



## New Program and New Logo at The Mountain Institute

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON D.C.: The Mountain Institute (TMI) is proud to announce the launch of its new **Mountain Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Program** which seeks to increase the use of ecosystem-based approaches to help mountain communities adapt to climate change. Our three-year program will expand the use of nature-based solutions in key mountain areas of Nepal, Peru and Uganda and will promote the incorporation of EbA approaches in policies and ongoing efforts in Kenya, Colombia and Bhutan. With this new program we are also launching the Institute's new logo.

The new Mountain EbA Program is part of the [International Climate Initiative \(IKI\)](#). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. The program is led by [The Mountain Institute](#) and implemented jointly with the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) and country partners from 2017 to 2020.

As part of an overall strategy for helping people adapt to the risks of climate change, Ecosystem-based Adaptation links traditional biodiversity and ecosystem conservation approaches with sustainable socio-economic development. Human resilience is strongly dependent on healthy ecosystems, particularly in high mountain regions where people rely on their surrounding environment for water, food, pasture and the raw materials for their livelihoods. EbA is a "people-centric" approach that focuses on solutions that build resilience into both human and natural systems.

Where mountains are concerned, the benefits of EbA are felt within mountain communities and in downstream towns and cities. For example, EbA measures in mountains can offer natural solutions for improving water availability and quality while also reducing erosion and the risk of landslides. This benefits people and wildlife, both in mountains and further downstream. At the same time, EbA solutions offer local communities new livelihood options or bolster traditional livelihoods.

According to Erin Gleeson, Associate Director and Global Team Leader of TMI's new program, "The EbA approach is increasingly recognized as an important strategy for adapting to the impacts of climate change. It is cost-effective, delivers multiple benefits upstream and down, and can be implemented by remote mountain communities themselves. But on-the-ground EbA measures have not been widely implemented in mountain areas. Our new program will build support for these EbA approaches in mountains—both in communities and in national and international policies. The Mountain EbA Program aims to expand recent EbA work in Nepal, Uganda and Peru during the *Mountain EbA Flagship Programme*, and will encourage the adoption of the EbA approach in neighboring Bhutan, Kenya and Colombia.

Our Mountain EbA project in the Himalayas of western Nepal is underway in the Panchase area with new projects beginning in the Chilime sub-watershed. ([More details on Nepal projects here.](#)) In the Peruvian Andes we are continuing our work in the Nor-Yauyos Cochas Landscape Reserve. ([More details on Peru projects here.](#))

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With the new Mountain EbA Program came the need for a more up-to-date look for the Institute. Dr. Andrew Taber, Executive Director of TMI explains, "Our old logo featured the rounded profile of the mountains in which TMI was first established in 1972—the Appalachians of West Virginia, USA. But the Institute has worked hand-in-hand with communities in the Himalayas and Andes mountains for decades. Knowing that our field projects will be expanding into more regions, including mountainous areas of Africa, it was time for a new look. So now our logo truly reflects the magnificent mountains where we currently work. The design and colors seek to convey a sense of 'East meets West' plus our love for mountain environments— sky, snow and water."

**About The Mountain Institute:** TMI partners with mountain people to transform their livelihoods, protect their cultures and thus conserve vital natural resources for the planet. The Mountain Institute is the only international non-profit focused solely on mountains worldwide, and actively dedicated to mountain communities and their unique environments. Our headquarters office is in Washington D.C. and we have locally-staffed offices in Nepal and Peru. Learn more at [www.mountain.org](http://www.mountain.org)

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