, conservation and conference facility. A new international headquarters was established in Washington, DC in 2002, which provides technical, logistical and financial support to our regional offices.

We have an international staff of more than 55 people, largely local residents who are from the countries and mountain regions in which we work and who speak the local languages. These include Spanish,

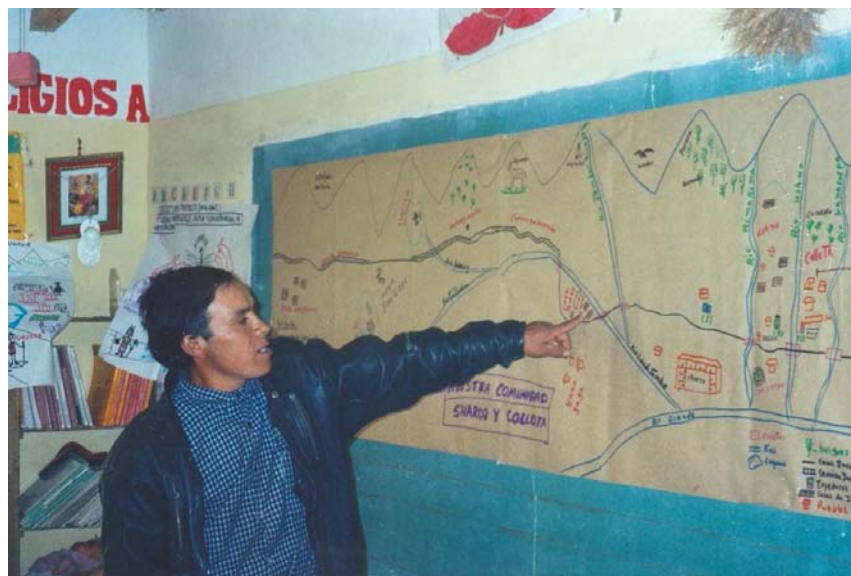
Quechua, Nepali, Hindi, Tibetan, Mandarin Chinese, Urdu, Hindi, Marathi, French, Shungana, Pamiri, Russian and Romani (Gypsy), Balkan Dialects, Dari, Persian, Farsi and English.

We implement programs directly with communities, but most often work with and through partnerships with a wide variety of development, government, program, academic, and technical partners. TMI's programs now reach more than a quarter of a million people a year, not including the visitors to the national parks that we have helped to establish.

Global Programs: Intensifying Our Response

With more than 35 years of experience in the field of sustainable mountain development and an intimate knowledge of the issues facing mountain people as well as of the mountains themselves, The Mountain Institute is ideally situated to help more mountain communities design adaptation strategies to cope with the impacts of Climate Change and Globalization. TMI typically designs multi-year programs in remote, economically challenged mountain regions of high bio-diversity value. The isolation of these regions often makes our work both physically and logistically challenging. We facilitate planning sessions and assist our local partner organizations and communities in structuring and sustaining their own development programs. Our in-depth experience with these projects has taught us that sustainability is most likely to be effective when mountain communities themselves determine their needs and capacities, and experience "ownership" of their projects' outcomes. This approach remains at the heart of our work. Going forward, we plan to play a significant role as a learning laboratory and link to and between mountain communities. Our current objectives are:

1. To help more people in more communities through the choice of strategic partnerships and selected new sites
2. To increase linkages and impacts "downstream"
3. To reposition and refresh our programs for maximum effect
4. To evolve organizationally with the appropriate infrastructure to handle an increased workload
5. To design longer term projects to more effectively plan over time and to reduce the stress of one and two year funding cycles
6. To increase the resources and relationships needed to accomplish these goals



Community Planning for the Inca Road Projects

Where We Work

In coordination with its headquarters in Washington DC, TMI operates an array of community-based programs through regional and field offices on three continents. TMI's programs are arranged geographically, with regional and country offices. The programs are field-based and include permanent and expanding initiatives in three major regions: North America, South America, and Asia, (and plans for a program in Africa just getting underway).



North America: Eastern USA: West Virginia and Kentucky, the Appalachia trail, and Great Smoky Mountain National Park

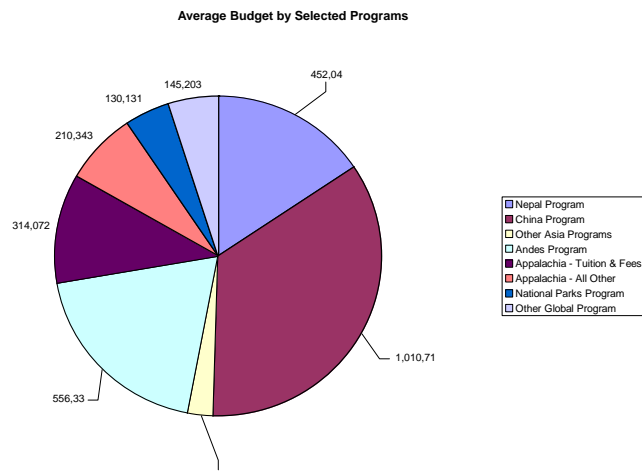
North America: Western USA: Mt. Rainier National Park, North Cascades National Park, Yosemite National Park, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Santa Monica National Recreation Area, and three historic sites in Hawaii

South America: Peru, Ecuador, Argentina and Bolivia

Asia: Nepal, India, China , Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia (under development)

Africa: Tanzania (under development)

Annual Budget Breakout



Critical Mountain Issues Addressed by TMI

1. Water Supply

More than half the world's people rely on mountain water to grow food, to produce electricity, to sustain industries and, most importantly, to drink. More than one billion Chinese, Indians and Bangladeshis, 250 million people in Africa, and the entire population of California rely on the continuous flow of fresh, clean mountain water. Yet the future of this vital, life-sustaining resource has never been more uncertain. Deforestation of mountain woodlands, mining, certain types of agricultural practice, urban sprawl and global warming are taking their toll on mountain watersheds while the demand for freshwater continues to soar.

TMI Objective: To improve the protection and management of mountain watersheds, increasing the sustainability of the water supply and quality, and strengthening the equitable distribution of water.



Community designed irrigation system using plastic bottle caps

A Sampling of Related TMI Projects:

West Virginia Stream Samplers (North America Program - West Virginia). This is a watershed assessment and stream sampling training, education, and community service program. More than 30 teachers and 1100 students trained since 2005; streams in the Potomac and Ohio river watersheds sampled, and results compiled by state environmental agency. Riparian restoration and stream bank erosion reduction projects undertaken; more than 1500 trees planted in fragile zones.

Community Watershed Co-Management for a Safe Water Supply (Asia Program-China) This project ensures clean and safe water supply for Shangri-la Town, Yunnan, China, by facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration for improved reservoir watershed management. (Shangri-la Town has a population of 48,000 and is a major tourist destination with 1.5 million tourists per year. Water issues have resulted from poor forest management, human waste and refuse from five surrounding communities).

Water Forever (South America Program - Peru). TMI, in partnership with Urpichallay, a local NGO in the Cordillera Blanca range, developed water quality monitoring training programs for rural Quechua communities affected by mining operations, lack of sewage treatment and other pollution sources. The program has operated since 2000 and has multiplied in more than ten locations. It has been promoted by Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental, (the Peruvian Environmental Law Association), for inclusion in national policies.

Andean Paramo Conservation (South America Program – Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador). Based on a 1997 TMI ecological assessment of this northern alpine wetlands/grasslands ecosystem in Ecuador, TMI partnered with Eco Ciencia and University of Amsterdam in 1998 to design and implement a project to protect the water regulation functions of this fragile and critical landscape by creating sustainable development opportunities for mountain communities using these ecosystems. Since then, the project has expanded to Venezuela, Colombia and Peru.

2. Poverty

Poverty is ubiquitous in mountains. One in 12 people -- around 700 million individuals -- live in mountain regions, and some 245 million of them are threatened by food insecurity. Mountain poverty is the result of a confluence of factors, including the general fragility of mountain environments, the poor productivity of land, lack of educational opportunities, social marginalization, distant markets, weak infrastructure and communication, out-migration of young people, competition from low land populations, and more. About three quarters of those living in mountain areas are dependent on small scale farming with few options for diversifying their economic base.

TMI Objective: To increase economic security for mountain people.



One of the poorest (and driest) villages in Nepal, where TMI is working on a food-for-work with the World Food Program

A Sampling of Related TMI Projects:

Great Inca Road (South America Program - Peru and Ecuador). Initiated on a 70m kilometers section of the "Royal Inca Highway" (known in the local Quechua language as *Inka Naani*), this project connects six remote communities that now provide services to visitors, creating new sources of income and development opportunities for the local people. This initiative is currently under replication in a new section of the Inca highway in Piura, in northern Peru, and extends across the border into Loja, southern Ecuador.

Pasturelands to Profits (Asia Program – China). This project links nomadic Tibetan herder families with more profitable markets while ensuring the sustainability of the grasslands. Community-based rangeland management pilot activities have reduced livestock mortality by more than 60%, which has more than doubled the number of livestock each household can sell. Starting with 19 pilot households, the methods are now being rapidly replicated in surrounding areas. Demonstrations of high altitude biogas use have also been taken up with enthusiasm by local government.

Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (MAPs) Project (Asia Program – Nepal)

Since 2003, TMI has worked to conserve biodiversity rich corridors of the Khangchendzonga landscape between Nepal and Sikkim, covering more than 1670square kilometers. By mid 2007, the project had trained over 2500 farmers to cultivate medicinal plants as an alternative to wild collection of endangered species, generating more than \$170,000 in revenues from medicinal plant sales. Working closely with more than 400 herders, TMI has helped reduce livestock herds that graze in these biodiversity rich forests by more than 25%, and reduced the creation of new pastures in these forests by 85%. These forests contain some of the best red panda habitat in the Eastern Himalaya. TMI helped convince herder groups in Sikkim to shift from herding to eco-tourism based enterprises, generating more than \$33,000 in earnings in 2006. Villagers have planted more than 125,000 seedlings of native forest species, reforesting over 120 hectares of degraded forest land. TMI continues to work to expand these programs and work with more communities in the Khangchenjunga landscape, reaching more resource dependent families and increasing their livelihoods.

3. Isolation

Situated in remote corners of their respective countries, mountain people have little influence over the decisions that impact their communities and lives and that are made in distant capitols by men and women they have never seen. As a result, they not only live on the margins of society, but they often resent and mistrust outsiders, who encroach on and diminish their most precious resources ---water, timber, minerals, wildlife. Also, mountain communities often lack important contextual information on the larger national and global trends affecting their areas; and with little political voice, local issues are not articulated to, or heard by, government or the general public. This poor communication, understanding, and representation can, and often does, lead to conflict.

TMI Objectives: To Increase mountain community contact; to promote citizen engagement in the political and policy decision-making affecting mountain areas



Remote Himalayan Village

A Sampling of Relevant TMI Projects:

The Mountain Institute Exchanges and Study Tours (Cross Programmatic)

Since its inception TMI has promoted the exchange of ideas and learning between mountain communities across the globe. We have conducted exchanges between Tibetans and Peruvians, Nepalis and Chinese, Indians and Nepalis, Tibetans with Americans, and West Virginians with North Carolinians. We have also conducted many skill building study tours for mountain professionals, both domestically and internationally.

Vicos Living Memory (South America Program – Peru) Under the leadership of TMI, a pilot initiative was started in 2003 to repatriate to the Andean community of Vicos documentary and photographic materials produced by the Peru-Cornell project, which was the first worldwide project to test notions such as “community development” and “green revolution” in the late 1940s. Materials were returned to Vicos, in cooperation with Cornell University libraries, and community members analyzed their historical documents and experience. This project evolved into cooperative agreements between the community of Vicos, TMI and Cornell University to develop internet-based tools to replicate and expand the insights and impacts of this project. This initiative provides indigenous communities with tools to communicate their own perspectives on issues affecting their future.

“From Pilot-to-Policy” (A Cross Cutting Methodology – All Programs)

As part of our belief in continuous learning, TMI has adopted a strategy of designing small pilot projects for mountain communities or environments that, if successful, can lead to national policy change. We often start projects with local partners with the specific aim of discovering whether a current model is their best option. We compare progress as our pilot work develops so that the local, provincial or national entity with whom we are cooperating can take full advantage of our experience, leading to alteration in national policy if the results are positive, and also linking policy to experience and best practices developed at the local, community level.

4. Information

"Mountains are black boxes in the scientific sense, there is so much data missing for our models, we don't quite know what is going on." (*Water Time Bomb*, Reuters, April 15, 2008). Mountains are possibly the most understudied, under-funded land-based ecosystem in the world. Particularly with regard to Climate Change, a lack of reliable on-the-ground information is hampering local and government responses across the world, and there is an immense gap between scientific information and local experience. Urgent research areas include water and hydrology, best practice development, case studies, improved scientific methodology, data collection systems, and climate change monitoring. The gathering, analysis, and utilization of data and research about mountain environments and mountain communities is familiar territory to TMI. We have worked closely with mountain communities and governmental authorities on field-based, on-the-ground, interdisciplinary applied research and information gathering.

TMI Objective: To increase the flow and accuracy of information and research for improved project and policy design, as well as to link local knowledge with scientific research, and create better-informed decision makers at local, national and international levels.



Gathering information and planning together in western Sichuan

A Sampling of Relevant TMI Projects:

Remote Mountain Area Climate Change Research Initiative (In Design for Peru and Nepal): This project will develop community surveys and a data analysis methodology that will increase our understanding of mountain people's perceptions, threats, current adaptations, and needs regarding climate change.

Cordillera Blanca: A Unique Landscape Explained (South America Program - Peru). In partnership with geographers from University of Amsterdam's Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED), TMI produced a 200-page field guide in 2007-2008 to create awareness and knowledge about the geo-ecology of this fragile landscape and the increase of natural hazards due to climate change. With the same partners, we also designed a geo-ecological assessment of the Paramo ecosystem of northern Peru in order to gain understanding of the ecological deterioration of this ecosystem and the impacts this is having in water regulation and other ecological functions.

Himalayan Climate Change Research Expeditions (Asia Program – Nepal) This work involved replicating unique high altitude photographs, taken in the mid 1950s, of the glaciers and alpine landscapes of the world's highest mountains and comparing them to analyze glacial melt.

5. Climate Change Adaptation

The lack of mountain-oriented information and experience described above is particularly true when it comes to Climate Change. Not only is there a need for more information on the impacts of Climate Change and how communities can adapt, but there is also a need for historical information and information on experiences that mountain communities have with resilience and adaptation. New programs must be designed that can be adapted locally.

TMI Objectives: To augment the adaptation and resilience strategies of mountain people; To improve government support for Climate Change adaptation in mountain regions.

A Sampling of TMI Projects:



TMI Has Built the World's Highest Biogas Greenhouse
Growing Winter Vegetables

Highland-Lowland Networks for Climate Change Adaptation (South America Program - Peru)

Implemented in Rio Santa watershed, a complex geographic area one third the size of Switzerland, this project was launched in 2007 to gather information on local perceptions of climate change impacts in the world's largest collection of tropical glaciers. Further, it explores the potential of cooperative networking among highland and lowland groups to create awareness of climate change and to incorporate both populations in project design. This project led to a partnership with IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative and the establishment of an NGO alliance to promote research and action to adapt to climate change.

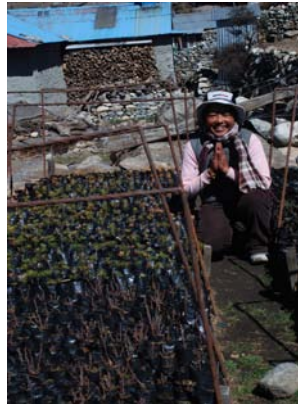
Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Mitigation Project (Asia Program and South America Program – Nepal and Peru): This initiative convenes GLOF experts from the Peruvian Andes and Hindu Kush-Himalayan countries to exchange information and experience analyzing and mitigating the impacts of dangerous new glacial lakes.

Alpine Conservation and Restoration Project (Asia and South America Programs – Nepal, Peru and Patagonia) This project protects and restores high altitude alpine ecosystems degraded by unregulated adventure tourism in Nepal (Mt. Everest National Park; Makalu-Barun National Park), Peru (Huascaran National Park), and Patagonia (Glaciers National Park). The impacts so far include saving 500,000 kg of fragile alpine shrub juniper (formerly used as fuel by tourist lodges) per year through community action and regulation; restoring high altitude ecosystems through better local stewardship, and mobilizing the climbing and trekking communities worldwide to become better high altitude conservationists, donors, and volunteers

6. Environmental Degradation

Mountains are important “hotspots” of biodiversity threatened by the environmental consequences of Climate Change and the human consequences of Globalization. These impacts include the degradation of grasslands, alpine areas, forests, and aquatic ecosystems; the disruption of hydrological cycles; the unsustainable harvesting of natural resources; and the loss of plant and animal species; in other words, a vast reduction in a critical environment and wealth of biodiversity.

TMI Objective: To conserve and restore mountain ecosystems.



The Community and TMI Designed a High Altitude Nurseries to Restore the Everest Ecosystem

A Sampling of Relevant TMI Projects:

Southern Conchucos Polylepis Forest Conservation Corridor (South America Program - Peru and Ecuador) Targeting the last remnants of *queñual* (*Polylepis spp*) cloud forests, this initiative was launched on a small scale in 2000 and has since scaled up since through a partnership with Conservation International and the Ancash Association. It supports mountain communities interested in protecting and restoring these unique high alpine forests that provide a habitat to several endemic plant, animal and bird species. Restoration of these forests contributes to the health of the ecosystem health and is linked to the creation of livelihood opportunities that reduce local pressure on forests.

Mountain Protected Area Management Plans (Cross Programmatic) TMI has provided technical leadership and resources to elaborate the management plans of Sagarmatha National Park in Nepal, the Qomolangma Nature Preserve in Tibet; the Huascarán National Park, the Cusco-Machupicchu Inca Trail and Tabaconas Namballe National Sanctuary in Peru; and the Podocarpus National Park and Colambo Yacuri Protected Forest in Ecuador.

7. Cultural Erosion

A major challenge facing mountain communities is how to retain the best of their cultural heritage and practices while simultaneously making appropriate and productive links to the modern world. Traditional cultures are eroding due to both internal and external factors. Most modern societies have very negative opinions and images for mountain people, and mountain people tend to think less of themselves in the face of lowland encroachment and cultural domination. Traditional cultures are also experiencing the destruction and deterioration of culturally significant sites, linguistic and cultural assimilation, the loss of indigenous knowledge and practices, the loss of the artistic traditions, the disappearance of local medicinal information, and often, religious persecution. Traditional governance practices and land management are often challenged and mountain populations have few tools with which to push back.

TMI Objective: To value and sustain mountain cultures



Conservation of Traditional Andean Weaving

A Sampling of Relevant TMI Projects:

Beyuls: Sacred Hidden Valleys of the Himalaya (Asia Program - Nepal) Beyuls (sacred valleys) as a sacred natural sites are unique to the Himalayan Region and among the followers of the Nyingma school of Buddhism. Nyingmas believe that many Himalayan valleys provide refuge to people in need. Ancient beyuls and modern protected areas, such as national parks and reserves, are similar in their aims and objectives. They both seek to protect the natural environment by causing minimal disturbances. The Beyuls' concept is a powerful cultural basis for sustainable management of ecosystems and has been used successfully as motivation by TMI in the Himalayas.

Cultural Revival of Andean Traditional Textiles (South America Program - Peru) Weaving traditions in the Andes are thousand of years old and of high quality in many places. A pilot project was launched in 1998 to support family groups in two communities of the Huaripampa region to recover an almost lost weaving tradition as a way to create new income opportunities for their communities. Weaver "groups" established a weaving school that has been in constant operation since, helping to double incomes of the participants.

Mountain Cultural Landscapes (Asia Program –Tajikistan) This project works with local communities and partners to help revive cultural and religious values placed on sacred sites in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan but suppressed by years of government interference. The goal is to see rejuvenated mountain communities that are actively and creatively engaged in managing their cultural and natural heritage for a sustainable future. This approach is especially useful in Central Asia where new republics are undergoing profound economic, cultural, and social change. A key emphasis of the project is to show the importance and role of cultural and religious pluralism in this process.

Nixi Artisan Initiative (Asia Program - China) TMI has focused on the Tibetan handicraft industry in Yunnan Province of China, specifically on developing and preserving Nixi Black Pottery. According to archaeological evidence the black pottery from Nixi is an ancient local tradition dating back at least 2,000 years. By linking artisans to markets and building their design capacity, this initiative has allowed the almost 800 inhabitants of Nixi Village to preserve their cultural inheritance while investing in their future.

8. Education

Traditionally mountain people are among the most undereducated in the world. Financial constraints often prohibit the attraction of good teachers. Children often have to travel to distant and bare-bone schools and this "opportunity" has to be weighed against the needs at home, where children often play a critical role in helping with the management of livestock and other household chores. Often a range of textbooks is unavailable and teachers are not fully trained. The barriers to higher education put mountain children at a great disadvantage and even vocational training is hard to access. In the US, children from mountain states under-perform on standardized tests and are particularly weak in the math and the sciences.

TMI Objective: To diversify and enhance educational opportunities for mountain people.



Stream Sampling at Spruce Knob

A Sampling of Relevant Projects:

Mountain Learning (North America Program – West Virginia)

Mountain Learning comprises a wide variety of educational courses and programs that inform students, teachers, local organizations and international delegations about the special attributes of mountain economies, culture and conservation. More than 40,000 students, teachers and activists have participated in our programs at our 400-acre research and learning facility, the Spruce Knob Mountain Center. Our programs use the outdoors as a textbook, developing curricula and hands-on activities that explore science and personal responsibility for the natural world. Professional development for teachers and citizen science activities for students provide residents from the region with opportunities to learn, explore, and become stewards of the environment.

Exploring Our Living Mountain Laboratories: K-12 Teacher Training and Learning Exchanges on Mt. Fuji and Mt. Rainier (North America Program and Japan)

This project provides an innovative approach to increasing teacher and school children awareness of the linkages between the United States and Japan through the hands-on study of two of the world's premier mountains—Mt. Fuji and Mt. Rainier, including their landscapes, peoples, cultures, and similarities. Japanese and American K-12 teachers in the social and physical sciences are receiving first-hand training in a series of experiential, hands-on mountain studies modules; participating in the development of new mountain studies curricula using Fuji and Rainier as the field sites and study themes; participating in field exchanges to each mountain that bring the curricula to life; and helping develop new web-based access to all materials that will benefit hundreds of thousands of Japanese and American teachers and students.

Sagarmatha (Everest) Training Center (Asia Program – Nepal)

TMI is establishing a multi-purpose training centre in the Thame Valley of Sagarmatha (Everest) National Park. This Centre will provide much-needed vocational training to poor and disadvantaged groups in the less-touristed part of the Park. Based upon successful TMI initiatives in Nepal and Tibet this facility will include community meeting space for education programs, as well as a centre for sustainable tourism development. It will be equipped with single-room accommodation, dormitories, a kitchen, an information centre, a gift shop, and an eco-demonstration area with composting toilets, kerosene stoves, solar powered equipment, and organic greenhouses.

9. Energy

Energy, as elsewhere, is critical in mountain areas. However, mountain communities are often “off the grid” so that supply becomes a major issue. The cold climates of mountain regions mean that more energy is required for heating than in lowlands, and the demand for energy is mounting as families become more exposed to modern life and as consumerism and local industries, especially tourism, expand. Since demand is also rising in lowland regions, there is increased pressure on mountains for additional supply. Heretofore, mountain dwellers have received little compensation for electricity, wood and charcoal derived from their homelands and they and their mountain environments have paid a heavy price in the degradation of the resource and the despoiling of the beauty of the surroundings.

TMI Objective: To increase the availability of sustainable energy solutions for mountain communities.



TMI has Initiated the Alternative Energy Program in Western China
Installing Solar Energy Facilities for Local Herders to Protect the Environment.

A Sampling of Relevant TMI Projects:

Mountain Community Energy, LLC (North America Program – West Virginia)

Mountain Community Energy is managed by and is a subsidiary of The Mountain Institute. Focusing on creation of energy alternatives for communities, MCE LLC currently supports mountain communities in the development of landfill methane gas-to-energy facilities. In addition to the creation of alternative energy supplies; this initiative helps mountain communities incubate new enterprises and create local jobs, as well as develop new revenue streams by linking to emerging carbon credit markets.

Fastblock™ (Asia Program – China)

TMI has designed and manufactures a Compressed Earth Block Machine, which produces tongue and groove earth block that is ideal for building housing in poor and remote areas and in areas where other building materials are absent or less preferred. The machine is transportable and creates houses that are durable, thermally efficient, and in combination with appropriate designs, resistant to earthquakes.

Fastblock™ also reduces dramatically the use of wood and concrete in construction, making it environmentally and climate-friendly.

High Altitude Biogas (Asia Program – Tibetan areas of western China). TMI has worked with engineers and institutes in western China to develop high altitude biogas greenhouses to promote the growing of vegetables in the winter as an environmentally friendly income and nutrition source for mountain communities. Within many of our projects, alternative energy solutions, such as solar cookers and composting toilets, are promoted along with biogas greenhouses.

10. Conflict

Almost half the conflicts in the world start in mountains. Reasons for conflict abound. Recent reports tell us that worldwide, 214 river basins --- host to 40% of the world's population --- are shared by two or more countries. In 1995, the distribution of water from mountains was the cause of 14 international disputes. Today that statistic is much higher. Conflicts exist between communities, across boundaries, between nations for resources, between people and wildlife. Also ideological differences, economic injustice, religious competition, gender inequity, economic displacement and disparities, cultural inequities, and immigration cause tensions. Legal or community mechanisms for solving problems in remote areas are often weak and traditional problem solving practices are fast disappearing.

Institutional Objective: To reduce sources of tension and disagreement through cooperation and communication.



The Antamina copper and zinc mine on the boundary of Huascaran National Park, Peru where TMI has worked to facilitate dialogue between the mine and local communities to develop conservation and economic retraining activities in anticipation of the closing of the mine.

A Sampling of Relevant TMI Projects:

“An Analysis of NGO Service Delivery Capacities in Nepal During Times of Conflict and Uncertainty,” and “Private Sector and Local Community Relationships: the Role of PVOs and Local NGOs in Promoting Democracy, Conservation, and Sustainability in Peru” (Asia Program-Nepal and South America Program-Peru)

Case studies on contemporary conflict issues in Nepal and Peru funded of relevance and utility to the local NGO and donor communities.

Community Participation in Expenditure of Public and Private Funds From Mining South (America Program - Peru)

Following the largest investment of public and private funds that has been made available to mountain communities in the 186 years of republican history of Peru, there remains a lack of understanding of community perspectives and priorities on how these funds should be invested to achieve local goals and sustainable development. TMI has worked on this issue over the last five years in the Ancash region by supporting the creation of a coalition of community-based social/environmental watchdog committees, which emerged as a response to mining development in their neighborhoods.

Countries, Communities and Conservation in Khangchendzonga (Asia Program – Nepal/India)

The Khangchendzonga area of Nepal and Sikkim (India) is a global biodiversity hotspot and requires coordinated transboundary, landscape-level conservation efforts. Local inhabitants are poor and resource-dependent, especially on forest products and pastureland. India's national ban on grazing has forced herders to shift their livestock into Nepal, opening new grazing areas. The goal of this multi-year project is to conserve the biodiversity of the Khangchendzonga landscape and improve local livelihoods. This will strengthen community-based resource management policies and implementation by developing a consortium of natural resource users across watersheds and ensure long-term sustainability. The cumulative impact of these actions can enhance landscape conservation and start addressing global climate change through increased carbon sequestration.

Institutional Capability Matrix

Services	Participatory activities with communities, local governments, national government bureaus with assistance of donors and partners
Data Collection/Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied participatory research Baseline data collection Case studies Value chain analyses Identification of sacred sites and practices Identification of linkages between cultural beliefs and conservation Academic partnerships Partnerships with single-focus organizations
Natural Resource Management And Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected area & national park planning and implementation Integrated conservation & development program planning Protection of wetlands Protection of watersheds Community reforestation projects Alternative crop development Pastureland rejuvenation Reintroduction of indigenous crops Transboundary conservation
Cultural Preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artisan Training and product enhancement Conservation of Sacred Sites Cultural tourism development Language training Linkages with museums, architectural firms and designers Linkages with travel agencies for cultural tourism Handicraft development Culturally oriented signage in National Parks Materials in local languages
Sustainable Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector and enterprise development Sub-sector training and program intervention Community bank development Non-timber forest product development & marketing Alternative energy development (rammed earth, bio-gas) NGO capacity building for ecotourism training, planning, & implementation Animal husbandry and dairy development Transboundary cooperation
Gender Equity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialized workshops for women, (ie "Seeing your Farm as a Business") Emphasis on hiring and training local female staff Awareness raising in community planning meetings Awareness building at local, regional and national policy level of family issues for both mothers and fathers
Capacity (Skills) Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community planning APPA workshops Technology transfer of environmental construction machinery Program development and implementation training for local staff Development of forest user groups Establishing community organizations Partnerships with organizations and gov't bureaus One on one training for entrepreneurs Sub-sector methodology workshops National Study tours Vocational training workshops Administrative skills building (computer, accounting, etc) International exchanges, (i.e. dairy, handicraft, tourism)
Knowledge, Leadership and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental courses and curriculum development Experiential science education Science teacher training Leadership workshops Management workshops Int'l exchanges and study tours Global dissemination of mountain information Mountain studies curriculum development & courses Policy advocacy
Community-based Conflict Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-management of rangelands People-wildlife conflict management Transboundary cooperation (international and national) Community-mining dialogue facilitation

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Current Projects

- **Andean Landscape Conservation along the Great Inca Road of the Huancabamba-Caxas** (Piura, Peru)
- **Inka Naani:** Community-based tourism and conservation along the Great Inka Road (Ancash and Huanuco, Peru)
- **Program Design:** For biodiversity conservation and sustainable development projects in Great Inca Road sections of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia (in partnership with the Andean Community of Nations and the World Conservation Union (IUCN-Sur)).
- **Andean Paramo:** Protecting ecosystem functions for water regulation and biodiversity (Peru in cooperation with partners in Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela)
- **Transboundary Paramo Conservation** in protected areas of Ecuador and Peru.



Three members of the Andean staff of the Instituto de Montagna

History

The Mountain Institute's Andean Program (Instituto de Montana) was established in Peru in 1996 during a time of rapid social change in the mountain communities of the northern Andes. Traditional means of livelihood were in decline at the same time that large-scale mining and hydroelectric projects and tourism were rapidly growing, leading to conflicts between the private sector and local people and degradation of mountain ecosystems. To address this issue, TMI-Andes developed a comprehensive community-based project in the Huascarán Biosphere Reserve to demonstrate through pilot projects the potential to diversify local livelihoods through community-based tourism and protection of biodiversity hotspots. Through small-scale biodiversity conservation projects and the promotion of cooperative links with Huascarán National Park, local extractive industries were motivated to support long-term conservation goals. In 1997, TMI-Andes initiated an strategic ecological assessment of the Paramo, or alpine grasslands, in Ecuador, initiating actions and partnerships to conserve this ecosystem which is critically important as source of water and center of unique biodiversity in the northern Andes. This initiative evolved into the Andean Paramo Conservation Program, currently in four Andean countries. Community-based tourism pilot projects initiated in the Huascarán Biosphere Reserve were scaled up through a program devoted to integrate the conservation of natural and cultural heritage at landscape scale along the Great Inca Road that connects Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. Through its programs and projects TMI- Andes promotes the development of long-term livelihoods for mountain people linked to conservation of their mountain ecosystems. The program engages a host of different partners that include local community organizations, national NGOs and government agencies, donors, and the private sector to address the critical needs of communities and the environment in the northern Andes.

Current Program Partners

Development Partners

Ancash Association (Compañía Minera Antamina)
Andean Community of Nations
Conservation International and Global Conservation Fund
Andean Sustainable Development Consortium (CONDEAN)
International Potato Center
World Conservation Union, South America Office (IUCN-SUR)
Finnish Government
Fondo Nacional para Áreas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado, Peru (PROFONANPE)

Program Partners

Huascarán National Park, Peru
Tabaconas National Sanctuary, Peru
Podocarpus National Park, Ecuador
Rural Municipalities Association of Peru (REMURPE)
Regional Government of Piura, Peru
Regional Government of Cajamarca, Peru
NATURE AND Culture International, Piura, Peru (NCI)
Watershed Management Institute, Piura, Peru (IGCH)
Rural Development Association (ASPADERUC), Cajamarca Peru.
Peruvian Service Center, CEPESER, Peru

Education and Advocacy Partners

Ministry of Education and regional offices in Piura and Cajamarca, Peru
Yachay Wasi, Peru

Research and Knowledge Partners

Univesidad Peruana Cayateno Heredia, Institute for Environmental Studies
Cornell University, Department of Anthropology and Library System
University of Amsterdam, Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED)

Government Partners

INRENA (Ministry of Environment of Peru)

Ministry of Environment Loja, Ecuador

National Watersheds and Soils Management Program, Peru (PRONAMACHS)

"We have visited three of these (ecotourism) projects and we cannot stop praising them. Two are located in the Blanca Cordillera and the third in the Conchucos Corridor. All three are supported by The Mountain Institute, an international agency devoted to preserving and protecting the planet's mountain resources, the sources of water, plant, animal and life itself." From Rafael Leon, "In the Heart of Peru", p.128.



Water Conservation Project in the Paramo (High Grasslands) of Peru and Ecuador

Asia Program: (1) Nepal, India and Central Asia (2) China

Nepal, India and Central Asia

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Current Projects:

- **Food For Enterprise in Drought Stricken West Nepal:** Using emergency food assistance to create the foundations for sustainable mountain enterprises in the Karnali region of West Nepal
- **The Eastern Himalaya Corridor Conservation Project:** A multi-year project promoting the conservation of biodiversity rich forests and alpine areas through the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants along the Nepal- Sikkim, India Border.
- **Biodiversity, Markets and Enterprises in the Kanchenjunga Region of Nepal:** A multi-year project helping strengthen markets and value chains for mountain farmers in East Nepal.
- **Beyuls: Sacred Hidden Valleys of the Himalaya** The sacred valleys (Beyuls) concept provides a powerful cultural basis for sustainable management of ecosystems and has been used successfully as motivation by TMI in the Himalayas.
- **Promoting Local conservation and livelihoods initiatives in North and N. Eastern Sikkim, India:** Establishing and strengthening ecotourism programs in N and NE Sikkim.
- **Monitoring Snow leopards and Their Prey in Sikkim:** Developing a monitoring system for local people to track changes in snow leopard and mountain sheep populations.
- **Establishing TMI India as a separate National Organization:** Providing technical, administrative and fundraising assistance to establish TMI India as a newly founded National sister organization to TMI.
- **Sagarmatha (Everest) Training Center** TMI is establishing a multi-purpose training centre in the Thame Valley of Sagarmatha (Everest) National Park. This Centre will provide much-needed vocational training to poor and disadvantaged groups in the less-touristed part of the Park.
- **Alpine Conservation Partnership (ACP):** Community based conservation and restoration of alpine ecosystems.
- **Mountain Cultural Landscapes:** This project works with local communities and partners to help revive cultural and religious values placed on sacred sites in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

History

TMI's programs in Asia started in the mid-1980's with the "Heart of the Himalaya" initiative for the establishment of two new mountain protected areas: the Makalu-Barun National Park in Nepal, and the Qomolangma (Mt. Everest) Nature Preserve in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, (Tibet). Both were founded on the principles of participatory design and management, and collaboration between park managers and local communities. These pioneering projects were some of the earliest demonstrations of community-based project design that has since become the basis for most of TMI's programs. The methods ultimately evolved into TMI's own planning system known as "Appreciative Participatory Planning and Action" (APPA), a successful planning tool that focuses on community assets and opportunities. In 1996, the program expanded to include a number of ecotourism initiatives: the Sikkim Biodiversity and Ecotourism Project (India), the Langtang Ecotourism Project (Nepal), and the Community-Based Tourism Training Program to strengthen the linkage between mountain tourism and local livelihoods. A number of other initiatives supported transboundary conservation along the international border between Nepal, the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, and India. Additional projects included the People-Wildlife Conflict Project (Nepal) and the Nepal Biodiversity Trust Fund. In 2003, the Mountain Cultural Landscapes Project was launched in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan that documents and strengthens the linkages between conservation and sacred sites. Other multi year projects work to conserve the transboundary regions of the Eastern Himalaya of Nepal and Sikkim, promoting improved alpine and forest management by encouraging the sustainable cultivation of high value medicinal and aromatic plants. Starting in 2008, the Asia program started using food for work approaches to create sustainable mountain enterprises in drought stricken West Nepal, and enhance community resilience to climate related food deficits. The Asia program is an international leader in strengthening community skills, implementation of projects in conflict-affected areas, and cooperation and collaboration in transboundary protected areas.

Current Program Partners

Development Partners

World Bank - Informal Consultative Group on Climate Change
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)
World Food Program, Nepal
World Wildlife Fund, Nepal
TMI India
Mountain Societies Development Support Program (MSDSP)
Aga Khan Foundation: (in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan)
IUCN (World Conservation Union)

Program Partners

The People and Communities in Ilam, Panchtar, Taplejung, Rasuwa, Dolpo, Mugu, Jumla and Humla Districts of Nepal.
Deep Joti Conservation Organization, Ilam, Nepal
High Altitude Herb Growers Association of Nepal, (SAAG), East Nepal
Dolpo Institute, West Nepal
Humla Conservation and Development, West Nepal
Solu Khumbu District
Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone Management Committees
Eco-Himal

Education and Advocacy Partners

Wildlife Watch Group, Nepal
ECCA Nepal
SEEDS, Tajikistan
Association of International NGOs (AIN) in Nepal
Tengboche Monastery
University of Paris

Research and Knowledge Partners

ICIMOD, Nepal
Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal
AIN Task Force for Global Climate Change (former Chair)

Nepal Trust for Nature Conservation
Summer Institute of Linguistics
Kathmandu International Mountain Film festival

Government Partners:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Nepal
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MOFSC), Nepal
Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MOEST), Nepal
Ministry of Local and District Development (MLDD), Nepal
Social Welfare Council (SWC), Nepal
Department of Forests, Nepal
Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)
Various District and local government administrators, Nepal
Government of India
State Government of Sikkim, India



Working with Farmers in Nepal on Crop Diversity

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Current Projects

- **Tibet Plateau Development Project (TPDP):** Multi-year, multi-faceted agro-enterprise development, rangeland/community conservation based conservation, cultural heritage restoration/preservation in Tibetan areas of China. Within this program, there are many smaller projects. Please contact Beijing office for more information.
- **Pasturelands to Profits Project (P2P):** Agro-enterprise development, nomadic livelihood development and rangeland conservation in Sichuan
- **Baima Snow Mountain Nature Reserve:** The goal of this project is to increase conservation efforts in the Baima Snow Mountain Nature Reserve, Yunnan, China, by minimizing tourism impacts, small business opportunities and increasing environmental awareness among local residents and visitors.
- **Ensuring Safe and Clean Water Supply for Shangri-la:** The goal of this project is to ensure clean and safe water supply for Shangri-la Town, Yunnan, by facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration in a dynamic reservoir watershed through strengthening community leadership; innovating replicable, transferable water management practices; and catalyzing dissemination of pioneering solutions.
- **Dissemination Soil Cement Rammed Earth Technology:** For High quality, low cost, environmentally friendly construction.



Construction Workshop in Tibet

History

The ethnic Tibetan areas of China present specific and difficult challenges to sustainable development because of their remoteness, environmental fragility, lack of social services, distance from ports, and fluid economic and political conditions. In response, TMI has been implementing the Tibetan Plateau Development Program (TPDP) in the Tibetan areas of China since 2004. Previously, TMI implemented the Peak Enterprise Program, the first private sector development initiative in Tibet's history; and previous to that the Qomolangma Conservation Program, a bilateral agreement between the Dutch government and the PRC. It's earliest work in the late 1980's entailed working with the local Tibetan authorities to form the Qomolangma (Everest) Nature Preserve on the Tibet side of Mt. Everest.

The major focus areas of our current work are:

- Livelihood improvement of herders and farmers
- Rangeland conservation and management
- Handicraft development and
- Conservation of cultural heritage

The work is structured to consist of core activities and a sub-grant component, which is designed to extend the program's impact significantly. Sub-granting is designed to support a variety of capable local community groups, domestic and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and relevant government institutions, which lack the financial and technical resources to implement sub-projects successfully. With a wealth of experience gained over years of implementation, TMI has worked intensively with local communities, non-governmental organizations, international partners and government agencies to pilot effective solutions to the problems and challenges faced by rural Tibetan populations. In our current work, with support from our local development partners, we are now moving from "pilot to policy", scaling up the impact of earlier pilots and engaging with decision-makers at all levels to generate effective support for the replication of successful pilot models.

Current Program Partners

Sichuan

Development Partners

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Sichuan Center for Community Development Consultation
WWF Chengdu Field Office
Conservation International Chengdu Field Office
Heifer International Program
Hongyuan Tibetan Culture and Art Development Center
Sichuan Center for Pastoral Area Development
Yiduo Club
International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
Canadian China Sustainable Agriculture Program
World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF)

Program Partners

Sichuan Grassland Research Institute
Tangke Herder Education Association (Local Tibetan NGO working on Tibetan Children Education)
Yiduo Club (local Tibetan NGO working on Tibetan culture and language)
Chengdu Bangbangwa Industry Co.ltd
Hongyuan Yak Meat Food Processing Co. ltd.
Sichuan Center for Pastoral Area Development
Hongyuan Yak Herders' Association
Sichuan Culinary College
Southwest Minorities' University Market Research Department
Bangbangwa Foodstuffs Co
Xingmu Grassland Co
Chuanxing Solar Power Co.

Education and Advocacy Partners

Hongyuan Women's Federation
Hongyuan Xinmu Fodder Seeds and Forage Production Company
Hongyuan Livestock Extension Service Station
Hongyuan Yak Association (Mass Org.)

Research and Knowledge Partners

Sichuan Agricultural University
Southwest Minority University
Sichuan Association of Rural Economy (Sichuan Academy of Social Science)
Chengdu Institute of Biology (China Academy of Science)
Biogas Institute (Ministry of Agriculture)
Sichuan Cuisine Association
University of Wisconsin
Chengdu Institute of Biology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences
Global Environment Institute
Sichuan Grassland Research Institute
Mianyang Chuanxin Solar Stove Company
Longriba Yak Breeding Farm
Sichuan Shuguang Community Capacity Building Center

Government Partners

Hongyuan County Government
Hongyuan Animal Husbandry Bureau
Hongyuan Agriculture Bureau
Hongyuan Education Bureau
Aba Prefecture Government
Anqu Township Government
Aba Prefecture Human Resources Office

Yunnan**Development Partners**

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Action for Enterprise
Aid to Artisans
Wilderness Medical Association
Shanshui Center for Nature and Society
China-Canada Agricultural Development Project
World Wildlife Fund
The Nature Conservancy

Program Partners

Shangri-la Travel Agency
Khampa Caravan Adventure Travel Agency
Baima Snow Mountain Eco-tourism Development Company
Nixi Tutao Pottery Company
Nixi Heitao Pottery Company
Heibei Siyue Pottery Company
Shangri-la Yunnan Snub-nosed Monkey Conservation Association
Shanshui Center for Nature and Society
Hamagu Environment and Culture Conservation Association

Education and Advocacy Partners

Eastern Tibetan Training Institute
Qinghua University
Yunnan Normal University

Research and Knowledge Partners

Shangri-la Alpine Botanic Garden
Baima Snow Mountain Nature Reserve

Government Partners

FAO/Investment Promotion Bureau of Diqing Prefecture
The People's Government of Shangri-la County
Cultural Heritage Protection Bureau of Diqing Prefecture
Tourism Bureau of Diqing Prefecture
Ni Xi Township Government of Shangri-la County
Jiantang Town Government
Veterinary Station of Diqing Prefecture
Environmental Protection Bureau of Shangri-la County
Hydro-electricity Bureau of Shangri-la County
Sang Na Watershed Management Bureau
Agricultural Herder Bureau of Shangri-la County
Forestry Bureau of Shangri-la County
Gyaltang Township Government of Shangri-la County
Nuo Xi Village Government of Gyltang Township
Hong Po Village Government of Gyltang Township
Diqing Prefecture Veterinary Station

North America Program

Director
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northamerica@mountain.org



Spruce Knob Mountain Center
HC Box 24
Circleville, WV 26804
Tel: 304-567-2632 (office)
Fax: 304-567-2666 (office)
Tel: 304-567-2644 (program and dining site)

Current Projects

- **Mountain Learning:** Increasing knowledge among mountain people, students, teachers, and the U.S. public about mountain environments, heritage, and the connections between the world's mountain regions
- **Alternative Livelihoods/Alternative Energies:** Biogas development for mountain communities
- **Teacher Training Project:** Developing new modules and curricula in mountain studies for K-12 teachers
- **Blister Swamp Conservation and Restoration Project:** Restoring high altitude wetland ecosystems and globally rare plants on private land in West Virginia
- **National Parks Partnership:** Developing innovative interpretive and educational materials and activities based on the evocative cultural, spiritual, and aesthetic meanings of mountains and features of mountain environments in mainstream American, Native American, Native Hawaiian, and other cultures around the world in order to enrich visitor experiences, encourage respect for indigenous perspectives, diversify the limited visitor base, and build deep-seated commitments to protecting the environment.

History

The Mountain Institute has worked in the Appalachian Mountains since the organization's inception in 1972. The Appalachia Program focuses on developing an understanding and appreciation for the complex interaction between community, culture, and conservation in remote mountain areas. A wide variety of educational courses and programs inform students, teachers and local organizations about the importance of mountain economies, culture and conservation. International delegations also understand that challenging issues in their own countries can also be found in The United States. More than 40,000 students, teachers and activists have participated in our programs at our 400-acre research and learning facility, the Spruce Knob Mountain Center. Our programs have opened doors to higher education for thousands of West Virginia's high school students since 1982 and dozens of school groups return annually to explore and enjoy the Appalachian wilderness through the Mountain Learning courses.

Away from its Spruce Knob mountain site, the Appalachian Program works at the community level with school systems and other non-profit organizations to deliver environmental education programs for middle

school students. The program uses numerous local natural resource professionals as volunteer instructors, who thus serve as ongoing resource personnel and mentors to the program and to teachers. We are now working with local counties to extend this curriculum to later grades to reinforce lessons in scientific literacy and environmental citizenship over a longer period of each child's education.

The Appalachia Program's landfill gas-to-energy project works with public entities in WV to create facilities that collect methane gas, emitted from landfills as they decompose, and utilize the methane as an energy source to fuel businesses. Destruction of methane gas through combustion removes a potent greenhouse gas from the atmosphere. Working through Mountain Community Energy LLC, a wholly-owned company of TMI, the project has a triple bottom line for success: social (job creation), economic (revenue from sale of methane gas), and environmental benefits (removal of carbon-based pollutants). Mountain Community Energy also is exploring the potential of carbon offset projects to generate revenue for mountain communities.

Current Program Partners

Development

Blue Moon Fund
Schoenbaum Family Foundation
Frederick and Margaret L. Weyerhaeuser Foundation
ECA Foundation
Solid Waste Authorities of WV
Toyota USA Foundation
Toyota Motor Manufacturing of WV

Program

Trout Unlimited
The Nature Conservancy
WV Commission on National and Community Service
Northern Virginia Astronomy Club
Family Resource Network, Pendleton County, WV
Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team

Education and Advocacy

Local watershed associations
Public and private schools and school systems
Randolph County (WV) Board of Education
WV Environmental Education Association

Research and Knowledge

West Virginia University
Davis and Elkins College

Government

WV Department of Environmental Protection
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
WV Division of Natural Resources
US Forest Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service

From a middle school teacher in Pendleton in Randolph County, W.Va.:

"I wanted to let you know that everything went like clock work with Sandy's classes. I also wanted to congratulate you and Beth for putting together the classroom teacher's dream team of field instructors. They were fantastic! I worked in a group with each one of them and all of them were competent, knowledgeable, fun and natural teachers! Their science was good, and their teaching techniques were excellent. The adult to student ratio was high, but it was an ideal situation. I could not be more pleased with how smoothly the whole program was run. Every student was totally engaged. This is worth repeating!!!!!"



Analyzing Stream Samplings

In 2007 American power plants burned over a billion tons of coal, accounting for over 50 percent of this country's electricity use. In Kentucky, 80 percent of the harvested coal is sold and shipped to 22 other states. Yet it is the people of Appalachia who pay the highest price for the rest of the country's cheap energy -- through contaminated water, flooding, cracked foundations and wells, bronchial problems related to breathing coal dust, and roads that have been torn up and turned deadly by speeding coal trucks. Large cities like Phoenix and Detroit get the coal but are not held accountable for the environmental consequences of its extraction.

North America Facility: Spruce Knob Mountain Center

The heart of The Mountain Institute is the Spruce Knob Mountain Center, a 400-acre, high-altitude preserve of meadows and forests in Pendleton County, West Virginia. Surrounded on three sides by nearly a million acres of the Monongahela National Forest, this remote and beautiful site is the origin of headwaters of the Potomac River, and eventually drains into the Chesapeake Bay. It is located on the upper slopes of Spruce Knob Mountain, (4,863'), West Virginia's highest point. For nearly 30 years The Mountain Institute has used the SKMC as a base for its programs in outdoor education, research and sustainable land use demonstrations. We would like to use Spruce Knob and our excellent staff there to train staff from mountain schools that are currently developing in Peru and Nepal, and Appalachia program staff is eager to assist in the development of coordinated curricula across our programs. As a "living laboratory," the Center's stunning landscape sets the stage for an immediate learning opportunity in downstream dynamics, the intersection of culture with nature, self-reliance, and the inspirational, if not intimidating, qualities of mountain environments. The lessons to be learned here are applicable across the mountain ranges of the world, and it is an ideal place to train trainers.



Senior Administrative Staff

"The staff of the Mountain Institute is comprised of the most committed people I have met as grantees. They sincerely care about their work, learning from their mistakes, being more effective, and really putting their best foot forward. TMI strikes me as an excellent example of a learning organization that is incredibly committed to creating sustainable, meaningful change in the lives of people in the countries in which they work. The staff truly has their hearts in the right place – in the hearts and minds of the people that will be the ones that will have to live with the changes implemented on the ground. TMI works very much from the bottom up, designing and implementing solutions with the people's needs first. TMI does not have the haughty, beltway bandit mentality found typically among many USAID contractors, and is not concerned at all about trying to squeeze every last penny from the American taxpayer."

USAID Program Officer 2006



Bob Davis, CEO, holds an M.S. in organization development from American University, and an M.A. in religious studies from Yale University. He is skilled in the areas of project administration, financial management, personnel management, program logistics, conservation area project design and appraisal, organizational development and management, and facilitation. Having joined TMI in 1979, Mr. Davis has worked in many of the organization's programs and regional projects. He has extensive international conservation and development experience from his fifteen years of involvement in the

Himalayan Program. He is a long time resident of Pendleton County, West Virginia and held the position of Appalachian Program Director. Mr. Davis also serves on the board of directors of a number of mountain non-profit organizations, consults on organizational issues, and has taught university courses in organizational development and management.



Elsie Walker, President, is also the founder of TMI's Peak Enterprise Program (now the China Program) and former Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. She has worked for 28 years on projects and programs benefiting mountain people, particularly in Asia. She has a background in NGO and program development; fundraising; project design and implementation; private sector collaboration; small enterprise development strategies and international citizen exchanges. She has arranged many citizen exchanges between China and the U.S., including the first exchange between the U.S.

Supreme Court and the Supreme People's Court, led by Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. She is on the board of First Voice International and President of the US-East Timor Society. She received a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College in 1969.



Vicky Shears, Corporate Business Manager, is based at the headquarters office in Washington, DC. A native of West Virginia, she has a Masters in Professional Accountancy and a Certificate in Forensic Accounting from West Virginia University. Prior to joining TMI in 2002 as the Office Administrator for the Appalachian Program Office, Vicky worked for 13 years with the federal government as a Contract Specialist and Contracting Cost/Price Analyst for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Senior Technical Experts

These experts work across the programs on program design and technical implementation issues.

Protected Areas and Forestry



Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa holds a Ph.D. in Forest Resources from the University of Washington, USA, and he is the first person from the Sherpa community to receive a doctorate. He attended the Sir Edmund Hillary School in Nepal's Khumbu region and his higher education was supported through series of educational awards including the Colombo Plan and Fulbright scholarships. Dr. Sherpa joined the Nepal's National Park Service in 1980 and managed Sagarmatha and Rara National Parks. He worked with

The Mountain Institute in 1989 to carry out planning of the Makalu-Barun National Park. He joined the TMI on full time basis in 2000 as manager of the Qomolangma Conservation Program in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Dr. Sherpa recently led the drafting of the new management plan for the Sagarmatha National Park. He specializes in protected area planning, forest resource management, cultural heritage preservation and mountain livelihood improvement.

Alpine Conservation and Applied Research



Alton C. Byers is a mountain geographer specializing in integrated conservation and development programs, applied research, and the development of mountain-based educational courses and materials. He received his doctorate from the University of Colorado in 1987, focusing on contemporary landscape change in the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park, Khumbu, Nepal. Following two years of integrated conservation and development work in Ruhengeri Prefecture, Rwanda, he joined The Mountain Institute (TMI) in 1990 as Environmental Advisor. Since then he has lived and worked in Nepal with TMI's Himal Programs; worked as founder and Director of Andean Programs in the Huascarán National Park, Peru; directed TMI's Appalachian Program and Spruce Knob Mountain

Center (SKMC) in West Virginia; and currently works as Director of TMI's Research and Education Program in support of all programs. In 2004, Dr. Byers received the Association of American Geographer's Distinguished Career Award from the Mountain Geographer Specialty Group.

Senior Program Staff

South America



Jorge Recharte, Director of the Andes Program, is based in Huaraz and Lima, Peru, and holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Cornell University, 1989. Jorge joined The Mountain Institute in 1997 after spending three years in Ecuador between 1994 and 1996 working for the Latin American Social Science Faculty (FLACSO), designing and heading the graduate education and research program in Mountain Societies and Sustainable Development. Between 1980-1981 and 1990-1993 Dr. Recharte was an associate researcher at the International Potato Center where he worked developing participatory research methodologies in agriculture. He currently serves in the board of

The Common Good Institute and is a member of the Andes Chapter of the International Mountain Society (IMS).

Miriam Torres, Protected Areas and Ecotourism specialist, Andes Program, joined TMI in 1995. She graduated in the National Parks and Wildlife Management program of Peru's National Agrarian University in 1987. She has a professional history devoted to working with mountain protected areas in Peru, particularly conducting participatory management plans. Miriam was a member of the team that produced the first management plan of Huascaran National Park in 1990, the leader of its Ecotourism Plan in 1997, the leader of its second Management Plan elaborated in 2002, and the National Master Plan for the Peruvian protected areas system in 1995. Before joining TMI, from 1988 - 1995, she was a staff member of Pro Naturaleza, supporting several of Peru's protected areas. She is a member of the Andes Chapter of the International Mountain Society (IMS) and the IUCN Commission on Protected Areas, Mountain Areas and Non Material Values.

Asia



Christopher Ladue, Asia Program Director and Country Director of the China Program, brings more than 12 years of combined professional and scholastic experience in Chinese, Tibetan and Nepali languages, cultures, economics, and development policies to his work China and Asia. He was the Director of the Peak Enterprise Program, an innovative economic development learning laboratory in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), from 1995-2004. He is a seasoned enterprise development professional with experience in sub sector

analysis, business service assessment, development finance, integrated conservation and development program design, evaluation, implementation and monitoring. Mr. Ladue received his Bachelor's degree in

East Asian Language and Cultures, with a concentration in Chinese economics, from Columbia University, and worked in the private sector, primarily in banking, before joining TMI in 2000.



Brian Peniston, Nepal and India Country Director, has Master degrees in Forestry (Yale, 1992) and Public Health (Univ of Hawaii, 1982). He has worked on international conservation and development projects since 1975, and has overseas work experience in Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand-Cambodia, and Peru. Mr. Peniston has also helped design integrated conservation and development projects in Bhutan, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Tibet Autonomous Region of China and Central Asia.

Ang Rita Sherpa, Senior Program Manager, Asia (Nepal) Program, has 14 years of experience in management of protected areas, eco-tourism, and sustainable development projects. He also has extensive experience in project design, development, and monitoring and evaluation, and he has facilitated many workshops on ecotourism and sustainable development. He has a master's degree in Protected Landscape Management from the University of Wales, UK, and an undergraduate degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism from Lincoln University, New Zealand. He has served as a volunteer for the National Parks Service in the United States, where he spent nine months working in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park before he joined The Mountain Institute in 1988.

North America



Brent Bailey, Director of the North America Program, is based in West Virginia, drawing on more than 20 years' experience in forestry, natural resource management, environmental education, and local community development on three continents. Prior to joining TMI in 2004, he was a Senior Technical Director for Conservation International, managing biodiversity projects in Latin America and West Africa. He holds a bachelors degree in biology and French (Kalamazoo College, 1977); a masters in environmental studies (Yale 1985); and a Ph.D in Forest Resources Science (West Virginia University, 1999). He also has a faculty appointment in biology with West Virginia University. A West Virginia native, he has presented and written extensively on the harvest and economic uses of wild products such as ginseng, goldenseal, black cohosh, and others. At the local level, he is active as a volunteer in urban forestry, land conservation, and citizen science.

Jonah Steinberg, Senior Program Manager, specializes in anthropology, ethnography, and sociology; the cultures of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Islamic world, with a specific emphasis on the peoples of the Hindu Kush, Karakoram and Pamir mountains; globalization, diasporas, and transnational societies including Isma'ili Muslims and Romani Gypsies; secondary foci on identity-formation, gender and sexuality, social crisis and social change, and international migration. He is a PhD student in Anthropology and received his MA from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Swarthmore College. He has been a faculty lecturer at the University of California at Santa Cruz and speaks Urdu, Hindi, French, Tajiki, Russian and Romani (Gypsy), Balkan Dialects, and has some proficiency in Dari, Persian, and Farsi.

Dave Martin, Program Coordinator for Mountain Learning and the Spruce Knob Mountain Center, is based on Spruce Knob Mountain, West Virginia. Dave has a BA in American Studies from Hampshire College. Prior to his current role at TMI, Dave worked as a climbing guide at Seneca Rocks Mountain Guides. He has been with TMI in various capacities since 1993.

Beth Altemus, Project Manager, began as a field instructor with TMI in April, 2003 and has helped implement Environmental Science Teacher Trainings and an Invasive Species project. She now coordinates the Nature Photography Workshop and Potomac Stream Samplers program. Beth holds a B.A. in Geology from Smith College and has spent time as a substitute teacher, Appalachian Trail hiker and Antarctic taxi driver.

Nathan Hayes, Program Coordinator, began as a field instructor with TMI in 2001, and has helped design and implement programs ranging from the Randolph County Outdoor Education Program in Elkins, WV to TMI's Summer Adventures on Spruce Knob. Nathan has a B.S. in Recreation, Tourism, and Natural

Resource Management from West Virginia University. He is an avid fly fisherman, a blacksmith, and a rock climber.

Senior Fellows

Edwin Bernbaum, Ph.D, former director, Sacred Mountains Program, TMI
J. Gabriel Campbell, Ph.D., former TMI Asia Director and Director General, ICIMOD
Jim Enote, Ph.D., Pueblo of Zuni
Ricardo Espinosa, Ph.D., La Gran Ruta Inca
Rodney Jackson, Ph.D., Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy
Wendy Brewer Lama, KarmaQuest/Eco-tourism
D. Jane Pratt, Ph.D., Former President and CEO, TMI
Johan Reinhard, Ph.D., National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence
Robert Wampler, Ph.D., Archivist
Andreas Wilkes, Ph.D., China Environmental Specialist



Dairy Development Training in Western China

A Sampling of Recent Notable Awards

- *WWF* – Young Conservationist Award 2007: Karma Bhutia, Asia Program
- The Hilton Humanitarian Prize Short List, 2007
- The Netherlands *Business in Development Award* for the Yachakiwayi Initiative, 2006: Miriam Torres, Andes Program
- The American Alpine Club's *David Brower Conservation Award*, 2006: Alton Byers, PhD, Research and Education Program
- *Certificate of Recognition*, for TMI's support for Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal, presented by Government of Nepal, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, 2005: Asia Program
- *First Place*: Oikos Foundation's *Sustainability Writing Competition*: Building a Sustainable Venture: The Mountain Institute's Earth Brick Machine, 2005: China Program
- Mountain Legacy's Sir Edmund Hillary *Mountain Legacy Medal*, 2005: Alton Byers, PhD, Senior Technical Expert
- The Association of American Geographer's *Distinguished Career Award* from the Mountain Geographer Specialty Group, 2004: Alton Byers, PhD, Senior Technical Expert
- *The Harvard Bridge Builder Award*, 2004 to Kopila Rai, winner: Asia Program
- *Pacific West Region Partnership Achievement Award* from the National Park Service, 2003: Edwin Bernbaum, PhD, Senior Fellow
- *Certificate of Appreciation from Sir Edmund Hillary and The Himalayan Trust*, for TMI's contribution to improve lives of mountain people, 50th Anniversary of the Climbing of Everest, May 29, 2003: Asia Program
- Lhakpa Sherpa, Senior Technical Expert, is the first Sherpa to receive a PhD
- *Commonwealth Award* for his book, *Sacred Mountains of the World*, by Edwin Bernbaum, PhD.

DONORS 2004 - May 2008

The Mountain Institute is deeply grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their invaluable support. Many of the entities listed below have given numerous times at various giving levels. We have not listed them by the accumulated amounts given over the years. Rather we are simply honoring them as supporters. We are deeply grateful to each and every one, and every gift or grant is of tremendous benefit to mountain communities and environments. The Mountain Institute has survived and thrived for more than 35 years because of such wonderful generosity. 'Thank you' is a mountain-sized understatement.

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The Government of the Netherlands (NEDA)
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2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2007

2007

Assets	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 204,432
Donations and grants receivable	918,883
Employee and other receivables	113,344
Prepaid expenses and other	42,022
Total current assets	1,278,681
Property and equipment, net	324,504
Grants and Contributions receivable, net of current portion	669,414
Investments	
Long-term investments	550,153
Endowment investments	387,312
Total investments	937,465
Total assets	\$ 3,210,064
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current & Long-Term Liabilities	
Note Payable	\$ 281,365
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	149,167
Refundable Advances	134,058
Total current & long-term liabilities	564,590
Net assets	
Unrestricted	(481,090)
Temporarily restricted	2,739,252
Permanently restricted	387,312
Total net assets	2,645,474
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 3,210,064

Statement of Activities for the nine-month period ending September 30, 2007

2007

Revenues and support	
Grants and contracts	
National governments	\$ -
Private foundations	549,254
U.S. Government	-
Multilateral organizations	37,244
Other organizations	196,615
Donations	192,880
Tuition and fees	250,777
Contracts and consultants	71,830
Other income	18,327
Total revenues and support	1,316,927
Expenses	
Program services	
Himalaya	389,588
Peak Enterprise	778,168
Global	214,277
Appalachia	364,931
Andes	425,060
Total program services	2,172,024
Supporting services	
Organizational support	418,064
Fundraising	116,733
Total supporting services	534,797
Total expenses	2,706,821
Increase in net assets before investment return	(1,389,894)
Investments income	69,866
Increase in net assets after investment income	(1,320,028)
Net assets, beginning of year	3,965,502
Net assets, end of year	\$ 2,645,474

